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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 Minister 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-

cuss the situation in eastern Ladakh and along the entire 3,488-km boundary with China.

Sources said the top brass were told that the government has faith in their competence to handle any situation, and that military commanders on the ground "are the best judge of the situation".

While Singh was informed 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.

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## 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

BY S P SINHA  
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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

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## 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 national capital, the Centre has asked the 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 Bajjal, 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.



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

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## 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

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## YOGA DAY, LADAKH

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

## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

## A TIME FOR MATURITY

BY YOGENDRA YADAV  
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## INSIDE

BJP, OPPOSITION PARTIES SPAR OVER LADAKH SITUATION  
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## 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.

## EXPLAINED Why their hands are tied

RBI MAY have cut repo rate to 4% but credit to MSMEs is still going out at 8-14%. First-time 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

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## WORLD



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

## SLOW DOWN TESTING, SAYS TRUMP AS COVID CASES INCREASE

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## 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

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNAY



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

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

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## SPORT



## DOMESTIC CRICKET STALWART RAJINDER GOEL IS DEAD

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## CITY

## RETD MEA OFFICIAL ATTACKED, WIFE KILLED IN ROBBERY BID

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New Delhi







Pricing and superior technology 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 products." (WITH SHAHID JUDGE & NITIN SHARMA)





# 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*

**B**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, Tiruchirappalli, 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-



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 phase.

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



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 benefited 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.

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# 5 THE OUTBREAK THE CITY

## BRIEFLY

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

*New Delhi:* The Delhi government 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 Ganga Ram City Hospital; Cygnus 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 isolation-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**

## COVID FIGHT

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

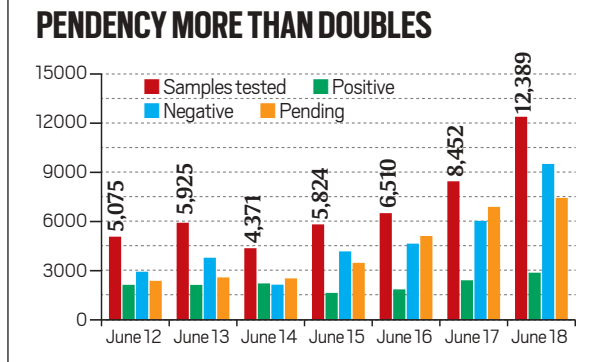
**SOURAV ROY BARMAN**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

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-



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 in-

stalled at the Centre-run National 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**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

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**

	Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Tests
June 19	3,137	1,828	66	13,074
June 20	3,630	7,725	77	17,533
June 21	3,000	1,719	63	18,105
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,558*</b>	<b>33,013</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>3,70,014</b>

\*Total active cases



**The city has been seeing 3,000-plus cases for the past three days.** *Praveen Khanna*

quarantine if they meet the criteria. After stiff opposition from the Delhi government, this order was modified and one visit to the care centre made mandatory.

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

## 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 conducted, the result of which came positive on June 20.”

The inmate, Kanwar Singh, was convicted and sentenced for life in a 2016 murder case in 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 with 28 others.” He said all 28 inmates will now be tested: “We are monitoring their health.” Singh was asymptomatic, and

the source of the infection has not been confirmed yet, said officials. After the report came positive, Singh was cremated as per Covid norms and precautions.

In March, two videos were released from Rohini and 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.

## BJP asks its MPs to visit 169 testing 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.



## ECLIPSED

**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 jam... 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 Dondyap 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) joining 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 pipped 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 lock-

down. 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 village 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

since there's no other work to be found, I'm just sitting at this shop. Yesterday, I made sales worth Rs 500 — of which the profit is just 10% — which is nothing,” he said.

Many others have not been able to adapt in this manner. “My husband used to sell footwear made here to shops in markets like Greater Kailash and Shahpur Jat. 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 OUTBREAK



DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**



## SENDING A MESSAGE

WHILE YOGA Day was used by several personalities from across the political spectrum to promote India and its culture, IJP 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-from-home 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  
BHOPAL, JUNE 21

TWO DAYS after a BJP legislator allegedly voted for Congress candidate Digvijaya 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 Friday.

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, MLAs have to show the ballot to authorised leaders present in the voting area. When *The Indian Express* contacted him on Sunday, Jatav refused to comment.

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

Bhopal. BJP leaders tried to downplay the matter, claiming it was a human error.

A candidate required 52 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 BJP, 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 Rajya Sabha elections, however, the party had issued one.

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

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 be allowed in hospital room

PRESS TRUST 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 average 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% decline 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 35,108.

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

NHA told *The Indian Express*. 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 lock-

down. A week before 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 heart of India's Covid crisis), which saw a massive 84% fall in dialysis under PM-JAY. Similar facilities in Andhra Pradesh saw a fall of nearly 40%.

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

Cancer care procedures under 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 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 — approximately 84% and 95% respectively.

## 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 pregnant," 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 home 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 infected.

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 building.

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 Shukla.

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

## 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



At an akhara, in Noida. Gajendra Yadav



President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday. PTI



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence in Raipur. Twitter



Sachin Tendulkar and his family in Mumbai. Twitter



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and his wife Usha at their residence in Delhi. PTI



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 the virus.

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 15-minute speech, talked about the different techniques and forms of yoga 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 yoga asanas to boost immunity. Those postures increase the strength of our body and strengthen our metabolism," he said.



PM Modi in Delhi

ANI

The Prime Minister also referred to a "large number of Covid-19 patients all over the world" re-

sorting to yoga techniques.

"The Covid-19 virus specifically 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 said.

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.

# 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 lawyer 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 Jail 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 yet 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 jail.

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

in connection with the Elgar 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.



# 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

## CHASING THE ECLIPSE



ASHISH KALE



PTI



VISHAL SRIVASTAV



GURMEET SINGH



PRAVEEN KHANNA

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 and Bogra.

The GOC of Pakistan's 16 Infantry Division, Maj Gen Nazir Hussein Shah, had surrendered to Maj Gen Lehl at the end of the war.

## 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.

Nave 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 'naye 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 we were in the plains," he said.

Tashi said the two sides faced off for several days. "They kept 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 humara 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 Chinese," he said.

## 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 rift on economic power as the basis of military power".

On the US sanctions against countries trading with Iran, Bolton claimed, "One important loophole 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 US 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 to preclude a Taliban haven in Afghanistan that might accelerate Pakistan's falling to terrorists".

## J&K Police: Pak national among 4 militants killed in 2 encounters

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 gun-battle on Sunday morning, in which three militants affiliated to the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and Islamic State Jammu and Kashmir (ISJK) were killed.

Internet services were suspended in Srinagar district before the encounter.

"The hiding terrorists were repeatedly appealed to surrender through family members and community members of the area but they instead started firing indiscriminately upon the search

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 identified 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 106 militants have been killed so far this year and there are 150-200 active militants in the Valley, most of them in south Kashmir.

## 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 Surrender 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 Surrender 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?"

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 Surrender 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' health-care 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," he said.

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Ashwani Kumar on Sunday said while the opposition cannot be faulted for asking the government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "pertinent questions", it is time for the nation to present a "united face" against China.

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



Congress leader Ashwani Kumar

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 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 farmers?**

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

not good for the soil, environment, 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

from 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 surface.

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



water, and plants grow better as their roots don't get drowned. Flood irrigation must be banned.

**You believe soil is a living organism.**

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

**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

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 landslides.

**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.

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*The Indian* **EXPRESS**

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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

PRIME 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 "Surrender 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.

## RETURNING TO THE CITY

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

THE 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



YOGENDRA YADAV

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 showcasting 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

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

We need to remember that this mess is not just of the PM's 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 today.

lack of understanding of how international politics 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. 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 today.

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 simple-minded 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 flat-footed 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*



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*.

In 1660, King Charles II gave a royal charter

## WHY THE STATUE WAS TOPPLED

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

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*.

ter to the Company of Royal Adventurers 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.

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, 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 eastern 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 IDEAS PAGE

## Crisis and Mobilisation

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



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH  
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”.

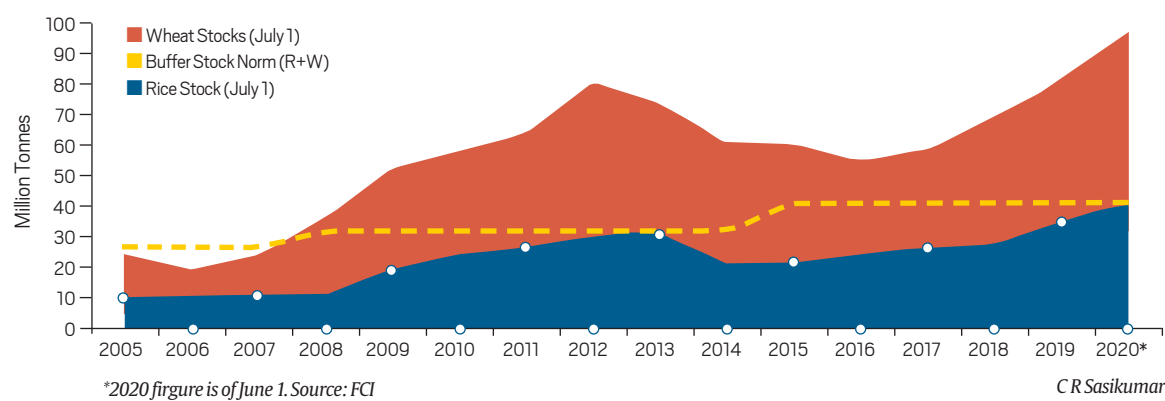
However, there is one area which the Modi government can tap to raise more than Rs 1,00,000 crore, provided it takes bold steps. It is the “mountains of grain” that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has accumulated. As on June 1, FCI had unprecedented grain stocks of 97 million metric tonnes (mmt) 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” of at least 50 mmt.

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)



\*2020 figure is of June 1. Source: FCI

C R Sasikumar

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

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.

foundation of a much more efficient agri-marketing 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 out.

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

## 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.”  
—DAWN

## 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 Tranquillity 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 regarding the LAC.

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-to-military 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 mil-

itary 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 go 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 this.

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 and former external affairs minister

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FIRM AND CAUTIOUS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The road 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.

Vijai Pant, Hampur

### 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 give-and-take. Of course, the present all-powerful 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.

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 humorous at one level. But it is also disturbing. “Chindian” as Indian as anything else. Jingoism now threatens diversity and adaptability — things that make India great.

Biswadeep Chatterjee, via email



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 well-known. 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 the past.

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 China.

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





**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

**TENDER NOTICE No. AGC-ELG-T-07-2020-21R1 Date: 18.06.2020**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through online only (E-Tendering) for the following works:

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of work with its location & Completion Period	Approx Cost of the work
1	AGC-ELG-T-07-2020-21R1	Preventive maintenance contract of 25 KVA Inverters (HIND-RECT make) fitted in AC coaches of Agra Division for Thirty Six Months (03 Years). Completion period: 36 months.	₹ 21,83,889.60

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). Tenders can only be submitted through web portal [www.irops.gov.in/up to 16.00 hrs on 10.07.2020](http://www.irops.gov.in/up to 16.00 hrs on 10.07.2020).

675120 (\$)

North central railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**U.P.R.V.U.N.L. TENDER NOTICE HARDUAGANJ THERMAL POWER STATION Superintending Engineer, ECCC, Kasimpur.**

1. E-Tender No. 06/ECCC/ECCD-II/HTPS/2019-20, Name of work "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 Last 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-tender No. 10/ECCC/ECCD-III/1X660MW/HTPS/2019-20, Name of work "Construction of RCC Road, drain, CISF Boundary Wall, in new colony, Harduaganj Thermal Power Station Colony Kasimpur (Aligarh)", Estimated Cost Rs. 4,29,88,502.25, Earnest Money Rs. 8,68,000.00, Tender Cost Rs. 15,000.00 + 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-I) 01.07.2020 at 04:00 Hrs of later. Time of completion 09 month. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ELECTRICITY CIVIL MAINTENANCE CIRCLE, Kasimpur** 3. E-Tender No. 77 /ECMC/ECMD-II/HTPS/2019-20, Name of work "SUPPLY & SERVING OF TEA SETS IN CONFERENCE ROOM in 2X250 MW HTPS, KASIMPUR". Estimated cost 4.58 Lac. Earnest money 9,000.00, E-Tender 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 later. Time of Completion- 12 Month. **Superintending Engineer, Coal Handling Circle Kasimpur Aligarh**: 4. Tender No. ET-03/CHC/CHD /CTPS/HTPS/2019-20, "DAY TO DAY AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF BULL-DOZERS", Estimated cost 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 available on e-procurement website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> w.e.f. dated:- 20.05.2020 at 10:00 Hrs. (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, DTPS, KASIMPUR** 5. E-Tender Notice No. ET- 12/O&MC-IV/DTSPS/EMD-II/DT.P.S./2020-21, "Over hauling 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 below:-Due date of Submission of e-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> : 25.07.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs., Due date of depositing Tender Cost & Earnest Money in the HTPS account through RTGS/B.G. up-to maximum on dated: 25.07.2020 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: 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-procurement 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, 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-I, DTPS, HTS, KASIMPUR** 6. E-Tender Notice No.: ET-02/CAMD/DTSPS/HTPS/2020-21. Name of work: Round the clock Up keeping and routine cleaning of TG Hall, Service Building and chimney Elevators and rescue work of passengers in any of the elevators of 2X250 MW, HTSP, Kasimpur (Aligarh) as and when required. 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 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. 7. E-Tender Notice No.: ET-06/CAMD/DTSPS/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, HTSPS. Estimated Cost: Rs. 5,52,054.00/-, Earnest Money: Rs.11,050.00/-only. Tender Cost: Rs.708.00/- (With GST) Period of Work: 01 Year. Due date of Submission of e-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <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 intimated 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/DTPS/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, 'DTPS, 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 on 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/Hdi, 'CTPS/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) on e-procurement website: <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, 'CT.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 Earnest Money: Rs. 7,200.00 Cost of tender document: Rs.400.00 + Rs.72.00 (GST) = Rs. 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 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: 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. 11. E-Tender Notice No. ET-04/O&MC-II/TMD/DTSPS/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: Rs. 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 Ist & 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 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 Opening Date: Part-I: 09.07.2020 at 16:00 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 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. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICITY CIVIL MAINTENANCE CIRCLE, 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 later. TIME OF COMPLETEION 12 MONTH **Superintending Engineer, MMC, HTSPS, Kasimpur (Aligarh)** 18. Tender No. & Name of Division: ET-35/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020, Name of Supply: Procurement of general consumables & electrical spares for HTSPS, Kasimpur Estimated cost: Rs 3,55,787.00, Earnest money: Rs. 7000.00, Tender cost: Rs 354.00, Date of Starting of E-bid submission: 13.04.2020, 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\_457409\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only 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 Harduaganj -Etah 220KV feeder, HTSPS, 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) E-Tender ID :2020\_RVUNL\_470135\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only manufacturers/their authorized dealers can participate in this tender. 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 HTSPS Kasimpur Estimated cost: Rs 19,48,950.00, Earnest money : Rs 40,000.00, Tender cost: Rs 2242.00, 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) E-Tender ID : 2020\_RVUNL\_470136\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only manufacturers/ their authorized dealers can participate in this tender. 21. Tender No. & Name of Division: ET-43/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020, Name of Supply: Installation and commissioning of IIRIG-B Hub in GPS synchronization at 220/132KV substation of HTSPS Estimated 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 on Extended date: 09.07.2020 (Part-I), 0.07.2020 (Part-II) E-Tender ID : 2020\_RVUNL\_470137\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only manufacturers/their authorized dealers/ Experienced Suppliers can participate in this tender. 22. Tender No. & Name of Division: ET-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, HTSPS & 220 KV isolator jaw spares for 220KV Switchyard of HTSPS Estimated cost: Rs 1,08,000.00, Earnest money: Rs 2,000.00, 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) 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 Armoured XLPE Aluminium 3C X 240 sq mm cable for EMD-III, HTSPS, Kasimpur Estimated cost: Rs 16,32,000.00, Earnest money: Rs 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 on Extended date: 09.07.2020 (Part-I), 10.07.2020 (Part-II) E-Tender ID : 2020\_RVUNL\_476991\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only manufacturers/ their authorized dealers/ Experienced Suppliers can participate in this tender. 25. E-Tender No. : ET-12/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020, Name of Supply: Supply of Limit switch for Overhauling of Unit No. 8 & 9 of DTPS, Kasimpur. Estimated cost: Rs. 912392.00, Earnest money: Rs. 18000.00, Tender cost: Rs. 500.00 + 90.00 (GST), e-Bid online submission extended End Date: 02.07.2020 Tender shall be opened on extended date: 04.07.2020 (Part-I) & 08.07.2020 (Part-II) Eligibility Conditions: Only reputed Manufacturers/ their Authorized Dealer can participate in this tender. **Note** :- For further 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 following works/works items in two parts. Part-I shall contain Tender Cost/Earnest 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 seen on Nigam website [www.uprvunl.org](http://www.uprvunl.org) The contractors 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 authority 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.O.) Harduaganj TPS, Kasimpur, Aligarh** चार्ज 30/अर्थ.अभि.(सु.)/विज्ञापन क्र.1-23/20 दिनांक 20.06.2020

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 later. TIME OF COMPLETEION 12 MONTH **Superintending Engineer, MMC, HTSPS, Kasimpur (Aligarh)** 18. Tender No. & Name of Division: ET-35/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020, Name of Supply: Procurement of general consumables & electrical spares for HTSPS, Kasimpur Estimated cost: Rs 3,55,787.00, Earnest money: Rs. 7000.00, Tender cost: Rs 354.00, Date of Starting of E-bid submission: 13.04.2020, 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\_457409\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only 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 Harduaganj -Etah 220KV feeder, HTSPS, 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) E-Tender ID :2020\_RVUNL\_470135\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only manufacturers/their authorized dealers can participate in this tender. 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 HTSPS Kasimpur Estimated cost: Rs 19,48,950.00, Earnest money : Rs 40,000.00, Tender cost: Rs 2242.00, 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) E-Tender ID : 2020\_RVUNL\_470136\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only manufacturers/ their authorized dealers can participate in this tender. 21. Tender No. & Name of Division: ET-43/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020, Name of Supply: Installation and commissioning of IIRIG-B Hub in GPS synchronization at 220/132KV substation of HTSPS Estimated 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 on Extended date: 09.07.2020 (Part-I), 0.07.2020 (Part-II) E-Tender ID : 2020\_RVUNL\_470137\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only manufacturers/their authorized dealers/ Experienced Suppliers can participate in this tender. 22. Tender No. & Name of Division: ET-44/MMC/EPD/CTPS/HTPS/2020, Name of Supply: Procurement of 11KV Armoured XLPE Aluminium 3C X 240 sq mm cable for EMD-III, HTSPS, Kasimpur Estimated cost: Rs 16,32,000.00, Earnest money: Rs 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 on Extended date: 09.07.2020 (Part-I), 10.07.2020 (Part-II) E-Tender ID : 2020\_RVUNL\_476991\_1 Eligibility Conditions: Only reputed Manufacturers/ their Authorized Dealer can participate in this tender. **Note** :- For further 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 following works/works items in two parts. Part-I shall contain Tender Cost/Earnest 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 seen on Nigam website [www.uprvunl.org](http://www.uprvunl.org) The contractors 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 authority 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.O.) Harduaganj TPS, Kasimpur, Aligarh** चार्ज 30/अर्थ.अभि.(सु.)/विज्ञापन क्र.1-23/20 दिनांक 20.06.2020

**BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.**  
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)  
CIN No. U27310WB1920G01003601  
"KANKARIA CENTRE", (4TH & 5TH FLOOR), 2/1, RUSSEL STREET, KOL-77

**Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)**

ITEM RATE Offers in two part system are invited from reputed, resourceful and experienced parties meeting prescribed qualifying criteria for following work:

Sl. No.	Description of work as NIT No. B&R / ERE / 10416 / KoPT / STATUS / NIT / 01 Dtd. 19.06.2020	Tender Document available on B&R's Website	Due date of submission of Bid
1.	Engagement of associate through pre-bid and post-bid tie-up through MOU for submission of price offer for Site Exploration, Soil Testing, Design and Construction of Foundation & Turn Table Mechanism of Commemorative Statue at Millennium Park 3, Kolkata.	22.06.2020	29.06.2020

Interested 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 इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
**MAHARASHTRA RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(महाराष्ट्र सरकारचा आणि रेल्वे मंत्रालयाचे संयुक्त उपक्रम)  
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways)

२ रा मजला, हेक्टर हाऊस, नरीमन पॉइंट, मुंबई - ४०० ०२१  
(2nd Floor, Hoechst House, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021)

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
EMPANELMENT OF CIVIL CONTRACTORS**

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](http://www.maharail.com) for details and information. You may submit your applications through e-mail at [tender@maharail.com](mailto:tender@maharail.com) or [dgmtender@maharail.com](mailto: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  
MRIDC**

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

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

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), N.C. Ry Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through 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 Truck Based Rail Lubricators (Hydraulic type) 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/DUT, 60 kg in situ by RW-20 Transmatic Robotic Welder or other similar welding technology 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 bungalow, officers colony and divisional Railway hospital and station area of Agra cantt for 24 months.	2702486.74
4	2020-June-01-04	Through weld Renewal from km 1251.6 to 1267.30 in DN Road and 1252 to 1253 & 1253 to 1259 in UP Road (17.79 km) in JAB-TDL section with 52 kg rails at site using roadcum rail mobile/Stationery flash butt welding plant.	14873140.15

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website "[www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)". Tenders can only be submitted through web portal "[www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)" up to 15:00 hrs on 10.07.2020.

671120 (\$)

North central railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @CPRONCR

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

E-Tender No. PRYJ-Sig-403-2020-21

**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 08.07.2020. The details of the Tender is as under:-

S N	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost of work (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)
1	PRYJ-Sig-403-2020-21	Sectional Signaling Annual Maintenance Contract in TDL-ALJN and Branch Line JSC-ETH Section of PRYJ Division	6856425.86	137105/-

Cost of Tender Form (₹) : 5000/-, Completion Period : 12 months, Date of Closing of tender : 08.07.2020

2. Availability of tender form: Tender forms shall be available on [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender. 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 Earnest 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, PRAYAGRAJ on or after pre determined date at 12.30 hrs. In case tender 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.

688120 (\$)

North central railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @CPRONCR

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

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

Chief Engineer (C1), DCSEM, DAE, 3rd Floor, V





@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto: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 P VAIDYANATHAN 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



Rathin Roy (left) in conversation on Zoom with P Vaidyanathan Iyer and Anil Sasi (above right)

## 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.

### 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.

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

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 saying 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 excuses—that 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 so — the 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 demand-driven 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 lies 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)

VIDEOS

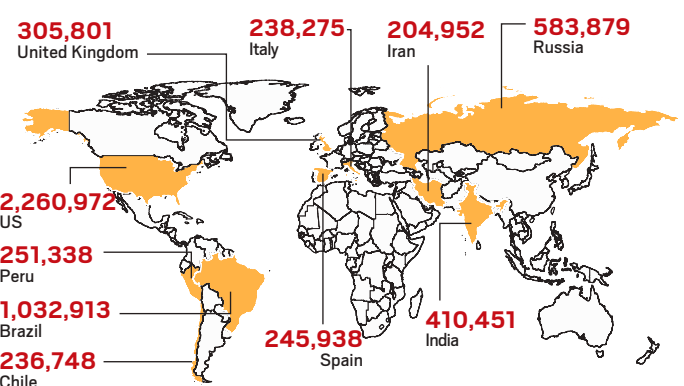
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<https://youtu.be/CSZKWWJWURW>

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## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

### THE WORLD



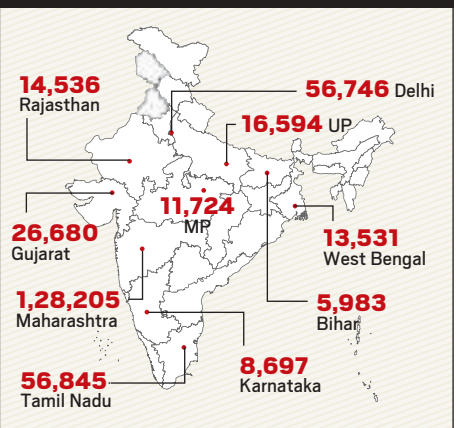
TOTAL CONFIRMED: 8,835,095

DEATH COUNT: 465,284

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on June 21. **JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match as these are accounted at different times.**

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

#### TOP 10 STATES



REST OF INDIA	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	47
Andhra Pradesh	8452
Arunachal Pradesh	135
Assam	4904
Bihar	7533
Chandigarh	404
Chhattisgarh	2041
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	68
Goa	754
Himachal Pradesh	656
Jammu and Kashmir	5834
Jharkhand	1965
Kerala	3039
Ladakh	836
Manipur	777
Meghalaya	44
Mizoram	140
Nagaland	201
Odisha	4856
Puducherry	286
Punjab	3952
Sikkim	70
Telangana	7072
Tripura	1166
Uttarakhand	2301

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](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## 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", "time-tested" and cemented by "common heritage, culture, civilisation, history and geography".

### Favouring India

Previous standoffs have been effectively resolved through direct negotiations, back-channel 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 increas-

ing 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 multi-party 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

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 *shankaracharyas* when Nepal was a Hindu nation — have succeeded in bringing the crises to an end.

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.



## TOP OF THE WORLD



**Cholamreza 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, Cholamreza 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.

## USA

## 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 the Laney College mathematics department, repeatedly asked the student, Phuc Bui Diem Nguyen, 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 legislative 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 19,000-seat 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 well-being 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," attendee 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  
JUNE 21

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 that 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**

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 being able to operate as lockdown measures are lifted.

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

## 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.

Prime Minister Boris 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



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**

## Nine shot at in NY 'celebration'

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 release 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.

## One dead, 11 injured in Minneapolis shooting

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 connection 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

bars and restaurants. Minnesota 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.

## Yemen separatists seize remote island from govt

MOHAMMED MUKHASHAF  
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 New York-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 sedatives 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,

car accidents, shootings, sepsis or 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 post-traumatic stress disorder, said Dr. Lindsay Lief, a pulmonologist at Weill Cornell who works with post-ICU patients.

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

care unit was generally there for an unusually long time — one study suggested at least two weeks. That means more muscle loss and increased risk of other problems as well.

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 trouble with words. **NYT**



# 13 ECONOMY

**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

**SANDEEP SINGH**  
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 nseinfo.fbase.com, a joint initiative of NSE and PRIME Database, while FPIs reduced their holding in NSE-listed 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 %

Source: nseinfo.fbase.com; Ownerships in value terms

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 January 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.

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

### EXPLAINED 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.

November. The incremental effect 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 as 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 markets.

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

## 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

**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

electricity. One REC is created when one megawatt hour of electricity is generated from an eligible renewable energy source

**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 RECs. REC trading is conducted on the last Wednesday of every month

### HIGHER SUPPLY:

Both non-solar and solar RECs witnessed higher supply at the two power exchanges in May, with sell bid exceeding buy bids:

#### BIDS AT IEX:

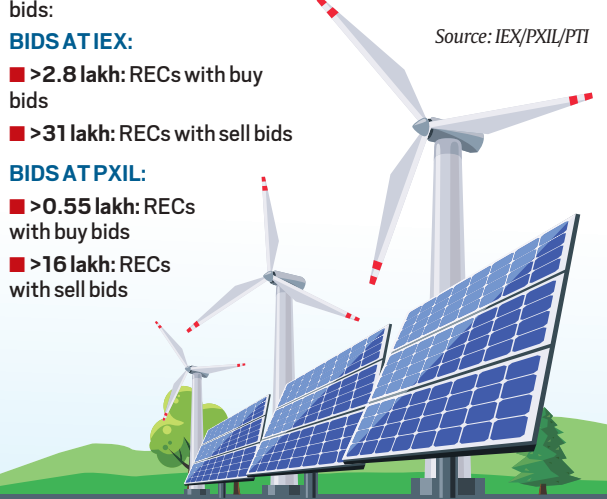
- >2.8 lakh: RECs with buy bids
- >31 lakh: RECs with sell bids

#### BIDS AT PXIL:

- >0.55 lakh: RECs with buy bids
- >16 lakh: RECs with sell bids

### OVERALL BIDS:

- >3.33 lakh: RECs with buy bids
- >47 lakh: RECs with sell bids



Source: IEX/PXIL/PTI

## Emergency credit: PSU banks sanction ₹40,416 cr to MSME sector, highest in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 21

TWELVE PUBLIC sector undertaking (PSU) banks have sanctioned 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**

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

already been sanctioned 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.

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 disbursements 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 US Treasury Department showed.

#### RCaps says its 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 GST paid for hiring vehicles for employee transportation

**PRESS TRUST 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 Prasara 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

### '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 employees, in odd hours.

## Boycotting China items not feasible: L&T MD-CEO

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 Subrahmanyam. 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 tar-

iff and then there is a sudden change in law, one will have to depend on the government for compensation on some of these issues. Secondly, we will have to find alternative sources of supplies and those can be costlier which will lead to some costs.

**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 de-

pend 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 spirit 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

## Diesel price hits record high after 15th straight day of hike in rate

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
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.



President Donald Trump also asserted the US has "record-setting 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 re-hiring of workers has picked up. Trump had described the numbers as an affirmation of the good work his administration 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 record-setting 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

House, told CNN that the country'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," Hassett 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



## 14 SPORT

[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

SANDIP G

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-in-at-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 non-descript, 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 than it had given him," according to Chaudhry.

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 green-tops. "He meant business by challenging each batsman from the first ball. It was unfortunate that he did not play Test cricket," says Vengsarkar.

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.

## 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.

## '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 Ranji 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.

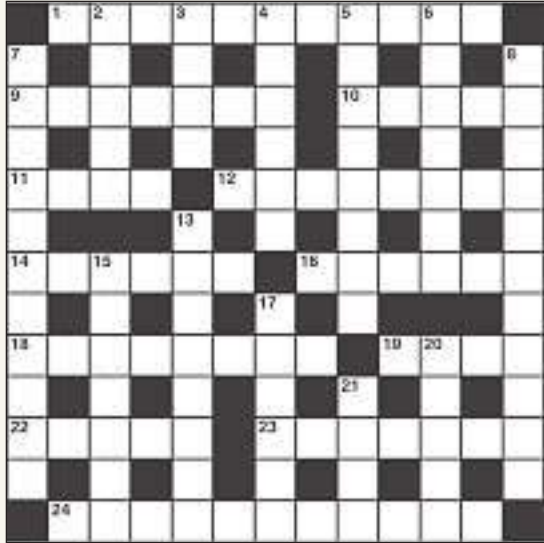
Despite being a flatter trajectory spinner, he was never a bad wicket spinner. He was an all-weather bowler, because he read the batsmen well and was adept at changing his tactics according to conditions.

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 I don'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



## ACROSS

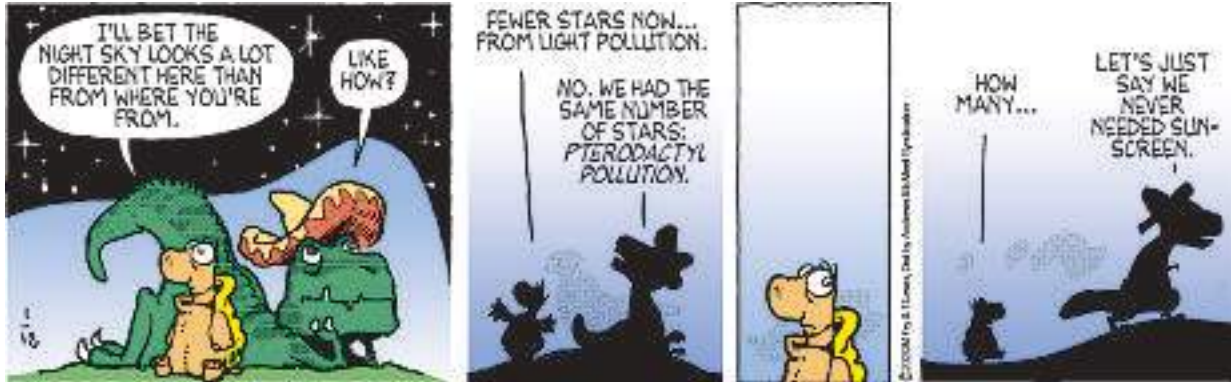
- Where to find the cavalryman had enlisted freely (2,3,6)
- Nice surroundings (7)
- A sect represented as being in a class by themselves (5)
- It's so bad half-a-dozen start to leave (4)
- Beat this for a political slogan (8)
- He may follow an ace with clubs, of course (6)
- Drink concession given back by the firm (6)
- Criminal takes two foolish people in (8)
- A blow on the head (4)
- A very small measure of corn (5)
- Last drop of drama (7)
- 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 office are recorded (8)
- Instructions used in the services? (7)
- What an accusation of body-snatching would be? (5,6)
- Man of intelligence moves centre stage (6,5)
- Acts disagreeably (8)
- Aspired, in a way, to helplessness (7)
- United States is after a record in Olympic event (6)
- A minor prize (5)
- Vivacity I found in a revolutionary sphere (4)

**Solutions Crossword 4149:** Across: 1 Porter, 4 Aphorism, 9 Saguely, 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 Xavies. Down: 1 Post-paid, 2 Regroups, 3 Ella, 5 Presentiment, 6 Oils, 7 Inures, 8 Mahout, 11 Law of the land, 15 Dorned, 16 Horse, 18 Money box, 19 Eyesores, 21 Effish, 22 Tropic, 26 Brae, 27 Rage.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry &amp; T Lewis



## CALVIN &amp; HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

A sympathetic \_\_\_\_ can be quite as dear as a \_\_\_\_ - Homer (6,...,7)

FREER



CIIDNT



VIZIOR



AELBFH



SOLUTION: REFERR, VIZIOR, INDICT, BEHAUF  
Answer: A sympathetic friend can be quite as dear as a brother - Homer

SUDOKU 4147

## 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 = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4146



## 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 Arians 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 have practical tasks to complete, you must be sure to step up your level of concentration.

## 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 extra costs.

## LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You're about to face some hard decisions, not all of which will be of your own making. Today you can spend as much time as you wish day-dreaming, 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 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 accept responsibility over others. This is something you often tend to avoid, in spite of the fact that, as current 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 you 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 in future.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The strongest emerging theme in your solar chart is a desire for prestige and status, and this will obviously help those of 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 world works.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Stay busy and realise that a day spent coping with routine chores need not be dull. Also, check up on your physical situation and take steps to get in shape, cleaning up your diet and exercise. After all, your body is a shrine, as the mystics always tell us.

## 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.