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JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

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### **REVIEW MEETING WITH CDS, SERVICE CHIEFS**

# Don't want escalation but if China acts, give befitting reply: Rajnath to top brass

Preparedness of forces already high, Defence Minister told

KRISHN KAUSHIK NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

FOLLOWING THE violent border face-off with China on June 15 that left 20 Indian soldiers dead, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told the military top brass during a review meeting Sunday that the government has given the forces freedom to "give a befitting reply" if there is further escalation from the other side, sources said.

The meeting, they said, also discussed the existing protocol around the use of firearms and ways to respond in changed situations. "India does not want escalation, but if there is any action



Defence Rajnath Singh

from China, the forces have been given the freedom to give a befitting reply," sources said about the discussions.

This was the key takeaway from the meeting between Singh and Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Army Chief General M M Naravane, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Chief of Air Force Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria to dis-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

cuss the situation in eastern

Ladakh and along the entire

3,488-km boundary with China.

told that the government has faith

in their competence to handle any

situation, and that military com-

manders on the ground "are the

that the "preparedness of all

forces is already high", sources

said the government conveyed

that the infrastructure build-up

in eastern Ladakh, which China

has reportedly objected to, will

continue. The forces have also

been asked to "be vigilant" on

land, at sea and in air.

While Singh was informed

best judge of the situation".

Sources said the top brass were

### Russia hosts India, China ministers tomorrow, Rajnath to attend parade

Unlike US, Russia response to China has been calibrated

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

AS RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov hosts the Russia-India-China trilateral foreign ministers' meeting on June 23 and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh heads to Russia Monday to attend the Victory Day parade on June 24. Moscow is emerging a key player amid the tension between New Delhi and Beijing.

THE IDEAS PAGE

**PLAYING INTO CHINA'S HANDS BYSPSINHA** PAGE 9

Over the last few weeks, Moscow has been more engaged with New Delhi. This flows from

the understanding that Russia

has leverage over Beijing because

of recent proximity, while New Delhi has had a history of robust bilateral ties with Moscow. During the Doklam crisis in 2017, Russian diplomats in Beijing were among the few briefed by the Chinese government.

In fact, the phone call between Indian Ambassador to Russia, D Bala Venkatesh Varma, and Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov took place just two days after the border clash

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Report every Covid death to us, realign containment zones: Centre to Delhi govt

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

IN A significant rejig of Covid containment measures in the nathe Delhi government to delineate all containment zones afresh, enumerate all households even outside containment zones, conduct a serological survey among 20,000 Delhiites, and associate every district with a big hospital.

In a meeting held at North Block on Sunday with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and L-G Anil Baijal, among others, Home Minister Amit Shah also instructed the Delhi government to send a detailed report to the Centre on every Covid death in the city. This must include when the patient was brought to the hospital and from where, among other details.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Sunday said these instructions had been given based on a report submitted by a committee led by NITI Aayog member Dr V K Paul. The report was presented during the meeting held at North Block.

TOWATCH

**■**Gujarat

■ Delhi

**■**Bihar

**■** Maharashtra

■Tamil Nadu

■West Bengal

DELHI: More

than 3 600 new

Fastest growth in

top ten states



**Home Minister Amit Shah** with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. PTI file

"The Home Minister instructed that the Delhi government must assess every Covid death as to when the patient reached the hospital and from where. If the deceased was earlier in home isolation, whether he/she was brought to the hospital in time must be a key enquiry. Every death must be reported to the Centre," an MHA statement said.

It added that the Home Minister has instructed that all positive cases must first go to Covid centres and only those who have proper arrangements CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RECOVERED: 2,27,755 | DEATHS: 13,254

**24HRS** 

3,827

538

3,137

2,115

355

Based on daily data by Centre, ICMR, state governments

ANDHRA: Growth

has picked up in

Over 2,500 new

cases in this period

1,28,205

56,746

56,845

7,503

13,531

\* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days

GROWTH'

2.95%

2.12%

5.52%

4.18%

2.55%

3.41%

RATE\*

24.37

33.89

13.04

17.24

28.20

MADHYA PRADESH:

Growth down to

.39%. Iowest

growth among all

states

### Situation very tough, talking to India and China, says Trump

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

IN HIS first comments since the clash between Indian and Chinese troops on the night of June 15-16, US President Donald Trump described the tension between the two countries as "very tough", and said his administration was talking to both to help them resolve matters

'We're talking to India. We're talking to China. They've got a big problem there, they have come to blows, and we'll see what happens. We'll try and help them out, Trump told reporters at the White House early Sunday India time, on the way to his first post-Covid-19

election rally in Oklahoma. The Indian Express has learnt



PM Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping. AP file

that some phone calls are planned soon between top Trump administration officials and the Indian side.

Last month too, Trump had offered to "mediate or arbitrate" in the border dispute between India and China, saying he was "ready, willing and able" to ease



### Yoga Day, Ladakh

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel mark International Day of Yoga near Khardung La in Ladakh on Sunday. PTI

#### 'Soldiers killed in Galwan Valley had injuries THE EDITORIAL PAGE **ATIME FOR**

MATURITY

BY YOGENDRA YADAV PAGE 8

**INSIDE** 

**BJP, OPPOSITION PARTIES SPAR OVER LADAKH SITUATION** 

# caused by sharp weapons, multiple fractures'

**VARINDER BHATIA** LEH, JUNE 21

THE 20 Indian soldiers who were killed in the clash with Chinese troops in Galwan valley on the night on June 15-16 suffered se $rious\,injuries\,apparently\,inflicted$ by sharp-edged weapons, and multiple fractures, sources said.

The Indian soldiers fought back valiantly, and inflicted several casualties on the Chinese. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said on June 17 that "Desh ko iss baat ka garv hoga ki hamaare sainik maarte-maarte marey hain."

The hand-to-hand combat on steep and jagged terrain continued for several hours. A number of Indian soldiers died due to

drowning/cold, apparently after they were thrown or fell into the river during the clash, it is learnt.

"From the condition of the bodies of the martyred soldiers, it appeared that they had fought a fierce battle. It appeared that they [Indian soldiers] killed many [Chinese]. The injuries looked like multiple stab wounds inflicted with sharp-edged

weapons, and several of them also had multiple limb fractures," an official at Leh's Sonam Nurboo Memorial (SNM) Hospital, who had seen the bodies, said on con-

dition of anonymity. Sources told The Indian Express that from the conversation with the wounded soldiers who were brought to the hospital in Leh, it CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



### Model village scheme hit by lack of interest, funds: ministry study

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

### High rates, low demand: Stressed MSMEs can't tap into Govt relief

**SUNNY VERMA** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

BANKS HAVE started disbursing funds to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises under the 100% Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month but for many firms, hit hard by the pandemic lockdown, credit is still a huge challenge.



Why their hands are tied

RBI MAY have cut reporate to 4% but credit to MSMEs is still going out at 8-14%. Firsttime borrowers are out and high rates deter stressed firms. Lack of demand has shrunk their space

Viable companies, with good credit history, are able to raise funds, but the most needy among the MSMEs are facing a double whammy: slump in demand and lack of finance.

Official data shows that as of June 18, state-owned banks sanctioned loans worth Rs 40,416 crore under the scheme of which Rs 21,028.55 crore has been disbursed.

This scheme categorically CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# WORLD

THREE STABBED TO **DEATH IN UK TERROR ATTACK: POLICE** 

**SLOW DOWN TESTING, SAYS** TRUMP AS COVID **CASES INCREASE** PAGE 12

### Delhi riots: Bail to school owner, court says no evidence of PFI link

ANAND MOHAN J NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

GRANTING BAIL to the owner of a school who was arrested in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots in February, a Delhi court has observed that the police "chargesheet is bereft of material showing the links of applicant with PFI, Pinjra Tod group and Muslim clerics".

The court also said "it is prima facie not established that the applicant was present at the spot at the time of incident".

Faisal Farooq, owner of Rajdhani Public School, was among eight people arrested in a case of rioting outside the school in the Shiv Vihar area on February 24. He has been in iail CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 **HARIKISHAN SHARMA** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

ALMOST SIX years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY), urging MPs to adopt one or more villages in their constituency and turn them into 'model villages', a study commissioned by the Ministry of Rural Development has observed that the scheme has not made "any significant impact" and that "in the current format...(it) is not achieving the desired purpose".

The study, conducted as part of the Fifth Common Review Mission (CRM) for "independent assessment" of the progress of various programmes and schemes of the Rural Development Ministry, was prepared by a 31-member CRM team led by Rajeev Kapoor, retired IAS and State Information

Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh. The team, with retired bureaucrats, academics and research organisations as members, visited 120 villages, including about a dozen SAGY villages, in 21 districts across eight states - Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh during November 4-14, 2019.

Commenting on the scheme the report said. "In many of SAGY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

#### **SPORT**



**STALWART RAJINDER GOELIS DEAD PAGE 14** 

**CITY** 

**RETD MEA OFFICIAL** ATTACKED, WIFE KILLED IN ROBBERY **BID PAGE 4** 

#### PAGE 1 **ANCHOR**

#### China boycott call rattles sports market: 'Can't suddenly do it' find themselves in a tough corner. MIHIR VASAVDA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

TABLE TENNIS balls, shuttlecocks, badminton and tennis racquets, wrestling mats, javelins, high jump bars, hockey sticks, boxing headguards, mountain climbing accessories, gym equipment, sportswear – the list of sports equipment imported from China goes on and on

But now, amid the rising clamour to boycott Chinese goods following the border clash that left 20 Indian soldiers dead, leading players in India's sports industry The reason: More than half of India's sports equipment imports are from China, according to the Department of Commerce's data for 2018-2019 (see box).

They have more than 50 per cent share in the sports market," says Lokesh Vats, managing director of domestic manufacturing giant Vats. "We say 'vocal for local' but government policies over the decades have led to Chinese products completely invading our markets."

Table tennis star Sathiyan Gnanasekaran says India is selfreliant when it comes to racquets and tables, but "China manufactures balls almost like a monopoly". Shanghai Double Happiness

(DHS), he says, supplies balls for all world tour events, apart from Championships. "All Indian players practise with the same set of balls to get used to the spin and bounce. At other levels, you see balls with different brand names. But even if you buy a set from Stiga (Sweden) or Stag (India), you will find that it is manufactured in China," says Gnanasekaran.

It's the same story for a lot of

#### **MOST IMPORTS FROM CHINA**

₹1,002.5 cr (China ₹694.77 cr) Gym, athletics equipment Badminton racquets ₹130.31 cr (Japan ₹53.42 cr, China ₹42.7 cr) 717.77 cr (China 711.54 cr, mainly TT balls) 718.57 cr (China 712.84 cr, mostly machine-stitched balls) ₹357.32 cr (China ₹197.25 cr) Source: Dept of Commerce, Export Import Data Bank (FY 2018-19)

brands. Jay Kowli, general secretary of the Boxing Federation of India, says that a popular brand among Indian boxers is Australia's Sting. "But they are all made in China," he says.

Kowli, however, insists that only India-made equipment is used at the domestic level, "India has a strong manufacturing base

New Delhi

for boxing equipment. However, since they have enough business in India, they haven't gone through the international federation's certification process. So we have to import equipment for elite training centres and top boxers," he says.

Boxing's equipment import bill for 2018-19 stood at about Rs 3 crore, with China accounting for Rs 1.38 crore

Pran Nath Chadha, who is a member of the Sports and Toys Exporters Association in manufacturing hub Jalandhar, savs Chinese manufacturers are "leading exporters for combat

goes deeper than importing finished products, say officials and players. Domestic manufacturers, who mainly export hockey sticks and balls, cricket bats and balls, boxing equipment and

chess boards, among other

sports goods like mats and other

But India's reliance on China

protective equipment".

items, "depend a lot" on raw material from China Vikas Gupta of Soccer International, a Jalandhar-based export house that manufactures

the Vector brand of footballs, volleyballs, basketballs and rugby **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

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#### YOUNG TRAVEL ENTREPRENEURS IN THE NORTHEAST ARE NOW REPOUTING

They threw caution to the wind, giving up salaried jobs in metros to start what they call 'immersive travel' in the Northeast. Now, hit by the pandemic and subsequent lockdown, these young men and women are now

#### VIDEO OF THE DAY



**MONSOON LIKELY IN DELHI BY JUNE 25** 

**IMD** is expecting monsoon in Delhi by June 25

#### **SPORT**



PLAYERS WILL FIND IT **TOUGH: GOPICHAND** 

Gopichand says a longer break will make it tough to return to form

## **EXPRESS Q AUDIO**

#### **Understanding how** the Dharavi model worked

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY** 

one model village in each district

of India, then the surrounding vil-

lages shall be automatically in-

scheme on October 11, 2014, only

1,855 gram panchayats have been

selected across five phases, with

since March 8. Farooq also owns

Victoria Public School, and both

his schools were damaged in the

Delhi Police on June 3 while filing

the chargesheet, it was claimed

that investigation into the rioting

incident had revealed that Faroog

had "links with prominent mem-

bers of Popular Front of India.

Pinjra Tod, Jamia Coordination

Committee, Hazrat Nizamuddin

Markaz and some other funda-

mental Muslim clerics, including

on Farooq's instructions that DRP

Police also claimed that it was

In a "brief note" shared by the

only seven in Phase 5.

Delhi riots

Since the launch of the

spired to follow that model".

Today on the 3 Things podcast, we look at how Mumbai's municipal body managed to contain the Covid-19 crisis inside one of Asia's largest slums.

### **FROM PAGE ONE**

#### Rainath

The meeting came a day before the Defence Minister leaves for Russia to attend the 75th Victory Day Parade in Moscow.

On June 19, Singh had reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's line at the all-party meet on the border situation that "the forces have been given complete freedom to take necessary ac-

On Saturday, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office had said that the all-party meet was "informed that this time, Chinese forces have come in much larger strength to the LAC and that the Indian response is commensurate"

Mirroring the build-up by China, India too has moved forward troops and augmented its military strength along the boundary with China in all sec-

Following the face-off, Singh has been conducting regular briefings with the military leadership. During one meeting on June 17, he had asked the forces to be alert and "prepare for any situation all along the border with China, not restricted to just

#### Galwan Valley

appeared that the Indian soldiers went all out at the Chinese after their Commanding Officer, Col B Santosh Babu, was attacked.

"They [Indian soldiers] went with full aggression after their Colonel and two others who went ahead were attacked... Then the Indian soldiers launched a full attack. They were saying [to staff at the hospital] that they snatched whatever knives etc., and hit them [Chinese] back hard," a source

The sources told *The Indian* Express that at least 18 injured soldiers were being treated in Leh, and more than 40 had been sent to military hospitals elsewhere in the country. The Army has not given the number of soldiers who were iniured

Soon after the clash in Galwan valley, around 230 km from Leh, the Army ordered largescale movement of troops to Ladakh. A build-up had been taking place since the Chinese forces started to gather in strength along the Line of Actual Control (LAC): the clash last week has led to a strategic re-

Col(Retd)Sonam Wangchuk,

Vir Chakra awardee who lives in Leh, told The Indian Express that he believed that the Indian soldiers had killed at least two Chinese for every life that they

"There were certain structures that were built by these people [Chinese] on our side, A surveillance party had gone there to see if those structures had been removed or not," Col Wangchuk

"After this incident, we lost 20 boys but in return the casualties that we inflicted were more than double, around 40-43. I am sure we retaliated hard. Our boys, who are mainly from Punjab and Haryana, are of strong build and when it comes to hand-to-hand combat, we definitely have an upper hand. I am getting reports that our boys also killed many [Chinese soldiers]."

The Chinese, Col Wanchuk said, never admit their casualties. "This happened in 1962 as well. Our one Kumaon company killed a thousand of theirs, while we lost 130 boys. Even at that time, they did not admit their casualties. Most probably this time too they will not admit it." he said.

Leh on Sunday was almost entirely shut, locked down by the administration to control the surge of novel coronavirus infections. Roads were barricaded and markets were deserted, and police and security forces were out

No civilians, including the media, were allowed to move, and only Army, police, and government vehicles were on the roads. The silence in the largest town and joint capital of the Union Territory of Ladakh was periodically broken by the roar of fighter iets overhead.

On Saturday, Ladakh reported 92 positive cases of Covid-19, taking the number of active patients to 718, including 146 in Leh and 572 in Kargil district. A total 539 patients are in home isolation, while 120 are in Covid care centres. Three weeks ago, on May 30, the UT had only 30 active cases of

This is the most difficult time for Ladakh in decades. Tourism, the mainstay of the region's economy and the only source of income for the majority of the people, is in a shambles. Flights have resumed but the only passengers on board are migrant workers. personnel of the Border Roads Organisation, and mediapersons.

In 2019, over 1.33 lakh tourists

### Russia hosts India, China ministers tomorrow

between Indian and Chinese

'The officials discussed regional security, including developments on the Line of Actual Control on the border between India and China in the Himalayas," a brief statement by the Russian Foreign ministry

Early June, before the June 6 Lt Gen-level talks between India and China, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla "updated" Russian Ambassador Nikolay Kudashev on the "recent developments" on the situation along the LAC. This was the only publicly available meeting between the Foreign Secretary and a foreign Ambassador at the

The Moscow-Beijing axis is in recent months and Russia much more calibrated, even in

Tuesday's RIC Foreign ministers meeting, which was put off in March, will be the first opportunity for External Affairs minister S Jaishankar and Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minster Wang Yi to en-

Asked on the possibility of discussing the India-China tension, Lavrov had said last week: "The agenda does not involve discussing issues that relate to bilateral relations of a country with another member of this

Moscow, too, has responded in a very calibrated manner last week. On June 17, Russian ambassador Kudashev tweeted, "We welcome all steps aimed at de-escalation at the LAC, including the conversation between the two FMs, and remain opti-

"The existence of the RIC is

the current stage of of the trilateral cooperation, there are no indications that it might be frozen," he had said.

According to Russian news TASS, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Kremlin is concerned over a clash between the military on the border between China and India but believes that the two countries could resolve this conflict themselves.

"Certainly, we are watching with great attention what is happening on the Chinese-Indian border. We believe that this is a very alarming report," Peskov said. "But we consider that the two countries are capable of taking necessary steps to prevent such situations in the future and to ensure that there is predictability and stability in the region and that this is a safe region for nations, first of all, China and India."

The Kremlin spokesman

emphasized that China and India are Russia's close partners and allies, and "have very close and mutually beneficial relations built on mutual respect."

Defence Minister Singh is expected to attend the Victory Day parade earlier scheduled on May 9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was invited for the parade, which got postponed due to the Covid pandemic.

Like Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping had been invited for the May 9 parade, but now it is likely to be attended by a senior Defence ministerial level representative from Beijing. So it may offer a window of opportunity for the two sides to break the ice.

The setting in Moscow will be interesting since troops from India and China will participate in the Victory parade as well. A tri-service 75-member Indian military contingent has already reached Moscow. It is led by a Major-rank officer of the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment.

#### Convent School, the school "adjacent and rival" to Rajdhani, two parking lots, and the Anil Sweets building were "systematically de-

Deoband".

stroyed" by the mob. Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav, who granted bail to Faisal, noted there are contradictions in witness statements, and the investigating officer (IO) had tried to file a supplementary

statement of a prosecution wit-

ness "to cover up the deficiency". According to the order, the first statement of the witness was "recorded probably" on March 8, in which he claimed to have seen the applicant in front of the gate of Rajdhani Public School around 1.30 pm. "He further claimed to have heard him asking the guard of the school to permit Muslim persons inside the school". The order states that in his statement recorded by the Metropolitan Magistrate on March 11, "he did not say a word about having seen the applicant at the scene of occurrence or having heard stating anything to the guard of the

The IO then tried to file a supplementary statement "on the same day wherein this witness claimed that he got frightened before the Ld. MM because of which he could not state anything about the applicant", the order states.

On police allegations that a (gulel) sling was found on the roof of the school, the court, after going through records, noted that it was found 16 days after the incident. The court said that if the presence of the accused could not be established, then the gulel could not be attributed to him.

The police note also stated, "Farooq had visited Deoband just one day before the riots started, that is, on February 23."

"Evidence of conspiracy is further brought out by the fact that on the day of the riots, that is, on February 24, many children from Muslim families left the school early, along with their parents. during the half-time recess itself," police had claimed.

Farooq's lawyers, R K Kochar, Gaurav Kochar and Gaurav Vashist argued before the court that the IPC sections against Faroog cannot be invoked since there was no material on record to substantiate his presence at the

The court said that in none of the CCTV footage is the accused present, and "if it is prima facie noticeable that the accused was not present at the scene of occurrence then naturally, the evidence against him in respect of sections 397/395/436/455 IPC will fall

short". On police allegations that the accused is "stated to have mobile conversations with one lady... who is stated to be having links with Saiful Islam Law Faculty", the court observed that she was "in

Farooq had conversations with four other people, but the court noted that one of them was an advocate, another a local MLA whose children study in the same school, and the third person was the applicant's cousin.

"Âdmittedly, the IO has not collected the call detail record of the above named persons. Except bald allegation, there is no material to substantiate that the applicant had conversed with the aforesaid persons in relation to communal riots. When the IO was confronted in this regard. then he stated that further investigation on the aspect of terror funding is underway... in the chargesheet there is hardly any material to substantiate the allegation of terror funding...," the or-

The court, while granting bail, also noted, "It is made clear that nothing in this order shall be construed an expression on the merits of evidence to be adduced in the matter."

der read.

#### Centre to Delhi

and do not suffer any co-morbidities be allowed to stay in home isolation. He also asked for details on the number of people in home isolation in the city, and for the Delhi government to take technical help in realigning containment

According to the MHA, key points spelled out by the committee include delineation of the 242 containment zones in the state afresh. Strict perimeter control of these zones and activities within them have also been recommended.

"It was also informed that a serological survey will be conducted across Delhi between June 27 and July 7 in which sample testing of 20,000 people will be done. This will help with a comprehensive assessment of the spread of infection in Delhi and assist future planning," the MHA said in its statement. Serological surveys are used to determine the prevalence of a disease in a popu-

lation. Contact tracing and quarantining of all contacts of infected individuals with use of Aarogya Setu and Itihas apps are part of the

recommendations.

The Centre has also fixed a timetable for the implementation of the recommendations, with the Delhi government being told to come up with a plan by June 22, form district-level teams by June 23, delineate all containment zones afresh by June 26, complete 100% survey of those in these containment zones by June 30, and do a largescale survey in the rest of the capital by July 7.

#### Sports market balls, says they import

polyurethane and ethylene-vinyl acetate foam from China for their products.

"The raw material quality in India is not good and we cannot reach the desired standard to export our products to major markets in Europe and USA as well in India. Chinese manufacturers provide us with high-quality raw material at a very competitive price," he says.

Vats, whose firm is based in another manufacturing hub Meerut, says China is "far, far ahead in dyeing and engineering" as well. "The iron rods, benches, curling and multi-stations that you see at gyms are all imported from China because they are cheap. Almost all the material used for tracksuits comes from China because it is cheap," he says.

Pricing and superior technologv are cited as the other key reasons. For instance, a majority of the machine-stitched footballs sold in India are made in China, along with the artificial turfs that dot the country. "We need to invest in research and development, and overcome pricing problems," says Vats. "We can't just suddenly start boycotting Chinese prod-

ucts." (WITH SHAHID JUDGE & NITIN SHARMA)

#### its response on the Covid outfixed on the world map. As for

troops in which 20 Indian soldiers, including a Colonel-rank officer, were killed.

height of the border stand-off.

also significant when the US has been at loggerheads with China

gage in that trilateral format.

an undisputable reality, firmly

Situation tough, talking to India and China: Trump

Several steps taken by the

Chinese, including in Hong Kong

and India, have not been "really constructive", he said, adding, "We're obviously watching the India-China border dispute very closely... Again, we don't have a

On the Senate floor, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that for the sake of grabbing territory, China appeared to have instigated the

MSMEs and textile and ceramics

players are being seen as the most

enue will be steeper at 17-21 per

cent, while EBITDA margin will

shrink 200-300 basis points to 4-

5 per cent as weak demand

gnaws away gains from lower

commodity prices. A sharp de-

cline at the operating level will

also impact creditworthiness, ag-

gravating the liquidity stretch

these units have been grappling

with, particularly on the working

small and medium enterprises

may also be low because there is

no pick-up in demand. "We do not

need additional working capital

loans since there is not enough

demand in market and interest

keeps piling up on additional fa-

cilities," said a Ludhiana-based

MSME player manufacturing auto

villages, the Hon'ble MP did not

give any significant money from

Members of Parliament Local

Area Development Scheme

(MPLADS). In isolated cases,

where MPs have been pro-active.

some infrastructure development

has taken place, but the scheme

has not made any perceptible im-

pact. As such, these villages can-

not be called Model ('Adarsh') vil-

of these gram panchayats, the re-

port added, "It is recommended

that the Ministry may review the

scheme for enhancing its impact."

gram panchayat in Kerala, the

team could not find any "remark-

able achievement" under the

scheme. "Even though the

Neyyardam PHC is shown as a

SAGY achievement but it cannot

In Arood village of Khandwa

district in Madhya Pradesh, the

team found that out of 118 activi-

ties planned in 2014, only about

be taken as such..."

For instance, in Kallikkad

Citing case studies from some

lages," the report said.

Model village

Need for fresh loans among

capital front," the report said.

"For MSMEs, the fall in rev-

affected.

1962. Noting the nuclear status of the two countries, McConnell said they were "encouraging deescalation". Texas Congressman Lance Gooden, of the Republican Party,

also came out in support of India. Saying China cannot be trusted, Gooden tweeted, "As more news comes out about the deadly conflict between China and India, once again CHINA appears to be an aggressive bad actor... The CCP (Chinese Communist Party) cannot be

#### border tensions with India, the the tension. India had virtually clash in Galwan Valley "similar most violent clash with India world's most populous democto activity we've seen in the past since the war between them in racy. It's militarising the South on [other] border disputes".

rejected the offer, saying it was engaged with China to resolve the border row.

Early last week, White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said the President was aware of the situation and the US was closely monitoring it. During a phone call on June 2 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump had discussed the matter, the spokesperson said.

US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo also commented on China's actions last week.saving."The PLA (People's Liberation Army) has escalated China's actions that led to the

had visited Ladakh until the end

of June; this year, the number so

far is only 6,055. The tourism in-

dustry is bracing for an estimated

loss of over Rs 400 crore in rev-

enues this year. "It appears that

2020 is going to be worst year of

our lives," Ghulam Mustafa, one

of Leh's top hoteliers and head of

Stressed MSMEs

excludes first-time borrowers and

those whose accounts have

turned bad. A separate scheme for

stressed MSMEs is yet to be oper-

collateral on these loans under the

scheme, but since it is extended

only to existing borrowers run-

ning credit facilities with banks,

their factory land, plant and ma-

chinery is mostly pledged with

sources said, is that the rate of in-

terest charged by banks under the

scheme is almost at par with mar-

ket rates and does not offer any

Last month, the RBI had cut

reporate 40 basis points bringing

it to a record all-time low of 4 per

cent. This hasn't translated to any

est rate of banks and financial in-

stitutions have been capped at

9.25 per cent per annum, while

Companies can lend at maximum

of 14 per cent per annum. State-

owned banks are lending at

around 8 per cent, depending

upon the credit worthiness of the

rates make credit unviable for

stressed companies that need a

working capital loan for a period

cheaper credit, MSMEs need gov-

ernment support in lowering

fixed costs and short-term bene-

fits like waiver of electricity

charges. "Otherwise, not many

Sources said that along with

that their units were shut.

Industry sources say such high

Financial

For, under the scheme, inter-

substantial concession.

relief for borrowers.

Non-Banking

borrower.

One significant deterrent,

Banks are not asking for fresh

ationalised.

the banks.

the hoteliers' association, said.

China Sea and illegally claiming more territory there, threatening vital sea lanes." In an address on Europe and

the China Challenge' at the 2020

Summit Friday, delivered virtu-

Democracy

Copenhagen

ally, Pompeo called the ruling Chinese Communist Party a 'rogue actor.' The top US diplomat on China, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs David Stilwell, has called

will survive this onslaught and

they will have to wind up," said

Animesh Saxena, President of

Federation of Indian Micro and

ing to the government about...

that this loan availability should

not be only for existing borrow-

ers. There is a lot of paperwork re-

quirement in borrowing from

banks...and most MSMEs fail on

a lot of these parameters," he said.

costs, raising loans under the

scheme is not easy even for non-

NPA companies.

India

Organisation.

Apart from exorbitant interest

"Borrowers are asked to pro-

vide utilisation document for the

loan and banks directly disburse

the loan amount for outstandings

of government statutory pay-

ments (such PF and TDS dues).

salary payments and settlement

of suppliers – which practically

leaves nothing with the bor-

rower," said K E Raghunathan,

Former National President, All

loans available even for stressed

MSMEs (those which are Special

Mention Account-2), and waive

interest burden for loans up to Rs

2 crore which are largely for mi-

Delhi-based Association of

Wholesale Readymade Garments

Dealers said banks are calling up

MSMEs with land, plant and ma-

chinery to extend loans. "Why

would banks give loans to small

players and garment traders if

they do not have adequate collat-

eral? These players can get over-

draft and cash credit against hy-

In a report released last week,

CRISIL Rating said it expected

MSME revenues and profitability

to fall steeply, hitting micro enter-

Micro enterprises account for

32 per cent of the overall MSME

debt. Consumer discretionary,

construction, export-linked

pothecation," he said.

prises the hardest.

K K Balli, President of East

cro enterprises, he said.

The government should make

Manufacturers

"These are issues we are talk-

Small & Medium Enterprises.

lot of visibility and we don't have a lot of open dialogue with our Chinese counterparts."

taken at their word, EVER." "60 per cent... have been achieved and the rest are pending for lack

At Nongbah Myrdon village in Meghalava, the team observed. "The concept of SAGY has not percolated down to field official." After visiting Baudai SAGY village in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, the team observed, "it is ironic

declared ODE. "Overall, no significant impact of this scheme was noted," the team recorded after visiting a model village in Bawan block of Hardoi district in UP.

that the Adarsh Gram is vet to be

Elsewhere, the team observed mixed results.

"Convergence of MGNREGS with MPLAD has been done in SAGY village Tilkoja of Korba district (in Chhattisgarh) whereas lesser convergence was observed in the Chapka village of Bastar dis-

the GP where the Hon'ble MP has taken keen interest and allocated substantial amount from MPLAD," the report added

a few gram panchayats. In Takhel panchayat of Imphal

observed "public bathrooms near ponds, children's play ground etc... which looked impressive". Of the two SAGY villages the

team visited in Rajasthan, the report lauded Daulatgarh, a village in Bhilwara. "This is relatively developed village... This village is very urbanised due the various development schemes taken up at the initiative of the Ex-MP." In his first Independence Day

address in 2014. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced SAGY as part of nation-building, urging Lok Sabha MPs to "make one village of his or her constituency a Model Village by 2016... after 2016, select two more villages... and after 2019... at least five model villages". He also asked Rajya Sabha MPs to "adopt one of the villages", saying "if we provide

Progress of work was better in The team had good words for

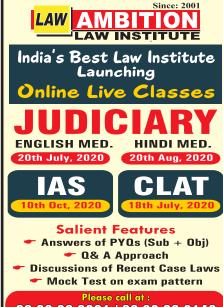
East District, for instance, the team

fact a reporter" with a newspaper. Police had also said that

New Delhi

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# CORONA WARRIOR & PHILANTHROPIS



The man with a golden heart: M. Gopikrishnan

# A social worker par excellence

M Gopikrishnan relies on his extensive knowledge of social work principles, techniques and practices and their application to community issues to make high-quality care and support available to socially and economically weak people and has been reaching out to help them during the COVID-19 pandemic

ORN ON MAY 30, 1965, M Gopikrishnan is a renowned philanthropist, social worker and entrepreneur. A qualified professional with over 20 years of rich experience in the pharmaceutical business, Gopikrishnan is currently the Director of Shri Balaji Marketing, which is an Exporter & Distributor of Ayurvedic Natural Herbal & Pharmaceutical Medicines. The company has a unique product – RUB N RUN – which is a very effective Ayurvedic natural herbal oil that brings instant relief from muscular pain. This medicine has carved a niche for itself in the Pain Management category. RUB N RUN is quite popular in India and many European and Middle East Countries.

He considers his ability to understand the problems and needs of people as his biggest strength. It is due to his unflinching passion to serve the masses that Gopikrishnan has won several awards and accolades for his social and philanthropic activities. His expertise lies in providing high quality care and support to socially and economically disadvantaged people or sections who experience grave difficulties in their lives. He has successfully worked with individuals, families and groups, within a variety of settings. He possesses wide experience coupled with a meticulous understanding of relevant legislation, procedures and techniques in his area of operation.

His easy-going temperament and the ability to strike a chord with people make him able to get along with people with ease. His mild nature coupled with his unflagging commitment to social welfare has further nurtured his passion to serve the masses in overcoming their day-to-day ordeals. Being in the pharmaceutical industry for a long time has also contributed to him being capable of assisting, serving, counselling and teaching other people efficiently. He has the power to influence and motivate people. Also, through his long and satisfying stint as a social worker, he has developed practical and innovative problem-solving skills to solve the problems of other people.

The highly qualified director possesses degrees of M. Phil, MBA and BSc and proficiency in four languages, viz., English, Telugu, Tamil and Hindi, and has hands-on knowledge and experience in Marketing, Exports and Ayurveda. Apart from this, he has several professional memberships of reputed institutions across the country. He is a Senate Member in Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. He is also a Member of Rotary Club, Pollachi, Coimbatore District in Tamil Nadu, and a Member of Southern Railway – Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee, Madurai, in Tamil Nadu. He is also a Hospital Advisory Committee Member, in both Govt. Medical College & Hospital at Theni, Tamil Nadu and at Medical Department at Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.

Social work is a demanding and varied profession, which requires a professional to don many hats on any given day – adviser, therapist, caretaker, administrator, clinician, among others. It may seem that to adapt to these many roles, a social worker must possess limitless knowledge, expertise and capability. However, possessing empathy, active listening, social perceptiveness, coordination, persuasion, and cooperation are the must-have traits in an individual if he is to be a good social worker.

It is a profession that often requires great compassion in the heart to help out the needy and poor people. With 25 years of experience in social activities, Gopikrishnan uses many of these skills to great effect to develop strong interpersonal bonds with individuals and groups of individuals to bring about meaningful exchange of dialogues and understand their problem from the grassroots. He is a patient and active listener, a trait which helps him forge healthy and productive relationships with everyone around. He exudes great communication skills while trying to understand the problems of his countrymen, solving them with ease and efficiency. His experience in the pharmaceutical industry has bestowed him with the gift of patience, which helps in listening carefully to the problems faced by people in society. His empathetic nature makes him identify with or vicariously experience another person's situation effectively. It is both an intellectual and emotional process, making it easier to involve and connect with the other person's problems. His ability to coordinate, persuade and



M Gopikrishnan, philanthropist, social worker and entrepreneur



Mrs. Dhanalakshmi

cooperate with individuals and multiple parties make him invaluable in the field of social service.

Gopikrishnan's efforts have been widely recognised by many international and national forums, with many of them lauding his endeavours through awards and accolades. His social contributions have been widely covered in many publications and by media houses, highlighting the work that he has been doing with a noble mission. Definitely, his social activities and contributions towards society make him highly eligible for an honour from the Indian state.

He has won many international and national awards and honours for his contributions to society. In 2019, he won the Mahatma Gandhi Samman, for nation building from NRI Welfare Society (UK Chapter) at The House of Commons, London. Similarly, in 2019, he won the Global Achiever's Award for Business Excellence from Ayurveda Division-India Russia Business Alliance during the India-Russia Business Dialogue in Moscow, Russia.

He received the Indian Achievers' Award from Minister Santosh Gangwar, MP (Rajya Sabha), for Business Excellence and inspiring social contributions, given by the Indian Achievers' Forum in New Delhi. He has also won Nelson Mandela International Peace Award, for fostering the ideals of Humanitarianism from the Open International University in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The list of such recognitions is endless as he has been at the forefront of philanthropic activities to improve the lives of innumerable citizens with his singular approach to social work.

Today, the world has been challenged by a microscopic beast named coronavirus. This challenge has disrupted our lives unimaginably. Amidst all the pandemonium and panic, our delivery of essentials continues unabated, thanks to the selfless and gritty efforts of COVID-19 Warriors. Their penchant to serve us amidst the chaos is truly worth appreciating. They have kept themselves at the frontlines and served us our daily essentials while we continue to stay indoors.

With home delivery services being excluded from the lockdown, delivery staff have been at the frontline to keep the city ticking. Hotels, retail and wholesale shops, fish and meat stores, medical shops, vegetables and fruits outlets depend on de-











the people of this country that makes him stand out in the crowd.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused havoc in the world today and not only the economy but the whole society is affected by it today. The basic necessities of people are not getting met, as the current crisis has overwhelmed the government machinery. Food and drinking water are not reaching people in adequate amounts. Local citizens understand this problem and thus have come out of their own accord to help the weaker sections of society.

Many stories are doing the rounds on the internet and newspapers regarding how people have been helping the authorities meet the needs of the masses. They're establishing community kitchens, langars in gurudwaras, distributing cooked food packets, dry rations, medicines, daily essentials etc., to help the needy in whichever ways possible.

As soon as the pandemic started to take its toll on the common people and migrant workers,



M Gopikrishnan started his philanthropic drive to help the masses. On 26th April 2020, M Gopikrishnan reached out to the fishermen families in the Aliyar Dam area of the Coimbatore district, and Scheduled Tribes in Cinnarpathi and Navamalai. He provided all the necessary and essential food grains and items such as dry rations, rice, vegetables etc. Through his unwavering commitment, he has helped 150 families in the time of the COVID-19 lockdown, ensuring that these people can sustain themselves. A total of 7,500 people have benefitted through his initiatives. M. Gopikrishnan has also extended help to sweepers and police officers with reusable rubber gloves and reusable masks, which are very important protective equipment in these times. His dedication to serve the socially excluded and marginalised people in society is truly worth appreciating at a time when the world itself has come to a halt and people don't have the means and measures to meet two ends meet.

livery personnel to keep their businesses running and ensure that customers' demands are met. The COVID-19 warriors have made our lives easier amidst the lockdown and even during the Unlock 1

Amidst this crisis and the resultant lockdown in India, people are finding it increasingly difficult to find essential goods such as wheat, rice, pulses, salt, sugar, etc. The weaker sections of our society are the most affected, as these people survive on daily wages and earnings. With factories shut and production halted, their lives have been upended beyond measure.

Even in these harrowing times of COVID-19  $\,$ when the world is locked down, M Gopikrishnan has not wavered for a second. He has continued with its philanthropic activities. Taking a leaf out of COVID-19 warriors' book, he has launched several initiatives to reach out to the poor and needy of our society. It is this commitment of his towards



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# THE OUTBREAK THE CITY

## 26-year-old swimming coach dies of coronavirus

**SHIVAM PATEL** 

NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

A 26-YEAR-OLD swimming coach at a Delhi government facility in Central Delhi's Jhandewalan died after testing positive for coronavirus on Wednesday, two days before his birthday and four months into his marriage.

Ashutosh Gupta's family Sunday alleged negligence on the part of Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC), claiming he was not given timely treatment and the family was asked to help wrap his body in protective covering af-

His brother Ankit (20) said Ashutosh had won medals in many swimming competitions over the past five years and supported the family financially. "He was admitted in the 'orange zone' of the hospital and died a few hours after the test results came out. I was with him in the ward throughout, along with my mother and cousin. After he died, the hospital sent one of their attendants to wrap the body, who took my help to lift and move it,"

Hospital medical director Dr N N Mathur said he has initiated an inquiry into the allegations and is taking the matter seriously. He also said the 'orange zone' of the hospital is where patients suspected of having coronavirus, and

New Delhi: A study conducted by

AIIMS doctors has found that

yoga can reduce not just mi-

graines but even lower treat-

ment cost of the disease. The

study, 'Effect of yoga as add on

therapy in migraine', was pub-

lished in the online issue of

Neurology, the medical journal

of the American Academy of

Neurology. The new research

suggests that yoga may help

people with migraine, and lead



Ashutosh Gupta's family alleged negligence on the part of Lady Hardinge **Medical College** 

awaiting test results, are kept.

"This patient was young and obese. He was admitted at 2 am on June 17 and died within 12 hours of admission. After the report was received as positive... the patient was planned to be shifted to Covid emergency but collapsed prior to shifting," said Dr Mathur.

He added that the body should have been put in a bag inside the ward as per protocol, and the hospital is finding out how the body was handled after death.

The eldest of three siblings, Ashutosh was about to turn 27 on June 19 and got married in February. His wife and 47-yearold mother are awaiting their Covid test results.

Ankit said no one from the family has developed any symptoms. Ashutosh had developed a fever and was taken to the LHMC

Yoga reduces migraines: AIIMS study

to headaches that happen less

often, don't last as long and are

less painful. A total of 114 pa-

tients with episodic migraine

were recruited to one of two

ventional medical therapy as pre-

scribed by their doctors, while the

second got conventional treat-

ment, plus a yoga programme

that included breathing exercises.

The first group received con-

groups for the study.

after June 10 midnight, where he was tested and asked to home isolate.

"He had problems breathing so we arranged for an oxygen machine for him. On June 14, we were told by the hospital that the Covid report had been misplaced. We then got him tested at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and they shared the result on June 17," said

Dr Mathur said Covid reports are collected from sampling centres and in the past, they have sometimes been taken by the wrong person. "From the past four-five days, results are now coming out on the same date of the test and patients can access them on the RT-PCR application. So these things (misplacement) should not happen now," he said.

Ankit said he watched his brother die at the hospital on Wednesday afternoon after he began foaming at the mouth. The family hoped they would be provided some compensation as Ashutosh was the main earning member of the family.

Ashutosh's father Rajendra Prasad Gupta worked as a security guard at a school for the blind near Connaught Place before the lockdown, but is presently out of work. Ankit is preparing for an exam to enter the Delhi Police. "He used to support us all at home, now we don't know what will happen," said Ankit.

postures," the study stated. The

yoga protocol was prepared by

yoga physicians at the Centre for

Integrative Medicine and

in-charge, Center for Integrative

Medicine and Research, AIIMS,

and one of the authors of the

study, said: "Performing yoga is

a stress-buster: several studies

have shown stress is one of the

Dr Gautam Sharma, professor

Research (CIMR) at AIIMS.

#### **SECURITY GUARD AMONG 4 ARRESTED**

# Retired MEA official attacked, his wife stabbed to death in Safdarjung robbery

**JIGNASA SINHA** 

NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

A 94-YEAR-OLD retired MEA official was attacked and his 88year-old wife stabbed to death during a robbery at their Safdarjung Enclave residence in Southwest Delhi on Saturday night. Police said the security guard of the building where the couple lived, along with three of his associates, allegedly overpowered Baldev Raj Chawla and his wife Kanta, slit the woman's neck when she tried to resist, and fled with money and jewellery.

DCP (Southwest) Devender Arya said the four accused -guard Rajesh (18), Gyanender (22), Om (18) and Pramod (26) --

were arrested on Sunday from Lakhimpur Kheri near the Nepal border. Police said all hail from the neighbouring country.

The couple lived on the upper ground floor in Safdarjung Enclave's A1 block.

Police said that around 9 pm Saturday, the accused went to the couple's house. DCP Arya said: "The guard was appointed two weeks ago. When Kanta opened the door, she saw the men. Before she could do anything, they overpowered the couple. Kanta tried to stop them but one of them attacked her with a sharp object." They forced her husband to sit on the sofa and tied his hands with a

Police said the accused then went to the bedroom and fled



BR Chawla and wife Kanta

with money and jewellery worth Rs 55.000.

Police said Chawla managed to go out, take the lift to the third floor and alert his neighbours. They immediately called the RWA president, who made the PCR call. The woman was taken to a hospital but succumbed to her injuries. Police said the couple had two children but both died a few years ago.

Police said Chawla is still in a state of shock and has not been able to give details of what is missing from his home. RWA president VK Malhotra said, "The couple were registered with the Delhi Police's senior citizen scheme and police constables would often visit them. One of their security guards had been working with them for 25 years, and the couple hired another one recently. He didn't have police verification." A senior police officer said, "The men had been planning the robbery for two days. They booked a cab from

Safdarjung Enclave to Nepal on June 18. Rajesh had been referred to the couple by their domestic help. The accused were fleeing to Nepal when they were caught."

Jitendra Kumar, the other security guard from the building, said, "I got a call from a resident on the third floor about the robbery. I rushed to their home and found aunty lying on the floor with injuries on her neck. Uncle was sitting on the chair, shocked. He told us the robbers took everything and killed aunty." Kumar said the couple didn't move out a lot due to their old age, and their domestic help would arrange for groceries and medical help. Their daughter-in-law and grandchildren live in the US," said

# Lockdown hits security guards in Gurgaon, placement agencies say strapped for cash

**SAKSHIDAYAL** GURGAON, JUNE 21

FOR THE last eight years, Prem Kumar (35) had been working as a security guard at a commercial complex in Gurgaon. In the aftermath of the lockdown due to the Covid-19 outbreak, he has been reduced to switching professions and taking up employment as a labourer for a living.

"I went through a very difficult time during the lockdown. I was desperate and the security company I worked for was neither calling me to work nor paying me any salary. In April, I was at a point where I was not eating food for two-three days at a time.' said Kumar, whose wife and two children reside with his parents in his native Bihar.

"When the lockdown was relaxed, I left the company I was working for and started taking up labour work through a contractor. The pay is half of what it used to be, and the job is not stable, but at least I am filling my stomach today," he said, adding that the complex he worked at earlier is yet to re-open its doors.

Security agencies across Gurgaon further corroborate Kumar's claims, stating that with malls and schools still closed and offices and industries operating with lesser strength, they are not receiving payments from their clients, due to which they, in turn, are facing issues paying their staff.

"Most of our clients have not been paying us since the lockdown. We are trying to manage whatever payments we can to minimise our staff's problems. We are giving them at last 50% of their salary," said an official at Secura, a security company that deploys over 50 personnel at offices and industries across the city. At Denetim Services also,

which has "10-15 personnel" deployed at shopping centres and malls in Gurgaon, staff has been getting only part of their payment. "Nobody is keeping security, so why will they make payments. We are paying our staff to whatever extent we can manage.



Several condominiums in Gurgaon are functioning with 25-30% fewer security staff. Archive

We are unable to pay them for the whole month but are trying to give enough so they can manage day to day expenses," said Anubhav Khiwani, founder of Denetim Services.

Officials at SDS Security, which has over 3,000 personnel deployed in offices, malls and industries in Gurgaon, say the demand for personnel has reduced by 40%. "We had to ask a lot of staff to go on unpaid leave. We have made whatever payments were owed to people and have kept them on

the job. We will reach out to them once work resumes again," said Sushil Kumar, branch head of SDS Security, adding that a lot of their staff has also returned to their villages. This latter fact has also emerged as a dominant trend in condominiums in Gurgaon, several of which are functioning with "25-30 %" lesser staff than usual because many have returned home post-lockdown.

At Nirvana Country, for example, members of the RWA said "25-30 %" of their staff has returned home over the last month, with no time frame having been given as to their return. "We are around 30% short of staff, which, as far as I know, has returned home...We are managing by redefining our internal needs to ensure we are able to cope with the number of people available. We have 10 gates leading to our society, but are only allowing visitor entry from 4, which cuts down the staff required at these," said Rohit Chopra, General Secretary of the Nirvana Country RWA. Princeton Estate is operating with "70-80%" of its usual staff. "We had signed an agreement with our facility management service to provide us 50% of the staff at any point in time. This is now their responsibility," said Arati Pandya, Acting Secretary of the Princeton Estate RWA.

A security guard employed at a condominium in Gurgaon, who did not want to be named, said, "I worked all through the lockdown. We used to stay inside the society itself and do our duties so there was no chance of infection enter-

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Authorised Officer's Details:Name: Mr.Sanka Radhakrishna E-mail ID: radhakrishna.sanka@sbi.co. Landline No. (off): 040-23251994, Mobile: 9440227288

Appendix IV-A [See Proviso to rule 8(6)]

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE

Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Management Branch, Secunderabad, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on 23.07.2020 for recovery of outstanding dues of State Bank of India, SAM Branch, Secunderabad - Rs.799,09,56,387.31Ps (Rupees Seven hundred ninety nine crores nine lac ifty six thousand three hundred eighty seven and paise thirty one only) as on 31.03.2020 and IDBI BANK Chapel Road, Hyderabad - Rs.513.27 crores (Rupees Five hundred thirteen crores and twenty seven lac only) as on 31.03.2020; and future interest at contractual rate from 01.04.2020 together with incidenta Note: IDBI Bank Ltd, who is the member of the Consortium, has given their consent to State Bank of India Stressed Assets Management Branch, Secunderabad to proceed under SARFAESI Act as a Consortiur eader.Properties in Lot No.s 1 to 7 mentioned below are mortgaged jointly to SBI & IDBI and both th

mortgaged to SBI exclusively. The reserve price and the earnest money to be deposited is mentioned

Description of Property 1 Lease hold rights (99 years) of land admeasuring 1432.50 Square Meters together with plinth area of 1430.04 square meters (GF 622.23 + GF 69.00 + FF 622.23 + SF 116.58) Plot No. 6 HIMUDA IA Phase IV

Plant and Machinery situated at Plot No. 6 HIMUDA IA Phase IV Baddi Himachal Pradesh.@

RESERVE PRICE RS. 3,32,00,000/-EMD RS. 33,20,000/ Auction time :01:00 P.M. to 02:00 PM; BID INCREMENT : Rs.1,00,000/-Plant and Machinery situated at Plot No. 9, HIMUDAIA Phase IV, Baddi, Himachal Prdesh. @

Lease hold rights on Industrial Land measuring 12000 Square Meters belonging to AEPPL situated at B-2

6 Plant & Machinery situated at B-2, MIDC Industrial Area, Near CRRT, ISMT Ltd, Nagapur, Ahmednagar

RESERVE PRICE RS.88,00,000/-

Commercial building (under construction) measuring 652 Square Meters located at Plot No. 63, at 'ROYAL

Auction time :02:00 P.M. to 03:00 P.M.; BID INCREMENT : Rs.1,00,000/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in State Bank of India. the Secure

(S RADHAKRISHNA) Sd/- Authorised Officer STATE BANK OF INDIA Cell: 9440227288 Place:Hyderabac

### **Classifieds**

#### **PERSONAL**

I. reena kumari dulane singh w/o-14649544M Hav.Anil kumar tomar r/o VPO- thakkar bapa nagar, Dist - ahmedabad quiarat-382350, have changed my name from reena kumari dulane singh to reena tomar affidavit date 15-Jun 2020 before madan lal gupta delhi.

0040539906-7

I,G HUSSAIN BASHA,S/O-JC-767918Y SUB GOKARI JAFFAR HUSSAIN.R/O-VPO-BIJINAVEMULA,TEH+MANDAL AM-KOILKUNTA, DISTT-KURNOOL, ANDHRA PRADESH-518134, have changed my name, from G HUSSAIN BASHA to GOKARI HUSSAIN BASHA, for all.future purpose.&-in myfather's service-record my date-of-birth wronglymentioned as-28/11/1998 instead of-29/11/1998

0040539906-5 I. YOGESH SACHDEVA S/O SATYA PAL SACHDEV R/O-J-96, GROUND-FLOOR, KIRTI NAGAR, RAMESH NAGAR, DELHI-110015.CHANGEDMY NAME TO JOGESH SACHDEV.

0040539906-3 I, SHIVANI D/O VIJAY SHARMA R/o. PLOT.NO.134,KHASRA NO.639 VIKAS-KUNJ LONI-DEHAT GHAZIABAD UTTAR-PRADESH 201102.have changed my name to SHIVANI SHARMA. 0040539906-4

I. Mohd Rashid.S/o Rasheed Khan R/o-E-49/H-220 Janta-Majdoor Colony Welcome Seelampur Garhi Mendu Delhi-110053 changed my name to

I GURVEEN KAUR KOHLI D/O-NARENDER SINGH KOHLI R/OH.NO.J-13/23L, RAJOURI-GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110027.AFTER-MARRIAGE CHANGE MY NAME GURVEEN I, G MAHABOOB BASHA,S/O-JC-

767918Y SUB GOKARI JAFFAR HUSSAIN,R/O VPO-BIJINAVEMULA,TEH+MANDAL AM-KOILKUNTA.DISTT-KURNOOL, ANDHRA PRADESH-518134,have changed my name, from G MAHABOOB BASHA to GOKARI MAHABOOB BASHA, for all, future purpose. 0040539906-6

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

सर्ग न्यायाण को सूचित किया जाता है कि कारण ने अंति है कि कारण ने अंति है कि कारण ने प्रति है कि कारण ने कि क के क्रम में जमीन का मूल दस्तावेज कहीं गिर गया उर कोई दुरुपयोग न करे जिस वजह से यह नोटिस सर्वसाध

. उ ो सचित किया गया है।

PUBLIC NOTICE MY CLIENT SH. ANIL BHALLA S/C LATE SH. SATYA DEV BHALLA R/O K-19, FIRST FLOOR KAILASH COLONY, NEW DELH HAS SEVERED ALL HIS RELATION HAS SEVERED ALL HIS RELATION AND DISOWNED HIS WIFE SMT. VISHU BHALLA AND THEIR SON NAMELY ANUJ BHALLA HIS WIFE AND THEIR CHILDREN FROM HIS ALL MOVABLE-IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES DUE TO THEIR DISOBEDIENCE, NEGLECT AND CRUEL BEHAVIOR TOWARDS MY CLIENT. IF ANY PERSON DEALS WITH THEM, MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTS ONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACT

R.K.S. BAJWA & ASSOCIATES CH.NO. 114, LAWYERS BLOCK SAKET, SAKET COURTS NEW DELHI-110017

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

y Client Raj Kanwar S/o Late Sh. Tara hand R/o H.No- 35, Chandani Market hanpur Village, Rohini Delhi 110085 sowned their Son Named Kamaljee ga 8 Years) S/o Raj Kanwar From My III movable/ immovable Properties. sets. For their Wrong Behavior ereafter My Client not be held sponsible for any kind of acts done, riminal activities by him in money or ansaction and any lillegal/ Legal And roperty Purpose in Future. Arrybody ealing With Them in any manner hatsoever will be doing at his/ her own st, Risk & Responsibility.

Sd/ RITU VERMA (ADVOCATE Enrl. No:- D/1126/9: OFF:- B-25, GUPTA PALACE A-2/42 RAJOURI GARDEN, N.DELHI-11002

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### IRS officer's suicide: Note names 4 colleagues improves after

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

DAYS AFTER a 57-year-old Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at his Chanakyapuri home, The Indian Express has learnt that the suicide note recovered from his bedroom mentioned four colleagues who were allegedly harassing him after he filed a vigilance complaint

against one of them. Keshav Saxena, a 1988-batch IRS officer, was posted as principal commissioner in the I-T department at ITO. Police said they are sending his letter to experts at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to match his writing, and are investigating the matter after approaching his seniors and colleagues.

When contacted, Additional DCP (New Delhi district) Deepak Yadav said, "Enquiry into this

नेविदा की कुल लागत

करने की दिनांक

ऑन लाइन निविदा मिलने की दिनांक

ऑन लाइन निविदा एवं निर्धारित प्रपत्र जमा

नेविदा अनुसार डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट व अन्य मूल

ऑन लाइन निविदा खोलने की दिनांक( वित्तीय

कार्यालय में उपरोक्तानसार खोली जायेगी।

प्रपत्र भौतिक रूप से कार्यालय में जमा करोन

ऑन लाइन निविदा खोलने की दिनांक

नेविदा ) टू-बिड पद्वति

SPPP UBN

क्रमांकः- उप आवासन आयुक्त( गु० नि० )/2020-21/05

ऑन लाइन ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

🗣 राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल |

निविदा सूचना संख्या– 02/2020–21

राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल की ओर से एसएमएस स्टेडियम में बैडमिंटन हॉल के अध्रे पडे कार्य के

निर्माण हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी के राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल/अन्य विभागो में समेकक्ष श्रेणी में

गंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं अन्य विभागों में एए\* एवं ए\* श्रेणी के पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र मे

उपरोक्त निविदा टू-बिड पद्वति आमंत्रित की जाकर आवासीय अभियन्ता - ई-प्रोक जयपुर व

\*ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया में सिविल कार्यों हेतु राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल में समुचित वर्ग के पंजीकृत

निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण एवं शर्ते वेबसाईट www.urbanrajasthan.gov.in/rhb

व वेबसाईट https://.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा

. नंवेदक एवं अन्य विभागों के एए\* एवं ए<sup>\*</sup> श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदक ही भाग ले सकते है ।

ining all persons concerned and relevant records."

of Bapu Dham in Chanakyapuri, was found hanging by his wife. She took him to Primus Hospital where he was declared dead by doctors. "We received a call from the hospital authorities about the incident. Saxena had used a bedsheet to hang himself. We also found a suicide note in his bedroom. We are probing the matter," DCP (New Delhi) Eish Singhal had said.

A senior officer privy to the investigation said: "The victim mentioned four colleagues. He claimed one of them started creating trouble after he filed a complaint against him with their vigilance department." "Before any legal action, we are taking legal opinion and verifying facts from his department," the officer said.

So far, inquest proceedings has been initiated under Section 174 of CrPC, police said.

24.06.2020 से 10.07.2020 सायं 6.00 बजे तक

24.06.2020 से 10.07.2020 सायं 6.00 बजे

13.07.2020 सायं 6:00 बजे तक

15.07.2020 प्रातः 11:00 बजे

20.07.2020 प्रातः 11:00 बजे

RHB2021WSOB00078

# Jain's health matter is going on. We are example the rapy

On May 27, Saxena, a resident **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

THE CONDITION of Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain has improved and his fever has subsided, a day after he was administered plasma therapy for the treatment of Covid-19.

According to sources, the condition of the 55year-old minister is improving and he is being monitored by doctors. Jain is likely to come out of the ICU by Monday.

He was shifted to Max hospital on Friday afternoon after his condition worsened.

He was earlier admitted to the Delhi government-run Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital on Tuesday after he developed breathlessness, fever and a drop in oxygen levels, shortly after he had tested negative for the virus. However, as symptoms persisted, he was tested again and his reports came positive on Wednesday.

Recently, Kalkaji MLA Atishi, Delhi government advisor Abhinandita Mathur and AAP media panelist Akshay Marathe had also tested positive. None of them have been admitted to hospitals and are reported to have only mild symptoms.

### 47-yr-old police head constable dies of virus

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

A 47-YEAR-OLD Delhi Police head constable died from Covid-related complications at Panchsheel Hospital Sunday, said officials, The deceased, Lalit Kumar, was posted with the 4th battalion of the Delhi Armed Police. His family lives in Khajuri Khas. He worked as a reader to a senior officer in DAP.

Police said Kumar was under home quarantine after he showed mild symptoms. On June 17, he was tested for Covid at GTB hospital. His results returned positive after two days. On Saturday, his son called police and informed them his father was unwell. A senior police officer said, "Kumar complained of fever and breathlessness. He was immediately shifted to Panchsheel Hospital, but he died on Sunday. "Kumar is survived by his wife and their 20-

year-old son and 12-year-old daughter. Till date, nine police personnel have died due to Covid and more than 800 personnel have tested positive for

New Delhi

उप आवासन आयुक्त ( गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण )

# THE ()UTBREAK THE CITY

#### **BRIEFLY** —

#### Pvt hospitals will offer beds at subsidised rates: Order

New Delhi: The Delhi gov-

ernment said in an order on Saturday that 108 private hospitals in the city will provide all Covid-19 beds at subsidised rates. The DDMA passed an order Saturday capping charges in private hospitals. Subsidised rates at another seven hospitals Max Smart Super Specialty Hospital, Saket; Sir Ganga Ram Kolmet Hospital; Maha Durga Charitable Trust; Sir Ram City Ganga Cygnus Hospital; Orthocare; Saroj Super Specialty Hospital; and Bansal Global Hospital will be applicable to only 60% of the total beds available, since they have reserved more than half the beds for Covid patients. Before admitting patients in the remaining 40% beds, they will have to get a consent form signed, the order stated.

#### 57,000 UG applications on 2nd day of DU registrations

New Delhi: On the second day of registrations for its courses, Delhi University saw 57,312 applications for its undergraduate courses,18,837 applications for its postgraduate courses and 2,071 PhD applications. The registration portal will remain open till July 4. The bulletin of information has been uploaded on the university website.

#### **Quarantine** centre inaugurated

New Delhi: Delhi BJP President Adesh Gupta and MLA Vijender Gupta inaugurated an isolationcum-quarantine centre at Antariksh Society, Rohini Sector-14, Sunday. They distributed food packets and ration kits and also gave away face masks made by self-help groups at Sampurna Centre in Sector-9, Rohini. ENS

# Testing in Delhi doubles in a week, pending results up too

PENDENCY MORE THAN DOUBLES

**SOURAV ROY BARMAN** NEW DELHI. JUNE 21

THE INCREASE in collection of daily samples for Covid testing in Delhi, after being nudged by the Centre, has pushed up the pendency of results in labs by more than double within a week — from 2,382 on June 12 to 7,439 on June 18 - official records show.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs had on June 14 directed the Delhi government to carry out 10,000 tests daily by June 16; 15,000 by June 18; and 18,000 by June 20. On June 14, 4,371 tests were conducted in the capital.

According to data sourced from the Health Department, the number of tests carried out on June 15, 16, 17 and 18 were 5,824. 6,510, 8,452 and 12,389 respectively. The number of samples collected were 6,105, 7,786, 8,093 and 15,766 respectively.

As districts focused on collecting more samples, the pendency went on increasing. Expecting a rise in pendency, the health department had directed all labs - both in public and pri-

■ Samples tested ■ Positive 12000 9000 6000

vate sector – to work on their full potential and "further ramp up their testing capacity on priority to meet the increased demand of processing".

According to an ICMR report dated June 20, Delhi has 44 labs, out of which 19 are government-run and 25 private. Out of the government-run labs, three are under the Delhi government, while the rest function under the Centre.

As per health department data, the number of samples collected by the government pending at various labs were 3,478 on June 15; 5,116 on June 16; 6,892

on June 17; and 7,439 on June 18. The Delhi government did not respond to requests for a comment on the matter. District Magistrates, on condition of anonymity, said the increase in pendency was along expected lines as the capacity of processing samples in the labs has not increased as much as the daily collection.

The ICMR had on June 14 written to the Union Health Ministry saying Delhi's overall testing capacity is around 18,000 samples per day, when taken into account the advanced COBAS 6800 testing machine inNational Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

However, in its affidavit to the Delhi HC on June 9, the Delhi government had stated that the city's testing capacity stands at around 8,600 per day - 2,900 in government labs and 5,700 in private labs. "NCDC labs and the lab at IGIB, CSIR receive samples from all over the country, being national labs," the government had mentioned.

RT-PCR tests are considered the gold standard frontline test for the diagnosis of Covid-19. RT-PCR tests take minimum two to five hours, which includes the time taken for collection of samples and their transportation to labs. In reality, it takes more time for the results to come out due to capacity constraints.

Antigen detection tests, which were initiated in Delhi on June 18, throw up results within 30 minutes and do not require conventional labs for processing. However, according to an ICMR advisory, those who test negative in the rapid antigen test should then be tested by RT-PCR to rule out infection.

## 3,000 new cases, scramble to arrange enough ambulances

**MALLICA JOSHI** 

A DAY after L-G Anil Baijal said everyone who tests positive for Covid-19 will have to report to Covid care centres, the Delhi government is scrambling to arrange enough ambulances to ferry these patients. There are around 460 ambulances in the city at present. These include the cabs (Ola and Uber) that the government has requisitioned specifically for Covid patients.

"The daily case load in the city is increasing. We do not have enough ambulances to take everyone to Covid care centres for assessment. We are trying to push another 500 vehicles into the system to be used as ambulances, but even they will fall short if everyone has to be taken to Covid care centres. If a patient uses a personal vehicle or cab services, they will put drivers and companions at risk," said a senior Delhi government official.

Delhi has seen over 3,000 cases every day for the past three days. On Sunday, the city saw 3,000 new cases and 63 deaths, taking the total cases to 59,746 and deaths to 2,175. Of the 24,558 active cases, 6,054 are in hospitals and 1,631 are in Covid care and health centres. An additional 12,106 are under home isolation.

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

TOTAL CASES: **59.746** | NEW CASES: **3.000** Recovered Deaths Tests June 19 1,828 13,074 June 20 3,630 7,725 77 17,533 3,000 1,719 63 18,105 June 21 33,013 2,175 3,70,014 \*Total active cases



conducted. If they do not have

moderate or severe symptoms.

they are recommended home

isolation with instructions to con-

On Friday, the L-G had or-

dered that everyone who tests

positive for Covid-19 will have to

spend a minimum of five days in

Covid care centres, after which

they would be cleared for home

tact officials if the patient devel-

ops more serious symptoms.

quarantine if they meet the criteria. After stiff opposition from the Delhi government, this order was modified and one visit to the At present, those who test care centre made mandatory. positive are contacted by health Services of the call centre officials and a call centre appointed by the Delhi government, and their health assessment is

were also cancelled by the L-G. Sources said this has created a significant issue. "As the old practice was scrapped and the new one has not kicked in yet, assessment has not happened for several patients since Friday. These people should have been in the system already, assessed and given information," said an official. A Delhi government official

The city has been seeing

three days. Praveen Khanna

3,000-plus cases for the past

said the issue has been raised with higher authorities in the government and a solution is trying to be reached.

BJP asks its

MPs to visit

169 testing

### 62-yr-old is 1st Covid death at Mandoli jail

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

FIVE DAYS after a 62-year-old inmate of Mandoli Jail passed away, his Covid-19 result has come positive. This is the first

case of a Delhi prison inmate succumbing to the virus. Delhi Prisons DG Sandeep Goel said, "The inmate died of no apparent cause on June 15 in the evening, apparently while sleeping. Inquest proceedings and Covid-19 test were con-

positive on June 20." The inmate, Kanwar Singh, was convicted and sentenced for life in a 2016 murder case in

ducted, the result of which came

are monitoring their health." Singh was asymptomatic, and

Singh was cremated as per Covid norms and precautions. In March, two videos were released from Rohini and

the source of the infection has not

been confirmed yet, said officials.

After the report came positive,

Mandoli jail by undertrial prisoners, alleging poor conditions inside the barracks. Inmates alleged food wasn't proper and the barracks were overcrowded.

DG Goel said the allegations were false and all barracks were being monitored by health officials every day: "We make sure each inmate is screened regularly. Most positive cases in the jails have recovered, others are asymptomatic. For senior citizens, we make sure their diet and health is stable. We also have separate barracks for positive patients, to isolate them from others."

Delhi has three prisons -Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli — and as of Sunday, at least 23 inmates have tested positive for the virus. Of them, 16 have recovered and one has passed away.

### centres **ABHINAV RAJPUT** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

UNION MINISTER of State for

Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy has written a letter to all BJP MPs of Delhi, asking them to visit rapid antigen detection testing centres in the capital. Covid-19 testing through the rapid antigen methodology had commenced at 169 centres in and around Delhi's containment zones on Thursday.

"In order to augment the effort of the Government of NCT of Delhi, the Government of India, after having a series of discussions under the chairmanship of Amit Shah ji with officers of GNCTD, ICMR, Ministry of Home Affairs, has taken a decision to set up 169 rapid antigen detection testing centres across all districts of Delhi.

"Further, to inform that the Union Minister has desired that you, being the representative from your Lok Sabha constituency, it would be in the fitness of things that you visit all testing centres falling within your constituency, in co-ordination with the district

administration," the letter read. West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh said he has visited around 12 centres in his constituency with officials. "The idea is to see if every centre is properly functioning, infrastructure is in place, and if social distancing is maintained or not."

Reddy was accompanied by Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, Northeast Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari and other leaders during the inspection of the testing centres in Ashok Nagar and Sunder Nagari on Saturday, East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir said he would be visiting the centres this week. Reddy said the Centre plans to conduct at least 6 lakh rapid antigen tests at the centres.

#### Aman Vihar area. The DG said the deceased had been at Mandoli Jail since July 2018. Goel said, "The inmate was lodged in a senior citizen barrack **ECLIPSED** with 28 others." He said all 28 inmates will now be tested: "We

A multiple exposure image of the the annular solar eclipse as seen from India Gate on Sunday. Praveen Khanna

# At Covid care centres, basics in place, room for improvement

**ANANYA TIWARI** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

WITH THE L-G ordering that all those who test positive in the city are to report to Covid care centres for assessment, patients quarantined in these facilities say that while basic systems are in place, a few snags remain. At present, those who have either mild or no symptoms are being referred to these facilities and are given basic medical support.

At the Government Girls Senior Secondary school at Badarpur, which has 83 patients, Mangal Sharma (46), who works as a private driver and lives near South Extension Part II, was ad-

mitted on June 18 after his test report from Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital confirmed he was positive a day earlier. "I got a call from the hospital that they are sending an ambulance," he said. On arrival he was given a bucket, soap for cleaning clothes, toothpaste and brush and a blanket/sheet.

Sharma said authorities asked him if he had a private bathroom at home that could be used by him exclusively. "I have three family members at home and we all share one bathroom. They said that I will have to go to the centre. Authorities came home and sanitised everything," he said.

Housed in a room with four people, he said lunch and dinner are satisfactory but he wished that they considered the diets of patients: "I have diabetes, and in the morning they give bread with iam... My sugar levels are fine and monitored by doctors."

He said cleanliness is also a

concern: "They haven't taken the

sheets of previous inmates who have left, they are just lying there. We were given just one soap bar and I had to ask my family to send more.' A doctor stationed at the

school checks them daily, and patients are allowed to take a walk in the playground.

Delhi government nodal officer Dinesh Kuman Dondyan said they would raise the issue of meals with the vendor. "We will inform the vendor about



At Nehru Homeopathic Hospital, one of the 14 centres

this, though we do not give sweet food as such. Patients with co-morbidities have been eating the same food as others.'

If patients housed at the facility develop moderate or serious symptoms, they are deferred to dedicated Covid hospitals

which have ICU beds, ventilators, along with oxygen support.

At present, there are 1,426 patients in 14 Covid care centres across the city. There is space for 4,883 more. At Terapanth Bhawan in

Chhatrapur, Deepali (27) who has been admitted since June 18, with her daughter Khushi (11) ioining on June 20, said she is satisfied with the facilities. "One room is shared with another person, and there is a toilet, balcony and AC. The food is also good."

Having a sore throat, the South Delhi resident, whose husband has been working since the lockdown as an employee of a supplier of medical material such as PPE and medicines, got tested at Madan Mohan Malviya Hospital on June 17. Four days later, she got a call from the hospital informing her of the result and that an ambulance will take her to the centre.

"I get a call thrice from the doctor, who checks if we are ok. I am currently having paracetamol and vitamin C. But there is no thermometer to check if I have temperature, though the doctor gives us medicines if we feel that we have it." The facility has 170 patients currently, and has the capacity to house 180.

Naresh Kumar, in-charge of the facility, said, "Doctors check on them twice a day, and if needed, also visit them.'

### MAKING DO WITH LESS

## No jobs, Sangam Vihar residents turn to vegetable carts, roadside shops

**SUKRITA BARUAH** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

AN ELECTRICIAN by profession, Rajesh Gupta displayed his wares of the day - cabbages, brinjals, onions, ginger and lemon — on his cart in a lane in Sangam Vihar, trying to make the best of his new innings as a vegetable vendor.

In Sangam Vihar, one of the city's biggest unauthorised colonies and home to a large migrant working-class population, unemployment is currently ubiquitous. "My elder son worked in a shop here but the owner said he can't pay the staff. My younger son also took out a vegetable cart but because sales are so low, the amount spent on buying the vegetables was getting wasted. So now both of them are looking for work," said Bipin Gupta, a vegetable vendor at the main market in Sangam Vihar's G block.

Hearing this, Parvati Rawat who was haggling with him over the price of coriander — also piped up: "My husband is also without work at home. He worked as a driver for a family for many years, but they asked him to stop coming after the lockdown. My son worked at a counter at a cinema hall and these were the first to close down. Earlier this month, he finally found work in Gurgaon at a company that manufactures masks.'

In this climate of pervasive joblessness, residents are turning to improvisation and adaptation to make ends meet. Rajesh went through the lockdown without any work. However, even after the city began opening up again, he found that he was not being called for work.

"People have no money to spare so they're only calling when they have extremely ur-



gent work. Before the lockdown, I was earning around Rs 1,000 a day but I found myself barely earning Rs 300 after that. It was just not enough to run the household, so for about a week now I've been buying vegetables at Okhla mandi and selling them in the galis. That gets me Rs 200-300 per day, of which the profit is negligible," he said.

His neighbour Rahmatullah had gone back to his village in

Several carts have sprung up at Sangam Vihar. Gajendra Yadav

Bihar's Motihari district during the lockdown but returned five days ago, hoping to resume work at the garment manufacturing unit in Okhla which used to employ him before the lockdown. That was not successful. Now, he mans a ramshackle corner pan and tobacco shop that used to be run by his 17-year old son. "My family is back at our vil-

New Delhi

lage for now. I used to earn around Rs 14,000 per month at the factory, my older son used to ride an auto, the younger one used to run this shop. So there were multiple people earning for the family. Now it's just me, and

found, I'm just sitting at this shop. Yesterday, I made sales worth Rs 500 – of which the profit is just 10% - which is noth-Many others have not been

since there's no other work to be

able to adapt in this manner. "My husband used to sell footwear made here to shops in markets like Greater Kailash and Shahpur lat, Now, no one in the markets are buying these. The only work that one might get from time to time is construction work at the labour chowk but he doesn't know how to do that work," said Arti Devi, another resident of the area.

# 6 THE ()UTBREAK



#### **DELHI CONFIDENTIAL**



#### SENDING A MESSAGE

WHILE YOGA Day was used by several personalities from across the political spectrum to promote India and its culture, LJP leader Chirag Paswan stood out. On social media, Paswan posted pictures of him performing yoga with a message: "To keep away from violent and negative thoughts, the Chinese government should also practice yoga so that they can learn to live in unity and peace instead of violence."

### OFFICE RULES

WITH THE number of Covid-19 cases rising in government buildings, many ministries have reintroduced work-fromhome guidelines for a section of their staff, especially those with comorbidities. In such times, a recent circular by the Election Commission stands out. The commission has asked all its employees to start working from office while following preventive measures issued by the Health Ministry. Only employees residing in containment zones are permitted to work from home. The circular has officers and staff worried given a few cases have already been reported from Nirvachan Sadan.

#### Issue AT Hand

WITH THE Supreme Court deciding to stay the Rath Yatra in Puri in view of the Covid-19 outbreak, the VHP has got a new issue at hand. VHP secretary general Milind Parande on Sunday said the court must review its ruling. He pointed out that the yatra had been conducted uninterrupted for hundreds of years and said the state government must find a way out. He argued that due to the pandemic, millions of devotees are not expected to turn up. He said the apex court should have heard all stakeholders or at least trustees of the temple before delivering the verdict.

#### **MP RAJYA SABHA ELECTION**

### Eye on bypolls, BJP skips action against cross-voting MLA

**MILIND GHATWAI** 

TWO DAYS after a BJP legislator allegedly voted for Congress candidate Digvijiya Singh in the Rajya Sabha polls in Madhya Pradesh, the ruling party has not even served a showcause notice to Guna MLA Gopilal Jatav.

The four-time Dalit MLA allegedly voted for Singh despite the party whip to vote for Jyotiraditya Scindia in the election to the Upper House on

The decision to not act against Jatav seems to be dictated by the upcoming bypolls to 24 seats. The Dalit community has substantial votes in the Gwalior-Chambal region where

most of these seats area. On the day of voting, Jatav claimed that he had voted for Scindia but BJP leaders said he voted for Singh. Before casting the vote MI As have to show the hallot to authorised leaders present in the voting area. When The Indian Express contacted him on Sunday, Jatav refused to comment.

Iatav's vote did not make any difference to the results, because the BIP had sufficient numbers to win two seats. But it left the ruling party redfaced, more so because three national-level leaders of the party, including Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, were in

downplay the matter, claiming human error.

first preference votes to win. The BJP has 107 MLAs. Two BSP MLAs, one SP legislator and three of the four Independents had also assured support to the ruling party candidates. While Scindia got 56 votes, the other BJP candidate Sumer Solanki got 55. While Jatav allegedly voted for Singh, the vote of one BJP MLA was declared invalid.

"We are not even considering the issue now," said a BJP leader. Given that it's well short of majority in the 230-member House, the BJP is not keen on acting against Jatav. Even in the Assembly session in July 2019, the BIP, then in the Opposition, had not acted against two members who voted with the ruling party on a Bill. The party had then claimed that it had not issued a whip. In Rajva Sabha elections, however, the party had is-

The Samajwadi Party has expelled its lone MLA in Madhya Pradesh, Rajesh Shukla, who voted for the BIP. Shukla said he had used his discretion because the party had not given him any

The BSP is yet to decide on action against its two MLAs who went against the party's stated line to vote for the BJP.

# MP Governor's relative to

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** LUCKNOW, JUNE 21

A RELATIVE wearing a protection kit will be allowed to sit in the hospital room where Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon is admitted, a senior Medanta Hospital official said on Sunday.

Tandon, 85, was admitted to the hospital in Lucknow on June 11 with breathing problems, difficulty in urination, and fever.

"At this time, he needs moral support. A television has been installed in his room. He is con-



Lalji Tandon

scious. He cannot speak as a tube has been put on him. But he will recognise you. He will raise his hand, smile slowly. He is responding," Medanta Hospital director Rakesh Kapoor told PTI.

In a hospital bulletin issued on Saturday, the doctor had said Tandon was in stable condition and recovering slowly.

# PM-JAY saw 57 pc fall in surgeries, 46 pc in medical care during lockdown

PRABHA RAGHAVAN & KAUNAIN SHERIFF M NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

THE nearly 10 weeks of the lockdown saw a "significant" decline in utilisation of the Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) by beneficiaries, with aver-

age weekly claims falling 51%

compared to the months leading

up to it, official data shows. An analysis of data published by PM-JAY for the lockdown period (March 25 to June 2), against the 12 weeks before it (January 1 to March 24), reveals that the decline included critical procedures. At the same time, few PM-JAY beneficiaries availed of the Covid-19 packages announced in April and May compared to the overall caseload in the country, according to the National

Health Authority (NHA) that

monitors the government's flagship Ayushman Bharat scheme. Overall, there was a 57% de-

cline in surgical procedures from 62,630 claims per week on an average pre-lockdown to 27,167 during the lockdown. Medical cases recorded a 46% fall - 65,341 average claims per week before the lockdown to

In terms of average weekly claims, PM-JAY witnessed an 80% decline in planned care and 56% in unplanned care between March 25 and June 2. The analysis, authored by

Owen Smith, Parul Naib, Pulkit K Sehgal and Sheena Chhabra, also showed a "slight" shift from the public to the private sector in the lockdown period, perhaps because government hospitals are bearing the brunt of the coronavirus burden.

The period also saw a decline

(by 68%) in the use of respiratory packages such as those for pneumonia, febrile illness or pyrexia. Since these symptoms correlate with Covid-19, the authors said this shows there was no corresponding surge despite the pandemic, at least on the national level.

"The future course of the pandemic in India remains highly uncertain, but during the lockdown period analyzed here, there is little evidence of a surge in Covid-19 caseloads at least on a national level. Therefore it is more likely the threat of Covid-19, not the actuality, that is driving the trends," stated the authors of the analysis, which was published on June 18.

As of June 10, a total of nearly 8,500 tests and approximately 6,000 treatment packages had been availed of by PM-JAY beneficiaries suspected of or confirmed to have coronavirus, the

There was a huge jump between the figures for April (826 tests, 853 treatment packages) and May (4,057 tests and 2,426 treatment packages).

As of June 10, India had 1,33,632 active Covid-19 cases.

The sharpest decline was seen in non-urgent elective procedures such as cataract, and knee and hip replacements. From 4,073 average claims per week for cataract, the number fell to a dismal 50 in the first week of the lockdown, before rebounding to an average of 687 in the last three weeks. In case of knee and hip replacements, corresponding numbers fell from 339 to 12 in the first week of the lockdown, before rising to an average of 165 towards the end.

The high-cost cardiovascular surgeries witnessed a nearly 80% drop in the first week of the lockdown, there were 2,269 claims, which dropped to an average of 768 in the first three weeks of the lockdown. In the last three weeks, the average weekly numbers rose to 1,440.

Among the planned and unavoidable emergency procedures that could be life-saving, one treatment that didn't see a major decline was kidney dialysis - seeing an average drop of 6%. Most of this decline was accounted for by private hospitals in Maharashtra (the state at the

a fall of nearly 40%. Consequently, dialysis accounted for 51% of all claims under PM-JAY during the lockdown, compared to its usual 20%

heart of India's Covid crisis),

which saw a massive 84% fall in

dialysis under PM-JAY. Similar

facilities in Andhra Pradesh saw

der PM-JAY fell 64% across the country, while even unavoidable procedures like heart stents, bypass, child deliveries and other medical treatments declined 56% on average. The June 18 report showed that of these, "relatively common but higher-cost" heart procedures like stents and bypass

mately 84% and 95% respectively.

### Marking International Yoga Day

Enthusiasts performed exercises at their homes or in small groups, keeping in mind social distancing norms



BJP chief J P Nadda at his home. PTI



Bhopal. BJP leaders tried to At an akhara, in Noida. Gajendra Yadav





**President Ram Nath Kovind** at Rashtrapati Bhavan on



at his residence in Raipur. Twitter





Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and his wife Usha at their residence

infected

Participants wore masks in light of the pandemic, in New Delhi. Praveen Khanna

# Soldiers perform yoga in Siachen. PTI

# Yoga helping people conquer Covid, says PM

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

AS THE Covid-19 pandemic rages around the world, many patients have turned to the techniques of yoga to conquer the disease, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday the sixth International Day of Yoga—as he emphasised the need to build immunity against

Now, more than ever, the world is realising the importance of yoga, Modi said in his early morning address to the nation.

The Prime Minister, in his 15minute speech, talked about the different techniques and forms of voga which, he said, can help boost the respiratory and immune systems. "If our immunity is strong

then we can more effectively defeat this disease. There are several types of voga asanas to boost immunity. Those postures increase the strength of our body and strengthen our metabo-



PM Modi in Delhi

The Prime Minister also referred to a "large number of Covidsorting to yoga techniques. "The Covid-19 virus specifi-

cally attacks our respiratory system. The one technique that helps in strengthening our respiratory system the most is Pranayama, i.e. the breathing exercise. In general, the 'Anulom Vilom Pranayam' is more popular. It is also very effective... A large number of Covid-19 patients all over the world are resorting to these yoga techniques today. The power of yoga is helping them defeat this disease," he

Modi's exhortations came even as this year's Yoga Day, under the shadow of the pandemic, went by without any of the usual public gatherings. It was celebrated instead through electronic and digital media across the country.

Appropriately enough, this year's theme was 'Yoga at Home and Yoga with Family'. The event is going digital for the first time since June 21, 2015, when it began to be celebrated across the world, coinciding with the Summer Solstice each year.

dropped around 78% initially but then picked up. Again, the steepest decline in oncology care was seen in

Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu (which also has a high coronavirus tally).

Normal deliveries using PM-JAY across the country dropped around 28%, and Caesarean by 23% – an overall fall of 26%. Bihar's public hospitals and Chhattisgarh's private hospitals accounted for the largest drop in normal deliveries - approxi-

### Five pregnant girls among 57 Covid-positive inmates in Kanpur shelter

MANISH SAHU LUCKNOW, JUNE 21

FIFTY-SEVEN inmates, including five pregnant girls, of a shelter home in Kanpur have tested positive for coronavirus in the last four days. A woman Class IV employee at the shelter also tested positive.

Of the five pregnant girls, one is HIV positive while another is infected with Hepatitis C, said Deputy Chief Probation Officer

Shruti Shukla. Kanpur District Magistrate Brahma Deo Ram Tiwari said the five girls were pregnant when they came to the shelter home and are from Agra, Etah,

Kannauj, Firozabad and Kanpur. "The pregnant girls are victims of offences committed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)... Two of them were pregnant when they reached the home in December. They are around eight months pr said Shukla.

The spread of the virus came to light when one inmate was found positive in a random sampling test on June 12, said the superintendent. Following this, all the 171 inmates were tested in the last four days and 57 of them, aged 15-17 years, were found to be

The shelter home houses inmates between 10 and 18 years of age, and they are kept there on the directions of the District Child Welfare Committee (CWC). The remaining 114 girls and 37 employees have been quarantined in a separate

The Kanpur administration is trying to trace how the virus reached the home. Officials suspect that the Covid-positive staffer could be the source as she would visit hospital with inmates for their treatment. This month, six girls have come to the shelter home and one of them has tested positive. "All 57 girls and the woman

staffer of the girl's home have been admitted to hospitals," said

The shelter home also has a women's protection home on its campus. Samples of all the inmates were negative, said

in connection with the Elgar

## be allowed in hospital room 350 in 6 rooms at jail quarantine, Navlakha reaches out to kin

**SADAF MODAK** MUMBAI, JUNE 21

ACTIVIST Gautam Navlakha's family and lawyers have raised concerns regarding the "deplorable conditions" in which he has been kept at a school functioning as a temporary jail in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai,

On Saturday, Navlakha, who is under arrest in the Koregaon Bhima case, was allowed a phone call, in which he conveyed to his partner and lawver that 350 inmates were sharing six rooms at

the school, with three toilets and a common bathing space. Navlakha was shifted last

month from Tihar Iail to Mumbai, and has since been kept at the school as new inmates are supposed to be quarantined for 21 days to be watched for coronavirus. Navlakha's partner Sahba

Husain said she spoke to him on Saturday after a gap of 15 days following permission from a special court. "He said 350 inmates have been kept in six classrooms with only three toilets, seven urinals and one common bathing



Gautam Navlakha

space, without a mug or a bucket. He is sharing a room with 35 others." Husain said.

She added that many inmates had been forced to sleep in corri-

dors, without any access to fresh air, and were at risk of catching skin infections due to the overcrowding, apart from Covid-19.

"This is sheer punishment and inhuman treatment of a political prisoner like him," Husain said, adding that the inmates were totally cut off from the outside world.

Denying the allegations, an official said arrangements had been made at the school as per requirements of the prison manual, the same as at other temporary jails across the state. "We have so far not received any

complaint about the inadequacy of toilets or bathrooms," Raigad Collector Nidhi Choudhari said. She added that the inmates

might be shifted out by end of the month as the school management has requested for the return of the premises. However, a Prison Department official said a decision was vet to be taken on this. Incidentally, several inmates

at the Kharghar school have been there for more than 21 days, the stipulated quarantine time before transfer to iail.

Navlakha. 67. was named as an accused by the Pune police in 2018

New Delhi

Parishad event on December 29. 2017. The police have said the event was behind the violence in Koregaon Bhima on January 1, 2018. He surrendered before the NIA in Delhi on April 14 this year after his plea seeking extension of time to surrender, including on grounds that he might contract coronavirus in prison, putting him at risk given his age and underlying conditions, was rejected by the Supreme Court, Last month, while his bail plea was pending before the Delhi High Court, he was shifted from Delhi to Mumbai.

# EXPRESS NETWORK

### CHASING THE ECLIPSE











Cloudy skies played spoilsport in many parts of the country during the annular solar eclipse on Sunday. Solar eclipses occur when the moon casts its shadow on the sun. In an annular eclipse, the sun, moon and the earth are aligned in a manner that the sun appears only as a slim circle of light for a while. The eclipse, beginning and ending with a partial phase, lasted from 9.16 am to 3.04 pm.

#### Maj Gen Lehl, renowned veteran of 1948, 1971 wars, dies aged 97

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA CHANDIGARH, JUN 21

MAJOR GENERAL Lachhman Singh Lehl, one of India's finest military brains and one of its last surviving officers to have taken part in both the 1948 and 1971 wars, passed away in New Delhi on Saturday. He was 97.

Maj Gen Lehl was commissioned in the Regiment of Artillery in 1943. He took part in the 1948 war in Jhangar area of Jammu and Kashmir as a captain, and commanded a division in the 1971 war.

For his role as a forward observation officer with the 50 Para Brigade, he was decorated India's third-highest gallantry award, the Vir Chakra.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh tweeted. "Sorry to learn of the passing away of Major General LS Lehl, who played an important role in the 1971 victory in Bangladesh. My heartfelt condolences to his family, RIP.

Maj Gen Lehl played a pivotal role in the 1971 war in the East Pakistan sector, which would later come to be known as the country of Bangladesh. He was the General Officer Commanding of 20 Mountain Division, which won the crucial battles of Hilli

The GOC of Pakistan's 16 Hussein Shah, had surrendered to Maj Gen Lehl at the end of

### In 1962, when Lata, Rafi songs echoed in Galwan Valley

**VARINDER BHATIA** LEH, JUNE 21

THE GALWAN Valley in Ladakh, where Indian and Chinese troops

clashed on June 15, once echoed with songs by Lata Mangeshkar and Mohammed Rafi. Phunchok Tashi, a veteran of the 1962 Indo-China war, recalls a time when the Chinese Army

used loudspeakers to play Hindi songs in an attempt to befriend the Indian soldiers and get them to leave their posts. Now 84-years-old and living in Stok village, around 17 km from Leh city, Tashi told *The* 

*Indian Express* that two of the songs the Chinese used to play were Mangeshkar's Man Dole Mera Tan Dole from the 1954 movie Nagin, and Rafi's Tumsa Nahi Dekha from the 1957 movie of the same name. "I was in Daulat Beg Oldi (in

Ladakh) as part of 14 J&K Militia Company (which would later form the Ladakh Scouts). We got orders to reach Galwan Valley. At that time, our post was called 'nayi post' (new post)... In those days, it was considered a drop zone and aircrafts used to drop ration supplies. We used to patrol using horses and yaks. I remember that Chinese were on top of the hill on the other side, while were in the plains," he said.

Tashi said the two sides faced for several days "They kent sitting on top of the hill on their side and we on the ground on our side. They had put up huge



Phunchok Tashi

loud speakers and used to make announcements in Hindi - Yeh jagah na aapka hai, na hamaara hai, aap bhi vaapis jao, hum bhi vaapis ja rahe hain (This land neither belongs to you, nor us. You also go back, we are also going back). Then, after their lunch time, they used to play songs... For days, they kept on doing the same thing and playing these songs," Tashi said.

He said the purpose of playing the songs was "an attempt by the Chinese to befriend us and convince us to head back".

Tashi, who retired as Honorary Captain in 1988, said the Chinese activity along the Line of Actual Control was a common occurrence even in 1962. "There was never a dispute since they were on their side on top of the hill and we were on our side of the river in the plains... I do not know the exact reason what transpired the ongoing tension, but it must be because India has now created ample road infrastructure on our side of the LAC, which might have troubled the

# Trump thought 'China greatest cheater in world': Former US NSA in memoir

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump thought China was "the greatest cheater in the world", he was "not sympathetic" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the waiver to Iran oil sanctions, and was worried about Pakistan if Taliban regained control in Afghanistan, former US National Security Advisor John Bolton has claimed in his new book.

If Bolton's claims in his book, The Room Where It Happened — a White House Memoir, are to be believed, he felt that the post-Balakot crisis was "never really" a crisis, but he had chosen not to ignore it since India and Pakistan were nuclear-armed neighbours.

Bolton also claimed that US envoy to the UN Nikki Haley wanted to go to India and visit the Dalai Lama, but was not allowed.

In the 290-page book, the US National Security Advisor from April 2018 to September 2019 wrote that Trump told officials "why he thought China was the 'greatest cheater in the world' as recently proven by their behavior in the trade negotiations, thus precipitating a riff on economic power as the basis of military power".

On the US sanctions against countries trading with Iran, Bolton for Iran was the oil waivers granted to eight countries (Taiwan, China, India, Japan, South



John Bolton

Korea, Italy, Greece, and Turkey) when renewed sanctions took effect in November 2018, six months after US withdrawal from the nuclear deal... Taiwan, Greece, and Italy quickly halted purchases of Iranian oil, so not renewing their waivers was a given. State's bureaucrats found endless reasons to extend the other waivers, as 'clientitis' took hold. 'But India is so important,' or 'Japan is so important,'... One of the worst cases involved India, which, like the others, was buying Iranian oil at prices well below the global market because Iran was so desperate to make sales.'

"India complained it would be disadvantaged not only because of having to find new suppliers, but also because the new sources would insist on prevailing market prices! India's making this argument was understandable, but it was incomprehensible that I S bureaucrats echoed it sympathetically," he claimed.

"He said expressly in the Oval

on March 25, 'I'm ready to cut them off,' and on April 12 said, 'Increase the sanctions. Max them out, do it right away, including on the oil,' and on April 18 said, 'Go to zero.' In a phone call with Pompeo, Trump had not been sympathetic to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying, 'He'll be okay'," Bolton wrote.

On the Nikki Haley incident, he wrote, "Haley asked him (Trump) about a trip she wanted to take to India to visit the Dalai Lama. The purpose of this trip was unclear, other than getting a photo op with the Dalai Lama, always good for an aspiring pol. But the minefield she strayed into by raising the China trade issue showed a political tin ear: once Trump wondered how China would view Haley's seeing the Dalai Lama, the trip was essentially dead.'

On the post-Pulwama Balakot episode, he wrote, "...After hours of phone calls, the crisis passed, perhaps because, in substance, there never really had been one. But when two nuclear powers spin up their military capabilities, it is best not to ignore it...'

On Pakistan, he recalled explaining to Trump "why we should counter terrorists in their home base and why Pakistan's nuclear-weapons program made it imperative t Taliban haven in Afghanistan that might accelerate Pakistan's

# national among 4 militants killed in 2 encounters

**J&K Police: Pak** 

**ADIL AKHZER** SRINAGAR, JUNE 21

FOUR MILITANTS, including a Pakistani national, have been killed in two encounters in Srinagar and Kulgam, according

to police. "A total of two operations have taken place in the Valley in the last 24 hours. In Srinagar, three militants were killed on Sunday and they were all locals. In Kulgam, a foreign terrorist, JeM Commander Tayab Waleed, was killed. In both the operations, there was no collateral damage,' IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar told The Indian Express on Sunday.

A cordon and search operation was launched in the Zadibal area of Srinagar, leading to a gunbattle on Sunday morning, in which three militants affiliated to the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and Islamic State Jammu and Kashmir (ISIK) were killed.

Internet services were suspended in Srinagar district beore the encounter.

"The hiding terrorists were repeatedly appealed to surrender amily members and community members of the area but they instead started firing indiscriminately upon the search most of them in south Kashmir.

party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter," J&K police spokesperson said. "All the killed terrorists were affiliated with proscribed terror outfit HM/ ISJK."

The three militants were iden-

tified as Srinagar resident Shakoor Farooq Langoo, Shahid Ahmad Bhat of Bijbehara's Semthan and Mohsin from Srinagar's Anchar, police said in the evening. Mohsin was missing since May 26, police sources said.

A Pakistani national was killed and two militants managed to escape during another encounter in Kulgam on Saturday, police sources said.

"The killed terrorist was identified as Tayab Waleed @ Imran Bhai @ Gazi Baba, a Pakistani national affiliated with proscribed terror outfit JeM. According to police records he was operational commander of JeM and was an expert in making IEDs besides being a sharpshooter," the police spokesperson said.

Police said they have recovered a US-made M4 carbine from the encounter site.

Addressing the media on Sunday, IGP Kashmir said that far this year and there are 150-200 active militants in the Valley,

### Cong, CPM target PM for remarks on Ladakh situation

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

CONTINUING WITH a volley of questions over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on the situation in Ladakh, the Congress Sunday asked whether the PM has endorsed the Chinese position that its forces never intruded into Indian territory.

A day after accusing Modi of having "surrendered" Indian territory to Chinese aggression, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday took another swipe at him, saying that "Narendra Modi is actually Surender Modi". Hours later, the Congress's social media department head Rohan Gupta tweeted that "the bhakts are also now honestly admitting

that it should be surrender Modi and not Surender Modi"

The CPM too targeted the PM, saying his remarks have come as a major setback to the legitimacy of the act of heroism of the brave soldiers and undermines the strength of the diplomatic efforts to resolve the dispute. In a statement, the party said the government's clarifications have not only failed to clear the air but have added to the confusion.

"To attribute the questions arising from the PM's observations which contradicts the positions of MoD and MEA to 'mischievous interpretation' is, to say the least, unfair. We seek a categorical response to the query about the precise location of the clash and the circumstances that led to it, which should help in

clearing the air and create conditions for pursuing our officially stated objective of de-escalation and restoration of peace and tranquility...," the CPM said.

Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal, at a press conference, said, "Is it not correct that China has never claimed Galwan Valley as its territory? Is it also not correct that China has now committed brazen transgressions into Galwan Valley?... Why is the Prime Minister denying his own Defence Minister and EAM statement that Chinese have sought to erect structure in the Galwan Valley on our side?... If 'no one has intruded into our territory' and 'no one is occupying our territory', what was being erected by China or what status quo ante or disengagement were we seeking."

### Corona or China, Cong has always done politics: Nadda

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** LUCKNOW. JUNE 21

BJP PRESIDENT J P Nadda on Sunday accused the Congress of politicising every issue, from Covid-19 to the standoff with China and slammed it for "breaking the morale of the Army".

Addressing a virtual rally, Nadda said, "We have been in Opposition for a long time. In 1962, when there were problems, we stood with the government. Similarly, in 1965, our party stood with the government. Then, in the 1970s, when we had to get Bangladesh independence, our party stood with the government. But when the Corona pandemic came or China, the Congress has always

done politics and we must understand this... We have been in Opposition for a long time. You can take tuitions from us on how to be in the Opposition.'

"Let's talk about Galwan Valley. The way our Army was fighting there and taking care of every inch of our land and protected our borders... Where the entire country is standing with them, the Congress party is working day and night to break their morale. We are not asking you how much land China took during UPA (rule) ... Today, we can say with pride that from 2014 till now, 98 per cent of border roads have been made," said Nadda.

Taking a dig at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, he said, "Narendra Modi is now Surender Modi. He is not only the leader of humans, but also of the devtas. You have said this on Twitter. You should understand the language of God. Modiji is not only the leader of humans, but also of devtas," said Nadda.

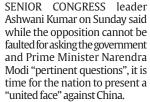
Nadda thanked party workers across the country for helping people during the Covid-19 outbreak. "When the world superpowers were feeling helpless and smaller countries' healthcare systems were also helpless and breaking down... In the situation. Modiji gave leadership to a country of 135 crore people. He imposed a timely lockdown and took difficult decisions and kept the people of this country safe,'

Speaking at the virtual rally, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath thanked the Prime Minister for his leadership during the outbreak.

# united face against China'

'Time for nation to present

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21



Arguing that the Indian diplomacy is now on test, Kumar said, "We must lend the moral support of the entire nation for them to leverage the goodwill enjoyed by India in the comity of nations." He said "Chinese aggression will be resisted by the full might of the Indian state" and asserted India's "response to Chinese brutality must factor the need to avenge the martyrdom of our brave soldiers



Ashwani

Congress

leader

who gave the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty'

"When the opposition wants to ask some questions, particularly when these are concerned with national security, the opposition cannot be faulted in raising pertinent questions.... At this time, the nation has to show a unity of purpose and therefore we must present a united face against the aggressor." Kumar said.

He also noted Congress president Sonia Gandhi's statement that while dealing with the Chinese, the nation stands behind the Army and the government.

# 'Soil a living being, can boost farm output, mitigate climate change'

PROFESSOR **RATTAN LAL**, the winner of this year's World Food Prize — considered the equivalent of a Nobel Prize in agriculture — says we must improve our soil health to not only to boost crop productivity, and make farming profitable, but also to mitigate the effects of climate change. He spoke to MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA via Skype. Excerpts:

#### What would you recommend for the success of small

Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh have a large number of small farmers. For one, I would urge them not to burn the crop residue. Burning of rice straw is ment, or the human health. Second, all the crop residue

should be returned to the soil. The soils in northern states are depleted of organic matter present in the top layer. This matter should comprise around 2-3 per cent of the top soil but in the highly depleted Indian soils, its percentage is about 0.1-0.2 per cent. We practice extractive farming, take away everything, and don't use cow dung manure.

We have a rule of soil health management called the law of returns. It means whatever you take from land, you must return in some form or the other. If we remove nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and organic matter

not good for the soil, environfrom it, we must return it too. Health of the soil is like the health of a human being. Soil is a bank account - you can't withdraw more than you put in. So look after your soil.

> Thirdly, don't use inputs such as fertilisers indiscriminately. Farmers often broadcast fertiliser in standing water in paddy fields. The temperature is high and most of this fertiliser will either volatilise, causing global warming, or leach into the ground, affecting our health. Inject fertiliser directly into the soil, don't broadcast on the sur-

Fourthly, don't use top soil for brick making. The top layer of soil has been built by nature after



millions of years. Sand mining is very bad for soil. Carve out specific mining sites, don't touch the rest of the land.

I would also request farmers not to practice flood irrigation. Just like we can't breathe in water, nor can the organisms in the soil. Adopt drip irrigation, it saves



WINNER, WORLD FOOD PRIZE water, and plants grow better as their roots don't get drowned.

organism.

You believe soil is a living

Flood irrigation must be banned

Yes, soil is alive with 25 per

cent of all biodiversity. Did you know that antibiotics like penicillin come from microorganisms living in the soil? But we use fertilisers and pesticides indiscriminately and the soil dies. Soil must never die. It should be protected, it should be restored Our shastras say dharti is mata. Earth should be worshipped.

Should the government help in implementing soil rights?

Yes, the government should reward farmers for ecosystem services with an equivalent of \$16 a year per acre. Farmers who follow good practices, grow a crop cover and let it mulch should be rewarded. Farmers not only produce healthy food but also mitigate climate change, and improve water quality. Health of the soil, plants, an-

imals, environment and the humans is interconnected. If the soil health deteriorates, so does

What role can farmers play in mitigating climate change?

Farmers are a big stakeholder in mitigating climate change. Soils are carbon sinks — if you increase the organic matter by photosynthesising CO2 from the atmosphere and build up the organic matter in India to 2 -3 per cent in the next 20-30 years, many problems related to climate change will be alleviated.

A healthy soil will protect you

New Delhi

from flooding in the monsoon and drought in the summers. Start the afforestation of the

Shivaliks to replenish our rivers and groundwater besides putting an end to flooding and land-

#### Does Covid-19 present an opportunity for farming?

Covid-19 has shown that nature can recover in a very short time if you stop polluting it and adopt sustainable practices. Dip in pollution has improved the quality of our air and water. Sustainable farming has a bright future, and Covid-19 has pointed a way to it.

**FULL INTERVIEW ON** www.indianexpress.com

#### WORDLY WISE

NO GOVERNMENT CAN BE LONG SECURE WITHOUT A FORMIDABLE OPPOSITION.

— BENJAMIN DISRAELI

### The Indian **EXPRESS**

SFOUNDED BY 

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

### UNLIKE CHINA

India's democracy is best served by Opposition that asks questions even as it shows solidarity, government that answers

RIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi's concluding remarks at the all-party meeting on Friday sparked confusion and invited questions. Neither has anyone intruded into Indian territory, nor has anyone captured military posts, the PM said. This didn't seem to square with the official communication on External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's phone conversation with his Chinese counterpart in which he told him that Chinese troops' attempts to erect a structure in Galwan Valley on the Indian side of the LAC reflected an intent to change the facts on the ground. The statement seemed more problematic seen alongside the unprecedented and formal Chinese claim, also on Friday, that the Galwan Valley is located on the Chinese side of the LAC. The PMO clarified on Saturday, saying that the PM's statement pertained to the situation after the clash of June 15, and the government underlined that the Chinese claim to Galwan Valley was not in accordance with China's own position in the past. Given the nature of the LAC dispute, its history and, as importantly, its geography, ambivalence over framing it will always be fraught. More so when lives have been lost and tempers are high. That's why it's disappointing that in its clarification, the PMO labelled the questioning of the PM's remarks as "mischievous" and "motivated propaganda", an "unnecessary controversy" to "lower their (soldiers') morale". On the day after, the problem is not just that the PMO's clarification may not set the questions to rest - but also that it paints the very act of questioning as improper and illegitimate.

That the government held an all-party meeting and that the PM spoke to leaders of the Opposition on the face-off with China speaks of a democracy that does not freeze or shut down in crisis but seeks to handle it through means that only democracies possess — a coming together, a pooling of wisdom and resources, across political and party lines. The soldiers who died on the LAC were fighting for a nation that takes pride in the spaces and freedoms of all its citizens, across divisions and faultlines, to ask questions of, and argue with, their government. It is also because India is an open society that, in this country, the soldiers who lost their lives on the night of June 16 have been given public funerals even as China refuses even to acknowledge, much less to publicly mourn, its own dead.

Ever since this crisis began, leaders of the Opposition have, in fact, showed admirable maturity and restraint, except for the odd exception like Rahul Gandhi's immature "why is he hiding" and "Surender Modi" targeting of the PM. Leading lights of the Opposition, from Mamata Banerjee to Mayawati to Sharad Pawar, have not given in to the temptation of using a troubled national moment to settle political scores. The government needs to reciprocate — not only by taking the Opposition on board, but also by respecting its right to ask questions, without attributing motives or name-calling. As India frames a response to China's act of aggression, and prepares for the long haul ahead, national interest is best served by an Opposition that asks questions even as it shows solidarity and support, and by a government that listens — and answers with honesty and civility.

# A time for maturity

The country needs a de-escalation of rhetoric. The government needs room to decide its strategy



THE ALL-PARTY MEET may have helped to further national interest in a way that none of the leaders may have intended. The PM wanted it to be a show of his support; his own statement and its inevitable fallout resulted in showcasing the critics. The Congress took the wrong posture for the right reasons: It wanted to ask correct questions to the government, but ended up appearing petty. The non-Congress opposition said the right thing for the wrong reasons: They were either keen to curry favour with the central government or happy to let it cook its own goose. In the end, the "hidden hand" of democratic politics ensured that a collision of these petty designs produced a collective good: The Narendra Modi regime received a much-needed breather without a ringing endorsement.

This needs to be built upon. The stand-off with China has exposed that this regime has compromised national interest. Let us not compound the damage by trying to focus on its failures in the midst of a national economic crisis and health emergency. The only thing worse than what this government has already done would be a knee-jerk attempt to undo the damage via some gimmick that is bound to boomerang and inflict deeper injury to national interest.

Let there be no confusion on this score. We are not looking at one error of judgment. The present mess is a result of at least five failures. Lack of long-term foreign policy foresight combined with intelligence failure to anticipate the Chinese incursion, refusal to respond once it was discovered, loss of nerve in backing the ground troops and finally economy of truth in facing up to and sharing the harsh ground reality with the nation — all this has led us to the embarrassing mess that we find ourselves in. True, facing up to determined assault from China is not easy and any other government may not have made a dramatic difference. But the chasm between claims and reality may not have been as big.

The prime minister's desire for global approbation and an overwhelming need to be seen on the world stage is only matched by his

itics operates. The failure is astonishingly consistent, from his aborted attempt at cultivating Nawaz Sharif to imagining that he is a close buddy of the US President to pretending that he enjoys a special personal rapport with Xi Jinping. The PM cannot tell personal-publicity gains for himself from policy-political gains for the country. While he could get away with the u-turn on Pakistan and the country is yet to see the cost of Trump's repeated snubs, the lack of foresight in making sense of the Chinese designs is now painfully evident and lies at the bottom of the current fiasco.

This was reinforced by a series of operational failures. Closely, the government failed

lack of understanding of how international pol-

tional failures. Clearly, the government failed to anticipate the seriousness of the Chinese incursion this time due to a Kargil-like goof-up in using the available military and electronic intelligence. Once the incursion took place and was known, the government's entire focus was on perception management rather than management of the borders. Oddly, the government's success with the pliant media was its undoing as it could not leverage domestic democratic noise to its advantage. Through the charade of de-escalation and disengagement, China could see that the government of India was under little domestic pressure to regain the territories freshly captured by the PLA, that everything was negotiable. And when it came to actual confrontation, the political leadership showed a loss of nerve. The "no escalation at any cost" message from political leaders meant that China was free to escalate costs for India.

The worst failure, and the one at the root of all other failures, is the failure to face and state the truth. Ever since news of the incursion started filtering in, the government went on a drive to cover up the facts about the Chinese occupation, culminating in the PM's lie ("no one entered") in the all-party meet. This was not just a faux pas at odds with the well-known facts and the official position of the MEA. This statement was prepared, perhaps rehearsed and then broadcast to the world, without an appreciation of its diplomatic consequences. There is little surprise that the Chinese propa-

ganda machine is gleefully translating and spreading our PM's message for its own purpose. In any other country, such a statement by the head of the government could endanger his political career.

Yet this is not the time to focus national energy on his blunder. We need to remember that this mess is not just of his making. Any government would have to deal with the huge and difficult legacy on the Chinese border. Besides, in a democracy, there is a time for everything. There is time for national unity and there is time for political contestation. Anyone who puts national interest above transient political gains would not wish to pin the government down at this stage for its failure and certainly not to push it into a misadventure either on the military or economic front. Jingoistic nationalism is the last thing we need

National focus on external security at this stage would be a huge distraction from the ongoing medical emergency and economic crisis, something we simply cannot afford. Even a partial diversion of national resources for a military engagement would bleed our economy and extinguish whatever little hopes we have of a timely recovery from the present economic crisis. Besides, even if we were not facing this twin challenge, retaliation is not a wise move. The only thing worse than a simpleminded pacifism is hot-headed militarism. Notwithstanding the bravery of our armed forces, any attempt at military retaliation could be counter-productive. We cannot afford a flatfooted economic boycott either.

So, this is a moment to take a deep breath, think of the long-term strategic, diplomatic and economic options available to recover what we have lost. The country needs a de-escalation of rhetoric. The government needs some room to decide its strategy. Mature nations do not react when provoked, they respond when they choose to. He may not deserve it or even acknowledge it, but this is the time to help the PM retrieve the situation.

The writer is national president of Swaraj India

### RETURNING TO THE CITY

As economic activity resumes, government must ease passage of migrant workers to old and new places of work

HE PHASE OF large-scale exodus of migrant workers from major urban and industrial centres to their home states is over. Not only has Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised "unlock, unlock, unlock" as the way forward, many industries have restarted in some form. Sectors such as FMCG are reporting higher demand — whether for staples, biscuits, snacks and instant noodles or soaps and sanitisers — than even during pre-COVID, simply because of more people still sitting at, if not working from, homes. While the healthcare and telecom industries operated even during the lockdown, one can expect others as well — the need to avoid crowded traveling and shopping should, for instance, benefit two-wheeler makers and e-commerce platforms — to ramp up capacity utilisation in the coming days.

All this should result in the returning migrant labourers leaving their villages again. Their going back was, after all, triggered by the sudden loss of work and no earnings for even sustaining themselves, let alone sending home. It was an entirely rational response. That same logic would make them head again to their erstwhile or new places of work. Manpower shortages in production assembly lines, loading and unloading of goods or making home deliveries will force FMCG companies, auto manufacturers and online grocers to pay higher wages in the short run. Paddy growers of Punjab and Haryana, who have always relied on migrant workers for transplantation operations, are left with no choice either. For the labourers, too, the wage premiums and lack of livelihood options back home — MGNREGA work pays just Rs 194 daily in Bihar and Rs 201 in UP — are going to be significant "pull" factors.

The Modi government has launched a Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan to provide livelihood opportunities through focused public infrastructure works in 116 districts with large returnee migrant worker populations. But such schemes cannot substitute for private sector activity in which this workforce was previously engaged. There is a strong case to increase the number of trains from UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and other migrant labourer-origin states, with strict enforcement of social distancing, wearing of masks and no issuing of unreserved tickets. Such trains may currently be running with low ridership numbers. But that would change as the demand for labour picks up. The resultant trickle of people returning for work can be managed better — and in a more humane way — than during the exodus.

#### Freeze Frame

E P Unny





## Why The Statue Was Toppled

Slave trader monument memorialised mindset that has no place in modern world

#### Rajesh Kochhar

BLACK LIVES MATTER protestors at Bristol in England toppled an 18-ft-high statue of a 17th-century slave-trader, Edward Colston, and threw it into the river. The statue, erected more than a century ago, commemorated his philanthropy. From today's perspective, what he did with his money pales into insignificance compared to how he came by it.

For 400 years, slavery had the sanction of the church, royalty, merchants, scientists, and the public. Prince Henry the "Navigator", who initiated the exploration of the African west coast, was appointed the Grand Master of the well-endowed Order of Christ by the Pope. The Order became the prince's power base, providing him with financial resources and disciplined manpower.

In 1441, a handful of African natives were captured and brought to Portugal. In 1444, an expedition under the banner of the Order of Christ returned with a cargo of 235 slaves. One-fifth of the number were handed over to the church, which converted them to Christianity and sold them.

England made a modest beginning in the slave trade in 1562 when Sir John Hawkins sent 300 slaves from Africa to an island in the West Indies called Hispaniola. His young relative, Francis Drake, began his maritime activities under his guidance. In his adventures, Hawkins had the support of Queen Elizabeth who was making a significant statement when the 1581 ceremony to confer a knighthood on the navigator, sea-pirate, slave-runner and patriot, Sir Francis Drake, was held not in her palace but on his ship, *The Golden Hind* 

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Trading to Africa. Three years later, its renewed charter explicitly mentioned slave trade as one of its activities. By this time. England had acquired colonies in St Kitts, Barbados and Jamaica in the West Indies, and Maryland and Virginia in North America. In 1672, the company made way for Royal African Company (RAC), which lasted till 1752. These two companies included as stockholders members of the royalty, other influential persons, the London commercial establishment, and Colston. Between 1672-1713, RAC bought 1,25,000 slaves on the African coast of which 1,00,000 reached English West Indies where they were sold. In 1660 itself, Charles II issued a royal charter to the Royal Society also. The Society was described as a twin sister of the slave company. It owned stock in it and held overlapping membership with it. The exploitation of slave labour and the advancement of natural history proceeded hand in hand. Finally, England banned slave trade in 1807, and abolished slavery in 1833. By this time, England was well-entrenched in India and its economy had become industrial.

ter to the Company of Royal Adventurers

The ban on slave trade did not mean its immediate banishment. In 1830, Sir Charles Malcolm, superintendent of the Bombay Marine, decided to meet the shortage of seamen in the Bombay Marines (later Indian Navy) by importing manpower from the east coast of Africa and the nearby islands. These ports were already notorious as "the great emporia of the slave trade".

Commander John Croft Hawkins was directed to bring "as many able-bodied lads

as you can, in age from twelve to eighteen, free from all disease and bodily infirmity, and of that compact symmetry best calculated for seamen". He bought about 30 Negro boys, some of whom were "of a more tender age than was authorised". Two of the boys stated before the magistrate that they had not received any money but had been ordered by their master to board the ship to Bombay.

Hawkins was held guilty of slave trade,

Hawkins was neid guilty of slave trade, imprisoned, and ordered to be transported to Australia for a term of seven years. In the eyes of the establishment, he had done nothing wrong. He was seen as the victim in the warfare between the judiciary and the government. From Bombay, he was taken to Madras where he was feted as an officer and a gentleman. On reaching Jakarta, the captain decided that the ship would change course and proceed to England. In London, the King gave a free pardon to Hawkins. The East India Company compensated him financially and took him back into service where he flourished.

Slavery treated the enslaved as sub-human, nothing more than muscle power. Banning a practice through legislative action does not affect that mindset. Changing it requires coordinated action on legislative, executive, social, and economic fronts. When the extant framework is being challenged, insisting on law and order is tantamount to preserving and strengthening the discredited framework.

Kochhar is author of The Vedic People: Their History and Geography



### JUNE 22, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

#### CHINA'S DEAL

CHINA SUGGESTED THAT its border problem with India be settled on the basis of the present line of actual control. In an interview to the editor of a New Delhi defence journal, the Chinese vice-premier, Deng Xiaoping, said; "I think the border problem between India and China can be solved in a package deal". In the eastern sector, China could recognise "the so-called McMahon Line", which was a leftover by history. Asked to elaborate, Deng said: "While we can recognise the present line of actual control to the easten sector, India should recognise the status quo in the western sector". Deng said that if the two sides could not reach an

accord on this problem, "then we can put it aside". "This problem should not hinder development of relations between our two nations". In reply to another question, Deng said there were no serious differences between the two countries on international issues. He said he was aware that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was keen to solve all disputes with China. On the Kashmir issue, Deng said: "This is a problem between India and Pakistan and should be settled amicably" (China has until now supported the Pakistani stand that the people of Kashmir should be allowed the right of self-determination). He said the Chinese foreign minister, Huang Hua, would visit India soon and

invite Mrs Gandhi to visit China. China has been claiming about 1,15,000 sq km of Indian territory. Of this, it is actually in possession of about 25,000 sq km in the western sector.

#### BOOSTING POWER

MOST STATES HAVE agreed to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's suggestion to plan their power generating capacities at least 10 per cent ahead of the rate of growth in demand. The two-day conference of power ministers which ended in Delhi today, also agreed to the proposal for a 420 kv national power grid in the central sector to come to the aid of the states which run into distress.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020

# THE IDEAS PAGE

#### WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The fact is that instead of being a regional bully, India must learn to peacefully coexist with all its neighbours in the spirit of harmony and mutual respect."

# Crisis and Mobilisation

Offloading excess foodgrain stocks through open market operations will generate much-needed resources for the government



BY ASHOK GULATI

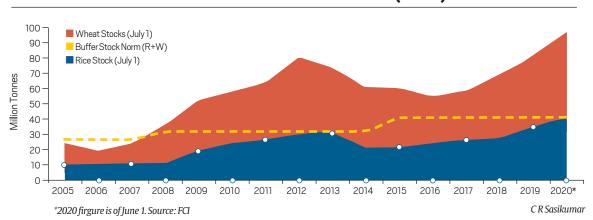
INDIA IS STARING at some stressful months. Fighting the coronavirus on one hand, and defending the borders from Chinese incursions on the other will require mobilising large resources. Most economists are projecting the fiscal deficit (Centre and states combined) to be about 10-11 per cent of GDP. Going beyond that may not be very prudent. It requires urgent scanning and pruning of unproductive public expenditures. While the sale of non-strategic state enterprises has been on the cards for quite some time, the Narendra Modi government has not been very successful on that front so far. And now, given the recessionary outlook, it may not be easy to get a good price for "state silver"

However, there is one area which the Modi government can tap to raise more than Rs 1,00,000 crore, provided it takes bold steps. It is the "mountains of grain" that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has accumulated. As on June 1, FCI had unprecedented grain stocks of 97 million metric tonnes (mmt) in the Central Pool (see Figure). Even on July 1, when the procurement of rabi ends, FCI is likely to have grain stocks of about 91-92 mmt, against a buffer stock norm of 41.12 mmt that are required for the Public Distribution system (PDS), and some strategic reserves. So, compared to this norm, on July 1, FCI will have "excess stocks"

The estimated economic cost of rice in 2020-21 is Rs 37,267/tonne and that of wheat is Rs 28,838/tonne. Even if one takes a conservative and lower ballpark figure of Rs 30,000/tonne for simplicity as the combined economic cost of rice and wheat, the value of this "excessive stock", beyond the buffer norm, is Rs 1,50,000 crore. This is unproductive capital locked-up in the Central pool of FCI. Unlock this by liquidating "excess stocks" through open market operations as much as can be done by inviting the private sector in a big way to hold these stocks, at whatever reasonable market price it can get. It will not recover its full economic cost, as they are much higher than the prevailing market prices, but by not liquidating it, FCI will keep incurring unnecessary interest costs of about Rs 8,000-10,000 crore per annum. This is simply dumb food policy.

The Modi's government's recent amendment of the Essential Commodities Act, via the ordinance route, can come handy to instil confidence in the private sector for building large scale storage. The ordinance assures that stocking limits will not be imposed on the private sector, except under exceptional circumstances such as natural calamity, and wars. It should, however, delete the clause of "extraordinary price rise", if it really wants to invite the private sector building large and modern storage facilities (silos). It will propel investments in building more efficient food supply lines. The only condition could be to register large

#### GRAIN STOCKS IN THE CENTRAL POOL AND BUFFER STOCK NORM (JULY 1)



storage facilities under the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) to know how much stock is there with the private sector, and where.

The other two ordinances relating to agri-marketing are already commendable. The one on "The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020" creates multiple channels for farmers to sell their produce outside the APMC mandi system and also helps towards an unfettered all India market for agri-produce. Of course, it will be resisted by many states that are taking undue advantage of the APMC mandis' virtual monopoly power. But if the central ordinance is implemented in its true spirit, it will be a game changer.

The other ordinance named "The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020" aims to encourage contract farming. The basic idea behind this is that farmers' sowing decisions should be made in view of the expected prices of those crops at the time of harvest. It is forward looking and more aligned to the likely demand and supply situation. The current practice, where farmers' sowing decisions are more influenced by last year's price, often leads to the problem of boom and bust. Although honouring an assured price remains a challenge when actual market conditions differ widely at the time of the harvest, there are ample cases of success with varying models of contract farming hedging the price risks of farmers.

Together, all the three ordinances are in the right direction, and with minor refinements as they become law, they can lay the

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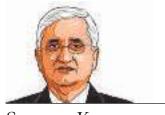
foundation of a much more efficient agrimarketing system in India than the existing one. The Modi government needs to ensure they are implemented properly by states, which will benefit both the farmer as well as the consumer. The main losers in this game would be some arhatias (commission agents), who have been scooping up an unduly large share in the agri-value chains. Some local political leaders who are in close nexus with the arhatias' lobby may also lose clout.

The other related area to mobilise additional resources is that of food subsidy. In the Union budget of 2020-21, a sum of Rs 1,15,570 crore has been provisioned for food subsidy. This number is highly misleading as FCI has been asked to borrow more and more resources from other sources, especially the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF). As on March 31, 2020, borrowings from the NSSF were Rs 2,54,600 crore, on which FCI pays interest rate of 8.4 to 8.8 per cent per annum. So, the real food subsidy bill for 2020-21 amounts to Rs 3,70,170 crore (Rs 1,15,570 crore plus Rs 2,54,600 crore). Let the Modi government listen to its own chief economic advisor, what his team had to say in The Economic Survey: Reduce the coverage under PDS; link issue price to at least half of the procurement price; and move gradually towards cash transfers. These steps will save a minimum of Rs 50,000 crore annually. And the country needs these resources desperately to save lives, both from the virus and at borders.

> The writer is Infosys chair professor for agriculture at ICRIER

### Finding way forward Belated all-party meeting exhibited much-

needed support for government, also flagged issues that need to be addressed



Salman Khurshid

SOME YEARS AGO, as someone aspiring to be the prime minister of India, Narendra Modi had alluded to my friendly visit to China and proclaimed that we should have shown "red eyes" to Beijing instead. I had become external affairs minister after a long journey India and China had embarked upon together, following then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's path-breaking visit which resulted in a thaw of the post-1962 freeze in relations. We took several steps to repair the damage that our estrangement had caused. We opted to open up trade and business with China, undeterred by the pending issue of the LAC. Regarding the sensitivity about the LAC, we had the Peace and Tranquility agreement with a mechanism for periodic talks at the level of Special Representatives. Slow and steady was the mutually accepted pace to iron out the differences of perception on the LAC — in the hope that we would, ultimately, be able to accomplish demarcation. This allowed periodic stand-offs between the Indian Army and the PLA to be resolved, despite the differing perceptions regard-

The reports of the most recent transgressions by China, in terms of the places on the map and the number of incidents, suggest that the current scenario is quite different from the pattern of the past. Similarly, our response, too, seems different in that the talks initiated are military-tomilitary instead of being steered by the foreign ministry. The military can, at best, take steps to reduce the local tension and give feedback for the governments to look at the differences of perception again. But this time, the Chinese seem to be looking for something else. There is a political message that can be seen in the context of concerted efforts being made to surround and isolate China. The concerns about the origin and handling of COVID-19 as well as US President Donald Trump's calculations have only added to the pressure.

Whatever be China's ambitions in the East China Sea, the Indian Ocean, the OBOR, and the world, India needs to take a position that suits it and addresses its immediate concerns rather than play "follow the leader" to those whose current position might be adversarial to China but could change radically in a short period. India may have enough for itself in terms of military ware, but it is far from adequate to engage in a two-front engagement and join in policing the Indo-Pacific.

If we think carefully, we would at least figure out that an India-China war is neither desirable nor feasible. In fact, no war is really possible in our times. In the coming years, we might all have to think more about economic survival than dominance and power games.

Where is the charm that PM Modi reserves for global colleagues? Could he not have drawn on his reserves, as he draws on the RBI reserves to keep the domestic economy from stalling in crisis? Or are we to believe that China is immune to the charm and its sense of self-interest is so strong that familiar gestures mean little. Be that as it may, with the report of tragic casualties on the Indian side, the first since 1975, this is no longer something that can be treated with a shrug of "this too shall pass". We have reached the point of no return, so to speak. The questions posed by the Congress might not be answered, but things cannot o on like this.

If war is not a practical solution, how do we go forward? To begin with, we have to gauge how much China flexes its muscles to dominate and expand, or how much it is prepared to engage in some symbolism that it thinks serves another purpose. While we are on that job, we might as well figure out how we want to position ourselves. We want to lead in the world – and we can, in software, sports, culture, etc. We also want to be an economic power that can match China — perhaps in due course it is possible, but with a lot of hard work. We want to be a military power to match China as well, for which we will have to innovate on the strategies of warfare and training. We want to win friends and influence people, but for that we will have to show that liberty is unique to India for the world to emulate.

Whatever call we take, Doklam mustn't be repeated. It is for the government of the day to find the way and not for the Opposition to shoulder the burden. Our ability to pull off surgical strikes and air attacks, surely, is a reputation that does not confine itself to our western border. Of course, the target might not be an equally sitting duck. We need to draw the line of honour with care, but draw it we must. If ever India had a mann ki baat to say, it is

The belated all-party meeting exhibited the much-needed support for the government but flagged issues that need to be addressed as part of a larger approach. How are we to live with a neighbour we did not choose, but need to live with in honour and cooperation?

The writer is a senior Congress leader

# Playing into China's hands

Twisting PM's speech is a manufactured controversy by his compulsive critics

S P Sinha

IF ONE THOUGHT creating misinformation during a tense international situation was done only by foreign adversaries, that notion

has been challenged in the last two days. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the All-Party meet, said, "Na vahaan koi hamaari seema mein ghus aaya hai aur na hi koi ghusa hua hai, na hi hamaari koi post kisi doosre ke kabze mein hai" (No vehicle has entered Indian territory, nor has a single one of our posts been captured by anyone). This was said in the context of the confrontation at Galwan Valley, where 20 soldiers of the 16 Bihar regiment laid down their lives.

Simply put, Prime Minister Modi was saying that neither was any intrusion allowed nor is there any intruder within our territory. Further, none of our posts has been taken over by anyone. Modi did not say that there was no attempt at an intrusion. He clearly said, in the same speech, that the brave sons of the soil had rebuffed those who dared to challenge Bharat Mata.

However, some vested interests painted the town red (pun intended) with the misinformation that PM Modi claimed there was no intrusion attempt at all and that nothing happened on June 15-16.

Now that this crude attempt -- which plays right into China's quest to create confusion in India -- has been defanged, one must ask why these people spread such misinformation.

Surely, there was a small section of people who did not even read the PM's statement correctly and were misled. But quite a few of those who went to town with this misinformation also happen to be compulsive, partisan critics of Narendra Modi.

These people are also, in some way or the other, beholden to the UPA regime. They sought to take our attention away from some uncomfortable truths by manufacturing controversies.

Ever since tensions with China were reported, the history of India-China border issues was discussed in various media and fora. And some hard facts from the past began to surface.

The history of the Jawaharlal Nehru government's Himalayan blunder is wellknown. In a craven surrender of land, it gave up the strategically important Aksai Chin region of about 37,000 square km. Every time Indians fume over an incorrect map of India that leaves out Aksai Chin, one is reminded of the cavalier "not a single blade of grass grows there" attitude of Nehru. But this is perhaps too far back in

One would have expected later governments to have learnt from the betrayal that many say broke Nehru so badly that he never recovered. But later Congress governments were, at best, just as bad as the

Nehru government.

Specifically, the Manmohan Singh government allowed China to occupy huge tracts of land. Reports in 2013 said that the UPA gave up about 640 square km of land across Depsang, Chumar and Pangong Tso to the People's Liberation Army. There were a reported 600 incursions made by China from 2010 to 2013.

This loss of land was only the tip of the iceberg.

The loss of economic, military and strategic initiative over the years has set India back by decades with respect to

When it comes to the economy, even as Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s was changing the direction of China's economy through reforms, the Congress's economic mismanagement took India in the opposite direction. The divergence between the two countries has become so huge that a country whose economy was floundering earlier is now many times bigger than India's economy.

On the loss of strategic initiative, listening to UPA's Defence Minister in 2013 on how India was far behind China in building any border infrastructure would suffice. It was a damning admission.

In contrast, the Modi government has accelerated the building of border infrastructure, which is one of the reasons why

the dragon is rattled. By approving the creation of roads by BRO within 100 km of aerial distance from the LAC, removing bureaucratic roadblocks, delegating powers to the operational levels rather than having all approvals come from defence ministry, the Modi government has shown that it means business.

On the geopolitical front, too, the Modi government's China policy has been a departure from that of the UPA. While there has been a hand of friendship extended at Mamallapuram, a bloody nose was also dealt out at Doklam. While Modi went to Wuhan, his government did not accept China's OBOR (One Belt One Road) initiative.

To help the Congress wash away the Bofors taint, a loud section of the commentariat tried to slander the Modi government on the Rafale matter. It did not succeed. Similarly, to wash the Congress's taint of 1962 and 2013, the same loud section of the commentariat manufactures news and controversies to show the Modi government as "weak" on China.

But the dangerous part is they are doing this at the cost of national interest, at a time when China would rather see India politically divided than united.

> $The \ writer \ is \ a \ retired \ major \ general \ of$ the Indian Army and was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### FIRM AND CAUTIOUS

from Galwan' (IE, June 19). The bloody face off on the LAC has hurtled downhill the already tense India-China relations. Resolving the disputed areas in eastern Ladakh will become more difficult now. Retaliation will escalate matters without any concrete gains. India must tread cautiously, talk of peace but keep its powder dry. Firmness and not foolishness is required at this juncture.

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The road

Vijai Pant, Hempur

#### No real change

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Easier said' (IE, June 19). The Department of Telecommunications' decision not to use Chinese equipment and Indian Railways cancelling a contract are symbolic and meant to pacify the common Indian. The ground reality is not going to change. Chinese firms have invested heavily in the Indian market — it is difficult to get rid of them. "Boycotting Chinese goods" is also not going to work until we can manufacture indigenously at a competitive cost.

Anil Kumar Jain, Jaipur

#### PEACE HURDLES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Biting the bullet' (IE, June 19). The writer's narrative seems to ring true that the Chinese aggression in 1962 could have been averted if in 1960 Jawaharlal Nehru had accepted China's offer to end the border dispute through giveand-take. Of course, the present allpowerful BJP leadership could have achieved what Nehru could not, if from the day after coming to power it dared to shun a jingoistic agenda. In that case there would have been peace.

New Delhi

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

### **IDEAS ONLINE**

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THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Biting the bullet' (IE, June 19). China, itself faring relatively better, has taken full advantage of the gloomy situation prevailing due to COVID-19 globally to show aggression not only against India, but also other Asian nations. It has deceived India in the disguise of many Modi-Xi summits. None of the options suggested by the author are realistic as a nationalist BJP would never concede any part of land to China.

Ravdeep Singh Hundal, Ferozepur

#### WORRYING SIGNS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Gobi Manchurian' (IE, June 20). Before the current wave of hyper nationalism and isolationism swept the world, there was a belief that whatever the differences between governments, people could always connect. That seems to have changed. The minister's remark about Chinese cuisine is humourous at one level. But it is also disturbing. "Chindian" as Indian as anything else. Jingoism now threatens diversity and adapatability - things that make India great.

Biswadeep Chatterjee, via email

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ TENDER NOTICE No. AGG-ELG-T-07-2020-21R1 Date: 18.06.2020 TENDER NOTICE St. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra on behalf of

President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for

the following works. Name of work with its location No. & Completion Period AGC-ELG-KVA Inverters (HIND-RECT make) fitted in T-07-2020-21,83,889.60 AC peaches of Agra Division for Thirty Six Months (03 Years), Completion period: 36 months

For full details and automission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in, Tenders can only be submitted through web portal 675/20 (5)

#### www.ireps.gov.in-up to 16:00 hrs on 10:07:2020 U.P.R.V.U.N.L. TENDER NOTICE HARDU-AGANJ THERMAL POWER STATION Superintending Engineer, ECCC, Kasimpur. 1. E-Tender No. 06/ECCC/ECCD-III/HTPS/2019-20, Name of vork "Fire Fighting system installation work around multistory towers and officer's club in New Colony Harduaganj Thermal Power Station, Kasimpur (Aligarh)", Estimated Cost Rs. 41.73.777.00. Earnest Money Rs. 84,000.00, Tender Cost Rs. 4200.00+ 756.00 (18% GST) Rs. 4956.00.Extended ast date and time for submission of e-bid (http://etender.up.nic.in) 30.06.2020 upto 02.00 Hrs., Extended e-bid Opening date/time (Part-I) 01.07.2020 at 04.00 Hrs or later. Time of completion 06 Months. 2. E-10/ECCC/ECCD-III/1X660MW/HTPS/2019-20, Name of work "Construction of RCC Road, drain, CISF Boundary Wall, in new colony, Harduagnaj Thermal Power Station Colony Kasimpur Estimated Aligarh)", Cost ,29,88,502.25, Earnest Money 3,68,000.00, Tender Cost Rs. 15000.00 + 2700.00 (18% GST) Rs. 17700.00. Extended Last date and time for submission of e-bid on date 30.06.2020 up to 02:00 Hrs. Extended E-bid opening on date/ time (Part-01.07.2020 at 04:00 Hrs of later. Time of ompletion 09 month, SUPERITENDING ENGINEER, ELECTRICITY CIVIL MAINTE-NANCE CIRCLE, Kasimpur 3. E. Tender No. 77 /FCMC/FCMD-II/HTPS/2019-20 Name of work "SUPPLY & SERVING OF TEA ETC. IN CONFERENCE ROOM in 2X250 MW HTPS, KASIMPUR". Estimated cost 4.58 Lac. Earnest money 9.000.00. Eender cost Rs. 500.00+90 GST(18%) Rs 590.00. Tender extended date extended Last date and time for submission of e-bid http://etender.up.nic.in) 01.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs., e-bid extended date/time for Opening (Part-I) 02.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. or Time of Completion- 12 Month. Superintending Engineer. Coal Handling Circle Kasimpur Aligarh): 4. Tender No. 'C'TPS/HTPS/2019-20, DAY TO DAY AND ROUTINE MAINTE-NANCE OF BULL-DOZERS", Estimated Rs.5.52 Lacs. Earnest Money Rs.11040.00, Cost of tender document Rs.600.00+Rs.108.00 (GST) = Rs.708.00 Extended Last date of E-bid Submission 22.07.2020 up to 13:00 Hrs., Extended Date of Hard Copy Submission date 23.07.2020 up to 13:00 Hrs, and Date of opening Part-I 24.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. NOTE: (1) The details for submission of bids will be availwebsite: e-procuremen nttp://etender.up.nic.in w.e.f. dated:-20.05.2020 at 10:00 Hrs. (2) The bidders are equired to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for paricipation in the e-Tendering. The bidder nust also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate n bid submission activity. SUPERINTEND-ING ENGINEER. OPERATION & MAINTE-NANCE CIRCLE-IV, D'TPS, KASIMPUR 5 -Tender Notice No. ET- 12/O&MC-IV/DTPS/EMD-II/DT.P.S./2020-21. "Over nauling of M/S GE Make Spectronic 0.4KV ACB Breaker Installed in Unit 8 & 9 and BOP Area, Harduaganj 'D' Thermal Power Station, Kasimpur, Aligarh for the period of One Year" Estimated Cost Rs. 5,78,536.00. Earnest Money Rs. 11,571.00 Cost of Tender document Rs. 600.00 +108.00 (GST) Rs. 708.00 Opening date of tender are as pelow:-Due date of Submission of e-Bid Technical & Financial) at e-procurement vebsite http://etender.up.nic.in: 25.07.2020 in to 14:00 Hrs. Due date of depositing Tender Cost & Earnest Money in the HTPS count through RTGS/B.G. up-to maximun on dated: 25.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs. due date of submission of hard copy of all the equisite documents in the office of undersigned maximum on dated: 27.07.2020. Tender opening date. Part-A: 27.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. NOTE: (1) The details for submission of bids will be available on e-procurenent website: http://etender.up.nic.in w.e.f. 18:00 Hrs. dated:- 23.06.2020. (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg. ucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-Tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate n bid submission activity. SUPERINTEND-ING ENGINEER, OPERATION & MAINTE-NANCE CIRCLE- 1. DTPS. HTPS, KASIM-PUR 6. E-Tender Notice No.: ET-02/CAMD/DTPS/HTPS/2020-21. Name of work: Round the clock Up keeping and rouine cleaning of TG Hall, Service Building and chimney Elevators and rescue work of assengers in any of the elevators of 2X250 MW. HTPS. Kasimpur (Aligarh) as and when equired. Estimated Cost: Rs. 5,48,856.00/-Earnest Money: Rs. 11,000.00/-only. Tender Cost: Rs.708.00/ Period of Work: 01 Year. Extended Due date of Submission of e-Bid Technical & Financial) at e procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in: 06/07/2020 upto 14:00 Hrs., Extended Due date of Submission of Hard Copy of all the requisite documents with Tender Cost & Earnest Money, in the office of Undersigned: 07.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs. Tender shall be opened on Extended Date Part-A: 07.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. and Part-B: shall be intimated later, NOTE: (1) The details for submission of bids are available in the bid document uploaded on the e-procurement vebsite: http://etender.up.nic.in (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, ucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-Tendering. The bidder nust also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate n bid submission activity. 7. E-Tender Notice No.: ET-06/CAMD/DTPS/HTPS/2020-21 Name of work: Breakdown maintenance of Fire lines, Valves, NRV's, Diesel Engines of fire fighting system installed at BOP of 2x250MW DTPS, HTPS. Estimated Cost: 5,52,054.00/-. Earnest Money: Rs.11,050.00/-only. Tender Rs.708.00/-(With GST) Period of Work: 01 ear. Due date of Submission of e-Bid Technical & Financial) at e-procurement

vebsite http://etender.up.nic.in: 27.07.2020

upto 14:00 Hrs., Due date of Submission of

Hard Copy of all the requisite documents

with Tender Cost & Earnest Money, in the

office of Undersigned: 28.07.2020 up to

14:00 Hrs. Tender shall be opened on Date

Part-A: 28.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. and Part-B:

Shall be intimate later. NOTE: (1) The details

for submission of bids are available in the bid

document uploaded on the e-procurement

website: http://etender.up.nic.in (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-Tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. 8. E-Tender No. T-01/AHD/'D'TPS/HTPS/2020-21. Name of work: Round the Clock Operation, Routine & Preventive mechanical maintenance and Breakdown mechanical maintenance of Ash Handling Plant of Unit No. 08 & 09, 'D'TPS, HTPS Kasimpur for a period of one year, Estimated cost of Work; Rs. 75,67,620.00, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,52,000.00, Tender Cost: Rs. 1180.00 (1000.00+180.00 GST), Due date of Submission of e-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website https://etender.up.nic.in: 25.07.2020 upto 14:00 Hrs., Due date of depositing Tender Cost & Earnest Money in the HTPS account through RTGS up-to maximum on dated: 25.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs., Tender opening date, Part-I: 27.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. NOTE: (1) The details for submission of bids will be the e-procurement website: https://etender.up.nic.in w.e.f. 09:00 Hrs. dated 20.06.2020. (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-Tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system. After that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. Superintending Engineer, Operation & Maintenance Circle-IV, Hdi, 'D'T. P.S., Kasimpur 9. Tender No. ET.-06 /O&MC-IV/EMD-I/Hdj, 'C'TPS/2020-21, Technical Audit of Generators. GTs, 220KV/132KV Switchyard & 6.6KV Electrical System of U#7, U#8 & U#9 of Harduaganj TPS" as per scope of work, for the period of one year" Estimated Cost Rs. 22.70.000.00 Earnest Money: Rs. 45400.00 Cost of tender document: Rs. 2300.00 + Rs.414.00 (GST) = Rs. 2714.00 Opening date of tender are as below:-Now Extended due date of Submission of e-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e- procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in: 06.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs., Due date of depositing Tender Cost through RTGS (in the HTPS Account) & Earnest Money through RTGS (in the HTPS Account) BG up to dated: 06.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs. Now Extended due date of submission of hard copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned maximum on dated: 08.07.2020. Tender opening date. Part-A: 08.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. NOTE: (1) The details for submission of bids will be already available (ID No. 2020\_RVUNL\_469035\_1) e-procurement http://etender.up.nic.in w.e.f. 18:00 Hrs. dated: - 11.05.2020. 2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-Tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. 10. Tender No. ET-13/O&MC-IV/EMD-I/Hdi. 'C'T.P.S./2020-21. Testing of ICT-1T, ICT-2T, 91, 10T, R-1, R-2 at Harduaganj TPS, Kasimpur," as per scope of work, for the period of one year" Estimated Cost Rs. 3,60,000.00 Eamest Money: Rs. 7,200.00 Cost of tender document: Bs 400 00 + Bs 72 00 (GST) = Bs 472.00 Opening date of tender are as below:-Due date of Submission of e-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in: 27.07.2020 to 14:00 Hrs., Due date of depositi Tender Cost through RTGS (in the HTPS Account) & Earnest Money through RTGS (in the HTPS Account) BG up to dated: 27.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs. due date of submission of hard copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned maximum on dated: 29 07 2020 up to 14 00 hrs. Tender opening date, Part-A: 29.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. NOTE: (1) The details for submission of bids will be available on e-procurement website: http://etender.up.nic.in w.e.f. 18:00 Hrs. dated: - 22.06.2020. (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-Tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. SUPERINTEND-ING ENGINEER, OPERATION AND MAIN-TENANCE CIRCLE-II. 'D'TPS, KASIMPUR E-Tender Notice No. ET-04/O&MC-II/TMD/DTPS/20-21, Name of Work: Operation & maintenance of air conditioning system of 2X250MW, DTPS, HTPS, Kasimpur" under TMD, DTPS, Kasimpur for a period of one year" Estimated Cost: Rs. 21,42,000.00, Earnest Money: 42,840.00, Tender Cost: Rs. 1,180.00 Due date of Submission of e-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in : 22.07.2020 upto 14:00 Hrs., Due date of depositing Tender Cost through RTGS (in the HTPS account) & Earnest Money through RTGS (in the HTPS account)/B.G.: 22.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs. Due date of submission of hard copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned: 24.07.2020 up to 14.00 Hrs. Tender Opening Date: Part-I 24.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. NOTE: (1) The details for submission of bids will be available on e-procurement website; http://etender.up.nic.in w.e.f. 17:00 Hrs, dated 18.06.2020. (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-Tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. 12. E-Tender Notice No. ET-05/BMD/CTPS/O&MC-II/19-20, "Work of Insulation and Refractory in different areas (Boiler furnace 1st & IInd pass, Pipes, Bends, Valves, Ducts etc) of Boiler Milling & Fan system of Unit-7 -htps-kasimpur-aligarh for a period of one year" Estimated Cost Rs. 4,04.864.00. Earnest Money Rs. 8,100.00, Cost of Tender document Rs. 500.00 +900.00 (GST) = Rs. 590.00 . Extended date of tender are as below:-Due date of Submission of e-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in: 07.07.2020 upto 14:00 Hrs., Due date of depositing

Tender Cost through RTGS (in the HTPS

account) & Earnest Money through RTGS (in

the HTPS accoun)/B.G.: 07.07.2020 up to

14:00 Hrs., Due date of submission of hard



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copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned: 09.07.2020, Tender Opening Date: Part-I 09.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. Note: (1) The details for submission of bids are available w.e.f dt-23/10/2019 at 09:00 Hrs. in the bid document uploaded on e-procurement http://etender.up.nic.in (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. 13. E-Tender Notice No. ET- 05/ O&MC-II 'D' TPS/BMD-I 'D' TPS/20-"Cleaning of Boiler & ESP of Unit # 8 & 9, 2x250MW, HTPS, Aligarh" for a period of one year" under DMD-I 'D' TPS, Harduagani Thermal Power Station" Estimated Cost Rs. 18,55,000.00, Earnest Money Rs. 37,100.00 Cost of Tender document Rs. 1900.00 +342.00 (GST) = Rs. 2,242.00 Opening date of tender are as below:-Due date of Submission of e-Bid (Technical & Financial) e-procurement http://etender.up.nic.in : 22.07.2020 upto 14:00 Hrs., Due date of depositing Tender Cost through RTGS (in the HTPS account) & Earnest Money through RTGS (in the HTPS account)/B.G.: 22.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs.. Due date of submission of hard copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned: 24.07.2020, Tender Opening Date: Part-I 24.7.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. Note: (1) The details for submission of bids are available w.e.f. 22.6.2020 at 17:00 Hrs. in the bid document uploaded on the e-procurement website: http://etender.up.nic.in (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. 14. E-Tender Notice No. ET-06/BMD/CTPS/O&MC-II/19-20, "Work of De-scaling of pressure parts & removal of soot from heating surface of boiler by steam blowing through wall blower/long retractable soot blower (LRSB) and their preventive maintenance of boiler of Unit No-7-htps-kasimpur-aligarh for a period of one year" Estimated Cost- Rs. 2,28,975.00, Earnest Money- Rs- 4,600,00, Cost of Tender document -Rs- 500.00 +90.00 (GST) = Rs. 590.00. Extended date of opening are as below: Due date of Submission of e-Bid (Technical & Financial) e-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in : 07.07.2020 up-to 14:00 Hrs., Due date of depositing Tender Cost & Earnest Money through RTGS (in the HTPS account): 07.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs., Due date of submission of hard copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned:-09.07.2020, Tender Opening Date: Part-I: 09.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. Note: (1) The details for submission of bids are available w.e.f. 30.11.2019 at 17:00 Hrs. in the bid document uploaded on the e-procurement website: http://etender.up.nic.in (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. 15. E-Tender Notice No. ET-06/O&MC-II 'D: TPS/BMD-I 'D' TPS/20-21, "Break-down maintenance of ESP & Daily routine maintenance of ESP of Unit # 8 & 9 2x250MW" for a period of one year" under BMD-I 'D' TPS, Harduaganj er Station" Estimated Cost Rs 7,08,000.00. Earnest Money Rs. 14,200.00 Cost of Tender document Rs. 700.00 +126.00 (GST) = Rs. 826.00 Opening date of tender are as below:-Due date of Submission of e-Bid (Technical & Financial) http://etender.up.nic.in : 22.07.2020 upto 14:00 Hrs., Due date of depositing Tender Cost through RTGS (in the HTPS account) & Earnest Money through RTGS (in the HTPS account)/B.G.: 22.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs., Due date of submission of hard copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned: 24.07.2020, Tender Opening Date: Part-I 24.7.2020 at. 16: 00 Hrs. Note (1) The details for submission of bids are available w.e.f. 00.6.2020 at 17:00 Hrs. in the bid document uploaded on the e-pro curement website: http://etender.up.nic.in (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. 16. E-Tender No. ET-08/Q&MC-II/BMD/CTPS/2019-20," Round the clock (Day & Night) Lifting & Shifting of Coal Mill reject spelled out from pyrite hopper or from mill (at "O" meter) of Unit No-7 to coal yard of old plant or other specified place within the HTPS plant through tractor trolley" for a period of one year under Boiler Maintenance Division, Harduaganj Thermal Power Station" Estimated Cost Rs. 8,82,750.00 Earnest Money Rs. 17,660.00 Cost of Tender document Rs. 900.00 +162(GST) = Rs. 1062.00 Extended date of opening are as below: Due date of Submission of e-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in: 07.07.2020 up-to 14:00 Hrs., Due date of depositing Tender Cost through RTGS (in the HTPS account). & Earnest Money through RTGS (in the HTPS account)/B.G: 07.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs., Due date of submission of hard copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned:-09.07.2020, Tender Hrs. Note: . (1) The details for submission of bids will be available w.e.f 10/02/2020 at 17:00 Hrs. in the bid document uploaded on e-procurement website: http://etender.up.nic.in (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature

Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system.

after that the bidder can participate in bid

submission activity. SUPERINTENDING

ENGINEER ELECTRICITY CIVIL MAINTE-

NANCE CIRLE, Kasimpur 17. E-Tender

No.07/ECMC/ECMD-I/HTPS/2020-21.

Name of work: Roof treatment in residential

buildings of new colony, at Harduaganj

Thermal Power Station, Kasimpur Aligarh

UTTAR PRADESH. Estimated cost Rs.

26.79 Lac. Earnest money Rs. 53.000.00 Tender cost Rs. 3000.00+540.00 GST (Present Rate is 18%) = Rs. 3540.00 Extended Date and time for submission of e bid http://etender.up.nic.in) 20.7.2020 upto 14.00 Hrs., Extended Opening date/time (Part-I) 21.7.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. or late TIME OF COMPLETEION 12 MONTH Superintending Engineer, MMC, HTPS, Kasimpur (Aligarh) 18. Tender No. & Name Division: 35/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020, Name of Supply: Procurement of general consum ables & electrical spares for HTPS Kasimpur Estimated cost: Rs 3.55.787.00. Earnest money: Rs. 7000.00, Tender cost Rs 354.00, Date of Starting of E-bid submis sion: 13.04.2020. Extended Last Date of submission of E-bid: 08.07.2020, Tende opened on Extended date 09.07.2020 (Part-I), 10.07.2020(Part-II) E Tender ID 2020\_ RVUNL\_457409\_ Eligibility Conditions: manufacturers/their authorized dealers

Experienced Supplier can participate in this tender. 19. Tender No. & Name of Division: ET-41/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020, Name of Supply: Procurement of Distance Numerical Relay for Harduagani -Etah 220KV feeder, HTPS, Kasimpur Estimated cost: Rs 1,39,500.00, Earnest money: Rs 2800.00. Tender cost: Rs 118.00. Date of Starting of E-bid submission: 20.05.2020 Extended Last Date of submission of E-bid 08.07.2020, Tender shall be opened on Extended date: 09.07.2020 (Part-I), 10.07.2020 (Part-II) :2020\_RVUNL\_470135\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only manufacturers/their author ized dealers can participate in this tende 20. Tender No. & Name of Division: ET 42/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020. Name of Supply: Procurement of LT cables & Aerial bunched Cables for colony area HT/LT line and sub-stations of HTPS Kasimpu Estimated cost: Rs 19.48.950.00. Earnest money: Rs 40,000.00, Tender cost: Rs 2242.00, Date of Starting of E-bid submis sion: 20.05.2020. Extended Last Date of submission of E-bid: 08.07.2020, Tende shall be opened on Extended date 09.07.2020 (Part-I), 10.07.2020 (Part-II) E ID: 2020\_RVUNL\_470136\_ Tender Eligibility Conditions: Only manufacturers their authorized dealers can participate in this tender. 21. Tender No. & Name o 43/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020, Name of

Supply: Supply, Installation and commission ing of IRIG-B Hub in GPS synchronization at 220/132KV substation of HTPS Estimate cost: Rs 1,99,500.00, Earnest money: Rs 4,000.00, Tender cost: Rs 236.00, Date of Starting of E-bid submission: 20.05.2020 Extended Last Date of submission of E-bid 08.07.2020, Tender shall be opened or Extended date: 09.07.2020 (Part-I) (Part-II) E-Tender 2020 RVUNL 470137 1 Eligibility Conditions: Only manufacturers/their author ized dealers/ Experienced Suppliers can

participate in this tender. 22. Tender No. & Division: 44/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020, Name of Supply: Procurement of 11KV Triple Pole Manually Operated Switch (TPMO Switch for 11KV line in colony area, HTPS & 220 KV isolator jaw spares for 220KV Switchyard o HTPS Estimated cost: Rs 1,08,000.00 Earnest money: Rs 2.000.00. Tender cost: Rs 118.00, Date of Starting of E-bid submis sion: 20.05.2020, Extended Last Date of submission of E-bid: 08.07.2020. Tender shall be opened on Extended date 09.07.2020 (Part-I), 10.07.2020 (Part-II) E-Tender ID: 2020\_RVUNL\_470139\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only manufacturers their authorized dealers/ Experienced Suppliers can participate in this tender. 23 Tender No. & Name of Division: SET 48/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020, Name of Supply: Procurement of 11KV Armoure XLPE Aluminium 3C X 240 sq mm cable for EMD-III, HTPS, Kasimpur Estimated cost: Rs 16,32,000.00, Earnest money: R 32000.00, Tender cost: Rs 1888.00, Date of Starting of E-bid submission: 30.05.2020 Extended Last Date of submission of E-bid 08.07.2020, Tender shall be opened or Extended date: 09.07.2020 (Part-I) 10.07.2020 (Part-II) E-Tender ID 2020 RVUNL 475990 1 Eligibilit Conditions: Only manufacturers/ their authorized dealers can participate in this ten der. 24. Tender No. & Name of Division SET-49/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020 Name of Supply: Procurement of 03 phase 440 volt stabilizer for elevator for EMD-III HTPS, Kasimpur Estimated cost: R 7,00,000.00, Earnest money: Rs 14000.00, Tender cost: Rs 826.00, Date of Starting of E-bid submission: 30.05.2020, Extended Last Date of submission of E-bid 08.07.2020. Tender shall be opened or Extended date: 09.07.2020 (Part-I) 10.07.2020 (Part-II) E-Tender ID Eligibility 2020 RVUNL 476991 1 Conditions: Only manufacturers/ their authorized dealers/ Experienced Suppliers can participate in this tender. 25. E-Tende No.: ET-12/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020 Name of Supply: Supply of Limit switch fo Overhauling of Unit No. 8 & 9 of 'D'TPS Kasimpur, Estimated cost: Rs. 912392.00 Earnest money: Rs. 18000.00, Tender cost: Rs. 500.00 + 90.00 (GST), e-Bid online sub mission extended End Date: 02.07.2020 Tender shall be opened on extended date 04.07.2020 (Part-I) & 08.07.2020 (Part-I Eligibility Conditions: Only repute Manufacturers/ their Authorized Dealer car participate in this tender. Note :- For furthe details please log on our web site i.e

http://etender.up.nic.in U.P.R.V.U.N.L E-**Tender Notice** E-Tenders are invited for the followings supply/works items in two parts Part-I shall contain Tender Cost/Earnes money and other necessary documents as per pre-qualifying conditions and Part-II will contain price bid as per bill of quantity Tender specification may be downloaded from the website (http://etender.up.nic.in) and other specification details can be see on Nigam website www.uprvunl.org The contactors have to submit the hard copy before the schedule date/time in the concern office in sealed envelope containing details of the tender mentioned on the envelope Tenders are advised to send their hard copy directly to the concerned tendering authorit of the Circles/ Division. Who reserve the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. "Save Electricity Enhance National Productivity Sd/- Superintending Engineer (H.Q.) Harduaganj TPS, Kasimpur, Aligarh पत्रांक 30/अधी, अभि.(म.)/विज्ञापन/कैम्प-1(23)/20 दिनांक 20.06.2020



#### BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE) CIN No. U27310WB1920G0T003601 "WANKARIA CENTRE", (4TH & 5TH FLOOR), 2/1, RUSSEL STREET, KOL-71

ITEM RATE Offer(s) in two part system are invited from reputed, resourceful

and experienced parties meeting prescribed qualifying criteria for following SI. No. Tender Document Description of work an NIT No. B&R / ERE / 10416 / KoPT / available on STATUE / NIT / 01 B&R's Website Dtd. 19.06.2020 Engagement of associate 22.06.2020 29.06.2020 hrough pre-bid and post-bid lie-up through MOU for submission of price offer for Site Exploration, Soil Testing, Design and Construction of Foundation & Turn Table

fechanism of Commemorative

Statue at Millennium Park 3,

nterested resourceful Contractors may download the tender documents from Co's Website http://www.bridgeroof.co.in. Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, shall be hosted in Co's Website http://www.bridgeroof.co.in only.

महाराष्ट्र रेल इनफ्रारद्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड MAHARASHTRA RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE **DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED** (महाराष्ट्र सरकारचा आणि रेल्वे मंत्रालयाचे संयक्त उपक्रम)

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways) २ रा मजला, हेक्स्ट हाऊस, नरीमन पॉईंट, मुंबई - ४०० ०२१

#### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** EMPANELMENT OF CIVIL CONTRACTORS

(2nd Floor, Hoechst House, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021

MRIDC has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing various Railway Line Projects in the State of Maharashtra.

Accordingly, MRIDC invites Expression of Interest from Firms/Agencies/Contractors for empanelment for the work of 'Construction of all Civil Works upto Top of Formation Level involving Earth Work, Blanketing, Major & Minor Bridges, Viaducts, Road Under Bridges (RUB)/ Limited Height Subway (LHS), Balancing Culverts, Retaining Walls, Drains, Ground Improvement Works, Cement Concrete Lining, Cross Drainage Works, PSC / RCC Slabs for Bridges alongwith Relocation of Existing Roads & Utilities in connection with Railway Line Projects including areas of Sidings, Chord Lines, Shunting Necks, Isolation, Sand Hump, Cross Overs etc. implemented by MRIDC".

Interested Companies may visit our official website www.maharail.com for details and information. You may submit your applications through e-mail at tender@maharail.com or dgmtender@maharail.com or in sealed envelopes in prescribed format in the Corporate office Mumbai on or before 10/08/2020 before 03:00 PM. Any corrigendum to this notice shall be hosted on our official website only. MANAGING DIRECTOR

#### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice The senior Divisional Electrical Enginee

East Central Railway, Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of union of India nvites tender from competent and experienced contractors having valid electrical contracter's license, technica expertise, and financial solvency through E-tendering mode of IREPS web portal of ndian Railway for execution of the ollowing works. Tender No.& Date: EL G-10-ET-20-21 (Open) SI. No 1. Name o the work with its location: Provision o 10 Nos Lift at RXL.BTH.NKE.MBI.JYG ii Samastipur Division. Sl. No 2. Approx Cost of Work: Rs. 27282600.00 Sl. No 3 Earnest money: Rs.286400.00 Cost of ender document- Rs. 10,000.00 (No Refundable.) Sl. No 4, Date & Time fo closing and opening of tender: Date o Closing of E-tender at 12.00 hours or 10.07.2020, Date of opening of E-tende rom 12.30 hours on 10.07.2020 SI. No 5 Website particular, Notice Board ocation where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office: http://www.ireps.gov.ir D.R.M.(Elect.) Office/Samastipur Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G

E. C. Railway, Samastipul PR/330/SPJ/EGEN/T/20-21/40

### 🚳 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🚳

**E-Tender Notice** E-TENDER NOTICE NO. SG-664

01-SIG-2020-21, Dhanbad, dt-19.06.2020. E- TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK. SI. No. 1. Name of the work: Provision of Shunt signals at GJD & interlocking of cross over DLW. SI No. 2. Appox. Cost of the work: ₹. 38 14 688 24 Sl. No. 3. Earnest Money: ₹. 76.300.00 Sl. No. 4. Date & time for closing of tender: 10.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. Sl. No. 5 Any E-Tenders which is sent by Post / Courier / FAX or self, Manual proposals although the letter is or firms letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above E-Tenders, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. http//www.ireps.gov.in: Note :-Tenderers are requested to visit the website http//www.ireps.gov.in atleast 10 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum corrections etc. in response to this Sr. D. S.T.E

PR/334/DHN/S&T/T/20-21/44

East Gentral Railway, Dhanbad.

#### NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 2020-June-01 dated 17.06.2020

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), N.C. Riy Agra for and on behalf of the President of India Invites "Open Tender" through on Line only (E-Tendering) for the following works. The details of the tender are as under,

SN	Tender No	Description of work	Approx Cost
1	2020- June-01-01	Supply, Installation and commissioning of Track Based Rail Lubricators (Hydaulicitype) on Agra Division includes one year free operation for first year with successive two years AMC for maintenance and operation	5100000.00
2	2020- June-01-02	Reconditioning of CMS Crossing 1 in 12 T/Out, 60 kg in situ by RW-28 Transfernatic Roberts Welder or other similar welding lecthology to give minimum extended life of 80 GMT after reconditioning over Agra Division.	6826711.40
3	2020- June-01-03	AGC- Maintenance of lawn, hedge, trees and flower beds etc in DRM office compound, DRM bunglow, officers colony and divisional Railway hospital and station area of Agra cantifor 24 months.	2702486.74
4	2020- June-01-04	Through weld Renewal from km 1251.6 to 1257.30 in DN Road and 1252 to 1253 & 1258 to 1250 in UP Road (17.70 km) in JAB-TDL section with 52 kg trails at site using road our rail mobile/Stationery flash butt welding plant.	14873140.15

For full details and submission of bid please see the indian Railways website "www.ireps.gov.in". Tenders can only be submitted through web portal "www.ireps.gov.in" up to 15:00 hrs on 10:07.2020.

f North central railways www.ncrindianrailways.gov.in

M gCPRONCR

### NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

TENDER NOTICE

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer /Coordination/North Central Railway/ PRAYAGRAJ, for and on behalf of the President of India, Invite E-TENDER on prescribed form for the following works up to 12:00 hrs. on

N	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost of work (?)	Earnest Money (?)
3	PRYJ-Sig- 403-2020-21	Sectional Signaling Annual Maintenance Contract in TDL-ALJN and Branch Line JSG-ETH Section of PRYJ Division	6856425.86	137100/-

Cost at Tender Form (7): 5000(. Completion Period: 12 months. Date of Clasing attender: 08.07.2020. Availability of tender form. Tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in 21 days prior to date of opening of

the lender 3. Earnest Money to be deposited. The prescribed amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above must be deposited along with the tender form Online through Internet Banking or Online Payment gateway only. The tenderer (s) should note that, in any case, the Eamest Money in any other form than specified above shall not be acceptable. Tenders without earnest money shall be summarily rejected, 4. Time date & place of opening of tender: Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, PRAYACRAJ on or after pre-determined date at 12.30 hours. In case lender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day. 5. Validity of offer, 45 days from the date of opening, 6. Right of Railway to deal with tender: Railway administration reserves the rights to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons. 668/20 (5)

www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

■ @CPRONCR



**Department of Atomic Energy** Directorate of Construction, Services & Estate Management **Centralized Quantity Division** 

**Government of India** 





#### PRE-QUALIFICATION CUM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Chief Engineer (C1), DCSEM, DAE, 3rd Floor, V.S.Bhavan, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai-94, on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate tender (in two bid) through e-tendering mode from reputed, qualified, experienced, technically and financially sound engineering construction agencies for the following works:-

NIT No.	Name of Work
DCSEM/CQD/QSA/	Development works including Electrical works for Sensor Evaluation
	Test Bed Facility (SETBF) at GCNEP campus site, Bahadurgarh, Haryana.
	Estimated cost Rs.462.00 lakh, EMD Rs. 9.24 Lakh, completion period 05
dt.18.06.2020	months, cost of tender processing fee Rs 5900.00 in the form of e-payment.

Detailed tender notice alongwith documents are available on website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE.

Tender documents are available for view/ download from 22.06.2020 (11:00 hrs.) to 06.07.2020 (17:00 hrs.). Uploading of Pre-bid Queries from 22.06.2020 (11:30 Hrs) to 07.07.2020 (17:00 Hrs). Closing of online submission of tenders upto 17:00 hrs on 16.07.2020. Receipt of EMD etc. upto 15:00 hrs. on 22.07.2020. Opening of online tender (Technical bids) on 23.07.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Financial bids of qualified bidders shall be opened at a later date to be notified separately. Detailed NIT is also available on website www.dcsem.gov.in for view only. For further clarification, please contact on 022- 25487324, 25487314 Fax: 022-25565362.



#ExpressExplained

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

# 'Need to settle NREGA the moment work is executed... pay at the end of working day'

In this E-Xplained held a few weeks before he quit as Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, RATHIN ROY, ex-member of PM's Economic Advisory Council, discusses challenges and options in a likely recessionary year. He spoke to PVAIDYANATHAN IYER and ANIL SASI



#### On whether much of the extra borrowing this year will be used to make good the shortfall in revenue collection

It is a dynamic process. If hypothetically, the government had provided income support and capital support, and if hypothetically, that meant that businesses were able to recover and make some money, then the government would get more tax revenues and those revenues would have been used to shore up the Budget, and then some of the incremental borrowings could go into other things. But the government has not chosen to that. Therefore, I agree with you, especially since it is unlikely that the government will meet even a small percentage of its investment commitments in this calendar year. It would be absurd to think of that in the middle of a lockdown. And therefore, what the government would need to do is prepare to borrow to meet its tax revenue shortfall. And that is a good thing because it will maintain the government Budget at where it was, at a much higher proportion of the GDP, and a much higher proportion of the deficit.

It is unfortunate that we are in a situation where we are looking at one data point. For example this year we say that the government borrowed 12 crores, last year it borrowed 7 crores, without having an idea about what is going to happen to these 12 crores, and how we are going to change the situation going forward.

Most sensible and effective finance ministries budget in a three-year cycle. India is a glaring exception. If we had a medium-term fiscal framework, we should have been advocating for ten years - we would have to say, OK, we're going to have to borrow this much between now and 2023, because we are going to be hit on the tax front in 2020 and possibly 2021. As tax revenues recover in 2021-22-23, we are going to borrow less. So, over the lifetime of the medium term, here is my plan to recover the economy and maintain the solvency and sustainability of public finances.

We do not have the instrumentation, we write

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

THE WORLD

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on June 21. JHU's India tally and Health

INDIA COUNT: 4,10,461 (13,254 DEATHS)

Ministry's tally (below) may not match as these are accounted at different times.

13,531

5,983

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, June 21. Some states may have

reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above.

2,27,756 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 34 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

Have a question on the COVID-19 outbreak and what you should/should not do?

Write to explained@indianexpress.com

8.697

305,801

2,260,972

1,032,9

236,748

**TOTAL CONFIRMED: 8,835,095** 

TOP 10 STATES

14,536 Rajasthan

26,680

**1,28,205** Maharashtra

204,952

583.879

DEATH COUNT: **465,284** 

**REST OF INDIA** 

Andaman and Nicoba Andhra Pradesh

Chandigarh

Jharkhand Kerala Ladakh

Manipur Meghalaya Mizoram

Goa Himachal Pradesh



#### **AUDIENCE QUESTIONS**

#### On whether the government should have infused equity in businesses over prioritising credit

It is difficult to do this without being accused of communism. Basically, this is using taxpayer money to infuse equity and making the government a shareholder in the private sector. This could be done in principle. One way is by starting to infuse equity and then have a program that converts this to debt, and then the government exits. The problem with the debt-equity route is the need for a bond market that works, and we do not have a good private bond market. We need to do financial engineering that I thought the government would have been doing in the past 2.5 months.

budgets on file, and the consequences are apparent now. We are talking about saying whether we should borrow 20 lakh crore. It is a very weak analytical statement. And it is unfortunate that we are in this situation... What governments have chosen to do – be it UPA or NDA – is write something that has no bearing on the annual Budget, Media doesn't look at it, business doesn't look at it. So, we pay the wages for our own technical incompetence, and yes, therefore, we will only borrow to

#### On how India will fare during the coming decade, projected to be one of debt and depression

Even before the current crisis, I had been saying we have a difficult decade ahead if we continue to rely on the consumption of the top 150 million to power our growth process... This crisis has made the matter more urgent. And today, we will have to take steps to change the output composition of demand in ways in which we can have more inclusive and sustainable growth. This will require reforms, but not of the sort the government has announced. These would be in public administration, our credit policy, industrial policy, etc. If we do these reforms, I believe that India is a large enough economy to be fine.

make up tax revenues this year, without any reckoning of how we are going to solve the problem.

#### On challenges in cash transfers, such as identifying beneficiaries, and the option of expanding these through NREGA, Jan Dhan

Either I have to believe the government when it has been saving very dramatically including the Principal Economic Adviser, that they have the technology to carry out cash transfers, and that





the success of this government is its ability to make cash transfers, direct benefit transfers... However, when during such a crisis, when people are actually going home, and then we sit down and decide, "Oh, let's have an all-India ration card", that means that the programme to reach out to the population of India, using Aadhaar, Jan Dhan, and mobile, that has been touted as one of the major successes of this government, is not fit for the purpose.

I need to know whether the government accepts this or not, because boastfulness is accompanied by excuses. So if your success is true then make good on it. Use your instruments in this crisis to transfer money. If you cannot, accept that your architecture is not fit for the purpose, and therefore you need to do other things to transfer money.

The obvious way to transfer money would be not to sit in the Capital and decide how the money will be transferred, but to ask the states and local governments to identify those who need the transfers, and thus mobilise communities. But for that, you need to make a policy announcement that priority would be income transfers come what may, with the same alacrity as the yet gloriously unspent PM Cares was mobilised. If even a fraction of the attention that was devoted to that was shown towards transferring money, then a better job would have been done. So, coming up with these bureaucratic excusesthat you can't identify people when the TV channels have shown you where they are to your face – I find difficult to accept. If migrants can be beaten up, they certainly can be identified.

There are ways to do this. When it comes to NREGA, it is a good thing that the government has done, but to make it better we will require a suspension of the rules. There are two important

things here - if you cannot guarantee work in the original NREGA, you will pay them in their banking accounts directly. I think we need to have a settlement on NREGA at the moment when the work is executed. Those sitting in NITI Aayog and others who come up with wonderful solutions using artificial intelligence are not capable of this basic task – that is to pay people at the end of the working day... pay them what you owe them in a demand-based programme. There I think, the government is falling far short. To an extent, this government failure is ubiquitous for the past 15-20 years, which I think the people in political authority know, and therefore what they are trying to do is avoid relying too much on the execution capability of the government, and relying too much on our capability... So we are making too much noise on income support when the government has clearly said that it would not do so.

#### On whether the additional NREGA allocation in the lockdown package is an acknowledgement that some migrant workers might not come back soon, and whether industry should worry

Many of the people who came from UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP to Maharashtra, Kerala, Goa, to extremely low end, badly paid, and insecure jobs... If they take a call that the reason why they did sothe dream that they saw for themselves and their families- is going to be frequently disrupted by society, not the government, which tells them "you come last", then they will stay back.

The point is not increasing NREGA allocation. NREGA has to be faithfully executed, which is not the case with the bureaucracy. It is a demanddriven program. And we have been rationing NREGA and no one wants to comment on that. So yes, we must take NREGA and every other opportunity available to them. The idea of emphasising NREGA is a humane one, and I am happy that the government has done this. It flies in the face of societal instincts to get things back to normal — that normal was a very ugly normal for the migrant.

Transcribed by Om Marathe

(EDITED EXCERPTS)

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### SIMPLY PUT

# What changed in India-Nepal ties?

Nepal's Parliament has cleared a map that includes areas with India. What has happened to the relations built on historical ties? A look at the influence India once had in Nepal, and where it stands today

#### YUBARAJ GHIMIRE KATHMANDU, JUNE 21

LAST WEEK, Nepal's Parliament cleared a Constitution Amendment Bill that endorses the country's new map that includes territories with India - Limpiadhura, Lipulek and Kalapani. Weeks earlier, Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli had said in a speech that those areas would be brought within Nepal's map and possession. This has been a troubled phase in Nepal-India relations, often described in textbooks as "unique", "timetested" and cemented by "common heritage, culture, civilisation, history and geography"

#### **Favouring India**

Previous standoffs have been effectively resolved through direct negotiations, backchannel diplomacy and an accommodative spirit on both sides.

King Mahendra convincingly assured India way back in the 1960s that a road built to connect Nepal with Tibet had only "developmental significance and no strategic significance at all".

In the 1980s, King Birendra annulled a contract that China had won under a global tender to build the 210-km Kohalpur Banbasa Road closer to the Indian border, after Rajiv Gandhi raised concerns over security. Birendra handed the task over to India.

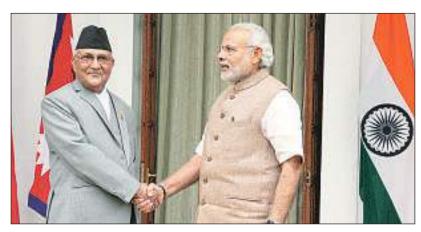
According to the accounts of Bishwabandhu Thapa, Home Minister in 1962, King Mahendra "gave the Kalapani location temporarily to India" on Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's request following India's setback in the war with China. However, this is not in line with India's official perception. Former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran wrote in The Indian Express (June 13, 2020), that "both Monarchs Mahendra and Birendra thrived on a diet of anti-Indian nationalism"

According to Punya Prasad Oli, a former Director General of Nepal's survey department, King Birendra had asked him not to make an issue of the Kalapani dispute in the 1970s.

All these are seen as instances of Nepali rulers maintaining a delicate balance in relations with two giant neighbours, but eventually favouring the south whenever India and China's interests have clashed.

#### The turning point

A 12-point understanding among Nepal's



Nepal PM K P Oli and India PM Narendra Modi in 2016. Express Archive

eight political parties including Maoists, signed in November 2005 in Delhi, scripted the ouster of the monarchy. India was for long a factor — and to a large

extent the sole external actor — in Nepal's internal politics. But when India openly took the lead role in transforming Nepal into a secular republic from a Hindu kingdom, it set off events leading to India losing its clout and allies in Nepal. The suspension of the monarchy and its

subsequent abolition in 2008, and declaration of Nepal as a secular country, was followed by Nepal's journey towards federalism. None of these crucial issues was discussed at length in Parliament. The European Union took a very open

stance that secularism will have no meaning without the right to conversion being incorporated as a fundamental right in the new Constitution. This led to resentment among the majority population about this "imposed secularism". Other radical agenda got overshadowed as the civil-society-new-power axis and international stakeholders simply dismissed these as regressive forces.

The EU and the US, which had begun to emerge as India's allies in Nepal's transition after 2005-06, began supporting radical federalism based on ethnicity, higher autonomy and with the right to self-determination that initially Maoists had backed.

China, worried about the combined presence of India, US and EU in Nepal and their influence on internal politics, began increasing its presence and investment in Nepal, targeting tourism, post-earthquake reconstruction, trade and energy, with a message that its interest in Nepal is no less than India's or its allies put together.

Although political parties backed by India in the 2005-06 movement continue to be in power in Nepal, they have visibly become more and more distant from New Delhi. The Maoists, who are now part of the ruling NCP headed jointly by Oli and Prachanda, are no longer under Indian influence.

#### Relations, then an now

Two major questions that crop up in the context of bilateral context. Why did China's clout increase to this level when India apparently calculated that the monarchy's exit will increase its own influence on Nepal? And does India have any institutional allies left in Nepal, like the monarchy and Nepali Congress like in the pre-2005 phase?

The Nepali Congress was formed in India in the early 20th century and many of its leaders participated in India's freedom struggle, thinking an independent and democratic India would help establish democracy back home. The party, despite consistently taking the lead role in the movement for a multiparty democracy with constitutional monarchy, was often branded "pro-India" by Communists given their close ties with Indian National Congress and socialists. However, following the 12-point agreement, the Nepali Congress was forced to accept the

New Delhi

lead role of Maoists (Communists) in the impending political change, and agree to dispense with constitutional monarchy that it had all along said represented "forces of nationalism" and "symbol of unity in diversity".

During major face-offs, three trade embargos since the 1970s and sensitive security issues, the Kings of Nepal and the Indian Prime Ministers, directly or by using back channels - including Indian royalty and even shankaracharvas when Nepal was a Hindunation — have succeeded in bringing the crises

But over the years, India's focus on Nepal appears driven more by security concerns and threat perception than by promoting a soft power-based approach like in the past. During the current spell of dispute, India

has once again begun 'valuing' common civilisational, cultural, historic and people to people ties.

#### India's old allies, today

India's old allies are regretting having aligned with the Maoists.

'Nothing could have been a more erroneous judgment of India in 2006 than that Maoists were the emerging forces of the people and bringing them to the centrestage of Nepali politics and power would consolidate democracy," a senior Nepali Congress leader said. "I think it is about time that we reviewed the 12-point agreement and restore our lead role in Nepali politics rather than being seen as follower of the Maoists," said Gopal Man Shrestha, one of the eight leaders who signed the 12-point agreement.

Besides the monarchy, Nepali Congress and in the recent past Madhes parties to some extent, the only other institutional ally that India has had is the Nepal army. The chief of each national army has enjoyed the status of Honorary General of the other side, on a reciprocal basis since 1950. When Oli refused to accept India's invitation for a state visit in April 2006, during a blockade, it was the armies of both sides—especially at the then chiefs' level –that did the homework for lifting it.

Oli became a nationalist and gained much popularity thanks to the blockade. But in the current sentiment triggered by the border dispute, the idea of nationalism has once again been appropriated by a Communist leader who has all through concentrated state powers upon himself. It's Oli who is dictating Nepal-India relations.

#### /AJIRAM & RAVI ONLINE MODULE 2020 - 21 G.S Prelims Test Series G.S Mains Test Series Optional Subject Test series Current Affairs Online Classes

# 12 THE WORLD



#### IT WAS USED IN HIS FAMOUS 'UNPLUGGED' SHOW

#### COBAIN GUITAR SELLS FOR \$6 MILLION

The guitar Kurt Cobain played on Nirvana's 1993 "MTV Unplugged" performance months before his death sold for an eye-popping \$6 million at auction. The 1959 Martin D-18E that Cobain played in the band's rare acoustic performance and subsequent live album was sold to an Australian man at the auction in Beverly Hills



Gholamreza Mansouri was found dead at a hotel in Bucharest

#### **ROMANIA**

#### **Fugitive Iranian** judge dies after fall from hotel in Romania

A FUGITIVE Iranian judge wanted by Iran on corruption charges and by right groups for jailing and torturing journalists was found dead of apparent suicide Friday at a hotel in Romania where he had been staying, according to Iranian officials. The judge, Gholamreza Mansouri, was a co-defendant in a major financial corruption trial involving several senior judges accused of embezzlement and bribery. Iran's chief of international policing, Hadi Shirzad, said on Friday that according to information Iran had received from Interpol in Bucharest, Mansouri had jumped out of a hotel window to his death.

#### Professor who asked student to anglicise name sent on leave

A COMMUNITY college professor in Oakland, California, is on administrative leave after asking a Vietnamese-American student to "Anglicise" her name because he felt it sounded "offensive" in English. In a Wednesday night email exchange that was quickly shared to tens of thousands on social media, Matthew Hubbard, a professor in ematics department, repeatedly asked the student, Phuc Bui Diem Nguven, to "Anglicise" her name because it "sounds like an insult in English".

#### **CHINA**

#### HK security law may be passed in June: report

Beijing: China's top legisla-

tive body will meet on June 28, about a week after its last gathering, the official Xinhua news agency said on Sunday, a shorter than usual gap following the announcement of details of a draft Hong Kong security law. The draft law has alarmed foreign governments and Hong Kong democracy activists, who are concerned that Beijing is eroding the high degree of autonomy granted to the territory when it was handed over to China in 1997 from British rule.

#### U.S. PRESIDENT'S FIRST POLITICAL RALLY IN MONTHS MARRED BY LOW ATTENDANCE



Trump at his rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Reuters

## Test less, Trump suggests as cases rise

'When you do testing to that extent, you are going to find more cases'

**REUTERS & AP** TULSA, JUNE 21

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump, addressing a less-than-full arena for his first political rally in months, blasted anti-racism protests and defended his handling of the coronavirus on Saturday in a bid to reinvigorate

his re-election campaign. The President, who revels in large crowds and had predicted that his first rally in months would be epic, blamed the media for discouraging attendees and cited bad behavior by demonstrators outside, but did not specifically acknowledge that many seats in the 19,000seat BOK Center arena were

empty.

Trump sought to use the event to bring momentum back to his campaign after coming under fire for his responses to the coronavirus and to the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died in the custody of Minneapolis police.

The smaller-than-expected crowd robbed him, at least for now, of the ability to highlight enthusiasm for his candidacy as an advantage over his expected Democratic challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden, who has eschewed large campaign events.

Trump told supporters at his campaign rally that the US has tested 25 million people, far more than any other country. The "bad part," Trump said, is that widespread testing leads to logging

more cases of the virus. "When you do testing to that extent, you're going to find more

**President Trump just** admitted that he's putting politics ahead of the safety and economic well-being of the American people."

- BIDEN CAMPAIGN

people, you're going to find more cases,"Trump said. "So I said to my people, 'Slow the testing down, please.' They test and they test."

Trump opted to hold his first rally in 110 days despite concerns from local health officials that it could lead to further spread of the virus in Tulsa. Most of those in attendance declined to wear a mask.

"In an outrageous moment that will be remembered long after tonight's debacle of a rally, President Trump just admitted that he's putting politics ahead of the safety and economic wellbeing of the American people even as we just recorded the highest number of new COVID-19 cases in almost two months and 20 million workers remain out of work," according to the

Biden campaign's statement. Oklahoma has reported a surge in new coronavirus cases in recent days, and the state's department of health warned that attendees face an increased risk of catching the virus.

"I'm not concerned about it. I think it's mostly a hoax," at $tendee\,Will\,Williams, 46, said\,of$ the coronavirus, questioning why Democrats were not more concerned about people who die from drug overdoses. Williams did not wear a mask



The crowd at the rally was much smaller than expected. NYT

### TikTok teens say they sank President's rally

TAYLOR LORENZ, **KELLEN BROWNING** & SHEERA FRENKEL

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's campaign promised huge crowds at his rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Saturday, but it failed to deliver. Hundreds of teenage TikTok users and K-pop fans say they're at least partially responsible.

Brad Parscale, the chairman of Trump's re-election campaign, posted on Twitter on Monday that the campaign had fielded more than 1 million ticket requests, but reporters at the event noted the attendance was lower than expected. The campaign also cancelled planned events outside the rally for an overflow crowd that did not materialize.

TikTok users and fans of Korean pop music groups claimed to have registered potentially hundreds of thousands of tickets for Trump's rally as a

prank. After @TeamTrump tweeted asking supporters to register for free tickets using their phones June 11, K-pop fan accounts began sharing the information with followers, encouraging them to register for the rally — and then not show.

The trend quickly spread on TikTok, where videos with millions of views instructed viewers to do the same, as CNN reported Tuesday. "Oh no. I signed up for a Trump rally, and I can't go," one woman joked, along with a fake cough, in a TikTok posted June 15.

"It spread mostly through Alt TikTok — we kept it on the quiet side where people do pranks and a lot of activism," said YouTuber Elijah Daniel, 26, who participated in the campaign. "K-pop, Twitter and Alt TikTok have a good alliance where they spread information amongst each other very quickly. They all know the algorithms and how they can boost videos to get where they want." NYT

# 3 stabbed to death in **UK terror attack: police**

3 others seriously injured; 25-yr-old Libyan man arrested

**PETER NICHOLLS** READING, JUNE 21

A STABBING rampage in the southern English town of Reading, in which three people were killed and three others were seriously wounded, is being treated as terrorism, police said on Sunday.

A 25-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of murder after the stabbings on Saturday evening in a park in Reading, which is about 65 km west of London.

A security source told Reuters that the man, who remains in police custody, is a Libyan.

"Counter Terrorism Policing can now confirm that the stabbing incident that happened in Reading last night has now been declared a terrorist incident," Thames Valley Police said in a statement.

Minister Boris Prime Johnson, who has described the incident as appalling, held a meeting on Sunday with security officials, senior ministers and police to be updated about the investigation, a spokesman for Johnson said.

The stabbings took place on a sunny evening hours after a rally by anti-racism protesters in the park, Forbury Gardens, but

Nine shot at in

NY 'celebration'



At the scene of the incident, which took place in park in Reading, 65 km west of London, on Sunday. Reuters

#### String of stabbing attacks in UK

THE UK has seen a string of attacks in recent years involving stabbings that have been classified as terrorist attacks. In 2017, eight people were killed in London when assailants drove a van into pedestrians before going on a stabbing spree. Last November, two people were stabbed to

death near the London Bridge, and in February, a man who wore a fake suicide vest stabbed two

people in South London. UK police authorities have said the coronavirus lockdown could make the problem worse as isolated people may become vulnerable to radicalisation.

appeared to be unrelated to that. "The Black Lives Matter event had finished some three hours previous and was by all accounts a very well conducted

peaceful demonstration and this is not a connected attack with that whatsoever," Jason Brock, the head of the local council authority, told the BBC. REUTERS

### One dead, 11 injured in Minneapolis shooting

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** SYRACUSE, JUNE 21

NINE PEOPLE were shot at a Saturday night "celebration" in central New York, authorities said.

Of the nine victims, one was a 17-year-old boy in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the head and eight others ranging in age from 18 to 53 were expected to survive, a re-

lease from Syracuse police said. No one was immediately taken into custody, and Syracuse Police Chief Kenton Buckner emphasized that the investigation was in its early stages in an appearance at a press conference alongside Syracuse Mayor

Ben Walsh. Syracuse officers had arrived at the scene just before 9 pm for reports of a stolen car, but responding officers were met with by people who said shots had been fired into the crowd of a "few hundred," Buckner said. The police chief said his officers didn't hear the gunshots.

### bars and restaurants. Minnesota **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

MINNEAPOLIS, JUNE 21

ONE MAN is dead and 11 people suffered non-life-threatening wounds in a shooting in Minneapolis, police there said early Sunday.

Minneapolis police had first said 10 people had been shot with 'various severity levels of injuries," but revised their total upward in a tweet posted just after 3 am The man died at the hospital, not at the scene, according to the police daily media briefing sheet.

No one was in custody in conection with the shooting as of 4 a.m., according to a police release that said preliminary investigation indicated that "individuals on foot" started shooting around 12:30 am and later fled the scene.

An initial tweet from Minneapolis police advised the public to avoid the area in . Uptown Minneapolis, a commercial district that includes several began allowing bars and restaurants to reopen with limited service on June 1 after some six weeks of closure because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Photographs posted to social media showed windows at the Landmark's Uptown Theatre and another storefront shot out.

Screams were audible on a live video posted to Facebook that showed the aftermath at the scene. Small crowds of people gathered, with some crouched over victims lying on the pavement before police officers on bicycles showed up to attend to them. Splatters of blood on the pavement were visible in the video after the victims were taken to local hospitals some via ambulance and others in private vehicles, according to the police release.

The area is about 5 kilometres west of the Minneapolis commercial area and neighbourhood hit by rioting in the wake of George Floyd's May 25 death.

# Spain opens borders, UK to unveil plan to ease lockdown

### Dubai allows tourists to enter from July 7, Serbians vote in Europe's first post-lockdown election

AP&REUTERS BARCELONA, JUNE 21

SPAIN REOPENED its borders to European tourists Sunday in a bid to kickstart its economy while Brazil and South Africa struggled with rising coronavirus infections.

The head of the World Health Organization has warned that the global spread of the virus is accelerating after a daily high of 150,000 new cases was reported last week.

Spain on Sunday ended a national state of emergency after three months of lockdown, al-



Travellers from Paris arrive in Madrid on Sunday. Reuters

lowing its 47 million residents to freely travel around the country for the first time since March 14.

Spain also dropped a 14-day quarantine for visitors from Britain and countries in Europe's

visa-free Schengen travel zone to boost its vital tourism sector. But there was only a trickle of travellers at Madrid's airport.

Britain will outline its plans to ease the coronavirus lockdown this week, health minister Matt Hancock said on Sunday, potentially relaxing the two-metre rule on social distancing, allowing many businesses to reopen in early July. Many employers, especially in the hospitality and leisure sectors, have said the rule that people must remain two metres apart will prevent them from be-

ing able to operate as lockdown

measures are lifted.

Dubai will allow foreign visitors to enter from July 7, while foreigners with residency visas will be able to enter from June 22, the Dubai Media Office said on Sunday. It said those entering would have to present certificates to show they had recently tested negative for the coronavirus or

would undergo tests on arrival. Serbians went to the polls on Sunday to elect a new Parliament in Europe's first national election since coronavirus lockdowns took effect three months ago, with the ruling conservatives expected to win a comfortable majority.

### remote island from govt **MOHAMMED MUKHASHAF**

Yemen separatists seize

ADEN, JUNE 21

SOUTHERN SEPARATISTS have seized control of Yemen's island of Socotra in the Arabian Sea, deposing its governor and driving out forces of the Saudi-backed government which condemned the action as coup.

The Southern Transitional Council (STC) declared self rule in the south in April, complicating U.N. efforts to forge a permanent ceasefire in a war that has separatists and the government fighting as nominal allies in a Saudi-led

coalition against the Houthi group, who control the north.

On Saturday, the STC announced it had seized government facilities and military bases on the main island of Socotra, a sparsely populated archipelago which sits at the mouth of the Gulf of Aden on one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

The government which is led by President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi condemned the action as a "full-fledged" coup on the island and accused STC forces of attacking government buildings in "gang-style behaviour". **REUTERS** 

### FOR THOSE WHO HAD SEVERE CASES, RECOVERY CAN BE LONG AND ARDUOUS

## In New York, Covid-19 frontlines shift from ICUs to recovery wards

**JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN** NEW YORK, JUNE 21

CHARLIE BLUEWEISS, 33, woke up believing he was in a secret infirmary in an airport somewhere, maybe in China. He was certain someone was stalking him; threatening messages seemed to keep appearing on screens around him.

As his confusion — which is common among Covid-19 patients who have spent a long stint on a mechanical ventilator

 dissipated in the coming days, Blueweiss began to take stock of his situation. He realized that he was in the intensive care unit at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/ Weill Cornell Medical Center in Manhattan and that those screens were displaying his vital signs and medical updates. The 15 days on the ventilator

left a deep sore on one cheek,

and he struggled to unclench his

right hand. His right foot burned

with pain, and he was too weak

to sit up. He could not unlock his

phone to call his wife because his

hands were so swollen. When he finally reached her, he asked, "When am I coming home?"

Home, in Queens, would have to wait. On April 28, Blueweiss was taken in a gurney to 11 North, a former inpatient psychiatric ward at Weill Cornell that had been turned into a Covid-19 recovery ward.

With the peak of the coronavirus crisis in New York City in the past, hospitals and their medical staff are no longer straining under the number of critically ill patients - once so



Charlie Blueweiss, 33, spent 15 days on a ventilator while undergoing treatment for the coronavirus. NYT

numerous that ventilators, dialysis machines and even seda-

tives ran dangerously low. The front lines of the virus fight have shifted from intensive care units to recovery areas like 11 North, and similar units at other hospitals, like Rusk Rehabilitation at NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital. Here, doctors are finding that for the most severe cases, recovery can be a long and arduous process.

Patients who survive lengthy intensive care unit stays during ordinary times - after heart surgery,

respiratory failure — often face lengthy recoveries. Some patients report cognitive deficits, including difficulty concentrating. Many struggle to return to their jobs. About one-third have anxiety, depression or symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder, said Dr. Lindsay Lief, a pulmonologist at Weill Cornell who works with post-ICU patients.

car accidents, shootings, sepsis or

"In the Covid era, I think this will be magnified," Lief said. She noted that the typical Covid-19 patient in an intensive

Even those whose lungs are mostly healed may be quite debilitated after long immobilisation in an ICU, where they are administered high dosages of sedatives. Some must relearn to swallow without choking. Others have crippling nerve pain. Others have cognitive deficits, including trou-

care unit was generally there for

an unusually long time — one

study suggested at least two

weeks. That means more mus-

cle loss and increased risk of

other problems as well.

ble with words. NYT

New Delhi

New Delhi: Latest depositories data showed that a net sum of Rs 20,527 crore was pumped into equities by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) between June 1-19, while they withdrew a net Rs 2,569 crore from debt segment, taking total net investment to Rs 17,985 crore. PTI

### HOLDINGS OF DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS AT 14.4% AS OF MAR '20

# Despite COVID concerns, mutual funds lead DII holding in listed cos to all-time high

**SANDEEPSINGH** NEW DELHI. JUNE 21

EVEN AS foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) rushed to sell out their holdings in Indian companies during the quarter ended March 2020 following the risk aversion after concerns rose over global economic growth following the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) raised their holding in NSE-listed entities, hitting

an all time high of 14.4 per cent.

According to the shareholding filed by 1,575 of the total 1,631 companies listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) for the quarter ending March 31, 2020 and data sourced from nseinfobase.com, a joint initiative of NSE and PRIME Database, while FPIs reduced their holding in NSElisted companies from a four year high of 20.24 per cent in December 2019 to 19.13 per cent as on March 31, 2020, DIIs led by mutual funds (MFs) increased their holdings to all-time high level of 14.4 per cent from 14.06 per cent in December 2019.

Holding of domestic MFs in companies listed on NSE reached an all-time high of 7.97 per cent by value as on March 31, 2020. It stood at 7.79 per cent as of

#### RISING INFLUENCE OF DIIs ON **NSE-LISTED COMPANIES**

Quarter	FPI ownership	DII ownership	MF ownership
Mar 31, 2020	19.13%	14.40%	7.97%
Dec 31, 2019	20.24%	14.06%	7.79%
Mar 31, 2019	19.65 %	13.69%	7.20%
Mar 31, 2018	19.14%	12.67%	6.17%
Mar 31, 2017	19.73%	12.04%	5.00%
Mar 31, 2016	19.28%	11.52 %	4.32%
Mar 31, 2015	20.69%	10.39 %	3.57%
Mar 31, 2014	19.54%	10.63 %	2.80%

December 2019.

In absolute value terms, however, all categories lost significantly following a sharp correction in markets in March due to COVID-19. The Sensex fell 23 per cent in March, and between Januarv and March it lost 28.6 per cent.

While the total value of FPI  $holdings\,fell\,down\,by\,32\,per\,cent$ from Rs 30.72 lakh crore in December 2019 to Rs 20.92 lakh crore in March 2020, the total value of DII holdings declined by 26.2 per cent from Rs 21.34 lakh crore to Rs 15.74 lakh crore.

electricity. One REC is created

when one megawatt hour of

electricity is generated from

an eligible renewable energy

**REQUIREMENT UNDER** 

RPO: Under the renewable

purchase obligation (RPO),

bulk purchasers like discoms.

open access consumers and

capacitive users are required

to buy certain proportion of

Wednesday of every month

RECs. REC trading is

conducted on the last

The reduction in FPI holding and increase in holdings by DIIs amidst the pandemic has resulted in narrowing of the gap between FPI and DII holding.

The gap between FPI and DII holding in NSE-listed companies, which stood at 6.18 percentage points in December 2019, narrowed to 4.73 percentage points at the end of March 2020. Over the last six years, the gap has been steadily narrowing.

Data shows that while FPI holding has come down from 19.54 per cent March 2014 to 19.13

#### Counterbalance to FPI outflows

THE SHARP rise in DII holding over last six years has provided a counterbalance to the FPIs in Indian markets. Even in March 2020, when FPIs pulled out a net of Rs 61.900 crore from Indian equities. DIIs invested a net of Rs 55,595 crore.

per cent in March 2020, DII holding has gone up significantly from 10.63 per cent to 14.4 per cent in the same period.

This also indicates the growing influence of domestic investors and the deepening of Indian markets through the MF route. In fact, the MF holding in NSE-listed companies in the same period has risen significantly from 2.8 per cent to 7.97 per cent.

"I see the quarter ended December 2016 as an inflection point as the government announced demonetisation in

**OVERALL BIDS:** 

buy bids

■>3.33 lakh: RECs with

■ >47 lakh: RECs with sell

was higher since then as formalisation of economy happened and money started getting channelised into mutual funds," said Pranav Haldea, MD, PRIME Database. He added that increase in MF holding has created a strong counterbalance to FPIs.

"Ten years back, when FPIs pulled out, there was no counterbalance other than LIC. However, now MFs keep the market relatively stable. In March also, when FPIs pulled out, domestic MFs saw it is an investment option and they invested," Haldea added.

Insurance companies, however, have not been able to increase their holding in the same period, and in the six year period their holding has come down marginally from 5.49 per cent in 2014 to 5.11 per cent in March 2020. Even in the quarter ended March 2020, while MFs increased their shareholding in NSE-listed companies over that in the previous quarter, insurance companies saw a decline in their holding from

5.16 per cent to 5.11 per cent. FPIs, however, continue to remain the biggest non-promoter shareholders in the Indian market and their investment decisions have a huge bearing on the stock prices and overall direction of

### Chhattisgarh asks Centre to exclude four blocks from commercial coal mining over environment concerns

**KARUNJITSINGH** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

CHHATTISGARH ENVIRONMENT Minister Mohammad Akbar has written to the central government, requesting that coal blocks in the region of Hasdeo and Mand rivers and a proposed elephant reserve area in the state not be auctioned for environmental reasons. According to experts, there are four coal blocks - Mogra South, Mogra II, Sayang and Madanpur North — in the area out of the 41 blocks set to be auctioned for commercial mining in line with an announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

"I request that coal blocks in the area of the Hasdeo forest and Mand rivers as well as those in the area of the proposed elephant reserve not be included in the upcoming auction," said Akbar in a letter to the Prakash Javadekar. Union Minister for Environment. Forests and Climate Change.

Akbar said there had been an increase in incidents of elephant attacks on human habitations as a result of an increase in the population of elephants and the Chhatisgarh government had announced a 1,995-square kilometre area as the Lemru Elephant Reserve, which was also part of the area set to be allocated. He noted it was essential that mining activities in these areas be stopped

"I request that coal blocks in the area of the Hasdeo forest and Mand rivers as well as those in the area of the proposed elephant reserve not be included in the upcoming auction"

**MOHAMMAD AKBAR** CHHATTISGARE

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

for the safety of the forests and the environment in the state.

Separately, Jharkhand has moved the Supreme Court to block the auction of its coal blocks which are a part of this auction, citing the need for a fair assessment of the social and environmental impact of mining in the area as well as a poor investment climate which was unlikely to result in the states receiving a fair value in the proposed auctions.

Activist and lawyer Sudiep Shrivastava also noted that the areas in Chhattisgarh contained dense forests and also areas where tribals who were previously displaced for the construction of the Bango dam on the Hasdeo river were resettled. He said that it would be a "double whammy" for these tribals to be displaced again for coal mining in the area.

Shrivastava noted that these areas had been classified as 'no go' zones for coal mining by the Environment Ministry. The

forest areas in the country as 'go' and 'no go' zones with mining being banned in the 'no go' zones. Subsequently, a government panel set up to review the efficacy and legality of forest clearance procedures had raised questions on the legality of the ban on mining in 'no go' zones.

Shrivastava pointed out that India had sufficiently large proven and indicated reserves of coal that densely forested areas could be excluded from coal mining. "We are in no way compromising our energy security if we exclude these densely forested areas from mining activity," he said, noting that only 15 per cent of India's coal reserves were in dense forests.

According to the Coal Ministry, India has proven coal reserves of 148.8 billion tonnes, indicated reserves of 139.2 billion tonnes and inferred reserves of 31.1 billion tonnes. Domestic production of coal was 728.7 million tonnes and total coal imports were 235.24 million tonnes in FY19.

The Mogra II, Sayang and Madanpur North coal blocks have previously been allocated for mining and then surrendered, while the Mogra South block has not been allocated previously. Shrivastava said the Centre should itself study proposed mining areas and obtain relevant environmental clearances so that such blocks are not allocated in the first place.

### Green certificate sales fall 55% to 3.33 lakh in May

Sales of renewable energy certificates (RECs) tumbled over 55 per cent to 3.33 lakh units in May compared to 7.5 lakh in the same month a year ago, as per official data

source

2.78 LAKH: Number of RECs traded on the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) in May, compared to 5.5 lakh in the same month last year

0.55 LAKH: Number of RECs traded on the Power Exchange of India (PXIL) last month, as against 2 lakh in May 2019

WHAT ARE RECs: RECs are a type of market-based instrument to promote renewable sources of energy and development of market in

**HIGHER SUPPLY:** 

Both non-solar and solar RECs witnessed higher supply at the two power exchanges in May, with sell bid exceeding buy **BIDS ATIEX:** 

■ >2.8 lakh: RECs with buy ■ >31 lakh: RECs with sell bids BIDS AT PXIL: ■ >0.55 lakh: RECs with buy bids ■ >16 lakh: RECs with sell bids

to MSME sector, highest in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI, JUNE 21 Source: IEX/PXIL/PTI TWELVE PUBLIC sector undertaking (PSU) banks have sanc-

tioned Rs 40,416 crore in favour of 12.43 lakh accounts and disbursed Rs 21,029 crore among 5.81 lakh accounts in the MSME sector under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) scheme as on June 18. Gujarat and Tamil Nadu received the highest sanctions of Rs 4,156 crore and Rs 4,012 crore, respectively, till June 18, according to government data. The cumulative sanctions

now work out to around 14 per cent of the total target of Rs 3 lakh crore. The average sanction and average disbursement per ac-

**Gujarat and Tamil Nadu** received the highest sanctions of ₹4,156 crore and ₹4,012 crore, respectively, till June 18, according to government data

Emergency credit: PSU banks sanction ₹40,416 cr

count is Rs 3.25 lakh and Rs 3.62 lakh, respectively. State Bank of India (SBI) has recorded the maximum cumulative sanctions and disbursements of Rs 15,950 crore and Rs 10,667 crore, respectively, which is 0.8 per cent and 0.5 per cent of its total loan book.

As per the scheme, banks can lend Rs 3 lakh crore till October 31,2020, of which 14 per cent has

iff and then there is a sudden

change in law, one will have to de-

pend on the government for com-

pensation on some of these issues.

Secondly, we will have to find al-

by PSU banks till June 18. They may need to sanction Rs 33,400 crore per month for the next four months to maintain their share in overall bank credit, according to a CARE Ratings report.

already been already sanctioned

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has recorded the second largest cumulative sanctions at Rs 4.987 crore (which is 0.8 per cent of total loan book and 5.7 per cent of total MSME loan book as on December 31, 2019).

Punjab National Bank sanctioned loans worth Rs 4,271 crore and disbursed Rs 1.367 crore. Canara Bank sanctioned Rs 3,983 crore and disbursed Rs 1,954 crore, "SBI and BoB have 22 per cent and 65 per cent of overall loan book under moratorium." the report said.

Gujarat and Tamil Nadu witnessed disbursals of Rs 1,657 crore and Rs 2,560 crore, respectively. Other states which received significant levels of sanctions and disbursements included Maharashtra (Rs 4,009 crore sanctions), Uttar Pradesh (Rs 3,094 crore) and Rajasthan (Rs 2.608 crore).

"The ECLGS scheme is a specific step to the unprecedented situation of COVID-19. It aims to provide the relief and is expected to increase the liquidity of the MSME sector and provide an additional credit of up to Rs 3 lakh crore at low cost," the rating agency said.

PSU banks had around 58 per cent and private sector banks 35 per cent market share in total bank credit as on March 31, 2020.

### BRIEFLY —

#### PNB plans to hit capital market in Q4

New Delhi: The country's second largest lender Punjab National Bank is planning to hit capital markets in the fourth quarter this fiscal to raise funds to help meet growth needs and regulatory requirements. At the moment, the bank is sufficiently capitalised with the capital adequacy ratio of 14.14 per cent at the end of March 2020, PNB Managing Director S S Mallikarjuna Rao told PTI in an interview.

#### **India hikes** exposure in US govt securities

New Delhi: India became the 12th largest holder of US government securities at the end of April, with holding worth \$157.4 billion, according to official data. After significantly reducing the exposure in March to \$156.5 billion, Indian marginally hiked the holding by \$0.9 billion to \$157.4 billion the next month, the data from the UST reasury Department showed.

#### **RCapsaysits** debt servicing to be delayed

New Delhi: Reliance Capital (RCap) will not be able to service its debt in a timely manner following downgrading of its bond programme by CARE Ratings. **PTI** 

### AAR: Cos can't claim ITC on Boycotting China items not feasible: L&T MD-CEO GST paid for hiring vehicles for employee transportation

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

COMPANIES WILL not be able to claim input tax credit (ITC) for GST paid on hiring commercial vehicles for transportation of employees, if providing such a service is not obligatory under any law, the Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) has said.

On an application filed by Prasar Bharti Broadcasting Corporation (All India Radio), Shimla, the Himachal Pradesh bench of AAR cited Goods and Services Tax (GST) law to state ITC shall be available on fulfilment of one condition — "such goods or services or both shall be obligatory for an employer to provide to its employees under

'Italy close to

Fiat Chrysler's

\$7-billion loan'

announcing

#### 'Developed land sold as plots will attract GST'

New Delhi: GST will be levied on sale of land for which primary amenities - like drainage, waterline and electricity - have been provided by real estate developer, Gujarat Bench of AAR said. PTI

any law for the time being force". The applicant, who is a public service broadcaster, sought to know whether ITC will be available on taxi hiring services like pickup/drop-off staff, including ladies and handicapped employ-

#### WITH THE skirmish at the border with China, the 'Boycott China Products' sentiment is running high. The dangers of any rash move in this direction are well-known. SN SUBRAHMANYAN, CEO and MD of Larsen & Toubro, in an interview with SHUBHRA TANDON, cautioned that to take a total view on

boycotting Chinese goods is not feasible currently. Edited excerpts: How do you think the call of 'Boycott China' will impact the capital goods sector?

One has to be realistic and practical whether it is possible. There are Chinese companies that have set up shops in India, Chinese goods are from many points of view efficient and cost-effective. So, to take a total view that we can boycott the Chinese goods is not feasible because we also have balance of trade, and trade is obviously inclined towards China. But if the country thinks from a long-



SN Subrahmanyan. File

term measure and looks at China as an enemy country, we got to put in place policies and processes so that over a period of time we could make this effective.

In case some import tariffs are levied on components and goods coming from China, what will be the impact in terms of supplies and prices?

It will affect because many of us have placed orders on some Chinese companies. If there is a sudden imposition of import tarternative sources of supplies and those can be costlier which will Given that government finances are so stretched and

there's uncertainty in policies, how sustainable is it to depend on government orders? In the last few years, there is an

over-dependence on the government for infrastructure and engineering orders for a fair amount of contracts. This is because the private sector in India which is very vibrant has over-stretched itself in terms of leveraging its debt, balance sheet and some of them have overestimated the kind of revenues that will come in. Therefore, there is a lot of turmoil. Having said that, we have to depend on the government side for orders, which has been the case. I think the situation is going to continue like this for some more time.

Uday Kotak, while taking over as the CII president, said the government has done enough and it's for the private sector to start investing even if it means to export. Do you agree?

One has to agree to that. In a country like ours, the government alone cannot do much of the investments and it has to be backed by private-sector investment, I also agree that the government has done what it can in terms of empowering the private sector from a liquidity, moratorium, NCLT deferment, from sustaining the MSME point of view. However, the entrepreneurial spirit has to come back. The investment spurt has to come back and that can only happen with demand coming back. FE

### Don't assign risk weight on credit under **ECLGS: RBI** to lenders

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Sunday said lending institutions should assign zero per cent risk weight on the credit facilities extended under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to MSME borrowers.

"As credit facilities extended under the scheme guaranteed by NCGTC are backed by an unconditional and irrevocable guarantee provided by Government of India, it has been decided that **Member Lending Institutions** shall assign zero per cent risk weight on the credit facilities extended under this scheme to the extent of guarantee coverage," the RBI said in a notification. PTI

### SAYS AMERICA WITNESSING 'RECORD-SETTING' NUMBERS IN TERMS OF JOBS US economy doing 'amazingly' well: Trump

**REUTERS** 

MILAN, JUNE 21

ITALY IS close to unveiling the approval of guarantees for a 6.3 billion euro (\$7 billion) financing of Fiat Chrysler (FCA), two sources familiar with the matter said, paving the way for the largest crisis loan for a European carmaker.

FCA's Italian division has tapped Rome's COVID-19 emergency financing schemes to secure a state-backed, three-year facility to support the group's operations in the country as well as Italy's car sector, in which about 10,000 businesses operate.

**LALITKJHA** WASHINGTON, JUNE 21

THE US economy is doing "amazingly" well, President Donald Trump has said, stressing that America is witnessing "recordsetting" numbers in terms of jobs. Trump made the comments on Saturday while responding to a question on the US economy, which has been battered by the coronavirus pandemic.

The country's unemployment rate for April was 14.7 per cent, which was the highest since 1948. With the addition of 2.5 million jobs, the monthly rate dropped to 13.3 per cent for May.



President Donald Trump also asserted the US has "recordsetting retail sales numbers". AP

The economy had lost 22.1 million jobs in March and April

when most parts of the US were under lockdown due to the coro-

navirus outbreak. In May, some businesses have reopened and rehiring of workers has picked up. Trump had described the numbers as an affirmation of the good work his adminstration is doing. "The US economy is doing amazingly well," Trump told reporters. "I would say that the numbers

that we're doing are record-setting numbers. We have recordsetting job numbers," he said. "We have record-setting, as you know, retail sales numbers; that just came out. The US economy is doing very, very well," he asserted. Earlier Kevin Hassett, senior

adviser to the president and former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers at the White

New Delhi

try's economy is coming back way faster than one thought. "Right now I think economists

need to be humble and recognise that when we've got 17 states where credit card spending is above where it was last year already, that it suggests that this economy is really, really coming back way faster than I thought,' Hassette said. At the same time. he conceded that the economy would be hit if there was to be a second wave of the coronavirus. "If there is a second flare-up that's, you know, bigger than what we've seen and the economy does have to move towards more shutdown," he said. PTI

### Diesel price hits record high after 15th straight day of hike in rate

**PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA** NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

DIESEL PRICE on Sunday hit a fresh record high after rates were hiked by 60 paise per litre while petrol price was up 35 paise, taking the cumulative increase in rates in 15 days to Rs 8.88 a litre and Rs 7.97 respectively.

Petrol price in Delhi was hiked to Rs 79.23 per litre from Rs 78.88, while diesel rates were increased to Rs 78.27 a litre from Rs 77.67, according to a price notification of state oil marketing companies.

#### DIMITROV TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Grigor Dimitrov confirmed in a social media post that he has tested positive for Covid-19. The world No. 19 was one of the players competing on the Adria Tour with other high-profile players like Novak Djokovic, Alexander Zverev, Dominic Thiem in front of a packed crowd.

[RAJINDER GOEL | 1942-2020]

# The best of the nearly men

Rajinder Goel never played Test cricket, but the domestic giant will forever remain one of the greatest Indian spinners

SANDIPG

NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

RAJINDER GOEL, the stalwart left-arm spinner who died on Sunday at 77 after prolonged illness, was arguably the greatest of his craft to have never played Test cricket for India. Yet, he left Indian cricket richer with his skilful bowling, charming personality and relentless drive to mould young cricketers till he grew too weak to drag himself to the distant domestic fields of Indian cricket, always spotting a smile and stewing an old story or two.

When he left the domestic field at the age of 43 after 24 years of first-class cricket, he had in his ledger 750 scalps at 18.58 - 637 off them coming in the Ranji Trophy, where he's comfortably the highest-ever wicket-taker. He was so deceptive — a classical spinner, who incorporated cunning and beauty in equal measures - that he enjoyed one-upmanship over the finest batsmen, cutting across eras.

Even the top Indian spinners of that era sought his advice to counter the legendary Vijay Manjrekar, as destructive a player of spin one could ever behold. But Goel used to find his inside-edge with a frequency that made the great Bombay batsman admire him and admit that he was one of the finest he had ever faced. Manjrekar passed on the mantle of the Bombay School of batsmanship to Sunil Gavaskar, who was in as much awe as dread of the beatifically smiling Goel, who nabbed him five times in his career.

Goel stamped such a lasting impression on Gavaskar that the latter named him as one of the 'idols' in his eponymous book. "He is the one bowler whom I have really dreaded facing in my life. I have never been able to feel comfortable against his left-hand spinners and Goel has been the one who, because of his flatter trajectory, has not given me the opportunity to step down the track and drive,' the legendary opener had written.

But then, Goel was not a dart-the-ball-inat-the stumps modern-day DRS-powered left-arm spinner. Rather, he had several bows in his string and a sharper-than-sword mind. He had a beautiful action and pivot, used to get nice loop and drift. What made him very

Goel stamped such a lasting impression on Gavaskar that the latter named him as one of the 'idols' in his eponymous book. "He is the one bowler whom I have really dreaded facing in my life. I have never been able to feel comfortable against his left-hand spinners and Goel has been the one who, because of his flatter trajectory, has not given me the opportunity to step down the track and drive," the legendary opener had written.

difficult was the subtle changes he made in flight and drift. Goel's release too was romanticised. So neat and unfussy, no heavy tweaks or rips, no visible strain on his lithe body or malleable writs, that he hypnotised batsmen with his uncanny minimalism.

Yet, a Test cap eluded him, making his story the greatest so-close-yet-so-far narrative in Indian cricket, perhaps world cricket. The closest he came to was against the West Indies in Bangalore in 1974-75, when Bishan Singh Bedi was suspended on disciplinary grounds. He was widely tipped to make his debut, but instead, the team chose two off-spinners, EAS Prasanna and S Venkataraghavan to ally leg-spinner BS Chandrasekhar.

It was a logic Goel could never grasp. "When India played two off-spinners in (Erapalli) Prasanna and (Srinivas) Venkataraghavan, what stopped them from playing two left-arm spinners?" he had once remarked. It puzzled him throughout his life, but he was never bitter.

#### **Close friends**

Goel's path to the Indian team was blocked by Bedi's prowess and stature, but the two remained close friends. "A contented man who had no bitterness," says Bedi. "A man who



A friendly figure, Rajinder Goel would not only impart young cricketers with trade-specific knowledge, but also used to transport them to the time he played cricket. File

could not get angry," chimes in former BCCI treasurer Anirudh Chaudhry, who worked closely with Goel as the latter served Haryana cricket in several capacities - including talent spotter and mentor – after his playing days.

Chaudhry's father and former BCCI president Ranbir Singh Mahendra said that "the cricket world has lost one of its finest jewels."

"His contribution to the game post his retirement was massive and he would eagerly watch even an inter-district game in search for talent and remained the pivot for selection of Haryana cricket teams till he regretfully laid down his office on account of the Lodha recommendations," Mahendra said.

Few cricketers have worn disappointment so gracefully and stoically as Goel, who till his last days used to groom cricketers from Haryana and remained a grandfatherly presence at nondescript, dusty cricket grounds of the state. "He was a domestic match referee for a long time, then he used to travel to every ground in the country to spot talents. I don't think there is any cricketer in the country to not have passed through his eyes," says Chaudhry.

A friendly, amiable figure, Goel would not only impart young cricketers with trade-specific knowledge, but also used to transport them to the time he played cricket. "He was our window into the 1970s, used to tell me so many great stories that made me fall in love with the game. He kept giving back more to the game that it had given him," according to Chaudhrv.

Goel, though, was averse to praise, and always undersold himself. "What could have I done except bowling well? I loved cricket and that was my life. There will be regrets but you do what you have to do," he had said.

Though unfortunate that he plied his craft at the pinnacle of India's spin bowling riches, several generations of Indian batsmen honed their skills facing him. "It's because of bowlers like him that we Indian batsmen became good players of spin bowling in the world. You need to be a good quality batsman to face them and they meant business by challenging each batsman from the first ball. They were high-quality bowlers to face and if a batsman can play them, then they can play any spinner in the world," reflects Dilip Vengsarkar, who used to keenly await the Times Shield so that he could play "Goel Sahab".

He remembers another match, in Rohtak in 1984, when an autumnal Goel mopped up half the Mumbai side in the first session. The nature of the surface hardly mattered to him, some of his finest efforts had come on greentops. "He meant business by challenging each batsman from the first ball. It was unfortunate that he did not play Test cricket," says

That could well be the epitaph of his life and career. Yet, that should not define him. For he was much more than that, a textbook case of how to handle the setbacks of a career with a disarming smile, to illustrate that you could be a hero even if you don't play at the highest level of cricket. As 'Goel Sahab' had repeated several times in his life: "What could I have done except bowling well?" A true romantic of the game.

## Jo mil gaya usi ko muqaddar samajh liya'

#### **PADMAKARSHIVALKAR**

I AND Rajinder Goel shared the same philosophy - jo mil gaya usi ko muqaddar samajh liya. I am a big Dev saab (Anand) and (Mohammed) Rafi saab fan. I don't know if Rajinder also liked Dev saab, but the line from Hum Dono (Mein zindagi ka saath nibhata chala gaya) connected us.

We were left-arm spinners, contemporaries and both of us missed the bus in terms of playing for India. We should have played for India but we weren't picked. Those who were in charge of Indian cricket then would be able to tell you why we weren't picked. Between us, we had over 1,300 (1,339) first-class wickets, but were considered to be not good enough. Later the BCCI gave us the Lifetime Achievement Award and acknowledged our contribution to Indian cricket and that was a memorable moment.

We played as opponents in the Ranii Trophy and Duleep Trophy. We had a healthy rivalry. But we had huge mutual respect as well. In fact, I thought of him as god-send, such was my respect for him. As a bowler he was unique. He carried an x-factor which nobody had and his performance attested that. I cannot explain that (special touch in his bowling) to you. Those who have watched him or played with or against him knew the special aspect he carried. He was also a fantastic human being.

Rajinder bowled flatter but varied his flight. His style was different. Spinners used flight and loop to tease the batsmen those days. He teased the batters all right, but in a different way. Because of his flatter trajectory, he didn't give the batsman time to step down the wicket and drive. He was very accurate and pinned them down on the back foot. Top batsmen, masters against spin, struggled to play him. Over the past few decades we have seen the proliferation of flatter trajectory spinners, thanks to lim-



Shivalkar and Goel accounted for 1,339 first-class wickets. Express file

ited-overs cricket. But Rajinder was different. He wasn't a bits and pieces spinner. He varied his pace so well. What he had was special, nobody could probably match that. I think he was a better bowler than me. He was indeed a strong contender to play for India.

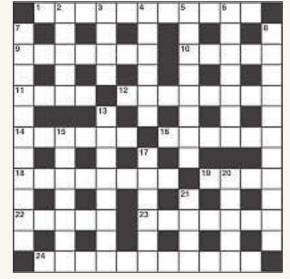
Despite being a flatter trajectory spinner. he was never a bad wicket spinner. He was an all-weather bowler, because he read the batsmen well and was adept at changing his taccs according to conditions.

Indian cricket had some great spinners during our time. As far as left-arm spin was concerned, Bishan Bedi was an automatic pick for the Indian team. Bishan was a great bowler, but Idon't know what prevented the authorities to play two left-arm spinners in the XI. (Erapalli) Prasanna and (Srinivas) Venkataraghavan played together. So if two off-spinners could play, why not two left-arm spinners? But I don't want to go back to what had happened in the past. Let that be done and dusted.

The news of Rajinder's passing is a huge shock to me. He was a champion cricketer.

(Padmakar Shivalkar is a former Bombay left-arm spinner; played 124 first-class matches and took 589 wickets at 19.69. He spoke to Shamik Chakrabarty)

#### **CROSSWORD 4150**



- Where to find the cavalryman had enlisted freely (2,3,6)
- 9 Nice surroundings (7)
- a class by themselves (5) 11 It's so bad half-a-dozen start to
- 12 Beat this for a political slogan
- 14 He may follow an ace with
- clubs, of course (6) 16 Drink concession given back
- 18 Criminal takes two foolish
- 19 A blow on the head (4)
- 22 Avery small measure of corn 23 Last drop of drama
- 24 The point in these puzzles is to start a fight!

(5,6)

## DOWN

- New book (5) When he's around one moves
- quickly (4)
- Upset, yet has new  $understanding \, (6) \\$
- Leader whose utterances in
- 6 Instructions used in the
- What an accusation of bodysnatching would be? (5,6)
- Man of intelligence moves
- centre stage (6,5) 13 Acts disagreeably
- 15 Aspired, in a way, to
- helplessness (7) 17 United States is after a record
- in Olympic event (6) 20 Aminor prize (5)
- 21 Vivacity I found in a
- revolutionary sphere

Solutions Crossword 4149: Across: 1 Porter, 4 Aphorism, 9 Sagely, 10 Bell push, 12 Prop. 13 Pater, 14 Menu. 17 In proportion, 20 Bedtime story, 23 Lure, 24 Verne, 25 News, 28 Imperial, 29 Camber, 30 Hacienda, 31 Xerxes. Down: 1 Post-paid, 2 Regroups, 3 Ella, 5 Presentiment, 6 Oils, 7 Inures, 8 Mahout, 11 Law of the land, 15 Domed, 16 Horse, 18 Money box, 19 Eyesores, 21 Elfish, 22 Tropic, 26 Brae, 27 Rage

### **OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis









#### **CALVIN & HOBBES** by Bill Watterson





Ö

#### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong









### JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to ge the answer for the given quip A sympathetic \_\_\_can be quite as dear as a \_.-Homer (6,..,7)

**FREER CIIDNT VIZIOR AELBFH** 

SOLUTION: REFER, VIZOR, INDICT, BEHALF Answer: A sympathetic **friend** can be quite as dear as a **brother**. - Homer

#### Difficulty Level 5s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns. in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium: 4s = Hard: 5s = Very Hard; 6s =

D				1				
		$\overline{}$	-	17	_	-	6	-
2			9		100	1		
9	6	4				7	3	8
		5		Щ,	8			2
	1			2				3
П		8	6	3			1	
				8	7	9	4	5

3	1	4	7	8	6	9	5	2
8	9	5	2	3	4	1	7	8
6	2	7	1	9	5	8	3	4
1	6	8	9	7	2	5	4	3
9	7	3	5	4	8	6	2	1
4	5	2	6	1	3	7	8	9
2	4	6	8	5	1	3	9	7
5	3	9	4	6	7	2	1	8
7	8	1	3	2	9	4	6	5

#### **DAY TODAY**

BY PETER VIDAL

#### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) As the Moon sweeps through the most personal reaches of your solar chart you would be well

advised to pay urgent attention to matters close to home. Working Ariens will be encouraged to get as far ahead as they can, and not to let random emotions interfere with the working day.

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

If there is to be a theme for the week it should be that arguments can be positive — and that it's good to clear the air. The favourable way to harmonise your life with today's stars is to set out to take

decisions and open new lines

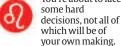
of communication. GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) You're still receiving a valuable shot of

energy from Mars' relationship with your sign but, in general, the situation is looking rather less organised. So, if you do complete, you must be sure to step up your level

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23) The Moon's friendly presence is a

definite plus, but the fact that it's your personal ruler is an additional sign that you can afford to raise your sights. If you're making plans for tomorrow, though, understand that circumstances may have changed before twenty-four hours have passed – and that there might be

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) You're about to face



your own making. Today you can spend as much time as you wish daydreaming, for your fantasies will point the way to the truth. Mind you, if you want respect, then you'll have to earn it.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) This is a special time of year, and you



New Delhi

should move forward with confidence and faith in your

future. Set yourself up for a positive time by seeking allies at work and planning social initiatives at home. Just one word of caution though - secret feelings could be about to become public.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

It's time to indulge your ambitions and responsibility over others. This is something you often tend to avoid, in spite of the fact that, as curren developments should

demonstrate, you are able to

#### handle your duties with unique skill. SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) Pay attention to the legal situation and

make sure that vou are well aware of your rights. It's a positive moment for travel, although any delays could be caused by family members or home commitments. Take simple precautions now and you'll thank yourself

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) The strongest

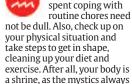


you planning professional promotion. Your daily planetary patterns, though, focus on your need to sort out joint financial affairs. CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

#### You must pay extra attention to family members' needs today, for if

they are not satisfied they have ways, even unintentionally, of sabotaging your hopes in return. Scratch their backs and they'll scratch yours. That's the way the

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Stav busy and realise that a day



### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

It's a fair day for taking some time off and indulging in a private affair or devoting a

little time to an artistic activity. If unavoidable commitments beckon, try to make them as personally enjoyable as possible. There's no point in suffering when you don't have to.

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