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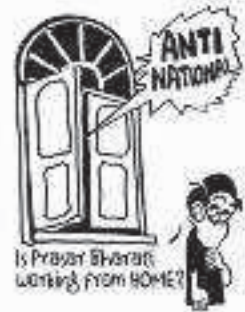


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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



‘Kingpin’ of fixing racket in Australia is Indian on BCCI radar



BCCI uses this photograph of Ravinder Dandiwal (right) in its educational sessions

GAURAV BHATT & SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
NEW DELHI, KOLKATA, JUNE 28

AN INDIAN man, who has been identified by police in Australia as the alleged kingpin of a major international tennis match-fixing syndicate, hails from Mohali near Chandigarh and figures on the watchlist of India's cricket board, the BCCI's top anti-corruption official told *The Indian Express*.

On Saturday, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that Victoria Police have named Ravinder Dandiwal as the “central figure” in the fixing scam where operatives convinced low-ranked tennis players to throw matches while associates placed bets with bookies.

On Sunday, the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) head Ajit Singh confirmed that Dandiwal is “a person of interest”. “He is originally from Mohali near Chandigarh, but moves around a lot in the Middle East and other places. His name has figured among those who organise cricket leagues. Once it figured in a private cricket league in Haryana, which the ACU scuttled. An advisory was sent to all BCCI-registered players not to participate,” he said.

Another ACU official said “photos of Dandiwal are shown
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INSIDE

KCR KICKS OFF NARASIMHA RAO BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS **P10**



Chief Justice of India S A Bobde checks out a guest's motorbike at a ceremony in Raj Bhavan in Nagpur on Sunday. CJI Bobde was an ardent biker when he was a lawyer in Nagpur. *Express*

Had to step in because Sisodia's statement on spike caused panic: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah on Sunday said the Centre had had to intervene in Delhi's Covid situation because Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's statement that there would be 5.5 lakh cases of novel coronavirus infection in the national capital by July 31 had triggered panic.

But following the steps taken by the central government, he was sure that case numbers would not rise to those levels, Shah told news agency ANI in an interview.

“In the second week of June, Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said that by July 31 there will be 5.5 lakh cases in the city and there would not be enough beds. His estimation was based on some data, I do not wish to talk about it. There was an atmosphere of fear... Managing the Covid situation in Delhi is the job of the Delhi gov-



‘There was an atmosphere of fear’

ernment. But after Sisodia's statement, I felt the Centre needed to step in,” Shah said.

Sisodia had made this projection on June 9, and had said that Delhi would need 80,000 hospital beds to manage that case load. He had said the projection was based on Delhi Health Department data.

At the time, Delhi had just under 30,000 cases, some 17,700 of which were active. Delhi's Covid dashboard showed the capital had fewer than 9,000 beds in all, about half of which were occupied.

On Sunday, Delhi's case load was 80,188, of which 28,329 were active cases. Over 2,500
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Doctor posted in LNJP ICU loses 21-day Covid fight

ASTHA SAXENA & SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

“I AM being intubated, Nirupama... I am not feeling good at all.” This was one of the last messages Dr Asheem Gupta sent to his wife on Saturday afternoon, just before he was put on the ventilator.



Dr Asheem Gupta

Believed to have contracted the virus while on duty in the hospital's ICU, he had tested
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LAC: PM PAYS TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS KILLED

PM underlines resolve, Shah says will win both (Covid, LAC) battles

PM: Those who cast evil eye on Indian soil in Ladakh got befitting response

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted Sunday that India is capable of and committed to defending its sovereignty.

In his *Mann ki Baat* radio address, Modi said that India has demonstrated its commitment to safeguard its territorial integrity. And Shah, in response to a question in an interview, said that India would win both the battles it's fighting — one against Covid and



Spoke on *Mann ki Baat*

the other against China's attempts to intrude along the Line of Actual Control. The statements from the top two in the Government came with the eight-week-long military standoff showing no signs of de-escalation.

Modi said during the pandemic, the world had seen “India's spirit of universal brotherhood... at the same time it also noticed India's commitment and might when it comes to safeguarding her sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

“Those who cast an evil eye on Indian soil in Ladakh have got a befitting response. India honours the spirit of friendship... she is also capable of giving an appropriate response to any adversary, without shying away.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



An Army convoy in Ladakh on Sunday. *PTI*

Talks will continue but military pushback also on Delhi's table

RAVISH TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

THERE IS a growing consensus in the highest echelons of the government that while talks with China will — and should — continue, the country should be ready and prepared for a “military response” as and when it's needed.

In fact, the specific words, “clash” and “fight” (*takrar, ladai*) have cropped up in discussions in the top leadership on the ongoing standoff with Chinese forces along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, highly placed sources told *The Indian Express*.

“We do not want an escalation but we will not compromise by yielding to China,” said a top official who is closely involved in these discussions. “We are not going to step back, we will take

them on.”

Asked if the Government had worked out the implications of a military conflict given the number of variables and unknowns that this could entail, he said: “The view in the Government is that if you start thinking of consequences, you will not be able to move forward.”

One key reason behind this resolve, the official said, is that the Chinese response after the killing of 20 Indian soldiers has not inspired any confidence that Beijing is looking at lowering the temperature. In fact, there is deep disquiet over the shrillness of its rhetoric.

“They killed our soldiers and while we don't expect any word
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORT
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Plants open, workers line up, Manesar auto hub starts moving

SANDEEP SINGH
MANESAR, JUNE 28

At 11:30 AM Friday, around 50 men huddled near the “materials gate” of Maruti Suzuki's main plant in Manesar, on the outskirts of the National Capital, some with papers and files in their hands. Over the past two days, with the facility moving to restore normal production, these ITI diploma-holders from towns in Haryana, who had been working here earlier, had got calls to return.

“More than 100 men have joined already. My hope is that even if they keep me as a temporary employee, they should not ask me to leave soon,” says Deepak Kumar, from Bhiwani.

“I have been unemployed and working on a farm. We are here for the money, but we are also taking a risk by coming to work in the time of Covid. I hope the company understands this
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

Hope for auto sector

THE REVIVAL of manufacturing in Manesar presents a ray of hope for the auto industry, which has been battered by a sharp decline in sales since the second half of 2018 leading up to the Covid lockdown in March. The industry is now hoping that it can scale up to pre-Covid levels in the coming months, which would mean return of jobs, income flow and consumption, and help bring the economy back on track.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

THE ROOM WITH A VIEW
BY SANJAYA BARU
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WORLD



GLOBAL COVID-19 CASES CROSS 10 MN

CHINA'S BRI PROJECTS HIT BY PANDEMIC: OFFICIAL
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EXPLAINED

SIMPLY PUT
WHY THE RICH ARE GETTING RICHER
PAGE 13

Two weeks ago, several alleged torture by same TN police officers, 1 died



Tamil Nadu Minister Kadambur Raju with family members of P Jeyaraj and J Bennis in Tuticorin district. *PTI*

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JUNE 28

A JUDICIAL inquiry into the deaths of a father and son following alleged torture at the hands of the Sathankulam police in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, has found that nearly a dozen people had reported being beaten up at the same police station two weeks ago, by the same officers. Of them, one died later and two were hospitalised following in-

tervention by judicial officers.

The Thoothukudi District Judge submitted his report, describing it as “disturbing information of custodial torture”, to the Madras High Court on June 25, seeking further directions regarding a detailed probe. The report is expected to come up in the court on Tuesday. Sources said the role of Sathankulam Judicial Magistrate P Saravanan, who cleared the custodial remand of at least one of the
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

SEVERAL OF the 700-plus domestic flights that operated over the last month were chartered by companies in labour-dependent sectors such as manufacturing, industrial goods, real estate, and hospitality to fly back employees who had left their places of work during the lockdown.

Companies such as state-owned ONGC Ltd and infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro operated charters from airports such

as Patna and Bhubaneswar to Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Some charters flew employees to industrial hubs such as Chennai and Rajahmundry, executives at the companies and the airlines said.

Several industrial sectors had expressed concern over the massive reverse migration of employees during the lockdown. Thousands of workers left for their home towns, and manufacturing companies had been especially concerned about the shortage of both skilled and unskilled labour as the economy reopened.

“We have operated multiple

charters paid for by companies to transport employees to work locations within and outside the country. One big Indian company, for example, has been regularly booking our aircraft to ferry its employees to different stations,” a SpiceJet official told *The Indian Express*.

The airline has operated chartered flights on sectors including Delhi-Kochi, Jodhpur-Kochi, Jodhpur-Chennai, Jodhpur-Delhi, Jodhpur-Rajahmundry and Delhi-Rajahmundry. Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh is home to several industrial parks, and is the ad-



Chartered flights have operated on sectors including Delhi-Kochi, Jodhpur-Kochi, Jodhpur-Chennai, Jodhpur-Delhi, Jodhpur-Rajahmundry and Delhi-Rajahmundry. *File*

ministrative base for oil and gas companies operating in the Krishna-Godavari Basin.

The chartered flights to Kochi have been carrying mainly blue-collar workers in the hospitality sector, who had returned to their homes in areas around Delhi, including in Rajasthan, Haryana, and western UP, industry sources said.

An Air India official said oil major ONGC has chartered aircraft to transport over 5,000 personnel to its stations across the country over the past month. The first of these charters flew some 100 personnel from Bihar, Jharkhand, and east-

ern UP to Mumbai from Patna in May; thereafter, workers have been flown from Delhi, Chennai, and Kolkata, etc.

On June 20, L&T flew over 100 personnel from Bhubaneswar to Ahmedabad to resume work on the Ahmedabad Metro project. Asked why companies are flying back workers with such urgency, a senior executive at an infrastructure company said: “These are all specialised workers, supervisory staff, or those with specific skills such as arc welding, machine-moulded carpentry, or operating cranes.” Workers are being flown

back because it is difficult to re-sume work without their specialised skills, the executive said.

Some companies flying back workers to project sites have stopped short of chartering an entire narrow-body aircraft. *The Indian Express* found a contractor for a Bengaluru-based real estate firm who had bought flight tickets for a group of carpenters from Patna to Hyderabad. And Chennai-based Newry Properties collaborated with two other real estate developers in the same city to charter a flight to bring back over 150 skilled workers from Bihar.



Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli

Oli alleges India plot to topple him, says meetings on in Delhi

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, JUNE 28

AS DIFFERENCES worsen between the two chairpersons of the ruling Nepal Communist Party, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal, the former alleged Sunday that his rivals were being instigated by India to topple him.

Speaking at a programme, Oli alleged that “meetings” were being organised in Delhi against Nepal's decision to amend its Constitution to include in its map Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura areas.

“It is unthinkable... the things that are happening in Delhi against the amendment to the Constitution... Listen to the Delhi media. Look at the meetings being organised in India,” said Oli, referring to an alleged “plot” to overthrow his government. “You all must know Nepal's nationalism is not that weak that outside forces will be able to topple it...” he said.

Nepal recently cleared a constitution amendment Bill, endorsing the country's new map that includes territories with India, thus deepening the boundary row between the two countries.

Saying he had no desire to be in the post “forever”, he, however, said there was “no question” of his quitting at the moment. “If I quit, there will be no leader to raise the issue of nationalism and territory,” he said in an apparent reference to the differences within the party.

The Communist Party has been a divided house over the government's move to align with the Communist Party of China.



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WEB EXCLUSIVE



MOHAN KUMAR TO CYANIDE MOHAN: FROM SCHOOL TEACHER TO SERIAL KILLER

Mohan Kumar, a former primary school teacher from Dakshina Kannada, had admitted to killing at least 20 women between 2004 and 2009 by poisoning them with cyanide. He also confessed to befriendng them with the offer of marriage and then stealing their jewellery after killing them.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



MEET THE VOLUNTEERS AT 'INDIA FELLOW'

They came out in support of the needy and helped raise cash.

EXPRESS EXPLAINED



TAMIL NADU POLICE'S BRUTAL ACT

TN police is notorious for third-degree torture methods.

FROM PAGE ONE

TN police

dozen, as well as that of the deceased P Jeyaraj, 62, and his son J Bennix, 32, is also being probed.

On Sunday, CM Edappadi K Palaniswami recommended transfer of the probe into Jeyaraj and Bennix's deaths to the CBI.

A source at the High Court told *The Indian Express* that the judicial report found that a fortnight ago, eight people, including a minor, kept at the Sathankulam Police Station had been tortured "continuously for three days" by officers, helped by a volunteer group called 'Friends of Police'.

The report names Sub-inspectors Balakrishnan and Raghu Ganesh as having led the torture, with Inspector Sridhar playing "an active role" and urging them on. The same three officers are named in the deaths of Jeyaraj and Bennix, and have been suspended.

It's not clear from the judicial report the offence for which the person who died earlier due to alleged torture, Mahendran, was taken in custody, soon after his brother Durai's arrest. The report says, "Durai's own younger brother (Mahendran) was beaten to death by the same officers at Sathankulam station, the body was handed over to his mother without post-mortem. The family was threatened that Durai also will be killed in the same manner if they speak out," the source said.

Another accused, Rajasingh, whom the judicial team met, was allegedly tortured first at Sathankulam Police Station and then at Thattarmadam, 70 km away. This was after police, who picked up Rajasingh along with seven others in connection with a murder, named him in an auto-rickshaw theft case of 2017, after having procured his remand.

Among the eight, the juvenile, 16, was kept illegally in police custody for two days and beaten. It was not immediately known who the other alleged victims were.

Rajasingh told the judicial team that the officers made him lie down on a bench and, as Friends of Police volunteers sat on his legs, someone held his head and hands and the two Sub-Inspectors beat him. He has accused Sridhar of giving the orders. A photo accessed by *The Indian Express* shows a deep open gash on Rajasingh's left buttock.

The judicial report says the men were "continuously beaten up on various parts of the body,

particularly the buttocks, with *lathis*". As per the source, the report adds that the men were threatened not to tell anything to the magistrate when presented before him for remand. "The Judicial Magistrate (Saravanan) saw the accused from a distance and remanded them," the source said. *The Indian Express* reported on Sunday that Jeyaraj's family said Magistrate Saravanan had cleared his and Bennix's remand while standing a floor above.

Rajasingh named officers Ganesh and Maharajan as having led the torture at Thattarmadam Police Station.

Despite visible injuries, including deep open wounds in his private parts, the source said, Rajasingh was sent to Kovilpatti Sub Jail. "He should have been sent to hospital instead."

The judicial report also notes that the Kovilpatti Sub-Jail has no CCTV and that several prisoners lodged there had told the team they had been subjected to torture at various police stations in Thoothukudi district. The report has questioned why the superintendent of the sub-jail failed to act as per the prison manual, particularly on ensuring that prisoners receive needed medical treatment. Jeyaraj and Bennix were also brought to the same jail, on June 20, reportedly in a grievous condition, and died two days later.

Thoothukudi Collector Sandeep Nanduri told *The Indian Express* he knew of the matter only through the media and that, with the judiciary involved, had no jurisdiction over the case. District SP Arun Balagopalan remained unavailable for comment.

The district judge who submitted the report, as well as the officers accused of torture, could not be reached.

With the Opposition, including Congress's Rahul Gandhi, demanding action, state Information Minister Kadambur C Raju on Sunday said the deaths could not be called custodial deaths, because "they died in judicial custody, two days after their remand".

P M Vishnuvardhanan, the lawyer representing the family of Jeyaraj and Bennix, said Rajasingh's case was going to be crucial in their fight. "Inspector Sridhar's room was on the first floor of the police station, next to a staircase. Several witnesses have told us Jeyaraj and Bennix were taken to the first floor during the course of the all-night torture on

June 19-20. At least four vacant rooms next to Sridhar's were used as torture rooms," the lawyer said, urging the judiciary to ensure Rajasingh got treatment and came to no harm, and to probe the death of Mahendran.

Fixing racket

during every educational session, informing national and domestic players not to entertain him".

While Dandiwal has not been charged, the SMH reported that Indian-origin Melbourne residents Rajesh Kumar and Har-simrat Singh appeared at the Melbourne Magistrates Court Wednesday for allegedly attempting to win up to AUS \$320,000 on fixed games using illegal means.

Victoria Police have charged the two with allegedly "corrupting" at least two tennis tournaments in Brazil and Egypt in 2018.

The charges against Rajesh and Harsimrat are that they received information that "one or more of the players... had arranged with Ravinder Dandiwal to manipulate the result of the match" or players had been "recruited (by him) to engage in corrupt conduct". The duo then allegedly placed or attempted to place bets on the outcome of sets or matches with major corporate bookies.

Dandiwal did not respond to calls and texts from *The Indian Express* seeking comment on the allegations.

On social media, his profiles list him as "Dandiwal a.k.a. RS Dandiwal", "General Secretary of the Cricket Council of India", "Chairman of the Cricket Premier League", and "Managing Director" of Ultimate Sports Management. The logo of Cricket Council of India resembles that of the BCCI, with the shape of its outer edges and the organisation's name among the few visible differences.

Singh, the BCCI's ACU chief, said: "In Nepal, he had organised a league, which reportedly was corrupt but that was out of our purview. And I think he has been investigated by the ICC also."

According to him, the Indian board had previously filed a police complaint against Dandiwal. "He had taken a cricket team to Australia, where a club was organising a tournament, and a few players from that team never returned... We found that the players who had vanished were charged hefty sums to be part of the team. Probably, it was an immigration racket and that's why we lodged a complaint with police," he said.

"There have been inquiries about him, but he is not a participant, so there's very little action that we can take against him. He hasn't figured in the inquiries we conducted in the T20 leagues (organised by state associations). But he is a person of interest, and we do try and keep him under watch," said Singh.

Dandiwal is known in the Chandigarh cricket circuit, and had been organising private limited-overs tournaments and leagues that were not recognised by the BCCI. He has also been involved with T20 leagues abroad.

(WITH Nihal Koshie & Devendra Pandey)

Manesar

and provides us jobs for a longer period," says Sonu, from Palwal. "The workers from UP and Bihar have gone back, that's why the company has called us from districts nearby."

Production levels are still far short of pre-Covid levels at the Manesar plants of auto majors, such as Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL), Hero MotoCorp, and Honda Motors and Scooters India (HMSI), but the industrial hub has come back to life.

Trucks are carrying finished vehicles and supplies; buses have started transporting workers; street vendors are selling food and tobacco products; and,

PM underlines resolve, Shah says will win both (Covid, LAC) battles

Our brave soldiers have proven that they will not let anyone cast an evil eye on the glory and honour of Mother India," the Prime Minister said.

This was echoed by Shah in an ANI interview. The interviewer said that India was, in a way, "fighting *do jung* (two battles) — one against Covid, the other related to efforts by the Chinese Army to intrude into Ladakh."

Responding, Shah said: "*Dono jung hum jeetenge. Main janta ko aashwaast karna chahata hun ki Modi ji ke netritva mein dono jung hum jeetenge*". (We will win both the battles. I want to assure the people that under Modi's leadership we will win both the battles.)

The LAC in eastern Ladakh, where India and China are involved in an intense standoff since early May, is just west of the Aksai Chin region, which is under Chinese control.

On August 6, last year, during the debate on abrogation of Article 370 and making Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir two independent Union Territories, Shah had said in the Parliament that Kashmir was an "integral

part of the country and included Aksai Chin.

"I want to state it on record, that whenever I have mentioned Jammu and Kashmir state, it has included Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin. The borders decided by the Constitution of India and Jammu and Kashmir's constitution include Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin."

After the standoff in Ladakh turned violent in Galwan Valley on June 15, in which both sides suffered casualties, with India losing 20 soldiers, the government had called an all-party meeting on June 19. In his concluding remarks at the meeting, Modi had said that nobody had entered Indian territory.

"*Nawahan koi hamari seema mein ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai, na hi hamari koi post kisi doosre ke kabze mein hai*". (Neither has anyone entered our territory, nor is anyone inside, nor has any of our posts been captured by anyone.)

In his interview, while Shah skirted the questions on the LAC and China, he referred to what he called "anti-India propaganda" on social media.

"...it is sad that at this time of crisis you are indulging in such propaganda. It is a matter of concern for the Congress party that your leader's hashtag is being promoted by Pakistan and China. You are saying things that are being liked in Pakistan and China," Shah said in reference to certain tweets by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on the situation at the LAC.

In his Mann ki Baat on Sunday, Modi did not comment on the standoff, and did not name China but he referred to the soldiers who lost their lives along the LAC.

"The entire country comes together in paying tributes to the bravery of our soldiers who attained martyrdom in Ladakh," he said, and added that "the entire country bows them in reverence, with gratitude".

"Just like their family members, every Indian painfully regrets the loss. The pride and devotion to country felt by the family members on the sacrifice made by the soldiers, is the strength of the country."

Referring to comments made by the father of one of the soldiers who was killed, Kundan

Kumar of Bihar, Modi said that "he had mentioned sending even his grandsons to the army to defend the country".

"This spirit permeates all martyrs' families. Truly, the sense of sacrifice displayed by these family members is worth veneration. The resolve with which our soldiers made the supreme sacrifice for the security of Mother India, should be the aim of our lives, and it applies to each and every one of us."

Modi also said that making the country self-reliant will be a tribute to the soldiers in the "truest, deepest sense."

Modi said that before Independence "our country (in defence) was ahead of many countries in the world" as there were "multitude of ordnance factories". Many countries that lagged behind India then, he said, "are ahead of us now".

"After Independence, we should have made efforts in the defence sector, taking advantage of our prior experience," said Modi, but "we did not". Now, he said, "in defence and technology, India is taking strides towards self-reliance."

Talks to continue but military pushback on table

of condolence or remorse, telling India to hold its soldiers accountable and underlining that the onus to find a way out is not China's are clear signs of their intention," said the official.

"They are not acting even on what they are saying they will," said the source about assurances made during military talks. "Their only response so far has been that India is at fault, that India is to blame for the build-up."

Sources said that it was as early as end of April, that the first reports about the Chinese build-up reached Delhi. Promptly, instructions went out to enhance patrolling and

recce missions. "This was subsequently revised to match the build-up as a response to the gradual amassing of troops by the Chinese side. We shared this with the all-party meeting on June 19," said the official.

The MEA, too, has been categorical in stressing that it was the Chinese which started the build-up in violation of the mutual understanding between both sides.

Asked about the meaning of the Prime Minister's "no intruder" remark, the official avoided a direct response. "That statement should be read with all official statements that preceded it and that followed it," he said.

Officials said that despite questions being raised over the PM's remarks, there has been no dialling down of India's stand on any of the issues involved.

On the economic aspect of the bilateral relationship given the ubiquitous role of China in supply chains which could make de-coupling a challenge, another top official who has been advising the Government on trade matters, said: "It is not easy to switch on and switch off. But the India growth story cannot be predicated on a relationship with China that is plagued by deep trust deficit. There is a strong national

mood against it." At the same time, he said, any reflexive action that hurts India's economic interests should be avoided.

That's why, the official said, India has no option but to step up its diplomatic and military pressure.

"Nobody wins a war these days and India in 2020 isn't India in 1962. It has much stronger global alliances and we will need to leverage that. In line with its behaviour in the entire region, China wants to create fear and establish itself as a superpower," said the official. "They need to understand that there will be a determined pushback."



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was no "community spread" of the virus in Delhi. "I have spoken to three senior doctors. But this situation has not come in the state as yet. Earlier, 30 per cent (of those tested) would come (out) positive because testing was low. There is no reason to panic in Delhi."

Community transmission and spread is understood to be that stage of an epidemic in which the pathogen is circulating freely in the community, and the source of individual cases of infection is difficult to establish. The Delhi government had earlier suggested that it believed community spread of the virus had begun in Delhi, but had left it to the Centre to make a declaration.

Shah also said the decision to scrap the home isolation option was taken after an expert committee found that people were reaching hospitals late, and that over 50 per cent of deaths were taking place within three days of hospitalisation. This decision has now been withdrawn.

Shah said when he stepped in on June 14, above everything else, the arrangement relating to the disposal of dead bodies needed urgent attention.

"Over 350 dead bodies had piled up, waiting to be cremated. We decided to carry out the last rites based on the respective religions of the dead within two days. Today not a single body is pending. And a system has been put in place under which efforts

are made to carry out last rites of a deceased within that evening. Both the Delhi government and the MCDs have a role in this," Shah said.

LNJP Doctor

positive on June 3, Lok Nayak Hospital authorities said. He was admitted to the hospital's ICU on June 7 and a day later, shifted to Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket.

"He was actively involved in the hospital's fight against Covid-19. He is irreplaceable," Dr Suresh Kumar, Medical Director of Lok Nayak Hospital, said.

Dr Nirupama Gupta, a radiologist working in Noida, said she too had tested positive.

"For two-three days, Asheem and I were home," she says. "When his condition worsened, we both went to Lok Nayak Hospital and got ourselves admitted there. Next day, we shifted to Max, Saket. Asheem had co-morbidities. I recovered and returned home a few days ago, he didn't."

Of the East Delhi couple's two sons, one is in Australia and couldn't make it to the funeral Sunday afternoon. The other is an MBBS student in Dehradun.

Dr Nirupama said she kept in touch with her husband over WhatsApp and video calls. "He would message that he wasn't well, and I would console him, tell him 'you are a fighter'... He was said," she said.

The 58-year-old anaesthetist's condition worsened after he developed a pulmonary embolism. He was given plasma therapy and responded well, but then deteriorated suddenly, Dr Nirupama said.

Dr Kumar, Lok Nayak Hospital's Medical Director, said Dr Gupta was brought to the ICU with dipping oxygen levels. In a statement, the hospital said he was shifted to Max at his request.

Dr P Lal, Director of Surgery at Lok Nayak Hospital, recalled how Dr Gupta always looked out for patients from economically weaker backgrounds. "*Gareeb hai sir, iska ilaaj kar dijiye*, he used to tell me. He would go out of his way to help patients," Dr Lal said.

Dr Anil Goyal, a friend and senior from KGMU in Lucknow, where Dr Gupta did his graduation and post-graduation, said it was the desire to serve the poor that drew him to join a government hospital. Dr Goyal, who has a hospital and urology centre in Krishna Nagar in Delhi, said, "I knew him for almost 38 years. Asheem joined Lok Nayak Hospital because he believed he could help more people in a government set-up. If an economically weaker patient needed help getting an ICU or ventilator or even basic treatment, Asheem would help. He was there for his friends, family members, colleagues and even strangers. This (his death) is gutting."

Dr Vinay Aggarwal of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) said his helpful and jovial nature made Dr Gupta extremely popular among the medical fraternity in East Delhi. "I will always remember him as full of life. We have lost a wonderful human being," Dr Aggarwal said.

Dr Ajay Bedi, a fellow anaesthetist who was part of the East Delhi Branch of the IMA with Dr Gupta in 2014-15, said they had been close friends since 2008. "He was a sincere, honest, dedicated doctor who never took leave from work... This loss is heartbreaking."

Around five days ago, Dr Bedi added, he sent an old photograph of the two of them at Manesar to Dr Gupta in hospital. It was captioned, "You'll come back, Asheem!"

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New Delhi

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Future of Education

The promising future of online learning

The future of online education seems bright in the country. The government has overcome the digital divide in the country, making the technology accessible for all across the society

EDUCATION is one of the most important pillars of life, without it people often get caught in intergenerational cycles of poverty and backwardness. However, in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, educational systems worldwide have been severely affected, leading to the near-total closures of schools, universities and colleges. When the nationwide lockdown was announced, it was an important time for the education sector — board examinations, nursery school admissions, entrance tests of various universities and competitive examinations, among others, are all held during this period. Post 3 months since the lockdown, the stalemate continues.

However, with no option left and continuity of learning being necessary, schools, colleges and universities shifted to online teaching methodology, with many of them using the online platforms for the very first time. On the other hand, the government educational institutions have completely shut down due to the dearth of e-learning solutions at their end.

Online learning is available for K-12, colleges and universities through a variety of learning resources, including Animation, Assessment Tool, Assignments, Case Study, Collection, Development Tool, Drill and Practice, ePortfolio, Hybrid/Blended Course, Illustration/Graphic, Learning Object Repository, Online Course, Online Course Module, Open Textbook, Presentation, Quiz/Test, Reference Material, Simulation, Social Networking Tool, Tutorial, and Workshop and Training Material.

In online learning assessment tests, students can be tracked for their progress through digitally designed quizzes on learned concepts, with answers ranging from short answers to true/false and multiple choice. Another exciting, quick, short answer assessment tool is cloze activities, comprising a series of statements about important lesson points, replacing key topic terminology with blank spaces. Similarly, matching questions are great tools for minds-on activities. They also work well as diagnostic and formative assessments, and/or as quiz questions. Then there are LMS systems, to gauge, track, and modify student learning and engagement. Online teaching modules are created when an instructor creates a series of slides or web pages, which are organized, delivered, and monitored by the LMS.

As online learning has become essential, students have some more cause for worry, including getting an education loan in times of COVID-19. Education loan provides a great assistance to students who are otherwise unable to pursue their higher education or professional degree courses due to financial constraints. The problem is courses in foreign universities are expensive compared with Indian peers and, therefore, the loan amounts are even larger for foreign education. Currently, due to slowdown in the market because of COVID-19, the lenders are cautious of lending, as the employability fac-

tor remains questionable in the current times. Many IIT and IIM graduates' current employment offers have been either put on hold or cancelled, which had never happened before. Therefore, it becomes worthwhile to assess your requirements before opting for an education loan.

Lastly, it can be said that though the pandemic has utterly disrupted our education system, it has certainly proved to be a catalyst for improving online learning or digital education systems in the country, which otherwise remained accessible to a handful of students. The schools, colleges and universities should consider this pandemic as an opportunity to improve their educational infrastructure, wherein e-learning becomes a part of their 'new normal' after experiencing the benefits firsthand.

Institute of Chemical Technology: Building lives

THE Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Mumbai, is a unique Institute which was established on October 1, 1933 as a University Department of the Bombay University (UDCT), which has created its own brand over the years. Under the TEQIP it was granted full autonomous status in 2004 and declared as Deemed-to-be University on September 12, 2008 by the MHRD under Section 3 of the UGC Act of 1956. It was granted an Elite Status and Centre of Excellence at a par with IITs, IISc and IISERs in the state Assembly on April 20, 2012 by the Maharashtra government based on its stellar performance on par with institutes of national importance. Web of Science shows that ICT is number one under Category normalized citation impact of 0.98.

ICT, Mumbai is housed on 16 acres in Mumbai and is running 9 UG (Chemical Engineering; 7 branches of Chemical Technology; 1 Pharmacy), 18 PG (9 inter-disciplinary) and 29 PhD programmes (11 interdisciplinary), 1 PG Diploma in Chemical Technology Management for doctoral students and 1 PG Certificate Course in Chemical Safety and Risk Management for all Masters students. ICT is governed according to special statutes which go beyond Deemed University concept as approved by the State Government. On February 12, 2018, the UGC has declared Category I Deemed to be University status to ICT which has maintained high academic standards (NAAC grade of A++ with CGPA 3.77 out of 4).

On April 3, 2018, ICT received the most coveted ranking awards instituted by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) of MHRD during a function by the hands of Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource and Development, Government of India. ICT was ranked among the top ten engineering institutes of India and 19th amongst top universities of India. It is also recognised at rank 4 amongst



the Pharmacy Institutes. ICT is included in Times Ranking (THE) this year in the group of 500-600 in world ranking category, 7th in India and 92nd in Asia.

In the BRICS QS universities ranking 2018, ICT has been ranked at 118. Whereas in 2019, ICT is 115 among all BRICS. In QS Asia ranking, ICT has notched up 152 from 167 last year and is numbered at 22 in India. In NIRF, ICT is 18th in Engineering, 4th in Pharmacy, 18th among Universities, and 34th among all in 2020.

ACCOLADES AND HONOURS

- 19 Padma awardees
- 2 Fellows of Royal Society
- 4 Fellows of INSA, 4 Fellows of TWAS, 4 J.C. Bose Fellows
- Several Fellowships — FNA, FNASc, FNAE, FRSC, FTWAS, MUSAE.
- Over 500 first generation entrepreneurs, some owners of Fortune 500 companies;
- No. 1 in India, 4 globally in publications in Ch E
- SCOPUS Awards: 4 faculty in top 10 Chem Engg and 2 in top 10 Chemistry faculty in India: March 20, 2018

dent of India in the august presence of Hon'ble Shri S C Jamir, Governor of Odisha; Hon'ble Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and a galaxy of bureaucrats, distinguished academics and citizens, stalwarts from industry and well-wishers from across the country.

ICT MUMBAI MARATHWADA CAMPUS, JALNA

May 4, 2018 was also a monumental day in the history of ICT Mumbai since its second campus outside Mumbai was established officially in the presence of a galaxy of dignitaries, industrialists, faculty, alumni, students, support staff and well-wishers.

The campuses are equipped with modern equipment for carrying out high class research and innovation at Centres of Excellence to develop technology and to support Research & Development in industry and Skill Development in Chemical Engineering, Petrochemicals, Textiles, Polymers, Pharmaceuticals, Energy, etc. Highly qualified and committed Faculty members, support staff, students and alumni are continuously working to bring many accolades and honours to this Institute.

INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY (ICT), MUMBAI

Deemed to be University under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956
NAAC A++ CGPA 3.77/4.00
NBA Accredited Programmes
NIRF Ranking 2020: Pharmacy - 4th Rank, Engineering - 18th Rank, University: 18th Rank, Overall: 34th Rank



With campuses at

Elite Status and Centre of Excellence, Govt. of Maharashtra
Category I Institute (MHRD/UGC),
State Funded Public Institute, QS World University
Rankings : Asia – 152nd Rank, India – 22nd Rank

MUMBAI	IOC BHUBANESWAR	MARATHWADA JALNA
Matunga, Mumbai - 400019, Maharashtra, India; Tel: 022-3361-1111/2222; Fax: 022-3361-1020; Email: admission@ictmumbai.edu.in ; Website: www.ictmumbai.edu.in		

ADMISSIONS NOTICE 2020-21

The ICT, Mumbai (estd.1933) is a world-renowned Deemed to be University funded by the Government of Maharashtra. The faculty is highly accomplished, with multi-disciplinary interests and decorated with national and international awards and honours, having live connections with industry. ICT (formerly UDCT) has produced 19 Padma Awardees (3 Padma Vibhushan, 8 Padma Bhushan and 8 Padmashri) and over 500 industrialists. All leading foreign universities and industries seek ICT graduates. ICT receives various grants and projects from the UGC, DAE, DBT, DST, CSIR and other agencies, and Indian and foreign industries. Research has been an integral part of ICT, with state-of-the art research facilities, and hostel facilities. From academic year 2018-19, two new campuses are added with innovative programmes (a) Indian Oil Odisha Campus Bhubaneswar, and (b) Marathwada Campus Jalna. Admissions only to Bachelor's programmes at ICT Mumbai campus will be done through Competent Authority from Govt. of Maharashtra whereas other programmes will be done online by ICT Mumbai.

Courses of study in ICT at Matunga, Mumbai campus :

1. Bachelor of Chemical Engineering (B. Chem. Engg.)
2. Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech.) In (A) Dyestuff Technology (B) Fibres and Textile Processing Technology (C) Food Engineering and Technology (D) Oils, Oleochemicals and Surfactants Technology (E) Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Technology (F) Polymer Engineering and Technology (G) Surface Coating Technology
3. Bachelor of Pharmacy (B. Pharm.)
4. Master of Chemical Engineering (M. Chem. Engg.)
5. Master of Technology (M. Tech.) in (A) Dyestuff Technology (B) Fibres and Textile Processing Technology (C) Food Engineering and Technology (D) Oils, Oleochemicals and Surfactants Technology (E) Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Technology (F) Polymer Engineering and Technology (G) Surface Coating Technology (H) Perfumery and Flavour Technology (I) Bioprocess Technology (with special emphasis on Downstream Processing) (J) Food Biotechnology (K) Pharmaceutical Biotechnology (L) Green Technology
6. Master of Pharmacy (M. Pharm.) in (A) Pharmaceuticals (B) Medicinal Chemistry (C) Medicinal Natural Products
7. M.E. (Plastics Engineering)
8. Ph.D. (Tech.) in Chemical Engineering, all branches of Chemical Technology/Technology including Green technology and Pharmacy
9. Ph.D. (Sci.) in (A) Chemistry (B) Physics (C) Mathematics (D) Biotechnology (E) Food Science (F) Textile Chemistry (G) Biochemistry
10. Direct Ph.D. (Tech.) after bachelor's degree in faculty of technology
11. Post Graduate Diploma in Chemical Technology Management
12. M.Sc. (Chemistry, Physics, Engineering Mathematics, Textile Chemistry) all after B.Sc.

All Ph.D. Programmes are now redesigned with course work as per UGC regulations.

Innovative Programmes at ICTM-IOC Odisha Bhubaneswar Campus

1. Post HSC Integrated M. Tech. (6 trimesters in industry and 9 in institute) in the field of Chemical Engineering as major branch with minor in (A) Petrochemical Engineering (B) Fibres and Textile Processing Technology (C) Polymer and Materials Engineering (D) Food Engineering and Technology (E) Pharmaceutical Technology (F) Energy Engineering
2. Ph. D. programmes in various disciplines of science and technology

Innovative Programmes at ICT Mumbai Marathwada Campus, Jalna:

1. Post HSC Integrated M. Tech. (6 trimesters in industry and 9 in institute) in the field of Chemical Engineering as major branch with minor in (A) Petrochemical Engineering (B) Foods Engineering and Technology (C) Pharmaceutical Technology (D) Lipid Engineering (E) Polymers and Materials Engineering (F) Energy Engineering
2. Ph. D. programmes in various disciplines of science and technology

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

FOR EXACT DATES/CHANGE IN SCHEDULE, CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO REFER TO ICT WEBSITE FROM TIME TO TIME

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Chemical Engineering	60	12
Computer Engineering	180	36
Information Technology	120	24
Electronics & Telecommunications	60	12
Total Seats	480	96

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MAGNETIC MAHARASHTRA 2.0 ATTRACTS FDI

14 MoUs
SIGNED BY GOVERNMENT OF
MAHARASHTRA DURING
LOCKDOWN

INR 25,000 CR.
WORTH OF INVESTMENT
INTENTIONS HAVE BEEN
FORMALISED



Under the Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0, we aim to enhance policy and investment atmosphere in the state to attract investments and generate employment. The policy initiatives undertaken by the Government such as Maha Parwana, Maha Jobs, Plug and Play Infrastructure etc. will add to the ease of doing business and investors shall have our full support.



- Shri Uddhav Thackeray
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra

TURBOCHARGING INVESTMENT



14 Investment Intentions were signed recently by investors from countries such as USA, Singapore, Japan, South Korea and Indian companies. These Investment Intentions amount to over **Rs. 25,000 Crores** across sectors such as **Oil & Gas, Logistics, Food Processing, Automobiles, Chemicals, Data Centres and Engineering**. Also formalised were bilateral investment relationships with global think tanks like World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

MAHA PARWANA



The state is all set to roll out the red carpet to attract investment with 'Maha Parwana', a mega single permission system for new industrial units so that they need no other permission and can start construction and operation on the site immediately.

'Maha Parwana' will not only fast track industrial permissions as quickly as **48 hours**, but also facilitate investors to get all the permissions through a single-window clearance system.

All **FDI and Investment Proposals exceeding INR 50 Crores** will receive an assurance letter from the government to start construction and production **without seeking certain permits**.

MAHA JOBS PORTAL



Designed by the state to act as an Industry employment bureau, the portal will be launched in the next few days. Maha Jobs will have a dual role. It will help industries meet the talent shortfall that they have been facing in recent months with ready access to unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled talent. On the other hand, it will allow youth of the state to list his/her talent on the portal across **17 sectors and 950+ job roles**. This matchmaking of talent will help the state achieve an optimal mix of utilization and boost manufacturing productivity.



Shri Ajit Pawar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra

Govt of Maharashtra has initiated several measures to reduce the economic impact caused due to pandemic while also balancing healthcare and safety. These policy measures are the beginning of many more measures to come. This is aimed to attract more investment and to create maximum employment. Economic revival after COVID-19 outbreak has been the key focus of the government by

- Boosting the priority sectors like manufacturing, service sector, real estate, tourism and others; and,
- Taking measures - Ease of Doing Business, GST tax reliefs, penalty relief, ease in filling of returns



Shri Subhash Desai
Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Maharashtra

We understand the difficulties being faced by industry due to the pandemic and hence we in addition to the existing infrastructure are also working to provide you with the right kind of policy ecosystem, land options with better connectivity, Plug and Play infrastructure, Rental Spaces, Quick Permission to establish and operate and so on. With these policy measures, we are confident that the economy and industries will bounce back and achieve unprecedented growth.



Ms. Aditi Tatkare
Hon'ble Minister of State for Industries, Maharashtra

Under Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0 we aim to establish the state as the world's most attractive investment destination with availability of land, infrastructure, suitable policy environment and skilled labour. The government shall strive for industrial growth and support investors through various schemes.

PLUG AND PLAY INFRASTRUCTURE



Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) will offer a **ready-to-move-in factory environment** complete with **advanced utilities** and **affordable pricing structure** to be made available with sectoral tailoring. It will act as Industrial Cluster in the future, hosting a diverse base of entrepreneurs, local suppliers and anchor units. MIDC is allocating over **40,000 acres** of land for this and MIDC will also allocate **land for housing/hostel** for companies employing more than **1000 persons**. Additionally, MIDC will also provide **Industrial Shed Spaces** on a rental basis to enable quick setting up of Industries without a major cashflow impact on the investor. This will help a new investor immediately **start operations from the day one** while offsetting the company's risk appetite and liquidity crunch especially in a post COVID scenario.

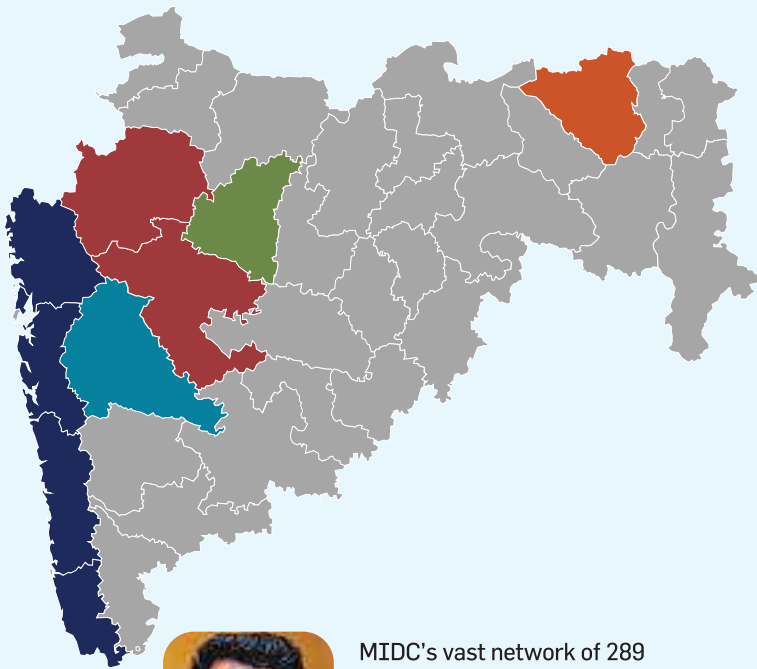
Mumbai-Thane-Palghar-Raigad-Ratnagiri - Sindhudurg | 22,500 Acres
Engineering | Food Processing | Auto & Components | Chemicals | Pharmaceutical |

Pune-Chakan-Talegaon-Satara | 6,100 Acres
Data Centre | Gems & Jewelry | Engineering | Food Processing | Auto & Components | ESDM | Logistics

Nashik - Malegaon - Ahmednagar | 3,600 Acres
Food Processing | Medical Equipment | ESDM | Engineering

Aurangabad (AURIC, DMIC) - Jalna | 7,000 Acres
Food Processing | Auto & Components | ESDM | Textile

Nagpur - Amravati | 3,500 Acres
Aerospace & Defence | Engineering | Textiles | Food Processing



Dr. P. Anbalagan
CEO MIDC

MIDC's vast network of 289 Industrial complexes, a land bank of over 2,25,000 acres and value added features such plug and play infrastructure will ensure investors have ready access to world class manufacturing ecosystems

UNIFIED SEARCH



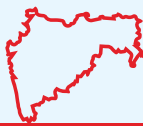
The technology component of the central strategy, this intervention aims to provide the investor with a **single platform** to **search, study, compare, select, apply and troubleshoot his/her investment queries**. Encompassing all the key components of industrial investment from Policy to Permissions, this will be the nodal address for all new FDI queries. The platform will also have the dual benefit of offering the state vital intelligence on investment trends, sectoral opportunities to localize and indigenize the Maharashtra supply chain and allow state companies to partner with FDI investor for quick go-to market solutions.

BUILDING RESILIENCY



A Coordinating Room will be set up in MIDC to provide administrative legal advice to those who are having difficulty in approaching the **National Company Arbitration (NCLT)** for the sick/closed industrial units especially in the **micro, small and medium** category and coordinate with the financial institutions. This protects the three most affected groups in the Industrial ecosystem - the workforce, the industries and the MSMEs.

ABOUT MAHARASHTRA



- Maharashtra is the most industrialised state in India and contributes to nearly 15% of the country's GDP and at USD 480 Billion it is India's largest economy
- It also attracts 30% of India's total FDI with a cumulative inflow of nearly USD 128 Billion
- Responsible for 25% of India's total exports
- Maharashtra has a population of 114 Million of which 46% (52 Million) are under the age of 24.
- The state has a literacy rate of 82% with 1.6 Million students being enrolled each year and 45 Million people are expected to be trained with employable skills by 2022
- The state has a seamless infrastructure with 24x7 reliable power supply, 2 Major and 3 Minor Ports along with 3 International Airports and 8 Domestic Airports
- One of the fastest-growing digitization is taking place in the state with nearly 91 Million smartphone users and 32 Million internet subscribers

“



Throughout the state and across sectors, we have initiated several reform measures to achieve exponential economic growth in the post COVID era. We are confident that the Industrial policy reforms undertaken will have an exemplary outcome.

Shri Ajoy Mehta
Chief Secretary, Maharashtra



Maharashtra has identified key countries such as USA, South Korea, Japan and Germany as the partners in our growth story along with specific sectors in each country. We are continuously engaging with businesses and trade bodies of these countries.

Shri Bhushan Gagrani
FDI Sherpa, Maharashtra



With policy reforms initiated to support new investments and the existing packaged scheme of incentives, Maharashtra is the perfect investment destination for domestic as well as FDI. The Industries department will pro-actively engage with stakeholders to appraise them of the reforms and ensure smooth execution.

Shri B. Venugopal Reddy
Principal Secretary Industries, Maharashtra



Maharashtra's latest Ease of Doing Business initiatives of Maha Parwana, Maha Jobs, Unified Search and other major policy decisions will add to its magnetic attractiveness as it will facilitate the process of setting up of Industries, ensuring best returns on your investments.

Dr. Harshdeep Kamble
Development Commissioner, Industries, Maharashtra.

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MAGNETIC
MAHARASHTRA 2.0
#MadeForBusiness

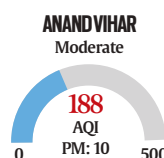


Government of
Maharashtra

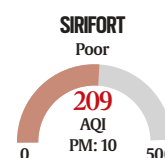




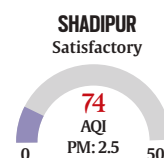
0-50 Good



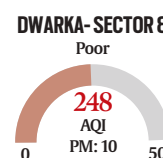
51-100 Satisfactory



101-200 Moderate



201-300 Poor



301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

NUMBER EXPECTED TO RISE FURTHER

From 261 to 417: Containment zones up, 5 districts account for most sealed areas

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

A NUDEGE from the Union Home Ministry has pushed up the number of containment zones in Delhi to 417, mainly due to 13 containment zones across five districts undergoing an extensive remapping exercise, resulting in the creation of several new sealed areas.

Southwest district tops the list with 77 containment zones, followed by south with 52, north with 48, while central with 40 trails closely behind. Through the creation of containment zones, the authorities are attempting to contain large scale outbreaks of the infection in densely populated residential colonies.

The Health Ministry guidelines state that the objective of cluster containment is to break the cycle of transmission and decrease the morbidity and mortality due to Covid.

A week back, on June 21, there were 261 containment zones in Delhi. Over the next five days, it rose steadily, settling at 280 on June 25, which remained unchanged a day later. The real push took place over June 27 and June 28, with district magistrates carrying out a remapping exercise under the instructions of the Home Ministry.

Also, the increase from 280 to 417 is owing to breaking up 13 large containment zones across West, Southeast, Shahdara, North and Central districts. "Several new areas will also be sealed over the next few days,



Southwest district tops the list with 77 containment zones

pushing up the number further," a senior district official said.

The existing ones that have been broken down into multiple containment zones include Hari Nagar and Tilak Vihar in West, Badarpur and Sangam Vihar in

Southeast, GTB and Meet Nagar in Shahdara, Jahangirpuri, Thakran, Narela Road Alipur, Mahindra Enclave in North and Ghanta Ghar, Pratap Nagar, Shora Kothi in Central district. The Indian Express had on

June 26 reported that the number of containment zones were likely to rise sharply over the next few days. The capital had started sealing areas throwing up clusters of Covid cases in the last week of March.

On April 9, the Delhi government had launched 'Operation SHIELD' under which it planned to undertake "Sealing, Home Quarantine, Isolation and Tracking, Essential Supply, Local Sanitisation and Door-To-Door Checking" -- to control the spread of the virus.

However, the initiative fizzled out by the end of April. Eager to reopen the economy, the state government decided to refrain from sealing new areas, especially with entire Delhi designated as a red zone by the Centre.

This changed after May 17, with the Centre giving states complete autonomy in demarcating red, orange and green containment zones. The DMs once again started identifying clusters of cases and sealing localities, which also took a back seat when the city's health infrastructure came under a growing strain during the first week of June and focus shifted from tracing and isolating to augmenting beds.

After Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting on the situation in Delhi on June 14, the city's containment strategy once again came under the lens, prompting a rethink. On June 21, the ministry directed the Delhi government to issue "revised demarcation of all containment zones" by June 26.

Doctor who ran clinic in Dadri dies of Covid

SOMYALAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

A 60-YEAR-OLD general physician, who ran his own clinic in Gautam Budh Nagar's Dadri, succumbed to Covid-19 Sunday morning. Dr Lokesh Gupta was rushed to Yashoda Hospital in Ghaziabad's Nehru Nagar last Monday, and his Covid-19 result came positive on Wednesday.

Dr Sangeeta Garg, medical superintendent of Yashoda Hospital, said, "Dr Lokesh came to the hospital on June 22 afternoon with high-grade fever, breathlessness and cyanosis (blue skin due to lack of oxygen). His Covid-19 test was done and his test result came positive. At 9.59 am Sunday, he passed away."

Dr Lokesh studied medicine at S N Medical College, Agra, and is survived by his wife, and their two children. The couple's daughter lives in Ghaziabad, while their son is pursuing his PhD in the US, and was unable to attend his father's last rites.

Dr Lokesh's colleague said, "He would visit his clinic twice a week for a few hours only, and would also wear a face shield, N95 mask and use sanitiser."

The colleague said that on Monday, Dr Lokesh was rushed to Yashoda Hospital after he complained of breathing issues. "His oxygen level was low, so he was admitted. His Covid-19 test was done, and by evening, his oxygen level had stabilised. On Wednesday, his Covid-19 result came positive but we were hopeful that he will be fine," said the



Dr Lokesh Gupta

Staffer death at Hindu Rao

New Delhi: A 53-year-old ward boy of Hindu Rao hospital, who tested positive for Covid, died of kidney failure Sunday. Raju was admitted to the hospital Friday after complaints of cough and breathlessness. He is survived by his wife and four children. Director, Press and Information of North body, said Raju last reported for work on June 19. He was suffering from diabetes and hypertension. He tested positive on June 27 and was shifted to the emergency. On Saturday, the 980-bed hospital was converted into a 50-bed Covid facility. **ENS**

colleague.

Dr Ashok Gupta, who runs Bhagwati Nursing Home in Dadri, told *The Indian Express*, "Dr Lokesh had diabetes and hypertension. On Sunday, he had breakfast at the hospital, and later suffered a cardiac arrest and passed away."

BRIEFLY

Man beaten to death over water

New Delhi: A 33-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by his neighbours after a fight over water supply at Outer Delhi's Ranholi, police said Sunday. The victim's family claimed Jeetender was taking a tub of water home when the neighbours, who suspected him of stealing, attacked him.

Cabbie held over fake online liquor store

New Delhi: Police arrested a 31-year-old cab driver who allegedly ran a fake online liquor store and cheated over 100 people, including political analyst Sanjaya Baru, in the capital during the lockdown.

Businessman kills self

New Delhi: A 51-year-old businessman allegedly committed suicide by consuming poison on June 25. In his suicide note, Bhupender Gupta blamed his business partners — the owner of a private school, his son and the principal — for allegedly harassing him. DCP (Outer) Dr A Koan said, "Gupta had mortgaged his property and the papers were with the partners. They were also pressuring him to send more documents to settle business transactions."

Security guard hangs self

New Delhi: A 23-year-old security guard of a cinema hall in Central Delhi's Darya Ganj was found hanging in one of the rooms at his workplace Sunday. **ENS**

500-bed Covid facility expected at CWG complex by next week, workers being hired

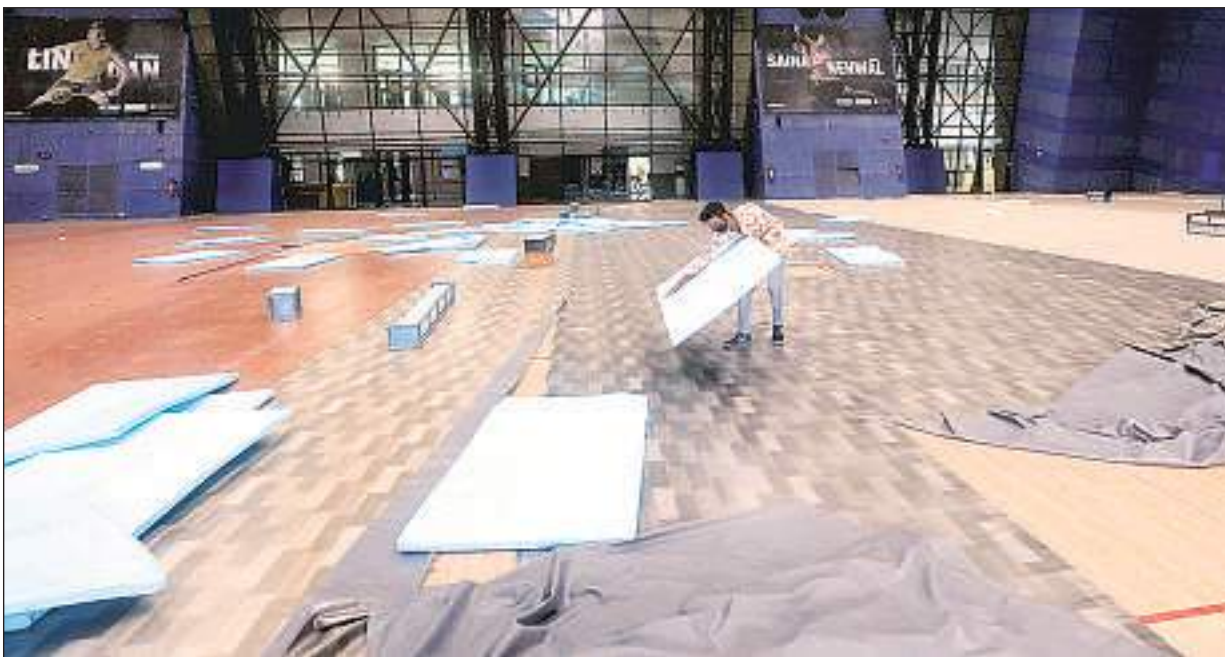
ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

THE DELHI government has started work on converting the Commonwealth Games Village (CWG) in East Delhi into a 500-bed Covid care centre, which is expected to be ready by next week. The facility will be linked to the Delhi government's Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital.

"The CWG village is well equipped with all amenities and we will be able to provide a world-class facility to patients. We are working out the final modalities in terms of manpower and equipment. It is expected to start by next week," said a senior district official.

On Saturday, the Delhi government added 1,055 more beds by linking banquet halls with healthcare facilities. The Covid care centre at CWG village will be operated by a volunteer group of doctors called Doctors For You (DFY), which is also handling the Covid centre at Shehnai banquet hall.

"We have done the initial assessment of creating space for patients. At present, a lot of civil work, including creating wards, has to be done. The entire campus has to be sanitised for safety



At CWG village Sunday. The facility, which will house 500 patients, will be linked to Lal Bahadur Shastri hospital. Amit Mehra

of patients and healthcare workers," said Dr Ravikant Singh, president of DFY.

The centre will require around 250-300 healthcare workers who will work in three shifts. DFY has started hiring and training staff. According to ex-

perts, the centre will also serve as an additional facility for healthcare workers in need of accommodation.

"Healthcare workers in our team are from all parts of the country and we have to take care of their accommodation as

well. As they can't go back to their native places, we can provide accommodation for them in the same area," said Dr Rajat Jain, member of DFY.

According to group, the location of the CWG village, which is located near Akshardham

Temple and away from residential areas, is also an advantage. "It is extremely important that the facility should not be located close to a residential colony. It must have adequate toilets and a passage for easy transportation of patients," said Dr Jain.

Lok Nayak sees drop in number of deaths

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

DELHI GOVERNMENT'S Lok Nayak Hospital has seen a drop in the number of deaths over the past two weeks, data compiled by the hospital administration shows. The 2,000-bed hospital recorded 100 deaths between June 6 and 12. This number dropped to 72 between June 13 and 19 and further dipped to 51 between June 20 and 26.


On Sunday, the city recorded 2,889 new cases and 65 deaths of Covid-19 in the capital. The total number of cases in the city reached 83,077 while 2,623 people have died so far. A total of 3,306 people recovered and

were discharged from the hospital in the last 24 hours.

The city's biggest Covid-only facility, the hospital witnessed its first suspected case on March 17 and has since provided treatment to 5,777 patients, of which 4,169 have recovered.

The first week of June, however, saw many people being refused treatment across the city, including at Lok Nayak Hospital. Till earlier this month, the hospital had faced complaints from patients of inadequate facilities, and had also been criticised by the Supreme Court for inadequacies. On Saturday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that while the situation was much better now, death toll had climbed in the first week of June as many

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL



TOTAL CASES	HOSPITAL BEDS		Total	Vacant
83,077	13,390		7,396	
	747		152	

	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
June 27	2,948	2,210	66	19,180
June 28	2,889	3,306	65	20,080
Total	27,847*	52,607	2,623	4,98,416

*Total active cases

patients were not getting beds.

The hospital has started procuring antiviral drugs Remdesivir and Favipiravir. It also administered plasma therapy as a trial to 29 patients in the first phase, and is now going to

conduct the trials on 200 more.

"There has been a 50% decline in number of deaths. The Chief Minister has also been personally monitoring the situation. We were the first to start administering plasma therapy in the

country with 29 donations, now we have got permissions for 200 transfusions more. In each of the patients administered plasma therapy, the CM has personally monitored their conditions on a daily basis," said Dr Suresh Kumar, medical director of Lok Nayak hospital.

Kejriwal had also said that Covid deaths have come down after use of plasma therapy. "It may be difficult to save very serious patients using plasma therapy, but it can help moderate patients by not letting their condition worsen," he had said.

A team of 25 representatives from the Chief Minister's office have been placed in the hospital to help with coordination between the hospital and patients.



they have shut shops and returned to their hometowns for the time being. Most shops are also running with far less hands on deck than usual.

"I think around 70% of the boys who used to work in the shops have gone back to their villages. I also had two boys, but one has gone back to Rajasthan and the other to UP. Now it's just me and my brother in the shop.

At Lajpat Nagar market Sunday. Sukrita Baruah

In any case, we don't need extra hands since business is so slow. We now make Rs 1,000 on a very good day," said Daya Ram.

Another busy street market on weekends is Lajpat Nagar's central market. Although shopkeepers complain of slow business, it is marginally busier because it draws people from residential neighbourhoods.

With redevelopment work pending at Sarojini Nagar's residential area, for which the residents were moved out, the market has also lost its

neighbourhood shopper base.

"In about a month of us reopening, I can't say business has gotten better. In fact, with the number of cases rising, people are getting more scared. They also don't have income to spare. I'm earning around Rs 3,000 a day, of which the profit is barely Rs 300. I also rent my shop space for Rs 20,000 per month. The landlord has not yet asked for rent after the lockdown. The day he does, I'll pull down the shutters," said Harish, a shop owner at Lajpat Nagar.

SHOPPERS STAY AWAY

Sundays no longer busy as Sarojini Nagar, Lajpat Nagar markets struggle

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

"AAJ KAL Sunday Monday ka pata hi nahi chalta hai. Pehle Sunday mein chalne ki jagah nahi hoti thi. Ab roz hi khaali hai," said Raj Kumar, sitting at the threshold of his dupatta shop in Sarojini Nagar market late Sunday afternoon.

One of the most popular street markets in Delhi, particularly busy on Sundays, continues to be deserted almost a month

after markets in the capital reopened after the lockdown.

Tilak Raj owns and runs a shop that sells sequined saris, each worth a few hundred rupees. On Sunday afternoon, he stood outside his shop so he would not have to keep the fan and AC running inside. Of the 55 lights on the ceiling, he carefully left only four such that the shop had enough light.

"I have to do whatever I can to keep my business costs low. If I have to give you an estimate of the sales this month, for 28 days

of the shop being open, I have earned Rs 28,000. Today is Sunday; I have been here since 11 am and have made only one sale of Rs 500. Sometimes, I just start feeling anxious and unwell sitting inside the store all day with no business," he said.

The continued low footfall in the market is also reflected in the number of shops with shutters pulled down. Other shopkeepers say these stores were run by those who rented the space from landlords. Unable to pay rent with poor business,

MCDs send notices to 130 over structural stability

ABHINAV RAJPUT

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

AT LEAST 130 structures in the capital, including schools and housing societies, have been served notices by municipal corporations following a survey to identify the seismic stability of buildings under their jurisdictions.

The survey comes as at least 17 earthquakes were recorded between April 12 and June 8 in and around the capital, with magnitudes ranging between 4.5 and 1.8. Seven more earthquakes were recorded between June 8 and 28, all close to Rohtak.

The South Body has issued 77 notices to schools, residential group housing societies and institutions to submit a structure audit report, said a senior official. According to data given by the East Delhi Municipal Corporation, it has issued notices to 22 schools and 44 residential group housing societies in Shahdara South Zone. The North MCD is yet to corroborate data from the zones.

In the first stage, the corporations surveyed schools and group housing societies as several people visit or live in these areas. Other buildings will be surveyed in the later stage.

"As per the structural security of the building, its structure audit report along with the existing building plan will have to be submitted within 30 days from the date of notice at the East Corporation office," said an EDMC spokesperson, adding that it has issued notices to constructions before 2001.

Earlier this month, the Delhi High Court had pulled up the Delhi government and municipal bodies for non-implementation of an action plan to ensure the seismic stability of buildings in the capital. It said the replies filed by the Delhi government and the municipal bodies, with regard to steps taken or proposed to make the city safe from earthquake, are just "paper tigers".

Stitching, farming: Unpaid guest teachers try to keep afloat

SUKRITA BARUAH

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

THREE TEACHERS who shared a flat in a Northwest Delhi village, without pay for two months, are now back in their villages in three different states, labouring to feed themselves and their families.

Surender Saini (35), Yogesh Kumar (34) and Deepak Kumar Shukla (29) all worked as guest teachers at Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in Nithari village. However, like some 20,000 other guest teachers at these schools, they have not been paid after May 8. With the commencement of summer

vacations, the education department had issued an order stating, "All guest teachers shall be paid up to May 8, 2020, and in summer vacations only if they are called for duties."

With schools completely shut, these teachers, who are paid per day of work, have found themselves without a source of income.

Surender Saini, a TGT Hindi teacher who has cleared the CTET examination and teaches classes VI to X, had left Delhi for his village in Rajasthan's Alwar district on March 19, after the closure of schools because of the pandemic. After returning to his village, he continued sending worksheets



and videos to his students on WhatsApp, asking them to send photos of school work they had done at home.

However, soon after his salary stopped coming in, he started working at a PPE manufacturing unit in Neemrana industrial area.

"I knew a little bit of stitching and I'm learning the rest on the job. I'm being paid Rs 25 per PPE suit I make. After working from around 7.30 am to 6 pm, some days I make 8 suits, some days I make 10. If it

Surender Saini now works at a PPE manufacturing unit in Neemrana industrial area

was any other time and we would have been told that our services would not be required for some time, we could have still found some other better work. But at a time like this, this is the only work I could find which does not require too much physical labour, because I have mobility issues in my legs," he said.

His friend Yogesh Kumar, a TGT mathematics teacher, is back at his village in Haryana's Rewari district, working at his family's farm. "My family has about 2 acres of land where we grow bajra. I've never had to leave my work in Delhi and come back to work on the farms but filling the stomach is

the most important thing at this time. Remaining in Delhi was especially hard for us because the three of us used to pay rent of Rs 5,500 per month and we couldn't shoulder that while being unemployed for two months," he said.

In other years, summer vacations did not mean an end to all work for teachers such as Saini and Kumar. They would be called to school regularly for duty to conduct extra classes for students.

Their friend and former flatmate Deepak Kumar Shukla, a drawing teacher at the school, is also working at his family's farm in UP's Shahjahanpur. "We have just

one acre of land where we grow sugarcane. Because we need money to even farm, a few days a week I work at other people's farms for a few hundred rupees a day... I had enrolled my five-year-old son to a private school in Delhi and he should be in KG, but now that we're back in the village, I'm teaching him myself," he said.

Summer vacations end on June 30, after which schools will return to remote learning, but guest teachers are yet to receive any directions on their status. "We have been unemployed for two months. We are hoping we are given a chance to earn in July at least," said Saini.

MADE MISTAKE, SAYS SHAHRUKH IN DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Gun-toting riot accused says got carried away by YouTube

ANAND MOHAN J

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

SHAHRUKH PATHAN, who was pictured pointing a pistol at a policeman during the Northeast Delhi riots, got excited after watching a YouTube video on anti-CAA protests at Maujpur Chowk, his disclosure statement to police has said. Following this, he joined the protest, pelted stones and fired at police officers, it stated.

A photo of him brandishing the pistol had gone viral online. "I dropped out of BA second-year course. My brother and I work in socks manufacturing... On 23/02/2020 I saw on YouTube that a protest against CAA was underway at Maujpur Chowk and got excited. On 24/02/2020 around 11 am, I went to Maujpur Chowk, where two groups, pro-CAA and anti-CAA, started pelting stones at each other. I also started pelting stones, and I also had a pistol with me, which I pointed at police officers and fired. I can identify the other accused from the protest



Pathan was arrested from UP in March

the Maujpur incident on February 24, where violence broke out between anti- and pro-CAA groups and spread to other parts of Northeast Delhi, along with four other accused, Salman, Gulfam, Aatir and Osama, who are all in judicial custody.

Shahrukh's lawyer Asghar Khan said, "I am yet to get the chargesheet because of difficulties posed by coronavirus. However... it has been argued before the Delhi High Court during his bail hearing that Shahrukh never fired at anyone but fired in the air in self-defence."

In the present case, two policemen, constables Raman and Deepak, sustained injuries due to stone pelting and passerby Rohit Shukla sustained gunshot injuries. As per the chargesheet, constable Raman could not identify the rioters who injured him. Shukla identified Aatir, Gulfam and Osama through their photographs.

A third witness, a local belan maker, disclosed the name of one Sajjad after he was shown CCTV footage from Gali 13 in Brahmpuri. Police said this "was

far away from the present incident spot" and "does not directly show accused Sajjad as a part of the mob at Maujpur Chowk".

But since the witness confirmed Sajjad's presence at the Main Jafriabad road, police said he was a "part of the menacing mob, which was on the move causing riots". Sajjad has not been traced by police, the chargesheet stated.

The chargesheet stated that Maujpur Chowk was being used as "a symbolic place by anti-CAA and NRC protestors since long, where they used to come and light candles to signify their protest and went back afterwards".

It further said that on February 23, CAA supporters protested against the road blockage, and on February 24, even after issuing prohibitory orders, the protests in Maujpur were "peaceful but it soon became violent and led to incidents of stone pelting, brick batting, arson, firing and sabotage from both sides, and led to injuries to several police personnel as well as public persons and created an atmosphere of fear among public".

SAKSHI DAYAL

GURGAON, JUNE 28

MALLS IN Gurgaon and Faridabad have been permitted to reopen from July 1, three months after they shut, with the Haryana government Sunday releasing SOPs. The directions state that malls can operate between 9 am and 8 pm, but cinema halls, gaming arcades and children's play areas will be closed for now.

As per the directions, visitors will have to wear "face covers/masks", ensure social distancing, use Aarogya Setu app. It also stated that people aged above 65 and below 10, those with co-morbidities, and pregnant women will not be allowed. Employees have been told that those at "higher risk" should take "extra precautions". Owners have to ensure "hand hygiene" and thermal scanning of visitors at entry points. It also directs restaurants and food courts to follow "staggering of visitors" to ensure "not more than 50% of seating capacity" is permitted at any time. Municipalities have been tasked with monitoring compliance.

Owners said they are training staff, installing hand sanitisers, and floor markers for social distancing.



At South Point Mall. The Haryana govt has issued SOPs for reopening

Meanwhile, owners of various businesses in a particular mall have found themselves in a tussle over rent with landlords.

South Point Mall, located on the upscale Golf Course Road and managed by the South Point Condominium Association, has witnessed several businesses having to shut as they couldn't make rent. While most malls are owned by large companies, South Point Mall is managed by a group of individual investors operating through an association.

The owner of a café and a salon, who did not wish to be named, said while his former business had to be shut on June 20, with the landlord refusing to lower the rent, the other business is also on the verge of closing. He

said the landlord is seeking rent even for the three months when the mall was shut. "In my coffee shop, the landlord agreed to waive rent during the lockdown, but did not agree to my request that the lower rent to around 50% of what it used to be. Footfall is expected to drop tremendously even after malls reopen. I had no choice but to close my shop, eight years after I opened it," said the owner.

The owner of a lifestyle shop, part of an informal group of around 30 tenants facing the same problem, said the rent ranges between Rs 100 to Rs 300 per square foot, depending on the shop's location: "Unlike many other high street locations, rent is not being slashed here. Footfall is likely to be 5-8% of what it used to be, which means revenue will be low."

Shobha Sengupta, association president said, "GST has to be submitted, electricity charges to be paid, a certain amount of staff has to be kept, sanitisation has to be done... We have always been careful that our charges should be the lowest possible, and even slashed common area maintenance charges this month. Not charging anything at all is not possible." On rent, she said, "This is between landlord and tenant. The association has nothing to do with this."

GALWAN AND WHAT HAPPENS AFTER

E-XPLAINED
by The Indian EXPRESS

with

Gautam Bambawale

Former Indian Ambassador to China (2017 to 2018)

The India-China border dispute is old, but for the first time in decades, lives have been lost in violent clashes. Why have the Chinese precipitated the situation on the LAC? Where is the current stand-off headed, and what diplomatic and military options does India have to respond?

To understand the big regional and global geopolitical picture within which this conflict is situated, join us for a conversation with Gautam Bambawale, among the best known diplomat-analysts of India's complex relationship with China.

Ambassador Bambawale will be in conversation with

Shubhajit Roy

Associate Editor and Diplomatic Correspondent
The Indian Express

29 JUNE 2020

07:00 PM

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8



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

SOME DEBTS ARE FUN WHEN YOU ARE ACQUIRING THEM, BUT NONE ARE FUN WHEN YOU SET ABOUT RETIRING THEM. — OGDEN NASH

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

KARTARPUR BRIDGE

Delhi must not snub Pakistan offer to reopen corridor — project is in India's interests, it has more reasons not to walk away now

IN THE WAKE of a bruising spv vs spy row, and in the week when Delhi asked the Pakistan High Commission to reduce the strength of its diplomatic mission in India by half, announcing that it would do the same at its mission in Islamabad, it was hardly expected that Pakistan's next move would be an apparent hand-shake. Its offer to reopen Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur from today for Indian pilgrims on the occasion of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death anniversary — it was shut down on March 30 due to the COVID-19 pandemic — appears to have caught Delhi by surprise. The ministry of external affairs has said two days is too short a notice, and has also described the offer as a "mirage of goodwill". But concerns about a feint, or of being blindsided by the move, if indeed that is the case, are no reason to reject the proposal altogether.

Despite the controversies that have surrounded it from the start, and Delhi's abiding suspicion that it is a deceptive ploy by Pakistan to exploit the alleged Khalistan chink in India's security armour, the "Kartarpur Corridor" agreement is a rare India-Pakistan agreement that has proved to be workable even with the bilateral surround sound at its worst. In fact, India was quick to join the initiative, and through the ups and downs of 2019, its inauguration last November was miracle-like. That is because howsoever important it was for Pakistan, and whatever its reasons to push the Kartarpur corridor project, it has been as much in India's interests to be part of it.

Now, there are even more reasons not to walk away from it. Accepting Pakistan's Kartarpur offer would help to keep one bridge with Pakistan intact, considering that most others have been steadily eroded or completely destroyed. This current moment, when India is facing a military crisis against China in Ladakh, after 20 Indian soldiers have been killed in a clash with Chinese soldiers, is hardly the time to worsen relations with a neighbour, even a difficult one. Second, it would telegraph India's intention and determination to keep its relations with the two countries separate despite their apparent efforts to make common cause over Ladakh and Kashmir. Third, and equally important, Pakistan probably expects India to spurn the offer. Accepting it would deprive Islamabad of the opportunity to go to town with the cry that India has once again rejected Pakistan's hand of friendship. Security officials in Punjab know the drill already, and should be able to ensure there are no slip-ups. The concern that remains is of pilgrims bringing the coronavirus infection back with them. This should worry Pakistan, too, about incoming pilgrims. But both sides know by now what the preventive measures are, and how to put them in place.

THOSE IN NEED

Government should consider widening scope of collateral-free loans to MSMEs

A SPART OF the financial package to help the economy deal with the disruptions caused by the imposition of the national lockdown, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the provision of collateral-free loans worth Rs 3 lakh crore for the micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The facility, which was expected to help around 45 lakh MSMEs that have been worst hit by the economic slowdown, was meant to assist these small businesses to meet their obligations such as payment of salaries, rent and other utilities, as their revenue dried up. In an environment where banks are unwilling to take on the credit risk, extending such a facility, where the government bears the risk, was indeed a welcome step. However, there are concerns that the conditions imposed on those who can avail of the facility — the scheme excludes first-time borrowers and those whose accounts have turned bad — may have blunted its effectiveness by excluding a sizeable section of the MSME universe from its ambit. This approach needs to be reexamined.

Data from the finance ministry shows that since the scheme's launch, the total amount of loans sanctioned and disbursed by 12 public sector banks and 16 private sector banks stands at Rs 75,426 crore (over 17 lakh accounts), and Rs 32,896 crore (7.11 lakh accounts) respectively. Based on this, the average loan amount sanctioned and disbursed per account works out to around Rs 4.42 lakh and Rs 4.62 lakh respectively, which suggests that only the smallest of MSMEs are availing this facility, indicating their precarious financial position. However, compared to the scale of economic distress, the relatively low level of disbursements could be the result of both demand and supply side issues. Demand for credit may be low because, for MSMEs, final consumption demand has fallen. Further, the interest rate charged, despite a cap being imposed, may be too high for them. On the other hand, supply side issues may persist. Reportedly, only companies with good credit history are able to raise funds, while those most affected by the economic slowdown are unable to avail of the facilities, and continue to struggle.

If the main objective of this scheme was to boost credit flow to the MSMEs, to help them during this period of economic distress, then surely the government should consider both — relaxing some of the restrictions imposed on those who can avail of the scheme, and widening the definition to include others. For instance, extending the scheme to individual borrowers — small traders, businessmen and self-employed workers such as truck drivers who borrow in their own name, and account for a sizeable section of the labour force — is a useful suggestion as it will help the wider MSME ecosystem.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



SANJAYA BARU

Former NSA Bolton's book raises questions about US commitment to India's national security

DEFENDING HIS DECISION to write what the media likes to call "a tell-all tale", the former national security advisor to US President Donald Trump, John Bolton, told *The New York Times*, "I just think it's important to tell the story". That is as good a defence by any writer of any piece of writing. In writing his account of his time in the White House in 2018-19, *The Room Where it Happened: A White House Memoir*, Bolton has only followed a rich tradition in American democracy of those walking out of the corridors of power sharing with the public information that they believe ought to be shared in the national interest. The national interest in this case, Bolton believes, lies in preventing a second term for President Trump.

In the very feudal and self-serving culture of the Delhi Darbar, few are ready to call it a day and speak truth to power, though more and more are now willing to do so. Conscious of the fact that even in the US he would be criticised by partisan elements for speaking up, that too in the run-up to the elections, Bolton derived inspiration from Robert Gates, the US defence secretary in the Bush and Obama administrations, who wrote without hesitation about US misadventures in Iraq and Afghanistan. At that time, Bolton had defended Gates saying, "I believe former senior officials have virtually an obligation to explain what they did while in government".

The surprising thing about Bolton's book is not what it says but who says it. An ideological fellow traveller of the American right and a true blue establishment man, with a long career in US diplomatic service that culminated in his posting as US ambassador to the United Nations, Bolton believes Trump betrayed the cause and the nation with his whimsical style of governance and fanciful views on public policy and national security.

Bolton only confirms the widely held view that Trump is a charlatan. Worse, an ignoramus. The problem, however, does not lie in the fact that Trump knows so little about the complexities of the world and national security. That could be said for most elected politicians anywhere. But that ought

to be compensated by recourse to professional policy advice, rather than policy based on "whim and fancy". Politicians may win elections on narrow ideological platforms, but that cannot become the basis of policy in a complex polity and an even more complex world. Bolton laments the lack of informed and intelligent policy-making in the Trump administration.

It is only natural that Bolton's book would focus on issues impacting US national security, especially in the period he was in office. So it is not surprising that the countries mentioned most often, several hundred references to be precise, include China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Japan, Britain and the European Union. For an Indian reader, it is sobering to note that India is mentioned on precisely 10 pages — twice along with China, twice along with Pakistan, twice with reference to Iran's oil sales, once with reference to trade, once with reference to nuclear non-proliferation, once with reference to Russian sale of S-400 missiles and once in the context of a comment by Trump on Narendra Modi.

Clearly, India was a marginal concern of the US national security advisor during his term in office. Bolton does not take the India-Pakistan border clash of 2019 very seriously, but his views on the Afghan Taliban will be welcomed in New Delhi. Bolton was disapproving of Trump's decision to talk to the Taliban, as he was of Trump playing ducks and drakes with the Chinese.

For an Indian reader of Bolton, the worrying conclusion is that for all the hype about a special relationship between the world's oldest and largest democracies, India figures in the mind space of successive US administrations mostly in relation to America's enduring security concerns — nuclear non-proliferation, Afghanistan-Pakistan, China and Russia. On the one purely bilateral issue of trade relations, Bolton is sympathetic to the hawkish views of the US trade representative Robert Lighthizer. All this does not contribute to greater confidence-building between Trump's US and Modi's India.

Read from a purely Indian perspective, Bolton's book raises questions about US interest in, if not commitment to, Indian national security. India hardly figures in the book. One can take comfort from the fact that Trump's "America First" approach has warped US commitment to all friends and allies and so India is no exception. The question does arise, given Bolton's criticism of Trump, as to how much of Trump's "America First" approach is about Trump and how much of it is about the US. In other words, will a change of guard at the White House herald a change of US policy or will there be more continuity than change?

Perhaps China has taken a proper measure of Trump's America and has concluded that there is a window of opportunity for it to exert pressure on most of its neighbours — from Japan to India. Perhaps it is such a reading of Bolton's book that has encouraged the Indian ministers of external affairs and defence to participate in trilaterals with China even as India moves closer to Japan and Australia.

Bolton's portrayal of chaotic decision-making in Washington DC in matters of global and national security is, of course, aimed at strengthening the case against Trump. However, it also serves as a warning to policy-makers in India. The US-India relationship was built on foundations that Trump has brought into question, without creating an alternative basis for the relationship. It remains to be seen whether political change in the US will make a difference and, if so, what kind of difference to the bilateral relationship.

India's priorities and national security concerns have not changed in these past two decades. The elements that shaped the US-India relationship in the first decade of this century remain the defining ones even today. US priorities too have not changed. However, how the US views India and its concerns keeps changing. Bolton's book is a reminder.

The writer is a policy analyst and former media advisor to Prime Minister of India



VANDANA KALRA

MONA LISA WITH A MASK

The art world as we know it is facing an existential crisis

ON JULY 6, Mona Lisa will once again smile at its admirers as its home, the Louvre, opens its doors for visitors after over four months. The elbowing crowds that famously surround her will be absent. Walking in to visit her will require subscribing to the rules of the "new normal" — a mandatory face mask, temperature check and a pre-booked online ticket. While that might seem to be a deterrent to some, Mona Lisa perhaps has graver concerns.

Arguably the most famous painting in the world, the Leonardo da Vinci portrait has not been spared by the COVID-19 contagion — last month, Stephane Distinguin, founder of the tech company Fabernovel, reportedly suggested that France should sell the over 500-year-old masterpiece for at least 50 billion euros to deal with the economic fallout of the coronavirus crisis. The wild idea assuaged most, but others were not averse to giving it a thought. After all, France's embattled cultural sector could use some funds.

With its steepening COVID graph and easing lockdown, India is drawing protocols for its museums to open, and art galleries are preparing for business in the coming weeks, but doing only that will not signal a return to normalcy for Indian art which was at a critical stage with rising international attention and growing diversification of its collector base. Broad support, financial and infrastructural, has now become integral for sustenance.

While the probable domestic losses from the global debacle are yet to be estimated, the worldwide assessment of the damages

offers warnings of impending doom. Two studies by UNESCO and the International Council of Museums (ICOM) confirm that nearly 90 per cent of museums the world over "closed their doors for varying lengths of time" during the crisis and nearly 13 per cent of these may never reopen. "The museum field cannot survive on its own without the support of the public and private sectors. It is imperative to raise emergency relief funds and to put in place policies to protect professionals and self-employed workers on precarious contracts," urged ICOM President Suay Aksou. Though some countries, including the UK and Germany, have rolled out relief packages for the arts, the funds promised will probably not suffice.

It took not more than a couple of weeks, starting February, for the contemporary art market to realise how the global art network was crippled by travel restrictions. Biennales, art fairs and big-budget exhibitions began to be cancelled. With the fear of a pandemic looming, art became a prodigal luxury. To curb losses, like every other sector, it went virtual. But not everyone embraced the digitised canvases. In the era of the digital renaissance, the Getty Museum Challenge to recreate classic masterpieces might have taken the internet by storm, but high-value artworks failed to find buyers. Gallery sales are now reportedly limited to their regular patrons. Online purchases suggest a generation gap, with older collectors' evident reluctance.

The virtual museums and online viewing rooms might have democratised art as far as viewing is concerned and turned us all into virtual globetrotters, but ironically the very makers and keepers of art are threatened by their economic fallouts. The giants are bleeding. For commercial galleries and auction houses solely dependent on sales for revenue, it is perhaps worse. Several art handling firms have furloughed most of their staff. According to the American Alliance of Museums, museums in the US are collectively losing at least \$33 million a day — most of the major institutions, including New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and Museum of Modern Art, have announced layoffs and pay cuts. The Network of European Museum Organisations has also estimated "three out of five museums reported losing an average of 20,300 euros a week due to closure and travel halt".

With the gradual lifting of restrictions, the sector might be attempting to bounce back but its ability to do so depends on several unknowns, including market liquidity, the very enthusiasm and ability of its patrons, and the world at the end of the pandemic. The art market has taken hits before, but a blow like this is unprecedented. Will the art world as we know it come back to life after the interregnum? Perhaps not. Will art survive? Certainly. Possibly with new learnings and purpose.

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JUNE 29, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

TRAIN ACCIDENT

AN INQUIRY HAS been ordered into last night's train accident in which the Amritsar-bound Janata Express rammed the stationary Howrah Express, just three 3 km from the Delhi main station. Seven people died and 19 other were injured; the condition of eight is reported to be serious. The Howrah Express which had left the station at 10.33 pm had halted near the Old Seelampur station for some 13 minutes. The Janata Express, which was running late, was coming from behind at a speed of 30 to 40 km/hour after leaving the station at 10.35 pm. It appears that either the driver ignored the signal asking him to halt, or the mechanical signal failed.



LOK DAL PROTESTS

THE LOK DAL lodged a strong protest against the "systematic attempts" made by the Centre and state governments to foster the legacy of Sanjay Gandhi throwing all norms to the wind. A resolution passed by the party said it was "impermissible" to declare a state mourning for Sanjay as was done by several state governments or to fly the national flag at half mast.

IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

THE IRANIAN PRESIDENT, in a puzzling statement, declared that Iran will live with the hostages and the hostage problem is "insolvable". The remarks by Bani-Sadr, who has

been regarded by the US as one of the best hopes for winning freedom for the 53 captive Americans, came in a speech delivered on July 28. The Iranian President had earlier contended that the hostage crisis should end as early as possible and the US should tender Tehran an apology for excessively interfering in Iranian affairs during the Shah's rule.

SHAH CRITICAL

THE DEPOSED SHAH of Iran is being treated by a team of Egyptian and French doctors in Cairo and his condition has turned critical. His deteriorating condition apparently is related to the cancer for which the Shah's spleen was removed in March.

9 THE IDEAS PAGE

What's food got to do with it?

A pioneering attempt to frame the lives of migrants from the Northeast in the nation's capital trips on its own inability to grasp either the politics of food or everyday racism



DOLLY KIKON

WHAT DO FILMS do? Are they able to deliver justice? And in what ways do they capture the everyday lives of people? What lessons should we take away from theatrical moments and scenes in films? Inundated by emails and text messages from friends and students across continents to watch *Axone*, the excitement of watching it was real. When was the last time I felt a surge of such cinematic exhilaration? Was it with the last series of the *Matrix*, the final episode of *X Men*, or standing in line to get tickets for the third part of the *Star Wars* trilogy?

This was one of the most awaited films for scores of people from the Northeast of India. And watch it, we did. Passionately and intensely feeding on the scenes and plots of the film, many of us saw ourselves in the characters, and felt the violence and humiliation of city life. We examined it frame by frame, dialogue by dialogue, gesture by gesture. The familiarity was uncanny. But that is also where things unraveled.

Axone will go down as pioneering cinema featuring an impressive lineup of artists from Northeast India. Bringing together stand-up comedians, models, and established actors, the film is a groundbreaking achievement in as much as it showcases the lives of Northeast migrants in the heart of the nation's capital.

But what do we do about the meanings of our lives as portrayed on the screen, and what kinds of knowledge do we expect cinema to offer? From fantasy all the way to slapstick, cinematic genres and innovations continue to illuminate and provoke. Sure, films are an expression of art and the director has the freedom to tell the story as he/she/they wishes to, yet, this is not how we saw *Axone*. For many from Northeast India, *Axone* was supposed to be our *Selma*, our *Spotlight*, our *Rocky V*, our *Chariot of Fire*, our *Gladiator*. And we came away feeling betrayed, and let down.

For me, what stood out, among other things, was the sensory element of the film. From the visual, to the auditory, and the olfactory, the affective elements of everyday citizenship are central in this film. The director chooses deeply contested tropes such as fermented food, meat, Northeastern faces, racial violence — but the film bites off more than it can chew, and chokes. The battle throughout the film is about cooking *axone/akhuni* in Humayunpur, the Northeast Harlem in New Delhi. It is a delight to see an array of ethnic ingredients from the region, yet the treatment of food in the film is depressing. The character who covers her nose at the smell of *akhuni* is also the person who decides to cook the dish. Her ignorance of the recipe or the ingredients frames the essence of *Axone*.

The ambivalence about and displacement of the food (literally and otherwise) alienates the audience, prevents it from establishing any relationship with *Axone*. This is surely not a film for food lovers or anyone who takes food seriously. The racial politics of food and the unsuccessful attempts to



C R Sasikumar

cook *axone* and pork take us into conversations about realising that “others” (non *akhuni* eaters) have the right not to tolerate the “smell of our food”. These kinds of accusatory dialogues thread through the film, ranging from calling out Northeast migrants for not “making a single friend”, all the way to creating “our own Northeast here” (referring to Delhi but alluding to a parochial way of place-making). Across continents, including my current home, Melbourne, immigrants create their own “India”, “China”, “Italy”, “Greece” and so on. That people who belong to the Northeast have created their own “Northeast here”, in Delhi and elsewhere across the country, should be a moment of triumph that showcases the cultural diversity and resilience of Northeast migrants. Instead, this moment is made to depict the community as lacking conviviality. A pity.

The anger and frustration of Northeast migrants are framed as unjustified, where they are unable to see how “most of them (metropolitan Indians) are nice”. This dialogue coming from a female character who is physically assaulted and has a panic attack in the film can only be read as a behaviour of a victim trapped in an abusive relationship. The cycle of abuse is normalised, and all agency and self-respect stripped away, leaving the victim to hang on to traits of any “goodness” she/he/they sees in the abuser.

Racism and inequality are institutionalised forms of violence, but the film is unable to grasp these themes and alludes to

Racism and inequality are institutionalised forms of violence, but the film is unable to grasp these themes and alludes to friendships and attributes of “niceness” as remedies for addressing racism. In addition, the diversity of Northeast India is founded on the fetishisation of women from the region. The search for a ‘Northeast girlfriend’ throughout the movie is portrayed as innocent and cute.

friendships and attributes of “niceness” as remedies for addressing racism. In addition, the diversity of Northeast India is founded on the fetishisation of women from the region. The search for a “Northeast girlfriend” throughout the movie is portrayed as innocent and cute. On the one hand, there must be support for artistic freedom. And surely, this was not a documentary. On the other hand, however, there are angry voices that have called out the film for being confused about racism. The critical reviews from Northeast audiences are sophisticated and sharp commentaries on racism.

Axone, the film, was not for “us”, the migrants from the Northeast. Thus, a sizeable number of viewers feel a real sense of betrayal. The bodies of the protagonists who play the part of Northeast migrants seem possessed by an ignorance that cannot connect to the region’s food or its people’s anxieties of being migrants. The saving grace of this film is Bendang, the character who throws away the lyrics of a Hindi song and is exhausted with Delhi, a city that has beaten him down. As he strums the guitar, he breaks down and refuses to play hero. There is a brief scene in the film where Bendang swallows a pill to calm his nerves. This is the *Axone* moment that captures the anxieties of citizens traumatised by everyday racism and violence in the city.

The writer is an anthropologist at the University of Melbourne. Her current work is on the politics of food in the Eastern Himalayas

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“It is hoped that the Indian side will not repeat its historical mistakes and avoid an aggressive posture in its border dispute with China. It should head in the same direction with China and put the situation under the control of both sides.”
— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Reading China right

China's past border tactics, especially in Central Asia, offer India a clue. The swoop in Ladakh is related to its growing domestic uncertainties



P STOB DAN

THE MOTIVE BEHIND China's incursion in Ladakh is to push India to settle the boundary issue and cede Aksai Chin to China. Experts phrase China's border policies differently, but the overriding assessment is that they are essentially an outward projection of internal security concerns. The key, in essence, is to ward off the threat at the periphery to achieve internal stability.

A pattern is being noticed after China's last experiment of settling borders with Russia and three Central Asian states in the 1990s. Fearing its sensitive Xinjiang region becoming an object of external power play after the Soviet collapse, Beijing had displayed urgency in settling the border with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The Chinese border negotiation tactics with these countries blended “incentives with coercion”. Beijing settled for a third of territories it claimed from Kazakhstan. Yet, the Kazakhs had to admit they had gained. In addition to what it had lost, Kazakhstan had to denounce Uyghur separatism and curb anti-China activities. In a similar pattern, Kyrgyzstan had to cede 1,20,000 hectares in a dubious exchange for Chinese assistance. Tajikistan was made to surrender 1,100 square miles in 2010. Here, China claimed some 28,000 sq km, but settled for 3.5 percent of it. The Tajiks had to cede land and yet were made to feel the victor.

In essence, China ultimately gained a bit of land, nixed the Uyghur issue, and pushed its economic agenda by making Xinjiang a pivotal link to the Eurasian markets. The success gave birth to a self-serving SCO, lauded as an exemplary multilateral cooperation mechanism, essentially meant to blunt any US-led Asian alliance in Eurasia. But China's appetite for territorial expansion did not stop here. In Russia's Far East, weaker states are induced to let out agriculture and forestland to Chinese farmers. Borders and rivers are being altered to meet China's new interests.

India desperately wanted to join the Chinese-led SCO, without perhaps understanding its game. The Belt and Road Initiative has since been added by Xi Jinping in 2013. A view popular now is that the early surrender to China was a mistake. Its tactics are fuelling tensions and resentments across Asia.

China's past border tactics should offer some example, if not a complete cue to Chinese strategy. Ever since India and China agreed in 2005 on a new set of guiding principles to settle the vexed boundary dispute through the Special Representative (SR) level talks, China has been seeking a substantive adjustment concession especially on Tawang. India probably prefers having a marginal modification in the current alignment of the boundary to settle the issue. For India, ceding Tawang confronts a political difficulty. This was reflected in the drafting of the guiding principles. But both countries hoped to clinch a solution through this mechanism. In March 2013, China once again pushed

for a settlement. Remember, the motive behind the PLA's 19-km intrusion in Depsang in April 2013 was to press India to show “urgency” and “redouble” efforts to settle the boundary issue. Post-Depsang events showed the officials of two sides had drawn certain lessons. The officials described the Depsang standoff as an “isolated” incident, but the important thing was to underscore how it was resolved without making the issue big enough to affect relations. Importantly, the boundary resolution was deemed important from the Chinese point of view.

So far 22 rounds of special representative-level talks have been held since the drafting of the guiding principles. But a framework agreement still eludes these talks. Meanwhile, China has created more suspicion through its economic expansion in and around India. India too has responded while building up its infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

China's recent swoop in Ladakh can't be unrelated to its growing domestic uncertainties and on India's front, about future plans in Xinjiang and Tibet that border Ladakh. Beijing doubts India would raise the Tibet issue. But, it does suspect the US-Japan-India coalescing to encircle China. Therefore, a stronger assertion may be a euphemism for deterring India plus others harming China's core interests. Of course, China retains the option to offset the three by fronting Iran, North Korea and Pakistan.

Through the Ladakh incursion, the Chinese are possibly trying to convey three essential points. One, settle the boundary dispute on its terms. Two, that it intends to solve the Tibet problem internally and does not want any Indian interference in the post-Dalai Lama developments. Three, it wants to point out that a US-led QUAD strategic forum should not be encouraged.

China seems to be pushing for a formal settlement along the LAC in Ladakh, where they have nothing to lose. Probably, they also assume that India has accepted fait accompli. And, to our disappointment, it may not involve swapping India's claims over Aksai Chin for China's claims over Arunachal Pradesh, which many in India thought to be a pragmatic thing to accept. This time, Chinese may be making a tricky move to let India, in the first step, forego its claim over 38,000 sq km (Aksai Chin), thereby de-link Ladakh from the overall boundary dispute. But, should that happen, India, by implication, will have to give up not only Aksai Chin, but also cede its notional claim over the 5,047 sq km (Skyasgam valley) and the Menser Enclave (five villages) near the Mansarovar Lake. China's “minimal demand” that Tawang is non-negotiable had been aired through Chinese academics. This tactic was also applied with Central Asian states.

If India falls for some kind of Chinese position over Aksai Chin, Beijing will then shift the focus to Arunachal to emphatically claim 90,000 sq km from India. Ceding Aksai Chin would fundamentally alter the status of J&K and Ladakh. By implication, India would have to forget about PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan as well. India should tread carefully unless both sides are willing to make a move for grand bargaining.

The writer, a former ambassador is an expert on strategic affairs

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEW NORM

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Understanding Xi's China’ (IE, June 26). The writer has blamed Jawaharlal Nehru, Manmohan Singh, A K Antony and Sonia Gandhi. They have made mistakes. But that should not and must not be a justification for the Narendra Modi government to repeat them. In the last six years, the trade deficit with China increased to \$57 billion and for that, no one can blame Nehru and Singh. Likewise, PM Modi is accountable for the ongoing conflict, not the Nehru government. But the new norm is to blame the Opposition, and history, for the government's failures.

Suchak D Patel, Ahmedabad

DUPING CITIZENS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Tall claims’ (IE, June 26). By making inaccurate claims, the business strategists of Patanjali have hurt the image of Ayurveda. Further, the news channels telecasted these claims without proper verification. A serious crime has occurred against hopeful citizens by unjustly making exaggerated claims, not backed by proper research and lacking the right permissions.

Anshul Choudhary, Agra

REGULATE SECTOR

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘First, ease of living’ (IE, June 26). The writer has rightly pointed out the lack of ethics in the medical profession, hospitals and

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● THE ASSAM MODEL OF COVID CONTAINMENT: SWAPNEEL PAUL

● HOW WUHAN CONTROLLED COVID: LIU YI

www.indianexpress.com

pharmaceutical industry, during the COVID-19 pandemic and otherwise. It is high time the government bring in regulations for this industry to reorient the profession towards the greater good and ease of living. Further, much of the industry is dependent on government funds and land.

LS Kamath, Mumbai

UNITE NOW

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The right to differ’ (IE, June 25). We, as citizens, have lost ourselves so much into the left vs right debate that we've forgotten the basic principles of democracy. Pandemics or threats to national security can be resolved only if we put aside our political preferences and unite for a social cause.

Harsh Porwal, Beed



KANNAN M MOUDGALYA

I AM NOT suggesting that the current batch of students be deprived of admission into IITs. I only want to protect the interests of more than 50 per cent of the students who stand to lose greatly if the JEE Advanced is held any time soon. These are the students who, because of the lack of internet, have not been able to join live classes with their teachers, and coaching classes, and hence have been left out in preparation for JEE. How do I know that so many students have this problem? A University of Hyderabad survey showed that only 37 per cent of their students had uninterrupted internet. For school students, this could be worse, or at best comparable. The following proposal addresses this and other issues.

I propose that the students who are interested in an IIT B.Tech degree join any engineering college, in a branch of their choice. Let JEE Advanced be conducted two years later, based on the first two years of their branch, with NPTEL/SWAYAM video courses as the syllabus, which can be accessed offline. Those who get selected can complete the remaining two years at an IIT and graduate with a B.Tech degree.

In the current approach to admissions, students start preparing from an early age. About a lakh of them also spend an extra year preparing exclusively for IITs, after completing class 12. Unfortunately, more than 90 per cent of

Flattening the anxiety curve

Why it is a good idea to postpone the JEE Advanced exam by two years

them do not make it into the IITs. For them, the JEE preparation does not help in their further studies. On the other hand, it devastates them and deprives them of their childhood.

Work by Akash Manoj in inventing a method to detect silent heart attacks shows that school students can do excellent research if they don't have to spend all their time in preparing for an entrance examination. Given that about a crore students graduate from our schools, we should have at least a few path-breaking inventions every year. However, all our top students in schools no longer undertake any science project, they only prepare for the JEE Advanced. If the burden of preparing for the JEE Advanced is removed, our school students will execute outstanding projects, come up with inventions, and do well in international competitions.

If the method proposed here is implemented, IITs will have to teach only 3rd and 4th-year B.Tech students and not 1st and 2nd-year students. The capacity thus released can be used to accommodate double the number of students without any additional expenditure. This alone should be a reason why the current batch would want to postpone the JEE Advanced.

The already reputed SWAYAM/NPTEL videos can be re-purposed and improved significantly. These videos, corresponding to the first two years' courses, can be dubbed into

all our languages, thereby making IITs more accessible. Through the Ask a Question programme offered at IIT Bombay, and other similar programmes, students' doubts from the videos can be addressed free of cost.

At the end of two years, those who do not clear the JEE Advanced can continue their studies in the same engineering college. They will do well in subsequent studies if their JEE Advanced preparation is good. Moreover, it will help them do well in GATE two years hence, using all four years of SWAYAM/NPTEL courses for admission into an M.Tech programme at an IIT. As clearing the GATE and doing an M.Tech is an option available to everyone, one may be allowed to appear in JEE Advanced only once, two years after one graduates from the school. However, one may be allowed to write GATE any number of times.

I propose that both JEE Advanced and GATE be offered through a two-step process: Select 10 times the number of students as per the seats available using a multiple-choice-question based screening exam. The selected students may be invited to undergo a problem-solving exam for final selection. This format will help select outstanding students.

Migration of students from engineering colleges to IITs in the 3rd year will not cause many problems to the former, as not many students are expected to get selected from

any college. If on the other hand, a college keeps sending a large number of students to the IITs, it is good enough to join hands with IITs to teach 3rd and 4th-year students. Similarly, if a coaching institute sends a lot of students to the IITs, it should be invited to become an engineering college.

The proposed method can be made friendly for industry as well. For one, the JEE Advanced can have a programming test, which will ensure that all our engineering graduates get good in this important skill. Having 10 times the number of students selected in the GATE screening exam will ensure that a large number of graduates are available to the industry. Finally, working professionals, some of whom may be diploma graduates, may be allowed to take GATE, and those who perform well can be recruited by industry as well as academic institutions anywhere in the world.

These methods will flatten the anxiety curve of students by postponing the burden of competitive exams to later years. It puts the JEE Advanced and GATE in proper perspective to provide a unified and humane solution. It recognises merit, wherever it is, without hurting anyone.

The writer is the Erach and Meheroo Mehta Advanced Education Technology Chair Professor at IIT Bombay

10 Govt & Politics



MINISTER'S ORDER

DAYS AFTER giving a call to boycott Chinese products amid the tension along the border, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan has directed officials of his ministry to ensure that any item 'Made in China' is not purchased through the government portal and other sources. Citing his directions, the Department of Food and Public Distribution has issued an office memorandum, asking "all concerned" to comply with the minister's directions with "immediate effect".

PAYING TRIBUTE

THE TRS government in Telangana has drawn up big plans to celebrate former PMP V Narasimha Rao's birth centenary. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is planning to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urge him to honour Rao with Bharat Ratna. Modi praised Rao in his radio address. The Congress was relatively muted. The party's official handle tweeted a tribute to the former PM. Rahul Gandhi took to Facebook to pay tribute. The post came around the same time as Modi's radio address. Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Jitin Prasada, Milind Deora and Shashi Tharoor remembered Rao in tweets.

PROTOCOL IN PLACE

SEVERAL PEOPLE who work from the BJP party headquarters are learnt to have contracted the Covid-19 infection this month. Among them are a joint general secretary (organisation) and an office bearer whose presence at the party headquarters is necessary even on regular days. The cases have been manageable and those infected are learnt to be recovering well. The party has had to put in place a protocol under which only office-bearers are allowed access to the premises.

ODR can be key to addressing litigation spurt amid pandemic: NITI Aayog CEO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE SITUATION thrown up by the Covid-19 pandemic may lead to a spurt in litigation, especially in "lending, credit, property, commerce and retail" in the coming months and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) mechanisms can long a way in addressing this without burdening courts, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has said.

Speaking at a Webinar on 'Online Dispute Resolution: Opportunities and Challenges', organised by Delhi-based Indian Dispute Resolution Centre Saturday, Kant said it is "highly likely there will be a deluge of disputes in the courts — most notably in lending, credit, property, commerce and retail — in the coming months that will require expedient resolution" and added that this is reason enough to support ODR. Such support would encourage businesses to build ODR mechanisms into partner and customer relationships, he said. "Banks, NBFCs and MFIs could then prioritise ODR before they approach debt recovery tribunals. Families would take recourse to ODR to address sensitive issues, and so on," Kant stated.

Kant termed as "progressive" the Supreme Court's efforts to increasingly embrace technology and



Amitabh Kant

said he has "great hope that we are witnessing a visionary period in the history of India's court system". The pandemic, he said, has "completely altered how we function, and while it is a great challenge that we must all combat together, it is equally important that we use any opportunity available to help alleviate the challenges faced by those most vulnerable to its overarching impact".

Chief Justice of India S A Bobde has on many occasions underlined potential benefits of using Artificial Intelligence to make courts more efficient, Kant said.

He pointed out that Justice D Y Chandrachud, who leads the e-courts committee, "has initiated critical changes that are already noticeable" and added that introduction of 24/7 facility to file cases electronically "is nothing short of a game changer". Kant said the NITI Aayog recently held a closed-door meeting on ODR where Supreme Court judges, Justices Chandrachud, Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Indu Malhotra, and Justice (retired) A K Sikri "spoke positively of ODR's potential".

'360-DEGREE PERSONALITY'

KCR kicks off Narasimha Rao birth centenary celebrations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, JUNE 28

ON THE occasion of former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's 99th birth anniversary, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Sunday launched year-long celebrations in the run up to the Congress leader's birth centenary. KCR also demanded that the Bharat Ratna be conferred on the late leader.

Narasimha Rao was born on June 28, 1921 in Laknepally village of Narsampet in Warangal district, and his family later shifted to

Karimnagar, where he grew up. He remained a Congress stalwart throughout his life, though his family has accused the party of sidelining him in later years.

On Sunday, K Chandrashekar Rao — popularly known as KCR — launched the celebrations at Narasimha Rao's memorial in Hyderabad's Necklace Road by floral tributes to the former PM amid multi-religious prayers. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N Uttam Kumar Reddy was also present.

Referring to Narasimha Rao as a multifaceted personality, KCR announced that the centenary

86% jump in MGNREGA demand in districts most migrants returned to

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

WITH MIGRANT workers returning to their hometowns during the lockdown, the demand for work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) saw a huge jump in May in 116 districts across six states.

Each of these districts received more than 25,000 returning migrants. Earlier this month, the government launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan in these districts to provide employment to those who have returned.

An analysis of data on the MGNREGA portal shows that the number of households availing MGNREGA work in these districts jumped to 89.83 lakh during May — 86.27 per cent up from 48.22 lakh in the same month last year.

Among these 116 are 32 districts from Bihar, 31 from Uttar Pradesh, 24 from Madhya Pradesh, 22 from Rajasthan, three from Jharkhand and four from Odisha. The list of the districts was released during a press conference by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on June 19, a day before the launch of the



Across the country, the number of households that availed work under MGNREGA this May reached 3.29 crore. *File*

Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan.

Out of the six states, Uttar Pradesh accounts for the highest jump of 313.81 per cent in the number of households availing MGNREGA work. The number of households availing household work in the state's 31 districts went up to 27.78 lakh this May against 6.71 lakh in the same month last year. These 31 districts received a total of 17.47 lakh migrant workers.

Out of the 116 districts, nine — Ghazipur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Mirzapur, Deoria, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Amethi, Rohtas and Maharajganj — saw a jump of over

500 per cent in the number of households availing MGNREGA in May as compared to the same month last year. Similarly, a jump between 401 and 500 per cent was registered in 7 districts, 301-400 percent in 6 districts, 201-300 per cent in 11 districts and 101-200 per cent in 18 districts. The majority of districts registering the highest jump in demand of MGNREGA work are in Uttar Pradesh.

Only six districts out of these 116 — Saharsa, Bhagalpur, and Madhepura in Bihar, Karauli, Jodhpur and Hanumangarh in Rajasthan, and Giridih in Jharkhand — registered a decline

Kerala awards e-mobility project consultancy to PwC, Opposition claims corruption

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 28

THE CONGRESS-led Opposition in Kerala has accused the LDF government of corruption over granting the state e-mobility project's consultancy to PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). The project envisages one million electric vehicles on the streets of Kerala by 2022.

Addressing the media Sunday, Leader of Opposition in Assembly, Ramesh Chennithala, said the government has granted the consultancy to PwC in violation of norms. He said the decision to award the consultancy was taken at a meeting chaired by CM Pinarayi Vijayan on August 17, 2019. "The controversial decision was taken by Vijayan directly, without discussing the matter in the state cabinet or with departments concerned. Even tenders were not issued for hiring this firm, which is a gross violation of norms and hence illegal."

"The question is what motivates the chief minister to have confidence in a multinational company, which has been facing several serious allegations in India. The CM should explain his links with this controversial firm," he said. Chennithala said SEBI banned PwC from operating in India for two years in 2018. In 2019, the Supreme Court quashed the two-year debarment. He alleged that the LDF government's modus operandi is to announce mega projects that won't materialise and pocket the money by giving consultancy for such projects.

Transport Minister A K Saseendran said he would respond to the allegations after going through the files. "The e-mobility policy was ratified by the government, which would have taken certain decisions as part of that policy,"



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

THE INDIA-CHINA border dispute is old, but for the first time in decades, lives have been lost in clashes on the border in Ladakh. The situation is tense and unpredictable.

The June 15 Galwan incident has sparked debate on several issues confronting the India-China bilateral relationship.

Why have the Chinese precipitated the situation on the

LAC? What do they want; what message are they seeking to send? How do their actions fit in with agreements reached between the two countries at the highest level? Where is the current stand-off headed, and what diplomatic and military options does India have to respond to the PLA's incursions?

For possible answers to some of these questions, and to understand the big regional and global geopolitical picture within which this conflict is situated, *The Indian Express* has invited Gautam Bambawale, New Delhi's Ambassador to Beijing between November 2017 and November 2018, and one of the best known diplomat-analysts

9 DISTRICTS SAW OVER 500% JUMP IN DEMAND

DISTRICTS	MAY 2019	MAY 2020	INCREASE IN %
Ghazipur	2,018	1,18,899	5,791.92
Lakhimpur Kheri	13,050	1,43,465	999.35
Mirzapur	12,611	1,01,914	708.14
Deoria	8,667	65,183	652.08
Varanasi	7,453	52,819	608.69
Gorakhpur	17,502	1,10,382	530.68
Amethi	10,152	63,821	528.65
Rohtas	11,049	67,034	506.70
Maharajganj	24,266	1,46,364	503.16

in number of households availing MGNREGA work in May as compared to May last year.

The full-month data is available up to May, when the reverse migration process was not complete. These 116 districts have received a total of more than 63 lakh returning migrants.

The number of households availing MGNREGA work in June may be more than the May figure — provisional data available up to June 26 indicates this. Up to June 26, at least 18 districts out of these 116 have registered over a 100 per cent increase in the number of households working under MGNREGA in comparison to the June numbers last year.

Under the newly launched

Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan, 25 different types of public work worth Rs 50,000 crore will be carried out in these districts. The list of 25 works, which include Centre's schemes such as Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, does not mention MGNREGA though works done under this scheme — farm ponds, cattle sheds, goat sheds, construction of panchayat buildings etc. — have been listed.

Across the country, the number of households that availed work under MGNREGA this May reached the highest ever figure of 3.29 crore — the figure was 2.12 crore in the corresponding month last year. Till June 26, the figure has crossed 2.70 crore.

China expert Gautam Bambawale is guest at E-Xplained today



Gautam Bambawale

of India's complex relationship with China.

Bambawale led the Indian diplomatic initiative that defused the situation after the Chinese entered Depsang in Ladakh in 2013, and he was the

head of India's mission in China during the First Informal Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in Wuhan in April 2018.

Ambassador Bambawale will be the Expert Guest at the latest edition of E-Xplained, the unique series of explanatory conversations that *The Indian Express* hosts from time to time. Expert Guests at E-Xplained sessions since the lockdown began have included Kerala's Health Minister K K Shailaja, Public Health Foundation of India president Dr K Srinath Reddy, industrialist Dr Naushad Forbes, and capital markets expert Nilesh Shah.

PM CARES: Cong questions Huawei, TikTok donations, seeks PM reply

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

THE CONGRESS Sunday raised questions on the PM CARES Fund receiving donations from Chinese companies like Huawei and TikTok and demanded an explanation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"If the Prime Minister of India will compromise his position by accepting donations of hundreds of crores from Chinese companies in the controversial and opaque Fund, how will he defend the country against Chinese aggression? Prime Minister Modi needs to answer," Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi told reporters.

"PM CARES fund was set up on March 28, 2020. Chinese-owned companies donated money from



Abhishek Singhvi, P Chidambaram

that date, Chinese troops began incursions into Ladakh in March-April 2020. Does it require great intelligence to discern China's motives? China lulled India into complacency by Jhoola diplomacy and Chinese money. Was it not an abject failure on the part of the Modi government?" said former Union minister P Chidambaram.

Singhvi claimed that while Huawei has donated Rs 7 crore, TikTok has given Rs 30 crore.

"Why did you allow even a penny to come... Even a child knows Huawei is not only a Chinese company but an alter ego of the PLA, forget the Chinese government. And you have taken Rs 7 crore from the extension of the PLA."

"Why did the PM accept funds from Chinese-owned funds, one of which has a deep connection with the Chinese Army, the PLA?" asked Chidambaram.

"Has Paytm, which has a 38 per cent Chinese ownership given 100 crore in the controversial Fund? Has Xiaomi, the Chinese company, committed Rs 15 crore to the controversial Fund?... Has the PM diverted the donations received in PMNRF to the controversial PM CARES Fund and how many hundred crores is the amount diverted?" Singhvi asked.

Referring to the BJP criticism

over Rajiv Gandhi Foundation receiving donations from China and its Embassy in India in 2005, Chidambaram said that "in 2005, India-China relations were good and efforts were being made to improve them. If a donation in 2005 was wrong, how much more wrong was accepting donations after 2013-17?"

Singhvi said no one knows the constitution or operational framework of PM-CARES. "The Fund is not even subjected to audit by any public authority... the Fund appears to be solely run by the Prime Minister in an opaque and secret fashion with zero transparency and zero accountability."

Congress communication department head Randeep Surjewala said the Prime Minister did not mention China in his radio address Sunday.

SC rejects plea seeking cancellation of Class 10 exams in Rajasthan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE SUPREME COURT on Sunday declined to interfere in the Rajasthan government's decision to hold the pending state board exams for Class X from Monday.

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna, which held a special sitting on Sunday, rejected the plea by the mother of a student.

The petition questioned the decision to hold the exams on June 29 and 30 in view of the rising number of Covid-19 cases.

The bench, however, noted that the petitioner approached the court at the last minute — the exams are to start Monday. The state government had also stated that all necessary precautions had been taken, the bench said, adding that the plea had not pointed out any major inconvenience.

The bench also referred to the Supreme Court order earlier this month on a similar plea challenging the conduct of Karnataka's Secondary School Leaving Examination (SSLC), wherein it had said the courts must have minimum interference in academic matters.

MP BJP calls Kamal Nath 'China agent', his effigies burnt across state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, JUNE 28

THE BJP called former Chief Minister Kamal Nath a "China agent" on Sunday with many party workers burning his effigies during protests across Madhya Pradesh, where bypolls to 24 constituencies are due.

State BJP president V D Sharma, who led the protest in Bhopal, alleged that when Nath was the Union commerce minister, he reduced import duties on several products. This led to many small units incurring losses and workers losing jobs, he said. Similar protests were held in many places across the state. Two days ago, while addressing a virtual rally, party president JP Nadda had alleged that the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation received \$300,000 from China and Chinese embassy for carrying out studies that were not in the interest of the nation.

During their protests on Sunday, BJP leaders alleged that Nath, who is the Pradesh Congress Committee chief, reduced the import duties at the behest of Sonia Gandhi.

On social media, the BJP IT cell shared photographs of the protests with hashtags "Chin ke dalal!" and "desh ke gaddar ka putla dahan!"

The Congress hit back, saying the ruling party was indulging in a misinformation campaign to sully the image of Nath. The party said Nath had, in fact, imposed a huge anti-dumping duty.

The Opposition party alleged that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had travelled to China for four days on a trip sponsored by the Communist Party of China.

Bihar minister Vinod Kumar, wife test positive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATIHAR, JUNE 28

BIHAR'S BACKWARD and Extremely Backward Classes Welfare Minister Vinod Kumar Singh and his wife tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday and were sent to an isolation ward at a hotel in Katihar district, officials said.

Singh, a BJP legislator from Pranpur, said his samples were tested in Patna. He returned to Katihar from the state capital on Sunday.

The minister said after learning about the test results, he first went to Katihar Medical College and Hospital, and then to an iso-



Kumar is a BJP legislator from Pranpur

lation ward of a hotel in Katihar. Katihar District Magistrate Kanwal Tanuj confirmed that both the minister and his wife have tested positive. The people who came in contact with the minister will be traced and their samples collected for testing, the official said.

This is the first incident of a minister in the Nitish Kumar government testing positive.

EXPRESS NETWORK

Telangana mulls total lockdown in Hyderabad

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JUNE 28

THE TELANGANA government is considering a total lockdown in areas under Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) amid a drastic surge in Covid cases — 888 of the 1,087 positive cases reported on Saturday were from GHMC areas — in Hyderabad.

Officials said a new strategy is being worked out and a total lockdown in GHMC areas is among the proposals.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababtu Naidu on Sunday chaired a high-level review meeting at Pragathi Bhavan to deliberate on strategies for Covid containment.

“Like other big cities with nearly 1 crore population, the spread of coronavirus in Hyderabad is also high... People started moving around after the lockdown was lifted. This has led to the spread of the virus... Other cities in the country are also thinking on these lines... Government machinery, especially police, and people should be made ready for this. If need

be, Cabinet will be convened in three to four days to discuss proposals for the lockdown, alternatives and other related issues and a decision will be taken,” the CM said at the meeting, which was attended by Health Minister Etela Rajender, Municipal Administration Minister K T Rama Rao and health experts.

“If lockdown is imposed, it should be implemented strictly and totally. There should be a day-long curfew with a one- or two-hour relaxation to buy the essentials. Flights and train services have to be stopped. All arrangements should be made from the government’s side. Hence, the government will examine all the issues in depth and would take the necessary decision,” the Chief Minister said.

Rajender said there was no need to panic if a lockdown is announced. “When compared to the national average, the death rate in Telangana is less. There is no need for fear... But several medical and health officials and medical experts are asking for another 15-day lockdown under the GHMC limits. We are considering that,” Rajender said.

J&K: Slain militant’s mother held, booked under UAPA

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JUNE 28

J&K POLICE have arrested the mother of a slain militant and booked her under UAPA, two years after her picture holding an AK-47 rifle along with her son was widely circulated on social media.

Police said Naseema Bano, a 58-year-old resident of Rampora village in south Kashmir’s Kulgam, was arrested last week in “compliance of the provisions of law” and that she was involved in recruiting at least two militants.

“J&K Police doesn’t target any family of terrorists unnecessarily unless there is solid evidence of their involvement,” IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar told *The Indian Express*. “Her (Naseema’s) recent activities are serious in nature like facilitating recruitment of youth.”

Naseema is the first elderly woman in recent years to have been arrested and booked for militant activities in the Valley. Her son Tauseef Ahmad Sheikh, a Hizbul Mujahideen militant, was killed in a gunfight in Shopian district on

May 6, 2018, along with Hizb commander Saddam Padder.

Naseema is also the sister of Abass Sheikh — one of the most wanted militant commanders in south Kashmir. She is the fourth member of the Sheikh family under arrest. Over a dozen members of the family joined militants and were killed in gunfights.

Police said she was arrested for a criminal case filed two years ago. “The photo of the arrested woman, in which she is holding an automatic weapon and posing next to her son, who was an active terrorist at the time, speaks it all... She is involved in much more serious offences and her role has surfaced in recruiting at least two youth into terrorist ranks, arranging arms ammunition, communication and logistics for terrorists and terror organisations,” police said.

However, Naseema’s family has denied the charges. “The police allegations are not true. It is true that she would visit any family whose son was killed but she was not involved in any militant activity,” Naseema’s sister Rafeeqa Bano told *The Indian Express*.

AAROGYA SETU NOT COMPATIBLE

Covid: Exposure notification developed by Apple, Google begins rolling out in India

PRANAV MUKUL & AASHISH AARYAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

THE ‘EXPOSURE Notification’ solution developed by US tech majors Apple and Google, and launched last month, has started rolling out on iPhone and Android devices in India. The solution, which is an API, or an application program interface, enables contact-tracing apps developed by governments and public health agencies to function reliably.

Notably, India’s contact-tracing platform Aarogya Setu is not compatible with the ‘Exposure Notification’ solution.

Apple and Google have developed a set of privacy protocols, under which developers of contact-tracing apps are required to agree to the terms and conditions set by the companies, mainly pertaining to privacy, should the developers wish to add the functionality to their apps. These terms and conditions empower the users to explicitly opt-in to use the technology, prevent collection or use of location data from the device, etc.

For Aarogya Setu to be compatible with the solution, certain tweaks will be required in the app. For example, even as Exposure Notification, by design, disallows collection or use of location data from the device, the knowledge sharing protocol for the Aarogya Setu app leaves room for location and contact data to be collected to

For Aarogya Setu to be compatible with the solution, certain tweaks will be required in the app

formulate or implement appropriate health responses.

“Access to the (Exposure Notification) technology will be granted only to apps from public health authorities. Their apps must meet specific criteria around privacy, security, and data use,” according to information published by Google. “All of the Exposure Notification matchings happens on your device, which means only you and your app know if you report having Covid-19 or been exposed to someone who has reported having COVID-19. Your identity is never shared with other users, Apple, or Google,” as per the information on Google’s support page.

Therefore, even as the solution has started going live on some devices of Indian users, exclusion of Aarogya Setu, in its current form, would mean users in India will not be able to use the Exposure Notification technology as of now.

Responding to a query on whether Aarogya Setu will be tweaked to meet the requirements for the solution, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology told *The Indian*



HERD IMMUNITY

A herd of elephants takes shelter on higher ground in a flood-affected area of Kaziranga National Park, in Nagaon district of Assam on Sunday. *PTI*

MP HONEY TRAP CASE

Tabloid owner accused of extortion arrested in Gujarat

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JUNE 28

NEARLY SEVEN months after he escaped from Indore, Jeetendra “Jeetu” Soni, a controversial businessman and tabloid owner-editor accused of extortion, blackmail and rape, was arrested by the Madhya Pradesh Police from Gujarat on Sunday.

A local court in Indore has remanded Soni to police custody for five days, officials said.

The Indore police had filed at least 45 FIRs against Jeetu, 62, whose tabloid *Sanjha Lokswami* had carried several stories with lurid details about a honey trap case in which a syndicate had allegedly blackmailed politicians, businessmen and bureaucrats with sex tapes.

Among those targeted in Soni’s tabloid were a former education minister, a city engineer in the Indore Municipal Corporation and a powerful bureaucrat in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government. All the stories carried his byline.

He had also threatened to expose more people in his tabloid when the then Kamal Nath government ordered a crackdown on his empire.

Within days of police registering the first FIR against Soni, the Indore administration pulled down his bungalow, three hotels, including a star hotel, the premises in Indore press complex from where he brought out his tabloid. A reward of more than Rs 1.5 lakh had been announced on his head but he managed to escape.

On Sunday, Inspector

General of Police (Indore Range) Vivek Sharma said Soni hid in Gujarat and Maharashtra. He said police got information that Soni would visit his ancestral home in Gujarat on the death anniversary of his father.

Sharma said the crime branch teams were camping in Gujarat and succeeded in nabbing Soni early on Sunday.

According to Sharma, when Unlock 1 began, the police began a crackdown on criminals who were absconding and Soni’s arrest was part of the campaign.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court is monitoring the investigation in the honey trap case. The coronavirus pandemic and the change of guard in the state pushed the investigation in the main case and the cases against Soni on the backburner.

Yogi visits Ayodhya, takes stock of Covid measures

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 28

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday visited Ayodhya and took stock of development work and measures against Covid-19 in the district.

He told senior officials that economic activities must go forward by keeping in mind coronavirus precautions.

“At work sites, Covid

helpdesks with infrared thermometer, pulse oximeter and foot or sensor operated sanitizer machines must be made available,” he said. The needy, the chief minister said, must be issued ration cards and returned migrant workers given employment.

During his visit to the district hospital, Adityanath inspected the out-patient department and emergency arrangements, and interacted with patients.

Karnataka Class 10 student tests positive during exam, minister assures safety

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, JUNE 28

AFTER A Class 10 student tested positive for the coronavirus during the ongoing state board exam, Karnataka Education Minister S Suresh Kumar on Sunday sought to allay concerns, saying none of the other persons in the classroom tested positive, and that adequate safety measures were in place.

The student who tested positive for Covid-19 was appearing for the maths exam in Hassan district on Saturday.

According to sources, his report came in while he was in the middle of the examination. Following this, he was shifted to another hall and was allowed to complete the exam.

“If any student is confirmed Covid-19 positive during the exam, arrangements will be made for other students to appear for the remaining papers by providing them safety as per the advice of the health department,” Kumar said in a statement.

The minister said that according to the health department, since safety norms were followed in the exam centre, the other students in the hall cannot be considered contacts.

“Medical tests have confirmed that 18 other students and the invigilator of the exam hall have not been infected by Covid-19. Students and parents need not worry,” Kumar said.

MIGRANTS RETURN TO MAHARASHTRA

‘Kin reluctant but we can eat only when we earn’

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, JUNE 28

“OUR FAMILIES were reluctant to let us return. But we don’t have a business of our own, we’ll be able to eat only when we earn,” said Mantu Singh, part of a group of 24 migrant workers, who disembarked at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) in Mumbai last Thursday.

Awaiting a bus to Shirwal in Satara district, where they worked on construction sites, the men are mostly in their early 20s. Each has a backpack, and their faces are covered with orange and white gamchhas.

Mantu and some others in the group, all hailing from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, had left for their hometowns before Holi on March 9 intending to come back a few weeks later. But then Covid-19 struck.

Some in the group had left Maharashtra when the lockdown was imposed, as their employers arranged buses to take them home when work stopped. But now they are back, hopeful of finding work again, and earning a livelihood.

“Many of us were working on farms back home, as it is harvesting season. But we are more familiar with construction work and have permanent jobs here. When our contractor informed us that work has resumed, we decided to return,” Mantu said.

Most of the men work as masons and plumbers on construction sites for setting up factories and industrial units. They said their anxiety over the spread of Covid-19 remains.

“Our families were wary to let us return to work. They would not have let us come back had



Migrant workers screened at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus in Mumbai as they return to Maharashtra. *Pradip Das/File*

Mumbai Police: Stay within 2 km of your homes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JUNE 28

THE MUMBAI Police on Sunday said that it will seize all privately-owned vehicles that are found to have travelled beyond a 2-km radius from the houses of the owners for purposes other than going to office or availing medical services during emergencies.

However, those travelling in private vehicles but are involved in essential services have been exempted from the rule.

The orders comes as Mumbai sees a spike in Covid-19 cases.

After three months of vehicle-free roads, vehicles plying on city streets has increased substantially since June 8.

Since June 8, the number of Covid-19 cases in Mumbai has increased from 50,085 to 75,539. The number of deaths has increased from 1,702 to 4,371.

The Indian EXPRESS
— JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —

The Indian EXPRESS
E-ADD

WHERE NEWSMAKERS DROP IN FOR A CANDID CHAT.

Express E-Adda hosts

Uday Shankar
President, The Walt Disney Company APAC, Chairman, Star & Disney India and Senior Vice President, FICCI

in conversation with

Anant Goenka
Executive Director
The Indian Express

Sandeep Dwivedi
National Sports Editor
The Indian Express

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PERSONAL

I, Bhikhani Devi W/o Ram Padarth Paswan R/o House no. 7 Defence Enclave, Preet Vihar, East Delhi 110092 have changed my name to Neelam Devi 0070707502-1

I Vijay Kumar Harjai S/O, Late Shri. Krishan Lal Harjai R/o H-302 First Floor Vikaspuri New Delhi have changed my name to Vijay Harjai for all purposes. 0040540555-1

I, ASHISH, S/O NO-678160-N MWO SATISH KUMAR, R/O-SMQ-10-B, PINTO-PARK, DELHI-CANTT-110010, have changed my name, from ASHISH to ASHISH KUMAR, for all, future purpose, and vide- affidavit, dated-27/06/2020 before-Notary Public, Delhi. 0040540630-2

I, Dhiraj Gupta R/o Sa1002a, palm Drive, sector 66, Golf Course Extension Road , Gurgaon have changed my minor daughter's name from Ditti Gupta to Suditi Gupta for all purposes. 0040540298-1

I, Shailesh Kumar, S/O-Satyendra Nath Singh R/O-Flat-No.3, Plot-No.124, Gyan-Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.201014, Changed My Name To Shailesh Kumar Singh. 0040540630-1

I, HAV RAJINDER SINGH ARMY NO-4474939 X/R/O VPO_MASTER COLONY TARN TARAN TEH_TARN TARAN DISTT TARN TARAN (PB) PIN143401. HERE, BY INFORM THAT MY SON NAME, MANVIR SINGH TO MANVEER SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES BOTH NAME BELONGS TO SAME PERSON. 0040540630-3

My Mutation letter of Flat No 110, PLOT - 63 Shivani Apartment, IP Extension Patparganj, Delhi - 92 has been lost. Finder Contact: Rajiv Ranjan Goyal S/O Birendra Prasad contact-8882615559 0040540553-1

LOST & FOUND

Notice is hereby given that Share-Certificate.No.47116 for 100-Equity Shares of Rs.10/- (Rupees ten only) each bearing Distinctive, No.(S)473251 to 473350 of Elcher Motors Limited, having its registered office at 3rd Floor Select Citywalk A-3, District City Centre Saket New.Delhi-110017 registered in the name of Vandita Saraf have been lost Vandita-Saraf have applied to the company for issue duplicate-certificate Any person who has, any claim in respect of the said shares-certificate should lodge such claim with the company within in 15-days of the publication of this notice. 0040540630-4

EDUCATIONAL

Certificate Program on Sewage Treatment in Mumbai. M: 09619907581 W: <http://www.worldenviro.com/> 0050165973-1

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मेरी सुकाली श्रीमती सीमा देवी पत्नी श्री मनीष कुमार निवासी खरार नो 1635, मकान नो 199 / ए, जाल खीरा गांव नवलपरा, बुर्खी दिल्ली-110046, ने सभी पुत्रों का नाम सूचना व पुत्री का नाम पत्नी श्री प्रमोद कुमार की ओर आकर, दुर्घटना व मलात कायों की कारण दोनों को अपनी समस्त सत्त व अर्धसम्पत्ति से बेखर्ब कर दिया है और उपरोक्त व उनके परिवार से सभी प्रकार के सम्बन्ध विच्छेद कर दिया है। यह कोई व्यक्ति उपरोक्त व किसी प्रकार का अड्डेबाज व अन्य सम्बन्ध बनाते है या उपरोक्त कोई मलात कायों करते है तो उसकी जिम्मेदारी खुद अपने कुलार व मलात की होगी न कि मेरी सुकाली श्रीमती सीमा देवी की होगी। यह सूचना प्रमाण, एक्सीडेंट नो 128, ओलू कट, कर्करी रोड, दिल्ली 06

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all, that my client Mr. Gauri Akmal Taidi who is permanent R/O- D-2033, 4th floor, Abul Fazal Enclave, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 and presently residing at P.O. Box #1559, Dubai-UAE, has disowned his son, T08, Spain Cluster, Flat No. 216, International City, Dubai, UAE, has disowned his son Mr. Ashan Qamar, his wife & Children from all his movable & immovable properties and they are no more his legal heirs. They will have no right in his existing and future properties of my client. My client will not be responsible for any act or conduct of Mr. Ashan Qamar, his wife & children. Sd/- ASGHAN KHAN (ADVOCATE) Enrolment No. D521/186 Ch. No. 498, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE
MY CLIENT SH. KESHAV MEHRA, S/O LATE SH. S.L. MEHRA, H/O NO. 4, RADHEY EXT.-1, DELHI-110051, THROUGH PUBLIC NOTICE DATED 03.09.2015, DULY PUBLISHED IN DAILY NEWSPAPER, HAD DISOWNED HIS SON SH. AMIT MEHRA & HIS WIFE SMT. ISHA MEHRA. NOW MY AFORESAID CLIENT HAS REVOKED HIS AFORESAID PUBLIC NOTICE AND RESTORED RELATIONS WITH HIS SON & HIS WIFE ON ACCOUNT THEIR REFORMING THEMSELVES. Sd/- J.L. BEHL (Advocate) Chamber No. F-205, 1st Floor, Lawyers Chamber Block, KarloKardoma Courts, Delhi-110092

PUBLIC NOTICE
Know all men by the present notice that my client SMT. LAKSHI PATI W/O LATE SHY GOPAL R/O H. NO. 30-C, A-BLOCK, VIKAS VIHAR, VIKAS NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110051, has disowned her son SH. "HUKUM SINGH" and his wife "HEMA DEVI", their daughter "NEHA" from her movable or immovable Property as her said deeds and out of control are prejudicial to the interest of my clients. My clients has severed all her relation with them for all times to come who will not be held responsible for any body dealing with them. Sd/- SOHAN KUMAR (ADVOCATE) B-5, SUNEJA TOWER-I, DISTRICT CENTER JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058 MOBILE No.: 9828276091

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Open E-Tender Notice
Open E-Tender Notice No - Sr.DSC/DNR /Tender/Private Security/BWEL/2020 dated - 18.06.2020
The Sr. DSC/RPF/ECR/Danapur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open e-Tender through www.iimps.gov.in on IREPS website for the following works :
1. Name of work with it's location : Outsourcing of 20 Nos. Private Security for security of Bharat Wagon and Engineering Limited/Mokama for 02 years. The works are required to be completed within a period of 02 yrs i.e. 730 days from the date of issue of acceptance letter.
2. Approx. cost of the work: Rs. 1,13,95,592/- (Rupees One Crore Thirteen Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Two only).
3. Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 2,07,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Seven Thousand only).
4. Tender Document Value : Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only).
5. Date & Time for submission of tender and Opening of Tender: Date of closing of e-tender at 12.00 hours on 10.07.2020 Date of Opening of e-tender after 12.30 hours on 10.07.2020.
6. Website particulars, Notice Board location where completed details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Website - <http://www.iimps.gov.in>
NOTE: Joint Venture (JV) firms are not allowed to bid.
Details description is available in the tender documents.
Security Commissioner, RPF, Danapur PR/0368/DNR/Security/T/20-21/44

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD. e-Procurement Tender Notice
TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for Automatic remote reading system of the existing HT Consumer Meters covering all twenty circles of the Company on OPEX model with one data center, one web server (cloud) and running the data center on e-procurement platform for 5 years. For further details, please visit www.tssouthenpower.com and www.tender.telangana.gov.in, Phone: 9490758491.
Sd/- Chief General Manager (IPC&RAC)
R.O. No: 685-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

Extension of Last date
Invitation of allotment of Industrial Plot in IMT Sohna under Mega project Category
HSIIDC had released an advertisement in the newspapers inviting online applications for allotment of 180 acres of Industrial land at IMT Sohna under Mega Project Category. Due to Administrative reasons, the last date of receipt of applications has been extended to **06.07.2020**.
All other terms and conditions shall remain the same. Prospective bidders may visit HSIIDC's website at www.hsiidc.org.in and www.hsiidcesewa.org.in for the details of the scheme and for any further updates.
Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
(A State Government Undertaking)
Regd. Office: C-13 & 14, Sector-6, Panchkula. Ph.: 0172-2590481-83, Fax: 2590474, Website: www.hsiidc.org.in/ E-mail: contactus@hsiidc.org.in CIN U29199HR1967SGC034545 818494/HRY

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
CIN No. U27310WB1920501003601
"KANKARIA CENTRE", 4TH & 5TH FLOOR, 2N, RUSSEL STREET, KOL-71
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
REF. No. : MAT(P) / ERE / 61016 / MS GRATINGS / 96 DATE : 29.06.2020
FOR MANUFACTURING, TESTING, INSPECTION, SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 'M.S. ELECTRO-FORGED GALVANIZED GRATINGS' FOR OUR GACL, HH CIVIL & STRUCTURAL PROJECT SITE AT DAHEJ, GUJARAT.
SEALED TENDER IN TWO-PART BID SYSTEM ARE INVITED FROM INDIAN MANUFACTURERS FOR SUPPLY OF 'M.S. ELECTRO-FORGED GALVANIZED GRATINGS' AS PER DRAWINGS/STANDARD - TOTAL QTY. 628 MT (APPROX).
LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID (IN HARD COPY ONLY): 15.07.2020 UPTO 5.30 P.M..
FOR DETAILS AND TO DOWNLOAD THE TENDER (NIT) PLEASE VISIT B&R'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE : www.bridgeroof.co.in (Live Tender section)
CORRIGENDUM/ ADDENDUM NIT, IF ANY, SHALL BE HOSTED IN COMPANY'S WEBSITE ONLY.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
No.:230-Elec-OP-ET Notice-61-2020 Date: 24.06.2020
E-Tender Notice
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (OP), North Central Railway, Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender Two packet system (Packet I: Technical Bid and Packet II: Financial Bid) on prescribed form the details of the tenders are as under:

Tender No. & Name of work	Approximate Cost	Earnest Money
Tender No.-61:Mechanized washing and ironing of misc. linens and dry washing of blankets of drivers and guards running room at Tunda for 02 years.	₹ 22,01,677/-	₹ 44,130/-

Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 3,000/-. Completion Period (in months): 24 Months. Date of opening of tender: 27.07.2020, Note-1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders Two packet system (Packet I: Technical Bid and Packet II: Financial Bid) will be available on website www.iimps.gov.in up to 14:30 hrs. on 27.07.2020 the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other letterhead if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tender on its body. 5. This tender notice have also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 6. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost in respect of e-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 7. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 70829 (R)
North central railways @CPRONCR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Transmission Line Maintenance Division-III, Amargarh, Sopore
Tele No: 01954-225010 Fax: 01954-225010, E-mail: tmd3rdamargarh@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-III
E-NIT NO-EE/TLMDA/ 01 OF 2020 DATED: 16-04-2020
Due to Poor response the dates for E-bidding for above referred E-NIT are extended as under, all the terms and conditions will remain the same.
The Standard Bidding Document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The information regarding schedule of downloading of the tender document and submission of dates thereof is as per the table given below:

CRITICAL DATES		
1	Downloading of bidding documents (End)	07.07.2020 (4:00pm)
2	Online Techno-Commercial e-Bid opening date And time.	10.07.2020 (2:00pm)
3	Clarifications (End date and time)	30-06-2020 (4:00pm)
5	Pre bid meeting date and time	01-07-2020 (2:00pm)
4	Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids	Office of the Superintending Engineer, O & M Circle 1st, Bemina, Srinagar

- Only the bidders possessing the qualifying criteria as mentioned in the SBD should participate in the bidding process.
- Clarifications can also be sought from the office of the under signed on E-mail tmd3rdamargarh@gmail.com or fax 01954-225010.
- Before participating in the bids, the bidder shall acquaint himself with the site of work and local conditions.
- The department reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

-Sd-
Executive Engineer
JKPTCL, TLMD-III,
Amargarh Sopore
No: EE/TLMDA/280-82
Dated: 25-06-2020
DIPK-NB-1047/20

12 EXPRESS NETWORK

Anandiben Patel given additional charge of MP

New Delhi: Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel has been given additional charge of Madhya Pradesh during the absence of incumbent Lalji Tandon, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan statement on Sunday.

Tandon, 85, has been undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Lucknow since June 11. "The President of India is pleased to appoint Anandiben Patel, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, to discharge the functions of the Governor of Madhya Pradesh, in addition to her own duties, during the absence on leave of Lalji Tandon," the statement said. PTI

Bangladeshis on way home held for over a month, police say they violated visa rules

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JUNE 28

NEARLY Two months after a group of 26 Bangladeshis were arrested in Assam's Dhubri district while they were attempting to make their way back to their country amidst the lockdown, they continue to remain under arrest on charges of alleged visa violation.

While calls for the release of the Bangladeshis — who worked as fishermen and farm labourers, and who had valid passports stamped with travel visas — have been growing in the neighbouring country, the Assam Police have filed criminal charges against the men, alleging that they were engaged in employment activities in Jorhat, Golaghat and Sivasagar districts and therefore, violated the terms of their T-1 visa — a non-work visa.

On May 2, during the second

phase of the country-wide lockdown, the 26 men boarded two minibuses from upper Assam's Jorhat district to get to the Changrabandha border checkpoint in West Bengal's border district of Cooch Behar, from where they planned to return home. The group had the required passes for travelling inter-district in Assam.

The next morning, at Bahalpurin Assam's Dhubri district, police detained the Bangladeshi nationals, screened them for Covid and put them into institutional quarantine.

On May 5, police filed an FIR, accusing the men of forgery and violation of sections of The Foreigners (Amendment) Act, 2004 and The Passports Act, 1967. The men are now in a jail in Dhubri. On Friday, the court of the Sub-divisional Judicial Magistrate in Bilasipara heard their case and fixed the next date of hearing for July 6. While each of the 26 men held a passport



A protest in Chilmari, Bangladesh, demanding the release of the group of 26 arrested in India.

and a valid multiple-entry travel visa — which permitted them a maximum of 90 days during each visit — there is no clarity on when exactly they entered India. According to the police, they probably entered through Changrabandha at different points in 2019 and 2020.

Among the arrested are brothers Mohammad Manik Mia (28) and Mohammad Abu Hanif (23). Their father Mohammad Lal Mia told *The Indian Express* on the phone that his sons are fishermen and farmers. "My two sons are my

strength. They had gone to India once earlier too, and there was no problem then... I am ill and cannot work. I have two daughters too. We are very poor. What will we eat if my sons do not return?" he said.

Dhubri Superintendent of Police Yuvraj said, "They were on tourist visas but were working and earning. They were clearly violating terms of their visas. They were arrested and now the case is under investigation."

Rajarshi Dasgupta, the government's legal aid counsel representing the Bangladeshi na-

tionals, said there is no evidence of their employment anywhere. "They are fishermen and were not engaged in any job anywhere. They got stuck here due to the lockdown," Dasgupta told *The Indian Express*.

Dasgupta also argued that the men had valid papers. "When they were apprehended, the men did not claim to be Indians. They said they were Bangladeshis and wanted to go back. And Bangladesh is willing to take them back. Filing criminal charges against them is not fair," he said.

Meanwhile, in Bangladesh, calls for the release of the 26 men have gone up. Nahid Hasan, an activist who led protests in Chilmari with relatives of the detained men, said, "Throughout history, in these parts of the world, people have been travelling up and down. Many people from Kurigram go to India with valid documents."

Bachu Mia, secretary of the Bangladesh chapter of the India-Bangladesh People's Solidarity, said, "These people are very poor and hardly know the difference between a travel and work visa. They are just simple fishermen."

Farmer killed in UP clash, two women among 11 held

Lucknow: Eleven people, including two women, were arrested Sunday in connection with a clash at Chandauli village in UP's Deoria district. Farmer Jai Prakash Kushwaha (55) was killed and four others injured in the clash on Saturday evening. Among those arrested are Arshad, Ishfaq Ansari, Mukhtar, Sitabuddin, Mush-taq, Sabir, Parvej, Hayaz and Islam. According to police, the clash took place after Jai Prakash hurled

abuses at a group of children, accusing them of throwing stones at his buffalo. The children, police said, were aiming for fruits on the jamun tree the buffalo was tied to. Soon, several people, including parents of the children, reached the spot. Relatives of Jai Prakash too reached there and the two groups clashed, said police. SP Shri Pati Mishra said those arrested would be produced in court on Monday. ENS

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. MC-115-Road Transportation, Dt. : 22.06.2020. The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway, Danapur is inviting online open tender under two packet system (on IREPS Portal) for and on behalf of the President of India from reputed contractor with experience, financial capability including those registered/working with Railway/Irrigation/ CPWD/MES or any other public sector undertaking for under mentioned works.

1. Name of work with its location : Road Transportation of component like bogie, wheel set etc. by trailer truck from/to Danapur coaching depot to/from Liluah, Gorakhpur, Harnaut, RCF/Kapurthala, RCF/Rabareilly and other workshop/deposits/ Production units for 01 years. Location : Danapur Depot. 2. Approx cost of the work : ₹ 1,67,08,236.85 (₹ One Crore Sixty seven lakh eight thousand two hundred thirty six and paise eighty five only). 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : ₹ 23,33,600/- (₹ Two lakh thirty three thousand six hundred only). 4. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender : Date & Time for submission of tender - 27.07.2020 upto 12.00 hrs. on www.iimps.gov.in. Date & Time of opening of tender - 27.07.2020 at 12.30 hrs. 5. Website particulars & Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc. : The tender eligibility criteria and tender notice is available on CRIS website www.iimps.gov.in. Divnl. Railway Manager (Mech./ ECR/Danapur PR/0363/DNR/Mech/T/20-21/44

Anpara Thermal Power Project, Anpara, E-Tender Notice. 1. E-Tender No: 33/TMD/ ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, OMC-II, ATPS, Anpara. **Work:** Attending problem of high vibrations in bearing no. 6 of TG system, malfunctioning of over speed trip device/Emergency governor with overhauling of MOP, abnormal sound from bearing pedestal No. 4-5 and oil leakages from pedestal of bearing No 2&3 of TG system of unit#3 of 3x210 MW, ATPS, Anpara with other associated works. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 28,000.00 (Rs. Twenty Eight Thousand Only) (Refundable). **Tender Cost:** Rs. 500.00+18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/ RTGS of DY.C.A.O., CFA&B, ATPS, Anpara. **Extended e-bid submission end date:** 09.07.2020, **Extended Last and for submission of hard copy of requisite documents:** 09.07.2020, **Extended date of opening e-bid Part-I:** 10.07.2020, **Opening date of e-bid part-II:** Shall be intimated later. **Period:** One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.

पत्रांक: 728/मु.अधि./ कार्य/अताप/बी-8, दिनांक 27.06.2020

IT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ITDA)
Department of Information Technology
Government of Uttarakhand
IT Bhawan, Plot No. IT07, IT Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun Email: itrida-uk@nic.in
UKSWAN FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
Tender Notice No. 0416-ITDA-PUJ/SFMS/1/2020-PROJECT dated 08/06/2020
Corrigendum-1
Please refer to the Tender Notice No. 0416-ITDA-PUJ/SFMS/1/2020-PROJECT DATED 08.06.2020, in this regards the amendment is being made in Bid submission end date and bid opening date as following:

S. No.	Critical Dates	Date Extended to Following Date
1	Last Date & Time for Submission of Bids electronically on http://www.uktenders.gov.in/	03 July 15:00 Hrs
2	Date & Time of Opening of Bids (Technical Bids)	03 July 16:00 Hrs

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. Director

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

29 JUN 20
LEST WE FORGET
21 years ago, this day stood witness to the finest exhibition of bravery, valour and sacrifice in the history of Indian Army. On this day, during 'Op Vijay', the 2nd Battalion the Rajputana Rifles captured area 'Black Rock and Three Pimple', in Drass (Kargil) sector which changed the course of the war in favour of Indian Army. Today we venerate all those soldiers who, in the true traditions of the '2nd Battalion the Rajputana Rifles' made the supreme sacrifice for the motherland while fighting the enemy and attained martyrdom. It is only because of you that every member of the 2nd Battalion the Rajputana Rifles family stands with his head high in glory.
'MAY THE ALMIGHTY CONFER EVERLASTING PEACE TO YOUR NOBLE SOULS'

 MAJ P ACHARYA, MVC	 CAPT VIJYANT THAPAR, VRC	 CAPT N KENGURUSE, MVC
 HAV SARMAN SINGH, SM	 HAV SATVIR SINGH	 NK ANAND SINGH
 NK VIKRAM SINGH	 LNK SATPAL SINGH	 LNK SATYABIR SINGH
 LNK KANWAR PAL SINGH	 LNK OM PRAKASH	 RFN JAGMAL SINGH
 RFN JASVIR	REMEMBERED AND REVERED BY COMMANDING OFFICER AND ALL RANKS 2nd BATTALION THE RAJPUTANA RIFLES	

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
Open Tender No.: JHSW-M-CASNUB-2020-21-9
E-Tender Notice
E-tenders are invited from experienced or interested contractors on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work.

Name of work	Cost of work	Earnest Money
Dismantling, Cleaning, Repair, fitting and Painting of Casub bogies and cleaning of shop premises at Jhansi workshop.	₹ 1,04,58,548/- (Including 18% GST)	₹ 2,02,400/-

Cost of tender form: ₹ 5,000/-. Time of completion: 12 (Twelve) Months. Online tender closing date and time: 17.07.2020 upto 11.00 hrs. Detailed information about tender and tender format is available at website www.iimps.gov.in. 71629 (R)
North central railways @CPRONCR

CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking, Ministry of Railways)
North Central Region, 2nd Floor, NSIC New MDBP Building, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020, Ph. : 011-41222500
Tender Notice: CON/NCR/OCM/DER/Parking/2020 Dated 29.06.2020

Name of Work	Providing Professional Parking Management Services for Trailer/Trucks at Inland Container Depot, Dadri, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.
Estimated Cost	₹ 1,01,10,608/- (Including GST) for two years
Period of Contract	02 (1+1) years
Cost of Document	₹ 1,120/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee	₹ 5,310/- Inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment
Date of Sale (Online)	From 29.06.2020, 15:30hrs to 25.07.2020 upto 16:00hrs.).
Date & Time of submission of tender	On or before 27.07.2020 at 15:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of opening of tender	28.07.2020 at 15:30 Hrs.

Tender Document can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL. Any further clarification/corrigendum will be updated on this website only. CGM/NCR

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CORRIGENDUM
Some amendments in the online tenders invited vide this office letter No. 1665-70 dated 20.05.2020 and further send towekely Giriraj Shimla for publication in the news papers by the Director Public Relation H.P. Shimla vide R.O. No.0544/2020-2021 dated 21.05.2020 is hereby further made as under due to administrative reasons:-
1. The online publication date and time will be 01.07.2020 at 10.00 A.M. instead of 04.06.2019.
2. The document download start and End date and time will be 01.07.2020 at 10.00 A.M. upto 15.07.2020 at 6.00 P.M. instead of 04.06.2020 at 10.00 A.M. up to 19.06.2020 at 6.00 P.M.
3. The bid submission start and End date and time will be 01.07.2020 at 10.00 A.M. upto 15.07.2020 at 6.00 P.M. instead of 04.06.2020 at 10.00 A.M. upto 19.06.2020 at 6.00 P.M.
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document will be 16.07.2020at 10.30 A.M. instead of 20.06.2020.
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid will be 16.07.2020 at 11.30 A.M. instead of 20.06.2020.
All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
Executive Engineer,
HPPWD Division Dehra, Distt. Kangra H.P.
1228/H.P. -HIM LOK SAMPARK-



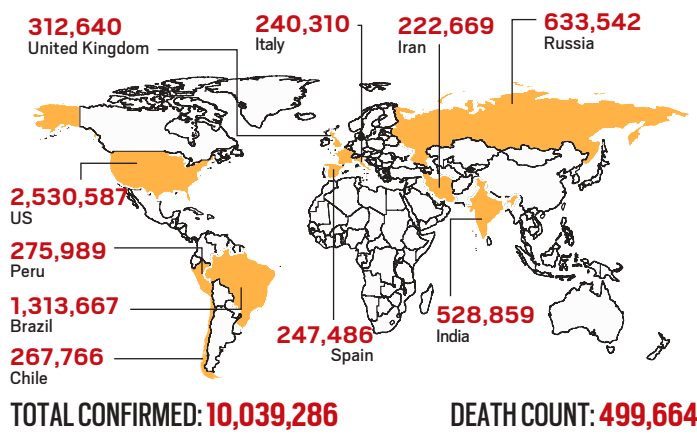
@ieExplained

#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



Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on June 28. JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match as these are accounted at different times.

MMR vaccine can help fight sepsis in Covid patients: study

A new paper suggests that live attenuated vaccines such as MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) may prevent the severe lung inflammation and sepsis associated with Covid-19 infection. The paper is published online in the journal *mBio*.

A live attenuated vaccine is derived from a disease-causing pathogen, which has been weakened in the laboratory so that it does not cause severe illness when a person is vaccinated with it. The new research paper refers to growing evidence that live attenuated vaccines can activate certain immune cells to train leukocytes (the white blood cells of the immune system) to mount a more effective defence against unrelated infections. The researchers used a live attenuated fungal strain and demonstrated, in the lab, that vaccination with it trained innate protection against sepsis (blood poisoning) caused by a combination of disease-causing fungi and bacteria.

The authors proposed that the protection is produced by cells called MDSCs. They stressed that this live at-

tenuated MMR vaccine concept is not suggested to be directed against Covid-19, but instead an immune preventive measure against the severe inflammatory symptoms of Covid-19.

The research was conducted by Paul Fidel Jr of LSU Health New Orleans, and Mairi Noverr of Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. Dr Fidel said in a statement: "The use of childhood live attenuated vaccines such as MMR given to adults to induce bystander cells that can dampen or reduce severe complications associated with Covid-19 infection is a low risk – high reward preventive measure during a critical period of the pandemic. These bystander cells are long-lived but not life-long,

against unrelated infections. The researchers used a live attenuated fungal strain and demonstrated, in the lab, that vaccination with it trained innate protection against sepsis (blood poisoning) caused by a combination of disease-causing fungi and bacteria. The authors proposed that the protection is produced by cells called MDSCs. They stressed that this live at-



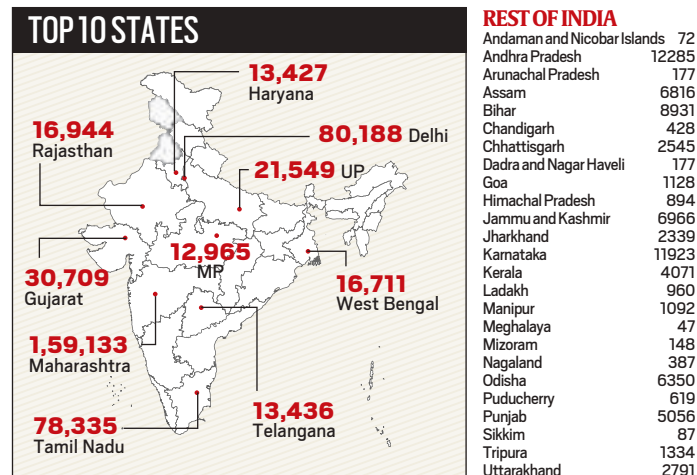
PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

Anyone who had an MMR vaccination as a child, while likely to still have immune antibodies directed against measles, mumps, or rubella, will not likely still have the immune cells directed against sepsis. So, it could be important to get the MMR vaccination as an adult to protect better against Covid-related sepsis."

Source: LSU Health New Orleans

INDIA COUNT: 5,28,859 (16,095 DEATHS)



Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, June 28. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above.

3,09,713 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

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Why rich are getting richer

As the pandemic ravages economies and destroys livelihoods across the world, the super rich, particularly in the US, are getting richer – billionaire wealth is estimated to have increased by \$565 bn since March 18.

ANIL SASI

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

THE COVID-19 pandemic has pushed the world economy into a tailspin, and 2020 is projected to be the worst year since at least the global financial crisis. But billionaires, or at least a select group of them across countries, have seen their wealth soar during the past three months, which have been financially painful for most people across the world.

In the United States, billionaires have become richer to the tune of \$565 billion since March 18, according to a report published this month by the Washington DC-based think tank Institute for Policy Studies and the Clearwater, Florida-based advocacy Americans For Fair Taxation. The total wealth of billionaires was \$3.5 trillion – up 19% from the low point near the beginning of the pandemic, the report said. Amazon chief Jeff Bezos alone is worth \$36.2 billion more than he was on March 18.

All this happened even as job-loss figures in the US rose to 28.5 million – three times the jobs lost during the 2008 financial crisis – and nearly 43 million Americans filed for initial unemployment benefits. The unemployment rate is expected to climb to nearly 20%, higher than it's ever been since the Great Depression.

What explains this trend of the super rich getting even richer?

The surge in wealth of the richest Americans is being driven by the sharp bounceback of the stock market, primarily due to the unprecedented action from the US Federal Reserve.

Despite the Covid crisis and record numbers seeking unemployment benefits, the Nasdaq has remained close to record highs. The Fed's emergency response to the crisis, including cutting interest rates to zero and undertaking to buy unlimited amounts of bond has translated into assets such as stocks, despite being risky investments, seeing fresh demand. Investors have been buying equities, and Big Tech companies and those linked to healthcare – Big Pharma and hospital stocks – have been among the major beneficiaries.

Amazon shares have surged nearly 50 per cent from mid-March lows, and Facebook has risen from the troughs of March to record highs. Like Bezos, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's net worth has increased by over \$30 billion since March 18, the IPS report found. The study calculated billionaire wealth us-



Clockwise from top left: Mark Zuckerberg, Mukesh Ambani, Elon Musk, Steve Ballmer, Cyrus Poonawalla, Jeff Bezos have all gained wealth in the last few months

ing data provided by the Forbes Global Billionaires List, a real-time assessment of net worth. March 18 was used as the starting date because that is the date tied to the 2020 Forbes Global Billionaire survey, and also roughly corresponds to the time when the US government began imposing lockdown restrictions.

Other tech players who have got wealthier over the past three months include Tesla's Elon Musk, Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page, and former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, all of whom have seen their wealth surge by \$15 billion or more since March 18, the report found.

Eric Yuan, founder and CEO of Zoom too, has seen a sharp increase in his wealth during the pandemic, and is reported to be worth about \$2.58 billion. The Walton family, major stakeholders in retail major Walmart are also big gainers – Jim, Alice, and Rob Walton each made about \$3 billion during the three months to May 19.

Those invested in stocks have benefited as well. An investment in a regular fund that tracks the S&P 500 would have given investors a return of nearly 40 per cent since the March 23 lows, according to a CNN estimate that used Bloomberg numbers for calculations.

What has been the trend elsewhere in the world?

Initially, the bloodbath in global stock mar-

kets also impacted a number of billionaires negatively. A record 1,062 billionaires saw their wealth decline, while 267 of them dropped out of the billionaires list. The total combined net worth of billionaires in 2020 stood at \$8 trillion, falling from \$8.7 trillion in 2019, according to Forbes data.

"The richest people on Earth are not immune to the coronavirus. As the pandemic tightened its grip on Europe and America, global equity markets imploded, tanking many fortunes... Of the billionaires who remain, 51 per cent are poorer than they were last year," it said in a report released this month.

Those who've benefited include Colin Huang Zheng of the Chinese low-end social shopping giant Pinduoduo. Inditex co-founder Amancio Ortega, who owns the Spanish retail brand Zara, has seen some recovery in his wealth after the initial slide.

The biggest losers during the four-month period include Berkshire Hathaway's Warren Buffett, Frenchman Bernard Arnault, chairman and chief executive of LVMH, the world's largest luxury-goods company, and Mexican telecoms billionaire Carlos Slim Helu.

How have Indian billionaires fared?

Helped by a fund-raising spree, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) chief Mukesh Ambani

has emerged as the eighth richest man in the world, a position he shares with Google co-founder Sergey Brin, according to a Hurun Research report. Ambani, who is already Asia's richest man, has moved one rank up from the position he held as on January 31, 2020. Since April 22, Jio Platforms – a wholly-owned subsidiary of RIL – has raised funds from a string of global investors including Facebook, Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, TPG and I. Catterton.

The wealth of Cyrus Poonawalla of the vaccine major Serum Institute grew the fastest among Indian billionaires, and fifth fastest in the world during the pandemic because of the strong business potential of his company, according to the Hurun Research report, 'Wealth Impact 4mths After Covid-19 Outbreak'.

Poonawalla has climbed 57 places to become the 86th richest person in the world as of May 31 on the back of a 25 per cent increase in his net worth during the four months of the pandemic, the report said. The Pune-based entrepreneur's unlisted company, already among the largest vaccine manufacturers in the world, has struck a deal with AstraZeneca to manufacture 1 billion doses of a coronavirus vaccine being developed by Oxford University.

What are the implications of these trends?

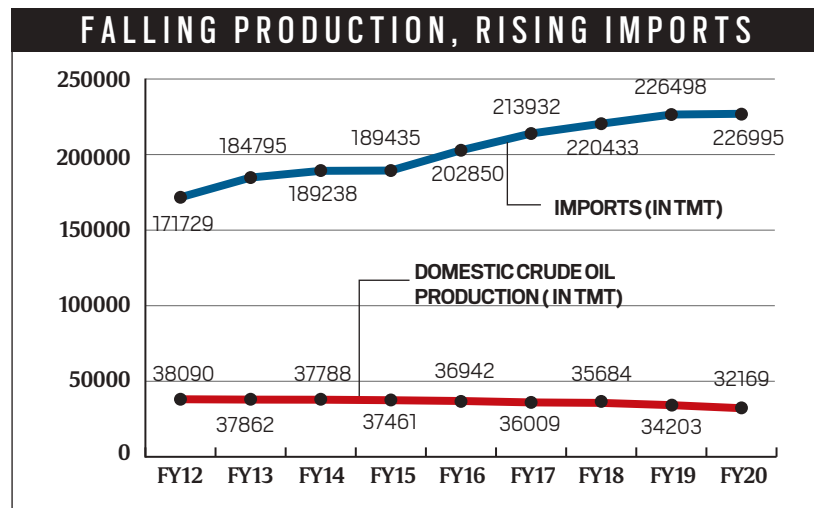
The widening divide between the haves and have-nots is already seen as a contributor to the current unrest across the US. Wealth inequality is likely to get worse because of this crisis, experts say.

"The surge in billionaire wealth during a global pandemic underscores the grotesque nature of unequal sacrifice," said Chuck Collins, one of the co-authors of the Americans for Tax Fairness and the Institute for Policy Studies study.

In India, even before the pandemic struck, the rich list was largely insulated from the broader downturn in the economy. India minted three billionaires every month as the nation's stock markets surged to new highs, despite a slowing economy ahead of this crisis, according to the Hurun Global Rich List 2020.

"Indian billionaires are defying gravity as the structural slowdown in the economy doesn't seem to hamper the growth of Indians in the list," said Anas Rahman Junaid, managing director and chief researcher of the Hurun Report India released earlier this year.

Why India is producing less and less oil



long delays in the operationalisation of production even after an oil block is allotted, which again is due to delays in getting various approvals.

"The best-case scenario from allotment to production is at least 5-7 years," said an industry expert.

What policy changes could help?

Existing public and private sector players have asked for reduced levies of oil production including oil cess, royalties, and profit petroleum especially when crude oil prices are below \$45/barrel.

The government introduced the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) in 2019 to allow companies to carve out blocks that they are interested in and with lower royalties and no oil cess. However, existing players are calling for a relaxation of royalties and oil cess on block allotted under previous policies. One expert pointed out that the Chinese government offered a floor price to oil producers insulating them somewhat from any sharp falls in international crude prices.

"This kind of policy at least allows for a company to have a fixed worst case scenario for the sale of crude oil," said an expert, noting that this incentivised more investment in exploration and production.

What Apple-Google Covid feature does, and why it doesn't work in India

KARISHMA MEHROTRA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

IN APRIL, rivals Google and Apple made an unprecedented move of joining hands to help governments in tracing contacts of Covid-19-positive people. On Sunday, the "COVID-19 exposure notifications" feature appeared on Android and Apple phones everywhere. But that means very little for those living in India.

Does it not work in India?

As of now, it does not. The feature will only work in a phone that has downloaded an application that it works with. "What we have built is not an app – rather public health agencies will incorporate the API into their own app that people install," the

companies said in a release.

In other words, the software links up to the government's own contact tracing applications through an API, or application programming interface. An API is a highway that allows two programs to speak to each other, and it is different from a single application installed in your phone.

India's contact-tracing application, Aarogya Setu, has not linked up to the Apple-Google API. A likely reason is the fact that the API does not allow location data to be retrieved, which Aarogya Setu does. "The public health authority app is not allowed to use your phone's location," a Google blog states. Another potential reason is that the API does not allow public authorities to collect phone numbers from their users. The Aarogya Setu application collects such in-

formation during registration.

The "Exposure Notification API" is off by default and requires users to opt in. Since Indian users cannot opt in anyway, the API is not collecting data from their phones.

How does it work in the countries that are using it?

If two people meet for more than five minutes, their phones exchange an identifier via Bluetooth. If one of those people later tests that the API does not allow location data to be retrieved, which Aarogya Setu does. "The public health authority app is not allowed to use your phone's location," a Google blog states. Another potential reason is that the API does not allow public authorities to collect phone numbers from their users. The Aarogya Setu application collects such in-

formation during registration. The "Exposure Notification API" is off by default and requires users to opt in. Since Indian users cannot opt in anyway, the API is not collecting data from their phones.

feature in an application-form, requiring a user to download it. Now, the update is a built-in feature that can be turned on or off.

Does it clash with contact-tracing apps of other countries?

The companies are asking for more privacy in the contact tracing applications they partner with. This is creating a tussle between governments and the companies, with several governments frustrated that the companies are asking them to collect less data.

One of the main aspects of this debate is a "centralised" versus a "decentralised" model. For example, the UK's former approach was to keep all the data about all suspected infected people in a centralised database, while the Apple-Google model stores the information on the user's phone and only uploads it

in certain circumstances. France was another country that clashed with Apple.

Aarogya Setu stores most data on the user's phone and uploads it under listed circumstances. But it collects more data (location, numbers), which the API does not allow.

Both Apple and Google have taken a strong stand of prioritising user privacy over Covid-fighting efforts.

Which countries are using it?

There is no official list from the companies but according to news reports, these countries have released applications that hook up to the feature: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the UK, and Uruguay.

Other countries that have announced upcoming plans include Canada, Netherlands, Spain, and certain US states. Norway is comparing its own location-taking application to the Google-Apple model.

The UK made a U-turn and decided to drop its own application and use the companies' feature, after their application was found to have huge security flaws. Germany made a similar turn around earlier.

What is the big deal with location data?

This tussle over location data is a key part of the privacy versus contact tracing debate. While location data can help authorities determine hotspots (which Aarogya Setu does), there are fears that tracking and surveillance are enabled far more in a location-taking feature.



MEANWHILE

ROLLING STONES THREATEN TO SUE TRUMP

The Rolling Stones are threatening US President Donald Trump with legal action for using their songs at his rallies despite cease-and-desist directives. The Stones said in a statement Sunday that their legal team was working with music rights organisation BMI to stop use of their material in Trump's reelection campaign.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Princeton University's Wilson College will also be renamed

USA

Princeton to drop Woodrow Wilson's name from school

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY is renaming its public policy school and Wilson College after concluding that US President Woodrow Wilson's racist thinking and policies "make him an inappropriate namesake". Announcing the move on Saturday, Princeton University President Christopher Eisgruber said it related to the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and Rayshard Brooks, Black Americans who died at the hands of police in recent months. The board's vote to rename the School of Public and International Affairs and Wilson College follows a wave of protests in the US against racial injustice.

EUROPE

Poland holds presidential vote delayed by Covid

Warsaw: Poles voted in a presidential election Sunday that was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic and was taking place amid deep cultural and political divisions in the European Union nation. President Andrzej Duda, a 48-year-old conservative backed by the nationalist ruling Law and Justice party, was running against 10 other candidates as he sought a second 5-year term. Whether Duda wins or not will determine whether the ruling party keeps its near-monopoly on political power in Poland. Most recent polls showed that no single candidate was likely to reach the 50% to avoid a runoff given the crowded field of candidates, all of whom are male.

HONG KONG

Dozens held amid protests

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police arrested at least 53 people on Sunday after scuffles erupted during a relatively peaceful protest against planned national security legislation to be implemented by the mainland Chinese government. Armed riot police were present as a crowd of several hundred moved from Jordan to Mong Kok in the Kowloon district, staging what was intended as a "silent protest" against the planned law. However, slogans were shouted towards police and later scuffles broke out in Mong Kok, which resulted in the police using pepper spray.

MANY NATIONS FIGHTING RESURGENCE OF INFECTIONS AS CURBS EASE

Global Covid-19 cases cross 10 mn

CATE CADELL
BEIJING, JUNE 28

GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS cases exceeded 10 million on Sunday according to a Reuters tally, marking a major milestone in the spread of the respiratory disease that has so far killed almost half a million people in seven months.

The figure is roughly double the number of severe influenza illnesses recorded annually, according to the World Health Organisation.

The milestone comes as many hard-hit countries are easing lockdowns while making extensive alterations to work and social life that could last for a year or more until a vaccine is available.

Some countries are experiencing a resurgence in infections, leading authorities to partially reinstate lockdowns, in what experts say could be a recurring pattern in the coming months and into 2021.

North America, Latin America and Europe each account for around 25% of cases, while Asia and the Middle East have around 11% and 9% respectively, according to the Reuters tally, which uses government reports.

There have been more than 497,000 fatalities linked to the disease so far, roughly the same as the number of influenza deaths reported annually.

The first cases of the new coronavirus were confirmed on



Grave diggers rest between burials in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The South American country has been one of the worst-affected by the coronavirus. It reported a record 54,700 new cases on a single day on June 19. Reuters

Jan. 10 in Wuhan in China, before infections and fatalities surged in Europe, then the United States, and later Russia.

Brazil reported a record 54,700 new cases on June 19. Some researchers said the death toll in Latin America could rise to over 380,000 by October, from around 100,000 this week.

The total number of cases continued to increase at a rate of between 1-2% a day in the past week, down from rates above 10% in March.

Countries including China,

New Zealand and Australia have seen new outbreaks in the past month, despite largely quashing local transmission.

In Beijing, where hundreds of new cases were linked to an agricultural market, testing capacity has been ramped up to 300,000 a day.

The US, which has reported the

most cases of any country at over 2.5 million, managed to slow the spread of the virus in May, only to see it expand in recent weeks to rural areas and places that were previously unaffected. REUTERS

3 die in US after drinking sanitiser

THREE PEOPLE have died, three are in critical condition, and one is permanently blind after ingesting hand sanitiser that contained methanol, the New Mexico Department of Health said.

The earliest case was reported to the New Mexico Poison Control and Drug Information Centre on May 7 and the rest occurred after May 29, according to officials. NYT

U.S. GUN VIOLENCE CLAIMS MORE LIVES

Three dead in separate shooting incidents in California, Kentucky

REUTERS
JUNE 28

A SHOOTING at a Walmart distribution centre in Red Bluff, California, killed at least two people and injured four others late on Saturday, officials said. On the same day, one man was killed in a separate shooting incident at a park in Louisville, Kentucky.

The California incident started around 3:30 pm local time, according to the local sheriff.

Tehama County's assistant sheriff said the attacker circled the centre's parking lot four times before crashing his vehicle into the building and opening fire with a semi-automatic rifle.

The shooter killed an employee before police officers shot

and killed the attacker.

The authorities identified the employee as Martin Haro-Lozano, 45, of Orland, California.

Meanwhile, police were investigating a fatal shooting on the same night at a park in Louisville, Kentucky, where demonstrators had gathered to protest the death of Breonna Taylor.

Reports of shots fired at Jefferson Square Park came in around 9 pm, Louisville Metro police said in a statement, followed by calls that the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department was performing life-saving measures on a male who died at the scene. Shortly after, police were told of a shooting victim across the street at the Hall of Justice. That person was hospitalised with non-life-threatening injuries.

Pak to hold Gilgit-Baltistan elections on August 18

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, JUNE 28

PAKISTAN WILL hold general elections in Gilgit-Baltistan on August 18, the government has announced after the country's top court allowed holding of polls in the region, notwithstanding India's strong protest to Islamabad for its efforts to bring "material change" to the territories under its "illegal and forcible" occupation.

The Pakistan Supreme Court on April 30 allowed the government to amend a 2018 administrative order to conduct general

elections in the region.

President Arif Alvi on Saturday approved August 18, 2020 as the poll day for general elections to the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly, according to a statement from the President House.

The Gilgit-Baltistan order of 2018 provided for administrative changes, including authorising the Prime Minister of Pakistan to legislate on an array of subjects.

New Delhi has conveyed to Islamabad that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of India. PTI



NY MARKS PRIDE, BUT NO MARCH

A rainbow light display illuminates the night sky near The Stonewall Inn, a historic landmark of the gay rights movement, in New York on Saturday. The light installation marked what would have been the 50th anniversary of the NYC Pride March, which was cancelled this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. AP

Thousands in western Myanmar flee as Army plans ops, monitors say

REUTERS
JUNE 28

THOUSANDS OF villagers have fled their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine state after a local administrator warned dozens of village leaders that the Army planned "clearance operations" against insurgents, a lawmaker and a humanitarian group said.

But a government spokesman said late on Saturday an evacuation order issued by border-affairs officials had been revoked. Border affairs acknowledged issuing the order through

the local administrator but said it affected fewer villages.

The warning to the village leaders came in a letter written on Wednesday, which was verified by a state government minister, Colonel Min Than.

The letter, signed by the administrator of Rathedaung township, Aung Myint Thein, told village leaders he had been informed the operations were planned in the township's Kyauktan village and nearby areas suspected of harbouring insurgents.

The letter does not specify where the order came from, but Min Than, Rakhine state's border

affairs and security minister, told Reuters it was an instruction from his border affairs ministry, one of three Myanmar government ministries controlled by the Army.

"Clearance operation will be done by forces in those villages," the letter from the administrator said. "While this is being done, if the fighting occurs with AA terrorists, don't stay at the villages but move out temporarily," it said, referring to the Arakan Army, the name of the Rakhine state insurgents.

The administrator could not be reached for comment.

Majority of China's BRI projects abroad adversely affected by pandemic: official

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, JUNE 28

THE MAJORITY of the projects under China's ambitious multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are either adversely or partially affected by the coronavirus pandemic, according to a Chinese official.

About a fifth of the projects under the BRI, which aims to boost trade and investment across Asia, Africa and Europe to further China's global influence, had been "seriously affected" by the pandemic, according to Wang Xiaolong, director-general of the foreign ministry's international economic affairs department.

About 40 per cent of the projects were "adversely affected", and a further 30-40 per cent were "somewhat affected", Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* quoted Wang as saying.

The BRI was launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping when he came to power in 2013. It aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea route. The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of the BRI.

China last week held the first video conference of the BRI as part of its efforts to kick start the projects.

The projects which were disrupted included \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the report said.

India has protested to China over the CPEC, as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.



The BRI was launched by Xi Jinping when he came to power in 2013

Some Asian countries, including Malaysia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka have in the recent past either slammed the brakes on or reported delays for Chinese-funded projects, the *Post* reported.

For instance, Covid-19 disruptions have affected the CPEC, Cambodia's Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone and Indonesia's Jakarta-Bandung high-speed rail, it said.

Many projects under BRI are either on hold or receiving minimal works.

The BRI is seen as an attempt by China to further its influence abroad with infrastructure projects funded by Chinese investments all over the world. The initiative also led to allegations of smaller countries reeling under mounting Chinese debt after Sri Lanka gave its Hambantota port in a debt swap to China in 2017 on a 99-year lease.

By early January, 2,951 BRI-linked projects valued at \$3.87 trillion were planned or underway across the world, the *Post* said, citing research and publishing firm Oxford Business Group. PTI

Trump retweets, then deletes, video of man shouting 'white power'

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JUNE 28

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump retweeted a video showing one of his supporters in Florida shouting "white power" at protesters of his administration, drawing an immediate rebuke from the only Black Republican in the Senate.

The video on Twitter, which was later deleted from Trump's feed, shows Trump protesters and supporters shouting profanities at each other. After a protester calls a Trump supporter a racist, the man responds by raising his fist and shouting "white power".

The slogan is often used by white supremacists.

"There's no question that he should not have retweeted it and he should just take it down," U.S. Senator Tim Scott told CNN's "State of the Union" program.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said the president "is a big fan of The Villages. He did not hear the one statement made on the video. What he did see was tremendous enthusiasm from his many supporters."

The tweet comes on the heels of Trump's hostile response to protests against racial injustice engulfing the US following the death of George Floyd. In the tweet, Trump wrote "Thank you to the

EXPLAINED
The Villages, a strong Trump base

THE CONTROVERSIAL video featured Trump supporters from The Villages, a Florida retirement community which is overwhelmingly Republican. The community of well-off white senior citizens has provided consistent backing for Trump. It was in the news recently when a number of American journalists wrote about a retired real estate broker who held one-man anti-Trump protests in The Villages and attracted jeers from passers by. Trump visited the area last October.

great people of The Villages", a retirement community in Florida he visited last year.

"It was so profanity laced, the entire thing was offensive. Certainly, the comment about the white power was offensive," the South Carolina Republican added. "It's indefensible. We should take it down."

MARKUS BRAUN BUILT WIRECARD TO 'CONQUER THE WORLD'. ITS ACCOUNTING SCANDAL HAS SENT SHOCK WAVES THROUGH GERMANY

In a German tech giant's fall, charges of lies, spies and missing billions

LIZ ALDERMAN &
CHRISTOPHER SCHUETZE
JUNE 28

IN THE elite corridors of corporate Germany, Markus Braun had become a legend.

A little-known entrepreneur until just a few years ago, Braun had forged an obscure Bavarian company called Wirecard into a German tech icon, winning a coveted spot on the benchmark DAX stock index. Wirecard provided the invisible financial plumbing that, with a wave of

plastic over a card reader almost anywhere in the world, made transactions happen. Hedge funds and global investors scrambled to buy shares.

When critics raised red flags about the company's seemingly miraculous success, questioning murky accounts and income that could not be traced, Braun, a methodical executive from Austria who was the company's biggest shareholder, hit back repeatedly, and the stock price skyrocketed.

But Thursday, Braun's empire came crashing down after Wirecard filed for insolvency

proceedings, days after the financial technology company acknowledged that 1.9 billion euros (\$2.1 billion) that it claimed to have on its balance sheets probably never existed. Its long-time auditor, EY, formerly Ernst & Young, said the company had carried out "an elaborate and sophisticated fraud." Mastercard and Visa said Friday that they were considering cutting ties.

Wirecard, which owes creditors 3.5 billion euros, said its survival was not assured, sending its battered shares below 2 euros Friday from more than 100 eu-



Markus Braun's Wirecard is the first listed member of the 30-year old DAX stock index to go bust. Reuters

ros a week ago.

How one of Germany's most feted companies fell from grace — it is the first listed member of the 30-year old DAX to go bust — is something investigators in several countries are still trying to piece together. German prosecutors arrested Braun on Monday on accusations of inflating sales volume with fake income to lure investors, and authorities are searching for Jan Marsalek, his former chief operating officer, who was fired Monday and may be in Asia.

The Philippine government is

investigating the missing 1.9 billion euros, which Wirecard claimed to have held in two Philippine banks; the banks said last week that they had never dealt with Wirecard.

But one thing is sure: Anyone paying attention should not have been surprised. Since 2008 Wirecard attracted sceptics who wondered how the company could generate the worldwide revenue it claimed.

Wirecard and lawyers for Braun did not respond to requests for comment.

Although Wirecard was

smaller and less known globally than rivals like PayPal, the criticism was seen as an attack on a home-grown success story. It drew the attention of Germany's financial regulator, BaFin, which investigated the people asking the questions rather than the repeated allegations of financial shenanigans.

Critics said they were subject to a harassment campaign, including phishing attacks by hackers to gain access to email accounts and intimidating surveillance outside their homes and offices. Wirecard has denied any wrongdoing. NYT

15 ECONOMY

COVID IMPACT CONSUMER INTERNET

Internet cos offer thousands of jobs to meet surging demand for online services

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

A PERCEPTIBLE shift in consumer behaviour towards online services in the aftermath of the nationwide lockdown to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, which led to significant growth for internet companies during the period, has translated into these companies make a beeline in the job market.

On Sunday, online marketplace Amazon India announced 20,000 seasonal opportunities in the customer service segment across Hyderabad, Pune, Coimbatore, Noida, Kolkata, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Mangaluru, Indore, Bhopal and Lucknow. This was preceded by companies like BigBasket and Grofers (e-grocery segment), Paytm Mall (e-commerce), BharatPe (financial technology), Licious (online meat delivery), NoBroker.com (online real estate), and Ecom Express (logistics) also announcing hiring at a time when several consumer internet companies have laid off employees with an aim to cut costs.

In a statement, Amazon India said the new positions will require associates to support customer needs through various mediums like email, chat, social media and phone. The eligibility criteria for these positions include minimum educational qualification of 12th standard pass and proficiency in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu or Kannada. "We are continuously evaluating hiring needs across the customer service organisation in response to the growing customer demand. We estimate that customer traffic will further scale up over the next six months with the onset of Indian and global holiday seasons," said Akshay Prabhu, director—customer service, Amazon India.

Online retailer Paytm Mall, which recently shifted its headquarters from Noida to Bengaluru, said it plans to hire over 300 new members for product & technology roles, aiming expansion across its business categories. It said that the shifting of headquarters to Bengaluru would help it "tap into the rich talent pool available in the city's consumer internet and startup ecosystem".

Anticipating a similar growth in the online retail segment, third-party logistics firm Ecom Express—which counts e-commerce companies like Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal, Myntra, Paytm, etc among its customers—also announced plans to hire 7,000 people over the next two months across business functions such as last-mile delivery, warehousing management, operations, information technology and data sciences. These positions represent around 25 per cent of the company's total workforce, and the recruitment is set to be made across metros like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad as well as tier-II cities such as Ahmedabad, Surat, Chandigarh, Indore, Patna, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bhopal and Jaipur.

On Sunday, Amazon India announced 20,000 seasonal opportunities in customer service. Other companies in segments like fintech too plan recruitment

garh, Indore, Patna, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bhopal and Jaipur.

"As a provider of logistics services to e-commerce industry, employees are paramount and a pivot to what we do. In these difficult times, we see increase in demand for on-line shopping across cities and we need to support the scale and size for doorstep deliveries. Hiring of new employees is driven by the unprecedented need to keep the supply chain running for e-commerce industry and ensuring safe and timely deliveries," said Saurabh Deep Singla, senior vice president & chief human resource officer, Ecom Express.

The need to keep up with the sudden surge in demand post the announcement of lockdown on March 25 also pushed e-grocery companies like BigBasket and Grofers to raise their staff strength in last-mile delivery and warehouse functions. While BigBasket had chalked out plans to add 10,000 on-ground staff for warehouses, distribution centres and delivery personnel, Grofers started additional hiring of 2,000 workers.

Companies in other segments, such as fintech and online real estate, too, announced or plan recruitment. Fintech company BharatPe has made two top-level hirings and is in the market for a third one. The company said it has hired Nishant Jain as chief business officer from Zomato, which recently asked over 500 of its staffers to start looking for new jobs. Additionally, BharatPe hired former Walmart Labs executive Ankur Jain as its chief product officer, and is in the process of hiring a vice-president of human resources.

Further, shortly after securing additional funding of \$30 million from General Atlantic, online real-estate listings firm NoBroker.com last month announced plans to hire over 100 people across marketing, business, operations and technology-related roles. Similarly, online meat delivery startup Licious, after losing 50 per cent of its workforce immediately after the lockdown, hired 300 workers to meet the hike in demand.

By the end of second month of the lockdown in May, five large companies in the consumer internet space in India—Uber India and South Asia, Ola, Zomato, Swiggy and Cure.fit—had announced reduction of more than 4,000 jobs in just a month. However, fresh recruitment activity and people returning to work has also been witnessed in certain macroeconomic indicators.

INSURER'S HOLDINGS IN NSE-LISTED ENTITIES AT 10-YR LOW

As mkts crashed, LIC entered to buy stocks amid fall in holdings in Mar

SANDEEP SINGH & GEORGE MATHEW
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, JUNE 28

AFTER WITNESSING a decline in the share of its holdings in stocks listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to a decade's low, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)—India's largest investors in the capital market—is set to improve the valuation following the partial recovery in the market and fresh purchases by the Corporation between April, May and June.

LIC's holding in companies listed on NSE fell to at least a decadal low of 3.88 per cent at the end of March 2020. Data sourced from nseinfobase.com, a joint initiative of NSE and PRIME Database, shows that LIC's holding in NSE-listed companies went down from 3.96 per cent as on December 31, 2019. Six years back, in March 2014, its share stood at 4.72 per cent.

In absolute value terms, LIC's holding stood at Rs 424 lakh crore on March 31, 2020, a 29.4 per cent, or around Rs 1.8 lakh crore, drop over its holding value of Rs 6 lakh crore in December 2019. The value of LIC holding's stood highest in the quarter ended December 2018 at Rs 6.22 lakh crore. However, sources said the value has since increased as the Sensex recovered by over 5,400 points from the March 31 level of 29,468.49. LIC did not respond to an email from *The Indian Express*.

HOLDING IN LISTED COMPANIES AT 3.88%

■ Life Insurance Corporation's holding in companies listed on NSE fell to at least a decadal low of 3.88 per cent at the end of March 2020

■ In the quarter ended March, the 10 companies that saw highest rise in LIC's shareholding in percentage terms included eight where LIC made fresh investments

According to sources, LIC and other domestic institutional investors (DIIs) had bought heavily when the market crashed in March, April and May and foreign investors exited. In March, DIIs bought Rs 55,595 crore worth of stocks. While in April they turned net sellers with sales of Rs 824 crore, in May, they made investments of Rs 11,356 crore.

During the quarter ended March 2020, the 10 companies that saw the highest rise in LIC's shareholding in percentage terms included eight where LIC made fresh investments. While it picked up 2.59 per cent stake in HUL, LIC bought 2.12 per cent stake in Tata

Consumer Products. Among other companies, it also picked up stake in HCL Technologies, Mahanagar Gas and Cochin Shipyard.

While the Centre has been preparing to list LIC and come up with its IPO, the insurer has seen its premium income from new business fall 32 per cent in April and 26.49 per cent in May. However, the premium income for June has gone up. LIC has also been witnessing a gradual fall in its shareholding of Indian listed entities.

With the fall in premium income during the lockdown, closure of units and job layoffs, insurance companies are expecting a tough couple of months. "We expect normalcy by November or December. The subdued trend in premium collection of insurance companies is likely to bring down fresh investments in the capital market in the current year," said

an insurance official.

LIC invested Rs 46,850.33 crore in equities in the first 10 months of FY20, down 20.75 per cent from the amount invested in the same period last fiscal, as per official data. The state-owned insurer had invested Rs 59,115.67 crore during April-January in FY19.

Market experts say that the government's decision to dilute its holding in the Corporation and list it on the stock exchanges will yield the optimum result when the overall business sentiment improves and markets recover fully.

LIC is currently under the supervisory oversight of the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (Irdai), but it is governed by the LIC Act of 1956, which enables the insurer to obtain a special dispensation in several areas including higher stakes in companies beyond the limit set by Irdai. Under Section 37 of the LIC Act, the Centre has guaranteed the sum assured with bonus in all LIC policies to ensure the availability of financial security to the family of the deceased.

LIC's total income, which includes total premium and investment income, was around Rs 5,60,784 crore in FY19, a rise of 7.10 per cent.

Ban on Chinese equipment: No communication from DoT yet, private telcos say

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) is yet to issue a formal order or talk even informally to private telcos Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea to desist from using Chinese telecom equipment for any of their future expansion plans, senior executives from both the companies said. Among the three major domestic telecom operators, only Airtel and Vodafone Idea use Chinese gear, while Reliance Jio Infocomm uses gear made by South Korea's Samsung.

Any "knee-jerk" reaction to bar private telcos from using

Chinese equipment is also likely to have cost implications for both the telcos, an Airtel executive said.

Most of these equipment, however, are deployed in non-core telecom functions, which are hardly a risk to "network safety", a Vodafone Idea executive said.

As per industry estimates, Chinese telecom gear vendors have about 25 per cent of the total domestic market share. While Airtel uses up to 30 per cent Chinese gear for its networks, Vodafone Idea uses 40 per cent. On June 17, DoT sources had said that BSNL and MTNL had been asked not to use Chinese gear.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

'Safety violations': DGCA issues show cause notice to AirAsia India executive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

THE DIRECTORATE General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a show cause notice to a top executive of AirAsia India two weeks after one of its pilots, who runs a popular YouTube channel called Flying Beast, alleged violations of safety norms by the low-cost airline, senior officials said Sunday. "A show cause notice has been issued to Manish Uppal, Head of Operations, AirAsia India after the pilot's allegations," officials said.

An AirAsia India spokesperson said, "AirAsia India confirms receipt of the notice and we are assisting the regulator in its fact finding process. We will fully cooperate with the regulator."

MARKET WATCH

FPIs TURN NET BUYERS IN JUNE

New Delhi: Reversing the three-month selling streak in June, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pumped in a net Rs 21,235 crore in domestic markets amid increasing liquidity and gradual opening up of economy. **PTI**

GARIB KALYAN ROJGAR YOJANA

FM: West Bengal couldn't be included in migrants' job scheme as state did not share data

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

STATING THAT the West Bengal government is not cooperating in implementation of the Centre's measures, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Sunday said the state could not be included in the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Yojana—the employment scheme for returnee migrant workers—as it did not share the required data.

"Till June 27, 282 trains were provided to West Bengal for migrant workers returning to their home state ... but there are not enough facilities for them ... six states shared their data regarding migrant workers ... the Prime Minister launched the scheme for their employment in 116 districts, but West Bengal is not a part of it because they did not share data (with Centre)," she said while addressing the Jan Samwad rally in West Bengal via videoconference.

The FM said the Centre has provided the Trinamool Congress-led West Bengal government with funds worth Rs 10,106 crore to fight coronavirus, yet there were not enough quarantine centres, testing in hospitals, and the shared data is improper.

"... the central government provided insurance cover of Rs 50 lakh for corona warriors ... but medical professionals in West Bengal complained of inadequate PPE kits," she said.

Sitharaman added that Rs 17,890 crore has been transferred to farmers across the country, but

"... the Prime Minister launched the scheme for their employment in 116 districts, but West Bengal is not a part of it because they did not share data (with Centre)"

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
FINANCE MINISTER

no farmer from Bengal has been part of it because of the opposition from the state government to Centre's policies and measures.

She, however, appreciated the Chief Minister for her support to the Centre on the issue of the Sino-India border standoff. "I would credit her for one thing; at least on the Sino-India border issue, she (Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee) stood by the Centre," the FM said.

Terming the TMC government "anti-people", Sitharaman said the state was informed about cyclone Amphan 11 days in advance, but it failed to take adequate precaution. Several lives could have been saved, if timely measures were taken, she said.

On West Bengal's alleged unwillingness to bring back migrant labourers, Sitharaman said it was the only state that was not keen on taking back its workers. "The migrant labourers would never forget the treatment you (Banerjee) have meted out to them. She (Banerjee) had said that these special migrant trains were bringing more coronavirus cases to the state. It was a heartless statement," Sitharaman said.

IL&FS' environment biz likely to be sold to EverSource Capital; debt may reduce by ₹1,500 cr

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

NIIF-BACKED EVERSOURCE Capital is set to take over IL&FS Environmental Infrastructure & Services Limited (IEISL) and its subsidiaries, as the former has emerged the highest bidder for them. The deal is likely to reduce the debt of IL&FS Group by close to Rs 1,500 crore, which is the combined debt of entities under IL&FS' environment businesses.

EverSource Capital manages Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), established with anchor investment from India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and the Department for International Development (DFID), Government of UK. As per sources close in the know, EverSource Capital is the highest bidder for IEISL and its subsidiaries—RDF Power Projects Limited (RDF), East Delhi Waste Processing Company Limited (EDWPCL), Swayam Swachatta Initiative Limited (SSIL) and Dakshin Dilli Swachh Initiatives Limited (DDSL).

It is learnt that the committee of creditors of these IL&FS Group companies held their first meeting with EverSource Capital last week and voting on the proposal would be held over the next couple of weeks. A source said that while the deal is largely acceptable to lenders, they will have to take over 50 per cent haircut. An

IL&FS spokesperson declined to comment on the matter.

Once concluded, the deal will result in additional debt reduction of close to Rs 1,500 crore for the IL&FS Group. IL&FS Group has already reduced its debt by close to Rs 6,000 crore on account of sale of assets including its stake in GIFT city and its wind energy business.

IEISL is engaged in integrated waste management, focused on scientific and sustainable solid waste management in India. It operates a waste management platform by integrating economic and environmental models with a total waste handling capacity of around 14,500 tonnes per day.

IL&FS is the promoter shareholder of IEISL and owns 97.54 per cent of equity shares of IEISL. The balance 2.46 per cent is owned by IL&FS Employee Welfare Trust.

The transaction will also include IEISL's shareholding in its subsidiaries and joint ventures.

Both DDSIL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of IEISL, and SSIL, in which IEISL owns 51 per cent stake, are engaged in collection, transportation and disposal of all types of waste. IEISL further owns 48.95 per cent stake in EDWPCL, which operates a 12 megawatt municipal solid waste to energy plant in Delhi, to generate electricity. It also owns 77 per cent stake in RDF, which generates power from liquid, gaseous, solid fuel or municipal solid waste and is currently in the implementation phase.

BRIEFLY

PNB: ₹6.7K cr sanctioned

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) Sunday said it sanctioned Rs 6,757 crore in 2,96,753 eligible MSME accounts under the Rs 3 lakh crore credit guarantee scheme, as of June 25. **ENS**

'Block on WTO panel request'

New Delhi: India will block the requests of Japan and Chinese Taipei for setting up of a dispute settlement panel at the WTO against New Delhi's customs duties on imports of certain ICT products, an official said. **PTI**

Charged with 'prejudicial' functioning, Delhi Gymkhana Club may undergo overhaul

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

THE PRINCIPAL Bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ruled that the Delhi Gymkhana Club was acting in a manner prejudicial to "public interest" and therefore must be probed. A single-member Bench of acting president BSV Prakash Kumar ruled that a five-member central government-appointed panel should look into the Club's affairs, including land usage and various policies on member admissions it has had over the years.

Where is the Club?

Located in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi, the 107-year old Delhi Gymkhana Club is a colonial era club spread over 28 acres. The club has always been ex-

tremely limited and exclusive, with waiting periods for membership stretching as long as 45 years.

Registered as a company under Section 8 of Companies Act, the club claims a perpetual lease over the premises it is currently housed in, and pays a nominal rent of Rs 1,000 per year. Class one officers of the government who wish to be its members must submit an application with a demand draft of Rs 1.5 lakh, while private citizens not working for the government must submit a crossed demand draft of Rs 7.5 lakh.

The club is run by a 16-member governing body, which consists of various retired government and army officers as well as other private citizens. In April this year, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) moved the NCLT claiming that the club was being run in a manner which was "prejudicial to public interest".

Why does MCA want to take over the Club?

Among various other charges, the MCA alleged that the club had over the course of time become a den of nepotism and given preferential treatment in membership only to existing members and their children. Due to complex rules over admission to the club, the membership was consistently denied to applicants, the Ministry alleged.

This, the Ministry had claimed, was in violation of Companies Act, under which the club was registered and functioning. The MCA had then petitioned the NCLT that a 15-member body should replace the existing general committee of the

club. It also suggested that the new committee would undertake a "restructuring" so that the club "functions as per the terms of its memorandum and articles of association."

'Denied membership to MCA official'

In its reply to the petition moved by the MCA, the Delhi Gymkhana Club had alleged that it was facing harassment at the hands of the Centre as it had denied membership to Navrang Saini, a high-ranking official of the MCA. The club also alleged that the report based on which the Centre claimed mismanagement, was signed in a hurry by the concerned official "without application of mind".

EXPLAINED

Manchester City will give Liverpool guard of honour

Manchester City will form a guard of honour for new English Premier League champions Liverpool when they meet Thursday, City manager Pep Guardiola said.

How lower-rung tennis players are targeted by fixers

Players ranked beyond 200 become easy prey owing to lower scrutiny, higher financial insecurity and prize money disparity

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, JUNE 28

TWO INDIVIDUALS of Indian ethnicity but residing in Melbourne, allegedly a part of the Australian branch of an international tennis match-fixing syndicate, have been charged by the Victoria Police for influencing at least two lower-level tournaments in Brazil and Egypt during the 2018 season, as reported by *The Sydney Morning Herald*. The head of the syndicate, revealed as Indian-resident Ravinder Dandiwal by police documents, however has not been charged as yet.

The syndicate reportedly works in convincing lower-ranked players from South America and Europe to fix matches, while the group's members then place bets with bookies accordingly.

Dandiwal, according to his social media description reported in the *SMH*, is said to be the owner of India-based sports management company Ultimate Sports Management, and has promoted cricket tours in the past – such as the Willowfest Australian Cricket Championship in 2017 and the Asian Premier League T20, held in Nepal a year later.

He has also been described as the 'General Secretary of the Cricket Council of India' and 'Chairman of the Cricket Premier League.'

The case comes just a few days after Tunisian player Majed Kailani was found guilty by the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) of fixing matches played in 2016.

Match-fixing, like in other sports, has been plaguing tennis especially since there are official tournaments taking place at the same time all over the world, making it difficult for authorities to police all the events.

Who are the two individuals arrested and what are the charges?

Harsimrat Singh, 22, (a relative of Dandiwal) and Rajesh Kumar, 32, have received nine and 16 charges respectively. Both are residents of Point Cook, a suburb in Melbourne. They have been charged with using information regarding a fixed match to place a total of 22 bets.

According to the charges reported by the



Tunisian tennis player Majed Kilani has been banned for seven years after the sport's anti-corruption body said that he conspired to fix matches in 2016. AP

SIMPLY PUT

SMH, the duo were given information about "one or more of the players... and had arranged with Ravinder Dandiwal to manipulate the result of the match" or of players who had been "recruited (by Dandiwal) to engage in corrupt conduct."

With the information, the pair placed 22 bets ranging from AUD 8.70 to AUD 25,000 on lower-level tennis matches, with an estimate of AUD 320,000 (around 1.66 crore INR according to today's exchange rate) expected in winnings. It is also alleged that a part of the winnings are then shared with the players involved.

The pair had been arrested in 2018 and charges have been filed now awaiting a court hearing scheduled for September.

At what level of tennis does match-fixing take place the most?

The problem is rife at the lower levels, mainly in the Futures events. Countries like Egypt and Brazil conduct numerous events at the lower level – which is perhaps why the syndicate had aimed to fix matches at these venues. The South American nation also hosts at least one Challenger event, along with the ATP 500 event at Rio de Janeiro, but the higher the level of a tournament, the less likely it is to be involved in match-fixing owing to obvious scrutiny.

Why is match-fixing prominent at the lower levels?

The players that normally compete at these events are ranked quite low and cannot get an entry to the better prize money events. These players tend to be unknown on the circuit, and since the prize money at this level is not lucrative, they are easy prey. The investigation by the Victoria Police also found that all the players targeted by Kumar and Singh's group were ranked lower than 200.

What is the pay gap between tournament tiers?

The winner of the M25 event (the highest for a Futures event) in Nussloch, Germany is USD 3600. The amount is doubled to USD 7200 for the winner of the USD 50,000 Bangkok Challenger (a step up from Futures). In both these cases, the winner of the event has to win five matches in knockout format. Meanwhile, the first round loser at the main draw of the Australian Open received AUD 90,000, which is just under USD 62,000. All these events took place in the same week, commencing January 20, 2020.

The disparity in prize money at different levels has been a keen point of discussion after the tour was suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving lower ranked players in particular without an income.

Has there been a case of a high profile player being involved in match-fixing?

In January this year, former world no 69 Joao Souza of Brazil was banned for life by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) after an investigation revealed that he had been involved in match-fixing at Challenger and Future events in Brazil, Czech Republic, Mexico and the United States. Souza was also charged with failure to report approaches to fix matches, and also failing to cooperate with the investigation.

Do tennis governing bodies coordinate with betting firms to keep track of illegal activities?

Yes. The most prominent case was in 2007, when then world no 4 Nikolay Davydenko pulled out during his match against unfancied Argentine Martin Vassallo

Arguello, who was ranked 87 at the time. During their second round match at an ATP event in Poland, betting company Betfair noticed bets being placed on the match to the tune of, according to a *BBC* report, UK Pound 3.4 million, which was about 10 times the usual money put on second round matches. Crucially, the bet was on Arguello winning the match, despite Davydenko claiming the first set.

Betfair considered void all the bets because of the alarming irregularity, and duly notified the ATP about the unusual pattern. The ATP began its investigation, but after a year cleared Davydenko and Arguello of any wrongdoing.

Has the ATP put up measures to quell unfair betting?

Yes. Though most ATP events are broadcast, there is a lag that can go up to a minute between the live action and pictures coming up on the television screen. During the lag, people in the audience can message punters, who can alter bets immediately before a particular point is televised.

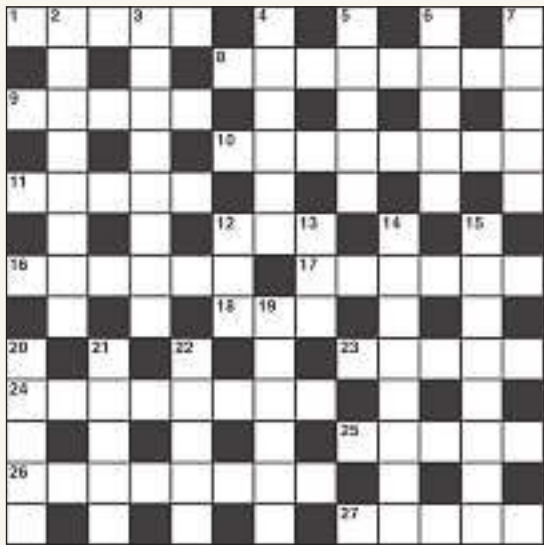
Accordingly, the TIU sends a security team to monitor the crowd at stadia during ATP Tour matches. The team keeps an eye out for suspicious activity – for example, a fan using the phone or laptop frequently during a match. In such cases, security officials investigate the situation, and it may result in the fan being banned from attending tennis events in the future.

Have the governing bodies been proactive in their investigations?

Not entirely. In 2016, the BBC and BuzzFeed News conducted an investigation and revealed that "16 players who have ranked in the top 50 have been repeatedly flagged to the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) over suspicions they have thrown matches." The report claimed that some of the players were former Grand Slam winners. Another report from 2008 alleged that 28 players had been involved in illegal activities.

None of the findings however, were followed up on by authorities as the ATP was reluctant to dig into cases going back 10 years, according to *BBC*.

CROSSWORD 4156



ACROSS

- Wet branch (5)
- Holds a candle to matches (8)
- One object of alliance (5)
- Indoor transport (8)
- Gather courage (5)
- A badly run vessel (3)
- Yet one may be at one's lowest on them (6)
- He is upset by Ronald (6)
- Oval dish (3)
- The sound of tears and rows (5)
- The plane might be a Jumbo (8)
- You get the measure of it, reading between the lines (5)
- One in the church made to perform duties (8)
- Yet I'd be converted to God (5)

DOWN

- She confuses people about a couple of points (8)
- Objects when the claret is shaken up (8)
- Where seconds do the work of a minute (6)
- Game fellow (5)
- Imbibed – too much? (5)
- Piece of land apparently not untenanted (5)
- Spend that American note (3)
- The horse to go on and on? (3)
- Private hint (8)
- None left unhurt? (3,5)
- Look for a bird (6)
- Calls the conditions (5)
- Inclined to sound fast (5)
- A game that calls for silence (5)

Solutions Crossword 4155: Across: 1 Flying leap, 6 Armid, 10 Lasso, 11 Albatross, 12 Sediment, 13 Cairo, 15 Oedipus, 17 Sachets, 19 Toy dogs, 21 Corpses, 22 Fargo, 24 Relating, 27 Retention, 28 Alibi, 29 Sort, 30 Well-heeled. Down: 1 Fold, 2 Yesterday, 3 Naomi, 4 Leaders, 5 Arbutus, 7 Maori, 8 Dispossess, 9 Stock car, 14 Coat of arms, 16 Profound, 18 Essential, 20 Sardine, 21 Colonel, 23 Rotor, 25 Trade, 26 Kind.

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.

If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a ____ – George Bernard Shaw (10)

NNIOO



AALNS



DIIMNU



HHIICC

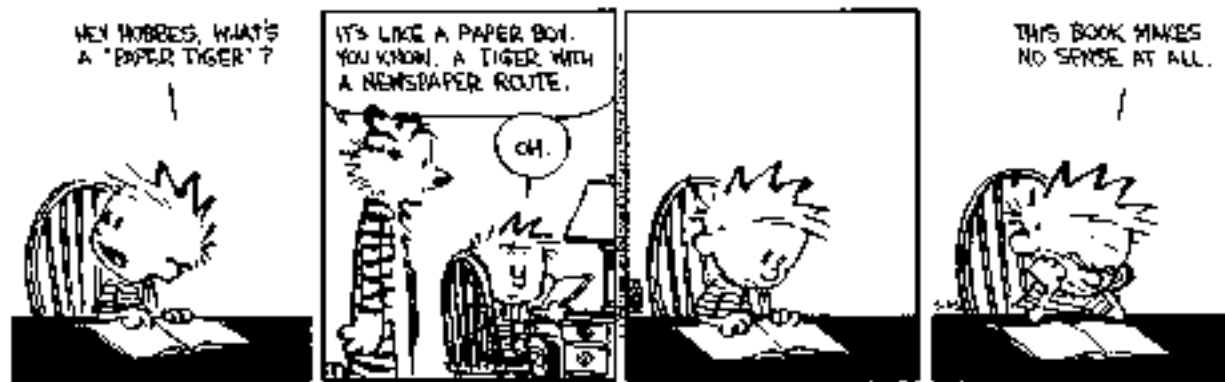


SOLUTION: NATION, NATION, NATION, NATION, NATION. Answer: If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4154

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4153



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The fact that the Moon, ruling your emotions, is so very important today, suggests that not only is this a day to bring all existing plans to fruition, but also that you should do your best to force the pace. Other people need to remember who is top.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

It's not always a good idea to reveal all. In fact, you do seem to have something to be secretive about. All things considered, I'd say that so sudden and so curious is the current change in direction, that it may be the end of the week before you discover what is really going on.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You may throw yourself into social engagements with one hundred and one percent enthusiasm. It's a wonderful day for differences of opinion, so if you have anything to get off your chest, do so today. The one qualification is that you must stick to the facts.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The time will come when you have to consider a professional or other worldly ambition in a new light. The only way to learn is to make mistakes, so don't worry about whether something is going to work out as planned. Just do it! You'll get it right next time.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Today's energetic lunar alignments are splendid for all Leos everywhere. Focus on all adventurous schemes, throw caution to the wind and let yourself go. Hopefully, partners should take care of the practical ramifications. If they don't, then you can always sort them out in a few days' time.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Fortunate planetary pressures are set to produce increased prosperity and popularity for poor old Virgo. Help might come from where it is least expected, perhaps in the form of hard cash, hopefully within the next three days. If nothing happens now, then you might have to wait for another month.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The Sun extends its bountiful influence over you, indicating that a significant season is continuing. You may feel as if a family member is giving you a sideways push, temporarily knocking you off your perch. However, the lesson may be a salutary and much needed one.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

The theme for the day is hard work. In every area of life, even if you're pursuing a romantic goal, you should push yourself to the limit. There could be satisfactory developments for those of you contemplating major domestic upheavals, mainly because you're more determined than you were in the past.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

As from now you should begin to allocate a higher priority to your creative powers and instincts. Today's forceful lunar alignment suggests that this is a positive time to lay your feelings on the line. Just make sure that you've got the facts straight.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

A number of planetary cycles reach critical points today. Ambitious Capricorns are about to hit an assertive professional phase but, before then, all Goats must make the necessary adjustments at home. You can't afford to overlook any detail, no matter how small.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Today's harmonious planetary picture offers you the chance to conduct a minor revolution in almost whatever area of life you choose. Financially, keep a tight rein on family spending, and a close watch on younger relations. You need to know where to draw the line.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Many Pisceans labour under the illusion that they are thoroughly unmaterialistic and superior to such things as financial considerations. Just how wrong this is, will be proved over the next three days! There'll be times when you'll have a shrewd financial brain on those sensitive shoulders.

Penalise players guilty of racism like dopers and match-fixers, says Holder

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
MANCHESTER, JUNE 28

WEST INDIES skipper Jason Holder has called for strict action against players found guilty of making racist comments, saying they should be penalised just like dope offenders and match-fixers. "I don't think the penalty for doping or corruption should be any different for racism," Holder told *BBC Sport*.

"If we've got issues within our sport, we must deal with them equally." According to ICC rules, a player can be banned for life for on-pitch racist abuse if he breaches the anti-racism code three times. A first offence results in four to eight suspension points.

Two suspension points equate to a ban for one Test or two one-day internationals or two T20 international matches. Holder, who is set to lead his side against hosts England in the three-Test series beginning on July 8, said anti-racism feature can be introduced where players will be briefed about the issue ahead of each series.

"In addition to having anti-doping briefings and anti-corruption briefings, maybe we should have an anti-racism feature before we start a series," he said. "My message is more education needs to go around it. I've not experienced any racial abuse first hand but have heard or seen a few things around it. It's something you just can't stand for."

In international cricket, there have been instances where players have been penalised for racism. Last year, Sarfaraz Ahmed, who was the captain of the Pakistan team then, was banned for four matches after he made a racist remark at South Africa all-rounder Andile Phehlukwayo.

The death of African-American George Floyd at the hands of a white police officer in the United States has triggered global outrage against racism in society. Many cricketers, including former West Indies captains Darren Sammy and Chris Gayle, have opened up about racist incidents that happened in their lives and also supported the Black Lives Matters campaign.