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WEB EXCLUSIVE



**TRIPURA PROF CREATES 'WARBOT' TO MINIMISE CONTACT WITH COVID PATIENTS**

As governments struggle to manage enough PPEs for frontline workers to contain the pandemic, a Tripura University assistant professor has devised a low-cost robot from scrap materials to minimise human contact for doctors and nurses and provide basic services to coronavirus patients admitted in hospital.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



**SHILLONG CHAMBER CHOIR**

How the lockdown has changed their lives

CORONAVIRUS



**WHY SOME LOSE THEIR SENSE OF SMELL**

Loss of smell is a recently identified symptom of Covid-19

EXPRESS AUDIO

**What Cyclone Amphan tells us about the future of Sunderbans**

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of the Sandip Roy Show, we talk to ecological economist, Nilanjan Ghosh, Director of the Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata

# FROM PAGE ONE

## Delhi plan

with 1,163 cases on Saturday taking the total to 18,549.

However, with 122 active containment zones, there will be minimal activity in many parts of the city, with no movement allowed and essential items delivered at doorsteps.

"In our previous proposal, we had suggested to the Centre that 33% of shops in malls be allowed to open on a given day. We will have more discussions on that but are inclined towards that decision. Other aspects of the Centre's plan will be discussed and detailed guidelines are expected by Monday," a government official told *The Indian Express*.

"There are diverging opinions on restaurants, but with the Centre's guidelines suggesting that they can be opened after June 8, it will be difficult to keep them shut. Detailed conversations are being held on what the future of eating out could look like in the city — from the number of people allowed at a time to the distance between patrons," the official said.

On Saturday afternoon, before the Centre's guidelines were released, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that "living in a lockdown permanently is not possible".

"No one can say that if the lockdown is extended by one or two months, corona will end," he said.

## Track surge

Around 10 per cent, or some 373, Shramik Specials were late by 10-24 hours. There were 78 trains delayed by a day or more.

There were 43 trains that were delayed by 30 hours or more and some added two days or more over and above their scheduled journey times.

The delayed trains were mostly bound for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and other Eastern India states. The 78 trains that that were a day or more late were mostly from Maharashtra (36) and Gujarat (17).

A Shramik train from Madgaon in Goa to Jiribam in Manipur which started on May 21, took almost 50 hours beyond its scheduled 60.

Key to the delays have been the sudden surge in track congestion, the lockdown-induced logistical challenge and flexible stops. There were cases where the super-cyclone Amphan also diverted routes.

Explaining the delays, P S Mishra, Railway Board Member Traffic, underlined how the capacity on a particular stretch of the network is fixed in terms of the number of trains it can carry over a 24-hour period.

"When all trains have to go to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka, the shortest route is via Bhusawal in Maharashtra to Manikpur in UP. But that route has a certain capacity spread over 24 hours. Now, if you have to run double the capacity and that too compressed in a, maybe, 10-hour slot, there will be congestion and delays," Mishra told *The Indian Express*.

Normally, this does not happen because all trains are timetabled and spread over a 24-hour slot. "This is not normal train operation. You have to keep in mind that there are many routes to reach a destination like, say, Chhapra. So instead of keeping a train stranded for hours in this heat, we kept the trains moving through alternate routes. There are delays in boarding and deboarding following all protocol, then terminals have limited capacity to receive a certain number of trains at a time. All this adds to delays," Mishra said.

At the official briefing Friday, Chairman, Railway Board, V K Yadav said: "We have given a lot of flexibility to states as well as

our officers in running these trains. So unlike normal trains, these can be extended, or short-terminated; their routes can be changed, or stoppages altered, as per the need of the passengers."

As summer temperatures rise, the delays add to the stress of the journeys, sources said, since availability of food and water is unpredictable. There have been several reports of cooked food going bad while waiting for delayed trains.

An official of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation said that in one case, cooked food for around 60 trains went bad as the trains they were meant for arrived inordinately late in Kanpur. "Passengers then had to be given packed snacks and other items in emergency as a second batch prepared for subsequent trains," said an official.

The Railways recently revised financial powers of Divisional Railway Managers to allow them to spend Rs 1 lakh on each train to provide food and water. Some divisions are even asking passengers to send their locations on WhatsApp so that they can know where they train exactly is so and the approaching divisions can plan meals.

There have also been complaints that state officials were not clearing trains at destinations quickly which was leading to a pile-up at end points. For instance, state authorities in Madhya Pradesh took two hours to empty the Shramik Special from Katra in Jammu to Maharaja Chhatrasal Chhatrapur railway station in MP earlier this week, data shows. The train had 2,345 passengers. Zonal officials said such delays were common in smaller stations and were adding to the congestion.

## NGT panel

- There was insufficient Tertiary Butyl Catechol (TBC) used as an inhibitor chemical in the Styrene tank to control its temperature.
- TBC is ineffective above 52 degrees Celsius. Stored in liquid form under 20 degrees Celsius, Styrene evaporates with rise in temperature in a process called auto-polymerisation. Retarders and inhibitors are used to slow down any runaway chemical reaction.
- There was no other retarder or inhibitor at the facility. A short-stopper chemical should have been added but LG Polymers did not consider this and did not store any.
- Every evening, the refrigeration system connected to the tank was being switched off since ambient night temperatures did not require cooling. This too contributed to the heat build-up in the tank.
- TBC had not been topped up in the affected tank since April 1 since there was no stock at the site.
- Without adequate TBC in the tank, there was rise in temperature in the tank and the Styrene started polymerising slowly. By May 7, the hotspot had reached critical mass.
- "The unit failed to assess the situation due to lack of handling experience by trained manpower," the report stated.
- "The root cause appears to be the lack of experience of LG Polymers India and their Korean principal, LG Chem, in monitoring and maintaining full tanks of Styrene that were idled for a long period of several weeks without operation. M6 is an old tank in design terms, this possibly contributed to the problem," the report stated.
- The M6 tank, which had 1830 tonnes of Styrene, was an old one and did not have temperature sensors at the middle and top. There was one sensor at the bottom of the tank where refrigeration was provided. Due to this, the building-up of temperature at the top of the tank was not no-

# Unlock 1: States get keys June 8

to remain prohibited, though. These include international air travel of passengers; operation of Metro Rail; cinema halls, gymnasiums, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, bars and auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places; and, social/ political/ sports/ entertainment/ academic/ cultural/ religious functions/ and other large congregations. "In Phase III, dates for their opening will be decided based on assessment of the situation," the guidelines said.

The Indian Express had on Saturday reported that malls, restaurants and religious places would open along with relaxation in night curfew in the new guidelines.

Clearly, the spirit of the new phase suggests in how the MHA chose to describe it. The order is called "Guidelines for Phased Re-opening (Unlock 1)" and signed by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla. Further, it extends the lockdown only

in containment zones up to June 30, and "reopens prohibited activities in a phased manner in areas outside of containment zones."

The attached guidelines reiterated this saying, "All activities that were prohibited earlier will be opened up in areas outside Containment Zones in a phased manner, with the stipulation of following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), to be prescribed by the Health Ministry."

"(The) Health Ministry will issue SOPs for the above activities, in consultation with the Central Ministries/ Departments concerned and other stakeholders, for ensuring social distancing and to contain the spread of COVID-19," it said.

There will be strict lockdown in containment zones though. "These will be demarcated by the State/ UT Governments, after taking into consideration the guidelines issued by the Health Ministry.

Within the containment zones, strict perimeter control shall be maintained and only essential activities allowed," the guidelines said.

States have been given freedom to also decide on buffer zones, areas abutting containment zones, and the restrictions necessary in such areas.

Allowing inter-state and intra-state movement of persons and goods, the MHA guidelines noted that no separate permission/ approval/ e-permit would be required for such movements. It has however given states the freedom to decide on public movement saying "if a State/ UT, based on reasons of public health and its assessment of the situation, proposes to regulate movement of persons, it will give wide publicity in advance regarding the restrictions to be placed on such movement, and the related procedures to be followed."

It has also advised the elderly, pregnant women, and

children to stay home even as it has suggested people increasingly use the Aarogya Setu App.

Despite all relaxations, the directions for management of Covid and public behaviour remain the same as in previous lockdowns. People are expected to use face masks, maintain social distancing, exercise personal hygiene. Spitting and consumption of alcohol and tobacco in public places remains punishable. At workplaces, the MHA has asked companies to encourage work from home, sanitise premises regularly, have staggered work hours and mandatorily do thermal scanning.

The standard operating procedure for evacuation of Indians stranded abroad, movement of migrants on shramik special trains and of passenger trains, operation of domestic flights, movement of foreign nationals and of seafarers will remain in force as earlier.

# ICAR admits: No recent research on locusts

after 1997, the focus shifted to other, more regular field pests," Mohapatra told *The Sunday Express*.

Locust plague cycles — defined as a period of two or more consecutive years of widespread breeding, swarm formation and crop destruction — were a recurrent phenomenon throughout the nineteenth century and the first half of the 1900s. The last such cycle was reported in 1959-62.

Subsequently, there have been only isolated years of "up-surges"; even the incursions of 1973-76 weren't numerically large or significant enough to qualify as "plague". After 1997, there were no "up-surges" either — till 2019, when 1,500 swarm attacks were recorded, and the current year that has already seen 27.

"They have come back after a long gap. So far, the damage hasn't been much, since the only major crops in the fields now are summer moong (green gram) and early-stage cotton (in Punjab, Haryana and North Rajasthan). But we have to see what the swarms returning to Rajasthan after July for breeding will do," Mohapatra said.

On May 27, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation predicted "several successive waves" of locust invasions until July in Rajasthan "with eastward surges across northern India as far as Bihar and Odisha". These movements

**TRACKING LOCUSTS, OVER THE YEARS**

'UPSURGE' YEARS		'Plague' years	
Year	Swarm Incursions		
1964	14	1812-1821	
1968	167	1843-1844	
1973	6	1863-1867	
1974	6	1869-1873	
1975	19	1876-1881	
1976	2	1889-1891	
1978	20	1900-1907	
1983	26	1912-1920	
1986	3	1926-1930	
1989	15	1940-1946	
1993	172	1949-1955	
1997	4	1959-1962	
2019	1500		
2020*	27		

*\*Till date*

will, however, reverse once the winds change direction along with the southwest monsoon. The swarms, basically comprising winged immature adults that are yet to lay eggs, would then come back to Rajasthan.

"They breed mostly in deserts, as the female can lay eggs only in bare sandy soils at 5-10 cm depth. She will first check if there is adequate soil moisture, then bore into the ground and deposit a batch of up to 80 eggs before filling up the hole with a protective foamy material. Such sandy soil, with

just enough moisture, is found only in desert regions after the monsoon rains," explained S N Sushil, principal scientist (agriculture entomology) at the ICAR's Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow.

The presence of desert locusts in "transient mature groups" was identified in May 2019 at Pokaran teshil of Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district. Between May 2019 and February 2020, a total area of 403,488 hectares in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab was treated using 314,645 litres/kg of

Malathion insecticide.

"The swarms may have come from Pakistan, but some breeding would have also taken place here last year. We need to see what happens once they breed again in our conditions over several cycles: Will they undergo genetic changes or even develop resistance to the insecticides now being sprayed? Are there other ways to control them, including preventing their transformation from solitary to gregarious (swarm-forming) phase?" Mohapatra said.

Besides Malathion, the other chemicals approved by the Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee for control of the desert locust are Chlorpyrifos, Deltamethrin, Lambda-cyhalothrin, Fipronil, Fenvalerate and Quinalphos.

Interestingly, on May 14, the Union Agriculture Ministry issued a draft notification that listed Malathion, Chlorpyrifos, Deltamethrin and Quinalphos among 27 crop protection chemicals whose use is proposed to be banned. On May 21, Civil Aviation Ministry provided conditional exemption for use of drones by Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage for aerial surveillance and spraying of anti-locust pesticides.

"The standard operating procedures for operation of drones, including dosage and concentration of insecticides to be applied, will be finalised in the coming week," an official said.

be an untoward incident."

While Railway officials on Friday shared a list of 80 dead passengers on board Shramik trains, the Railways officially sought to distance itself from it. "Railway Ministry has not released any list like this as yet," a spokesperson told the media.

The list, which has details of deaths on board Shramik trains from May 9 to 27, include a four-year-old boy in Bihar who died while on the platform, a Chapra-bound woman who died on her way home, and even people with illnesses such as cancer, "heart problem", paralysis etc. Among the dead are a COVID-19 patient and a man who "jumped from a running train and got run over" by the same train. "He jumped because he belonged to Shahjahanpur and the said train was running to Gorakhpur," the document said.

The list also has passengers who were rushed to hospitals, where they were declared dead and of those who died during the course of their treatment.

## Sundarbans

government departments for reconstruction, with a portion to be deposited under different schemes in the bank accounts of victims.

But then, it's not just Amphan. Of the seven districts, South 24 Parganas alone has 180 Covid cases, including six deaths. And in Jelim's Ballara village, residents have started blocking returning migrants and visitors, even those arriving with relief. So much so, that the administration has made it mandatory for visitors to be escorted by officials.

"We have asked them to drop relief material at the jetty on the other side of the river. Our boats will bring it here. We don't want people from Kolkata and other places to enter the village. Who knows whether they are carrying the virus or not," says Narugopal Bakhra, a village representative on Moushuni Island.

A short walk from Jelim's house, Sallauddin Shah (52) is waiting for his elder son Alamgir, a migrant worker stuck in Delhi, to return. "My younger son Jehangir was lucky to make it back from Kerala before the lockdown started. My sons left the state for work after Aila destroyed our fields. I lost 7 bighas of land," he says.

"I have been told that I will get a job card and 100 days of work (under MNREGS). We don't know when that will happen, but the money will be too little anyway," says Jehangir Shah, 24, sitting inside the family's home, its roof blown away too.

At the small concrete jetty nearby, local diesel boats bring in food, rice, vegetables and building material. But supply is dwindling and prices of bamboo and asbestos, to rebuild houses, have doubled. "Bamboo that used to cost Rs 150 is now Rs 500. Each 8x3 asbestos sheet cost Rs 530 earlier but is selling for Rs 650," says Abhijit Maity, a local resident.

"We had no Internet or proper cellphone connection for a week. The lockdown and Covid have made it difficult," says Suman Das, additional programme officer at the office of the Block Development Officer (BDO) in Namkhana near Moushuni.

"Relief material is being distributed through panchayats. We have sent plastic sheets and dry food. Work is on for assessing the damage... making lists of those who lost their homes, damage to agricultural fields and ponds, and animals," says Das.

"Now we have to handle streams of returning migrants, screen them and keep them in local schools," says Shibnath Koyal, Junior Engineer at the office. Official records show that 1,144 migrants have returned from other districts and 1,138 from various states.

On the road from Namkhana to Kakdwip, about 10 km away, electric posts have been bent by the wind, and there's a mash of wires on the ground.

"You are asking about hurdles? Covid, lockdown, Amphan and migrants coming by the hundreds... We have to provide relief to people, quarantine migrants, and somehow arrange for relief material and start reconstruction," says Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Shouvik Chatterjee.

Next to his room is a hall where four young men are busy on phones. "That is the control room. Batches of migrants are coming, even at night, and we have to coordinate everything. It's open 24 hours," says Chatterjee.

## Rajnath

will be resolved through military and diplomatic dialogues. We have that mechanism, and based on that, talks are going on."

Singh said such incidents happen because of the difference in perceptions of the LAC — a stand that has also been maintained by the Indian Army ever since tensions mounted along the LAC in eastern Ladakh earlier this month.

"Nobody can deny the fact that there has been difference in perceptions about the India-China border," but "there is no question, and nobody can imagine" that India can be arm-twisted like the situation in 1962.

"Since long, China has agreed to the Line of Actual Control at some places, but at some other places they do not agree, and they claim it is ahead. We too have similar assumptions at some places. We patrol till the LAC, sometimes their troops come here after crossing the LAC. This process has been going on, it is not happening for the first time."

He said throughout all such crises earlier, "India and China have been resolving through dialogue".

Citing the 2017 standoff at Doklam, Singh said, "it felt like tensions have increased a lot" but "we did not move back, and were successful in resolving the issue".

India, he said, "will stand our ground". But he made it clear that India does not want to "intimidate anyone, we do not want to instil fear in anyone... we want to take everyone along".

Crediting the country's "strong and capable leadership", Singh said the government will "never let the country bow, and the people believe that".

"I want to assure the country that under no circumstances will we allow India's self-respect to be hurt. India has always had a clear policy of good relations with neighbours. And this is not now, we have always tried to do that."

Earlier this week, Singh met Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force. The military brass, along with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, also briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the situation.

India and China have been involved in discussions at the ground level between the military commanders, and at the diplomatic level to find a solution to the crisis that is now in its fourth week.

On Thursday, Anurag Srivastava, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said "we are engaged with the Chinese side to peacefully resolve this issue".

National Security Advisory Board member Lt Gen (ret'd) S L Narasimhan also told *The Indian Express* Thursday that diplomatic talks with China had begun more than a week ago.

He said Chinese troops "are trying to lay claim to their perception of LAC. I don't think it should be seen as if they want to pick up territory or otherwise".

New Delhi



# Bhagirath Palace, meds market under Covid grip, to remain shut until June 4

SHIVAM PATEL  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

THE WHOLESALE market for medicines and medical equipment in Old Delhi's Bhagirath Palace will remain shut until June 4 to check the spread of Covid-19, after more than 10 shop owners and staff tested positive recently, announced the local drug traders' association on Saturday.

As many as 572 shops dealing in pharmaceuticals, having around four to five staff each, are expected to remain shut, but would not be forced to do so, said Ashish Grover, the general secretary of the Delhi Drug Traders Association (DDTA).

The association emailed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday, seeking advice on how the market should function amid the

rising cases, Grover said.

"We have faced problems in maintaining social distancing, which is why this has happened. The shops are small and in congested spaces. Since phase 4 of the lockdown, the footfall has also increased in the market," Grover told *The Indian Express*.

The association is expecting the market to be provided with security personnel to help maintain social distancing and quell fears among shop owners.

"We are an essential service and should remain open, but there is some extent to that. Our staff is worried about being exposed to the virus and taking up the expense of treatment if they contract it. We will await the government's advice on the market and cooperate with them," Grover said.

In the email sent to Kejriwal on Saturday, Grover said things were



At Old Delhi's Bhagirath Palace

running smoothly in the medicine market until non-essential shops around it were allowed to open again.

The shop owners are also facing a shortage of staff, with migrant labourers having left the capital,

Delhi Metro services suspended, and movement of people across state borders restricted.

Krishan Gopal (60), the owner of SK Pharma store at the market, said, "Only one out of 10 staff members are able to come to the store. Some of them live in Haryana and cannot travel. There is also the problem of transport of medicines from godowns to the store, since those who worked as porters have left the city."

Some shop owners are hoping that the closure of the market is extended beyond June 4.

Yogesh Tuteja (49), the owner of Hindustan Pharma store, said, "Social distancing is not possible here because the shops are in close proximity in congested spaces. Customers too are unwilling to listen despite us reminding them a number of times. The market should remain shut until the

problem of social distancing is solved."

DDTA's Grover said the market mainly caters to medicinal demand outside of Delhi, with materials being supplied to Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Delhi's share of medical supply from the market is 10-15 per cent, Grover said, adding the impact of market's closure on the city would not be extensive.

The business, however, has fallen by at least 50%, shop owners say, due to customers outside of Delhi unable to access the market and problems with transportation of medicines to other states. Grover said, "The transportation of essential goods such as medicines to other states is allowed, but vehicles normally don't set off until they are filled to capacity."

Around 12-14 people have tested positive in the market so far, most of them shop owners, Grover said.

## NE riots: Ex-Cong councillor granted interim bail to marry

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

A DELHI court has granted interim bail to former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan in connection with a Northeast Delhi riot case so she can get married.

Jahan had filed the interim bail application requesting a four-week period to attend her marriage with a Jamia Nagar-based resident, which had earlier been fixed for June 12.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana granted her interim bail for 10 days after the Additional Public Prosecutor, Irfan Ahmed, informed that the factum of marriage was verified. The court granted bail to Ishrat upon furnishing personal bond and surety bond of Rs 1 lakh with two sureties each in the like amount.

Ishrat is being probed by the Delhi Police in two separate cases. In the first

case, police had arrested her on allegations of inciting a crowd to pelt stones at police during the anti-CAA protest at Khureji Khas in February. She was later granted bail in that case on March 21.

On the same day, the Special Cell, arrested her in connection with a case pertaining to the Northeast Delhi riots. She was interrogated by the Special Cell from March 21 to April 5, following which police added sections of UAPA, murder, sedition, attempt to murder, and other sections of the IPC, Arms Act and Prevention of Damage of Public Property Act.

Ishrat's lawyer Lalit Valecha had argued before the court that despite the fact that Ishrat was granted bail on March 21 in the Khureji Khas case, she was taken into custody in the present case "for the purpose of investigation of the same offence... making a mockery of the judicial system by the investigating agency".

## DU locks open book exams, puts tentative datesheet online



DU will engage the Common Service Centres under the IT Ministry for those without access to internet or hardware

ARANYA SHANKAR  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

TWO WEEKS after the Delhi University administration said it would go for online open-book examination (OBE) for final year/semester students if the situation due to the Covid-19 pandemic does not normalise soon, it has put up a tentative date sheet of the exams, scheduled to begin on July 1, on the university website.

The move has faced criticism from several quarters, especially in light of a survey conducted by the DU Teachers' Association of 50,000 students that showed 85% of students were not in a position to appear for OBE.

In a letter to all college principals on Saturday, Dean Examinations Vinay Gupta wrote, "It is felt that the examinations cannot be conducted in the conventional mode as per the existing government norms of maintaining social distancing, and safety and health of the students."

"The matter was intensively deliberated in the various bodies i.e. Task Force constituted by the University in view of Covid-19 and the Working Group on Examinations, based on which it was decided that as one-time measure, OBE shall be adopted as an alternative mode of examination for the final semester/term/year students for the academic session 2019-2020 for grading/result," he added.

He said that to "protect interests" of students in J&K and other areas with lack of internet and hardware facilities, DU would engage the Common Service Centres (CSC), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

"The students shall be allowed to use the ICT (information and communications technology) infrastructure resources available with the CSC Academy for downloading and taking printout of the question papers, scanning and uploading the answer sheets on the portal. The students can avail all these facilities free of cost," said Gupta.

He said colleges could allow a limited number of students, who do not have access to internet or hardware, to use the ICT infrastructure for exams.

For students who are not able to appear for the OBE remotely, the university plans to give another "chance to appear in the physical mode of examinations", which would be conducted after the publication of the OBE results.

Former Academic Council (AC) member Pankaj Garg said the new decision is "nothing but fooling students who are deprived of ICT infrastructure".

"Most of the common service centres mentioned are in bad shape with no proper ICT infrastructure. This decision would adversely affect economically poor students. Even if they are given a chance to appear in the physical mode of examination, it would only be after declaration of OBE results. This delay would affect their future plans," Garg said.

Some members from both Academic and Executive councils have demanded that the tentative datesheet be taken back and the matter discussed in statutory bodies.

"You are going ahead with OBE despite strong protest from teachers and students and without any approval of the statutory bodies, i.e. AC and EC. Recent surveys on this issue by students and teachers have shown very high disapproval rating," wrote AC members Seema Das, Richa Raj, Sudhanshu Kumar and Pradeep Kumar, and EC members J.L. Gupta and Rajesh Jha.

A senior university official said the decision is "final", and it would not go to the councils for further ratification.

Vinay Gupta said, "We don't see the situation normalising soon. Even if there was a plateau, we could have considered physical exams — the university's preference — but now it doesn't seem possible." He said the students would face no problems as the university has given very detailed guidelines.

## 2 held for misusing travel pass to 'smuggle drugs'

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested two men who were allegedly smuggling over 12 kg of opium in their car during the lockdown in Delhi. The accused hail from Punjab and had procured e-passes to transport migrants to Jharkhand.

Police said the accused, Shan Masiah and Chetan Patial, worked under a transporter named Gurmeet Singh at Hoshiarpur in Punjab. While returning from Jharkhand, they collected the drugs from

an associate. Police had received information about the smugglers a month ago.

A team under ACP Special Cell Attar Singh followed the vehicles and identified the accused. DCP (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said, "The two were on their way to Kashmir Gate to deliver the consignment."

Police said this was their third trip from Jharkhand to Punjab, and they had already smuggled over 50 kg of opium. **ENS**

## 2 juveniles stole phones to play PUBG: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

TWO JUVENILES who allegedly stole mobile phones to play PUBG (Players Underground Battleground) were apprehended by Delhi Police on Friday.

Police said the two boys were addicted to the game and had stolen over 19 phones from a shop in South Delhi's Neb Sarai.


Atul Kumar Thakur, DCP (South) said, "The shopkeeper told us that someone broke into his shop and took Rs 2,000 cash, mobile phones and board games such as Ludo and Chess."


The boys were identified after police scanned CCTV footage. They were apprehended from their homes.

During questioning, police found that one of the boys, who wanted to play PUBG with his friends, decided to steal as many of them did not have smartphones. A case of burglary has been registered against the two.

**Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University**  
**Sector 16C, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078**  
**Website: [www.ipu.ac.in](http://www.ipu.ac.in)**

**Employment Notice**  
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University invites applications on prescribed format from eligible and willing candidates to fill-up the post of Placement Officer in the University on Contract basis.  
For further details/information, kindly visit the University's website, viz, [www.ipu.ac.in](http://www.ipu.ac.in). Last date for submission of application on prescribed format is **12.06.2020 upto 5:00 pm.**  
**Jt. Registrar (Pers.)**

**Government of India**




## Dear Shopkeepers and Hawkers... Do you know?

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- A Rs. 5,000 crore package has been announced for the roadside hawkers. Under this 50 lakh street vendors can avail loan upto Rs. 10,000. Contact any Nationalized Bank/Co-operative Bank/RRB/NBFC/MFI to avail the benefit.

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- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



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# 4 THE OUTBREAK THE CITY

## LOCKDOWN 5.0

# Challenge: Balancing opening up, containment zones

MALLICA JOSHI  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

EVEN AS Delhi pushes to reopen more businesses and resume economic activity, a spurt in cases has meant a rise in containment zones, where no movement will be allowed even in Lockdown 5.0.

On Saturday, there were 122 active containment zones in the city, up from 102 in the last week of April. According to data provided by the Delhi government, around 50 zones have been de-contained so far.

In the Central Delhi district alone, over 3.2 lakh people live in containment or buffer zones. These include parts of Chandni Mahal, Nabi Karim and the highly commercial Sadar Bazar and Karol Bagh.

In different pockets of North Delhi's Jahangirpuri, over 75,000 are still under restrictions.

"Since we are in favour of reopening the city, we also have to be careful that areas where there is a higher chance of infection — with more than three cases — are contained effectively. And people must be cautious about social distancing and not believe everything is now normal," a senior official said.

The government is also considering how to reopen places of worship.

"There are days that see a significant footfall. We were initially thinking of letting only smaller ones reopen, but a conversation is still on," an official said.

On salons and barber shops, which the Centre had allowed during Lockdown 4.0 but Delhi government curbed, the official said that "those above a certain floor area could be allowed to function".



At Badarpur border Saturday. While Delhi has no restrictions on interstate travel, Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Faridabad have sealed its borders. Amit Mehra

## On the cards for Delhi

### FROM TOMORROW

■ Movement restrictions from 9 pm to 5 am. Earlier this was 7 pm to 7 am

■ Delhi has no restrictions on interstate movement but Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Faridabad have sealed their borders. While the Centre has placed no restriction, states can decide based on ground situation

### CALL TO BETAKEN SOON

■ The Metro, as per the Centre's decision, will not reopen soon. The Delhi government wants it to reopen for those employed in essential services

■ Educational institutions will not reopen before July

### FROM JUNE 8

■ Govt is in favour of reopening malls and complexes, but not at full strength

■ Hotels, restaurants to reopen, but with curbs on capacity

■ Delhi government also plans to reopen places of worship, but will take a call on scale of gatherings

### INCONTAINMENT ZONES

Movement will continue to be restricted in containment zones. Only essential services will be provided to residents of these areas.

175

Containment zones declared since March

122

Active containment zones

Central	7
East Delhi	6
New Delhi	3
North Delhi	24
Northeast	4
Northwest	13
Shahdara	8
South Delhi	12
South East	17
South West	12
West	16

## Rising cases a worry but don't panic: Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal Saturday said that while the rise in the number of cases over the past three days was worrying, there was no need to panic. Delhi recorded 1,163 cases on Saturday, 1,106 on Friday, and 1,024 on Thursday.

"In the past few days, the number of Covid cases has been increasing... It is a matter of worry but there is no need to panic. I assure you that your government is four steps ahead in terms of preparation... Also, living in a lockdown permanently is not possible," Kejriwal said.

On Friday, the government said that five hotels would be linked to five private hospitals to increase the number of Covid beds. Kejriwal said it would be a major cause of worry if the number of deaths sees a sudden rise or if there are no beds to accommodate patients.

"Our efforts are to ensure that the people who get infected are taken care of and return home. We want to keep the death rate as low as possible. Of the 17,386 cases, 7,846 have recovered and... 398 have died (till Friday)... While 8,500 new cases were reported over the past 15 days, only 500 people were admitted to hospitals. The others are at home. The second thing we want to ensure is that if people are infected and need hospitalisation, they don't have to run from pillar to



The CM addresses the webcast Saturday

post to look for facilities... we have 6,600 Covid beds in the city. Of the active cases, only about 2,100 are hospitalised. We have issued orders and by June 5, Delhi will have 9,500 beds available. In Delhi government facilities alone, there will be around 4,600 beds... Private hospitals will have over 3,500 beds by June 5," he said.

Kejriwal said that a mobile app, which will have information about the number of beds available in different hospitals, will be launched on Monday.

Meanwhile, Kejriwal said two videos being shared on social media — one claimed to show a number of dead bodies piling up in a hospital and another where someone alleged that a Delhi government hospital was serving poor quality food — were misleading. "Please don't get misled by fake videos... I spoke to hospital heads when it came out. They are working so hard... and when these fake videos are shared, they get demotivated... If a video is true, we will take action," he said.

## BRIEFLY

### Faridabad Police issues directives on face masks

**Gurgaon:** Faced with a possibility that criminal elements in Faridabad district could misuse the direction to mandatorily wear face-masks and commit crimes while concealing their identity before CCTV cameras, Faridabad Police Commissioner KK Rao has directed that persons visiting places like banks and jewellery shops will have to remove their masks in front of the establishment's CCTV cameras before entering the premises.

### Food kits for migrant kids

**New Delhi:** Volunteers with the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights have been distributing food kits and masks to migrant children on the move at screening centres before boarding buses and trains and at Delhi's borders. The kits comprise of items that can be consumed without cooking. So far, around 8,000 such packets have been distributed to migrants, along with 5 lakh additional packets of biscuits to children.

### North MCD teachers hold silent protest

**New Delhi:** Several North civic body teachers are registering their protest against non-payment of salaries for over two months by wearing black bands while distributing rations amid the lockdown. Ram Niwas Solanki, general secretary of the MCD teachers' association, said such protests will continue until the salaries are paid. **ENS**

## Lok Nayak medical director is among 3 top hospital officials to test positive

ASTHA SAXENA  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

CORONAVIRUS HAS cast a shadow on the top leadership of the capital's healthcare set-up, with the medical director of the Delhi government's largest coronavirus facility, Lok Nayak, testing positive for the virus. The dean of the University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS) at GTB hospital has also contracted the virus.

Dr Suresh Kumar, recently appointed as medical director of Lok Nayak, has gone into home isolation, officials said. "As soon as he tested positive, we started contact tracing and around 30 healthcare workers, including senior doctors, got themselves tested. Two other staff members tested positive Saturday. The hospital's administrative block has been shut for sanitisation," said a senior doctor from the hospital, which functions as a designated Covid facility with 2,000 beds.

Over 40 healthcare workers,



40 health staff at Lok Nayak have tested positive. Amit Mehra

including 17 resident doctors and 23 nurses, have tested positive for coronavirus at Lok Nayak. Resident doctors from the hospital said a nodal officer must be appointed to keep a track of healthcare workers testing positive.

The Delhi government had recently asked all hospitals to form a Hospital Infection Control Committee to assess each such case.

"A dedicated nodal officer for

Covid positive health workers has been a long-standing demand of doctors. Besides improving care for corona warriors, it would help analyse the route of infection and improve infection control practices," said Dr Parv Mittal, president of the Lok Nayak's resident doctors' association.

In Delhi, over 650 healthcare workers have tested positive for the virus so far. At AIIMS, 247

healthcare workers have tested positive for the virus, out of which 150 have been discharged and re-joined duty. "41 more healthcare workers have been diagnosed with the disease. Their reports came in the last two days," said Dr DK Sharma, medical superintendent of AIIMS.

The Dean of UCMS at GTB hospital, Dr AK Jain, and his personal assistant have also tested positive for the disease. On Friday, the government had earmarked 500 beds in GTB hospital for treatment of coronavirus patients. "The block where his office is located has been sealed. He has been admitted to a hotel attached with the hospital for further treatment," said a senior doctor from GTB.

Earlier this week, the Dean of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences at RML Hospital had tested positive. Dr Rajeev Sood has been admitted to Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital. Over 30 healthcare workers from the hospital have tested positive so far.

SOMYA LAKHANI  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

A 59-YEAR-OLD staffer of Delhi government's Lok Nayak hospital died of Covid-19-related complications Saturday afternoon. Charan Singh was deployed at the medical records department, and was in-charge of the anesthesia store.

Singh tested positive for the virus on May 12, and was admitted to Lok Nayak hospital a day later. A close friend and colleague of Singh told The Indian Express: "He had diabetes. When he started complaining of breathing difficulties, he got tested. His condition deteriorated and a few days ago he was shifted to the ICU. He was on ventilator."

Around 2.30 pm, Singh breathed his last at the hospital he served for 20 years. "He was due to retire on June 30 -- exactly a month away from today," said his colleague, as he awaited his friend's body.



Charan Singh

Singh is survived by his wife and their four children. While Singh was admitted to Lok Nayak hospital, his daughter too was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram hospital as she tested positive. "She recovered quickly and returned home. The rest of the family members too have been tested for the virus," said the colleague, who worked with Singh for two decades.

Singh hailed from UP's Bijnor, and graduated from Bareilly's MJP Rohilkhand University. He worked in the

Indian Navy till 1995, and joined Indraprastha Apollo hospital after that. In 2000, he joined Lok Nayak hospital as a technical supervisor and later became OT in-charge. Recently he was made the anesthesia store room head.

His colleagues remember him for his "Navy-man discipline", kindness, calm nature, and attention towards physical fitness. "He was very fit, he would often talk about swimming, and would do religious parikrama often that required long hours of walking," said a colleague, who started working with Singh a few months ago.

His close friend said that even on the day Singh tested positive, he didn't display any stress.

"I would talk to him daily over the phone when he was admitted. He had trouble saying much because of breathing difficulties but he was very sure he would be okay. I never imagined it would come to this," said his friend.

## At 157 cases, sharpest 24-hr spike in Gurgaon

SAKSHI DAYAL  
GURGAON, MAY 30

GURGAON RECORDED 157 new cases of coronavirus on Saturday, making this the highest spike in the district so far.

According to the health bulletin released by the state government, a total of 677 people in the district have now tested positive for the infection. More than half of the total cases — 340 — have emerged in the last three days, with 68 cases emerging on Thursday and 115 on Friday. Of those who have tested positive, 224 have recovered and three have succumbed to the infection.

Officials from the district administration, however, insist there is no reason for panic despite the sudden spike in cases.

"There is adequate medical preparedness. Shortcomings that have been noticed in hospitals and test sampling have been streamlined, and we are blessed

with enough medical facilities," said a spokesperson of the district administration. "Furthermore, most cases are asymptomatic and thus don't need special medical attention other than periodic observation at home," he said.

Four Haryana districts bordering Delhi — Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonapat and Jhajjar — witnessed massive spike in new cases during Lockdown 4.0. During this period, Haryana's total coronavirus cases also doubled.

When the lockdown 4.0 began on May 18, the number of active cases was low in Gurgaon (97), Faridabad (67), Sonapat (43) and Jhajjar (37). But on May 30, the number of active patients in these districts were Gurgaon (450), Faridabad (178), Sonapat (52) and Jhajjar (5).

On May 18, Haryana's total count of Covid patients had reached 928, out of which 316 were active patients. However, on May 30, the total count reached 1,923, with 932 active cases.

## Test results taking time, space crunch in morgue, RML uses refrigerated container to keep bodies



The refrigerated container can store 12 bodies. Tashi Tobgyal

frigerated container arose as "bodies cannot be released until the Covid-19 test result comes". "Sometimes, a patient expires before his Covid-19 test result comes, in which case we have to wait for the result before releasing

the body," she said.

A source at RML hospital told *The Indian Express* that sometimes the test results take more than five days to come.

The source said, "In those five days, other people also die, and

the number keeps increasing. In pre-Covid-19 world, most bodies would be handed over to kin of the dead within a day, sometimes two if police formalities take time. So, the hospital never felt mortuary capacity was inadequate."

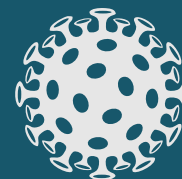
### New SOPs

The Delhi government has issued fresh standard operating protocols for disposal of Covid positive and suspected patients at mortuaries. As per the new rules, hospitals will have to send dead bodies to the mortuary within two hours. If the family of the deceased has contacted the hospital within 12 hours of death, the cremation will have to be carried out in the next 24 hours. But if no one has contacted, intimation will be sent to them through area SHO to attend the funeral at the cremation/burial ground.

In case of unidentified bodies, the Delhi Police will complete all legal formalities within 72 hours of death and dispose of the body in the next 24 hours. If the deceased is from another state, a notice will be sent by the medical director to the resident commissioner. If no reply is received, the hospital will perform the funeral within 24 hours.



# Saluting the Corona Warriors



Use masks  
without fail



Consult a doctor for fever, cough, or cold



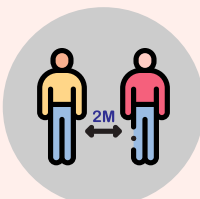
Use a handkerchief while sneezing



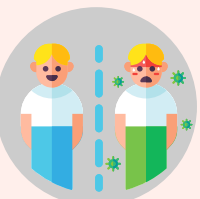
Frequently wash hands with soap



Stay at home,  
do not step out



Keep a safe distance with all



Refrain contact with COVID-19 patients



Avoid  
handshakes

# Rising to the Covid Challenge - Uttarakhand

## An app & technology at the heart of Uttarakhand fight against Covid-19

After a brief control over the spread of the novel coronavirus, number of Covid-19 cases in the state are on rise with return of migrant Uttarakhandis but hosts need to not worry for their safety from the virus as under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trivendra Singh Rawat government has geared up the machinery and health services to contain the spread of virus and cure of the infected patients.

Sensing the situation on time, the state government has increased the laboratories for test of samples. Till April, when samples from Garhwal region were being collected in Doon Hospital and were being sent to medical college in Haldwani for tests, now samples are being tested also in Doon Medical College, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh, and another private lab in Dehradun. A senior health department official said that more labs are likely to be made operational to increase the sampling and testing rate in view of influx of returnee migrants in coming days.

As WHO has declared the novel coronavirus epidemic as Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) under IHR (International Health Regulation), in that context, the Trivendra Singh Rawat government has strengthened the surveillance and control measures across the state. The state government has made isolation and institutional quarantine facilities operational in all districts. Also, to combat the pandemic, the government has operationalised 15 dedicated Covid-19 hospitals and 96 facilities. Besides state level controls by the Health department and the police, similar control rooms have been made operational in all 13 districts to provide all kind of medical and psychological help to people and effective surveillance round the clock. Further, district magistrates and Chief Medical Officers have been given free hands to take decisions for containing the spread of virus.

Also, the government has introduced a new initiative for tele-medicine service through e-Sanjeevani OPD, an online portal for tele-consultation. Following focus on treatment of infected persons, 64 people have been cured and discharged from the hospitals so far. Four deaths of Covid-19 infected people have occurred but responsible officials and experts have ruled out corona as cause of death.

Using the technology and human resource, the state machinery is all prepared to face the challenge of returnees coming in bulk as over



2.52 lakh registrations have been done for coming to Uttarakhand. The state government decided to not leave its people lurch in other states in them time of crisis and it is arranging trains and buses to bring them back after they lost livelihood due to lockdown. So far, over 1.64 lakh people have already come from Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Chandigarh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and other states. Every one reaching by buses of trains or those entering by private vehicles are being screened at state and district border and symptomatic people are being put in institutional quarantine or isolation. Asymptomatic are being put in home quarantine where ASHA workers and anganwadi workers are daily monitoring health

of quarantined people.

In a similar and advanced move for prevention of transmission of coronavirus, Dehradun administration under the guidance and supervision of district magistrate Ashish Kumar Srivastava, is getting installed a GPS-based application IGIS Geo-Locator in the smart phone of every person who enters Dehradun from other states and districts. Use of this technology is proving effective in tracking the movement of people put in home quarantine after their arrival from any other district or the state during the lockdown. If anybody violates quarantine, that app generates alert to the Integrated Command and Control Room that informs the local police.

to act immediately.

For those people who don't have smart phones and are in quarantine, anganwadi and ASHA workers have been directed to do the monitoring and ensure that people follow home quarantine.

District Magistrates are notifying containment areas considering Corona positive cases in cities to prevent community spread. Till Tuesday, there were 19 containment zones in different districts including Dehradun (2), Haridwar (13) and Udham Singh Nagar (4). District administration staff and the policemen keeping vigil across the city ensure that lockdown norms are being followed and

violators are booked in appropriate sections of law.

Taking care of corona warriors, the state government has announced life insurance for corona warriors working in front line to manage the pandemic. The District administration has laid down guidelines to maintain social distancing at work places and provide essential goods at door steps of elderly who are prone to Covid-19 virus due to low immunity.


The closure of educational institutions due to the Corona epidemic has disrupted studies of students globally. Sensing the situation of pandemic timely, Uttarakhand government had timely taken the decision to close the educational institutions and protect students from infection. But that disturbed the academic schedules in the schools and colleges. But this disruption has created new dimensions to studies.

To prevent the community transmission, schools and colleges are adopting technology-led holistic solutions to overcome the challenge and help the classrooms continue non-stop. Dehradun continues to play a leading role in this. Many universities are conducting training programs for their faculty through various mobile applications of video chat. Teachers are sending assignments to students on-line and students are responding to that.

Today, Dehradun is ready to fight this challenge by incorporating some of the emerging technologies in the education sector, including flipped classrooms, active learning classrooms, MOOCs, collaborative distance learning etc. in its education model.

Similar technologies are being used in the government offices and private sector establishments too. People are holding meetings through video-conferencing. They prefer working from home and visiting offices only in unavoidable situations and that too with minimum staff there.

Likewise, restaurants are providing home delivery and other sectors too are doing same thing to maintaining social distancing. Use of sanitisers and masks has become part of life in offices and workshops. Industrial units have started their operations but staff are being called in various shifts to maintain social distancing and keep as many as possible labourers on roll.

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## नोवल कोरोनावायरस

(COVID-19)


खुद भी सुरक्षित रहें, दूसरों को सुरक्षित रखें।



अपील

शासन प्रशासन के माध्यम से मदद करें महानुभाव—

“कोरोना आपदा से गिर मानव समुदाय को एक दूसरे की सहायता की आवश्यकता है। संकट की इस घड़ी में सभी नागरिकों का यह दायित्व बनता है कि शासन प्रशासन के साथ खड़े हों। ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के किसान व जहर के सभी सम्मिलित महानुभावों से अनुरोध है कि गेहूँ आटा, चावल इत्यादि राशन सामग्री जमा कर अपने क्षेत्र के उपजिलाधिकारी, तहसीलदार या जिला मुख्य उद्यान अधिकारी से संपर्क करें। मुख्यमंत्री राहत कोष में भी अधिक से अधिक आर्थिक सहयोग दें। प्रशासन के माध्यम से ही जलरसतामंदों की मदद की जाए। राशि जो लोग वास्तव में सहायता के पात्र हैं उन तक मदद पहुंचाई जा सके और भ्रष्ट से कोई भी मानव दम ना लें। प्रदेश केवासियों से अपील है कि कोरोना आपदा में अस्वस्थ, श्रद्धा की मदद के लिए आना जान कर पुण्य के भारी बने। संकट काल में आपका थोड़ा सा सहयोग किसी के प्राण बचा सकता है। पुनः अपील है कि प्रशासन के माध्यम से जलरसतामंदों की मदद करें। हमारा उद्देश्य इस मालमारी के दौरान प्रदेश में कोई भी मृता ना रह जाए। - श्री महन्त रविन्द्र पुरी



### श्री महन्त रविन्द्र पुरी

अध्यक्ष-  
सीक कॉन्फिनेटर-

### हरबीर सिंह

जॉइंट अधिकारी/अपर मेलाधिकारी, सिविल सोसायटी ऑर्गेनाइजेशन  
नोट:- कोरोना वायरस के चलने किसी भी प्रकार के सहयोग एवं सेवा देने हेतु संपर्क सूत्र - 7017134506

### श्री मदन कौशिक

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अवगणना, पुनर्गठन, चुनाव  
उत्तराखण्ड सरकार



THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, MAY 31, 2020

# 6 THE OUTBREAK

## MIGRANTS ON THE ROAD



**LUDHIANA: 3:45 PM**  
Meena, with her 12-day-old infant, awaits her turn for verification before boarding the train to UP. Gurmeet Singh



**LUCKNOW: 1:30 PM**  
Upon arrival at Charbagh station, Mumbai meri jaan seems a note from the past — at least for now. Vishal Srivastav

## GOODBYE, BIG CITY LIGHTS



**GHAZIABAD: 2 PM**  
For Kanpur residents Ram Parvesh, who lost his factory job in Delhi during lockdown, and his wife, Saturday came as a relief in more ways than a 10-degree drop in three days can measure. After weeks of heat — from the mercury and the pandemic — they walk to catch a bus home. Sharing the weight of luggage, and a weight off their shoulders. Praveen Khanna



**AHMEDABAD: 8:30 AM**  
Arriving at Kalupur station, and looking forward to a berth and nearly 2,000 km journey to West Bengal. Javed Raja



**DELHI: 1:28 PM**  
Future in lap of present. Together they leave the Yamuna Sports Complex camp behind. Destination: home. Amit Mehra

## ‘Wanted to ensure health infra in home states before letting migrants return’

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Saturday suggested that arrangements to send migrant labourers home were not made in the first phase of lockdown or earlier because the government wanted to protect them from Covid-19 and use the time to build health infrastructure in their home states.

“We are sensitive to the migrant workers. In the first month of the lockdown, our main concern was that even if the migrant workers face some difficulty, they should be protected from Covid-19, that these people leave gradually. And when they do, all facilities in their home state are in place, the hospitals are in good shape, the quarantine facilities and doctors are ready. So we started their movement from May 1,” Shah said in an interview to Aaj Tak.

“Throughout April, we made sure they were provided food and shelter and we sent Rs 11,000 crore to collectors to set up camps. From April 20, states had started running buses to ferry migrant workers. This way, 41 lakh migrant workers reached their destination before May 10. These are people who have gone on government expenses,” he added.

“There is rumour that everyone paid for their tickets. I want to make it clear that either states have paid for the tickets or reimbursed after migrants reached their destination. Of this, 85 per cent has been paid by the Centre through Railways,” the Home Minister said.

He said the maximum number of migrants had reached UP and Bihar, but both states had ensured food, shelter and quarantine. “Still, people who lost patience left on their own. They struggled. The Centre through video conference organised a system that buses be run on the highways and these people be taken to railway stations for shelter. And then trains were run from such stations. But there was some chaos in the whole



Home Minister Amit Shah

process, I agree. I feel their pain. It would have been nice if they hadn't left,” Shah said, adding that 1 crore migrant workers have reached home.

On trains taking days to reach their destinations, he said, “The route on which 13 trains normally run, 70 trains were run. This created massive congestion. That is why trains took time to reach. But all the people were provided food.”

Shah said states had supported the Centre's efforts. While mentioning that West Bengal was reluctant to receive shramik special trains, he said, “We should not look at data to judge who is doing well. Everyone is putting in the best possible efforts. Every state has cooperated with the Centre in the fight against Covid... Leave aside some people with a twisted view... Everyone has appreciated the Modi government.”

“...the entire country has been united in this fight. First people participated in the Janata curfew, then lighting of the lamp and beating of utensils and then the armed forces paying homage to corona warriors. For the first time I saw one nation, one people and one will,” he said, adding, “...people have suffered. Many have died as well. But if we compare India's situation to the rest of the world, we have done very well under the leadership of Narendra Modi.”

On the crisis on Sino-Indian border in eastern Ladakh, Shah said the matter was being resolved through diplomatic and military channels.

## Industries open, 65,000 Haryana migrants drop plans to go home

**SUKHBIR SIWACH**  
CHANDIGARH, MAY 30

WITH INDUSTRIES opening up in Haryana following the relaxation in lockdown restrictions, almost 65,000 migrant workers in the state have decided against returning to their home states.

“Eleven trains were cancelled after we found less people willing to return to their states. Initially, as many as 2,000 people used to reach the stations when we called 1,600. Now, when we call 1,600 people, only 600-700 turn up at stations to go back to their states,” Haryana CID chief Anil Kumar Rao told *The Indian Express* on Friday. An ADGP-rank officer, Rao has been monitoring the movement of migrant workers and coordinating with officers of other states.

He said they had planned a special train to Odisha to take 1,600 migrant workers home. “Today, I received a text message from a senior officer in Odisha that only 300 workers are willing to return to their state,” said Rao.

According to officials, besides the resumption of industrial activities, many migrant labourers do not wish to return now as they work with farmers and are eyeing work opportunities in the upcoming paddy sowing season.

According to Rao, as many as 3.25 lakh workers have been sent to their home states from Haryana on 96 trains and 5,200 buses.

According to officials, about 1.13 lakh people out of the 3.25 lakh who were recently contacted to be sent home were found to have already reached home. About 65,000 were not willing to return. More than 80,000 still want to go back and 97 per cent are waiting for government assistance for the journey. More than 60,000 phone numbers mentioned in the applications were found to be invalid.

Principal Secretary (transport) Anurag Rastogi said resumption of economic activities might have prompted many of migrants to stay back. “There must be a feeling that what they would achieve by returning now. Travelling back may also be challenging,” said Rastogi, also monitoring the movement of workers.



**MEANWHILE, IN DELHI:** Ram Dass, a painter, waits for work along with others in West Delhi's Labour Chowk, on Saturday. He says he has rented out his 7 bighas of land in Uttar Pradesh since he is not good at farming. “Delhi is my home. It gives me bread and butter, why should I leave? The situation is bad but it will not be the same forever.” Renuka Puri

## Back in Bihar, migrants count days until they can return

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
MAHESHPUR (KATIHAR), MAY 30

“WE HAVE some stock of maize for now, we will later think about what we need to do,” says Mohammed Sabir, 23, a resident of Maheshpur in Bihar's Katihar district. Maize, the main crop of the Seemanchal belt, has just been harvested and nearly every household in the Maheshpur panchayat area has stored some.

A motorcycle mechanic in Gurgaon for the last seven years, Sabir is among around 2,000 migrant workers who returned last month to Maheshpur after industries and shops shut down because of the lockdown.

“I used to fix indicators of motorcycles and was earning about Rs 7,000 per month. I was also able to send Rs 2,000 to my parents. I took a Shramik Special train to return as I was running out of cash. There was no word yet on when I could resume my job,” says Sabir,



Migrants back home in Maheshpur. Santosh Singh

who got married last year.

But now, like the others who came back, he is uncertain about the future.

“There is no work except seasonal employment available during paddy and maize sowing and harvesting. We have no agricultural land either. Sooner or later, we will have to return,” he says, adding that he regrets not going to school.

Maheshpur panchayat, bordering West Bengal, is the remotest part of Katihar. A majority of its residents are marginal farmers.

ers and the rest either daily wagers, part-time workers or unemployed. The panchayat area is economically backward — of its population of 15,000, only 3,600 family heads are ration card holders. Over 90 per cent of its residents live in thatched, mud and asbestos-covered houses. Several households have at least one member working outside Bihar.

But this is the first time they have experienced joblessness on this scale, says Mohammed Babul, 35, who was working in Kolkata for the last 15 years as a daily wage. “I will work here, even for less money. But where are the jobs?” he asks. “MGNREGA daily wage of Rs 177 is low. We are just waiting for the crisis to get over and return.”

Akshay Singh, the former head of the Maheshpur panchayat, says, “Though we have three crops, there is still a lot of poverty. It is because most residents are marginal farmers. MGNREGA is not able to hold back people as it's wages are not acceptable to many.”

## As lockdown eases and panic subsides, many Kerala expats unwilling to return

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MAY 30

AS THE panic over coronavirus subsides, and lockdown restrictions are eased in India and countries abroad, a large chunk of more than 4 lakh expatriates from Kerala who had registered with the state government to return home are unlikely to come back, according to officials, experts and feedback from the ground.

In all, 4.13 lakh expats had registered with the state government to return. Nearly half of the total registrations are from UAE, according to data available. An estimated 22 lakh expats from the state are based abroad, with 18 lakh of them in Gulf and West Asian countries.

According to figures available with the government, job losses are a minor reason for those having registered to return with NORKA ROOTS, the state agency for expats — at 61,009 out of 4.13 lakh, it is 14.77 per cent of those registered. Statistics show 17 per cent of those registered are on annual vacation abroad, while 9 per cent reported that their visa has expired. Senior citizens, children and pregnant women form 7 per cent of those registered.

According to official data, 16,474 people from abroad have returned to the state until now — either by flights or ships — as on May 29.

Prof S Irudaya Rajan, member of the state expert panel advising the Chief Minister on Covid-19 situation and a prominent scholar on international migration, said as normalcy returns, or people learn to live with the virus, a large chunk of expats would try to stay back at their present destination. Those who lost jobs abroad would try for other avenues, and many would re-migrate to new destinations, he said. “By the end of this year, we can expect a maximum of 1 lakh expats back in Kerala,” Rajan said.

Rajan said much of the initial numbers seen in registration of

### Some who arrived before lockdown eye return

*Kochi:* There is another section of expats who are now looking to fly back — these people had reached Kerala before the lockdown and got stranded here. The Kerala government will now launch a registration system to help this segment.

NORKA ROOTS vice-chairman K Varadarajan said, “We are getting many queries and requests from expats who have got trapped in the wake of lockdown. They have valid job visa. Many are (now) getting calls from their employers (in foreign shores) to join back for duty. So we have decided to launch a registration system.” **ENS**

expats to return to Kerala was a panic reaction. “Only expats in the priority category — mainly pregnant women, the indispensed, the aged and people whose visas have expired — are now returning in evacuation flights.”

Surveys conducted by several local bodies in Kerala found few expressed their intention to return. For instance, in Kannur's Madayi panchayat, which has 12,000 expats in Gulf out of the village's population of 40,000, only about 1,100 wanted to return. “Many are not keen to return due to bleak prospects back home,” panchayat vice-president M Pavithran said.

In Thrissur's Chavakkad municipality, only 1,094 out of 4,500 expats from the area working in the Gulf evinced interest to return, and a similar feedback was received from local self-government bodies in Malappuram district.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## 781 Shramik trains left Maharashtra, 30 more needed: officials



At the Lokmanya Tilak Terminus in Mumbai. Pradip Das

Mantralaya pointed out that 30,000 workers remain on their registers and they would be sent in some 20 Shramik Specials over the next one week.

“The workers left behind are largely from West Bengal, who will require some 10 trains and a few others from Northeastern

states where train operations were hit due to a landslide,” said the official.

Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Nitin Kareer, who heads the nodal team for the movement of migrants from the state, said, “We have catered to over 11.24 lakh workers who

have left in 780-odd Shramik Specials. There will be about 10-12 trains leaving on Sunday and a few more over the next one week. We'll require another 30 or so trains and with that, we'll clear the demand that was registered with us by next week. By then, we would have run about 810 Shramik Specials.” The government, he said, will take fresh applications if they come up.

A Railways official explained that the demand for Shramik Specials peaked in the second week of May, with more than 50 trains operating each day between May 20 and May 26, when 74 trains operated on a single day.

“After that, only 27 trains departed on May 27, followed by 30 trains on both May 28 and 29,” said a Central Railways official.

Mumbai Police spokesperson DCP Pranaya Ashok said,

“Between 7-8 lakh migrants have left from Mumbai, of whom 5 lakh left in trains and 1.5 lakh in buses. We believe there are nearly 2-3 lakh migrant workers remaining in the city currently.”

Police stations too have been reporting a drop in fresh applications from workers seeking tickets to go home. An official from the Agripada police station in Mumbai said, “In the last two days, we have not received any new application.”

With the drop in registrations, police are now clubbing new applications with those in adjoining zones. “Whatever applications we now receive, we will contact the zone from where the trains are leaving and will try to accommodate them in their trains,” said an official from Malabar police station.

### CASE COUNT: THE CHANGING PICTURE

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

**UTTAR PRADESH**  
8,505 262 56  
Foreigners: None

**TAMIL NADU**  
12,605 938 79  
Foreigners: 3

**RAJASTHAN**  
16,175 252 120  
Foreigners: NA

**KERALA**  
2,256 58 31  
Foreigners: 17

**ANDHRA PRADESH**  
9,504 131 61  
Foreigners: None

**KARNATAKA**  
15,728 141 90  
Foreigners: None

**HARYANA**  
3,743 202 None  
Foreigners: None

■ Samples tested  
■ Positive cases  
■ Migrants

States' data for last 24 hours, updated up to 9 pm on May 30



# Saluting the Corona Warriors



Police Staff



Medical Staff



Govt. Employee



Bank Employee



Pharmacist



Firefighter



Grocery Owners

FROM ALL OF US **THANK YOU!**  
TO OUR EVERYDAY **CORONA WARRIORS**

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Use masks without fail



Consult a doctor for fever, cough, or cold



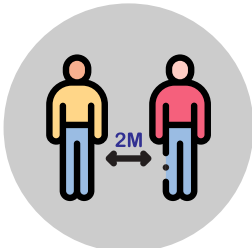
Use a handkerchief while sneezing



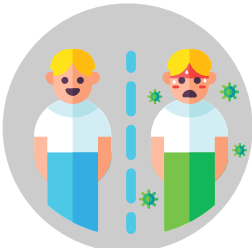
Frequently wash hands with soap



Stay at home, do not step out



Keep a safe distance with all



Refrain contact with COVID-19 patients



Avoid handshakes

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## Experts criticise Covid handling: Community transmission has set in

ABANTIKA GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

AS INDIA gradually opens up, some of the country's prominent public health and community medicine experts, including two members of an ICMR research group on Covid-19, have criticised the government's handling of the pandemic and the lack of epidemiologists in decision-making. "It is unrealistic to expect that COVID-19 pandemic can be eliminated at this stage given that community transmission is already well-established across large sections or sub-populations in the country," reads a joint statement by Indian Public Health Association, Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine and Indian Association of Epidemiologists.

The government has maintained that there is no community transmission even as the total cases in the country touched 1,73,763 on Saturday. As many as 7,964 fresh cases were reported Saturday — a new daily high. However, the number of active cases has gone down for the first time, from 89,987 patients on Friday to 86,422 Saturday.

"India's nationwide 'lockdown' from March 25, 2020 till May 30, 2020 has been one of the most stringent; and yet COVID cases have increased exponentially through this phase... This draconian lockdown is presumably in response to a modeling exercise from an influential institution which was a 'worst-case simulation'... Subsequent events

have proved that the predictions of this model were way off the mark. Had the Government of India consulted epidemiologists who had better grasp of disease transmission dynamics compared to modelers, it would have perhaps been better served..." the statement says.

Among signatories of the statement are Dr Shashi Kant, Professor & Head, Centre for Community Medicine AIIMS, New Delhi and Dr D CS Reddy, Former Professor & Head, Community Medicine, BHU. The two are members of an ICMR research group on epidemiology and surveillance for Covid-19 constituted on April 6. Dr Reddy chairs the group.

When *The Sunday Express* contacted him, Dr Shashi Kant said: "I am aware of it, I have signed it and I am in agreement with it is all I can say." Dr Reddy said: "Yes I am aware of the statement, it was circulated to all of us and wherever we had doubts, we have raised it."

Among other signatories are Dr Anil Kumar, Deputy Director General of Health Services, Dr Puneet Misra, professor, community medicine, AIIMS and Dr Kapil Yadav, Additional Professor, Centre for Community Medicine, AIIMS. The statement adds that the handling of migrants has added to the challenges in containing the spread of the disease.

Among the recommendations the statement makes constitution of a panel of inter-disciplinary public health and preventive health experts and social scientists at central, state and district levels to address both public health and humanitarian crises.

## ICMR advocates antibody tests to check outbreak extent

Rising coronavirus positivity in patients hospitalised for SARI, says new study

KARISHMA MEHROTRA  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

AS INDIA'S lockdown relaxes further, the ICMR has reintroduced its advice to states to use antibody tests to gauge the extent of outbreak and "guide policymakers".

This comes a day after a new research paper published by ICMR, the country's apex institution in biomedical research, signalled rising coronavirus positivity in patients hospitalised for severe acute respiratory illness (SARI), and has called for more population-based studies.

More than a month since the Council had revoked its advice due to faulty results, it has now suggested surveys with antibody kits — known as sero-surveys — to focus on workers who have returned home from other states, those who live in dense settings such as slums or poorly ventilated buildings like old-age homes; people who work in the press, industrial units or as labourers; vendors; the staff in municipal bodies; people in containment zones; police and paramilitary personnel, and prison officials, among others.

Calling for more population-level surveillance, the new ICMR research published on Friday indicates a rising Covid positivity rate in SARI patients. The Council has continuously stated that testing of SARI patients can help gauge the extent of the outbreak by understanding how many pa-



Officials collect blood samples from residents of a society in Mumbai for conducting anti-body tests. *Nirmal Harindran*

tients who were not known to have Covid-19 are hospitalised for severe symptoms and later found positive for the virus.

Of nearly 70,000 tests conducted on SARI patients between January 22 and April 30, the ICMR study says 4,204 people — 6.1 per cent — were reported positive for Covid-19. Unlike antibody tests, these RT-PCR tests are used for diagnosis. This is a significant increase in confirmed coronavirus among SARI patients from previous ICMR research. From March 22 to March 28, this rate was 1.7 per cent, while it was 2.6 per cent between March 29 and April 2.

On March 22, ICMR shifted from random surveillance of SARI patients to testing all SARI patients, indicating that the

jump in positivity likely came from the tests in April.

"Because the testing criteria, except for SARI, require exposure to a positive case, we are uncertain about the transmission among unlinked individuals in the community... Implementing other methods of surveillance, such as population-based and sentinel-site-based, will help understand the trends better," the new ICMR research states.

Uncategorised cases and tests were a large chunk of the data — 44 per cent and 56 per cent, respectively.

The new research examined more than 10 lakh tested individuals. The categories included in the analysis up until April 30 were symptomatic contacts of Covid-positive cases, sympto-

matic international travelers, symptomatic health care workers, hospitalised SARI patients, symptomatic people in hotspots, asymptomatic contacts of cases, and asymptomatic healthcare workers who contacted cases without adequate protection.

Since then, the testing strategy has expanded to include symptomatic returnees and migrants, hospitalised patients who then develop symptoms, and frontline workers.

SARI patients have had the second-highest positivity rate of all testing categories, second only to symptomatic contacts of positive cases (10.3), according to the paper.

India tested more asymptomatic people — a quarter of all tests — than symptomatic people (17 per cent of all tests). However, the number of cases of asymptomatic and symptomatic people is almost equal at 11,295 and 10,607, respectively.

Specifically, asymptomatic family contacts make up the highest number of cases (25 per cent) and tests (20 per cent), the study reports.

At the national level, the average number of contacts tested from one case was six, the study stated. The lowest contact-tracing states include Maharashtra (7.6 contacts tested from one case), Delhi (8.9), Gujarat (11.7), Madhya Pradesh (11.6), and Telangana (14.4).

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'COVID SITUATION UNDER CONTROL IN INDIA'

## Nadda: 1 yr of Modi govt's 2nd term full of accomplishments

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

TERMING THE first year of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's second term as "an year of accomplishments and unimaginable challenges" faced with "bold decisions", BJP President J P Nadda on Saturday said the government's approach has been holistic. He said PM Modi's call for Atmanirbhar Bharat in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic will be based on a "progressive approach, not regressive".

Addressing the media on the first anniversary of 'Modi government 2.0', Nadda emphasised that the government took bold and timely decisions by involving people to combat the pandemic and won praises from all across the world.

"While many big, powerful countries found themselves helpless against Covid-19, the situation is under control in India."

Nadda listed the abrogation of Article 370, which he said has successfully brought the people of Jammu and Kashmir into the mainstream, changing of citizenship laws, strengthening of anti-terror laws and bank merg-



JP Nadda

ers among significant successes of the government. He said the Congress for long tried to delay a decision on the Ayodhya case but the Modi government has formed a trust to construct the Ram temple.

Asked about the Prime Minister's call for self-reliant India, Nadda said it is not meant to bring back Licence Raj and the government's approach will be progressive. He announced that the party will hold digital rallies across the country to mark the first anniversary of 'Modi government 2.0'.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Amit Shah said the first year of the Modi government's second term was full of historic achievements and that it has corrected many "historic wrongs" while laying the foundation for a self-reliant India.

## Year of dissapointment, disastrous management and diabolical pain: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

AS THE Narendra Modi-led government completed six years in office, the Congress on Saturday described the first year of its second term as a year of "disappointment, disastrous management and diabolical pain". Overall, the main Opposition party said the BJP government seemed to be "at war" with the people, inflicting wounds instead of healing them.

Saying that more than 50 people died in the Shramik special trains, the Congress also called on Railway Minister Piyush Goyal to resign taking moral responsibility for the loss of lives.

The Congress, which has attacked the government over its handling of the Covid-19 outbreak, also demanded that a virtual session of Parliament be immediately convened and meetings of various parliamentary committees be held.

Addressing a joint press conference, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K C Venugopal and Congress communication department head Randeep Surjewala said Prime Minister Modi came to power making extraordinary promises. But he delivered very little, they said, be it on creating two crore jobs every year, doubling of farm income, strengthening the rupee or bringing back black money.

The government, they alleged, has systematically subjugated all democratic institutions, stifled dissent, shown a complete aversion to accountability and transparency, persecuted political leaders and critics including authors, writers, thinkers and journalists, and misused investigative agencies and the Income Tax Department in the last six years.

"The six years of the Modi dispensation have seen fraying of bonds of empathy, fraternity and brotherhood with an increase in acts of communal and sectarian violence," Venugopal said, adding that at the start of the seventh year, "India stands at a crossroads. Its citizens exhausted by the weight of this government's sins, ineptitude and callous insensitivity to the widespread suffering."

"Over the last six years, India witnessed a steady increase in the politics of distraction and false noise, to the point that it has become a defining mainstay of the Modi government's administrative style. While it served the political interests of the BJP, it came at an unprecedented economic and social cost to the nation," he said. Unemployment, he said, touched a 45-year high and the GDP shows "Grossly Declining Performance". The six years of the Modi government also saw 32,868 bank frauds involving public money to the tune of Rs 2.70 lakh crores, Venugopal added.

"The six years of Modi government have proven that it prioritizes the 'haves' over the 'have-nots'. The rich have gotten richer while the poor, needy and vulnerable have been abandoned. India now has the highest income inequality in 73 years... Prime Minister Modi advertises his austerity and humble roots, but six years of his government have demonstrated a shocking lack of concern for the woes of the common man and worse still, demonstrates zero sense of accountability to the people," he said.

"The Election Commission, the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Central Vigilance Commission, the Information Commissions and the Lok Pal look weaker, more ineffective and more unwilling to act, than ever before," he said.

WEST BENGAL

## Lockdown till June 15; malls, restaurants to reopen June 8

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, MAY 30

THE WEST Bengal government on Saturday extended the Covid-19 lockdown till June 15, but eased more curbs a day after announcing the first round of relaxations. The fourth phase of lockdown is set to end on Sunday.

The government said the lockdown would continue in containment zones, but activities would be restarted in other areas.

The government announced that indoor and outdoor activities such as TV and cinema production — barring reality shows, but including those meant for OTT platforms — would be allowed in non-containment areas from June 1, with maximum 35 people per unit at a time. Shopping malls, restaurants, and hotels can reopen in these places from June 8.

In a notice, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation said shops selling non-essential products would reopen in 46 city markets from Monday. These shops can remain open from 10 am to 5.30 pm.

The government clarified that tea gardens and jute mills would be allowed to operate at full strength from June 1. MSME and large industrial operations, including mining and construction activities, are also allowed at full strength from that day.

"Intra-state movement of... buses with effect from June 1, with passengers not more than the actual seating capacity [will be permitted]," said an order.

## Maharashtra takes it slow: Curbs may stay in Mumbai, other red zones

SANDEEP ASHAR  
MUMBAI, MAY 30

WHILE THE Centre has allowed shops and businesses outside containment zones to resume from June 1 onwards, Maharashtra is unlikely to allow economic and other activities to resume in one go in Mumbai and other red zones, even outside designated containment zones.

As on date, the state has 3,169 containment zones, of which 684 are in Mumbai and 65 are in Pune, the state's two major hotspots. Thane district has 177 containment zones. It is expected that as per the new MHA guidelines, there will be no activities in these areas, but official sources said even outside the containment areas in 19 designated red zoned municipal corporations in the state, people can at the most look forward only to a gradual easing out of restrictions. That includes Mumbai and Pune.

Keen to avoid a new flare-up of cases, the state has plans to permit standalone shops to remain open only on two or three days of the week for now. As part of the state's soon-to-be released revised lockdown guidelines, sources said that people will be advised to restrict shopping to neighbourhood shops and avoid travelling to distant market places.

The Union Home Ministry on Saturday, while issuing guidelines for Lockdown 5.0, announced considering easing of restrictions outside of containment zones. Under the new guidelines, it has permitted offices, industries and



Keen to avoid a new flare-up of cases, the state plans to permit standalone shops to remain open only on two or three days of the week for now. *Ashish Kale*

shops in non-containment zones across India to function from 9 am to 5 pm daily. However, it also gave states the "freedom to not open them or put suitable restrictions if they deem it necessary for the containment of corona outbreak."

With the suburban rail unlikely to resume in the immediate future, the first phase of Maharashtra's own unlock plan for Mumbai does not involve permitting private offices to open. If anything, offices, for now, will only be allowed to call skeletal staff for general upkeep and emergency operations. The rest will be encouraged to continue working from home.

At the epicentre of coronavirus infections in India, Mumbai has so far reported 38,220 cases and 1,227 deaths. While trade associations and industry bodies have been lobbying for reopening of

the city's economy, sources confirmed that the Uddhav Thackeray-led coalition government continues to be wary of a surge of cases after reopening, and so has adopted a slower and a multi-phased approach of lifting curbs on economic activity. Earlier this week, the Federation of Associations of Maharashtra, a traders' body representing 781 trader associations, had approached Thackeray seeking the opening of both retail and wholesale shops for at least some days of the week.

According to the request, sources said the government has planned phased resumption of markets areas and shops except for malls and market complexes in all the 19 red zones including Mumbai. A senior official said, "The plan being considered for now is to permit market areas and

shops to operate at the level of 33 per cent shops."

While the local bodies will have the freedom to decide the required arrangements, the government is expected to insist on a couple of options in this regard. This including permitting shops on either side on the road or lane to open on alternate days, or grouping shops in various two or three categories to be open three or two days a week respectively.

"This approach allows us to stagger the crowds and avoid overcrowding," the official added.

While the Centre has also permitted temples, shrines, hotels, restaurants, and malls to reopen after June 8, sources in the Maharashtra government said that a decision on these would be taken after reviewing the infection graph after the initial reopenings.

## Uttarakhand minister's wife tests positive

*Dehradun:* Uttarakhand Tourism and Culture minister Satpal Maharaj's wife tested positive for Covid-19 Saturday, a day after the minister attended a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Trivedi Singh Rawat in the secretariat at Dehradun.

Dehradun District Magistrate Ashish Kumar Srivastava said, "Specified protocol of the government will be followed. Contact tracing will be done and further steps will be taken accordingly." He added that they had not been able to trace any travel history so far.

As Maharaj on Friday attended the Cabinet meeting, his colleagues and senior officers, along with other staff who were present there, may be tested for Covid-19 as a precaution. **ENS**

## Karnataka goes door to door to track high-risk homes

JOHNSON TA  
BENGALURU, MAY 30

AN ESTIMATED 44 per cent of households across Karnataka have been classified in the "risk category" for Covid because they have either senior citizens and/or pregnant, lactating women.

This is the result of a survey being conducted by the Karnataka government as part of its Covid containment plan to compile a health register of citizens with specific focus on identifying those above 60 who have underlying health problems.

There are an estimated 1.68 crore households in the state and the survey has, since May 5, covered 72 percent of the households.

It has counted 51.53 lakh households with senior citizens and 4.38 lakh households with pregnant, lactating women.

Of households with seniors,

around three per cent were found as those with "elderly persons suffering from high BP/diabetes/cardiac problem."

Officials underlined that this door-to-door survey is cursory but exhaustive. "A door-to-door survey of the entire population of Karnataka was done through teachers, government staff and booth level officers, totalling about 60,000 officials. The data is being entered into the state's health watch mobile app and web application," said Munish Moudgil, the IAS officer in charge of the state Covid 19 war room.

The survey will help local health workers track and support vulnerable households, the official said.

"Basic questions were asked rather than interpretational ones. Is there a pregnant or lactating woman in the household? Number of persons above 60 years of age? Number of persons



Passengers at Kempegowda Airport in Bengaluru after arriving in a special A-I flight from Frankfurt, on Saturday. *PTI*

above 60 having BP or diabetes or heart problem? Number of persons with breathlessness, fever or cough and cold. Yes to anyone of the questions makes the household vulnerable," Moudgil said.

"This survey is at the household level and no details of indi-

viduals other than the head of a household are collected," according to state health commissioner Pankaj Pandey.

"Covid has demonstrated that comprehensive public health data is the key to act decisively and swiftly. Our government is planning to maintain a

Health Registry of Citizens," Karnataka medical education minister Dr K Sudhakar said on social media.

A household health risk assessment app has been developed by the Karnataka Covid war room which identifies vulnerable households in an election booth area in order to facilitate intervention by health workers in the event of a disease outbreak.

According to the surveillance policy, health workers will check on high risk-households on a daily basis in Covid containment zones, twice a week in buffer zones and in other areas on the basis of assessment of situations by health officials.

Tracking of cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection and Influenza Like Illnesses showing up at clinics, tracking of persons buying medicines for fever, cough and cold at pharmacies,

tracking foreign, domestic travellers and watching primary and secondary contacts of persons who test positive for Covid are among other surveillance measures in Karnataka.

The state has seen a spike in Covid cases following the return of migrants. Since May 23, a total of 1179 Covid positive cases have been recorded in the state with 70 percent of the cases involving returnees from Maharashtra and Mumbai in particular to various districts in the state.

On Saturday, 141 cases were recorded after an all-time high of 248 cases Friday. On an average, 147 cases have been recorded each day over the last eight days compared to around 50 witnessed until the second week of May. There have been 49 Covid deaths in the state with 28 involving persons above the age of 60 with underlying health conditions. **ENS**

## Navy to bring back 1,400 people from Sri Lanka and Maldives

*New Delhi:* Beginning June 1, the Indian Navy will bring back 1,400 people from Sri Lanka and the Maldives as part of the next phase of 'Operation Samudra Setu' to repatriate Indian citizens.

INS Jalashwa will first bring back 700 Indians from Colombo, followed by another 700 from Male. All of them will be taken to Tuticorin.

The Navy said in a statement Saturday: "Indian Missions in Sri Lanka and Maldives are preparing a list of Indian nationals to be evacuated and will facilitate their embarkation after requisite medical screening. COVID-related social distancing norms have been catered onboard and evacuees would be provided basic amenities and medical facilities during the sea-passage." **ENS**





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Only passengers with confirmed/RAC tickets shall be allowed to enter the Railway Station and board the train

Passengers to reach station at least 90 minutes in advance

No catering charges shall be included in the fare

No linen, blankets and curtains shall be provided inside the train

All passengers must wear face covers/masks from entry to exit at railway stations and during travel

All passengers must download Aarogya Setu App, and strictly adhere to social distancing norms during travel

Train No. (Onward/Return)	From	To	Train Name	Frequency	Earliest Date of Ticket Availability (Onward)	Earliest Date of Ticket Availability
01019/20	Mumbai CST	Bhubaneswar	Konark Express	Daily	05-June	03-June
01061/62	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Darbhangha	Darbhangha Express	Daily	24-June	03-June
01071/72	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Varanasi	Kamayani Express	Daily	24-June	03-June
01093/94	Mumbai CST	Varanasi	Mahanagri Express	Daily	22-June	02-June
01139/40	Mumbai CST	Gadag	Mumbai CST-Gadag Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
01301/02	Mumbai CST	KSR Bengaluru	Udyan Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02479/80	Bandra (T)	Jodhpur	Suryanagari Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02701/02	Mumbai CST	Hyderabad	Husain Sagar Express	Daily	02-June	01-June
02715/16	H. S. Nanded	Amritsar	Sachkhand Express	Daily	01-June	03-June
02933/34	Mumbai Central	Ahmedabad	Karnavati Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
06345/46	Mumbai (LTT)	Thiruvananthapuram Central	Netravati Express	Daily	03-June	01-June
02955/56	Mumbai Central	Jaipur	Mumbai Central-Jaipur Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02141/42	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Patliputra	Lokmanyatilak (T)-Patliputra Express	Daily	18-June	03-June
09041/42	Bandra (T)	Ghaziपुर	Bandra Ghaziपुर Express	Bi-weekly	26-June	07-June
02149/50	Pune	Danapur	Pune Danapur Express	Daily	14-June	03-June
05645/46	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Guwahati	Lokmanyatilak Guwahati Express	Bi weekly	24-June	17-June
09037/38	Bandra(T)	Gorakhpur	Avadh Express	Four days	19-June	30-June
09039/40	Bandra(T)	Muzaffarpur	Avadh Express	Tri-weekly	25-June	04-June
02156/55	H. Nizamuddin	Habibganj	Bhopal Express	Daily	02-June	01-June
02230/29	New Delhi	Lucknow Jn.	Lucknow Mail	Daily	08-June	02-June
02392/91	New Delhi	Rajgir	Shramjeevi Express	Daily	15-June	03-June
02394/93	New Delhi	Rajendra Nagar	Sampoorna Kranti Express	Daily	12-June	01-June
02418/17	New Delhi	Prayagraj	Prayagraj Express	Daily	03-June	02-June
02420/19	New Delhi	Lucknow	Gomti Express	Daily	06-June	02-June
02452/51	New Delhi	Kanpur	Shram Shakti Express	Daily	03-June	01-June
02560/59	New Delhi	Manduadih	Shiv Ganga Express	Daily	09-June	01-June
02618/17	H. Nizamuddin	Ernakulam	Mangla Express	Daily	04-June	05-June
04009/10	Anand Vihar	Bapudham Motihari	Champaran Satyagrah Express	Weekly	07-June	20-June
02629/30	New Delhi	Yesvantpur	Karnataka Sampark Kranti Express	Bi-weekly	11-June	10-June
02724/23	New Delhi	Hyderabad	Telangana Express	Daily	02-June	01-June
02916/15	Delhi	Ahmedabad	Ashram Express	Daily	03-June	01-June
02963/64	H. Nizamuddin	Udaipur City	Mewar Express	Daily	02-June	01-June
05484/83	Delhi	Alipurduar	Mahananda Express	Daily	21-June	02-June
02182/81	H. Nizamuddin	Jabalpur	H. Nizamuddin-Jabalpur Express	Daily	08-June	01-June
02217/18	New Delhi	Varanasi	Mahamana Express	Tri-weekly	02-June	12-June
02219/20	Anand Vihar	Ghaziपुर	Suhaildev Express	Four days	07-June	18-June
02233/34	Anand Vihar	Ghaziपुर	Anand Vihar Ghaziपुर Express	Bi-Weekly	02-June	12-June
02055/56	New Delhi	Dehradun	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	04-June	01-June
02057/58	New Delhi	Una Himachal	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	03-June
01016/15	Gorakhpur	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Lokmanyatilak (T) Express	Daily	03-June	25-June
02533/34	Lucknow Jn	Mumbai CST	Pushpak Express	Daily	01-June	15-June
02541/42	Gorakhpur	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Lokmanyatilak (T) Express	Daily	01-June	18-June
02377/78	Sealdah	New Alipurduar	Padatik Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02703/04	Howrah	Secunderabad	Falaknuma Express	Daily	03-June	06-June
02810/09	Howrah	Mumbai CST	HWH-Mumbai Mail	Daily	01-June	19-June
02307/08	Howrah	Jodhpur/Bikaner	Howrah-Jodhpur/Bikaner Express	Daily	14-June	12-June
02381/82	Howrah	New Delhi	Poorva Express	Tri-weekly	03-June	16-June
02303/04	Howrah	New Delhi	Poorva Express	Four days	01-June	24-June
02245/46	Howrah	Yesvantpur	Duronto Express	Five Days	02-June	25-June
02201/02	Sealdah	Bhubaneswar	Duronto Express	Tri-Weekly	01-June	02-June
02213/14	Shalimar	Patna	Duronto Express	Tri-Weekly	01-June	02-June
02073/74	Howrah	Bhubaneswar	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02023/24	Howrah	Patna	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	09-June	04-June

Train No. (Onward/Return)	From	To	Train Name	Frequency	Earliest Date of Ticket Availability (Onward)	Earliest Date of Ticket Availability
02021/22	Howrah	Barbil	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02296/95	Danapur	KSR Bengaluru	Sanghamitra Express	Daily	03-June	25-June
02792/91	Danapur	Secunderabad	Danapur-Secunderabad Express	Daily	05-June	14-June
03201/02	Patna	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Patna-Lokmanyatilak (T) Express	Daily	01-June	18-June
02553/54	Saharsa	New Delhi	Vaishali Express	Daily	01-June	24-June
02557/58	Muzaffarpur	Anand Vihar	Sapt Kranti Express	Daily	01-June	16-June
05273/74	Raxaul	Anand Vihar	Satyagrah Express	Daily	01-June	17-June
02365/66	Patna	Ranchi	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02565/66	Darbhangha	New Delhi	Bihar Sampark Kranti	Daily	01-June	21-June
02407/08	Amritsar	New Jalpaiguri	Karambhum Exp	Weekly	10-June	30-June
02357/58	Amritsar	Kolkata	Amritsar-Kolkata Express	Bi-weekly	02-June	29-June
02904/03	Amritsar	Mumbai Central	Golden Temple Mail	Daily	03-June	03-June
02926/25	Amritsar	Bandra (T)	Paschim Express	Daily	05-June	02-June
04673/74	Amritsar	Jaynagar	Shaheed Express	Four days	13-June	30-June
04649/50	Amritsar	Jaynagar	Saryu Yamuna Express	Tri-weekly	12-June	29-June
02833/34	Ahmedabad	Howrah	Ahmedabad-Howrah Express	Daily	15-June	01-June
09165/66	Ahmedabad	Darbhangha	Sabarmati Express	Tri-weekly	12-June	06-June
09167/68	Ahmedabad	Varanasi	Sabarmati Express	Four days	11-June	04-June
09045/46	Surat	Chhapra	Tapti Ganga Express	Four days	11-June	03-June
02947/48	Ahmedabad	Patna	Azimabad Express	Bi-weekly	15-June	03-June
09083/84	Ahmedabad	Muzaffarpur	Ahmedabad-Muzaffarpur Express (Via Surat)	Daily	12-June	03-June
09089/90	Ahmedabad	Gorakhpur	Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur Express	Daily	08-June	03-June
02917/18	Ahmedabad	H. Nizamuddin	Gujarat Sampark Kranti	Tri-weekly	01-June	02-June
02463/64	Jodhpur	Delhi S. Rohilla	Sampark Kranti	Tri-weekly	12-June	11-June
02477/78	Jaipur	Jodhpur	Jaipur-Jodhpur Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02065/66	Ajmer	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Jan Shatabdi Express	Five Days	01-June	01-June
02059/60	Kota	H. Nizamuddin	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	02-June	01-June
02555/56	Hisar	Gorakhpur	Gorakhdham Express	Daily	01-June	10-June
02801/02	Bhubaneswar	New Delhi	Purushottam Express	Daily	02-June	21-June
08183/84	Tatanagar	Danapur	Tatanagar-Danapur Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02805/06	Vishakhapatnam	New Delhi	AP Express	Daily	01-June	04-June
07201/02	Guntur	Secunderabad	Golconda Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02793/94	Tirupati	Nizamabad	Rayalaseema Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
05955/56	Dibrugarh	Delhi	Brahmaputra Mail	Daily	03-June	18-June
02067/68	Guwahati	Jorhat Town	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	01-June	01-June
02091/92	Dehradun	Kathgodam	Jan Shatabdi Express	Five Days	02-June	02-June
02053/54	Haridwar	Amritsar	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	01-June	01-June
02079/80	KSR Bengaluru	Hubli	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02089/90	Yesvantpur	Shivamoga Town	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02283/84	Ernakulam	H. Nizamuddin	Duronto Express	Weekly	09-June	06-June
02075/76	Calicut	Trivandrum	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02081/82	Kannur	Trivandrum	Jan Shatabdi Express	Five Days	01-June	01-June
02727/28	Hyderabad	Vishakhapatnam	Godavari Express	Daily	09-June	09-June
02285/86	Secunderabad	H. Nizamuddin	Duronto Express	Bi-Weekly	04-June	05-June
02069/70	Raigarh	Gondia	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	01-June	01-June
02061/62	Habibganj	Jabalpur	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02779/80	Vasco da Gama	H. Nizamuddin	Goa Express	Daily	11-June	09-June

\* Timings and Stoppages will be as per regular trains \* The position is as on 13:00 hours of 30th May 2020



OPPN PARTY HAD CRITICISED S-G REMARKS

# Prasad targets Cong: They can't control polity through court

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

WITH SOLICITOR General Tushar Mehta coming under criticism for his remarks before the Supreme Court, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has targeted the Congress, saying those “rejected by the people cannot seek to control the polity of the country through the corridors of the court”.

Prasad told *The Sunday Express*, “We welcome PIL, courts should be left completely free to decide independently. Any overt or covert pressure on court should be avoided. That’s what independence of the judiciary means and we are proud of this independence of the judiciary. Court has every right to give a direction, including in the case of the plight of migrants. Why not?”

“But those who have been rejected by the people of India repeatedly cannot seek to control the polity of the country through the corridors of the court,” he added.

Mehta has been facing criticism for his remarks during a hearing in a case on the plight of migrants, taken up by Congress leader Kapil Sibal, among others.

Opposing intervention applications in the matter, Mehta had questioned the personal commitment of those who were



Ravi Shankar Prasad

seeking to intervene. Calling them prophets of doom, he said they needed to prove their credentials. He had also said some high courts are running parallel governments.

The Congress on Friday slammed Mehta’s remarks.

Without naming Sibal, Prasad said, “Of late many sponsored criticism and questions (are) being asked about the independence of judiciary. Prominently, these questions are being asked by people who also have their own political agenda.”

“This also includes Congress leaders who moved impeachment proceedings against a former chief justice and when the move was repelled by the sanctioning authority, which is the Vice President of India, he challenged even that before the Supreme Court and then withdrew. This is their record as far as commitment to independence of the judiciary is concerned,” Prasad said.

He said the ruling BJP’s legacy is that it fought for the independence of the judiciary during Emergency.

# Won’t allow govt to make Jaya house a memorial, will track her assets: heir

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, MAY 30

“I WILL not allow the government or AIADMK to turn the Veda Nilayam residence of Jayalalithaa into a memorial or museum,” said Deepa, who, along with her brother, has been declared the “legal heir” to the properties of their late aunt and six-time Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The Madras High Court order, fortifying the siblings’ claim to the properties including the poshest address in Poès Garden— which for years was the state’s power centre—comes at a time the ruling AIADMK government passed an ordinance to make Veda Nilayam a memorial of the late chief minister and former party supremo.

The court on Friday issued a clarification in the final order by changing the term ‘Class II legal heirs’ to ‘legal heirs’ because the Class I and Class II categories un-



Deepa and her brother Deepak were declared Jaya’s legal heirs by the Madras HC on Friday.

der Hindu Succession Act of 1956 apply only to heirs of a Hindu male who died without a will.

“The court order was a victory for me and my brother. We fought this together. Next, we will challenge the ordinance. Anyway it is going to be a long process to get possession of all her assets,” said Deepa.

She said revenue records are yet to be traced. “We don’t know who is in possession of her assets. One thing is very clear, we

are not going to give it to the government,” she said.

The total assets of Jayalalithaa were worth nearly Rs 1,000 crore, according to the affidavits in the disproportionate assets case in which Jayalalithaa was convicted after her death. They include immovable properties worth Rs 20 crore, new or additional construction of buildings worth Rs 22.53 crore , gold and diamond jewellery valued at Rs 5.23 crore, cash balance in bank and liquid cash of Rs 10.64 crore besides other investments and assets. Affidavits seeking possession by Deepa and Deepak estimate only Rs 188 crore. These estimates only count her assets till 1996.

After the verdict, Deepa said she is done fighting. “Hereafter, I am not into politics,” she told *The Indian Express*. Immediately after her aunt’s death, she had made an attempt to step into the shoes of her aunt but gave up.

“I was forced to enter politics after they provoked me. Even the

senior AIADMK leaders tried to make it appear that we had no right over our aunt’s assets. However, AIADMK cadres were empathetic... That is why they supported me and I made an attempt in politics...,” Deepa said.

Deepa, 44, and Deepak, 38, children of Jayalalithaa’s brother Jayakumar, who died in 1995, had stayed away from Jayalalithaa’s inner circle for a long time. Though Deepa was denied permission to visit Jayalalithaa at the Apollo Hospital before her death, Deepak maintained camaraderie with Jayalalithaa’s close aide Sasikala. He was seen with Sasikala doing Jayalalithaa’s last rites.

A section of leadership in AIADMK fears that the properties will finally go into the hands of Sasikala’s family, which includes her nephew TTV Dinakaran. After Jayalalithaa’s death, Sasikala became the party’s general secretary and shortly thereafter was sent to

prison by the apex court.

Completing her prison term in the disproportionate asset case, Sasikala is likely to be released from the Bengaluru prison after October 2020. While multiple sources said it is unlikely that the AIADMK leadership will unite with the Sasikala camp, a senior leader said BJP has plans for it—“it is seen as a crucial factor to defeat DMK in the next assembly polls in May 2021.”

A state minister said the high court order has no political significance.

“None of the top leaders leading AIADMK has an emotional connection with Veda Nilayam,” he said, recalling his own memories of visiting Veda Nilayam when Jayalalithaa was alive. “She used to scold us a lot, she used to shout at many ministers each time... Many had left home from Poès Garden meetings without a cabinet portfolio. We used to shiver when we entered that gate,” he said.

# Amid protests, Assam govt says mining not approved in eco-sensitive zone

ESHA ROY & TORA AGARWALA  
NEW DELHI, GUWAHATI, MAY 30

A SPATE of virtual protests has brought into focus rampant coal mining in Upper Assam — in this case by Coal India Limited (CIL) without necessary permission from 2003.

The protests were triggered by the National Board of Wildlife’s (NBWL) “recommendation for approval”, subject to conditions laid down by it, of a coal mining project in Assam’s Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve.

CIL has applied for open cast mining in 98.5 hectares, most of which is post facto, or enacted afterwards—regularisation of mining that has already taken place.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had earlier asked state Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya to inspect the site and report.

On Saturday, the state gov-



Open-cast coal mining at Dehing Patkai. Debajit Moran

ernment clarified that “no final approval for mining had been accorded.” Suklabaidya said: “Mining had been stopped since October 2019 by the state government. Coal India Ltd and the Forest Department will have to fulfil the 28 conditions; the compliance report will be placed before the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) for grant of stage-II clearance.”

Soumitra Dasgupta, I-G, Wildlife, MoEF, said, “No permission has been granted (since matter first emerged in 2013). We have asked the user

agency (CIL) to submit a mitigation plan in consultation with the state government, which we will first study.”

In 1973, North Eastern Coalfields (NEC), a subsidiary of public sector CIL, had signed a 30-year lease with Assam government to carry out mining in Saleki proposed reserve forest, which comes under Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve.

The lease expired in 2003, but mining continued until 2012, as highlighted in a site inspection report by W I Yatbon, Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Regional Office, Shillong.



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## OPEN e-TENDER

**Tender Notice No. : KR-PD-JK-STN-SANG-09-2020 dtd. 29/05/2020**  
Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. invites “Open e-Tender” in “Two Packet System” from experienced agencies for “Construction of Station Building, Posts & Barracks for Securities, FOB, Boundary Wall and Protection Works, Approach Roads & Other Ancillary Works at Sangaldan on Katra - Dharan Section of Udhampur - Srinagar - Baramulla Rail Link Project, Jammu & Kashmir”.  
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 41.48 Cr. Earnest Money : ₹ 22.24,100/-  
Completion Period of Contract : 18 Months. Submission of Tender : 17/07/2020 up to 15.00 hrs. Opening of Tender : 17/07/2020 @ 15.30 hrs. Cost of Tender Form : (i) ₹ 11,800/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) to be submitted through online payment modes available on IREPS portal only. For further details and updates please visit <https://www.ireps.gov.in> Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the above website only.

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**निविदा सूचना 047 एवं सिस्टम नं. 2020 STDCC 91433.1**

मध्यप्रदेश राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम पोपाल द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा निविदा प्रपत्र APPENDEX2.10 पर म.प्र. राज्य निगम निगम में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत व्यक्तियों से आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का नाम :- द्रोतेश्वर धाम गोटियांव जिला नरसिंहपुर में विभिन्न विकास कार्य। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत राशि रुपये 288.24 लाख। कार्यपूर्वका का समय 10 माह वर्षाकाल सहित।

वेबसाइट पर ऑनलाइन भुगतान कर निविदा प्रपत्र (टेंडर डाक्यूमेंट) वेबसाइट के माध्यम से त्रय प्रिये जा सकते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन त्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि 15.06.2020 समय सांघ 05:00 बजे तक निर्धारित है। कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

म.प्र. माध्यम:97441/2020 कार्यभारान संघी



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**E-Mail/E-despatch**

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Tender/04-21/BPR	Road Works under PERIODICAL MAINTENANCE	02 Nos.	From Rs. 90.06 lakhs to Rs. 127.30 Lakhs	"B" Class & "A" Class as applicable	06 (Six) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding
		From

# 2 militants killed in Kashmir gunbattle

ADIL AKHZER  
SRINAGAR, MAY 30

TWO MILITANTS were killed in a gunfight in South Kashmir’s Kulgam district on Saturday.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar said the two militants were killed in an encounter which broke out between militants and security forces at Wanpora Khudwani area of Kulgam Saturday morning.

A spokesperson for J&K Police said in a release that during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, based on a police input, a cordon and search operation was launched in the area.

“During the search operation, the hiding terrorists fired on the joint search party. The fire was retaliated leading, to an encounter,” police said. In the encounter, two militants were killed, they added. “Two terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter. The identification and affiliation of the killed terrorists is being ascertained,” the release said.

According to police, the slain militants were hiding inside a house.

A senior police officer told *The Sunday Express* that after the encounter was over, some people came forward and claimed that the slain militants were their sons.

“We allowed them to identify. If they identify, we will participate in burial at isolated place in north Kashmir,” the officer said.

On Saturday, video clips emerged of the security forces asking the militants, through an announcement during the operation, to surrender. A senior police officer in Kulgam said the militants did not comply, and were killed in the operation.

During Saturday’s operation, the security forces did not recover any heavy weapons from the militants. “The recoveries were only pistols and two grenades,” said a police officer.

This is the second encounter in Kulgam district this week. Two militants were killed in a gun battle between militants and joint forces in Kulgam district on Monday.

# Six killed so far in Assam floods, water begins to recede

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, MAY 30

THE FIRST wave of floods in Assam has killed six people and pushed 18,000 into relief camps till Saturday evening. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the state would compensate the loss incurred by farmers and fishermen due to floods.

The flood has hit Assam at a time when it’s battling a sudden spike in number of Covid patients—although the vast majority of them are returnees who were put into quarantine centres after their were taken samples upon arrival. Till Saturday evening, the state reported 1,100 cases, of which 930 were active.

According to the state disaster management authority (AS-DMA), 3.7 lakh people have been affected. The districts of Nalbari, Goalpara, Nagaon, Hojai, West Karbi Anglong and Tinsukia are the worst-hit. A total of 195 relief camps and relief distribution centres were operational on Saturday. According to an AS-DMA official, the water is receding and the situation is expected to improve as forecasts show ‘moderate’ rainfall.

In the 40 relief camps of Goalpara, there are around 7,500 people. Varnali Deka, District Collector Goalpara, told *The Sunday Express*, “The situation is slightly improving. The water has receded to the lower reaches of the district.”

On Saturday, 15th Finance Commission designated river erosion as “a natural calamity” and recommended adequate compensation, according to the state’s request.

The Centre has asked the state to submit a detailed report. A statement from the CM’s office highlighted that Assam has already received Rs 386 crore towards fighting flood and erosion from the Centre and the amount is a part of the total Rs. 772 crore allocation under the SDRF.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Publicly informed that my client Smt. SNEH MEHTA W/O SHRI DEEPAK MEHTA R/O ND-58, PITAMPURA, DELHI, have decided to give PARKHATI to his daughter Smt. Neha Dhawan W/o Shri Gautam Dhawan, R/o LD-118, Pitampura, Delhi, her husband Shri Gautam Dhawan & her son namely Hriday Dhawan and my client hereby declare that, after her demise, said Smt. Neha Dhawan and her family members shall not inherit any sort of right in movable and/or immovable properties of my client and further from the date of this notice any person/ bank/ institution/ authority doing or making any sort of monetary transaction with said Smt. Neha Dhawan and/or her legal heirs have no connection, liability and responsibility for such transactions.

Sd/-  
MANISH CHAWLA (Advocate)  
RU-4, Pitampura Delhi 981138986

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Mr. Arun Kumar Gupta son of Late Sh. D.C. Gupta, my wife Ms. Asha Gupta, my daughter Eliza Gupta, Twinkle Gupta presently resident of D-14A/2 Flat No. 6 Model Town Delhi9 do hereby irrevocable, unconditionally and irreversibly declare and state that we have disowned and disinherited our son and brother Rahul Gupta and his wife Alankasha Agarwal for their misconduct and alleged threat to our life. We have severed our relationship with them. Anybody transacting any business or anything with them in respect of me, my wife and my daughter is doing at their own risk. Sateyendra Kumar Singh Advocate Ch. No. L-7, P-8, Raheeb Block, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

KNOW ALL MEN that my clients Sh. Sangar Gupta S/o Late Sh. H.R. Gupta and his wife, Smt. Manju Gupta both R/o 374, Sankar Vihar 1st Floor, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034 have severed all their relations with their son Sh. Yash Gupta and his Smt. Saloni Gupta S/o Sh. Purshottam Goel due to the unjustifiable behaviour of Smt. Saloni Gupta and have debarred them both from all of their movable and immovable properties. Any one dealing with them in any way or manner whatsoever shall be doing on his own risks and consequences.

Sd/-  
(J. S. Kalra)  
Advocate  
E.No. D-660/96 Chamber No 296, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054 Ph. Chander-2974884 Mob. 9350454884, 9899924884

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed that my client Kuldeep Singh, S/o Harbans Singh, R/o B-3/60, East Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, given a public notice on dated 12-03-2004 in *The Statesman News Paper* through Mr. Rajinder K. Bedi, Advocate, Chamber No.112, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54, regarding disown and disinherit his son Shri Ramanjeet Singh and daughter-in-law from his movable and immovable properties. Now by virtue of this Public Notice my client Kuldeep Singh has cancelled the above said public notice dated 12-03-2004 given in *The Statesman News Paper*. From now his son Shri Ramanjeet Singh is a legal heir for his movable and immovable properties.

Sd/-  
S.C. Dixit (Advocate)  
RU-17, DDA MKT, Pitampura, Delhi-56

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be it known to all public that my clients Sh. Raj Bahadur Singh S/o Sh. Loreay Singh and his wife Smt. Veera Devi both R/o 264/30 behind Seize Hotel, Gauri Shankar Colony, Bharatpur, Rajasthan-321001, has disowned/debarred their son namely Gireesh Singh and his wife Smt. Monika from all their movable and immovable properties /assets and severed all relations due to their disobedience and bad behavior. My clients shall not be responsible for their any acts or deeds in any manner whatsoever.

Jitendar Singh, Advocate Ch. No. 449, Lawyers Block, Saket Court, New Delhi-17 Mob. 8800876270

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be I known to all that my clients Smt. Chandro w/o Shri Bhopal and Shri Bhopal S/o Shri Sukhbir both r/o RZ-C-17, Gali No.4, Dashrathi Puri Dabri Palam Road, New Delhi-45, have disowned & disinherited their son Lokesh and his wife Rakhi from their all movable and immovable properties and assets both of them are not under the control of my clients and regularly threatening them to implicate in false criminal cases. My clients are having no concern with them in any manner whatsoever. If anyone dealing with them will do at his/her own risk cost and consequences and my clients and their other family members shall not be held liable for any of their acts or deeds whatsoever

HARSH SHARMA- Advocate  
286 Western Wing Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Under instructions from my clients Sh. Suneel Kumar Sharma, son of Shri Magan Lal Sharma and Mrs. Neeta Sharma, wife of Sh. Suneel Kumar Sharma, R/o D-21/A, Ashok Mohalla, Gali No. 6, Mayapuri, Delhi-110053, it is informed that my clients have decided to break all their relations with their daughter, Ms. Akshika Sharma. Ms. Akshika Sharma is not under control of my clients. Besides that she solemnized her marriage with Sh. Prince Babbar, s/o Shri Raj Kumar Babbar without any consent will of her parents' family, i.e. my clients. Therefore, my clients have disowned and debarred their daughter Ms. Akshika Sharma from all their movable and immovable properties in Delhi or anywhere in India. After this publication, my clients shall not be responsible for any of the acts of Ms. Akshika Sharma and now Ms. Akshika Sharma has no right/claim of any type in movable and immovable properties of my clients.

Sd/-  
(MANISH KUMAR)  
Advocate  
En. No. D-617/2020, Chao, F-514, K.K.D. Courts, Delhi Mob. 9310003050

परिचरालय विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., विद्युतरिया पार्क, मेरठ

तिथि विस्तर सूचना

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित की गयी अत्यकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या 13 व 14/ वि. कार्यशाला नं./ मेरठ/ 2020-21, जो दिनांक 30.05.2020 को खोली जानी प्रस्तावित थी, की तिथि अपरिवर्तन कारणों से दिनांक 06.06.2020 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। निविदा विज्ञपति की अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें अपरिवर्तनीय रहेगी।

अध्यक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत कार्यशाला मण्डल, प.वि.वि.निरि., मेरठ।

पत्रांक- 1063/ वि. कार्यशाला नं./ मेरठ/ दिनांक: 29/05/2020

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., आगरा ई-अभियंताई सूचना

अध्यात्मकार्यकारी द्वारा सक्षम/प्रतिष्ठित एवं अनुभव्य कार्यकारो से निम्नलिखित सामग्री को आपूर्ति/कार्य करने हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत नियम व शर्तें निम्नलिखित अधिलेखों में डॉक्यूमेंट में जोड़ा शासन के ई-पोर्टल/वेबसाइट पर है।

https://tender.up.nic.in एवं दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. की वेबसाइट [www.dvvnli.org](http://www.dvvnli.org) पर उपलब्ध है।

क्रम संख्या, निविदा संख्या, सामग्री/कार्य का विवरण, निविदा खतुने का दिनांक, निविदा शुल्क, पंजीकृत राशि (रुपये में) क्रमानुसार।

1. ई0एस0/एस0/टी-02 (2020-21), विद्युत भण्डार खण्ड, अलीगढ़ के अंतर्गत जगद कासमजी की सोमानगर विभिन्न भग्ना की वस्तुएं/जले हुए विवरण परिवर्तकों को बदलने सम्बन्धी कार्य, 15.06.2020, रु. 5900.00, रु. 94,000.00।

2. ई0एस0/एस0/टी-03 (2020-21), विद्युत भण्डार खण्ड, झांसी के अंतर्गत जगद चिचकट की सोमानगर विभिन्न भग्ना की वस्तुएं/जले हुए विवरण परिवर्तकों को बदलने सम्बन्धी कार्य, 15.06.2020, रु. 5900.00, रु. 94,000.00।

3. ई0एस0/एस0/टी-02 (2020-21), विद्युत भण्डार खण्ड, झांसी के अंतर्गत जगद ललितपुर की सोमानगर विभिन्न भग्ना की वस्तुएं/जले हुए विवरण परिवर्तकों को बदलने सम्बन्धी कार्य, 15.06.2020, रु. 5900.00, रु. 99,000.00।

अध्यक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत भण्डार मण्डल, दक्षिणांचल, आगरा।

राष्ट्र विज्ञापन विजली चर्चाएं'' पत्रांक:1374/अभियंताई (एन)/आ/निविदा/दिनांक: 30/05/2020



MUMBAI CRIME BRANCH MAKES ARREST

‘Sim box network’, used in bid to get sensitive defence info, busted: cops

MOHAMED THAVER  
MUMBAI, MAY 30

THE MUMBAI Crime Branch on Saturday arrested a 38-year-old man from Govandi for allegedly running an illegal telephone network to put through international calls. The Crime Branch conducted raids following intelligence inputs by Jammu & Kashmir's Military Intelligence (MI) on illegal calls being made to the Army's civil exchange seeking sensitive information. Police said the illegal network, known as 'SIM box', masks an international call by showing it as a local number. Mumbai Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Akbar Pathan said, "Based on intelligence reports, we raided the Shivaji Nagar residence of Sameer Alwari and found five SIM boxes in his house. He has been arrested in the past as well for running a SIM box." Pathan said the parallel telephone exchange had been used to make calls to defence establishments in J&K from out-

MP's agriculture minister wants to opt out of PM's crop insurance scheme, says not all benefit

MILIND GHATWAI  
BHOPAL, MAY 30

THE BJP-RULED Madhya Pradesh is considering opting out of the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme and start its own scheme. "We want every farmer in the state to benefit from the scheme. Now only those farmers who have taken crop loans are covered by the scheme but loan defaulters are denied the benefit of crop insurance," Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel told *The Indian Express* on Saturday.

Patel said there are more than 1 crore farmers in the state but only 35 lakh have been covered under the crop insurance scheme. The minister said the Central government has asked the states whether they are willing to continue and has given them the freedom to opt out if they have a similar scheme in mind.

"We want to start Mukhya Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana by making changes in the central scheme. We will form our own company. We will include provisions of Revenue Book Circulars 6-4 that deals with compensation in natural calamities," the minister said. The proposal will need clearance from Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, he said. To be part of the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme, farmers pay 2% premium rate for Kharif and 1.5% for rabi crops on the sum insured. The balance premium is shared between the Centre and states.

On May 1, Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the Congress government had not deposited the state's share even though farmers had deposited their premium for kharif 2018 and rabi 2018-19 crops. He said his government deposited Rs 2,200 crore immediately after coming to power in March. This allowed the government to settle claims worth Rs 2,981 crore and transfer the money to farmers' account on May 1.

Patel said private insurance companies have benefited from the crop insurance scheme more than the farmers. In one particular year, he said the private companies received a premium of Rs 5,000 crore but farmers got only Rs 3,000 crore.

Regional Organisation Secretary of Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) Mahesh Chaudhary said the organisation has opposed the scheme because private insurance companies benefit at the expense of farmers.

"The current scheme has many shortcomings. If the state government starts a company, the premium collected will remain with the government if insurance claims are not required to be settled," he said.

Congress MLA Sachin Patel, who was agriculture minister in the Kamal Nath government, said the Congress government too wanted to opt out of the scheme. "There is no transparency in the scheme. We wanted to make it optional for farmers," he said, adding that the Congress government never sent any proposal to the Centre but discussed opting out of it.

UP's village heads to distribute aid

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government Saturday directed officials to provide an interim assistance of Rs 2,000 to those left destitute by the lockdown and Rs 1,000 to those who do not have ration cards to get foodgrains. During a meeting to review the lockdown, CM Adityanath directed officials to ensure immediate treatment to destitute people having serious illness even if they are not covered under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana or the Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Yojana, a spokesperson said. Village heads have been authorised to disburse the amount to those in need. **ENS**

**RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
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For details, please visit [http://www.rrri.res.in/other\\_openings.html](http://www.rrri.res.in/other_openings.html).

**मेरठ विकास प्राधिकरण, मेरठ विज्ञापित**

मैं संयुक्त सचिव/प्रभारी अधिकारी सम्पत्ति विभागीय कारणों से उ०प्र० रेंरा में पंजीकृत 03 परियोजनाओं क्रमशः AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME शताब्दीनगर (संख्या UP RERA PRJ8453), AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME लोहियानगर (संख्या UP RERA PRJ8659) एवं AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME लोहियानगर (संख्या UP RERA PRJ9554) को सरेण्डर/कैन्सिलेशन/निरस्तीकरण करा रहा हूँ। किसी व्यक्ति/संस्था आदि द्वारा इस परियोजना में यदि कोई बुकिंग करायी गई हो तो कृपया अपना क्लेम/दावा प्रस्तुत करें। उक्त क्लेम/दावा को विवरण सहित 15 दिनों के अन्दर यूपी रेंरा की ईमेल आईडी [contactuprera@up-rera.in](mailto:contactuprera@up-rera.in) पर भेजा जाए तथा क्लेम/दावा विवरण को सचिव, उ०प्र० रेंरा मुख्यालय, नदीन भवन, राज्य नियोजन संस्थान कालाकांकर हाउस, पुराना हैदराबाद, लखनऊ-226007 को प्रेषित किया जाए।

संयुक्त सचिव/प्रभारी अधिकारी सम्पत्ति  
Advt. No.: 01/MDA/20-21

**SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORIGATION OF TRAINS**

It is notified for the information of passengers that Railways have decided to Short-terminate/Short-originate the Train No. 02801/02802 Puri-New Delhi-Puri Rajdhani Special Train w.e.f. 01.06.2020 as under :-

Train No. & Train Name	Train to short terminate at / originate from	Train Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date from originating station
02801 Puri-New Delhi (Daily) Rajdhani Special	From Bhubaneswar	Puri-Bhubaneswar	01.06.2020
02802 New Delhi-Puri (Daily) Rajdhani Special	At Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar-Puri	03.06.2020

**Note:-** For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

**Integrated Helpline No. 139 Security Helpline No. 182**

Please join us on  **NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
visit us at: [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - 2020 (OJEE - 2020)

No: OJEE/149 Date: 30.05.2020

**NOTICE**

(Extension of the last date of online application and fee payment for OJEE – 2020)

In view of the 4<sup>th</sup> phase lockdown declared by the Central Govt. to check the spread of COVID -19 (Coronavirus), it is hereby announced that the last date for online submission of application forms for all OJEE 2020 applications is extended as mentioned below.

Type of Course / Application form	Last date for submission of online application forms	Last date for online fee payment
Special OJEE for B.TECH. (Application F)	15-06-2020	20-06-2020
All Other Courses (Applications A, B, C, D, E)	07-06-2020	10-06-2020

The detailed schedule regarding dates of Examination and dates for downloading of Admit Cards etc. will be notified in due course of time, after assessment of the situation after **31.05.2020**.

Sd/-  
CHAIRMAN, OJEE, ODISHA

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA  
EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT

**NOTICE FOR INVITING e-TENDERS FOR ALLOTMENT OF REMAINING ZONES OF RETAIL LIQUOR VENDS OF REMAINING DISTRICTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 IN THE STATE OF HARYANA**

It is hereby notified for the information of general public that E-TENDERS for ALLOTMENT of zones of remaining retail liquor vendes of the pending districts against which these zones are mentioned below, are invited for the year 2020-21:

Sr. No	Name of District	Zone Numbers
1	Faridabad	ZFBD-21, 23, 66, 86 & 103
2	Gurugram (East)	ZGRE-08, 18, 19, 21, 32, 36, 37, 45, 46, 67 & 69
3	Gurugram (West)	ZGRW-06, 07, 11, 13, 14, 22, 28, 36, 42, 44, 48, 49, 50, 53, 66, 68 & 70
4	Jagadhri	ZJAG-12, 27 & 36
5	Kaithal	ZKTL-16, 20 & 21
6	Palwal	ZPWL-17
7	Panchkula	ZPKL-14, 16, 17 & 21
8	Panipat	ZPNP-03, 05, 06, 07, 09, 11, 15, 17, 18, 22, 25, 29, 34 & 35
9	Rewari	ZRWR-39
10	Sirsa	ZSRS- 46 & 53
11	Sonepat	ZSNP-07, 08, 11, 12, 14, 24, 27, 28, 29, 65

**SCHEDULE FOR INVITATION AND EVALUATION FOR E-TENDERS FOR REMAINING ZONES OF RETAIL LIQUOR VENDS**

	Starting date and time for placing e-tenders.	01st June, 2020 (from 09:00 A.M. onwards)
1	Closing Date and time for placing e-tenders.	01st June, 2020 (till 05:00 P.M.)
3	Evaluation of e-tenders.	01st June, 2020 (06:00 P.M.)

- These e-Tenders will be submitted online as per public notice issued by the Department (published on 07th/8th March, 2020) in the leading newspapers inviting e-Tenders for allotment of retail liquor licenses of Zones of vendes for the year 2020-21. The public notice is available on the departmental website i.e. [www.haryanatax.gov.in](http://www.haryanatax.gov.in).
- The list of remaining Zones of vendes in the Districts and venue for evaluation of e-Tenders shall be conspicuously displayed in the office of DETC (Excise) & DETC (ST) concerned. The list shall also be available on the departmental website i.e. [www.haryanatax.gov.in](http://www.haryanatax.gov.in).
- The process of inviting tenders shall be continued by successively reducing the original reserve price in the following manner:-
  - (i) In the slab of 5% of the original reserve price in case reserve price of the Zone is less than Rs.5.00 Cr.
  - (ii) In the slab of 3% of the original reserve price in case reserve price of the Zone is more than Rs.5.00 Cr.
- The e-Tenders shall be received and the Zones of vendes shall be allotted in the manner prescribed in the Excise Policy for the year 2020-21 and the Punjab Excise Act, 1914 (as applicable to the State of Haryana), the rules framed thereunder.
- The allotment shall be subject to the approval of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Haryana. He may reject, without assigning any reason, any allotment in public interest as the case may be within 10 days of the date of allotment.

Excise & Taxation Commissioner,  
Haryana.

81089/HRY

SPECIAL TRAIN FROM NEW DELHI TO LUCKNOW JN. (One way Single Trip)

Northern Railway will run a single trip one way special train from New Delhi to Lucknow Junction on 01.06.2020 as per following details given below:-

STATIONS	Train No. 02232	
	Arrival	Departure
New Delhi	-	22:05
Ghaziabad Junction	22:48	22:50
Hapur Junction	23:22	23:25
Moradabad	1:05	1:13
Rampur Junction	1:40	1:42
Bareilly Junction	2:39	2:41
Shahjahanpur	3:45	3:47
Hardoi	4:43	4:45
Alamnagar	6:19	6:20
Lucknow Junction	6:55	-

Day of Run: 02232 New Delhi - Lucknow Junction Mail Special (Monday) 01.06.2020.  
Accommodation: First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

**PLEASE PAY ATTENTION :-**

As passengers are aware, Railways have already been running 15 pairs of Rajdhani Special trains from 12.05.2020 including the 02425/02426 New Delhi - Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Special train.

Keeping in view the passengers' convenience it has been decided by the Ministry of Railways to provide additional stoppage to 02425/02426 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi- New Delhi Rajdhani Special at Pathankot Cantt Railway station in both directions from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

For any kind of Information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

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1216/2020  
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NORTHERN RAILWAY'S STATION/TERMINAL-WISE TRAFFIC PLAN FOR THE TRAINS ANNOUNCED TO RUN W.E.F. 1st JUNE, 2020 AND ONWARD

For the convenience of rail passengers, Northern Railway will start train operations of announced Mail/ Express trains w.e.f. 01.06.2020 from the following major Terminals/Stations of Northern Railway:-

TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT NEW DELHI			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02230/29	Lucknow Mail	New Delhi	Lucknow Jn
02392/91	Shramjeevi Express	New Delhi	Rajgir
02394/93	Sampoorn Kranti Exp.	New Delhi	Rajendra Nagar
02418/17	Prayagraj Express	New Delhi	Prayagraj
02420/19	Gomti Express	New Delhi	Lucknow
02452/51	Shram Shakti Express	New Delhi	Kanpur
02560/59	Shivganga Express	New Delhi	Manduadih
02630/29	Karnataka S.K. Exp.	New Delhi	Yesvantpur
02724/23	Telangana Express	New Delhi	Hyderabad
02802/01	Purushottam Express	New Delhi	Puri
02218/17	Mahamana Express	New Delhi	Varanasi
02554/53	Vaishali Express	New Delhi	Sahrasa
02382/81	Poorva Express	New Delhi	Howrah
02303/04	Poorva Express	New Delhi	Howrah
02055/56	Jan Shatabdi Exp.	New Delhi	Dehradun
02057/58	Jan Shatabdi Exp.	New Delhi	Una Himachal
02566/65	Bihar S.K. Express	New Delhi	Darbhanga
02806/05	AP Express	New Delhi	Vishakapatnam

PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT NEW DELHI			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02716/15	Sachkhand Express	Amritsar	Nanded
02926/25	Paschim Exp. (Delux)	Amritsar	Bandra Terminus
02556/55	Gorkhndham Express	Hisar	Gorakhpur

TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02156/55	Bhopal Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Habibganj
02618/17	Mangla Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Ernakulam
02963/64	Mewar Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Udaipur City
02280/81	Jabalpur Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Jabalpur
02284/83	Duronto Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Ernakulam
02285/86	Duronto Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Secundarbad
02060/59	Janshatabdi Exp.	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Kota
02918/17	Gujarat S.K. Exp.	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Ahmedabad
02780/79	Goa Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Vasco-da-gama

PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02904/03	Golden Temple Mail	Amritsar	Mumbai Central
02716/15	Sachkhand Express	Amritsar	Nanded

TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT ANAND VIHAR T.			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
04010/09	Champanar Satyagrah Exp.	Anand Vihar T.	Bapudham Motihari
02558/57	Saptkranti Express	Anand Vihar T.	Muzaffarpur
05274/73	Satyagrah Express	Anand Vihar T.	Raxaul
02220/19	Suhaildev Express	Anand Vihar T.	Gazipur
02234/33	Gazipur Express	Anand Vihar T.	Gazipur

TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT DELHI JUNCTION			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02916/15	Ashram Express	Delhi Jn.	Ahmedabad
05484/83	Mahananda Express	Delhi Jn.	Alipurdaur
05956/55	Brahmaputra Mail	Delhi Jn.	Dibrugarh

PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT DELHI JUNCTION			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
04674/73	Shaheed Express	Amritsar	Jaynagar
04650/49	Saryu Yamuna Exp.	Amritsar	Jaynagar

TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT DELHI SARAI ROHILLA			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02463/64	Sampark Kranti Exp.	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Jodhpur
02066/65	Jan Shatabdi Express	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Ajmer

TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT LUCKNOW JN			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02229/30	Lucknow Mail	Lucknow Jn	New Delhi
02419/20	Gomti Exp.	Lucknow Jn	New Delhi
02533/34	Pushpak Exp.	Lucknow Jn	C Shivaji Maharaj Terminus

Note:- For any kind of information like Time-Table, Frequency & other Stoppages of the above trains, passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

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PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT LUCKNOW JUNCTION			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02392/91	Shramjeevi Exp	New Delhi	Rajgir
02556/55	Gorakhdam Express	Hisar	Gorakhpur
02554/53	Vaishali Express	New Delhi	Saharsa
02558/57	Sapt Kranti Express	Anand Vihar T.	Muzaffarpur
02220/19	Suhaildev Express	Anand Vihar T.	Ghaziipur
04674/73	Shaheed Express	Amritsar	Jaynagar
04650/49	Saryu Yamuna Exp.	Amritsar	Jaynagar
09037/38	Awadh Express	Bandra Terminus	Gorakhpur
09039/40	Awadh Express	Bandra Terminus	Muzaffarpur
02358/57	Durgiana Express	Amritsar	Kolkata
02218/17	Mahamana Express	New Delhi	Varanasi Jn
09167/68	Sabarmati Express	Ahmedabad Jn	Varanasi Jn
09165/66	Sabarmati Express	Ahmedabad Jn	Darbhanga

TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT VARANASI JN			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
01072/71	Kamayani Express	Varanasi Jn	Lokmanyatilak T.
01094/93	Mahanagri Express	Varanasi Jn	Mumbai CST
02217/18	Mahamana Express	Varanasi Jn	New Delhi
09168/67	Sabarmati Express	Varanasi Jn	Ahmedabad Jn

PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT VARANASI			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
01061/62	Darbhanga Exp.	Lotmanya Tilak (T)	Darbhanga
02792/91	Express	Danapur	Secunderabad Jn.
09045/46	Tapti Ganga Exp.	Surat	Chhapra

PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT MORADABAD			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02091/92	Jan Shatabdi Express	Dehradun	Kathgodam
02408/07	Karambhumi Express	Amritsar	New Jalpaiguri
02230/29	Lucknow Mail	New Delhi	Lucknow Jn
02218/19	Mahamana Express	New Delhi	Varanasi
04674/73	Shaheed Express	Amritsar	Jaynagar
04650/49	Saryu Yamuna Exp.	Amritsar	Jaynagar
02358/57	Durgiana Express	Amritsar	Kolkata

TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT AMRITSAR			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
04674/73	Shaheed Express	Amritsar	Jaynagar
04650/49	Saryu Yamuna Exp.	Amritsar	Jaynagar
02716/15	Sachkhand Express	Amritsar	Nanded
02926/25	Paschim Exp. (Delux)	Amritsar	Bandra Terminus
02904/03	Golden Temple Mail	Amritsar	Mumbai Central
02408/07	Karambhumi Express	Amritsar	New Jalpaiguri
02054/53	Jan Shatabadi Exp.	Amritsar	Haridwar
02358/57	Durgiana Express	Amritsar	Kolkata

PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT AMBALA			
Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02053/54	Jan Shatabadi Exp.	Haridwar	Amritsar
02057/58	Jan Shatabadi Exp.	New Delhi	Una Himachal
04650/49	Saryu Yamuna Exp.	Amritsar	Jaynagar
04674/73	Shaheed Express	Amritsar	Jaynagar
02716/15	Sachkhand Express	Amritsar	Nanded
02904/03	Golden Temple Mail	Amritsar	Mumbai Central
02408/07	Karambhumli Express	Amritsar	New Jalpaiguri
02358/57	Durgiana Express	Amritsar	Kolkata



# 12 ECONOMY

## NON-FOOD CREDIT GROWTH CONTRACTS 1.2% TO ₹91 LAKH CRORE

# Lockdown bites credit growth, outstandings to housing and priority sectors decline in Apr

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, MAY 30

WITH LOCKDOWN hitting banking operations in April, credit growth to various segments, including priority sector, housing loan and credit card, of the economy has showed a contraction during the month. While the overall non-food credit growth contracted by 1.2 per cent, or Rs 1.10 lakh crore to Rs 91 lakh crore, loan outstanding in the personal loan segment fell by 2.50 per cent to Rs 24.90 lakh crore, a decline of around Rs 63,000 crore.

According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), housing loan outstandings declined by around Rs 8,000 crore to Rs 13.30 lakh crore as of April 24 from Rs 13.38 lakh crore on March 27. The housing loan segment has been growing at a steady pace over the last several months. Credit card outstandings, which were rising rapidly till March, declined by Rs 11,000 crore to Rs 96,978 crore in

EXPLAINED

## The real question is whether credit flow will pick up

THE DECLINE is significant as the RBI has slashed the key policy rate — repo rate — by 115 basis points to 4 per cent since March 27 this year.

Credit flow which slows down in the beginning of the financial year is likely to pick up when lockdown is lifted in May. If lockdown continues beyond May 31, credit flow is likely to remain muted as April-September period is also supposed to be a slack season.

April. Priority sector outstanding fell by 3 per cent, or Rs 86,000 crore, to Rs 28.11 lakh crore in a month as of April 24.

Credit flow to agriculture and allied activities also declined by around Rs 6,465 crore to Rs 11.51 lakh crore in April. "The decline could be due to lockdown. Credit flow which slows down in the beginning in the financial year will

pick up when the lockdown is lifted in the coming months. We will have to see how credit growth is happening in the June-August period if lockdown continues beyond May 31," said a senior banker with a public sector bank.

Even as the government announced a package for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), credit outstandings to

the micro and small industry segment fell Rs 23,485 crore to Rs 3.58 lakh crore in the month of April.

The decline is significant as the RBI has slashed the key policy rate — repo rate — by 115 basis points to 4 per cent since March 27 this year. Banks also cut lending rates, making funds cheaper for borrowers. Domestic economic activity has been impacted severely by the 2 months of lockdown. "The top 6 industrialised states that account for about 60 per cent of industrial output are largely in red or orange zones. High frequency indicators point to a collapse in demand beginning in March 2020 across both urban and rural segments. Electricity and petroleum products consumption — indicators of day to day demand — have plunged into steep declines," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the latest repo rate cut last week.

According to the RBI, on a year-on-year (Y-o-Y) basis, non-food bank credit growth decelerated to 7.3 per cent in April 2020 from 11.9

per cent in April 2019. Credit growth to agriculture & allied activities decelerated to 3.9 per cent in April 2020 from 7.9 per cent in April 2019. Credit growth to industry decelerated to 1.7 per cent in April 2020 from 6.9 per cent in April 2019. Credit growth to the services sector decelerated to 11.2 per cent in April 2020 from 16.8 per cent in April 2019. Personal loans growth decelerated to 12.1 per cent in April 2020 from 15.7 per cent in April 2019.

On a Y-o-Y basis, credit outstandings to the industry were at Rs 28.84 lakh crore in April 2020 as against Rs 28.35 lakh crore in April 2019. Within industry, credit growth to beverage & tobacco, petroleum, coal products & nuclear fuels, paper & paper products and rubber, plastic & their products accelerated. However, credit growth to mining & quarrying, chemicals & chemical products, construction, textiles, all engineering and basic metal & metal products decelerated/contracted, the RBI said.

● **GDP: INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH SLIPPED TO AN 11-YEAR LOW OF 4.2 PER CENT IN 2019-20 AND TO 3.1 PER CENT IN JANUARY-MARCH, THE LOWEST IN THE LAST 40 QUARTERS**

● **THE NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN TO PREVENT SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS WITH EFFECT FROM MARCH 25 HAS HIT ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES. IT HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO JUNE 30**

**Outlook:** We should implement an intelligent lockdown exit strategy as the discussion has moved from debate between lives and livelihood to also between lives and lives as an elongated lockdown will only prolong irreversible growth collapse, SBI's research report 'Ecowarp' said

**Going by past experience,** recovery from recession often tends to be slow and takes five to 10 years to reach the former peak levels of economic activity

**Full year 2019-20 GDP** growth comes to 4.2 per cent (11-year low) compared to 6.1 per cent in the preceding financial year

**Only silver lining** is the agriculture sector

## India needs intelligent lockdown exit strategy, suggests SBI report

India needs to implement an intelligent lockdown exit strategy to prevent irreversible growth collapse, SBI said in a research report



**Loss of economic activity due to the lockdown in the last few days of March has dragged GDP growth to a 40-quarter low of 3.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2019-20**



**'Agriculture and allied activities' grew at 4 per cent in the fiscal end March 2020, compared to the year-ago growth of 2.4 per cent**

Source: SBI Research/PTI

# Forex reserves hit all-time high on FDI, FPI inflows, fall in import expenditure

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

EVEN AS the coronavirus pandemic continued to spread and impact inflow of funds by foreign portfolio investors, foreign exchange reserves hit an all-time high of \$490 billion in the week-ended May 22 on account of foreign direct investments (FDI), net inflow of funds by FPIs in domestic equities over the last couple of weeks and a sharp decline in import expenditure following impact of pandemic on global trade.

While the foreign exchange reserves started to decline after hitting a high of \$487 billion in the week ended March 6 on account of the pandemic, it has risen over

the last four consecutive weeks and has grown by \$10.5 billion from \$479.5 billion on April 24 to \$490 billion on May 22.

In the week-ended May 22, the foreign exchange reserves, however, grew by \$3 billion. RBI data shows that foreign currency assets grew by \$3 billion, leading to the rise in the reserves.

The rise in foreign exchange reserves have resulted into strengthening in the value of the rupee against the US dollar. While the rupee had fallen to a low of 76.97 on April 21, it closed at 75.6 on May 29. In May, FPIs invested a net of \$192 billion into Indian equities after pulling out a record \$10.3 billion in March and April 2020.

"The rise in forex reserves is on account of the rise in FPI and FDI

inflows and a reduction in import outgo. While the exports have also declined, the fall in imports is more since we are net importers and that helps the forex reserves," said DK Pant, chief economist, India Ratings. While the pandemic has pushed investors to seek refuge in safer investment destinations and instruments, leading to outflow of funds in March and April, there has been a relative calm on that front in May. The continuing low levels of Brent crude oil prices have also benefitted India and its foreign exchange reserves.

Earlier, India's foreign exchange reserves had a smooth run for nearly six-months as they rose week-on-week between September 20, 2019 and March 6, 2020.

## ON A STEADY RISE

Weekly	Reserves in \$ billion
Mar 6	487.237
Mar 13	481.892
Mar 20	469.9
Mar 27	475.6
Apr 3	474.6
Apr 10	476.5
Apr 17	479.6
Apr 24	479.5
May 1	481.08
May 8	485.3
May 15	487.03
May 22	490.04

Source : RBI

## Yes Bank acquires 24.19% in Dish TV India following invocation of pledged shares

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

YES BANK said it has acquired over 24 per cent stake in Dish TV India following invocation of pledged shares due to debt default by the DTH service provider and other group firms.

Yes Bank Limited, pursuant to invocation of pledged shares, has acquired 44,53,48,990 equity shares of Dish TV India Limited constituting approximately 24.19 per cent of the post-issue paid-up share capital as at March 31, 2020, it said in a regulatory filing.

Shares were acquired on invocation of pledge subsequent to default/breach of terms of loan to Dish TV India Limited, it said.

Further, Yes Bank said there was default/breach of terms of credit facilities sanctioned by it to Essel Business Excellence

**Dish TV is a direct to home (DTH) entertainment service provider. It had a consolidated total income of Rs 6,218.28 crore as on March 31, 2019**

Services, Essel Corporate Resources, Living Entertainment Enterprises, Last Mile Online, Pan India Network Infravest, RPW Projects Private, Mumbai WTR and Pan India Infraprojects.

The companies are part of the Subhash Chandra-led Essel Group.

Dish TV is a direct to home (DTH) entertainment service provider. It had a consolidated total income of Rs 6,218.28 crore as on March 31, 2019.

## Madhu Kapur camp agrees to be non-promoter group in Yes Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

YES BANK on Saturday said there will be reclassification of shareholding as the Madhu Kapur group has consented to be categorised as public stake holders.

This is to inform that the Bank has received a letter dated May 28, 2020 (received on May 29, 2020) from Madhu Ashok Kapur; Shagun Kapur Gogia; Gaurav Ashok Kapur; and Mags Finvest Private Limited (collectively referred to as Madhu Kapur Group) consenting to reclassify their shareholding in the Bank as 'non-promoter shareholders' (i.e. public shareholders). YES Bank said in a filing. "The Bank would take further necessary action to give effect to this," it added. Yes Bank was co-founded by Rana Kapoor along with Madhu Kapur's late husband Ashok Kapur.

## Will place draft e-comm policy in public domain for comments soon: DPIIT Secy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

THE DEPARTMENT for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will very soon put a draft e-commerce policy in the public domain to seek views and comments, a top government official said on Saturday.

DPIIT Secretary Guruprasad Mohapatra said the e-commerce is a fast emerging sector and it is difficult to predict where it will go in the next couple of years.

The country do not have e-commerce policy and now the department is currently working on this, he added.

The government in February last year had already released a draft national e-commerce policy, proposing setting up a legal and technological framework for restrictions on cross-border data flow and also laid out conditions for businesses regarding

collection or processing of sensitive data locally and storing it abroad.

Several foreign e-commerce firms have raised concerns over some points in the draft pertaining to data.

The secretary said that after releasing of the draft in February 2019, general elections happened and also lot of issues came up in the draft policy.

It is now recognised that the country should have a definite, clear, and coherent policy, which is keeping in tune with the requirement of the society and service providers, he noted.

He was speaking at Rajasthan STRIDE virtual conclave, which was organised by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of Rajasthan.

Mohapatra was replying to a question by DST Secretary Mugdha Sinha about the future of e-commerce as an industry and its role in the economy.

## CRUDE WATCH

## OIL RISES ON US-CHINA TRADE OPTIMISM

*New York:* Oil prices soared on Friday, with US futures closing out May with record monthly gains, on hopes that the US-China trade deal would remain intact and on falling crude production. July Brent crude closed at \$35.33 a barrel, gaining 4 cents. **REUTERS**

# Hit by coronavirus, online aggregators create new revenue streams

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

FROM USING an existing mobility infrastructure for intra-city logistics to leveraging clientele base of premium hotels to generate business by delivering food, the impact of COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown on revenue streams, has forced consumer internet companies to think outside the box.

For instance, food-delivery platform Swiggy and ridesharing company Uber have started leveraging their two-wheeler fleets to offer services under Genie and Connect, respectively, to transport small items such as office documents, lunchboxes, etc within the city limits. Similarly, online travel agency Makemytrip announced it has partnered with premium hotel chains and independent properties in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru to deliver food.

In the early days of the country-wide lockdown, Swiggy and its rival Zomato, recognised the need for more players in the grocery delivery segment and launched services in this space. A similar pivot was seen with Domino's Pizza partnering ITC to deliver essential goods.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its after effects have hit online aggregators hard, particularly those depending on hospitality segments such as hotels, restaurants and air travel. While domestic flights have resumed after two months with a truncated schedule — bringing respite to several stakeholders including cab aggregators, which record a major chunk of metro operations from airport rides — hotels and restaurants are still not fully open for business.

"Many such online companies have long-term plans laid out for venturing out into new businesses to expand their revenue streams



Swiggy delivery boys during the lockdown in Delhi. Express file

in the future. Much of what you are seeing right now is the acceleration of those plans. There is no doubt the pandemic has brought tailwinds for digital businesses and everyone would want to leverage that opportunity," said an executive with a large digital services firm based in Mumbai.

In an e-mail to the company's employees earlier this month, Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal said he expected the number of restaurants to shrink by 25-40 per cent over the next 6-12 months. As of May 15, the company's grocery delivery went live in 185 cities across India. Similarly, its rival Swiggy also expanded its grocery delivery operations and chalked out plans to invest more efforts in services that it deems will "continue to do well". It has also reallocated the job roles for some of its employees to this effect.

"While this crisis has impacted our core business negatively, there is no doubt that we are now at an inflection point for the penetration of digital commerce and home delivery in India. This offers us opportunities to continue investing our efforts in grocery and other service offerings that we think will continue to do well. We are going to invest in these high-confidence efforts to focus not on surviving alone, but on growing along the way by adapting very quickly. To enable this, we have al-

ready re-aligned some team members from other businesses into these initiatives," Swiggy CEO Sriharsha Majety said.

The company recently launched Swiggy Genie, a service using which people pick up and drop off items such as lunchboxes, office documents and other business deliveries. The model has been a raging success in several European countries and the US, where office documents are transported on a regular basis across the city. Experts believe this business model holds potential given a discernible shift towards work from home which will increase the demand for such intra-city delivery services.

Uber, which also offers two-wheeler ride services, has also started a similar offering under Uber Connect. "Uber Connect will be immediately available in nine cities, namely, Kolkata, Guwahati, Jaipur, Gurgaon, Delhi, Noida, Chennai, Hyderabad and Chandigarh so that residents of these cities can send and receive packages within the city, while maintaining social distancing ... All packages should be transportable on a two-wheeler vehicle, be under 5 kilograms in weight, securely sealed and not include prohibited items such as alcohol, recreational drugs, or dangerous and illegal items," the firm said in an email to its customers.

# Delhi-Moscow AI flight returns midway after pilot found positive

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

AROUND TWO-AND-A-HALF hours after taking off from Delhi early Saturday, an Air India plane headed for Moscow for repatriation mission was asked to turn back to the capital. The reason: The national carrier's ground team realised that one of its pilots onboard the aircraft had tested positive for coronavirus. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has opened an investigation into the incident and a senior government official said there was a "lapse" on part of the airline personnel responsible for checking the test reports of the crew members.

"Air India this morning, recalled its aircraft operating Delhi-Moscow without passengers; immediately when it was noticed that one of the cockpit crew had tested positive in the pre-flight Covid test. On return, immediately after landing all cockpit and cabin crew have been tested and all laid down medical



The return path of the Air India plane headed for Moscow for repatriation mission. Source: Flightradar24

ical precautions are being taken to ensure their health and safety. Another aircraft has taken off today to operate the Vande Bharat flight Moscow to Delhi," an airline spokesperson said.

Air India has been testing all of its crew members prior to rostering them for duties on the Vande Bharat mission, under which 45,000 Indian citizens have been brought home from foreign countries. The airline tests around 300 crew members every day in Delhi

ahead of their flights. In this case, according to airline sources, the pre-flight check personnel failed to scrutinise the said pilot's report and deemed him fit to fly. The aircraft — an Airbus A320 — had departed from Delhi around 7.15am for Moscow and returned back to Delhi by 12.30pm.

Last month, five of Air India's pilots were tested positive in Mumbai during their pre-flight COVID-19 tests but all of them later turned out to be false positives.

## IDBI Bank back in the black after 13 quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, MAY 30

AFTER BEING in the red for 13 consecutive quarters, LIC-owned IDBI Bank reported a profit after tax of Rs 135 crore in the quarter ended March 31, helped by higher interest income.

The lender had reported a net loss of Rs 4,918 crore in the same quarter last year.

After a long gap of 13 quarters, we have been able to show net profit of Rs 135 crore in the March quarter. The profit would have been higher but for the recoveries that were affected during March due to the COVID-19 situation, the bank's managing director and CEO Rakesh Sharma told reporters.

He said recoveries had fallen short of Rs 700 crore due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

The recoveries and upgradation in the quarter stood at 1,457

crore and Rs 328 crore, respectively.

The profit in the quarter was also supported by the reversal of Rs 1,500 crore of provisions made for non-performing loans (NPAs).

Net interest income (NII) improved by 46 per cent to Rs 2,356 crore as against Rs 1,609 crore last year same period.

Net interest margin (NIM) improved by 154 basis points to 3.80 per cent for the fourth quarter, 2020 as compared to 2.26 per cent in the year-ago quarter.

For the full year, the bank reported a net loss of Rs 12,887 crore as against Rs 15,116 crore of loss booked in the financial year 2019.

Gross NPA of the bank stood at 27.53 per cent as against 27.47 per cent.

Net NPA improved to 4.19 per cent from 10.11 per cent.

Fresh slippage in the quarter stood at Rs 727 crore. Provision coverage ratio (PCR) stood at 93.74 per cent.



13 SUNDAY STORY

INSIDE DHARAVI

Once emblematic of Mumbai’s enterprise, the slum is now a Covid-19 hotspot, witness to distress and disease. KAVITHA IYER visits the 2.4-km sprawl to find its residents grappling with issues that have always hobbled their lives — sanitation, health and poverty



Photos: Nirmal Harindran

A FURTIVENESS cloaks Dharavi now, its departing inhabitants wary about stating their local address. This is a far cry from last decade’s celebration of Dharavi’s industry and enterprise, the slum’s casting as the beating, clanging, whirring heart of Mumbai’s famed pursuit of over-coming the odds.

At 1,715 Covid-19 cases until Friday afternoon, the 2.4-sq-km slum sprawl accounts for nearly 3% of Maharashtra’s patients, more than 4.5% of Mumbai’s cases, and more positive cases than in all of Odisha or Kerala.

The municipal division that Dharavi belongs to, the G-North Ward, has the most cases among Mumbai’s 24 wards, and more than 60 per cent of these patients live in Dharavi.

But inside the slum, in the dark alleyways where upper floor overhangs and monsoon tarps and tangled cables provide a dank shade from a blazing May afternoon, the conversations are not about the disease at all, nor about the neighbourhood cases or quarantined families.

“When can we go back to work?” asks Shaheen Shaikh, 45, waiting outside a municipal health post for a painkiller after pulling a back muscle. Her husband is a severe alcoholic, sinking all his wages into his fix on the days that he managed to haul himself to a nearby traffic junction to be picked up by labour contractors. Shaheen has raised her six children by making bead trinkets at home. The older children have dropped out of school now, and her eldest son, just 18, lost a two-month-old job as a store helper at the start of the lockdown. “There are limits to charity also. Everyone in Dharavi will tell you that the groceries being handed out by charitable organisations are gradually shrinking,” she says.

Shaheen’s *dupatta* is wound around her head and covers much of her face. The other patients waiting patiently at the health post all wear face masks too. The attendant writing down patient details sits behind a desk and wears a partial PPE, the auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM) wears a face mask and gloves. But the patients sit right next to one another, inching closer together as conversations begin, not about the pandemic but about health facilities in the teeming slum.

Bugappa, an Andhra Pradesh native who has worked in Mumbai as a construction worker for more than two decades, has brought his daughter to the clinic with a severe chest congestion. “It doesn’t make any sense to go to the private clinics. They charge a pretty fee to eventually send us back to municipal hospitals. But at the municipal clinic, we get the same medicine at every visit — no change in medication even if the patient hasn’t improved,” he says.

Eight years old, Aarti Bugappa declares between coughs that she has quit school after Class II, quite firm even when her weary father tells her she’s expected to return when schools re-open. Her schooling is one of the reasons Bugappa is toughing it out through the lockdown, the other being that there is no landlord breathing down his neck — he owns the *pucca* slum structure where he lives.

Waiting with them is Premchand Patwa, who is given a loud dressing down by the ANM for not visiting the nearby Lokmanya Tilak Municipal General Hospital to show doctors the lump growing in his abdomen.

“Will markets be normal before Rakshabandhan?” is all he wants to know, waving off concerned queries about whether the lump is painful. Patwa makes colourful *rakhis* at home, and survives the rest of the year doing odd jobs. “Everything else is just



(Top) Dharavi accounts for nearly 3% of Maharashtra’s Covid-19 patients, and more than 4.5% of Mumbai’s cases; (above) health workers in full PPE walk through lanes to identify patients to take them to the quarantine centre

fine,” the Allahabad native assures you, taking off his face mask to have a conversation.



By various estimates, 8.5 lakh to a million people live in Dharavi, rendering the slum’s incidence of Covid cases per million nearly 13 times the per million rate for the country. And with Mumbai one of just 20 districts where two-thirds of the country’s patients — and deaths — are concentrated, localities such as Dharavi are where officials are engaged in a pitched battle against the pandemic.

In these localities, every other alleyway is sealed off to impose a quarantine. Health workers in full PPE enter these colonies, walking through a maze of lanes to identify patients and take them to ambulances waiting on the main 90 Feet Road or 60 Feet Road, or sometimes walk them all the way to the quarantine centre nearby. It is almost like a perp-walk.

On Friday, a team from Health Post No. 2 walks into into a chawl, led by the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) and an anganwadi worker who know the locality best.

The first stop is an incorrect address, and they’re redirected to the rear end of the colony. At the second stop, the family insists it’s mistaken identity — nobody is sick. Eventually, it emerges that the neighbours had complained against the family for not completing quarantine after a contact was found positive.

Tempers run high briefly as the young man of the family emerges at the doorway and threatens to assault the neighbour who complained. ANM Vibha Kulkarni says this is common, and the team deals with the reluctant family with good humour and tact. “Put them all ‘inside’ for two weeks,” a neighbour shouts. “I’ll start with you,” retorts the ASHA leading the team. Finally, after a 15-minute standoff, clothes are pulled off the clothesline hanging outside, the male adult asks for permission to visit the public toilet, fists are stamped for the quarantine and the five members of the family walk out, two policewomen with only handkerchieves across their faces bringing up the rear of the march to the quarantine centre. Soon after, a man sprays disinfectant at the doorstep of the just-quarantined family, the can of chemical on his back bearing the face and name of a local Congress leader.

“Privacy, secrecy, genuine awareness on how to prevent the spread of the disease, good

private medical care that can supplement the public health system’s work, any possibility of real social distancing, adequate water for all, all of these are missing in the slums,” says Gulzar Waqar Khan, a trader and social activist who has been helping distribute free groceries and bottles of sanitiser to Dharavi’s residents through his Hum Sab Ek Hai Foundation, set up by his father to help keep the peace during the 1992-1993 communal riots in Mumbai.

A native of Bareilly himself, Khan says he’s getting worried calls from acquaintances across the country asking if he’s okay. “People going home from Dharavi are scared to say they were living here, but hey, we’re all going to continue living here — Dharavi is not exploding,” he says. “There is nothing surprising about the number of cases here.”



Almost everyone who has lived in Dharavi for a few years agrees that it should have been obvious from the start that a ‘lockdown’ would worsen the epidemiological disaster that is a Mumbai slum colony. Already living in unsanitary conditions, sharing toilets, the forced sequestering imperilled people further.

On May 4, Mumbai had about 9,000 cases, growing to more than 20,000 cases on May 17 when the next lockdown was imposed, and now 36,710 as Lockdown 5.0 is anticipated. The areas that have seen the largest rise in number of cases are localities of the poor, slum colonies and chawl buildings, municipal administrative wards such as L, G South and E seeing the maximum number of cases, all regions with densely populated slums in which not more than 5 per cent have a toilet at home. They are all localities with large populations of working-class migrants rendered desperate to find a way to get home because of twin fears — destitution in the absence of wages and the sense that the disease is closing in.

In Dharavi, there were 590 cases on May 4, rising to 1,028 cases on May 14. A fortnight later, on May 29, the number was 1,715, including 70 deaths — every single resident of the slum blames the rising number on the lockdown.

Approximately 40 per cent of Dharavi’s residents are migrant workers living in the most informal arrangements, especially those without family members here, sharing a tiny 10x10 foot room with a dozen others, having lived here for less than five to six years. This

segment of Dharavi’s population is now either waiting to leave or has left, on board a truck or bus or a special Shramik train.

“*Sab bhaag gaye*,” say the handful of workers still left in Dharavi’s Shakir Compound, 13th Compound and Sanaullah Compound, a series of informal industrial layouts on the western edge of the slum adjoining a two-metre-wide fetid gutter with pedestrian bridges across it.

The site of, until recently, a crush of workers in soot coloured clothes, blue plastic drums of caustic paints and dyes, and a sea of candy coloured granules of recycled plastic on dirty tin roofs, the hush in these industrial compounds is eerie. Over the slow downturn of the past two years, many recyclers had already shifted business to more inexpensive units in Vasai and Bhiwandi on the outskirts of Mumbai, their units replaced by garment sweatshops where workers poured in every morning by the thousands. Those units are all locked, workers having mostly left for villages and unit owners living elsewhere. Friendly stray dogs and a few pet goats roam the dusty streets of these compounds.

Sadabriks Kanojia of Gorakhpur is among the few still living in Sanaullah Compound, looking after the plastic crushing unit for his employer who is stuck in Goa. His monthly salary of Rs 12,000 is assured, and the more strenuous tasks of heaving drums of the crushed plastic to be dried on the roof are suspended for now.

“If I wait until the boss returns, he will pay for my journey home also,” says Kanojia. Philosophical about his humble circumstances, Kanojia says he has seen completely illiterate men become ‘*seths*’ and those with degrees sorting plastic to make a living.

“Much of our existence is dictated by fate. Some of those returning home now may never find a job paying Rs 12,000 a month and will have to return to Mumbai eventually — our connection with this city is also fate,” he says. His children Savitri, Neeraj and Suraj have watched news reports about Dharavi, and the family is urging him to return home. “Even the poor want to be with their loved ones, you know,” he smiles. “They’re scared for me, but things are actually quite alright here.”



But if the the sweatshops and industrial units wear a cloak of shocked silence, the res-

EXPLAINED E.

The growth curve link

WITH 1,715 Covid-19 cases among less than a million people, Dharavi in Mumbai is India’s largest contiguous hotspot. With every third Covid-19 patient in India now in Maharashtra, the curve for the national growth rate very closely resembles that of the state. If the spread in Maharashtra is contained, or its growth slowed down, a sizeable part of the problem in the country would be taken care of.

THE NUMBERS

1,715 positive cases in Dharavi (till May 29)

Cases on May 4	590
Cases on May 14	1,028

70 deaths (till May 29)

2,816 positive cases in G-North Ward, the municipal division in which Dharavi is located (till May 28)

36,710 positive cases in Mumbai (May 29)

62,228 positive cases in Maharashtra (till May 29)

MAHARASHTRA’S GROWTH RATE 5.44 % higher than national average of 5.02%

idental quarters are still crowded. “You can’t help it. If there are 30,000 people living in homes along a small alleyway, naturally 400 or 500 will gather at the medical stores, vegetable handcars or community toilets,” says Lavgan Parmar, a 55 year-old scrap collector belonging to Karajkheda in Gujarat.

Parmar lives in Dhorwada, just off Kakkayya Street, which forms part of Dharavi’s ‘Chinna Tamil Nadu’ or small TN, tucked away behind the modern facade of the Kamarajar Memorial English School building. Dhorwada is one of the poorest parts of Dharavi, and also among the angriest now, with residents saying they have been deliber-

ately neglected by politicians and other organisations for distribution of free groceries.

“If they’re distributing rations near the Mariamman temple, they’ll say it’s not for you, only for Tamil people. Or closer to that sign-board with MLA Varsha Gaikwad’s name, they’ll say it’s only for Congresswallahs — it’s as if this portion of Dhorwada is deliberately neglected by everyone,” says Ashok Gheware, spitting disgustedly into the narrow two-feet alley separating his home from the one across.

“Distribution of relief material has become a political and caste and community game,” says Gheware, who sports a big vermilion dot on his forehead and wears what appears to be a mangalsutra and gold jewellery in multiple ear-piercings.

An HIV/AIDS worker and a self-confessed professional ‘baba’ or spiritual guru, Gheware has made it a point to collect his entire PDS quota from the ration shops to cook *khichdi* for neighbours. The Parmars are struggling, and Lavgan says he has had to feed his children only boiled rice and salt for days, that too because somebody offered him free rice. “We have made chapatis also of rice,” he says.

Two doors away, Ahmadi Shaikh Khatun, from Sitamarhi in Bihar, says her husband, a cook, has been without wages for nearly three months now. A mother of seven girls and an infant boy, Ahmadi used to supplement their income by running a ‘bissi’, a term for the informal mess run out of hundreds of homes in Dharavi where workers come to eat two meals a day for a monthly fee. “With workers gone, there’s no bissi work also,” she says. Her elder children have pulled out of school too, mirroring a common trend in Dharavi now.

“Education, nutrition, sanitation — these are the things we need to talk about in Dharavi going forward,” says the activist Gulzar Khan, who is about to launch a pilot project on thoroughly sanitising three public toilets repeatedly through the day, hoping this can be scaled up. Immunisation of children has taken a hit with families leaving suddenly. And children who were struggling in final years of secondary school are at danger of being pushed by circumstances into finding employment instead.

“But for now, everyone’s talking about survival alone — the middle classes are now beginning to accept charity despite the deep shame this comes with. So many apparently well-to-do families accepted food packets from us on Chand Raat before Eid.”

The poverty clock has begun to tick backward in Dharavi.

Figuratively speaking, the slum is back now where it was in the year 1896, when an outbreak of the bubonic plague ravaged Bombay, on the periphery of the big city.

The plague in Bombay was central to the drafting and enacting of the Epidemic Diseases Act that is now in force, but for Dharavi, that is not the only vestige of the plague. It took eight years, but the eventual outcome of that epidemic and the exodus of workers in that period was the formation of the Bombay City Improvement Trust in 1898 and the reimagining of how Bombayites, including the ‘natives’, would live in the future.

Around the 1920s, the Trust planned to convert the area occupied by Dharavi’s tanneries into a “salubrious” suburb, the tanning units themselves proposed to be moved to Trombay, now another sprawling slum area alongside industrial units.

That dream for a new Dharavi remained unfulfilled. Well over a century later, another crisis brings with it an opportunity. This is the time to reimagine Dharavi and resolve its fundamental questions — of housing, sanitation, healthcare and education.



Across  
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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Over the years, the Supreme Court, like any other institution and like in any other country, stumbled on occasion, but quickly lifted itself, dusted the sand, and strode like a colossus. That is why courts (with all their deficiencies), and the Supreme Court in particular, are the institutions that enjoy the highest public confidence

V G ROW was a barrister practicing in the High Court of Madras. He was a left-leaning liberal. He had promoted the People's Education Society to popularise useful knowledge in all sciences; political education; and art, literature and drama. The Constitution of India had come into force on January 26, 1950 and there was a great sense of freedom — especially of the freedoms guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution. One of the freedoms was the "right to form associations or unions". A very anti-communist state government of then Madras State passed an Order on March 10, 1950, declaring the People's Education Society as an "unlawful association". It did so by invoking the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 — repeat, the 1908 Act of a colonial era. The Act and the Order were challenged in the High Court. Realising that the Order was indefensible, on August 12, 1950, the state government brought amendments, ostensibly to 'strengthen' the provisions of the parent Act and to provide a 'reasonable' procedure, and applied the amendments to previous Orders by a legal fiction.

HIGH DUTY OF  
SENTINEL

The legal legerdemain did not succeed before the Full Bench of the High Court (Chief Justice Rajamannar and Justices Satyanarayana Rao and Viswanatha Sastri). The High Court struck down the Madras Amendments

Sentinel on the qui vive

as well as the Order.

Dismissing the appeal to the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Patanjali Sastri, speaking for a Constitution Bench of five judges, wrote:

"If, then, the courts in this country face up to such important and none too easy task, it is not out of any desire to tilt at legislative authority in a crusader's spirit, but in discharge of a duty plainly laid upon them by the Constitution. This is especially true as regards the 'fundamental rights' as to which this Court has been assigned the role of a sentinel on the *qui vive*." (emphasis mine)

Over the years, the Supreme Court, like any other institution and like in any other country, stumbled on occasion, but quickly lifted itself, dusted the sand, and strode like a colossus. That is why courts (with all their deficiencies), and the Supreme Court in particular, are the institutions that enjoy the highest public confidence.

I have written this long preamble to soften the criticism that the Supreme Court has attracted in two cases, yet undecided, of great importance to the rule of law in this country.

DEMONETISATION  
DEBACLE

The first is the Demonetisation case. As everyone knows, on November 8, 2016, the Central government declared as illegal the Rs 1,000 and the Rs 500 currency notes. That single act set the Indian economy on a downward course. Beginning in

the last quarter of 2017-18, the growth rate of GDP began to slide. That slide continued for seven successive quarters and would have touched a new low in the eighth quarter too (Jan-March 2020). Coronavirus struck India, and our attention was diverted. But, remember always, that the current economic crisis pre-dated the pandemic and the lockdown.

Demonetisation was challenged in the Supreme Court and in several High Courts. On December 16, 2016, a Bench of three judges, led by Chief Justice T S Thakur passed a detailed order. The Court admitted the Writ Petitions, framed nine important questions, withdrew all similar cases pending before the High Courts to itself, restrained any other Court from entertaining or deciding any case on Demonetisation and, having regard to the general public importance of the issues, directed that the matters be heard by a Constitution Bench of five judges. That is where the Demonetisation case stands in the last nearly four years.

CONSTITUTIONAL  
COUP

The other is the case of Jammu & Kashmir and Article 370. On August 5, 2019, the President issued two Constitution Orders virtually repealing Article 370 and applying all the provisions of the Constitution to J&K. The consequential actions have caused a colossal upheaval: the special status enjoyed by J&K was abolished, the State was dis-

membered into two Union Territories, a total lockdown was imposed, the Legislative Council was abolished, the Legislative Assembly was dissolved, President's Rule was continued and then replaced by Governor's Rule, all statutory bodies including the State Human Rights Commission were dissolved, hundreds of political leaders and activists were detained (some including Ms Mehbooba Mufti and Mr Saifuddin Soz are still under detention without charges), domicile laws were drastically revised, and many rights, including media rights, are in a state of suspension.

By an Order dated March 2, 2020, a Constitution Bench led by Justice NV Ramana rejected certain preliminary objections and orally observed that the cases will be listed for hearing. Coronavirus intervened, and a nationwide lockdown was imposed on March 25. The cases have not been listed for hearing. On May 4, an order was passed in a separate matter relating to ban on Internet and 4G.

The point of this column is that the Supreme Court's resolve to be the sentinel on the *qui vive* will be tested again and again. The Court must not flinch from its duty, not ever.

Other issues of equal gravity have come up before the Courts in recent times, but since these are happening events, I shall reserve comment for another day. The fervent prayer of all citizens is that 'May the superior courts of India always be alive and equal to the noble duty set by Chief Justice Patanjali Sastri.'

Fifth  
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

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Negativity  
is good

THIS WEEK I write as a 'prophet of doom.' This is what the Solicitor General of India calls those who draw attention to the worst humanitarian disaster India has seen in a long, long time. When the Supreme Court finally took notice last week of the awful plight of our migrant workers, this is what Tushar Mehta said on behalf of his client, the Prime Minister: "But we have something called prophets of doom who only spread negativity, negativity, and negativity. All these people writing on social media, giving interviews, cannot even acknowledge what is being done...they are not showing any courtesy to the nation."

It is a statement that has done the Prime Minister more harm than anything said by us 'prophets of doom.' This is because Mr Mehta showed arrogant contempt for those who have suffered. They have suffered due to criminal negligence on the part of our officials. Not Covid-19. Last week, TV reporters interviewed those who still queue for hours and days outside railway and bus stations in Delhi and Mumbai. And, the hungry, thirsty, angry people in these queues said that if they had been given more than four hours' notice before the first lockdown, they would have found their own way home. True. They would still find their own way home if they had not run out of their meagre savings, lost their jobs and been thrown out of the hovels they rent in the slums of our cities. So, the Supreme Court is right when it says that it is now the responsibility of the Central and state governments to help these desperate people get home.

Whenever I have written about their plight in this column, and as a 'prophet of doom' I have done this often, I have been attacked by BJP supporters. Virulently on Twitter. And, more gently in private conversations. In one of these private conversations, a friend who has been a longtime supporter of Modi had this to say: "If Modi had not been prime minister people would have died like flies, the dead would have been lying in heaps. It is because of the total lockdown that our deaths have been so low and the virus has spread more slowly."

Deaths have, mercifully, been low and this is something for medical professionals and virologists to analyse. But, the virus is now spreading fast. If the urgency with which the Prime Minister ordered the first total lockdown was intended to prevent migrant workers from traveling out of the cities, then this objective failed. Now that they have been confined for weeks in living quarters so cramped that social distancing was impossible, they are more likely to carry the virus back to their villages. Covid-19 is so evil a virus that it has proved in country after country that it can make a mockery of the most careful planning.

In India we have not seen careful planning. We have seen careless planning and needless brutality, and the combination of these two things have created a manmade disaster that has caused more suffering than the pandemic. A heartbreaking video of a little boy lifting his dead mother's shroud to try and wake her went viral last week. There are probably many other untold stories like this from which the lesson that our heartless officials should learn is that these people are the real strength of India. Life for them even in normal times is so hard that they have learned real resilience. It is their blood, sweat and tears that pulses through the veins of the 'nation'. It is they who constitute the nation. So, if the Solicitor General exceeded his brief in his statement in the Supreme Court, the Prime Minister should sack him.

Narendra Modi has always prided himself on being a man of the people. One reason why he was able to win the trust of those millions of Indians who voted to give him a second term is because he was seen as someone who cared for ordinary people. And, not as someone who belonged to the privileged elite cocooned in that enclave of political power reviled by Modi's supporters as 'Lootyens Delhi.' But, ever since this pandemic, it has become more and more evident that the men who constitute the political elite in his 'new' India are as drunk with power as the old elite once was.

There can be no other explanation for why the Solicitor General of India believes that those who have tried to draw attention to the terrible suffering that our migrant workers have endured are not showing "courtesy to the nation". If he believes that his client, the Government of India, is the nation, then he needs to have his head examined. For my part, I will continue to spread 'negativity, negativity, negativity' because I believe that this is the only way to show a modicum of 'courtesy' to the people without whose grit and hard work there would be no nation.

It is their sons who die on our borders, their sons who toil daily to produce the food that we eat and their sons and daughters who endure hardship, adversity and the brutal contempt of our officials to keep the engines of our cities running. If saying this means that I am a prophet of doom, then it is a badge I wear with honour.

Labour laws and the  
muffled voices of 93%

Dalitality

SURAJ YENGDE

Twitter @Surajyengde



THE URGENT topic that we all need to pay attention to, more so the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, is the suspension of labour laws. BJP-ruled states UP, MP and Gujarat acted with lightning speed as if they were waiting for an opportunity to push the labouring class out of whatever little security they had. More notoriously, UP came up with an ordinance seeking exemption for firms from almost all labour laws. In addition to the BJP states, other Congress-ruled states (Rajasthan and Punjab) have also initiated changes along with BJP-ruled Odisha.

Labour laws are a conglomeration of close to 250 Central and state laws that grant protection to the labourer by regulating fair wages, conditions of work, overtime, leave, and social securities through employment security. Suspending them is violation of Constitutional provisions (Art 21, 24, 24) and international covenants (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) that gives rights to workers to unionise and bargain for fairness.

As a start, why did the state governments feel the need to change the laws in pandemic times? The common answer: it is to revamp the economy by attracting investments, which, in turn, will produce more jobs. Local and international experience don't support the claim. A 2017 study by the V V Giri National Labour Institute found that relaxation of labour laws did not succeed in "attracting big investments, boost to industrialization or job creation".

Historically, labour laws were never fully implemented by private firms. The organised sector managed to surpass regulations by hiring workers without contract while the babus sniffed the favours. So the problem that we are staring at right now is about India's 93% labour force that is beyond the ambit of formal legal labour protection.

With over 90% jobs unregulated, India is a planet of the informal sector. The informal sector has been craftily maintained by the state so it can plunder the hardworking labourer's toil just for a day's meal.

The NSS 55th Round Survey on Employment-Unemployment identified close to half a billion people involved in the informal sector. The apathy towards infor-

mal workers is such that there is no credible, unanimous agreement on the numbers of informal labourers. Within this, there is no clear tabulation on Dalits and Adivasis who form the foundation of this sector.

According to a 2010 Oxfam report on 'Social Discrimination in India', Dalits and Adivasis constitute the "highest proportion of the population" in the informal sector workforce, with 89% of them distributed across four poverty groups: the extremely poor, poor, marginal, and vulnerable. Also, the report says, 85% of Muslims in the informal sector "find themselves in lowest four income groups". The hardest hit will be the 95% women working in the informal sector.

The shameful state of the informal sector is an outcome of the casteist voyeurism in the lives of caste-d labourers. By suspending labour laws and pushing an entire economy to informal work, the state is committed to replicating the Varna model of production, wherein the worth and compensatory value of the working class is diminished by removing it from the regulation of humane protections that recognise the value of their labour. That is how *Avarnas* were created to prohibit any form of democratic working culture for the oppressed.

This issue is not limited to three or five states. Those three BJP-ruled states constitute an essential base for the BJP's rise to power. Injecting a Hindu propaganda through the Hindutva-Jaatitva nexus, the BJP has declared its anti-poor, anti-labour policy, which, in a caste society, is also anti-Dalit, anti-Adivasi and anti-Muslim.

With feathers of failures weighing in its hat, the BJP's hype of Hinduvaad is going to get more credentials at the hands of their rich patrons while the poor Hindus will get high by rejoicing the greatness of a mythical Indian past, believing that they're brokering a revenge upon their rich bosses.

The labourers who died on the streets were mostly Dalits and Adivasis — those crushed on the railway tracks near Aurangabad were mostly Gonds.

In such times, the government should study other countries. A serious effort could potentially lead us to some path — like topping up the income of the working class the way Canada and US did. Vietnam, UK, Italy and Spain offer good explanations on how to handle cash flows to the poor. If labourers get dismayed, it will take a generation to fix the broken trust. And in a fractured India, we cannot afford to leave our most essential colleagues to fend for themselves.

Suraj Yengde, author of Caste Matters, curates the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column

She  
SAID

RASHMI MOHANTY



TEN YEARS ago, I laced up my shoes, took to the road and started a journey which redefined me. At the time, I was mourning the loss of my father, managing two toddlers, doing a job which I wasn't enjoying, despite its good earning potential, and clearly needed an escape. That escape came in the form of a meeting with people who got together on weekends for long runs. For those few hours on the road, laughing and chatting with them, one would forget the worries back home.

Being an athlete in school and college helped me build my stamina fast, and soon, from 5 km runs, I progressed to half marathons. In November 2010, I ran my first half marathon, and by then I was totally hooked. I have run many half marathons, marathons, and even ultra marathons since. I was one of the first women ultra marathon runners in India and now have many 100 km races to my credit — the longest being 130 km. I have run the prestigious Comrades Marathon in South Africa twice and completed ultras in Singapore and Hong Kong. At times, the tracks were tough but I enjoyed the beautiful trails and felt at peace with myself.

Running not only gave me a fit body, but also the confidence and patience to take on any challenge that life threw at me. It gave me endorphins to stay happy no matter what the day looked like. Every time I stand at the start line, I know that when I finish this run — under whatever conditions, in whatever time — there is something new and exciting that I will discover about myself. It could be something about my training regimen, my mental strength and will power, my endurance level, or simply my ability to tolerate boredom and monotony. At night, during some of the lonely stretches in my ultra runs, I discovered that I can live by myself forever!

As a working woman, managing my passion along with my family and professional commitments isn't easy. Long runs, recovery and travel for races have to be balanced with time for work and home. So I defined what made me happy and cut down on activities that weren't in sync with my passion. I gave up binge-watching TV shows, and instead began to read books and watch documentaries on running. I fuss less over the disorder in the house and spend more time with my children, listening to them and participating in their lives. I am a practising

In the long run, can I  
have it all, every day?



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Buddhist and with my daily chanting, work and home chores, and my running. I have a super busy day. It's a day where, in my own way, I have it all — 'all' that makes me who I am.

I have also realised that there is no such thing as a work-life balance. When I say 'have it all', it may not be on a daily basis, but I try to achieve the balance by prioritising. On some days my work and family come first, and then are times when my running takes precedence over everything else.

The current lockdown has made prioritising a challenge for some of us — work calls, household chores, children's online classes etc. As the running season is over, the lockdown is, in a way, a forced rest period for me, allowing the body to recover from niggles and injuries. I am also using this time to do yoga, and focus on exer-

cises for my upper body and core strength. These days, I am working on completing 108 Surya Namaskars in one session.

Running a marathon is a metaphor for life. You learn to break your goal into smaller goals, to look at each obstacle as a challenge, to adapt and reorganise on the go, and to not be afraid of experiments or calculated risks. You learn that you can do more than what you think. A study says that when your mind tells you that you are ready to quit, you are only spent 40% physically. So when you beat that voice in the head, you learn not just how to keep at it, but how to keep at it patiently. I look forward to doing that each day.

Rashmi Mohanty is Chief Financial Officer at Clix Capital. National Editor Shalini Langer curates the fortnightly 'She Said' column

Out of  
MY MIND

MEGHNAD DESAI



WHAT IS Xi Jinping up to? While the world is still coping with the pandemic, he has begun a strife on three fronts. He has effectively abrogated the treaty with the United Kingdom wherein China had promised to maintain a special status for Hong Kong under the 'one country, two systems' principle. Xi has got the National Assembly of China to agree to his plan. How the UK reacts remains to be seen. He has also, without provocation, called for incorporation of Taiwan back into mainland China after 71 years. Last, and not at all the least, he has hotbed up the border

China's war on India

war with India.

Why, and why now? The question of Why is relatively easy to answer. All three demands relate to the core programme of Chinese nationalism. Hong Kong was part of China till the British seized it. In 1997, when the time came to give up the long lease on Hong Kong, the British realised that they were now much weaker compared to China than in the past. The UK cannot single-handedly stop Xi from taking over Hong Kong.

The Americans are, however, coming to Hong Kong's help. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has asked the US Congress to place sanctions on Hong Kong regarding travel and financial transactions with

the US. If the Congress agrees, Hong Kong is finished as a global financial centre.

Taiwan was where the defeated regime of Chiang Kai-Shek, China's last non-communist president, retired when the Communist Party captured Beijing. In the Chinese Constitution there is a pledge to regain Taiwan. Here again, if China makes a decisive move, the US will send its navy to defend Taiwan.

Thus, the two moves are part of the agenda of Chinese nationalism, a desire for Akhand China as it were. But the border war with India which Xi seems to have revived is also a part of the same drive. China takes the view that when it was weak in the last two centuries, Britain took

advantage, seized Chinese (or Tibetan) territory and incorporated it in British India. China began to ask for it from independent India in Jawaharlal Nehru's days. Nehru took the view that territory of British India (Partition apart) was Indian territory.

Xi is playing for high stakes for another major plank in Chinese nationalism. This is the idea that China has to regain its pole position in the world — Middle Earth — as it was till the 17th century. This requires China to be the top economic and military power. In technology, China has already outstripped US as the Huawei controversy shows. US wants to fight China on that front through sanctions in cooperation

with Europe.

Hence, this time the China-India confrontation will not be an isolated affair with India friendless as in 1962. It will be part of a global (hopefully) Cold War. Manmohan Singh and George Bush had arrived at a tacit understanding to help each other out if a war with China was to break out for either country. So the US will help India. Donald Trump's offer to mediate is just his usual Twitter reaction.

But in a land war along the border, the US is not much help. The US has been twice repulsed by China in land wars, in Korea and then Vietnam.

So India on land and US in the seas, hopefully with US air support for India.



# Fires, chaos as US protests grow

Cop seen kneeling on black man charged with third-degree murder; military police prepare to deploy on Trump order

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
NEW YORK, MAY 30

THE FORMER Minneapolis police officer who was seen on video using his knee to pin down George Floyd, who died shortly after, was arrested and charged with murder, the authorities announced on Friday.

The former officer, Derek Chauvin, 44, was charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter, Mike Freeman, the Hennepin County attorney, said. An investigation into the other three officers who were present at the scene on Monday was continuing, he said.

Chanting "Hands up! Don't shoot" and "I can't breathe," thousands of protesters gathered in cities across the country on Friday night.

Mayor Jacob Frey of Minneapolis, looking weary after four days of outrage in his city, pleaded with residents to go home and stop burning down the local businesses that he said were even more vital in the middle of a pandemic.

"You're not getting back at the police officer that tragically killed George Floyd by looting a town," Frey said. "You're not getting back at anybody."

Minnesota's top officials acknowledged early Saturday morning that they had underestimated the destruction that protesters in Minneapolis were capable of inflicting as a newly issued curfew did little to stop people from burning buildings and turning the city's streets into a smoky battleground.

At the orders of President Trump, the Defense Department has ordered the Army to prepare active-duty military police units to deploy from several army bases to Minneapolis.

Dozens of other cities grappled with protests on their streets that seemed to largely overwhelm the authorities. Residents burned police cars in Atlanta, charged a police precinct in New York and set fires in downtown San Jose, California. In some cities, including Los Angeles and Portland, Ore, some people smashed the windows of stores and stole things from display cases.



A police car burns as people protest against the Minneapolis killing near the CNN Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Reuters

## 8 minutes, 46 seconds: The last moments

MATT FURBER,  
AUDRADS BURBLES &  
FRANCES ROBLES  
MINNEAPOLIS, MAY 30

ONE WAS a veteran of the Minneapolis Police Department who moonlighted as a security guard. The other provided security at a Salvation Army store, and spent some of his evenings at local clubs, working as a bouncer.

In the year before their fatal encounter, George Floyd, 46, and the officer now charged with his death, Derek Chauvin, 44, worked at the same Minneapolis Latin nightclub. Their paths crossed for the last time outside a corner store known as the best place in town to find menthol cigarettes. Within an hour, Floyd was dead, his last pleas and gasps captured in a horrifically graphic video.

Chauvin knelt down on Floyd behind a police vehicle outside the store. For eight minutes and 46

seconds, according to a criminal complaint filed on Friday by the Hennepin County District Attorney, the police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck in silence, staring toward the ground as his captive gasped repeatedly he could not breathe.

Bystanders waved their cell-phones, cursed and pleaded for help, and still, for two minutes and 53 seconds after Floyd had stopped protesting and became unresponsive, the officer continued to kneel.

The fatal encounter began just before 8 pm, when Floyd entered Cup Foods, a community store run by four brothers, and a store clerk claimed that he had paid for cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 bill. The police got a call from the store at 8:01 pm.

The dispatcher pressed for a description, and the caller described the man as tall, bald, about 6 feet tall.

"Is he white, black, Native, Hispanic, Asian?"

"Something like that," the caller replied.

"Which one? White, black, Native, Hispanic, Asian?"

"No, he's a black guy," the caller said.

The charging documents say that officers found Floyd in a parked blue car with two passengers. Soon, additional police units arrived and the officers tried to get Floyd into a police vehicle. But he struggled. "Mr. Floyd did not voluntarily get in the car and struggled with the officers, intentionally falling down, saying he was not going in the car, and refusing to stand still," according to the charging document.

At 8:19, Chauvin pulled Floyd out of the passenger side of the squad car. Floyd hit the ground, face down, handcuffs still on. Kueng held Floyd's back while Officer Thomas Lane held his legs.

Chauvin lodged his left knee in "the area of Floyd's head and neck," the documents said, and

Floyd continued to protest: "I can't breathe," he said repeatedly.

He called for his mother. He said, "Please."

One of the officers dismissed his pleas.

"You are talking fine," one officer said, according to the charging documents.

At least one officer was worried: Lane asked if the officers should roll Floyd over on his side.

"No, staying put where we got him," Chauvin replied.

At 8:24 pm, Floyd stopped moving. Kueng checked Floyd's right wrist for a pulse. "I couldn't find one," he said.

Still, none of the officers moved.

At 8:27 pm, eight minutes and 46 seconds after he had lowered himself onto Floyd's neck, Chauvin finally released his knee.

The medical examiner's office listed the time of death as 9:25 pm. **NYT**

### IN BRIEF

#### Trump tries to walk back tweet

Washington: President Donald Trump has tried to walk back his post-midnight "thugs" tweet about Minneapolis. "When the looting starts, the shooting starts," Trump had written in a tweet that was quickly flagged by Twitter as violating rules against "glorifying violence." Trump later said his comments had been misconstrued. "Frankly it means when there's looting, people get shot and they die," he said.

#### 1 dead after shots fired in Detroit

Detroit: One person was killed in Detroit after someone in an SUV fired shots into a crowd of people protesting George Floyd's death, a Detroit police spokeswoman said Saturday. The shooting occurred about 11:30 pm Friday as officers were confronted with dozens of protesters, said Sgt. Nicole Kirkwood, a police department spokeswoman. She said an officer wasn't involved in the shooting.

#### Biden speaks of 'open wound'

Washington: Joe Biden lamented the "open wound" of the nation's systemic racism on Friday as he responded to police killing of a black man in Minnesota. "The original sin of this country still stains our nation today," Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, said in remarks from his home in Delaware. "It's time for us to take a hard look at uncomfortable truths."

# US to curtail ties with Hong Kong, withdraw from WHO: Trump

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, MAY 30

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump said Friday that his administration would "begin the process" of ending the American government's special relationship with Hong Kong, including on trade and law enforcement, and that he was withdrawing from the World Health Organisation, as part of a broad effort to retaliate against China.

But the president was unclear about the speed and full scope of the actions, and his remarks left many questions unanswered.

Trump voiced a range of grievances against China's "malfeasance," angrily denouncing the country's trade and security practices and its crackdown on civil liberties in Hong Kong, as well as its influence at the WHO.

As punishment, the president said he would begin stripping away Hong Kong's privileges with the US, including an extradition treaty and commercial relations, with few exceptions.

"My announcement today will affect the full range of agreements we have with Hong Kong," the president said, including "action to revoke Hong Kong's preferential treatment as a separate customs and travel territory from the rest of China."

After spending weeks accusing the World Health Organisation of helping the Chinese government cover up the early days of the coronavirus epidemic in China, President Trump said on Friday that the United States would terminate its relationship with the agency.

"The world is now suffering as a result of the malfeasance of the Chinese government," Trump said in a speech in the Rose Garden. "Countless lives have been taken, and profound economic hardship has been inflicted all around the globe."

The European Union said on Saturday that it would continue



Donald Trump

### EXPLAINED

#### Hong Kong impact unclear

THE IMPACT of Trump's decision regarding Hong Kong is unclear, especially given the many unknowns in terms of what exactly the US would do. With few specifics in Trump's speech, it remains to be seen what impact the island — and China — will face, if any. Experts also pointed out that the move is unlikely to deter China from its chosen course, and would do more to hurt Hong Kong and leave its pro-democracy protesters with fewer options.

to back the World Health Organisation, and the bloc urged Trump to reconsider his decision.

"The W.H.O. needs to continue being able to lead the international response to pandemics, current and future," the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the bloc's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, said in a joint statement. "Actions that weaken international results must be avoided," they added.

"We urge the U.S. to reconsider its announced decision." **NYT**

# Supreme Court rejects church challenges to lockdown; New York City to reopen on June 8

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, MAY 30

THE US Supreme Court rejected challenges on Friday to curbs on religious services in California and Illinois during the coronavirus pandemic.

In the California dispute, the nine justices split 5-4 in rejecting a bid by South Bay United Pentecostal Church in Chula Vista to block the rules issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, a Democrat. Conservative Chief Justice John Roberts joined four liberal justices in the majority.

Newsom ordered houses of worship closed to the public in March, but issued new guidelines this week limiting attendance to 25% of building capacity or 100 people, whichever was lower.

The precise question of when restrictions on particular social ac-



Tributes to victims of COVID-19 in Brooklyn, New York. AP

tivities should be lifted during the pandemic is a dynamic and fact-intensive matter subject to reasonable disagreement," Roberts wrote in explaining his vote.

There were no noted dissents as the court rejected a similar request by two churches in Illinois, seeking exemption from

Democratic Governor J.B. Pritzker's ban on services of over 10 people, arguing that it infringed on the constitutionally protected free exercise of religion.

Meanwhile, New York City is "on track" to enter phase one of reopening on June 8, New York Governor Cuomo said on Friday

as he announced that five up-state regions will now transition to phase two which includes businesses like barber shops and hair salons.

The most populous US city, which has become the epicentre of the country's coronavirus pandemic, was on track to meet the metrics for a safe reopening, Cuomo said. "We are on track to open on June 8," Cuomo told a daily briefing but warned that "reopening does not mean we're going back to the way things were."

The first phase of reopening would allow non-essential construction and manufacturing to resume, and non-essential retail stores to offer curbside pick-up. Cuomo said he expected some 400,000 New Yorkers to be able to return to their workplaces starting June 8, and said authorities were working on a plan to make mass transit system safe for commuters.

# England easing Covid lockdown 'too soon'

KATE HOLTON  
LONDON, MAY 30

ENGLAND RISKS losing control of the pandemic again because it is starting to lift its lockdown without a fully operational track and trace programme in place, three senior scientific advisers warned on Saturday.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said England's lockdown measures will be eased cautiously from Monday, aided by a track and trace system that launched on Thursday.

The advisers warned, however, that the system was not yet in full operation and risked being overwhelmed by the around 8,000 new infections that are still occurring every day outside of hospitals and care homes.

John Edmunds, from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and a mem-



In London, Saturday. AP

ber of Britain's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), said the government was taking a risk.

"Track and trace was only launched the day before yesterday, so we can't be sure that that is working effectively yet and yet we're going ahead and making these changes anyway," he told Sky News. "I think that that is rather dangerous."

Edmunds' comments were echoed by two other SAGE members as well. **REUTERS**



Protesters at a shopping mall in Hong Kong. AP

# US action on Hong Kong doomed to fail: China hits back

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIJING, MAY 30

THE MOUTHPIECE of China's ruling Communist Party said US moves to end some trading privileges for Hong Kong "grossly interfere" in China's internal affairs and are "doomed to fail".

Saturday's editorial in the newspaper People's Daily was responding to an announcement from President Donald Trump.

"This hegemonic act of attempting to interfere in Hong Kong affairs and grossly interfere in China's internal affairs will not frighten the Chinese people and is doomed to fail," it said.

In Hong Kong on Saturday, Secretary for Justice Teresa Cheng said it was "completely false and wrong" to say the territory was losing its autonomy. China's central authorities have the absolute right to take action on national security regarding Hong Kong, Cheng told reporters.

### NERVOUS XI RISKS NEW COLD WAR: LAST H.K. GOVERNOR

London: Chinese President Xi Jinping is so nervous about the position of the Communist Party that he is risking a new Cold War and imperilling Hong Kong's position as Asia's pre-eminent financial hub, the last British governor of the territory told Reuters.

Chris Patten said Xi's 'thuggish' crackdown in Hong Kong risked triggering an outflow of capital and people from the city which funnels the bulk of foreign investment into mainland China. "We have long since passed the stage where, without wanting another Cold War, we have to react to the fact Xi seems to want one himself," Patten said. **REUTERS**

# Lanka to impose curfew amid second wave warnings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, MAY 30

SRI LANKA will impose a nationwide curfew tomorrow, as a prominent doctors' trade union warned of a second wave of COVID-19 infections.

The island nation has reported a sudden spike in the number of COVID-19 cases, mainly among those who were recently repatriated from overseas. The country has recorded 1,559 infections as of Saturday with 10 deaths. Over 750 of the COVID-19 patients have been discharged from hospitals.

Only this week the government formally ended the lockdown imposed since March 20 by lifting daytime curfew in the

capital district of Colombo.

The government already declared curfew in the central hilly Nuwara Eliya district on Saturday ahead of the funeral of Sri Lankan Minister and leader of the Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC) Arumugam Thondaman. Thondaman, who represented Tamils of Indian origin, died of heart failure on May 26.

Tens of thousands of his supporters had gathered to pay respects to Thondaman, defying all quarantine regulations put in place to curb the pandemic.

Concerns were raised over the presence of large crowds.

In a statement on Saturday, the doctors' trade union warned that gatherings at a politician's funeral could trigger the second wave.

# Europe's tangled reopening: Travel bubbles, border deals, airline corridors

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
NEW YORK, MAY 30

IF THE reopening of offices, restaurants and other public places has seemed dizzying, the rules on travel between nations are shaping up to be bewildering. Travel bubbles and airline corridors to allow free movement between certain cities or countries, quarantines and an assortment of other measures add up to a puzzle for even the most intrepid traveler.

Nowhere are the logistical challenges more daunting than in Europe, where the pandemic brought a sudden return of borders between the 26 countries that are part of the so-called Schengen zone. Optimistic pro-



At Frankfurt airport. Reuters

nouncements about easing restrictions for summer travelers have run into the reality of a patchwork of policies.

"It would be great if all this could be compressed into something easy to understand, but it is a very complex picture," said Adalbert Jahnz, a spokesman for home affairs, migration and cit-

izenship at the European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union.

For instance, Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece are expected to open borders to each other on June 1. Greece, desperate to save its tourism industry, also released an expanded list on Friday of 29 countries from which it will allow travel starting June 15.

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia have started implementing a similar arrangement.

France, Germany and other West European nations have talked about easing border controls to other E.U. member states on June 15, the day the European Commission's guidance calling for the suspension of nonessential travel into the EU will expire.



**TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD**  
Extension Notice No. 27, 28, 1,2&3 / DO / CE / VLR / 2020 / Dated 26.05.2020.

Name of Scheme	IFB No.
1 Providing UGSS to Added Areas in Villupuram Municipality in Villupuram District <b>Collection System &amp; STP</b>	IFB Extension Notice Amendment Slip No.1 UGSS to Added Areas – Villupuram Mpty CS & STP / DO / CE / VLR / 2020 / Dated :14.05.2020
2 Providing UGSS to Tindivanam Municipality in Villupuram District <b>Collection System &amp; STP</b>	IFB No. 02 / UGSS to Tindivanam Municipality – CS / DO / CE / VLR / 2020 / Dated: 24.04.2020 and IFB No. 03 / UGSS to Tindivanam Municipality – STP / DO / CE / VLR / 2020 / Dated :24.04.2020
3 CWSS to Royakottai and 28 other habitations in Krishnagiri District	IFB No. 01 / CWSS to Rayakottai / DO / CE / VLR / 2020 / Dated: 21.04.2020
4 Last date of Sale of Tender	Upto 5.45 PM on 03.06.2020
5 The Last date for receipt and opening of tender	Upto 3.00 PM on 05.06.2020 and 3.30 PM on 05.06.2020

Refer : Website for downloading : [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and [www.twadboard.tn.gov.in](http://www.twadboard.tn.gov.in) (Free of cost)  
The other terms and conditions already published remain unaltered  
Chief Engineer (i/c),  
TWAD Board, Vellore - 6.  
DIPRY 1991 /TENDER/2020 **SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS**

**TRIPURA STATE ELECTRICITY CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of Tripura Enterprise)

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
Deputy General Manager, ED-Udaipur TSECL, invites tenders on behalf of TSECL from the eligible & resourceful agencies having sufficient technical & financial capabilities for Conversion of 11KV & LT over head to UG cable line & Construction of 2 (two) nos. 200KVA distribution Sub-Station along with providing Street light arrangement surrounding area of Tripureswari Temple and nearest commercial area along the NH-8 from Fulkumari to Matabari Madhya Para tri-junction (NH- 8 Chainage no. 53.500 Km to 55.000 Km) with removing old overhead HT/LT line under the jurisdiction of Matabari Electrical Sub-Division through electronic tendering (e-tendering) . The Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) can be seen in the websites [www.tsecl.in](http://www.tsecl.in) from 01.06.2020 and details of bid document will be available to download from website <http://triburatenders.gov.in> w.e.f. 01.06.2020.

Sd/-  
Deputy General Manager  
Electrical Division Udaipur  
Tripura State Electricity Corporation Ltd

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**  
No. AGRA/ELECT/0P/TENDER/2019/13 Dated: 27.05.2020

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Senior Divisional Electrical engineer (TRD), North Central Railway, Agra, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender on prescribed form the details of the tenders are as under:

Tender No.	Name of work
AGRA/ELE/0P/TENDER/2019/13	"Hiring of one Non-AC Motor Vehicles TATA SUMO or similar type not earlier than 2017 with good condition, including Drivers, fuel & lubricants, & major/minor repair maintenance, etc. for transportation of Goods Drivers & Guards with their line boxes, to and for nearby stations for running of 3500 Kms. & 500 extra kms per vehicle per month for one year. (Nature of work 24 hrs. without any holiday/Rest)"

Approximate Cost (in Rs.) :- ₹ 6,35,844.96. Earnest Money (in Rs.) :- ₹ 12,700/-, Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.) :- ₹ 2,360/-, Completion Period (in months):- 12 months. Date of opening of tender:- 19.06.2020. NOTE:- (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders will be available on website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) up to 15.00 hrs. on 19.06.2020 the due date of tender opening. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act -2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost in respect of e-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (6) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached.

f North central railways railway northcentral@PRONCR 579/20 (A)

**Office of the Superintending Engineer, Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr**  
No. 4380 /96M(4)-BSR CIRCLE/20-21 Dated:- 23.05.2020

**E-Procurement Tender Notice**  
1- On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh Superintending Engineer, Bulandshahr Circle, U.P. P.W.D. Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through <http://etender.up.nic.in> the eligible and approved Contractor registered with UP PWD, from dated 02.06.2020 to 06.06.2020 Upto 05.00 PM. Technical bids will be open online on date 08.06.2020 at 04.00 PM. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day respectively, at the same time and validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Time of Completion	Cost of Bid Documents GST	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Renewal work on Bhojpur Palkhuwa road in Km. 9,10,11, 12,13 under General Repair	111.00	7.55	1 Months	2000+ 300+ 18% GST= 2714.00	UP PWD Class A,B,C
2	Renewal work on Banthia Dikoli Road in Km. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 under General Repair	178.00	10.90	1 Months	2000+ 300+ 18% GST= 2714.00	UP PWD Class A,B,C
3	Renewal work on Modinagar Patia Niwadi Raghunathpur Road in Km. 5,6,7,8,9,10(800) under General Repair	129.00	8.45	1 Months	2000+ 300+ 18% GST= 2714.00	UP PWD Class A,B,C
4	Renewal work on Duhai to Bhikhanpur Bhadoli Manoli Rawadi Rewada Road in Km. 1,2,3,4(500),5,6,7, 11,12(650) under General Repair	70.00	5.50	1 Months	2000+ 300+ 18% GST= 2714.00	UP PWD Class A,B,C

1- The Bid Security and Tender Document Fee must be deposited through Internet Banking.  
2- All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certificate by C.A. of last 5 year and details of maximum cost work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Charakya Software before Submission of tender.  
3- The e-tender, which will be uploaded on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. It will be mandatory to upload the details of the software available in Chanakya software of Public Works Department, Uttar Pradesh before the last date and time of tendering.  
4- Term & conditions related to bid are available on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>

Sd/-  
(Maneesha Verma)  
Executive Engineer  
C.D.-2, PWD,  
Ghaziabad

Sd/-  
(Ajay Shankar Singh)  
Superintending Engineer  
Bulandshahr circle,  
PWD Bulandshahr

UPID No. 151833 Date: 27.05.2020  
[www.upgovt.nic.in](http://www.upgovt.nic.in)

**TENDER NOTICE**  
**MG ASC HEADQUARTER SOUTH WESTERN COMMAND, JAIPUR ARMY SERVICE CORPS**  
**CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLY OF ITEMS/SERVICES SHOWN BELOW FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01 OCT 2020 TO 30 SEP 2021 AND BALANCE CONTRACTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01 APR 2020 TO 31 MAR 2021**

1. On line bids are invited from registered ASC Contractors / Firms for contracts to be concluded by respective Executive Officers various formations for the period 01 Oct 2020 to 30 Sep 2021 and balance contracts for the period 01 Apr 2020 to 31 Mar 2021 as here under, details of which will be available with concerned executive officers. The tenders will be opened at 1200 hours on the dates as shown below:-

S No	Executive Officer	Date of Opening Tender						
		Initial Call	2nd Call (1st Re-tender)	3rd Call (2nd Re-tender)	4th Call (3rd Re-tender)	5th Call (4th Re-tender)	6th Call (5th Re-tender)	7th Call (6th Re-tender)
(a)	MG ASC Jaipur (Veg, Fruit, Hay Baled and Balance contract of Meat group, perishable items contracts for the year 2020-21)	27 Jul 20 (Monday)	18 Aug 20 (Tuesday)	08 Sep 20 (Tuesday)	24 Sep 20 (Thursday)	20 Oct 20 (Tuesday)	06 Nov 20 (Friday)	24 Nov 20 (Tuesday)
(b)	Brig ASC Bathinda (Veg, Fruit, Hay Baled and Balance contract of perishable items, any other miscellaneous items contracts 2020-21)	20 Jul 20 (Wednesday)	21 Aug 19 (Friday)	10 Sep 20 (Thursday)	28 Sep 20 (Monday)	23 Oct 20 (Friday)	09 Nov 20 (Monday)	27 Nov 20 (Friday)
(c)	Brig ASC Mathura (Veg, Fruit, Hay Baled and Balance contract of perishable items, any other miscellaneous items contracts 2020-21)	31 Jul 20 (Friday)	24 Aug 20 (Monday)	14 Sep 20 (Monday)	30 Sep 20 (Wednesday)	26 Oct 20 (Monday)	11 Nov 20 (Wednesday)	30 Nov 20 (Monday)

2. Tender documents including Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) may be downloaded from Defence Procurement Portal (DPP) site <https://defproc.gov.in>. The bid opening time and date will be found published alongwith the Notice Inviting Tender in Defence Procurement Portal (DPP). Earnest money in the form of FDR will be made in the name of Executive Officer, respective formation Headquarters. Scanned copy of earnest money will also be uploaded on DPP. **NO FDR FOR EARNEST MONEY WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THE SAME IS DISCHARGED BY THE CONTRACTORS / FIRM(S).**

3. In case the day of opening of tenders happens to be a holiday, the tender will automatically be opened on next working day.  
4. Detailed instructions will be issued to the Contractors/Firms as call notice/NIT.  
5. Contractors/firms while submitting General Power of Attorney, will paste photographs of attorney holders and sole proprietor/partners of firms duly attested on the General Power of Attorney.  
6. Any other details may be sought from this HQ office tele No 0141-2249261 from 1000 hours to 1400 hours on any working day.  
7. The Executive Officers reserve to themselves the rights of any amendments, cancellation and changes to the tender notice in whole or in part without assigning any reason.  
8. Addition / deletion of any station / items will be made subject to orders of Competent Financial Authority.

Sd/-  
MG ASC  
HQ South Western Command  
Jaipur- 302012  
davp 10602/11/0002/2021

**बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र**  
Bank of Maharashtra  
Head Office : Corporate Services Department  
"Lokmangal", 1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-05.  
Tel. : 020-25537239/240

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**  
Bank of Maharashtra invites sealed tenders for "Empanelment of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) of UPS & Batteries and Rate Contract for supply of UPS & Batteries for Branches/Offices of Bank across India". Prospective bidders may download the tender document of the RFP from Bank's Website [www.bankofmaharashtra.in](http://www.bankofmaharashtra.in). Pre-Bid Meeting is arranged on 09/06/2020. Last Date for submission of RFP is 15/06/2020 Upto 4:00 PM. Technical Bids will be opened at 3:00 PM on 16/06/2020 & Bidders are requested to remain present for the same.  
Deputy General Manager, Corporate Services

**RAJASTHAN RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)  
E-166, Yudhisthir Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur CIN No U40101RJ1995SGC009847  
Tel: 0141-2225859/2228198/2221650 Fax: 0141-2226028

**Notice Inviting Applications**  
Applications on contractual basis are invited (NIB No 2020-21/04) for hiring services of consultants for the work of Energy Conservation activities/ programs. The interested applicants may visit website [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrec](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrec) and <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> for details. The detailed document may be downloaded from given website from 03.06.2020.  
Raj.Samwad/C/20/461 Director (Tech.)

**UJVN LTD.**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones : 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax : 0135- 2763507  
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866

Letter No. 344 Dated 30.05.2020  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)  
The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhal Stage-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tenders from interested parties for following work:  
**NIT-20/EE(M)/MB-II/20-21:** Strengthening of outdoor lighting system of 33/11 kV Substation and central Store at Dharasu Power House."  
Approx. value of Tender : Rs 953935.00 only (taxes extra)  
Earnest Money : Rs 29000/- only.  
Tender Cost : Rs 590.00/- only  
Last date of downloading the tender : 22.06.2020 up to 15:30 Hrs  
Last date of submitting the tender : 22.06.2020 up to 15:30 Hrs.  
Due date for opening the tender : 23.06.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.  
For Eligibility Criteria and full details kindly visit our website [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com) Bidders are advised to regularly visit our website for tender notice. Tender can only be downloaded from our website & their cost has to be paid at the time of submission.  
Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

**ଓଡିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ନିଗମ ଲିଡ.**  
**ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)  
Regd. Office: Jangpath, Bhubaneswar -751 022 (Odisha)  
CIN: U40102OR2004SGC007553

**e-Tender No. CPC-25/2019-20**  
For and on behalf of ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. Senior General Manager (C.P.C) invites Tenders for enlistment of Firms in rate contract for supply of hot dip Galvanized Steel structure materials (HT & MS), HDG Nut & bolts and accessories for Transmission Line towers and Substation equipment structures as per OPTCL design. Complete set of bidding documents are available at [www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL), w.e.f dated 01.06.2020 (11:00 Hrs.) up to dated 24.06.2020 (11:00 Hrs.). Interested manufacturers may visit OPTCL's official website <http://www.optcl.co.in> and [www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL) for detail, specification and all subsequent addendum/corrigendum to the tender.  
Sd/-  
CR Advt. No.02/2020-21 Senior General Manager (CPC)  
Please connect us: f optcl.odisha t optcl\_odisha t energyodisha

**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
ई-निविदा सूचना सं०-64 / विज्ञापन/आग्रा / 2019-20 के निविदा निरस्त करने के सम्बन्ध में

**E-Tender Notice No. 64/ECTC/A/2019-20 पर अंकित ई-निविदाये जिसकी निविदा निरिष्टीकरण संख्या-201, 202 & 203/ECTC/A/2019-20, अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त निविदा को निरस्त किया जाता है।** "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाव" अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत जानपद पारेषण मण्डल-आगरा, उक्त पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड अमर उजाला प्रेस, पारेषण भवन, ककरेता रोड, 22कै०बी० चण्देन्द्र सिकन्दरा आगरा। पत्रांक-622 विज्ञापन/आग्रा/निविदा / दिनांक : 30.05.2020

**Tendering Notice**  
**U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.**  
Tender Notice-08/ECTC/AGRA/2020-21  
Tender in two parts, Part-I & Part-II valid for four months are invited for the work mentioned as under:-

Tender Specification No.	Name of Work	Date and Time of Submission	Date and Time of opening
16	Providing 01 No. Diesel vehicle (with driver) for Executive Engineer Electricity Civil Transmission Division, Aligarh.	30.06.2020 /12:00	30.06.2020 /15:00
17	Providing 01 No. Diesel vehicle (with driver) for Sub-Divisional Officer, Electricity Civil Transmission Sub-Division, Etah.	30.06.2020 /12:00	30.06.2020 /15:00

The tender form and all information related to the tender can be obtained from the departmental website [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org) upto schedule date & time as above. "SAVE ENERGY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION". SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, Electricity Civil Transmission Circle, Agra पत्रांक-622विज्ञापन/आग्रा/निविदा / 30.05.2020

**Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited**  
(A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise)  
4, Meera Marg, Udaipur - 313001, Phone : (0294)2428768 / 2428763-67, Fax (0294)2428770, 2428739, Email:- [contractscs.rsmml@rajasthan.gov.in](mailto:contractscs.rsmml@rajasthan.gov.in)  
**Notice Inviting e-Tender** Date-27.05.2020

NIT No. & Date	Description of Work
e-Tender no. Cont.-02/2020-21 Dated:- 22.05.2020 UBN No. MML2021WS0B00023	FEEDING OF LGO INTO PRIMARY CRUSHER HOPPER BY USING FRONT END LOADERS & TIPPERs AT IBP, JAMMARKOTRA MINES, UDAIPUR Estimated cost Rs. 311.580 Lakh, EMD Security Rs. 6.22 Lakh, Tender document fess Rs. 4720

Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at our website [www.rsmm.com](http://www.rsmm.com) or [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) or [eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](mailto:eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) or contact SM (Contract ) on above address.  
Raj. Samwad/C/423/2020-2021 SM (Admin.)

**TIRUPPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Tenders are invited in Two cover system for Smart Roads (Phase-I) in Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation area under Smart City Mission at an Total estimate cost of **Rs. 15,001 Crore** for 2 Packages under Smart City Mission by Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation upto **3.00 P.M. on 07.07.2020** and the same will be opened by the Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation or his authorized person on the same day at **3.30 P.M.** in the presence of the contractors or their representatives present at that time. The tender documents can be downloaded from the website : <https://tntenders.gov.in> upto **2.00 P.M. on 06.07.2020**. Any further details will be heard from Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation office in any of the working day if required. Pre-bid meeting for the above work will be held on **25.06.2020 at 11.00 AM.** respectively. The Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation reserves the rights to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The bidders shall not have the option of submitting their proposals electronically.  
Commissioner,  
Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation  
Roc. No. : E/18630 (I) 2017  
Place : Tiruppur  
Date : 29.06.2020  
DIPR/1983/TENDER/2020

**Office of the Executive Engineer Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, Uttar Pradesh, Jal Nigam R-1, Raj Nagar, Near Hint Chauraha, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Pin 201002**  
**Short Term E-Tender Notice**  
No. 510/Nivida/102 Dtd. 27-05-2020  
Online percentage rate short term e-tender for "Painting, numbering and warning on viaduct from chainage 13.60Km to chainage 14.60Km . Repair of manhole shafts from chainage 0.00 km to chainage 06.00 km and other miscellaneous works in Muradanagar Campus under 200 cusec & 270 cusec Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Scheme" is hereby invited in two bid system on behalf of M.D., U.P. Jal Nigam from the contractors having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 05-06-2020. Interested contractors may view & download and upload their bids, duly filled online latest by 18-06-2020 up to 01.30 P.M. Technical & Financial Evaluation cum technical Bid (Pre-Qualification Bid) of E-tender shall be opened on 18-06-2020 at 04.00 P.M.

**Office of the Executive Engineer Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, Uttar Pradesh, Jal Nigam R-1, Raj Nagar, Near Hint Chauraha, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Pin 201002**  
**Short Term E-Tender Notice**  
No. 509/Nivida/101 Dtd. 27-05-2020  
Online percentage rate short term e-tender for "Repair of expansion joints of pipeline from Chainage 12.60 km to Hindon Bridge Chainage 14.60 km under 270 cusec Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Scheme" is hereby invited in two bid system on behalf of M.D., U.P. Jal Nigam from the contractors having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 05-06-2020. Interested contractors may view & download and upload their bids, duly filled online latest by 18-06-2020 up to 01.30 P.M. Technical & Financial Evaluation cum technical Bid (Pre-Qualification Bid) of E-tender shall be opened on 18-06-2020 at 04.30 P.M.

**दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., आगरा**  
ई-निविदा सूचना अर्पेकस्वरुपको इय सक्षम/प्रतिष्ठित एवं अनुभवी संविकसको ये निम्नलिखित सामग्री को आपूर्ति/कार्य कराने हेतु ई-निविदा अर्पणको को योता हे। निविदा को समय में विद्युत निगम य शर्त निविदा अर्पणको में उल्लिखित हे को **आग्रा श्रामन के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल** <https://etender.up.nic.in> एवं **दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि** की वेबसाइट [www.dvnl.org](http://www.dvnl.org) पर उपलब्ध हे। क्रम संख्या, निविदा संख्या, सामग्री/कार्य का विवरण, निविदा खुलने का दिनांक, निविदा शुल्क, भोजर तालि (रुपये में) क्रमानुसार। 1. ईप्रोक्योरमेंट/ए/सी-05 (2020-21), विद्युत भण्डार केन्द्र, आगरा पर अतिन सुरक्षा हेतु फायर हायरड्रेट सिस्टम एण्ड इन्सुलेंट स्लाफिंग करने का कार्य, 30.06.2020, रु. 5,00,00.00, रु. 50,000.00। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत भण्डार मण्डल, दक्षिणांचलविद्युत, आगरा। "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाव" पत्रांक:1375/अग्रोअर्थि (र/0)/आ/निविदा/दिनांक: 30/05/2020

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, FIRST CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM, MEERUT**  
Letter No. : 579/731/56 Date: 26.05.2020  
**SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tender is invited for the execution of work in Alipur Alampur Village Water Supply Scheme under "JAL JEEVAN MISSION (JJM)" programme District Meerut. as per following date schedule:-  
**Sl. No. 1. Activity:-** Uploading bid document at website **Original Date:-** 13.06.2020 at 17:00 hrs.  
**2. Activity:-** Online submission of e-bids **Original Date:-** 14.06.2020 to 22.06.2020 at 17:00 hrs.  
**3. Activity:-** Submission of E-tender fee/ Earnest Money would be deposited by RTGS **Original Date:-** Upto 20.06.2020 at 15:00 hrs.  
**4. Activity:-** Opening of application for pre-qualification **Original Date:-** 23.06.2020 at 15:30 hrs.  
**5. Activity:-** Opening of application of pre-qualified bids **Original Date:-** 25.06.2020 at 12:30 hrs. Tender cost is **Rs. 10000.00** with **18% GST**. The detailed description of this tender has been obtained from website [www.upjn.org](http://www.upjn.org) or concerned office.

**TENDER FOR CONFIDENTIAL JOB**  
A PROMINENT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE INTENDS TO ENGAGE EXPERIENCED COMPUTER AGENCY FOR CONFIDENTIAL WORK OF OMR SCANNING, RESULT / DATA PROCESSING, INTERESTED AGENCIES EXCLUSIVELY DOING THE JOB MAY APPLY THROUGH EMAIL [confidential.assistant1979@gmail.com](mailto:confidential.assistant1979@gmail.com) TILL 10.06.2020

**"IMPORTANT"**  
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**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CHHATTISGARH RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY PROJECT CIRCLE NO. 01 JAGDALPUR, DISTT. BASTAR (C.G.)**

**//E-Procurement Tender Notice//**

NIT No. 143/TS 1241/CGRRD/2020 Jagdalpur Date 29/05/2020  
Online tenders are invited from manufacturer or authorized dealers for supply, delivery and installation of Roller Blinds at RRNMU Building of Jagdalpur, Distt. Bastar:-

s. No.	Item	Probable amount for tender Including GST (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	Time Allowed for supply in days	Remark
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Roller Blinds and other accessories at RRNMU Building of Jagdalpur, Distt. Bastar	4.94	0.15	15 days	4th Call

Bidding documents & other details are available for viewing/ downloading at the site [www.eproc.cgstate.gov.in](http://www.eproc.cgstate.gov.in) which can be viewed from 01.06.2020 After 17:30 Hours.  
Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer  
Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency  
Project Circle No. 01 Jagdalpur Distt. Bastar  
E mail ID: [circle1jdp@gmail.com](mailto:circle1jdp@gmail.com)  
25520

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of The Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division  
Sir M. Vishweshwariah Commercial Complex,  
12th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagara, Bangalore-10  
No. EE/RNR/E-PROC/02/2020-21 Date: 30-05-2020

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)  
The Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites Item Rate tenders from eligible contractors for the below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
Reserved For SC			
1	Asphalting to 2nd cross 3rd cross and surrounding area in LIC colony Manjunathnagar, Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	50.00	50,000/-
2	Asphalting to 15th 16th main 16th cross, 14th cross and surrounding area in Gayithri Society Manjunathnagar, Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	50.00	50,000/-
Reserved For General			
3	Asphalting to KLE college road and surrounding area in Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	100.00	2,00,000/-
4	Asphalting to 17th main road and surrounding area in Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	100.00	2,00,000/-
5	Asphalting to 19th main road and surrounding area in Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	100.00	2,00,000/-
6	Asphalting to 40ft road Manjunathnagar 2nd Phase 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	100.00	2,00,000/-
7	Asphalting to Bheemajyothi colony and surrounding area in Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	100.00	2,00,000/-
8	Asphalting to 2nd Phase 2nd stage Manjunathnagar and surrounding area in Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	100.00	2,00,000/-
9	Asphalting to MES college road and surrounding area in Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	100.00	2,00,000/-
10	Asphalting to Adarsha Layout and surrounding area in Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	50.00	1,00,000/-
11	Asphalting to 11th cross, 12th cross and surrounding area in Gayithri Society Manjunathnagar Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	50.00	1,00,000/-
12	Asphalting to 3rd main B main and surrounding area in 2nd phase Manjunathnagar Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	50.00	1,00,000/-
13	Asphalting to 1st main 2nd main 3rd main and surrounding area in 1st phase Manjunathnagar Rajajinagar in Ward No.99.	50.00	1,00,000/-

**Calendar of Events:** (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from Gok e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> (2) Last date and time for receipt of tenders : 19-06-2020 upto 4.00 PM. (3) Pre Bid Meeting : 10-06-2020 at 4.00 PM. (4) Last date for submission of Tender difference amount: 19-06-2020 upto 4.00 PM. (5) Opening of Tender Document: 20-06-2020 at 4.00 PM. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division  
**"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"**

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**  
No. AGRA/ELE/0P/TENDER/2019/15 Dated: 27.05.2020

**E- TENDER NOTICE**  
Senior Division



# THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

# eye



## SPOTLIGHT

### Finding Joy

It is easy to forget in a crisis but kindness, which has made the human species survive over two millennia, is our only hope for the future

## ART etc.

‘Nothing can match the magic of cinema halls’

Shoojit Sircar



The 1896 Bombay plague reshaped the city. Over a century later, the stories of the time — from a migrant exodus to sweeping state powers — have an uncanny resonance to its ongoing battle

Benita Fernando

IT WAS approaching winter, the final months of 1896. Bombay's ferry lines and railway stations were swamped with people, many of them workers at mill lands and dockyards, *dhobis* and cooks, barbers, butchers and bakers, their meagre belongings tied up in bundles. All desperately seeking a way back home.

The scene is from more than a century ago, as various accounts of the time reported. (It was inevitable, said the *Bombay Samachar* in December 1896, that if the rich were fleeing the city, the poorer would follow suit.) But it could well be from the current lockdown crisis in India, where millions have been forced into similar harrowing circumstances.

This particular exodus took place after physician Dr AG Viegas confirmed the first case of the bubonic plague in Bombay on September 23, 1896. By the end of January 1897, around four lakh people had fled the city. By February, Bombay's population was halved and drained of those most essential to its economy. "Business was paralysed, offices closed, and thoroughfares... were characterised by a desolate emptiness," wrote Capt. JK Condon in his book *The Bombay Plague* (1900).

The Bombay Plague came in five epidemic waves, turning endemic by the early 1900s. Lasting for more than 20 years, by 1918 it had claimed over 10 million lives in India, with over 1.6 lakh in Bombay alone (source: *The Indian Medical Gazette*). It set off a chain of events — increased surveillance, attacks on health workers by a panicked public, rumours and racist theories — all of which find a resonance in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The British government underplayed the outbreak in its initial days to keep its most important port on India's west coast open. The outbreak itself was the consequence of British mercantilism — the disease was likely carried through ships from plague-stricken Hong Kong. The weekly *Jam-e-Jamshed* newspaper accused the government of delaying preventive measures, even though they knew of the plague sweeping through Hong Kong.

Till the outbreak threatened to derail the city, the colonial government was uninterested in investing in civic infrastructure beyond the needs of the Europeans, who resided in the fetching parts of the city such as Malabar Hill and Breach Candy. The working-class neighbourhoods, many of them by the docklands, markets and mill lands, such as Dhobi Talao, Girgaum and Mazgaon, were a warren of small, low rooms, without chimneys or windows, with no light or air supply except from the doorway, perpetually dripping pipes, and with several people huddled under one roof. While the Englishman wanted a bedroom all to himself, the Indian native would gladly pocket his pride and agree to be confined in a room that fitted his length and breadth, wrote George W Clutterbuck, a Wesleyan chaplain from Britain, in a book, *Bombay the Beautiful* (1897).

Officials knew that rats were often the bubonic plague's first victims and that the disease was deadly, as proven by the Black Death that had swept Europe in the 14th century. They knew of the plague bacterium, discovered by Alexandre Yersin in Hong Kong two years before the Bombay Plague. But that it



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## BOMBAY: THEN AND NOW

spread from the bite of the Oriental rat flea was still unknown. The disease was, therefore, attributed to filth, dampness, unsanitary living conditions and miasma — the theory that epidemics spread through contaminated air. Predictably, slums were suspect.

The first case was detected at a grain merchant's quarters in the dockland area of Mandvi. Subsequent anti-plague measures targeted poorer neighbourhoods, such as Nagpada and Kamathipura. "Plague was seen as a disease of filth and overcrowding and there was a deep-seated perception that the poor were the carriers. They thus bore the brunt of the anti-plague offensive in colonial Bombay," says Prashant Kidambi, associate professor in colonial urban history at the University of Leicester, the UK. He observes that class was as important as race in the way the government dealt with the plague — much in the way the slums of Dharavi have been labelled as "COVID-19 hotbeds", even if the disease entered through airports and via passengers with frequent flyer points.

Plague authorities were armed with the Epidemic Diseases Act, passed in February 1897, which has been invoked and amended for the present pandemics as well. The Act gave an inordinate amount of power to local bodies. Houses could be marked as "unfit for human habitation", following which landlords could be asked to evict tenants, water supply cut off to reduce dampness, or the building simply burned down or demolished. Authorities could also stop sanitary workers from leaving Bombay, knowing that their mission would fail without them.

The Bombay Plague Committee, headed by General FW Gatacre, and with one Indian representative, considered itself an "imperial necessity" but it was not an opinion shared by the colonial subjects. The reports of the com-



## JOURNAL OF PLAGUE YEARS

(Clockwise from top) Workers whitewash and disinfect a "plague house" in Bombay in February 1897; a man being inoculated against the plague, a photograph attributed to Clifton and Co; an affluent Hindu family makes its home in temporary huts in Malad, having moved out of the city (circa 1896-97); and a group of officials search a house suspected to have plague patients (1896)



mittee published in 1897 and 1898 describe the city as a battlefield, with government officials at loggerheads with local residents over house searches, hospitalisation, corpse inspections and disposal of bodies — nearly every step of their mission. Caste and custom only worsened the panic. Most of the resistance came from upper-caste Hindus, some Muslim sects and Parsis. Men couldn't tolerate the sight of a wife's hand being held by a health worker; caste Hindus refused to eat food served by those from "lowly castes".

In her seminal work from 2012, *Health Care in Bombay Presidency, 1896-1930*, academic Mridula Ramanna writes, "People were more troubled by the measures to repress it than by the epidemic itself." Injections were misconstrued as ways to kill patients and have their hearts sent to the Queen of England, Ramanna notes, as appeasement for the disfigurement of her statue at the beginning of the epidemic.

The committee set up military search parties — consisting of a medical man, a nurse or "lady doctor", a sub-inspector, two lampmen, a locksmith and, interestingly, a hand lotion carrier — and stormed into neighbourhoods to identify the sick. This was sometimes met with great resistance from the public, who viewed hospitals as a place where people went to die. Families stowed the sick in lofts, large wooden chests, under bedding and under bundles of clothing. Women patients



would often be found grinding corn or singing energetically, but their telltale, anxious faces and their swollen glands told otherwise. "The resistance from the public was the biggest crisis the colonial government had faced since 1857," Kidambi says. Since the Indian soldiers' revolt of 1857, the British were nervous about interfering with local customs and practices. "But the plague required an unprecedented level of intrusion into the Indian home," Kidambi adds.

The committee eventually realised it was in its best interest to make sure that "caste sympathies and prejudices were always respected". By April 1898, 36 private hospitals along the lines of caste, many of them especially for the communities most resistant to searches were opened — the Cutchi Memon Plague Hospital, the Bhatia Plague Hospital, the Parel Road Jain Hospital, the Dharavi Hospital for tannery owners and the Telugu Hospital in Kamathipura, among others.

Surveillance wasn't limited to the home. Passengers of local and outstation trains were medically inspected at select stations like Santa Cruz and Kurla. The plague committee knew that it would only be a matter of time before the migrant population, their finances depleting, returned to the city. (They did begin to trickle in by the summer of 1897.) A number of health camps were opened across the city to isolate residents from infected areas and



## MARKED OUT

A plague house on Kaladevi Road, Bombay. The plain circles on the wall indicate death from plague

new arrivals — including one at Marine Drive. At the camps, "surveillance passes" were issued, daily-wage workers given day passes, temperatures were noted on tickets, and, as an added measure, some people were photographed. On alternate days, they would be inspected and compared to the photograph.

Historically, pandemics lead to a range of responses, from authoritarianism to *laissez-faire*. "The state's action was very draconian. It was seen by the British through the prism of longstanding folk memories of the Black Death. Thus, it was regarded with far more fear than other lethal diseases such as cholera," says Kidambi.

As the plague spread across India, so did resistance, assuming graver dimensions, notably with the assassination of Walter Rand, Poona's plague commissioner, in 1897. One consequence was the arrest of the nationalist Bal Gangadhar Tilak for sedition. Tilak was a fierce critic of the British administration's plague measures in Poona, denouncing them as tyrannical in his newspaper *Kesari* in June 1897. A week later, Rand was shot dead. Officials believed that the incendiary nature of Tilak's articles were to blame for the assassination, and arrested him on grounds of "disaffection" towards the government. Tilak was jailed at the Byculla House of Correction, where the plague had already broken out (incidentally, this jail is currently the Byculla women's prison, where an inmate tested positive for COVID-19 and where activists Sudha Bharadwaj and Shoma Sen are currently held in the Bhima Koregaon case).

The Byculla House of Correction turned into a site for anti-plague inoculation trials, carried out by Ukrainian bacteriologist Waldemar Haffkine. Inoculating himself with the vaccine, Haffkine also administered it on 147 jail inmates. Ramanna notes that by October 1897, 8,142 persons were inoculated, including 77 leading citizens. Tilak and the Aga Khan were among them.

The British government relaxed its anti-plague offensive from 1900. But certain habits lived on. "One practice that became common in the early 1900s was for entire communities to move to camps on the outskirts of urban settlements during the winter months, seen as particularly dangerous," says Kidambi.

In grappling with the plague, the British ended up reshaping the city. The Bombay Improvement Trust (BIT) was set up in November 1898 to let "the fresh breezes of the sea into the congested lungs of Bombay", as Lord Curzon put it. It did so by clearing residential and commercial areas to make way for large east-west boulevards, such as Princess Street at Marine Lines and Sandhurst Road. It introduced one standard of light and ventilation, advocating that every living room have minimum external space that would allow light to fall at "an angle of 63.5 degrees".

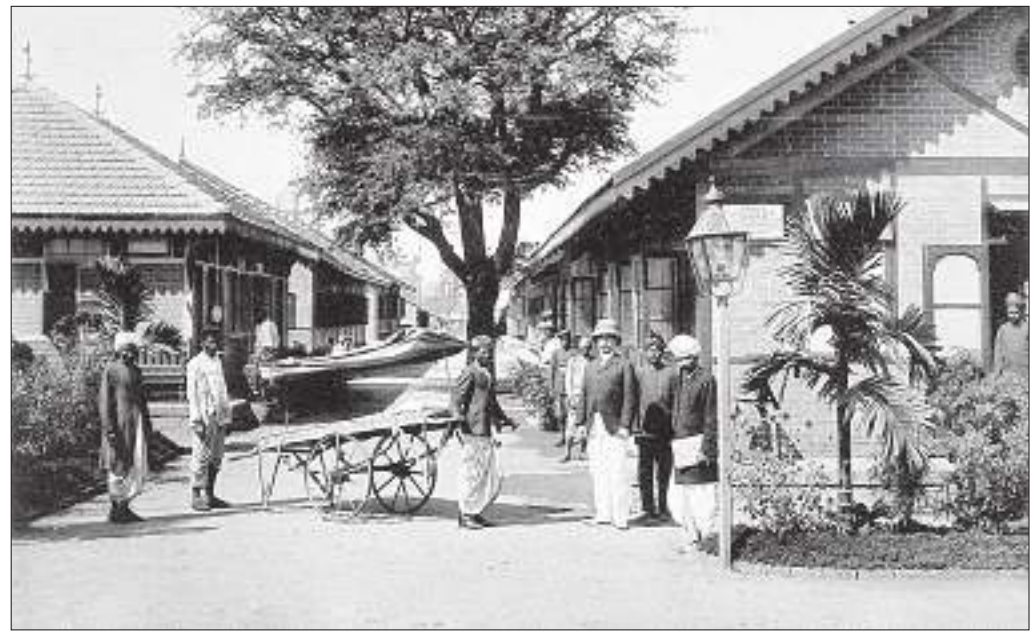
"For the first time, a planning entity was brought into existence with executive powers that hadn't existed before," says Nikhil Rao, associate professor of history at Wellesley College, US. The BIT undertook urgent measures to clear poor "blighted" neighbourhoods residents, starting with Nagpada, and this became a prototype for today's slum rehabilitation programmes. It also developed the areas of Dadar, Sion, Matunga and Wadala — already parts of the city but mainly agricultural lands and villages — into aspirational suburbs. The BIT wanted to attract residents of the "slums" of Nagpada, Agripada, and Pydhonie to the new sites, thus alleviating the overcrowding in the south, Rao writes in his book *House, But No Garden: Apartment Living in Bombay's Suburbs* (2012).

Bombay changed mostly for the better, but also for the worse. The BIT has often been criticised for uprooting more people than it rehoused through its slum clearance schemes. Kidambi notes in his 2007 book *The Making of an Indian Metropolis* that by 1918, the BIT's schemes had displaced 64,000 people, of which only 14,000 were re-housed.

The plague committee had warned that if the BIT didn't manage to provide adequate housing, rents would rise and the problem of overcrowding would only worsen — all of which came to pass in Bombay. It's a reminder from a not-so-distant past: how Mumbai handles COVID-19 will shape the anxieties of the city of the future.

## SICK LEAVE

A stretcher outside a plague hospital; photograph by Clifton and Co.









# ‘Nothing can match the magic of cinema halls’

Filmmaker Shoojit Sircar on releasing his new film on a streaming platform, setting it in Lucknow and the ways in which the pandemic will affect the business of films

Alaka Sahani

**WHAT MADE you decide to premiere *Gulabo Sitabo* on a streaming platform?**

I knew this period is going to be uncertain. When the lockdown started, the reports of the pandemic came in and the World Health Organisation announced that this virus is not going away easily, we didn't know what to do. Then one day, I discussed this with our producers. I didn't want to sit with the film since it was ready. We spoke with Amazon Prime Video, which has our movies *October* (2018) and *Pink* (2016). The kind of proposal they gave for the film's release was quite lucrative for a filmmaker. I have never had this kind of release earlier. I would have experimented with the digital medium at some point. So, why not take the plunge now?

**What about the proposal sounded lucrative?**

The movie is releasing in 200 countries simultaneously. It will be dubbed in 12 languages, including Persian, Portuguese, French and Spanish. They are also putting up a cinema-like experience with Dolby Atmos (surround sound). I find all these lucrative. Also, the movie is going to stay longer on this platform. This kind of reach is important. In theatres, a movie is taken off in two-three weeks.

**Since the film has two bankable actors, Amitabh Bachchan and Ayushmann Khurrana, did you wonder if you were missing out on box-office collections?**

This is a chance we had to take even though we will miss the theatrical experience. We are a simple production house with a few friends who somehow gather money and make movies. After we release a movie, the money we make from it is invested in the next movie. Our film was ready in November. The uncertainties over its release apart, there will

be a (release) bottleneck once theatres reopen. I wanted to work on my next film, too. We took the decision to release it on a digital platform so that we could pay all our technicians. Nothing can match the magic of cinema halls. However, I believe, both theatres and digital mediums are going to co-exist.

***Gulabo Sitabo*'s trailer has got over 40 million hits so far.**

This is huge. I haven't had more than 80,000 hits for my earlier films. I am told my movies are not for the masses. I have never had this kind of views before.

**Were you disheartened by the reactions of multiplex chains Inox and PVR over *Gulabo Sitabo*'s digital release?**

Had I been in their place, I, too, would have objected to it. I don't think it's personal. Everyone has to understand that it's part of adaptability. My producers took this call be-



**NEW BEGINNINGS**

Shoojit Sircar; (left) on the sets of his upcoming film *Gulabo Sitabo* with actors Amitabh Bachchan and Ayushmann. The film releases on June 12 on Amazon Prime



cause they adapted to the current situation. I wish that we can talk and resolve the matter. There should be no resentment.

**What kind of impact will the pandemic have on film production?**

No one knows what follows this. Definitely, there will be a financial crunch. Actors will have to reduce their fees. There will be cost-reduction so that making movies is viable. There will be a cost-correction, from the beginning of the concept until the product goes to theatres. We don't know when the audience is going to flock to theatres like before. It has already affected business and its impact will continue even after the lockdown is lifted.

**What took *Gulabo Sitabo* to Lucknow?**

Initially, we had thought to place the film either in Delhi or Lucknow. When Juhi (Chaturvedi, writer) and I started developing the film, we thought, 'Why not set the story in

No one knows what follows after this. Definitely, there will be a financial crunch. Actors will have to reduce their fees. There will be cost reduction so that making movies is viable

Lucknow? Juhi is from there. I wanted to create a never-seen-before experience of the city. It was very important that each and every aspect of the film should be authentic. The film is character-based, so, it is more like an experience. It is not just about Banke and Mirza — the lead characters in the film — but about many other characters. I would call this a satire, something I have tried for the first time.

**Have the *Gulabo Sitabo* puppets (Uttar Pradesh's traditional glove puppet theatre) been an inspiration?**

The name *Gulabo Sitabo* is used as a metaphor for Lucknow. We thought why don't we celebrate this dying art of puppetry with this title? This was not our original title, Juhi and I thought of this while watching some *Gulabo Sitabo* puppet shows on YouTube.

**Has Juhi Chaturvedi been a part of this film from the very beginning?**

The collaboration between Juhi and me has been in terms of ideas and scripts. She is very good with insights. She understands very well what the film's vision is going to be and puts that in the script. I always shoot with the script. By the time we shoot the film, we would have already experienced it while conceptualising it and during the process of scripting. We go through details such as what the characters are going to be like and how they are going to speak.

**There was talk on Twitter recently about releasing your film *Shoebite*, which was earlier caught in legal trouble, on a digital platform. Can we watch it soon?**

I have the same question for my producers. I was quite happy that Ayushmann and Anurag Kashyap spoke about *Shoebite* on the social platform. Mr Bachchan (who plays the lead in the film) gets emotional every time he talks about it. The rights are with its producer Disney. If they want, they can show the film.

**You next movie *Uddham Singh* was supposed to release in January 2021. Will you be able to keep to the release date?**

Right now, my attention is on *Gulabo Sitabo*. We were working on the post-production of *Uddham Singh*, which is halted due to the lockdown. That's going to take some time.

**A SEAT AT THE TABLE**

Mindy Kaling (centre) with John McEnroe

so rare anyway since I've written all my own parts), I never auditioned for Indian roles. They were white characters whom I just happened to be lucky enough to get an audition for.

**How did you get tennis star John McEnroe to narrate the show?**

My family grew up watching John and we loved him. He was a winner, but more importantly he was a fighter. I think my parents related to that. I reached out to him and met up with him in New York. I think he signed on because it was so different from what he normally does, and because his kids like *The Office*.

**What high-school movies did you watch while growing up and what was your high-school experience like?**

I watched everything. Movies as different as *Clueless* (1995) and *The Breakfast Club* (1985) had an enormous impact on me. None of them were like my life, and I never saw any minority actors play lead characters in any high-school movie, but I loved them nonetheless. I was a hard worker, obedient and ambitious.

**Why did it take so long for Hollywood to finally get a mainstream Indian-American character?**

I think we really benefited from the explosion of content in the past 10 years. Now, networks and streaming platforms are ready to take risks on unconventional stories because there is such a need for content.

**What's the way forward? We are seeing more and more people of colour in the mainstream space, like Hasan Minhaj and Ali Wong.**

I think it's mostly important for people like me, who are in a position where they can choose to create work about people of colour, to keep making those shows.

**Were your parents supportive of your career choices?**

The greatest gift my parents gave me were their open minds. They had never had any members of their family in the arts or in Hollywood but they believed in me. They wanted me to be happy and let me follow my passion.

**Is there a season two for *Never Have I Ever* in the works?**

I hope so!

# High School Hi-Jinks

Women of colour are finally fronting American high-school dramas. Could it be the beginning of something new?

Shubhra Gupta

IN ONE of those staple scenes of American high-school hi-jinks on screen, a *simpatico* teacher tells the lead character Bindu Choudry, who's been having a really hard day, that high school is "all about finding your tribe, your posse, your band of merry-makers". Wait a minute, though. Lead character? A girl named Bindu? In a film set in an American high school?

That's right. In the 2019 *The MisEducation Of Bindu*, a debut feature by LA-based Prarthana Mohan, produced by Jay and Mark Duplass, the girl at the centre of the narrative is Indian. Bindu (Meghan Suri) has been homeschooled up until now, and injected into the high-school system by her overly protective mum's (Priyanka Bose) recently-acquired white American partner (David Arquette), because he thinks she will miss out if she doesn't get to sample the all-American high-school experience.

Which is all well and good. But when you're gangly, awkward and don't quite know what the rules are, and no one looks like you, that same "experience" can be daunting.

Especially when you're having the kind of day that Bindu is, which involves a shocking degree of sexism, meanness and cluelessness. At the end of the awful day, you see those growing-up pangs get some quenching: despite the movie going clunk occasionally, Bindu does manage an education.

The American high-school movie has long been a sub-genre among the vast-and-varied Hollywood coming-of-age tales, but the presence of an Indian-American girl at the centre of the narrative, was a new thing. The small indie film screened at a couple of film festivals in the US last winter, but obviously Bindu Choudry didn't manage to become a talking point, the way another Indian-American girl doing-the-high-school-thing recently has: a vast



**THE YOUNG ONES**

(Above) Still from *The Half of It*; a poster of *The MisEducation of Bindu*

number of Netflix-watching denizens know who Devi Vishwakumar, the brash, fast-talking teen, who is working through her dead-daddy and fraught-mommy issues, who has hot takes on everything and doesn't care who knows it, in Mindy Kaling's smash web-series *Never Have I Ever*.

Despite the show's stereotypical characterisations (terribly strict *desi* mums warding off b-o-y-z, and, gasp, s-e-x), what works in favour of *Never Have I Ever* is the way teenage angst has been made relatable. And, of course, the central character played with supreme sass by Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, who makes us both want to shake Devi and root for her.

There's no doubt that the show's creators were always going for the broad brush-stroke-y sitcom tone, given the genre. Never have we ever seen a brown teenage girl as keen to have her bones jumped, even if she doesn't quite know what exactly it entails. Nuance? What's that? Regardless, the soaring popularity of Devi has proved that young people like her can now get their own show, and run with it. Given the mostly tightly closed gates of American entertainment, where race is such a huge factor when it comes to choice

and access, this leading-from-the-front representation can be seen as a step up: remember the long lines of confused ABCDs that would pop up in film and TV to canned laughter, only to stay strictly on the periphery? Finally, the brown girls are in the ring, *tra la la la*. In the next season, maybe there will be complexity.

Nuance, and a lovely delicacy, can refresh the same theme, if it's another kind of work altogether. There's nothing generic about Alice Wu's film *The Half Of It*, which premiered on Netflix just a week before the Kaling show. In the lead is the quiet, observant, nerdy (yes, she's that girl who makes money by writing term papers for other students) Chinese-American Ellie Chu. *The Half Of It* has been labelled a queer coming-of-age film, but to me the queerness is not a starting point: it is a gradual discovery of self. You don't look at Ellie Chu as "that queer girl". You look at her as a young girl who is instantly drawn to Aster, another young girl who seems to have the same affinity to the written word as she does. You also see Ellie's fortifying friendship with high-school classmate Paul, the inarticulate jock who asks her to help him woo Aster.

Ellie Chu, a fictional teenager on the other side of the world, lives in a movie, but her story makes us feel. The pain and the rapture of young love, of growing up, and finding who you really are. All of it, even if it is in the half of it.



# Season in the Sun

Actor-producer Mindy Kaling on creating a credible Indian-American teenager and getting tennis legend John McEnroe to narrate her new web show

Ektaa Malik

IN 2005, Mindy Kaling rolled into the American TV space with the hugely popular and award-winning sitcom, *The Office* (2005-'13), which she helped write. Her character Kelly Kapoor, an Indian girl who liked shopping and obsessed over the lives of American film stars, was a breakthrough in how Indian Americans would come to be projected on screen — self-assured, sassy and without exaggerated *desi*-ness. Since then, the 40-year-old Indian-American actor, writer and producer has headlined *The Mindy Project* (2012-'17); created another sitcom, *Champions* (2018), and also appeared in *Ocean's 8* (2018), alongside Rihanna, Anne Hathaway and Sandra Bullock. Born to first-generation Indian migrants in Boston — a doctor mother and an architect father — Kaling is the poster child of a new Hollywood, where people from different ethnicities are finally breaking free of stereotypes. In *Never Have I Ever*, a 10-part series she has created and produced for Netflix, Kaling has given the world Devi Vishwakumar, an Indian-American teenager who is as concerned about her first kiss as she is about her SAT scores. In an email interview, Kaling talks about adapting

bits of her life for the show and writing real characters. Excerpts:

**There is talk about *Never Have I Ever* being based on your life. True?**

Yes and no. I grew up in the 1980s and '90s and didn't want to do a period show, so that's a big difference. I was nowhere near as brash and willful as Devi, but I can relate to her grief of losing a parent. Devi and I also share a similar struggle with our relationship to India. I was also a huge nerd.

**It's refreshing to see an Indian-American girl who wants a wholesome teenage experience.**

I love that Devi has many different obsessions that felt real to me. I wanted to get good grades as much as I wanted to have a boyfriend. I think that's relatable to everyone.

**Maitreyi Ramakrishnan landed the role of Devi from an audition. Did it remind you of your first audition?**

Lang (Fisher, co-creator) and I were charmed instantly by Maitreyi. She was so confident and comfortable in her skin, something pretty rare for a girl so young with no on-camera experience. When I auditioned back in the early 2000s (which was





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## THOSE MONTHS, THOSE MINUTES

Forced into an unprecedented lockdown, sport is staring at an unfathomable despair. Indian athletes, though, have given the country reasons to rejoice in the past.

Chess legend **VISWANATHAN ANAND** tells **SANDIP G** how he scaled the summit of world chess for the first time in 2000 after several near misses.

# 10,000 Zoom in for closed-door game

A Danish football club uses video conferencing application as supporters attend game virtually, but in real time

**GAURAV BHATT**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

MOVE OVER, cardboard cutouts.

On Thursday, Denmark one-upped neighbours Germany as the Superliga returned to action in front of thousands of live fans. A large videoconference at AGF Aarhus's stadium meant that the footballers had a gameday atmosphere, and the spectators had a Zoom with a view.

And when the hosts scored a 92nd-minute equaliser against opponents Randers FC, Ceres Park rang with cheers. The stands remain empty, but the club says thousands of faces will continue to flicker across the three giant screens — the world's first 'virtual grandstand'.

"I imagine you also have been getting used to video meetings, working from home and using Zoom technology?" laughs AGF's head of media, Soren Carlsen. "We tried to use that technology to create a community around the game for our fans who are our family. It was a great success and we look forward to continuing it this Monday."

Earlier this month, Germany restarted its league and clubs countered the empty arenas with cutouts, mannequins and piped-in noise. Leagues and broadcasters worldwide are also trying out innovations to replicate the fan experience in the pandemic age. AGF's cheer-from-home model is a viable stop-gap solution.

It was inspired by numerous brainstorming sessions among club officials over Zoom once the suspension began, and a Danish TV show which saw citizens join a famous artist for a singalong performance.

Over the next few weeks, the club installed the three-piece video board — which stands over 9 feet tall and 131 feet wide — and got in touch with the California-based Zoom company. While a single Zoom meeting couldn't accommodate 10,000 participants, 556 meetings comprising 18 users each did the trick. Multiple rooms also helped break down the attendance into smaller chunks, and supporters signed up to be in their preferred "stand".

Two smaller screens were installed for



Spectators follow a live Superliga match between AGF Aarhus and Randerson on the Zoom application. *Reuters*

**A single Zoom meeting couldn't accommodate 10,000 participants, 556 meetings comprising 18 users each did the trick.**

away and neutral fans and those interested could pick up the 'tickets' for the Zoom link and a spot on the board.

"There were 10,000 links, but the number of viewers was a lot more because people attended the match in groups," says Carlsen.

The tickets however were free of charge.

"We didn't think it was right to charge our fans. It's not their fault that they can't come to the game. There were some costs for the big screen and other technical stuff, and we put in a lot of hours. We had a lot of extra people working on the project. But we would like

to put that investment into our fans."

The board, that ran along one side of the field, could fit 200 fans' faces at once. Fifty moderators toggled between different faces to display on the screen, and also had to remain vigilant to any rude gatecrashers.

"That was also one of the conditions from the Zoom guys. It's an American company, so they needed that we have some very strict protocols. I'm proud to say we only had two people who were kicked out," says Carlsen, adding: "They were showing some parts of the body you're not supposed to show."

#### Cut out for fans

Carlsen laments Bundesliga's 'Geisterspiele' (ghost games) but says cardboard cutouts still have their place.

"You should still do the cardboard thing. Two days before the game, we held an event where fans came and decorated the stadium. It was a nice afternoon. The families got a break, the children were draw-

ing on these cardboards. But it is a small visual effect that has no bearing on the game. They can't cheer."

Sound was of utmost importance — "people at the back office tasked us to create some sort of an atmosphere and the team and manager didn't want to feel like they played in an empty stadium" — but it was also the most challenging to control. Multiple users increased the risk of incoherent noise, and the club encouraged chants and songs in unison.

"We found a solution where we had pre-recorded sounds from our fans from earlier games, and we were able to mix that up with the sound, the noise and the chants from Zoom," says Carlsen. "I talked to some of the players after the game and they said it was a good idea."

The broadcast cameras across the field captured the faces brimming with joy, not just happy to be watching live football but also to catch up with fellow stadium-regulars.

#### THE WALL HAS EYES

##### ■ How does it work

The 'virtual grandstand' — a 43-yard long video wall — runs along one side of the field at AGF Aarhus's stadium. Fans sign up for free links to a Zoom meeting scaled up to 10,000 participants. Fifty moderators keep the display changing, granting each fan close to two minutes on the board.

##### ■ The challenges

In a Zoom room, fans can only watch each other. They would need another screen to follow the match. The delay between the live game and the broadcast on TV means the fans' reactions will also be delayed by several seconds.

"I have to say, it was pretty moving to watch the fans at home, especially when we scored the late equaliser. I saw a couple who kissed each other, children cheering with their mom and dads. It was like we had an intimate connection."

The event has drawn universal praise. Fans who were sceptical sent out congratulatory messages to the club. The TV station was happy with the refreshing telecast. And Carlsen's phone hasn't stopped ringing.

"We have talked to big clubs from all over Europe. Norway, England, France, Germany. Also, people from the United States who want to recreate this. All we say is 'go ahead, try it. Use big screens alongside the pitch, not just the screens at our stadiums.'"

The club has one more piece of advice. "Make sure you have an event where you engage the fans. In our experience, the fans are missing football, but they are also missing the community and the camaraderie that is around football."

## West Indies cricket team, staff to take 50% pay cut

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MAY 30

CRICKET WEST Indies (CWI) has announced a temporary 50 per cent reduction in salaries and cricket funding across the entire regional cricket system, effective from July. The Covid-forced decision came at a time when CWI already has been reeling under revenue contraction without a broadcast rights deal. With question marks over this year's Caribbean Premier League future, scheduled in August-September, West Indies cricket is staring at uncertainty.

A CWI release said its Board of Directors agreed to the cut to "safeguard CWI's future while delivering at least a minimum level of job protection", acting on the recommendations received from the Financial Strategy Advisory Committee (FSAC). Bereft of any cricket for the last three months and "great uncertainty" on regular cricket's resumption, loss of income has hit the West Indies board hard.

"Cricket is the beating heart of our region for many individuals, communities, and economies. This pandemic is hurting every West Indian and this decision to cut staff and player incomes has been a very difficult one to make; one that will impact so many members of the cricketing family around the Caribbean. This business continuity plan unfortunately requires all stakeholders to make a huge sacrifice, but I'm confident that it won't be long before CWI will be in a position to ensure that the sport we love can restart and be enjoyed once again by the thousands of cricket fans across the region & diaspora," CWI chief Ricky Skerrett stated.

CWI is facing a two-fold problem. The pandemic has all but voided Windies' domestic season. Also, with the T20 WC likely to be postponed, the board could miss out on its revenue share from the ICC — in the range of \$8-10m — due in September. And CWI is yet to find a new broadcaster for its matches. It previous broadcast rights deal expired in December last year. Skerrett recently spoke about how a decline in revenue has put West Indies cricket in a spot, given that its "expenses are fixed" including a payroll that exceeds "\$1.5m per month to cover players, etc."

## BRIDGE

When the dummy appears, it will often fall into one of the LSD groups. 1. Type L: A dummy that has a long usable, or soon to be usable, side suit. 2. Type S: A dummy whose main thrust is side-suit shortness. 3. Type D: A dummy that is balanced, dead, so to speak. No threatening length, no threatening side-suit shortness.

DECLARER SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	♠ K743				
	♥ Q108				
	♦ 2				
	♣ 87432				
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH		
	♠ 98				
	♥ 732				
	♦ AJ83				
	♣ AKQ9				
2♥	2♥	Pass	4♥		
Pass	Pass	Pass			

You lead the CA. Partner plays the C5 and declarer the C6. Do you have any chance of beating 4H? What do you play at trick two?  
The East Hand: S-10852 H-54 D-K974 C-J105  
The South Hand: S-AQJH-AKJ96 D-101065 C-6

Even if partner has a singleton club, it is highly unlikely that club tricks can get away. Where are they going? What can get away are diamond tricks! Shift to a trump at trick two.

If partner happens to have something like HKxx (a holding he can't have on this deal) he should play low. Then if several cards are ruffed in dummy, his king morphs into a trick.

Whatever, you have to stop diamond ruffs. And when you get in with a high diamond you will lead another trump.

With a trump switch and trump continuation when in with a diamond, declarer has to lose three diamonds and a club. With no trump switch, declarer can ruff at least two diamonds in dummy and come to ten tricks: five hearts in the closed hand, three spades and two diamond ruffs in dummy.

It should be noted that when dummy comes down with a long suit, dummy will also have a short suit. Now what? If the long suit is usable, it is a type L dummy. If it is not, it is a type S dummy. It sounds good, but how will you always know whether it is a usable suit or not? Frequently one defender knows while the other can't be sure.

#### DECLARER SOUTH (CONTRACT 6H) TEAMS

NORTH	SOUTH (YOU)
♠ J109873	♠ AQ
♥ 9763	♥ AK Q84
♦ 10	♦ AQJ6
♣ Q2	♣ AJ

A trump is led and your right-hand opponent plays the jack. Your plan? You can assume the trumps break 3-1; within that assumption, the contract is 100% certain on any layout.

## 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.

\_\_\_\_\_ through the windshield, not the rear-view mirror. - Byrd Baggett (4,2,4)

BDAEO



NXIOT



EPUYLL



IRSYFK



SOLUTION: ABODE/ADOBE, TOXIN, PULLER, FRYSKY  
Answer: Look at life through the windshield, not the rear-view mirror. - Byrd Baggett

## SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2271

#### QUICK CLUES

##### ACROSS

- Lack of strictness (6)
- Weak (6)
- Nabokov novel (4)
- Birdseed (10)
- Iman, at birth (6)
- Shouted, "How's that!" (8)
- Occurrence (9)
- Cut and paste (4)
- Chops (4)
- Making ready (9)
- Least lengthy (8)
- Talkative (6)
- Measures in length, breadth or thickness (10)
- Harvest (4)
- Rebellion (6)
- Gourmet (6)

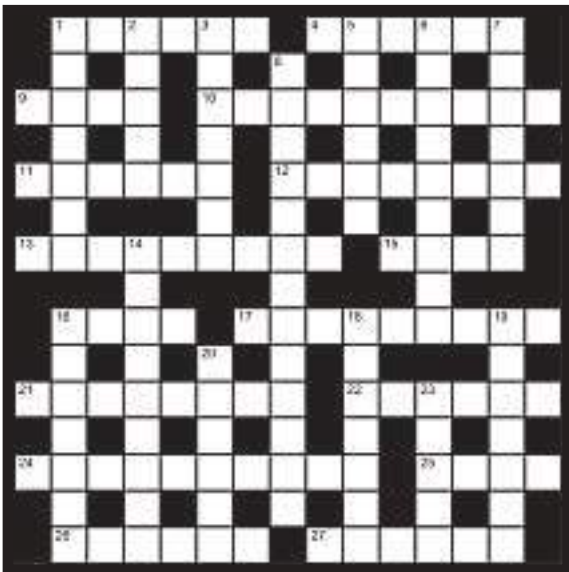
##### DOWN

- 16th president of the US (7)
- Ohio city — "In axe" anagram? (5)
- Tangible (7)
- Jupiter's moon (6)
- Onlooker (9)
- Basic constituent (7)
- Imprisonment (13)
- Seriously (2,7)
- Rejection of belief in deity (7)
- Painter Pablo (7)
- Lunatic (7)
- Individual (6)
- Pungent (5)

#### CRYPTIC CLUES

##### ACROSS

- Sort the French arouse (6)
- Renovate this clerical insurer (6)
- Wild cat with sound connections (4)
- Money you don't get for nothing? (4,3,3)
- Come back quickly after making an impact (6)
- Name in credit as thriller writer (8)
- Landing field at which converts adore the head of the Catholic church (9)
- Contemptible person can be no saint! (4)
- Didn't walk the street, we hear (4)
- When there's trouble one is sure to be put out by foreign gentlemen (9)
- Took off and had a meal around one (8)
- Powerful and absurd myth about



- one great leader (6)
- Console men suffering from drowsiness (10)
- Cheat or get come-uppance, all right? (4)
26. Two girls, one girl — or a man (6)
27. Exclamation from an old god! (2,4)

##### DOWN

- Essential record for principal speaker (7)
- Ex-president with nothing on? (5)
- Endless fluid runs to Oriental and ancient city — it's alcoholic (7)
- Discovery means plea is changed (6)
- The French to have no right to be balletic during such evasiveness (9)
- Sensible little girl making an impression (7)
- Blaming some discotheque before last year comes to a finish (13)
- Kimberley's scheme concerning canine regulation (9)
- Once again came to Kew with earring swinging (7)

- Brief report of warm weather conditions? (7)
- Deserter's retreat (3-4)
- Rather cold in the country, we hear (6)
23. Wear nothing as an actress (5)

#### Solutions to 2270

**QUICK CLUES Across:** 1 Fields, 4 Adobes, 8 Cadanza, 9 Obscure, 11 Preeminent, 12 Sane, 13 Pasta, 14 Occupied, 16 Point out, 18 Summi, 20 Hom, 21 Tangential, 23 Digging, 24 Nibbled, 25 Gandhi, 26 Ashram. **DOWN:** 1 Flair, 2 Elevens, 3 Drzhivago, 5 Debut, 6 Backs up, 7 Serengeti, 10 Reporting, 13 Proposing, 15 Cosmetics, 17 Nonagon, 19 October, 21 Trench, 22 Adeem. **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 1 Wafery, 4 Fills, 8 Plaited, 9 Popstar, 11 Raise taxes, 12 Food, 13 Mine, 14 Unfolded, 16 Polke-dot, 18 Yucca, 20 Clan, 21 Brain-child, 23 Egghead, 24 Efforts, 25 Tipped, 26 Exists. **DOWN:** 1 Wilma, 2 Frisson, 3 Reentered, 5 Riots, 6 Lustful, 7 Soap opera, 10 Exmural, 13 Moonlight, 15 Flying-fox, 17 Kinship, 19 Cahoots, 21 Blase, 22 Lutes.

#### SUDOKU 4125

#### Difficulty Level 4s

##### 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 4124



## If it's your Birthday

#### Sunday May 31

Set your priorities now. It's fine to follow one course of action, and keep other options open, just as long as you seek expert help whenever confusion strikes.

#### Monday June 1

Family affairs will dominate, but doubts over recent events should be cleared up. A personal disappointment may turn out to have been no more than a temporary blip.

#### Tuesday June 2

In the words of one famous song, you want the world and you want it now. Yet if your desires are high then you will end up feeling limited, frustrated and unfairly blocked.

#### Wednesday June 3

It seems that you'll hit a reality check in about four months' time. When that happens, unload some of the emotional baggage that had tied you to the past.

#### Thursday June 4

Emotional stars are on your side. The year looks fairly intense, but in a positive way. You'll be drawn into emotional encounters, but they'll enable you to find out more about yourself. It's a recipe for success.

#### Friday June 5

You can't decide whether you want one friend or many, a single lover or a hundred. One thing is certain, which is that you'll be exploring new emotional possibilities.

#### Saturday June 6

You'll be putting on your thinking-cap, musing deeply over long-term choices. You can reach firm decisions, but nothing is forever, and whatever is finalised could be up for a rethink in eight weeks' time.

## YOUR WEEK AHEAD



#### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Sometimes life takes a course of its own and you're left with what on earth is happening. Social gatherings may not be working out as hoped. But what did you expect? This is a perfect moment for getting in touch with a former partner, so dust down your old address books.

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Creative Taureans should soon be on top of the world, as are any Bulls who are bursting with ambition, anxious to show what they're made of. You could be in for a high-spending week, though, with Monday your most extravagant day. That's because you have dreams to fulfil — and some of them need to be paid for.

#### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Mercury, your planetary ruler, is forming dramatic relationships. I tell you this just to show you that you've got a lot of planets on your side. This has two results. First, your ideas and opinions will be stronger than ever. Secondly, your own financial judgment might suffer: please be cautious.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You'll be reclaiming bad debts, taking broken gadgets back to the shops, resolving problems with your bank and trying to get finances on a firm footing. Happily, a partner will prove surprisingly helpful. But just who can offer the most assistance is something you might not be able to predict.

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

The road ahead has many twists and turns; two steps forward, three steps back. That is the pattern of your life this week. The advice is to grin and bear it and take this unique opportunity to clear up chores which have been bugging you since last year. A bank manager, or other financial associate, must be given correct instructions.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You may expect a busy start to the week, with hectic times on Monday and get into the fitness business, cleaning up your diet and taking a stroll down to the gym — or at least around the block. When it comes to other people, even a close relationship could be an uphill struggle.

#### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Your friends, lovers and acquaintances have one thing in common; they seem unable to make up their minds or even turn up on time. Your happiest moments will feature good conversation, and hopefully an unexpected trip. At work, you may use your intuition; it's partly a question of applying commonsense.

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Everything depends on how you respond to the last month's worth of offers and invitations. You really don't want to turn down anyone without giving them a fair hearing. After all, you don't know what you'll be missing! You must, as a matter of principle, treat all financial transactions with suspicion until the weekend.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Mercury's awkward aspects are a sure sign of a merry old muddle. Mind you, that doesn't mean that you're not about to come up with some pretty amazing conclusions. As the relevant issues at home are so complicated, you should refuse to commit yourself, at least until you have all the information.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your quite understandable self-interest should be tempered by the highest of motives, and partners will give you all credit due to you for that. You'll do your level best to see that what is good for you is good for everyone. Business fortunes could improve within about four weeks.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Things are not always what they seem. It may look as if other people are being inconsiderate, ducking out of engagements or just not turning up. But, look at it like this: every cancellation gives you the chance to change your plans, so they suit you.

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

What a strange time this is. Your imagination may be troubling you, but at moments like these even trivial events give a glimpse into life's deeper meaning and the reasons why you're here. At least you will worry much less about delays and postponements.