



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

A voice you can trust amid the clanging of alarm bells.

Vajiram & Ravi and *The Indian Express* are proud to deliver the electronic version of this morning's edition of *The Indian Express* to your Inbox. You may follow *The Indian Express's* news and analysis through the day on **indianexpress.com**



A CORONA TEST

At an exam centre in Bengaluru for Class 10 exams on Thursday. Over 7.5 lakh students appeared for the Karnataka board exams, originally scheduled in March, with the state ordering one student per bench and 18-20 students per classroom to ensure social distancing. The exams will go on till July 4. PTI

In talks with RBI to recast loans for companies: Sitharaman

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

IN WHAT may bring borrowers a huge relief, the government is in active discussion with the Reserve Bank of India to offer a one-time loan restructuring plan to companies for them to survive the adverse impact of Covid-19 pandemic, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Thursday. She also stressed on the need for banks to pass on the benefits of repo rate cuts by reducing interest rate aggressively, and indicated that the benefit of emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS) would be extended to individual borrowers such as truck owners.

"In these pandemic times, it has actually caused a lot of pain and stress. We are talking to Reserve Bank to see if a one-time restructuring can be offered so that everyone comes out a bit more honourably (out) of this (crisis)," she said in a video conference interaction with senior

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

Big relief in Covid times

A LOAN restructuring scheme, especially at a time when companies are under huge stress will help companies strengthen their books and be eligible to borrow again. There is a risk that large scale defaults may force permanent closure of many units.

Remaining Board exams for July cancelled, Class 12 to have option of re-test

RITIKA CHOPRA & ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

WITH THE Covid graph rising steadily, the remaining Board exams for students of Classes 10 and 12 in schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council for Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) will not be held as scheduled in July.

Instead, the students will be assessed on a special marking scheme. If they are not satisfied with the results based on this system, they can appear for the exam whenever it is scheduled later.

However, Class 10 students of

CBSE will not have the second option — for them, the remaining exams have been scrapped. The Board and the Council informed the Supreme Court of this decision Thursday during the hearing on a plea seeking cancellation of the remaining exams. The examinations, which were stalled in March due to the pandemic, had later been rescheduled to be held between July 1 and July 15.

The pending exams for Class 12 in CBSE-affiliated schools included 12 core subjects — Business Studies, Geography, Hindi (Core), Hindi (Elective), Home Science, Sociology, Computer Science (Old).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Next semester to be fully online at IIT-Bombay, others likely to follow

ABHAGORADIA & RITIKA CHOPRA
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE INDIAN Institute of Technology (IIT) in Mumbai has become the first major educational institution in the country to scrap all face-to-face lectures for the next semester due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This means it will hold only online classes till the end of the year.

In an announcement made late Wednesday night, IIT-Bombay Director Subhasis Chaudhuri said the institute would teach the next semester "purely in the online mode so that there is no compromise on

the safety and well-being of the students".

"The Covid pandemic has made us at IIT-Bombay rethink the way we impart education to our students. To ensure that our students begin the academic year without further delay, we are planning on extensive online classes, details of which will be informed to all students in due course of time," he said in a Facebook post shared close to midnight.

This is the first time in the institute's 62-year-old history that a new academic year will begin with no students on campus. The other IITs are likely to follow with similar announcements on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

LARGE DEPLOYMENTS REMAIN: MEA

Delhi draws red line: If situation continues, will vitiate Beijing ties

Chinese Ambassador urges India to avoid any action that may complicate situation along Line of Actual Control

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

A DAY after Indian and Chinese diplomats agreed to "sincerely implement the understanding on disengagement and de-escalation" along the Line of Actual Control, New Delhi drew the red line Thursday, saying "continuation of the current situation would only vitiate the atmosphere for the development of the relationship" between the two countries.

Amid reports of satellite images showing Chinese structures back at the site of the June 15 clash in Galwan Valley and massing of PLA troops in the Depsang plains, Anurag Srivastava, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said "both sides remain deployed in large numbers in the region" of the Galwan Valley "while military and diplomatic contacts are continuing".



US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien, at a press meet called on China in Phoenix, Arizona, where he said America "will act to check the spread of Beijing's ideology". AP

In a strongly worded statement, Srivastava said "at the heart of the matter is that since early May, the Chinese side has been amassing a large contingent of troops and armaments along the LAC".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

First faceoff in Galwan was in early May, weeks before clash

KRISHN KAUSHIK & SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

INDIAN AND Chinese troops had their first faceoff in the Galwan Valley in the first week of May, around the time they came to blows on the banks of the Pangong Tso, and more than a month before the June 15 showdown in Galwan Valley in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed.

This came to light Thursday when the Ministry of External Affairs mentioned it for the first time and the Chinese Ambassador to India, Sun Weidong, detailed the incident in an interview to PTI, a transcript of which was posted by the Chinese embassy.

Top sources in the Army confirmed that scuffles similar to Pangong Tso, though not as intense or violent, had taken place in Galwan Valley near Patrolling Point 14 (PP-14) in the first week

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Trade bodies say need time to stop reliance on imports from China

PRABHA RAGHAVAN & AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

AS SEVERAL ministries move to block imports and investments from China following the recent border clashes along the border where 20 army men were killed, the industry is concerned about the adverse impact on several sectors.

From pharmaceuticals to telecommunications and automobiles, industry associations

are of the view that "knee-jerk" offensive against the neighbouring country till alternative vendors are finalised or domestic capacities are built will hurt companies and the economy.

Federation of Indian Export Organisation's (FIEO's) President, Sharad Kumar Saraf, and Director General, Ajay Sahai, hinted on Thursday that a "blanket ban" may not be feasible. The India Cellular and Electronics Association and the Automotive Component Manufacturers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Visit to Covid centre not must, back to old system in another Delhi protocol revision

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

DAYS AFTER Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal made it mandatory for all positive patients in Delhi to visit a Covid Care Centre for clinical assessment to determine if they can opt for home isolation or not, the order was "modified" on Thursday. The earlier system,



A family at LNJP Hospital, Thursday. Tashi Tobgyal

which allows assessment at home by a "home isolation team", has been reinstated.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority chaired by Bajjal. With 73,780 cases so far, Delhi is the worst-hit city in the country.

"The patient shall be allowed home isolation if, as per the assessment of home isolation team sent by the district surveil-

lance officer, the patient is mild/pre-symptomatic/ asymptomatic and has a residence of two rooms or a separate room and a separate toilet for the patient," said a statement released by the L-G Secretariat.

The AAP government had opposed the new protocol, which came into effect on June 22, saying it was "nearly impossible" to implement it. Both Chief

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

High positivity, fatality rates: Centre sends teams to Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

WITH MORE than 16,000 fresh coronavirus cases reported on Thursday in a new single-day high, the Centre announced it will be sending a team of experts to Telangana, Maharashtra and Gujarat — three states with high

positivity rates that are considered critical in the efforts against the pandemic.

Sources said experts may also be sent to Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, which are also seen as requiring advice and assistance on clinical management. The Centre is already closely monitoring the Covid-19 situation in Delhi, the city with the

most number of cases.

The government is said to be especially concerned about Telangana, where testing has remained low and positivity rate high. Sources said the Central team, including specialists and epidemiologists led by Joint Secretary (Health) Lav Agarwal, will be stationed for two days there, against one each in

Maharashtra and Gujarat.

A senior Health Ministry official said, "Further handholding and assistance are required in the three states. Senior epidemiologists from the Directorate General of Health Services and team doctors will visit them. On Friday, the team will visit Gujarat, followed by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD



AT 36,880 CASES, U.S. RECORDS HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY COUNT

WEEK-LONG VOTE IN RUSSIA ON EXTENDING PUTIN'S TENURE
PAGE 15

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SURBHI GUPTA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

ALMOST FIVE decades after it patented the name Fair & Lovely, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL), the Indian arm of the global conglomerate, announced Thursday that it will move towards a "more inclusive vision of beauty" — by dropping the word "Fair" and changing the brand name.

It will also remove the words "fair/fairness", "white/whitening", and "light/lightening" from its products' packs and communication.

"We are fully committed to

having a global portfolio of skin care brands that is inclusive and cares for all skin tones, celebrating greater diversity of beauty. We recognise that the use of the words 'fair', 'white' and 'light' suggest a singular ideal of beauty that we don't think is right, and we want to address this," said Sunny Jain, President, Beauty & Personal Care, Unilever, in a statement.

Jain said that after changing the advertising, communication and packaging in South Asia, they are taking the next step of changing the brand name. According to a PTI report, the company approached the Controller General of Patent



On a shop shelf in Ahmedabad on Thursday. Reuters

Design and Trademark on June 17 to get the name 'Glow & Lovely' registered.

The conglomerate derives \$500 million from the brand in India alone, and is popular in countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia and Thailand, apart from catering to the Asian diaspora in the West.

The move comes in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, and protests in the US after the death of George Floyd, which has compelled companies, globally, to reassess their businesses and marketing strategies for signs of racism, colourism and discrimination.

There have been a number of online petitions recently, demanding that HUL take accountability for the brand name which, one of them said, is a "product of colourism". In Asia, a number of cosmetics companies, including L'Oréal, Shiseido and Procter & Gamble, have devoted a huge part of their businesses to fairness creams. And, prominent Bollywood actors, including Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif, Deepika Padukone, Sonam Kapoor, Yami Gautam and Shah Rukh Khan have at some point in their careers endorsed fairness creams.

Over the last few decades,

Fair & Lovely gained much popularity in India but in recent years it has received flak for equating a fair skin tone with self-worth, beauty, confidence and better marital prospects.

"It's a milestone in our journey ending colourism in India. But what is sad is that it has taken us 10 years. We did write to many companies but we were always ignored," said Kavitha Emmanuel, who started Dark is Beautiful, an advocacy campaign against colourism, in 2009.

"Advertisements and products that we put on the shelf play a huge role in endorsing the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



INSIDE



83 DEAD IN LIGHTNING STRIKES IN BIHAR

NO REGULAR TRAIN SERVICES TILL AUGUST 12
PAGES 8, 6

4 THE OUTBREAK THE CITY

TABLETS INSTALLED IN EVERY WARD

At Lok Nayak, video conferencing to bring patient and family closer

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

PATIENTS ADMITTED at Lok Nayak will be able to speak to their family members through video conferencing facilities that started at the government hospital on Thursday.

Family members of several patients have been complaining that once the patient is admitted, it is hard to get in touch with them. The problem is seen especially with elderly patients who do not have smart phones.

While many private hospitals are extending video calling facilities to patients, in government hospitals, doctors and nurses have been the only link for many.

Lok Nayak hospital, where 759 patients are admitted, was the first dedicated Covid facility in the city. It is the biggest Covid hospital and has 2,000 beds.

"Till now, the problem was that if a Covid patient was admitted to the hospital, relatives were unable to meet or talk to them... Now, tablets have been installed in every ward of the hospital. Family members can visit the hospital and talk to the patient through video conferencing," said



CM, Sisodia at Lok Nayak, Thursday

Kejriwal.

Tablets have been placed inside the wards and at a counter outside as well, for use by patients and their relatives. Family members have been gathering outside the hospital every day, asking doctors about the condition of those admitted. Most would be turned away as doctors and nursing staff are not immediately aware of the patient's condition or in which ward they are.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia suggested that the tablets

be used by doctors and administrative staff as well to stay in touch with patients and avoid entering the ward unnecessarily and exposing themselves to the virus. The CM also spoke to doctors as well as two patients admitted in the ICU – an elderly woman and an IIT Delhi employee.

In a meeting with the hospital medical director, Kejriwal was told that all beds in the hospital are equipped with oxygen.

MD Dr Suresh Kumar said that over 3,700 Covid patients

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL					
	TOTAL CASES	HOSPITAL BEDS	VENTILATORS		
	73,780	13,239	741		
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
June 24	3,788	2,124	64	19,059	
June 25	3,390	3,328	64	17,305	
Total	26,586*	44,765	2,429	438,012	
*Total active cases					

have been admitted to the hospital till date, out of which over 2,700 have recovered and returned home.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had also visited the hospital on June 15 and had interacted with the doctors. He was not accompanied by any Delhi government minister.

In his interaction with the doctors, Kejriwal thanked the doctors and said he knew it was difficult to work while wearing PPE. "It has been a difficult, tough, and arduous journey for all of you. I have heard a lot of times about you all, that it has been days since you have not visited your homes and not met your family members. I know that it is not easy to wear a PPE kit and sweat it out for

eight hours day after day," he said and asked them to not pay heed to "negative stories" in media.

Speaking to reporters as he left the hospital, Kejriwal said that the shortcomings should be blamed upon the government and not the doctors. "You have pointed out some shortcomings. Those are because of the administration and the government, not the doctors," he said.

The city saw 3,390 fresh Covid cases on Thursday, taking the total tally to 73,780. The number of deaths in the city reached 2,429 as 64 more patients died in the past 24 hours. Delhi's fatality rate is 3.2% while the recovery rate touched 60.6%. Over 15,000 people are presently in home isolation.

3,000 budget hotels to shut doors on Chinese nationals

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE DELHI Hotel and Restaurant Owners Association on Thursday announced that Chinese nationals would no longer be provided accommodation in over 3,000 hotels and guesthouses across the city. The decision was taken along the lines of the call to boycott Chinese products by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Tuesday, hotel association president Sandeep Khandelwal said.

"The Chinese are not the world, we can survive without them as well. We are law-abiding citizens and no one will take law in their hands, but this would make the Chinese worried... War and trade cannot happen at the same time," he said.

While a majority of hotels have agreed with the decision, he said no one will be forced to follow it. He added that the association would also try to get five-star hotels on board.

The association's move comes at a time when the hospitality industry is already reeling under heavy losses due to lack of tourism and closure of hotels in the wake of the coronavirus shutdown.

Sandeep Khandelwal admitted that several hotel owners are undergoing extreme stress as they are unable to pay pending bills, loans and rent, and the latest decision might not prove to be feasible in the long run: "All things depend upon government policy and the relation between countries."



No hotel will be forced to follow the guidelines, the group said

CAIT's national secretary general Praveen Khandelwal said the trade body would welcome anyone who wishes to join its campaign to boycott Chinese products. He also said CAIT will now appeal to farmers, small-scale industries, hawkers, entrepreneurs and other sectors to join their campaign.

While the decision is limited to Delhi as of now, the hotels' association would try to rope in their counterparts in other states as well, added Praveen Khandelwal.

Thursday's decision, however, has not gone down well with some hotel owners in the city, who said the Central government should make its policy clear on the matter.

Hotels in the city have not been allowed to reopen since the lockdown was imposed. Kulwant Singh, owner of a hotel in Karol Bagh, said the association's decision would have no impact unless tourism resumes. "The government should not

give visa and flight tickets to Chinese nationals if we don't want them to come here. They should make their policy clear. Already business is down and it doesn't look like it will pick up this year," he said.

Naresh Garg, owner of a hotel in Old Delhi's Darya Ganj, said the government had failed to support the hospitality industry and they are having to pay electricity bills running into lakhs of rupees even when the hotels are shut. "We can't say *atithi devo bhava* (guest is god) on one hand and then deny bookings," he said.

Amardeep Singh, a hotel owner in Paharganj, said 60% to 65% of bookings in his hotel are made by international tourists, including Chinese nationals.

Vinod Baweja, who also owns two hotels in Paharganj, said, "We have not been given permission to open hotels right now. When they do, we can decide about the matter. But the government should make its stance clear on this."

BRIEFLY

Alarm system installed in Covid coaches

New Delhi: The Northern Railways has installed an alarm system in its isolation coaches at Shakur Basti to alert doctors of any emergency situation involving a patient, officials said on Thursday. The Shakur Basti isolation coaches currently have five patients with mild COVID-19 symptoms, officials said. **PTI**

HC seeks action plan on Covid testing

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday directed the Delhi government to give an action plan on ramping up the Covid-19 testing, observing it was "imperative" as the capital, on June 24, recorded the highest daily increase in Covid cases in the country. The bench also directed the government to file an affidavit containing a tabulated statement of the number of tests carried out under each category.

Two held for duping

New Delhi: A 34-year-old man from Dehradun, who was on the run for three years, was arrested along with a woman for allegedly duping over 500 people on the pretext of offering them jobs at reputed firms, police said on Thursday. **ENS**



MONSOON & THE CITY

Near Rajpath, Thursday. The IMD Thursday announced the arrival of monsoon over Delhi, two days before its normal onset date. This is the initial stage of the monsoon and heavy showers can be expected between July 15 and the last week of August, said Kuldeep Srivastava, head of the IMD's regional weather forecasting centre in Delhi. *Tashi Tobgyal*

Wife of former President recovers from virus at 93, discharged from AIIMS

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

VIMALA SHARMA, wife of former President of India Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma was discharged from AIIMS trauma centre on Thursday evening, days after she tested positive for Covid-19. The 93-year-old is among the oldest to have recovered from the virus in the capital.

According to her family, her oxygen levels started dipping on June 5 after which she was tested, and her reports came positive on June 6.

"To our horror, her report was



Vimala Sharma

positive and we immediately rushed her to AIIMS. It came as a shock as she doesn't go out of the house at all. The first four days, her condition did deteriorate a bit. I know she is 93 but losing her

to a virus would have been the worst...." her son Ashutosh Dayal Sharma told The Indian Express.

While admitted for almost 18 days, she was not put on ventilator support. Her family didn't lose hope and spoke to her twice during her entire stay. "The biggest challenge is that you are cut off from all known faces. But it is important not to panic....," he said.

Fifteen days after the admission, she was tested again and her reports came out negative. "On Tuesday, we started planning the discharge. We were in touch with Dr Neeraj Nischal, who was helping us with her

treatment. The whole family is extremely happy that we got her home. It's still a long road... she is on nasal oxygen support of 2-3 litres per hour," said Ashutosh.

Doctors said apart from antibiotics, she was on a high flow nasal cannula – a technique through which a high amount of oxygen can be delivered. "If that doesn't work, then we put the patient on a ventilator. During this time, it is important for the family and patient not to lose hope. All is not lost, even if you develop Covid. People must take precautions and seek help if their condition worsens," said a senior doctor at AIIMS.

Test kits in stock for at least 15-20 days: Govt

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE DELHI High Court Thursday sought to know from the Centre its assessment of the preparedness of the authorities in Delhi to deal with the rising Covid-19 cases now and in future, when the numbers are expected to rise further. A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan sought to know whether there is any shortage of testing kits and asked Delhi government to ensure that it has enough testing kits in the coming days.

It asked the Delhi government to look into the aspect of real-time updation of its websites and app and also to augment its Covid related helpline numbers before the next date of hearing on July 16. The directions were issued during the hearing of a PIL, initiated on its own on the basis of a video clip showing a man struggling to find a hospital bed for his Covid-19 positive mother.

Delhi government's Senior Standing Counsel (Criminal) Rahul Mehra and advocate Chaitanya Gosain submitted that they were at least 15-20 days ahead with regard to requirement of testing kits vis-a-vis expected rise in cases.

Additional Solicitor General Maninder Acharya, appearing for the Centre, submitted that hospitals are strictly adhering to the guidelines and testing each and every person approaching them.

Kin check out Covid patient after row, hospital says hid info

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE FAMILY of a 59-year-old Covid patient admitted at Lok Nayak Hospital got him discharged within 24 hours of admission, alleging that the hospital did not provide him adequate treatment. The patient, R P Sharma, is now under isolation at his Burari home.

The hospital denied claims of negligence. Dr Ritu Saxena, Lok Nayak deputy medical superintendent, said: "Our doctors helped the patient with medication, this was also written in the discharge summary. They didn't tell us about the patient suffering from heart disease. We ordinarily don't allow patients to leave but if the family insists, we can't stop them. The district surveillance officer was also informed about the discharge and home quarantine of the patient."

A hospital spokesperson said Sharma was discharged on "personal request".

According to the protocol set by the government, patients with co-morbid conditions and those who require oxygen support have to be admitted to hospital.

According to the family, Sharma, an accountant with CSIR, was admitted to the hospital on June 10.

His son Nitish Bharadwaj, who works at a hotel in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, said his uncle had tested positive on June 1. "We had to visit

We ordinarily don't allow patients to leave but if the family insists, we can't stop them, said a Lok Nayak official

five hospitals that day to get him a bed before Lok Nayak admitted him. He died on June 10," he said.

Sharma, a heart patient, tested positive the same day and the family rushed him to Lok Nayak, where he was admitted.

"We thought he would be treated and went back home. Soon, I received a call from my father saying he couldn't breathe and no doctor had come to see him. Worried, I reached the hospital around 4 pm and sent him fruits and dal chawal through the nurse," alleged Bharadwaj.

However, the family alleged Sharma's condition worsened and that he wasn't provided an oxygen cylinder. They claimed to have called doctors and other staffers but no one helped.

On June 11, after a long argument with authorities, Bharadwaj got the discharge papers signed and took his father home.

"It was scary for us because my mother is also old. I didn't want to risk her life but I knew that my father won't be able to manage in that hospital. We bought masks and gloves from a nearby store and an oxygen support system as well," he said.

LOCKED DURING UN-LOCKDOWN

As hotels struggle amid slowdown, linked services share the pressure

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

BEFORE THE coronavirus pandemic gripped the country, 53-year-old Amir Ahmed used to manufacture cloth slippers for budget hotels in central Delhi's Karol Bagh, selling them for Rs 17 a pair. Now he is scrambling to put together enough food for his family of four living in UP's Bulandshahr.

Ahmed and his two sons, who work as a painter and a barber, were made redundant in the

coronavirus lockdown. Over the past two months, the family has sold their furniture and borrowed food from neighbours to survive. "Times are difficult and I think from now only my children will be able to earn some money. I won't be able to do field or labour work, even if I want to. No one knows when hotels will start business again," Ahmed said.

The closure of budget hotels in Delhi under the coronavirus lockdown has also put many of their associated businesses and staff out of work. Kunal Kanojiya (30) is the owner of a laundry

service in Karol Bagh, which receives business from seven-eight hotels in the area. His family has been running the service since 1972, and Kanojiya has been involved in it for 17 years. "I have never seen business shutting completely like this," he said.

On a monthly basis, he used to receive orders worth around Rs 20,000 from each hotel in the area. After the outbreak began, not only has he not received new orders, he has not been paid bills over Rs 5 lakh owed to him by hotels.

"*Iss saal hotel nahi chal paayega* (hotels won't run this year). We

used to get a lot of business when there were expos, exhibitions and during the time of IPL. All of that is now over. My staff has left for their home towns and I am too thinking of leaving," he said.

For hotel staff who are back in their hometowns, there's uncertainty on when to return, and if the jobs they had would still be around. Sanjay Naik (47) and Satyaranjan Das (40) went back to their native villages in Odisha in March.

Das, who came to Delhi in 1985, said he used to work double time as waiter and kitchen



Amir Ahmed at his home in Bulandshahr

staff at two hotels, for 18 or 20 hours in a day, as he had to support his family of six: "I earned around Rs 17,000 in total a month, and I used to send it all home. Corona doesn't scare me and I am ready to return to work right away. I am more scared of my children not having food to eat."

With no clear sign of when tourism would resume and a consistent surge in Covid cases in the city, hotel owners too have mounting expenses. Sandeep Khandelwal, president of the Delhi Hotel and Restaurant Owners Association,

said many are not able to pay loan EMIs and rent for hotel buildings. "We have a capacity of providing 50,000 quarantine rooms to the government. They can take it on a fixed charge of Rs 4,000 or Rs 3,000 and that will slowly help us revive our business," he said.

For a few owners, conversion of their hotels into quarantine facilities has resulted in some flow of cash, but they say they are only able to pay current expenses with it.

Lovleen Anand's Citi International Hotel in Karol Bagh

has been converted into a facility for asymptomatic international arrivals to Delhi, who have to quarantine themselves for a minimum of seven days as per current rules. The tariff set by the government for a single room is Rs 1,850 plus taxes and Rs 2,250 plus taxes for a double room. He said, "Recovery from the losses suffered in the lockdown is still far away, and for the next six months there would be no business... We don't even know whether after the current batch of people in quarantine leave, we would get more guests."

5 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



MASTERING THE VIRTUAL

WHILE PRIME Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual meeting of the Cabinet in April, when the lockdown was at its strictest, it appears the experience has given way to hybrid meetings. This came to the fore in Wednesday's Cabinet meeting when some ministers were surprised to hear Home Minister Amit Shah's voice while he wasn't physically present. After looking around, they realised Shah had joined them through video-conferencing. Shah, in fact, seems to be using this mechanism quite well while being in the national capital. He had joined the all-party meeting on June 19 as well as the PM's interactions with chief ministers earlier in the same week from his office in the capital. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar were present with the PM in the all-party meeting; Shah had joined it from his office.

TESTING TIMES

HIMANTA BISWA Sarma, the ruling party's troubleshooter in the Northeast, had taken a break from his role as Assam's Health Minister for a few days to sort out the political crisis in Manipur, where ally NPP withdrew support from the BJP government, leaving it on the verge of collapse. Resuming his task of battling with Covid-19 in Assam, Sarma tweeted about the state's "aggressive testing" and said it has, as of Thursday, tested 3,51,753 samples. His post was liked, among many others, by Manipur CM N Biren Singh, whose chair Sarma seems to have saved.

POSITIVE IN NEGATIVE

HIS LATEST coronavirus test report having come negative, former Union minister and veteran RJD leader Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is expected to be discharged in the next few days from AIIMS, Patna, where he was admitted last week after testing positive. Singh had created a flutter while in hospital: He resigned as national vice-president of RJD. Singh is known for his plain-speak, and all eyes in RJD will be on what he says and how he acts after leaving hospital.

UP plans to give employment to 1 crore people in single day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 25

The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday will take up its ambitious target of providing employment to one crore people in a single day. The same day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with beneficiaries of the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan Yojna from six districts.

The state government meanwhile claimed that Friday's drive to provide employment to one crore under various schemes would be the biggest such effort seen so far in the country.

The maximum employment generation would be through MGNREGA, which, sources said, reached about 57 lakh a day this month, then about 40 lakh in the different industries including MSME and remaining in the government projects such as highways, road projects as well as self-help groups and through government schemes of self-employment.

Suspension of work visas by US will affect movement of Indian professionals: MEA

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

DAYS AFTER US President Donald Trump signed an executive order extending the ban on immigrant and non-immigrant worker visas until the end of this year, India on Thursday said the move would likely affect the movement of skilled Indian professionals working lawfully in the US.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said on Thursday that high-skilled Indian professionals bring important skill sets, bridge technological gaps and impart a "competitive edge to the US economy" and are a "critical component of the workforce".

"The US has always welcomed talent and we hope our



Trump had suspended H-1B visas until the end of 2020

professionals will continue to be welcomed in USA in the future," Srivastava said, while responding to questions at the weekly briefing.

"We have seen the Proclamation issued by President Trump on June 22 temporarily suspending entry of certain categories of non-immigrant visa-holders & their family members till December 31, 2020

"This is likely to affect movement of Indian skilled professionals who avail of these non-immigrant visa programmes to work lawfully in the US. We are

BJP questions China donation to RGF, Congress says talk about incursions

Nadda says funds taken for studies that were not in national interest; oppn party slams 'diversionary tactics'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE RULING BJP targeted the Congress Thursday by questioning a purported donation that Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) had received, with BJP president J P Nadda saying that the foundation took \$300,000 from People's Republic of China and the Chinese embassy in 2005-06 to carry out studies that were not in national interest.

The Congress did not comment on the specific allegation, but said the BJP should not live in 2005 and instead discuss the fresh Chinese incursions.

Nadda said the Congress has no moral right to talk about the country's security after having taken money from China. "Today I was shocked to watch on TV that in 2005-06 People's Republic of China and the Chinese embassy gave a fat sum to RGF. This is a secret relationship between Congress and China. These people take funds from China and then conduct studies that are not in the interest of the country. These studies create the environment for that. The nation wants to know for what they were paid and what study they conducted," he said, addressing Madhya Pradesh Jan Samvad, a virtual rally.

Referring to the Congress raising questions over the government's handling of the Galwan Valley standoff, Nadda said, "All political parties said for the interest of the nation, we are with you Modi ji, you move ahead. Only one family, and its intentions and policy, began raising questions... today they are standing against China as if there is no sentinel like them. The mistakes of one family



BJP president J P Nadda addresses the Madhya Pradesh Jan Samvad virtual rally from the party headquarters in New Delhi. PTI

made us lose 43,000 sq km of land."

He added, "You take \$300,000 donation and teach us nationalism. Haathi ke daant dikhane ke aur khane ke lag hote hain."

Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, too, echoed this: "The donors list of RGF annual report in 2005-06 clearly shows that it received a donation from the Embassy of People's Republic of China. We want to know why this donation was taken."

The two BJP leaders were referring to an account of donations made to RGF in 2005-06 and its annual report of the period when the RGF carried out a study on free trade agreement between India and China and suggested it to be beneficial to India.

The RGF annual report for 2005-06 mentions the Embassy of The People's Republic of China

as one of the "partner organisations and donors". China's name figures in the list of donors for Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Contemporary Studies (RGICS), a policy think tank promoted by RGF.

Among the many donors for RGICS are Government of People's Republic of China, European Commission, Government of Ireland and United Nations Development Programme.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi is the chairperson of RGF and the trustees include former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Montek Singh Ahluwalia. Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and P Chidambaram besides Suman Dubey are trustee cum executive committee members.

While the Congress skirted

questions on the donation and instead accused the BJP of trying to divert attention from the Chinese incursions, Vijay Mahajan, Secretary and CEO of the RGF, did not respond to telephone calls and text messages.

The annual report mentions that economist Bibek Debroy—chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the PM—was director of RGICS till December 12, 2005. After his exit, PD Kaushik took over as acting director. When contacted, Debroy said, "I am aware of this but this happened after I had left." Kaushik could not be contacted.

The Congress hit back at the BJP for what it called a "disinformation and sinister campaign" against the party and Rahul Gandhi. Senior leader Anand Sharma put out a list of the BJP's

engagements with the Communist Party of China.

Congress communication department head Randeep Surjewala said, "Please stop living in 2005 and start answering questions in 2020."

He said the issue today is that the "Chinese have made fresh transgressions in the Galwan Valley... Chinese army has made serious build-up in the Depsang area... Why is the government mum about further Chinese presence in the eastern Ladakh area? In the national interest... the nation wants to know the answers for these questions instead of diversionary tactics of the BJP government."

Surjewala said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as Chief Minister of Gujarat, had visited China four times, then as PM five times, and invited Chinese President Xi Jinping to India three times. Modi and the Chinese President, Surjewala said, met 18 times in the last six years. He claimed that the RSS held consultations with the Communist Party of China in 2009 and a year earlier the BJP received a Chinese delegation and held confabulations with them.

"Is it also not correct that in January 2011, the then BJP president Nitin Gadkari took a delegation of the BJP to China and held detailed consultations. Were they anti-India consultations? Is it not correct that in 2014, the BJP sent a 13-member MP-MLA delegation for studying the Chinese political system... were those anti-India activities... but today is not the time to discuss all those... today is the day to discuss about fresh Chinese incursions... instead of diversions," he said.

Week on, NPP back in fold, rejoins BJP govt in Manipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

EIGHT DAYS after they withdrew support to the BJP government in Manipur, putting the saffron party's first government in the Northeast on the verge of collapse, the four legislators of NDA ally National People's Party (NPP) met Governor Najma Heptulla at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal on Thursday and presented a written declaration on their continued support to the N Biren Singh government.

The four MLAs, including Deputy Chief Minister Y Joykumar Singh, arrived in Imphal along with party president and Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma and Assam minister and BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The legislators had been brought back to the NDA fold after a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda on Wednesday.

On Thursday, Sangma said Nadda and Shah had assured the NPP that all grievances would be addressed.

He said, "In our meeting yesterday, we expressed our grievances and concerns that we are having in this political alliance. They understood the problem and assured us that the issues will be addressed and that they will personally look into them. We have decided to withdraw our resignations. The NPP will continue to support this government."

He said NPP leaders will continue as ministers, although there may be changes in their portfolios.



जयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण

ई-नीलामी कार्यक्रम जुलाई-2020 (द्वितीय)

क्र. सं.	सम्पत्ति का विवरण	क्षेत्रफल (वर्गमीटर)	अमानत राशि (रु.)	बोली प्रारम्भ करने की दर (रु. प्र. व. मी.)	अमानत राशि जमा करने एवं बोली प्रारम्भ करने की दिनांक	अमानत राशि की अन्तिम दिनांक	बोली समाप्ति की दिनांक
1	मिश्रित भू उपयोग भूखण्ड सं. 10/आईसी/32, रिंग रोड परियोजना, ग्राम बगराना, जयपुर (राज.)	1365.17	491470	18000	23/6/2020	20/07/2020	21/07/2020
2	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एस-34, हाथोज करधनी विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	112.50	40500	18000	23/6/2020	20/07/2020	21/07/2020
3	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. बी-266, मालवीया नगर, जयपुर (राज.)	100.28	170480	85000	23/6/2020	21/07/2020	22/07/2020
4	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एन-269, न्यू आतिश मार्केट, जयपुर (राज.)	37.16	130060	175000	23/6/2020	21/07/2020	22/07/2020
5	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. 327 (कॉर्नर), विद्याधर नगर, सेक्टर-3, जयपुर (राज.)	295.74	443610	75000	23/6/2020	21/07/2020	22/07/2020
6	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. ई-60, गोविन्दपुरा करधनी योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	264.00	179520	34000	23/6/2020	21/07/2020	22/07/2020
7	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एन-268 (एससी), न्यू आतिश मार्केट, जयपुर (राज.)	37.16	130060	175000	23/6/2020	22/07/2020	23/07/2020
8	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एन-271, न्यू आतिश मार्केट, जयपुर (राज.)	37.16	130060	175000	23/6/2020	22/07/2020	23/07/2020
9	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. ई-200 (कॉर्नर), गोविन्दपुरा करधनी योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	259.50	176460	34000	23/6/2020	22/07/2020	23/07/2020
10	मिश्रित भू उपयोग भूखण्ड सं. 10/आईसी/31, रिंग रोड परियोजना, ग्राम बगराना, जयपुर (राज.)	1351.24	486450	18000	23/6/2020	23/07/2020	24/07/2020
11	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एस-36, हाथोज करधनी विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	112.50	40500	18000	23/6/2020	23/07/2020	24/07/2020
12	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. ए-220, सालीग्रामपुरा योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	252.00	76610	15200	23/6/2020	23/07/2020	24/07/2020
13	मिश्रित भू उपयोग भूखण्ड सं. ए-253, चित्रकूट योजना, सेक्टर-4, जयपुर (राज.)	48.00	72000	75000	23/6/2020	24/07/2020	27/07/2020
14	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. ई-62, गोविन्दपुरा करधनी योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	264.00	179520	34000	23/6/2020	24/07/2020	27/07/2020
15	मिश्रित भू उपयोग भूखण्ड सं. 10/आईसी/35, रिंग रोड परियोजना, ग्राम बगराना, जयपुर (राज.)	1355.34	487930	18000	23/6/2020	27/07/2020	28/07/2020
16	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एस-42, हाथोज करधनी विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	112.50	40500	18000	23/6/2020	27/07/2020	28/07/2020
17	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एन-264 (एसटी) न्यू आतिश मार्केट, जयपुर (राज.)	37.16	137500	185000	23/6/2020	28/07/2020	29/07/2020
18	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. ई-59, गोविन्दपुरा करधनी योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	264.00	179520	34000	23/6/2020	28/07/2020	29/07/2020
19	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एन-317 (एससी) न्यू आतिश मार्केट, जयपुर (राज.)	34.83	135840	195000	23/6/2020	29/07/2020	30/07/2020
20	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. बी-23, सालीग्रामपुरा योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	252.00	76610	15200	23/6/2020	29/07/2020	30/07/2020
21	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. ई-67, गोविन्दपुरा करधनी योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	264.00	179520	34000	23/6/2020	30/07/2020	31/07/2020
22	मिश्रित भू उपयोग भूखण्ड सं. 10/ओसी/43 (कॉर्नर) रिंग रोड परियोजना, ग्राम बगराना, जयपुर (राज.)	1385.94	498940	18000	23/6/2020	30/07/2020	31/07/2020
23	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. एफ-35 (कॉर्नर), हाथोज करधनी विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	247.50	54450	11000	23/6/2020	30/07/2020	31/07/2020



नीलामी की मुख्य शर्तों के लिए जयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखें।



नीलामी के उपर्युक्त भूखण्डों की अन्य जानकारी के लिए मोबाइल नम्बर +91 9462 569 696 पर सम्पर्क करें।

इन्दिरा सर्किल, जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग, जयपुर- 302004



New Delhi



6 THE OUTBREAK

Ramdev 'corona kit': Rajasthan sends notice to NIMS over clinical trials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, JUNE 25

THE RAJASTHAN Health Department has sent a notice to NIMS University over the clinical trials that were reportedly conducted on Covid-19 patients by a joint research team of Patanjali Research Institute and National Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, NIMS University, Jaipur, officials said.

According to senior officials of the state Health Department, the university has been asked to clarify its position and reply within three days.

"In the notice, we have said that we learnt from newspapers that they have violated the protocol by conducting clinical trials. NIMS was acquired by the government and designated by it as a Covid care institute and asymptomatic patients are sent there who are treated according to the guidelines of the state and central government. We have asked for an explanation within three days, otherwise action will be taken," said Dr Narottam Sharma, Chief Medical and Health Officer, Jaipur.

He said the notice was sent on Wednesday night to the management of NIMS University.

Following the launch of an ayurvedic 'Corona Kit' by Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, claiming it cured Covid-19, the Rajasthan government had said that they were not informed about the clinical trials which were conducted and that due processes were not followed by the makers of the said medicine.



Raghu Sharma, Ramdev

During the launch on Tuesday, Ramdev had claimed that the medicine, manufactured by Haridwar-based Divya Pharmacy and Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, is the result of a joint research of Patanjali Research Institute and National Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, NIMS University, Jaipur.

Rajasthan Health Minister Raghu Sharma had said that strict action will be taken if any attempt is made to sell this drug as a potential medicine for Covid-19 in Rajasthan.

The Indian Express had earlier reported that during the trial, when mildly symptomatic patients developed fever, they were administered allopathic medicines. The trials were conducted only on asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic patients, while severely symptomatic patients and those with acute respiratory distress syndrome were excluded for enrolment.

The Rajasthan Health Department had said that only asymptomatic patients were kept at NIMS.

"We have not received any such letter or notice so far," said Dr Sandeep Tripathi, Registrar, NIMS University.

Home isolation for doctors with Covid in Bihar

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JUNE 25

THE BIHAR health department has decided to allow home isolation facility only to doctors and health professionals.

The decision came after a Covid profile study in the state revealed that two per cent of those who tested positive were health professionals, six per cent were students and five per cent homemakers. Seventy per cent of the cases were detected among labourers.

Of the 1,81,737 samples tested so far, 8,381 people have tested positive, and 6,480 have been discharged. Last week, seven doctors of the Patna Medical College and Hospital had tested positive.

The health department has not specified any specific reason for allowing home isolation facility to doctors and health professionals.

A June 23 order issued by Bihar Principal Health Secretary Umesh Kumawat to all district magistrates, principals of all medical colleges and hospitals, and civil surgeons of all district sadar hospitals, said: "...It has been decided that asymptomatic Covid positive

doctors and health professionals, including frontline workers, should be given home isolation facility. This facility would be subject to availability of home isolation and quarantine of family contacts. These doctors and health professionals would have to submit daily self-monitoring report and be ready to get themselves checked at nearby primary health centres."

They would have to go for a Covid test after 14 days of home isolation, stated the circular, adding all such patients will have to sign a written undertaking stating compliance of home isolation conditions.

As per the revised Government of India guidelines on April 7, 2020, eligibility of home isolation meant that "the person should be clinically assigned as a very mild case/ pre-symptomatic case by the treating medical officer". They state "a communication link between the caregiver and hospital is a prerequisite for the entire duration of home isolation".

An official in the Bihar health department said: "The general government of India guidelines do not mention any preference to doctors and health professionals."

Maharashtra salons, parlours open on June 28, with conditions

Mumbai/Pune: The Maharashtra government on Thursday decided to open salons, barber shops and beauty parlours from June 28 to offer only select services such as haircuts, waxing and threading, prohibiting a few such as shaving.

"We will observe the situation for a few days and then take a decision regarding full-fledged opening of salons," Transport Minister Anil Parab said after a Cabinet meeting in Mumbai on Thursday.

In a notification, the government said that barber shops, salons and beauty parlours would be allowed to remain open only if they provide select services with distancing norms. **ENS**

Covid deaths now across half the dists, but 70% fatality still in top 10

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

WITH FATALITIES from the novel coronavirus infection doubling every 14-16 days in India, more than half the country's districts (407 out of 720) have now seen at least one Covid-19 death.

However, around 7 out of 10 Covid deaths in the country have been concentrated in only a handful of districts.

So while the number of districts that have been touched by at least one Covid death has risen from 272 a month ago to 348 two weeks ago to the current number, the 10 districts with the most deaths have accounted for about 70 per cent of fatalities throughout this period.

Districts that are not in this top 10 list but have recorded



A medic marks a sample for rapid antigen test at Kadipur Community Centre, in Gurgaon on Thursday. *PTI*

more than 10 deaths each, have contributed roughly 20 per cent of total deaths.

But the number of districts in

this category has gone from about 30 a month ago to 50 two weeks ago to 80 now — also an indication of the increasing

spread of the disease.

There is a set of 50 districts that had seen at least one death more than a month ago, but have not had any since then. But there is another set of 145 districts that had no deaths at the beginning of this period, but have at least one now.

While the top 10 list remains largely static, some Maharashtra cities such as Aurangabad, Solapur, and Nashik are beginning to see a faster increase in deaths than larger cities such as Kolkata, Indore, and Jaipur.

These cities in Maharashtra also have an unusually high case fatality rate of between 6 and 9 per cent. Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad too, are have shown an abnormally high death growth over the past month.

Delhi has been counted as one "district" in this analysis. The data is not perfect because

bulletins of some states, including Telangana and Assam, do not give consistent district-wise data.

Also data matching exercises have seen death toll surges in Mumbai and Delhi, and scrutiny by state death audit committees may lead to varying definitions of a Covid death.

India's overall fatality rate has increased from 2.8 per cent two weeks ago to 3.2 per cent now, according to Health Ministry data. But the recovery rate too, has increased from 47 per cent to 57 per cent. Active cases have doubled in the past three weeks.

Deaths in Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Assam, and Punjab have more than doubled in the last two weeks, according to Health Ministry data.

Over 30 test positive at Naval Air Station in TN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAMANATHAPURAM (TN), JUNE 25

OVER 30 personnel attached to Naval Air Station INS Parundu here have tested positive for coronavirus, district officials said on Thursday, but the forward operating base was 'operational', Defence sources in Chennai said.

While the district authorities put the number of infected at 33, Defence sources said "some" of the sailors, mostly who had arrived here recently on postings, have been affected with the virus. They said that as per standard protocol, such personnel are quarantined and tested for the contagion in which "some" of them have tested positive.

"INS Parundu is very much operational. Entry of civilian staff working there has been restricted," they added. District authorities are set to take up infection procedures later.

The INS Parundu in Uchipuli is primarily used as a reconnaissance station to monitor the South East Bay of Bengal. According to the Navy, INS Parundu provides search and rescue coverage and conducts operational sorties over the Palk Bay area on a regular basis.

Owner of TN sweet shop kills self after testing positive

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JUNE 25

THE OWNER of the Iruttu Kadai Halwa store, an iconic sweet shop in Tirunelveli, committed suicide on Thursday morning. Police said Hari Singh, 75, was found hanging at a private hospital an hour after he tested positive for Covid-19.

In 1940, Singh's family had migrated from Rajasthan and set up shop in Tirunelveli, and for three generations over the next 80 years, his family ran the store.

A Saravanan, Deputy Commissioner of Police in Tirunelveli town, said Singh's death was a huge loss for Tirunelveli. "It was an iconic shop near the Nelloppar temple. He represented the third generation of his family. A police constable used to be often deployed to manage the huge crowd and traffic before his small shop. He used to open it only between 5pm and 8pm, and ran the shop under a single zero watt bulb," Saravanan said.

Veteran Tamil writer Cho Dharman, who won the 2019

Train services suspended till August 12

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE GOVERNMENT on Thursday decided to keep regular train services suspended till August 12.

Sources said that the decision was taken keeping in mind the increasing number of coronavirus cases in the country. All special trains — 12 pairs running on the Rajdhani routes since May 12 and 100 pairs operating since June 1 — will continue, they said.

The limited special suburban services which began recently in Mumbai to ferry essential services personnel identified by the local authorities will also continue to run, officials said.

"All tickets booked for the regular time-tabled trains for journey date from 01.07.20 to 12.08.20 also stand cancelled. Full refund will be generated," the Railway Board order stated.

As cases rise in Bengaluru, fresh lockdown ruled out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JUNE 25

THE KARNATAKA government on Thursday ruled out the possibility of reimposition of a lockdown in Bengaluru amid rising Covid-19 cases and growing pressure on healthcare, but announced a wait and watch policy to take a final call on forced social distancing in the city.

"People need to cooperate. When you don't maintain social distancing, the disease spreads in densely populated areas like slums. If you don't want Bengaluru to be sealed down again then people must cooperate and maintain social distancing," Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said on the sidelines of a meeting of ministers and officials to discuss the situation.

Following the meeting, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said, "There will be no lockdown in Bengaluru. It is clear, no lockdown in Bengaluru."

There were growing murmurs in the state government on the possibility of another lockdown in the wake of a rise in Covid-19 cases in the city since June 1.

"Bengaluru has been an example for the whole country, and compared to other cities the



BS Yediyurappa

Exams begin

Bengaluru: The Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exams began in Karnataka on Thursday amid tight security and rigid precautions. The Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board on the directions of the state government decided to conduct the SSLC or 10th standard board exams amid Covid-19 fears. **ENS**

incidence in Bengaluru has not gone out of control. Still, Covid-19 cases have been going up over and we will take all action to control it. We will have meetings for two days to draw up plans," Yediyurappa said. "We have not gone in for a full lockdown. Some areas have been locked down. It will continue."

Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel *Sool*, said he knew Singh personally. "There may be better halwa shops in Tirunelveli but it was his business model that made his halwa tastier and world famous... He would open the shop at 5pm and shut at 8pm. If you reach a minute after 8pm and even offer him Rs 1 crore, he wouldn't serve you..." Dharman said.

"During Sabarimala season, he used to have a huge crowd, I used to tease him saying that he has more devotees than Sabarimala Ayyappa."

After Solanki, 3 more Gujarat Cong leaders test positive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, RAJKOT, JUNE 25

THREE SENIOR Congress leaders from Gujarat, including a legislator, have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, days after the party's Rajya Sabha candidate Bharatsinh Solanki was found to be infected with the novel coronavirus.

Meanwhile, the state broke its recent trend of discharging as many people as those testing positive — or more on some days — as Thursday saw 410 patients being discharged against the 577 who tested positive.

According to officials of Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC), MLA Chirag Kalariya, former Ahmedabad Congress president Chetan P Raval and Gujarat Congress vice-president from Vadodara, Maulin Vaishnav, have tested positive for Covid-19.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, GPCC spokesperson Jai Rajsinh Parmar said, "The results of three

of our senior leaders have come out positive and they are all in a stable condition. Our other leaders such as Himmatsinh Patel, Shaktisinh Gohil, Lakha Bharwad and Q Chavda have been put under quarantine. The test report of our GPCC president Amit Chavda has come out negative."

On June 22, three days after the Rajya Sabha elections in the state, Congress candidate and former Union minister Bharatsinh Solanki had tested positive. After his results, as many as a dozen leaders who had come in contact with him during the elections were put under quarantine, especially Raval and Vaishnav who had accompanied him to Gandhinagar.

Chavda tweeted, "Three senior leaders of Gujarat Congress have tested positive for Covid-19 and I pray for their early recovery."

While MLA Kalariya has been hospitalised in Rajkot, Maulin Vaishnav has been admitted to Banker's Hospital in Vadodara. Raval, being asymptomatic, has been put under home quarantine.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*,

Vaishnav said, "I got myself admitted in Banker's Hospital on Tuesday and my reports came out yesterday. I am stable now."

Chirag Kalariya is the first MLA from Saurashtra region to test positive for Covid-19.

Dr Mitesh Bhandari, Chief District Health Officer of Rajkot, confirmed that the 42-year-old MLA from Jamjodhpur Assembly constituency in Jamnagar district had tested positive on Wednesday night.

Kalariya said that he had come in close contact with Solanki during the Rajya Sabha elections in Gandhinagar last week.

"After the Rajya Sabha election, I had stayed in Gandhinagar for two days. On Wednesday, I felt I had a temperature. So, instead of returning to my home in Jamjodhpur, I directly went to a hospital and my samples returned positive... However, the fever has since gone and I am feeling normal now," Kalariya told *The Indian Express* on Thursday evening, adding he had got himself admitted to a private hospital in Mavdi area of Rajkot.

In Bhagalpur silk hub, looms tell a story: '95% collapse'



AS A DISTRICT UNLOCKS

AN EXPRESS SERIES

DIPANKAR GHOSE
NATHNAGAR (BHAGALPUR), JUNE 25

THE LARGE first-floor room has never been so full: silk cloth everywhere, some of it without wrapping paper, others in cardboard boxes ready for transport. For Zia Ur Rahman, the promise that the room would be emptied evaporated long ago. Instead, what has been emptying quickly over the last five months in Nathnagar, home to Bhagalpur's famous silk industry, are bank balances, savings accounts — and hope.

Bhagalpur is a microcosm of Bihar these days, with returning migrants, a rising Covid graph, and an economy showing signs of deep distress. The district is also the focus of a month-long assignment by *The Indian Express* to track how lives and livelihoods in small town India are coping with the lockdown.

Bhagalpur's story is inextricably linked to its silk industry, spanning generations. Traffic signals have "Silk City" written on them, the district administration's website says "Silk City of Bihar". The past 30 years has seen considerable decline, due to political apathy, mismanagement and the communal tension of 1989. But today, after the lockdown, it's teetering on the edge.

Zia Ur Rahman runs one of the largest weaving units in Nathnagar, 6 km from town and

home to 6,000 weaver families. He estimates that the industry was once worth Rs 500 crore, before sliding to around Rs 100 crore. "My unit produced 10,000 sq m of silk a day, earned Rs 30 lakh a month and employed 3,000 people. Now, since February, nothing... more than 95 per cent of business has collapsed," he says.

"Silk is an expensive cloth product, and in today's market, nobody wants to spend that money. Our demand came mostly from companies based in Europe or America. But now, with logistics a problem, and the companies struggling, there are no orders," Rahman says.

It isn't just that new orders aren't coming in, he says, the old ones are being cancelled. For instance, the cloth stacked in boxes was for an order from England



Mohammad Shoaib Ansari at his grocery shop. Dipankar Ghose

worth Rs 40 lakh. "There is no word from them. Orders worth Rs 80 lakh from Europe and America have been cancelled since February," says Rahman, signalling the pandemic's global

trajectory. "On top of that, embroidery and printing happen in Delhi, Bengaluru, Surat or Varanasi, and they are all shut." In the lanes of Nathnagar, barely wide enough for one ve-

hicle to pass, Mohammad Shoaib Ansari's small storeroom for cloth is now a grocery shop. "Earlier, I earned Rs 500-600 a day. There was no work so I opened this small shop. I sit here from 6 am to 8 pm, and earn about Rs 100 a day... nowhere near fulfilling our needs," he says.

Yet, despite the deep distress, the romance of Bhagalpur silk means it is always part of conversation. On May 25, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar argued for industries to set up shop in the state and assured help for returning migrants. His example of an avenue filled with opportunity? Bhagalpur silk.

Asked if the administration had any plans for revival and rescue, District Magistrate Pranav Kumar says they are "definitely looking at this sector". "In the long term, we are looking at

identifying two-three places where we will plant trees for co-cons so that there is raw material. In the short term, we have requested those who have small factories to increase work, but there are limitations. Even those that produce, they only make the cloth, stitching and branding happen outside. We will create a brand, do some stitching and then see. We will develop a cluster for those who want to work, and then create forward and backward linkages," he says.

Rahman acknowledges that the administration has reached out. "But they want us to put money in. The question is who will buy the product? The solution, if any, is that they help us monetarily and buy the silk we produce," he says.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



रोजगार का नया अभियान हर श्रमिक-कामगार को काम



के
अन्तर्गत

आत्मनिर्भर
उत्तर प्रदेश
रोजगार कार्यक्रम
का शुभारंभ

उत्तर प्रदेश के
31 जनपदों में



pmindiawebcast.nic.in

पर कार्यक्रम का लाइव टेलीकास्ट/प्रसारण
देखा जा सकता है।

नरेन्द्र मोदी

प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा

(वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से)

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक: 26 जून, 2020 | समय: पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे
स्थान: लोक कल्याण मार्ग, नई दिल्ली एवं लखनऊ



अन्य कार्यक्रम

- 1.25 करोड़ कामगारों का विभिन्न परियोजनाओं में नियोजन
- आत्मनिर्भर भारत पैकेज: 2.40 लाख इकाइयों को रु. 5,900 करोड़ का ऋण वितरण
- 1.11 लाख नई इकाइयों को रु. 3,226 करोड़ का ऋण वितरण
- विश्वकर्मा श्रम सम्मान योजना एवं एक जनपद-एक उत्पाद योजना में 5000 कारीगरों को टूल-किट वितरण

रोजगार से जुड़ी संपूर्ण जानकारी के लिए अपने नजदीकी
ग्राम पंचायत या विकास खंड कार्यालय से संपर्क करें।

ग्राम्य विकास विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

8 EXPRESS NETWORK

Four of Punjab family 'involved in drug trade' murdered in their sleep

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, JUNE 25

FOUR MEMBERS of a family along with their driver were killed at village Kairon of Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Wednesday night.

Head of the family Brij Lal (60), his son Bunty (25), two daughters-in-law Amandeep Kaur (24) and Jaspreet Kaur (28), and family driver Gursahib Singh (35) were found murdered in the house. The throats of all five victims were slit while they were sleeping in separate rooms.

However, four children sleeping in the house were not harmed. A seven-year-old girl from the family informed neighbours about the blood-soaked bodies of her kin.

Brij Lal and his four sons were booked in at least 49 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. They were all out on bail.

It is not clear if Gursahib, the driver, was booked in any case.

"At least 49 cases of drug smuggling were registered against Brij Lal and his four sons. It seems they all were out on bail. We have been checking records to see if any of them was convicted in any case. We have zeroed in on some persons. We will soon arrest the murderers," said DSP Patti Kuljinder Singh.

Goa Archbishop: Churches can open with strict conditions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI, JUNE 24

GOA ARCHBISHOP Filipe Neri Ferrao has said that churches in the state will be allowed to re-open with strict conditions such as social distancing. Those in containment or buffer zones identified by the state administration will not be allowed to open.

The state's churches, closed for public worship since the lockdown, will have to obtain permission from the archbishop before opening up. The Goa government had allowed reopening of religious places on June 8, but many such places, including churches, were reluctant to do so fearing a spike in coronavirus cases.

Money for cow dung: Chhattisgarh launches scheme for livestock owners

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, JUNE 25

THE CHHATTISGARH government will now buy cow dung from livestock owners and convert it to fertiliser, a move it said would help prevent open grazing and make cattle-rearing profitable.

The initiative is part of the 'Godhan Nyay Yojana', announced by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at an online press conference on Thursday. It will commence from 20 July, when 'Hareli', a local festival, is celebrated.

Baghel said the scheme had

Pandemic hits space manned mission, all other projects, says ISRO chief

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, JUNE 25

ALL MISSIONS, including the test flight for sending humans into space, planned by the Indian Space Research Organisation over the next two years face delay because of the disruption caused by COVID19 pandemic, ISRO chairman K Sivan has told *The Indian Express*.

A rescheduled timeline has not been worked out because of continuing uncertainty, he said.

"In our work strategy, many of the design and development activities happen in the private

sector. Because of this pandemic, these industries have not been able to operate at their optimum level. As a result, they are not in a position to supply the required subsystems for the missions by ISRO. So this will affect all our targeted missions over the next few months," Sivan said.

"In addition, there have been travel restrictions in many states because of which our employees have not been able to move around. It has, naturally, affected our work," he said.

The missions that would have been rescheduled include Chandrayaan-3, planned for this



Sivan: Training in Russia of astronauts back on track.

year end, and the unmanned test flight for Gaganyaan, India's first attempt at sending humans into space. The main Gaganyaan mission is slated for 2022, and

that could also be delayed, although Sivan said there was still some scope for making up on lost time.

"Our in-house development activities, and research and development has been going on. These have not stopped though they too have been affected a bit," he said.

Sivan said the ongoing training of the selected astronauts for the Gaganyaan mission in Russia, which had been disrupted due to the pandemic, had resumed and was going on "with full steam".

ISRO had planned 36 missions in the financial year 2020-

21, according to a government reply to a Parliament question in March. These included the launches of 10 earth-observation satellites, three communication satellites, and two navigation satellites, besides Chandrayaan-3 and Gaganyaan unmanned test flight.

"We have not yet worked out the new timelines for all these missions. There is no point in deciding now. There is still a lot of uncertainty. So we have to wait for the situation to normalise. Only then we will be able to make a correct assessment and decide on realistic timelines," he said.

Mumbai Police set to get Ravi Pujari's custody in a month

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JUNE 25

MUMBAI POLICE is preparing to take within a month the custody of gangster Ravi Pujari, who was extradited to India from Senegal earlier this year. Currently, Pujari is in the custody of the Central Crime Branch of the Bengaluru police in connection with the 2017 murder of builder Subba Rao. Further, Mumbai Police will only be charging him in 19 of the 49 cases registered against him.

Senior officers in the Mumbai Police Crime Branch said that of the remaining 30 cases, while a few are being investigated by the CBI, others had taken place decades ago and it would be difficult to find any evidence against him.

A senior officer said, "We had written to the government of Senegal with details of nine cases against Pujari, for which we want to charge him in Mumbai. This is in addition to the details of the 10 cases we had sent immediately after his detention in Senegal."

The officer added that as per extradition laws, one can only try a person for the cases mentioned in the plea seeking extradition.

Since Mumbai Police had sent details of only 10 cases in the extradition plea, they had to intimate the Senegal authorities about the nine other cases before they formally charge Pujari in those cases.

The officer further said it took the police all this time — Pujari was arrested in February 2019 —



Ravi Pujari will be charged in 19 cases.

as it had to translate the chargesheets from Marathi to French, the official language of Senegal. "It had to be sent in a particular format... It was a cumbersome process. Finally, last week, we sent details of the nine cases and have decided not to charge him for the rest."

"In a few of these 30 cases, Pujari is a co-accused with gangster Chhota Rajan and hence, the CBI will be investigating them. In some cases, while the co-accused have already been acquitted, in others, the call records or other such evidence is not available. We have just gone by cases where we have strong evidence like audio or video clippings on record..." the officer said.

Pujari, who was on the run for almost 15 years, was arrested in South Africa and later deported to Senegal. Later, he was extradited to India and brought to Bengaluru on February 23. Prior to 2017, the Bengaluru police had filed two chargesheets against Pujari — the Shabnam developers double murder case and an extortion case.

multiple objectives, including income generation and environmental conservation.

"Chhattisgarh has had the tradition of cattle grazing in open, which harms both the cattle and the crops of farmers. Stray animals on roads of cities are a major cause of road accidents. Often cow owners leave the cows astray after milking, which causes various problems. This will change after the implementation of Godhan Nyay Yojana. Livestock owners will provide proper fodder and water to their cattle and keep them tied up," Baghel said.

The cow dung thus collected can be converted to fertiliser and

sold for additional profit, he added.

Baghel also said the Congress government in the state will utilise cowsheds, set up in thousands of villages under a different scheme, as a source of vermicompost. This fertiliser will then be sold to farmers as well as other government departments.

A five-member panel of ministers is expected to fix a procurement rate for the manure, besides working out other modalities associated with the scheme. This committee will deliberate upon suggestions from farmers, livestock owners, cowshed operators and "intellectuals".



Relatives of a victim killed in lightning strikes in Bihar's Gopalganj on Thursday. Gopalganj district reported the most deaths — 13 — followed by eight in Nawada and Madhubani. PTI

Lightning kills 83 in Bihar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, JUNE 25

LIGHTNING STRIKES killed as many as 83 people, including 26 children, on Thursday in Bihar — its worst such single-day toll in recent years.

Confirming the toll, the Bihar Disaster Management Authority said these deaths took place in a 12-hour period.

The deaths were spread across 23 districts in Bihar. Gopalganj was the worst-hit with 13 casualties, followed by Nawada and Madhubani hit with eight deaths each.

In most cases, people were hit by lightning when they were out of their homes. Bhagalpur and Siwan reported six deaths each. East Champaran, Banka and Darbhanga reported five deaths each, followed by two deaths each in Khagaria and Aurangabad.

Gopalganj sub-divisional officer Upendra Pal said the 13 peo-

UP: Lightning kills three

Banda/Lalitpur (UP): Three people including a 12-year-old girl were killed in lightning strikes in Banda and Lalitpur districts, police said on Thursday.

Raj Narayan, 38, a farmer, was killed when he was struck by lightning while working in his field in Banda on Wednesday evening. The 12-year-old girl died and a woman received serious burns after being struck by lightning in Chakora village of Lalitpur district.

In another lightning strike in Lalitpur, a 37-year-old farmer was killed while working in his field. **PTI**

ple who died in the district were struck by lightning while working in the fields. In Gopalganj,

Barauli and Uchkagaon reported four deaths each.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced Rs 4 lakh each for the next of kin of a victim.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted condoling the lightning deaths in Bihar and as well as Uttar Pradesh — where three people died. The Prime Minister said that both states have immediately begun relief work.

Small locust group enters Bihar's Rohtas

A small swarm of about 2,500 desert locusts entered Kochas area of Bihar's Rohtas district on Wednesday evening from Prayagraj. Rohtas agriculture officer Radha Raman told *The Indian Express*: "It is a small group. Generally, it is a swarm of 1 lakh plus locusts but it was a stray case. They did not attack any crop but some trees. We have started chemical sprays to drive them away. There is no need to panic as of now."

Floods in Assam, Arunachal: 3 killed, lakhs affected

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JUNE 25

THREE PEOPLE, including a two-year-old girl, were killed in landslides and floods in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh as large parts of both states on Thursday reeled under heavy rains and rising waters that affected lakhs.

Two of the deaths, including that of the minor, were from Arunachal Pradesh. The body of a woman who had drowned in

the swollen Lagun river in Naharlagen town a day earlier was recovered on Thursday morning, officials said.

The two-year-old girl, an Itanagar resident, died after her house collapsed under a landslide on Thursday. Her body was dug out of the debris and she was declared brought dead at a hospital. Chief Minister Pema Khandu has announced Rs 4 lakh to her next of kin.

In Assam, a person was killed in Dhemaji district, where 383

people were killed in a landslide in the Barak Valley region of Assam. The Regional Meteorological Centre in Guwahati has predicted heavy rainfall for major parts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur on Friday and Saturday.

The day's bulletin from the Assam State Disaster Management Authority said nearly two lakh people were "affected" by the floods, while 11,500-odd persons are in relief camps. Nine districts — Dhemaji,

'APPREHENSIONS ABOUT LIFE, LIBERTY'

In IPS vs IPS, complaint filed against J&K DGP

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JUNE 25

IN AN unusual case for Jammu and Kashmir Police, it has received a complaint from a senior IPS officer against the Union Territory's top cop, DGP Dilbag Singh, over an alleged threat.

In a written complaint addressed to the SHO of Gandhi Nagar Police Station in Jammu district, Inspector General-rank IPS officer Basant Rath on Wednesday urged the officer to "take note of my apprehensions about my life, liberty and bald head".

The "reason", Rath wrote, is "certain activities of Sh. Dilbag Singh, IPS, 1987 batch, currently DGP, UT of J and K".

Rath marked a copy of the written complaint to DGP Singh.

Making clear that that he is doing this "as a private citizen" — in his "personal capacity", and not as a civil servant or a policeman — Rath wrote, "I am not asking you to lodge an FIR against the person mentioned. I am just asking you to make this letter a part of the daily diary in your police station. Today. Now."

He wrote, "In case something bad happens to me, you should know whose number you should dial..."

Pointing out that he expects the SHO to acknowledge his letter, Rath wrote that the officer can send him a screen shot of it



J&K DGP Dilbag Singh and IGP Home Guard Basant Rath

on WhatsApp or a direct message on his Twitter handle.

He also appreciated the SHO and his team's "brilliant job in these testing times". He wrote, "May Allah protect you and your brilliant team and your family members. Stay safe and keep the people of J and K safe."

Rath, presently posted as IGP, Home Guard, in J&K, refused to say anything on the matter. DGP Singh did not respond to repeated phone calls.

Promoted as IGP in 2018, Rath became popular among the people for his effective regulation of traffic in J&K.

But despite the massive fan following, especially among the youth, his stint as IGP-Traffic was short-lived. While disciplining traffic and making roads in J&K safer for pedestrians, he is said to have had run-ins with some senior and powerful politicians, bureaucrats and police officials.

Rath was shifted to his present posting following a run-in with the mayor of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Junaid Azim Mattu, last year.

Two LeT men killed in Sopore gunbattle

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, JUNE 25

TWO LASHKAR-E-TAIBA (LeT) militants were killed in a joint operation by security forces and the police in North Kashmir's Sopore on Thursday, authorities said. Another encounter was on in South Kashmir's Tral.

Officials said the first gunfight broke out in Hardshiva village area of Baramulla district early on Thursday after the police received an input on the militants' presence there.

"During the search operation, as the presence of terrorists got ascertained, they were given the opportunity to surrender. However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated, leading to an encounter," said a police spokesperson. "The identification and affiliation of the killed terrorists is being ascertained. However, as per credible sources, the killed terrorists belonged to proscribed LeT terrorist outfit."

This is the latest of several bloody encounters that have unfolded in the Valley this year, in which 110 militants have been killed so far.

The J&K Police said the other gunfight started at Chewa Ular area of Awantipora. "Police and security forces are on the job. Further details shall follow," read a tweet by Kashmir Police Zone.

Terror module busted

The J&K Police said it had busted a "terror module" linked to the LeT and arresting five militant associates in Budgam district of Central Kashmir. "On a credible input, Budgam police along with 02 RR have arrested 5 terrorist associates from Narbal area," a police statement said.

According to the police, they have recovered "28 AK-47 rounds, 1 AK-47 magazine and 20 posters of LeT". "As per the police records, they were involved in providing logistic support and shelter to the active terrorists of LeT operating in the area," the police said.

INS condoles death of Tej-Bandhu Group chief

New Delhi: The Indian Newspaper Society's president, Shalish Gupta, has condoled the death of Vishwa Bandhu Gupta, who was chairman and editor-in-chief of Tej-Bandhu Group, on behalf of the Society. Vishwa Bandhu Gupta, a former Member of Parliament famously known as the Balloon Man, passed away on June 21. He was 93.

Gupta stated Vishwa Bandhu Gupta was a former INS president, and the Society had immensely benefited from his vision and leadership. His demise is an irreparable loss to the entire print media industry, he stated. **ENS**

Assam gas leak and fire: NGT directs OIL to deposit Rs 25 cr

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, JUNE 25

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday directed government-owned Oil India Limited (OIL) to deposit an initial amount of Rs 25 crore with Assam's Tinsukia district administration, after hearing two petitions in connection with the Baghjan natural gas blowout and subsequent fire.

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

Around 11,000 people from the surrounding villages are now in relief camps set up by the administration. Both the Central and state governments have instituted inquiries to probe the incident.

On Thursday, a principal bench of the NGT — comprising Justice S P Wangdi and expert member Siddhanta Das — heard two separate petitions via video-conference: one by Kolkata-based environmentalist Banani Kakkar and the other by Wildlife and Environment Conservation Organisation, which works for conservation awareness in Upper Assam districts.

The petitioners alleged that OIL had failed to prevent the blowout at Baghjan 5, resulting in "a massive fire causing ir-

reparable loss to the entire biodiversity of the region and loss of lives and property".

The NGT order stated, "In view of the prima facie case made out against OIL on the extent of damage caused to the environment and biodiversity, damage to both human and wildlife, public health and, having regard to the financial worth of the Company and the extent of damage, we direct the OIL to deposit an initial amount of Rs 25 crores with the District Magistrate, Tinsukia District, Assam and shall abide by further orders of the Tribunal."

The bench also constituted an eight-member Committee of Experts — to be chaired by former Gauhati High Court judge



Workers at the site of the gas blowout and fire in Assam's Tinsukia. Operations to control it have hit a roadblock due to torrential rains. Courtesy: OIL

Justice (ret'd) BP Katakay — to investigate the matter and submit

its preliminary report within 30 days. The committee also in-

cludes Member Secretaries of both the Central and State Pollution Control Board, a senior expert from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), District Magistrate of Tinsukia district, as well as Dr Sarbeswar Kalita, Professor and Head of the Department of Environment Science, Gauhati University, Abhay Kumar Johari, former member of Biodiversity Board and Ajit Hazarika, Ex-Chairman, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGCL).

The Committee of Experts has to specifically investigate the cause of leak; extent of loss and damage caused to human life, wildlife and environment; damage and health hazard caused to

the public; whether there were any mitigation measures put in place by OIL to offset the incidents, among others.

"While dealing with the above questions, the Committee may also dwell on the action taken thus far either by the Government or by the OIL or by any other agency and the expenditure incurred towards mitigation. Opportunity may also be provided to the Respondent OIL to give its views and submissions" said the order.

OIL spokesperson Tridiv Hazarika said that the company "respects and welcomes the NGT order".

The NGT order stated that the matter will be heard again on July 29.



COVID-19: Reforms & Initiative taken by UP Government

Heading the most populated state in the country, here is how the government tackled the COVID-19 crisis - from implementing the lockdown, identifying hotspots, bringing the migrant workers and students back to planning the economic revival of state, this is what the government has been up to.

HIGHLIGHTS

1657 special labour trains were operated for migrant labour

Special Railway Stations for migrant labour created in **59** district for Uttar Pradesh

Return of **35 lakh** migrant labour in 40 days.

Migrant labour provided ration kit for **15** days.

12000 UP roadways and **15000** private buses were operated for returning of migrant labours to their home towns

All buses were sanitized, with availability of mask and sanitizers ensured in them.

Facilitated return of **12000** students from Kota (Rajasthan).

Skill mapping done of **34.52** lakh for migrant labour.

18156 stay homes created having accommodation capacity of more than **15** lakh.

16.60 cr food packet distributed through **16000** community kitchen

Provision of employment to more than **60 lakh** migrant labour under MANREGA scheme.

66 cr Khadi mask production targeted under women self help groups.



With the largest population in the country, Uttar Pradesh was one of the states to impose the strictest lockdown in the country during COVID-19. The state government rapidly got to work after getting the coronavirus alarm. In the first week of March, after the Prime Minister's call for prevention measures, the state's chief minister Yogi Adityanath started and directed various special programs – training the physicians, nursing staff, and the paramedical. The government also ensured to conduct thorough awareness programs for the Rural and Urban Development departments and Panchayati Raj. 11 committees were formed by the government to take charge of the situation. On the 24th of March, the state government took the matters in their hand to provide relief to the people depending on daily wages –

the daily wage workers – by sending an amount of INR 1000 through RTGS to more than 21 lacs construction workers. The first bunch of COVID-19 patients was reported in Agra, after which the state government took immediate measures by identifying the hotspots, ensuring doorstep to doorstep delivery, and increasing the testing. They made the arrangements and deployed a Rapid Response Team (RPP). The patients were questioned and thorough information was gathered about where they visited, who they contacted, and who they came in contact with. There were 38 hotspots and epicenters, which were marked on the map, out of which 10 have been closed down by the government till now and they are working on closing the others. The officers also worked on installing a helpline number, emergency

number, and sanitizing the neighborhoods regularly. Along with this, a containment zone of 3 kilometers and a buffer zone of 5 kilometers was setup. A micro plan was created by the government and 1248 teams were formed which included the officials of the Health Department and Municipal corporations. These teams surveyed around 9.3 lac people from one house to another, while screening 1.65 lakh homes. Out of 9.3 lacs, 2500 people were identified with various symptoms – cough, cold, and fever, and 36 people had a traveling history. The government and the committees also ensured to set up testing labs, PPE kits, masks, sanitizers for the medical staff. They also boast a steady increment in testing in the state and lower death numbers – as the recovery rate has been quite good, considerably

one of the best in the country. As the Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath said, when the crisis started, UP had a single testing lab – which has now increased to 14 in the state. The doctors can test more than 3000 samples each day in the labs. The government has also set up level two hospitals in all the districts where every eighth bed has a ventilator and every bed has an oxygen cylinder. The level three hospitals in the cities have a ventilator in each bed. The Chief Minister has also shared how the state is indebted to the health workers working as the front-line warriors and how all their needs will be taken care of. The Migrant Crisis was the next major problem dealt by the UP government as a large number of people have migrated from Uttar Pradesh to other states looking for better opportunities, work, and

money. Yogi Adityanath has announced that the government stands firm by its people and is ready to take them back with open arms. The state government has been providing all the possible help to the people who are returning. The medical team along with the administration is continually monitoring them, along with arranging food and other resources. Around four lac people or more are quarantined in the shelter homes for 14 days, as prescribed, to administer any symptoms of coronavirus. After the completion of 14 days, they are sent home with food grains. The Uttar Pradesh government boasts of bringing the maximum number of migrant workers and students back to the state. The initiative was taken when more than 5 lakh migrant workers were brought back from Delhi via buses. The chief minister had also arranged around 300 buses for Rajasthan's Kota to bring back the stranded students during the nationwide lockdown. The stranded students were there to prepare for entrance exams, most of them belonging to Uttar Pradesh. There were around 7,500 students from Uttar Pradesh; 2,000 from Haryana; 6,500 from Bihar; 4,000 from Madhya Pradesh; 2,000 from Maharashtra and some others from different states in the country. There were around 30,000 students stuck in Kota during the lockdown.

The government has also drawn policies along with working on various measures to revive the state economy after the upliftment of the nationwide lockdown. The state government has allocated different teams dedicated to coming up with various policies for the revival – supporting local businesses and start-ups (as announced by the Prime Minister) being one of them.

The state government is also focusing on providing relief and all the help measures to the farmers, so as they do not face any problem in the harvesting of seeds, selling the crops and availability of seeds. This is done to provide relief to the working class of the state. They also plan to approve larger level construction for some conditions.

MSME Sector : Efforts taken by the U.P. Government



It is no hidden fact that the economy has taken a massive hit during the nationwide lockdown for preventive measures, in the fight with COVID-19. However, with a large population and several returning migrant workers, the Uttar Pradesh government seems to have it harder than anybody else. For the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises sector, the lockdown has been challenging – which has also resulted in the shutdown of many enterprises. However, Yogi Adityanath's government has been constantly working towards the revival of the state economy – focusing majorly on the revival and increment of the MSME sector. After the exemption of all but three labor laws, the state government also planned a week-long loan fair (from 14th to 20th May 2020) for the MSME sector.

The government is aiming to create 90 lakh new jobs in the existing enterprises in the MSME sector, facilitated by providing easy loans with simple guidelines. The government is aiming to relax the rules, promising loans to small businesspeople on more generous terms – less liability; i.e., less interest. The government is also working on creating about 20 lakh jobs for the migrant workers who have returned home during the lockdown. Yogi Adityanath, while addressing the public has claimed that they are ready for this challenge and are working hard to bring back the glory of Uttar Pradesh. He is also prompting the officials to encourage entrepreneurs and small business owners to expand their work and create more jobs.

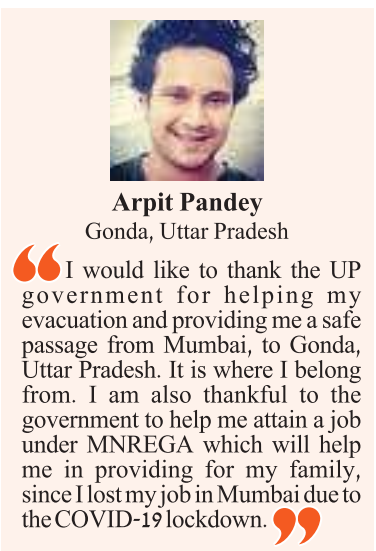
Uttar Pradesh Government Provides Job to Migrant Workers



The Government of Uttar Pradesh has skill mapped over 15 lakhs Migrant Workers. During the lockdown, these migrants returned from other states and by the means of this mapping, migrant workers will no longer stay unemployed as they will be allotted work, near to their places. The state government has comprised the Migrant Commission which will guarantee work just as standardized savings for the migrant laborers. Yogi Adityanath-driven Uttar Pradesh government has become a leader in the race to battle work emergency amid coronavirus pandemic. The UP government has offered work to 51 lakh laborers under MGNREGA and beneath the rustic occupation ensure conspire, the state

government is probably going to utilize more than 10 lakhs more specialists by one week from now. The business figures were given to UP CM Yogi Adityanath at a significant level gathering to survey the COVID circumstance in the state. UP government is additionally laying unmatched concentration to give work to ladies by connecting them to the Rural Livelihood Mission. The Chief Minister proclaimed, that the state government will give standardized savings and protection to workers and no state can take labor from UP without the administration's authorization. He had included that he got a rundown of 11 lakh vagrant specialists and workers from bodies, for example, India Industries

Association and FICCI and they have guaranteed to ingest a tremendous work power into the business. Calling labor as a major quality, UP CM Yogi Adityanath had said that the state government is widely going for aptitude mapping which will likewise prompt expertise working of such specialists, adding to their capability to procure. Yogi Adityanath said that his legislature will set up an activity intend to give social and financial security to laborers, for which, aptitude mapping of workers has just been finished. In the interim, as the centre and state governments changed work laws, targeting expanding open doors for work searchers and organizations,



different state governments have thought of activities to ensure the enthusiasm of laborers. Not with standing, Yogi Adityanath-drove Uttar Pradesh government has given off an impression of being the leader, contrasted with different states. The UP government is additionally investing genuine amounts of energy to get remote ventures to the state, which may additionally reinforce the state's work scene. The UP government has proposed to give a few offices to big companies of the US, including FedEx, UPS, Cisco, Adobe, Lockheed Martin, Honeywell, Boston Scientific, and others if they move processing plants and bases from China to the territory of Uttar Pradesh.

Arpit Pandey
Gonda, Uttar Pradesh

“I would like to thank the UP government for helping my evacuation and providing me a safe passage from Mumbai, to Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. It is where I belong from. I am also thankful to the government to help me attain a job under MNREGA which will help me in providing for my family, since I lost my job in Mumbai due to the COVID-19 lockdown.”

PR 229949 (Drinking Water and Sanitation)20-21#D

12



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2020

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

QUACKS PRETEND TO CURE OTHER
MEN'S DISORDERS, BUT FAIL TO FIND A REMEDY
FOR THEIR OWN. — MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

UNMAKING IN INDIA

Identifying country of origin of products is an idea whose time should never come — serves no economic purpose, will have costs

ON WEDNESDAY, THE Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) reportedly directed e-commerce companies such as Amazon, Flipkart and Paytm to figure out a mechanism that will allow consumers to identify the country of origin for all the products sold on their platforms. The latest directive comes amid a growing clamour for the boycott of Chinese products, in the aftermath of the clash between Indian and Chinese soldiers on the LAC. This is a troubling development. It signals a willingness on the part of the government to allow the discrimination, possibly the shunning, of products on the basis of their place of origin. Coupled with the government's push for "atma nirbharta" or self-reliance, marked by more zeal than prudence, and reports of it contemplating the raising of tariffs on imports, moves such as these appear to showcase an opportune political optics at a high economic cost — it could end up undoing the benefits and reversing the gains over the last few decades of free trade. It could presage a misguided shift towards protectionism, sliding into the failed policy of import substitution.

The idea of specifying the country of origin in products in today's integrated world serves no rational economic purpose. The difficulties in executing it only underline its absurdity. At the crux of the matter is defining the "country of origin". While products may be assembled in one country, the raw materials or components are often sourced from several other countries. This makes it challenging to identify who "manufactures" the product. A distinction thus has to be made between "assembling" and "manufacturing", and the extent of value added at each stage has to be estimated. Take, for instance, the iPhone. Its components, such as the touch screen display, memory chips and microprocessors come from US, Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese companies, not all of them manufactured in China. These individual components are shipped to China, where it is assembled, and then shipped across the world. So will an iPhone sold on an e-commerce website in India identify China as the country of origin? Even products that are assembled in India have components from several countries. How will the country of origin be worked out? Will it be based on value added? Who will be responsible for providing accurate information about the product — the platform or the seller?

Seen alongside recent developments, this latest directive raises concerns over the increasing protectionist impulses and inward looking signals emanating from the government. Such policies open the door for further lobbying, and facilitate rent-seeking. From the excessively wide rhetoric of self-reliance to reports of the government considering raising tariffs to boost domestic manufacturing, India seems to have forgotten the lessons learnt from its past mistakes.

TALL CLAIMS

Ramdev's so-called cure for COVID flouts medical and business due process, while discrediting Ayurveda

WITH THE COUNTRY'S COVID graph surging past the 4.5 lakh mark and nearly 15,000 people succumbing to the disease, any claim of a "100 per cent cure" is bound to generate hope. But in such difficult times, it's also important to regulate and guard against the propagation of a false sense of security. The Ministry of AYUSH has, therefore, done well to ask Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved to stop advertising that it has found a cure for the contagion, until it examines the matter. As a report in this paper has brought to light, the company did not follow due processes before launching the "Corona Kit", which it advertised as a panacea for COVID-19. The Uttarakhand government has said its licensing authority did not grant approval to the Haridwar-based Divya Pharmacy, Patanjali's medicine unit, to manufacture the "Corona Kit". And, the Rajasthan government has disclaimed any knowledge of clinical trials of the drug at the National Institute of Medical Sciences and Research in Jaipur. The litany of Patanjali's unethical practices doesn't end here. When mildly symptomatic patients developed fever during the trials, they were administered allopathic medicines.

The advertising of Ayurvedic drugs is governed by a law that dates back to 1954 — the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act. The Act does talk about "false claims" and "directly or indirectly giving a false impression regarding the true character of the drug". But serious diseases such as AIDS or encephalitis, which have emerged in the past 40 years, are not listed under the law. In February, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released a draft of an amendment to the 1954 Act to correct such shortcomings. But then the country was overtaken by COVID and the Centre has used the 1954 Act to scrutinise Patanjali's tall claims — the AYUSH ministry's notice to Baba Ramdev's outfit was served under this law. Perhaps the government has to find ways to include COVID-19 under its purview. Its use of the ordinance route to amend the 123-year old Epidemic Diseases Act, to curb violence against doctors, could be instructive for the purpose.

This is not to undermine the role of Ayurvedic remedies for people's health and well-being, especially during the pandemic. Some herbs are known to be immunity boosters. In fact, Patanjali, reportedly, sought regulatory approval for individual medicines, that it later included in the "Corona Kit", as "immunity boosters" and as remedies for "cough and breathlessness". In claiming that these medicines cure COVID, Ramdev's company is guilty of flouting medical — and business — ethics, while also discrediting Ayurveda.

DJOKOVIC AND COVID

Sport and its prima donnas are having an especially hard time resting it out in the shadows

WORLD NO 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic will have a fortnight of isolation to mull over the havoc that can be wreaked on the human body should a virus latch onto its respiratory airways. It was Djokovic's casualness that saw him make light of a global pandemic, resulting in four top players, his wife Jelena and some others, test positive for the virus. But this isn't just about Djokovic inviting top tennis players for an exhibition tournament and thumbing his nose at social-distancing protocols.

Sport and its prima donnas have been finding it difficult to rest it out in the shadows. All across the world, the calls for sport to resume, from business interests, grows because a bunch of supremely fit superstars cannot fathom that the human body can cave under an infection, at a mere sneeze or a cough. Sequestered in their bubbles where millions adore them for feats their bodies can perform, sportspersons refuse to acknowledge that something that's not painted in glory, like war, can halt their athletic exuberance. So, golf goes on in America before a bunch is felled by COVID-19. And football is pulling out all stops across Europe to complete their big dollar leagues.

Mercifully the Olympics got postponed, but global superstars, all super fit, just can't wrap their brains around a body that can be weakened by a flu. This bull-headedness works well for the heavily-invested officials, broadcasters and sponsors who are in danger of going bankrupt if live sports don't resume quickly. Were the players more circumspect about taking to the field, the resumption of sports would be much later and smoother. Djokovic just went and got infected, instead of waiting for science to do its job.



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

AS THE BORDER stand-off with China deepens, India will have to think of all possible strategic options that give it leverage in this crisis. One element often discussed in this context is new arrangements with a variety of powers. Many strategic experts are salivating at the prospect of an even closer alliance with the US. This is a propitious moment to mobilise international opinion on China. The degree of global alienation with the Xi Jinping regime is unprecedented. But can this be translated into concerted global action to exert real pressure on China? India should pursue all possible avenues. But we should also have a clear-eyed view of the limitations of what new alliances or arrangements can do for India.

It is important to remember that international relations are formed in the context of a country's development paradigm. India's primary aim should be to preserve the maximum space for its development model, if it can actually formulate one. India is not unique in this respect. The US-China relationship may have had its origins in the strategic attempt to create a Sino-Soviet split. But for decades, this relationship was sustained not by a strategic logic, but by the logic of the political economy of development in both the US and China, where they reciprocally depended on each other. What has changed profoundly in the US is the view that this arrangement largely benefitted big business in America at the expense of its own domestic manufacturing base.

The political legitimacy of the development model waned, and it is this fact that will largely be the driver of the US-China relationship. The question for India is not just whether the US has a stake in India's development, which it might. But it is, rather, to ask whether India's development needs will fit into the emerging US development paradigm. Will the very same political economy forces that create a disengagement with China also come in the way of a closer relationship with India? Some sections of American big business might bat for India; but the underlying political economy dynamics are less propitious. Will the US give India the room it needs on trade, intellectual

On our own

How did India, in quest for global prestige, manage to lose its neighbourhood? Answers lie at home

The value of global alliances and public opinion in settling our local conflicts has always been limited for two reasons. First, the international community has not been very effective in neutralising low cost asymmetric options exercised by some powers. This is the tactic Pakistan has used. Second, what military options India can exercise, fortifying defences, gaining strategic leverage in areas where we can, is for military experts to decide. But don't count on the fact that the world will support an Indian escalation beyond a point. The efforts of the international community, in the final analysis, will be to try and throw cold water on the conflict; no one has a serious stake in the fate of the terrain India and China are disputing.

property, regulation, agriculture, labour mobility, the very areas where freedom is vital for India's economy? Will a US hell-bent on bringing manufacturing jobs back to the US, easily gel with an "atma nirbhar" Bharat? To see what is at stake, we just need to look at the way in which friction over the development paradigm is driving tensions on trade, taxation and regulatory issues between the US and EU.

There is sometimes a complaint in the US that India is invited but refuses to come to the table with enthusiasm. There is some truth to this, despite the salutary cultural and political momentum in this relationship. But the drivers of this have often been legitimate differences over development, including climate change. It has also been that, at various points, that ask was antithetical to India's other strategic commitments. India was wise to stay out of the war in Iraq, it was wise not to spurn Russia entirely, and it is wise not to throw its weight behind the US's Iran policy. There is more maturity in the US to understand India's position. But there is a section of India's strategic community that sees India's reluctance to go in with the US, hook line and sinker, as a kind of ideological wimpishness, not a sign of more deeply thought out realism, which it has been.

It is an odd moment in global affairs, where there is recognition of a common challenge emanating from China, but no global appetite to take concerted action. An interesting example might be the global response to the BRI. Many countries are struggling to meet their BRI debt obligations. Many Chinese loans have become a millstone around the debtor countries' necks. But it is difficult to see the rest of the international community helping all these countries to wean their regimes away from dependence on Chinese finance. Similarly, there are now great concerns over frontier areas of conflict like cyber security and space. It is difficult to imagine concerted global action to create rules in these areas, partly because Great Powers like the US and Russia will always want to maintain their exceptionalism. So we are in a paradoxical world where the

strategic necessity of the rest of the world to come together on China has never been higher; yet the appetite for concerted action has never been weaker. Fundamentally, few countries are going to put their money where their mouth is.

The value of global alliances and public opinion in settling our local conflicts has always been limited for two reasons. First, the international community has not been very effective in neutralising low cost asymmetric options exercised by some powers. This is the tactic Pakistan has used. Second, what military options India can exercise, fortifying defences, gaining strategic leverage in areas where we can, is for military experts to decide. But don't count on the fact that the world will support an Indian escalation beyond a point. The efforts of the international community, in the final analysis, will be to try and throw cold water on the conflict; no one has a serious stake in the fate of the terrain India and China are disputing. At the end of the day, India has to manage China and Pakistan largely on its own.

The logic of the Chinese opening so many fronts together is baffling. Reassuringly, it could mean China is overreaching. Less reassuringly, it could mean that rather than displaying strategic coherence, China is now a regime that, like so many authoritarian regimes of the past, is willing to damage itself and the world. Such regimes are always harder to handle because it is not straightforwardly interest that drives them. Even as we deal with the military situation on the border, the test of India's resolve will be its ability to return to some first principle thinking about its own power. How does it create the space for accelerating its development — in the long run, the only cornerstone of a defence policy? How does it stay true to its greatest strength, its political identity as a liberal, pluralistic democracy? How did India, in its quest for global prestige, manage to lose its own neighbourhood? Our major vulnerabilities are all at home, and so are the solutions.

The writer is contributing editor,
The Indian Express



DAKSH PANWAR

LIKE THE ELDERLY, the COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged old media. Earlier this week, *Cricket Samrat*, a once-influential and wildly popular Hindi magazine but one that was on life support for some time, announced it was shutting down after 42 years.

Gen Z and non-Hindi readers might not have heard of it, but for a cricket-loving kid in the BIMARU region of the '80s and '90s, the importance of *Cricket Samrat* can't be encapsulated. But I will attempt here. It was like *ESPNCricinfo*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Star Sports* in one package.

Like *Cricinfo*, it would contain detailed reports, in-depth analyses, statistics and scorecards of domestic and international cricket — content that in the pre-internet era would otherwise have been inaccessible. *Cricket Samrat* was also *Sports Illustrated* in the sense that the magazine's pull-out posters would adorn our walls. For this reason, many non-Hindi readers also avidly collected *Cricket Samrat*'s issues.

And in an era when TV sets were a luxury in mofussil India and cable TV hadn't arrived, it was our *Star Sports* in that its vivid prose in a language that we lived and breathed would help us "see" the matches that we couldn't watch. The writing of many of its contributors was a breath of fresh air from the stoic style prevalent among Hindi newspapers of the time.

Cricket Samrat was all that and more. From its humble beginnings in West Delhi

THE DEATH OF A MAGAZINE

'Cricket Samrat' was a window to the sport in the Hind heartland before TV, internet

in 1978, it rode on cricket's expanding footprint in the country. Between Lord's 1983 and Bombay 1987, it grew exponentially as Indian cricket hit its apogee. It was a symbiotic relationship, with Indian cricket also gaining from *Cricket Samrat*. It acted as a force multiplier, democratising the game by taking it to the blind spots — blind swathes, in fact — in the north.

The seeds of the small-town revolution that would hit Indian cricket in the 2000s were perhaps sowed by *Cricket Samrat*. It fuelled the dreams of young kids hungry to make their name in the game. It was North India's very own *Wisden* — the globally revered Bible of Cricket.

Cricket Samrat used to be a rage at the Sports Hostels of Kanpur and Lucknow that threw up international cricket stars like Mohammad Kaif, R P Singh and Suresh Raina. The centrefolds would be found in most rooms where budding cricketers would spend restless nights dreaming about the heroes who watched them from the walls.

Mumbai Ranji cricketer Iqbal Abdulla learned the basics of the game through *Cricket Samrat*, quite literally. Growing up in Azamgarh, UP, Abdulla didn't have access to TV. This could have limited his understanding of cricket, but he had an alternative in *Cricket Samrat*. If it put young cricketers on the right path, it also showed the way forward to failed ones. In my case, at least, when

it became evident that I didn't have it in me to be a cricketer, the magazine inspired me to become a sports writer.

At its peak, it was the top-selling sports magazine in India, but its importance began to diminish with the advent of the internet. The monthly news cycle became outdated and cricket websites such as *Cricinfo*, which provided real-time updates, cornered the market. Till 2013, the magazine had an average issue readership of over a million, but hardly any advertisements. Its one-time strengths — Hindi and niche — were turning against it.

For some reason, *Cricket Samrat* never made the transition to the digital medium, even though it can be argued that there was — and perhaps still is — an audience for a quality cricket website in Hindi.

Cricket Samrat's biggest service to Indian cricket was covering the domestic game assiduously. At a time when there was little TV coverage, it gave the players a much-needed platform. You didn't need *Cricket Samrat* to know a Kapil Dev, but without it, you wouldn't have understood what an Ashish Winston Zaidi or an Amarjit Kaypee or an Atul Bedade meant to Indian cricket. It was coincidental but fitting, then, that two days after the death of Rajinder Goel, arguably the tallest among domestic cricket stalwarts, *Cricket Samrat* also drew its final breath.

daksh.panwar@expressindia.com



JUNE 26, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM BANDH THE SPONSOR OF the Assam movement appeared to be in for a confrontation with the government which decided to maintain normal functioning of the administration in face of the agitators' plan to paralyse it through a 24-hour state-wide bandh tomorrow. The government has warned its employees with payouts and other disciplinary action for absence of duty because of the bandh that begins at 6 am. It was taking steps to prevent picketing in front of offices and to provide transport with armed escort to help the employees attend work. All air and train services from Assam have been cancelled because of the bandh. Meanwhile the first day

of the 48-hour Lakhimpur bandh passed off peacefully. All vehicular traffic was off for the day.

CARTER'S PROPOSALS

THE US PRESIDENT Jimmy Carter proposed a transnational arrangement for governing Afghanistan to prevent a mass slaughter of pro-Soviet elements if Soviet troops are withdrawn. He said that assurances that a slaughter would be prevented, and a staunch anti-Soviet government would not emerge might be the necessary condition for a Soviet withdrawal. In its first reaction to Carter's proposals, Moscow has termed them vague.

AFTER SANJAY

TWO-DAYS AFTER Sanjay Gandhi's death, Congress I members of Parliament have begun discussing in what ways the functioning of the ruling party will change with its most important decision-maker becoming the victim of an unfortunate air crash. Most party members are of the opinion that the crucial decisions will have to be taken by Mrs Gandhi herself, and grief stricken as she is, the Prime Minister will have to find some time to unfold her mind on some of the issues. There is a view that is emerging that Mrs Gandhi should draft Sanjay Gandhi's wife, Maneka, or Rajiv Gandhi, who is an Air India pilot into politics.

13 THE IDEAS PAGE

Understanding Xi's China

Beijing today uses muscle, money and soft power to further its hegemonic ambitions.
India under Modi has no delusions about the new China



RAKESH SINHA

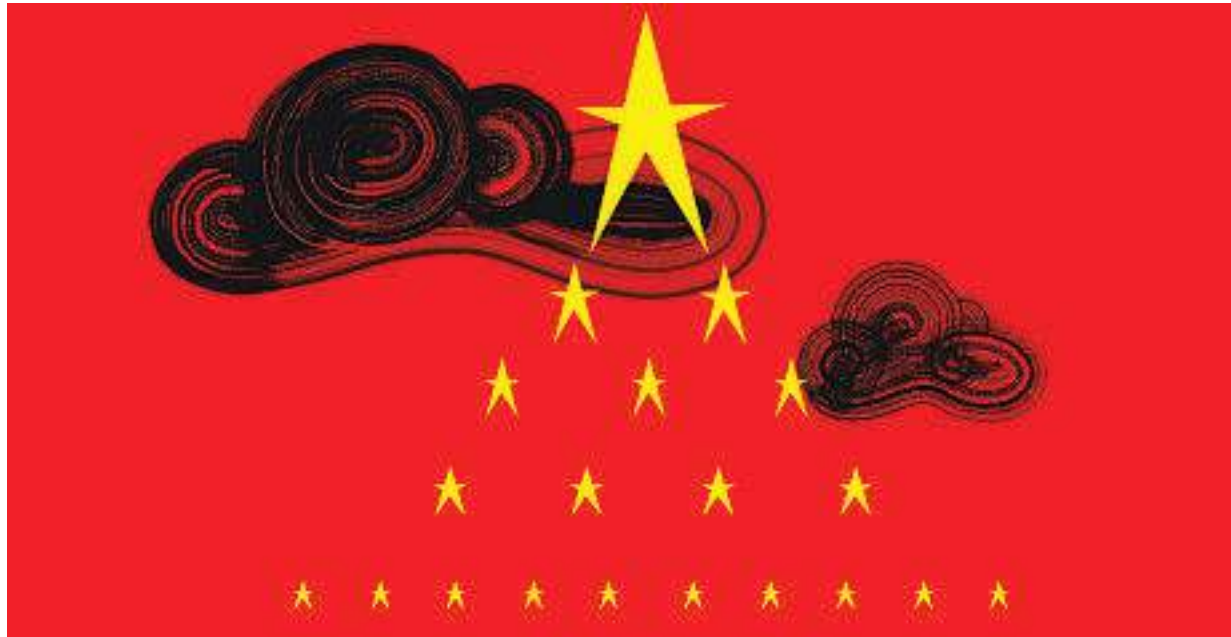
FORMER PRIME MINISTER Manmohan Singh's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the recent stand-off between the armies of India and China deserves attention for more than one reason. It represents the views of the Congress and it follows the allegations made by both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi that India has lost some of its territory to China and the government was hiding this fact.

The Indian Army and the government have denied that there have been Chinese incursions on Indian territory. The Indian Army's integrity and apolitical character are beyond doubt. Political regimes change, but the armed forces largely remain unaffected by it. The army has safeguarded itself from vices such as casteism, communalism, regionalism etc, which have inflicted most of India's institutions. Then army chief, General JJ Singh, showed great resilience in the face of pressure from the UPA government to provide community-wise statistics of the army's composition to the Sachar Committee in 2008. He categorically stated that patriotism was the only religion of the army.

Any discourse which unreasonably drags the armed forces into political controversy damages its reputation and demoralises it.

Being a former prime minister, Manmohan Singh is expected to know this better than any of his party colleagues. The threat perception from China needs no evidence; it has been more than obvious. But restating it exposes pre-Modi governments, particularly the ones that were headed by the Congress. The 1962 war that led India to lose 38,000 sq km of strategic territory was the result of self-betrayal by the Nehru administration. Warnings from the socialists, RSS, and prominent faces in his own party were ignored. Congress governments, including the UPA under Manmohan Singh, left 3,800 km of India-China border open without adequate infrastructure. The Chinese military has engaged in territorial adventurism every single year since 1962. The pace of construction of roads, rail bridges and airports on the Indian side of the border has been slow compared to the situation on the Chinese side. Then defence minister, A K Antony, admitted as much in Parliament in 2013. The speed at which infrastructure is built on the Indian side of the border has increased since the Modi government took charge. Therefore, the Congress lacks moral ground to tutor the Modi government on defence preparedness.

We should not allow domestic political concerns to influence the public discourse on China. In 1959, the Jana Sangh leader Deendayal Upadhyay described the Chinese creed as "cartographic aggression". Those who denigrate it as "jingoism" not only fail to understand nationalism but are also guilty of condoning China's strategy of perpetual expansionism. India cannot neutralise China's territorial ambitions by chanting peace; it can do so only by acquiring power. Hollow idealism cannot protect national boundaries and sovereignty.



C R Sasikumar

China's speeding economic growth cannot — and should not — be the only parameter to judge its character. It is devoid of democracy and abhors liberalism, both hallmarks of the modern world. Xi's philosophy is to convince Europe, the US and India that its political system and ideology of governance are superior to theirs. A report by the Global Public Policy Institute ('Authoritarian Advance', February 2018) says the Chinese leadership "aims to present its political concepts as a competitive, and ultimately superior, political and economic model".

Xi has acquired more power than Mao ever could. There is an unprecedented concentration of power at the top. Like any other dictator, he believes in confrontational tactics and uses both muscle and money as tools of geopolitical strategy and to further hegemonic ambitions. The US Congress realised this back in 2005, when it overwhelmingly voted against Chinese state oil company, CNOOC, making an \$18.5-billion bid for Unocal. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, countries such as Australia and Japan, wary of Chinese domination, have started safeguarding their economic sovereignty. The resurrection of an era of national self-reliance and non-hegemonic relationships in economic and trade matters is causing pain to China.

Xi made another tactical shift to further his agenda in countries such as India. The pre-Xi regimes used communist parties to serve their interests and image under the facade of "ideological fraternity". Xi realised the limitations of this strategy and took two steps forward, surprising non-communist forces. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) unhesitatingly mingles with non-Left parties and tries to cultivate pro-Chinese sentiments using soft power. At the 19th party congress of the CCP in October 2017, Xi unravelled a new ideological roadmap for China in unambiguous terms. It proposed to export "Chinese wisdom and a Chinese approach to solving the problems faced by mankind" and "contributing Chinese wisdom and strength to global governance". This is the advocacy of illiberalism and a rejection of open society.

Chinese political interest in India is not a new phenomenon. Earlier, it was guided by ideology and closely linked to Indian communists. The conflict between the former Soviet Union and China cast its shadow on the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the 1962 war became a reason for the CPI to split. The 32 members of the CPI National Council

Xi has acquired more power than Mao ever could. There is an unprecedented concentration of power at the top. Like any other dictator, he believes in confrontational tactics and uses both muscle and money as tools of geopolitical strategy and to further hegemonic ambitions.

who protested the party's resolution that declared China an aggressor formed the CPI(M). The CCP engineered another split in the CPI(M), leading to the formation of CPI(ML) in 1967. Peking Radio and Chinese media openly encouraged the rebellions in the CPI(M). Things have now changed under Xi. Not all are in the same boat but all roads lead to Rome.

Systematically, Chinese influence increased in the media, academia, opinion industry, NGOs and even social-cultural organisations, not only in India but also in Europe. They used proxy lobbies to reach out to those who seemed inaccessible to them. The pact between the Congress and the CCP and the invitations extended to ideological adversaries are a part of this outreach strategy. The hospitality extended to them and the facade of collaborations in art, culture, scholarships, etc help Beijing trivialise narratives that expose authoritarianism, restrictions on individual liberties, distortion of Marxism, and, above all, the human rights violations in China.

Beijing's role in Taiwan and Hong Kong caused no consternation among the Indian people. This is a reversal of Indian people's consciousness against Chinese expansionism in the 1950s and 1960s. Leaders, including Rammanohar Lohia, Jayaprakash Narayan, Deendayal Upadhyay and J B Kripalani, openly protested the independence of Tibet and sovereignty of Taiwan. Raghu Vira, a member of the Constituent Assembly who left the Congress in opposition to Nehru's China policy in 1961, said the overwhelming support to Nehru's China policy in both Houses of Parliament "constitutes a picture of fatuity and fickleness, which though devoid of guile is not devoid of guilt, for it has prepared the ground for unleashing upon the Asian world horrors and miseries unknown to the history".

Modi's unambiguous policy towards China is reflected in New Delhi's defence preparedness and pragmatism in world politics. China's displeasure shows the legacy of passivity and inaction that Modi inherited from his predecessors has been buried. It is also clear that India has come out of the self-inflicted delusion that China under Xi does not carry the legacy of Mao Zedong's deception and lies.

The writer is a Rajya Sabha MP and member of the BJP

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Regardless of the grandstanding of hawkish Indian elements, Pakistan should respond maturely to New Delhi's provocations. The government has made clear that adventurism will not be tolerated, and extremist Indian hawks would do well not to beat the war drums." — DAWN

First, ease of living

In post-Covid world, growth of business must not be at expense of societal well-being



ARUN MAIRA

COVID-19 HAS caused a healthcare crisis in India. Consequently, concerns about the ethics of the medical profession have arisen, with questions about the prices charged by hospitals for treatments, and by pharmaceutical companies for medicines.

The fundamental question seems to be, how much qualifies as sufficient private gain while providing a public service? This question will arise whenever any industry becomes attractive for investors, who want their investees to run their enterprise as a "business" rather than as a public service.

Doctors who prescribe tests and medicines that patients do not really need to increase the revenues of hospitals and sales of pharmaceutical companies (and improve their own bonuses) are placing the needs of business owners above those of the public they serve. The same applies to other industries: Professional journalists become less professional when the news media becomes a business, and they are pressed by the owners of the business to produce what sells — to attract eyeballs and increase TRPs and advertising revenues. They lose sight of the purpose of professional journalism, which requires the diligent uncovering of truths.

Three eminent social psychologists saw the crises in professions brewing in the 1990s with the accelerating advance of businesses into the domain of public goods. In their book, *Good Work—When Excellence and Ethics Meet*, Howard Gardner, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi and William Damon, write: "We have no fundamental quarrel with the operations of the market in economic spheres; we recognise the positive role that markets can play, for example in competition among publications or pharmaceutical companies... But not all spheres of life are best run on a market model. Many professional spheres — medicine, science, education, art — ought not to operate in the same way as commercial enterprises do, in the way suggested by the Adam Smith-Friedrich von Hayek-Milton Friedman view of the marketplace. Medicine requires financial prudence, but the purpose of the profession should not be to achieve the greatest profit for shareholders of a health maintenance organisation. Nor should legal protection, educational opportunities, and other vital human needs and privileges simply be allocated to the highest bidder. In the words of the French prime minister, Lionel Jospin, 'We are not against market-based economy, but market-based society'".

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed many weaknesses in economies and societies. Healthcare systems in most countries have not been able to cope with the pandemic: The crisis was too large and too sudden. However, countries with stronger public health systems, such as Vietnam, for example, seemed to have managed far better

than those with large, and very well-equipped, private health systems, such as the USA. Countries with universal social safety nets, like the Scandinavian countries, Japan, South Korea and Germany, seem to be managing the effects of the economic breakdown on the poorer sections of their populations much better than the countries without universal social security, like India.

COVID-19 has revealed the deep fissures in economics, between the school of economics that has dominated public policy across the world since the 1980s — the "free market" school that the authors of *Good Work* refer to — and another school which said that the needs of human beings must trump the needs of business in economic policy, and not the other way around. The profession of economics must be reoriented. Societal (and environmental) well-being must be the goal of economic policies, not the size of the GDP. Citizens' "ease of living" must become more important than "ease of doing business". No doubt, the health of businesses and the economy is good for the health of a society. However, the growth of businesses and the economy must not be allowed to harm societal and environmental well-being.

All professional institutions including businesses, are built on three fundamental structures, according to the authors of *Good Work* — mission, standards, and identity. Mission is the purpose of the institution in society. A healthcare institution's purpose is to improve the health of all citizens; and a news institution's purpose is to reveal the truth to society. In contrast, a business institution's purpose can be a very selfish one, of producing wealth for its investors, especially when it is run on the principle that "the business of business must be only business", which has become the dominant view since the 1990s.

Professionals are expected to maintain high standards in their work and in their conduct, such as the Hippocratic Oath that all the medical professionals swear to. The standards can be voluntarily determined and applied by the professionals themselves, as accounting firms do — or are supposed to. Otherwise, they must be imposed on them by the public they claim to serve through government regulations.

Identity, according to these psychologists, comprises of a person's own values and traits, adding up to "a person's deeply felt convictions about who she is, and what matters most to her existence as a worker, citizen, and a human being".

The lockdowns following COVID-19 have caused many people to introspect about the purposes of their lives, and the purposes of the enterprises they serve. It has also provided an opportunity to reset the course of economies. Business associations, and those who lead them, should use this crisis to determine how they must reform their associations to not merely lobby for the ease of doing business, and how they will regulate the conduct of their members. Or else, business will have to be regulated more firmly by the government for increasing citizens' ease of living.

Maira, former member of the Planning Commission, is author of *Reforming Capitalism: Improving the World for Everyone*



DIPA SINHA

THE PUBLIC Distribution System has played an important role in providing relief to people in the aftermath of the national lockdown. With COVID-19 cases increasing and the economy continuing to be in a downturn, some corrective measures need to be put in place to ensure that there are no exclusions and that this basic support of subsidised foodgrains reaches everybody preventing large-scale hunger and starvation. Despite gaps, the PDS is one of the most effective instruments to reach people in the current situation. The COVID-19 survey conducted by the Azim Premji University found that during the lockdown, 89 per cent of rural and 69 per cent of urban respondents reported that they were able to get foodgrains from a government ration shop compared to only 30 per cent of households saying that they received the Jan Dhan transfer.

Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), about 60 per cent of the current population has priority ration cards while some states such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have additional coverage which they support through their own budgets. Providing an additional 5 kg of foodgrains and 1 kg of pulses for free under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) was only for the 81 crore individuals who are currently covered by the NFSA, and later as part of the Atmanirbhar package, another 8 crore migrants have been included. However, there

A time to universalise PDS

That foodgrain stocks lie in public godowns while people are going hungry is a scandal

are still many who are left out of the food security net. Just to fulfil the NFSA requirement of 67 per cent, the updated population estimates of 2020 must be used in place of the current 2011 numbers. Moreover, in the present crisis where many have lost their livelihoods, the requirement would be much more. Unfortunately, the government has not made the PDS universal. There is no announcement of extending the relief measures from July onwards, ignoring the continuing despair in rural and urban areas.

What is disturbing is that in the middle of the current crisis some are now calling for a massive downsizing of the PDS and a shift to cash transfers in place of foodgrains. This debate has been going on for some time, and such a policy direction has also been reiterated in the Economic Survey 2019-20 to reduce the fiscal burden posed by the food subsidy. It is to contain the fiscal deficit that the government is reluctant to expand the PDS despite burgeoning stocks. Cash transfers are an important form of welfare provision, especially through schemes such as old age, widow and disability pensions and maternity entitlements. The amounts given under these transfers are woefully inadequate. But to argue for the PDS to be replaced by cash transfers would be erroneous and misplaced in the current context.

First, the FCI finances are indeed in a mess with an outstanding loan of over Rs 2.5 lakh

crore from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF). But this is entirely a result of mismanagement and off-budget accounting by the government to show a lower fiscal deficit. This comes at the cost of the sustainability of the FCI, which has already paid for the grain it has procured. In fact, a perusal of the data shows that the actual food subsidy and the NSSF loan combined still accounts for less than 1 per cent of the GDP per annum. Excluding the off-budget borrowings, the food subsidy in the last three years is between 0.53 and 0.59 per cent of GDP, much less than what it was in the years preceding NFSA when it was between 0.8-0.85 per cent. Therefore, it is not entirely true that the food subsidy is increasing at an exponential pace.

Second, there are several issues with replacing PDS with cash transfers. Cash transfers cannot be a substitute for the provision of subsidised foodgrains. There are a higher number of fair price shops than bank branches and although most people now have a bank account, many of these accounts are dormant and the transaction costs of withdrawing the cash are high. Going by the experience of other cash transfer schemes in India, it can be safely said that these will not be inflation-indexed and thus their real value will keep decreasing, which is not the case with food transfers. There are also fears that if there is no distribution mechanism in place, then the amount of food-

grains procured will also be reduced, which would mean that fewer farmers would be able to access minimum support prices.

Withdrawing the PDS is also not favoured by state governments. Since the NDA came to power, it has tried repeatedly to pressure states to shift to cash transfers. The fact that no state was forthcoming, and the central government finally managed to initiate DBT in PDS only in Chandigarh, Daman and Diu and Puducherry says something. In Puducherry, following local protests, its share in PDS was converted back to an in-kind transfer in a few months.

These debates can continue, but it is absolutely unethical to have stocks lying in public godowns while people are going hungry. Currently, there are more than 100 million tonnes in the FCI godowns, more than enough to meet the present NFSA requirements for a year. With the next kharif harvest in five months, the government is running out of storage space. The last time there were such high stocks in the godowns, in 2001-02, they were given away at BPL prices to exporters while many parts of the country were facing hunger and starvation. We are yet again faced with a situation of excess stocks and people in distress. Unfortunately, it seems like we will once again make the same mistakes.

The writer teaches at Ambedkar University Delhi

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BJP'S GLASSHOUSE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'When democracy was shackled' (IE, June 25). The writer, while patronising dissenters, is also deftly warning them of consequences. From Nehru to Indira and Sanjay Gandhi, the BJP looks to the past for examples to outline its own actions and inactions. With a chunk of the mainstream media singing paeans to the government, the "gag" was never further in than now. Freedom is an inalienable right; it is not for a democratic government to "give", let alone be proud of "giving".

Yusuf Ghazali, Patna

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'When democracy was shackled' (IE, June 25). The writer should keep in mind, before casting stones, the irrational invocation of the UAPA, NSA, sedition law and recently, the Disaster Management Act and Epidemics Diseases Act by BJP governments.

Suchak D Patel, Ahmedabad

WATCH OUT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Disengage but verify' (IE, June 25). Even after taking a stand on the "mutual consensus" for military disengagement between China and India, it would be too perilous for India to disband the assembled troops present at the line of confrontation after the breakdown of June 6 agreement.

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● WHEN DEMOCRACY WAS CHALLENGED: GAURAV BHATIA

● LESSON FROM AMERICA: BINOY VISWAM

www.indianexpress.com

Besides, only Indian sources have publicly confirmed the joint ideas of the mutual consensus whereas China has not announced it as a common objective yet.

Parul Srivastava, Prayagraj

VIRTUAL ASYMMETRY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A nurturing place' (IE, June 25). A major lacuna in virtual learning lies in the top-down teacher-student communication pathway it offers. School education, as the bedrock of personality development, demands interactive engagement to bring out the best in students. Improving the teacher-student ratio by roping in bright graduates is an option to bridge the gap.

Anjali Bhavana, Thiruvananthapuram



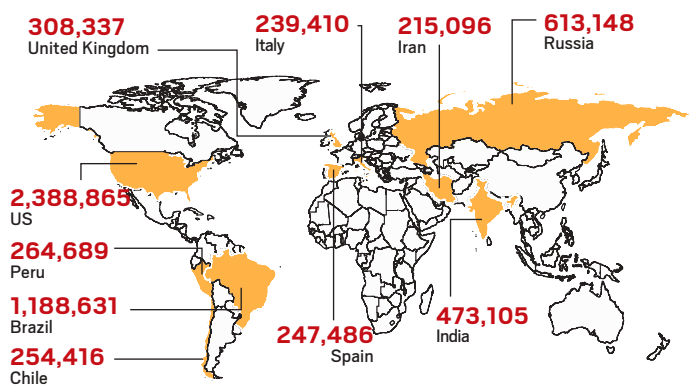
@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

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

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

THE WORLD

TOTAL CONFIRMED: **9,478,266**DEATH COUNT: **483,613**

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on June 25. **JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match as these are accounted at different times.**

A low-cost, easy-to-use Covid emergency ventilator

A TEAM of engineers and physicians has developed a low-cost, easy-to-use emergency ventilator for Covid-19 patients. The work is described in an upcoming issue of the journal *Medical Devices and Sensors*, according to a statement released by University of California-San Diego.

The team will be seeking approval for the device from the US Food and Drug Administration, it said.

The device is built around a ventilator bag usually found in ambulances. The team built an automated system around the bag. Its components can be



PAPER CLIP

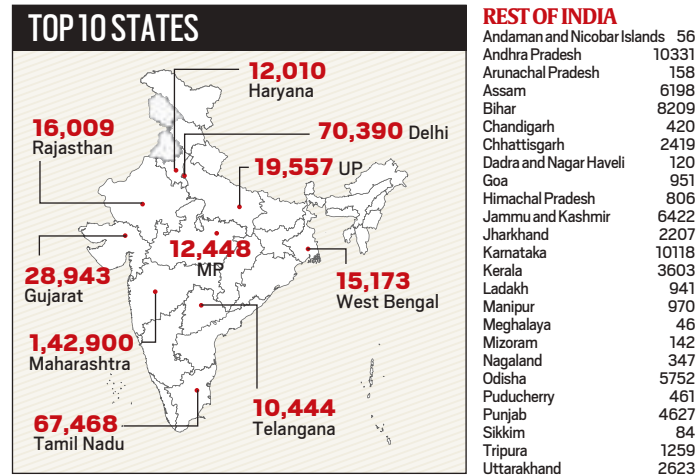
NEW RESEARCH

easily fabricated and the ventilator can be assembled in just 15 minutes, according to UC San Diego. It said the device's electronics and sensors rely on a robust supply chain from fields that are not related to healthcare, and hence they are unlikely to be affected by shortages.

The cost of a ventilator would be just \$500 per unit. It has been named UCSD MADVent Mark V. It offers pressure-controlled ventilation equipped with alarms to signal that pressure is too low or too high.

Source: University of California-San Diego

INDIA COUNT: 4,73,105 (14,894 DEATHS)



Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, June 25. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above. **2,71,697 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 35 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES**

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

VAJIRAM & RAVI
INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAM

ONLINE MODULE 2020 - 21

● G.S Prelims Test Series
● G.S Mains Test Series

● Optional Subject Test series
● Current Affairs Online Classes

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110060
Ph: 011-41007500; visit us at www.vajiramandravi.com

SIMPLY PUT

In space, growing private role

Government has announced a new organisation, IN-SPACe, part of reforms to increase private participation in the space sector. A look at its objectives, and what it means to the future of space exploration

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, JUNE 25

THE GOVERNMENT on Wednesday approved the creation of a new organisation to ensure greater private participation in India's space activities, a decision which it described as "historic", and which Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K Sivan said was part of an important set of reforms to open up the space sector and make space-based applications and services more widely accessible to everyone.

The new Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), which is expected to be functional within six months, will assess the needs and demands of private players, including educational and research institutions, and, explore ways to accommodate these requirements in consultation with ISRO. Existing ISRO infrastructure, both ground- and space-based, scientific and technical resources, and even data are planned to be made accessible to interested parties to enable them to carry out their space-related activities.

Why private participants

It is not that there is no private industry involvement in India's space sector. In fact, a large part of manufacturing and fabrication of rockets and satellites now happens in the private sector. There is an increasing participation of research institutions as well. But as Sivan told this newspaper on Thursday, Indian industry had a barely three per cent share in a rapidly growing global space economy which was already worth at least \$360 billion. Only two per cent of this market was for rocket and satellite launch services, which require fairly large infrastructure and heavy investment. The remaining 95 per cent related to satellite-based services, and ground-based systems.

Indian industry, however, is unable to compete, because till now its role has been mainly that of suppliers of components and sub-systems. Indian industries do not have the resources or the technology to undertake independent space projects of the kind that US companies such as SpaceX have been doing, or provide space-based services.

Additionally, the demand for space-based applications and services is growing even within India, and ISRO is unable to cater to this. The need for satellite data, imageries and



Rocket prototypes at the entrance of ISRO's Sriharikota launch range. Amitabh Sinha

space technology now cuts across sectors, from weather to agriculture to transport to urban development, and more. As Sivan told this newspaper, ISRO would have to be expanded 10 times the current level to meet all the demand that is arising.

At the same time, there were several Indian companies waiting for make use of these opportunities. Sivan said there were a few companies that were in the process of developing their own launch vehicles, the rockets like ISRO's PSLV that carry the satellites and other payloads into space, and ISRO would like to help them do that. Right now, all launches from India happen on ISRO rockets, the different versions of PSLV and GSLV. Sivan said ISRO was ready to provide all its facilities to private players whose projects had been approved by IN-SPACe. Private companies, if they wanted, could even build

their own launchpad within the Sriharikota launch station, and ISRO would provide the necessary land for that, he said.

IN-SPACe is supposed to be a facilitator, and also a regulator. It will act as an interface between ISRO and private parties, and assess how best to utilise India's space resources and increase space-based activities.

How ISRO gains

There are two main reasons why enhanced private involvement in the space sector seems important. One is commercial, and the other strategic. Of course, there is need for greater dissemination of space technologies, better utilisation of space resources, and increased requirement of space-based services. And ISRO seems unable to satisfy this need on its own.

The private industry will also free up ISRO

to concentrate on science, research and development, interplanetary exploration and strategic launches. Right now, too much of ISRO's resources is consumed by routine activities that delay its more strategic objectives. There is no reason why ISRO alone should be launching weather or communication satellites. The world over, an increasing number of private players are taking over this activity for commercial benefits. ISRO, like NASA, is essentially a scientific organisation whose main objective is exploration of space and carrying out scientific missions. There are a number of ambitious space missions lined up in the coming years, including a mission to observe the Sun, a mission to the Moon, a human spaceflight, and then, possibly, a human landing on the Moon.

And it is not that private players will wean away the revenues that ISRO gets through commercial launches. As Sivan said, the space-based economy is expected to "explode" in the next few years, even in India, and there would be more than enough for all. In addition, ISRO can earn some money by making its facilities and data available to private players.

Beyond IN-SPACe

IN-SPACe is the second space organisation created by the government in the last two years. In the 2019 Budget, the government had announced the setting up of a New Space India Limited (NSIL), a public sector company that would serve as a marketing arm of ISRO. Its main purpose is to market the technologies developed by ISRO and bring it more clients that need space-based services.

That role, incidentally, was already being performed by Antrix Corporation, another PSU working under the Department of Space, and which still exists. It is still not very clear why there was a need for another organisation with overlapping function.

On Wednesday, however, the government said it was redefining the role of NSIL so that it would have a demand-driven approach rather than the current supply-driven strategy. Essentially, what that means is that instead of just marketing what ISRO has to offer, NSIL would listen to the needs of the clients and ask ISRO to fulfil those. This change in NSIL's role, Sivan said, was also part of the reforms that have been initiated in the space sector.

China shipments stuck: why business is concerned

PRABHA RAGHAVAN & AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

A GROUP representing some American companies that have manufacturing operations in India has written to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), saying they are experiencing difficulties in accessing crucial components from their facilities in China.

The issue

Import consignments from China are learnt to be facing hurdles at some ports, including Chennai and Mumbai. It is learnt that over the last fortnight, Customs authorities have indicated to importers that there will be delays in clearing Chinese shipments, but have not cited any reasons.

There has not been any written or verbal instructions from the Customs authorities or the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and

Customs (CBIC) either, the importers say.

Several importers in Chennai said Customs officials have been advised not to clear any container that has arrived from China, even if an Out of Charge (OOC) order for clearance has been issued.

Ladakh link?

Some Chennai Customs zone officials said that checks were being carried out on the consignments based on specific intelligence-based inputs. Importers and industry, however, see it as a nudge to change their import pattern, especially of non-essential goods, amid calls for reducing the consumption of Chinese goods in the wake of the tensions at the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh where 20 Indian soldiers lost their lives in a deadly clash with the Chinese Army on June 15.

The concern

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), a group representing some American firms involved in manufacturing

activities in India, said they were "increasingly concerned" that component parts and other inputs "necessary" to their manufacturing operations were being detained at the ports.

The forum has sought the restoration of port operations or, "at a minimum", that the government publish any change in port policy "to provide the business community with the visibility they need to function."

Consignments of around 50 US firms with manufacturing operations in India across sectors such as telecommunications, automobiles, medical equipment, and fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) are learnt to be among those affected.

The government has issued "no formal orders" or provided a "specific" reason for not clearing their consignments, the group has said, and expressed concern that the absence of transparency "threatens" the continuity of their businesses. The "unanticipated" embargo on imports of goods from neighbouring countries will have repercus-

sions on supply chains and manufacturing in India, and will send a "chilling" signal to foreign investors, who look for predictability and transparency, the USISPF has argued.

The China trade

Possible curbs on imports from China in the form of tariff or non-tariff barriers are being discussed within the government, which is understood to be considering a list of imported items for imposition of various restrictive measures.

Between April 2019 and February 2020, China accounted for around 14% of India's imports; the main items being components for smartphones and automobiles, telecom equipment, plastic and metallic goods, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), and other chemicals.

In pharmaceuticals particularly, India depends heavily on China for crucial ingredients. In 2018-19, around 68 per cent of India's \$3.56 billion worth of bulk drugs or API imports were from China.

Hinduja brothers: what property dispute is about, how much is at stake

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JUNE 25

ON JUNE 23, a UK court ruled in favour of Srichand Hinduja, chairman of the Hinduja group, and his daughter Vinoo on the issue of control of Hinduja Bank, headquartered in Switzerland, against the wishes of his three younger brothers. The Hinduja group, once considered a close-knit business family, is facing a big challenge over the division of assets. Three Hinduja brothers — Gopichand, Prakash and Ashok — had contested the claim of Srichand and his daughter, saying "everything belongs to everyone and nothing belongs to anyone."

What's the tussle about?

On July 2, 2014, the four brothers purportedly signed an agreement that assets held by one brother will belong to all, and each brother will appoint the others as their executors. Srichand and Vinoo went to court stating the letter should have no legal effect. Justice Falk of the High Court of Justice, Business and Property Courts of England and Wales said the three other brothers tried to use the letter to take con-

trol of Hinduja Bank which was in Srichand's sole name. The court said Srichand had insisted in 2015 that the letter "doesn't reflect his wishes and that the family's assets should be separated". The three younger brothers said Srichand was suffering from a form of dementia.

What was the court's decision?

"Vinoo is appointed as Srichand's litigation friend. Steps taken in the litigation prior to that appointment will have effect, as permitted under CPR 21.3(4)," Justice Falk said. CPR 21.3(4) provides that any step taken before a protected party has a litigation friend "has no effect unless the court orders otherwise". The three younger brothers had used the July 2014 letter to take control of Hinduja Bank. This is not valid now.

What are the three brothers saying?

They claim that the litigation will not have any impact on the family's global businesses, which will continue to function as they have been. They say it will be apparent from the judgment of the High Court in England that Srichand's health has been deteriorating for a number of years suffering from Lewy body disease, which is a form of

THE FOUR BROTHERS



SRICHAND HINDUJA, 84, current head of the family and Chairman of Hinduja Group and charitable foundations. After joining the family business in 1952, he strategised its diversification.



PRAKASH HINDUJA, Chairman of the Hinduja Group in Europe. Since 2008, he has been based in Monaco. Having initially joined the family business in Tehran, he later moved to Geneva in 2008 to Monaco.



GOPICHAND HINDUJA, Co-Chairman of Hinduja Group. One of the architects of its transformation from an Indo-Middle East trading operation into a multi-billion-dollar transnational conglomerate.



ASHOK HINDUJA, based in Mumbai, is Chairman, Hinduja Group of Companies (India). He has been driving the group's diversification since it re-entered India in the mid-1980s. Heads several Group companies.

dementia.

"Vinoo, his younger daughter, acting as his Litigation Friend is bringing these proceedings on his behalf. It is very unfortunate that these proceedings are taking place as they go against our founder's and family's values and principles that have stood for many decades, especially, everything belongs to everyone and nothing belongs to anyone," they said.

"We intend to defend the claim to uphold these dearly held family values," they said in a statement, hinting that the legal fight is likely to continue. Observers don't rule out a division in the empire in the future.

Will Srichand's assets pass on to his daughter?

The three brothers noted that if the claim succeeds, all assets in SP's name would pass to Vinoo and her immediate family on SP's death, including the entire shareholding in Hinduja Bank, according to the judgment. They maintain that a number of the complaints about the 2014 letter relate to its impact on Vinoo personally rather than Srichand. They also contend that Vinoo has shown disregard for Srichand's best interests in bringing the

claim, and it was not in his best interests for the proceedings to continue. Srichand has two daughters, Shanu and Vinoo.

What's at stake in the Hinduja empire?

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index values the family fortune at \$11.2 billion. The \$50-billion Hinduja Group, controlled from the UK, is active in old economy sectors such as banking & finance, transport, automobiles and energy as well as the new economy sectors like technology, media and renewables. It's now an international conglomerate with a footprint across 38 countries and a 150,000-plus strong team. Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja group in India, is the second largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles in India. Dheeraj Hinduja, son of Gopichand, is on the board of Ashok Leyland. IndusInd Bank, a leading private sector bank, is also controlled by the Hinduja. Gulf Oil controlled by the group has sales in 100 countries.

P D Hinduja, father of the four brothers, who is credited with establishing trade links between India and Persia set up the business in 1914. Two of his major philanthropic projects are Hinduja Hospital in Mumbai and Hinduja Foundation.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Mary Jackson, NASA

USA
NASA names HQ after Mary Jackson

New York: NASA announced on Wednesday that it would name its Washington, D.C., headquarters after Mary Jackson, the organisation's first black female engineer and a pivotal player in helping US astronauts reach space, Jim Bridenstine, the administrator of NASA, said the agency would continue to honour those whose histories have long been overlooked. "It appropriately sits on 'Hidden Figures Way,' a reminder that Mary is one of many incredible and talented professionals in NASA's history who contributed to this agency's success," he said.

FRANCE
Eiffel Tower reopens after 104 days

Paris: Marking another milestone in France's recovery from the lockdown, the Eiffel Tower reopened to visitors Thursday after its longest-ever closure in peace time: 104 days. Tourists trickling back to Paris were delighted to find it open when some other attractions in the French capital remain closed. The Louvre Museum isn't reopening until July 6. Of the tower's three decks, only the first two reopened. Those who made the climb Thursday were rewarded with far-away views and a light breeze in scorching summer weather.

PAKISTAN
PIA grounds 150 pilots with 'dubious licences'

Islamabad: Pakistan International Airlines on Thursday announced that it has grounded 150 pilots with "dubious licences", a day after the preliminary probe report of the Karachi plane crash blamed the pilots and the air traffic control for the tragedy that killed 97 people. "Grounding so many pilots will affect the PIA flight operation," the spokesperson for the national carrier said, adding that they have already dismissed six pilots with fake degrees. Those pilots who get their licences verified will be allowed back on duty, Geo News quoted the PIA spokesperson as saying.



BRITAIN'S DAY OUT

Thousands defied coronavirus social distancing rules and gathered at a beach in Bournemouth, England, on Thursday — the hottest day of the year so far. A 'major incident' has been declared in the area to allow authorities to take emergency measures in response to the breach of rules. *AP*

Imran Khan calls Osama 'martyr' in Pak Parliament, faces flak

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, JUNE 25

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan on Thursday called slain al Qaeda chief and 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden a "shaheed" (martyr) and said that Islamabad faced "embarrassment" by taking part in America's war on terror.

Speaking in parliament during the budget session, Khan said the American forces entered Pakistan and killed Laden without informing Islamabad after which everyone started abusing his country. "I don't think there's a country which supported the war on terror and had to face embarrassment for it. Pakistan was also openly blamed for US failure in Afghanistan," Khan said.

"For Pakistanis across the globe, it was an embarrassing moment when the Americans came and killed Osama bin Laden at Abbottabad... martyred him. The whole world started abusing us after that. Our ally came inside our country and killed someone without inform-



Imran Khan. Reuters/File

ing us. And, 70,000 Pakistanis died because of US' war on terror," he said.

Khan's remarks drew criticism from the Opposition. "Osama bin Laden was a terrorist and our PM called him a martyr. He was behind massacre of thousands," said Khawaja Asif of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. Pakistan on Thursday expressed its disappointment over the US State Department's report which described the country as a "safe harbour" for regionally-focused terrorist groups. "...Pakistan will not allow any group or entity to use its territory against any country," the Foreign Office said, commenting on the report. *PTI*

Russia opens polls for week-long vote on extending Putin's tenure

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW, JUNE 25

POLLS OPENED in Russia on Thursday for a week-long vote on constitutional changes that would allow President Vladimir Putin to stay in power until 2036.

The vote on a slew of constitutional amendments, proposed by Putin in January, was initially scheduled for April 22, but was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. It was later rescheduled for July 1, with polling stations opening a week earlier and staying open for seven days in an effort to avoid crowds on the main voting day.

The proposed amendments include a change in the constitution that would allow the 67-year-old Putin, who has ruled Russia for over two decades, to run for two more six-year terms after his current one expires in 2024. Other amendments talk about improving social benefits, define marriage as a union of a man and a woman and redistribute executive powers within the government, strengthening the presidency.

The changes have already been approved by both houses of parliament, the country's



Vladimir Putin

Constitutional Court and were signed into law by Putin. He insisted that they be put to a vote, even though it is not legally required, in what many see as an effort to put a veneer of democracy on the controversial changes.

Russia is still reporting over 7,000 new virus cases daily and has 606,000 confirmed infections in all, the third-worst case-load in the world.

The Kremlin has repeatedly dismissed these concerns, saying that Russia was able to slow down the epidemic and assuring people that all necessary measures have been to ensure the safety of the voters.

The country's divided opposition, meanwhile, has failed to mobilise a significant protest.

EXPLAINED

Concern over virus, turnout

AT A time when Russia is still struggling with the pandemic, poll organisers reportedly face difficulty in ensuring a good turnout. There are also concerns that measures put in place due to the outbreak, like stretching the poll over a week to avoid long queues, leave room for potential fraud. For example, as per a report, it is uncertain how ballot boxes will be surveilled during sanitising, when everyone must leave the venue.

Some Moscow politicians and journalists launched a "No!" campaign against the amendments, but the virus lockdown prohibited rallies, and authorities have detained even single pickets.

Illegal wildlife trade putting global ecosystem at risk: FATF

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE FINANCIAL Action Task Force (FATF), an independent inter-governmental body that develops and promotes policies to protect the global financial system against money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, has released its first ever report on illegal wildlife trade (IWT).

The report, released on Thursday, comes amid increasing international concern that the crime could lead to more zoonotic diseases in the future.



FATF president Xiangmin Liu

Estimating the proceeds of IWT at between \$7 and \$23 billion per year globally, the FATF has suggested to all member governments that the financial aspect of wildlife trade needs to be looked at more carefully, and that money laundering laws

should be applied to wildlife trade, since the proceeds enters the global market through money laundering.

"The illegal wildlife trade is devastating our wildlife and putting the global ecosystem at risk. Time is running out. To ensure the survival of endangered species, we need to build strong public private partnerships to prevent, detect and disrupt this activity following the money that fuels it and the organised crime gangs, poachers and traffickers behind it," said FATF president Xiangmin Liu.

"The illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a major transnational organised crime that fuels corrup-

tion, threatens biodiversity, and can have significant public health impacts. In particular, the spread in recent years of zoonotic diseases underlines the importance of ensuring that wildlife is traded in a legal, safe and sustainable manner, and that countries remove the profitability of illegal markets," says the report.

In its report, the FATF pointed out that following the money allows countries to identify a wider network of syndicate leaders and financiers involved and to reduce the profitability of the crime. It also stated that syndicates involved in the crime are usually engaged in other illegal enterprises, and that tackling IWT will

help dismantle such networks.

"Combating criminal organisations through their financial flows is a significant legal and investigative tool to prevent wildlife trafficking and the potential proliferation of zoonotic diseases," it stated, suggesting the use of money laundering offences since they carry more severe penalties in many countries.

While the exact connection between the trading of pangolins and pangolin scales with the Covid-19 outbreak is yet to be established, researchers internationally are looking into possible connections.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

SPIKE IN OVER 20 STATES

At 36,880, US records highest 1-day spike so far

THE NEW YORK TIMES
NEW YORK, JUNE 25

THE UNITED States reported 36,880 new coronavirus cases on Wednesday, the largest one-day total since the start of the pandemic and more than two months after the previous high.

The number of infections indicated that the country was not only failing to contain the virus, but also that the caseload was worsening — a path at odds with many other nations that have seen steady declines after an earlier peak. Cases in the United States had been on a downward trajectory after the previous high of 36,739 cases on April 24, but they have roared back in recent weeks.

The resurgence is concentrated largely in the South and West. Florida, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas reported their highest single-day totals on Wednesday, but case numbers have been rising in more than 20 states.

The tally of new cases, based on a *New York Times* database, showed that the outbreak was stronger than ever. The elevated numbers are a result of worsening conditions across much of the country, as well as increased testing — but testing alone does not explain the surge. Increases in hospitalisations also signal the virus's spread.

Some states, including New York, which at one point had the most daily virus cases, have brought their numbers under control. Hoping to keep it that way,

AUSTRALIA REPORTS BIGGEST 24-HR RISE IN CASES IN 2 MONTHS

Sydney: Australia's second most populous state deployed ambulances and mobile test centres in a testing blitz as the country recorded the biggest daily rise in cases in two months.

Victoria state said 33 people tested positive in the past 24 hours, marking nine days of double digit new cases in the state. It has around 200 current cases out of a country total of 270.

Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews said authorities are starting with the 10 most affected suburbs. He said about 100,000 tests will be conducted over the next 10 days. *REUTERS*

New York — along with Connecticut and New Jersey — said it would institute a quarantine for some out-of-state travelers.

As of Wednesday, more than 2.3 million Americans have been infected and about 122,000 have died. Governor Gavin Newsom of California said that his state had recorded more than 7,000 new cases over the previous day.

The WHO warned Wednesday that if the Americas were not able to stop the spread of the virus, there may be a need to impose — or reimpose — general lockdowns.

Trump loses ground in key states: Survey

NATE COHN
NEW YORK, JUNE 25

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump has lost significant ground in the six battleground states that clinched his Electoral College victory in 2016, according to New York Times/Siena College surveys, with Joseph R Biden Jr opening double-digit leads in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Trump's once-commanding advantage among white voters has nearly vanished, a development that would all but preclude the president's re-election. Biden now has a 21-point lead among white college graduates, and the president is losing among white voters in the three Northern battleground states.

Four years ago, Mr. Trump's strength in the disproportionately white working-class battleground states allowed him to win the Electoral College while losing the popular vote. The surveys indicate that the president continues to fare better in these relatively white battleground states than he does nationwide.

Separate Times/Siena survey released on Wednesday found



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Biden leading by 14 points nationwide, 50 percent to 36 percent. Biden would win the presidency with at least 333 electoral votes, far more than the 270 needed, if he won all six of the states surveyed and held those won by Hillary Clinton four years ago.

With a little more than four months to go until the election, there is still time for the president's political standing to recover, just as it did on so many occasions four years ago. He maintains a substantial advantage on the economy, which could become an even more central issue in what has already been a volatile election cycle. And many of the undecided voters in these states lean Republican, and may end up returning to their party's nominee. *NYT*

'YOU THINK ALL BLACK MEN LOOK ALIKE?'

Wrongfully accused by algorithm, US man's arrest highlights tech bias

KASHMIR HILL
NEW YORK, JUNE 25

ON A Thursday afternoon in January, Robert Julian-Borchak Williams was in his office at an automotive supply company when he got a call from the Detroit Police Department telling him to come to the station to be arrested. He thought at first that it was a prank.

An hour later, when he pulled into his driveway in a quiet subdivision in Farmington Hills, Michigan, a police car pulled up behind, blocking him in. Two officers got out and

handcuffed Williams on his front lawn, in front of his wife and two young daughters, who were distraught. The police wouldn't say why he was being arrested, only showing him a piece of paper with his photo and the words "felony warrant" and "larceny."

His wife, Melissa, asked where he was being taken. "Google it," she recalls an officer replying.

The police drove Williams to a detention centre. He had his mug shot, fingerprints and DNA taken, and was held overnight. Around noon on Friday, two detectives took him to an interrogation room and placed three pieces of paper on

the table, face down.

"When's the last time you went to a Shinola store?" one of the detectives asked, in Williams's recollection. Shinola is an upscale boutique that sells watches, bicycles and leather goods in the trendy Midtown neighbourhood of Detroit. Williams said he and his wife had checked it out when the store first opened in 2014.

The detective turned over the first piece of paper. It was a still image from a surveillance video, showing a heavyset man, dressed in black and wearing a red St Louis Cardinals cap, standing in front of a watch display.

Robert Julian-Borchak Williams had an alibi. *NYT*

Five timepieces, worth \$3,800, were shoplifted. "Is this you?" asked the detective.

The second piece of paper

was a close-up. The photo was blurry, but it was clearly not Williams. He picked up the image and held it next to his face.

"No, this is not me," Williams said. "You think all black men look alike?"

Williams knew that he had not committed the crime in question. What he could not have known, as he sat in the interrogation room, is that his case may be the first known account of an American being wrongfully arrested based on a flawed match from a facial recognition algorithm, according to experts on technology and the law.

A nationwide debate is rag-

ing about racism in law enforcement. Millions are protesting not just the actions of individual officers, but bias in the systems used to surveil communities and identify people for prosecution.

This month, Amazon, Microsoft and IBM announced they would stop or pause their facial recognition offerings for law enforcement. The gestures were largely symbolic, given that the companies are not big players in the industry.

Clare Garvie, a lawyer at Georgetown University's Center on Privacy and Technology, has written about problems with the government's use of facial recog-

nition. She argues that low-quality search images — such as a still image from a grainy surveillance video — should be banned, and that the systems currently in use should be tested rigorously for accuracy and bias. "There are mediocre algorithms and there are good ones, and law enforcement should only buy the good ones," Garvie said.

About Williams's experience in Michigan, she added: "I strongly suspect this is not the first case to misidentify someone to arrest them for a crime they didn't commit. This is just the first time we know about it."

Williams and his wife have

not talked to their neighbours about what happened. They wonder whether they need to put their daughters into therapy. "My mother doesn't know about it. It's not something I'm proud of," Williams said. "It's humiliating."

He has since figured out what he was doing the evening the shoplifting occurred. He was driving home from work, and had posted a video to his private Instagram because a song he loved came on — 1983's "We Are One," by Maze and Frankie Beverly.

He had an alibi, had the Detroit police checked for one. *NYT*

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Manipal S/O Bhagwan Das Singh R/o H.No.315, Toor Mafi Kothi., Kidmatpur Amroha U.P.-244501, have changed my name from Manipal Singh to Mahipal Singh for Future. 040539961-6

I, Sushila Singh w/o Mahipal Singh R/o H.No.315, Toor Mafi Kothi Kidmatpur, Amroha, U.P.-244501, have changed my name from Sushila Singh to Sushila for Future. 040539961-7

I, Sushila Patwari D/o Rajkumar Patwari W/o Prassan Goyal R/o-C-128, Pundrik-Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Shringar Goyal. 040540317-12

I, Sapana D/o Puran Bahadur R/o,H.No.E-18, 1st-Floor, Rajapuri, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Sapna permanently. 040540317-9

I, Sandeep Singh Sehgal S/O Shri. Surender Pal Singh R/o 1/124, Pratap Singh Building, Janpath Lane, Delhi have changed my son name from Ojas Sehgal to OJAS SINGH SEHGAL for all future purposes. 040540259-2

I, Sandeep Singh Sehgal S/O Shri. Surender Pal Singh R/o 1/124, Pratap Singh Building, Janpath lane, Delhi have changed my son name from Japesh Sehgal to JAPESH SINGH SEHGAL for all future purposes. 040540259-1

I, Ritu Chhabra W/o Vinay Chhabra, R/o- C-5/50B, Lawrence Road, Keshav puram, New Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Ritu Chhabra 0070707324-1

I, RAJESH AGGARWAL, S/O-DEVINDER GUPTA R/O-L-2/1 SHASTRI-NAGAR ASHOK VIHAR DELHI-110052, changed my name to RAJESH GUPTA. 040540312-5

I, Pankaj Kumar S/O Kaishash Pati Ranjan Sahay R/o-190,1st-Floor,Pratap-Nagar Mayur-Vihar Phase-1,Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Pankaj Sahay, for all purposes. 040540312-10

I,NO-6939978M HAV AJIT SINGH S/O-AMILAL R/O-VILL-NAGAL MUNDI,PO-MUNDI,DISTT&TEH-REWARI, HARYANA-123401, have changed my minor son's name,from ANMOL to ANMOL YADAV,for all,future purposes. 040540317-7

I, NAZARUL HASAN, S/O-HAMID HASAN R/O-G-73 GROUND-FLOOR NIZAMUDDIN WEST DELHI-110013, changed my name to NAZAR HASAN. 040540312-3

I, Mohammad Asif S/o- Mohammad Shafiq R/o-B-62, G-Floor,DDA-Colony, New Zafraabad Delhi-32, have changed the name of my son,From Amaan to Mohd Amaan. 040540312-9

I, Mehrunisa W/o Saeed Ahmed Umar R/o-E-21 F.F, Nawada Housing-Complex Vipin-Garden Dwarka-More Delhi-110059, Changed my name to Mehrunnisha Khan. 040540312-2

I, Mahipal S/o Ram Chander R/o 14/9, U.G.F., Subhash Nagar, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Mahipal Singh permanently. 040540317-8

I, Khushal S/o Harbans Lal R/o-CA-17A, DDA Flats Maya Puri Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Khushal Gakhar. 040540317-1

I, Jyoti John W/o-Vijay Pahlajani R/o-32, Al-Block, Birla-Farm, Chhattarpur-Extn., New Delhi-110074, have changed my name to Vinny Pahlajani. 040540317-3

I, Janendra Gulati S/o Surendra Kumar Gulati R/o-D-2/24, Gold Croft Apartment, Dwarka Sector-11, Delhi-110075, have changed my minor son's name from Ayaan Gulati aged 1 year to Ayaan Gulati forever 0070707325-1

I, RITU W/O- RAJESH GUPTA R/O-L-2/1 SHASTRI NAGAR ASHOK VIHAR DELHI-110052, changed my name to RITU GUPTA. 040540312-4

I, Chirag verma S/O-Ajay Verma, Add-892/A housing board, colony faridabad sector-29, Haryana-121008,Have changed my name to Shubham Verma. 040540312-8

I, Babita Jasjit Jain W/o-Mr.A.K. Jain R/O-A3-701,UniworlD City,Sector-30, Gurugram, Haryana, have changed my name to Babita Jain,for all, future purpose. 040540317-11

I, BADURL HASAN S/O NAZAR HASAN R/O-G-73 GROUND FLOOR NIZAMUDDIN WEST DELHI-110013, Changed my name to BADRUL HASAN. 040540312-2

I, Ashima Shanker D/o Suresh Kumar Gupta W/o Vinay Shanker R/O-C-101, Pushpanjali, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Ashimma Shanker. 040540317-10

I, Chahat D/o Anil Rana R/o-H.No.469, Bhrathal-Road, Bijwasan, New-Delhi, have changed my name to Chahat Rana. 040540312-6

GREETINGS

Halak Pandya, a very Happy 22nd birthday to you from your friends! Lots of Love!

0050165851-1

LOST & FOUND

I Shyam Aggarwal Director of Tyro Consultants Private Limited having its Regd. Office at B-132, Anand Vihar, Delhi-110092 here by report that I have lost Original Re-allotment letter no. HSIIIDC/Residential 1504 dated 12-06-2014 related to Plot no. 181, Sector-1, Manesar, Gurgaon Haryana. In case it is found please return it to its Regd. Office. 040540264-1

LOST & FOUND

Be it known to all that my client has Lost Original Relinquishment Deed Registered as No 7985 in Book No. 1 Volume No. 7476 on Pages 107 to 108 dated 05.10.1993 in respect of Property Bearing No. RA-9, Situated at Inderpuri, New Delhi, if any one find the same in original shall contact to the under signed number. Sumit Mehta (Advocate) D/3157/2009, Mob.: 9868001948

LOST & FOUND

I, Mrs. Shama Jain W/o Shri Rajat Jain R/o 102, Second Floor, Veer Nagar, Jain Colony, Malika Gans, Delhi-7, owner of Flat No. C-1, First Floor & Second Floor, measuring 261 Sq.Ft. situated at Indra Market Subz Mandi, Delhi-110007, has misplaced/Loosed original 1. Lease Deed Dt.03-08-1961 vide Registration No.600 Add Book No.1, Volume No.174on pages 61 & 2. Original Sale Deed Dt.15-04-1989 vide Registration No.1868 Add Book No.1, Volume No.4887 on pages 87 to 91. Complaint at Delhi Police vide LR No.13223/2020 & 37335/2020. If found please contact No. 9990611111

0070707338-1

I Ravan Kumar S/o Sree Ram Lal R/O Chak Diyalla Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir-184144, have changed my name to Raman Kumar 0070707333-1

I Pardeep Kumar S/O, Sh. Chet Ram R/o RZg-253 Raj Nagar-I Palam Colony New Delhi 110045 have changed my name to Pradeep Kumar for all purposes. 040540296-1

I Nivi Gupta W/O Kushpinder Singh Matharoo R/o House No-1931, Street No-4, Circuit House Road, Maharaj Nagar, PO Bharat Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab-141001, have changed my name to Navreet Kaur Matharoo 0070707338-1

I Nisha W/o Rahul Ray R/o/A-502 Neelpadam-kunj, Sector-1 Vaishali, Ghaziabad-201010 have Changed my Name to Nisha Ray for all future purposes 040540258-1

I Kanta W/O Kamal Nain R/O-QNTA No-136,S.J. Hospital Staff-Qtr.,Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029 Have Changed my Name to Kanta Devi. 040540312-1

I Kanika D/o Tejbir Rapria R/o House No-324, Village-Sheikhpura, Tehsil-Gannaur, Sonipat, Haryana-131101, have changed my name to Kanika Rapria. 0070707359-1

I Kamal Bhatia Alias Kotera Ponnappa Accamma D/o Kotera Somaiah Ponnappa and W/o Ajay Bhatia R/o 403, Chikkanappa Layout, Byrathi, Hennur, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560077, have changed my name to Kotera Ponnappa Accamma 0070707341-1

I Jonathan Gordon Samuel Alias Jonathan Gordon Samuel Nongrum S/O Godley Samuel R/O-B-608, Shaurya Apartment, Sector-62, Noidia, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name to Jonathan Gordon 0070707336-1

I Inder Preet Singh S/O Sh.Kanwar Inder Pal Singh R/o C-10/3, Model Town-III, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Inderpal Singh for all purposes. 040540252-2

I Harjeet Kaur W/o Rupinder Singh R/o B-1/2081, Mohalla Ahluwalia Wala, Old Rajpura, Patiala, Punjab-140401, have changed my name to Jaswinder Kaur. 0070707361-1

I Dishva Varma W/o Manish Disha R/o Flat No-301, Dhanshree Apartment, Premises No-2, C-78, Sector-2, Lohia Nagar, Vikas Nagar, Lucknow, UP-226022, have changed my name to Dishha Verma 0070707339-1

I Biswajit Ghosh Alias Biswajeet Ghosh S/O Bijon Shekher Ghosh R/O QR No-D/2, NABM, Prasar Bharati Colony, Mancheswar, bhubneswar, Khorda, odisha-751017, have changed my name to Biswajit Ghosh 0070707332-1

I Bala Devi W/o Bansraj Bhardwaj R/O 316, Gali No-04, Ambekar Statue, Shihbanpura, Ghaziabad, UP-201001, have changed my name to Shanti Devi 0070707344-1

I Aryan Sunil Kumar Singh S/o Sunil Kumar Singh R/O 22/4, HASAN RAO Board Transit Flat, Chanakya Puri, Delhi is also known as Aryan Singh. Both names are of one and the same person. 040540252-1

I, YOGESH KANSA S/O SURAJ BHAN R/O PKT D-10, FLATNO.13, SECTOR-7, ROHINI, DELHI-110085. CHANGED MY NAME TO YOGESH KUMAR KANSAL. 040540312-7

I, Vinay Chhabra S/o Vinod Chhabra, R/o- C-5/50B, Lawrence Road, Keshav Puram, New Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Vinay Chhabra. 0070707318-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby inform that my Clients Sanjay Palanwal S/O Late Shri Inder Singh Palanwal R/o 110552, Plot no-32, Gali no-22A, Near Durga Mandir, East Ram Nagar, Shahdara, North East Delhi-110032 have disownned his son Akash Palanwal from all movable and immovable Properties due to his misbehavior and drinking liquor. As Such, whoever deals with them shall deal on their own risk and my Clients will not be responsible.

RITU VERMA (ADVOCATE) Enrt No.- D/1126/20 Off. No. B-25, Gupta Palace A-2/42, Rajouri Garden N. Delhi-110027

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that My client Smt. Raj Kumar W/o Sh. Surender Pandit and Sh. Surender Pandit S/o Lt. Sh. Sudama Pandit both R/o RZ-365, Gali No. 3, Rajpura, Palam colony, New Delhi-110077 have evicted both their sons namely Manish Kumar @ Pappu And Nitish from all their movable and immovable property and had disowned, dischered, delated and saved all relations from their son Manish Kumar @ Pappu and Nitish. Any one dealing with either Manish Kumar @ Pappu or Nitish will be doing so at his' Her own risk and cost and Smt. Raj Kumar and Sh. Surender Pandit will not be liable for the same.

Vikas Dahiya Advocate E.No. D/44317/ Delhi, High Court Chamber No. 810, Dwarka Court N. Delhi-110027

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that my client Sh. Hanuman Prasad Gang S/O Late Sh. Hukam Chand R/o -2186, GF, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058 has severed all his relations from his sons Sh. Nitin Gang, Sh. Akshay Gang & Sh. Shilpa W/o Sh. Nitin Gang and has evicted and delbarred them from all his movable & immovable properties with immediate effect because of atrocities committed by them against my client. Any person dealing with them, shall be doing so at their own risk, costs & consequences. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for the same.

Adv. Nakul Grover & Associates Suneja-1, DC Janakpuri, N.D.-58

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client namely Shweta Sharma wife of Shri Manoj Sharma resident of Flat No. 9, Top Floor, C-332, Chattarpur Extn., New Delhi-110030 is neither the owner of the property bearing House No.2, Upper Ground Floor, C-474, VTS Garden, Chattarpur Extn., New Delhi and never been in possession of the same. My client's husband Shri Manoj Sharma has fraudently got evicted and possession of Property dated 02.06.2020 in respect of the said property in his own name.

Any person dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever with said Shri Manoj Sharma or any other person acting on his behalf shall solely be liable for all such consequences arising out of the same. My client further shall not be responsible for any consequences arising out of the same in any manner whatsoever.

Kunal Raheja (Advocate) N-34, L.G.F. Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, T.C.D. U.P. JAL NIGAM, MAINPURI Ref. No. 501/Nivida/19 Dated 20-06-2020

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE U.P. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are invited for Retrofitting of various water supply schemes of district Mainpuri under Jal Jeevan Mission Program. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website http://tender.up.nic.in. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their tender, duly filled, online as per schedule given below: Date for:-NIT Date: 20-06-2020 At: 10.00 A.M., Publishing Date: 27-06-2020 At: 10.00 A.M., Document Download / Sale Start Date: 27-06-2020 At 10.00 A.M., Pre Bid Meeting Date: 27-06-2020 at 15.00 Hrs., Bid Submission Start Date: 30-06-2020 At 10.00 A.M. Bid Submission Closing Date: 08-07-2020 Up to 5.00 PM. Bid Opening Date: 09-07-2020 At 15.00Hrs.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

File no. M/39/Station cleaning/BJU/Part-II/2020/Tender, Date: 23.06.2020. For and on behalf of the India invited e-open tender (E-Tender Notice no CW-Sonpur-05/2020) from experienced contractor for the work given below:

1. Name of the work with its location : Mechanized & manual cleaning, Rag picking, Housekeeping and coahg watering at BJU Station for four years (1460 days). 2. Approx. cost of the work : ₹13,55,716.99 (₹ Thirteen crore fifty six lakh fifty five thousand seven hundred Sixteen and ninety nine palsa only). 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : ₹8,28,300/- (₹ Eight Lakh twenty eight thousand three hundred only). 4. Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender : Tender submission date 21.07.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. Opening date: 21.07.2020 after 15.00 Hrs. 5. Website particulars notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Website : www.reps.gov.in. Railway administration reserves the right to postponed/modify or to cancel the tender anytime without assigning any reasons.

DeNHM/ECR/Sonpur PR/0357/SEE/Mech./IT/20-21/36

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

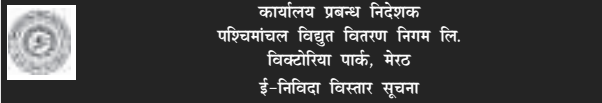
Open E-Tender Notice (Single Packet System)

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction), Opposite Railway Hospital, Hasanpura Road, North Western Railway, Jaipur - 302006 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tender for the following packages of Machines & Ambulances are invited for the following Machines & Ambulances and the bid document of which can be downloaded from the website https://uktenders.gov.in Bids must be submitted online on the website https://uktenders.gov.in on or before 11:00 AM, 17 July, 2020 A complete set of bidding documents in English may be downloaded by interested eligible bidders from the website https://uktenders.gov.in which will be available on the website from 01/07/2020 to 17/07/2020. Bids will be opened on 17 July, 2020 at 3:00 PM

Sl. No Package No. Name of Work Bid Security (In INR) Cost of Bid Document (In INR) 1. 01/PIU-Health/CERC/UDRP-AF/2020 Supply & installation of CT Scan Machines INR 40.00 Lakh 5000+GST 2. 02/PIU-Health/CERC/UDRP-AF/2020 Supply of Ambulances (100 Basic Life Support-BLS & 40 Advance Life Support-ALS) for Health Department, Uttarakhand INR 68.34 Lakh 5000+GST

Note: 1. The corrigendum for the above works will be uploaded on website www.uktenders.gov.in & www.ukdisasterrecovery.in. 2. Email id pi_u.health.udrfap@gmail.com may be contacted for any information or complaint related to the works under PIU (Scope, Bridge & Irrigation), UDRP-AF or the complaint/grievance may also be uploaded on the website www.uk disasterrecovery.in

Sd/- Program Manager



कार्यालय प्रबन्ध निदेशक पर्यटनमंत्रालय विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. विक्टोरिया पार्क, सेठ ई-निविदा विस्तार सूचना

निविदा विनिर्देशिका संख्या पर्यटन/वि. मं. मु./ 02/ Swift Daire/ Tours/ Tata Tiger/ 2020-21 के खुलने की तिथि दिनांक 25.06.2020 थी जिसको अधिनियम कार्यों से दिनांक 02.07.2020 तक विस्तार किया जाता है। निविदा की प्रत्येक व सौतें यथावत रहेंगी। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियंता (मु.) कृते प्रबन्ध निदेशक, गृहविभाग से बिजली बयार्ड "बिजली चोरी की सूचना हेल्थसर्जन नम्बर पर दै: 1800-180-3002 (सेठ) 1800-180-8752 (सबकाक)" पत्रांक 5098 दिनांक: 25.6.2020

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION, DODA (E-mail: xenstdoda@gmail.com, Tel. Fax: 01996-233076) CİN No. U40300JK2013SGC003996

EXTENSION NOTICE

Due to poor response to e-NIT No. 11 of 2020 dated: 18.05.2020 for the Rate contract for execution of various works involving Lifting of materials from Division Store Doda, Transportation, Erection of Poles, Conductor, Guys and other allied line materials as and when required for repair and Maintenance of existing 13 KV Transmission lines wherever required in District Doda, the last date of submission of bid is extended upto 01.07.2020 and date of opening is 03.07.2020. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division, Doda. No. STD/Doda/486-89 DMPJ-170520 Dated: 24.06.2020

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD

EXPRESSON OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF ARCHITECTS UBIN - RHB2021RFP0001

Expression of Interest is invited from competent architects for empanelment with Rajasthan Housing Board for planning and designing of Housing Schemes in various cities of the state. The architects having experience in Residential and Group Housing, Commercial, Institutional (Office buildings/Schools & Dispensaries etc.) Sports complexes, Interior Designing, Landscape design, Theatres & Auditorium etc. may apply in the prescribed documents. The documents may be downloaded from the RHB web site urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rhb and sppr.rajasthan.gov.in during 29-06-2020 to 08-07-2020.

The document duly completed along with the Demand Draft of Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand) in favour of Rajasthan Housing Board (non refundable) should positively reach the office of the Chief Engineer (HQ), RHB latest by 5.00 PM of 13 July 2020.

The decision of the competent authority in this regard shall be final. The Board may consider awarding architectural & design consultancy of its future projects to the empanelled architects according to the policy as decided by the Board from time to time.

Those found qualified shall be placed in the respective category along with the already existing empanelled consultants.

Chief Engineer (HQ) Rajasthan Housing Board, Awas Bhawan, Janpath, Jaipur

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Bid No. E-13/2020-2021 E-TENDERS Dated : 22.06.2020 E-tenders through R/A (Double Bid System) are invited for & on behalf of the president of India for the supply of following items. Only e-tender will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence - S. No. - Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity, (1) 04201349 (17.07.2020), Filter Assy, Part No.29480103, 362 Set, (2) 04201212, (23.07.2020), Holder for T.M. Suspension, Part No.29100150, 1468 Nos. (3) 04201214, (03.08.2020), Gear Case Complete, Part No.29030018, 1472 Nos. (4) 04201259 (03.08.2020), Axle Box Complete Part No.29010044, 251 Set. (5) 04201231, (04.08.2020), Axle Box Bearing, Part No.29100200, 2580 Nos. (6) 04201194, (18.07.2020), Wheel Set Guide, Part No.29050017, 2805 Nos. (7) 04201033, (10.07.2020), Long Loco Side Buffer Assy, Part No.11663236, 1042 Nos. (8) 04201080, (16.07.2020), Push/Pull Rod, Part No.29100069, 261 Set. (9) 07205016A, (15.07.2020), PL No. Stock (1) Refrigerant Gas F-410a, 45 Klogram, PL No. Non Stock (2) Refrigerant Gas R-22, 120 Klogram, (10) 07205123, (20.07.2020), P.L. No Non Stock, Supply fixing, testing & commissioning of 30 KV, 10 KA, Gapless type zinc oxide lighting arrester, 3 Nos. (11) 08201007, Advertise Tender, (17.07.2020), 1 key multiplier-1 for M/C compartment Cat No. P/10158, C&D No. T02082, SPEC No. CLW/ES/3/0049/F 468 Set. (P.L. No. 29388004) 2. Key Multiplier-2 For M/C compartment Cat. No. P/210168 C&D No. T020/83, CLW Spec No. CLW/ES/03/0049/F, 468 Set. (P.L. No.29387991) (12) 08201131, Advertise Tender (24.07.2020), Elastic Ring C&D No. T212/002, B212/002 Cat No.S/9/0001 As Per Drg No.SKEL-4717 At 3 As per spec, RDSO Specification No.RDSO/2007/EL/SP/EC/0053 (REV-1) September 2019, 1140 Nos. (P.L. No.29100010) (13) 09200095, (02.08.2020), (I) High Voltage Bushing to PL No.29731021, 254 Nos. Note: For Complete details of EMD and downloading of tender documents and Hindi Version also available at website www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.reps.gov.in, Corrigendum Notice Dated : 22.06.2020 Bid Invitation: 06 Tender No: 09200004 Revision: 1 Details of correction as under: Existing Due Date: 25.06.2020 Revised Due Date: 02.07.2020 Note: Other term and conditions remain unchanged.

On the behalf of PCMM

f / dieselocoworks "Website :- www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in"

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT-HEALTH

Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project-Additional Financing (UDRP-AF) 4TH FLOOR, DDPM Tower, Haridwar Bypass Road, Ajabpur Khurd, DEHRADUN Ph. No. 011648268; Email id: pi_u.health.udrfap@gmail.com; Website: www.ukdisasterrecovery.in

Ref. No.: 11/PIU(Health), UDRP-AF Date: 25/06/2020 NOTICE FOR NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

NAME OF PROJECT: Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project - Additional Financing (UDRP AF) Loan No. - 89210-IN The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the UDRP-Additional Financing and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the following packages of Machines & Ambulances Hence National Competitive Biddings are invited for the following Machines & Ambulances and the bid document of which can be downloaded from the website https://uktenders.gov.in Bids must be submitted online on the website https://uktenders.gov.in on or before 11:00 AM, 17 July, 2020 A complete set of bidding documents in English may be downloaded by interested eligible bidders from the website https://uktenders.gov.in which will be available on the website from 01/07/2020 to 17/07/2020. Bids will be opened on 17 July, 2020 at 3:00 PM

Sl. No Package No. Name of Work Bid Security (In INR) Cost of Bid Document (In INR) 1. 01/PIU-Health/CERC/UDRP-AF/2020 Supply & installation of CT Scan Machines INR 40.00 Lakh 5000+GST 2. 02/PIU-Health/CERC/UDRP-AF/2020 Supply of Ambulances (100 Basic Life Support-BLS & 40 Advance Life Support-ALS) for Health Department, Uttarakhand INR 68.34 Lakh 5000+GST

Note: 1. The corrigendum for the above works will be uploaded on website www.uktenders.gov.in & www.ukdisasterrecovery.in. 2. Email id pi_u.health.udrfap@gmail.com may be contacted for any information or complaint related to the works under PIU (Scope, Bridge & Irrigation), UDRP-AF or the complaint/grievance may also be uploaded on the website www.uk disasterrecovery.in

Sd/- Program Manager

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency

First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-I Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun

संख्या: 374 /आई-1-02(ख/वि)ITCO/व.आर.आर.डी.ए./20 दिनांक: 23 जून, 2020

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice (NPCC-15)

he Zonal Manager, NPCC on behalf of Chief Engineer, URRDA Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering, system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Champawat, Pauri Garhwal & Rudraprayag for 04 number of Package with estimated cost totalling to Rs. 18.82 Crore including their maintenance for two year (for stage I)/five years (for stage I & II) from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement : 29.06.2020.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the NPCC Ltd, 98-NEHRU COLONY, DEHRADUN (UTTARAKHAND) OF PIU NPCC, PMGSY, FIRST FLOOR, BIGH GALLI, NEAR INDIAN GAS AGENCY, CHAUKHATHI, ALMORA UTTARAKHAND on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid for phase XV and XVI and while for Phase XVII, XVIII and XIX submission of all physical documents will be accepted only upto or before the time and date of submission of bids, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering : 24.07.2020 01:00 PM.

For further details please log on to www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in

* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2675725 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

PRESS NOTICE

INVITING PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER

Executive Engineer (C

17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 34,842.10 ▼ 26.88 NIFTY: 10,288.90 ▼ 16.40 NIKKEI: 22,259.79 ▼ 274.53 HANG SENG: 24,781.58 ▼ 125.76 FTSE: 6,110.60 ▼ 13.09 DAX: 12,124.09 ▲ 30.15

International market data till 1900 IST

MEDIA WATCH ONLINE NEWS

Google to pay some publishers in Brazil, Australia, Germany

REUTERS
BRUSSELS, JUNE 25

ALPHABET'S GOOGLE on Thursday took a step to resolving its spat with publishers, saying it would pay some media groups in Australia, Brazil and Germany for high-quality content and expects to do more deals with others.

The US internet giant has for years tried to fend off demands for payment from news publishers worldwide in return for using their content, with European media groups among their fiercest critics.

"Today, we are announcing a licensing programme to pay

publishers for high-quality content for a news experience launching later this year," Brad Bender, Google's vice-president for news, said. "We will start with publishers in a number of countries, with more to come soon," he said. The product will be available on Google News and Discover. He said Google would also offer to pay for free access for users to read paywalled articles on a publisher's site where available.

Publishers that will be paid for their content include Germany's *Der Spiegel*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Australian groups Schwartz Media, The Conversation and Brazil's *Diários Associados*.

REGULATOR ALSO SEEKS TO TIGHTEN RULES ON INSIDER TRADING

Sebi relaxes preferential pricing norms, tweaks takeover code

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 25

THE BOARD of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has made it easier for listed companies to raise money by temporarily relaxing pricing norms for preferential allotment of shares. It also tweaked its takeover regulations to ensure that shareholders receive interest if open offers are delayed.

The board has allowed companies to use the higher of volume-weighted average of preceding two weeks or 12 weeks for a preferential allotment. Currently, companies have to necessarily price such issues at the volume-weighted average price of the preceding 26 weeks (6 months).

This pricing option "shall be available for the preferential issues

EXPLAINED

E Will help in raising capital

THE relaxation in pricing norms will be particularly useful for listed companies to raise capital at a time when banks are risk averse.

made between July 1, 2020, or date of notification of amendment to the Regulations, whichever is later, and December 31, 2020," said a statement from the regulator. The securities allotted on the basis of this pricing will be locked-in for three years, it added.

Relaxing the pricing norm will allow companies to price their preferential issues lower because share prices have come down

since COVID-19 has struck. This will make it more attractive for promoters, who are the typical buyers of preferential shares, to invest more capital in their companies and stave off hostile takeovers. It is also particularly useful for listed companies to raise capital at a time when banks are risk averse and unwilling to lend.

In a relief for shareholders of companies which are being acquired, the regulator has imposed a 10 per cent penalty on open offers which get delayed by the acquirer owing to reasons such as valuation disputes, investor complaints, litigation and so on.

Separately, the regulator also said the acquirer should deposit 100 per cent of the open offer amount payable into an escrow account for indirect acquisitions. Currently, such a rule is applicable only for direct acquisitions. In a di-

rect acquisition, the acquirer takes control of a listed target company by buying its shares; in an indirect acquisition, control is gained by buying the shares of a holding or parent company of the target firm.

The Sebi board also sought to strengthen regulations for preventing insider trading. It approved maintaining a structured digital database which will contain the nature of unpublished price sensitive information and the names of the persons who shared the information.

It also permitted automating the process of filing stock exchange disclosures and lifting restrictions on the trading window for transactions prescribed by Sebi.

The regulator has also tweaked its settlement regulations to streamline the process and make it faster.

2019: Indian money in Swiss banks falls 5.8%; total foreign deposits up 3.1%

SANDEEP SINGH &
AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

MONEY PARKED by Indians in Swiss Banks fell for the second straight year — this time by CHF 55 million, or 5.8 per cent, to CHF 899 million (Rs 7,100 crore) — in 2019. While the figure was at its highest at CHF 6.46 billion in 2006, it stood at CHF 1.81 billion (Rs 14,400 crore) in 2014 when NDA government came to power, and it has come down in line with the Centre's steps over the last few years to curb black money in the economy and following the setting up of new framework in 2016 that allowed exchange of information between Switzerland and India to help check the black money menace.

While overall total foreign deposits rose by 3.1 per cent to CHF 1.44 trillion from CHF 1.39 trillion in 2018, India saw a major 13.1 per cent jump in money parked by its residents, from CHF 13.5 billion in 2018 to CHF 15.3 billion.

India's neighbour Pakistan witnessed a sharp decline in the money parked by its residents in Switzerland last year as it declined by 45 per cent from CHF 745 million in 2018 to CHF 410 million.

The latest data from Zurich-based Swiss National Bank (SNB)

DEPOSITS IN SWISS BANK BY COUNTRIES

	India	China	US	Total foreign
2019	0.9	15.3	160.6	1,440.9
2018	1.0	13.5	142.7	1,398.0
2017	1.0	16.1	166.6	1,463.2
2016	0.7	9.6	177.0	1,420.4
2015	1.2	7.4	196.5	1,418.5
2014	1.8	8.2	244.9	1,476.6

All figures in CHF Billion, Source: Swiss National Bank

released for the year 2019 shows a sharp rise in deposits by American residents in Swiss banks as it rose by CHF 17.8 billion, or 12.5 per cent, to CHF 160 billion.

Even as some nations witnessed a jump in 2019, there has been an overall decline in money parked by residents across countries in Swiss banks since the year of the global financial crisis. While total foreign deposit in Swiss banks hit an all-time high of CHF 2.43 trillion in 2007, they have declined since then. While overall foreign deposits have fallen 41 per cent since 2007, that for India has declined by 79 per cent since 2007. For India, the total liabilities of Swiss banks stood highest in 2006 at CHF 6.46 billion.

The SNB data comes after the first set of details of bank accounts held by Indian nationals were

shared under the new framework for automatic exchange of information between Switzerland and India to help check the black money menace last September. While Switzerland began sharing foreign client details on evidence of wrongdoing provided by India and some other countries, it has agreed to further expand its cooperation on India's fight against black money with the new pact for automatic exchange of information (AEOI).

India and Switzerland had, for automatic sharing of financial account information, signed a Joint Declaration on November 22, 2016 for activation of AEOI in tax matters between the two nations. The use and disclosure of the information received is governed by the confidentiality provisions of the India-Switzerland tax treaty.

TO LEVERAGE benefits of e-retail, sellers have made a beeline to get on board e-commerce platforms. Amazon India's vice-president—seller services GOPAL PILLAI told PRANAV MUKUL that the online marketplace has consistently seen 50 per cent rise in seller registration post-lockdown, as against pre-lockdown numbers. He also spoke about the government's plan to mandate 'country of origin' tag on products and if it could play a role in customer's purchasing choice. Edited excerpts:

Amazon India is having its Small Business Day on June 27. Traditional retailers say that sales, schemes, etc may not push demand. What makes you hopeful this programme could drive demand?

We want to give an opportunity to MSMEs to showcase unique products because we've noticed that Indian entrepreneurs are coming up with innovative products during this tough time. For example, I found a seller who manufactured matching masks to shirts. There are also people coming out with products that have demand in the COVID world. These are work from home goods, cleaning products, appliances, etc for which there is a lot of demand anyway and this gives the opportunity to small businesses to



Gopal Pillai, Amazon India vice-president—seller services. File

showcase their offerings.

Has Amazon India recovered from the lockdown slump in terms of order volumes?

We have seen a spike from the pre-COVID numbers consistently for the last one month since we opened up. For the last four weeks, we haven't seen any drop in that spike. Secondly, new sellers are realising that e-commerce and modern digital commerce gives them an additional opportunity to sell through a different channel and we have seen 50 per cent plus in search terms like 'sell online', 'sell on Amazon', etc and we have seen a 50 per cent rise in new seller registration compared with pre-COVID. This shows that e-commerce provides dual purpose benefits: one, helping customers get their products while maintaining social distancing ... two, this

can help small businesses at scale.

How do you respond to the government's plan on mandating 'country of origin' tag for products on e-commerce platform?

We continue to look for ways to offer most relevant and robust detail pages as provided by sellers and search capabilities to offer seamless customer experience. Sellers are responsible for providing all required information about the product they list and therefore, we continue to educate them about the need for displaying accurate, complete information about their products. Our focus is to be absolutely compliant with all Indian laws and regulations.

Has country of origin for a product become a major decision-making factor for customers purchasing products online?

A customer looks for various information points ... what their friends and family think about it ... reviews. There was a study that said there were over 20 events and decision-making attributes that people use to find products. Every customer has their own way of finding a product because they look for certain information.

Full interview on www.indianexpress.com

US GDP contracts 5% in Q1; worse likely on the way

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, JUNE 25

THE US economy shrank 5 per cent in the first quarter with a much worse decline expected in

the current three-month economic period, which will show what happened when the pandemic began spread across the US.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that the decline in the gross domestic product, the

total output of goods and services, in the January-March quarter was unchanged from the estimate made a month ago.

The 5 per cent drop was the sharpest quarterly decline since an 8.4 per cent fall in the fourth quar-

ter of 2008 during the depths of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

The first quarter period captured just two weeks of the shutdowns that began in many parts of the country in mid-March.

BRIEFLY

Trai's 'channel selector app'

New Delhi: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) Thursday launched a 'channel selector app', that enables users to select and pay only for channels they wish to see instead of receiving all channels in a specific bouquet and paying for it.

New product by Karnataka Bank

New Delhi: Karnataka Bank has launched a new product, KBL Micro Mitra, to give financial assistance up to Rs 10 lakh can to micro manufacturing and service enterprises either for working capital or for investment purposes.

PFC: FY20 net profit of ₹6.8K cr

New Delhi: Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Thursday said it registered net profit of Rs 6,788 crore for FY20, as against Rs 6,953 crore in FY19, excluding one-time impact of DTA due to change in corporate tax rate.

Canara Bank Q4 net loss widens

New Delhi: Canara Bank posted widening of its standalone net loss to Rs 3,259.33 crore for the quarter ended March 2020. It had reported a net loss of Rs 551.53 crore in the year-ago period. **ENS**

SMALLER CAR SEGMENT

MSIL sees end of road for diesel vehicles after its price overtakes petrol in Delhi

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

AS THE per litre price of diesel has overtaken that of petrol in Delhi and the gap has narrowed in many states, Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) feels it will be the end of road for diesel cars — at least in the smaller car segment.

Having stopped production of diesel cars beginning April 1, 2020 and betting big on CNG as the future fuel, MSIL plans to introduce CNG vehicles across all models going forward and it has already introduced it across eight models.

As the share of diesel car sales in the passenger vehicle segment

Diesel crosses ₹80

New Delhi: Petrol price in Delhi was hiked to Rs 79.92 per litre from Rs 79.76, while diesel rates were increased to Rs 80.02 a litre from Rs 79.88, as per a notification of state oil marketing firms. **PTI**

has come down from around 60 per cent in 2012-13 to 28 per cent in 2019-20 (17 per cent share in Q4 FY20), Shashank Srivastava, ED, sales and marketing at MSIL, said ownership of diesel cars do not make much of economic sense. "In the BS-VI regime, the acquisition cost of diesel car is higher

‘Limited policy support hampering research, innovation in clean energy’

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

LACK OF adequate policy support from the government is hampering research and development, as well innovation in the clean energy sector, which is in turn impacting the growth of startups and small and medium enterprises, the WWF India said in a release.

"While almost 140 government interventions focus directly or/and indirectly on clean energy and startups and SMEs, only 38 policies actually target SMEs in the clean energy ecosystem, making it

difficult for SMEs to reap the benefits of the provisions," a report by WWF India said.

In its report, WWF India has identified six segments, solar rooftop, electric mobility, energy efficiency, smart energy, waste-to-energy, and energy access, that it believes could have considerable impact across industries, buildings and transportation.

Apart from lack of policy support, the is also very difficult for start-ups and SMEs in the clean energy tech space to find and retain trained and dedicated staff over longer periods of times, the report said.

Goyal: To talk to Lighthizer on proposed trade deal in few days

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Thursday said he will be talking to USTR Robert Lighthizer in the next few days to "quickly wrap" up initial aspects of the proposed trade deal. India and the US are negotiating a trade deal to iron out differences and promote two-way commerce. Goyal said he is in regular dialogue with US Trade Representative (USTR) and US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. "I think Mr Wilbur Ross and I will be meeting with businessmen of both countries sometime in the middle of July," **PTI**

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
CIN No. U27310WB19200010033601
"KANKARIA CENTRE", (4TH & 5TH FLOOR), 21, RUSSELL STREET, KOL-71

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

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

Sl. No.	Description of work on a NIT No. B&R/MEI/F&D/NIPQA/GEN Dtd 24.06.2020	Tender Document available on B&R's Website	Due date of submission of bid
1.	Pre-Qualification Application (NIPQA) "for selection of Consortium Partner/s And Entering into a agreement for Flue Gas De-Sulphurisation Works at Paras 2x250 MW Thermal Power Station at Maharashtra, Pin - 444169.	24.06.2020	03.07.2020

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.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office.: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala, CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813;
O/o The Chief Engineer/TS, B-1, Shakti Vihar, Patiala
Tel/Fax: 0175-2303093; e-mail: ce-ts@pspcl.in ; setransdesign@gmail.com

TENDER ENQUIRY NO. TSQ-1109/PSPC/TD-II

Tender are invited through e-Tendering under three part bid system for specification for manufacture, testing, supply & delivery of 220 MT hot dip galvanised nuts, bolts and 15 MT electro-galvanised spring washers.

IMPORTANT DATES:

1. Start date for downloading of tenders:	From the date of publication
2. Last date of downloading of tender:	27.07.2020 upto 11.00 A.M.
3. Last date & time for bid submission:	27.07.2020 upto 11.00 A.M.
4. Date & time of opening of bid:	29.07.2020 at 11.30 A.M.

Note:-

- It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on Punjab Government e-tendering website (<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>) (GePNIC Portal)
- Detailed NIT and Specification can be downloaded from Punjab Government e-tendering website (<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>) (GePNIC Portal)

Sd/-
Dy. CE/TL (D),
PSPCL, Patiala.

C 206/2020
40343/PB

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Regd. Office: Shed No 2, Near Ram Mandir, Banipark, Jaipur-302016
Tel: 2747039; Fax: 0141-2747039
Website: www.energy.rajabasthan.gov.in/jvvnvl
E-mail: caorb@jvvnvl.org

NIT No. JPD/CAR/(RR&B)/TN-01/2020-21/D. Dated:-

Notice inviting tenders

Online tenders are invited for providing online payment gateway & BBPS services to JVVNL consumers. The tender documents can be downloaded from <http://eproc.rajabasthan.gov.in> and may also be viewed at <https://energy.rajabasthan.gov.in/jvvnvl>
Unique Identification No:-VVN2021SL0B00134

JPR No 2566(2020) Chief Accounts Officer (RR&B)
Raj./Samwad/C201/1440 For Electricity complaints Toll free No. 1800 180 6507

भारत सरकार
(पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय)
दीपस्तंभ और दीपपोत निर्देशालय
'दीप भवन', गांधीनगर,
कडवेत्रा डाक, कोचीन - 682 020

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF SHIPPING)
DIRECTORATE OF LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS
"Deep Bhavan", Gandhinagar,
Kadavanthra, P.O., Cochin - 682 020.

फोन सं./Ph. No. : 0484 2205720 फेक्स./Fax: 0484 2206608 ईमेल./E-mail: dlrocochin@gmail.com
सं./No: II-1/37/2001-खंड/Vol.V दिनांक/Date: 26.06.2020

ई-निविदा सूचना / e-TENDER NOTICE

निर्मितलिकृत कार्य हेतु भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए और उनकी ओर से निदेशक, दीपस्तंभ और दीपपोत निर्देशालय, कोचीन द्वारा द्वि बोली प्रणालियों के तहत प्रतिष्ठित मूल उपकरण निर्माताओं या उनके प्राधिकृत पूतिकर्ताओं, अनुज्ञापित ठेकेदारों, पक्षकारों या सरकारी उपक्रमों से आनलाइन रेट बोली आमंत्रित करते हैं। / The Director, Directorate of Lighthouses & Lightships, Cochin invites for and on behalf of the President of India online item rate bid on two bid system from reputed OEM or their authorized suppliers, licensed contractors, parties or Government Undertakings for the following works.

क्रम सं./Sl.No	कार्य का नाम / Name of work	अनुमानित लागत/ Estimated Cost
01	Procurement of High Intensity LED Marine Rotating Light Beacon for Vallyazhikkal Lighthouse	₹ 27,65,500/-

ई-बिड दस्तावेजों का डाउनलोड या प्रस्तुत अथि 25.06.2020 (0900 बजे) से 15.07.2020 (1500 बजे) तक है।
Download/Submission period of e-bid Documents are 25.06.2020 (0900 Hrs) to 15.07.2020 (1500 Hrs).

बोली प्रपत्र तथा दूसरी जानकारीयें www.dgll.nic.in एवं www.eprocure.gov.in वेबसाइटों से प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं। / The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the Websites-www.dgll.nic.in and www.eprocure.gov.in.

निदेशक / DIRECTOR

Coach set to lose job after spat over webinar topic

ENS/PTI

NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE WRESTLING Federation of India (WFI) has said they will sack women's team foreign coach Andrew Cook because, according to a senior federation official, he 'works only for salary and is not passionate about Indian wrestling'. The WFI has alleged that the American coach refused to take part in a Sports Authority of India (SAI) webinar for non-payment of salary. Cook, who termed WFI's decision as 'shocking', argued that he only asked for a change in subject of the session, which SAI 'declined, making me look defiant I guess.'

Cook, who left for home in Seattle after the national camp was suspended in March after the outbreak of the pandemic, had claimed he had not been paid for the months of March, April and May despite several reminders. Recently, SAI got in touch with Cook to attend one of its online sessions. However, the WFI told the Press Trust of India that Cook responded by saying that 'unless he receives his pending salary, he won't attend them'. Cook has refuted the allegations.

"This behaviour is not acceptable. It shows that Cook works only for salary and is not passionate about Indian wrestling. The SAI officials showed us the screenshots of his refusal messages," WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar was quoted as saying by PTI. "After that we told Cook to attend sessions and assured him that his salary will be cleared. He did participate in a few sessions but we did not like his behaviour. We asked our wrestlers if they really need him. The wrestlers told us that he is not indispensable, so we have decided to terminate his services."

Cook, whose contract was till August 2020 at a salary of \$4,500 per month, said SAI and WFI 'wanted him out' because he spoke up about his salary issues. "I attended the classes they required. They asked me to speak on athletes' selection in the USA," he told *The Indian Express*. "I only asked to change (the) topic because we don't select athletes (in USA). They attend school and work through that system. They declined to change, making me look defiant."

Sports federations lose recognition

Move comes after Delhi High Court issues order related to governance issues; ministry to file application

MIHIR VASAVDA &
PRITAMPAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

IN AN unprecedented development, the sports ministry withdrew the annual recognition of all National Sports Federations (NSFs) on Thursday following a Delhi High Court dictat on the matter. The decision comes on the back of a decade-long court case in relation to governance issues within the federations.

Earlier this month, the sports ministry had extended the federations' recognition until September 30, 2020. However, they were forced to reverse the order. In a letter to all 54 federations, sports ministry deputy secretary SPS Tomar wrote: "... in compliance of the Order dated 24.06.2020 passed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court..., the Department's letter of even number dated 02.06.2020 granting provisional annual recognition of 54 NSFs stands withdrawn."

The decision means the suspension of three federations — Indian Golf Union, School Games Federations of India and Rowing Federation of India — will continue. A sports ministry official said they will file a fresh application before the bench and 'sort out the crisis at the earliest.'

The annual recognition is granted to the federations in January each year. According to those in the know, the process took longer than usual this year because of some details sought by the ministry from the federations. Before it could be concluded, the pandemic struck and a lockdown was imposed. "To make sure the operations remained smooth, the ministry extended the provisional recognition till September," a source said.

The process to grant provisional recognition, according to lawyer and activist Rahul Mehra, was 'in violation of sports code'. He alleged that "the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) was trying to derecognise a lot of sports federations and simultaneously create parallel bodies while the sports ministry played ball."

"The IOA's modus operandi is they write a letter to the international federation of a particular sport, bring up certain disputes and piggy-backing on that, they call for the creation of a new body," Mehra said, adding there were around five instances where this sequence occurred. He accused IOA office-bearers of in-



Hockey India is one of the 54 National Sports Federations which have lost their recognition following a court order. *File*

What does this decision mean?

GRANTING RECOGNITION to sports federations is an annual ritual that makes them eligible for government funds as well as assistance for training and competition. In the absence of recognition, the process does not necessarily come to a halt but rather becomes a lot more cumbersome.

The Delhi High Court, however, has said IOA and ministry cannot take any decisions in relation to

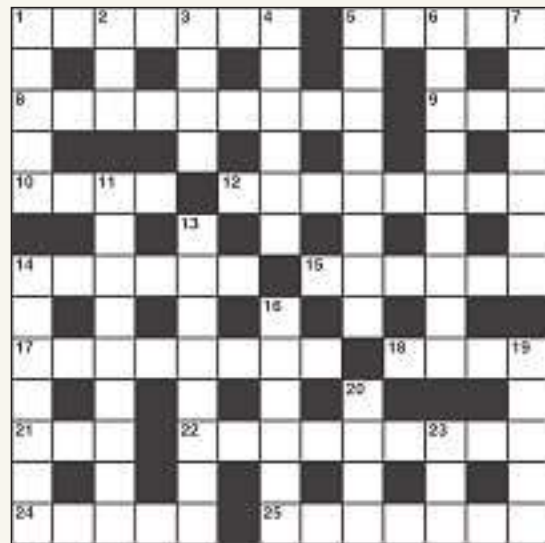
the unrecognised sports federations without its prior consent.

However, with the ongoing pandemic forcing sporting lockdown of sorts, the impact of the court decision will be minimal. But once the sports resume and preparation of the Olympics gets underway, the present stand-off could delay administrative decisions and that in turn can hamper the training of athletes.

EXPLAINED

E

CROSSWORD 4154



ACROSS

- Safe anchorages found on entering Nigerian port (7)
- Go back in public transport intended to take in others (5)
- Ambitious Ruth is worried by a sharp pain (9)
- An alternative to a key ring (3)
- They take one over water or round a point (4)
- You have to put up with him (4-4)
- Chews a sort of nut (6)
- Be too clever for one - but not in intelligence? (6)
- Strives to study minds (8)
- Means of transport, sometimes sprung (4)
- It is charged for a portion without wine (3)
- Harry does worry about Dobbin (9)
- A step on the stairs (5)
- Steeped in the most intensified way (7)

DOWN

- The game is to follow one's destiny (5)
- It may be caught in a fishing area (3)
- To turn us in or turn us out? (4)
- So a gin is mixed with old port (6)
- Such unions aren't recognised (8)
- There would be universal hostility if it came (6,3)
- Subordinate theme (7)
- Sound vibration on a screen perhaps (9)
- Played back? (8)
- He'll get nowhere unless he pushes himself forward (7)
- King of fitted wardrobes (6)
- Petal shaped fold (5)
- The last worker's project? (4)
- Regret expressed in the French way (3)

Solutions Crossword 4153: Across: 1 Hospital, 5 Arms, 9 Rimed, 10 Exhibit, 13 Lander, 14 Spread, 17 Horse soldier, 20 Bifocal, 21 Stock, 22 Tony, 23 Prospect. Down: 1 Hard and fast rules, 2 Seminar, 3 Indifference, 4 Avenue, 6 Rebel, 7 Set aside, 8 Chiropractors, 12 Alphabet, 15 Eyesore, 16 Cooler, 18 Refer, 19 Skit.

JUMBLD 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.

These are not books, lumps of lifeless paper, but ___ alive on the ___. - Gilbert Highet (5, 7)

SZEEI



SOLAS



EIODMN



ABEEHV



SOLUTION: SZEEI, LAZZO, MONIED, BEHAVE
Answer: These are not books, lumps of lifeless paper, but **minds** alive on the **shelves**. - Gilbert Highet

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4151

Difficulty Level 3s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4150



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL



ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You may feel exploited or taken for granted, but this is not really the point. The fact is that this is a positive moment for putting yourself out on behalf of others, even if you think they don't deserve it. Get things into perspective — and put your feelings in their place.



TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

All artistic and creative types are favoured by today's compassionate Moon. If you don't think that you fall into this bracket, you can still do your best to be spontaneous and develop those unique and wonderful gifts that you have always ignored.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

It's time to go back to first principles and start from scratch. This does mean dealing with left-over family questions, as well as all those lingering practical domestic chores. But it's also important to have a vision of the future, just to put everything into context.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You have done extremely well in many respects, but there is still some way further to go. Over the next few days, you may gather fresh information, discuss your plans and re-arrange some of your long-held opinions about what is right and what is wrong.



LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

There seems to be some sort of power struggle going on, and superficial causes of disagreement, such as money, could be nothing more than a distraction. If your personal plans and ideas become the centre of attention, you may concede that you might just be wrong for a change.



VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

There's a wonderful world waiting just around the corner - in your dreams. If you're ready, then you may set your imagination free, leave daily concerns to take care of themselves, and focus on what could be, instead of being weighed down by what is.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Forget all petty concerns and trivial details. If you can see beyond surface appearances, you'll glimpse the timeless reality concealed behind the daily facade. You should listen to your imagination and follow your dreams. You don't know where they'll lead, but you'll never find out unless you look.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Social life could be taking a turn for the better, and your romantic hopes should be high. Do be aware, though, of the risks of over-committing yourself financially, and only make promises you know you can fulfil. Give yourself a way out until you're absolutely sure.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

You should find that other people are much better able to take care of themselves, which means that you can concentrate on long-term ambitions. It's time to shape up to new responsibilities, particularly if you have some favours to return.



CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Today's super stars hold out superb prospects for all Capricorns planning to start a new course of study, fight a legal battle or travel overseas. In all matters it is necessary to seize the moral high ground. Plus, there's a chance that what is good for you may be even better for others.



AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The time looks right for taking a treasured relationship one stage deeper, entering a new level of intensity. It also happens to be an ideal moment for making extraordinarily profitable investments, so keep a look-out for passing opportunities.



PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You really must shape up to the truth in relationships, such as it is. The problem lies in distinguishing the way people really are from the way you would like them to be. In the meantime, take your pleasures where you can, and appreciate people's strengths instead of drawing attention to their weaknesses.

Liverpool thrash Palace, inch closer to EPL title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIVERPOOL, JUNE 25

LIVERPOOL IS on the verge of ending its 30-year league title drought after cruising to a 4-0 victory over Crystal Palace with an attacking display that exemplified a dominant campaign. Jurgen Klopp's team can even clinch the Premier League title on Thursday without playing if Manchester City fails to beat Chelsea. It then plays City, the second-placed defending champion, next Thursday.

"I'll watch the game tomorrow night not to prepare a celebration, I'll watch the game because we play against City a week later," Klopp said. "Whatever happens tomorrow night we have no influence on it, so I'm not too much interested to be honest."

All that matters to Klopp is collecting the maximum two more points from seven remaining games to clinch the trophy. After stuttering in a 0-0 draw with Everton after the restart on Sunday, Liverpool was authoritatively rampant again against Palace on Wednesday.

Trent Alexander-Arnold curled in a free kick to start the rout against Palace and Mohamed Salah swept in the second before half time from Fabinho's dinked ball. Fabinho powered in the third from distance in the 55th minute and Sadio Mane raced onto Salah's throughball to complete a counter-attack in the 69th to make it 16 wins in 16 home games in the league this season.

"It was the best counter pressing behind closed doors ever," Klopp quipped. "The attitude we showed tonight, the passion we showed, was exceptional and we played some outstanding football."

The victory moved Liverpool 23 points ahead of City with seven games remaining of a campaign that will end without any fans in the stadium to celebrate the Reds' first championship triumph since 1990.

"We've waited a long time for this and we've worked hard for this over the last few years as a team," Salah said. "As a club this is what we've dreamed of and we're in a good position, so hopefully we'll be able to get it across the line very soon."