



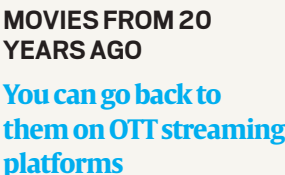
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EXPLAINED



New Delhi

REVISED PRICING APPROVED

Cap on Covid treatment cost, hospital concerns remain

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Anil Bajjal Saturday approved the recommendations by an expert committee for capping Covid-19 treatment cost in private hospitals in the city. The committee, led by NITI Aayog member Dr V K Paul, had fixed the rates for isolation beds and ICU beds with and without ventilator at Rs 8,000-10,000, 13,000-15,000 and 15,000-18,000 respectively. The decision was approved in a meeting by Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), headed by the LG, which was also attended by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. As per the approved guidelines, the charges will be applicable to all beds till 60% of the total capacity of a hospital. Earlier, hos-

pitals were charging Rs 24,000-25,000 for an isolation bed, Rs 34,000-43,000 for an ICU bed without ventilator, and Rs 44,000-54,000 for an ICU bed with ventilator, excluding PPE charges. "The rates recommended for private hospital beds would be all-inclusive... The package rates would include cost of medical care for underlying co-morbid conditions...for the duration of care for Covid," a statement by the LG house stated. The guidelines were decided on a day the city saw 3,630 cases and 77 deaths. While the total cases are now 56,746, the number of people that have recovered rose to 31,294, boosted by 7,725 people recovering between Thursday and Friday. The recovery rate has jumped to 55.1% and the total active cases in Delhi are now 23,340.

As many as 5,981 people are admitted in hospitals of which 3,601 are in private hospitals. The decision to cap treatment charges was taken after complaints by Covid-19 patients against private hospitals for charging exorbitant rates for treatment. The Delhi government in a statement said it had pushed for increasing the number of beds with the capped rates after the Centre recommended reserving a lower percentage of beds. "After deliberations, it was unanimously decided to cap price of all the reserved beds for Covid patients which will benefit the common man and leave no scope for arbitrary overcharging," said the statement. The state health department has also been asked to set up an efficient system for feedback and grievance redressal so as to strictly ensure implementation of the recommendations.



3,601 people are undergoing treatment in private hospitals in the city. Gajendra Yadav

"The committee's recommendations in respect of treatment charges are encouraging. However, we do not know if the rates subsume the costs of managing co-morbidities, high-end medicines, and investigations... Given the nature of Covid-19, severely-affected patients are experiencing lengthy admissions... Even at these rates, the costs to Covid patients will not be afford-

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL				
TOTAL CASES: 56,746 NEW CASES: 3,630				
	Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Tests
June 18	2,877	3,884	65	8,726
June 19	3,137	1,828	66	13,074
June 20	3,630	7,725	77	17,533
Total	23,340*	31,294	2,112	3,51,909
*Total active cases				

able," said Malini Asola, the co-convenor of the All India Drug Action Network, a group assisting Covid patients across the country. "While we support transparency of pricing, hospitals are incurring considerably increased expenses on both non-Covid and Covid patient care. It is important to ensure there is no compromise in the quality of care or the safety of healthcare professionals. We, therefore, request the committee to review the recommendations," Fortis Healthcare said. Dr Harish Pillai, Member, FICCI Health Services Committee, said the body had suggested a pricing structure which was ignored. "Forcing private hospitals to accept arbitrary pricing will result in more hardships and also push several units into financial distress and closure," he said.

Mob had hidden sticks and iron rods: Cop murder chargesheet

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

DELHI POLICE head constable Rattan Lal (42), who was killed during the riots that broke out in Northeast Delhi on February 24, suffered 21 injuries on his body, and died of "hemorrhagic shock as a result of ante-mortem injury to lungs produced by projectile of rifled firearm". As per the chargesheet filed in the murder case of Lal by the Delhi Police, the head constable suffered "abrasions, lacerated wounds on his hands, fingers, upper eyelids, left eyebrow, ears, knees, legs and knee joints". On February 24, Delhi Police received information that "anti-CAA protesters are sitting on the slip road of Wazirabad road... and they are very aggressive". As per a statement recorded from an injured policeman, constable Sunil of Dayalpur police station, "DCP Shahdara Amit Sharma was pres-



Head constable Rattan Lal

ent there with his staff... around 1 pm, protesters came to the Wazirabad main road so senior officers present there tried to convince them not to... the crowd had sticks, baseball sticks, iron rods and stones." As per the statement in the chargesheet, "ACP Gokalpuri and DCP Shahdara warned the protesters again... some people from the crowd pelted stones at the police party... They had hidden sticks, baseball, iron rods in the tent and started beating police and passers-by."

The statement mentions that there were a large number of protesters and they snatched "gas shells" and "lathis" from police personnel and started beating them up. "The crowd, including some women, started hitting ACP Gokalpuri, DCP Shahdara, and HC Rattan Lal... they were hit with stones and sticks. All three fell there and heavy stone pelting happened due to which they hurt their head and there was heavy bleeding," said the statement by constable Sunil. The chargesheet mentions that DCP Shahdara received serious injuries along with several other personnel. Protesters started "pelting stones at the police officials unwarranted... Some were lucky as they were able to jump off the five feet high divider but some got stuck and were dreadfully lynched. These police officials collapsed then and there. The violence was ferocious," reads the chargesheet.

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REGISTRAR

ADVERTORIAL

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What is the history behind starting Bikanervala?

Our family business started way back 115 years ago with a sweets and savoury shop called 'Lalji' in Bikaner, Rajasthan. 'Bikanervala' came into existence when in 1950 my father and uncle moved to Delhi in search of new avenues to explore business expansion. At first, both of them set up a stall in Chandni Chowk, one of the oldest and busiest markets in old Delhi, to sell sweets. Later they set up a small shop under the name of Bikaner Bhujia Bhandar in Paranthe Wali Gali. The Delhiites loved the taste of all our ancestral recipes of namkeens and sweets and started addressing us by the name of 'Bikanervala' and thus a new brand was born under the aegis and loving care of my father and uncle. So, in a sense, the brand in its present form came into existence in 1950, seven decades ago. In the 1960s, both the brothers increased the company's product line and included many more new varieties of namkeens and sweets, and opened several outlets in prominent



parts of Delhi, including the one in Karol Bagh. It was in 1965 that I gravitated towards the family business upon the insistence of my father. I was just 16 years old then and had just finished high school. I learnt the art of family business from my father and other masters of trade, and thus started experimenting with the products. I recall vividly that at the time Delhiites were unaware of Kaju Barfi or Sponge Rasgulla, and so we introduced them to Delhiites. In the 1980s, seeing the scope and realising the need to expand, we opened several outlets in various parts of the country. In 1996, we went global and currently operate a number of outlets across the globe, including franchised ones. Our first franchise came up in Nepal around 25 years ago. However, we still have a long way to go and our relentless approach to maintain quality remains deeply embedded in all our endeavours. **How many outlets do you have currently in India and abroad?** Today, we have become a household name with over 110 outlets spread across the length and breadth of the country. Our brand enjoys a global presence with 27 outlets operating in UAE, Nepal, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA.



What are your plans for the next 5 years considering the 'Vocal for Local' push as initiated by the Government of India? Given the humongous challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our goal currently is to ensure safety and security of our workers, staff and, primarily, the customers. In the next 5 years, our plans are to expand our reach in the western and southern parts of India. As soon as we can, we also plan to expand to other countries. The core of our expansion is, however, to stick to our commitment of making the best products without compromising on the quality quotient. **Currently, what precautions are you taking to ensure safety and well-being of your staff and customers?** Our customers should be worry-free while either ordering online or collecting parcels from our outlets, as we ensure 100% safe working environment for all our staff amidst a well-facilitated centralised kitchen. We follow all the standard SOPs regarding hygiene and other norms, including social distancing and thermal screening. We regularly have audits for safety and quality checks. **What parameters have made Bikanervala a household name for millions of Indians?** In our outlets, the quality and the kind of food you get is the same as

your home-cooked meal. Whatever age-old, traditional recipes are there in our Indian kitchens, you will find all in our offerings. For instance, desi-ghee-made sweets, dry fruits-related recipes, North and South Indian food etc. We have made SOPs for each of these recipes and that is why you will get homemade flavour in each of these dishes and that too at a reasonable price. So, we assure our customers that they can order their food online or can opt for takeaways at our outlets without any worry. **Do you also export to other countries?** Through our packaged foods brand 'Bikano', we export Traditional Namkeens, Sweets, Snacks and Ready-to-Eat Food to some 40 countries across the globe. Almost all the products under the brand of Bikano are available in India with distribution footprint almost in every state. How many outlets have you been able to reopen after the lockdown? We're currently opening our outlets based on the guidelines received from the Central and State governments. For now, we've been allowed takeaways and home deliveries. Most of our outlets in Delhi-NCR are now open, and in the other states we're still waiting for the guidelines. Our main priority is the safety and well-being of our customers, employees and team.

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THE OUTBREAK

THE CITY

BRIEFLY

Gurgaon prepares for monsoon

Gurgaon: As monsoon approaches Delhi-NCR, authorities in Gurgaon have begun taking steps to prevent waterlogging and protect residents from catching mosquito-borne diseases. On Saturday, MLA Sudhir Singla inspected the underpasses and waterlogging-prone areas in the city, where officials said “breakers” are in place to prevent water from flowing in. “We have stocked up on medicines and fogging is underway. Our health inspectors and malaria workers are identifying water bodies and using black oil, which will prevent mosquito larvae from forming in them,” said Gurgaon CMO Dr Virender Yadav.

30 booked for protest against Chinese firm

Noida: More than 30 members of the Hindu Raksha Dal outfit were booked under IPC Section 188 for staging a protest at a Chinese mobile company in Greater Noida on Saturday. Police said the group had gathered at the Oppo Company Gate to mark their protest against Chinese products.

HC to allow public viewing of proceedings via video

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Saturday permitted public viewing of the court proceedings conducted through video conferencing. “The High Court of Delhi Rules for video conferencing of courts 2020 permit public viewing of the court proceedings... Thus, links will be offered for public viewing,” said a circular issued on the matter.

Tihar official tests positive

New Delhi: A superintendent from jail number 4 of Tihar Jail tested positive for Covid-19, said jail officials on Saturday. The officer is stable and has been advised to remain in home quarantine.

Three held for robbery

New Delhi: Three men were arrested for allegedly stealing cash and jewellery worth around Rs 5 lakh after hypnotising a 70-year-old woman in South Delhi’s Chattarpur Enclave on May 29. **ENS**

FOR COVID CARE

Coaches too hot for patients, Rlys looks for solutions — and some rain

IRAM SIDDIQUE
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

AFTER CONVERTING train coaches into isolation wards and placing them across various stations in Delhi, railway officials are now exploring ways to bring down the temperature inside these non-AC isolation coaches to make them habitable.

This comes after officials, following an inspection carried out at Adarsh Nagar railway station where 24 isolation coaches were placed, pointed out that the insides of the coaches were very hot, and will be only suitable for Covid patients if cooling arrangements are made.

The Railway Board has tasked its 16 zonal railways to convert 5,000 coaches of old ICF make into isolation coaches, of which about 500 are being placed at various stations in Delhi and are likely to be used soon. In an inspection carried on June 17 by District Magistrate Deepak Shinde, it was observed that the temperature inside was very high (45 degrees Celsius), and the fact that these non-AC coaches were not placed under shade added to the heat. He added that the ceiling fan inside



The Railways had chosen to use non-AC coaches to be converted into isolation coaches as air conditioned coaches were believed to aid the spread of the virus. *Abhinav Saha*

the coaches had no cooling effect.

The Railways had chosen to use non-AC coaches to be converted into isolation coaches as air conditioned coaches were believed to aid the spread of the virus.

At Anand Vihar railway station, where the most of the 267 coaches are placed, railway authorities are conducting trials using aluminum bubble sheets to cover the roof of these coaches.

According to railway officials, the air gap between the two layers of the aluminium sheet will help in bringing down the temperature. Another official pointed out that with monsoon around the corner, the rains will further help in bringing down the ambient temperature inside the coaches. Divisional Railway Manager for Delhi, S C Jain, said, “We are conducting some trials and hoping

that it will bring down the temperature by at least two to three degrees celsius.”

Apart from the high temperature, Shinde in his letter pointed out the lack of preparedness at Adarsh Nagar station, with no area created for donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE) for medical staff, no barricading around platform number 5 where these iso-

lation coaches were placed, and a need to improve the approach road to the station for movement of ambulances.

When contacted, Deepak Shinde said, “The observations made during the inspection have been pointed out to the Railways and they are working on it.” He did not elaborate on the issues.

Railway officials added that over the past four days, several arrangements have been made at the station, including a separate area for donning and doffing PPEs, equipping the coaches with Wi-Fi and CCTV cameras, and a special control room for management of these coaches and a dedicated officer for it. All the coaches have been equipped with a battery back-up to ensure that the fans function at all times.

On Saturday, the Railways held a joint inspection with district administration at Anand Vihar station where 267 coaches have been placed, while another 50 coaches are at Shakurbasti railway station. Railways further maintained that while they were providing the infrastructure in the form of these coaches, the medical and para-medical staff will be provided by the state administration.

Cop kills self after posting final message on TikTok

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

HOURS AFTER posting a TikTok video about feeling low, a 34-year-old Delhi Police constable allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service pistol inside a police station in Southwest Delhi’s Vasant Vihar on Friday night.

According to police, constable Sandeep Kumar, who was posted with the Special Staff in Vasant Vihar, allegedly shot himself in the head around 10.30 pm. Hours earlier, Kumar had posted a video on TikTok in which he said he was feeling sad. “I couldn’t be a good son, husband, brother or a good person. This is the truth...,” Kumar is heard saying in the video. Police said they have found the video on Kumar’s phone.

Police said they have not found a suicide note yet and the family doesn’t know the reason behind the extreme step. A probe has been initiated in the matter.

Kumar hailed from Jhajjar in Haryana and is survived by his parents, wife and two children. An inspector-rank officer who works with the Special Staff said, “He was inside the office when he must have taken a pistol and shot himself. We took him to the hospital but he died on the way. We don’t know how this could have happened, he was happy and energetic. He would often visit my home and meet my children.”

Kumar allegedly killed himself at night, when half the staffers were leaving. His body is in Safdarjung hospital mortuary, where doctors will perform a Covid test before handing it to the family.

Delhi Univ opens online registration, first day sees website complaints

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE DELHI University (DU) on Saturday began online registration for its undergraduate, postgraduate and MPhil/PhD courses. The bulletin of information has been uploaded on the university website, and registrations will be on till July 4.

Dean of admissions Shobha Bagai said the entire admission process will be online and done in a contactless manner. However, on the first day itself, soon after the portal went live, there were reports of the website crashing and being inaccessible.

The university has done away with physical document verification, moving the process online. “Students are being asked to upload all their documents online, and the verification of those will also be done online initially. We are trying to



The university has done away with physical document verification, moving the process online. *Archive*

tie with various exam boards to enable this process. Two boards have agreed, and we hope more will too in the future,” Bagai said in a virtual press meet Saturday. She, however, said the final verification would be done by colleges when “normalcy” returns.

DU is also making two significant

changes to its registration and admission process this year. “Unlike previous years when students were required to select courses and colleges of their choice, this time aspirants will be eligible for all merit courses provided they clear the cut-off,” said Bagai.

She also said the 5% deduction

in marks that used to take place when students from science and commerce applied for BA would be done away to make the process smoother. She said the rule was based on the notion that science students scored more than humanities students but that no longer held any ground.

As reported earlier, DU has also decided to do away with ECA (extra curricular activities) and sports trials due to the pandemic. Admissions to these will be done on the basis of certificates.

“For admission in Music (Hons), aspirants will be required to upload their videos on YouTube and send the link, which will be assessed by a panel. For Physical Education, there will be no practical component for admission. It will be done only on the basis of documents,” said Bagai.

Till 9 pm, the website had seen 19543 UG registrations, 5889 PG registrations and 457 PhD registrations.

HC asks govt to look into Primus complaint

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE DELHI High Court has directed the Delhi government to carry out an investigation against Chankyapuri’s Primus Super Speciality Hospital on allegations that a woman suspected to be a Covid-19 case was not tested and asked to move out of the hospital claiming non-availability of beds.

“As the allegations made by the petitioner (the woman’s father) against Primus Super Speciality Hospital are of a grave nature, the respondent No. 1 (Delhi government) is directed

to carry out an investigation into the same and in case the hospital is found to have derogated in its duty in any manner, take appropriate action in this regard,” Justice Navin Chawal said.

While disposing of the plea by the father, the court in its order passed on Friday clarified, “This court has not expressed any opinion on the allegations so made by the petitioner.”

The court was hearing a plea by a man, whose wife had died due to Covid-19 on June 14 and daughter needed hospital admission.

“The daughter of the petitioner, who is aged about 34

years and is 85% permanently disabled, started suffering from fever and breathlessness, and as her condition aggravated, having low oxygen level with breathing issues and high fever, she was admitted to the Primus Super Speciality Hospital on June 18,” the court recorded in its order.

It further said, “It was suspected that she was also suffering from Covid-19 but the hospital did not carry out any test on her, and in fact, taking an excuse that there was non-availability of beds, asked the petitioner to shift her to another hospital. In fact, she was almost thrown out of the hospital.”

It was submitted that this

was despite the Delhi government website showing beds were available in the said hospital for Covid-19 patients.

The order noted that after the filing of the petition, the petitioner was able to secure his daughter’s admission to Max Super Speciality Hospital in Saket.

The counsel for the man submitted that “though the daughter of the petitioner has been admitted to the hospital, the hospital is yet to carry out the test on the petitioner and his son”.

Delhi government’s counsel Anjum Javed submitted he will request the concerned authority to immediately carry out the tests.

Staffer at minister’s office succumbs, wife positive too

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

SITTING AT Deep Chand Bandhu hospital, Sarita Kumari (47) recalls the last conversation she had with her husband, Ashok Kumar (48), who died due to Covid-19 on Friday afternoon. Kumar, a stenographer at Delhi cabinet minister Rajendra Pal Gautam’s office, was admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality hospital on Thursday, a week after he tested positive for the virus.

Sarita has also tested positive, while her 18-year-old son and 20-year-old daughter are awaiting test reports. “*Kal subah hi message par baat hui thi. Woh meri tabiyat ke baare me pooch rahe the*,” she said while waiting to get admitted to the hospital.

Hailing from Uttarakhanda, Kumar lived in Ashok Vihar. The family said he was particular about wearing a mask and would always remind them to do the same. On Saturday, the family performed the last rites and Sarita came to the hospital directly from the cremation ground for admission. For the last four days, she said has been feeling feverish and has had trouble breathing.

“We all were worried about his health. I couldn’t focus on the signs my own body was showing,” she said.

The family has been facing emotional turbulence ever since Kumar’s younger brother died on June 7. According to an official, his brother was suffering from a liver infection and was availing treatment at BL Kapur hospital. Kumar had been taking care of him. “He died on June 7, after which the doctor conducted a Covid-19 test. He was

Ashok Kumar was a stenographer at Delhi cabinet minister Rajendra Pal Gautam’s office. He was admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality hospital on Thursday, a week after he tested positive for the virus

found to be positive,” said a Delhi government official.

Two days after his death, Kumar developed symptoms and got himself admitted to a private hospital. “His condition deteriorated and he was shifted to Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality hospital. He was put on ventilator support immediately,” said a doctor.

Separately, a 39-year-old doctor working with the department of community medicine in National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) died due to Covid-19 on Saturday morning. Admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality hospital, the deceased, Dr Ashwini Kumar Pratap, hailed from Simlipur village under Banki block in Odisha’s Cuttack district.

He had comorbid conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and asthma, a doctor said.

An official said his wife and three-year-old twin daughters are also availing treatment for Covid-19 in Bhubaneswar. An alumnus of MKCG Medical College in Berhampur, he displayed symptoms of Covid eight days ago, following which he contacted one of his friends in Odisha and sent his family back.

Mistaken for Covid death, 28-year-old is cremated in Faridabad

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, JUNE 20

THE BODY of a 28-year-old who was stabbed to death during a fight between two groups in Faridabad on Friday evening “disappeared” from the mortuary overnight. His family was later informed that the body had been cremated after being mistaken for a coronavirus victim.

Confirming this, officials from Faridabad Police said an FIR has been lodged regarding the matter. “Sonu Khan had been stabbed by 4-5 men Friday, and his body was kept at the BK Hospital mortuary. In the afternoon, however, when the IO and his relatives reached the hospital for postmortem, they discovered the body was missing,” said Sube Singh, Faridabad Police PRO.

Police suspect the body was cremated after officials of the health department mistook it for that of a coronavirus patient. Relatives of the deceased have submitted a complaint against the PMO of the hospital and health workers, and an FIR has been lodged.

“It is suspected that the body

was mistaken for that of a coronavirus patient and handed over to the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad for cremation. We are conducting further investigations to confirm this,” said Inspector Arvind Kumar, SHO of the SGM Nagar police station.

“The murder case has been handed to the Crime Branch at the request of the family. The case lodged regarding the confusion over the body has also been transferred to the crime branch, which is probing the matter from every angle. Strict action will be taken against those responsible,” said the PRO.

Sonu’s relatives, meanwhile, expressed anguish over the fact that they did not get to do his last rites as per their customs.

“We were already so shaken by his death, and now we do not even get to bury him. His post-mortem also was not done. How can something like this happen?” said a relative.

Khan had sustained injuries during a fight between two groups in Faridabad on Friday evening, said officials. An FIR has been lodged against several people regarding the matter.

CULTURE IN THE CAPITAL

Visits by appointment only as art galleries open to a distanced world

VANDANA KALRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

AFTER MORE than two months, Vadehra Art Gallery in Delhi this week opened two new physical exhibitions in its modern and contemporary galleries in Defence Colony. Though visits are only by appointment, it is an attempt to enable in-person viewing of art.

“Even during the absolute lockdown, we had shows online regularly. The response has been amazing... But art is to be seen, it talks to people and that will never change. It has a lot to do with the social milieu, and the digital world cannot replace

that,” says Arun Vadehra, director of the gallery.

While at art institutions operating under the government a decision on reopening is still awaited, private art galleries in the capital that were closed after the lockdown are now cautiously opening their doors to visitors with new mandates, that include wearing a mask, social distancing and frequent sanitisation. “Several precautions are being taken. We don’t want to put the health of our staff or those visiting us under threat,” says Sunaina Anand, director of Art Alive Gallery in Panchsheel Park. She is currently opening the gallery twice a week, and by appointment. “Most people are seeing

works online. Only when they are keen on buying is when they come to the gallery. At times, we are also sending the works home for viewing,” says Anand.

Bhavana Kakar’s gallery in Lado Sarai, Latitude 28, is also allowing restricted visitors by appointment, and some of the collectors interested in viewing the works physically are being shown works at their home. She was in the midst of dismantling and installing a monumental exhibition when she decided to shut the gallery in mid-March, a week before the lockdown was announced. “We had thought we’d shut for a few days, did not know it would be months,” says Kakar.

In March, she was to partici-



Works of Chandra Bhattacharjee are currently on display at Art Alive Gallery

pate in Art Dubai, an annual art fair that was eventually held on-

line this year. “It’s our tenth year and we had a number of events

planned that are now postponed; instead of fretting, we spent the lockdown reevaluating our programme, focussing on improving the virtual experience both for the magazine (Take on Art) and the gallery, since virtual seems to be the way forward,” says Kakar.

Though most galleries are being approached, especially by their regular patrons, for purchases, how art will be impacted by the pandemic and the consequent economic volatility can probably be assessed only a few months later. “As with many industries, there is likely going to be an impact on the art market in the short term, with a gradual recovery — it is difficult to predict timelines in this regard, but a one-two

year recovery period appears to be on the cards as of now. Events such as art fairs and museum viewership are likely to be impacted the most, since they rely on patrons visiting a physical space. For commercial galleries, though exhibition viewership may be impacted, there are alternatives such as appointment-only visits, spread out openings or virtual exhibitions, that can be made to work when social distancing is a necessity. The biggest impact of the lockdown and coronavirus, however, is the inability to truly experience an artwork, and for art to bring a family or group of friends together to visit a show,” says Amal Allana, director, Art Heritage.

The gallery is open by appointment and virtual initiatives have been launched, including a WhatsApp business portal and audio and video series.

While for Bikaner House, the Rajasthan state government will take a decision on reopening, the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) is awaiting central government orders. “Some of the staff has re-joined and we are working on sanitisation of spaces, but the Ministry will decide when to open to the public. Meanwhile, we are preparing for our next exhibition, which will feature works by artists who are ‘National Treasures,’” says Adwaita Gadanayak, director general, NGMA.

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MEDITATION as Inner Peace Day

Shri Mataji travelled across various countries to give self-realisation to seekers (All castes, colours and religion) of truth which gave them relief from stress and INNER PEACE. Sahaja Yoga Meditation is observed as Inner Peace Day on March 21 by 32,00,000 students of 970 Schools in 51 countries. Improved memory and concentration, self-confidence, teamwork, and self-discipline has been observed in students who started doing Sahaja Yoga Meditation.

Inner Peace began as Inner Peace Day, an international celebration of 21st March (Birthday of Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi) as the World Day for Inner Peace. The idea is to establish a day in schools dedicated to World Peace, where students could experience inner peace for themselves. Meditate to Regenerate was set up to spread the message of peace in some of the most troubled areas around the world: refugee camps, occupied territories and places devastated by war.

Sahaja Yoga Unites the World on International Yoga Day Sunday, 21st June 2020

Global Experts, Professionals,
Social Activist, coming LIVE with
30+ sessions from more than
20 countries in more than 10
languages performing from Sunrise
to sunrise, to share the unique
method of YOGA by Kundalini
Awakening and Self Realization
through which one can achieve
a Beautiful state of Thoughtless
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A Divine Gift to Humanity,
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“ You cannot know the meaning of your life until
you are connected to the power that created you ”



HER HOLINESS SHRI MATAJI NIRMALA DEVI
The Founder of Sahaja Yoga

Self-realisation by Kundalini awakening

On this International Yoga Day, we all the Sahaja Yogi children of the world gratefully bow down to You again and again, that You discovered Sahaja Yoga and worked untiringly for the emancipation of the mankind. Millions of Sahaja Yogis across the globe are enjoying the blessings showered by Thee.



Birth Place Chindwara (M.P.)
21st March 1923



Nirmal Dham Delhi (Samadhi)
23rd February 2011

Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi incarnated on 21st March, 1923 at 12.00 noon, at Chindwara (M.P.). Her father Shri P. K. Salve was a man of great character. Nationalist to the core, he became a prominent figure in the India's freedom movement. On 7th April 1947, She married Shri C.P. Srivastava, IAS, who later became Secretary to Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. Later Shri C.P.S. became secretary, International maritime origination for 16 years. After fulfilling her family duties, Shri Mataji launched Sahaja Yoga – the system of en masse Self-Realisation and through Kundalini awakening, on 5th May 1970. With Sahaja Yoga Meditation, millions of seekers today are leading peaceful and stress free lives.

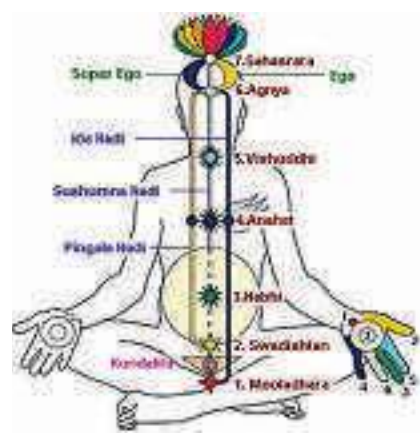
Yoga recognised Globally

Today, Yoga is practiced in various forms around the world and continues to grow in popularity. Recognizing its universal appeal, on 11 December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131. The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states. The proposal was first introduced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Sh. Narendra Modi, in his address during the opening of the 69th session of the General Assembly, in which he said: “Yoga is an invaluable gift from our ancient tradition. Yoga embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action... a holistic approach [that] is valuable to our health and our well-being. **Yoga is not just about exercise; it is a way to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature.**”

The resolution notes “the importance of individuals and populations making healthier choices and following lifestyle patterns that foster good health.” In this regard, the World Health Organization has also urged its member states to help their citizens reduce physical inactivity, which is among the top ten leading causes of death worldwide, and a key risk factor for non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes.

In the words of Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, “What is Yoga? In simple words, it is taking your attention to the Spirit. What does the Kundalini do? She raises your attention and takes it to the Spirit. Only after knowing the Spirit you can know God.”



Proclamation in memory of Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi

The Mayor of the District of Columbia, Vincent C. Gray, in recognition of Shri Mataji's achievements, has proclaimed March 21, 2012 as 'SHRI MATAJI NIRMALA DEVI DAY', in Washington, D.C. He also called upon residents to join in observing this day, enhancing one's inner awareness and world peace. On this occasion, there was a special segment dedicated to Shri Mataji during the celebration on March 21.

Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi was born on March 21, 1923 to Prasad and Cornelia Salve in India. In 1970, she founded a unique method of achieving inner peace, balance and personal growth called Sahaja Meditation, also

known as Sahaja Yoga, with the message and practise spreading to over 100 countries. Since, 1998, the National Institute of Health has been hosting weekly Sahaja Yoga Meditation programmes for patients and staff.

Shri Mataji has been nominated twice for the Nobel peace prize for her universal vision of a unified humanity and her extraordinary global work.

She has also created number of NGO and authored a book called 'Meta Modern Era', which offers deep insights and solutions for the crisis of modern times, and has merited love and respect of countless friends and family.

Why Sahaja Yoga Meditation? (for good health & well being

Sahaja Yoga is a simple and effective form of meditation that helps to reduce stress and enhance physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being. It is an effortless meditation. With pure desire to have self-realisation (SR), a seeker gets it in just a minute or few. There is no physical exercise or mental exercise involved, but the state of thoughtless awareness is achieved.

Sahaja Yoga meditation grants a seeker 'YOGA' or union with the all-pervading power, by awakening the Sacred Energy (Kundalini) lying dormant in three and half coils, in the sacrum bone of every human being. The awakening of the Kundalini is felt by the seeker as a cool breeze either on top of his head or on the palm of the hand. Once the Kundalini starts flowing freely through the subtle instrument of the seeker he/she enters into a meditative state and becomes conscious of the profound and peaceful silence known as "Thoughtless Awareness". After regular meditation, a seeker can give self-realization to others.

The Founder of Sahaja Yoga, Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, brought forth the divine knowledge of how to give en-masse self-realization on May 5, 1970. Shri Mataji gave self-realisation to a small group

of seekers to start. Today Sahaja Yoga has spread more than 140 countries and seekers practising this meditation have experienced transformation in their lifestyle and are easily able to manage stressful situations. Sahaja Yoga/Self-realization is always free of charge, in line with the principle laid down by Shri Mataji.

- Sahaja Yoga meditation is very easy and can be done along with professional and family life
- People from all walks of life can derive benefits, irrespective of their religion, caste or creed
- Health improves. Relief from mental illness due to stress and other health and psycho-somatic problems. And natural cure from addictions.
- No need for any sort of rituals, penance, fasts, asceticism or physical deprivations
 - For students – progress in studies due to improvement in memory & concentration
 - Latent artistic talents get developed
 - Peace, contentment and joy are the hallmarks of Sahaja Yoga
 - Entirely scientific technique with no promotion of blind faith
 - Self-realization through Sahaja Yoga is entirely free

This is brought to you by M B Ratnannavar and Team of Sahaja Yogis Email: mbratan@gmail.com

Cong leaders demoralising soldiers: Nadda

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

AMID OPPOSITION parties asking questions over developments at the Line of Actual Control, the BJP on Saturday talked up Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks at the all-party meeting and attacked the Congress for "raising questions".

BJP president JP Nadda, who addressed party cadres in Rajasthan and Telangana on virtual platforms, accused the Congress of being an "irresponsible" opposition and said its leaders are trying to "demoralise" the nation and the soldiers.

"In the all-party meeting, everyone unanimously stood with the Prime Minister. But the Congress wanted to know how did it happen, why did it happen... where did it happen... You have been in power, don't you know how statements are made by the government on such issues?" Nadda said while addressing the BJP Rajasthan unit.

"The Prime Minister has made it clear that no one has entered and no one is there. Indian Forces are committed to protect the borders. But the irresponsible opposition is trying to find blame," he said.

Nadda's remarks came after leaders across party lines sought answers over the killing of 20 soldiers from PM Modi, who told the all-party meeting on Friday that there was no intrusion on Indian soil and no capturing of any military posts.

The Prime Minister's Office on Saturday issued a clarification saying the violence took place on June 15 because China was trying to erect structures "just across the LAC" and did not desist from such actions.

Quoting comments of the father of an injured soldier who criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted, "A brave armyman's father speaks and he has a very clear message for Mr. Rahul Gandhi. At a time when



JP Nadda

the entire nation is united, Mr. Rahul Gandhi should also rise above petty politics and stand in solidarity with national interest."

Nadda ridiculed Rahul Gandhi for asking who sent the soldiers unarmed towards danger. "Why is the Congress party showing off its intelligence? He asked why the soldiers went there unarmed? Don't you know the international laws? Why are you exposing the limits of your knowledge? You have caught on to an issue that could demoralise the soldiers," Nadda said.

Meanwhile, some non-BJP CMs spoke out against the "manufactured controversy" and "commentary" surrounding the all-party meet.

YSRCP chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said he was "concerned by the manufactured controversy" surrounding the all-party meet. "This is the time to showcase our unity and solidarity with our armed forces and not the time to point fingers... Hon'ble PM and other Ministers gave very convincing answers at the APM...", he tweeted.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao tweeted, "The time is not for politics... We may have our differences in politics but we are united by our patriotism... we're very happy with the all-party meeting."

SKM leader and Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang said the PM's remarks at the all-party meeting were "crystal clear in reaffirming India's stand on the China issue".

NPP leader and Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma said the PM's "answers clearly reflected India's strong stand when it comes to safeguarding our sovereignty. All other 'commentary' may be best ignored."

Army's protective gear has Made in China link, Niti member says relook

After clash at Galwan, Defence Ministry contacted firms for two lakh bullet-proof jackets

RITU SARIN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

ON JUNE 18, two days after the violent faceoff in the Galwan Valley, the Ministry of Defence contacted manufacturers of protective gear and bullet-proof jackets worn by Army personnel in forward areas, including in Leh, for "urgent" reinforcement of supplies — estimated at 2 lakh units.

What has added a twist to this is the fact that a majority of the existing Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) use Chinese raw materials. This includes the company that got the 2017 contract — it's in the delivery stage — for supplying 1.86 lakh bullet-proof jackets to the Army. Announcing the Rs 639-crore contract to SMPP Pvt Ltd, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had said, in Parliament, that there was "no embargo" on the import of raw materials from China for the manufacture of protective jackets



A soldier at the Srinagar-Ladakh highway. AP/File

for the Army.

With the changed circumstances, there are calls for a rethink. Niti Aayog member and former chief of the Defence Research and Development Organisation V K Saraswat has urged a "re-look" at these imports. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Saraswat said: "A year ago, we discouraged import

of Chinese raw materials for critical items such as bullet-resistant jackets for their doubtful quality. We had even called the company which had the existing Army contract and told them to ensure testing of all imported raw materials at their end. Now I feel there should be a clear re-look at all such imports which are made from China just because of the price differential. We should not encourage import of Chinese raw material for strategic sectors like telecom and protective gear including bullet resistant jackets worn by our troops."

On Saturday, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, earlier part of a committee formed by the Department of Defence Production on "indigenisation of critical raw materials for manufacturing defence products," wrote to the Defence Secretary on "renouncing the usages of Chinese products".

That letter specifically mentions imports of High

Performance Polyethylene (HPPE) from China for manufacture of bullet-resistant jackets. Citing steps taken by the Telecom Ministry to "avoid Chinese equipment in upgradation" it says: "Generally all the manufacturers (of protective gear) are importing this material from companies based in the Republic of China and very sizeable foreign exchange is diverted to these companies... we request you to kindly make a policy to reduce dependence on the Chinese materials substantially so that the security and safety of our fighting soldiers is not compromised..."

Meanwhile, industry representatives said that besides HPPE and fabric, boron carbide and other ceramics were also imported from China for manufacture of bullet-resistant jackets. Said S C Kansal, Managing Director of SMPP Pvt Ltd, which is executing the current contract to supply bullet-resistant jackets to the Army: "Yes, we are reliant

upon imports from China but will move with the mood of the country. If required we will look at alternative routes for imports and we have a vast Research & Development wing for doing so."

So dependent on imports from China, the industry waits for MoD directions. Mahendra Gupta, Managing Director of Star Wire (India) Limited, said that his firm uses Chinese material for manufacturing protective gear but given the killings and the standoff, "the protective gear industry needs a clear direction on imports of critical raw materials from China and what is permissible."

Neeraj Gupta, Managing Director of MKU, said the firm imports raw materials from either US or European countries which pushes prices up. "Chinese raw materials are 60%-70% cheaper than other international firms but this is a sector where quality of gear and minimum loss of life on frontlines is of the utmost importance."

Watchdog warns of large-scale phishing attack

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

INDIAN COMPUTER Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), the government's cyber watchdog, has warned of large-scale phishing attack across the country, taking advantage of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In an advisory issued Friday, CERT-In said that the "phishing campaign is expected to impersonate government agencies, departments and trade associations who have been tasked to oversee the disbursement of the government fiscal aid".

It warned people to be aware of "malicious phishing" emails, text messages, and messages on social media "to provide personal and financial information". It said there may be several emails, including ncov2019@gov.in, that spoof—or create fake email addresses that impersonate various authorities—which could be used in phishing.

"The malicious group claims to have 2 million individual email addresses and the attack campaign is expected to start on June 21," the advisory stated. The "malicious actors", it warned, are planning to send emails with the subject "free COVID-19 testing" for residents of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

CERT-In stated: "The phishing campaign is expected to use malicious emails under the pretext of local authorities in charge of dispensing government-funded Covid-19 support initiatives. Such emails are designed to drive recipients towards fake websites where they are deceived into downloading malicious files or entering personal and financial information."

The agency has advised people to not open attachments from unsolicited emails and be cautious about phishing domains and spelling errors in emails as some of the methods of protection.

Assam pollution board tells OIL to shutter ops at Baghjan

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, JUNE 20

ASSAM'S POLLUTION watchdog has told Oil India Ltd (OIL) to shut down production and drilling at all installations in Upper Assam's Baghjan oilfield after discovering that the company had allegedly started operations "without obtaining prior consent to establish/consent to operate" from it. OIL's set-up in Baghjan, where a well has been burning for days after a blowout, is said to have been functioning since 2003.

The closure notice, sent by Pollution Control Board, Assam (PBCA) to the CEO of OIL, also cited a number of alleged environmental transgressions by the PSU.

The ecological disaster at



The Baghjan fire. File

Baghjan in Tinsuika district was precipitated by the blowout at well number 5, reported on May 27. On June 9, the well—located close to the Dibru-Saikhowa national park—caught fire, leading to the deaths of two OIL firefighters.

Around 11,000 people from the surrounding villages are now

in relief camps.

Y Suryanarayana, PCBA Chairman, said: "We had (on June 10) issued a show cause notice to OIL. They had asked us for an extension of time to reply. But we issued the closure notice after a week. The notice applies to all wells in Baghjan, he said.

As per the closure notice from PCBA — issued on June 19 — OIL has been operating the Baghjan oil field installation "without obtaining prior consent to establish/consent to operate from Pollution Control Board Assam, which is a serious violation of the provisions of the Water Act, 1974, Air Act, 1981 as well as Environment Protection Act, 1986".

An official from OIL, requesting anonymity, said that it will seek legal recourse on the matter.

Soren slams Centre's decision on coal mining

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JUNE 20

JHARKHAND Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Saturday said the Union coal ministry's decision to go ahead with commercial mining by private players and subsequent coal block auctions, without taking its concerns into consideration, shows "blatant disregard" for co-operative federalism.

He said there are potential socio-economic and environmental costs to the decision, and that such mining would have an impact on forests and the tribal population.

"We have filed a petition in the Supreme Court. This is a big policy decision and the state government needs to be taken into confidence. Mining has been al-



Hemant Soren

ways a burning issue... A lot of issues like land, rights of the people... need to be sorted. We have decided not to hurry," Soren said Saturday. He added that there should have been a survey to ascertain whether people benefited from the move. "That's why we need to fight this," he added.

"The need for fair assessment of the social and environmental impact on the huge tribal population and vast tracts of forest lands of the state and its residents which are likely to be adversely affected," read an application filed by the state government.

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AN ancient Indian practice, Yoga has many interesting facets to it. For instance, not many of us know that Meditation is a part of Yoga. Moreover, very few of us realise that the challenges that we face in our day-to-day life result either from the people around us, the situation or our immediate surroundings. When you start practicing Yoga, which includes Meditation, there begins a subtle but very powerful internal change inside your body. Your whole persona begins to change, including your outlook towards life. You develop a heightened sense of awareness. You begin to see people for who they truly are, and that realisation in itself brings a lot of peace to your inner being.

Moreover, practicing Yoga Asanas revitalises the body and balances the energies and Doshas (Vata, Pitta, and Kapha), making your body flexible, strong and happy internally. This brings a joyous attitude to your whole being. Further, this allows you to focus on deeper Meditation and breathing practices. When you begin to feel more at peace from within after Meditation, there is an energy which radiates to the people around you.

Further, there are many Yoga Asanas that help you rebuild your immunity, making you stronger in the face of diseases and infections. A holistic practice, Yoga is one of the most effective and time-tested natural immunity boosters that strengthens your physical body, as well as our internal microscopic systems. Yoga helps improve the body's natural defence mechanisms, leading to a healthy, sickness-free body. Regular practicing of Yoga lowers stress hormones, strengthens nervous system, and stimulates lymphatic system. It is also a crucial habit for wellness of the mind as it relaxes and rejuvenates to make us stress-free mentally.

Having a deep faith in the power of Yoga in restoring the body's lost equilibrium, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi first proposed the idea of International Day of Yoga at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on 27 September 2014. Overall, it can be said that "Yoga cultivates the ways of maintaining a balanced attitude in day-to-day life and endows skill in the performance of one's actions."

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Gravolite Family Wishes You A Happy International Day of Yoga

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The Yoga Chakra

THE RECENT Coronavirus pandemic has disturbed the life of people all around the world. Covid 19 and your stay at home is the time where you can fuse all of your energies in practicing Yoga. This would not only help in keeping you engaged, but also help you in redressal of all the quarantine anxiety and stress that you may be facing.

Getting flexible and strong in both your mind and body is crucial now. So on this International Yoga Day, we suggest you incorporate the following 5 Yoga asanas in your daily routine, that help you sail through this tough time, with balance and grace.

1. Vrikshasana (Tree Posture)

It is proven Tree posture has a positive impact on stress and depression. Stand with 2 inches feet apart and focus on a point in front. Bend the right leg and place the foot on the inside of the left thigh. The heel touching the perineum. Extend the arms up. Pull in the tummy muscles and expand your spine. Stay and continue this with the other foot.

2. Uttanasana (Standing Forward Fold)

Bend and touch the floor while standing. Make sure your hips are in front of your ankles while bending. It may be tempting to push your hips backward as you bend, but try to keep them in front of your ankles as much as you can while bending.

3. Adho Mukha Svanasana (Downward-Facing Dog)

This yoga pose is perfect for loosening your hamstrings and shoulders. Place your palms down on the floor. Then raise your bottom in the air with your back straight. Keep going until your legs are straight—or as straight as you can get them.

4. Urdhva Mukha Svanasana (Upward-Facing Dog)

While lying with your stomach on the floor, press your hands to the floor and lift yourself up. Lift your knees off the mat. Push the top of your feet down into the mat. Make sure your shoulders are away from your ears and open your chest. Only move your head back if it's okay for your neck.

5. Sucirandhrasana (Eye of the Needle)

This technique is a simple way to stretch your hip muscles. While lying with your back on the floor, take your left ankle and cross it over your right thigh. If you want to challenge yourself a little more, try lifting your bottom gradually after crossing your ankle over your thigh. Switch legs. And most importantly breathe. Remember that there's more to yoga than being able to touch your toes or undertake complicated poses. Peace of mind, self-compassion, and less stress are just as worthy yoga goals, if not better.

To know more contact us- The Yoga Chakra- 011-40596800 or visit our website www.theyogachakra.com

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

New Delhi

UP relaxes rule to discharge Covid patients

Now, asymptomatic patients can go home after 10 days without second test

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 20

THE UTTAR Pradesh government on Saturday relaxed the rule for discharge of asymptomatic coronavirus patients from institutional quarantine. It said they can be discharged after spending 10 days in hospitals followed by home isolation for a week.

Until now, asymptomatic patients were discharged if their second test, taken on the 12th day from the date of the first test result, returned negative, and they had the oxygen level of more than 94 per cent and no symptoms or fever in the last three days. If these conditions were met, patients were asked to isolate at home for a week. Before this rule, a Covid patient had to obtain two consecutive negative reports.

However, symptomatic patients still have to test negative on the 12th day for discharge.

Principal Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said, "...Asymptomatic patients with no symptoms can be discharged after 10 days and will have to stay in home quarantine for seven days, whereas symptomatic patients will only be allowed to go home after their Covid-19 report is negative." According to a government bulletin on Thursday, the state had 1,01,236 isolation beds, of which, 5,661 were occupied.

In UP, all asymptomatic Covid patients have to be hospitalised. The Supreme Court had earlier this week pulled up the UP government for the mandatory institutional quarantine for patients with no symptoms. "Don't put asymptomatic people in quarantine, you will have a big problem. Noida is doing it and the UP government is in a denial mode," the court said. During a previous hearing, the court observed that the rule may create "chaos 15 days down the line" and ran counter to the national guidelines.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered that "doctors posted on administrative posts may also be considered for clinical jobs". Adityanath instructed officials to ensure surveillance system is made more effective and that the number of surveillance committees should be increased to 1 lakh.

"He asked Health, Medical Education departments along with district administrations to work in this direction as it will be an important effort to break the infection chain," said a statement issued by the state government. Apart from all hospitals in the state, the government also said Covid-19 helpdesks will be established in offices. Adityanath also congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the start of the Gareeb Kalyan Rozgar Yojna. Under the scheme, 31 districts in UP have been shortlisted.



CASES IN DIAL 112 OFFICE

The staff of Dial 112, the Uttar Pradesh emergency helpline, were sent home after six Covid-19 cases were detected in their office in Lucknow on Saturday. Vishal Srivastav

Kerala CM hits out at state Cong chief over ‘Covid queen’ remark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 20

A DAY after Congress state president Mullanappally Ramachandran said state Health Minister K K Shailaja wanted "to become Covid queen", he refused to tender an apology on Saturday, even as Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan referred to the remarks as "anti-women".

While addressing a Congress protest over the Centre's decision to make Covid-19 tests mandatory for expats, Ramachandran had said, "The health minister has done little

for the state's fight against Covid-19 and Nipah. When the Nipah outbreak was reported in Kozhikode (in 2018), a few persons had tried to take the credit (for containing the outbreak). It was the work of doctors and nurses that helped contain Nipah. Congress leaders Ramesh Chennithala, Oommen Chandy and I had been there on various occasions. The minister (Shailaja) had camped in Kozhikode only as a guest artist. She had then been trying for the title of Nipah princess. Now, she wants to become Covid Queen." He refused to apologise on Saturday, saying, "There is no reason to tender an apology. I am

not Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to insult womanhood. The credit of containing Covid-19 goes to health workers, not to the chief minister or the health minister." Responding, Vijayan said the attack on Shailaja reflected a peculiar mental status, and that the comments were anti-women. "We don't see this as a cheap criticism of the leader of the opposition party. Instead, it shows that he gets disturbed when the world lauds the state. We have been fighting against Covid-19 in a manner praised by the world. We have arrested the pandemic, winning the attention of the entire world."

Glenmark announces launch of Favipiravir to treat Covid patients

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JUNE 20

GLENMARK Pharmaceuticals on Saturday announced the launch of antiviral drug Favipiravir (brand name FabiFlu®) for the treatment of mild to moderate Covid-19 patients.

Glenmark has received manufacturing and marketing approval from India's drug regulator, making FabiFlu® the first oral Favipiravir-approved medication in India for the treatment of

Covid-19, officials said at a press conference organised online. Favipiravir is backed by strong clinical evidence showing encouraging results in patients with mild to moderate Covid-19. The antiviral offers broad spectrum RNA virus coverage with clinical improvement noted across age groups 20 to >90 years. Favipiravir can be used in Covid-19 patients with co-morbid conditions such as diabetes and heart disease with mild to moderate Covid-19 symptoms. It offers rapid reduction

in viral load within four days and provides faster symptomatic and radiological improvement. Of most importance, Favipiravir has shown clinical improvement of up to 88 per cent in mild to moderate Covid-19 cases, an official statement said. Glenn Saldanha, Chairman and Managing Director of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd, said FabiFlu® has demonstrated an encouraging response in mild to moderate Covid-19 patients during clinical trials.

Jagannath Temple chief servitor moves SC against Rath Yatra cancellation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE CHIEF servitor of the Jagannath Temple in Puri has moved the Supreme Court asking it to recall its order refusing permission for this year's Rath Yatra scheduled to begin on June 23. Pattajoshi Mohapatra said the annual procession, attended by lakhs, is an "essential religious practice" protected by the Constitution, and that non-observance of the same "affects the very sanctity" of the shrine. Acting on a plea by an Odisha-based NGO, the top court had on June 18 refused to grant permission to hold the festival, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

In his plea on Saturday, Mohapatra claimed that the yatra had been held even during the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1919. "Unlike the Rath Yatras of other Deities of other Temples elsewhere where only the

Utsava Murtis are taken out of the Temple, in the case of the Shri Jagannatha Mandir the main Deities i.e., Jagannatha, Balabhadra & Subhadra themselves move out of the Mandir and therefore this Rath Yatra is unique and has an unbroken tradition. It is humbly reiterated that this ritual is not a mere celebratory festivity for public consumption, but is a mandatory and essential part of the Temple's religious practice, which the Temple or its administrators are religiously mandated to observe and perform under any and all circumstances", the plea said.

Mohapatra, who is also the head of the Nijoga—the association of Sevaks/Sevayats recognized by the Temple Managing Committee under the Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955—claimed the practice "has been recorded in the Skanda Purana and the Niladri Mahodaya, which attest to the validity and significance of the Rath Yatra".

Rajasthan caps treatment, testing fees at private Covid facilities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, JUNE 20

THE RAJASTHAN Health Department on Saturday issued notifications fixing a limit on the charges for Covid-19 testing at private laboratories to Rs 2,200 as well as limiting the per day general ward charge for treatment at private hospitals to Rs 2,000. It also limited the per day charge for a bed in the ICU with a ventilator to Rs 4,000.

The notifications came on Saturday, a day after Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot chaired a meeting regarding the issue.

The notification on testing price limit covers all private laboratories accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). For an ICU with ventilator, the maximum charge per bed has been fixed at Rs 4,000 per day.

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAV NAGAR DIVISION
TENDER FOR SHIFTING OF LINE NO. 6
Sr. No.:1, E-Tender No. : 31/2020-21-R, Name of Work : Porbandar : Shifting of Line No. 6 along with widening of Island Platform against the sanctioned work of Porbandar. Replacement of Mechanical Signalling with existing yard at : Tender Value (Rs.) : 26747128.33, EMD Rs. : 283700.00, Date of Bidding Start Date : 30/06/2020, Date of Bidding Closing : 14/07/2020. The NIT has been uploaded on Railway web site <http://www.ireps.gov.in> on 16/06/2020.

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ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AT TINSUKIA DIVISION
E-Tender No. W-2020-21-TSK- MIP-66 Date: 16-06-2020. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: E-Tender No. W-2020-21-TSK-T-10. Brief Description of Item: Annual Maintenance Contract of Train Indication board/Coach Indication board (DBRS) and Auto announcement system (DBRUG) at Tinsukia Division for Two years. Tender Value: ₹15,06,877.32. Earnest Money: ₹30,100/-, Cost of Tender document: ₹2,000/-. Date & Time of Closing of E-Tender: 13:00 hrs. on 19-07-2020 & Opening on 15:30 hrs. on 19-07-2020. For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAV NAGAR DIVISION
HIRING OF VEHICLE NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

No. W/118/NIT/e-tender/2020-21/S&T/2WA, Date: 17/06/2020. The Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), western Railway, Bhavnagar invite e-tenders on behalf of President of India for the following works: (I) Tender No. 2-2020: Name of Work: Hiring of vehicle (Mini truck having a separate open space in the rear for materials but not closed like TATA SUMO, BOLERO etc.) for maintenance between PORBANDAR-KANALUS section — Bhavnagar Division for THREE years (Estimated Cost Rs. : 1822068.00). (II) Tender No. 3-2020: Name of Work: Upgradation of Railnet at BG Workshop at Bhavnagar Para. (Estimated Cost Rs. : 21,67,725.34). The bidders have to apply on line through link i.e. www.ireps.gov.in only for further detail please visit web site www.ireps.gov.in. Last date for on line apply 14/07/2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.

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NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE NO. EL-WS-GKP-2020-01
Dr. Chief Electrical Engineer, Mechanical Workshop, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur for & on behalf of President of India invites "OPEN" E-Tender through online (e-tendering) for the following work: **Tender No. and Description of Work:** EL-WS-GKP-2020-01, Provision of Exhaust fan for improvement in Ventilation of Toilets of 100 Nos. AC Coaches in Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur. **Approx Value(₹):** 1670352.00, **E.M.D. Money(₹):** 33400.00, **Cost of Tender Form(₹):** 2,000/-, **Completion time/period from the date issue of acceptance letter:** 12Months. ● E-tender online will be submitted upto 15:00 Hrs on dated: 13.07.2020. ● For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway IREPS official website www.ireps.gov.in.
Dr. Chief Electrical Engineer (WS)/Gorakhpur
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955
"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
Dr. CSTE/C/W/Northern Railway, DRM office, 2nd floor, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet system from experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar nature of work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the following work:

Name of work	"S&T work (Indoor & Outdoor) for Provision of Distributed Electronic Interlocking at Mundahai Kalan and Garhi stations along with block working and associated telecom work in c/w new line Rohtak - Maham - Hansi on Delhi Division of Northern Railway."
Approximate cost of the work	₹838.00 Lakhs
Earnest Money	₹5,68,500/- (Rupees Five lakh sixty eight thousand five hundred only)
Completion period	06 (Six) Months
Date, Time & Place for submission and opening of tender.	Tender will be available on www.ireps.gov.in website from 20.06.2020 to 11.30 Hrs on 13.07.2020 and will be opened on 13.07.2020 after 11:30 hrs. Tender can be uploaded from 29.06.2020 to 11:30 hrs on 13.07.2020 and will be opened on 13.07.2020 after 11:30 hrs.
Address from where tender form can be purchased.	The detailed e-tender notice and document will be available on Northern Railway web site i.e. on www.ireps.gov.in from 20.06.2020 to 13.07.2020, bidders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No. 178-SIG/CW/32/95/Pt-1 Dated : 19.06.2020 1397/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

उपरोध पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना अनुमती कार्यदायी संस्थाओं / फर्मों से विभिन्न कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा संख्या ETD/MT/T-07/2020-21 अति अल्पकालिक (पोर्टल पर अपलोडिंग दिनांक 17.06.2020, खुलने की दिनांक 23.06.2020 एवं BID ID 2020_UPTCL_484594_1), ETD/MT/T-08/2020-21 (खुलने की दिनांक 16.07.2020) एवं ETD/MT/T-09/2020-21 (खुलने की दिनांक 16.07.2020) ई-पोर्टल etender.up.nic.in पर निविदा खुलने की तिथि के 12.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की गयी है। ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में ई-निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये अस्वीकार/विमोचित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्तक्षारकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउनलोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन करें। अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड, मेरठ, पत्रांक 1723/वि.पा.ख.मे./निविदा सूचना, दिनांक 19.06.2020

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Civil Engineering Division, Tumkur - 572101.
No.KST:EE:TMK:JE:79:2020-21 DATE:19.06.2020
E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION 02/2020-21
Tenders are invited in E-Procurement mode from registered KPWD/CPWD/MES Contractors for the following work. Interested Contractors can register their names in the e-procurement cell and participate in the tenders. Tender Notification and further details for the work can be downloaded from 20.06.2020 free of cost from the e-procurement web site www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (In Lakhs)	E.M.D	Last date for submission of tenders
1.	Redevelopment of KSRTC Bus Stand in Davanagere City Under Smart City Mission	9341.00	93.41 Lakhs	07.07.2020

More details can be obtained from the office of Executive Engineer, KSRTC, CE Division, Gubbi Kalakshetra Road, KSRTC Bus Station, Tumkuru during working hours on all working days.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
KSRTC, CE Division, Tumkuru.
DIPR/DDU/367/2020-21

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Department of Materials Management (Imports Section)
SOURA SRINAGAR, JAMMU & KASHMIR-190011
E-mail: ammoimports@skims.ac.in, Fax: 0194-2403403

e-NIT No.: SIMS-324-NIT 07 (IMPORTS) OF 2020 DATED: 16.06.2020
Subject: Abbreviated Notice Inviting Tenders for Supply/ Installation/ Commissioning of various Bio-Medical Equipments for Cardiology SKIMS.

On behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science, Soura, Srinagar, e-tenders are invited from the Original Manufacturers/their Indian Subsidiaries/ Indian Agents on the authorization of principal Panufacturers/ Indian Subsidiary if 100% Subsidiary of foreign principals (for imported equipment) and Manufacturers/their Authorized Dealers for the J&K State (for indigenous equipment) for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of following Bio-Medical Equipments:

Group	Name of the Item	Qty.	Tender Fee	EMD
A	Flat Panel Digital Cardiac Cath Lab with 3D Imaging & accessories.	01 No.	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 11,00,000/-
B	Transport Ventilators	02 No.	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 12,000/-
C	Patient Monitors	06 No.	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 24,000/-
D	Transport Monitors	02 No.	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 8,000/-
E	Delibrillators	06 No.	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 60,000/-
F	Single Chamber Temporary external Pacemaker	06 No.	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 15,000/-

The detailed tender document is available on www.jktenders.gov.in & on SKIMS web-site www.skims.ac.in. The NIT schedule is as per following:

Last Date for Submission of Online Bids	22.07.2020 upto 4.00 P.M.
Opening of Technical Bids	24.07.2020 at 12.30 P.M.

Complete bidding process will be done online on e-Tendering portal www.jktenders.gov.in & the tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provision of the detailed NIT.

Sd/- Asstt. Materials Management Officer (Imports) For & on behalf of Chief of Materials Management
No. SIMS-324-NIT 07 (Imports) 2020-1984-91
Dated: 16.06.2020

म.प्र. पुलिस आवास एवं अधोसंरचना विकास निगम
कार्यालय परियोजना यंत्री, भदभदा रोड संभाग क्रमांक-02 भोपाल
Mo. : 9425601534, ईमेल : bhopaldivision2@gmail.com
क्र. मप्रपुआअविनि/142/पंच/भोपाल-02/तथा/20 भोपाल, दि. 02.06.2020
प्रेस विज्ञप्ति
“निर्माण कार्य (138), बहुमंजिला आवास गृह, पुलिस रेडियो कॉलोनी भदभदा रोड भोपाल जिला भोपाल के निर्माण हेतु निविदा क्रमांक-01/2020-21 (ऑनलाइन निविदा क्रमांक-2020_MPPHC_91866_1) आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 03.07.2020 समय 5.00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन खरीदे जा सकते हैं, विस्तृत निविदा सूचना एवं अन्य विवरण Portal : <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
म.प्र. माध्यम/97504/2020 परियोजना यंत्री

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना अनुमती को श्रेणी कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/ फर्मों से विद्युत परीक्षण मंडल, ग्रेटर नोएडा के अन्तर्गत निम्न समूहों/ कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदाई ई-पोर्टल etender.up.nic.in पर दो भागों में निविदा खोलने की दिनांक 03.07.2020 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जिसका प्रथम भाग उसी दिन क्रमांक: 03.00/ 03.15/ 03.30/ 03.40 बजे (यदि अवकाश/ अन्य कारण हो तो अगले कार्य दिवस में) खोला जायेगा। निर्धारित निविदा शुल्क आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई.एस.टी. तथा धरोहर राशि आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई.एस.टी./ बैंक गारंटी के माध्यम से (निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर राशि प्रत्यक्ष-प्रत्यक्ष हस्तांतरित की जानी है) अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र खण्ड, ग्रेटर नोएडा के पथ में पंचायत नगरपालिका बैंक की आर.टी.जी.एस. विज्ञापन, दादरी (जीएमएडू नगर), उ.प्र. संभाग में संश्लिष्ट जावू बैंक खाता संख्या 01900121000007566 (IFSC Code: PUNB0466300) में जमा करवाया जायेगा। निविदा के प्रथम भाग में आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई.एस.टी. दाता नाम किये गये निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर राशि को पे-इन्स्ट्रुमेंट तथा बीज यू.टी.आर. संख्या की प्रति, निविदा प्रपत्र, पैर कार्ड, जी.एस.टी. अनुमति, इन्कम टैक्स रिटर्न की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति, तकनीकी संस्पष्ट यथा को श्रेणी अद्यतन (विद्युत सुरक्षा उ.प्र. सरकार द्वारा प्रदान), ई.एस.आई., ई.पी.एस., बीमा संबंधी प्रपत्र (जो कि अनिवार्य है) इत्यादि ई-पोर्टल पर स्कैन प्रतियाँ (PDF format) तथा ई-निविदा के द्वितीय भाग में दरे एवं वाणिज्यिक नियम व शर्तें ई-पोर्टल पर अपलोड की जायेंगी। निविदा की वैधता खुलने की तिथि से 90 दिन होगी। 1. निविदा संख्या टी-49/ 2020-21: विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड, खुर्जा के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र, जहांगीपुर पर 33 के.वी. बैं के निर्माण का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु. 2,000/- (रु. दो हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु. 590/- (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 20.07.2020। 2. निविदा संख्या टी-50/ 2020-21: विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड, खुर्जा के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न उपकेन्द्रों पर अग्नि यंत्रों की रिपेरायरी का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु. 2,000/- (रु. दो हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु. 590/- (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 20.07.2020। 3. निविदा संख्या टी-51/ 2020-21: विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड, खुर्जा के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न उपकेन्द्रों पर अग्नि यंत्रों की फ्लैशिंग का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु. 2,000/- (रु. दो हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु. 590/- (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 20.07.2020। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग उसी दिन निर्धारित समय पर सर्वजनिक रूप से खोला जायेगा एवं भाग द्वितीय (प्रसन्नविद्ध) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा भाग प्रथम में सम्बन्धित प्रपत्रों का अपलोड ना किये जाने की स्थिति में निविदा का भाग द्वितीय (प्रसन्न विद्ध) नहीं खोला जायेगा। ई-निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये अस्वीकार/ विमोचित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्तक्षारकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन करें। अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परीक्षण मंडल, उ.प्र.पा.नू.कालि., 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र, वाली, ग्रेटर नोएडा, "ग्रेडिएटि में ऊर्जी बचाव" पत्रांक 838/ वि.पा.म./ ग्रे.ना. टी-49 से 51/ 2020-21/ दिनांक: 17.06.2020

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS) EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
1. ECHS invites applications to engage following staff on contractual basis in the under mentioned ECHS Polyclinics for a period of one year, renewable for additional period as per policy:-

Post	Meerut	ECHS Polyclinic Muzaffarnagar	Bijnor	Baghpat	Total Post	Salary (In Rs)	Date
Officer Incharge	01	01	01	01	04	75,000/-	08 Jul 2020
Gynaecologist	01	—	—	—	01	1,00,000/-	
Medical Specialist	02	—	—	—	02	1,00,000/-	
Medical Officer	05	02	01	02	10	75,000/-	09 Jul 2020
Dental Officer	01	01	01	01	04	75,000/-	
Nursing Assistant	01	01	01	01	04	28,100/-	
Pharmacist	03	01	01	—	05	28,100/-	
Lab Technician	01	01	01	01	04	28,100/-	
Dental Hygienist	01	—	01	01	03	28,100/-	10 Jul 2020
Radiographer	—	01	—	—	01	28,100/-	
IT Netwkw Tchr	01	—	—	—	01	28,100/-	
Data Entry Opr	01	—	—	—	01	28,100/-	10 Jul 2020
Driver	01	01	—	—	02	19,700/-	
Clerk	02	01	01	01	05	16,800/-	
Chowkidar	—	—	01	—	01	16,800/-	
Peon	01	—	—	—	01	16,800/-	
Female Attendant	01	—	01	—	02	16,800/-	10 Jul 2020
Safaiwala	02	01	—	01	04	16,800/-	

2. For application format, terms & conditions, kindly see our website www.echs.gov.in. For other details please contact-0121-2658264 between 0900h-1430h. Last date of receipt of application is 04 Jul 2020 at Stn HQ (ECHS Cell) HQ Pashchim UP Sub Area, Sardhana Road, Meerut Cantt. Interview will be conducted wef 08 to 10 Jul 2020 (0900h). Candidates will bring original certificates at the time of interview. Please note all Medical Officer / Medical Specialist will have to give an undertaking that they will not carryout any private practice once they are selected for employment in ECHS Polyclinics.
3. Candidates will enclose experience and salary certificates, if any, alongwith applications and 02 passport size photographs. All candidates should have working knowledge of computers.
4. Medical fitness certificate from SMO / CMO will be attached with the application.

Kargil Congress councillor arrested, suspended over phone conversation

ENS & PTI

JAMMU, LEH, JUNE 20

THE LADAKH Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, on Saturday suspended Congress Councillor Zakir Hussain, a day after he was booked by police over an allegedly seditious phone conversation that went viral on social media. He was arrested early Saturday.

A meeting of the Executive Council was convened by Chief Executive Councillor of LAHDC Feroz Ahmad Khan, following information from the Kargil District Magistrate regarding the FIR

against Hussain and his arrest.

The meeting decided that orders for his suspension shall be issued by the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of LAHDC Kargil.

The power of removal of a member also came up for discussion during the meeting, and it was given out that it vests with the government under Section 19 of the LAHDC Act.

Ladakh Police on Friday booked Hussain over a leaked phone conversation, in which Hussain allegedly makes derogatory remarks on the Indian Army and Prime Minister.

The Congress had distanced itself

from the conversation and issued a showcause notice to him.

"We hereby clarify that this is purely a private conversation between two individuals and the party has nothing to do with it. The Congress strongly condemns the contents of this conversation," Congress district president Nasir Munshi said in a statement.

"District Police Kargil lodges case against a sitting Councillor of LAHDC (Kargil) for viral audio clip containing incriminating contents, prejudicial to the regional/religious peace and tranquillity, spreading rumours and seditious in nature," IGP Ladakh had tweeted.

Hours after casting vote, MLA tests positive for Covid-19

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JUNE 20

HOURS AFTER he cast his vote in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly premises during the Rajya Sabha election, BJP MLA Omprakash Saklecha tested positive for Covid-19 late on Friday night.

The 62-year-old legislator from Javad in Neemuch had also attended the BJP legislature party meeting at its headquarters on Thursday and interacted with senior local and national leaders over the last three days.

While some BJP MLAs volunteered to get themselves tested on Saturday, the Assembly Secretariat, after go-

ing through CCTV footage, informed a few members who stood in the

BSF: Pak drone carrying weapons shot down at LoC

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JUNE 20

THE BSF said that a Pakistani drone carrying arms and ammunition was shot down on Saturday morning at Rathua village in Kathua district's Hiranagar sector along the Line of Control -- months after Punjab Police claimed to have recovered weapons dropped by Pakistani drones.

The incident comes amid reports of militants facing shortage of weapons and increased vigil along the borders.

Pakistan's attempt to use a drone to airdrop weapons adds a new dimension to the militancy in Kashmir, said BSF Inspector General for Jammu Frontiers, N S



The downed drone

Jamwal. He said a patrol party from Pansar border outpost (BOP) noticed a hexacopter drone flying at a height of 150-200 ft from Pakistan towards the Indian side around 5.10 am. The drone fell nearly 250 metres on this side of the border after the BSF party fired several rounds at it.

Fitted with four batteries, a radio signal receiver and two GPS devices, it was 8x6.2 ft in size and weighed 18 kg. The drone was carrying a payload of nearly 5 kg, including a US-made M4 semi-automatic carbine, two magazines, 60 rounds and seven Chinese grenades. The payload carried the name of one Ali Bhai, Jamwal said, adding that he, must be present within 1-1.5 km range of the spot to receive the consignment.

At a high-level meet on Thursday, J&K DGP Dilbagh Singh had called for "extra attention" along the UT's border with Pakistan, saying that the neighbouring country will try to push in more terrorists and give impetus to violence in view of the border situation in Ladakh.

Six civilians injured in Pak shelling in Uri, Rampur

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, JUNE 20

SIX CIVILIANS were injured and at least a dozen homes were damaged in cross-border shelling in North Kashmir's Uri on Saturday, an official said.

Army officials said Pakistan violated ceasefire in Uri and Rampur sectors of Baramulla district along the Line of Control.

Srinagar-based 15 Corps put the number of injured civilians at four. "On 20 Jun 2020, in the morning hours, Pakistan initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC by firing Mortars & other weapons. Four civilians injured. Befitting response is being given," the Army tweeted. In another tweet, Army said Pakistan violated ceasefire in Uri sector in the afternoon. Officials said the shelling stopped around evening.

Militant killed

One militant was killed in an encounter between militants and security forces in Kulgam district Saturday. Police said the encounter broke out in the Likhdipora area. The operation is continuing, it said.

J&K admin plans to open 200 liquor shops, religious leaders in Valley object

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JUNE 20

THE JAMMU and Kashmir administration plans to open about 200 liquor shops in Jammu and Kashmir, 67 of which will be in the Valley. The move has drawn opposition from religious leaders in the Valley.

In a letter to J&K's Financial Commissioner, Excise Commissioner Rajesh Kumar

Shavan sought approval to start the process. The letter suggests the opening of 183 liquor vends in the Union territory -- 116 in Jammu and 67 in the Valley.

While liquor is sold freely in Jammu province, there are very few shops and bars in the Valley.

The new proposal to open liquor stores across Kashmir has met with objections in the Valley as Islam prohibits the consumption of liquor.

"This is an attack on our cul-

ture and we will oppose it," Grand Mufti Nasir ul Islam told *The Indian Express*. "We will call (a meeting of) all religious leaders and discuss the strategy on how to stop it. As of now, I can't say how we will go about it but it will be opposed with our full might."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS OF DELHI
ATTENTION

FOR SAFETY OF BUILDINGS AGAINST EARTHQUAKES
CORRIGENDUM PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public Notice published on 18.06.2020 on the above cited subject. In this regard, it is further informed to the general public that apart from the empanelled structural engineers, the list of which is available at <http://mcdonline.gov.in/eodb/>. The Structural Audit carried out by the premier Engineering Institutions like IIT Delhi, DTU and Engineering Institutions under Delhi University / IP University or other institutions recognized by AICTE will also hold good.

Hence, general public are hereby advised to avail this facility to make their buildings safe against the earthquakes.

COMMISSIONER
NDMC

COMMISSIONER
SDMC

COMMISSIONER
EDMC

Ro No. 21/DPI/S/2020-21

VISVA-BHARATI SANTINIKETAN
Advertisement No. 1/2020 dated 20.06.2020

Name of the posts :
1) Director 5 Nos,
2) Registrar
3) Finance Officer
4) Internal Audit Officer
(On Deputation)
For details log on to www.visva-bharati.ac.in Last date of Application 15th July, 2020 before 6.00 P.M.

(AHILYA BAI COLLEGE OF NURSING)
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
LOK NAYAK HOSPITAL: NEW DELHI-110002

F.N. 03/ABCON/LNH Dated:
For applying to B.Sc (Hons) Nursing Programme (Four Year) in Ahilya Bai College of Nursing, LNH, (For female candidate only) candidate are advised to see website: - www.abconduadmission.in for all details. Candidates can apply on line by their own facilities system from 24.06.2020 to 13.07.2020.

Sd/-
(Banbari Lal)
Director (Admin.)
LNH, New Delhi-02

DIP/Shabdarth/0089/20-21

21st June 2020

International Day of Yoga (IDY)

Today, from your home, join this global pursuit of health and well-being.

Stand together in solidarity with the rest of the world at 7am today by joining the harmonious performance of Yoga from your home.

For guidance on harmonious performance of Yoga based on Common Yoga Protocol tune into any of the following channels of Doordarshan at 6:15am today:
DD National, DD News, DD Bharati, DD India, DD Urdu, DD Sports, DD Kisan, all Regional Languages Satellite Services (RLSS) Channels & all Regional Kendras

You may also join live on the Facebook handle of the Ministry of AYUSH- facebook.com/moayush/

For more details about IDY- 2020 and CYP, check out: www.yoga.ayush.gov.in/yoga/
www.ayush.gov.in [www.un.org/en/observances/yoga-day](https://un.org/en/observances/yoga-day)
 <https://www.facebook.com/moayush> <https://twitter.com/moayush>

INDIAN AIR FORCE
A CUT ABOVE

Lifetime adventure for some is routine for us.

JOIN INDIAN AIR FORCE TO BE A CUT ABOVE

Online registration through <https://careerindianairforce.cdac.in> and <https://afcat.cdac.in>

ENTRY	BRANCHES
AFCAT 02/2020	Flying / Technical / Administration / Education
NCC SPECIAL ENTRY	Flying Branch (Air Wing 'C' certificate is mandatory)
MET ENTRY	Meteorology Branch

Online test only for AFCAT entry

Aadhaar Card is mandatory for online registration

For more details, refer to Employment News dated 13 June 2020 and for detailed notification visit our website <https://careerindianairforce.cdac.in> or <https://afcat.cdac.in>

'DISHA' Cell, Air Headquarters, Vayu Bhawan, Motilal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110106
Tel: 011-23013690, Toll Free No.: 1800-11-2448, Website: <https://www.careerindianairforce.cdac.in>, E-mail: afcatcell@cdac.in

For Updates, follow us on: Indian Air Force Indian Air Force@IAF_Mcc indianairforce https://www.indianairforce_mcc

Apply online through QR code
Step 1: Download QR code scanner app from Google play store
Step 2: Open QR code scanner app and scan it.
Step 3: Open URL and click on candidate login to apply

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Zuber Ahmad R/o-B-3/143, J.J.Colony, Raghubir-Nagar, N.Delhi-27 have changed my minor son's Ali Hussain Ahmad to Ali Hussain.

0040539870-1

I Mohd.Shahryar S/o Mohd.Saifuddin Molla R/o L-4/B, Near Khalilullah Masjid, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 declares that name of my father has been wrongly written as Mohd.Saifuddin in my all educational certificates. His correct name is Mohd.Saifuddin Molla which may be amended accordingly.

0040539712-4

I Priya Gupta D/o Sh.Sanjay Gupta W/o Sh. Aman Agarwal R/o 1167/1094, 4th Floor, Kucha Mahajani, Chandani Chowk, Delhi-110006 have changed my name after marriage to Lavanya Agarwal for all purposes.

0040539712-2

I Rakesh Kumar Sharma S/o Late Sh.Madan Lal Sharma R/o R-95, Model Town-3, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Rakesh Sharma for all purposes.

0040539712-1

I Sadia Sultana D/o Mohd.Saifuddin Molla R/o L-4/B, Near Khalilullah Masjid, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 declares that name of my father has been wrongly written as Mohd.Saifuddin in my all educational certificates. His correct name is Mohd.Saifuddin Molla which may be amended accordingly.

0040539712-5

I Shahnawaz S/o Mohd.Saifuddin Molla R/o L-4/B, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 declares that name of my father has been in my all educational certificate. His correct name is Mohd.Saifuddin Molla which may be amended accordingly.

0040539712-3

I, Aishwariya Arora d/o Ajay Arora r/o 643, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to AISHWARYA ARORA.

0040539825-1

I, Shrabanti Ray W/O, Sukhendu Ray R/o Cod Delhi Cantt. Kirbee Place, New Delhi-10 have changed my name to Shrabanti Roy.

0040539870-3

I, Sukhendu Ray R/o Cod Delhi Cantt. Kirbee Place, New Delhi-10 have changed my minor daughter's name from Sanyukta Ray to Sanyukta Roy

0040539870-2

LOST & FOUND

I, Vidya Gupta W/o R.S.Gupta R/o-Plot.No.B-224, Ashok-Vihar-PH-I, Delhi-52.Lost original-allotment-letter, Possession-Letter, side-Possession-Letter, Building-Plan, C-Form, D-Form, Assessment order, Bank chalan, of above plot finder-contact above address.

0040539870-7

Lost Original Gift Deed(Registry) Regd Document.No.5039, Book-1, Volume No.20738, Pages.No.48 to 53, Regn.no-15-3-2013 with the office of Sub Registrar-II, New Delhi in respect of property-No.WZ-163-A, Plot-No.V/S/71, Virender Nagar, New Delhi favouring Rushali Manchanda W/o.Nirman Manchanda.FIR lodged vide LR-No.363621/2020 dtd.19-6-2020. Founder inform at-9891629294

0040539833-2

I, Vivek Kumar S/o S N Yadav R/o-78C/1 Ward-No-1 Mehrauli, New Delhi-110030 have lost my original-1000 house marksheet & certificate Roll.No.1128891 (year-2010), Passport from CBSE.Finder please contact-above address

0040539833-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Sunita Kaur W/o. Sh. Bimal Kumar Koocher has lost the Motorist cum Demand Letter F.No. 11(3182)MG Dated 20/05/2020. Possession Letter & NOC electric and water connection both dated 22/07/1983 of DDA MG Flat bearing no. 205-E on Ground Floor, Pocket Major Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi -110091. Any person possessing the above said lost documents and using them in any manner will do so at his/her own cost and are legally liable. My client will not be held responsible for the said documents in any manner if they are found of time. Therefore, the above said property is being sold to Dr. Ramvir Singh Gaudan and Smt. Meena Gaudan and papers for the same are will be mortgaged RACPC with SBI Bank, Karkardooma Branch, Delhi.

NARENDRA KUMAR-ADVOCATE

Ch. No. P-321, 3rd Floor,

SBI Bank, Karkardooma Branch, Delhi

Delhi Mob.: 9667580553

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT SH. PAWAN KOHLI S/O LATE SH. BALDEV KOHLI R/O B-145, SUBHADRA, COLONY KUTUB ROHILLA, DELHI-110035 DO HEREBY DIS-OVIN HIS SON MR. KANISH S/O SH. PAWAN KOHLI AND HIS FAMILY FROM ALL HIS PROPERTIES & INTERESTS. FORTHWITH HE SHALL HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH HIS FAMILY AND PROPERTIES IN ANY MANNER. WHATSOEVER ANY PERSONS/PERSONS DEALING WITH HIM MAY DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK & PERILS.

Sd/- VARUN GUPTA

ADVOCATE

E.No. 1493320216

Off.cum-Resident: 1973, Gali Ahiran,

Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be known to all that my clients Sh. Raj Kumar Sharma of Harku Sharma, R/O H No. 23 Sanki Vihar Phase-03 Mohan Garden, Uttar Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059. Do hereby solemnly affirm and declares as under that: That I am Indian citizen. That I want to expelled/ disown my son namely 'Parkash Sharma', and his wife namely 'Kanchan', from our all Movable & Immovable Properties/ Lien/ Interest etc. That in future I shall never be responsible for any work done by my above said son, and his wife, and his/her legal heirs. That I have released my all relations from his, and his wife, and his/her legal heirs. That it is my true statement.

A.K. SINGH (Advocate)

Ch. No. 420, Karkardooma Court,

New Delhi,

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client SMT. MANITA GUPTA W/O LATE RAM LAL GUPTA R/O D-1/125 FF, Sec-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085 has severed all her relation with his son SH. ANKIT GUPTA and his wife SMT. NITI GUPTA and declared & disowned them from all their movable and immovable, self acquired/inherital properties and social relationship of the society with immediate effects. He is to their misbehavior and disobedience. Any person's dealing with them will do at his/her own risk and costs and my client shall not be responsible for any kind of his/her acts in future in any circumstances.

A.K. SINGH (Advocate)

CH. NO. 20, RU-BLOCK, DDA MKT

PITAMBA, DELHI-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Sunita Kaur W/o Late Shri Dinesh Kumar R/o. House No. 8, Gali No. 20, Badapur, Moharband Extension, New Delhi -110044, do hereby by way of present notice disown her son Shri Nitin Kumar and daughter-in-law Ms. Kavita, from all her movable and immovable properties, for all purposes and her son and daughter-in-law shall have no right, title and interest over the property of my client and anybody dealing with them shall be doing at his/her own risk and my client shall not be responsible for it.

MOHD. BABAR-ADVOCATE

Ch. No. 16, Hazari Courts,

Delhi-110084

Mob.: 9891146454

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to public in general that my client Sh. Jai Prakash S/o Sh. Jugga Ram, his wife Shehan Kaur, R/o C-Plot No. 31, Khasra No. 38/14 Main Railway Station Road Khara Kalan, New Delhi 110082, have declared from and severed all social relations with their son Nitin and his wife Jyoti from their Movable & Immovable property due to their actions and conduct against the will of my clients. My clients shall not be liable or responsible for any acts and omissions of their son and daughter in law in any manner whatsoever.

Sd/- KRISHAN RANA

Advocate

E. No.- 958370218

Office cum Address: House no 499,

Near Pandit Choupal Khara Kalan

Delhi-110082



देवी अहिल्या विश्वविद्यालय

आर.एन.टी. मार्ग, खण्डवा रोड, इंदौर (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक-प्रशा./सुरक्षा/घार (1)/2020/380 दिनांक : 19.06.2020

ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

देवी अहिल्या विश्वविद्यालय, इंदौर द्वारा विभिन्न परिसरों की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के लिये ई-निविदा <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर Two Bid System (Technical and Financial) आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदाओं का विस्तृत विवरण देवी अहिल्या विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट <http://www.dauniv.ac.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

म.प्र. माध्यम/97683/2020

कुलसचिव

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender Notice Number: CM-1/ATM/PRYG/2020 Dated : 16.06.2020

TENDER NOTICE

Following open tenders in sealed covers on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Sr. Div. Commercial Manager/Divisional Railway Manager's North Central Railway, Prayagraj on behalf of President of India.

Tender No.	Details of work including place	Approximate cost in ₹	Cost of Tender Form in ₹
22-2920 to 69-2920	Installation of Automated Teller Machine (ATM) at (1) Chunar.	00	1180.00
(2) Mirzapur, (3) Vindhyachal, (4) Prayagraj-Chheeki, (5) Manikpur, (6) Prayagraj, (7) Subedarganj, (8) Banmura, (9) Fatepur, (10) Kanpur, (11) Kanpur-Aungarganj, (12) Govindpur, (13) Pandikham, (14) Phaphand, (15) Etawah, (16) Firozabad, (17) Shikhabad, (18) Tundia, (19) Hathras, (20) Aligarh, (21) Sonma, (22) Khurja, (23) Dadari Railway station and its area for the period of five years.			

Office address from where the tender information can be obtained : Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Prayagraj, Dy. Chief Traffic Manager/Kanpur, station Director/Prayagraj & Kanpur of North Central Railway, Prayagraj Division. Earnest Money to be deposited in ₹: 10,000.00; Period of Contract : Five years, (i) Date & time for dropping the tender form (ii) Date & time for the opening of tender : (i) From date of publishing of tender notice in newspaper to 10.07.2020 upto 13 hrs. (ii) At 15 hrs on 10.07.2020. Website & Notice board where the full detail of tender can be seen : Tender shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in upto 13.00hrs on 10.07.2020 i.e. date of opening of the tender. The details tender notice can also be viewed on Railway's website www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 65720 (S).

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

MAHATMA GANDHI STATE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, PUNJAB

(As ISO 9001:2015 Certified Punjab Government Organization devoted to training and research in Public Administration) Institutional Area, Sector 26, Chandigarh 160019, India

Phone:+91-172-2793588-91 Fax: +91-172-2793588-91 Extn: 400

E-mail: helpdesk.mgsipa@punjab.gov.in

Web: mgsipa.punjab.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

(Ref. No. MGSIPA/Estt./Adv./746, dated 19.06.2020)

Online bids are invited from reputed manpower supply firms in electronic tendering system for the annual contract of "Providing manpower Services in MGSIPA."

Important Dates

Publishing Date and Time	22.06.2020 11.00 AM	Document download/ sale and Date and Time	13.07.2020 01.00 PM
Document Download/ Sale start Date and Time	22.06.2020 11.00 AM	Bid submission closing Date and Time	13.07.2020 01.00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date and Time	22.06.2020 11.00 AM	Bid Opening Date and Time	16.07.2020 11.00 AM

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- The tender documents can be download from website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
- For any clarification/difficulty regarding e-tendering process, the firms/contractors can contact on 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284.
- Any corrigendum/addendum/corrections, if any, shall be published on the website (<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>) only.
- Bidders shall have to pay the fees (earnest money, document fee and processing fee, etc.) through online mode as mentioned on e-portal <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Special Chief Secretary-cum-Director General, MGSIPA

37872/Pb

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender is invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: Sl. No.; Tender No.; Name of the work; Tender value (₹); Cost of tender document (₹); Earnest money (₹); Period of completion (in months); [01]: PCSC-RPF-Outsourcing-01; Engagement of Cleaning and sweeping work in various establishment & offices under Security department, CLW/Chittaranjan for 02(Two) Years, i.e. 24 month; 21.87,050.40; 3,000.00; 43,800.00; 24 months.

NOTE: (I) Date of closing-20.07.2020 at 13.00 hrs.

(II) Complete details can be seen in the Railways website

www.ireps.gov.in &www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in

(III) Contact Number: 9136640730.

Assistant Security Commissioner

ABC-038 CLW/Chittaranjan

Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LTD.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI) (CONSULTING SERVICES-FIRM SELECTION)

Country: INDIA Name of Project: MUTP-III

Assignment Title: Selection of Consultant for "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE STUDY UNDER 'MUTP-III PROJECT' FOR REHABILITATION OF TUNNEL (2.73KM LONG) at KM 90/8 TO 93/7 IN BETWEEN PAVNEL AND KARJAT."

Reference No. MRVC/TA/117 dated 19.06.2020

Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services for above mentioned assignment. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The consulting Services include providing Technical Assistance for REHABILITATION OF TUNNEL (2.73KM LONG) at KM 90/8 TO 93/7 IN BETWEEN PAVNEL AND KARJAT. The estimated duration of consultancy services is 06 Months. Detailed REOI with Draft Terms of Reference are available on MRVC web site www.mrvvc.indianrailways.gov.in. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS method set out in PIR. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours between 10:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs. on working days. The corrigendum, if any, will be hosted on MRVC's website. Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by email) by 15.00 hrs of 30/07/2020. Address for correspondence: Kanhaiya Jha, Chief Project Manager-I, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, 2nd Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020, Tel: (022)-22052012, email: cpm1@gmrvvc.gov.in, dycpm1@mrvc.gov.in, Website: www.mrvvc.indianrailways.gov.in.

Country: INDIA Name of Project: MUTP-III

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Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services for above mentioned assignment. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The consulting Services include providing Technical Assistance for REHABILITATION OF TUNNEL (2.73KM LONG) at KM 90/8 TO 93/7 IN BETWEEN PAVNEL AND KARJAT. The estimated duration of consultancy services is 06 Months. Detailed REOI with Draft Terms of Reference are available on MRVC web site www.mrvvc.indianrailways.gov.in. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS method set out in PIR. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours between 10:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs. on working days. The corrigendum, if any, will be hosted on MRVC's website. Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by email) by 15.00 hrs of 30/07/2020. Address for correspondence: Kanhaiya Jha, Chief Project Manager-I, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, 2nd Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020, Tel: (022)-22052012, email: cpm1@gmrvvc.gov.in, dycpm1@mrvc.gov.in, Website: www.mrvvc.indianrailways.gov.in.

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THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, JUNE 21, 2020

ECONOMY

MAR QUARTER: LOSS OF ₹697 CR, TOTAL INCOME RISES TO ₹16,388.32 CR

Fall in bad loans, lower provisioning help PNB cut losses; reports ₹2,617 cr NPA divergence

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

AIDED BY a decline in bad loans and lower provisioning, public sector bank Punjab National Bank (PNB) has posted a lower standalone loss of Rs 697 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2020 as against a loss of Rs 4,750 crore in January-March period of 2018-19.

The bank has reported a divergence in non-performing assets (NPAs) at Rs 2,617 crore for the year ended March 31, 2019. While the bank announced NPAs of Rs 78,472 crore for the year, the RBI's assessment put the figure at Rs 81,089 crore. Accordingly, the adjusted loss for the year works out to Rs 11,335 crore for March 2019 as against a loss of Rs 9,975 crore estimated by the bank earlier.

The bank also reported a divergence in provisions at Rs 2,091 crore for March 2019.

The bank's gross NPAs de-

GROSS NPAs FALL TO 14.21% OF GROSS ADVANCES

■ Punjab National Bank has reported a divergence in non-performing assets (NPAs) at Rs 2,617 crore for the year ended March 2019. While the bank announced NPAs of Rs 78,472 crore for the year, the RBI's assessment put the figure at Rs 81,089 crore

■ The bank's gross NPAs declined to 14.21 per cent of gross advances at the end of

March 2020, as against 15.50 per cent in March 2019

■ The bank has done the cash recovery of Rs 10,000 crore during the fiscal, while containing the fresh slippages to Rs 20,000 crore. The bank is expecting the recovery of Rs 6,000-8,000 crore during the current fiscal year

clined to 14.21 per cent of gross advances at the end of March 2020, as against 15.50 per cent in March 2019. In absolute value, gross NPAs stood at Rs 73,478.76 crore at the end of 2019-20, lower than Rs 78,472.70 crore reported in the previous fiscal. Similarly, net NPAs were valued at Rs 27,218.89 crore as against Rs 30,037.66 crore.

The bank's total income during the March quarter rose to Rs 16,388.32 crore from Rs 14,725.13 crore in the year-ago period. The provisioning for bad loans during the March quarter almost halved to Rs 4,618.27 crore.

The bank has done the cash recovery of Rs 10,000 crore during the fiscal, while containing the fresh slippages to Rs 20,000

crore. The bank is expecting the recovery of Rs 6,000-8,000 crore during the current fiscal and recovery will gather momentum from the third quarter onwards. Net NPAs also came down to 5.78 per cent as against 6.56 per cent in the year-ago period.

On the COVID pandemic, the bank said, "the situation continues to be uncertain and the bank is evaluating the situation on ongoing basis. The major identified challenges for the bank would arise from eroding cash flows and extended working capital cycles. The bank is gearing itself on all the fronts to meet these challenges."

"The management believes that no adjustments are required in the financial results as it does not significantly impact the current financial year. Despite these events and conditions, there would not be any significant impact on the bank's results in future and going concern assumptions as at presently made," it said.

PNB said the amalgamation of Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India into PNB has become effective from April 1, 2020. The bank now has a network of 10,910 branches and 13,530 ATMs in India. It has a customer base of 17 crore, deposits of Rs 10.71 lakh crore and advances of Rs 7.62 lakh crore. During the financial year ended March 2020, the government infused Rs 16,091 crore into the bank. The government holding in the bank has increased to 83.19 per cent as on March 31, 2020.

If provisioning for NPAs assessed by the RBI exceeds 10 per cent of the reported profit before provisions and contingencies or additional gross NPAs identified by the RBI exceeds 15 per cent of the published incremental gross NPAs for the reference period, then the banks are required to disclose divergence from prudential norms on income recognition, assets classification and provisioning.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The coronavirus pandemic has put countries in a tight spot as subsequent lockdowns have hampered tax collections, businesses and livelihoods. Governments have tried to kickstart their economies by announcing stimulus packages. However, central banks have played a key role too. They ensure stability of interest and exchange rates to provide adequate liquidity for productive sectors and ensure adequate supply of currency in these tough times.

THE US

■ Buying unlimited quantities of US Treasuries, mortgage-backed and agency securities

■ Buying municipal bonds, corporate bonds and ETFs, and dollar swap lines set up

■ \$2.3 trillion in loan arrangements for local governments, small and mid-sized businesses

EURO ZONE

750 billion euros in additional assets

■ No change to main purchases, taking the total to about 1.1 trillion euros this year, after initially adding 120 billion euros to its

■ Central banks have resorted to cutting benchmark policy rates to infuse liquidity into their economies. Nations have also cut capital adequacy requirements for banks and announced moratoriums on loan repayments

existing asset-purchase programme

BRITAIN

■ Will buy investment-grade commercial paper with maturities up to 12 months

■ Increases bond-buying programme by 100 billion pounds

CHINA

■ Lowers 1-year medium-term lending facility (MLF) rate on loans

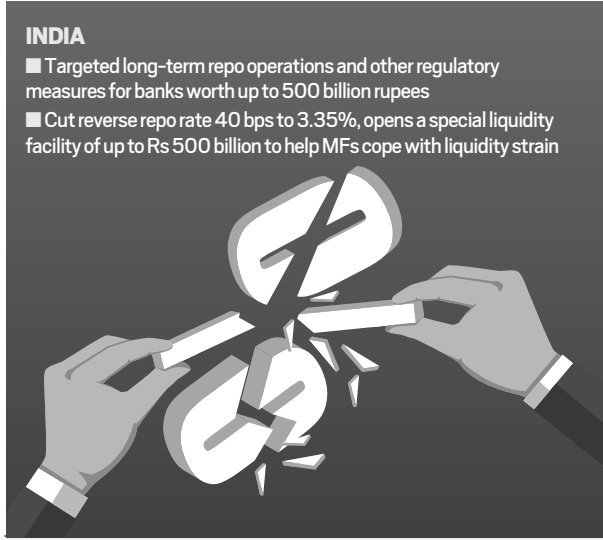
■ Cuts the amount of cash that small banks must hold as reserves by 50 bps to 6.50%, releasing around 400 billion yuan

Source: Reuters

COVID IMPACT

How central banks are trying to soften the blow

Central banks worldwide have slashed interest rates in recent months, providing in some cases unprecedented amounts of stimulus to help soften the blow to the global economy from the coronavirus pandemic and to keep markets functioning.



INDIA

■ Targeted long-term repo operations and other regulatory measures for banks worth up to 500 billion rupees

■ Cut reverse repo rate 40 bps to 3.35%, opens a special liquidity facility of up to Rs 500 billion to help MFs cope with liquidity strain

BRIEFLY

Diesel hits record high

New Delhi: Diesel price on Saturday hit a record high after rates were hiked by 61 paise per litre, while petrol price was raised by 51 paise.

HDFC Bank okays fundraising plan

New Delhi: HDFC Bank on Saturday said its board has approved proposal to raise up to Rs 50,000 crore in the next twelve months by issuing various debt securities.

Suggestions to amend MV rules

New Delhi: Suggestions have been invited from stakeholders to amend the motor vehicle rules, the government said on Saturday.

Piramal Pharma acquisition

New Delhi: Piramal Enterprises' pharma solutions business said it has entered into a pact with G&W Laboratories to acquire its solid oral dosage drug product manufacturing facility for \$175 million.

1.33L new EPFO enrolments in Apr

New Delhi: The net new enrolments with the EPFO was recorded at 1.33 lakh during April 2020, according to its payroll data.

Pawah is BMW Group India prez

New Delhi: BMW has appointed Vikram Pawah president of BMW Group India, effective August 1, 2020. PTI

‘Amazon, BigBasket get nod for liquor delivery in West Bengal’

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

AMAZON.COM INC has secured clearance to deliver alcohol in West Bengal, according to a document seen by Reuters, signalling the US e-commerce giant's first foray into the country's multi-billion-dollar sector. In a notice on Friday, West Bengal State Beverages Corp, the authorised agency to carry out online retail of liquor trade in the state, said Amazon was among the companies found to be eligible for registration with authorities.

Alibaba-backed Indian grocery venture BigBasket has also won approval to deliver alcohol in the state, the notice said.

Amazon has been invited to sign a memorandum of understanding with the state, said the

‘AMAZON SET TO SIGN MoU’

■ Amazon has been invited to sign a memorandum of understanding with the state, said the notice by West Bengal State Beverages Corp.

notice, which has not previously been reported.

Amazon did not respond to a request for comment. BigBasket also did not respond to a request for comment. Amazon's interest in delivering alcohol in West Bengal marks a bold move to make inroads into a market that is worth \$272 billion, as per estimates by IWSR Drinks Market Analysis.

The gold reserves in the reporting week rose by \$821 mn to \$33.173 bn, the RBI data showed

rose by \$5.106 billion to \$468.737 billion. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

According to economists, the increase in foreign exchange reserves is due to higher capital inflows and also due to the narrowing current account deficit as trade activities have come to a standstill due to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The gold reserves in the reporting week rose by \$821 million to \$33.173 billion, the RBI data showed.

The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was up by \$12 million to \$1.454 billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF also rose by \$3 million to \$4.280 billion during the reporting week, the data showed.

The rising forex reserves give a lot of comfort to the government and the RBI in managing India's external and internal financial issues at a time when economic growth may contract in 2020-21. It's a big cushion in the event of any crisis on the economic front and enough to cover the import bill of the country for a year. WITH PTI

China woos Bangladesh, provides tariff exemption for 97% of exports from Dhaka

A total of 8,256 products is set to benefit from this

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, JUNE 20

IN A bid to woo Bangladesh, China has provided a huge trade boost to the country by announcing tariff exemption for 97 per cent of Bangladeshi products effective from July 1. The decision has come one month after Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a discussion to upgrade their bilateral relations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PRESENT STATUS

3,095

■ Currently, 3095 Bangladeshi products enjoy duty-free access to Chinese market under Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement. With the new announcement, 97 per cent of Bangladeshi products will join this zero-tariff club from July 1 that raised the numbers of Bangladeshi products with zero duty access to Chinese market to 8,256.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh announced on Friday that 97 per

cent of items would be exempted of Chinese tariffs.

As part of the government's economic diplomacy and the outcome of exchange of letters between Bangladesh and China, Tariff Commission of the Chinese State Council issued a notice recently on granting zero treatment to 97 per cent of tariff products of Bangladesh, the Dhaka Tribune reported, quoting the ministry's statement.

With this announcement, a total of 8,256 Bangladeshi products will come under the 97 per cent of products that would be exempted from tariff.

Currently, 3095 Bangladeshi products enjoy duty-free access to Chinese market under Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA). With the new an-

What does recent NCLAT ruling — liquidation of a firm under IBC holds precedence — mean?

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE NATIONAL Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has ruled that liquidation process of a company under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) holds precedence over outcome of an arbitration proceeding.

A three-member Bench, headed by Justice Venugopal M, ruled that just because Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited had won an arbitration award against Surana Power, which was undergoing liquidation, the process would not be stopped to favour it. The Chennai Bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had earlier ruled in favour of BHEL.

What does the NCLAT order mean?

In its judgment, the NCLAT set aside an order of Chennai NCLT on the grounds that BHEL's charge over Surana Power assets were equal to the other 10 financial creditors, and therefore it could not be given precedence.

BHEL's claim that it has the first right over the assets and properties of Surana Power, was wrong as all other creditors had given the assent to liquidate the corporate debtor, the

NCLAT held.

The NCLAT's judgment essentially holds that if a corporate debtor is being liquidated, a creditor can not claim superiority over other secured creditors in the same band, and that everyone must receive their fair share by following the waterfall mechanism of liquidation.

What is the waterfall mechanism for liquidation?

As the name suggests, the waterfall mechanism under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code gives priority to secured financial creditors over unsecured financial creditors. The mechanism says that if a company is being liquidated, these secured financial creditors must be first paid the full extent of their admitted claim, before any sale proceedings are distributed to any other unsecured creditor.

Under Section 53 of the IBC, which deals with waterfall mechanism, the top most priority, however, is given to costs related to the liquidation process and dues of workmen of the corporate debtor. The dues of the workmen include all their salaries, provident, pension, retirement and gratuity fund, as well as any other funds maintained for the welfare of

the workmen.

Why did BHEL object to liquidation of Surana Power?

State-run BHEL, which was also a secured creditor for Surana Power, had won an arbitration award against the company. It gave BHEL complete and undisputed rights over all the assets, equipment, goods lying at the site of the power plant. It also gave BHEL title rights over the finished and unfinished buildings.

BHEL objected to the liquidation process as it held only 26.24 per cent share by value in the Surana Power, which is being liquidated. Going by the waterfall mechanism, though it would have got the money over other unsecured creditors, its share would come down by a lot.

The arbitration award route would have, on the other hand, given it complete rights over all properties, assets and equipment, while leaving little to nothing for other creditors.

Though the NCLT Chennai bench had held that BHEL was right in claiming priority over other creditors, the NCLAT held that in order to claim priority, BHEL should have had at least 60 per cent share value. Since it did not have the same, it would be unfair to stop the liquidation proceedings because of one dissenting creditor.

CDSCO approves Hetero and Cipla remdesivir generics

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE COUNTRY'S top drug regulatory body on Saturday granted emergency use approval to two Indian drugmakers for generics of Gilead Science's remdesivir, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

These approvals will allow Cipla and Hetero Drugs to manufacture and supply the injectable medicine for the treatment of suspected or laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 "with severe disease", ending weeks of uncertainty over where they can access the drug from.

Drug Controller General of India Dr VG Somani approved these applications late on Saturday, said a senior Health Ministry official on condition of anonymity. The companies will have to follow the same conditions set out by the DCGI for Gilead when its remdesivir was approved at the beginning of the month.

"Hetero and Cipla have just got the approval. The documents and samples they had submitted were extensively assessed before the approval was granted," the official told *The Indian Express*.

Remdesivir is to be administered for a maximum of five days, as per the country's clinical management guidelines.

"This is a boon for the country. We are hoping these companies will be able to supply (remdesivir) to as many patients that require it in India, maybe more," the official added. Four other companies — BDR Pharmaceuticals, Jubilant Life Sciences, Mylan Laboratories and

The companies will have to follow the same conditions set out by the DCGI for Gilead when its remdesivir was approved at the beginning of the month

Dr Reddys Laboratories — are still yet to get the final approvals, according to the official.

"The samples of the other companies are still to come and their test reports are yet to be made, but that too will be done," they said.

Cipla and Hetero have not officially confirmed the development and queries to the companies on Saturday night remained unanswered by press time. The development is crucial as there has been a surge in demand for the drug here, but little clarity on where patients could get approved supply. Gilead, when receiving the approval, had stated on June 3 that there was "limited global supply" of the medicine and that it was anticipating new supply in July.

In the absence of such supply here, patients had been procuring it from generic drug makers given the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's (CDSCO) approval to supply their product on compassionate grounds. In other cases, some patients had even been attempting to import the drug from countries like Bangladesh, which another official had earlier said was not approved by CDSCO.

COVID EFFECT

AAI gives more time to Adani group to take over 3 privatised airports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE AIRPORTS Authority of India (AAI) has given three more months to the Adani group to take over the management of three privatised airports of Ahmedabad, Mangaluru and Lucknow due to the COVID-19 scenario, according to the Civil Aviation Ministry on Saturday.

This means the Adani group, which was expected to take over the operations, management and development of the three airports by August 12, can now take over the airports by November 12.

"On the advent of COVID-19

The three airports are Ahmedabad, Mangaluru and Lucknow

scenario, AEL (Adani Enterprises Limited) has cited force majeure and filed for extension in March 2020 and sought time till February 15, 2021 (to take over the three airports)," said the statement by the Civil Aviation ministry. "AAI has agreed to the extension of time of additional three months to achieve Commercial Operation Date (COD) by the concessionaire in view of force majeure on account of COVID-19," it added.

Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM
Website: pchidambaram.in
Twitter @Pchidambaram_IN

Mr Modi's dream that the 21st century will be a China-India led Asian century is practically over. It is obvious that Mr Modi did not take a correct measure of Mr Xi.

Whether Mr Xi took a correct measure of Mr Modi is a matter of speculation. The two leaders cannot be close friends again. They can still do business and sign one-step-at-a-time agreements in the manner that Mr Narasimha Rao, Mr Vajpayee and Dr Manmohan Singh did with their counterparts in China

ARE INDIA and China at the beginning of a new and contentious era? So it seems. In chapter 1, Chinese troops stealthily intruded a few kilometres into Indian territory — without being detected — and occupied key points in the Galwan Valley, Hot Springs and Pangong Tso. The face-off on May 5-6 brought to light the intrusion. In chapter 2, on the night of June 15-16, Chinese troops clashed with Indian troops leaving 20 men dead on the Indian side; 80 soldiers were injured and 10 were taken prisoner and released on June 18.

The India-China border — or Line of Actual Control (LAC) — has been simmering since the 1962 war, but this is the first occasion since 1975 when lives were lost. To hold the peace for 45 years was no mean achievement. Under Mr Modi's watch, that tenuous peace has been shattered.

A FALSE NARRATIVE

The narrative that the Modi government had assiduously built in the last six years was absolutely false. That Mr Narendra Modi, then the chief minister of Gujarat, was a favourite of the Chinese, who hosted him on four occasions; that Mr Modi, unlike any other prime minister, visited China on five occasions, underscoring the special relationship between the two countries; and that Mr Modi and Mr Xi had a special chemistry between them as reflected in Wuhan

Dance of death

(2018) and Mahabalipuram (2019) — all these were part of the false narrative. The bubble burst on June 15-16.

After the bloody confrontation and loss of lives, India remained conciliatory. The MEA put out a weak statement that read "...a violent face-off happened as a result of an attempt by the Chinese side to unilaterally change the *status quo*... all Indian activities were on its side of the LAC and it is expected the same of China". The Chinese counter was swift and aggressive. The PLA said "the sovereignty of the Galwan Valley region has always belonged to China" and China's Foreign Minister admonished India to "stop all provocative actions.....The Indian side must not underestimate China's firm will to safeguard territorial integrity."

INTELLIGENCE
FAILURE

There are many theories about why China acted in the manner it did in May this year. The scale of the intrusion points to careful planning over several months — maybe going back to August 2019 when the Modi government changed the constitutional status of Jammu & Kashmir. The government either overlooked or brushed aside (more likely the latter) the fact that China has been in occupation of a large tract of land in Ladakh over which it claims sovereignty; that it is building the Belt and Road connect to

Pakistan through Gilgit-Baltistan which is a part of Ladakh; and that it had objected to India constructing a feeder road to link with the DBO road on the Indian side of the LAC. China must also have taken note of the Home Minister's statement that Aksai Chin will be part of India.

It is a sobering thought that India did not suspect China's intentions. If anyone must take the blame squarely for India's complacency, it is our external intelligence agencies as well as defence intelligence agencies which have boots on the ground in Ladakh. In a sense, it is an unforgivable repetition of Kargil, and especially inexplicable in an age of satellites and images and photographs beamed regularly from space. The difference between Kargil and the Galwan Valley is that the adversary is not a bumbling Pakistan but a wily China.

In Depsang (2013), India taught a lesson to China and China withdrew completely. In Doklam (Bhutan, 2017), China learned a valuable lesson about India's strengths and weaknesses. India celebrated the withdrawal of some Chinese troops from the tri-junction, but meekly acquiesced in the structures built by China on the Doklam plateau, and the Chinese are ensconced till date in the Doklam plateau!

MR MODI'S ERROR

The Chinese are applying the Doklam lesson to the Galwan Valley and will,

eventually, apply it to Pangong Tso and the area between Finger 4 (the LAC according to China) and Finger 8 (the LAC according to India). There was an opportunity to avoid the Galwan Valley loss. Immediately after the Corps Commanders-level negotiations on June 6, Mr Modi should have dialled Mr Xi and persuaded Mr Xi to agree to a common readout by both sides *endorsing* the outcome of the negotiations. Maybe the tragedy of June 15-16 would not have happened. It was a grave error on the part of Mr Modi.

Mr Modi's dream that the 21st century will be a China-India led Asian century is practically over. It is obvious that Mr Modi did not take a correct measure of Mr Xi. Whether Mr Xi took a correct measure of Mr Modi is a matter of speculation. The two leaders cannot be close friends again. They can still do business and sign one-step-at-a-time agreements in the manner that Mr Narasimha Rao, Mr Vajpayee and Dr Manmohan Singh did with their counterparts in China and keep the peace on the 4,056-kilometre border that includes the LAC.

It is certain that there will be no more 'summits' or 'swings'. It will be just hard-nosed negotiations. It will be useful for Mr Modi to remember what Saint Thiruvalluvar said over 2,000 years ago: "*Fate's strength, one's strength, the adversary's strength, allies' strength, weigh all these and decide your course of action*" (Kural 471).

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH
Twitter @tavleen_singh



Questions,
questions,
questions

AS A soldier's daughter, one of my most vivid childhood memories is of the war with China in 1962. In boarding school, we were infused with patriotism and so spent our free time knitting socks for the troops and making cards to send them. But when I came home to the Army station in which my father was posted, all I heard was angry talk about how the political leadership had betrayed our soldiers. They were sent to war without proper clothing, boots or weapons. And, in the ordinance factories, I remember hearing, they were producing coffee percolators instead of ammunition. I did not know much about Jawaharlal Nehru then, but remember that after his China war he was very unpopular in the Army stations of my childhood.

Buried memories came back last week when 20 of our soldiers were beaten to death by Chinese thugs in the desolate heights of the Galwan Valley. The Modi government has not been able so far to fully explain why our soldiers were unprepared for what the Chief Minister of Punjab has correctly described as a 'stone age' battle. From the Army we have heard nothing and the silence of the Defence Minister has been deafening. But, the Minister for External Affairs tells us that our soldiers were not unarmed. They chose not to use their weapons while being clubbed to death with iron rods clad in barbed wire. This explanation is bizarre because even an amateur would use his weapon if he was being beaten to death. These men were trained soldiers.

It is for military experts to investigate what really happened. For my part, I want to concentrate on the manner in which this ugly episode was handled politically. This needs analysis because in more ways than one, the manner in which the political fallout has been handled has been disastrous. When opposition leaders and the media started to question what happened on the border, the first responders came not from the government but from the BJP! They appeared on primetime TV shows to denounce as traitors anyone who dared ask questions about what happened on the border. This is a time for nationalism, they hollered, not a time for 'anti-nationalism'.

This is an old playbook that has been used so often since Narendra Modi's second term began that it has become tattered and useless. Nationalism as defined in this playbook means not questioning anything that the government does. To question Modi personally amounts to treason, because in the view of those who wrote this playbook, the nation and the Prime Minister are synonymous. Instead of fielding arrogant BJP spokesmen it would have been wiser to field those who are actually responsible for the defence of this country. Where was the Chief of Defence Staff? Where was the Army Chief? Where was the National Security Advisor? We should hear from them because from them we might get what really happened instead of silly lectures on 'nationalism'.

We should also hear from the Prime Minister. So far, we have seen him grieve publicly for the dead while solemnly chanting '*Om Shanti*'. He needs to tell us much more. Are we on the verge of another war with China? Are Chinese soldiers still occupying Indian territory? Is it true that Indian soldiers remain in Chinese custody? What is our future strategy? These are questions to which only he has answers since he runs his government in a highly centralised fashion from the PMO. He also conducts foreign policy in a highly personalised way, and has chosen to invest a great deal of capital in his friendship with Xi Jinping. There is no other world leader he has met more often since becoming prime minister.

Whenever there have been tensions with Pakistan, the Prime Minister has been vocal, aggressive and assured. When the Indian Air Force conducted its strike on Balakot it was from Modi that the country heard the details. He went to the extent of saying that he personally ordered the strike on a 'cloudy night' because he believed that this would help our fighter pilots fly under the radar. In the election campaign that followed immediately afterwards, Balakot became his symbol for being a tough, decisive leader.

This time the Prime Minister has been unusually reticent, but those 'proud to be followed by Modi' on Twitter have not. Like the BJP spokesmen they have hurled abuse at anyone who has dared ask questions about why 20 Indian soldiers were killed so brutally. If I were to recount the number of times I have been called a traitor in response to the questions I have asked about the Galwan massacre, I would have to write a whole separate column. Does the Prime Minister realise the damage that his supporters are doing to him?

What is more important is for him to understand that when the country appears to be teetering on the edge of another war with China, it is not 'anti-national' to ask questions. The opposite is true. Two men who have asked exactly the questions that need to be asked by patriots and true nationalists are the Chief Minister of Punjab and another ex-soldier, Lieutenant General H S Panag (ret'd). I am willing to bet that the questions they asked last week are being asked in Army towns across India. When soldiers are battered to death, questions will be asked.

inside
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



RIDING HIGH, BUT RIDER

IN MODI 1.0, Rajnath Singh was fairly invisible though he held the key Home Affairs portfolio and was the senior-most Cabinet minister. Arun Jaitley was usually in the spotlight on government issues and Amit Shah on the political front. At the start of Modi 2.0, Amit Shah as Home Minister projected a larger than life image. But in February this year, Shah seemed to have gone on a temporary hiatus and Singh did most of the talking on behalf of the government, whether on the lockdown, the migrant problem, the India-China confrontation or India-Nepal relations. Political observers were surprised that Singh was even included in the Group of Ministers on the Covid-19 crisis. By virtue of his seniority, Singh automatically chaired the key committee, though epidemic management falls under the Home Ministry. Singh may be politically far more relevant today than before, but the danger of being pushed upwards is that he can also be a convenient scapegoat.

PAWARFUL RUMBLINGS

THE outsourcing of the administration of Maharashtra to bureaucrats by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has infuriated his alliance partners and some in his party. The CM is seldom to be seen at his office or official residence, and is not available on the phone after 11 pm. He clears files only after the Chief Secretary's approval. Frustrated Congress state leaders may make the most noise but the man to watch is Sharad Pawar. The NCP leader has objected more than once to the CM's overcautious bureaucratic approach. For instance, the CM wanted to delay the resumption of domestic flights to Mumbai, hence the contradictory messages emanating from Mumbai to airlines for the first two days after flights started. While Pawar believes the only way to revive the economy is to lift the lockdown, Thackeray favours the bureaucracy's pleas for a more gradual return to normalcy. Thackeray's lack of political leadership is seen in his inability to engage with Mumbai's industry, which should have played a major role in organising relief and healthcare. After the Nisarga cyclone, Thackeray went on a single aerial survey of Raigad district, while the 79-year old Pawar, a cancer survivor, made a gruelling road trip of the devastated region.

Out of
MY MIND

MEGHNADDESAI



IN THE second millennium of the Common Era, England and France fought each other off and on for 800 years — across the English Channel, in Europe, in India, and North America. The result was a draw, though each thinks it won. Then, in the twentieth century, they made Entente Cordiale — an alliance which has stayed for a hundred years and more.

India and China have been in stand-off hostility since the late 1950s when India discovered the Chinese incursion into Aksai Chin, 'a region where not a blade of

CRYING WOLF

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's operation 'Wolf Wolf', where he carted Congress MLAs to the JW Marriott resort, Jaipur, for over a week was not because he feared a threat from the BJP in engineering defections and sabotaging the election of the Congress's two Rajya Sabha candidates. Unlike Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, where the Congress is vulnerable, the numbers in Rajasthan are stacked squarely in favour of the Congress. There are 126 MLAs, 107 from the Congress alone, supporting the government. The Congress needed just 101 votes for both its Rajya Sabha candidates to romp home. Gehlot laid out an elaborate game plan — summoning all party MLAs to the Shiv Vilas hotel on the pretext that he was holding a meeting; keeping the MLAs there overnight; and the next day sending them home to pack their clothes as he was sending them on a week's sojourn. If Gehlot was truly suspicious of his MLAs he was hardly likely to have given them advance notice! The drama was orchestrated by Gehlot simply to paint himself as the Congress saviour with the Delhi high command and undercut his rival, Deputy CM Sachin Pilot, by insinuating disloyalty.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

IAS officer V K Pandian has been Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's right-hand man since 2011 when he was his private secretary. Pandian, in fact, is so powerful that he is often described as the de-facto ruler of the state. But the middle-rank IAS officer could not have remained a lowly PS forever. He was promoted to the post of secretary last year and given the fanciful designation of 'Secretary of 5 Ts'. The Ts stand for Transparency, Team Work, Technology, Timeliness and Transformation. A workaholic, Pandian starts his day at 4 am and keeps an eye on the functioning of all ministries on the ground as this falls within the ambit of his work description. He sits in at all major government meetings and does most of the talking.

AGE NO BAR

Members of Delhi's prestigious India International Centre were delighted to learn that the centre was re-opening after the lockdown. The elderly members who consider themselves the Capital's intellectual elite often spend the entire day browsing the library or holding *addas* over tea, coffee and snacks. But the re-opening came with a rider. Those over 65 were advised to stay home. The mean age of the members is around 60. Take, for example, the IIC lifetime trustees. Soli Sorabjee is 90, NN Vohra, 84, Kapila Vatsyayan, 91, BN Srikrishna, 79, and Shyam Saran is 73. It was subsequently made clear that the age restriction was merely an advisory.

Life
&WORK

PROSENJIT
CHATTERJEE



IN MARCH this year, I was shooting in South Africa for my film *Kakababur Prottyaborton*. It was a big unit, around 35-40 people. Around March 15, as information about the coronavirus started flowing in, our team grew tense. In the next 48 hours, the world changed — flights were stopped, lockdowns were imposed, there was a lot of uncertainty. We somehow managed tickets to return to India on March 19, and the entire crew was put in 14-day home quarantine.

Shifted to the fourth floor of my house in Kolkata and did not meet anybody. My food was sent to me by lift. I was doing the dishes and all other chores on my own. I am not somebody who spends a lot of time on the phone, but I tried. I would talk to my family, my son, who had returned from abroad too, through video calls. At times, I got very lonely, even upset, I only had my phone.

After 14 days, when I came down from the fourth floor of my house, it felt like I was returning from an exile. By then, both our Chief Minister and the Prime Minister had announced the lockdown, and since then it has definitely not been a holiday, especially with the crisis continuing to unfold around the world.

I have started waking up late. Waking up early and being at home made the days too long. To change my sleep cycle, after finishing work I now watch shows on Netflix till 4-5 in the morning. When I wake up late, the evening comes sooner. It feels like the day has ended. Many people in my team also feel the same way. They want to make their days shorter.

Along with the Covid-19 crisis, my state is also recovering from the devastation caused by cyclone Amphan. We are fighting back all of this, but it is not a healthy situation. Even our mental state is not very healthy. Everybody is trying to do their best for others, but there are limitations.

After my shoot in South Africa, I was supposed to start a film with Shiboprosad Mukherjee and Nandita Das. And then, from April, I was slated to work on a Hindi series by Vikramaditya Motwane (director of *Sacred Games*, *Udaan*). It was an important project for me, but we can't shoot now. However, we are trying to keep the wheels turning. From my personal man-

In Bengal, filming of television shows has begun. Film shoots, however, will take some time since we are linked to cinema halls — malls have opened but not theatres. And, even if cinema halls open, will crowds rush to buy tickets again?



After three months, shooting is on for a Bengali TV show in Kolkata. Partha Paul

ager to my sister, who looks at the business side of my production company, everybody has come together in this difficult time to make the situation 'normal'. The time at home has also made me realise what is important. I have started focusing on my health, reading scripts which have been lying around for long, and discussing ideas with my team.

One day, I got a call from Mr Amitabh Bachchan to be a part of a 'made-at-home' short film, *Family*, to spread awareness about the importance of staying at home during the coronavirus pandemic. Actors such as Mohanlal, Rajinikanth were part of it. I agreed to do it. I realised that in such times people have expectations from us, from celebrities. While shooting the videos from our homes, all of us spoke about how grateful we were for getting a chance to act, to be part of a shoot, even if it was in front of a mobile phone. Later, as part of an idea conceptualised by our CM, Mamata Banerjee, I shot a song to help raise funds for junior technicians of our film industry.

The entertainment industry across the world is going through a tough time. Films are made with large crews and are considered successful only when a large crowd watches it in the theatres. Unless there is a

miracle, no one can say with certainty when that will happen. But yes, we have to fight back. In Bengal, the silver lining is that filming of television shows has begun. Film shoots, however, will take some time since we are directly linked to cinema halls — malls have opened but not theatres. And, even if cinema halls open their gates, will large crowds rush to buy tickets again?

During the lockdown, online streaming platforms and web series have gained more popularity. They have a lot of potential and many international companies are now coming to India to set up OTT platforms. This has also given a platform to many talented actors and technicians. Having said that, cinema will stay. It has a special magic which unfolds on the big screen. It cannot be compared to watching content in isolation.

As television shoots resume in Bengal, for the first time in India there has been an insurance guarantee for actors and technicians. Talks are now on for insurance coverage in films too. As per our Chief Minister's instructions, we can begin shooting any time and I can't wait to return. I miss the smell of the set, the camera, my co-actors, technicians, my make-up van. For the past 38 years, I have spent all my time with these people, in those surroundings. I need to get back to them, to my audience.

The author is a National Award-winning actor, director and producer from West Bengal. He has been part of over 300 films.

As told to Amitava Chakraborty

India vs China: No easy solutions

grass grew' as Jawaharlal Nehru told the Lok Sabha, hoping to avoid conflict. His attempts at negotiating with Zhou Enlai failed. The nation wanted Nehru to act. He gave orders to the Army to throw the Chinese out. We know the result.

India and China are the two oldest civilisations in Asia, the only two in the world which have lasted four millennia or more. They were never at war with each other until 60 years ago. You could blame foreigners — the British — for provoking this division. It was the move by British Raj in the first decade of the last century which made Tibet cede territory to British India. China refused to sign the Indo-Tibet Treaty.

India's territorial boundaries were drawn by the British. Before Partition, the Durand line in the Northwest and the McMahon line in the North, and then the Radcliffe lines in the west and in Bengal in 1947. All our borders have foreign names. What India's borders were before the British Rule was confirmed in 1857, no one knows.

China has a different history. It had a single State — the Chinese Empire through the 20 century, and even some centuries before, but with breaks. The last rulers were foreign but settled down somewhat like the Mughals. In the 17th century, India and China were the two most prosperous countries, with China a single Empire.

China's defeat by the British in the Opium wars forced them to concede areas in their port cities to Western Powers as concessions which they resented. China had to cede Hong Kong to the British. Tibet went autonomous.

Since China threw over the Manchu rulers and had its own government in 1911, it has wanted to regain its lost territory. Chiang Kai-shek refused to recognise the Indo-Tibet Treaty. When Nehru convened the Asian Relations Conference in 1946, the Chinese delegation refused to sit if the Tibet delegation was recognised. There was no difference between Chiang and Mao.

This is a long battle, normally dor-

mant but occasionally flaring up. There is no solution which will satisfy both sides as each nation thinks the disputed territory belongs to it. India cannot suffer loss of territory any more than it has already lost, including what Pakistan has given away from its occupied bit of Kashmir.

The Chinese feel that two centuries since the Opium war signalled its decline, it is now a powerful nation. It wants to be on top, the Middle Earth — as it believes it was. India never was a single Empire; not even the Mughals ruled over all of it.

There is no conceivable solution to this problem. India must defend its own people as much as territory.

13 SUNDAY STORY

Photos: Dipankar Ghose



TILKA MANJHI CHOWK



Here we are, at a labour mandi. A market where we sell ourselves for Rs 200 a day. *Hamaari halaat itni kharaab hai ki hum bolte hain, humein khareed lo. Nahin toh bhukhe rah jayenge poore din*

VISHNU DAS, A DAILY-WAGER WHO TURNS UP AT THE CHOWK EVERY DAY



AS A DISTRICT UNLOCKS

Unlock, unlock, unlock, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently defined the way forward to chief ministers. Beginning today, *The Indian Express* drops anchor in Bhagalpur to track this unlockdown.

With its second-highest Covid burden in Bihar, its labour chowk swelling with returning migrants, its social divides deepening in an election year, this district, of over thousand villages and with the third largest city in the state, captures both rural and urban distress — and charts the challenges ahead

DIPANKAR
GHOSE



AN EXPRESS SERIES

FOR ONE week, it has been the same. Arrive at 6 am. Bow at the Mahavir *mandir*. Spend Rs 5 for a cup of *chai*. Count the rest of the money: Rs 160 today. Then, wait. At first, patiently. Sitting on his haunches, staring out into the distance. Or engaged in conversation with those around him. In an hour, Vishnu Das's eyes are more desperate, hunting for signs of a contractor, or somebody who will offer work. Sometimes, he asks a passer-by, "*Kaam chahiye kuchhi* (Do you want work done?)" By 8.30 am, the crowd around him begins to thin, the shops prepare to open. Another morning has passed. Das has not found work this entire week. Tomorrow he hopes, will be better.

Das, 46, is an old-timer at Tilka Manjhi Chowk, the site where daily-wagers collect every day before dawn to find work. The chowk is the centre of Bhagalpur town by day. But now, in these uncertain times, the centre and the ground beneath it is shifting for most people like Das as they grapple with the effects of a pandemic and the lockdown that followed.

Bhagalpur, its district headquarters 239 km from Patna, has all the trappings of small towns raring to break into the big league, its aspiration defined by its coaching centres, the markets that sell silk saris and the shopping arcades that display flatscreen televisions. It's one of four Bihar towns on the Centre's list of proposed Smart Cities, yet, the district is dragged down by high levels of poverty and malnutrition.

In a way, Bhagalpur is illustrative of challenges across the country as districts, especially those facing the brunt of migrant distress — exodus or influx — try to get back on track.

Tilka Manjhi Chowk

At the chowk's centre is a statue of Manjhi, one of India's first recorded tribal freedom fighters, who was hung by the British for his irreverence, as folklore says, right at this chowk.

Das chuckles, "Manjhi may have died fighting for our freedom. But here we are, at a labour *mandi*. A market where we sell our-

selves for Rs 200 a day. *Hamaari halaat itni kharaab hai ki hum bolte hai, humein khareed lo. Nahin toh bhukhe rah jayenge poore din* (Our situation is so bad, we put ourselves up for sale, saying we will go hungry otherwise)."

Life has always been hard for Das, who lives alone in a shanty 2 km away. He doesn't talk much about his past, except that he was born and raised in Bhagalpur. "*Akela hoon*," he says, when pushed. "*Koi nahin hai*," he adds, with a finality that resists more prodding questions.

He is more open about his present situation. When the lockdown was first announced, the chowk was empty, he says. Das tried to move out to look for work, but every time he did so, he was heckled or charged at with a police *lathi*. "I stopped after four days," he says.

For a month, from the end of March to the end of April, Das stayed home. By the second week of May, though, there was a new problem at the chowk. Migrants, who had lost jobs in Maharashtra, Gujarat, or Delhi, began arriving, desperate for money. According to state records, an estimated 63,962 migrants have returned to Bhagalpur since the lockdown.

Among them, Shyam Sundar Yadav, who worked in a warehousing company in Pune. He walked, and hitched rides to Bhagalpur. Once here, he arrived at the chowk to look for work. "I have been here for a month now. For one week I lifted cement sacks at a construction site. After that, nothing," he says.

Das continues, "When the migrants came, there was a huge number at the chowk. Maybe 400 people a day. Then slowly, people realised there was no work. Now even those who came for years have stopped. There are only about a hundred a day, and even they have no work."

Asked why there is no work even after the government announced the 'un-lockdown', Das and the others say there can only be one reason: Fear.

Ram Krishan Singh, a mason, says construction drives the economy of the labour market. "Those who were building something have stopped putting in money because they are afraid. What if another lockdown happens? Also, money is hard to come by these days. So if someone needs five people, he makes do with two. Even when we get work, we get paid less. Earlier we could get Rs 300-400 a day. Now it will be no more than Rs 150," Singh says.

Frustrated with the wait for work, the men have begun talking about "other options". Many, they say, have taken to roaming the by-lanes of Bhagalpur, asking for odd jobs by knocking on doors of shops. Some have returned to villages hoping to get MNREGA jobs. Then, there is the other option. Right next to Tilka Manjhi, every morning, people line up on either side of the road to sell vegetables. Here, alongside the established ones who sell out of carts, there are the new entrants who sit on mats on the road. If nothing else, Yadav says, he will do that. "Some of those at the chowk have begun going to the *mandi*... They earn between Rs 50-100 a day. At least it is something."

JLN Medical College and Hospital, Mayaganj

A paved road, with wild grass on either side, snakes around the main building of the 800-bed Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital. Past a parking lot, an administrative block and some shanties, the road ends in a place that's unsettlingly still, with only a white building in sight. It's a new building, with a board that says 'MCH' — the 100-bed Mother and Child Healthcare wing. Today, it is the isolation ward of JLN Hospital, the dedicated Covid care hospital in the district.

At 11 am on a Wednesday, Balram Das arrives in his tempo that has a 'COVID duty' sticker.



KHALIFABAGH MARKET

75% of business has gone away. Even the 25% sales I am doing are of things like nighties, undergarments. Clothes people need at home. Beyond that, nothing."

SHYAM SUNDAR NEWETIA, WHO OWNS 'MATCHING CORNER BOUTIQUE'



COVID-19 CASES IN BHAGALPUR

Date	Cases	Discharged	Active
May 15	33	8	25
May 20	59	12	47
May 25	76	27	49
May 30	140	53	87
June 4	204	85	118
June 9	267	141	125
June 14	324	197	126
June 20	348	266	81

Note: The 1 death in Bhagalpur took place on May 31

He sits on the bench, a mask hanging loosely around his face, playing a game on his phone. He is waiting for the hospital staff to hand him the garbage. There are three big bags today; two weeks ago, there were many more, he says.

Bhagalpur district now has the second highest number of Covid cases in Bihar — 348, compared to Patna's 377. But recovery is strong, with 266 already discharged, and only 81 active cases. The district has recorded one death so far.

Says Dr R C Mandal, Chief Superintendent of the hospital, "About two weeks ago, we changed strategy. We realised that a vast number of our cases are asymptomatic. So while earlier, all cases were in the isolation centre, now we only have those who are symptomatic and serious. Asymptomatic patients are placed in the Covid care centres. Right now, we have no serious cases at the isolation centre, and only four who are symptomatic," Mandal says.

Thus the deserted surroundings, and the three garbage bags.

"Everything is under control. There are only four cases that require medical attention, and two patients who have fever. Even the one person who died had cancer. For now, there is absolutely no reason to panic," adds Mandal.

The lack of serious patients is reason for solace, for now, but the numbers show how small

the margin for error is. Mandal admits that JLN Hospital is the only large medical college for a 200-sq-km area covering three states. "There is a big hospital like this in Patna, Dhanbad in Jharkhand, and Siliguri in West Bengal. Everyone comes here, and we need to be ready," Mandal says. Besides, the Covid numbers have been rising steadily (*see box*).

For a hospital that serves so many, the numbers too allow for no complacency. There are all of 22 ventilators, 10 of them new, and 64 ICU beds. Plus not enough protective equipment.

A doctor at the hospital says on condition of anonymity, "One of the reasons asymptomatic patients were moved to Covid care centres was that the hospital couldn't handle 100 patients. There weren't enough protective equipment. Even now, we make do with kits that are hardly protective."

The testing numbers are also abysmally low. Dr Vijay Kumar Singh, Civil Surgeon in the district, says the district is conducting 315 tests a day. Overall, till June 15, it had conducted 5,632 tests. With 333 testing positive until that date, it's a confirmation rate of 6.2 per cent, higher than the national average of 5.7 per cent. Of the 333 who tested positive, 311 are from tests on 1,801 returning migrants, a confirmation rate of 17.26 per cent.

There are other concerns too. With JLN set aside for Covid cases, the non-Covid cases are being handled by the older, smaller, and much less advanced Sadar Hospital. Dr Mandal says he shifted at least 10 senior doctors to Sadar. But the hospital is showing signs of creaking under the strain. There are patients waiting on the floor, some sleeping on it.

Singh, the district Civil Surgeon, admits he is worried about the monsoon. "In crucial departments like paediatrics and anaesthesia, we have two and three doctors respectively. The load is getting too much. Which is why despite being a Covid-only hospital, we have had to open the emergency ward of JLN with 150 beds," Singh says.

Khalifabagh Market, Bhagalpur

Bhagalpur has earned itself many monikers over the ages. The 'city of academia', because of the ancient Vikramshila University, is now associated with the 1989 Bhagalpur riots and the infamous blindings of the following year. It is called Bihar's silk city as well. And yet, for locals, what sticks is the image of a town of traffic jams.

Shyam Sundar Newetia, a shopkeeper at Khalifabagh, the town's busiest market, bristles at the sight of the crowd outside his shop.

"These people who are out on the street... You think they are coming to buy? No. They are bored at home, so they are here. Fools! I don't allow them to sit in my shop anymore," he says.



JLN MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, MAYAGANJ

There are only four Covid-19 cases that require medical attention, and two patients who have fever... Even the one person who died had cancer. For now, there is no reason to panic."

DR R C MANDAL, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

Ever since restrictions began to ease, traffic has returned to Bhagalpur's narrow streets, where shops open by 11 am. The motorcycles, rickshaws and pedestrians are all out in force, enough to make mockery of any intended social distancing. Masks hang loosely on faces, if at all, and pedestrians brush past each other.

The roads might suggest normalcy, but, as Newetia says, it is all a mirage. Shops are empty, sale registers bare. It's a time of deep distress.

Newetia owns 'Matching Corner Boutique', a 50-year-old store that sells clothes, primarily for women. He opened the store on June 1 and since then, business has been dire. "About 75% of business has gone away. People want to hold on to their money in these uncertain times. Even the 25 per cent sale I am doing is of nighties or undergarments," Newetia says.

But there are things to be thankful for. Such as the fact that he owns the shop. "Those on rent have let go of most of their staff. There is no money. Last year, one of those rickshaws you see would refuse to take you to the railway station for Rs 40; today, he will go for 10," he says.

Most businessmen in Bhagalpur also complain about the timing of the shutdown. Newetia says, "From June to November, there is the wedding season, Durga Puja and then Chhat festival. Right now is when we should be having festive sales."

An employee at Hotel Chinmayee Inn, one of the city's biggest, says that during the wedding season, their 59 rooms would be fully booked. "As of today, only four rooms are occupied. Also, a lot of our clientele used to come for trade from Patna or Kolkata. As long as trains don't restart, that won't happen," says a staff member.

A km away, is Mayfair restaurant, one of Bhagalpur's most popular eating joints. At 2 pm on a Thursday, there is one family at a table.

Owner Navin Nishchal says, "People have just stopped coming. I reopened the restaurant only earlier this month. Most of the orders are deliveries from either Zomato or Swiggy... I had 22 people working with me. I have seven now," he says wistfully.

On some days, when his cellphone rings, he fervently hopes it's an order, but these days, there are more calls asking for jobs.

"One of them told me he worked in a restaurant in Pune and is now back in Bhagalpur. He said he earned Rs 22,000 a month but could make do with Rs 12,000 now. It broke my heart, but I could do nothing," he says.

Right next to Nishchal, a family of three are waiting for their order. The kitchen door swings open and three plates of *dahi vada* emerge. The waiter serves them and asks, "*Aur kuchhi?*" The answer to that question, in times such as these, may well decide his future.



“The climate and sustainability crisis is not a fair crisis. The ones who’ll be hit hardest from its consequences are often the ones who have done the least to cause the problem in the first place.”

— GRETA THUNBERG, 17-year-old climate activist

TOP OF THE WORLD



Captain Brett Crozier was commander of the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*

USA

Navy reverses move to reinstate virus-hit aircraft carrier's captain

Washington: In a reversal, the Navy on Friday scrapped its recommendation to reinstate Captain Brett Crozier and instead upheld a decision to fire him from his command of a coronavirus-stricken aircraft carrier where he became a hero to his crew. The Navy said an in-depth investigation showed that Crozier, despite imploring top brass to do more to safeguard his sailors, had himself failed to do enough to try to halt the spread of the coronavirus. It eventually infected more than 1,200 personnel aboard the *Theodore Roosevelt*, killing one of them.

USA

Tennessee lawmakers pass Bill to ban abortion after six weeks

TENNESSEE LAWMAKERS passed one of the tightest abortion restrictions in the country on Friday, banning the procedure once a fetal heartbeat is detected at around six weeks, which is often before a woman realises she is pregnant. The “heartbeat” bill follows a wave of similar strict anti-abortion measures passed by Republican-majority legislatures in an effort to prompt the US Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v Wade*, the landmark 1973 case that guarantees a woman’s constitutional right to abortion. In the last two years, federal judges have struck down “fetal heartbeat” laws banning abortion after six weeks in several states on the grounds that they were unconstitutional.

BRITAIN

Mayor promises to protect Leicester's Gandhi statue

London: The mayor of the city of Leicester has committed to protecting the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the heart of the central England city, as an online petition created to save the under-threat monument attracted over 6,000 signatures. Peter Soulsby confirmed his support for the monument as the city’s “great pride” in his response to a letter from former Indian-origin Leicester East MP Keith Vaz, who has been leading a campaign ever since an online petition called for the statue’s removal last week.

BRITAIN CONSIDERS EASING SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES

Brazil infections cross 1 mn as Beijing sees drop in cases

KEN MORITSUGU & JILL LAWLESS
BEIJING, JUNE 20

CHINA’S CAPITAL recorded a further drop in coronavirus cases amid tightened containment measures, while Brazil surpassed 1 million confirmed infections, second only to the US.

Europe, in contrast, continues to emerge warily from lockdown, with hard-hit Britain considering easing social distancing rules to make it easier for restaurants, pubs and schools to reopen.

Officials reported 22 new cases in Beijing on Saturday, along with five others elsewhere in China. There were no new deaths and 308 people remained hospitalized for treatment.

South Korea recorded 67 new cases, the largest 24-hour increase in about three weeks. Most of them come from the densely populated Seoul area, where about half of the country’s 51 million people reside. Many cases have been linked to exposure in nightlife outlets.

The head of the World Health Organization said Friday that the pandemic is “accelerating” and that more than 150,000 cases were reported the day before.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters in Geneva that nearly half of the



A CONCERT FOR THE QUARANTINED: A group of musicians playing Samba offered a small concert to the residents of Rio’s Turano favela, most of whom remain quarantined to curb the spread of Covid-19. Residents could watch the performance from their windows, balconies or via internet. *AP*

newly reported cases were from the Americas.

Brazil’s Health Ministry said the total number of cases had risen by more than 50,000 from the previous day. President Jair Bolsonaro still downplays the risks of the virus after nearly 50,000 fatalities in three months, saying the impact of social isolation on Brazil’s economy could be more deadly.

The new coronavirus has infected more than 8.5 million people worldwide and killed more than 454,000. *AP*

Indian crew stranded on cruise ships appeal for repatriation

London: Hundreds of Indian crew aboard cruise ships docked on the UK coast have appealed for repatriation to India amid the ongoing coronavirus lockdown.

The All India Seafarer and General Workers Union claims that around 1,500 crew members from India have been stranded at UK ports across these ships.

“This is regarding 164 crew

members stranded Indian citizens on the vessel *MV Astoria*,” notes a letter from the union addressed to the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in reference to one of the vessels.

“In this pandemic coronavirus outbreak, our Indian citizens stuck in foreign waters from past 90 days, and need help,” notes the letter dated June 16. *PTI*

US Dept of Justice tries to oust attorney probing Trump allies, but he refuses to go

NATHAN LAYNE & SARAH N LYNCH
WASHINGTON, JUNE 20

A TOP US federal prosecutor whose office has been investigating President Donald Trump’s personal lawyer, Rudolph Giuliani, on Friday refused to step down after the administration abruptly said it was replacing him.

Attorney General William Barr, in a surprise late-night announcement, said the US Attorney in Manhattan, Geoffrey Berman, was stepping down and that he would nominate Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton to take Berman’s spot.

Berman, who leads a powerful office known for prosecuting high-profile terrorism cases, Wall Street financial crimes and government corruption, said he first learned of the move from Barr’s press release and would not go quietly.

“I have not resigned, and have no intention of resigning my position,” Berman said in a statement. “I will step down when a presidentially appointed nominee is confirmed by the Senate. Until then, our investigations will move forward without delay or interruption.”

Since being appointed in January 2018, Berman has not shied from taking on figures in Trump’s orbit. His office oversaw the prosecution of Michael Cohen, Trump’s former personal lawyer, indicted two Giuliani associates and launched a probe into Giuliani in connection with his efforts to dig up dirt on Trump’s political adversaries in Ukraine. *REUTERS*



Geoffrey S Berman

EXPLAINED

Crisis after unusual appointment

GEOFFREY BERMAN, the federal prosecutor in Manhattan, was appointed to the post on an interim basis by then A-G Jeff Sessions in 2018.

Although he was a Trump pick, the President never officially sent his nomination to the Senate for confirmation, which is how federal prosecutors are usually appointed. After 120 days as interim US Attorney, Berman’s appointment was made permanent by the US District Court for the Southern District of New York. Refusing to quit despite A-G Barr’s announcement, Berman pointed out that he couldn’t be fired by the President as he wasn’t appointed by the President, and that he would remain in office until another nominee was confirmed by the Senate.



ANOTHER CONFEDERATE STATUE GOES DOWN

The statue of Albert Pike, which is the only statue of a Confederate general in the US capital, was toppled by protesters and set on fire in Washington early Saturday. It comes as the US observed Juneteenth, the day marking the end of slavery in the United States, amid continuing anti-racism demonstrations following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. *AP*

Judge denies Trump bid to block Bolton book

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JUNE 20

A US judge on Saturday denied a request by the Trump administration for an injunction to block publication of a book by President Donald Trump’s former national security adviser John Bolton that alleges the president sought China’s help to win re-election.

“While Bolton’s unilateral conduct raises grave national security concerns, the government has not established that an injunction is an appropriate rem-



Bolton was criticised by the judge, who said he ‘gambled with the national security’

edy,” US District Judge Royce Lamberth said in his ruling.

The administration had

sought a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against the publication of *The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir*, saying it contained classified information and threatened national security.

The book, scheduled to hit stores Tuesday, is already in the hands of media organisations.

“Defendant Bolton has gam-

bled with the national security of the United States. He has exposed his country to harm and himself to civil (and potentially criminal) liability,” the judge wrote.

But he said an injunction

would be too late to stem the harm. “With hundreds of thousands of copies around the globe — many in newsrooms — the damage is done,” Lamberth said. In a tweet shortly after the decision was released, Trump lashed out at Bolton. “He must pay a very big price for this, as others have before him,” Trump said.

Trump drew some solace from the judge’s rebuke of Bolton.

“BIG COURT WIN against Bolton. Obviously, with the book already given out and leaked to many people and the media,” Trump tweeted. *REUTERS*

would be too late to stem the harm. “With hundreds of thousands of copies around the globe — many in newsrooms — the damage is done,” Lamberth said. In a tweet shortly after the decision was released, Trump lashed out at Bolton. “He must pay a very big price for this, as others have before him,” Trump said.

Trump drew some solace from the judge’s rebuke of Bolton. “BIG COURT WIN against Bolton. Obviously, with the book already given out and leaked to many people and the media,” Trump tweeted. *REUTERS*

The pandemic has pushed the Chilean medical system close to collapse — intensive-care units in Santiago are at 96% of capacity, and that is only because dozens of patients have been sent to regional hospitals to ease the burden on those in the capital.

The coronavirus was brought to Chile by well-off travelers who vacationed in Europe. Chilean officials in April replaced a strict quarantine of several wealthy neighborhoods of Santiago with a string of constantly shifting closures in neighbourhoods

throughout the city.

“For a short while we had a window of opportunity,” said Pablo Villalobos, a public health researcher at Harvard and adviser to the World Health Organization. “It was a lost opportunity.”

The virus started spreading virtually uncontrolled through Santiago at the start of May, helped by officials’ refusal to shut down public transport. “The government did not take the necessary restrictive measures,” said Claudio Castillo, a public health expert at the University of Chile. *AP*

‘COVID’ CASKET ELIMINATES PRECIOUS WOODS, DETAILED CARVINGS AND GLASS PANES IN FAVOUR OF FAST-TO-PRODUCE PLAIN BOX

Chileans mass producing caskets to deal with coronavirus onslaught

EVA VERGARA
SANTIAGO, JUNE 20

NICOLÁS BERGERIE’S family has been making coffins for four generations, with barely any alteration. But when he saw the coronavirus ravaging Europe, he decided to roll out a new product.

The “COVID” is a casket that eliminates precious woods, detailed carvings and glass viewing panes in favor of a plain box of cheaper wood that is fast to produce in quantity. It’s the per-

fect product for Chile, which has become a hot spot for the virus despite aggressive government measures to control its spread.

On Friday, Chile’s 230,000 cases made it ninth in the world in the number of confirmed coronavirus infections, despite its relatively small population of fewer than 19 million people. With more than 5,000 new cases reported on a typical day, next week Chile is expected to pass Italy in the ranks of most-infected countries.

With more than 4,000 dead in Chile, Bergerie’s business,

Bergut Funeral Services, has seen its orders boom. He said the workshop is making 100 coffins a week, double the pre-pandemic number, although the cheaper caskets mean his income has dropped by half.

“We looked at the international experience and we started to turn out more coffins because we understood what was coming,” said Manuel González, the head of the workshop.

The Chilean government reported 252 deaths Friday, the highest number since the virus that can



A production line of coffins at the Bergut Funeral Services in Santiago, Chile. *AP*

cause COVID-19 disease arrived in Chile in early March. Most infections and deaths are concentrated in the capital, Santiago.

The true scale of the outbreak goes far beyond the official numbers — Chile is daily carrying out as many as 20,000 virus tests, and about 30% are coming back positive, a strong sign that many infections have gone undetected.

Officials admit their effort to battle the virus is falling short, particularly in tracing and isolating those who come into contact with infected people.

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE



SPOTLIGHT

Stronger Together

Mental health is not an individual problem, it is a collective responsibility, writes Shelja Sen



BOOKS

- Review of Chandan Gowda's *A Life in the World: UR Ananthamurthy in Conversation with Chandan Gowda*
- Historian Ira Mukhoty on her new book on Akbar & why his vilification is a British legacy

eye

THE FUTUREPOLIS

How will the pandemic change the city?

Shiny Varghese

THINK OF a city that has a skin that can inflate and deflate, depending on the number of people it needs to accommodate. A house that can be lifted on a crane and perched on skyscrapers and detached when your work in the city is done. What if a city can hang off an airship and land overnight in a place, with a kit of moveable parts? In the late 1960s, when modernism was making chunky cubes of houses for people to live in and grids for urban layouts, a group of six British architects came together to form Archigram. They began with a single-page magazine that was filled with collages, poems and visuals of utopian possibilities of a city — flexible, mobile and adaptable. The group would challenge generations of architects to build, dream and envision possible futures. Though Archigram never built any city and critics called them out for their assumption that the earth had endless resources, many of their ideas seem to have found their way into our everyday, from escalators to monorails.

The novel coronavirus pandemic and the lockdowns that were put in place across the world to tackle it pose questions about the future of urban living. In India, among the images seared into public memory are those of crowds cheering on balconies of towering apartments and private homes, and that of workers streaming out of cities, walking hundreds of kilometres to their homes. Some of “us”, for whom home remained a safe place, raised the drawbridges, switched on our WiFi and disconnected from the outside. We created islands for ourselves within our homes, while the migrant worker moved out of his dwelling place.

“Today it’s the pandemic, tomorrow it could be an intense heat wave or a global climate crisis. Confined living will become the way forward,” says Thiruvananthapuram-based urban designer and architect Manoj Kumar Kini. A possible future model, he says, lies in the example of Arcosanti.

Sometime in the 1970s, Italian architect Paolo Soleri planned a future city that would meld ecology and architecture. In the Arizona desert, he envisioned the utopian metropolis, Arcosanti. Its ribbed vaults allowed ample light and air to filter into spaces, and encouraged a sense of community. One could walk to the office or workshop, compost with one’s neighbour or walk out of one’s house into the thick of cultural action. While it had its faults, be it the people who lived there or the unadaptability of the structure, it offered a worldview that could change the way we live.

Closer home, Auroville near Puducherry aimed to be a place with “a new consciousness”, with like-minded people from all over the world making it their home. “In the future, urban living could be like something between an apartment and a township like Dwarka in Delhi, where compact living will be the norm, with people choosing to walk, cycle or take public transport, because distance will compress. We will travel less, have a smaller ecological footprint, and have more time with family,” says Kini.

Could buildings of the future be about empathy, about an architect who “places himself/herself in the role of a future dweller and tests the validity of the ideas through this imaginative exchange of roles and personalities?” asks Finnish architect and thinker Juhani Pallasmaa in the book *Architecture and Empathy* (Periphrase Projects; 2015). Will buildings become a shared resource? Can a university and a corporate office be in the same campus? Can government administration and cultural centres coexist? “Maybe it will open up spaces in the city, between building and non-building, where designers and architects will need to intervene to revitalise, renovate, and renew. We will have to get off our Autocads and get our hands dirty. Just the way you now want a hairdresser to come home, people might want an architect to come home and use what they have to build anew, since money and building resources will be hard to come by,” says architect Moulshri Joshi of the Delhi-based firm Space Matters.



“Until now, we were aware of those who lived on pavements, in slums and *chawls* and overcrowded small apartments. But we didn’t realise there is another lot of people who live in corridors, garages, attics, mezzanines, and lofts in every city, and their numbers are staggering. When the city turns its back on them, where can they go?” says architect and habitat professional Kirtee Shah, who lives



ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY

in Ahmedabad.

For the poor migrant to the city, there is a place called home in the village and a city where he earns his daily bread. “For some, the home is a ‘resort’ but for those who don’t have that privilege, the city was their home. It gave them certainty. What does it mean to not have that in a lockdown? There are no easy answers, but we need to think of ideas of care and how we can create those spaces in our cities. How can we create different levels of communities and what will those spaces be?” says Mumbai-based architect and urbanist Rupali Gupte.

In a recent letter to Praveen Pardeshi, former municipal commissioner of Mumbai, Shah offered suggestions for handling the slum crisis in the city. From using vacant houses and unsold inventory in housing for migrants and using rooftops of public buildings to create temporary housing stock, Shah pushed for more dignified dwelling units.

He recounts his keynote address at the opening of the “State of Housing” exhibition in Mumbai in 2018. He asked an audience of nearly a 100 people, a majority of them architects, if they had heard of Indira Awaas Yojana. “Only a few hands went up. It was one of the

world’s biggest social housing projects, which lasted nearly 30 years and built more than 20 million houses, but India’s architects barely intervened. It speaks volumes about the disconnect architects have with society,” he says.

While architects design on a computer, the drawings are executed by masons, carpenters and unskilled labourers. “They are the ones who convert our dreams into beautiful projects. So I asked, ‘Since most of you visit your sites at least every two weeks, how many of you have seen the conditions in which the workers live?’ Barely one hand came up,” says Shah. “We need to rethink and reshape our cities which are inhuman and hostile to the people who build them.”

In the letter, Shah suggests renegotiating terms with employers so that workers are provided better places to live. “... [It] could be a rented place in a slum redevelopment colony, in an affordable low-income settlement, in a slum where a family is willing to rent a room, or in a liveable tent on a public building terrace.”



The comfort of home for migrants is also

Lankan civil war refugees and those displaced by the 2004 tsunami in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu. Many of the Sri Lankan women, for instance, were skilled at weaving mats. Balsavar, with his team at Artes-Human Settlements Development Collaborative, encouraged them to use these as partitions for their new homes. “That should be the way forward for families returning to their villages, too, during the lockdown. None of them want anything free, they are glad to engage their skills in a productive manner. That is what we should be doing, respecting dignity and pride in their work,” he says.

Home is about identity and self-definition, an expression of belonging. While our cities privilege privacy and gated elements and also disconnection from the larger masses, in our villages networks are cyclical and form the basis of life. The city and its lack of interdependency is what causes alienation. Pratik Dhanmer of Design Jatra, a rural research and architectural firm in Dahanu, Maharashtra, speaks of how the layout of houses in villages enhance interaction, where verandahs face each other and children are secure playing on the streets.

Balsavar recounts what he noticed in Nagapattinam soon after the tsunami. Several families had abandoned their newly-built concrete-box shelters. These fine engineered solutions for living put the kitchens at the back of the house. The original homes had the kitchens in the front, which enabled women to talk among themselves, keep an eye on their children playing on the street, not to mention the excellent cross-ventilation they afforded. However, in the new homes, the kitchen was pushed to the back of the house, which meant the women worked in isolation, their front doors were shut and the streets empty. “The idea of a rural home has many layers, which architects, sociologists and engineers can learn from,” says Balsavar.

While we rejoiced in employing our city balconies as a stage for approval, with all the bells and whistles, it has rarely become a site for interaction all these years. It’s the park view we seek and not the sense of community. In fact, in many homes, balconies are seen as obstacles in the way of carpet area.




Delhi-based architect Gautam Bhatia has planned a design where the community is not compromised. In cities where we privilege privacy, what are the possible combinations which allow for the public and the private to come together? “Over the last couple of decades, life has been going into lockdown by itself. Within homes, too, entertainment was becoming private and recreation was getting isolated. So, the idea of an apartment that shares community values yet allows you to keep your privacy is the aim. These would be about 800-1,000 sq. ft houses, varying from one-two bedrooms. The remaining spaces are given over to the community, with meeting rooms and games areas. The idea is to force you out of your confinement. You pay much less for private space and get more shared space. You will be forced to go out into verandahs. Unlike high-end apartments that are self-contained, where there is no sense of sharing,” he says. There is the need to change by-laws in our cities to accommodate more public spaces and integrate all classes to live side by side. The future, Bhatia says, is in smaller homes and rental housing.

The coronavirus has exposed the artificial and abnormal in society, argues Delhi-based Shuddhabrata Sengupta of Raqs Media Collective, which is curating the Yokohama Triennale 2020. “There is an enormous amount of resources spent to ensure that our society is not democratic. Delhi, for instance, is a lot about gated communities and large resources are used to keep people out. We are living in a highly artificially maintained dystopia. Architects and urban designers can show a new way and plan how our cities can be for the next 100 years. But I don’t see them coming together to demand a commitment to urban housing from any regime.” “Ultimately, it will not be about big projects but keeping life cycles intact, which our vernacular societies have always done, where life is not a straight line and relationships are important,” says Thautam.

Maybe, our cities ought to be like Ersilia, from Italo Calvino’s novel *Invisible Cities* (1972), where relationships nurture life, and “its inhabitants stretch strings from the corners of their houses” across the city to mark connections, be it for trade or fellowship. So that, even when walls come crumbling down and homes cease to exist, the “labyrinth of taut strings” will continue to exist.

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

Getting Sweet on Spiders

Spiders are remarkable creatures, and it’s possible to have healthy relationships with them

A LOT OF people have arachnophobia — an irrational fear of spiders. Many people, especially rednecks trying to show how macho they are, go to the other extreme and have huge furry tarantulas or black widows strolling up and down their beefy arms or thick necks. There’s no need to either scream every time you see a spider or have a cuddle with a tarantula to develop a healthy relationship with these absolutely remarkable creatures. While I will keep a healthy distance from the large furry kinds that prowl about the undergrowth or crouch behind bathroom doors in forest rest houses, I am equally gob-smacked every time I see a web looking like strings of pearls on a dewy morning, and will eyeball those small, fierce, jumping spiders whose bright obsidian eyes remain fixed on you as though they’re in love with you.

If you would like to get to know them better, it may be sensible to start off with the smaller ones — they’re normally sparkly, sprightly and hugely entertaining. One of my favourites is the jumping spider, also known as the zebra spider or zebra jumper. They’re small chocolate-brown-and-caramel and spend their time fiercely posturing on walls, feinting like boxers before a bout. Let a mosquito or fly settle close and they’ll fix their eyes on them and whom! They leap so fast you can’t see the movement till they land on their victim. Always, like all of their clan, they’ll trail a safety line behind them, just in case the jump, say, off a table, goes wrong and they have to haul themselves back to safety. Their leaps are like vanishing tricks — they disappear from one spot and appear at another in a trice. There’s another tiny little jumping spider which looks like it’s made out of iridescent metal: it can appear gold or emerald green depending on the angle of the light. You might find it on your car, too, especially if it has a metallic paint finish.

The garden or large green plants may be other good haunts to look out for spiders. One morning, I stepped out into the balcony overhung with a *madhumalti* creeper and casually looked at the pale pink-and-white blooms as bees hovered around. Suddenly, one bee seemed to be



SIZE MATTERS

Small spiders are normally sparkly and hugely entertaining

having a fit. When I glanced at it, I froze. A translucent pearl-white crab spider, half the bee’s size, had pounced and was holding the hairy bee in an embrace. All too soon, she had sunk her mandibles into the bee, injecting it with virulent venom and the bee ceased to struggle. The spider remained stock-still. I knew she was sucking up the nourishing juices from the bee, having dissolved its insides with her venom and digestive juices. She would suck it dry and then discard the empty husk. You might find this revolting, but how is it different from what politicians and taxmen do to us? Crab spiders are beautiful because often they’re the same colour as that of the flowers they hide among and can change their colours accordingly.

Another common spider that lives among plants is the lynx spider, an elongated little creature that often looks like it’s been made out of fine blown glass. I’ve found them lurking on the undersides of kumquat leaves, waiting in ambush for something small and edible to land on the surface of the leaf. Lynx spiders (like several of the clan) make fiercely protective moms — to a degree. She’ll lay her eggs in a silken egg case, tethered to her by a thread, and she’ll drag the contraption along. She will threaten intruders and pull her precious egg case under leaves if it starts raining. I watched just-hatched spiderlings emerge from their egg case once, and, boy, were these tiny angel-white creatures into sibling rivalry! They’d saunter down a silk line, meet each other headfirst and try to throw one another off it. But it can get worse. If there are too many babies and too little food, they (even their mom!) will turn on each other and turn cannibals.

There are the famous orb weavers, which may range widely in size. It is amazing how their cleverly crafted sticky nets can vanish, until you step into them! Some orb spiders, like those belonging to the Argiope clan, sketch a conspicuous zig-zag pattern around the centre of the web, which can serve as a warning for anything too large. But even these relatively large spiders are worth watching for the deft way with which they shroud their victims with silk, keeping their meals for another time. Walk into the web of a giant wood spider and you’ll feel like you’ve walked into a trap made of fine steel wires.

It’s usually the spiders that you encounter unexpectedly that give you the biggest frights. Shuffling into the bathroom in the middle of the night to find a monstrous wolf spider beadily eyeing you from the potty lid can be traumatising. But unless you’re a cockroach or something similar, you’re generally safe. So gently chivvy it away, use the loo and go back to bed...and sweet dreams!



IMAGINE

BY SHELJA SEN

RIGHT FROM an early age, we are recruiting our children into believing that there is one right way to live their life. In a talk or in a workshop, I generally ask the audience if they know somebody who has experienced mental-health struggles. Some hands shoot up right away, then others start raising their hands tentatively, looking around and taking solace in the sense of solidarity until all the hands go up. Then, I make it a little more difficult and check if they know somebody who has dealt with suicidal thoughts. Majority of the hands go up again. It is all around us — in our homes, our schools, colleges, workspaces, public places — staring back at us, asking us to look, listen. But we turn away, leaving them with their silences. Maybe sometimes, that silence and shame becomes too much to live with.

It takes the death of a public figure to remind us how much mental health matters. For the coming weeks, there will be a flurry of Instagram, Facebook and Twitter posts by well-meaning people, but then it will all go away, as it generally does. Do we realise how difficult it is for people living with depression or anxiety to be their own advocates at every step, especially when they have been convinced that something is inherently wrong with them — that they are the problem?

The person is not the problem, the problem is the problem

Right from an early age, we are recruiting our children into believing that there is one right way to live their life. They are constantly struggling against the illusory yardstick of success. They are being sold the idea that the higher they go, the better they will be. But then they wonder why every rung up leads to more misery? Off-the-chart suicide rates of IIT aspirants in Kota coaching centres should shake us out of our collective stupor of what we see as the making of a “good life”. A study conducted by Assocham in 2018 found that 42.5 per cent of employees are struggling with depression and/or anxiety in their high-pressure jobs. They possibly climbed the ladder of success and security to find it is a myth. They have internalised the propaganda that the only way they are worth something is if they get into a good college, “be productive” and get into a financially stable career. Therefore, it is no surprise that the chilling statistics indicate that one in four young persons is struggling with depression or anxiety and that India tops the world in youth suicide.

The person is not the problem, the problem is the problem, and the problem is social!*

Shiv is a young man I met who had been lured into the society’s idea of success. In our discussion, he started realising that his company’s work culture of constant pressure, of

STRONGER TOGETHER

Mental health is not an individual problem, it is a collective responsibility



GETTY IMAGES

“never being good enough” was pushing him into depression. As we unspooled this problematic notion of success, he realised, “My life can’t be just about meeting the next target, pay my bills and die.” He renegotiated his purpose in life, had a clear chat with his boss on what he would be able to deliver and started doing things that aligned with what he valued the most. For example, getting together with his old band and jamming every weekend and not “wasting precious hours of my life thinking of how to get ahead.”

There is much talk about the “epidemic” of mental-health problems reaching unprecedented proportions. We have been made to

REACH OUT, HOLD TIGHT
We need to reflect on how to help each other overcome mental-health impediments

believe that it can all be understood as “chemical imbalance” but that does not hold much water in the face of growing research and begs the question, “Who has a chemically balanced brain and what does it look like?” To the point of being provocative, I can say it is pretty fictional and not helpful as it locates the problem within the person. It is an extremely complex problem within our socio-cultural context which needs a nuanced understanding. Our identities are formed at the intersection of gender, sexuality, age, caste, class, religion, looks (let’s not underestimate the demand for “fair & lovely”) and the most important of it all — social acceptance and social success. Mental-health problems as chemical

imbalance absolves us of the collective responsibility we need to take as adults. This pushes us to think it is not our problem and we end up making the problem individualistic, leading to, what I call, the 3 Ds.

Dismissal — trivialising the problem with normative judgements such as “Stop complaining all the time”; “This is so silly”; “You just need to be stronger”.
Defining — making the problem the single story about them — “I don’t think you will be able to do much in life if you are so weak.”
Dumping — mental-health problems hide issues of gross social injustice. For example, women being diagnosed with depression when they react to marital abuse, young girls who feel rejected and suicidal as they do not fit the rigid definition of “fair & lovely.” Their mental-health problems are just a mirror of a society that is unfair and damaged.
Sometimes, all people need are these simple messages:
“I see you” “I hear you” — People are multi-storied so let’s not define them by single stories of “failure” and “unworthiness.” This does not mean we have to “be positive” and “look at the silver lining” as that can be quite dismissive. It means to listen to their problems and also keep sight of their stories of courage, hopes and dreams.
“Tell me how I can help” — We might not know what to say or do, so asking might help. It is easy to get into the “let’s fix it” or advising mode but step back from it, as it might stop them from accessing their own skills and abilities to find their solution.
“I have your back” — If each person knew that there is somebody out there who will accept them the way they are no matter how damaged they are feeling.

It is not a mental-health problem but a problem of social justice

As a narrative therapist (Narrative Therapy was pioneered by Michael White & David Epston), I strongly believe that the solution is not an individual’s or a family’s responsibility. It is a social problem, and, therefore, we need to take the lens of social justice. There is an old legend-now-turned-to-a-metaphor that canaries were sent down into coal mines to test for gas leaks. Our young people are the canaries of our present time. We have created the toxic society in which they are struggling to survive. Maybe, this pandemic is an opportunity for us to let go of the deadwood of social expectations of success and carve out something new collaboratively.
Rather than quick solutions, here are some questions we can reflect on:

- What do you think are the social beliefs and norms that contribute to the rising mental health problems?
 - How fair are these social norms and expectations?
 - In what ways can you resist these expectations and support others?
- We need nothing short of a social movement to make this happen. We have lost too many lives and too much time. Nobody is going to come and sort this out for us. We have to do it ourselves.

**Quoted by David Denborough, narrative practitioner, in a workshop*

Dr Shelja Sen is a narrative therapist, co-founder Children First, writer, and, in this column, she curates the know-how of the children and young people she works with. Write to her shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com

‘It was a golden opportunity to represent the transgender community’

A Manipuri teenager on facing the camera for the first time for the web-series *Paatal Lok*

Tora Agarwala

ONE OF the more moving arcs in the acclaimed web series *Paatal Lok* belongs to Mary Lyngdoh, also called Cheeni, who is one of the accused in the murder plot that opens the show. Playing Cheeni is 19-year-old Mairambam Ronaldo Singh from Manipur. In this interview, Singh talks about playing Cheeni, the challenges faced by the transgender community and life back home:

From Moirang, Manipur, to Mumbai — how did that happen?
I grew up watching Manipuri cinema. Acting was always a passion for me but never did I think I would be acting in front of a camera in a Hindi language series! The geographical remoteness of the place I come from and the language barrier — these are just some of the challenges we northeasterners face regularly in life. Last December, Eliza Ngangom, a transgender activist from Manipur (also my make-up teacher), told me that people from Mumbai had come looking for someone to play the role of a transgender character. Nikita (Grover) ma’am, the



Before the series, I have never acted professionally. I was nervous...I felt like I needed to prove myself to the team all the time

casting director, came down to my hometown in Moirang to meet me. We met at a *chai* stall and my audition happened in the backseat of a car! I was very, very shy but somehow they decided to pick me.

Did your family need much convincing to let you play this part?
Initially, my parents were not ready to send me to Mumbai. They even asked if my part could be shot in Moirang! Of course, that was not possible. They were not against the idea of me playing the role of a trans woman but had a problem with the place I was going to shoot in. My parents are simple people and they don’t really know much about filmmaking. Moreover, they had hardly watched any Hindi movies. But with Eliza’s help and my constant begging for permission, they ultimately had to bless me.

How was your experience of filming the series?
There was both joy and worry. I did not know Hindi — so they had to hire a Hindi teacher to give me lessons. Moreover, before this series, I had never acted professionally. I was nervous because I was sharing camera



SCREEN TIME
(Left) Mairambam Ronaldo Singh in a scene from the web-series on Amazon Prime; Singh

space with known faces of the industry, so I felt like I needed to prove myself to the team all the time.

Did you connect with Cheeni?
Cheeni is a victim of human greed and lust. To some extent, the series showcases the challenges transgender people face reg-

ularly, such as in the jail scene where she was forced to share the room with other male inmates. *Paatal Lok* also highlights society’s ignorance about the existence and problems of the trans community. I think it sent a message that we are also human beings who want to live a dignified life. Honestly, it was a golden opportunity for me to play this role and tell our story. I represent my transgender community in the series.

Can you tell us a little about your early life in Manipur?
I was born and brought up in Moirang, a historically and culturally important town of Manipur. My family was not well-to-do — I only attended government schools as it was difficult for my parents to get me admission in a private school. In my early years, I could not come to terms with my sexuality. Gradually — with support from the transgender community — I learnt that it is something I should be proud of. In the past, I have been mocked and subjected to numerous derogatory remarks. But what *Paatal Lok* has taught me is that we can do what we truly love, regardless of the obstacles that come our way.

Has your life changed after *Paatal Lok*?
The overall response and acclaim that our series has received so far is amazing. As for me, I am living the same life in Moirang, where I am a make-up artist. People in Manipur — except a few — don’t recognise me even after the success of the series since most are not even aware of *Paatal Lok*. First of all, this was not a mainstream Bollywood series, and, second, the culture of Manipur is totally different from mainland India — a lot of young people follow Korean movies and songs. However, I do get a lot of comments, praises and appreciation on my Instagram handle and I do not have words to express how good that makes me feel.



COURTESY: HARPERCOLLINS INDIA

THINK TANK

UR Ananthamurthy (right) with Chandan Gowda

The Critical Insider

A glimpse into the mind of UR Ananthamurthy and his reflections on the many issues of 20th century India

NS Gundur

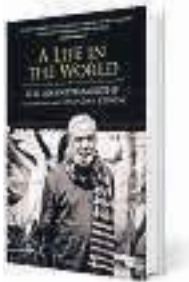
RENOWNED KANNADA writer UR Ananthamurthy (1932-2014) is best known to us as the author of *Samskara* (1965) and as a public intellectual. URA restlessly reflected on the problems of this world and had an urge to share these reflections with friends and visitors. He, therefore, immensely enjoyed conversing with others as much as thinking and writing about our life. The present book, *A Life in the World: UR Ananthamurthy in Conversation with Chandan Gowda*, is the result of one such conversation.

These conversations were shot at URA's residence by Chandan Gowda, an eminent translator of URA's fiction, along with a team of members from Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. This book, a by-product of such a documentary exercise, is structured into 10 chapters. These chapters not only reveal the mind of one of modern India's great writers but also his penetrating insights into the varied issues of 20th century India. The first three chapters 'Early Years', 'Mysore' and 'Birmingham and After' reconstruct the intellectual formation of URA. From a Brahmin *agrahara* through Maharaja's College in

Mysore to Birmingham University, his experiences with this world contributed to his "world making". He did not completely reject one space for another, but critically imbibed the virtues of all. Therefore, he became a critical insider, as the famous description of him goes.

The Mysore milieu produces in URA a voracious reader beyond the syllabus, and there, in the company of a poet like Gopal Krishna Adiga, he discovers himself as a *navya* writer. However, a completely new world opens up for him as he arrives in Birmingham to pursue his PhD. In England, his association with great cultural critics like Raymond Williams, Richard Hoggart, EP Thompson, David Lodge and the like does not influence him to become yet another Indian cultural critic, but his English days help him rediscover Kannada deeply and imbibe the art of writing a novel.

The remaining seven chapters are conversations that cover the cultural and political problems of India. Particularly, the chapters 'Tradition', 'Language', 'A Few Friends' and 'Karnataka' offer deep insights into literature, language, Kannada writers, the Veerashaiva movement, pen portraits of Kannada writers, intellectuals and politicians, among others. It is in one such conversation that URA makes a distinction between traditionalism and tradi-



A LIFE IN THE WORLD: UR ANANTHAMURTHY IN CONVERSATION WITH CHANDAN GOWDA
Harper Collins
204 pages
₹399

tion. He says, "How to preserve the past is the concern of the traditionalists. My concern is not how to preserve the past, but how to make the past useful for the present world."

In the chapter 'Being in Public', we come across the idea of a common school which he believes is necessary for bringing about social changes in India. The chapter 'Language' continues his public concern, particularly his views on translation, language in general, and the interface between Kannada and English. For URA, translation is an everyday practice in multilingual spaces like India as we often switch over from one set of codes and registers to another.

In yet another chapter 'Karnataka', URA contemplates on the making of modern Karnataka and the Kannada tradition. The chapter 'India's Political Life' adds another dimension to the conversation as URA examines Mahatma Gandhi, BR Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru and Ram Manohar Lohia. In his view, Gandhi, who played with ideas, was suspicious of the modern world system because we can hurt any part of the world by doing something wrong in any other part of the world. URA looks at Gandhi and Ambedkar as complementary minds. "Both Gandhi and he (Ambedkar)," URA says, "take different spiritual journeys. One takes a spir-

itual journey and says 'Hey Ram' and dies, and Ambedkar takes to Buddhism and dies. Gandhi uses Ram for politics and Ambedkar uses Buddha for politics..."

In the final chapter 'In Conclusion', we get to know about URA's personal tastes, including his favourite cuisine, favourite writers, attachments, his dislike for middle-class backbiting, among other things. As a finale, he states that he wishes to be remembered as a teacher and a writer — a Kannada writer.

Gowda's questions, as much straightforward as possible, do not interfere much in the course of the conversation. However, for a writer like URA, deeply probing questions like the craft of his fiction — how he constructed plots and fashioned his Kannada for his fictional narratives; how he wrestled with his writing — and such other questions of *techné* would have made this volume richer.

Gowda's introduction, which gives an overview of URA's works and thought, could have expanded on how such conversations extend the boundaries of autobiography. However, after reading URA's autobiography *Suragi* (2012), it is a different experience to listen to this speaking autobiography.

NS Gundur is the chairman, department of English Studies, Davangere University, Karnataka

The Long Dark Teatime

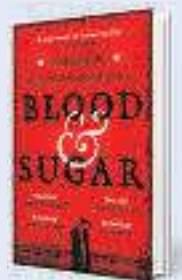
A historic crime thriller focuses on the underbelly of the British empire's slave trade

Seema Chishti

READERS OF crime fiction cannot fully explain, even if they feel it in their bones, what might be so comforting about reading about blood and gore in the middle of a pandemic. The fact that there is a crime in an otherwise placid world, which gets resolved by the last page, gives a sense of (false) comfort to the reader. The setting of the crime, usually idyllic or well-known, gives a sense of double ease that things have stayed the way "they were" once the crime is solved.

On both counts — in describing the sulphuric air of London as well as the grisly murder of an abolitionist — debut novelist Laura Shepherd Robinson is unsparing. In *Blood and Sugar*, a vividly-told murder story set in 1781, you are thrust into a London just about beginning to savour the joys of Empire as well as get to see the underbelly of the slave trade which made it profitable.

A decorated war veteran, Captain Corsham, fancying his chances of moving up in the House of Commons, has his life turned upside down as he faces up to the murder of his oldest friend, killed in circumstances connected to the Empire's darkest dimensions. Corsham recognises that unveiling what his late friend died for is going to put him at odds with the influential West Indian lobby in London, but the truth of what he uncovers forces him to continue regardless.



BLOOD & SUGAR
BY LAURA SHEPHERD-ROBINSON
Pan Macmillan
430 pages; ₹450

The atmospheric descriptions of late 18th century London confront the darkness that colonial prosperity is built on. The profit that comes from treating human

beings worse than chattels is confronted each time a tobacco leaf or the stirring of sugar grains in teacups is mentioned. The historical context is skilfully woven into the plot which, though fictional, is based on a real incident aboard a slave ship, *The Zong*. In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, running short of supplies, its captain killed 132 slaves by drowning them. His insurance claim on the murdered slaves is what brought this to court and to light. The owners did not win the claim but there was no prosecution either as the murder of slaves did not ruffle any feathers. Former slave-turned-abolitionist campaigner Olaudah Equiano and Granville Sharp used the incident to campaign for the abolition of the slave trade, even though the abolition bill was passed only in 1807 in Britain. Slavery and systemic oppression are again in the news, this time in the US, following the murder of a black man, George Floyd, by a white police officer.

The stain of slavery may be seen as something outside the Indian consciousness but it is not. Millions were shipped away from India to work as indentured labour in British colonies in an indirect consequence of the abolition of slavery. The *Girmitiyas* — or the people of the "agreement" that they signed and willed off their freedoms — hasn't got the attention in the Indian imagination as it, perhaps, should have. But books like Robinson's shake you into understanding the ways in which the institutionalised system of treating some as "lesser-born" still lives on. The biggest achievement of the author is to leave the reader with a distinct doubt over which of the two crimes it is that this novel seeks to place at the centre. Is it about the brutal murder, or the other crime that constantly hangs in the air and makes London, the capital of the "fledgling empire" connecting mercantile and military power, flourish with its "elegant drawing rooms, washed down by bowls of sweetened teas"?

‘Akbar understood the complex nature of Hindustan’

Ira Mukhoty, 51, on writing about Akbar in her new book, the Mughal response to medical emergencies and why their present-day vilification is a British legacy

Paromita Chakrabarti

FROM THE *zenana* in your second book to the monarch who would become the face of the dynasty, what drew you to the Mughals in the first place?

The Mughals are very close to us in time. Only around 250 years separate us from their glory days, following which they continued to exist, diminished, for another 100 years. So in a very physical, immediate sense, the legacy of the Mughals is all around us. It can be seen in the buildings that litter the landscape of India, in the clothes we wear, the *attar* we use, the words that seep into our vocabulary, the ingredients in our kitchens. It is even there, in the faux-Shahjahani arches and overly-creamy dishes served in 'Mughalai' restaurants in watery British towns.

In my first book, *Heroines* (2017), I encountered the story of Jahanara Begum, Shah Jahan's daughter. I was struck by her independence, wealth, her search for meaning outside of her opulent lifestyle. That led her to the Sufi path and the two biographies she wrote glow with the ambition of being taken as seriously as her brother Dara Shukoh, and her father, and not allowing her gender to undermine her. I found her message very moving, given that her memory had almost completely been erased, and that brought me to write *Daughters of the Sun* (2018). Since it was a re-evaluation of the *zenana* of the 'Great Mughals', a fascination for Akbar was inevitable. Akbar casts a huge shadow on Mughal history and on India as it is today. At the same time, there is a great deal of myth-making that inevitably accompanies such a personality. I thought it would be an interesting exercise to re-examine Akbar and his legacy using some fascinating new insights from art historians. Despite the fact that Akbar

is such a talismanic figure, not nearly enough modern biographies in English have been written over the past few decades.

How do you react to the present-day vilification of the Mughal dynasty?

The vilification of Mughal history is, unfortunately, a product of a colonial legacy. It is the British who began speaking in terms of a pristine, unsullied earlier 'Hindu' era to distinguish from the later 'Muslim' one, as separate entities, in the 19th century. This was done to justify their own incursion into Hindustan but, unfortunately, this narrative continues to gain traction. Identities were never so simplistic as Hindu or Muslim, or indeed Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi, etc. Identities were complex things, shaped by clan loyalties, geography, language, culture, etc, with religion being one of many factors, often not even the most important one. Which is why, I believe, it is all the more important to write narrative histories for the lay person, so that these nuances can be made easily accessible for interested people.

Would you say Akbar was the first of the Mughals to have a nuanced understanding of the syncretic nature of India? Is that why he eventually moved away from the scorched-earth policy of his Chittorgarh siege?

Akbar was the first to respond to the diverse nature of Hindustan and he made that response the very scaffolding of the empire. Both Babur and Humayun were already aware of this diversity and also quite pragmatic about the need to work with a non-Muslim majority. They both had a large number of Hindu soldiers in their armies due to their Timurid legacy, which was entirely practical when it came to religion. But neither ruled long



COURTESY: ALEPH BOOK COMPANY

HIGH AND MIGHTY

A painting depicting Akbar during a Qumargha hunt, which served to demonstrate the emperor's wealth and power

enough to translate that into a coherent response. Akbar did, and that was part of his genius — to understand the complex nature of Hindustan and to create a system of administration, in which all members were invested in the system. People would not be rewarded or punished because of their religion, but through their talent and abilities.

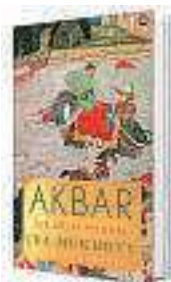
The siege of Chittor came early in Akbar's reign (1567-68), when he was yet to formulate a clear policy. He was still facing challenges on all fronts. It was the very brutality of Chittor that allowed Akbar to then use his power as a deterrent. It was only after the fall of Chittor and Ranthambore that many previously recalcitrant Rajput clans joined the empire, bringing lasting peace. So, Akbar may have viewed it as a necessary stage in the formation of a large, wealthy and stable empire.

Akbar's reign began with a pandemic and there was another epidemic after his Gujarat campaign (1572-73). How did he respond to these medical challenges?

There have been famines, followed by epidemics, throughout history. Famines were frequent and led to widespread deaths, which then caused diseases. The people seemed to have an awareness that contagion could be spread through contact because there are accounts of entire families dying together in their homes because they locked themselves in. As far as Akbar is concerned, there is an account of a famine towards the end of the 16th century in Srinagar. Akbar took active steps to alleviate suffering — he set up food kitchens,

abolished more than 50 harsh taxes and began the construction of a fort on Hari Parbat, for which hundreds of paid labourers were employed so that they had money for food.

You've dealt with the independence of the Mughal women and Akbar's sensitivity to them, but during his reign, the assimilation with Hindustani culture slowly invisibilised them. How do you explain this dichotomy?



AKBAR: THE GREAT MUGHAL
BY IRA MUKHOTY
Aleph Book Company
624 pages
₹799

When Akbar married his Rajput wives in a bid to stabilise the empire, he was very young. The influence of the elite Rajput clan culture on the young Padshah was, therefore, substantial. One of these influences was very probably a desire, like the Rajput clans, to 'invisibilise' women behind a stricter concept of *purdah* and a fixed and defined *zenana* space. At the same time, Akbar also sought to bring order and structure into all aspects of Mughal life and society. If you go through Abu'l Fazl's *Ain-i-Akbari*, you will see that there are elaborate procedures noted down for a range of activities, almost baf-

fling in their minutiae, from rules for the feeding of the royal elephants to the keeping of the royal tents. In a sense, the 'ordering' of the female component of the Mughal royal family fell within this same framework. It did not, in any way, suggest that Akbar altered his view towards women, which remained empathetic and caring. He continued to challenge prevailing attitudes towards women, whether it was the practice of *sati* or the stigma against widow remarriage in Hinduism or the discriminatory laws of inheritance in Islam.

Sign of the times

Seasoned autograph hunters face existential crisis because of pandemic protocols

SANDIP G
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

CHANDIGARH'S AVID autograph-hunter Dharam Vir Duggal was planning to buy a PPE kit and pair of gloves when he heard that the much-delayed Indian Premier League (IPL), despite the COVID-19 outbreak, might take place later this year.

Stuck on 572 signatures, the 58-year-old who doubles up as occasional cricket reporter for local newspapers, was banking on the star-studded T20 tournament to take his collection to the '600' milestone. Far away in England, James Brighton too was hopeful to take his tally of signed Manchester United scarves to 11,777 till the time he heard that the English Premier League would be held behind closed doors.

With live sport action, including the IPL, expected to take place without spectators, memorabilia-seekers are facing what the grand old man of the autograph collectors' club, Chennai's T Balasubramaniam, a 75-year-old Chepauk regular, calls an "existential crisis". "Already, a lot of celebrities have tie-ups with different companies. Then there is the selfie army, which has outnumbered us. Now the players and celebrities have more reason to refuse us," he says.

Duggal too is despondent as he isn't used to being not allowed for cricket games. "I had zeroed in on the players, already brought 40 miniature bats (to be autographed), so that I can complete 600 autographs during this IPL season. They are all lying in a room gathering dust," he says.

The obsessed collector shares how he thought things would have been easier for him this season as only die-hards like him would turn up for games. "I had thought there wouldn't be much of a crowd chasing players. You know these selfie-hunters, who take a lot of time. I had plans to go in wearing a PPE kit and a pair of gloves, one for me and the other for the player (signing the autograph). The pen and the bat will be sanitised too," he says.

Duggal says the planning to get a prized signature is no different from a *shikhar*. "You wait and wait for your prey, and then latch onto it. If you can get through Chandigarh



(Clockwise from top) James Brighton was hoping to get many more Manchester United scarves autographed. Amarjeet Singh has Diego Maradona's autograph. Dharam Vir Duggal had bought 40 miniature bats for this season's IPL.



Police, you could slip past any policemen in the world," he claims.

For this persistent bunch, it's not just ink from a celebrity's pen immortalised on a piece of paper that thrills him, but the pursuit excites them too. "It's like James Bond. There is no thrill in managing an autograph without enduring some pain. You can buy autographs these days, so it's not about signatures as such, but the whole journey of getting a



cricketer to sign. The longer I have to wait, the more precious the signature will be."

Prized possession

Relentlessness pays off; so does ingenuity. Faridabad-based autograph-hunter Amarjeet Singh narrates a story of how he procured Diego Maradona's signature after several heartbreaks with a flash of ingenuity. "I went to Kolkata three times, but twice

he (Maradona) cancelled the trip for one reason or the other. The third time, I was determined. But there were thousands of fans like me. But I had done my bit of genius. I had an artist draw a huge portrait of his and I began waving it. He saw it and called me by his side and gave his signature. It's the most memorable one I have," he says.

But unlike the upbeat Duggal, 28-year-old Singh, who works in the private sector, has resigned to the reality that autograph-seeking is implausible this year. "It cuts both ways. They wouldn't be comfortable signing autographs, nor would I be. The virus doesn't differentiate between a celebrity and an autograph hunter. I have to be careful about my own health. So I will lay low until the virus subsides and everything is back to normal," says Amarjeet, who has in his treasured collection the original signatures of Albert Einstein and Alexander Graham Bell.

United fan Brighton too is worried as he insists on buying scarves from the vendor from outside the stadium. "Mostly, counterfeit ones, the club anyway makes a lot of dime. Let these fellas too," he says. But with the corona protocol not allowing anyone near the stadium, he finds it tough to secure one as the EPL restarted.

But he hasn't given up. Amidst the uncertainty, all the autograph seekers agree on one thing: "The next autograph will be the sweetest of their lives." The next scarf, Brighton says, will be framed and hung on his drawing room. "Except for the two months when there's a break, I bring home a scarf every week, now I have to keep waiting till the spectators are allowed inside and the shops are opened," he says.

A former accountant from Chennai, Balasubramaniam informs that autograph-seekers are "eternal optimists".

Duggal exemplifies this. "I wanted to get Donald Bradman's autograph. I kept on writing letters to him, he didn't respond to the first 49. But to the 50th, he replied and gave me an autographed gold coin. So if I have a name in my mind, I will go to any extent to get his autograph. Last year, I jumped in front of (Chris) Gayle's car to get his autograph, as he had earlier refused me. Whether spectators are allowed or not, if cricket resumes, I will find my way," he says.



@indianexpress.com

THOSE MONTHS, THOSE MINUTES

Forced into an unprecedented lockdown, sport is staring at an unfathomable despair. Indian athletes, though, have given the country reasons to rejoice in the past.

NIRUPAMA SANJIB tells **Shahid Jha** how she became the first Indian woman to win a match in the singles main draw of a Grand Slam.

United stave off defeat via late penalty; Arsenal humbled



Tottenham's Eric Dier fouled United's Paul Pogba, which resulted in a penalty being awarded. Bruno Fernandes converted to secure a draw. *File*

Paul Pogba made an immediate impact on his return from surgery, earning a penalty converted by Bruno Fernandes that recovered for Manchester United a 1-1 draw at Tottenham in the English Premier League. While the teams have endured three months without games in the pandemic, Pogba has n't played since December. And he entered only in the 63rd minute at an empty Tottenham Stadium on Friday with the hosts leading from Steven Bergwijn's first-half strike through goalkeeper David de Gea.

But Pogba, whose United future has been mired in uncertainty, helped to inject some attacking dynamism United had been missing. Pogba was bundled off the ball by Eric

Dier and Fernandes netted his third penalty since joining United in January. United was denied a second penalty when VAR overturned the decision to penalize Dier for another foul — this time on Fernandes. United is three points behind fourth-placed Chelsea having played an extra game.

Arsenal slumped to a last-gasp 2-1 Premier League defeat at relegation-threatened Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday in a blow to the London club's chances of securing European football next season. Frenchman Neal Maupay struck the winner five minutes into stoppage time after Nicolas Pepe's delightful second-half opener had been cancelled out by Lewis Dunk. **AGENCIES**

US reopen plans face setback

Hopes that sport in the United States might soon return to business as usual suffered a blow on Friday as athletes from golf to hockey tested positive for the novel coronavirus, triggering a shutdown of some facilities. The PGA Tour, which only restarted last week after a three-month COVID-19-forced hiatus, confirmed its first positive test, removing Nick Watney from second-round play at the RBC Heritage in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Over a 24-hour period, Major League Soccer, National Football League, National Hockey League and Major League Baseball confirmed positive tests. **REUTERS**

Mortaza tests positive

Former captain Mashrafe Mortaza and two other Bangladesh cricketers, Nazmul Islam and Nafees Iqbal have tested positive for the coronavirus. The 36-year-old Mortaza was reportedly unwell for the last couple of days and tested positive for the contagious disease on Saturday. He is currently in self-isolation at his residence. Mortaza, who plays only ODI and had stepped down from captaincy earlier this year, is the second high-profile cricketer to get infected by the disease. Mortaza, who is also a member of Bangladesh parliament, was quite active with his philanthropic activities amid the pandemic. **PTI**

BRIDGE

The first rule of declarer play is to not take a trick until you are sure what you will do next. Here is an example.
Declarer South (Contract 3NT)

NORTH		WEST		NORTH		EAST		SOUTH	
♠ 3		1C		2S		3S		Pass	
♥ A5									
♦ A10985									
♣ A10985									
SOUTH									
♠ K1064									
♥ KQ8									
♦ QJ4									
♣ QJ7									

West's 2S was a weak jump overall. West led the 8♠ from SAJ9872, and East played the queen. You have one spade stopper, but is there any way to stop West from taking the rest of his spades as soon as East gets on lead?

The West Hand: S-AJ9872 H-6 D-32 C-K642
The East Hand: S-Q5H-J1097432 D-K76 C-3
Here are some questions. 1. What high cards does West have in spades? 2. How many spades does West have? 3. What other high cards might West have for his vulnerable bid? 4. What is South's correct line of play?

Answers: 1. If you apply the rule of 11 after a fourth-best lead (something you should always do when you get a spot card led), you will do this arithmetic. Eight from eleven is three. There are three cards higher than the eight outside of the opening leader's hand. East played the queen, and you have the king and ten. This accounts for the high cards in the spade suit. West must have the remaining high spades, so he is marked with a suit headed by the SAJ98.
2. West bid 2S, vulnerable. Even the most daring bidder will have six cards or more for this bid when vulnerable. East had the queen and may have one more, but that is all.
3. West is vulnerable and he ought to have more than just his spade suit. He probably has one of the minor suit kings. Who knows? He might have both. If he has both, you can take 13 tricks.
4. The answer to this question depends on how many tricks you want. If you want 13, go ahead and win the first trick and start finessing. You actually have 13 tricks if the finesses work.
Let East have his SQ. He will return a spade, and regardless of what West does, you will have nine tricks.
As long as you can count on East not having three spades, it is okay to lose the first and second and even the third spade because it will stop West from later winning the fourth, fifth, and sixth spades.

NORTH		SOUTH (YOU)	
♠ K107		♠ A92	
♥ A87		♥ K5	
♦ J1064		♦ AQ98	
♣ AJ8		♣ Q1096	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	2H	Pass	4H
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass

West leads the H3. You win in hand with the king, and once again you have to deal with the two minor-suit kings before West gets his suit running. Which suit do you play first, and how?

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.

One faces the future with one's past. — Pearl S. Buck

OSAER	ENRTUJ
STOAT	AFOYFP

SOLUTION: AFOSE, TOWST, UNTRIE, PAYOFF
Answer: One faces the future with one's past. — Pearl S. Buck

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2274

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

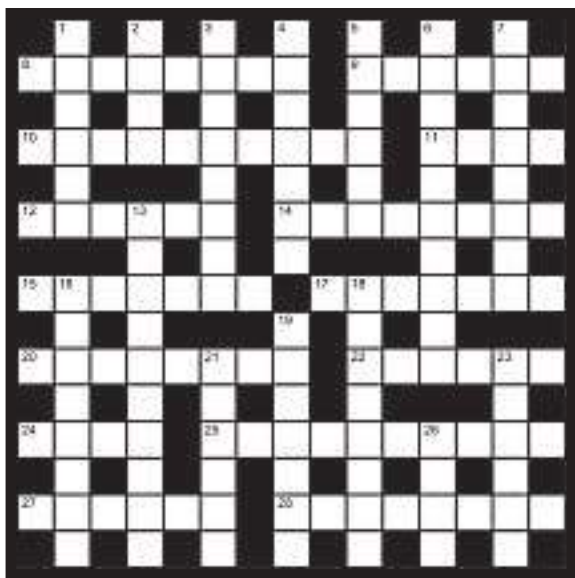
- Gambler (8)
- Group of nine (6)
- Passive (10)
- Writing fluids (4)
- Hand covering (6)
- Jewellery items (8)
- Compound of nitrogen reacting with a metal (7)
- Musician — "fit lust" anagram (7)
- Effectiveness (8)
- Drink of the gods (6)
- Japan's first capital (4)
- Trophies (10)
- English river (6)
- Liking (8)

DOWN

- Saturday in Paris (6)
- Used to be (4)
- Achieved or accomplished (8)
- ___ at: reaches a conclusion by deduction? (7)
- Shooting star? (6)
- A substance used as a germ killer (10)
- Parcels (8)
- Ends or concludes (10)
- Red and sore (8)
- Protective cases for lamps or lights (8)
- Cosmetic blepharoplasty (7)
- Agree to (6)
- Not moving, free from trouble — maybe dead (2,4)
- Juice of the grape (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

- Lose out in time, having been left alone (8)
- Fellow being funny about french wine to get attention (6)
- A clever judge is held to be more beneficial (10)
- Fun enjoyed in popular knock-about force (4)
- Boy sent back a couple of times to see the animal? (3-3)
- Nails oak badly in Greece (8)
- The man with a giant stew that gives us a warm feeling (7)
- Rather in the air not on the leg? (3-4)
- Colin has re-written letters for Santa (8)
- Where actors appear, for starters (6)



- Lower-class irregular noun (3-1)
- Money you don't get for nothing? (4,3,3)
- Mother graduate and me in a city (6)
- Candidates oppose mine on prime environmental sites (8)
- Finds a job for a fool putting on a wrong sign (7)
- Convertible to cash — US\$? (6)
- Was a solicitor to you, Edward (6)
- Old writer's material (4)

Solutions to 2273

QUICK CLUES Across: 7 Mison, 8 Underhand, 10 Revile, 11 Detained, 12 Alcatraz, 13 Chez, 15 Invests, 17 Pleased, 20 Ajit, 22 Retailer, 25 Chowmein, 26 Toa man, 27 Eagle-eyed, 28 Mould. **Down:** 1 Revealing, 2 Motivate, 3 Anodize, 4 Vertical, 5 Shrike, 6 Sneer, 9 Lear, 14 Vegetable, 16 Tethered, 18 Animator, 19 Princes, 21 Jewels, 23 Tutu, 24 Cheat. **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 7 Zaire, 8 All agreed, 10 Corona, 11 Bridle, 12 Jersey, 13 Musk, 15 Belgian, 17 Snoring, 20 Well, 22 All right, 25 Previous, 26 Co-hair, 27 Come under, 28 Waiver. **Down:** 1 Can-opener, 2 Trooping, 3 Old boys, 4 Dairyman, 5 Erebus, 6 Beats, 9 NATO, 14 Unchained, 16 All-round, 18 Railhead, 19 Parsley, 21 Envious, 23 Lice, 24 Crook.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday June 21

You're still thinking hard about solid facts. Although you've got many big plans you need to put them into practice. In emotional matters, you seem to be growing closer to the truth.

Monday June 22

You'll find out the truth about other people's intentions. You'll be working hard, yet your deep personal task is to perform favours for others. The next year looks like a fine moment for forming new friendships.

Tuesday June 23

You still seem to be the boss, but the only way to take control is to let people share in the fun. You may have to play a subtle game.

Wednesday June 24

Although life seems to grow busier, you'll actually have less to do in certain areas. Your long-term cycle reveals that sociable conditions are just around the corner.

Thursday June 25

Your need for stability and security is matched by a general increase in restlessness. The urge to move on or make yourself scarce is not a new one. You can really make a genuine new start.

Friday June 26

It's a good idea to refine your ideas, clarify your plans, and come to a better understanding of your desires before you communicate them to other people.

Saturday June 27

Moon challenges, yet also supports, your wonderfully serious Sun. You'll be driven by sincere beliefs than usual. But listen carefully to family members.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Some things are as you want them — but others are not. The main word of advice this week is to be selective when choosing new commitments, especially if your romantic hopes are high. Potential partners will be impressed if you score some striking successes, so it's important to focus on those areas where you know you can win.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Your personal planets are in a mischievous mood. It seems that you may now be deeply attracted to someone who completely fails to notice your abundant charms. Towards the end of the current period you may decide to make a complete break with your emotional past, even if it does mean upsetting someone.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Family affairs are moving forward in a positive manner. Work is also on your mind this week, and you may have to rely on your own resources to a far greater extent than in the past. Perhaps there will be a staff shortage. Or perhaps an employer will take a different view of your talents.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

It would do you no good to make precise forecasts for how this period will turn out, for you are in a position to break away from all your past circumstances. If you follow your dreams and pursue your almost mystical vision of life, you will have a bright future.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You're in for a busy professional period, and it may be important to reschedule some of your less pressing engagements. Probably the best way to get what you want is to team up with people who are older than you, or at least have more skill, wisdom and experience. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

A financial breakthrough you have been waiting for could be closer than you think. Your ideas will be perfectly workable, so don't lose sight of them whether they affect your routine chores or purely personal aspirations. A romantic bonus gives you a boost at the end of the week, which should come as a pleasant surprise.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

People you meet now will fall into two types. There are people who are deep, intense and liable to get carried away. On the other there are those whose outlook will be overwhelmingly serious and who will help you keep your feet firmly on solid ground. Helpful strangers will come to your aid.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Never again should you worry that Fate is about to overwhelm you. Instead, you should put on a smiling face and ask others for all the help and practical assistance that you need. Life is not only a question of emotional survival, but also of getting what you want for your physical happiness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

The one word of warning now is that Mars may make you rather jumpy and inclined to become aggressive with people who have done nothing to earn your hostility. The problem is that you're liable to feel a little irritated, or angry, while the causes of such feelings are impossible to pin down.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Romantically, this could be a deeply secretive phase, and you will resent partners' attempts to keep an eye on your movements or pin your feelings down. Discreet encounters could soon become public knowledge, though, so stick to your normal integrity. At work, stay with existing agreements — at least for now.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

If you are to make the current situation crystal-clear you must get back to the drawing-board and work out exactly what it is that you want. One complication is that Venus, goddess of love, is tending to obscure your romantic feelings. And as long as you're not sure what you feel, you should not be making rash promises.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The most amazing planetary line-up at the moment concerns Pluto, the planet of ultimate truth, an influence of the most remarkable potential. Now is the time to banish forever that shyness which has led to such uncertainty and doubt in your romantic life. Other people really do have faith in you, and in your skills and experience.