



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

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**AT 4.2%, GDP GROWTH IN FY20 LOWEST IN 11 YEARS**

Early warning: Growth slows to 3.1 per cent in Q4 which had just one week of lockdown

Going forward, government spending holds key to any tangible recovery**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

INDIA'S QUARTERLY growth rate plummeted to its lowest in the current series at 3.1 per cent in the January-March period of 2019-20, led by a sharp contraction in the manufacturing and construction sectors, even as fresh data provided clear indications of a further slide in estimates during the April-June quarter.

The March quarter estimates

dragged the overall GDP growth rate for 2019-20 to an 11-year low of 4.2 per cent, the provisional estimate released by National Statistical Office (NSO) on Friday showed. The growth numbers, accounting for only one week of lockdown to slow the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in March, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

EXPLAINED: SLOWING GROWTH
PAGE 14**EXPLAINED**
Spending key to recovery

THE NSO has said there will be revisions to growth numbers since complete data collection was not possible. With growth in private consumption expenditure floundering due to lockdown and investment impacted due to weak demand, government expenditure will be critical.

Many have suffered... future of 130 crore won't be dictated by adversity: PM Modi**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

ACKNOWLEDGING THE "tremendous suffering" faced by the poor and vulnerable during the lockdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday reiterated the need "to take care to ensure that inconveniences that we are facing do not turn into disasters". Advising citizens to follow rules and guidelines with pa-

tience, he said: "We must always remember that the present and future of 130 crore will never be dictated by an adversity."

In a letter to the nation (The Ideas Page, Page 11) that also marked the first year of his second term, Modi wrote: "In a crisis of this magnitude, it can certainly not be claimed that no one suffered any inconvenience or discomfort. Our labourers, migrant workers, artisans and **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

THE IDEAS PAGE**YOU, THE PEOPLE**
BY PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI
PAGE 11

Workers disinfect an ambulance in Delhi, Friday. Amit Mehra

In Delhi, Covid hotel-hospitals for treatment, isolation

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE DELHI government on Friday roped in hotels for treatment as well as isolation of Covid-19 patients. For treatment, the government has tied up with five hotels that will be converted into "extended Covid hospitals", augmenting the bed capacity by 1,000 beds.

The capital reported 1,106 cases on Friday — the second straight day when the Covid count breached the 1,000 mark. The number of deaths rose by 82, including 13 over the last 24 hours, taking the toll to 398.

Three more government hospitals have also been designated to treat Covid patients — Deep Chand Bandhu, Satyawati Harish Chandra and GTB, which will bol-

ster bed capacity by 900.

The five hotels — Hotel Crowne Plaza (Okhla), Hotel Surya (New Friends Colony), Hotel Siddharth (Rajendra Place), Hotel Jivitesh (Pusa Road) and Hotel Sheraton (Saket) — will be attached with private hospitals and function as makeshift medical facilities to treat patients.

While Sheraton will be run by Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital at Saket, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital will operate Hotel Surya. Batra Hospital & Research Centre will operate Hotel Crowne Plaza, while Dr B.L. Kapur Memorial Hospital and Sir Ganga Ram City Hospital will run Hotel Siddharth and Hotel Jivitesh respectively.

"Beds in government hospitals are lying vacant, even ICUs and ventilators are available. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

DIGITAL BANKING IS SAFE BANKING

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Trump says he spoke to Modi about China; no recent contact: Indian officials**SHUBHAJIT ROY**
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

HOURS AFTER United States President Donald Trump claimed that he had spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the situation on the India-China border, sources in New Delhi said there has been "no recent contact" between the two leaders, who had last spoken almost two months ago, on April 4.

On Friday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told US Defence Secretary Mark T. Esper that New Delhi would resolve its differences with Beijing bilaterally.

'Modi not in good mood on China'

Just before 2 am on Friday India time, Trump, who was responding to questions at the White House, claimed he had spoken to Modi, who, he said, was "not in a good mood about what's going on with China".

"They have a big conflict going with India and China. Two countries with 1.4 billion people [each]. Two countries with very powerful militaries. And India is not happy, and probably China is **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

INSIDE**AJIT JOGI, FORMER CHHATTISGARH CM, DIES AT 74**
PAGE 9**PAGE 1 ANCHOR****SANTOSH SINGH**
MARADANGI (KATIHAR), MAY 29

IN JUST a few seconds, the video clip became a powerful emblem for the trauma faced by lakhs of migrant workers returning home to escape the lockdown distress. It showed a woman lying motionless on the ground at the Muzaffarpur railway station in Bihar, her son playing with the cloth covering her — unaware that his mother had died.

Today, that image has a name, a devastated family, a single-room asbestos-roofed house in



Migrants spending the night at the transport bus stand near Pune railway station, waiting for trains to take them out of Maharashtra. Around 700 Shramik Special trains have left the state so far. Arul Horizon

For four days, migrant's body lay unattended on Shramik Special train

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, MAY 29

IN YET another case of a death on a 'Shramik Special', the body of a migrant worker lay unattended inside a train for four days, before it was finally found when the train was being cleaned at the Jhansi railway yard on May 27.

Mohan Lal Sharma (37), who worked as a driver with a chips-making factory in Navi Mumbai, was a resident of Basti district in Uttar Pradesh. On May 21, he left Mumbai in a private bus for Jhansi.



Mohan Lal Sharma worked as a driver in Mumbai. Express

While it is not clear when Sharma reached Jhansi, officials said he boarded a 'Shramik Special' train from Jhansi to **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Cricket matches fixed, like movie directed by someone else: Bookie

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

IN HIS disclosure statement to the Delhi Police, Sanjeev Chawla, the prime accused in the 2000 Hansie Cronje match-fixing case, has said that "no cricket match is fairly played" and "...all the cricket matches which people see are fixed". He also pointed to the involvement of "a very big syndicate/underworld mafia" that in-



Sanjeev Chawla is out on bail

fluences all cricket games that, according to him, were like "movies which are already being directed by someone".

In the statement, which is part of a supplementary chargesheet submitted to the

Rlys' treatment of migrants borders on barbarism, violation of rights: NHRC

DEEPTIMAN TIWARI
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

SAYING THAT the treatment of migrant workers "by the Railway authorities borders around barbarism", the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Railway Board chairman, Union home secretary and chief secretaries of Bihar and Gujarat.

It has asked them to submit a report, within four weeks, on the steps taken to ensure basic facilities to migrants.

The NHRC, which issued the

notices on Thursday, said it was taking suo motu cognizance of media reports on trains taking days to reach their destination and how "many migrant labourers lost (their) lives during the journey by train due to longer duration and no arrangements for drinking water and food etc."

It said the government had failed to "protect the lives of poor migrants on board trains". "It is a matter of concern... they are being subjected to such treatment by the Railway authorities, which borders around barbarism. The poor labourers cannot be treated **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Lockdown 5.0 may be relaxed further: States to decide on malls, restaurants

DEEPTIMAN TIWARI, LIZ MATHEW, ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE NEXT phase of lockdown, to kickstart from Monday, is likely to prune the list of prohibited activities further and allow states to decide on opening of malls and multiplexes, places of worship, and dine-in restaurants, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The government may also consider relaxing night curfew hours based on suggestions from health experts. "It (decision to impose curfew from 7 pm to 7 am) is not exactly based on technical considerations of health. There is no harm if it is extended at least to 9 pm," said an official.

However, based on suggestions from various states, strict **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

BUSINESS AS USUAL**WORLD****TRUMP, TWITTER WAR ESCALATES**
SINGAPORE TO SET 'TRAVEL BUBBLES' WITH SOME COUNTRIES
PAGE 15

Tushar Mehta's 'parallel' govt: 19 HCs, their orders on Covid distress

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

APPEARING for the Centre in the Supreme Court Thursday in a PIL on migrant distress, Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta slammed critics, questioning their motives and credentials. In the same vein, he criticised High Courts saying that some "are running a parallel government".

The apex court had taken suo motu cognizance of the plight of

THE EDITORIAL PAGE**MR MEHTA'S LECTURE****PAGE 10**

stranded migrant workers across the country.

What Mehta called "running a parallel government" is a slew of directions from as many as 19 High Courts to governments — at the state and the Centre. These

range from stopping coercive action during lockdown to addressing migrant distress to checking lacunae in testing strategies.

Currently, PILs related to Covid are being heard in the High Courts of Allahabad, Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Gauhati, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madras, Manipur, Meghalaya, Patna, Orissa, Sikkim, Telangana and Uttarakhand.

While some High Courts, like **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

they boarded from Ahmedabad on May 23. Her family says the body was handed over "without a post-mortem" and that "no sample was taken for a Covid test".

In its inquest report, the Railway Police describes it as a "natural death" on the train in Chhapra while citing witnesses to also mention "food poisoning" as a probable cause. And the Katihar administration says there was no post-mortem done because the family had conducted the burial "without informing" them.

The answers are hard to find. Wazir had initially told re-

porters that there was "no lack of food" on the train. Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Friday, he says: "I was not in my senses at that time, I did not know what I was speaking. We had the first meal in Ahmedabad on May 23 and the second only in Muzaffarpur on May 25."

Officials question the claim. Katihar District Magistrate Kanwal Tanuj says "the body was buried without the administration being informed". Tanuj, however, assures that the "family will be allotted land to build a home".

For Shairoon and Mir, sitting together outside their home on

government land, none of this has sunk in.

"She was our third daughter and we had got her married to a man from UP's Bareilly seven years ago through a broker. Her husband, Mohammed Islam, took her to Bareilly only twice and divorced her two years ago, when she was pregnant with Rahmat," says Shairoon, 55.

"We have no agricultural land and my husband cannot do any strenuous physical work... it was getting difficult to keep her with us. There is hardly any job for women here," she says.

It was then that Wazir, who is **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Shairoon Khatoon with her grandchildren. Her daughter Arveena had died on a Shramik train. Santosh Singh

Katihar's Maradangi village, and a cloud of unanswered questions.

Caught in the swirl are Arveena Khatoon's two sons — Armaan (4) and the child in the video, Rahmat (18 months) — and her stunned parents, Shairoon and Voka Mir, a landless daily wage. Arveena's husband had deserted her two years ago.

"Now I have to become a mother all over again for these children," says Shairoon. "Her death in front of my eyes keeps disturbing me," says Mohammed Wazir, Arveena's brother-in-law who accompanied the 35-year-old and her children on the train journey.

The death has shaken the state, too.

Bihar's Social Welfare Department has assured Rs 4,000 per month to Arveena's parents for her two children, assistance under the Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana and a one-time grant of Rs 20,000 from the CM's family benefit scheme. The family has also got Rs 5 lakh from Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav.

But the death has left a trail of questions, too.

Wazir claims Arveena died because she "did not get proper meals" on the Shramik Special

3 THE OUTBREAK THE CITY

COVID CASES OVER PAST TWO MONTHS

At AIIMS, 206 cases among healthcare workers but most have recovered

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

AS MANY as 206 healthcare workers from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have tested positive for Covid-19 over the last two months, with 11 testing positive on Friday and 62 in the last three days. These include two faculty members, 10 resident doctors, 26 nurses, five mess workers, 49 hospital attendants, 34 sanitation workers, nine technicians and 69 security guards.

The country's top medical institute has a manpower of 20,000 people, which includes administration, faculty, doctors, nurses, paramedics, as well as outsourced workers.

According to hospital authorities, over 150 have recovered and joined work. "Healthcare workers started to test positive from the second week of March. On an average, over 100 healthcare workers are tested regularly, out of which around 10-12 are turning out to be positive. None of them have contracted the disease from the institute," said Dr DK Sharma,

AIIMS medical superintendent.

AIIMS is among six government hospitals designated to treat Covid-19 patients in the national capital, with 635 patients admitted to its two facilities — the JPN Trauma Centre in Delhi and the hospital in Jhajjar.

Earlier this week, a 48-year-old sanitation supervisor deputed at the OPD died of the virus. Last week, a mess worker posted in the RPC canteen had reportedly succumbed to the disease.

The resident doctors' association (RDA) of the institute had alleged N95 masks provided at

AIIMS do not meet safety standards suggested by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

"Since March we have been writing and fighting for improving safety of hostel premises, sanitation, provision of stay and proper quarantine protocol, and adequate testing — but without satisfactory response. Even issues about quality of N95 masks and other components of PPE have not been addressed. If this continues, we will be short of healthcare workers to treat patients," Dr Srinivas Rajkumar T, general secretary,

RDA, AIIMS, had said. Dr Rajkumar was expelled from the RDA later in the day.

Responding to the allegations, Dr Sharma said: "Not just N95 masks, but all PPE items, right from head to toe, have been procured and provided to all in sufficient quantity. Testing and hospitalisation facility is also available in abundance. Very few of them have been hospitalised. We have given enough items to our healthcare workers in all Covid and suspected Covid areas and there is no chance of them catching an infection while working, provided

he/she uses the PPE properly and is not careless about it."

"We are procuring the best quality N95 masks and have a committee with seven-eight members who evaluate samples properly. Once the product is recommended, only then does the institute purchase it. In the initial phase, due to shortage and unavailability of safety gear, we had to procure it from different firms and some individuals might have faced issues. But now, since there is no shortage, we are getting the best quality safety gear for our staff," he added.

Undisposed bodies in hospital: Govt points to sudden spike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE DELHI government Friday submitted in the Delhi High Court that undisposed bodies of those who died of Covid-19 in a hospital was due to a "sudden spike in cases and related deaths" in the national capital.

Delhi government's Additional Standing Counsel Sanjoy Ghose contended before the High Court that the issue was also the result of unavoidable circumstances, like workers at the crematorium refusing to handle the bodies. He also flagged that such a situation arose due to a reduced capacity at Nigambodh Ghat to handle bodies on account of snags in furnaces.

The Delhi government made its submission before a bench headed by Chief Justice D N Patel, which was hearing a PIL initiated on its own after taking cognizance of a news report that inside the Covid-19 mortuary of Lok Nayak Hospital, there are 108 bodies — all 80 storage racks are full and there are 28 bodies on the floor, piled on top of each other.

A different bench Thursday had ordered registering the issue as a PIL and listed it before the Chief Justice's bench for issuance of requisite directions.

Ghose also apprised the bench that "relatives (of the deceased) were refusing to come forward to claim the bodies".

The Delhi government coun-

sel submitted that urgent steps were taken to remedy the situation, including "Lok Nayak being authorised to divert bodies to crematoriums at Panchkuian Road and Punjabi Bagh, as opposed to only Nigambodh Ghat".

"Wood-based cremation of bodies by traditional method is also allowed, in addition to electric and CNG furnaces. PPE kits for all workers, as well as for the dead bodies. Extension of working hours of crematoriums 7 am to 10 pm (as opposed to 9 am to 4 pm)," he submitted. The counsel further informed the court that final rites of 29 bodies were carried out as of May 28.

"Only those bodies will be retained where post-mortem/investigations are to be carried out," he submitted, and assured the High Court that all steps are being taken to avoid such circumstances in the future.

The bench directed the Delhi government and the three municipal corporations to file a status report before June 2, when it will be taken up for further hearing. The counsel for the MCDs maintained that adequate steps are being taken in this regard.

The court had also taken note of a news report that on May 26, eight bodies were returned from Nigambodh Ghat's CNG crematorium because the facility was not in a position to accept more bodies as only two of the six furnaces were working.



TESTING TIME

Healthcare staff at AIIMS wait in line to get tested for coronavirus at the hospital, Friday. *Praveen Khanna*

Checking stepped up, traffic snarls at Gurgaon border

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, MAY 29

A DAY after Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij directed that main as well as interior roads connecting Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonapat and Jhajjar to Delhi be sealed following a spike in Covid-19 cases, the Expressway saw massive congestion Friday morning as police stepped up vigilance and checked passes of everyone entering the city.

"Norms are the same as before, only vigilance has been increased. In line with MHA guidelines and directions of the Delhi High Court, only those in essential services and movement pass holders are allowed cross-border movement," said Gurgaon Police PRO Subhash Boken.

Gurgaon crossed 500 cases Friday, with 115 more people testing positive — the highest single-day increase.

Over the past few weeks, Gurgaon Police had been carrying out only random checking of commuters during peak hours. Following Vij's directions, vigilance was stepped up Friday.

"I have been entering the city using a movement pass the entire month but was not stopped for checking. Today, I had to wait

an hour before I was allowed to cross," said an employee of a private company in Udyog Vihar, who did not want to be named.

Meanwhile, several workers on foot alleged they were being denied entry. "We were stopped but people in cars and on motorcycles were not. We need the money more, our day-to-day basic expenses are not being met, and yet we face this treatment," said Satish Kumar, who works at a garment factory in Udyog Vihar and lives in Kapashera.

"Some days we manage, but most days, we are denied entry. Our employers say we will be paid if we go to work, police do not let us go, passes are not being issued, what do we do?" he said.

Police, however, denied the allegations. "Entry is being allowed for anyone with movement passes or is in essential services, regardless of their mode of transportation. Without passes, we cannot allow entry," said Boken.

If cases continue to rise in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonapat and Jhajjar, the most affected districts may once again be declared as "red zones". Haryana has sent teams headed by Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Rajiv Arora to monitor the four districts and submit a detailed report to Vij.

Tremors in Delhi; seventh since April 12

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

TREMORS WERE felt in Delhi on Friday evening after an earthquake of 4.5 magnitude struck near Rohtak in Haryana, which is about 65 kilometres from the national capital.

According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), the earthquake occurred at 9.08pm with a depth of 5 kilometres.

This was the seventh earthquake to have been felt in the national capital since April 12 this year, as per data from the NCS.

Friday's earthquake had a higher magnitude than those recorded previously since April 12 in and around Delhi, with a range of between 3.5 and 2.

As per NCS officials, earth-

The earthquake, with a 4.5 magnitude, struck near Rohtak in Haryana

quakes of less than 5 magnitude and higher depth range are unlikely to cause large-scale damage, unless in case of weak or compromised structures. Earthquakes with shorter depth range and higher magnitudes are prone to cause more damage. Delhi lies on Zone IV of the seismic map of India. As per the NCS, Zones IV and V have high probability of earthquakes that can be destructive or worse.

The last earthquake was recorded on May 15, which had a magnitude of 2.2, near North Delhi's GTB Nagar.

Advt. No. - 43/2020

Government of India

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TAMIL NADU ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CHENNAI PERIPHERAL RING ROAD PROJECT GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

COUNTRY	INDIA
NAME OF THE PROJECT	CHENNAI PERIPHERAL RING ROAD PROJECT
NAME OF THE SECTOR	TRANSPORT
PROJECT ID NO.	000336

The Government of India has applied for financing in the amount of US\$ 478.07 Million equivalent from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (hereafter AIIB) towards the cost of **Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Project (CPRR) Sec-II & III**, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, works, non-consulting services and consulting services to be procured under this project. This project will be jointly financed by the OPEC Fund for International Development (hereafter OFID). The project will include the Construction of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Section 2&3 which connect NH16 (Chennai – Kolkata Highway) with NH32 (Chennai – Tuticorin Highway) and Procurement of consultancy services for Project Management Support and Construction Supervision.

The full version of GPN can be viewed at the website of Tamil Nadu Highways Department **www.ckicp.tnhighways.gov.in**

Executive Director,

TNRIDC, Chennai - 600 002.

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EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED AUDITED RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

SL. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2020	31.03.2019	31.03.2020	31.03.2019
		1	2	3	4
1	Total Income from operations	260600	226698	969795	888547
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	30040	5794	30208	20556
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	20023	8138	20191	22900
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	14238	4716	20713	13292
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)	13711	5778	20176	13867
6	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	55169	55169	55169	55169
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of the previous year)	-	-	262735	247680
8	Earnings Per Share (of 10/- each) Basic & Diluted	2.58	0.85	3.75	2.41
*	Not annualised	*	*		

Key numbers of Standalone Financial Results of the Company are as under:

SL No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2020	31.03.2019	31.03.2020	31.03.2019
1	Total Income	266191	229794	982660	896746
2	Profit / (Loss) before tax	20013	8269	20293	23525
3	Profit / (Loss) after tax	14228	4847	20815	13917
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period	13701	5909	20278	14492

Note : 1. The above financial results are drawn in accordance with the accounting policies consistently followed by the Company. The results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on May 29, 2020. These results have been subjected to audit by the Statutory Auditors of the Company. **2.** The results for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2020 are in compliance with IND AS as prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act 2013 read with Rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Amendment Rules, 2016. **3.** The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Financial Results for quarter and year ended on 31st March, 2020 filed with the BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the standalone and consolidated Financial Results are available on the website of the Company at www.rcfild.com and also available on the website of Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
RASHTRIYA CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS LTD.

Dated : 29th May, 2020
Place : Mumbai

(S. C. Mudgerikar)
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN : 03498837



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

THE OUTBREAK

THE CITY

BRIEFLY

Man booked for evicting Covid positive tenant

Gurgaon: An FIR has been lodged against a landlord in Gurgaon's Chakkarpur village for allegedly forcing his coronavirus positive-tenant to vacate the premises, after he was alerted to his having contracted the infection. Police said the tenant got the infection from his nephew, who was residing in the same building as him.

Gurgaon hospital gets showcase

Gurgaon: A day after the Gurgaon district magistrate issued showcase notices to two private hospitals in the city for allegedly refusing to treat Covid-19 patients, a similar notice was sent to W Pratiksha hospital Friday afternoon. DM Amit Khatri stated the hospital "failed to comply with the order stating that private hospitals/nursing homes in the district shall not refuse patients approaching them for treatment of Covid-19 infection and other critical services," and ordered it to show cause within one day. Hospital officials claimed they had not turned away any Covid patient.

North body mayor gets tested

New Delhi: North civic body mayor Avatar Singh got himself tested for Covid-19 and has gone into home quarantine, after a staffer in his team tested positive. Singh said he got himself tested with twenty others, who were in touch with him while distributing food at different places.

Stars support Delhi BJP's pad distribution

New Delhi: Eminent personalities, including Hindi film actors Akshay Kumar and Sonu Sood, pledged their support for Delhi BJP's 'Mission Anivarya' which is aimed at free distribution of sanitary pads among underprivileged during the Covid crisis.

Man shot dead

New Delhi: A 35-year-old man was shot dead allegedly by four assailants in Gurgaon's Jyoti Park Friday afternoon, with police saying he sustained "over 20" bullet wounds in the incident.

Freelance journalist shot

New Delhi: A 32-year-old freelance journalist was shot dead allegedly by two unidentified men in Northeast Delhi Thursday, police said. **ENS**

MONTH AFTER DELHI GOVT RECEIVED NOD TO START TRIALS

Challenge to plasma therapy: Getting donors to come forward

ASTHA SAXENA

NEW DELHI, MAY 29

A MONTH after the Delhi government received permission to start clinical trials for convalescent plasma therapy on Covid-19 patients, getting donors to come forward remains a challenge.

According to sources, over 440 people were contacted by the Delhi government to donate plasma, out of which around 15 agreed. As many as 7,264 people have recovered/migrated/been discharged from hospitals as of May 27.

In Delhi, seven institutes -- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS); Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC) in coordination with Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS); Indraprastha Apollo Hospital;

Batra Hospital; Lady Hardinge Medical College; Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital; and Max Hospital Saket -- have been approved to participate in the trials, and have been trying hard to motivate patients who have recovered to donate plasma.

The Delhi government-run Lok Nayak Hospital has completed the first phase of clinical trials on 20 Covid-19 patients. Those who have recovered and been discharged from the hospital are being counselled by experts and, if they agree, are referred to ILBS for donating plasma. Once the plasma is donated, it is sent to Lok Nayak to be administered to patients.

"There is a need for awareness among people. We are counselling them at the hospital during discharge, many agree to donate their plasma as well. But when they reach home, after dis-

cussing it with the family members, their decision changes. There is still a stigma among people regarding the therapy. Fearful of catching the infection again, many of them don't want to visit hospitals," said a senior doctor from Lok Nayak.

A right donor, as per the criteria, is a healthy person in the age group of 18-60 years with no comorbidities. The donor should have crossed three weeks after recovery and tested negative for Covid-19 twice.

According to sources, of the 440 people contacted, most were unfit for donation due to their age or underlying medical conditions, while some refused to donate citing various reasons.

"Many donors have conditions like diabetes, hypertension and are not fit to be donors. Those who are above the age of 50 have many illnesses and can't

donate plasma. Many still have post-illness trauma and are not comfortable. Similarly, pregnant patients are not fit to be donors," said a senior official from the health department.

Asked about the therapy, Dr S K Sarin, head of ILBS, said, "It is not approved for routine use yet. Let the government take a decision on it."

At AIIMS Jhajjar, where many patients with mild and moderate symptoms are admitted, there have been around four-five plasma donations. "We are motivating people to donate plasma but not many are coming forward in the trial," said Dr Sushma Bhatnagar, chairperson of Covid-19 services at the Jhajjar hospital.

Max Hospital, Saket had used the therapy on two patients in April. While one died, the other has shown improvement. So far,

20 patients at the hospital have been administered the therapy.

On April 16, the Delhi government received a go-ahead from ICMR to use plasma therapy, with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealing to those who have recovered to come forward and donate plasma.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has said the therapy is not approved treatment and is among several options being explored.

Plasma therapy uses antibodies found in the blood of people who have recovered from the infection (or convalesced) to treat patients who are infected. In this therapy, blood is drawn from a person who has recovered from the disease, and the serum is separated and screened for virus-neutralising antibodies. The therapy is yet to begin at the other four hospitals.

Juvenile on the run shot dead in Jafrabad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 29

A 17-YEAR-OLD youth, who fled from an observation home in Delhi Gate area last month, was shot dead allegedly by two people. The assailants later opened fire and injured his friend as well. Both incidents took place 30 minutes apart in Northeast Delhi's Jafrabad and New Usmanpur 30 on Thursday. A beat constable arrested one of the accused from the spot.

According to police, the juvenile was apprehended last year for allegedly killing criminal Abdul Nasir's associate Mehruz Khan at a graveyard in Welcome. After he got out on bail, he was apprehended again on charges of robbery.

"He was sent to a correctional home. On April 23, he, along with 10 other juveniles, fled from an observation home in Delhi Gate area after allegedly injuring a security guard and three policemen," said a senior police officer.

On Thursday, the youth was sitting in Brahmpuri when the assailants got into a heated argument with him. "Minutes later, they whipped out their pistols and shot him. They escaped from the spot and came to New Usmanpur, where they opened fire at the juvenile's friend, Mirkar Hasan, who sustained bullet injuries to his shoulder. The assailants tried to flee once again but one of them, Bharat Sharma, was arrested by beat constable Anju," said an officer.

Police have identified the second accused, Saif, and are on the lookout for him.

DCP (Northwest) Ved Prakash Surya said both victims were rushed to a nearby hospital where the juvenile, who sustained four bullet injuries, was declared dead on arrival. "The murdered youth's associates had a scuffle with Saif's brother in Mandoli Jail. Thursday's attack was to exact revenge," said an officer.

Cases up over past 10 days, so is positivity rate

SOURAV ROY BARMAN

NEW DELHI, MAY 29

BETWEEN MAY 16 and May 26, when the city clocked over 500 Covid cases on an average every day, the positivity rate -- that is, for all tests conducted, how many are positive for coronavirus -- was over 13%.

Data shared by the Health Department in compliance with a May 4 Delhi High Court order shows that during this period, 42,280 samples were tested, out of which 5,570 were positive -- a positivity rate of 13.17%.

Of the 17,387 coronavirus cases in the capital, more than 39% have been reported over the last 10 days.

The city's overall positivity rate is 8.7% with the authorities having carried out 1,99,626 tests until May 29, out of which 17,386 were found positive.

The country's positivity rate stands at 4.75% -- 34,83,838 samples were tested of which 1,65,799 are positive.

With the highest number of cases in the country, Maharashtra's positivity rate is 13.7%, as per consolidated data till May 29. Maharashtra has conducted 4,34,565 tests so far and found 59,546 confirmed cases.

RML institute dean admitted to Max

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE DEAN of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Dr Rajeev Sood, has been admitted to Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital. He tested positive for Covid on May 24 and had been in home isolation since then.

On Friday evening, his daughter reached out to the general public on social media seeking a donor for plasma therapy. The hospital where he is admitted is among seven in Delhi which have been given permis-

sion to run clinical trials on convalescent plasma therapy. The family later found a donor at the hospital.

RML hospital, which has also received permission to start the clinical trial on plasma therapy, hasn't initiated the process yet.

Dr Sood was looking after the management of Covid manpower at the hospital, which has been functioning as a designated hospital to tackle the disease. Over 30 healthcare workers from the hospital have tested positive for the disease so far.

According to the sources, Dr Sood had fever and mild upper respiratory infection after which he got himself tested.

THE EMPTY OUTDOORS

An evening walker at Lodhi Garden Friday. Anil Sharma

Pinjra Tod founder held under UAPA

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Special Cell Friday arrested Pinjra Tod founder Natasha Narwal (32) under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for alleged conspiracy in connection with the riots in Northeast Delhi. On Thursday, the Delhi court had sent two members of the women's student organisation, Narwal and Devangana Kalita (30), to judicial custody until 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." Narwal and Kalita were arrested on May 24 in connection with their alleged role in the February anti-CAA Jafrabad sit-in protest. **ENS**

Jamia student granted bail in December case

ANAND MOHAN J

NEW DELHI, MAY 29

A DELHI court has granted bail to 24-year-old Jamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha in a case related to violence in Jamia Nagar in December last year.

Tanha was arrested by the Crime Branch on May 17 for allegedly instigating a crowd in Jamia Nagar on December 15, following which violence erupted in the area. Police have claimed he was among those who organised an anti-CAA protest in the area, and his name was mentioned in an FIR registered at Jamia Nagar police station on December 15.

Additional Sessions Judge Gaurav Rao granted bail to Tanha on Thursday, noting the "clean antecedents of the accused, on the ground of parity.... and most importantly considering the situation arising out of Covid-19".

The court granted bail to Tanha on furnishing bail bonds of Rs 25,000 with one surety of the like amount. Tanha has been directed "not to indulge in any violence" and "act like a good/responsible citizen as well as abide by the law of the land". Tanha was represented by lawyers Trideep Pais and Sowjanya Shankaran. As per the order, his counsel argued before the court that he was falsely implicated in the case and his arrest was "illegal, punitive and unjustified".

The court looked at the investigating officer's reply and noted that out of the 10 persons accused in the case, eight are on bail, following which it decided to grant bail considering on the ground of parity. Tanha is also being investigated in a UAPA case in connection with the February Northeast Delhi riots. He has been sent to judicial custody until June 25 in that case.

31-yr-old cons women on dating apps

New Delhi: Inspired by Bollywood movie *Kabir Singh*, a 31-year-old man allegedly posed as an orthopaedic surgeon to "attract women" on dating apps -- only to then extort money from them using their private photos. Police said the accused, Anand Kumar, and an associate, whose bank account was used for the transactions, were arrested Friday. Kumar has allegedly conned at least five women.

DCP (Cyber Cell) Anyesh Roy said Kumar, who owns an event management firm in Ghaziabad, created fake profiles on dating apps. "He targeted women who he thought were rich," said Roy.

The con came to light after a doctor, who gave Rs 30,000 to Kumar, filed a complaint. Police said he had been running the operation for nine months. **ENS**

GOVT LAUNCHES AWARENESS ON LOCUST ATTACK PREVENTION TECHNIQUES

Farmers recall a locust attack which left 'nothing but straw on ground'

SHIVAM PATEL

NEW DELHI, MAY 29

SITTING ON a cot in his orchard of guavas in a North Delhi village and peeling mangoes on Friday afternoon, 83-year-old Palleram recalled a memory from his youth. "The sky had turned yellow suddenly that day many years ago, that was how big their swarm was. There was a buzzing sound and these big insects (locusts) descended on our wheat crops. Our fields became barren overnight... nothing but straws sticking out of the ground re-

mained the next day," said the resident of Daryapur Kalan village.

While Palleram doesn't remember the exact year of the incident, an account by Delhi historian R V Smith mentions the year 1944 as the time when one of the biggest locust invasions took place in the city in recent history.

Palleram said that at the time of the invasion, while everyone had rushed to take cover, he ran into his fields with a bedsheet, swinging it around to distract the swarm, but in vain.

"They only went after soft

leaves, of jowar, wheat and other crops. My orchard would be safe if they come around again because the leaves are thicker," he said.

The possibility of a locust attack in the national capital has prompted the Delhi government to launch an awareness programme for farmers and the general public on prevention techniques to be used.

On Friday, officials from the agriculture unit of the state government's development department held one such programme with farmers of Daryapur Kalan and its adjoining villages.



However, the central government's Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) Friday said the possibility of an attack is low because the wind direction over Delhi is unfavourable for transport of active swarms in Rajasthan.

Deputy director of LWO, K L Gurjar, told The Indian Express, "An attack is unlikely at present. The swarms in Rajasthan would remain there for now."

Farmers in Daryapur Kalan

Jayapal Sehrawat with his harvest Friday. Shivam Patel

said they would buy chemicals to spray on locusts in case an attack is confirmed.

Jaypal Sehrawat (48), cutting his jowar crop to be used as fodder for his cattle, said: "Most fields are empty right now because the wheat crop has been harvested and the ground is being prepared for the next crop. If the swarms attack, the damage would be to the jowar, which would be wiped out completely."

Farmers also said an attack can cause them further financial suffering, as the coronavirus lockdown has already made a

dent in their pockets.

Deepak Rohila's farm has six bighas of land covered with sprawling tomato plants, with rotting tomatoes stuck to the vine. The 40-year-old said, "We tried to sell what we could to residents here as there were no buyers at Azadpur Mandi. I invested Rs 4,000 to transport these tomatoes there but only made Rs 1,500 in sales. They are rotting because we can't do anything with them. I will have to spend more money to buy chemicals for the locusts now, otherwise the farm would be destroyed."

Over 17 cr poor yet to get month’s quota of additional free grains

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

OVER 17 crore beneficiaries across the country are yet to get their quota of additional 5 kg free foodgrain under the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) for the month of May, according to data available with the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

The data shows that as on May 28, grains have been distributed to more than 62 crore people, or 78 per cent beneficiaries under PMGKAY.

The scheme involves providing additional 5 kg foodgrain free to 80 crore NFSA beneficiaries, over and above their monthly entitlement.

PMGKAY is one of the main components of the Centre’s Rs 1.70 lakh crore package under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana for the poor to “help them fight against coronavirus”. It was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on March 26.

On Friday, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan said while other states and Union Territories have carried out distribution, either fully or partially, Delhi and West Bengal are yet to distribute their share for May.

Addressing the media online, before the first anniversary of the second term of the Narendra Modi government, Paswan said, “Delhi and West Bengal have distributed April’s quota of foodgrain under PMGKAY. Delhi achieved



Food Minister
Ram Vilas
Paswan

96 per cent distribution in April, while West Bengal notched 93 per cent. However, the two states have achieved zero (distribution) for the month of May.”

Paswan said he has written to and spoken with the ministers concerned in both states and requested them to ensure timely distribution.

The minister said only four states—Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Nagaland—have distributed free foodgrain under the scheme to all beneficiaries for May. Over a dozen states/UTs—Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Odisha, and Rajasthan among them—have completed over 90 per cent distribution of the month’s quota.

The government had announced a monthly quota of free 5-kg foodgrain per individual and 1 kg pulses per family under PMGKAY for NFSA beneficiaries for April, May and June.

According to the ministry’s data, free foodgrain was distributed to 73.47 crore—or 92 per cent beneficiaries—under PMGKAY in April, meaning they could not be given to nearly 7 crore beneficiaries even last month.

‘Telling commentary on BJP management’: Cong hits out after dip in GDP growth rate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE CONGRESS has hit out at the Centre after data released by the Central Statistics Office on Friday revealed that India’s gross domestic product grew by a slower pace of 3.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2019-20. Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram blamed the government’s economic management for the new low in GDP growth.

“We had forecast that GDP for Q4 will touch a new low at below 4 per cent. It has turned out to be worse at 3.1 per cent. Remember, this is pre-lockdown. Of the 91 days of Q4, lockdown applied to only 7 days. It is a telling commentary on the economic management of the BJP government,” Chidambaram tweeted.

Harsimrat seeks CBI probe into Punjab ‘seed scam’

Chandigarh: Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, in a letter to Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Friday, called for a CBI probe into an alleged seed scam in Punjab. Advocating the need to safeguard farmers’ interest, Badal said those playing with the lives of farmers should be stopped. “Farmers are claiming that scamsters enjoy political patronage and that is why the police is not conducting further seizures of spurious seed or making any arrests in the case,” she said. PTI



Remember, this is pre-lockdown: Chidambaram

His party demanded an explanation from the government regarding the slide in GDP growth.

“Who is to be held accountable for the continuous slide in the economy since the last four years? We demand that the government give an explanation to the nation about the failure of the much-marketed Make in India programme. The government should also accept the failure of demonetisation and the faulty implementation of GST,” Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said.

Saying that 3.1 per cent was

the lowest GDP growth rate in the last 44 quarters, the Congress pointed to what it said were several areas of concern, particularly the manufacturing sector which has contracted by 1.4 per cent, indicating that demand has collapsed in the economy.

“Manufacturing growth for the financial year 2019-20 has been zero per cent, indicating a complete failure of the Make in India programme. Factory output (IIP) contracted by 16 per cent, indicating a significant pain in the MSME (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) sector as well as cause for high unemployment. Industry Growth at -0.6 per cent (Q4FY20) clearly indicates that the pain continues on the unemployment front in Q4 of FY20,” Vallabh said.

“Services falls to 4.4 per cent (Q4FY20) from 5.7 per cent

(Q3FY20)... Construction sector at -2.2 per cent clearly indicates high unemployment in the migrant labour segment pre COVID19,” he added.

The Congress said that despite a continuous slide in GDP growth, the government has neither accepted the mistakes nor has it come out with any concrete solution.

“Further, there is no indication of any action to spur demand, and instead, the government has started a course of pushing the entire country into deep debt through its faulty and lofty claims of stimulus package to counter COVID-19. With today’s numbers... it is clearly proven that even before coronavirus cases started to surge in our country, the economy was struggling through a prolonged economic slowdown,” he added.

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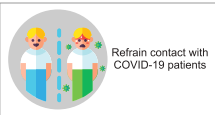
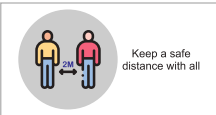
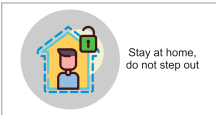
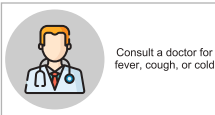
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• Abhishek Pathak

THE BANKING sector in India has

always emphasised strongly the importance of efficient online and mobile banking services vis-a-vis face-to-face meetings and physical branch visits; the coronavirus crisis means there is now little argument against this model.

The pandemic has hit all of us hard and a harsh new reality has been thrust on us. Every economic activity in the country has been hit and industries are practically on their knees. The extent of damage to our economy and rising losses have been an eye-opener, forcing us to relook at the way we operate and conduct our businesses. With the lockdown in force and given the contagiousness of COVID-19, footfalls in banks have diminished drastically and banks have asked customers to use digital banking channels instead. The ongoing crisis has thus presented the banking sector with a dual opportunity. First, existing banks with a legacy environment will have to scale up their digital services in order to survive. Second, digital-only banks will now look to become fullfledged service providers.

Some of the banks have already started ramping up their digital banking channels and operations, to ease the service woes of their customers. In a sense, banks have started getting adjusted to the new normal.

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सम्मान आपके विश्वास का **Honours Your Trust**

To ensure the safety of citizens, bank employees and customers amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, recently asked customers to use Digital Banking facilities as far as possible. Das also added, “In the context of COVID 19, RBI and the government together are giving emphasis on encouraging digital payments. And over a period of time, various measures have already been taken to establish safe, secure, stable and affordable retail payment system such as

the National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS).”

In January 2020, NEFT and RTGS services were made free of charge and NEFT was also made available on a 24x7 basis. In September 2019, RBI expanded the scope of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to cover all repetitive bill payments, which includes school fees, insurance premiums and municipal taxes.

Further, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an immediate real-time payment system that helps in instantly transferring funds between two bank accounts through a mobile platform. It also allows multiple bank accounts to get onto a single mobile application. Before the pandemic hit the country hard, RBI had taken robust measures to boost digital payments. A new emerging trend is video-based banking, for which RBI had recently issued guidelines with respect to onboarding of customers using digital KYC. To make this a reality, banks will have to tie up with video KYC solutions in the market. Video-based banking can be extended to existing customers as well by having apt face and voice recognition technologies in place. It is often said “desperate needs require desperate measures”, and these unprecedented times, perhaps, are the right time to discover the benefits of Cluster Banking or Collaborative Banking by establishing common touch points and, possibly, having authorised agents in the long run.

Though the corona crisis has pushed digitalisation to the forefront, there are still contexts where cash rules the roost. Given the current circumstances, it is not possible for banks to replenish the ATMs like before and ensure their working with full efficacy. To fill this gap, banks can look to offer money on wheels with specific guidelines in place. Recently, ICICI Bank offered this facility in Varanasi. Many other banks like HDFC, AXIS, Kotak Mahindra have also followed suit, ensuring there is no dearth of cash for citizens.

MESSAGE

Digital banking has become more relevant due to the COVID-19 epidemic. UCO Bank Dehradun is playing an important role in this shift by urging and motivating all people/customers to use digital banking channels (ATM, M-banking, e-banking, UPI). Our wide range of online banking services will help you manage your finances better. Apart from the existing services, the bank will add more services / facilities from time to time for your convenience. UCO Bank Dehradun has also contributed Rs 102000/- to CM Relief Fund. We are taking all precautionary measures like maintaining social distance and hygiene and wearing masks.

Ranjeet Singh, Zonal Manager
UCO Bank, Dehradun

MESSAGE

Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd Dehradun is providing modern banking facilities to all its account holders. The importance of digital banking has increased because of the coronavirus pandemic. At a time when social distancing is a must, our digital banking services allow customers to avail banking services from the comfort of their homes. Urban cooperative Bank Ltd is providing all types of digital banking services such as e-commerce platforms, NEFT routers, IMPS, etc to customers.

R.K. Bansal
Secretary/ Chief Executive

आपका अपना बैंक

अरबन को-आपरेटिव बैंक लि० देहरादून

वर्तमान में प्रदत्त की जा रही सुविधाएं

1. निक्षेपों पर अन्य बैंकों से अधिक ब्याज दर
2. अपने ग्राहकों को त्वरित गति से ऋण सुविधा:—
 - आसान शर्तों पर भवन, वाहन, उच्च शिक्षा, आश्रित की शादी हेतु ऋण।
 - सरकारी तथा स्थानीय निकाय कर्मचारियों को उपभोक्ता ऋण।
 - सम्पत्ति बन्धक/माल की आड़ पर व्यापार हेतु ऋण।
 - कृषि से सम्बद्ध कार्यकलापों जैसे डेयरी, मत्स्य पालन, पौली हाऊस व कृषि सत्रंग आदि क्रय करने हेतु ऋण।
3. बैंक में आपकी जमा राशियां निक्षेप बीमा एवं प्रत्य गारंटी निगम से बीमित।
4. विभिन्न स्थानों पर RTGS, NEFT के माध्यम से धन हस्तान्तरण की सुविधा।
5. वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को सावधि निक्षेप पर 0.50 प्रतिशत तक अधिक ब्याज की सुविधा।
6. लॉकर सुविधा उपलब्ध।
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प्रधान कार्यालय: 3-ब्रॉस रोड देहरादून दूरभाष : 0135-2655610

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MESSAGE

The Dehradun District Cooperative Bank Ltd. is a 97- year- old bank, having been established in the year 1924. Through its branches, the bank is also providing its services in remote and inaccessible areas. Computerisation work at the bank started in 2006. Following the modern trend, the bank became the first cooperative bank in the state to computerise all its branches and headquarters in the year 2010. In the year 2013, the bank opened all its branches in CBS, marking another first for the institution. At present all the work at the bank is done under the CBS system. The Dehradun District Cooperative Bank Ltd. is committed to providing modern banking facilities to all the account holders in Dehradun district. While digital banking is a need of the changing times, the onset of the corona epidemic has increased the importance of digital banking channels. District Co-operative Bank Dehradun Ltd. is providing all types of digital banking services such as NEFT Routers, MIMPS, e-commerce platforms, etc. to its customers.

Amit Chauhan (Shah)
Chairman

Dehradun District Cooperative Ban

कार्यालय डिस्ट्रिक्ट को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक लि० देहरादून

(मुख्यालय कचहरी अहाता देहरादून)

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फैक्स: 0135-2620262, ई-मेल: doondcb1924@gmail.com

प्रगति की ओर निरन्तर अग्रसर

- 97 वर्षों से जनता की सेवा में कार्यरत।
- बेहतर ग्राहक सेवा पूर्णतया सी०बी०एस० (कम्प्यूटरीज़्ड)।
- डी०बी०टी०एल० सुविधा उपलब्ध (रैस सविस्ती)।
- ए०टी०एम० सुविधा एवं लॉकर सुविधा युक्त।
- कम ब्याज दरों पर ऋण उपलब्ध।
- आकर्षक ब्याज दरों पर सुरक्षित निवेश।

बैंक की शाखाओं में अपने निक्षेप जमा कर आकर्षक ब्याज दर प्राप्त करें।

बैंक द्वारा संचालित ऋण योजनाएं

उच्च शिक्षा हेतु ऋण	सी०डी०एल० ऋण	आवास ऋण
मिनी ट्रांसपोर्ट ऋण (व्यवसायिक)	वाहन ऋण (निजी)	व्यवसायिक ऋण
अचल-सम्पत्ति पर ऋण योजना	कृषक आवास ऋण	स्वरोजगार क्रेडिट कार्ड योजना
एन०एस०सी०/के०बी०पी० के विरुद्ध ऋण सुविधा	सहकारिता सहभागिता योजनांतर्गत ऋण	
सहकारी योजनाओं जैसे वीरचन्द्र सिंह गढ़वाली, सार्वभौम, एस०जी०एस०वाई०, एस०सी०पी० ऋण योजना आदि।		
सुश्री वन्दना श्रीवास्तव सचिव/महाप्रबन्धक	ट्रैक्टर/कृषि यन्त्र क्रय हेतु ऋण	श्री अमित चौहान (शाह) अध्यक्ष
अधिक जानकारी के लिए बैंक की निकटवर्ती शाखा में सम्पर्क करें।		

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

Migrants now returning in fewer numbers to Uttarakhand

THE OUTBREAK

MIGRANTS ON THE ROAD



Carrying their world in small bags and sacks, they arrive at Charbagh station to catch a Shramik Special. *Vishal Srivastav*



Disappointment on their faces, they return from the registration centre after being told no train was leaving on Friday. *Gurmeet Singh*

MEMORIES & PAIN



The premises outside Pune railway station has as good as become temporary home for Tripurari Yadav. The 38-year-old, who works at a furniture shop in Pune, has been unable to get a ticket to return home in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district to attend the last rites of his sister. The wait — two days running — seems a lifetime, Yadav says. *Arul Horizon*



Police officials address a crowd of migrant workers — all they want is to return home. *Rana Simranjit Singh*



At CSMT, armed with stuffed toy and mind full of memories as company, ahead of a long journey to UP. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

Will make data on train deaths public: Rlys

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE INDIAN Railways has said it is compiling reports of deaths on board Shramik Special trains with help from state governments and that it would later make the data public.

"I understand that they (passengers) are travelling in desperate times. Each death is investigated. We are compiling the data on deaths and the reasons behind the dates from state governments...I don't want to comment on this without correct numbers," Railway Board Chairman V K Yadav said at a press conference.

At least nine passengers on board Shramik Specials to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have died so far. The Railways has said that many of them had pre-existing illnesses and were returning after surgery/treatment.

"Indian Railways has a control system; the train is immediately stopped if someone is found ill and doctors try to save their lives. Many passengers have been attended to by Railway doctors, 31 successful deliveries have been done. In many cases they were sent to the nearest hospital base," Yadav said.

Defending Railways in the face of criticism over delays by Shramik Specials, Yadav said these were not regular trains and they could be extended or short-terminated. He also said complaints from passengers about lack of food and water aboard specific trains have been investigated and it was found that there were no discrepancies in supply of meals.

Bengal minister, wife test Covid positive, in home isolation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, MAY 29

WEST BENGAL Fire Services minister Sujit Bose has tested positive for the coronavirus, the first member of the Mamata Banerjee cabinet to get infected with the virus. His wife too has tested positive, and as both have mild symptoms, they are in isolation in their house.

A domestic help at Bose's residence was diagnosed with the disease, according to a *PTI* report, following which samples of Bose and his family members were sent for examination.

Bose's test results came days after TMC legislator Tamonash Ghosh — a neighbour of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee — tested positive for the virus, along with two family members and three aides.

Meanwhile, 277 people have tested Covid-19 positive in a 24-hour period in the state, taking the total number of coronavirus cases in West Bengal to 4,813, of which 2,736 are active cases.

The state has also recorded seven more deaths linked to the virus, taking the total number of cases to 230, with an additional 72 deaths due to co-morbidities.

SHRAMIK SPECIALS

Karnataka HC questions policy to choose migrants for trains

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, MAY 29

WITH LESS than one third of over nine lakh migrant workers and their families — who have registered on Karnataka's Seva Sindhu website — being transported on Shramik Special trains from Karnataka since May 3, the High Court has questioned the state government's policy of choosing who travels on a particular train, to a specific destination.

Hearing a PIL on the plight of migrant workers in the state on Thursday, a division bench of the Karnataka High Court, comprising Chief Justice Abhay Sreenivas Oka and Justice BV Nagarath, remarked that there was no clear and transparent "policy" by which passengers were being picked.

The state government has reported that 9,13,742 people had registered on the state's Seva Sindhu portal to go home, of whom, 2,56,000 people had been transported till May 27 on 177 trains from Karnataka.

"The process of transporting

migrant workers and their family members by Shramik special trains has commenced in the State of Karnataka from May 3, 2020. Between May 3 and yesterday (May 27), 2,56,000 persons have been transported — which is even less than one third of the total number of migrant workers/their family members who have been registered on Seva Sindhu website," the bench noted.

"We are conscious of the fact that the state is required to deal with more than 9,00,000 such persons who wish to go back to their respective states. However, there is no policy in place which can be said to be fair and transparent for selecting the migrant workers to travel by a particular train to a particular destination," the high court division bench said.

"Though several orders have been passed by this court from time-to-time, as of today, the state has not placed on record any transparent and rational policy for selecting persons out of those who registered on Seva Sindhu website, for being transported by a particular Shramik

special train. It is not placed on record in what manner the persons registered on the website are chosen..." the court said.

Referring to data placed in the court, the division bench said that among those who returned on the Shramik Special trains, there were 1,20,507 migrants identified by the state police, from 736 migrant camps across Bengaluru.

"It is not clear whether these 1,20,507 migrant workers were registered on the Seva Sindhu website. Even assuming that they were registered, it is not clarified by the state government why they were given out-of-turn priority for returning to their respective states," the court observed.

The bench also questioned the failure of the state government to communicate an assurance to migrants waiting to return home that the state intends to facilitate their journeys.

It also questioned the rationale of the state government behind sending SMS messages to 8,33,667 registered migrant workers asking whether they

want to go home, and then reporting that only around 55,464 people still want to go back.

"Perhaps, the state wants to defend this peculiar action by pointing out that two Shramik trains which originated from Karnataka to Uttar Pradesh prior to May 26, 2020 had some vacant seats," the order said before pointing out that data placed on record in the court showed 5,179 persons had expressed the intent to travel back to Uttar Pradesh via SMS.

"Prima facie, we are of the view that this exercise undertaken by the state of seeking confirmation from the migrant workers in a complicated manner appears to be an exercise to exclude large number of persons who have already registered themselves on Seva Sindhu website to go back to their respective states," the bench said.

In the course of the hearing, the Central government told the court it would continue Shramik Special train services beyond May 31 if the state government requests the Indian Railways.

Back home, migrant workers now wait for payment of dues

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, MAY 29

BACK HOME in Jharkhand's Daltonganj, Anil Gupta, 32, is a relieved man — for now. A worker at a Metro construction site in Bengaluru, Gupta recently received his dues of Rs 40,000 for two months from a sub-contractor. For him and others who received the payment — after protests, "threats" from the employers, and intervention from authorities — the money is a silver lining amid the pervasive gloom of a harsh lockdown that has dried up their sources of income.

"There is so much relief. It will help me navigate through the uncertainty for some time. I will buy provisions, pay for my children's education and save for the future," he said over the phone from his home.

Gupta and several others received the payment on Thursday. He hopes to return to the southern city, some 350 km away from his home, once more after the lockdown ends.

He has been lucky. *The Indian Express* spoke to ten labourers across several states, and found that only one of them received pending wages preceding the lockdown. During the lockdown period, none got paid — none expected to either. All they hoped for was to get the pending wages for the time that they had worked.

Hard-pressed owing to the loss of work, Rustam Ali and two others, who worked at the same construction spot in Bengaluru as a driver and cleaners, respectively, are waiting for dues of up to Rs 1.35 lakh. Ali took a loan to come back to Darbhanga, Bihar, and is currently at a quarantine centre. "My brother is earning in Tamil Nadu and he sent Rs 3000 from which my family is currently buying monthly ration. Our phone calls have fallen on deaf ears," he said.

Pinkesh Yadav, 20, who worked at a thread factory in Gujarat, hasn't received payment for 42 days of work. Pressed for payment, the management brushed off its liability, he said.



Migrants wearing face shields leave the Ranchi airport after returning by a special flight from Mumbai. *PTI*

CASE COUNT: THE CHANGING PICTURE

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

UTTAR PRADESH 14,439 275 86 Foreigntrants: None	ANDHRA PRADESH 11,638 85 52 Foreigntrants: None
TAMIL NADU 11,334 874 141 Foreigntrants: None	KARNATAKA 12,411 248 227 Foreigntrants: 1
RAJASTHAN 13,759 298 129 Foreigntrants: NA	HARYANA 2,909 217 None Foreigntrants: None
KERALA 2,061 62 23 Foreigntrants: 33	<div> Samples tested 14 Positive cases 1 Migrants 1 </div>

States' data for last 24 hours, updated up to 9 pm on May 29

It also made Yadav and nine other workers sign a letter before leaving. "*Hum sab apni marzi se chhor ke jaa rahe hain, agar hume kuch pareshani hoti hai, uske jimmedaar khud hain aur management ki jimmedaari nahi hogi* (We are leaving on our own volition, if something happens to us, we are responsible for it, not the management)."

After walking and hitchhiking a ride, he reached his hometown in Devghar, where he is currently quarantined. "We are not even counting the lockdown period, but we should get the money of at least the period in which we worked," he said.

Dinesh Hembrem of Jharkhand's Godda district paid

Rs 3,500 to a truck driver to return home. Hembrem worked at a construction site in Ullas Nagar near Mumbai in Maharashtra. The Rs 3,500, which he took as a loan, haunts him. "Two months of wages — more than Rs 30,000 — are due. Should I forget this amount?" he asked.

Similar stories — of indebtedness, desperation and an uncertain wait for dues — abound everywhere.

According to data available with Stranded Workers Action Network, which has been responding to the migrant crisis, 83.3 per cent of 25,345 people who reached out to it did not receive payment during the lockdown.

Haryana police asks banks, jewellers to ensure visitors take off masks at entry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MAY 29

HARYANA POLICE has issued an advisory for jewellers, banks, gold loan companies and other establishments that engage in large cash transactions to "ensure that anybody entering their premises will have to take off mask once in front of CCTV cameras" in order to prevent crime.

Haryana's DGP Manoj Yadava issued the advisory to all district police chiefs (commissioners of police and superintendents of police), asking them to circulate the instructions to all jewellers, banks, gold finance companies and so on. The DGP also asked district police chiefs to ensure

that these instructions are pasted at the entry door of all such establishments in their respective jurisdictions.

"With the gradual opening up of the lockdown, there is a possibility of criminal elements taking advantage of the trying times by wearing face masks... If any unfortunate incident happens, the criminals can be apprehended with the help of the photograph captured in CCTV cameras," the DGP said. However, "I advise people against carrying a large quantity of cash while going out," he added.

He also said that jewellers and other such establishments must install CCTV cameras if they do not already have it in place.

FAMILY STAYS AWAY CITING COVID-19

Rajasthan SDO performs last rites of infant

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, MAY 29

A SUB-DIVISIONAL officer posted in Rajasthan's Bhilwara district performed the last rites of a 4-month-old girl from Chawandia village after reluctance from her family members, who suspected the baby was infected with the coronavirus.

After the officer carried the infant's body, however, the suspicions of the family and other villagers were allayed and they too joined the officer in carrying out the last rites.

According to officials, the family returned to the village from Mumbai earlier this month, and the girl's father tested Covid-19 positive on May 23. However,



SDO Mahipal Singh digging a hole at a crematorium in Bhilwara district. *Express*

the child, who died of diarrhoea, had tested negative for the virus.

"The father of the child had tested positive for Covid-19 on

May 23 and was shifted to a hospital in Bhilwara for treatment, while the family was allowed to stay under home isolation after

the reports of the girl, her elder sister and her mother were found to be negative," said Mahipal Singh, SDO, Mandal, who has the additional charge of Kareda, the tehsil under which the village Chawandia comes.

Singh said on Wednesday, the administration came to know that the girl was suffering from diarrhoea. "The infant got affected with diarrhoea and dehydration and she was taken to a hospital on Wednesday evening but by then she had passed away," he said.

The SDO added that because of a misleading message circulating on social media, the family of the girl and the villagers assumed that she died of Covid-19 and were reluctant to perform her last rites.

"In an adjacent village, a man

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Shubham Nayar S/o Anil Nayar R/o H.No.332, Sector-31, Faridabad have changed my name to Shubham Nayar. 0040538336-3

I, SUJATA THALATOTI, W/o Ratan Thalototi, R/o-253, (South-Delhi-Apartment), Plot No.8, Sector-4, N.S.I.T.Dwarka, Delhi-110078, have changed my name to SUJATA THALATOTI. 0040538336-1

I, Priya d/o Dharmender Kumar Singh R/o F-180, Sudarshan Park, Delhi-110015 have changed my name to PRIYA SINGH. 0040538326-1

I, Nisha Kumari, W/o Dinesh Mandal R/o-A-1142, G.D.Colony, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, Delhi-110096, have changed my name to Nisha. 0040538336-5

I, GUNJAN KUMAR S/O PARMESHWAR DAYAL SHARMA, R/O-J-9, MOHAN-GARDEN, UTTAR-NAGAR, DELHI-110059, have changed my name to GUNJAN KUMAR SHARMA. 0040538336-6

I, Simran D/O, Sanjay Kant R/o R/3/G05 Gulmohar Garden, Rajnagar Ext. Ghaziabad, UP-201017 have changed my name from Simran to Simren Garg vide Affidavit 28/05/2020 before Notary public Delhi. 0040538318-1

I, Ajay Kumar Madan S/o Jagdish Lal Madan R/o-Flat.No.408, Seemant-Vihar, Sector-14, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad-201010, have changed my name to Ajay Madan. 0040538336-2

I, hitherto known as MUKESH KUMAR, son of, RAMBHOKH SOLANKI, Residing at-114, MohammadPur-Village, Delhi-110066, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MUKESH KUMAR SOLANKI. 0040538336-7

I, Uttara D/O, Sanjay Kant R/o R/3/G05 Gulmohar Garden, Rajnagar Ext. Ghaziabad, UP 201017 have changed my name from Uttara to Uttara Garg Vide Affidavit 28/05/2020 before Notary public Delhi. 0040538315-1

I, Suman Sehgal W/o Puneet Kapoor R/O E 33 top floor Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Suman Kapoor. 0040538327-1

I, Akash Kumar S/o Ruby Jaiswal R/o Plot.No.92A, Sainik-Enclave, Part-3, Jharoda-Kalan-Road, Najafgarh, Delhi-110072, have changed my name to Aakash Kumar. 0040538336-4

LOST & FOUND

It is notified for the information that my Original-Qualifying Examination-Certificate of Main, Senior-Secondary Examination of Year-2013-2014 and Roll.No.9174415 issued by CBSE has been actually lost/destroyed. Name of the candidate- Shubham Yadav Full Address- Tel. 9999449011. 0040538336-8

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to all the general public on behalf of my client Sarabjit Kaur W/o Khushpal Singh R/o B-75A, Asha Park New Delhi-110018 has debarred her son namely Sunpreet Singh Arora and his wife Gurneet Rand from all her moveable and immovable properties and have also severed all relations with them due to their misbehavior and cruelty. My client will not be responsible for any type of their activities and dealings with any person in future. It is their own risk and responsibility. S.K. Shrivastva (Advocate) Ch. No. Y-59, Eastern Side, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients, Sh. Naresh Kumar Gang and Smt. Santosh Gang Parents of Mr. Amit Gang A-2/41, Second Floor, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have severed their respective relationship with Mr. Amit Gang, his wife Mrs. Ruchi Gang and their minor son master Tanish and have disowned and disinherited them from their entire moveable and immovable properties and have severed all their relations with them. My above named clients shall not be responsible for any acts / deeds done by Mr. Amit Gang and his wife Mrs. Ruchi Gang. Smt. Sunil Gupta (Advocate) Off.: Chamber No. 311-12 Civil Wing Tis Hazari Courts Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under instructions from my client Jagdish Prasad So Chotey Lal R/o H.No. A-292 JJ Colony, Tigr, New Delhi-22, have disowned his son namely Sanjay Kumar along with his wife Jyoti and their children namely Ganvi and Shweta from all their moveable and immovable property i.e. Maha Agwarpur (TishDistt. Faridabad Khawal, No. 177160, Khatola, Sector-203, No. 12, Bile No. 42C/0, 1302/2-10/17 (4-10) 40 Sqyard Plot and sever all relations from them. My clients have debarred them from all their rights and claims in any manner from today. Anyone dealing with them shall be responsible for his act of omission & commission and that my clients will not be held liable in regard thereto. Mahesh Kumar Yadav (Advocate) Ch. No. 713, Saket Courts, New Delhi-117

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is hereby given to general public that Smt. Suneeta Chawla who claimed to be owner and in possession of Property Bearing No.13A, area measuring 690 Sq. Yards, Sector-14, situated in the Urban Estate of Gurgaon, Haryana, by virtue of Conveyance Deed dated 19.02.2014 And now Smt. Suneeta Chawla agree to Sell aforesaid property to Sh. Sidharth Jain And Sh. Sidharth Jain has approached to ICICI Bank Ltd. for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. All persons having any claim regarding in part, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which claim, if any of such persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof. Suniti Parsad (Advocate) For Juris NextGen Law Offices E-56, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-I, New Delhi-110048

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Rajesh Monga and his Wife Nisha Monga R/o 3008, 2nd Floor, East Patel Nagar, Delhi have severed all their relations with his brother Ravi Monga his Wife Bhawna Monga and their sons Aditya Monga and Abhinav Monga all R/o 1030 1st Floor, East Patel Nagar New Delhi-110008 with immediate effect due to their disobedience and misconducts. My clients also shall not be responsible for any acts and deeds done by them and their companies namely Ravi Enterprises Prop Ravi Monga, Asian Water Technology Pvt Ltd, Directos Bhawna and Ravi Monga and Water World Prop Bhawna Monga in future as my clients have no concerns with these companies. SANJAY PADAM JAIN (Advocate) Ch. No. 463 A & B, Western Wings, Tis Hazari, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my clients Sh. Manohar Lal Aggarwal S/o Sh. Kishori Lal and Snehlata w/o Sh. Manohar Lal Aggarwal R/o G-26/286, SEC-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have debarred his son namely Sumit Aggarwal, daughter in-law namely Komal from their all movable and immovable property w.e.f. 28/05/2020. RISHI PAL SINGH (Advocate) Ch. No. 1126, Rohini Distt. Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known my client RAJENDER KUMAR GOYAL, SO LATE MURARI LAL R/O W-2082, RANI BAGH, SHAKUR BASTI, DELHI-110034 have disowned and severed all his relation with his son namely ROHIT GOYAL and his wife KHUSHABU and debarred them from his movable and immovable properties/assets due to their misbehaviour, unfamiliar activities, intangible act, misconduct and going against the interest of his father with them in civil and criminal matter shall be doing at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibility and my client family shall not be liable for their any act. KAMAL SINGH (Advocate) Enrl. No. D-748/14

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf and under the instruction of my client RAJAN SINGH ARORA SON SH. KULWANT SINGH Resident of 2650 W Agoura, Road #102-945, state of California USA, that Our above noted client issued a GPA to his father namely Sh. Kulwant Singh SO LATE RAJAN SINGH Resident of Celebrity Homes Tower #1302, Palms Jumeirah, Dubai, Haryana, India and appoint him as GPA Holder vide dated 31.12.2019, due to health condition of his father (Attorney Holder), our client had decided to revoke/Cancel the said GPA dated 31.12.2019, hence this Notice for the General Public that the GPA dated 31.12.2019 shall have no value after the publication of this Notice and if anybody do any acts/acts/contracts etc. with the Father of our client as GPA Holder then that acts/acts/contracts etc. shall be void and those persons shall be responsible for their own acts/acts/contracts and our client shall not be liable. Sd/- Nadeem Qureshi, D-720, Lawyers Chambers Karkardooma courts, Delhi-110032

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that my client Smt. Suman Devi W/O Sh. Raman Pal Singh & Sh. Raman Pal Singh S/o Sh. Sadhu Singh R/o U-2243, Prem Nagar-2, Gali No. 14, Kirti Sarmar Nagar, Delhi-86, has disowned/debarred/denied his son Deepak Singh and her daughter in law Monty Devi, due to their misbehavior, disobedience, illegal activities/assets, also ceased all his relations with him, any person whosoever deals with his/her shall do it at his/her own risk/costs/responsibility. Sd/- Vimal Tripathi (Advocate) D-3555-A/09 373, Ground Floor, Pocket-4 Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi-86

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that on behalf of my client Krishan Kumar Chand S/o Late P.S. Chand R/o HIC-77, Brig Vihar, Ghaziabad, UP-201011 has debarred his son Dhananjay Chand S/o Krishan Kumar Chand and daughter-in-law Aarti W/o Dhananjay Chand from all his moveable and immovable properties & ceased all his relations with them due to their dishonest, disobedient & bad behavior. In future my client will not be responsible for any of their acts & deed and dealings with any person. J.C. Trikhia (Advocate) Ch.No.M-4, C.S., Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that my client Sh. Nisha Kumar who are the purchasing Plot No.58 & 59, area measuring 72 Sq.Yds, comprised in Kirti Sarmar Nagar, situated at Village Gochi, Tensal Balamhargh District Faridabad, Haryana from Mr. Pradeep Kumar who is the owner of the property vide General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sale & WILL, dated 31.01.2018 and further will be mortgaging against the financial assistance from VASTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. to comply the requirements of bank/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any persons having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property/issue their request to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this notice at below address: Lucern Legal LLP, 28B, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Mohd. Opp. Uday Park, South Extn, New Delhi-49 Contact 011-40046316

PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001
CIN- U40109PB2010SGC03814 | www.pstcl.org
O/o SE/TS (Design), Telefax: 0175-2027774, E-Mail: se-tr@pstcl.org

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Enquiry No.	STQ-5123
Description	15 KV NCTs
Qty.	41 Nos.
Last Date & Time for Downloading of tender	29.06.2020 upto 11.00 A.M.
Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tender	30.06.2020 upto 11.00 A.M.
Date & Time for Opening of Tender	02.07.2020 at 11.00 A.M.

Detailed NIT/Specification may be downloaded from PSTCL e-Tendering website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Corrigendum, if any, will not be published in Newspapers. As such the website may be visited regularly for updates. Sd/- SE/TS (Design), PSTCL, Patiala C-976/Pb

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER, TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

Request for Qualification (RFQ) cum Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Service Provider for providing Manpower Resources(Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS), Gardener & Cleaner, Sweeper & Grade - 4 Employee) in GovernmentInstitutes in the State of Jharkhand.

NOTICE

Ref. No: DHTE&SD/TE/04/2020

Project:Director, Technical Education, Department of Higher, Technical Education and Skill Development, Government of Jharkhand invites Proposal from reputed Private Sector Entities (Companies incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/ 2013 formed under the Applicable Laws) for providing Manpower Resources (Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS), Gardener & Cleaner, Sweeper & Grade - 4 Employee) in Government Institutes of the State of Jharkhand.

Selection Procedure: e-bidding and Quality & Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) Methodology shall be adopted for selection of suitable Private Sector/ Partner/(s).

Eligibility Criteria:For eligibility criteria and other Project Parameters, please refer to the RFQ cum RFP document.

Procurement of RFP Document:RFP documents can be viewed and downloaded from <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> from 01-06-2020. A non-refundable Demand Draft of Rs 10,000/- drawn in favour of "DDO, Directorate of Technical Education, DHTE&SD, Government of Jharkhand" payable at Ranchi must be deposited as document fee at the address mentioned in the RFP on or before date and time as mentioned. Scanned copies of the bid and relevant documents must be uploaded online. The last date for uploading of bid is on 14-06-2020 by 1700 HRS at the website address as given above.

Note: Bid will be accepted only online and manual bid will not be accepted.

Sl. No.	Event	Date
1	Online Bid submission start date	01-06-2020, 1700 HRS
2	Pre-Bid Query submission	07-06-2020, 1700 HRS
3	Pre-bid Meeting (to be held via Google meeting)	08-06-2020, 1500 HRS
4	Online Bid submission end date (i.e. due date)	14-06-2020, 1700 HRS
5	Submission of hard copy of all relevant documents of Technical Bid including document fee and bid security	16-06-2020 up to 1300 HRS
6	Technical Bid Opening date	16-06-2020, 1600 HRS
7	Financial Bid opening date	To be notified later.
8	Office Inviting Tender	The Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Department of Higher, Technical Education and Skill Development, Govt. of Jharkhand, Nepal House, Ranchi

Director (Technical Education) DHTE&SD, Ranchi

PR 228765 (Higher Education, Technical Education and Skill Development Department)20-21#D

No road tax for buses in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has announced exemption of road tax for passenger buses for April, May and June. Bus operations had been stopped since March 22 due to the lockdown. PTI

CHIEF ENGINEER (RURAL) UTTAR PRADESH JAL NIGAM, 6, RANA PRATAP MARG, LUCKNOW NIT No. 30/RWSSP-UP/JN/08 Date : 28.05.2020 E-Tender Notice

Chief Engineer (Rural), U.P. Jal Nigam, Lucknow on behalf of Chairman U.P. Jal Nigam invites on-line bids under Two-bid system, for Up-gradation of Regional/ District Level Laboratories including supply of equipment, chemical and glassware etc. as per details given below up to 15:00 hrs. On 29.06.2020. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 10.06.2020 at 14:00 hrs. & the technical part of e-bids will be opened on 29.06.2020 at 15:30 Hrs. In the office of Chief Engineer (Rural), U.P. Jal Nigam, Lucknow. Other details are given in the tender document which will be available on the UP Government's e-procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> from 01.06.2020 to 29.06.2020 15:00 hrs. Only online bids will be accepted, hence the tenderer has to complete necessary action to participate in e-tendering process.

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Chakradharpur, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of President of India under two packet system for the under mentioned works. Manual offers are not allowed against the tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. SI. No. & Tender Notice No.: Name of Work; Tender Value; E.M.D.: (1) MECH CKP-20-21-02, dated 29.05.2020: Material handling & house-keeping at C&W/DPS through open tender for a period of 2 years; Rs. 1,13,34,549/-; Rs. 2,06,700/-; (2) MECHCKP-20-21-03, dated 29.05.2020: Watering of coaches of enroute nominated trains at Rourkela station and loading/unloading of linen packets in trains & transportation of linen between ROU station and W/L ROU for a period of 1045 days; Rs. 1,04,14,972/-; Rs. 2,02,100/-; Cost of Tender Form : Rs. 5,000/- for each. Place of Opening of Tender : Office of the Sr. DME/CKP, S.E.Railway. Date & Time of Closing of e-Tender : 29.06.2020 at 15.00 hrs. for both. Date & Time of Opening of Tender : 29.06.2020 at 15.00 hrs. for both. Tenders can be viewed at website : <http://www.irops.gov.in> The Tenderer/Bidder must have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under IREPS portal. Only registered Tenderer/Bidder can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tendering. (PR-63)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that my client Sh. Nisha Kumar who are the purchasing Plot No.58 & 59, area measuring 72 Sq.Yds, comprised in Kirti Sarmar Nagar, situated at Village Gochi, Tensal Balamhargh District Faridabad, Haryana from Mr. Pradeep Kumar who is the owner of the property vide General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sale & WILL, dated 31.01.2018 and further will be mortgaging against the financial assistance from VASTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. to comply the requirements of bank/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any persons having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property/issue their request to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this notice at below address: Lucern Legal LLP, 28B, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Mohd. Opp. Uday Park, South Extn, New Delhi-49 Contact 011-40046316

J&K Congress leader Soz's wife moves SC against his house arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 29

JAMMU AND Kashmir Congress leader Saifuddin Soz's wife has approached the Supreme Court against his house arrest following the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution.

In her plea filed through advocate Sunil Fernandes, Mumtazunnisa Soz said she "has reasonable grounds for believing" that her husband "has been placed under house arrest in an unlawful and manifestly illegal exercise of power...

PARADIP PORT TRUST

e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Name of the Work: "Construction of New Conference Hall & Board Room inside Administrative Building premises". Estimated Cost: ₹.53,96,274.37, Last date & time of submission of Bid: 22.06.2020 at 17.00hrs. For details please refer our website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/> eprocure/app. Executive Engineer Roads & Building Division PPT/PR/41/2020-21 Dt.29/05/2020

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager, N.W.Rly, Bikaner on behalf of President of India invites sealed open tender for the following work on the date shown below. (1) Tender No.: S&T/BK/NET-172. Name of work with location: Annual maintenance contract for Electronic Interlocking System of SIEMENS make installed at 11 Stations of RE-BTL section for 09 months over Bikaner Division. Approx Cost of work: ₹ 4589538.03/- Earnest Money: ₹ 91800/- Date & Time for Submission & Opening of Tender: Upto 15.00 Hrs. on 24.06.2020. Website from which complete Tender details can be seen & downloaded : www.irops.gov.in 534-DK/20 Contact helpline no. 182 for railway security complaints

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PuVNL) (A subsidiary of UP Power Corporation limited)

Purvanchal Vidyut Bhavan, Vidyut Nagar, P.O. - D.L.W., Varanasi - 221004 Website: <http://www.etender.up.nic.in>

Tender Date Extension

The date of submission & opening of e-tender No. EAV-02/2020-21 & EAV-03/2020-21 is hereby extended up to 10.06.2020 (15:00 PM) & 11.06.2020 (15:00 PM) respectively. Further details can be seen at website www.etender.up.nic.in. Other terms and conditions shall remain same. Sd/- (Rajesh Kumar) Superintending Engineer (MM-I) "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" पत्रांक: 1399/ प.वि.वि.नि. (वा.)/ सा.प्र.-I/अंज-I/ विज्ञापन दिनांक: 29.05.2020

BAREILLY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BAREILLY

Opp: Bareilly college Bareilly Civil Lines, Bareilly (U.P.) Email- nagarayukt.bareilly@gmail.com

Expression of Interest

Nagar Nigam Bareilly invites E.O.I. to engage interested Firms for Bio-remediation/ phyto-remediation of 17 drains at different location with different capacity total around 100MLD waste water. Interested Firms are required to submit the proposal technical & financial in different envelopes in hard copy on before 18 June 2020 17:00 Hrs (IST) in office of Environment Engineer, Bareilly Nagar Nigam. Details of term & condition can be downloaded from Nagar Nigam Website www.nagarnigambareilly.com Any queries shall be contacted Mob No. 7055519614 and Email- sanjeev.pmninit@gmail.com. Interested Firms are requested to attend the conference/meeting and present the conceptual/ technical presentation on 12 June 2020 at 11:00 AM at concerning office. However if firms are interested to inspect the nallahs/ drains; they should visit before 12 June 2020. Sd/- पत्रांक 81 /पर्व. अभि. 2020-21 दिनांक: 26 मई 2020 Environment Engineer

HARYANA GOVERNMENT

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HYPNL, GURUGRAM	E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO. 14/CWG/2019-20 DATED 02.03.2020 (ONLINE TENDER ID: 2608, HBC 123187, 1)	Corrigendum No.03: date of bid Submission. 18.06.2020 at 01:00 PM, Opening 23.06.2020 at 01:00 PM	www.hypn.org.in	0171-2580789 pro@hypn.org.in
2	HYPNL, GURUGRAM	E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO. 14/CWG/2019-20 DATED 13.02.2020 (ONLINE TENDER ID: 2608, HBC 123187, 1)	Corrigendum No.04: date of bid Submission. 18.06.2020 at 01:00 PM, Opening 23.06.2020 at 01:00 PM	www.hypn.org.in	0171-2580789 pro@hypn.org.in
3	DHEVTA, HISAR	NIT No. 03/SE/CRO/HISAR/20-20 DATED 27.02.2020 (HBC, 123035, 2)	Date extended upto 01.06.2020 at 1600hrs	www.dhevtan.org.in	7491901109 sendto@dhvtan.org.in
4	DHEVTA, HISAR	NIT No. 04/EN/HPV DATED 18.03.2020 AGAS/ST QD-830/ 2020, HBC 124946, 1	Date extended upto 10.06.2020	www.dhevtan.org.in	8099388880 sendto@dhvtan.org.in
5	HPGCL, PANIPAT	(NIT NO.PTP/PPOM-1006032) (TENDER ID: 2020, HBC, 115912, 1)	Start date: 21.01.2020 at 18:00 hrs & Last date 17.06.2020 at 13:00 hrs	www.hpgcl.org.in	0186-2566015 xpm@hpgcl@gmail.com
6	HPGCL, PANIPAT	(NIT NO.PTP/PPOM-1006045) (TENDER ID: 2020, HBC, 126496, 3)	Start date: 20.04.2020 at 17:00 Hrs & Last date 17.06.2020 at 13:00 Hrs	www.hpgcl.org.in	0186-2566015 xpm@hpgcl@gmail.com
7	HPGCL, HISAR	NIT NO. 03/SE/CRO/HISAR/20-21 DT. 01.05.2020	Corrigendum -3: Due Date of Bid submission 08.06.2020 up to 15:00 hrs-opening is 03.06.2020 up to 15:30 hrs. Supply Tensified (300 MT=10%) Biomass pellets at SGT PP, HPGCL, Hisar	https://etenders.haryanagov.in	9350614450 06999999999@gmail.com

81083/HRY. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

ELGAAR PARISHAD CASE

Sudha Bharadwaj's bail plea rejected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, MAY 29

A SPECIAL court in Mumbai Friday rejected the interim bail application of activist Sudha Bharadwaj, arrested in connection with the Elgaar Parishad case.

Bharadwaj, 58, currently lodged in Mumbai's Byculla Women's jail, where an inmate had tested positive for the virus earlier this month, had sought temporary bail on medical grounds in view of the coronavirus outbreak.

In her interim bail plea, the activist had said that she was at a high risk of contracting the virus in the prison, and in her present medical condition it could be "life-threatening". Her lawyers had submitted before the court that she has pre-existing medical conditions, including diabetes and high blood pressure.

"The applicant (Bharadwaj) belongs to the most vulnerable category facing a high fatality rate, should she contract coronavirus. If she continues to remain in incarceration, there is a grave danger to her life," the bail plea said.

Bharadwaj had also submitted that no social distancing was possible in the jail given its space constraints.

Bharadwaj was arrested in August 2018 by the Pune Police for her alleged involvement in the conspiracy to organise the Elgaar Parishad event in Pune on December 31, 2017, and had claimed that the public meeting was linked to the banned-organisation CPI (Maoist). The case was transferred to the National Investigation Agency this year, and Bharadwaj along with the other co-accused in the cases were shifted to Mumbai for Pune.

Bharadwaj, 58, lodged in Mumbai's Byculla Women's jail, where an inmate had tested positive for Covid-19 earlier this month, had sought temporary bail on medical grounds

danger to her life," the bail plea said. Bharadwaj had also submitted that no social distancing was possible in the jail given its space constraints.

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Jailed poet Varavara Rao, 81, admitted to hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, MAY 29

POET AND writer P Varavara Rao, 81, who is an accused in the Elgar Parishad case, has been admitted to JJ Hospital. Rao was rushed to the hospital from Taloja central jail in Navi Mumbai on Thursday after he complained of giddiness and fell unconscious in his cell.

Hospital authorities said he is currently stable. "His swab was collected for Covid-19 test on Thursday and the report is likely to come on Saturday," said an official. His legal representatives said they were not informed about Rao being shifted to a hospital.

Arrested in 2018, Rao was shifted from Pune to Mumbai in February after investigation in the case was taken over by the National Investigation Agency. Owing to his age and previous illnesses, Rao has filed for interim bail before the special court, citing his vulnerability to Covid-19. The jail authorities have not yet submitted his medical reports sought by the court. On Thursday, the court directed the jail superintendent to submit a report on Rao's medical examination.

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड

निविदा सूचना सं-01/विजो/पापम/0/आगरा/2020-21 के निविदा समयविस्तार का प्रकाशन

E-Tender Notice No. 01/EI/ECTC/2020-21 एवं अंकित ई-निविदा जिसकी निविदा निविदाईकरण संख्या-01 Providing & Fixing of Electronics Accessories for Guest House at 220 KV SiS Gokul (Mathura) है जिसको दिनांक 29.05.2020 समय 12:00 बजे प्राप्त किया जाना है। एवं दिनांक 30.05.2020 को खोला जाना निविदा या अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त निविदा की तिथि पुनः विस्तारित कर निविदा प्रपत्र के प्रपत्र नाम को प्राप्त करने की तिथि 08.06.2020 समय 12:00 बजे एव प्रपत्र भाग को खोलने की तिथि दिनांक 09.06.2020 को समय 12:00 बजे निविदा किया जाता है। अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। निविदा सम्प्रतिष्ठा विवरण विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> & <http://upptcl.org> से भी प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली नवाये" अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत जानपद पारंपरिक मण्डल-आगरा, आग्रम पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, निकट अवर उखावा प्रेस, पारंपरिक नवन, ककरेटा रोड, 22कै0बी0 सप्लेन्ड सिकन्दरा आगरा। पत्रांक:811 विजो/पापम/0/आगरा/निविदा/दिनांक:29.05.2020

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड

ई-निविदा सूचना सं-01/विजो/पापम/0/आगरा/2020-21 के निविदा समयविस्तार का प्रकाशन

E-Tender Notice No. 01/EI/ECTC/2020-21 एवं अंकित ई-निविदा जिसकी निविदा निविदाईकरण संख्या-01 Providing & Fixing of Electronics Accessories for Guest House at 220 KV SiS Gokul (Mathura) है जिसको दिनांक 29.05.2020 समय 12:00 बजे प्राप्त किया जाना है। एवं दिनांक 30.05.2020 को खोला जाना निविदा या अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त निविदा की तिथि पुनः विस्तारित कर निविदा प्रपत्र के प्रपत्र नाम को प्राप्त करने की तिथि 08.06.2020 समय 12:00 बजे एव प्रपत्र भाग को खोलने की तिथि दिनांक 09.06.2020 को समय 12:00 बजे निविदा किया जाता है। अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। निविदा सम्प्रतिष्ठा विवरण विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> & <http://upptcl.org> से भी प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली नवाये" अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत जानपद पारंपरिक मण्डल-आगरा, आग्रम पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, निकट अवर उखावा प्रेस, पारंपरिक नवन, ककरेटा रोड, 22कै0बी0 सप्लेन्ड सिकन्दरा आगरा। पत्रांक:811 विजो/पापम/0/आगरा/निविदा/दिनांक:29.05.2020

HARYANA GOVERNMENT

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HYPNL, GURUGRAM	E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO. 14/CWG/2019-20 DATED 02.03.2020 (ONLINE TENDER ID: 2608, HBC 123187, 1)	Corrigendum No.03: date of bid Submission. 18.06.2020 at 01:00 PM, Opening 23.06.2020 at 01:00 PM	www.hypn.org.in	0171-2580789 pro@hypn.org.in
2	HYPNL, GURUGRAM	E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO. 14/CWG/2019-20 DATED			



PROBING QUESTIONS

LOK SABHA Speaker Om Birla, who is currently in the national capital, appears to be utilising the lockdown period effectively. In the last few days, he has had meetings with officials and staff from different departments in Lok Sabha secretariat, and asked several questions about functioning of the system and procedures. Even senior officials, it is learnt, found it difficult to answer some of his questions. Birla also took suggestions from experienced officials on ways to improve the functioning of departments, and has given some fresh instructions. This was the first time when a presiding officer took out such an extensive exercise, according to officials.

GOING LOCAL

AFTER ORDERING paramilitary canteens to buy swadeshi, the government wants its forces to have desi weapons as well. MoS (Home) G Kishan Reddy on Friday held a meeting with all chiefs of Central Armed Police Forces and representatives of 17 Indian companies engaged in manufacturing of arms, ammunition and other logistics for the forces to figure out how the country's dependence on imports for weapons and ammunition can be decreased. The companies, it is learnt, were asked how well and how much they can provide to reduce imports. Reddy calls it a step in the direction of making an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

ONLINE ADIEU

THE DELHI High Court organised a virtual farewell for Justice Sangita Dhinra Sehgal. The Union government accepted Justice Sehgal's resignation earlier this month. She is set to join the Delhi State Consumer Redressal Commission as its president.

Chouhan govt set to reintroduce direct mayoral polls in MP

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, MAY 29

TWO MONTHS after coming to power, the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has started a move to reintroduce direct elections for the post of mayors and chairpersons of smaller municipal bodies by revoking the decision taken by the previous Congress government.

The Kamal Nath-led Congress government had earlier promulgated an ordinance to restore a system of indirect elections that entailed councillors electing a mayor in municipal corporations and chairpersons in nagarpalikas and nagarpanchayats.

The ordinance undid the system that prevailed during the BJP regime, when voters cast two votes — one for their councillor and the other for the mayor or the chairperson of the nagarpalika or nagarpanchayat.

The BJP had won all 16 mayoral elections and a majority of the chairpersons in 378 nagarpalikas and nagarpanchayats belonged to the party. The terms of all 16 municipal corporations and more than 300 other bodies have expired.

While the Congress government had appointed officials to run the affairs of the municipal

bodies whose terms had expired, the current Shivraj Singh Chouhan government's plan to form administrative committees to manage their affairs has not gone through.

Sources told *The Indian Express* on Friday that the government has initiated a move to go back to the system of direct elections. A BJP leader said the Congress government favoured indirect elections because it was sure of tasting defeat in direct elections.

"After winning the 2018 Assembly elections, the Congress lost badly in the 2019 general elections. Apart from the popularity of the Prime Minister, what contributed to the Congress's defeat was voters' unhappiness over its rule of few months," the BJP leader said.

Congress leader Bhopendra Gupta said indirect elections are held for the posts of mayor and chairpersons of smaller municipal bodies in a majority of states. "In the parliamentary democracy practised in the country, MLAs elect the chief minister and MPs elect the Prime Minister. The same should be the case in municipal bodies. In bigger municipal corporations, direct elections lead to conflicts between the mayor and councillors because power is concentrated in the former's hands. When elected by councillors, the mayor takes care of each ward."

The BJP had won all 16 mayoral elections and a majority of the chairpersons in 378 nagarpalikas and nagarpanchayats belonged to the party. The terms of all 16 municipal corporations and more than 300 other bodies have expired.

While the Congress government had appointed officials to run the affairs of the municipal

POLITICS

Political capital spent on ideological agenda, post-Covid road is long haul

If protests and divide over NRC defined the first half, it is the Covid pandemic that could reshape relationships between the Centre and the states. The challenges this will create will make new demands on the govt's political capital

MODI GOVT SECOND TERM FIRST YEAR

RAVISH TIWARI
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE OUTBREAK and national response to the pandemic has for now pushed to the background the deep political polarisation visible in the months following the BJP's return to power with a stronger mandate for Prime Minister Narendra Modi last summer.

This ferment — nationwide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the discomfort in states about the National Population Register (NPR) questionnaire, and the communal riots in Delhi earlier this year — defines the politics of the last one year.

Even though the economy was on a downward slide with successive quarters of declining growth rate, the BJP government after returning to power chose to leverage its enhanced political capital to pursue its core ideological agenda — Article 370, Ram Temple, Triple Talaq, and CAA — without wasting time. Many of these issues had come up in the previous term, but the BJP was short of numbers in Rajya Sabha for a large part of its tenure. The enhanced majority in Lok Sabha gave it confidence, plus the political capital to man-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a video-conference with chief ministers: battling a crisis. PTI

oeuvre the demoralised opposition in Rajya Sabha.

Within weeks of presenting the Budget, the government pushed through the Triple Talaq Bill, and stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories. The government locked down all of the erstwhile state, and sent top Kashmiri leaders behind bars to quell the possibility of public protests. It

has so far succeeded in controlling street violence, even though it has faced probing questions from the international community, with China even pushing the issue in the UN Security Council.

The government did not lose its appetite for political confrontation despite the polarised political atmosphere in the wake of Triple Talaq law and dilution of Article 370. In the next session

of Parliament, it pushed through legally contentious citizenship amendment legislation.

"We don't need to set a background for the NRC. We will bring the NRC across the country. Not a single infiltrator will be spared," Home Minister Amit Shah declared in Lok Sabha on December 9 as he pressed for the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. The assertion, coming from the man who

had pushed the dilution of Article 370, triggered nationwide protests, leading to several protesters being killed in BJP-ruled states.

Modi's attempt to dial down the rhetoric on the issue of a nationwide NRC did not cut much ice. Deep political polarisation led to communal rioting in the national capital at the end of February, when US President Donald Trump was in the coun-

try. At last count, 53 people had been killed in the violence in Delhi — the first communal riot in the six years since 2014.

Both the dilution of Article 370 and the CAA have since been challenged in the Supreme Court. The government began a diplomatic drive to allay apprehensions abroad.

At the state level, however, the government faced obstacles. Unlike in the first year of its previous term, the BJP's attempt to monopolise power at every level faced stronger headwinds. It lost power in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, and returned to power in Haryana only after a post-poll alliance. In Delhi, it suffered another humiliating defeat.

Alarmed over the NRC rhetoric, state governments — opposition as well as those sympathetic to the NDA — dug in their heels against the NPR, opening up ground for negotiations before the pandemic put the exercise in limbo.

The crippling effect of Covid-19 on the economy will create challenges that will make new demands of the government's political capital over the next four years. The public has so far responded positively to the measures taken by the government, but how the situation will unfold economically and socially as the long battle continues, remains to be seen. The ideological agenda had appeared crystal clear in the mind of the government; there does not appear to be much clarity on the post-Covid challenges at the moment.

DIPLOMACY

A year of explaining internal affairs to the world

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

A YEAR ago, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi stormed back to power with a bigger mandate, his government was basking in the glory of its diplomatic handling of the situation after Pulwama terror attack.

The fact that the global community had come out in India's support, and some — including the US — had even backed the Balakot airstrikes, coupled with the listing of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar at UNSC as a global terrorist, was widely perceived as no mean achievement.

The massive majority made sure the diplomatic world gave a royal welcome to his second term.

Insiders felt Modi had to devote a fair share of time on foreign affairs issues in his first term, and he needed someone who shared his vision, and had the required skill and network to be his foreign minister. The field was narrow, and S Jaishankar, who had retired as Foreign secretary, was hand-picked.

Early in his second stint, he

started his overseas trips where he was now offering stability and predictability in policy, and projecting India as open for business and investments.

But, an unpredictable US President Donald Trump stunned New Delhi in July with a claim that Modi had reached out to him for mediating on Kashmir. Trump's claim was denied by Delhi and stressed that there was no departure from India's age-old policy of not allowing any third party in India-Pak bilateral issues.

When the government decided to revoke Article 370 in August 2019, Pakistan and China were the most vocal in their criticism. New Delhi reached out to the international community and stressed that it was an "internal affair".

Modi's diplomatic outreach to the Gulf countries, however, appeared to have paid off, as even they did not criticise India's move unequivocally.

But as the weeks and months passed by with the detentions, communication shutdown and reports of protests, the international diplomatic patience started wearing thin.

In August, Modi's presence at



Modi and Xi at Mahabalipuram: No significant breakthrough

the G-7 summit in France and the US trip, where Trump joined him at the Howdy Modi event, was to display firmness in the decision on Kashmir, but slowly and steadily, India's diplomatic goodwill was being questioned.

It was evident in the US Congress and the administration, where calls for respecting the human rights in Jammu and Kashmir became louder with each passing week.

Mindful of its sensitive nature of ties with Beijing, New Delhi laid

out the red carpet to Chinese President Xi Jinping for an informal summit at Mahabalipuram early October, but didn't yield any significant breakthrough.

By early November, New Delhi took the call to not join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and it was perceived as protectionist by the world community. The goodwill chipped away a little, once again.

In December, when the government passed CAA, perceived as targeting the minorities, there

was considerable disquiet in the diplomatic community. Many in the US Congress and European Union's Parliament members — from all sides of the aisle — roundly condemned the move.

By January, a month into the protests against CAA, the first warning on Covid-19 came and India focussed on its fight against the disease. In February, however, the government managed a diplomatic coup by getting Trump to Ahmedabad and Delhi for a stand-alone visit. Although riots broke out in northeast Delhi on the issue of CAA towards the end of his visit, the visit — in its symbolic value — achieved its diplomatic goal.

By March, as the pandemic spread, India reached out to countries to source protective gear, and testing kits, especially from China. It supplied essential medicines and earned some goodwill by supplying medicines to combat the pandemic.

Covid-19's association with Tablighi Jamaat, as it spread in India, led to some diplomatically uncomfortable moments in the Gulf. As Indians in the region were found to be spreading Islamophobic messages and governments there noticed, Indian

diplomats had to publicly denounce such comments.

As the first year in Modi's second term comes to a close, New Delhi is faced with tension along India-China border, where troops are in a standoff for the last three weeks. As diplomatic channels are being worked, New Delhi finds itself on a much more diplomatically challenging environment than it was a year ago.

One major takeaway has been that Indian diplomacy has been much more about explaining internal affairs to the international community, rather than pursuing its foreign policy agenda. In a nutshell, Modi 2.0's domestic agenda has shaped the foreign policy agenda over the last 365 days.

As India and the world face the Covid-19 pandemic, much will depend on how South Block uses its diplomatic capital in the coming months to regain some of the lost ground. One of the first tests will be election to the UN Security Council's non-permanent member's seat, how the country prioritises its agenda for the next two years at UNSC and how it navigates the geopolitical turf.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Collector to Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh's perennial politician

DIPANKAR GHOSE
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

IT WAS June 2016, and the skies had opened. There were hundreds out in an open field at Marwahi, the Jogi's borough in Chhattisgarh, but they stayed, red plastic chairs on top of their heads. As the rain came down, Ajit Jogi, in his now signature wheelchair, announced the formation of his new party. His voice was unclear, but the politician and orator was sharp, as always. "Even the skies have blessed us," he said. The crowd shouted back: "Jai Chhattisgarh!"

For the 20 years that Chhattisgarh has been in existence, Jogi has been at the centre, in one way or another, for all of them. But on Friday, he breathed his last at the age of 74, after 20 days in hospital and three cardiac arrests.

Born in Bilaspur, Jogi studied mechanical engineering in Bhopal, winning a gold medal,

and soon became an IAS officer, going on to become District Collector of Raipur. It was here that he is said to have impressed Rajiv Gandhi, before joining the Congress in 1986. He became a two-time Rajya Sabha member, and fought the Lok Sabha elections from Raigarh in 1998.

Right to the very end, despite a bitter parting with the Congress in 2016, Jogi would fondly recall stories of Rajiv Gandhi, and his own life in the political corridors of Delhi. As a spokesperson, he was a popular face on early Indian news television, and often spoke of times when he and Narendra Modi, who was then a BJP leader, would be picked up together in a car for debates in the studio later.

In 2000, as Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh, there were many contenders for the post of Chief Minister, such as Vidya Charan Shukla, Motilal Vora and Nand Kumar Patel. But it was Jogi who trumped his party rivals



AJIT JOGI | 1946-2020

to the post. As Chief Minister, he was seen as an able administrator, and with finance minister Ramchandra Singh Deo, navigated the young state through the tricky early phase. However, Jogi also made enemies quickly and was accused of being heavy handed, leading to the moniker "Jogi raj". In 2003, when the state went to its first elections, the BJP pipped the Congress to the post.

Even then, Jogi remained central to the state's politics, and its controversies. He was accused of the murder of NCP leader Ram Avtar Jaggi but acquitted due to lack of sufficient grounds for the charge. Then, in a Lok Sabha election in Mahasamund in 2014, Jogi lost to the BJP's Chandu Sahu despite the ballot having 11 Chandu Sahus as candidates.

Even as Jogi proudly called

himself the only tribal Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, making his roots the centre of his state politics, that too was questioned. In August 2019, a government panel termed Jogi's caste certificate as fake, and the case is still in court.

Tragedy was never far away, either. In 2000, his daughter Anusha Jogi committed suicide, and in 2004, he was involved in a car accident that left him in a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

A Congressman for most of his life, his relationship with the party, especially with other state leaders who were contenders for the Chief Minister's chair, deteriorated rapidly. Many within the Congress said that when the BJP won three terms, it was because of two powerful factions within the Congress — Jogi and the rest. In 2013, when the state Congress leadership was wiped out in a Maoist attack in Darbha, many from the party laid the blame on Jogi, an accusation he strongly denied.

By the time the 2018 elections came around, Jogi was fighting for his political life, contesting from Marwahi, and intending to be kingmaker. It was a brand new party in a bipolar state. But Jogi ensured that his party won five seats. Observers said at the time that had the results had been close, and the BJP not faced a wipeout, he would have been back in the government.

Over the past few months, with deteriorating health, Jogi had remained mostly at home, surrounded by an extensive library, his family that he protected fiercely, and two German Shepherd dogs.

But his interest in the state's politics was always keen, and he wrote letters often. He questioned the Congress government, with his Chhattisgarh Janata Congress emerging as a louder Opposition in the past year. His last letter was on May 5, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His request: The use of chartered flights to bring back migrant workers stranded in the lockdown.

2 Kashmir youths booked over FB post in Aligarh

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, MAY 29

TWO KASHMIRI youths have been booked in Aligarh following allegations that they wrote on Facebook that they wanted Kashmir to be a part of Pakistan.

Police said the two are students of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). University authorities said that while the two were AMU students last year, it needs to be checked whether they enrolled in the current session.

The case against Saqib Rasool Bhat and Sheikh Arfat has been filed on the basis of a complaint by Deepak Sharma Azad, who has identified himself as a Hindutva leader and a member of Akhand Bharat Hindu Sena.

The case was lodged at Atrauli police station on Wednesday under IPC sections 153-A (Promoting

enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 153-B (Imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration). The police have also invoked the Information Technology Act against the accused.

SHO Dharmendra Singh said the complainant has alleged that Saqib and Sheikh, as part of a conspiracy, made objectionable comments on Facebook to incite people of a particular community. He said the two are now in Kashmir.

AMU public relations in-charge M Shafey Kidwai said Saqib and Sheikh were students of the university last year, but it needs to be checked if they enrolled this year. "As the university is closed, details are yet to be verified. If they are students, action would be taken against them," said Kidwai.

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE
EVERY ARTIST WAS FIRST AN AMATEUR.
— RALPH WALDO EMERSON

The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

MR MEHTA'S LECTURE

Solicitor General's hectoring and bullying need to be called out — by the court too. That's judicial independence

SOLICITOR GENERAL TUSHAR Mehta's grandstanding in the country's apex court on Thursday crossed several lines. First, the line of propriety. Unlike the Attorney General, the SG is not a constitutional but a statutory authority; he appears on behalf of the government in court. Yet, on a day when the country's highest court finally, if belatedly, questioned the Centre and the states on the plight of stranded migrant workers, it takes a particularly blind and blatant partisanship, apart from a moral obtuseness, to question, instead, the commitment and credentials of those who are pointing to the unfolding tragedy and calling for urgent redress and accountability. In Mehta's overwrought rhetoric, they are "prophets of doom" who "only spread negativity, negativity and negativity", and who are "not showing any courtesy to the nation". He contrasted them with ministers "working overnight". Mehta also spoke of "the vulture and a panic-stricken child" — evoking the image captured by South African photojournalist Kevin Carter in Sudan, which, in the early '90s, sparked a debate on the journalist's professional and personal responsibility, the dividing lines that can blur or grey in challenging situations. While that debate is an important one, and it goes on, Mehta's attempt to hang his own narrow rage on it misfires completely. The fact is that it is the journalists' focus on the arduous trek of the migrants, as they attempt to go back home, having lost their jobs and with no resources to fall back on, that has made their plight visible and compelled the government, and now the Court, to respond. The fact also is that Mehta had stood in court on March 31 and made the misleading claim that there are no more migrants on the road.

Mehta crossed yet another line when he sought to lecture to the imagined enemies and critics of government, and to the apex court itself, on the meaning of judicial independence — "For them, Lordships are neutral only if you abuse the executive". Some high courts, he said "are running a parallel government". The latter was an allusion to the fact that high courts have seemed more outspoken about the humanitarian toll of the pandemic and the response to it. As this newspaper reports today, as many as 19 High Courts across the country have been pushing and prodding officialdom towards redressal and relief for the most vulnerable during the pandemic. Is the second highest law officer in a country that prides itself for the noise of its democracy really suggesting that, in a public health emergency, any criticism of the government, from activists, journalists, Opposition, and courts, is unwelcome? Is he trying to pit the Supreme Court against the high courts?

Of course, there will always be some in the Bar or in the PIL cottage industry who give out integrity certificates to the judiciary and quickly take them back, depending on which way a particular verdict goes. But it's a bit rich for Mehta, as counsel for the government, to lecture the bench — and the world — on what judicial independence should mean. There is a question, too, for the Supreme Court. The SG's outburst draws attention to the SC's silence. It would be unfortunate, indeed, if the SC's unwise and mean-spirited exuberance is allowed to be seen to, in some way, or in any way, be endorsed by the highest court.

WHEN CRISES COME

Country needs to evolve well-rounded protocols for managing disasters, not look at them as only administrative problems

ON TUESDAY, ASSAM'S Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma reportedly said that "it would be wiser for the people who are stranded outside the state to return by June 10 so that the state could shift its focus to flood management". He was referring to the dual challenge the state has been confronted with since last week. Assam has a much lower caseload compared to most states. But with migrants returning, the number of COVID positive people in the state has almost doubled in less than a week. At the same time, it experienced its first wave of flash floods last week. Triggered by the cyclone Amphan, the floods have affected five districts. The situation drives home the urgency of framing protocols and creating institutions to deal with multiple emergencies simultaneously.

Epidemiologists and policy-makers now agree that the novel coronavirus is here to stay till there is a vaccine or people develop herd immunity. Meanwhile, societies will continue to be confronted with droughts, floods and weather vagaries. In some parts of the country, the response of the disaster mechanisms to such exigencies has been compromised by the imperative of dealing with the pandemic. Last week, for instance, when cyclone Amphan hit West Bengal and Odisha, the two states evacuated about 5 lakh people. In normal times, this would have been hailed as a feat in disaster management. However, since the two state governments also had to ensure social distancing, they fell short of cyclone relief centres. Such challenges are likely to increase with the onset of monsoon — synchronising flood control and relief with COVID containment measures will be a test for several state governments.

The Centre used the Disaster Management Act (DMA), 2005 to notify the COVID-19 pandemic as a "disaster". Enacted after the tsunami of 2004, the Act does not mention a public health emergency. A criticism of the DMA is that it looks at disasters from an administrative and law and order perspective, and does not underline their humanitarian aspect. It talks of mitigating the "hardship of the community" but stops short of involving non-state actors in disaster relief operations. At the same time, the successes in COVID containment — in Kerala, Odisha, parts of Rajasthan — owe much to civil society involvement. The salience of such initiatives cannot be overstated. The country requires protocols to involve civil society in myriad post-COVID roles — from alleviating the stress of migrants and arranging quarantine to organising flood relief.

ART AND ARTIFICE

The singularity seems to be closer than was reckoned, as an artificial intelligence takes office as an art curator in Bucharest

PRACTITIONERS IN THE arts labour under the misapprehension that the human factor of creativity would shield them from the depredations of artificial intelligence. It is assumed that like machines freed us from physical labour, machine intelligence would rid us of intellectual chores. They would put production line workers, bookkeepers, bank tellers and inventory managers out of work, but novelists and artists, and the marketing networks which have developed around their products, would be unharmed.

Not so, it appears. A computer at Stanford which has digested the complete works of Shakespeare does almost passable knockoffs. In 2018, a neural network went on a journey across America and wrote a digital equivalent of Jack Kerouac's Beat classic *On the Road*. The 1957 original was strange enough. But *1 the Road*, written by a computer system, is stranger still, depending on literary devices that the human mind finds perplexing, like GPS data.

An AI developed in Vienna is now debuting in the art business, and will curate the Bucharest Biennale. Jarvis, named for the archetypal butler, will thematically select works from the databases of galleries and institutions, and display them in virtual reality. But an AI is only as good as the datasets it is fed. Let's suppose Jarvis is looking for portraiture, selects Vermeer's haunting *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, erroneously supposes that earrings are essential to the form, and unearths the awful portraits of bejewelled nobility lurking in the stately homes of Europe. At that point, like a god from the machine, a human must step in.



Soumya Kanti Ghosh and Pulkar Ghosh

INDIA'S COVID-19 STRATEGY of containment was derailed when the announcement of the national lockdown resulted in millions of migrant labourers deciding to leave their place of work and travel back to their place of residence. The process of convincing labour to stay where they were has met with minimal success. In a country where migrants are an important part of economic activity, the present crisis is more than just a humanitarian crisis.

According to Census 2011, there were 454 million migrants in India — doubling over the 1991-2011 period. Notably, the acceleration of migration was particularly pronounced for females, increasing at nearly twice the rate of male migration — a significant part of it being for marriage. The percentage share of people migrating for work and business has actually declined. The share of urban-to-urban migrants has risen over the years, indicating that inter-urban mobility is a growing phenomenon. Further, the proportion of short-term migrants is much lower than long-term migrants. After 2011, estimates in the Economic Survey indicated that migration within India continued to increase manifold and on average, migration within states is around four times that across states. Thus the suspension of interstate transportation and inter-district transportation was a big blow to the migrant population.

In terms of employment, the occupational profile of short-term migrants is different from that of long-term migrants as they are more engaged in construction activities. However, it seems that the COVID crisis may have also resulted in long-term migrants going back to their homes.

The scale of the crisis had to be addressed. Accordingly, the central government has permitted state governments to utilise the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for setting up shelters for migrants and providing them food. The Centre has also released Rs 11,000 crore of its contribution in advance to all states on April 3 to augment the funds in their SDRF. Additionally, the disbursement of the Revolving Fund (RF) to self-help groups was on-boarded on the PAISA Portal in April 2020 on a pilot basis in Gujarat and is now being rolled out across all the states.

Filling the absence

Overhaul legislation, imaginatively use existing welfare frameworks, to provide support and relief to migrants

States/UTs have now been advised to provide work to the migrant workers going back home. The government will also allocate an additional Rs 40,000 crore under MGNREGA to provide work. This measure will help generate nearly 300 crore person days in total and create a large number of durable and livelihood assets, including water conservation assets. However, there has to be a permanent and lasting solution to this problem of migration. Fortunately, the 2017 report by the working group on migration constituted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, provides solutions, some of which could be quickly implemented while the rest could be carried out over a pre-defined period. So what are these steps?

First, there is a need to reorient the working of the Construction Workers Welfare Board (CWWB) in each state. The CWWB provides social security to migrant workers. However, the funds' utilisation (ignoring interstate variation) is low, at 21 per cent. Based on the records available with the CWWB of major states, where the influx of migrants is the maximum, the Centre can transfer a fixed monthly amount for the next three months. Some states like Maharashtra have given one-time payment to such workers.

Second, a comprehensive database of migrant workers needs to be prepared on a war footing to establish a system akin to JAM. The immediate starting point could be the MNREGA enrollments this fiscal year, which can be compared to last year rolls and new additions could be treated as migrant labourers. This is not a full-proof system but a starting point. The PMJDY can also be extensively leveraged to find out the remittance transfers from source to destination. Such remittance transfers could be juxtaposed against the 54 districts (2017 report) that exhibit a high level of inter-state out-migration intensity.

Even as this exercise gets underway, in the medium term we can think of an alternative as the 2017 report suggests. Even today, migrants who are registered to claim access to a number of legal and other entitlements at their source locations, lose access to these benefits upon migrating to a different location because of lack of digitisation. With the country now moving towards the One Nation

One Ration Card, all the respective state governments can start working in unison to ensure the use of such ration cards for extending all benefits other than PDS. Portability of food security should be the first step towards portability of healthcare, education benefits. A basic social security framework for migrants, preferably through a simple interstate self-registration process that can be authenticated through SMSs, can be developed. This could be enhanced to include migrant children in the annual work plans of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Migrants can also have unrestricted access to skill programmes.

Contrary to international evidence, in India, language doesn't seem to matter in terms of migration. Thus, states must put an end to restrictive domicile provisions for working in different states.

The Working Group also recommended that states consider the utilisation of CWWB funds towards the provision of housing for migrant workers in construction and related industries. In light of the announcement by the government on launching a scheme under PMJAY for the migrant labour/urban poor to provide ease of living at an affordable rent, optimal utilisation of these funds should be considered over the medium term.

The time has now come for a complete overhaul of obsolete legislation regulating migrant labour in India. For example, in the Inter-State Migrant Workers Act 1979 (ISMWA), the inter-state migrant has to migrate through a contractor. Such laws create a serious challenge in extending stable employment and social security nets to this set of workers. What is thus needed is a clear articulation of a national policy of migrant labour in this era of digital technology.

We also believe that with so many social programmes running in the country, the government should now create a comprehensive database, drawing on the databases of Ayushman Bharat, PM-KISAN, PMJDY, PMUY and MUDRA for future social welfare initiatives.

Kanti Ghosh is group chief economic advisor, State Bank of India, Ghosh is professor, IIM Bangalore. Saket Hishikar contributed to this article. Views are personal

A REASON TO HOLD BACK

Delhi is unlikely to opt for an escalation with China that affects its economy



KHALED AHMED

INDIAN AND CHINESE troops have "pushed each other around" on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, raising international alarm. Under pressure from missile fire on its own LAC with India, Pakistan made public its hostility by getting its military experts to predict India's humiliation at the hands of a "superior power".

But judging from its past modus operandi, war is not going to be India's option — nor any form of escalation that will affect its economy. This is where India acts differently: No knee-jerk reaction that will lead to the kind of war that broke out in 1962. Unlike Pakistan's predictable reaction of breaking off cross-border trade — as it did in 2019 after the Pulwama incident — India became a significant trading partner with China touching a reported turnover of \$89 billion in 2018.

The country Prime Minister Narendra Modi courted the most after he came to office was China — despite border incidents — and he conducted highly publicised meetings with the Chinese leader, Xi Jinping. Modi was not hostile towards Pakistan to begin with either and paid a "private" visit to Lahore in 2015 to see a friendly Pakistani prime minister, Nawaz Sharif. The visit, unfortunately, foreclosed the latter's ouster from power in the "rigged" election of 2018. All this after the genuine Indian grievance over the Mumbai attacks, and the subsequent badly-handled trial of the culprits

in Pakistan.

Despite signals from President Donald Trump in Washington, India is not going to step into the war of a "geostrategic response" to China in South and Southeast Asia where China is seen flexing its military muscle. Europe seems to be going along with Trump and Australia, actually swallowed the bait, criticising China over COVID-19. The result: It has suffered a major trade reversal at the hands of its largest trading partner. Both China and India are major powers in the Gulf region and don't need to confront each other, either in Afghanistan-Pakistan or the Iran-Arab region.

In the Gulf, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is the third-largest trade partner for India, worth nearly \$100 billion, while Saudi Arabia is fourth-largest with \$57 billion in 2018. China trades to the tune of \$167 billion with the Gulf states and, together with India, has emerged as a significant political "alternative" after Trump withdraws from the Gulf. Of the 28 million foreign workers in the Gulf, India has the largest number followed by Bangladesh and Pakistan — its manpower being superior in quality to the workers sent by others.

How have the Arabs and Iranians reacted to the developments in India, which affect the lives of Muslims? Note the lack of reaction from Saudi Arabia and the UAE after India's "annexation" of "disputed" Kashmir in 2019, and the enforcement of conditions of "citizen-

ship confirmation" of Muslims in India (also note the absence of Arab reaction to China's incarceration of Uighur Muslims). Both China and India have emerged as big regional powers, making it possible for the neighbours to establish trade equations with them. Pakistan may be the one that has not rationalised its relationship with India, but Iran clearly has.

PM Imran Khan did begin by announcing that he would like to have trade relations with India, and possibly also did some lateral thinking about India's desire for a trade route to Afghanistan through Pakistan. Since Afghanistan is included in the SAARC, the trade route would have been quite natural and beneficial to Pakistan. But Pakistan still had to learn its lessons. India opened the Chabahar port route for Indian trade going to Afghanistan, and onwards to Central Asia. India traded with Iran to the tune of 41 billion Indian rupees in 2019, running parallel to China — Iran's largest trading partner.

India's position in South Asia and the Gulf has gained acknowledgement because of its economy — note the Arab investment which has gone to India instead of Pakistan — and China is a peripheral challenger in the region, in addition to being one of its biggest trading partners.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan

MAY 30, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM ULTIMATUM

THE GOVERNMENT OF Assam has given an ultimatum to nine leaders of the All-Assam Students Union including its president, Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, and the acting general secretary, Bharat Narah, to surrender to the authorities within 15 days or face imprisonment or fine. Three AASU leaders have gone underground evading arrest for which warrants have been issued under the Preventive Detention Ordinance, 1980. With this ultimatum to AASU leaders, the chances of the resumption of a dialogue between the government and leaders of the current movement on the issue of foreign nationals further receded today.

IMPHAL TENSE

CURFEW-BOUND IMPHAL. A town of 60,000 people, was deserted and tense. All the offices and bazars remained closed and the state transport did not operate but for a skeleton service to Kohima early morning. Para-military forces were put on post-and-patrol in the streets and localities. There was no official word on relaxation of the round-the-clock curfew, which was imposed at 4:30 p.m. yesterday after tensions rose high in the capital over the death of a woman demonstrator who fell down from a police truck, which was crowded with women activists demanding the withdrawal of the army combing against insurgents in Manipur.

UDIT SHARMA KILLED

UDIT NARAIN SHARMA, 72-year-old former minister and Janata Party candidate from Jehanabad constituency in Fatehpur district, was shot dead and one of his companions and a driver were injured last night. While Sharma died on the spot, his companion, Shankar Singh, and the driver were rushed to the hospital. Election from Jehanabad constituency has been countermanded. This is the third election to be so put off. Earlier elections from Sikandara Rao constituency in Aligarh district and Patiali in Etah district were countermanded following the murder of two independent candidates.



THE IDEAS PAGE

You, The People

A letter to the nation on the completion of one year of transformative government, and in the midst of a crisis that calls for firm resolve



NARENDRA MODI

My fellow Indian,

THIS DAY LAST year began a golden chapter in the history of Indian democracy. It was after several decades that the people of the country voted back a full-term government with a full majority.

Once again, I bow to the 130 crore people of India and the democratic ethos of our nation. Your affection, goodwill and active cooperation have given new energy, and inspiration.

During normal times, I would have been in your midst. However, the present circumstances do not permit that. That is why I seek your blessings through this letter.

Back in 2014, the people of the country voted for a substantive transformation. In the last five years, the nation saw how the administrative apparatus broke itself free of the status quo and from the swamp of corruption as well as misgovernance. True to the spirit of "Antyodaya", the lives of millions have been transformed. From 2014 to 2019, India's stature rose significantly. The dignity of the poor was enhanced. The nation achieved financial inclusion, free gas and electricity connections, total sanitation coverage, and made progress towards ensuring "Housing for All". India demonstrated its mettle through the surgical strike and air strike. At the same time, decades-old demands such as OROP, One Nation One Tax and better MSP for farmers were fulfilled.

In 2019, the people of India voted not merely for continuity but also with a dream — of taking India to new heights. A dream of making India a global leader.

Today, 130 crore people feel involved and integrated in the development trajectory of the nation. The light of Jan Shakti and Rashtra Shakti has ignited the nation. Powered by the mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, India is marching forward in all spheres.

My fellow Indians, in the last one year, some of the decisions were widely discussed and remain etched in public discourse.

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

But there have been many other decisions that have added momentum to the nation's development trajectory.

The creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff was a long pending reform that has improved coordination among the armed forces. At the same time, India has stepped up preparations for Mission Gaganyaan.

Empowering the poor, farmers, women and youth has remained our priority.

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi now includes all farmers. In just one year, more than Rs 72,000 crore has been deposited in the accounts of over 9 crore 50 lakh farmers. The Jal Jeevan Mission will ensure supply of potable drinking water through piped connections to over 15 crore rural households.

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

For the first time in our country's history, farmers, farm labourers, small shopkeepers and workers in the unorganised sector are assured the provision of regular monthly pension of Rs 3,000 after the age of 60.

Besides the facility of availing bank loans, a separate department has also been created

for fishermen. Several other decisions have been taken to strengthen the fisheries sector. This will boost the blue economy.

Similarly, it has been decided to constitute a Vyapari Kalyan Board for the timely resolution of the problems of traders. A higher quantum of financial assistance is being provided to more than seven crore women attached to self-help groups. Recently, loans without guarantee for self-help groups have been doubled to 20 lakh from 10 lakh.

Keeping in mind the education of tribal children, we have begun the construction of more than 400 new Ekalavya Model Residential Schools.

Several people-friendly laws have been ushered in during the last year. Our Parliament has broken the decades-old record in terms of productivity. As a result, whether it be the Consumer Protection Act, the amendment to Chit Fund Law or laws to provide more protection to women, children and Divyang, their passage in the Parliament was expedited.

As a result of the policies and decisions of the government, the rural-urban gap is shrinking. For the first time, the number of rural Indians using internet is 10 per cent more than the number of urban Indians.

The list of such historic actions and decisions taken in national interest would be too long to detail in this letter. But I must say that every day of this year, my government has worked round the clock with full vigour, talking and implementing these decisions.

My fellow Indians, as we were moving ahead at fast pace in the fulfilment of hopes and aspirations of our countrymen, the coronavirus global pandemic engulfed our country as well. While on the one hand are powers with great economic resources and state-of-the-art healthcare systems, on the other hand is our country besieged with problems amidst a vast population and limited resources.

Many feared that India will become a problem for the world when corona hits it. But today, through sheer confidence and resilience, you have transformed the way the world looks at us. You have proven that the collective strength and potential of Indians is unparalleled, compared even to the powerful and prosperous countries. Be it clapping and lighting a lamp to the honouring of Corona Warriors by India's armed forces, janata curfew or by faithful adherence to rules during the nationwide lockdown, on every occasion you have shown that Ek Bharat is the guarantee for Shrestha Bharat.

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

However, we have to take care to ensure that the inconveniences we are facing do not turn into disasters. Hence, it is very important for every Indian to follow all rules and guidelines. We have displayed patience so far and we should continue to do so. This is one of the important reasons for India being safer and in a better state than many other countries. This is a long battle but we have started traversing the

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Shrestha Bharat.

path to victory, and victory is our collective resolve.

path to victory, and victory is our collective resolve.

In the last few days, a super cyclone has wreaked havoc in parts of West Bengal and Odisha. Here, too, the resilience of the people of these states is noteworthy. Their courage inspires the people of India.

Dear friends, at such a time, there is also a widespread debate on how the economies of various countries, including India's, will recover. However, given the way India has surprised the world with its unity and resolve in the fight against coronavirus, there is a firm belief that we will also set an example in economic revival. In the economic domain, through their strength, 130 crore Indians can not only surprise the world but also inspire it. It is the need of the hour that we must become self-reliant. We have to move forward based on our own abilities, in our own way, and there is only one way to do it — Aatmanirbhar Bharat or Self-reliant India.

The recent Rs 20 lakh crore package given for Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is a major step in this direction. This initiative will usher in a new era of opportunities for every Indian, be it our farmers, workers, small entrepreneurs or youth associated with start ups. The fragrance of Indian soil along with the sweat, hard work and talent of our workers will create products that will reduce India's dependence on imports and will move towards self-reliance.

Dear friends, in this journey of the last six years, you have continuously showered me with love and blessings.

It is the strength of your blessings that has made the nation take historic decisions and progress rapidly in the last one year. However, I am also aware that there is a lot that needs to be done. There are many challenges and problems that our country faces. I am working day and night. There could be deficiencies in me but there is nothing that our country lacks. So, I believe in you, your strength and your abilities even more than I believe in myself.

The source of strength for my resolve is you, your support, blessings and affection.

Due to the global pandemic this is certainly a time of crisis, but for us Indians this is also a time for a firm resolve.

We must always remember that the present and future of 130 crore will never be dictated by an adversity.

We will decide our present and our future. We will move ahead on the path of progress and victory will be ours.

It is said that *Kritam me dakshine haste/jayo me svaya adhita*. This means, if we have action and duty on one hand, then success is assured in the other hand.

With prayers for our country's success, I bow to you once again.

My heartiest wishes to you and your families.

Stay healthy, stay safe!
Stay aware, stay informed!

Your Pradhan Sevak,
Narendra Modi

The writer is prime minister of India

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

These men (strong leaders) have sold a cult of strength that mocks and dismisses the weak, yet are too feeble to shoulder the burden of responsibility. They use their power to protect not their countries but themselves."

— THE GUARDIAN

Law that produces losers

Covid crisis offers room to erase thresholds of Industrial Disputes Act that adversely affect both workers and employers



DIPANKAR GUPTA

The signature image of the lockdown is of millions of ragged people stranded on the highways. Hold tight onto that image, for it will also tell you what to do in post-lockdown times. The remedy is looking us in the eye and we should not let it stare us down.

What makes such a visual moving, in more ways than one, is that those in the picture belong to the category of the instant destitute. It just took a week or two of joblessness to drive these workers to despair — their economic body mass index is that low. Supply and demand economics speak in tongues that are remote; they don't respond directly to the visual shock of this image. What made so many migrants suddenly long for their village, the very place they were happy to leave just a short time ago?

The answer lies in our Industrial Disputes Act (IDA), the motherboard of our labour laws, which has encouraged short-term employment, low skills and zero security. It did this by setting up thresholds which disincentivised long-term commitment of workers to entrepreneurs and vice versa. It also kept firms informal and unwilling to invest in human capital. This is why when the lockdown happened, that image on the highways played out like a spontaneous, macabre, flash dance.

How exactly did the thresholds in the IDA accomplish this? We can cut to the chase and go to Chapter V-B of the IDA, where its core provisions are stated almost "mantra-like". There are three thresholds which are absolutely pivotal: Hire more than 99 workers, and you will have to notify the government before you can fire any one of them. Hire more than 20 and you open yourself up to provident fund commitments and bonus payments. Finally, the ultimate threshold: If you want to deny workers severance pay, never keep them continuously employed for more than 240 days.

Given these provisions in the IDA, it will need either a foolish entrepreneur or one with extraordinary courage to hire more than 99 workers for over 240 days. The non-exceptional employers, that constitute the majority, are naturally tempted to observe these thresholds and duck under the radar. This is made easier by the fact that these thresholds mesh well with the fear that the middle-class — and upwards — have of a working-class takeover.

As a result, these thresholds have only encouraged the informal sector, where both unregistered labour and unregistered entrepreneurs dominate. Since there are constraints on both the workforce size and duration of employment, upskilling and R&D naturally become early casualties. India

spends only 0.7 per cent of its GDP in R&D, one of the lowest in the world, while South Korea spends 4.2 per cent.

Not surprising, then, that the IDA has created a perfect storm. It has led to the proliferation of informal enterprises and low-skill workers. In the first 15 years of this century itself, over half the increase in total employment has been that of contract workers. This has also led to a phenomenal rise in MSMEs as the IDA has spooked entrepreneurs from harbouring any ambitions to grow big and formal. The MSMEs have, consequently, increased in number from 3.6 crore units in 2012 to about six crore today.

Sadly, over 94 per cent of MSMEs are in the micro sector and their contribution to GDP is just not measuring up. In 2012, MSMEs produced 37.54 per cent of our GDP, but this number fell to 30.7 per cent in 2015, and in 2019 it decreased further to 29.7 per cent, though they are still working full throttle. Yet, the lure to stay on the good side of the IDA thresholds is so compelling that even formal units are today outsourcing from the informal ones. Over time, the IDA has succeeded in converting a large number of organised sector companies into strange, hybrid economic creatures, both fishy and foul.

In the ultimate analysis, the IDA does not produce winners, only losers. The workers remain skill-stunted and insecure, and the entrepreneurs, too, pull back from releasing their much-vaunted "animal spirits". Now, imagine a different scenario without the IDA thresholds. Under this altered dispensation, every worker — regardless of factory size — is entitled to the same rights. Likewise, every employer, regardless of factory size, can hire and fire workers.

The outlook changes dramatically. There is greater freedom on both sides, but this freedom comes with a price that does not discourage either size or skills in an enterprise. The worker can now be fired without notifying the government, but must be compensated with severance wages, regardless of the size of the firm. Also, unlike the IDA, all the firms must have a formal dispute resolution board.

Now that the enterprises have been freed of the size threshold, entrepreneurs get no advantage in dwarfing their firms. Other reforms can soon follow, such as allowing for workers' representation in a firm's supervisory board, as it happens in Germany. Measures such as these create trust between employees and employers, and also remove the threatening spectre of a working-class strike. We have to free ourselves from that psychological corner before the next epidemic strikes, else the migrant workers will be on the streets again.

Speaking of health, India has an opportunity here. The lockdown has etherised our economy and this is the right time to strike surgically. The IDA thresholds must go and not be merely fiddled with, as some states have done.

We need a specialist with a scalpel, not an urchin kicking the can down the road.

The writer is a Delhi-based sociologist

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CALLOUS STATE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Unsafe journeys' (IE, May 29). The insensitivity shown towards returning migrants is disheartening and reveals the incompetence of various authorities. From the migrants' point of view, why should they return to these callous states through the very mode of transport that shamed them? However, they will have to, as the poor never belong to any place. They will be forced to move again, in search of livelihood.

Anshul Choudhary, Agra

HANDLING CHINA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Standing its ground' (IE, May 29). Attaining the position of world leader doesn't provide the right to suppress — it confers a responsibility to tackle and solve international issues. China, the upcoming superpower, has left no stone unturned to maximise disruptions in India as well as the world. The countries not beholden to China must come together to ensure that Beijing understands that crossing the line is not without consequences.

Mayank Khatri, Ujjain

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Standing its ground' (IE, May 29). The unsolicited offer of mediation by US President Donald Trump is nothing but is a weak attempt to swim in the troubled waters. India must not let it's guard down and stay firm in resolving the crisis through talks and negotiations. If China knows

that India is in no position to lock horns militarily, India too knows that China — which is embroiled in Covid after-effects — is in no position to engage India militarily. It's a game of nerves.

Ashok Goswami, Mumbai

TRAGIC TRAINS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Trains on their mind' (IE, May 29). Our eminences in heaven may not have believed at first sight that trains in India continue to symbolise discrimination between the haves and have-nots instead of being a comfortable mode of travel and connecting people. What must have also pained them no end is the sight of the small child was trying to wake up his dead mother at a station, while people moved around them nonchalantly.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur



GHULAM NABI AZAD

ASTHENARENDRA Modi-led BJP government completes one year of its second successive term in office, India can only look back in distress as to how the nation has been brought to its knees in just 12 months. The last year has witnessed a total failure of the central government on administrative, economic, foreign affairs and social fronts. This year has been one where India has faced an economic crisis, job losses, cycles of violence and a pandemic that now threatens to blow out of control.

While the economy was struggling, the Modi government dedicated itself to destroying the secular fabric of society. It blatantly attacked the very foundations of the Constitution and destroyed the federal structure of the country. Each and every institution is being used to further the political purposes of the BJP rather than for nation-building. The Constitution was subverted when the state of Jammu and Kashmir was divided, taking the entire world by surprise. This move destroyed

the state politically and economically. The entire state was put under an unprecedented curfew, citizens' rights were taken away and hundreds of leaders, including former chief ministers, were arrested.

On the economic front, the government's failure has been pervasive. The January 2020 forecast by the National Statistical Office was that the Indian economy will grow at less than 5 per cent. The growth rate this year is the "lowest in 11 years". The cascading effects of demonetisation continue to hurt business and cause job losses. The consistent fall in demand has affected all sectors. Yet, team Modi has not been able to offer a single solution to bring the economy back on the path of growth.

Adding to this crisis is the COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic itself is a massive challenge, its impact on the economy is going to be long-lasting. The rate of unemployment has crossed all previous records. According to one estimate, in April 2020 alone, 12 crore

people lost their jobs — the highest figure in almost half a century. Perhaps some of these troubles could have been mitigated had the Modi government listened to the opposition.

Had the lockdown been announced earlier, perhaps it would have helped to arrest the coronavirus threat. But the Modi-Shah duo wanted to topple the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh and capture power there. In the process, they put the entire nation at risk. Today, MP is among the top three states in the grip of the pandemic. And when the government did impose a lockdown, it did so without preparation, warning or planning. The economy was brought to a sudden halt. Millions of migrant workers were left to their fate. They faced hunger, starvation, infection and death.

There was no support for migrants in cities, and to survive, millions marched on foot to their villages hundreds of kilometres away. Many died before they reached the safety of


their homes. The abject apathy of the Modi government towards suffering migrant workers has exposed its anti-poor attitude. Despite repeated demands by the Congress, the Modi government is yet to offer any economic aid to these hungry, jobless poor workers.

As the Modi government prepares to hold over 1,000 "online rallies", perhaps those offline millions of migrants and jobless workers and youth will recall a harrowing year of unemployment, violence and the vision of a bleak future ahead. The Congress demands that the government immediately provide direct financial support and assistance to migrant workers in distress till the MSME sector is back on its feet and can offer the dignity of jobs once again to this crucial workforce.

The writer is leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, a former Union minister and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir



NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of Work and its location	30-Elect-65-T-R2-19-20-E3 Electrical work in connection with renovation of 1st floor including provision of space for conference hall, dining area, Xerox area, waiting area and other misc. work at Rail Bhawan.
Approx cost of the works in Rs.	20.02 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earnest Money	Rs.40/100.00
Date & time of submission of tender	26.06.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	26.06.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
1202/2020	
Serving Customers With A Smile	

 TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD	
INVITATION OF BIDS- TWO COVER –ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (IInd Call)	
IFB No.	F. WSIS to Thenkara T.P. ISDO I/CW/2019 (DL:19.05.2020
Fund	NABARD Loan Assistance under RIDF XXV (2019-2020) / NABARD State Share
Eligibility	Registered Class I Bidders
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.1/1,Sambakulam, Ganesh Nagar, Mattuthavani, Madurai - 625007.
Sale of Bid & Place of Sale	20.05.2020 to 02.06.2020 upto 17.45 hours At O/o the Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, RWS Division, Theni. Tamilnadu by cash or Demand Draft for Rs.1000 + GST in favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, RWS Division, Theni payable at Theni.
Downloading website	(Free of cost) at www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.twadboard.tn.gov.in .
Prebid meeting	26.05.2020 at 11.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	04.06.2020 before 15.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee in person or through post. This office will not be held responsible for postal delay, if any.
Bid opening	04.06.2020 at 15.30 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No.-: Elect/TRD/MB/2020-21/TN-04 Date:- 29/05/2020	
Department:-	Electrical (TRD)
Tender No.	T-02-TRD-MB-20-21
Name of Work:-	Replacement of Static control panel (including Relays) with Numerical Relay Panel (including Relays) at Umarthal Traction Sub Station over Moradabad Division.
Tender Closing Date & Time:-	22.06.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Advertised Value (Rs.):-	53.13,483.18 (Excl. GST)
Earnest Money (Rs.):-	1,06,300.00
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.):-	5000.00
Validity of offer (Days):-	45 days
Period of completion:-	180 days
Website particulars & Address of office.	www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Northern Railway, Moradabad.
1203/2020	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

Government of Meghalaya Office of the Chief Engineer, PHE., Meghalaya, Shillong	
No. CE/PHE/TB:274/2016-17/92	Dated the 27th May 2020
Extension Notice	
1. The Tender called vide this Office NIT No. CE/PHE/TB:274/2016-17/88, Dated 27.04.2020 is hereby extended upto 5th June 2020 and will be opened on the same date at 3:00 PM.,	
2. However, all other Terms & Conditions shall remain unchanged.	
Sd/- Chief Engineer, PHE., Meghalaya, Shillong.	
MIPR NO 164 DT 28.05.2020	

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division, Queens Road, Bengaluru.	
Dated: 26.05.2020	
CORRIGENDUM-1	
Ref: Tender Notification No.EE(H)AE/E-TND/11/2019-20, Dated: 20.05.2020	
Attention of the intending contractors is drawn to tender notification under reference. The following changes may kindly be noted.	
Corrigendum of the Above Notification for the Item No.1 (1 No. of Work)	
1. The date for issue and receipt of the same has been postponed due to technical reasons and EMD Rectification, The Dates are as below.	
2. The said Tender Estimate Cost for Rs.500.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs.7,50,000/-	
Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the GOK from 30.05.2020	
(2) Pre-Bid Meeting on 04.06.2020, 3:30 pm at Chief Engineer, East Zone, BBMP, PU Building, near Mayohalli, MG Road, Bengaluru - 560001. (3) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is 10.06.2020 upto 4:00 pm. (4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid of Tenders is on 11.06.2020 at 4:30 pm If possible or Next Working Day. (5) Date of Opening of Financial Bid of Tenders is on 12.06.2020 at 4:45 pm if Possible or Next Working Day. All other terms and conditions remain unaltered.	
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division	
Pay Development Charges - Help to Develop Bengaluru	

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED (A Government of Karnataka undertaking) Office of the Executive Engineer,VJNL, UBP Division No. 3, Ajjampura-577 547 Tele/Fax No-08261-295686 E-mail id-eeubp3.1@gmail.com NO:EE/VJNL/UBP-D-03/Ajjampura/PB-1/Tender notification/2020-21/127 dated: 28.05.2020	
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-Procurement)	
Percentage tender through e-portal for the Integrated Mission For Sustainable Development in Two cover system is invited by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No. 03 Ajjampura on behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd, from the KNNL/VJNL enrolled category-II Contractors who fulfills the pre-qualification conditions for the work” Watershed Development Scheme on the lines of Integrated Mission For Sustainable Development for the watershed of Ajjampura tunnel area”(Indent No 1320) (Call-2). ” The Contractors can download and submit the completed bid documents through e-procurement website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 29.05.2020 to 11.06.2020 upto 16.00 hours. Details such as Amount put to tender/ EMD amount/ qualification of Bidders/ Tender conditions/Tender processing fee etc can be obtained through e-procurement or from the office of the under signed during the office hours upto 11.06.2020 (16.00 hours). The tender will be opened on 12.06.2020 after 16.30 P.M at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No. 03Ajjampura through e-procurement. The date of opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to the Qualified bidders. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not bound to accept the lowest tender.	
Sd/- Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.3, Ajjampura.	

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India BOI Head Office, Data-warehouse Department, 7 th Floor, Star House 2, C-4, "G" Block, Bandra - Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051, E-mail: Headoffice.Datawarehouse@bankofindia.co.in	
Re-Tender 1 Request For Proposal (RFP) Notice	
BANK OF INDIA INVITES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR selection of Consultant firm services to study existing Enterprise Data-Warehouse, Customer Relationship Management, Data Mining & Analytics, Business Intelligence etc., propose Next-Generation Solution and assist on End-to-End basis from selection of vendor till implementation of the project for Data Warehouse Last date for submission of RFP 17.06.2020 by 3:00 PM. Details available on Bank's Corporate Website: www.bankofindia.co.in under "Tender" Section.	

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location	30-Elect-04-T-2020-21-E3; Hiring of multi utility road vehicle for 24 hours a day (round the clock) for three years (36 months) for transportation of staff to attend electrical breakdown, derailment & conduct surprise inspection by officers over Delhi Division.
Approx. cost of the works in Rs.	20.30 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 40600.00
Date & time of submission of tender	26.06.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	26.06.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
1206/20	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location:-	Electrical work in connection with (i) Electrical sub-estimate for augmentation of hostel building at electric training center Ghaziabad (ii) Heavy repair of old building for RPF Thana at DSA and repair of old quarters. DSA in the section of SSE/W/M/GZB under ADEN/GZB. (iii) Construction of T&P room, Kitchen & stores in first floor above Drug store in the section of SSE/W/TH under ADENE-III.
Approx cost of the works in:-	Rs. 45.94 lacs
Address of the office:-	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earnest Money:-	Rs. 91900.00
Date & time of submission of tender:-	29.06.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender:-	29.06.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board:-	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
1204/2020	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking) Tel.: (022) 2687 0052	
PUBLIC NOTICE	
Online applications on www.recruitment.midcindia.org are invited for “Selection of Maharashtra Investment Fellows for giving traction to the investment promotion initiatives for attracting and facilitating global investors” as per the qualification and requirements mentioned on the portal. Candidates must adhere to the detailed terms and condition on the portal. Applicants can apply online on website of MIDC: www.recruitment.midcindia.org from 30/05/2020 from 12:00 pm onwards to 10/06/2020 till 12:00 pm.	
Candidates should note that application will not be accepted in any other format and MIDC has not appointed any agency for the recruitment drive. Last Date of Submission is 10/06/2020 till 12.00 pm. No application will be accepted post the deadline in any form.	

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY			
SCHEDULE OF E-AUCTION NOTICE (SCRAP SALE)			
Month	Division	Date	Mobile
JUNE 2020	Danapur Division	16.06.2020 (Tuesday) 26.06.2020 (Friday)	9771449770
	Dhanbad Division	17.06.2020 (Wednesday) 29.06.2020 (Monday)	9771426770
	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Division	15.06.2020 (Monday) 25.06.2020 (Thursday)	9794848770
	Samastipur Division	18.06.2020 (Thursday) 30.06.2020 (Tuesday)	9771428770
	Sonpur Division	18.06.2020 (Thursday) 30.06.2020 (Tuesday)	9771429770
	(a)	Bidders are advised to inspect the scrap lot before submission of bid. They are allowed to inspect the lot, on an authority from the concerned officer of Railway Administration, at the site of lot mentioned in the auction catalogue on any working day (except Saturday).	
(b)	The complete details of materials and terms and conditions will be as per Auction Catalogue, which shall be available with the respective auction conducting authority of East Central Railway or from our website : www.ireps.gov.in prior to the date of auction.		

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited	
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala) O/o CE/MM, Room No. 212, 2nd Floor, Multi Story Building, PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala. Phone No. 091-175-2213047, Fax No. 091-175-2225024, Mobile: 96461-19383, 96461-11036, E-mail: apoconductors@gmail.com , apo-c@pspcl.in Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SCG033813 Website: www.pspcl.in , e-tendering portal: https://eproc.punjabgov.in TENDER ENQUIRY NO: QQ-221/PSPC/PO-C	
Short Description	Procurement of 5100 Km ACSR Rabbit, Nominal Aluminium area 50 mm ² bearing ISI/PQM Mark conforming to IS:398 Part-II 1996 (with Latest amendments, if any) and PSPCL specification QQ-221.
Start date for downloading of specification/ tender document from PSPCLs website https://eproc.punjabgov.in	04.06.2020
Last date for downloading of specification/tender documents from PSPCLs website https://eproc.punjabgov.in	01.07.2020 upto 11.00 A.M.
Last date for bid submission	06.07.2020 upto 11.00 A.M.
Bid Opening Date	06.07.2020 at 11.30 A.M.
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjabgov.in	
NOTE: It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any 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, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, Patiala.	
C-174/2020 C-983/Pb	

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (A Government of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise)	
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER National Competitive Bidding	
Tender Notice No.: MGS/EN/2020-21/ROB/LC-72B/317 DATE: 29.05.2020	
Name of the work: Construction of Two-Lane Road Over Bridge (ROB) and construction of 5.5mtr wide FOB in lieu of level crossing no. 72B at IR Chainage 649/5-7 between Chandauli Majhwar – Saiyadraja including Obligatory Spans, Viaduct Spans, approaches roads etc. complete in all respect in DDU Division of East Central Railway Employer: General Manager/Coordination/DDU, DFCCIL, Manas Nagar Railway Colony, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar (Mughalsara) Chandauli -232101, Uttar Pradesh, India	
Acting through: Ajit Kumar Mishra, IRSE Mobile: +917897412000 Email: ajitkmishra@dfcc.co.in Type of Tender: Open E-Tender (Single stage Two Packet) Estimated Cost: Rs. 37,12,33,388.62/- (Rupees Thirty-Seven crore Twelve Lakhs Thirty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Eight and Paise Sixty-Two Only). Period of Contract: 18 months Earnest Money: Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rs. Fifty Lakhs only) Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 11,800/- (Inclusive of GST) Tender processing fee: Rs. 7500/- + GST to be submitted to M/S ITI Ltd through E-payment, E-tendering website: www.tenderwizard.com/DFCCIL For any help, please contact Tender Wizard Helpdesk at 011-49424365, +91-9599653865 Date of uploading of NIT & Bid documents (online publishing/Sale (Online): From Date 30.05.2020 from 11.00 Hrs Pre-Bid Meeting: On 15.06.2020 at 11.00 Hrs At office of Employer: General Manager/Coordination/DDU, DFCCIL, Manas Nagar Railway Colony, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar (Mughalsara) Chandauli -232101, Uttar Pradesh, India Date & Time of Submission of Tender: On or before date 30.06.2020 and Time upto 15:00 hrs Date and Time of Opening of Tender (Technical bids -Packet A): Date 30.06.2020 at 15.30 hrs Tender document will be available on DFCCIL's website www.dfccil.com , www.tenderwizard.com/DFCCIL & Central Procurement portal eprocure.gov.in . For submission purpose, the Tender document can be downloaded from www.tenderwizard.com/DFCCIL website. Tenderers are advised to visit the DFCCIL website regularly for information regarding tender. Amendment(s) (if any) will be uploaded on DFCCIL website www.dfccil.com and www.tenderwizard.com/DFCCIL only.	
General Manager/Coordination/DDU For & on behalf of DFCCIL	

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY	
No.: WCR/HQ/C-924/Short-listing	Date: 27.05.2020
Expression Of interest For Short Listing Of Approved Catering Products (PAD & Packaged Drinking Water Brands For Sale From Catering Units On West Central Railway	
Vide notification no. WCR/HQ/C-924/Short dated 27.02.2020 applications are invited in the prescribed format from the interested manufacturer companies/firms for short-listing/ registration of catering products (PAD items such as biscuits, namkeen, chips, cold drinks, cakes etc. & Packaged Drinking Water bottles) for sale from the Catering Units in Railway premises (except the units run by IRCTC) on WC Railway. The last date for submission of requisite documents was 03.04.2020 which is further extended for 15 days from opening of lockdown.	
The form can be downloaded from the Railway website i.e. www.wcr.indianrailways.gov.in , the application should be submitted along with a Demand Draft of ₹ 2,500/- issued in favour of FA & CAO, WCR, Jabalpur. Detailed information along with eligibility criteria and proforma of application forms are available on the website www.wcr.indianrailways.gov.in .	
The application forms duly filled along with requisite documents should be submitted to: Chief Commercial Manager (Catering & PS), GM's Office, Indira Market, Jabalpur (MP) – 482001 ACM (TC) WCR/JBP	
रेल खाता के द्वारा निशानावत हेतु 131 पर एवं मुद्रा हेतु 182 पर संयक्त कर्र	


OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER	
PHONE NO. 0145-2624748 FAX NO. 0145-2627671	
No, F()/A.R.MP/2020-2021/1594- 635	Dated: 26/05/2020
Tender Re-Invitation Notice	

Due to un-avoidable circumstances, following NITs, as detailed below is **hereby re-invited.**

NIT No.	Brief Description of works
07/19-20	Work of Providing, Laying Jointing ,Testing and Commissioning of various sizes of DI/HDPE pipe lines, Work of construction of RCC Pump house with EMI pipes and ancillary works with one year defect liability period of UWSS Ladnun Phase-II Dist : Nagaur. (vide SPPP UBN No. PHE1920WLOB10078) (eproc web site tender ID No. 2020_PHCJA_181447_1) Estimated cost of work-Rs. 1189.63 lacs. Earnest Money in favour of Addl. Chief Engineer, PHED, Region, Ajmer -Rs. 2379260.00 Tender fee in favour of Addl. Chief Engineer, PHED, Region, Ajmer Rs. 15000.00. Tender processing fee in favour of MD, RISL. Payable at Jaipur-Rs. 1000.00 Period for Completion - 18 months
08/19-20	EXECUTION OF VARIOUS WORKS RELATED TO AUGMENTATION OF URBAN WATER SUPPLY SCHEME OF MERTA CITY DIST. NAGAU (RAJ.) WITH ONE YEAR DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD. (vide SPPP UBN No. PHE1920WLOB10079) (eproc web site tender ID No. 2020_PHCJA_181462_1) Estimated Cost Rs. 1592.02 lacs. Earnest Money in favour of Addl. Chief Engineer, PHED, Region, Ajmer -Rs. 3184040.00 Tender fee in favour of Addl. Chief Engineer, PHED, Region, Ajmer Rs. 15000.00. Tender processing fee in favour of MD, RISL. Payable at Jaipur-Rs. 1000.00 Period for Completion - 24 months.
01/20-21	Work of EXECUTION OF VARIOUS WORKS RELATED TO AUGMENTATION OF URBAN WATER SUPPLY SCHEME OF GOREDI CHANCHA (DEGANA) DISTT. NAGAU (RAJ.) WITH ONE YEAR DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD. (vide SPPP UBN No. PHE2021WLOB00222) (eproc web site tender ID No. 2020_PHCJA_182402_1) Estimated Cost Rs. 999.13 lacs. Earnest Money in favour of Addl. Chief Engineer, PHED, Region, Ajmer -Rs. 1998260.00 Tender fee in favour of Addl. Chief Engineer, PHED, Region, Ajmer Rs. 15000.00. Tender processing fee in favour of MD, RISL. Payable at Jaipur-Rs. 1000.00 Period for Completion - 24 months.

Notes: Detailed NIT, pre-qualification criteria and tender documents can also be seen in NIT exhibited on web site www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> and <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. Tenders are to be submitted online electronic format on web site <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>

SAVE WATER - SAVE LIFE	
NIB No: PHE2021A0942	Sd/-
UBN No: PHE 2021WLOB01656	(P.L. Verma)
PHE 2021WLOB01658	Additional Chief Engineer,
PHE 2021WLOB01661	PHED, Region, Ajmer
DIPR/C/3779/2020	

 BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Southa, 13th Cross Road, 4th B Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru - 560 040			
No.: EE(GRN)/TN/GL-06/2020-21		Date: 28.05.2020	
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION			
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Standard Tender Document - KW - 2 & 3)			
Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered Contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.			
Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
SINGLE COVER WORKS			
Works Reserved for Schedule Caste (SC) Category			
1	Engaging silt and tractor in Ward No. 125 , Marenahalli.	20.00	25,000/-
2	Maintenance of RO Plant in Ward No. 125 , Marenahalli ward jurisdiction.	10.00	12,500/-
Works Reserved for Schedule Tribe (ST) Category			
3	Construction and Improvements of Dry Waste Collection Center in Ward No. 127 , Mudalapalya.	50.00	50,000/-
4	Maintenance of SWD works, BBMP buildings, CC camera nock room in Agrahara Dasarahalli Ward No. 105 . (Call-4)	15.00	18,750/-
Works for General Category			
5	Renovation of Anjaneyaswamy Temple Prayer Hall in Sajeevini Nagara, Mudalapalya in Ward No. 127 .	45.00	90,000/-
6	Additional works to Prayer Hall at Maheshwaramma Temple at Annapoorneshwari, Mudalapalya in Ward No. 127 .	20.00	50,000/-
7	Providing water supply through tanker and maintenance of Borewells in Ward No. 127 .	20.00	50,000/-
8	Emergency work in Ward No. 125 , Marenahalli.	20.00	50,000/-
9	Maintenance of GYM Equipments in Ward No. 125 , Marenahalli Ward Jurisdiction.	10.00	25,000/-
10	Construction of Prayer Hall and Development work at Kalyananagar High Tension Line Road in Ward No. 127 , Mudalapalya.	50.00	1,00,000/-
11	General Public Toilet and Septage Maintenance works in Ward No. 128 . (Call-2)	15.00	37,500/-
TWO COVER WORKS			
1	Sinking, Erection and Commissioning of borewells in Ward No. 127 , Mudalapalya.	100.00	2,00,000/-
2	Providing works to BBMP College building at Garden Vilas in Ward No. 128 .	55.00	1,10,000/-
3	Improvements to drain and footpath at Manasanagara in Ward No. 128 .	75.00	1,50,000/-
4	Balance work of drain and roads at Nagarabhavi Village and Teachers Layout in Ward No. 128 .	100.00	2,00,000/-
5	Providing UGD Pipelines in Ward No. 128 ward jurisdiction.	60.00	1,20,000/-
Calendar of Events: (1) Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in . (2) Last date for receipt of Queries: 02.06.2020 upto 3:00 p.m. (3) Date of pre bid meeting at the Office of the Executive Engineer (Govindarajanagara Division) on 04.06.2020 at 3:30 p.m. (4) Last Date for uploading the filled proposals: 11.06.2020 up to 4:00 p.m. (5) Date of opening for Single cover bid Financial proposals : 13.06.2020 after 4:30 p.m. and Date of opening for Two Cover bid Technical Proposals: 13.06.2020 after 4:30 p.m. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in			
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP <i>"Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru"</i>			

HI-TECH INDUSTRIES

Maharashtra: Govt looking to reduce locals’ job quota to 60%

VISHWAS WAGHMODE
MUMBAI, MAY 29

WHILE MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has urged the local youth to grab available employment opportunities in industries after the exodus of migrant workers back to their home states, the state industry department is planning to reduce the 80 per cent job quota for persons domiciled in the state to 60 per cent for three years, but only in the high-tech sector.

The move, said sources, is aimed at attracting industrial investors to set up units in the state. The proposed relaxation is set to be applicable to hi-tech industries such as medical equipment, home appliances, electronics and artificial intelligence.

As per the existing guidelines, it is mandatory for industries to employ 80 per cent Maharashtra domiciled persons, and remaining 20 per cent employees from anywhere else. The quota has not been legislated, but effected by way of a government resolution.

“Now, it is being proposed to



Uddhav Thackeray

amend that condition to hire 60 per cent locals, allowing the industries to hire 40 per cent employees of their choice for the initial three years, only in hi-tech industries. In these three years, the industries should train local youths with the skill sets required and take the total local youth staff strength to 80 per cent,” said a bureaucrat, adding that the decision is yet to be finalised.

The bureaucrat said that the proposed amendment should not be linked with the sudden labour shortage due to the departure of the migrant work force from the state. “It is not about labour shortage. An industry may require manpower of certain skill sets, which may not

be available in abundance in the state. So, this amendment will help industries get the required manpower for the initial three years.”

Earlier this month, Uddhav had urged “sons of soil” to come forward to take up employment opportunities that are opening up with migrant workers returning to their home states. Interestingly, the common minimum program of the Maha Vikas Aghadi of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress states that a law shall be enacted to ensure 80 per cent reservation in jobs for local youths, covering contractual employment as well as permanent jobs.

Sources said the three-year amendment in the high-tech segment would help in capacity building, while companies foot the bill for the skill development of local youth. “It is being proposed after receiving suggestions from the industries. It will facilitate industries in their initial hand-holding of the units. Then this 20 per cent staff can exit from the units and local youths can be given jobs in their place,” said an official.

Andhra HC quashes ordinance, asks govt to reappoint SEC

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD MAY 29

THE ANDHRA Pradesh High Court on Friday directed the state government to reinstate Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar as the State Election Commissioner (SEC). He had been dismissed by the government on April 10 after he postponed the local body elections that were scheduled to be held on March 25.

The court also struck down the government’s appointment of retired judge V Kangaraj as the SEC in the same order.

On March 15, Kumar had cited the coronavirus situation and the need to take safety measures and postponed the elections indefinitely, resulting in a showdown with the government. The state government then brought an ordinance under Article 213 and removed Kumar, who challenged the move in the High Court.

After Kumar had postponed the elections, Chief Minister Y S

Jagan Mohan Reddy had said that the Election Commission did not consult anyone in the government before taking the decision and accused Kumar of pushing back the elections at the bidding of former chief minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N Chandrababu Naidu. Kumar had been appointed as SEC during Naidu’s tenure in April 2016.

In the run up to the local body elections in March, Kumar had also ordered the transfers of the District Collectors of Guntur and Chittoor, and suspended the Circle Inspector of Macharla Town Police Station in Guntur. He had issued the policeman’s suspension orders after two TDP leaders who were on their way to file nominations for the local body polls were attacked on March 11 in Macharla. The attack was allegedly carried out by workers of the ruling YRSCP — the party has denied the charges.

The Collectors of Guntur and Chittoor had also been transferred over reports of several

such attacks in their jurisdictions.

Another flashpoint between the government and Kumar was his order to collectors to stop all activity related to a survey of land to be distributed to eligible beneficiaries.

On April 10, the state government issued an ordinance modifying the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 to change the tenure, eligibility and appointment of the SEC. The ordinance reduced the term of the SEC to three years, using which, the government dismissed Kumar and appointed Kangaraj in his place.

Friday’s order is the second major setback for the AP government. Last week, the state’s High Court had directed the government to reinstate former intelligence chief A B Venkateshwara Rao, who was suspended on allegations of corruption.

Rao had been suspended on February 8 over allegations of his involvement in irregularities in the purchase of surveillance

equipment from a Israeli company and awarding the contract to Akasam Advanced System Company which is owned by Rao’s son.

In Venkateshwara Rao’s case, the report about the alleged irregularities was submitted by the state’s Director General of Police, Goutam Sawang, following which, the state government had suspended Rao and charged him with misconduct.

Rao, a senior police officer of 1989 batch, challenged the suspension at the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) which dismissed the petition and asked the government to investigate and file a case against Rao.

Rao had then approached the high court.

Observing that the state government did not file any chargesheet against Rao, the HC dismissed the suspension and directed to court to reinstate him. However, it stated that the government can investigate the charges against the officer.

CBI begins preliminary inquiry into Tablighi Jamaat financial affairs

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

The CBI has initiated a preliminary enquiry into the financial affairs of the Tablighi Jamaat. The religious organisation is being probed for “dubious cash transactions” and for concealing foreign funding.

Sources said the CBI case has been registered based on a complaint from the Foreigners Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which has alleged that the organisation has violated the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

“The CBI has registered a PE against the organisers of Tablighi Jamaat and other unknown persons on a complaint alleging that the organisers and trustees were indulging into dubious cash transactions by using illegal and unfair means and also in non-disclosure of receipt of foreign funds to competent authority,” CBI spokesperson R K Gaur said.

This development comes days after the Delhi Police filed multiple chargesheets against the Tablighi Jamaat, its members, and its chief Maulana Saad Kandhalvi. In March, authorities had raided the Alami Markaz of the organisation at Delhi’s Nizamuddin and evacuated more than 3,000 people staying there for a religious congregation. Multiple members of the Jamaat tested Covid-19 positive and several others who had fanned out across the country were alleged to have spread the virus. The Jamaat was accused of organising the event in violation of government orders to avoid gatherings in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak — an allegation the Jamaat has denied.

Sources said the CBI has already taken all chargesheets filed by Delhi Police in the case and also taken copies of case papers and other related details, including Delhi Police’s probe into the Jamaat’s financial dealings through multiple bank accounts.

Following the March raids at the Jamaat Markaz, where it was found that over 2,000 foreign Tablighis had come to India on tourist visas, and over 800 had fanned out across the country while engaging in proselytising activities, the MHA had black-listed over 1,700 overseas members of the outfit for visa condition violations.

CBI is the third agency after the Delhi Police and Enforcement Directorate to register a case in the matter.

NC says won’t participate in delimitation exercise

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, MAY 29

THE NATIONAL Conference Friday rejected the process of delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir. It said its three Members of Parliament from Kashmir will not accept their positions as part of the Delimitation Commission since that would be “tantamount to accepting the events of 5th August 2019” — when the special status of the erstwhile state was abrogated.

The Union Government had constituted the Delimitation Commission on March 6 to redraw Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.

After this, the Lok Sabha speaker nominated 15 MPs from these states as “associate members” of the commission, to be headed by former Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.

From the NC, party president Farooq Abdullah, Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi were the ones nominated to the panel. They will now no longer be part of it.

Referring to the announcement of the commission by the Centre, the National Conference said Friday: “This delimitation commission is a product of the J&K Re-organisation Act, 2019 which JKNC is challenging in and outside Hon’ble SC. Participating in this delimitation commission will be tantamount to accepting the events of 5th Aug 2019 which the NC is unwilling to do.”

The party also said that constitution of the erstwhile state, “the constituencies of J&K were to be delimited in 2026 with rest of the country. The constituencies in the state were last delimited in ‘90s”.

Thereafter, the party added, an amendment in the constitution of J&K was unanimously passed in the former state assembly. “All the regional parties, Congress and BJP voted for this amendment to carry out delimitation with the rest of the country in 2026. Therefore the constitution of the delimitation commission is unwarranted,” the party statement read.



OVER 3 LAKH AFFECTED BY ASSAM FLOOD

Villagers affected by the flood collect ration in Chamata locality of Nalbari district on Friday. Even as the flood waters receded from two districts, 3.81 lakh people in seven districts of Assam are reeling under the impact of the deluge. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal visited Goalpara district on Friday to take stock of the situation. Nalbari, Goalpara, Nagaon, Hojai, West Karbi Anglong, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts continued to be affected by floods. *Dasarath Deka*

Salve advocates tribunals for private defamation to fast-track cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

TO DEAL swiftly with civil defamation cases and with unjustified criticism, especially against courts, senior advocate Harish Salve has recommended setting up of private tribunals.

“I have suggested to the government that you must have tribunals for private defamation. Otherwise these cases just go on and on,” he said.

Comparing the processes to the United Kingdom, Salve said that such cases are dealt within six months under English law.

Salve, who has recently been appointed Queen’s Counsel — the equivalent of a senior advocate in India — for England and Wales, was speaking on “Insulating our judiciary from Social Media Diatribes,” in a webinar organised by CAN Foundation, a consortium of law graduates.



Harish Salve

Coming down heavily on personal criticism of judges on social media platforms, he said, “You criticise a judgment, not the judge.” Salve also defended comments made by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta against some senior advocates, including Congress leader Kapil Sibal, while appearing for the Centre in the Supreme Court on Thursday in a PIL on disorders faced by migrant workers. Mehta had asked the senior advocates, who wanted to make an in-

tervention in the case, to establish their bona fides and questioned what they had done to alleviate the troubles of these workers.

“A lot of people, who are not elected, feel they can impose their will on the government through courts,” Salve said. “One can criticise on whether the court should have intervened or not in the case, but to say that the court is scared of the government is wrong.”

On the criticism against the top court’s verdict in the case restricting internet speed in Kashmir, Salve said that “it is not that the SC has not stood with the people of Kashmir... One has to have faith in the court.”

Asked by advocate Avishkar Singhvi whether former judges should exercise “self-restraint” when criticising sitting judges, Salve said judges have to act as team players. “There cannot be a cooling off period after retirement but they are all part of the same team,” he said.

Need to guard against those trying to weaken country’s morale: Prasad

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

UNION LAW Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday said there is a need to guard against those trying to weaken the country’s morale “at the instance of foreign powers”.

“Some people are trying to break the nation’s resolve by spreading fake news. Some people’s job is to spread negativity... We respect and acknowledge the right of criticism, the right to ask questions, that’s what democracy is about. But if some people seek to weaken the morale of the country, particularly at the instance of foreign powers, to create discord, promote divisiveness, promote separatism and promote insidious ideas to create further hostility, then we need to guard against them...”, the minister said.



Ravi Shankar Prasad

Prasad was speaking at Professor N R Madhava Menon Memorial Lecture Series organised by the Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad.

Addressing the webinar, Prasad recalled Menon’s stand on the Supreme Court’s Sabarimala judgement.

“He took a very tough stand on Sabarimala issue. He said courts should be reluctant to interfere in the faiths of the people. If the faith is obnoxious, arbitrary, patently unconstitutional, it should go... but if you start being judgemental on faith and that too at instance of people who have no connection whatsoever with faith, then you are treading upon roads slippery... Before his death I heard

him give his comments on Sabarimala judgment and I felt so proud about the depths of his knowledge...”, Prasad said.

Speaking about what the lockdown has achieved, Prasad cited India’s low death rate due to Covid-19. “If we exclude China, because China has a lot of questions to be answered, if we take fifteen countries of the world which are inflicted by Corona — America, England, Spain, Italy, Russia, Germany, France etc — the total population of these 15 countries is 142 crore and the population of India is 137 crores. The total number of deaths in these 15 countries is 3,53,000 odd till last evening and the death in India is 4500 odd... That’s what lockdown has done”.

Addressing the lawyer community, he said the lockdown had brought many difficulties but added that “this was necessary for your safety”.

Cong hits out at Solicitor General remarks in SC

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday came down heavily on Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for accusing some high courts of running a parallel government and questioning the personal commitment of those who had approached the top court over the plight of migrant workers.

Former Law Minister Ashwani Kumar said “the reported spat between the Solicitor General and a former minister is a new low in the rapidly declining quality of Courtroom discourse”.

He was referring to the courtroom conversation between Mehta and former Law minister Kapil Sibal Thursday.

“A law officer, as an officer of the Court cannot seek to diminish another officer of the Court in the exercise of his professional rights nor was the Counsel right in dishonouring out a monetary sum as his contribution, consistent with the finer traditions of charity,” Kumar said. **ENS**

Hyderabad prof kills self, son

Hyderabad: A 34-year-old woman who was working as an assistant professor at a private college on the outskirts of Hyderabad allegedly killed her 10-year-old son and hanged herself at her home on Friday.

Her husband said the woman, N Bharghavi, had been unwell after the birth of a daughter a year ago, said an officer from Narsingi police station. The one-year-old daughter, who was sleeping in another bedroom, was unharmed. The husband, a software engineer, had gone to office on Friday for the first time after having worked from home for nearly two months due to the lockdown. **ENS**

Hizb militant owned car used in foiled bombing plot: Police

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, MAY 29

A DAY after security forces intercepted an explosives-laden car in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pulwama and destroyed it by a controlled explosion, police on Friday said the vehicle belonged to a Hizbul Mujahideen militant.

Jammu and Kashmir Police officers told The Indian Express that the investigation has found that the IED-laden car belonged to a militant from south Kashmir’s Shopian who has

been active since last year. The militant has been identified as Hidaytullah Malik, from Sharatpora in Shopian.

“So far, our investigation has found that the car in which a huge quantity of IED was found yesterday belonged to an active militant from Shopian. He has been active since July last year,” said a police officer. “We are investigating further.”

On Wednesday night, security forces had put up checkpoints in Pulwama following an intelligence input. Late at night, a car in Rajpora didn’t stop at a

checkpoint. As it drove on, the security forces opened fire. The vehicle was later intercepted in a nearby village, but the driver had managed to escape.

Police on Thursday said the forces had foiled a car bombing “similar to the 2019 Pulwama attack” and said the car had 40-45 kg of explosives in it.

Police sources said Hidaytullah’s brother is being questioned.

The family members of the Hidaytullah said they have no information about the Santro car recovered by police.

Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla dies at 89

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, MAY 29

BEJAN DARUWALLA, arguably India’s most famous astrologer, died at a Gandhinagar hospital on Friday evening. He was 89.

A week ago, he had complained of pneumonia-like symptoms and was admitted to the city’s Apollo Hospital. His condition deteriorated on Wednesday and he was put on ventilator support.

Daruwalla is survived by his sons, Nastur and Fardun, and a daughter, Nazreen. “He did not die of coronavirus but due to pneumonia,” Nastur, also an astrologer, told *The Indian Express*.



Daruwalla was hospitalised last week

Behram Mehta, an Ahmedabad-based businessman and a friend of Daruwalla, said the last rites were conducted Friday evening at the Dudheshwar crematorium in Ahmedabad and prayers were

said at the Parsi fire temple in Khamasa.

“All he wanted was a glorious funeral but due to this lockdown, he did not get that,” Mehta said.

Born on July 11, 1931, in undivided India, he studied English literature. For over three decades, Daruwalla, a Parsi who became an ardent follower of Ganesha, published hundreds of best-selling books with annual predictions — but his true love was poetry.

In 2015, Harper Collins published *Spiritual Sizzlers*, Daruwalla’s fifth and final collection of poems that was inspired by his late wife Gooli, a well-known tarot card reader.

Daruwalla had claimed that his predictions, which began with “Ganesha says”, about some of the country’s high-profile individuals came true — the death of Sanjay Gandhi in 1980, Rajiv Gandhi’s death in 1991, V P Singh’s brief run as Prime Minister in 1989-90, the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat and most recently, formation of the Narendra Modi-led government in 2014.

Expressing condolences, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani tweeted, “Saddened by the demise of renowned Astrologer Shri Bejan Daruwalla. I pray for the departed soul. My condolences. Om Shanti...”

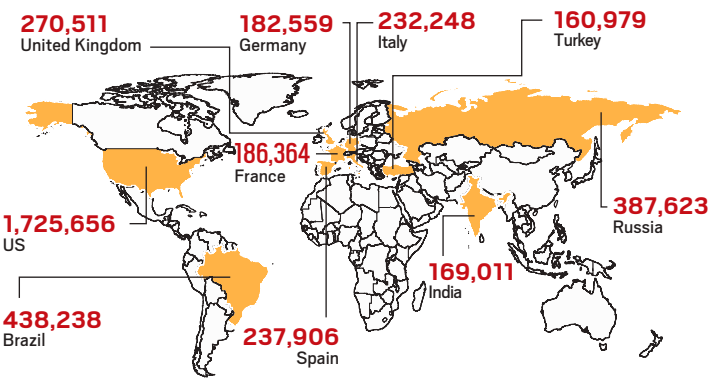


@ieExplained
#ExpressExplained

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

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

THE WORLD



TOTAL CONFIRMED: **5,851,494**

DEATH COUNT: **361,270**

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on May 29. JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match as these are accounted at different times.

Older men worry less about Covid-19 than others: study

DATA ON Covid-19 so far has indicated that men are more vulnerable than women, and the elderly more vulnerable than the young. Now, a study has found that older men worry less about Covid-19 than women their age or than younger men and women, and thus may be at greater risk of contracting it. This is a concern given that older men are already more at risk, according to the study by researchers at Georgia State University, and published in *The Journals of Gerontology*.

In general, worry begins to ease with age, and is also lower among men than women. "Not only do older adults exhibit less negative emotions in their daily lives, they also exhibit less worry and fewer PTSD symptoms following natural disasters and terrorist attacks," gerontology and psychology researcher Sarah Barber said in a

statement.

Knowing that older adults tend to worry less, Barber conducted a study to see how this affected responses to the global pandemic. Researchers administered an online questionnaire assessing Covid-19 perceptions and behaviour changes.

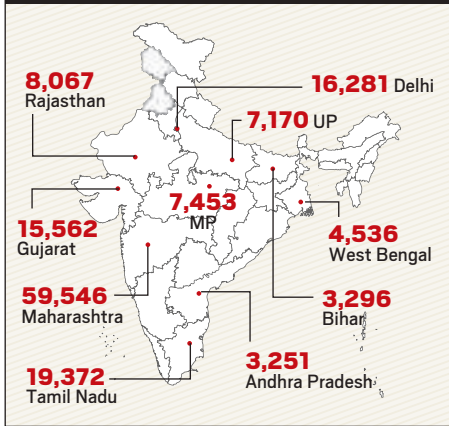
The catch was older men: compared to all other participants, older men were less worried about Covid-19, and had adopted the fewest number of behaviour changes. They were relatively less likely to have worn a mask, to report having stopped touching their faces or to have purchased extra food. Barber does not think the answer is to try to incite worry in older men. She thinks a better answer is to help them understand their risk accurately, the university said.

Source: Georgia State University



INDIA COUNT: **165,799** (4,706 DEATHS)

TOP 10 STATES



REST OF INDIA

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	33
Arunachal Pradesh	3
Assam	856
Chandigarh	288
Chhattisgarh	399
Dadar Nagar Haveli	2
Goa	69
Haryana	1504
Himachal Pradesh	276
Jammu and Kashmir	2036
Jharkhand	489
Karnataka	2533
Kerala	1088
Ladakh	73
Manipur	55
Meghalaya	21
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	18
Odisha	1660
Puducherry	51
Punjab	2158
Sikkim	1
Telangana	2256
Tripura	242
Uttarakhand	500

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, May 29. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above.

71,106 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 32 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

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

SIMPLY PUT

How to read slowing growth

Newly released provisional estimates show GDP growth at its lowest yet under new data series. What does it say about the state of the economy? How vulnerable was it even before the Covid pandemic?

UDIT MISRA

NEW DELHI, MAY 29

ON FRIDAY, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the data for the fourth quarter (January to March) of the last financial year (2019-20) as well as the provisional estimates of the full-year GDP growth rate.

The provisional figure, which is likely to be revised again by January next year when MoSPI releases the First Revised Estimates for FY20, states that the Indian economy grew by 4.2% in 2019-20 (see Table 1). This is the lowest annual growth rate of GDP registered under the new GDP data series which uses 2011-12 as the base year.

This is not only a far cry from the 8.5% growth that the government expected in July 2019 when it presented the Budget for that year but also significantly lower than the 5% that the Second Advance Estimates suggested at the end of February earlier this year.

Another way to look at the slump is to look at the 16 odd key indicators typically highlighted by MoSPI — such as the production of coal, cement, crude oil or the sale of commercial vehicles, cargo handled at airports etc. More than 50% of them showed negative growth in 2019-20. The situation kept getting worse each quarter and in Q4, 75% of these showed contraction.

Nominal GDP plummets

Table 1, of course, refers to the growth rate in real GDP. A similar fall can be seen in the trajectory of the nominal GDP, which is the observed variable. Real GDP is arrived at by subtracting the nominal GDP growth by the inflation level.

At the time of the 2019-20 Budget presentation in July, nominal GDP was expected to grow by 12%-12.5%. By the end of it, provisional estimates peg it at just 7.2%. In 2018-19, the nominal GDP grew by 11%. This sharp deceleration in nominal GDP growth, more than anything else, shows the continued weakening of India's growth momentum even before it was hit by the lockdown in the last week of March.

Why it matters

There are two reasons why this sharp de-



TABLE 1: DECELERATING GROWTH SINCE 2016-17

YEAR	GDP GROWTH RATE
2012-13	5.5%
2013-14	6.4%
2014-15	7.4%
2015-16	8%
2016-17	8.3%
2017-18	7%
2018-19	6.1%
2019-20	4.2%
2020-21	-5% to -10%*

* Unofficial estimates

celeration in the nominal GDP matters.

First of all, the nominal GDP growth rate is the base of all fiscal calculations in the country. The government bases its calculations — say the amount revenues it will raise and the amount of money it will be able to spend — on this initial assumption. A sharp divergence in nominal GDP growth rate basically upsets all other calculations in the economy. For instance, a sharp fall means the government does not get the revenues it had hoped for and, as such, it can't spend as much as it wanted to.

Secondly, the substantial deceleration in nominal GDP growth reflects poorly on the government's fiscal marksmanship. In other words, it shows that the government was not able to assess the magnitude of economic growth deceleration that was under way.

Poor fiscal marksmanship, in turn, leads to inaccurate policymaking because a government could end up making policies for an economy that doesn't actually exist on the ground. For instance, it can be argued that in an economy that was slowing down sharply

TABLE 2: TOO MUCH BACK & FORTH

QUARTERLY GDP GROWTH RATE IN 2019-20

Quarter	1st Advance Estimate (January 7, 2020)	2nd Advance Estimate (February 28, 2020)	Provisional Estimate (May 29, 2020)
Q1	5.0%	5.6%	5.2%
Q2	4.5%	5.1%	4.4%
Q3	--	4.7%	4.1%
Q4	--	--	3.1%

Source: MoSPI

TABLE 3: INDIAN MANUFACTURING HAS LOST ITS WAY

QUARTERLY GDP GROWTH RATE

Sector	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Agriculture	3%	3.5%	3.6%	5.9%
Manufacturing	3%	-0.6%	-0.8%	-1.4%
Construction	5.2%	2.6%	-0.04%	-2.2%

Source: MoSPI

and that too on account of a decline in demand, even a massive corporate tax cut would be ineffective. To be sure, despite this once-in-a-generation reform, private investments actually fell by almost 3% in 2019-20 — in sharp contrast to the 9% increase in 2018-19.

The provisional estimates released on Friday specifically bring out this weakness as they included significant downward revisions on quarterly GDP estimates.

Frequent quarterly revisions

India's national income accounting data — the new GDP data series using 2011-12 as the base year — has come in for a fair bit of criticism since. This questioning grew deeper when Arvind Subramanian, who was the Chief Economic Advisor to the Finance Ministry between 2014 and 2018, argued, in 2019, that the new series overestimated the GDP by as much as 2.5 percentage points.

While that debate is not yet settled, the credibility of India's GDP estimates is not helped by frequent and significant revisions.

7.75% RBI bonds discontinued: cause & effect

SANDEEP SINGH

NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE RESERVE Bank of India on Wednesday said the government has discontinued 7.75% savings (taxable) bonds, 2018 for subscription with effect from the close of banking business on Thursday. While this is in line with the recent cut in repo rate by the RBI and subsequent cut in deposit rates by banks and small savings rate by the government, the move will deprive investors of another saving instrument that yielded relatively high post tax returns.

What are 7.75% RBI bonds?

These were issued with effect from January 10, 2018 and were available for subscription to resident citizens/HUF to invest in a taxable bond. While each bond was of Rs

1,000, the bonds had no maximum limit for investment. They had a 7-year lock-in period from the date of issue, but premature encashment was permitted to individuals aged 60 and above. Interest on these bonds will be taxable under the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

Was it in high demand?

Investment advisors say that while it was mostly used by high net-worth individuals to invest, the demand for RBI bonds went up significantly over the last couple of months as investors turned risk-averse. Even as the post-tax returns were low compared to PSU-debt, experts say investors rushed for it as they saw it as the safest investment instrument available. "At this time investors are not looking for return but for the safety of their capital, and so many investors were investing in these instruments purely for reasons of safety of

their capital," said Surya Bhatia of Asset Managers, an investment advisory firm.

How did it fare against other options?

As the 7.75% RBI bonds were taxable instruments, the interest income on it would be taxable at the marginal tax rate. For those with income of over Rs 5 crore and earning interest income from these bonds, the return would be 4.44%. For those falling in the tax bracket of 30%, the return from these bonds would stand at 5.4%, while for those in the lowest tax bracket of 10%, the post-tax return would be 6.975%.

In April 2020, the government announced a cut in the small savings rate. While the rates for PPF were cut from 7.9% earlier to 7.1%, that on Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana was brought down to 7.6% from 8.4%.

By comparison, SBI is currently offering

Look at Table 2 to see how the provisional estimates have fluctuated repeatedly. The growth estimate for Q2 (July, August and September), for instance, has gone from 4.5% to 5.1% and back to 4.4% in just 5 months (January to May 2020).

In particular, it is now becoming clear that all through 2019-20 India's growth rate was decelerating much faster than what was officially accepted at that time.

For instance, in July, which falls in the second quarter, the government insisted that the full-year real GDP will grow by 8.5% even though all indicators suggested a fast growth deceleration. This is eventually being borne out by the provisional estimates (last column in Table 2).

A warped economic structure

Another key takeaway from the provisional GDP estimates is the undesirable emerging structure of the Indian economy.

It has been repeatedly and unanimously argued in the past, across all hues of governments, that for India to grow and create jobs for the millions that enter its workforce each year, manufacturing growth has to rise. Together with services, manufacturing growth was supposed to absorb the millions still dependent on agriculture, which even when it grows fast, does not have the ability to raise per capita income in a big way. If India was to create lots of well-paying jobs that allow it to reap the so-called demographic dividend then it had to be via manufacturing growth.

But 2019 paints a dismal picture in this regard (Table 3). While the agriculture and allied sectors enjoyed buoyant growth, as the year progressed, manufacturing simply lost its way — contracting for three of the four quarters.

The upshot

The provisional GDP estimates for 2019-20 support the notion that the growth deceleration since 2016-17 simply became worse as the last financial year progressed.

In the last quarter of the financial year, the economy grew by just 3.1%. It shows the economy had already become quite vulnerable before Covid-19 hit India at the end of March.

Of course, given the trend of repeated downward revisions, it is likely that these provisional estimates, too, may turn out optimistic.

Why a top Afghan official visited the grave of ex-President Najibullah

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

MUMBAI, MAY 29

OVER THE Eid holidays in Afghanistan, the grave of Mohammed Najibullah, the country's President from 1987-1992, received a surprise visitor. Hamdullah Mohib, the National Security Adviser, paid a quiet visit to the Melan graveyard in Paktia province, where Najibullah was buried after his barbaric killing by the Taliban in 1996.

This was the first time a senior member of any post-Taliban Afghan government has visited the grave of an Afghan political leader whose association with the Soviet invasion made him a controversial and polarising figure, but who in his final years transitioned to an Afghan nationalist and believed — wrongly — that his Pashtun roots could save him from those who wanted him dead.

"During Eid, I visited the tombs of two historical figures in our country, with whom my family had differing views in the past. However, bringing real peace depends on tolerance, tolerance, and overcoming pre-determined classifications," Mohib tweeted on Wednesday.

The other grave that Mohib visited was likely that of Ahmad Shah Massoud, leader of the Northern Alliance, who was killed by al-Qaeda hours before the 9/11 attacks. He is buried in Panjshir Valley.

Mohib said in a second tweet: "Today's Afghanistan is made up of different beliefs that used to be antagonistic to each other,

but today all work under one system, one flag and one Afghanistan."

The prevailing context

In Mohib's words, and his visit to the grave, there seemed a message for multiple audiences — for the Taliban, whose agreement with the US on the withdrawal of American troops has thrown the country into another cycle of violent uncertainty; for Pakistan, which believes it is at the cusp of proxy rule over Afghanistan; and for Afghans themselves.

The unexpected throwback to Najibullah came during a three-day Eid ceasefire declared by the Taliban. On May 26, the last day of the ceasefire, the Afghan government released hundreds of Taliban prisoners, and this appeared to have helped the ceasefire hold, as of now.

Where does Najibullah come into all this?

A Pashtun who began his political career while a medical student in Kabul University, Najibullah started out as a member of the communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The PDPA seized power in the 1978 Saur revolution, but it was only with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 that Najibullah's rise began.

He was first the security boss of Afghanistan as the head of KHAD, the Afghan secret service that was for all purposes run by the KGB. From 1987, when Moscow installed him as President, Najibullah initiated steps for a return to

peace, known as the National Reconciliation Policy (NRP). Glasnost was sweeping through the Soviet Union, and the Red Army's continued presence in Afghanistan looked untenable.

Under the NRP, Najib reverted to the country's pre-communist name of Republic of Afghanistan (from 1978 to 1987 it was Democratic Republic of Afghanistan), Islam was declared the state religion, and the PDPA became Hezb-e-Watan Party, in a bid to appeal to the Islamist mujahideen victors of the war.

But his efforts were in vain. As the mujahideen began taking over Kabul in 1992, he resigned. India tried to evacuate him that April, but his car was stopped outside the airport gates by guards owing allegiance to Abdul Rashid Dostum, a warlord who had been bankrolled by Najibullah, but who had switched sides.

The plane that was to fly Najibullah to Delhi was on the runway. He failed to persuade the guards to let him pass. Nor could he go back to the President's palace. So the car took him to the UN compound where he would live for the next four-and-a-half years in self-imprisonment.

The Taliban took over Afghanistan from the warring factions of the mujahideen after a four-year civil war. In 1996, they captured Kabul.

Massoud did offer Najibullah safe passage to the north, but he turned it down, still hoping to make a deal with the Taliban. With no UN officials left in the compound,



Then Afghan President Najibullah in India in 1988. Express Archive

a small team of the Taliban stormed in. Najibullah and his brother were beaten, dragged behind a jeep, castrated, shot, and then strung up from a traffic light pole outside the Presidential palace.

Why the visit matters

Large sections in Afghanistan have been against the US-Taliban deal, describing it as a handover of the country to the Taliban once again.

Mohib, blackballed by the US ever since his remarks against US Special Envoy to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad, is part of the

country's security apparatus, which sees the Taliban as a proxy of Pakistan.

At such a time, the show of posthumous solidarity with Najibullah has served to remind of Najibullah's own efforts at an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned national reconciliation, and how that failed. It recalls the extreme cruelty of the Taliban as they established themselves as the rulers.

It is also a finger in the eye of Pakistan. Najibullah, after all, managed to thwart the powerful ISI and its boss Hamid Gul's dream project of toppling his government and installing a mujahideen regime after the Soviet forces withdrew in 1989. But the Afghan army managed to inflict a huge defeat on the mujahideen and its backers; the Soviet Union backed Najibullah with material. The battle lasted five months. Over 3,000 mujahideen were killed, many thousands of civilians were either killed or had to flee.

Benazir Bhutto, who had then just been elected, fired Gul.

More significantly for the present times, as the Pakistani political commentator Mohammed Taqi wrote in a 2014 essay, Najibullah "was immensely popular among the Pashtun nationalist rank and file in Pakistan", although the leadership of two big Pashtun parties — the Awami National Party and the Pakhtunkwa Milli Awami Party — did not stand by him when he needed them.

With Pakistan doing everything to suppress the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement in its own northwest, the last thing it would

wish to see is the resurrection of a long dead Afghan leader as a Pashtun hero.

Taqi told *The Indian Express* that while in Afghanistan Najibullah was disliked by most people because of his "brutal past", there has also been a realisation of what he had tried to pull off. "Many do see him as someone who really tried truth and reconciliation" through his National Reconciliation Policy. In that sense, said Taqi, Mohib's visit to Najibullah's grave, besides being "anti-Taliban messaging", was "also a truth and reconciliation gesture to Afghans themselves".

It is ironic that the effort to acknowledge Najibullah as an Afghan nationalist has come at a time when India is considering opening channels to the Taliban, with which it has never had formal relations. While Najibullah's family escaped to India months before he was deposed in 1992, and has lived in Delhi ever since, the Narasimha Rao government accorded formal recognition to the ISI-CIA-backed mujahideen government of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in Kabul, putting aside animosities with Pakistan.

The wheel has turned full circle. As New Delhi considers if talking to the Taliban is better than being left out altogether, Najibullah's daughter, Muska Najibullah, captured some of the irony in a tweet on May 15: "#TheKhalilzadStrategy – how to distract the world from a failed #peace #deal in Afghanistan? Drag one of its oldest and loyal friends and create a regional mess".

Longer version: www.indianexpress.com

TOP OF THE WORLD



In Cape Town. AP

SOUTH AFRICA

Virus testing backlog of nearly 100,000

Johannesburg: South Africa says it has a backlog of nearly 100,000 unprocessed tests for the coronavirus, a striking example of the painful shortage of testing kits and reagents across Africa as cases steadily rise. "This challenge is caused by the limited availability of test kits globally," the health ministry said in a statement overnight putting the backlog at 96,480 as of Monday. Priority is given to processing tests from patients admitted to hospitals and health workers, it said. South Africa has conducted more tests for the virus than any other country in Africa — more than 655,000.

GREECE

Govt to allow tourists from 29 countries

Athens: Greece on Friday listed 29 countries from where it will accept visitors as of June 15 as the Greek government looks to mitigate some of the financial damage from the pandemic. The list will be expanded on July 1 to include other countries, the ministry said. The 29 announced Friday include Australia, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Japan, Israel, China, New Zealand and South Korea. Visitors arriving from those countries could be subject to sample coronavirus testing, the ministry said.

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban attack on checkpoint kills 14

Kabul: Taliban fighters attacked an army checkpoint in eastern Afghanistan, killing 14 military personnel, the Defense Ministry said Friday. The Taliban took responsibility for Thursday's attack in Pakhtia province, calling it a "defensive action," without elaborating. Javid Faisal, spokesman for the Afghanistan national security adviser's office, said despite sporadic clashes, a truce in effect during the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which ended Tuesday, would continue.

Trump vs Twitter: Warnings, executive order

After order cracking down on social media, Twitter restricts Trump tweet implying Minneapolis protesters could be shot

RAYMOND ZHONG & RUSSELL GOLDMAN
NEW YORK, MAY 29

TWITTER ADDED a warning label early Friday to a tweet from President Trump implying that protesters in Minneapolis could be shot, in a move likely to escalate tensions between Trump and his favorite social media megaphone. The company said Trump's post violated its rules against glorifying violence, and it prevented users from viewing the tweet without reading a brief notice, the first time it has restricted one of the president's messages in this way. Twitter also blocked users from liking or replying to Trump's post, though they were still allowed to retweet it if they added a comment of their own.

But Twitter did not take the tweet down, saying it was in the public's interest that the message remain accessible.

In the tweet, posted early Friday morning, Trump called the protesters "thugs" and said he had told Minnesota's governor that the military was "with him all the way." "Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts," the president wrote. "Thank you!"

Twitter said it had decided to restrict the tweet "based on the historical context of the last line, its connection to violence, and the risk it could inspire similar actions today."

The company's decision comes a day after Trump signed an executive order that seeks to limit the legal protections shielding social media companies from liability for the content posted on

EXPLAINED The executive order and the Act it seeks to revise

TRUMP'S ORDER could be challenged in court as he essentially seeks to revise Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act — a federal law that governs speech on the internet while also providing liability protection to internet companies like Facebook and Twitter. This, many legal experts said, is not something the president has the power to do. An NYT report also pointed out that the very provision Trump seeks to revise is the one which has allowed him to publish "inflammatory, harassing and factually distorted messages" that would otherwise have to be removed from such platforms.

their platforms. The president had fulminated over Twitter's decision earlier this week to add fact-checking labels for the first time to two of his tweets. In response, he accused Twitter of stifling speech and said that he would end the interference.

Hours after the warning label was added to Trump's Friday tweet, he posted another that accused Twitter of targeting "Republicans, Conservatives & the President of the United States."

Twitter has for years faced criticism over Trump's posts on the platform, which he has used to issue threats, bully critics and spread falsehoods. The company has said repeatedly that the president did not violate its terms of service, however much he appeared to skirt the line.

The company has also said that blocking world leaders from the service or removing their tweets would hinder public debate around their words and actions. Twitter did announce last year, however, that it would in certain cases place warning labels on posts from political figures that broke its rules. **NYT**



"...Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!"

"Twitter is doing nothing about all of the lies & propaganda being put out by China or the Radical Left Democrat Party. They have targeted Republicans, Conservatives & the President... Section 230 should be revoked by Congress. Until then, it will be regulated!"

DONALD TRUMP

TWEETS ON MINNEAPOLIS VIOLENCE, TWITTER POLICY



Protesters set fire to the entrance of a police station amid protests in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Thursday. Reuters

Black man's killing: protests across US

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK, MAY 29

A MINNEAPOLIS police station was overrun and set ablaze by protesters Thursday night as destructive demonstrations raged in the city and spread across the country overnight Friday after the death of George Floyd, an African-American man, in police custody.

He died after pleading, "I can't breathe," while a white police officer pressed his knee into his neck. The death set off days of continuing protests and scattered looting of stores in the city, as demonstrators denounced an-

other in a long line of fatal encounters between African-Americans and law enforcement officers.

The demonstration near the Minneapolis Police Department's Third Precinct grew more intense in the hours after prosecutors said that they had not decided whether to charge the officer videotaped pressing his knee into Floyd's neck for about eight minutes.

The spectacle of a police station in flames and a president appearing to threaten violence against those protesting the death of a black man in police custody — set against the backdrop of a coronavirus pandemic

that has kept many residents from engaging with one another directly for months — added to the anxiety of a nation already plagued by health and economic crises.

The protests have spread across the state, leading to the evacuation on Thursday afternoon of lawmakers and employees from the State Capitol in St Paul as a precaution. Other protests were reported across the country.

In Phoenix, hundreds of protesters marched toward the State Capitol with relative calm before tense face-offs with police officers later in the night.

CNN CREW ARRESTED ON LIVE TELEVISION

POLICE IN Minneapolis arrested members of a CNN crew on live TV. The three journalists were released about an hour later. The network had noted on Twitter: "A black reporter from CNN was arrested while legally covering the protests in Minneapolis. A white reporter also on the ground was not."

UK eases lockdown, Boris says groups of six can meet outdoors

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, MAY 29

UP TO six people from different households will be allowed to meet outdoors next week as part of another modest easing of the coronavirus lockdown in England, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Thursday.

Johnson, who has faced days of scorn for keeping his top aide Dominic Cummings in post following his controversial travels during the lockdown, said families and friends in groups of up to six can meet from Monday in outdoor spaces, including private gardens.

Johnson said at a news conference that this was potentially

a "long-awaited and joyful moment" for parents and grandparents but stressed that people from different households must remain 2 meters (6.5 feet) apart and should only access homes to get to the garden. Barbecues are allowed as part of the easing but camping in gardens is not.

The prime minister also confirmed that schools will start re-opening from Monday, initially for some younger students. Outdoor-based shops, such as car showrooms, can also reopen. Earlier, England's Premier League also said the soccer season is to recommence on June 17.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are also easing lockdowns, in slightly different ways.



Groups of people outdoors in London. Reuters

Singapore to start setting up 'travel bubbles'

GURDIP SINGH
SINGAPORE, MAY 29

SINGAPORE IS planning to establish "travel bubbles" with countries where coronavirus is under control, authorities said as the city-state on Friday reported 611 new COVID-19 cases, a majority of them foreign workers living in dormitories.

Singapore's tally of infections now stands at 33,860 and majority of them are foreign workers holding work permit and residing in the dormitories, the Health Ministry said.

Of the 611 new cases reported on Friday, 608 were foreign workers and three were Singapore citizens or permanent



Migrant workers in essential service sectors in Singapore. Reuters

residents (foreigners), the ministry said, adding that a total of 1,018 COVID-19 patients were discharged on Thursday.

Meanwhile, National

Development Minister Lawrence Wong on Thursday said that, Singapore will remove restrictions on essential trips progressively amid moves to es-

establish "green lanes" with countries where COVID-19 is under control but mass travel will still be out, the report said.

He noted that mass travel "will take a lot longer to resume, not just in Singapore, but also internationally".

Wong, who co-chairs the multi-ministry task force on COVID-19, said protocols for essential travel would include testing travellers leaving and entering Singapore.

Discussions with other countries to establish "travel bubbles" are at varying stages, with some at more advanced levels while others have only just commenced, he said. Details will be announced when agreements have been reached, the report said. **PTI**

APPEAL FOR COMMON OWNERSHIP OF VACCINES, MEDICINES

37 nations launch alliance to share Covid tools

REUTERS
ZURICH, MAY 29

THIRTY-SEVEN countries and the World Health Organisation (WHO) appealed on Friday for common ownership of vaccines, medicines and diagnostic tools to tackle the global coronavirus pandemic, taking aim at patent laws they fear could become a barrier to sharing crucial supplies.

While the push by mostly

developing nations, called the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool, won praise from groups including Doctors Without Borders, a drug industry alliance questioned if the effort to pool intellectual property would really broaden access to medicines.

Developing and some small nations fear rich countries pumping resources into finding vaccines — more than 100 are in development — will muscle their

way to the front of the queue, once a candidate succeeds.

"Vaccines, tests, diagnostics, treatments and other key tools in the coronavirus response must be made universally available as global public goods," said Costa Rica President Carlos Alvarado.

The effort, originally proposed in March, aims to provide a one-stop shop for scientific knowledge, data and intellectual property amid a pandemic that

has infected more than 5.8 million people and killed more than 360,000.

The WHO issued a "Solidarity Call to Action", asking other stakeholders to join the voluntary push.

"WHO recognises the important role that patents play in fuelling innovation but this is a time when people must take priority," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told an online news briefing.

Removing special status double-edged sword: Hong Kong warns US over proposed move

SARAH WU & MARIUS ZAHARIA
HONG KONG, MAY 29

HONG KONG told the United States to keep out of the debate over national security legislation being imposed by China, and warned that withdrawal of the financial hub's special status under US law could backfire on the US economy.

President Donald Trump is due to announce later on Friday his response to the Chinese parliament's advancement this week of security legislation for Hong Kong, which many lawyers, diplomats and investors fear could erode the city's freedoms. The former British colony has



In Hong Kong, Friday. AP

been racked by civil unrest amid fears Beijing is curbing the high degree of autonomy it has enjoyed under a "one country, two systems" formula adopted when it returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

"Any sanctions are a double-edged sword that will not only harm the interests of Hong Kong

but also significantly those of the U.S.," Hong Kong's pro-Beijing government said late on Thursday. From 2009 to 2018, the U.S. trade surplus of \$297 billion with Hong Kong was the biggest among all Washington's trading partners, and 1,300 U.S. firms were based in the city, it said.

Beijing says the new legislation, likely to come into force before September, will tackle secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign interference in the city. It could also see Chinese intelligence agencies set up bases in Hong Kong.

China's Ministry of Public Security (MPS) said it would "direct and support Hong Kong police to stop violence and restore order". **REUTERS**

Attack on Taiwan option to stop independence: Top China general

YEW LUN TIAN
BEIJING, MAY 29

CHINA WILL attack Taiwan if there is no other way of stopping it from becoming independent, one of the country's most senior generals said on Friday, in a rhetorical escalation from China aimed at the democratic island Beijing claims as its own.

Speaking at Beijing's Great Hall of the People on the 15th anniversary of the Anti-Secession Law, Li Zuocheng, chief of the Joint Staff Department and

member of the Central Military Commission, left the door open to using force.

The 2005 law gives the country the legal basis for military action against Taiwan if it secedes or seems about to, making the narrow Taiwan Strait a potential military flashpoint.

"If the possibility for peaceful reunification is lost, the people's armed forces will, with the whole nation, including the people of Taiwan, take all necessary steps to resolutely smash any separatist plots or actions," Li said. **REUTERS**

Malaysia's Mahathir ousted from party amid power struggle

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 29

MALAYSIA'S FORMER Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has been ousted from his ethnic Malay political party in the latest twist of a power struggle with his successor, but he has vowed to challenge the move.

The 94-year-old Mahathir, along with his son and three other senior members, were expelled from the Bersatu party on Thursday.

The party has has been split into two camps since intense political wrangling led Mahathir to resign the premiership in February and the king to appoint fellow party member Muhyiddin Yassin as his replacement despite



Mahathir Mohamad

Mahathir's objections.

Mahathir's son Mukhriz Mahathir had since challenged Muhyiddin as party president in a vote that's been postponed by the coronavirus pandemic.

"The unilateral action by Bersatu's president to sack us without valid reason is due to his own fears in facing party elec-

tions as well as his unsafe position as the most unstable prime minister in the history of the country's administration," a joint statement by Mahathir and the four others read.

Mahathir co-founded Bersatu with Muhyiddin in 2016, and the party joined an alliance that won a stunning victory in 2018 polls, leading to the first change of government since independence.

The ruling alliance collapsed after Muhyiddin pulled Bersatu out to work with the former government, which has been accused of massive corruption.

Mahathir, a two-time prime minister, resigned in protest. He has said he still has the majority support of lawmakers and has called for a no-confidence vote against Muhyiddin.



RUPEE

₹75.62



OIL

\$34.65

Brent crude as of 2000 IST

ECONOMY

Already struggling, COVID adds to govt's challenges

MODI GOVT
SECOND TERM
FIRST YEARSUNNY VERMA &
AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

AS THE NDA government took charge for its second term in May last year, the intensification of the economic slowdown had already begun to show up across sectors. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth slowed to 5.2 per cent in the April-June quarter as consumption and investment demand weakened, leading to a clamour for the government to loosen its purse strings, given that government expenditure was almost solely supporting the country's growth after consumption was impacted by the unfolding crisis in the non-banking financial sector later into the year. The downward spiral has been accentuated by the lockdown that was enforced since late March to tackle the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, with most economists projecting that the Indian economy will record a contraction in GDP this year, while any recovery is expected to be long drawn process.

While investment and exports were already lacklustre,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. *File*

consumption was impacted by the crisis in the non-banking financial sector triggered by the default on repayment of commercial papers by Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS) in August 2018, which choked credit in the financial system and caused risk averseness. The failure of Yes Bank to raise capital at adequate time, and subsequent freeze on deposit withdrawals imposed by the Reserve Bank of India to stitch together a resurrection plan, further exposed the fragilities in the financial system.

Added to this, the support to the economy from government expenditure took a further hit as revenue collections started to

slow down. The government's decision to undertake a corporate tax cut for domestic companies to 22 per cent and for new domestic manufacturing companies to 15 per cent in the middle of the year in September, along with few other tax related relief measures, added to the burden to the exchequer, estimated to the tune of about Rs 1.45 lakh crore. In terms of fresh investments, though, there was little to show for it. The space for aggressive government spending shrunk further as the government tried to stick to the fiscal deficit target and eventually took recourse of the 0.5 per cent escape clause to finally end the 2019-20 financial year with a fiscal gap estimate of

3.8 per cent of the GDP instead of 3.3 per cent earlier.

A slew of announcements were made by the government after the Budget in July 2019, aimed at quelling anxiety around slowing economic growth and weak consumption and investment demand, but concerns remained about the recovery in aggregate demand. The government went back on its Budget announcements of external currency-denominated overseas sovereign bond issuance and the surcharge on capital gains on shares for both foreign and domestic investors. The growth story, however, remained grim with the GDP growth continuing to slide further to 4.4 per cent in July-September and 4.1 per cent in October-December.

The tweaks in taxation structure were also extended on the direct taxes side in this year's budget presented in February, wherein the government introduced new tax slabs with reduced rates for an annual income of up to Rs 15 lakh for those foregoing exemptions and deductions under a simplified tax regime. The new income tax system is optional and a taxpayer can choose to remain in the existing regime with exemptions and deductions.

Top sources in the Finance Ministry said on Friday that the approach adopted by the government, after the COVID-19 pan-

dem and during much of the last year, has been aimed at "kickstarting the economy" through the corporate tax and GST rate cuts to boost investment and consumption. The measures announced as part of the Atmanirbhar package intend to provide credit support to companies as well as individuals, they said. The thinking in the government is that it's better for "economic agents" to borrow at lenient terms and kickstart activity as the lockdown eases, instead of the government expanding the fiscal deficit by a wide margin, they said.

The push towards aggressive lending notwithstanding, the RBI data reflected a near collapse of the industry demand for bank credit since 2016. While the bank credit outstanding to the industry grew just marginally by 0.7 per cent to Rs 29.05 lakh crore in the year ended March 2020, over the last four years, credit outstanding to the industry has expanded by just Rs 1,74,451 crore, or at a compounded annual growth rate of 1.56 per cent. Sources in the finance ministry said banks already have "loan sanctions in place for nearly Rs 7 lakh crore worth of loans" and disbursement will now pick up with economic activity restarting.

Various agencies have projected that India will experience the worst recession in current year, despite measures taken by

the government. Rating agency CRISIL in a recent report said India's growth will fall off the cliff and contract 5 per cent in fiscal 2021, and going back to pre-pandemic growth rates in the next 3 years doesn't seem likely. In the past 69 years, India has seen a recession only thrice — as per available data — in fiscals 1958, 1966 and 1980. Finance ministry officials have refrained from giving any assessment on the GDP so far, arguing that the uncertainty make it difficult to predict what will be growth for the year and the government is rather focussed on dealing with the crisis.

"First thing to keep in mind is that there is significant uncertainty about growth...and especially about predicting amid the Covid pandemic because unlike an economic phenomenon where one can say that with some degree of certainty that phenomenon may end at this point in time, (but) this is primarily a pandemic and so all responses, like the lockdown is affecting economy. So uncertainty is really about when will we have a vaccine and whether this can be administered to a large number of people across countries. Given all this, it's very hard for anybody to make a reliable estimate," Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian told *The Indian Express* in a recent interview.

Fiscal deficit widens to 4.6% of GDP in FY20

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

A 9.4 per cent shortfall in receipts even against the revised estimate of Rs 19.32 lakh crore announced during the February Budget caused the Centre's fiscal deficit to widen to 4.6 per cent of GDP in FY20, against 3.8 per cent (RE) budgeted, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Friday. This was the highest level of deficit for the Centre since FY13, when it stood at 4.8 per cent.

This was the highest level of deficit for the Centre since FY13

On the receipts side, shortfalls occurred in tax and non-tax inflows. With the pandemic hitting March collections hard, net tax receipts for FY20 stood at Rs 13.56 lakh crore, down 9.9 per cent from the RE level. With disinvestment plans going haywire, non-debt capital receipts in last fiscal year were just Rs 68,620 crore, against RE of Rs 81,605 crore. **FE**

Core sector output shrinks by record 38.1% in April

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE OUTPUT of eight core infrastructure industries plunged by a record 38.1 per cent in April as the nationwide lockdown to contain coronavirus pandemic caused a substantial loss of production across sectors.

The production of coal, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity contracted in double digits in the month, according to official data released on Friday.

The eight core sectors had expanded by 5.2 per cent in April

2019 while in March 2020 the sectors had contracted by 9 per cent.

"In view of nationwide lockdown during April 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, various industries - coal, cement, steel, natural gas, refinery, crude oil etc experienced substantial loss of production," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Production of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity contracted by 15.5 per cent, 6.4 per cent, 19.9 per cent, 24.2 per cent, 4.5 per cent, 83.9 per cent, 86 per cent, 22.8 per cent, respectively. **WITH PTI**

SECTOR WATCH
AVIATION

DGCA says locusts are a threat to aircraft, issues guidelines for safe flight

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

RECOGNISING THE highest ever locust activity in the last 20 years, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a circular Friday "strongly advising" flights to avoid flying through any known locust swarms.

According to the circular, flying through a swarm can cause problems for aircraft at the time of landing and take-off with all the air inlets of an aircraft, including engines, air conditioning packs, etc, prone to being damaged by the insects. They are hazardous to an aircraft's systems even when it is parked.

"While damage to agriculture and crops by locust swarms is well known, the objective of this operations circular is to get aviation fraternity aware of the risks posed by locust swarms and the need to avoid flying through a swarm," the DGCA noted.

Furthermore, flying through locust swarms could also cause the plane's windshield to be covered with the insects, reducing a pilot's ability to land using visual approach.

"Use of wipers at times may cause the smear to spread even more; pilots should consider this aspect prior to opting to use wipers to remove locusts from the windshield," the circular said. In January this year, an Ethiopian Airlines jet was forced to make an emergency landing after it flew into a

Locusts at village 4V near Sri Karanpur in Sri Ganga Nagar, Rajasthan, on Friday. *Gurmeet Singh*

swarm of locusts that were smeared across the windshield.

Other instruments of an aircraft such as pitot tubes can also be affected by locusts, even when the planes are parked. This can lead to erroneous airspeed and altitude readings for the aircraft's flight computer, causing it to misbehave.

"Post a flight through a locust swarm, appropriate entry in the pilot's defect log should be made giving details of any malfunction experienced and the engineering crew should conduct checks as mandated prior to release of the aircraft for next flight," the DGCA circular noted.

Ground handling agencies should be aware that locust swarms pose risk to parked aircraft, where possible air inlets and probes should be covered.

'COVID-19 could cause \$8.5 trillion loss in global output'

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres has warned that the COVID-19 pandemic will cause unimaginable devastation, usher in hunger and famine of historic proportions and lead to a loss of \$8.5 trillion in global output



Word of caution: Ignoring these warning signs is senseless arrogance. Existential threats demand humility, unity and solidarity, the Secretary General said

Beginning with the global liquidity crisis, he said this was where the health and economic crises meet

Source: PTI

SHARPEST CONTRACTION since the Great Depression

NEED FOR THE WORLD to respond to the unprecedented crisis with unity

NEED TO INVEST in a sustainable and inclusive recovery

60 MILLION more people pushed into extreme poverty

UP TO HALF THE GLOBAL WORKFORCE — 1.6 billion people — without livelihoods

LOSS OF \$8.5 TRILLION in global output — the sharpest contraction since the Great Depression of the 1930s

TROUBLING SIGNS: Increasing risk of nuclear proliferation to the lawlessness of cyberspace

Scrapping of 7.75% savings bonds to hit savers, pensioners

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to discontinue the 7.75 per cent Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 from Thursday has come as a blow to savers and pensioners at a time when their returns from bank deposits have fallen steeply following a series of cut in deposit rates by the banks and reduction in small savings rate by the government over last couple of months.

According to fund managers and analysts, the 7.75 per cent Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 was the favourite investment option for savers and pensioners who considered these bonds as safe and generating adequate returns, as well as being a big draw among HNIs. "These bonds were a good choice for investors who are not

The 7.75 bonds 2018 were issued with effect from January 10, 2018 and were available for subscription to resident citizens/ HUF to invest in a taxable bond

falling under tax liability or who have an exemption under the Income Tax Act. Savers with a conservative approach in investing were attracted by 7.75 per cent. These bonds are guaranteed for repayment by the RBI. Savers and pensioners are now at the mercy of banks. The government should reconsider its decision," said BSE stock dealer and investment advisor Pawan Dharnidharka.

Former Finance Minister

P Chidambaram came out strongly against the decision to discontinue bonds. "The government has dealt another blow to citizens who save, especially senior citizens. It has discontinued the 7.75 per cent RBI Bonds. The government did this once before in January 2018. I protested vehemently. Next day they re-introduced the bond but reduced the interest rate from 8 per cent to 7.75 per cent," Chidambaram said.

"Effectively, after tax, the bond will yield only 4.4 per cent. That is now taken away. Why? I deplore this action. Every government is bound to provide at least one safe, risk-free investment option to its citizens. It was the RBI bond since 2003," Chidambaram said.

The RBI on Wednesday said that the government has discontinued 7.75 per cent savings (taxable) bonds, 2018 for subscription

with effect from the close of banking business on Thursday. The scrapping of 7.75 per cent bonds will deprive investors of another saving instrument that yielded relatively higher post tax returns for investors, several investors said.

Investors and savers are already a worried lot with stock markets falling — the Sensex down by around 10,000 points this year — and mutual funds giving negative returns. The decision of Franklin Templeton MF to wind up 6 credit risk schemes (with a corpus of Rs 28,000 crore) also unnerved investors. "What will savers and pensioners do? Their returns are falling. Now the savings bond is also scrapped," Dharnidharka said.

The 7.75 bonds 2018 were issued with effect from January 10, 2018 and were available for subscription to resident citizens/ HUF

to invest in a taxable bond. While one bond was of Rs 1,000 each, the bonds had no maximum limit for investment. The bonds had a 7 year lock-in period from the date of issue, but, it permitted premature encasement to individuals who were 60 years and above. Interest on these bonds will be taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961. "After lowering the interest rates in PPF and small savings instruments, the abolition of the RBI Bond is another cruel blow," Chidambaram said.

With RBI slashing repo rate to 4 per cent, savers and pensioners are finding their investment options limited. In April, the government announced a cut in the small savings rate. While the rates for PPF were cut from 7.9 per cent earlier to 7.1 per cent, that on Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana was cut to 7.6 per cent from 8.4 per cent earlier.

Vodafone Idea denies reports of Google stake buy

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

VODAFONE IDEA on Friday denied reports of Google's proposal to buy 5 per cent in the firm and said its board of directors was not considering any proposal at the moment.

"The company constantly evaluates various opportunities for enhancing the stakeholders' value... Currently, there is no proposal as reported by the media that is being considered at the board," Vodafone Idea said.

Capgemini's Delaporte to be Wipro's new CEO

Bengaluru: Wipro on Friday announced the appointment of Capgemini's chief operating officer and a member of the French IT major's group executive board, Thierry Delaporte, as its CEO and managing director. Delaporte will be based in Paris and will join the company from July 6 and report to Wipro's chairman Rishad Premji.

Delaporte will be taking over from Abidali Neemuchwala in the midst of a pandemic that has triggered several bankruptcies. **FE**

Singapore SC dismisses Singh brothers' appeal against HC order

PRESSTrust of INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE SINGAPORE Supreme Court has dismissed an appeal by erstwhile Ranbaxy Laboratories' former promoters Malvinder Singh and Shivinder Singh against a High Court order that declined to set aside an arbitration award in favour of Japan's Daichi Sankyo.

Confirming the development, Anand Pathak, Managing Partner P&A Law Offices, representing Japanese pharma firm Daichi Sankyo said, "The Singapore

Supreme Court has dismissed the appeal."

He further said, "We have been trying to enforce the award and we will continue in a very focussed way to enforce the award, now that there is a finality to the appeal."

With interests and everything, the total amount is in excess of Rs 3,500 crore, Pathak said.

Daichi Sankyo, which had acquired majority control of erstwhile Ranbaxy from the Singh brothers in 2008 for around Rs 19,800 crore, began arbitration proceedings in Singapore in 2012

against the brothers alleging misrepresentation and concealment of material facts during the takeover.

In April 2016, the arbitration panel had ruled in favour of the Japanese drug maker and awarded Rs 2,500 crore in damages and held that the former promoters of Ranbaxy were liable for fraud. Subsequently, Daichi commenced simultaneous proceedings for leave to enforce the award as a court judgment in the Delhi High Court and Singapore High Court, where it received favourable judgements.

'Govt to ensure firms don't get picked up at throwaway prices'

PRESSTrust of INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

THE THREAT of hostile takeovers is certainly a worry and the government will ensure that Indian businesses do not get snapped up at throwaway prices, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Friday.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has hit industries across the world due to depressed demand caused by lockdowns.

So, the market provides opportunities to players with deep pockets to buy companies in dis-

tress at a very cheap valuation, she said.

"That's a reality but we have to take care that businesses which have been built by the sweat and toil of Indians, and which have had great brand value, cannot be allowed to be picked up by people who are just looking for an opportunity.

Meanwhile, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) on Friday urged the Finance Minister to allow one-time restructuring of loan repayment terms to help them provide liquidity support to their borrowers who are facing cash flow issues.

BRIEFLY

'Fed to keep on with crisis fight'

Washington: Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell reiterated the promise to use its tools to shore up the economy. **REUTERS**

India's request to BRICS

New Delhi: India on Friday called on BRICS nations to agree for wider sharing of information under tax treaties.

Sebi to TCS on info disclosure

New Delhi: Sebi has warned TCS to be careful in dealing with disclosure of material information to investors. **PTI**

RCF's Q4 PAT rises over 190%

New Delhi: Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd posted a rise of 193.54 per cent in standalone profit after tax in March quarter to Rs 142.28 crore from Rs 48.47 crore in the year-ago period. **ENS**

Pai to chair IBBI advisory panel

New Delhi: The IBBI has re-constituted its advisory committee on service providers and it would now be chaired by TV Mohandas Pai. **PTI**

17 SPORT

‘Six pack has turned into family pack’

Athletes have resumed training after more than 60 days but say it will be months before they reach previous fitness levels

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI MAY 29

AFTER MORE than 60 days of being confined to their rooms, India's elite athletes have returned to the field – albeit with restrictions – in a staggered manner over the last two weeks. The first to hit the ground running were the golfers, followed by track and field athletes and weightlifters since they were already inside the National Institute of Sport campus in Patiala.

These athletes may have a head-start over their colleagues from other sports, who will restart training only next month, but even then, it is likely to take them months – in some cases up to six months – to return to pre-lockdown levels of training.

Here, some of the Tokyo Olympics hopefuls share their experience of resuming training after more than two months because of the pandemic-induced lockdown

SHIVPAL SINGH (Javelin throw)
WORKING ON: Shedding extra weight, regaining fitness

Like many, Shivpal too has added a few kilos during the lockdown but sees the lighter side of it. “The biggest change I can observe is around my waist. I had six-pack abs that have turned into a family pack,” Shivpal, who has already qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, jokes.

He, however, realises it will be no joke to regain his form and fitness. He admits that “every inch” of his body feels weak. There's stiffness in his back and shoulders and when he tried to lift weights the other day, he could manage just 100kg instead of the usual 118 kilos he could earlier manage. “It will take at least two months to get back into rhythm,” he predicts.

Shivpal qualified for the Olympics with a throw of 85.47m at a meet in South Africa days before the lockdown was announced in March. Since then, he has not been able to train, resulting in his “throwing arm going a little weak.” “To what extent, I don't know. I will have to make a few throws to understand that.”

That might not be possible immediately



■ Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu exercising outdoors, after being stuck in her room for 65 days, at NIS, Patiala. *Twitter*

MIRABAI CHANU
(Weightlifting)
WORKING ON: Strengthening shoulder, back and thigh muscles

THE FORMER world champion and her team appear to be in no rush. After 65 days of lifting light weights inside her room – the only workout she could manage – Chanu could step outdoors, but it will be at least a couple of weeks before she will be able to lift the barbell again. The reason, according to a weightlifting official, is to avoid injuries.

Till then, the focus will be on regaining the lost muscle mass and strengthening her shoulder, back and thighs.

“For the first two weeks, we will work just on this area,” the official says. “It is unlikely that any international competition will be held this year, till December at least. So, we are pacing ourselves accordingly.”

The other aspect is her body weight. Chanu, who competes in the 48kg class, usually weighs around 50kg. However, because of the lack of physical activity during the lockdown, she has added roughly six kilos to her normal body weight.

It's been the opposite case with Jeremy Lalrinnunga, a promising young talent, who has lost close to five kilos during this period.

“Until they reach desirable fitness levels, they will not lift weights. And even when they start doing that, it will be gradual – beginning with 50 per cent of the usual workload and then adding weight,” the official says, adding that in power sports, it may take up to a month to recover from one week of training lost. That means it could take at least another five to six months for Chanu to lift a combine (snatch plus clean and jerk) of 200kg in training, something she routinely did before the lockdown.

After the first day of playing golf, my muscles were sore and I understood that they have to be fine-tuned for the rigours of playing all the 18 holes,” he says.

The last nine days have seen Jeev playing nine holes just twice, apart from heading to the range to practise his swing. It is a departure from his usual six-seven-hour routine, which includes an almost four-hour practice round followed by a couple of hours at the driving range and practising chipping and putting.

For now, however, he is just searching for his rhythm.

“I have to spend some time to reach that level again. Earlier, I used to hit 100-150 balls per day but now I am hitting just 50-60 balls. I struggled with the feel of the chip or putt. It will come with practice again. I feel like going back to my novice days.”

ARPINDER SINGH (Triple Jump)
WORKING ON: Angles of his jump and improving the hop

During the lockdown, the triple jumper would perform seven to eight jumps daily at a lawn outside his home near Amritsar. There, he would focus on jumping on a single leg by running from a short distance. He knows, however, that the lack of cardiovascular training could hamper his training when it resumes full-fledged.

Arpinder usually shadow-practices his run-up and jump several times before actual training begins.

Given that he hasn't been able to do that as well, he fears it will take him at least 40-60 days of full training to cross even the 15-metre mark. “As a triple jumper, I focus on the whole body as each part of the run-up and the triple jump process is vital. During the last two months, I have done less cardio training and it will hamper my progress once full training resumes. Technically speaking, I will have to revise the technique day by day and also add more strength at the same time. Only then can I achieve my best once full training schedules begin,” the 27-year-old says, adding that he will be working on angles of his jump and improving the hop as the days progress with coach PB Jayakumar.

WITH NITIN SHARMA AND ANDREW AMSAN

Staging T20 WC ‘very high risk’, admits CA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, MAY 29

Cricket Australia (CA) has called the staging of the T20 World Cup this year a “very high risk”, ostensibly shifting its focus towards the Test series in December – January against India instead. “The T20 World Cup is a big question and that's a factor of perhaps (AUD) 20 million... We have been hopeful all along that it could be staged in October-November but you would have to say there's a very high risk about the prospect of that happening,” Roberts told reporters on Friday.

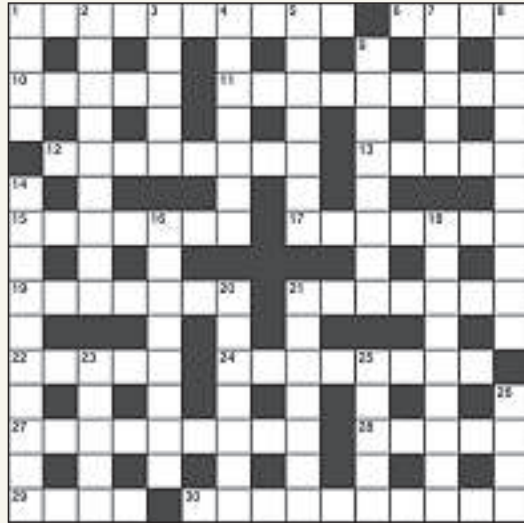
The Test series against India is reportedly worth AUD 300 million and even after that, Roberts said, CA would be short of AUD 80 million (in terms of projected revenue), including the revenue loss in case of the T20 World Cup postponement. “The likelihood of significant crowds is very slim; ordinarily that would deliver well over (AUD) 50 million revenue to CA. And it's likely that our bio-security measures that we need to put in place to deliver the season will cost in the order of (AUD) 10 million,” Roberts said.

The BCCI, on the other hand, will review safety measures and will accordingly seek the Government of India's approval for India's tour of Australia. “As far as the BCCI is concerned, the tour is on. We will review safety measures and then if we get the government permission, we have no problem,” BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal told *The Indian Express*.

This came on a day, when Roberts spoke about how the Test schedule against India could see a Covid-forced change. Brisbane (December 3-7), Adelaide (December 11-15), Melbourne (December 26-30) and Sydney (January 3-7) are slated to host the Tests against India. But CA has also kept its options open to make the series a single venue affair.

“There are a lot of variables based on whether we have four venues in four states or as little as one venue in one state. There are endless scenarios and possibilities,” Roberts said. The BCCI is OK with a single/limited venue scenario. “They are the host country and they know what's the best thing to do; whether to have it (series) in different venues or at one venue,” Dhumal observed.

CROSSWORD 4131



ACROSS

- Actions against the defence (10)
- A much revered figure (4)
- Possibly could be a source of rain (5)
- Touching on a combination with an indifferent result (9)
- They make new reactors (8)
- Dance from Burma (5)
- She killed herself out of shattered hope and returning trouble (7)
- Showed no respect and ate greedily (7)
- Some people face it with resolution (3,4)
- Unusual glee shown after getting a pass in school (7)
- The dark knight has been guillotined (5)
- Neat and honest (8)
- Not bubbly, but nevertheless a grape product (5,4)
- Point to eradicate or delete (5)
- They disapprove of one's make-up (4)
- Payment for one episode of a serial (10)

DOWN

- A pained expression (4)
- Down-to-earth entertainment? (5,4)
- Diana is upset by her (5)
- A road is under construction for Miss Duncan (7)
- Turns pale to begin with, but it passes (7)
- In fact a singular bit of information (5)
- Their union offers security (4,3,3)
- Partly burn fuel that draws well (8)
- It's bright and early (7,3)
- Speak falsely yet be quiet (3,5)
- Newcomer with a healthy complexion (5,4)
- Two names written in a foreign language (7)
- A dog to hire for the present (7)
- Soundly ridicules appearance (5)
- Delia may become a model (5)
- Payment made to leading Thespian – for a walk-on part? (4)

Solutions Crossword 4130: Across: 1 Charges, 5 Relic, 8 Shortfall, 9 Nun, 10 So-so, 12 Break off, 14 Spoken, 15 Keener, 17 Cocktail, 18 Fret, 21 Bee, 22 Alignment, 24 Token, 25 Epigram. Down: 1 Costs, 2 Ato, 3 Gate, 4 Stairs, 5 Released, 6 Landowner, 7 Conifer, 11 Spot check, 13 Restrain, 14 Sackbut, 16 Virile, 19 Totem, 20 Anti, 23 Ear.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



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.

I hate mankind, for I think myself one of the ___ of them, and I know how ___ I am. — Joseph Barretti (4...3)

JNSAE



NOOYBD



AMYST



BELOBRB



SOLUTION: JEANS, MAVIST, NOBODY, LOBBERS. Answer: I hate mankind, for I think myself one of the best of them, and I know how bad I am. — Joseph Barretti

SUDOKU 4124

Difficulty Level 3s

Instructions

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

Difficulty Level

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4123



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

There is a lighter atmosphere, yet certain planetary positions still possess quite a sting in the tail. If you've agreed to any social undertakings, you must be prepared to bear the cost. And if you can't afford it then you'd better find prosperous people to subsidise you.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Strangely enough, a great many of you will be putting in some overtime today. If work is not your scene, you have a valuable opportunity to go all out for total and complete success in a special life-long personal ambition. If you're forced to choose between two options, then follow your heart.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

As luck would have it, this could be a splendid day to sort out all holiday, leisure or travel plans, partly because something seems to have been overlooked. There is a high chance of diversions, delays and distractions along the way, so enjoy them.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Shopping expeditions are favoured, but only if you are prepared to spend whatever is necessary, perhaps more than you bargained for. Never has there been a time when it was more important to receive the right guarantees, and give someone else the reassurance they deserve.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Your stars are still helping you along a positive path. In one sense they will soon be even more utterly incredible and wonderful, but as fate would have it this also means that you could have even more dropped on your plate. You will have to be super-efficient if you are to cope.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Stay busy and keep active is the message. If you sit around and do nothing, you will only encourage strange fears and unrealistic hopes. The important consideration is what has really happened, not what might have been if only things had been different.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

At last the stars are positioned in favour of leisure and pleasure, although your way of letting your hair down seems to be different from other people's. Your favoured entertainments could be somewhat formal and traditional, though by no means lacking in excitement.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Pressures at home seem to be building up, which is a very good thing. Years of frustration may soon be dealt with at one go, but do realise that practical issues must come first. There is still some way to go before you can turn the tables on a rival, by the way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The general planetary disposition can still be exceptionally stressful, but its particular relationship to your sign is lively and controversial. Make a point of taking interesting trips and engaging in stimulating discussions, raising explosive issues.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your financial stars are strong, which means that even something as simple as a shopping trip can relieve the emotional tension. You are currently passing through a potentially extravagant phase, and the best purchases are completely outrageous.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

With lunar alignments working solidly on your side you are in a strong position, but you should watch out for over-confidence. It is difficult to know where to draw the line, but you may try to temper excess with caution, however impossible that seems.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

It's definitely a day to allow a little time for quiet contemplation. Nobody has the right to intrude on your private space or to tell you what to believe. Social and romantic trends remain bright, so why don't you take advantage of all invitations?



NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister



Self-reliant INDIA Self-reliant MADHYA PRADESH



SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

From courageously leading the nation against COVID-19 to laying the foundation of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' with a historic **Rs. 20 lakh crore economic package**, the tenure of PM Narendra Modi has been marked with all-inclusive holistic growth and glorious achievements

FULFILLING ASPIRATIONS | ENSURING SAFETY

**IN A VERY SHORT SPAN OF TWO MONTHS,
MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENT HAS
PROVIDED ASSISTANCE OF Rs. 22,443 CRORE
TO 3,36,45,202 BENEFICIARIES IN THE STATE**

Today, the entire world is praising PM Modi's way of handling COVID-19 and saving millions of lives. Under his dynamic leadership, the country has progressed in every field in the past one year. MP Govt too is following his vision of inclusive development and is determined to realise the dream of a self-reliant India."

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN,
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh



SPIRITED FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

- **Rs. 50 lakh** to the families of the COVID Yoddhas on loss of life or accidental death during service
- **Rs. 10, 000** per month as **Seva Nidhi** to all the COVID Yoddhas
- **Over 1 crore masks** have been made under **Jeevan Shakti Yojana**
- Under **Jeevan Amrit Yojana**, Ayurvedic *kadha* distributed free to boost the immune system of the people. Target has been set to distribute these packets to **1 crore** families of the state



LABOUR EMPOWERMENT

- **Mukhyamantri Jankalyan (Sambal) Yojana** re-launched. Rs. 114 crore transferred into the accounts of 5163 beneficiaries at one click
- **Shram Sidhhi Abhiyan**, biggest drive in the history of MP, started on May 22, 2020. Job cards are being delivered through door-to-door survey



SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS

- Amendment in Mandi Act. Madhya Pradesh becomes first state to take this step in the interest of farmers
- 2019 Kharif crop loans date extended till May 31, 2020; 16 lakh farmers to benefit
- Record-breaking wheat procurement. Over 120 lakh metric tonnes procured from 15.36 lakh farmers. About Rs. 16,000 crore issued immediately



INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Land bank of 12,507 hectares will be created for the purpose of industrial development under self-reliant India
- 4 garment parks to be developed, along with chemical and pharmaceutical parks



ENSURING LIVELIHOOD FOR ALL

- More than 23 lakh labourers benefitted per day through MNREGA since April 20, 2020, including 42% women
- 1.50 lakh labourers provided assistance of Rs. 15 crore



PROGRESSIVE INDUSTRIAL AND LABOUR REFORMS

- Shifts raised to 12 hours from 8 hours in factory. Additional wages for increased shift timings
- Overtime of up to 72 hours permitted; flexibility in changing shifts
- Startups need one-time legislation; no renewal
- Establishments with up to 100 workers can hire according to needs
- Renewal of a factory license once in 10 years

MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENT
Determined to realise the dream of Aatmanirbhar Bharat

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New Delhi