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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Fix uniform policy on movement within NCR, SC to states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday asked the governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to hold a meeting with the Centre to evolve a common policy on allowing interstate movement in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Underlining that there should be a consistent policy for the NCR, a bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, S K Kaul and M R Shah asked the states to try and find a common programme and portal within a week.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Rohit Bhalla, a Gurgaon-based entrepreneur, who sought to declare as unconstitutional the measures imposed by the Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi administrations, which purportedly restrict movement for permissible

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

AGENDA FOR G12

BY SANJAYA BARU
PAGE 12

RS polls heat up in Gujarat: Two Cong MLAs resign

MANOJ CG & ADITIRAJA
NEW DELHI, VADODARA,
JUNE 4

ELECTIONS FOR 18 Rajya Sabha seats, which will be held on June 19 to mark resumption of political activity after the Covid lockdown, heated up Thursday with two Congress MLAs resigning in Gujarat.

The development is a setback to the party's hopes of winning two out of four seats in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state, especially after the resignation of five other MLAs in March. A similar situation in MP, just days before the lockdown was imposed on March 24, had led to the exit of senior leader Jyotiraditya Scindia from the

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of The Indian Express. This page is an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express Group for Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Modi-Morrison

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LIFE GOES ON, ALMOST

An ambulance driver stops for a shave after a trip to the Nigambodh Ghat crematorium in New Delhi on Thursday. Tashi Tobgyal

Unlockdown SOPs: 50% seats in restaurants, food courts in malls

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

RESTAURANT AND food courts in malls to operate at 50 per cent seating capacity with a mandatory distance of six feet between tables. No common prayer mats, physical offerings like prasada, or sprinkling of holy water, in places of worship. Age and health-based restrictions on stepping out of home. Masks to be mandatory, and the Aarogya Setu app "advised" for all.

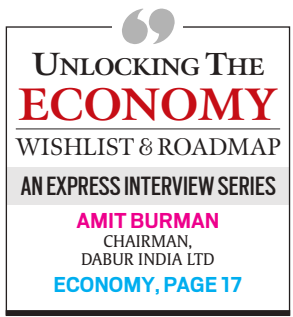
These are the key elements of the Standard Operating Procedures issued by the Union Health Ministry Thursday for the reopening of malls, religious places, offices, restaurants and

hotels in the Covid Unlockdown from June 8.

The SOPs, however, specify that all such establishments, except those for medical or essential services, shall remain shut in containment zones.

Apart from the mandatory

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IRDAI's Covid cover: Daily cap of Rs 5,000 for room

GEORGE MATHWU & SANDEEP SINGH
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

WITH THE case count rising across the country, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has unveiled a standard individual Covid-19 product, under which room charges have been capped at Rs 5,000 per day, ICU charges at Rs 10,000 per day and quarantine charges at Rs 3,000 per day, with a maximum sum insured of Rs 5 lakh.

While it is a draft product for now, and there may be some minor tweaks, the regulator has asked general and health insurers to ensure that this product is compulsorily offered on or before June 15.

Sources in the industry said while the existing health insurance policies cover Covid-19 treatment, the fresh IRDAI guidelines and caps would be limited to Covid-specific products that will be issued over the next 10 days.

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20% of India's cases in Mumbai but daily tests frozen at 4,000 all of May

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA & LAXMAN SINGH
MUMBAI, JUNE 4

WHILE THE central government and health experts have been pushing for aggressive testing, Mumbai, which accounts for 20 per cent of India's Covid-19 case load, kept its testing numbers almost stagnant in May.

The city tested between 4,000 and 4,200 daily, even as the number of positive cases detected rose steadily. Mumbai has the capacity to carry out about 10,000 tests every day.

The city's stagnant testing numbers were in sharp contrast to the daily testing figures for Maharashtra as a whole, which saw a 100 per cent jump over the same period—from 7,237 tests on May 1 to 14,504 tests on May 31. This suggests that as



Sanjay Nishad, a migrant worker, waiting at the Pune Railway Station for a train to take him home to Sultanpur, UP, in time to conduct the last rites of his 9-year-old daughter who passed away Thursday morning. Pavan Khengre

Maharashtra increased its testing capacity, all of the new testing happened outside Mumbai. This is surprising, given that the problem is not as acute in other

MODI-MORRISON VIRTUAL SUMMIT

India, Australia upgrade strategic talks to Minister level, as with US, Japan

Eye on China, both sides outline roadmap for maritime ties in Indo-Pacific

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

ELEVATING THE 2009 bilateral Strategic Partnership to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), India and Australia Thursday decided to upgrade the existing 2+2 dialogue between their Foreign and Defence Secretaries to the Ministerial level.

This lends significant political heft to the bilateral mechanism and brings it on a par with the 2+2 ministerial level dialogues India already has with the US and Japan, the other members of the Quadrilateral grouping.

"Our Foreign and Defence Ministers will meet in a 2+2 format to discuss strategic issues at least every two years," the joint statement said after the first virtual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison.

Officials said there was no discussion on the ongoing tension along the India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC) but with an eye on Beijing, the two sides announced a roadmap "for maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region to harness opportunities and meet challenges together as comprehensive strategic partners".

The two sides signed the much-anticipated Mutual Logistics Support agreement, which will allow use of each other's bases, and increase "military inter-operability through

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Prime Minister Modi during the virtual summit with his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison. PTI

'If LAC not marked soon, build-up like on LoC likely'

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4

IF THE Line of Actual Control isn't delineated soon, it will remain vulnerable to face-offs and India and China may end up deploying more troops there, just like it is on the LoC with Pakistan, said Gen (ret'd) V P Malik who was Chief of Army staff when the Kargil intrusion took place in 1999. Gen Malik, who led the Army in the successful eviction of Pak troops, said, in an interview to *The Indian Express*, that an aggressive China, besides nibbling at Ladakh, could also attempt to take control of Karakoram Pass and the area between it and Shaksam Valley ceded to it by Pakistan.

Excerpts:

Do you think the Chinese posturing along LAC is linked to the action on Article 370, creation of Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, as also India's current dispute with Nepal?

When India abrogated



Article 370 and created Union Territories of J & K and Ladakh, China called it "unacceptable." Development of infrastructure along the Northern border, including the road from Pithoragarh to Lipulekh Pass, indicates India's strategic intent to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

LOCKDOWN DAY 72
CASES: 2,16,919
RECOVERED: 1,04,106
DEATHS: 6,075
TESTS: 42,42,718
DOUBLING RATE: 15.65**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGEIN 24 HRS	7-DAY AVG. GROWTH	DOUBLING RATE**
■ Maharashtra	74,860	2,560	3.98%	18.07
■ Gujarat	18,117	485	2.54%	28.30
■ Delhi	23,645	1,513	6.46%	11.15
■ Tamil Nadu	25,872	1,286	4.85%	14.85
■ Bihar	4,326	230	5.19%	13.88
■ West Bengal	6,508	340	6.49%	11.10

* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days ** Calculated over 7-day growth

CONCERN	CAUTION	A GLIMMER
DELHI: 1,500+ cases Wednesday. Fastest growing among states with top 5 case loads.	TRIPURA: More than 500 cases now. Unlike rest of NE, rise steady, not sporadic.	PUNJAB: After rise in mid-May, growth has slowed down. Doubling in more than 23 days now.

Based on daily data by Centre, ICMR, state governments

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, JUNE 4

A GOVERNMENT school in Mansa admitted 100 new students this year, including at least 50 who switched over from private institutions. Another state school, in Bathinda, logged 800 new admissions, of which 500 were studying in private schools earlier.

In all, the Punjab education department recorded 1.65 lakh new admissions in government schools this year, raising its student strength from 23,52,112 to 25,17,866. It's a record of sorts, say officials, because the spike last year was 5,350.

The reason? Teachers, parents and the State Education Minister point to the economic

distress triggered by the Covid lockdown that has forced dropouts from private schools across the state.

Punjab has a total of 19,175 government schools. And according to the Education Department, the new admissions were mostly to the pre-primary section where 65,192 more students were enrolled, followed by 37,599 in Class 2, 21,732 in Class 11, and 27,851 in Class 12.

"Government school teachers tell me that more parents with children in private schools are approaching them for admissions," Minister Vijay Inder Singla told *The Indian Express*.

Singla attributes the numbers partly to "improved infrastructure and teacher selection process". "But no doubt, Covid is an additional factor this time,



Virtual classes for students on DD Punjabi. The Punjab education department recorded 1.65 lakh new admissions in government schools this year. Gurmeet Singh

EXPLAINED

May play out elsewhere too

THE 1.65 lakh new admissions in Punjab's government schools point to a larger picture: the economic distress that the pandemic has left in its wake. With financial insecurity a reality now, more parents may be forced to shift their children out of private schools. This is a trend that may play out in other states too.

Many parents decided to come to our schools as they are under financial distress," he says.

The Minister's words find an echo on the ground.

"Recently, a well-off businessman got his child admitted in Class 9. Many parents here are facing a financial crunch due to the lockdown," says Arvind Jindal, principal of the Government Senior Secondary School in Mansa district's Kotra.

Jagjit Walia, head teacher at the primary school in Mansa city, confirms "100 new admissions of which 50 per cent have come from private schools". Officials in Bathinda say over 62 per cent of new admissions at the Government Adarsh School have made the switch.

Vijay Kumar, who runs a

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



VIETNAM'S SHIVA LINGA DISCOVERY: MORE VALIDATION OF A 'FARTHER INDIA' PAST

The My Son temple complex where the Shiv lingam has been discovered, is one among the many archaeological remnants in Southeast Asia that are testimony to the strong cultural, linguistic, and religious links that have existed with India since the beginning of the Christian era.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



RAJIV BAJAJ SPEAKS TO RAHUL GANDHI

Many businessmen are scared of speaking, said Bajaj

EXPLAINED



WHAT'S THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT?

The government can control production and supply of a commodity

EXPRESS AUDIO

How people returning to states is affecting plans to tackle Covid-19

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

We speak with our correspondents from different states on the pressure the return of thousands is putting on the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic

FROM PAGE ONE

India, Australia upgrade strategic ties to minister level

defence exercises." India has such agreements with US, France, Singapore and South Korea.

Ahead of the talks, Modi said that the bedrock of deepening India-Australia ties are "shared values, shared interests, shared geography and shared objectives." He said that, in recent years, cooperation and coordination between the two countries have picked up momentum.

Morrison said, "We are committed to an open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific, and India's role in that region. Our region will be critical in the years ahead."

"The relationship we are forming around those issues on our maritime domain, I think, is the platform for so many other things between our countries," he said.

While there was no specific proposal on Australia joining the Malabar exercises, both sides agreed to continue to "deepen and broaden defence cooperation" by enhancing the scope and complexity of their military exer-

cises to address shared security challenges.

Referring to the ongoing debate over World Health Organisation's role in dealing with the Covid pandemic, the statement said that both sides will reflect on the recommendations of the ongoing independent evaluation of the international response.

"We will work together to strengthen international institutions to ensure they are inclusive and rules-based," the statement said.

On the bilateral effort to fight the pandemic, they said that they were committed to a new phase of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund to promote innovative solutions for responding to and treating Covid as well as other jointly determined priorities, to be preceded by a one-off Special Covid Collaboration Round in 2020.

Both sides jointly decided to work together in digital economy, cyber security and critical and emerging technologies as identified by the framework arrangement on Cyber and Cyber-enabled critical technology cooperation.

During the talks, Australia said India could consider it as a "stable, reliable and trusted supplier" of

high-quality mineral resources to India. Both sides jointly decided to diversify and expand the existing resources partnership.

A pact on cooperation in the field of mining and processing of Critical and Strategic minerals identifies specific areas where both sides will work together to meet the technological demands of the future economy. Both countries jointly decided to cooperate on new technologies for exploration and extraction of other minerals.

Both sides identified agriculture as an important pillar of the Australian and Indian economies with shared challenges and climatic conditions. To that effect, both agreed to work on grains management and "logistics to reduce post-harvest losses, rationalise costs and ensure farmer income is not affected by supply chain disruptions (particularly in light of the pandemic)."

Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary (east), MEA, said there was no discussion on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). India had pulled out of RCEP last November and Australia has expressed hope that India would reconsider joining the trade agreement with 15 countries, including China, south-east and east Asian countries.

To monitor the comprehensive strategic partnership, the two sides expressed their desire to increase the frequency of Prime Ministerial contact through reciprocal bilateral visits and annual meetings on the margins of international events.

Fix uniform policy on NCR movement, SC tells states

activities in areas falling within the NCR due to "blanket orders of sealing borders without reasonable exceptions".

The petitioner alleged "complete sealing of borders" within the NCR and restrictions imposed on movement of citizens violated the new guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on May 1, which allow movement for permissible activities.

Taking up the matter, filed through Advocates Anindita Mitra and Aman Bhalla, via video conference, the bench said there was a recommendation for a common pass for the NCR, which should be recognised by all three states.

The Haryana government counsel told the bench that the

state has lifted all restrictions on movement at its borders.

The counsel for Delhi said a consistent policy was needed for the NCR.

The court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to take instructions on this question and posted the matter for hearing after a week.

In his plea, the petitioner listed the difficulties caused by restrictions on movement, and said industrial operations were unable to re-start as industrial areas are located in Central NCR, while the management of such units have to travel from other areas within the NCR, thereby requiring the daily crossing of the inter-state borders.

It referred to the April 29 order of the district administrations in Haryana, applicable to Gurgaon and Sonapat, and a public statement on May 3 by the district administrations of Uttar Pradesh on Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad in this regard.

On May 15, the Supreme Court had sought responses from the Centre and the three states on the petition.

RS polls heat up in Gujarat: Two Cong MLAs resign

party and the Kamal Nath government being toppled.

In Gujarat, first-time MLA Akshay Patel from Vadodara district's Karjan and four-time MLA Jitubhai Chaudhary from the reserved seat of Kaprada in Valsad handed their resignations to Speaker Rajendra Trivedi.

Their move reduces the Gujarat Assembly's strength to 173, which means a candidate will require 35 first-preference votes to win a seat.

The Congress, which has fielded senior leaders Shaktisinh Gohil and Bharatsinh Solanki, now has only 66 MLAs, four short of the 70 required to win two seats. The ruling BJP has 103 in the House, and can ensure victory for two of its candidates, Ramilaben Bara and Abhay Bharadwaj.

While the Congress is assured of one seat, the contest is now for the remaining spot for which the BJP has fielded Narhari Amin, a former Congress leader, and needs just two more votes to get him through.

The Congress, meanwhile, is bracing for "more bad news" amid unconfirmed reports that another MLA could resign. But the party appeared to have survived a scare when two other MLAs — Anil Joshiyara from Bhiloda in Sabarkantha and Jaspal Thakor from Padra in Vadodara — were "unreachable" for hours.

State Congress leaders said both the MLAs had been traced. They claimed that a BJP MLA "was in touch" with Joshiyara while Thakor is believed to be "disap-

pointed" over lack of access to the state leadership.

When contacted by *The Indian Express*, Joshiyara and Thakor denied any plan to quit the party.

State Congress chief Amit Chavda, who is a cousin of the party's second candidate Solanki, told *The Indian Express* that a meeting of the 66 MLAs was held. "We have ensured that no defections will happen," he said. Paresh Dhanani, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, said that any "tussle in the party is an internal matter and BJP should not look to exploit it".

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, AICC state in-charge Gujarat Rajeev Satav accused the BJP state government of having "totally failed in tackling the coronavirus outbreak" and "focusing on horse trading" instead. "The people of Gujarat are watching and will not pardon them," Satav said.

BJP state chief Jitubhai Vaghani blamed "infighting in the Congress". "The BJP is winning three seats and Congress will be swept away from Gujarat in 2022 and 2024... it is a sinking boat," Vaghani said.

In Delhi, a senior Congress leader warned that the BJP "will adopt all tactics". Another leader insisted that all is not lost. "There is unrest in the BJP, too. Many MLAs are unhappy over the working style of Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. Let's see," he said.

Sources said the Congress is hoping to get the vote of independent MLA Jignesh Mevani and "working on" NCP's Kandhal Jadeja, and Bharatiya Tribal Party MLAs Chhotu Vasava and son Mahesh Vasava.

The latest turn of events is virtually a repeat of 2017 when the Congress fielded veteran Ahmed Patel, and was hit by cross-voting and desertion. But Patel managed to scrape through.

The elections to the four seats, which were held by BJP's Chuni Gohil, Shambhuprasad Tundia and Lalsinh Vadodia, and Congress's Madhusudan Mistry, were slated for March 26 before being postponed due to the pandemic.

(KAMAAL SAIYED/SURAT & RITU SHARMA, VAIBHAV JHA/AHMEDABAD)

Pandemic forces dropouts from private schools in Punjab

well-known salon at Tapa Mandi in Barnala, is among the parents who have opted for government schools. "My elder son, who is now in Class 9, used to go to an expensive private school 15 km away. But my salon remained closed for two months due to the lockdown, and the future looks uncertain," he says.

The fee difference is

significant.

For classes 11 and 12, for instance, the fees in government schools add up to Rs 48 per month and a separate annual charge of Rs 300 for girls, and Rs 83 every month and Rs 320 for boys. There's no extra charge for textbooks, and uniforms are free till Class 8.

In comparison, private schools in the state are known to charge anywhere between Rs 20,000 to more than Rs 1 lakh per year for each student in classes 11 and 12.

With the Covid curbs in place, the state government has started three hours of classes every day through the DD Punjabi and Swayam Prabha channels from May 19.

Minister Singla warns that the lockdown's impact will become "more pronounced" in the coming months. "And many more admissions are likely to take place in government schools before the half-yearly exams," he says.

Delhi: Every fourth sample positive, officials blame 'laxity'

a staggering 37.7 per cent on May 31.

On May 28, 1,024 out of 5,988 samples tested positive for Covid-19 — a positivity of 17.1 per cent.

The following day, the numbers were 1,105 out of 5,272, or a positivity rate of 21 per cent.

The numbers on May 30 and May 31 were 1,163 out of 5,783 (20.1 per cent) and 1,295 out of 3,436 (37.7 per cent) respectively.

On June 1, June 2, and June 3, 990, 1,298 and 1,513 positive cases were reported respectively. The data on testing were not available immediately.

Previously, between May 16 and May 26, the city registered an average positivity rate of 13.17 per cent.

Overall, the positivity rate for Delhi from the beginning of the outbreak until June 3 is 10.27 per cent — with 23,645 positive cases in 2,30,145 tests. This overall figure does not, however, capture the recent spike in positivity.

The increasing positivity numbers in Delhi is in line with a national steepening of the curve. An analysis last week of daily data released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) showed a positivity of 7% nationally; that, however, was more than double that of April.

At the meeting with the Health Minister, several officials complained of a "laxity" in attitudes seen since the process of unlockdown began. They identified this as a reason for the surge in cases in the national capital.

Sources said South Delhi DMB M Mishra expressed frustration that "people... in the area [were demonstrating] a lot of laxity in their behaviour as if Corona hasn't happened at all".

"As the number of cases and fatalities rise in Delhi, it needs to ramp up testing coupled with aggressive surveillance, contact tracing, and stringent containment and perimeter control activities... The high rate of infection in healthcare workers is also a serious issue. It indicates poor infection prevention control practices in healthcare settings, and needs to be attended to on priority," Dr Harsh Vardhan said.

'If LAC not marked soon, build-up like on LoC likely'

provide greater security to its territories. These activities by India close to LAC/India-China border could be part of the reasons for the current aggressive posturing. Another reason could

be Xi Jinping's 'China Dream' losing credibility within and outside China post-Covid and his need to divert attention.

Infrastructure development in Eastern Ladakh has gained pace... Wouldn't it have been strategically prudent to factor in the Chinese response?

PLA violations of LAC in Galwan Valley and north of Pangong Tso are at the tactical level. With long gaps existing between posts held by our troops and inability to keep every bit of area under 24/7 surveillance, such tactical intrusions are always possible. Our troops, if ordered, can also do that.

However, when these intrusions are viewed along with other recent incident at Naku La and Chinese strategic behaviour vis a vis India and nexus with Pakistan, these tactical incidents need to be viewed strategically.

Have the Chinese troops occupied Indian Territory in Ladakh?

Any intrusion across the LAC and then trying to defend the area involved would be "occupation." My impression is that north of Pangong Tso, PLA troops have occupied "disputed area" between Finger 4 and 8 where both sides were patrolling till recently. In Galwan valley, they have taken up positions along the track from Shyok River to the LAC thus denying our patrols the ability to move up to the LAC.

What strategic implications does an aggressive Chinese posture in Eastern Ladakh have vis-a-vis any potential advantage that accrues to Pakistan?

An aggressive China, besides nibbling at Ladakh territory, could attempt to take control of Karakoram Pass and the area between Karakoram Pass and Shaksgam Valley ceded to it by Pakistan. That would (a) ensure greater security to Aksai Chin already under its occupation (b) link western Tibet with Shaksgam Valley, and (c) make Siachen Glacier vulnerable to Pakistan-China nexus.

Some argue that the ambiguity about the LAC is responsible for the present situation.

Three decades of talks, including 22 sessions at the level of Special Representatives, have not succeeded in making China agree to the delineation of LAC on maps pending final boundary solution.

There is not even an agreed perception of "disputed areas." Until the LAC and disputed areas are delineated, we shall continue to see accidental or deliberate face-offs. Since 1993, India and China have signed five agreements and protocols on military-level confidence-building measures along the LAC. But the alarming number of recent incidents indicates that the mechanisms are no longer effective. If the LAC and "disputed areas" are not delineated soon, India and China may end up deploying much larger forces along the LAC — like what we have on the LoC with Pakistan.

Do you anticipate the Chinese will give up whatever advantage they may have seized along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh?

Resolution of this military engagement can only be return to status quo, pre- May 2020.

Do you see heightened hostility in the event of the talks breaking down...

As per reports, India and China are working to resolve the issue. Neither side seems interested in escalating the situation.

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

CHIEF MINISTER'S MESSAGE ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Today the people of Delhi celebrate World Environment Day in extraordinary circumstances. The events of the last few months remind us that the environment around us is delicately balanced. It takes very little for this balance to be destroyed. But this is also a time of opportunity. Over the last few months the people of Delhi have come forth hand in hand to fight COVID-19 and save thousands of lives. The work has been hard, the sacrifices have been many. But we will prevail.

The fight to protect the Earth's environment will be much harder. And it will not be something that the people of Delhi or India can win alone. But if we come together again, with a common purpose, we can once again achieve tremendous things. I wish all the people of Delhi a very happy World Environment Day. Together let us build a city filled with clean air, pure water and happy, healthy people.

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

Department of Environment, Forests and Wildlife
Government of NCT of Delhi

Dip/Shabdarth/00/11/20-21



Green greetings to all environment loving citizens out there!



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sure the fact that I have opted to write an open letter instead of taking to the usual route of making posts on various social media sites is noted by you! The only subject the entire social media is revolving around for the last two months is nothing but the Coronavirus. This bane of a virus has claimed thousands of lives in the world bringing the advancement of the world to a full and painful stop. The scientist community is toiling day and night to invent a reliable treatment against this virus and change the gruesome reality around us for the better.

Anybody predicting just six months ago that the world would be facing a pandemic which is to bring everything to a stop would have been met with ridicule. But we hardly need a reminder of the gruesome reality today. This pandemic has thrown the wheel of the economy in a quagmire of chaos.

This grave predicament has altered our overall view of our life. The rains are untimely, the climate is increasingly becoming unpredictable, hailstorms here and famines there. But our only evasive reaction to all this is 'Let us take one day in our stride at a time.' Do we bother to acknowledge that our negligence meted out to nature and the climate cycle for years together has brought us to this situation? If we look at the situation closely, we may find that the environment is being thrown off balance owing to our rampant use of polythene, our unrestricted use of water, overuse of natural resources, tree felling and non-segregation of domestic waste. Not that we have a lot of time now, but we may still arrest our fall towards total annihilation. These Corona days have shown us that we are forced to incarcerate owing to fear of death while the animals and birds are moving everywhere.

Today, on World Environment Day, I request you with hands folded to take care of nature. Let's remind ourselves that we also serve Mother Nature. We cannot match nature's immeasurable might however great our advancements might be. Let us live an environment-friendly life and protect Earth.

This is the apt time to think and act towards environment conservation. A united resolve has power to turn the tide and rejuvenate our environment.

Sincerely yours,
Aaditya Thackeray

Management of COVID-19 Bio-Medical Waste in Maharashtra

Dr. Amar Supate, Principal Scientific Officer, MPCB

COVID-19:

Bio Medical Waste Management Rules, (BMWM), 2016 defines Bio Medical Waste as "Any Waste generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human being / animals, in research activities or in production or testing of Biological". Bio Medical Waste is categorised into Four categories Yellow, Red, Blue and White and needs special consideration during its handling, storage, transportation treatment and disposal specific to its color code.

BMWM Rules 2016 specify the statutory responsibility of waste management of Waste generator, Occupier of Health care Establishment, Common Facility operator, SPCB and stake holder departments responsible for BMW management at both Central and state government, in accordance with the provisions of BMW Rules and Guidelines issued by CPCB & SPCB.

COVID-19 or Corona disease originated in Wuhan, Peoples Republic of China has spread over the world and declared as global public health emergency and subsequently as pandemic because of its worldwide spread. COVID disease spreads through "Droplets" spread during the coughing, Sneezing or likely to spread / enter into respiratory system of healthy persons after touching the virus containing droplets of contaminated surfaces and thereafter touching the mouth of nose of a healthy person. No Vaccine or Drug is known to be effective till date. Therefore, the COVID-19 control strategies relied on Prevention and Containment of High risk of recurrence in infected areas/ hotspots.

Prevention includes, Personal Hygiene, Sanitation and disinfection, Increase immunity, contain and treat the patients using known therapy to treat pneumonia & tuberculosis to enhance immunity. The most effective way to prevent Corona disease SMS 5-Hand Sanitation, M- Use of Mask and S- Social Distancing.

The study as of now revealed that 80% infected peoples can be asymptomatic or carrier, 15% show symptoms and only 5% persons are at high risk. The advisories & Guidelines of World Health Organisation, Ministry of Public Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India and Central & State Pollution control Board therefore rely on prevention than control. Management of Bio Medical waste both at Health Care establishments and house hold quarantine is equally become important.

Biomedical Waste Management in Maharashtra:

Challenge of Management of Bio Medical waste in general and COVID Waste in Maharashtra is adequately taken care by HCEs and 29 Nos of Common Biomedical waste treatment facilities spread across the state. MPCB has proactively initiated serious efforts well in advance in March 2020 itself. All CTF operators were sensitised of challenges and trained online. MPCB on 20.03.2020 had circulated specific guidelines for management of COVID -19 Waste at:

A) General Individual & Public Places B) COVID -19 Suspects quarantined at Camps and Household

Community containment area C) Hospitals: i. Primary screening centres /OPD, ii) COVID 19 Patients Isolation hospitals (including critical patients) iii) COVID-19 Testing & R&D labs & others (Collection centres & small pathology lab) and Biomedical Waste CTFs.

Further on 4th April, 2020 circulated guidelines through UDD, GoM issued guidelines to all ULBS "Segregation and safe management of BMW and MSW generated at Quarantined Homes and Containment areas".

Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi published the guidelines on 18.03.2020 for COVID 19 waste management at: a) COVID Isolation Wards b) Sample Collection Centres and Laboratories for Covid Patients c) Quarantine Camps & Home Care for COVID suspected patients d) Duties of BMW CTFs and e) Duties of SPCB/PCC. Further issued revised guidelines including f) Duties of Urban Local Bodies and g) Management of wastewater from HCFs / Isolation Wards 19th April 2020.

Maharashtra is having 29 CTF having total treatment capacity of 91.2 MT/day. Before lockdown average generation of BMW was 62 MT/day. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board started daily tracking the COVID-19 Waste collection and disposal through online portal w.e.f. 1.04.2020. The Bio Medical waste COVID and Non COVID collected during April and May 2020 is as below:

Sl. No.	Month	COVID-19 BMW (MT)	Non COVID-19 BMW (MT)	Total BMW BMW (MT)
1	April, 2020	208.70 Av. 7.0 MTD	1170.45 Av. 39.0 MTD	1397.15 46 MTD
2	May 2020 (25th May)	437.35 Av. 17.5 MTD	933.52 Av. 37.5 MTD	2312.67 55.00 MTD

In view of increasing waste in Mumbai & Pune Metropolitan Area treatment capacity Gap As-

essment was done by MPCB and ensured tie up of CTFs and Municipal corporations with nearest BMW CTFs and utilising spare capacity available at CTFs for disposal. ULBs and CTFs are directed to prepare contingency plan to manage excess biomedical waste generated. Further MPCB ensured, in case the BMW quantity exceeds the total BMW treatment capacity available in the state, the Common Hazardous Waste Treatment facilities located at Taloja, Ranjangaon and Butibori are directed to be prepared for accepting BMW for disposal.

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) Principal Bench in Original Application No 72/2020 Order Dtd. 23.04.2020 directed CPCB to take certain steps to ensure COVID -19 BMW is managed effectively. In compliance of which Maharashtra ensured following steps through various stake holders.

i) Intimated all District Collectors to convene meetings of District Advisory committee to inform and implement Hon'ble NGT directions, CPCB & SPCB guidelines and ensure effective management of COVID Waste. Out of 36 DAC 30 districts have conducted DAC meetings till 2.06.2020.

ii) Directed to ensure Training of Health care and Sanitary workers at grass root level using ToT experts issued and training material uploaded on MPCB website.

iii) Intimated all RO & SRO of MPCB to ensure uploading of BMW data on web-based app for "COVID19 BWM" developed by CPCB and reporting is started.

Awareness about the precautions & steps to be taken by all handlers & workers as well as citizens, for Safe Management of Bio-Medical Waste and COVID-19 Waste:

Meeting conducted by Hon'ble Chief Secretary, GOM on 4.05.2020 and as per directions, MPCB & State Departments created Awareness through Webinars, News in Print and TV on COVID-19: Medical Waste Management, Published the periodical updates on COVID -19

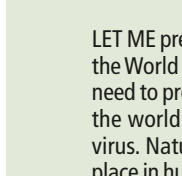
Waste Management, Guidelines, posters, and videos are made available at MPCB website, Pro-

vided Specific guidance for Sanitation workers at STPs/FSTPs. Collaborated with UNIDO, Delhi and



WE ARE fighting the global pandemic created by the coronavirus since the last two months. This global imperilment has clouded the economy of the entire world and endangered human life. This calamity has also underlined the ecological chain and biodiversity around us. Our lives are eternally intertwined with nature. But, in our passionate drive to advance our development, we chose to overlook its conservation. It is high time that we heeded the warning bells. Now, we must focus on monitoring our world and see that we curtail our needs carefully so that we do not harm our environment any more. Today, on this World Environment Day, let us come together in our resolve to safeguard our planet.

Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray, Chief Minister



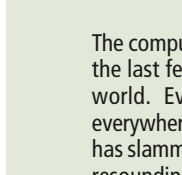
LET ME present my heart-felt greetings to you on the occasion of the World Environment Day. Today we are clearly realizing the need to protect and conserve the environment when the entire world is fighting a war against the pandemic of Corona virus. Nature, the forests and wild-life enjoy an extraordinary place in human life. The lock-down imposed to arrest the spread of Corona infections has reduced human interference in nature. As a consequence, the streams, rivers and other sources of water have become clean. Air pollution has scaled down to afford a free and clean breath for us. The cleaner air is joyous for the mind. The malady of this Corona virus is going to end sometime in future. But it does, we must see that the Nature and environment are not harmed again. The forests and wildlife within them is part of our wealth. We must conserve them. In the days after Corona pandemic, we must be vigilant towards keeping these streams, rivers and water reservoirs free of pollution. We have very well experienced how much we need the environment to lead a good life during the two and a half month's period of lock down. Let's learn our lesson from that and celebrate today's World Environment Day by committing ourselves to the protection and conservation of our environment.

Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chief Minister



THIS YEAR'S World Environment Day has come clad in a uniqueness. This year, we have become newly aware of the extraordinary importance of nature that surrounds us. This awareness changed a lot of things from before this pandemic of Corona virus. Today, we can see from the prisons of home the birds and animals living their lives without any problem whatsoever. Their sounds, which we did not even feel before, are now becoming a source of energy for us in the morning. This unrestricted movement of wild life is underlining their importance in the ecological chain of life. In these times which are being altered by the Corona virus each day, we might do well to remember that humans are just trustees of this planet and not an owner. So henceforth, let us make every action of ours as environment-friendly as possible. Let's us respect our rich environment and strive to protect Mother Earth.

Sanjay Bansode, Minister of State for Environment



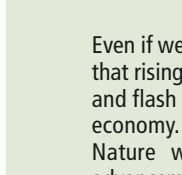
The computer revolution which the world has witnessed in the last few decades was laying the foundation of a new world. Everyone was only rooting for development everywhere. But the sudden blow dealt by the Corona virus has slammed on the brakes very hard. The whole world now resounding with the echo of only one word - Corona. But at the same time, the animals and birds are wandering everywhere without a hitch. Today, on the World Environment Day, we are realizing that we are just a part of the animal kingdom and nature around us no matter what heights of developments we may reach. We must take this realization forward and maintain the symbiotic relationship with the environment.

Anil Diggikar, Principal Secretary, Dept. Of Environment.



Till now we were busy 24/7 in our daily affairs and thought that nothing can stop our juggernaut of development. But this virus which measures in microns exposed the hollowness of our claim. Today, even as we fight this imperilment with unity, we need to understand that we must put our lifestyle under a microscope. We must protect natural link between human life and the Nature around it. The calamity of climate change is turning darker every passing day. We can protect Mother Earth by using the natural resources only to meet our dire needs and by living an environment friendly life. Towards this end, we must now adopt acts which are in sync with the environment and resolve for conserving nature.

Sudhir Shrivastava, Chairman, MPCB.



Even if we consider only the last three decades, we can see that rising temperatures, imbalance in rainfall, hail storms and flash floods are behind the blows dealt to the world economy. We can not deny that we have neglected the Nature while bringing about our development and advancement. The Corona virus has given us a new vision to look towards out way of life. Today, on the occasion of World Environment Day, it is time to link human life complementarily with the environment. This is the time to do a rethink and change our world through environment-friendly acts.

E. Ravendiran, Member-Secretary, MPCB

MSRMC, Bengaluru for finalisation of documentary for COVID Waste management.

MPCB developed Training of Trainers (ToT) with UNICEF, and AILSG Mumbai for Sanitation, Hygiene and BMW management at COVID hospitals and Quarantine camps and Sanitary workers at ULBs and extended web-based training through Webinar to ULBs (Municipal Commissioners, Dy. MCs, Chief Officers & Nodal officers), BMW CTF Operators, COVID HCEs Nodal Officers and MPCB Officers & Scientists.

Training Faculty involved experts from WHO, Mumbai, MCGM, AILSG, Tata Trust, NEERI, Nagpur, VMMC Safdarjang Hospital, Delhi, CPCB Delhi and MPCB. Training was attended by 4875 participants from various organisations. About 1200 ToT participants are expected to impart further training at local level.

The other stake holder departments also taken action for COVID Waste management as below:

1. Water Supply and Sanitation Department (WS&SD):

Published information booklet on COVID-19 infection, disease symptoms, social stigma, need for personal hygiene, use of mask, social distancing, and guidelines for front line workers for prevention & waste handling and distributed at village level.

Training given to 32,907 sanitation workers appointed at village level. Awareness material, video etc are prepared and disseminated using social media, public announcement etc.

2. Industry, Energy & Labour Department:

Labour Commissioner and Director, Boiler Department has issued directions to all establishments to strictly follow Sanitation, social distancing, and



compulsory use of mask at workplace. Further directed to ensure provision of adequate provision of PPEs to labours & security personals.

3. Swachh Bharat Mission, Urban Development Department (UDD-2):

Communicated CPCB and State

guidelines, Hon'ble NGT order and MoM of Chief Secretary, GoM to all 391 ULBs in the state.

All the ULBs are ensuring safe collection and disposal of COVID-19 waste through BMW CTFs attached, till now ULBs have identified 2252 quarantine camps, 197063 quarantine homes/cares

and total number of workers involved is 33509 out of which 10,281 are dedicated for quarantine homes/camps.

82% of ULBs identified quarantine camps /homes/cares,

82% of ULBs have setup separate team of workers engaged in COVID Waste collection at quarantine homes/home care,

85% ULBs have provision of Yellow bags for COVID Waste collec-

tion,

All ULBs have dedicated waste management teams,

100% ULBs waste handling staff has attended ToT provided by MPCB,

96% ULBs are equipped with adequate PPE to waste handlers,

91% ULBs are provided with dedi-

cated NMW trolley,

4. Public Health Department:
GOM adopted NCDC guidelines for COVID-19 isolation hospitals and quarantine wards on 1.04.2020 and following BMW Management strictly as per guidelines mentioned therein.

Arranged State ToT on 12-13 March 2020 at Pune for Dist. Level officers (2462 Nos) for containment of COVID-19 including IPC and BMW Management.

5. Medical Education, Research and Drug Department:

Ensured COVID -19 and BMW Management through ICC in each hospital and assured to upload daily data to CPCB App.

Compiling Daily update on training of health care workers (HCW).

6. Department of Environment

Conduct weekly meeting with MPCB to review status of BMW collection & Disposal, compliance status of Hon'ble NGT Orders and compliance of BMW Rules, 2016.

4 THE OUTBREAK THE CITY

SIR GANGA RAM HOSPITAL AMONG 3 MORE CONVERTED

As hospitals turn Covid-only, worries over where other patients will go

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

AN ORDER by the Delhi government to convert three private hospitals in the city into Covid-designated facilities has led to apprehensions over what happens to non-Covid patients admitted there. On Wednesday, the Delhi government declared that Sir Ganga Ram, Moolchand and Saroj Super Speciality, with bed capacities of 508, 140 and 154 respectively, will now be Covid hospitals.

The hospitals are in an overdrive to prepare for the transition — from shifting or discharging

patients to arranging manpower, PPEs, N95 masks and gloves.

While Sir Ganga Ram Hospital will earmark 80% of its beds, the others will reserve 100%. These three are functioning on concessional lands, and each will reserve 25% of the total bed capacity for EWS Covid patients, to be treated free of cost.

"There are 60 patients admitted at present. We are trying to figure out how many can be discharged and how many need further treatment. We can't just refer them to any other hospital; they are our responsibility. Starting today, we have stopped taking non-Covid patients," said a senior doctor from one of the hospitals.

The 675-bed Ganga Ram hospital has to earmark 508 beds for Covid patients. However, the hospital's testing lab was recently issued a showcause notice by the government for alleged delayed testing and flouting ICMR protocol. The lab, on an average, would conduct 300-350 tests a day. Sources said unless testing is allowed to resume, the days ahead will be difficult, especially since 20% of the beds are still reserved for non-Covid patients.

Sources also said patients with scheduled procedures, such as deliveries, are now apprehensive of being admitted to a largely Covid facility.

Then there's the issue of in-

sufficient time. In March, AIIMS had converted its trauma centre into a Covid facility, and existing patients were shifted in a phased manner to the main AIIMS campus. Healthcare workers were trained for a month before dealing with Covid patients.

"It is extremely important to look at the centralised AC system, as Covid and non-Covid areas should not get mixed. Any hospital, before functioning as a Covid facility, should ensure sufficient oxygen points, place for ICU beds and space for admitting patients with moderate symptoms. There should be enough manpower, PPE kits," said Dr DK Sharma, medical superintendent of AIIMS, adding that it took around 10 days for the administration to convert the facility.

Similarly, a senior official from Lok Nayak said it took at least three-four days for the transition. "Many patients were discharged and some shifted to other hospitals," said the official, admitting that regular patients do have to bear the brunt.

Another private hospital said: "Many patients have been availing treatment with us for months, even years. They will never go to a government hospital, but what choice do we have? While treating Covid patients, we cannot forget about those with other serious ailments."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

A WAR of words broke out between Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain over what the AAP government claims are "false positive" Covid test results from Centre-run Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, with Vardhan saying Jain should focus on improving healthcare facilities in Delhi instead of seeking "cheap publicity".

Jain said Thursday that the hospital was delaying results and that when 30 tests conducted by it were retested a day later, it was found that 14 were either negative or inconclusive. Jain also said that the hospital was not giving test reports within 24 hours.

"Firstly, they are not giving reports on time. 70% Covid patients are dying within 24 hours of being hospitalised. This is because they had got tests done but reports were not available for five to seven



Vardhan said Jain should focus on improving health facilities in Delhi

controlling it in Delhi. This will only weaken the country in its fight against the disease. Instead of making allegations against a reputed hospital like RML for cheap publicity, Satyendar Jainji should fix healthcare facilities in the city."

RML Hospital spokesperson Smriti Tiwari called the Delhi government's allegations "false and baseless".

Hospital sources claimed the initial delays were due to lack of testing kits, but the backlog has been cleared now. "We have a high positivity rate because our hospital is close to hotspots in Central Delhi," said an official.

Delhi saw 1,319 fresh Covid cases in 24 hours, taking the total to 25,004. A total of 44 deaths, of which 22 occurred over the past 24 hours, were also reported.

There are 14,456 active cases in the city, of which 3,306 are hospitalised, 9,473 are in home quarantine, 1,164 are in Covid care and health centres and others are being assessed.

days and they did not know they had Covid. Results must be declared within 24 hours," he said.

He added that the percentage of false positive cases being declared by the hospital was high. "Recently, RML Hospital tested 94% samples as positive in a day. On retesting, we found 45% of these to be negative. I have spoken to the Union Minister and have asked them to either shut the lab or rectify things," Jain said.

Vardhan hit back: "It is not right to politicise Covid instead of

BRIEFLY

Policeman suspended

New Delhi: An assistant sub-inspector of Delhi Police was suspended with "immediate effect" for not wearing a face mask and failing to maintain social distancing norms in office. The ASI is posted with the 4th Battalion of Delhi Armed Police. This is the first time departmental action has been taken against police personnel for not following social distancing norms.

Power discom launches new 'smart' feature

New Delhi: Tata Power-DDL, a leading power utility supplying electricity to a populace of 7 million in North Delhi, has introduced a smart feature of Self-Meter Reading for its consumers during the ongoing pandemic, in line with the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission's guidelines to ensure safety of consumers. Under this initiative, consumers can get their bills based on the actual meter reading as opposed to the provisional bills.

20 Metro employees test positive

New Delhi: As many as 20 employees of Delhi Metro have tested Covid-19 positive so far, sources said Thursday. "Some employees, scattered across Delhi-NCR, have unfortunately been infected by the virus. They are all safe and recovering gradually," DMRC said in a statement.

DU to skip exams for 1st, 2nd yr students

New Delhi: DU Thursday said it would not hold examinations for first- and second-year UG students, and that assessment would be done on based on the previous semester's marks and internal assessment. It said it was a "one-time measure" taken in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. This applies to regular students studying in various DU colleges, SOL and the Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board. It also applies to first-year PG students.

Man held for killing cab driver

New Delhi: A car dealer was arrested from Jharkhand on May 30 for allegedly killing a cab driver in a bid to steal his vehicle at Southeast Delhi on March 19, police said. ENS

Blocked borders expose another Covid casualty: The concept of NCR

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

TILL APRIL 19, the idea of Delhi-NCR as a singular entity, spanning the national capital and 23 districts across Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan was a robust one — at least on paper.

April 21 marked the beginning of its unravelling, with the Ghaziabad administration sealing borders with Delhi. A day later, Gautam Budh Nagar, under which Noida and Greater Noida fall, too shut the capital out.

Ten days later, the Haryana government announced curbs on entry to Gurgaon and other districts bordering Delhi. While Noida has kept its borders shut ever since April 21, Ghaziabad offered some relaxations on May 22, only to reseat on May 26.

The Gurgaon administration announced lifting of all curbs from the first week of June — only to be greeted with Delhi's decision to lock borders from June 1.

The Covid-19 pandemic has effectively upended the vision of a "balanced and harmonised" development of Delhi and NCR — for which the National Capital Region Planning Board came into existence in 1985 — like never before.

The board, which comes under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has entire Delhi, 13 districts of Haryana, seven of UP and two of Rajasthan under its



At UP-Delhi border. Noida has shut its border since April 21

fold, covering an area of about 55,000 sq km. The rationale behind its creation was to "promote balanced and harmonised development of the region, and to avoid any haphazard development", official records show.

The 17-member body, having the L-G of the Delhi, and various CMs and Chief Secretaries on board, is supposed to create regional plans, coordinate enforcement, arrange and provide funds, among other functions.

Former Delhi Chief Secretary Shailaja Chandra believes there has been a huge neglect of planning, foresight and concern for citizens who were supposed to benefit from the entire NCR planning concept. "The NCR Planning Board has been a low-key drawing board kind of body. The or-

ganisation or its parent ministry should have visualised the inter-regional and intercity policing, traffic and commuting needs and planned for them decades ago. The states of UP, Haryana, partially Rajasthan and the UT of Delhi should have been bound to have planned for this collectively. Toll bridges and paid flyovers have functioned as a source of revenue and none of these bodies did any sort of interstate or intercity consulting keeping commuter convenience in mind.

"The chaos has only exploded during lockdown but it must be addressed professionally and not left to the pique and ultimatums of individual states. Satellite imagery and artificial intelligence has to be used based on time of the day movement of different

kinds of vehicles. All states should have cross-border agreements on incentivising use of public transport and restricting congestion at peak hours," Chandra told *The Indian Express*.

However, Ghaziabad District Magistrate Ajay Shankar Pandey believes the present situation must be looked at from the context of the pandemic. "All agencies in NCR are working towards eradicating this disease. With regard to the borders, there is no denying that there are some points which are not common to all. The means adopted by Ghaziabad are different from that in Delhi. But this is temporary. In the months to come... we will get back on the track of common development of the region. The recommendations and decision by the NCR planning board and the government will be abided by and we will implement it without any friction," Pandey said.

Amit Khatri, the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon, said his administration had now done away with the border curbs, which had to be imposed keeping aspects of public health in mind. "We have avoided the use of the term sealing. For all practical purposes, we tried to regulate border movement and all those attached with essential services and holding e-passes were allowed entry... We tried to balance the health and economic needs," Khatri said.

Govt hardens stand: Will take over entire facility if not 20% beds

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

PRIVATE HOSPITALS in the city that are unable to reserve 20% beds for treatment of Covid-19 patients will be converted fully into Covid hospitals, said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Thursday. At present, five government hospitals and three private hospitals are functioning as complete Covid-19 facilities.

"There are a few private hospitals which are facing difficulties in reserving 20% of their bed capacity for Covid-19 patients. If they do not agree to the Delhi government's direction... we will have to convert them into fully dedicated Covid hospitals," he said.

The government has directed 61 private hospitals, with a capacity of 70 or more beds, to earmark 20% of their beds for Covid-19 patients and has given them a day's time to take a decision. "They have time till tomorrow," said the Deputy CM.

Three more private hospitals — Sir Ganga Ram, Moolchand and Saroj Super Speciality — were declared Covid hospitals by the government Wednesday.

The hospitals are functioning on concessional land and, as per officials, are obliged to provide 10% IPD and 25% OPD services to EWS patients free of charge. Each hospital will be reserving 25% of the total bed capacity for EWS Covid patients, and the treatment will be free of cost.

Last month, the Delhi govern-



Pvt hospitals have time till tomorrow to decide: Sisodia

ment had ordered 117 private hospitals and nursing homes, with 50 or more beds, to reserve 20% beds for Covid patients. Several nursing homes in the city have aired apprehensions over the mixing of Covid and non-Covid patients.

"This is not a long-term solution. Non-Covid patients will suffer as most of the hospitals will start providing treatment to Covid-19 patients... While providing treatment to Covid-19 patients, we should not forget about a large number of patients suffering from heart ailments, cancer and other comorbidities," said Dr Ajey Bedi, secretary, Delhi Medical Association (DMA).

The Delhi government has also issued an order to private hospitals in the city to reserve beds for the treatment of EWS patients infected with Covid-19. The government has asked 42 hospitals with 50 and more beds to send a compliance report in three days, failing which action will be initiated against the hospital.



TRACK RECORD

Train coaches modified into Covid care centres, stationed near Shakur Basti Railway Station, Thursday. Amit Mehra

To take migrants home, a chartered flight

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

AAM AADMI Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh chartered a flight to take 180 migrant workers from Delhi to Bihar on Thursday.

Singh had, on Wednesday, used 33 of the 34 flight tickets allotted to him on account of being an MP, to transport migrants to Bihar. He returned from the airport on the same day. He accompanied the workers on the flight on Thursday as well and would return to Delhi at night, members of his team said.



180 migrants on board the flight to Bihar. Twitter

Singh posted a video from the Delhi airport in which he is heard telling the workers that the state

Pandemic politics: Harsh Vardhan targets Satyendar Jain over RML criticism

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

A WAR of words broke out between Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain over what the AAP government claims are "false positive" Covid test results from Centre-run Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, with Vardhan saying Jain should focus on improving healthcare facilities in Delhi instead of seeking "cheap publicity".

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"Firstly, they are not giving reports on time. 70% Covid patients are dying within 24 hours of being hospitalised. This is because they had got tests done but reports were not available for five to seven

Another nurse succumbs: '20 years at clinic, she loved babies'

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

A 67-YEAR-OLD nurse at a maternity centre in West Delhi died Wednesday, four days after she tested positive for Covid-19.

Rajamma worked at Shivaji Maternity Centre, a two-bed clinic, in Tagore Garden for over two decades. Around 10 days ago, she returned home from work and complained of bodyache and cough, said her daughter Divya Madhusudan (29). "She stopped going to work, and developed fever and severe cough. Last Friday, we got her test done, and on Sunday, the result came positive. By then, she had developed breathing issues," said Divya.

Rajamma's niece Shobha, who lives nearby, said she got a call from them Monday about needing help with hospital admission. "Rajamma was sick, so was Divya, who is also a nurse at a hospital nearby. I called police and they sent an ambulance that went to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital first. As no bed was available, Rajamma was taken to Lok Nayak Hospital, where she was admitted," said Shobha.

Soon after, she was moved to



Rajamma died Wednesday

the ICU, and around 1.30 am Wednesday, she passed away. Her daughter said Rajamma was diabetic. As of now, Divya is under home quarantine and is unwell, while her father Madhusudan (68) is also in home quarantine and has displayed no symptoms so far.

Rajamma's colleague Sunita, who worked with her at the centre for 20 years, said, "She treated patients like family and absolutely loved babies. She would treat them like her own, and patients would leave very happy."

Dr Ashok Jain, owner of Shivaji Maternity centre, said, "We have two beds in the hospital and three nurses. No patient has been admitted in a month, and we provided masks, gloves and sanitis-

ers to the staff. No PPE was given as we are a clinic only and aren't treating any patients with Covid-like symptoms."

Divya said her mother had spoken about the lack of PPEs: "The last day she reported to work, she returned home stressed. She said she had come in contact with a pregnant patient who had fever, cough. After that, she fell sick. I haven't reported to work in over two months as I had pending leaves."

Rajamma, who worked at the centre for 20 years, earned around Rs 10,000 a month, said her daughter. She hailed from Kerala's Kottayam and settled in Delhi around 40 years ago.

As news of Rajamma's death reached her colleagues, grief and fear set in. Her colleague Sunita (55) said her son won't let her return to work after he heard about Rajamma's death. "The centre gave us masks, gloves and a shield too. The centre's entrance, the furniture were sanitised at regular intervals. We didn't have PPE kits but we never thought we needed them either," said Sunita.

On May 24, 46-year-old nursing officer Ambika PK, who worked at Kalra Hospital in West Delhi, had died of Covid-19 complications.

Hotel moves court over call to attach it to hospital

MALLICA JOSHI & PRITAMPAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

HOTELS in the city that have been roped in by the Delhi government to act as attachments to private hospitals and admit patients have raised several issues in the plan with district-level authorities, with one going to court against the decision.

Seeking a stay on the government's order for requisition, CHL Limited, which owns the Hotel Surya (200 beds) in New Friends Colony, filed a petition in the Delhi High Court. It is to act as an extension to Indraprastha Apollo Hospital. The matter was heard Thursday but order is awaited.

The other hotels requisitioned are Hotel Crown Plaza; Hotel Jivitesh; Hotel Siddharth; and Hotel Sheraton.

CHL Limited's petition challenged the Delhi government's May 29 order requisitioning the hotels, whereby medical services are to be provided by the hospitals. The petitioner said that the government had fixed the fees without consulting it.

According to sources in the Delhi government, three other hotels have also raised concerns, including that business will suffer after they go back to normal functioning as patrons will not want to stay at a hotel that has served as a Covid hospital.

"We are in talks with them. A solution will be reached soon," said a senior government official.

TWO MORE CHARGESHEETS FILED

NE Delhi riots: In murder of two brothers, cops point to WhatsApp group with 125 members

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

THE DELHI Police Crime Branch on Thursday filed two more chargesheets in cases pertaining to the Northeast Delhi riots, which took place in February. The police investigation in the murder of brothers Hashim Ali and Amir Ali on the night of February 26 in Johripur has found that "during peak rioting, a WhatsApp group was created on the intervening night of

February 25 and 26, which has 125 members". As per a Delhi Police statement shared Thursday by Additional PRO Anil Mittal, "Two active members of the WhatsApp group were located and joined in the investigation. During the investigation, their mobile phones were scanned and the specific WhatsApp group created on February 25 was also identified". "It was revealed that while some members of these groups were only sending and receiving

chats, few others were involved in active rioting," police said. In the note shared by Mittal, police said "around 9.40 am on February 27, three dead bodies were recovered" from the area, and "one body was found on the same day around 4 pm from Johripur nallah". On the basis of eyewitness accounts and technical evidences, nine people were arrested for Hashim's murder, and 11 for Amir's murder. "Both the deceased were real brothers who were murdered on February 26 between 9 pm and

10 pm. All the accused persons are presently in judicial custody. Their several bail applications have been rejected," police said. On Thursday, the Crime Branch also filed a chargesheet in the murder of Dilbar Negi, who used to work at Anil Sweets in Shiv Vihar. A brief note shared by Delhi Police Thursday morning read, "At about 3 pm, a mob of Muslim community came from Brijpuri Pulia side and started rioting. The rioting mob targeted the properties of Hindus, that is Anil Sweets, Anil Dairy & Pastry shop, book

shop, DRP school, and godown of Anil Sweets shop, by torching them till late night, and the mob of the same rioters community remained dominant till late night." The note mentions that in the meantime, "one Rahul Solanki of Mahalaxmi Enclave was also shot dead late evening. In close proximity, as many as 12 cases of rioting, arson, and murder were registered". The note says that Negi, "had gone to the godown of Anil Sweet shop for lunch and to rest. He could not be located till late

night. The riots continued on February 25. On February 26 afternoon, local police of Gokulpuri police station came to know about the dead body of a male person at the godown of Anil Sweet shop". Police said the body was found in a charred condition and was later identified as Negi's. In the note, police said, "The CDRs (call detail reports) of witnesses and suspects were analysed, and on the basis of eyewitness accounts and technical evidences, 12 accused persons were arrested".

Court rejects Safoora bail: 'If you play with embers, can't blame the wind for fire'

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

"WHEN YOU choose to play with embers, you cannot blame the wind to have carried the spark a bit too far and spread the fire," a Delhi court has observed while dismissing the bail plea of Jamia coordination committee media coordinator Safoora Zargar. The 27-year-old, who is pregnant, was arrested by the Special Cell on April 13 and is facing a UAPA case in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots. She is lodged in Tihar Jail.



Safoora Zargar

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana, in his order passed Thursday, said that during investigation of the case, "a larger conspiracy is discernible and a second investigation by way of a separate FIR to unravel the entire conspiracy sounds not only logical but perfectly legal". Safoora's counsel Trideep Pais argued that the investigating agency was creating a false narrative to implicate innocent students who don't agree with government policies. It was also submitted that "merely holding a divergent view is no offence, and by no stretch of imagination can she be branded a terrorist".

or demonstration, is not an absolute right and is subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India." ASJ Rana also dealt with whether provisions of UAPA have been rightfully invoked in this case. "Any activity which has a tendency to create a disorder or disturbance of law and order, and to such an extent that the entire city is brought to its knees and entire government machinery has been brought to a grinding halt, such activity should be obviously treated as an unlawful activity," the order read.

The court also noted that from "the material on record, one cannot ignore the case of prosecution that the accused persons have conspired to cause disruption of such an extent and magnitude that it would lead to disorderliness and disturbance of law and order at an unprecedented scale". ASJ Rana said that at this stage, the court was not required to discuss the merits of the prosecution case, but after going through a statement filed under sections 161 and 164 of CrPc, coupled with WhatsApp chats on record, he said, "It can be safely inferred that there is at least a conspiracy to blockade the roads." The court also did not agree with the defence that Safoora was only liable for her individual acts and speeches and acts of other members of the group cannot be read against her.

The court also noted that from "the material on record, one cannot ignore the case of prosecution that the accused persons have conspired to cause disruption of such an extent and magnitude that it would lead to disorderliness and disturbance of law and order at an unprecedented scale". ASJ Rana said that at this stage, the court was not required to discuss the merits of the prosecution case, but after going through a statement filed under sections 161 and 164 of CrPc, coupled with WhatsApp chats on record, he said, "It can be safely inferred that there is at least a conspiracy to blockade the roads." The court also did not agree with the defence that Safoora was only liable for her individual acts and speeches and acts of other members of the group cannot be read against her.

'Resources exhausted', Atlas cycle factory lets go of 800 workers

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, JUNE 4

RAM NARESH (58) has worked at the painting/finishing division of the Atlas Cycles factory in Ghaziabad for the last 20 years. With the factory's average output of 1.5 lakh products a month, Naresh's skilled hands have given final touches to over lakhs of bicycles. Despite the years of service, he found himself "laid off" without prior notice.



The Atlas Cycles factory in Sahibabad's Site IV. Gajendra Yadav

"I don't know where to go from here. We have given our lives to this company... Either we stay here and die of hunger or we go back to our villages. We are ruined," said Naresh, who hails from UP's Gorakhpur. He is among the 800 workers laid off.

On Wednesday, which also happened to be World Bicycle Day, a notice was put up outside the premises of the Atlas factory in Sahibabad's Site IV, which stated, "As employees are well aware, the company has been going through financial losses for the past several years. The company has exhausted its resources and there is no source of income. There are not enough funds for

daily expenses either. Till the time a source of income is available, raw material will not be purchased. As a result, the factory cannot function till finances are sorted out. Hence a 'lay off' has been announced. To avail monetary compensation, they (employees) must punch-in at given start time of their duty."

Workers claimed the company has not provided them any official document stating their termination. They were asked to punch-in their attendance, which will merit them to half their salaries. They claim they com-

pleted regular work hours on June 1 and 2, and were informed of the notice when they reached the premises on Wednesday.

Started in 1951, Atlas Cycles has set-ups in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh apart from Ghaziabad, where manufacturing was carried out in seven divisions. The company claims to manufacture 4 million cycles a year. Workers alleged production had come down from 2.5 lakh cycles to 1.5 lakh cycles a month last year. The company did not respond to a mail by *The Indian Express* seeking a comment.

Police, in its preliminary affidavit filed through advocates Amit Mahajan and Rajat Nair, said that in the "... garb of student agitation, what happened appears to be a well-planned and orchestrated attempt by some persons, with local support (who were not students), to intentionally perpetrate violence in the area". It claimed that it was "only due to unavoidable circumstances, as contemporaneously captured in electronic evidence gathered by respondent (Delhi Police), that it became imperative for it to enter the university which was being used as a shield by rioters to pelt stones and other

Entered Jamia as it was being used as shield by rioters: Police

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

THE DELHI Police Crime Branch Thursday told the Delhi High Court that the violence during the anti-CAA protest near Jamia Millia Islamia last December was "not sporadic" but a "well planned incident", as "rioters" were "armed with stones, lathis, petrol bombs, etc, which clearly manifests that the intention of the mob was to disrupt law and order in the area".



Police had stormed the Jamia campus after violence in the area last December

Police, in its preliminary affidavit filed through advocates Amit Mahajan and Rajat Nair, said that in the "... garb of student agitation, what happened appears to be a well-planned and orchestrated attempt by some persons, with local support (who were not students), to intentionally perpetrate violence in the area". It claimed that it was "only due to unavoidable circumstances, as contemporaneously captured in electronic evidence gathered by respondent (Delhi Police), that it became imperative for it to enter the university which was being used as a shield by rioters to pelt stones and other

lethal objects on the police force". The response was filed in a PIL by advocate Nabila Hasan and other related petitions with regard to the incidents of December 13 and 15 in the area around the university. The December 15 protests had spiralled into violence after a section of protesters, including Jamia students and local residents, tried to march to Parliament but were stopped by police at Mathura Road. As a section of protesters started pelting stones and set buses and private vehicles on fire, police retaliated

with lathi-charge and eventually stormed the campus. Several students sustained injuries.

The other petitioners include lawyers, Jamia students, residents of Okhla and the Imam of Jama Masjid mosque opposite Parliament House, who have sought action, including medical treatment and compensation for students and registration of FIRs against erring police officers.

The affidavit said, "The fact that 65 police personnel sustained injuries would show extent of violence, which could be successfully contained in the end. All 189 individuals (which include students) were taken to the hospital, from where most of them left after some time after taking necessary treatment. Out of the persons temporarily apprehended for the purpose of verification, those who were students were handed over by the police authorities to the proctor (university), who was called by the police, who identified the students and accepted in writing of having received them. No student was ever arrested or detained either in the police lock up or otherwise at that time, nor any student is arrested or detained till date."



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CMA Biswarup Basu
Vice President, ICAI



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CMA H. Padmanabhan
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Behind every successful business decision, there is always a CMA

6 THE OUTBREAK



DELHI: 3:30 PM
With the easing of curbs, Old Delhi has started to look more like its usual self. Tashi Tobgyal



PUNE: 5:30 PM
Out for a run in Sambhaji Garden. Pune's parks are now open for physical activities, with social distancing. Ashish Kale



LUDHIANA: 5:00 PM
In the shadow of a defunct clock tower, Ashok Kumar has been running a stall to exchange damaged currency notes for the last 40 years. After a pause due to the lockdown, the 61 year-old is back at the same spot. Gurmeet Singh



VARANASI: 2:00 PM
Curbs have been eased in Varanasi's markets, but not ghats. Some still turned up at the Ganga's banks. Anand Singh



SHIMLA: 12:30 PM
Shoppers make the most of the relaxation in restrictions at a market in the hill town. Pradeep Kumar

Need large number of makeshift hospitals in near future: Govt to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

FORESEEING A "surge" in Covid-19 cases, the Union Health Ministry has said a "large number of temporary make-shift hospitals will have to be created" to deal with this "in near future".

"The number of cases of Covid-19 are constantly increasing and at some point of time in near future, apart from existing hospitals, large number of temporary make-shift hospitals will have to be created in order to accommodate Covid-19 patients requiring admission, medical care and treatment," the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said in an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court.

It added that "to successfully create optimum infrastructure to provide best medical care to the Covid patients, the Central

government will also have to adequately address the human resource issue for this envisaged surge capacity scenario. Hence, conserving health care work force is the need of the hour..."

The Centre was replying to a petition by Dr Arushi Jain who wanted the court to direct the government to take over vacant hotels, guesthouses etc and use them as quarantine facilities for frontline medical workers.

The government said the situation is unprecedented and there was no universally accepted protocol for treating Covid-19.

Stating that the situation was "fluid", it said the guidelines for management are continuously evolved, refined and fine-tuned. They are made by the experts and cannot be altered "based on the individual perception of some medical professionals which in certain cases, if not in

the present case, can be based on either their individual experience or on extraneous considerations".

It also went into various advisories issued by the Centre to states and Union Territories for setting up quarantine facilities and ensuring safety of healthcare workers.

The government also said that while the Hospital Infection Control Committee in the health facility is responsible for implementing the Infection Prevention and Control activities and for organising regular trainings for healthcare workers (HCW), "the final responsibility lies with the HCW to prevent infection and to protect himself/herself. This is true not only for Covid but for number of other infectious diseases to which a HCW has potential to get exposed as part of his/her duty".

Sustained doses of HCQ may lessen risk of infection among frontline workers: Study

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, JUNE 4

A NEW ICMR study that examined the prophylactic role of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) to prevent the SARS-nCoV2 has found that the risk of health care workers (HCWs) getting the infection was much less if a sustained dose was taken along with use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

"Biologically, it appears plausible that HCQ prophylaxis, before onset of infection, may inhibit the virus from gaining a

foothold," says the study 'Healthcare workers & SARS-CoV-2 infection in India: A case-control investigation in the time of Covid-19', which was published recently in the Indian Journal of Medical Research.

HCWs are at an elevated risk of contracting Covid-19, and the study findings come close on the heels of the revised guidelines which recommend the use of hydroxychloroquine as a preventive medication for asymptomatic HCWs working in non-Covid-19 hospitals, frontline staff on surveillance duty in containment zones and paramilitary/police personnel

involved in coronavirus infection-related activities.

While the ICMR has cautioned that the intake of the medicine should not instil a sense of false security, the study, whose main emphasis was on prevention of infections among HCWs, has said simply initiating hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) prophylaxis did not reduce the odds of acquiring SARS-CoV-2 infection among HCWs.

"However, with the intake of four or more maintenance doses of HCQ, the protective effect started emerging," Dr Samiran Panda, director of ICMR-National AIDS Research Institute (NARI)

and one of the study authors, told *The Indian Express*. "A significant reduction (>80%) in the odds of SARS-CoV-2 infection in the HCWs was identified with the intake of six or more doses of HCQ prophylaxis."

HCQ, a repurposed anti-malarial drug, was empirically recommended as prophylaxis by the National Covid-19 Task Force in India to cover HCWs.

Data collection for this investigation was done during May 8-23. HCWs tested between the first week of April and the end of first week of May formed the sample pool, from which cases (those who were positive) and

controls (those who were negative) were drawn. The ICMR data portal contained the results and contact details of 23,898 symptomatic HCWs who were tested for SARS-CoV-2 infection. From this database, 21,402 records were obtained, with 1,073 (5%) confirmed SARS-CoV-2-infected HCWs. Only 624 and 549 individuals could be contacted in the case and control groups, respectively, and interview schedules of 378 cases and 373 controls could be done. Of the 172 cases and 193 controls reporting HCQ intake, no significant difference in the occurrence of adverse drug reactions was noted.

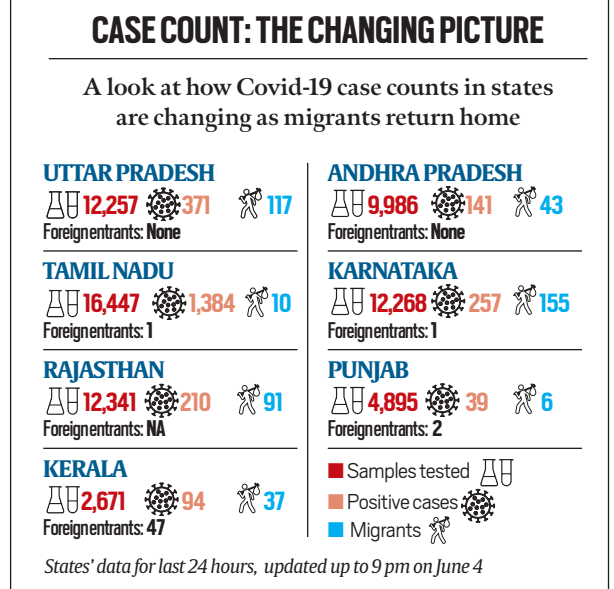
CM: Those going to work in other states should seek Jharkhand nod

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JUNE 4

CHIEF MINISTER Hemant Soren on Thursday said that labourers who go to other states for work should take Jharkhand's consent before venturing out. He said the government should have a record of all such labourers so that it can help them in case they face problems.

Soren said the move is in order to protect labourers, especially women, from exploitation outside the state, with many such instances having come to the fore. "These types of incidents should not occur, and that is why the state government is trying to set up facilities so that they go to other states with full security," Soren said.

"That is why I have decided that if any labourer wishes to go to other states, our effort will be that most labourers go with the state government's consent," he



The Chief Minister was responding to a question on the state's revocation of permission to the Border Roads Organisation for recruiting construction work-

ers from Dumka area. Soren said that labourers who go to work in Ladakh or other border areas face difficulties and live under stricter law and order conditions.

India pledges \$15 million to international vaccine alliance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

INDIA ON Thursday pledged \$15 million to Gavi, the international vaccine alliance, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi making the announcement during the virtual Global Vaccine Summit hosted by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

More than 50 countries, including business leaders, UN agencies, civil society, ministers and Heads of State and participated in the summit.

The Prime Minister said India stands in solidarity with the world in these challenging times and India's civilisation teaches to see the world as one family. He said the country had tried to live up to this teaching during this pandemic by sharing available stocks of medicines with over 120 countries, forging a common response strategy in its immediate neighbourhood and providing specific support to countries that sought the same, while also protecting India's vast population.

The Prime Minister said the Covid-19 pandemic, in some ways, has exposed the limitations of global cooperation and that for the first time in recent history, humankind faces a common enemy. He said that India's support to Gavi is not only financial but the country's huge demand also brings down the global price of vaccines for all.



At Marine Drive in Mumbai, on Thursday. Ganesh Shirshekar

Inter-district travel allowed in Mumbai Metropolitan Region

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, JUNE 4

AS IT moves towards reopening Mumbai and its economy, the Uddhav Thackeray government in Maharashtra on Thursday offered more relaxations to facilitate the movement of people within Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), the epicentre of Covid-19 pandemic in India.

Under its 'Mission Begin Again' guidelines, the government also permitted free inter-district movement of people within MMR—a day before markets and shops in the state, with the exception of malls and mar-

ket complexes, start functioning on alternate days.

The first phase of exit from the lockdown—permitting people to leave their homes for exercise in their neighbourhoods, and resumption of self-employment trades such as plumbing, pest control, electrical works and garages—was to begin on Wednesday but was put off due to Cyclone Nisarga. It will now kick-off on Friday simultaneously with Phase 2, in which markets and shops will also reopen.

With suburban rail services yet to be restored, trade associations had lobbied for allowing inter-district road travel to facilitate the reopenings.

"Inter-district movement of persons within the area of municipal corporations in MMR shall be allowed without any restrictions," stated Thursday's order signed by Chief Secretary Ajoy Mehta.

The Federation of Associations of Maharashtra, a representative body of 781 trade associations, also demanded the resumption of public bus transport.

The government has finally permitted home delivery of newspapers from June 7. The government has also clarified that in non-red zones, offices and staff of educational institutes can continue to operate for non-teaching purposes.

Goa, Andhra to probe source of infection in key containment zone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, JUNE 4

THE GOA government has established contact with its Andhra Pradesh counterpart as it continues to probe the "source of infection" of a Covid-19 containment zone in south Goa. Early this week, the densely-populated Mangor Hill in port town Vasco was designated a containment zone after a family of six tested positive.

The move comes even as the state added 40 new positive cases on Thursday, bringing the total in the state to 109. As many as 32 of the 40 cases are residents of the containment zone, making it the "priority point" for testing and treatment. The rest were people who travelled to Goa.

"The person in the family (which tested positive) who was symptomatic for a longer period compared to other family members is in the fish business. He was constantly interacting with fish trucks coming from Andhra Pradesh. The godown he was going to was supplied primarily by trucks from Andhra," said Nila Mohanan, state Health Secretary. Mohanan added contact has been established with the district administration in Andhra Pradesh, and that efforts were on to identify the spread of the infection. She said the Goan resident in Mangor could have come in contact with more than one person from Andhra Pradesh.

Government works on SOPs for reopening protected monuments

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

ASTORM that hit Agra last week, with wind speeds of 127 km per hour, caused extensive damage to the marble railing of the Taj Mahal and uprooted trees on the lawns. As the news reached the authorities, officials and staff of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)—its primary caretaker—had to navigate the night curfew in Covid hotspot Agra to reach the spot. The damage was assessed and documented in the

wee hours. The world heritage monument was left mostly unattended since the Centre ordered the shutting of all ASI-protected monuments on March 17. Subsequently, as Agra saw a spike in Covid-19 cases, even the maintenance staff found it hard to reach the premises.

An ASI official told *The Indian Express*, "We tried to ensure that at least minimal maintenance staff reaches our protected monuments, so that cleaning, horticulture and sanitation activities could be done. But wherever a monu-

ment fell in a red zone, we were helpless."

In Delhi, too, hardly any maintenance staff could make it inside the premises of Qutb Minar, Red Fort and Purana Qila because all districts were designated red zones.

Incidentally, Qutb Minar also suffered damage during the lockdown, as an allegedly drunk man crashed his speeding car into the periphery of the complex last month. The ASI filed a complaint with police.

After the incident at Taj Mahal, newly designated ASI D-G V

SOPs ON THE TABLE

Sanitisation of premises before opening

Thermal screening of staff, officials, guides, tourists

Small groups to be allowed entry at a time

Social distancing norms to be followed

Staff and officials from containment zones disallowed

E-TICKETING TO BE ENCOURAGED

Vidyavathi visited Agra. ASI Superintending Archaeologist Vasant Swarnkar said, "We are as-

sessing how the damage can be fixed, and how SOPs can be created once the Ministry of Home

Affairs allows its reopening."

The Ministry of Culture, in consultation with the ASI, is working on creating SOPs for all ASI-protected monuments, sources told *The Indian Express*. It is unlikely that the green signal will be given this month. However, the likely precautions include doing away with ticket windows in favour of e-ticketing, allowing small groups inside, sanitisation of premises and keeping congested parts of monuments out of bounds, the sources said.

Taj gets an average of 6 lakh

tourists a month, and it will be a mammoth task to ensure social distancing there. However, Swarnkar said they are not expecting a rush at the outset since international travel remains suspended and domestic movement for leisure is likely to be limited in the coming months.

On June 1, the Rajasthan government reopened some monuments like Jantar Mantar, Hawa Mahal and Amer Fort, which come under the state government's purview and are not managed by ASI. Prakash Chandra Sharma, Director of the state's

Department of Archaeology and Museums, said: "We have already issued SOP and instructed all concerned to take required steps to open the monuments. Programmes by folk artistes can also be organised."

However, he clarified that monuments in containment zones will not be opened, and elephant rides and night tourism at all sites remain suspended. For the first two weeks, visitors' entry will be free to avoid rush at ticket windows. The monuments will open on alternate days to start with.

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AN OPPORTUNITY IN THE MID OF A PANDEMIC

AUSTRALIA WELCOMES COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA



Statement from Australian High Commissioner to India, HE Barry O'Farrell AO

I AM very pleased to see Australia-India relations reach a historic high with the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership agreed in yesterday's Virtual Leaders' Summit. It reflects growing cooperation for a decade and the trust and confidence between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

It was the first ever virtual summit between the two leaders and a great deal was achieved, which has been in the making for decades.

India and Australia are like-minded democracies with a shared commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. Our significant trade and economic relationship; strong strategic and defence ties; Indian diaspora in Australia driving the substantial education, cultural and tourism links; and deepening people-to-people linkages – make India one of Australia's closest partners in the Indo-Pacific.

There is real substance in our partnership. For instance, one in 50 Australians today was born in India; there are 105,156 Indian students in Australia; our defence activities have quadrupled since 2014; our bilateral naval exercise in 2019 witnessed the largest Australian defence deployment to India and most complex till date involving submarines and maritime patrol aircraft; over 360,000 Indian tourists visited Australia last year; 10.1% increase in two-way goods and services trade with India (valued at AUD30.4 billion in 2018) and our two-way stock of investment was valued at AUD30.7 billion in 2018; the Australia Government's largest bilateral science program – Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) is with India with a total commitment of more than \$85 million since 2006.

But while impressive, there is great potential to do more together. And we look forward to working with India for the prosperity and security of both of our citizens and for the common good of all.

Scientific ties to be boosted

INDIA and Australia recognise the importance of global cooperation for saving lives and managing the economic impacts of COVID-19, and future global challenges. Both the countries have resolved to share the benefits of scientific and medical research and development, strengthen healthcare systems, and reflect on the recommendations of the independent and comprehensive evaluation of the international health response to COVID-19 to improve capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.

Both the countries have committed to a new phase of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund to promote innovative solutions for responding to and treating COVID-19, as well as other jointly determined priorities, to be preceded by a one-off Special COVID-19 Collaboration Round in 2020. They also decided to work cooperatively through multilateral, regional and plurilateral mechanisms to strengthen and diversify supply chains for critical health, technology and other goods and services. Both the countries will work together to strengthen international institutions to ensure they are inclusive and rules based.

Australia conveyed that India could consider it as a stable, reliable and trusted supplier of high-quality mineral resources to India. Both sides jointly decided to diversify and expand the existing resources part-

PRIORITY SECTOR - The Australian Government sees science and technology as a priority sector for Australia to transform its investment and trade relationship with India.

LARGEST BILATERAL SCIENCE PROGRAMME - The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) is the Australian Government's largest bilateral science programme, with a total commitment of more than \$85 million since 2006.

354 PROJECTS ACROSS AREAS - Since 2006, the AISRF has supported 354 collaborative activities in total, covering agriculture, energy and water security, astronomy, nanotechnology and vaccines.

nership. The MoU on cooperation in the field of mining and processing of Critical and Strategic minerals identifies specific areas where both sides will work together to meet the technological demands of the future economy. Both countries jointly decided to cooperate on new technologies for exploration and extraction of other minerals.

Unique engagement with a substantial outcome



Picture credit: @ScottMorrisonMP twitter

On 4 June, the Honourable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and the Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister of Australia participated in an India-Australia Leaders' Virtual Summit.

Affirming their commitment to strengthening Australia-India ties for the future, the leaders committed to elevating the relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The elements of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership include defence and maritime security, critical minerals and supply chains, cyber-security and technology and science and research supporting COVID-19 and other challenges.

The outcomes from the Virtual Leaders' Summit reflect our shared goals for a more open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific and a world of stronger institutions equipped to support the interests of all states, economic growth and human development.



Virtual Summit for Real Good

At a virtual summit on Thursday, India and Australia looked to further strengthen ties between both the countries and explore endless opportunities in various realms

DURING the first-ever bilateral India-Australia virtual summit, Australia supported India playing a key role in the Indo-Pacific region, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison saying "We are committed to an open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific, and India's role in that region. Our region will be critical in the years ahead." He further added, "We share an ocean and we share re-

sponsibility for that ocean as well, its health, well-being and security. The relationship we are forming around those issues on our maritime domain, I think is the platform for so many other things between our countries."

The Australian Prime Minister praised Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his dynamic leadership in mitigating the effects of COVID-19 crisis. PM Modi shared with his Australian coun-

terpart how the Indian government had decided to view the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity, saying, "In India, a process of comprehensive reforms has been initiated in almost all areas. Very soon its result will be seen at the ground level."

Stressing the need to work together, PM Modi said, "We need to think how our ties can become a factor of stability for not just the Indo-Pacific region but the entire world. We

should think how we can work together for the global good."

The summit culminated in signing and announcement of several agreements and MoUs, including on Critical and Strategic minerals, Cyber and Cyber-Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation, Maritime Cooperation in Indo-Pacific, Defence Science and Technology, amongst many others.

WANT TO STUDY ABROAD? THINK AUSTRALIA....

With 22,000 courses available in 1,100 universities and institutions, Australia is one of the most sought-after education destinations for Indian millennials

WITH globally ranked institutions, finest pedagogy and great post-study work rights, Australia is a popular higher education destination for Indian students.

This pandemic has encouraged educational institutions globally to go digital and become more accessible to students via online classrooms. With Australian institutions embedding online learning in their curriculum, flexibility to attend classes remotely, e-libraries and support services, it proves their progressiveness about the whole situation.

I believe such initiatives will help students access quality Australian education during this crisis and save their valuable time and money until they transfer to on-campus delivery; besides keeping their higher education dreams safeguarded.

Piyush Kumar
Regional Director - South Asia, IDP Education

STANDING proud with 8 of the top 100 universities in the world, Australia is one of the world's most favoured education destinations of all time. Every year, an increasing number of Indian students opt for Australia to study abroad, for its world-class education, post-study work opportunities and excellent quality of living. No matter what course you choose, you'll be assured of unbeatable academic excellence and superb support system for international students.

One of the most desirable education destinations among Indian students, Australia offers a plethora of courses to choose from – 22,000 courses available in 1,100 universities and institutions. Choose any of these courses and acquire globally recognised degrees, explore various scholarship opportunities and receive educa-

■ India is Australia's second largest source of international students.

There are 105,156 Indian students in Australia.

■ Popular courses include – Management, Information Technology, Engineering, Food & Hospitality, Health, Vocational Education and Training (VET).

■ 66% Indian students are enrolled in higher education – Master's and PhD levels.

In a first-ever virtual summit, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed that education, research and skills are a central component of the bilateral relationship. Both sides noted they underpin the progress and growth trajectories of both the countries, and the exchange of students and academics between both the nations generates valuable people-to-people links. Both sides agreed to continue efforts to expand their partnership in these areas, including deepening research collaborations. Both the countries have decided to work together to support the development of education campuses in each other's countries. Both sides also agreed to jointly decide to enhance their partnership in the domain of education through the Australia-India Education Council.

tion from the best instructors in the world.

Collaboration in defence to be strengthened

ON the occasion of the first ever virtual summit, India and Australia agreed to deepen and broaden their collaboration in the defence space. To advance this, both the sides will engage in enhancing the scope and complexity of their military exercises and engagement activities to develop new ways to address shared security challenges. To increase military interoperability through defence exercises, both the sides agreed to rely on their arrangement concerning Mutual Logistics Support (MLSA). It was agreed that the Implementing Arrangement concerning cooperation in Defence Science and Technology to the MoU on Defence Cooperation provides a framework for growing cooperation between the defence science and technology research organisations of both countries.

Defence activities between the two countries quadrupled from 2014 to around forty last year. Third iteration of Australia-India bilateral naval exercise AUSINDEX witnessed the largest ever Australian defence deployment to India and most complex to date, involving submarine-on-submarine activities, and coordinated P-8 maritime patrol aircraft missions over the Bay of Bengal. The two sides have carried out complex defence operations; during Exercise KAKADU in August 2018, the Royal Australian Air Force conducted a mid-air refueling with the Indian Air Force.

People-to-people links on growth trajectory

OVER the past many years, India-Australia bilateral ties have grown. One of the reasons behind this dramatic transformation in the relationship is the strong people-to-people linkages. The deep connect of both the countries is based on this strong foundation. Building on our historic ties, cultural links and extensive people-to-people connections, our bilateral relationship with Australia has grown tenfold over the years. The strong people-to-people connections have enriched all aspects of our bilateral ties.

The Indian diaspora in Australia is now the fastest-growing community. In recognition of the growing contribution of Indians and Australians to the relationship, both the countries will continue to work to deepen diaspora and community-level engagement. Punjabi is the fastest growing language in Australia; one in 50 Australians today was born in India, over 360,000 tourists visited Australia from India last year which is the fastest growing group of foreign visitors to Australia and Hinduism is the fastest growing religion in Australia.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



MORE ON SAMOSAS

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi and Australian PM Scott Morrison engaged in light-hearted banter over samosas, which Morrison had made a few days ago and had called them Scomosas. Morrison also talked about cooking Gujarati khichdi, and said they could have Modimosas, just like Scomosas.

ARMED AND ONLINE

WITH THE Supreme Court going full throttle on virtual hearings via video-conference, the court staff seem to have armed themselves with 'tools' to nudge lawyers in case they run into technical difficulties. On Thursday, the staff in one of the courts held up a placard which read "please unmute your audio" as a lawyer went on speaking without realising that his microphone was on mute mode. On Wednesday, one of the judges forgot to mute his microphone between the hearings and some comments he shared with fellow judges were audible to the counsel and media.

URBAN FOCUS

THE THEME for this year's World Environment Day celebrations will be Nagar Van or urban forests, in keeping with the international focus on biodiversity, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar announced. In the midst of a pandemic, World Environment Day — which is observed on June 5 every year — will be hosted by the ministry as a "virtual celebration".

In letter to PM, Macron offers to help those hit by Amphan

New Delhi: In the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan in India, French President Emmanuel Macron wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and offered to extend any support that India might consider necessary to come to the aid of those directly affected.

In the spirit of the phone call held by the two leaders on March 31 to fight the Covid-19

pandemic, sources said France and India have enhanced their training and research co-operation.

The French Development Agency has finished finalising a concessional loan of 200 million euros, which will bolster the World Bank in providing additional social protection to the most vulnerable in India, sources said.

ENS

BLAST IN GUJARAT CHEMICAL FACTORY

Two more deaths take toll to 10, unit asked to close

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SURAT, JUNE 4

TWO MORE workers of Yashashvi Rasayan chemical unit, in Dahej area of Gujarat's Bharuch district, on Thursday succumbed to burn injuries, sustained from Wednesday's blast at the factory. This takes the toll to 10.

The state Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health has issued a closure notice to the unit and ordered safety of audit of all factories in Dahej.

According to officials, four deceased persons were from Bihar, two from Gujarat and one worker each came from West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

A 10th victim, aged around 30, is yet to be identified, officials said. District Collector M D Modia said, "Two labourers are still in critical condition. The others undergoing treatment in hospitals are stable."

Additional Chief Secretary, Labour and Employment, Vipul Mittra said the closure notice was issued under Section 4(2) of Factories Act. "We have started investigation. To ensure safety of workers, the unit will not be allowed to resume operations until adequate safety measures are in place," Mittra stated.

The explosion in a chemical storage tank at Yashashvi Rasayan chemical factory, owned by the Patel Group, on



Firefighters on bikes spray disinfectant in a containment zone in Chennai on Thursday. PTI

TN varsity predicts 1.5 lakh Covid cases in Chennai by mid-July

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, JUNE 4

EPIDEMIOLOGISTS AT the state-run Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University has predicted, based on mathematical projections, that Chennai city may witness 1.5 lakh Covid-19 cases and up to 1,600 deaths by July second week at the current rate of growth.

The university controls the medical education and medical colleges in the state, and its projections are used by government for active surveillance and preparedness.

Dr G Srinivas, professor and head of the department of epidemiology at the university, said their projection shows the number of cases in Chennai will touch 1.5 lakh by July 15 and will peak in mid-October. The university began projections from April 18, and submitted it to the government in May first week. "The disease continues to spread. However, the government is currently well-prepared to handle the number of cases with enough number of beds, isolation facilities, ICUs and such crucial infrastructure," he said.

His team's projection says the state may record 1.3 lakh Covid-19 cases and 769 deaths by June 30. In 19 days, Covid cases in state

jumped from 10,000 to 27,256 on Thursday. The city has 9,066 active cases, and reported 1,072 cases Thursday. Of the total cases reported in Tamil Nadu since March 7, 18,693 cases were from Chennai.

The university in the second week of April predicted that Covid cases will go up from 3,097 to 5,442 in the first 10 days of May. The real figures rose from 2,526 to 7,204 between May 1 and 10. Projection of Covid death number for May 10 was 38 and the actual figure was 47.

Mathematical projections can prompt governments to decide on intervention strategies to contain the spread of the disease, but long-haul projections can be widely off the mark. These projections can also throw up very different scenarios depending on the models used and the assumptions made.

Dr R Ramakrishnan, a senior scientist and former director of the National Institute of Epidemiology said: "Neither are scientists gods nor is this guess work. Just because their projections had been true for the past two months, we cannot say, it can still go wrong in coming months as there are many social factors. But these are indications that deserve to be taken seriously," he said.

When outstation bus and train services resume, things may

change suddenly, he said. "Or if we get a better clarity about clinical symptoms and treatment for Covid-19 from a research abroad or here, all these projections will become insignificant. But like lockdown, which was not to combat the virus but to buy time for the government to prepare, these forecast for July or October also should be taken into consideration," Ramakrishnan said.

The university's projections for Chennai were accurate. Their mathematical model had projected 83 deaths on May 25, which came true. Their forecast of cases for the same day — 11,119 — just fell short of 12 cases. When the forecast for June 3 said there will be 17,738 cases and 156 deaths, actual figures were 17,598 and 153.

State disaster management commissioner J Radhakrishnan said 9,034 people have recovered so far in the city. "About 1,000 containment zones (or streets) have not reported a single case in the past 14 days. Highest number of cases are in Chennai but it does not mean the entire city is affected. Maximum number of cases are concentrated in a few localities such as highly congested residential neighbourhoods and slums in Royapuram, Anna Nagar, Teynampet and Kodambakkam."

CHINA LONG HAUL

After Trump-Modi call, India briefs Russia

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

AHEAD OF the military-level engagement between India and China to de-escalate the situation along the Line of Actual Control, India has stepped up its diplomacy with major powers.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the situation on the India-China border with US President Donald Trump, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has "updated" Russian Ambassador Nikolay Kudashev on the "recent developments" on the situation along the LAC, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Sources said that if the stand-off is "protracted", Delhi may brief more countries in the coming days. However, there has been no talk of international mediation, sources said.

During Doklam, India had steered away from discussing the situation with other countries, although there were some briefings which had taken place in Beijing

by the Chinese government. This time, India — for the first time — in at least last 20 years, publicly acknowledged that it had discussed the stand-off at the India-China border with the US President.

In the past, the India-China border may have been discussed but it was not declared publicly and was couched in the diplomatic phrase of "regional developments" or "regional security situation".

The feeling in New Delhi is that it needs to "clearly articulate its position" to the world given that it is Beijing that has recently undertaken activity hindering India's normal patrolling patterns.

More so when in the "rules-based order", Beijing is perceived to be violating some of them — from South China Sea to WHO — there is view that New Delhi may be able to make a case out of the current LAC situation.

However, as of now, New Delhi is clear that it is not seeking any international mediation with China.

While Trump had publicly

suggested so, New Delhi has maintained that it is working through diplomatic and military channels to resolve the situation peacefully.

China has also maintained the same position, as the Foreign ministry spokesperson said in Beijing Wednesday. "On border-related issues, there have been sound mechanisms and channels of communication between China and India, and the two sides are capable of properly resolving relevant issues through dialogue and consultation. There is no need for any third party to intervene."

Incidentally, after the Trump-Modi call Tuesday, the spokesperson for the Russian Foreign Ministry said: "The idea of an expanded G7 summit is in general a step in the right direction, but does not really mean a true representation. For instance, it is obvious that it is hardly possible to implement serious global initiatives without China."

The statement was tweeted by the Russian embassy in India.

Gujarat govt announces Aatmanirbhar package worth Rs 14,000 crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, JUNE 4

THE GUJARAT government on Thursday announced a Gujarat Aatmanirbhar package worth Rs 14,000 crore to help individuals, industries and businesses.

The package announced by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has proposed a relief worth Rs 2,300 crore under which the government will waive property tax, electricity bill and motor vehicle tax for individuals, commercial establishments and industrial entities. The government has also announced subsidies worth Rs 3,038 crore to industries.

Another Rs 458 crore has been proposed to help industrial units with estates operated by the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation. Additionally, Rs 1,000 crore has been allocated as subsidies for the housing sector, as a part of which 1.6 lakh affordable houses will be built.

These announcements were made based on recommendations of the first interim report submitted by the Economic Advisory Group headed by former finance secretary Hasmukh Adhia.

The government has allocated Rs 1,190 crore for agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing sectors, and Rs 525 crore for creating self-employment under Gujarat Aatmanirbhar Sahay Yojana-2, wherein entrepreneurs will be given loans between Rs 1-2.5 lakh through cooperative banks. The government had launched the scheme two weeks ago, wherein small loans up to Rs 1 lakh were promised to beneficiaries.

The government also proposed Rs 466 crore in subsidies to migrant and tribal construction workers to build their own homes.

The government has announced a 20 per cent relief in property tax to commercial entities for 2020-21. This relief, amounting to Rs 600 crore is expected to benefit 23 lakh commercial establishments. Residential owners in urban areas can also get a 10 per cent discount if they pay property tax before July 31, 2020. This relief of Rs 144 crore will benefit 72 lakh property owners.

In the power sector, the government has announced a relief of Rs 650 crore to residential consumers using less than 200 units in a month. Such consumers, the government has said, will not have to pay for a 100 units. This is a one-time relief. For 33 lakh commercial consumers with low tension connections, the government has announced a relief worth Rs 200 crore by forgoing fixed charges for May 2020. High tension consumers are being allowed to pay fixed charges in four equal instalments between September and December. For small entrepreneurs and shopowners, electricity duty has been reduced by 5 per cent for June, July and August.



The explosion took place in a chemical storage tank. PTI

Wednesday had led to six deaths on the spot. Two others died subsequently in hospital. Seventy-seven people were admitted to different hospitals in Bharuch with varying levels of injury; 33

of them have been discharged.

The nine deceased identified are: Rashmikant Chauhan (35) from Ahmedabad; Surajlal Singh Rajput (35) from Gopalganj in Bihar; Naresh Prajapati (27) of Bharuch; Pramod Yadav (26) from Sant Kabir Nagar district of UP; Munna Singh Shivprasad Singh (38) from Rohtas district of Bihar; Arun Kori (19) of Sidhi district in Madhya Pradesh; Tripurari Rai (25) from Bihar's Samastipur district; Jayant Mahata (28) from West Bengal's Bankura district; and Hari Darshankumar Chaudhary (20) from Darbhanga, Bihar.

Factory inspector ND Vaghela, who has been at the spot since Wednesday, said, "The exact cause of blast will be known after a detailed

probe, which will take a few days."

Officials have not yet been able to enter the storage tank area given the toxicity, which Vaghela said will last for two or three more days. "We are trying to contact company authorities to find out which chemicals were stored in these tanks," he said.

Bharuch SP Rajendrasinh Chudasma said, "For now, we are investigating it as an accidental death case. We are trying to identify the deceased and contact their family members. FSL officials, factory inspector and industries safety officials are carrying out (parallel) investigations."

He said the owners have "not yet come before the police; we are trying to contact them".

PM private secy gets World Bank posting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's private secretary, Rajeev Topno, has been appointed Senior Advisor to the Executive Director at World Bank, a personnel ministry statement issued on Thursday said. Topno is a 1996-batch IAS officer from the Gujarat cadre.

Meanwhile, Brajendra Navnit, who served in the Prime Minister's Office, has been appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organisation. The 1999-batch Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer was Joint Secretary between July 2014 and September 2019.

The appointments are believed to be significant as they come amid a contraction of the economy due to the coronavirus pandemic. These organisations play a crucial role in trade-related matters.

Five other officers have been appointed to different economic and trade-related posts abroad.

Senior IAS officer Ravi Kota will be Minister (Economic) at the Indian embassy in Washington. He is a 1993-batch IAS officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

Lekhan Thakkar, a Central Secretariat Service officer, has been appointed Counsellor (Economic) at the Indian Embassy in Beijing, China.

H Atheli, a 2000-batch officer of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS), will be Advisor (Director-level) to the Executive Director of the Asian Development Bank.

Anwar Hussain Shaik has been appointed Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to the WTO. He is an Indian Railway Traffic Service officer from the 2000 batch.

N Ashok Kumar will be Advisor (Industry and Engineering), at India's Embassy in Brussels, Belgium. He is a 2004-batch IAS officer from the Manipur cadre.

All these officers will have a tenure of three years, the personnel ministry said.

His ability to observe extraordinary in ordinary changed texture of Hindi cinema

SHUBHRA GUPTA NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

TO SAY that the passing of Basu Chatterjee, the writer-director who defined the hopes and aspirations, and technicoloured dreams of middle-class India, is the end of an era, is not enough. The cinematic epoch born out of his ability to acutely observe the extraordinary in the ordinary, and translate those moments on screen, changed the texture and complexion of Hindi cinema.

Chatterjee was one of the most significant architects of the middle-of-the-road, slice-of-life cinema, whose edifice he built via one film after another, from his debut feature *Sara Akash* (1969), to *Kamla Ki Maut* ('89), and so many others in between. Each of those films gave us a bunch of characters we felt, rooted for.

And a way to see, to laugh — more smile than guffaw — and to cry. Gentle tears, which would be wiped away to greet a new day,

Not loud melodrama created by the glycerine and hysteria which we were so used to, in the potboilers of the time.

Chatterjee passed away in Mumbai this morning. He was 93.

Chatterjee, along with his best-known contemporaries, Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Basu Bhattacharya, did not just create timeless films (*Chhoti Si Baat*, *Rajnigandha*, *Baton Baton Mein*, *Shaukeen*, *Khatta Meetha*, *Chitchor*, *Piya Ka Ghar*, *Chameli Ki Shaadi*). He imparted a sense of pride and identity to an Indian demographic which had no real visual notion of what it stood for. The angry young man in *Deewaar* who beat up a godown full of goons was not one of us. The young man in *Manzil* who wants to impress his lady love by talking himself up? We knew that guy.

Both young men were played by the reigning star of the 70s, Amitabh Bachchan: the first was a 'hero', moulded by Salim Javed and Yash Chopra, whose anger burnt everything around him; the



BASU CHATTERJEE 1927-2020

second was just a lover celebrating a lovely monsoon day, singing 'rim jhim gire saawan', in his suit and black-and-white striped tie, splashing in puddles with a wet sari-clad Moushumi Chatterjee. Why anyone would wear a three-piece suit in the fullness of a Mumbai monsoon is for you to find out, in one of the most underrated outings of both the director and the actor.

That feeling of instant recog-

nition, of seeing people like us on the big screen, doing the kind of stuff we do on an everyday basis — struggling with public transport woes and wily bosses and tricky colleagues and how-to-say-I-love-you to your paramours — was a fresh, new feeling for Hindi film viewers. That, and so much more, was brought to vivid, wondrous life by Chatterjee, and the actor who best personified Chatterjee's 'heroes', Amol Palekar. The two made their best films together: *Rajnigandha* (74), *Chhoti Si Baat* (76), *Chitchor* (76), *Baton Baton Mein* (79).

While Bachchan was forging ahead with his angsty persona, which spoke to the roiling systemic injustice and consequent political turbulence of the 70s, the Chatterjee-Palekar combine was giving us the films where we could breathe, and a world imbued by a sense of welcome ordinariness: beating up baddies single-handedly looks great on screen; living one day at a time in the real world, and making those

ups-and-downs interesting, is the real deal.

It wasn't as if he only made mild-mannered comedies. *Sara Akash*, based on a Rajendra Yadav novel, was a spiky take on incompatible marriages, and how hands are forced in joint families. *Chameli Ki Shaadi* ('86), starring Anil Kapoor and Amrita Singh, raises the ugly face of classism and casteism, and the way it is done is quite remarkable, stinging and biting while it makes us laugh. *Kamla Ki Maut*, starring Pankaj Kapoor, Supriya Pathak, Roopa Ganguly, and one of Irrfan Khan's early films, is a sharply observed look at the stigma attached to premarital sex, and how hypocrisy is the bedrock of our social mores.

But his most-loved films are the ones that brim over with quiet exuberance, the joys and sorrows which mark and celebrate life as it is lived: Chatterjee knew exactly how to make that happen, in his *chhoti-chhoti-si-baat*. And how apt that we sing this, today, and every day, *kisi ke jaane ke baad*.

EXPRESS NETWORK 9

J&K notifies rules for common test in UT for Class-IV posts

Reduces weightage for local candidates in dist-level jobs

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JUNE 4

THE JAMMU and Kashmir administration on Thursday framed rules providing for a common written test across the Union Territory for Class-IV posts arising at even district and divisional levels.

Earlier, recruitment to Class-IV district- and divisional-level vacancies was made from among candidates from respective districts or divisions.

However, to ensure a fair chance to local candidates to get selected for these jobs, the rules provided for grant of 5-10 additional marks over and above what they obtained in the written test.

A notification about J&K Appointment to Class IV (Special Recruitment) Rules, 2020, was issued by General Administration Department (GAD) here on Thursday, doing away with the practice of advertising vacancies and then making recruitment at district, provincial and state lev-

els in the erstwhile state of J&K. The new rules have been made by UT administration under powers conferred by proviso to Article 309 of Indian Constitution read with Section 15 of J&K Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment) Act, 2010, the notification pointed out.

The rules say candidates will be selected by Service Selection Board on the basis of only the written test; they provide for 85 marks for UT cadre posts, and additional marks to different category of candidates, such as 5 marks for candidates whose family member neither is nor has been in government service, 5 marks for widows, divorced women, judicially separated women and orphan girls, and 5 points for casual workers engaged for five years or more.

For divisional cadre posts, the rules provide 80 marks for written test, besides five additional marks for candidates belonging to home division, apart from other categories. Local candidates in case of district cadre

posts will get 10 additional marks over and above marks in written test, apart from five marks to other categories.

National Conference provincial president Devender Rana said the practice of recruitment to Class-IV posts at the district level was introduced to ensure fair competition among candidates from a similar academic ecosystem, as those coming from far-off rural districts such as Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and Kupwara may not be able to compete with candidates from districts such as Jammu and Srinagar. Allocation of 10 additional marks to local candidates during selection for district cadre posts cannot serve that purpose, Rana said.

Ankur Sharma, leader of the outfit Ikkjutt, which claims to fight against purported attempts to change Jammu's demography, however, called the new rules "reasonable classification". He said the Indian Constitution does not permit recruitment of people on the basis of caste, creed, colour and even their place of birth.

UP records another peak in fatalities, total toll now 245

AVANEESH MISHRA
LUCKNOW, JUNE 4

UTTAR PRADESH on Thursday reported its highest single-day fatality linked to novel coronavirus with 15 deaths in a 24-hour period, taking the total toll to 245. The last time such a high number of deaths were reported in one day was on May 28 (15 deaths) and May 22 (14 deaths).

Also, 371 new cases of Covid-19 were reported in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of infected people to 9,237. The last 1,000 cases—from 8,000 to 9,000—were added in four days.

According to official numbers, three deaths each were reported from Meerut and Firozabad, two each from Agra, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr and one each from Azamgarh, Pratapgarh and Balrampur. Principal Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said the fatality rate for those above 50 is over 30 per cent, and appealed to the aged, pregnant women and those with co-morbidities to take precautions.

NO PROOF OF THEM CONTRACTING VIRUS ON FLIGHTS, SAYS GOVT

227 out of 58,867 passengers on Vande Bharat flights tested positive: Centre to HC

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, JUNE 4

THE CENTRE on Thursday submitted before the Bombay High Court that only 227 passengers out of the 58,867 Indians, who boarded special flights under Vande Bharat Mission, tested positive for Covid-19, which is 0.38 per cent of the total passengers. The Centre also said that as these cases were revealed during the institutional quarantine period, there was no proof to corroborate whether they had contracted coronavirus on the flight.

The state-wise details were submitted after the HC on Tuesday had asked Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Air India to provide data of Indians who were not infected while they boarded special flights under the Vande Bharat Mission but tested positive for Covid-19 after landing in India.

After observing the details, the HC sought clarification from expert committee of Civil Aviation Ministry as to whether by mere touch of a Covid-19 infected person the virus can be transmitted to another person so touched. The HC referred to committee's suggestion that if a

person sitting adjacent to another person in flight is provided with protective wrapped around gown, spread of virus by droplets or by touch can be prevented.

A division bench of Justices S J Kathawalla and S P Tavares on Thursday was hearing, through videoconference, a plea filed by Air India pilot Deven Kanani, who alleged that the national carrier had violated social distancing norms while evacuating Indians stranded abroad on the special flights.

Advocate Abhilash Panickar for the petitioner, however, argued that authorities could not provide data as to how many out

of 18,896 passengers who arrived in Delhi, Maharashtra and Telangana tested positive for Covid-19 and therefore the percentage of infection is on higher side.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, representing DGCA, had on Tuesday said the special flights had followed all safety and social distancing norms to prevent Covid-19 spread. Following a May 25 order by the Supreme Court, DGCA had asked carriers to try to keep the middle seats on flights vacant or provide "wrap-around gowns" to passengers who are allotted such seats.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Northern Railway, New Delhi invites E-tender for the contract of leasing of SLR/SLRD space in the following trains originating from various stations over Delhi Division:-

Tender Opening Date :- 06.07.2020

S. No.	Train	Station From	Station To	Comptt. (SLR/SLRD)	CC (Tonnes)	Days of operation	R.P. (Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Cost including GST @18% (in Rs.)	Tender No.
1	54308	DLI (DELHI)	MB (MORADABAD)	FI	4	Daily	4536	100000	1180	SLR-FI-54308-June20
2	54308	DLI (DELHI)	MB (MORADABAD)	FII	4	Daily	4536	100000	1180	SLR-FII-54308-June20
3	15956	DLI (DELHI)	DBRG (DIBRUGARH)	FI	3.9	Daily	32976	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15956-June20
4	12156	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	HBD (HABIBGANJ)	FII	4	Daily	11954	100000	1180	SLR-FII-12156-June20
5	12156	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	HBJ (HABIBGANJ)	RI	4	Daily	11954	100000	1180	SLR-RI-12156-June20
6	54641	DLI (DELHI)	FZR (FIROZPUR CANT)	FI	4	Daily	7642	100000	1180	SLR-FI-54641-June20
7	54641	DLI (DELHI)	FZR (FIROZPUR CANT)	FH	4	Daily	7642	100000	1180	SLR-FH-54641-June20
8	54641	DLI (DELHI)	FZR (FIROZPUR CANT)	RI	4	Daily	7642	100000	1180	SLR-RI-54641-June20
9	54541	MTC (MEERUT CITY)	UMB (AMBALA CANT JN)	FI	4	Daily	5040	100000	1180	SLR-FI-54541-June20
10	54541	MTC (MEERUT CITY)	UMB (AMBALA CANT JN)	FII	4	Daily	5040	100000	1180	SLR-FII-54541-June20
11	54541	MTC (MEERUT CITY)	UMB (AMBALA CANT JN)	RI	4	Daily	5040	100000	1180	SLR-RI-54541-June20
12	54539	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	UMB (AMBALA CANT JN)	FI	4	Daily	6189	100000	1180	SLR-FI-54539-June20
13	54539	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	UMB (AMBALA CANT JN)	FII	4	Daily	6189	100000	1180	SLR-FII-54539-June20
14	54539	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	UMB (AMBALA CANT JN)	RI	4	Daily	6189	100000	1180	SLR-RI-54539-June20
15	51902	DLI (DELHI)	AGC (AGRA CANT)	FI	4	Daily	5040	100000	1180	SLR-FI-51902-June20
16	51902	DLI (DELHI)	AGC (AGRA CANT)	HI	4	Daily	5040	100000	1180	SLR-FI-51902-June20
17	51902	DLI (DELHI)	AGC (AGRA CANT)	RI	4	Daily	5040	100000	1180	SLR-RI-51902-June20
18	29020	MTC (MEERUT CITY)	MDS (MANDASOR)	FI	4	Daily	13852	100000	1180	SLR-FI-29020-June20
19	29020	MTC (MEERUT CITY)	MDS (MANDASOR)	RI	4	Daily	13852	100000	1180	SLR-RI-29020-June20
20	22692	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	SBC (ICSR BENGALURU)	FI	3.9	Daily	39220	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22692-June20
21	22656	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	TVC (TRIVANDRUM CNTL)	FI	4	Friday	38040	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22656-June20
22	22656	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	TVC (TRIVANDRUM CNTL)	FII	4	Friday	38040	100000	1180	SLR-FII-22656-June20
23	22656	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	TVC (TRIVANDRUM CNTL)	RI	4	Friday	38040	100000	1180	SLR-RI-22656-June20
24	22654	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	TVC (TRIVANDRUM CNTL)	FI	4	Monday	34827	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22654-June20
25	22654	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	TVC (TRIVANDRUM CNTL)	FII	4	Monday	34827	100000	1180	SLR-FII-22654-June20
26	22654	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	TVC (TRIVANDRUM CNTL)	RI	4	Monday	34827	100000	1180	SLR-RI-22654-June20
27	22634	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	TVC (TRIVANDRUM CNTL)	F1	4	Friday	38040	100000	1180	SLR-F1-22634-June20
28	22634	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	TVC (TRIVANDRUM CNTL)	FII	4	Friday	38040	100000	1180	SLR-FII-22634-June20
29	22634	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	TVC (TRIVANDRUM CNTL)	RI	4	Friday	38040	100000	1180	SLR-RI-22634-June20
30	22461	NDLS (NEW DELHI)	SVDK (SHMATA VD KATRA)	FI	3.9	Daily	11084	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22461-June20
31	22414	NZM (HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN)	MAO (MADGAON)	FI	3.9	Friday & Saturday	35621	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22414-June20
32	19580	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	RJT (RAJKOT JN)	FI	4	Friday	18130	100000	1180	SLR-FI-19580-June20
33	19580	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	RJT (RAJKOT JN)	FII	4	Friday	18130	100000	1180	SLR-FII-19580-June20
34	19580	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	RJT (RAJKOT JN)	RI	4	Friday	18130	100000	1180	SLR-RI-19580-June20
35	19580	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	BVC (BHAVNAGAR TRMUS)	RI	4	Friday	18821	100000	1180	SLR-RI-19580-June20
36	19264	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	PBR (PORBANDAR)	FI	4	Monday Thursday	14665	100000	1180	PBR-FI-19264-June20
37	19264	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	PBR (PORBANDAR)	RI	4	Monday Thursday	14665	100000	1180	SLR-RI-19264-June20
38	22950	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	BDTS (BANDRA TERMINUS)	F1	3.9	Thursday	20830	100000	1180	SLR-F1-22950-June20
39	15484	DLI (DELHI)	APDJ (ALIPUR DUAR JN)	FII	4	Daily	25008	100000	1180	SLR-FII-15484-June20
40	15274	ANVT (ANAND VIHAR TRM)	RXL (RAXAUL JN)	F7	4	Daily	16091	100000	1180	SLR-F7-15274-June20
41	15274	ANVT (ANAND VIHAR TRM)	RXL (RAXAUL JN)	FII	4	Daily	16091	100000	1180	SLR-FII-15274-June20
42	15274	ANVT (ANAND VIHAR TRM)	RXL (RAXAUL JN)	RI	4	Daily	16091	100000	1180	SLR-RI-15274-June20
43	15116	DLI (DELHI)	LPR (LAKHPUR)	FII	4	Sunday	18466	100000	1180	SLR-FII-15116-June20
44	15060	ANVT (ANAND VIHAR TRM)	CKU (CHH SAN)	FI	4	Tuesday Thursday	4032	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15060-June20
45	15060	ANVT (ANAND VIHAR TRM)	LKU (LAL KUAN)	RI	4	Tuesday Thursday	4032	100000	1180	SLR-RI-15060-June20
46	14812	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	SIKR (SIKAR JN)	F1	4	Wednesday & Friday	2161	100000	1180	SLR-F1-14812-June20
47	14812	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	SIKR (SIKAR JN)	M1	4	Wednesday & Friday	2161	100000	1180	SLR-M1-14812-June20
48	14812	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	SIKR (SIKAR JN)	M2	4	Wednesday & Friday	2161	100000	1180	SLR-M2-14812-June20
49	14812	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	SIKR (SIKAR JN)	M3	4	Wednesday & Friday	2161	100000	1180	SLR-M3-14812-June20
50	14812	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	SIKR (SIKAR JN)	M4	4	Wednesday & Friday	2161	100000	1180	SLR-M4-14812-June20
51	14812	DEE (DELHI S ROHILLA)	SIKR (SIKAR JN)	RI	4	Wednesday & Friday	2161	100000	1180	SLR-RI-14812-June20
52	14659	DLI (DELHI)	JSM (JAISALMER)	FI	4	Daily	15352	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14659-June20
53	14659	DLI (DELHI)	JSM (JAISALMER)	RI	4	Daily	15352	100000	1180	SLR-RI-14659-June20
54	14645	DLI (DELHI)	JAT (JAMMU TAWI)	FI	4	Daily	11052	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14645-June20
55	14645	DLI (DELHI)	JAT (JAMMU TAWI)	FII	4	Daily	11052	100000	1180	SLR-FII-14645-June20
56	14645	DLI (DELHI)	JAT (JAMMU TAWI)	M1	4	Daily	11052	100000	1180	SLR-M1-14645-June20
57	14645	DLI (DELHI)	JAT (JAMMU TAWI)	M2	4	Daily	11052	100000	1180	SLR-M2-14645-June20
58	14645	DLI (DELHI)	JAT (JAMMU TAWI)	M3	4	Daily	11052	100000	1180	SLR-M3-14645-June20
59	14645	DLI (DELHI)	JAT (JAMMU TAWI)	M4	4	Daily	11052	100000	1180	SLR-M4-14645-June20
60	14553	DLI (DELHI)	DLPC (DAULATPUR CHAUK)	FI	4	Daily	8040	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14553-June20
61	14553	DLI (DELHI)	DLPC (DAULATPUR CHAUK)	RI	4	Daily	8040	100000	1180	SLR-RI-14553-June20
62	14521	DLI (DELHI)	UMB (AMBALA CANT JN)	FI	4	Daily	6048	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14521-June20
63	14521	DLI (DELHI)	UMB (AMBALA CANT JN)	RI	4	Daily	6048	100000	1180	SLR-RI-14521-June20
64	14316	NDLS (NEW DELHI)	BE (BAREILLY)	FI	4	Daily	5907	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14316-June20
65	14316	NDLS (NEW DELHI)	BE (BAREILLY)	FII	4	Daily	5907	100000	1180	SLR-FII-14316-June20
66	14316	NDLS (NEW DELHI)	BE (BAREILLY)	RI	4	Daily	5907	100000	1180	SLR-RI-14316-June20
67	14212	NDLS (NEW DELHI)	AGC (AGRA CANT)	FI	3.9	Daily	4914	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14212-June20
68	14208	DLI (DELHI)	PBH (PARTAPGARH JN)	FII	4	Daily	11368	100000	1180	SLR-FII-14208-June20
69	14152	ANVT (ANAND VIHAR TRM)	CNB (KANPUR CENTRAL)	FI	3.9	Sunday	8593	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14152-June20
70	14044	DLI (DELHI)	KTW (KOTDWARA)	FI	4	Daily	5614	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14044-June20
71	14044	DLI (DELHI)	KTW (KOTDWARA)	RI	4	Daily	5614	100000	1180	SLR-RI-14044-June20
72	22429	DLI (DELHI)	PTK (PATHANKOT)	FI	4	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday	9844	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22429-June20
73	54056	DLI (DELHI)	MB (MORADABAD)	FI	4	Daily	4536	100000	1180	SLR-FI-54056-June20
74	54056	DLI (DELHI)	MB (MORADABAD)	FII	4	Daily	4536	100000	1180	SLR-FII-54056-June20
75	54056	DLI (DELHI)	MB (MORADABAD)	RI	4	Daily	4536	100000	1180	SLR-RI-54056-June20
76	22454	MTC (MEERUT CITY)	LJN (LUCKNOW NE)	FI	4	Daily	8555	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22454-June20
77	22454	MTC (MEERUT CITY)	LJN (LUCKNOW NE)	FII	4	Daily	8555	100000	1180	SLR-FII-22454-June20
78	22454	MTC (MEERUT CITY)	LJN (LUCKNOW NE)	RI	4	Daily	8555	100000	1180	SLR-RI-22454-June20
79	14033	DLI (DELHI)	SVDK (SHMATA VD KATRA)	FI	3.9	Daily	11368	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14033-June20
80	14011	DLI (DELHI)	HSX (HOSHARPUR)	FI	4	Daily	8040	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14011-June20
81	14011	DLI (DELHI)	HSX (HOSHARPUR)	RI	4	Daily	8040	100000	1180	SLR-RI-14011-June20
82	13430	ANVT (ANAND VIHAR TRM)	MLDT (MALDA TOWN)	FI	4	Saturday	22325	100000	1180	SLR-FI-13430-June20
83	12986	DEE (Delhi Rohilla)	JP (jatpur)	FI	3.9	Daily	6445	1		

Lockdown flattened wrong curve — the GDP curve: Rajiv Bajaj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4



Rajiv Bajaj

THE LOCKDOWN the government put in place was "draconian" and the "hard" shutdown ended up decimating the economy and flattening the GDP growth curve instead of the coronavirus curve, industrialist Rajiv Bajaj said Thursday in a conversation with senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Bajaj said some "mood elevators" are required now to reignite demand and wondered why a strong initiative for that is not being taken.

Bajaj said the government has fallen "very short of disclosing facts, logic and the truth" regarding the pandemic, which he felt "got amplified and installed such an enormous fear in people that people seem to think that the contagion is equal to a contagious cancer or something".

"I think the first problem is to get this fear out of the minds of the people, there has to be a very clear aligned narrative, I would say from the PM because, right or wrong, when he says something people seem to follow. I think he needs to stand up and say to everyone that this is how we are going to move forward, it's all under control, do not fear infections, almost nobody is dying, you know and we have to move forward now," said Bajaj, managing director at Bajaj Auto.

Rahul said he was told by an expert in the initial days of the lockdown that by applying a "full lockdown you are changing the nature of the disease... you are making this non-fatal disease to a fatal disease in the minds of the people. Once you've done that, then to reverse that, that is going to take a significant amount of

time and it is going to take a lot of effort."

Bajaj said every country was trying to find a middle path between an impervious lockdown and a business-as-usual approach. "I think, unfortunately, India not only looked west, it went to the Wild West. I think we stayed more towards the impervious side. We tried to implement a hard lockdown which was still porous. So, I think we have ended up with the worst of both worlds."

"On one hand a porous lockdown makes sure that the virus will still exist... So you have not solved that problem. But you have definitely decimated the economy. You flattened the wrong curve. It is not the infection curve, it is the GDP curve. This is what we have ended (up) with, the worst of both worlds," he said.

When Rahul said the Centre has backed off and left it to the states to deal with the pandemic, Bajaj said it is more like "passing of the buck and not passing of the strategy". He said an aligned approach to unlocking is missing.

"I'm not seeing that smooth, concerted, rhythmic movement towards unlocking. Yes... we are moving in that direction, but I think, a kind of aligned approach that is required. That one person will say one thing... This is not happening and I think the blame for this rests again with the kind of fear we created in the first place that infection is equal to death."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Agri reforms will lead to artificial shortages: Left

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

THE LEFT parties on Thursday opposed the ordinances being promulgated by the Centre to deregulate agriculture sector, saying they would create artificial shortages of commodities.

While the CPI(M) stated that these proposals will only help "middlemen, traders and financial intermediaries who will squeeze both the producer, farmer and the consumer", CPI general secretary D Raja said the government's argument that the amendments will benefit farmers was misleading. "This will benefit only traders, not farmers and consumers," he said.

The CPI(M) said the amend-

ments will "pave the way to create artificial shortages due to speculation by middlemen and traders adversely affecting the country's food security".

"Licences for electronic trading will pave the way for speculative forward trading in all agricultural commodities. These open the way for entry of big multinational agro-business and domestic corporates to freely access India's agricultural produce and markets," it said. "This is a recipe for the total destruction of whatever little of the public distribution system that is left."

CPI's Raja said the ordinance will give freedom to traders and corporations to hoard and create artificial shortages and sell commodities at high prices—squeezing both farmers and consumers.

Unlockdown SOPs: 50% seating for restaurants, food courts in malls

use of masks, thermal screening, social distancing and sanitisation, the SOPs require people above 65 years of age, those with comorbidities, pregnant woman, and children below the age of 10 years, to stay at home. Masks are mandatory at all times, including inside restaurants.

The SOPs are advisory in nature, and it is for the state governments to finetune the details. Officials said that individual business establishments can choose to enforce the advisory with increased stringency. "For example, if restaurant owners want to insist that all patrons get the Aarogya Setu app, they can do so," an official said.

In hotels, the SOPs mandate that guests will have to submit their medical history apart from identity card, travel history, etc., while washrooms have to be "deep cleaned".

The SOPs state that establishments need to have separate entry and exit, and aged employees or those with comorbidities should take extra precautions and not be exposed to frontline work.

One of the biggest concerns, officials said, is the use of air-conditioners. "For air-conditioning/ventilation, the guidelines of CPWD shall be followed...the temperature setting of all air-conditioning devices should be in the range of 24-30 degrees,

relative humidity in the range of 40-70%, intake of fresh air as much as possible and cross ventilation should be adequate," say the SOPs.

Those visiting places of worship need to bring their own prayer mat or cloth, which they should take back with them. "No physical offerings like prasad/distribution or sprinkling of holy water, etc., is allowed inside religious places," the SOPs state.

To ensure social distancing in buildings, the guidelines advise restrictions on the number of people who can use the lift at any given time. "Cleaning and regular disinfection (using 1% sodium hypochlorite) of frequently touched surfaces (door knobs, elevator buttons, hand rails, benches, washroom fixtures, etc.) to be made mandatory in all malls in common areas as well as inside shops, elevators, escalators etc," they state.

On closure of workplaces due to infections, the SOPs specify that it will depend on the number of cases detected. "If there are one or two cases reported, the disinfection procedure will be limited to places/areas visited by the patient in the past 48 hours. There is no need to close the entire office building/halt work in other areas of the office... work can be resumed after disinfection as per laid down protocol," the SOPs state.

"However, if there is a larger outbreak, the building/block will have to be closed for 48 hours after thorough disinfection. All the staff will work from home, till the building/block is adequately disinfected and is declared fit for re-occupation," they state.

The requirements for other commercial establishments

'IT IS MORE DETRIMENTAL'

SC questions interest charged in loan repayment moratorium

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday questioned the decision of banks to continue charging interest on loan amounts despite the moratorium on repayment announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in view of the national lockdown to curb the coronavirus pandemic.

"On the one hand (you are) granting moratorium and nothing (no moratorium) in interest. It is more detrimental," Justice M R Shah, who was hearing the matter with Justices Ashok Bhushan and S K Kaul, observed.

In an affidavit filed on Wednesday, RBI had told the court that it does not consider it prudent or appropriate to go for a "forced waiver of interest" on deferred loans repayments,

thereby "risking financial viability of banks it is mandated to regulate, and putting interests of depositors in jeopardy".

The court was hearing a petition filed by Uttar Pradesh resident Gajendra Sharma, who urged the court to declare as ultra vires the part of RBI's March 27 notification charging interest on deferred loan repayment. In his petition, Sharma said it "creates hardship in the present scenario of complete national lockdown, (which is) being extended from time to time".

Taking up the matter on Thursday, Justice Bhushan conveyed displeasure over contents of the affidavit appearing in the media even before it had come up for hearing and cautioned that it should not happen again. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the Finance Ministry also wishes to file its reply in the matter.

Justice Bhushan said there are two aspects to the issue — interest during moratorium period and interest on this interest.

Justice Kaul observed that these are not normal times. "Let me respond with the Finance Ministry and the RBI together," Mehta submitted.

Appearing for the petitioner, senior advocate Rajiv Dutta said, "The cat is out of bag... They are saying profitability of bank (is) prime." He referred to the top court's earlier order allowing Air India to operate non-scheduled international flights without leaving a seat in between only up to June 6.

At this, Justice Bhushan said, "We know economic aspect (is) not higher than health of people."

At this, Dutta said, "So only the banks should earn and rest of the country goes down under?" Dutta said he wants to file a rejoinder.

The court fixed June 12 to hear it again.

In his petition, Gajendra Sharma said he runs an optical store in Agra, UP, and had a gross annual total income of about Rs. 6.57 lakh. He had taken a home loan from ICICI Bank and has been paying EMIs without any default. But the extended lockdown, he said, created "immense burden" on his budget, as apart from paying EMI on home loan he has to pay his employees, and also manage his home and family.

While hearing some PILs on the matter, the court had on April 30 expressed doubts on whether banks were passing on reliefs announced by the RBI to borrowers and asked the apex bank to ensure compliance. However, the bench refused to interfere after noting that none of the petitioners were personally aggrieved and left the question of law open.



LONG WAIT: Migrant workers sleep outside Kalupur railway station in Ahmedabad on Thursday as they wait for trains. Javed Raja

Health emerges as key area for CAG amid Covid-19

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

WITH HEALTH becoming a priority area for audit amid the Covid-19 outbreak, the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India has created a new vertical — health, welfare and rural development.

An order to this effect was issued by the office of CAG on June 1, said a source familiar with development.

The source said that as part of the restructuring exercise, a

senior officer has been posted as Principal Director of Audit (Health, Welfare and Rural Development) against a newly created post carved out of the office of Director General of Audit, Central Expenditure.

The immediate task before the new vertical will be to expedite the performance audit of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and Employee State Insurance (ESI) hospitals from 2014-15 to 2018-19. "These two audit reports are likely to be submitted before the winter session of Parliament later this

year," said the source.

The performance audit of CGHS will be focused on the procurement of drugs for over 400 CGHS wellness centres and polyclinics, 73 labs and 3 hospitals spread across more than 40 cities.

CGHS, which provides healthcare facilities to about 34.19 lakh beneficiaries, including government employees, pensioners and MPs, incurred Rs 5,113 crore — almost half of its total expenditure — on drugs from 2014-15 to 2018-19.

During the performance audit of CGHS, CAG will also con-

duct a beneficiary survey involving issues such as availability and quality of drugs.

The performance audit of ESI hospitals will scrutinise whether these hospitals and dispensaries have requisite human resources to provide the assured services. It will also look into the practices of infection control and hygiene.

Besides the health, welfare and rural development vertical, separate officers have been posted for other sectors such as home, education & skill development; and agriculture, food and water resources.

FROM PAGE ONE

Unlockdown SOPs: 50% seating for restaurants, food courts in malls

use of masks, thermal screening, social distancing and sanitisation, the SOPs require people above 65 years of age, those with comorbidities, pregnant woman, and children below the age of 10 years, to stay at home. Masks are mandatory at all times, including inside restaurants.

The SOPs are advisory in nature, and it is for the state governments to finetune the details. Officials said that individual business establishments can choose to enforce the advisory with increased stringency. "For example, if restaurant owners want to insist that all patrons get the Aarogya Setu app, they can do so," an official said.

In hotels, the SOPs mandate that guests will have to submit their medical history apart from identity card, travel history, etc., while washrooms have to be "deep cleaned".

The SOPs state that establishments need to have separate entry and exit, and aged employees or those with comorbidities should take extra precautions and not be exposed to frontline work.

One of the biggest concerns, officials said, is the use of air-conditioners. "For air-conditioning/ventilation, the guidelines of CPWD shall be followed...the temperature setting of all air-conditioning devices should be in the range of 24-30 degrees,

relative humidity in the range of 40-70%, intake of fresh air as much as possible and cross ventilation should be adequate," say the SOPs.

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On closure of workplaces due to infections, the SOPs specify that it will depend on the number of cases detected. "If there are one or two cases reported, the disinfection procedure will be limited to places/areas visited by the patient in the past 48 hours. There is no need to close the entire office building/halt work in other areas of the office... work can be resumed after disinfection as per laid down protocol," the SOPs state.

"However, if there is a larger outbreak, the building/block will have to be closed for 48 hours after thorough disinfection. All the staff will work from home, till the building/block is adequately disinfected and is declared fit for re-occupation," they state.

The requirements for other commercial establishments

have been left to the designated public health authority. But if a case is detected, the premise will have to be disinfected.

20% of India's cases in Mumbai but daily tests frozen at 4,000 all of May

of now, less than 50 per cent of the state's tests are being carried out in these two cities.

Pune has been testing 1,200 to 1,500 samples every day. As a result, Mumbai's share in the state's testing declined from 55 per cent at the beginning of May to less than 30 per cent at the end.

"Earlier, in March, around 70-75 per cent of tests in Maharashtra were happening in Mumbai. From May onward, we have noticed a consistent decline. That is worrying," a state health official said.

Experts underline that since most novel coronavirus infected people do not show symptoms, aggressive testing is the only way to identify and isolate them, so they do not transmit the virus to others.

Mumbai's approach is more surprising because the positivity rate in the city has been increasing steadily. At the beginning of May, Mumbai reported around 750 positive cases every day; by the end of the month, this number had doubled to about 1,500. That gives the city a positivity rate of more than 35 per cent, the highest in the country.

India has an overall positiv-

ity rate of 5 per cent, and most other states are around the same number, although there are fluctuations in the daily rate. Cumulatively, Mumbai's positivity rate is 20 per cent, data until June 1 show — much more than most other cities or states.

Dr Soumitra Ghosh of the Centre for Health, Policy, Planning and Management at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), said Mumbai was taking a "conservative approach" — "The positivity rate is increasing, which means the incidence of the virus in the population is increasing. We will not be able to contain the virus if this approach continues."

Maharashtra's frequently education secretary Sanjay Mukherjee told The Indian Express that the high positivity rate showed Mumbai was targeting its tests better.

But Dr T Sundararaman, former dean of TISS's School of Health Systems Studies, said this also showed that Mumbai was not testing adequately outside the target group.

"This (the increasing positivity rate) shows that the virus is spreading fast in the community, and if we don't test more we will miss out on several more positive cases," he said.

Mumbai has adopted a targeted approach from the beginning, testing only the primary contacts of infected people, others who are showing symptoms, and frontline workers such as healthcare staff who are at the greatest risk of getting infected.

As per protocol, all high-risk contacts have to be tested, either after five days of quarantine when they develop symptoms, or at end of their quarantine pe-

riod. The protocol mandates testing of all symptomatic cases, where fever, bodyache, cough, and breathlessness are reported.

The death audit committee in Mumbai has advised the government to test vulnerable sections, including senior citizens, pregnant women, high-risk contacts, and people with kidney or heart ailments, at the earliest.

According to Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Chahal, Mumbai is testing 13,400 per million population. Even though Mumbai (with 39,686 cases on May 31) has double the case load of Chennai (14,802), it is testing less than Chennai. Chennai is testing 15,500 per million population.

Asked why the number of tests have remained constant around 4,000, BMC's Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani said: "Earlier our contribution was more in state because other districts were not testing as many people. Now other districts have started testing too."

Across India, 41.03 lakh people had been tested till June 1, according to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) data. On Thursday night, the ICMR portal showed India's total testing number as 42,42,718, with 1,39,485 samples having been tested over the previous 24 hours.

Maharashtra has 78 laboratories for Covid-19 testing, the most among Indian states. Until now, it has conducted 4.83 lakh tests, of which 2.02 lakh have been in Mumbai.

When contacted, BMC spokesperson Dr Daksha Shah said: "We did maximum testing from the very beginning and we

are maintaining that. We now have more than 16 labs since March."

IRDAI's Covid cover: Daily cap of Rs 5,000 for room

The IRDAI move comes at a time when the total case count is over 2 lakh, of which 1,06,737 are active cases.

Sources said IRDAI has included treatment of Covid-19 patients in makeshift hospitals, which is not covered by the existing health insurance policies.

"This is an important addition. However, IRDAI could have made some changes to include this in the existing health insurance policies," said a senior official with a leading general insurance company.

He said that while the IRDAI has come out with the product to offer a cheaper option to customers, "it's unlikely that the product will be cheap as the line of treatment is not fixed, no one knows how the claims will behave. There is a risk and yes, we will take the risk".

On June 1, The Indian Express reported that IRDAI has advised the General Insurance Council to work on a reasonable and standardised cost structure for Covid-19 treatment. Following feedback on a set of proposals, the IRDAI has now unveiled the Covid-19 product.

The policy tenure will be for one year, and it can be given on a family floater basis for persons with minimum entry age of 18 years and maximum of 65 years.

Lockdown period saw rise of violence within family, child abuse, says SC judge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

THE LOCKDOWN period saw an increase in cases of violence within the family and instances of child abuse, Supreme Court judge, Justice NV Ramana, said on Thursday.

Justice Ramana, who is also executive chairman of National Legal Services Authority and is second most senior judge of the apex court, said the pandemic has also "affected rights of women, children and senior citizen", and that this calls for a persistent and target-oriented action plan.

Justice Ramana said these in his keynote speech while releasing a 'Handbook of Formats: Ensuring Effective Legal Services', prepared in collaboration with the NGO Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

Speaking at the webinar, he said, "Pursuant to the lockdown, thousands of people have lost their lives and livelihood, large-

scale migration has taken place. The lockdown has itself created psychological issues and violence within the family. Women have been burdened with more work; children have been unable to go to schools. Adding to that, working of home has also had its impact on family life."

"One of the critical areas which has come to our notice", he said, "was rising violence within the family itself...we also saw increasing rise in the number of instances of child abuse."

Justice Ramana said that acknowledging the urgency of the situation, "we have established One Stop Centres", and that "persistent efforts have been taken to provide legal assistance through tele-services of female panel lawyers in every district". In other matters, he said, petitions have been filed under Domestic Violence Act.

Another focus area for legal services authorities, he pointed out, is to ensure reduction of overcrowding in prisons.

Quarantine centres at villages in pitiable state: Uttarakhand HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, JUNE 4

QUARANTINE CENTRES at the village level are in a "pitiable condition", the Uttarakhand high court has noted in an order on the basis of reports received from District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) in the state.

Following the court's observation, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Thursday directed district magistrates to ensure availability of essential facilities in quarantine centres.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), the High court on May 28 directed secretaries of the DLSAs in border districts Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar and Dehradun to visit these quarantine centres within three days and file reports.

On June 2, the bench comprising Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Ravindra Maithani said in its order, "The sense which we are getting after studying these reports is that the quarantine centres which have been established at village level are the worst of the lot. These quarantine centres in villages are mostly functioning in Government Primary Schools and Secondary Schools. Their condition, as per the reports is pitiable."

"First and foremost, there are no facilities in these centres to provide food to the inmates. Food is

being provided by the villagers and the family members of the inmates. In many of these quarantine centres where the inmates are more than 20 to 30, there are only 1 or 2 toilets. What is most shocking is that the hygienic condition of these toilets is also extremely poor..." the order adds.

The court order says the Gram Sabhas are short of funds and appear to be in no condition to manage these centres. The court referred to a state government order dated May 4 wherein District Magistrates have been directed to coordinate with Gram Sabhas and Gram Pradhans of villages where these quarantine centres have been established, provide them with funds and see to it that these centres are properly managed. "We are afraid that this is not being done properly as of now," the court said in the order and directed the Secretary, Health, and the Secretary, Disaster Management, in the state government to pass appropriate orders to District Magistrates so that their earlier directive is implemented.

The Chief Minister has now directed district magistrates to address the situation and pay special attention to quarantine facilities set up in the villages. He also announced that if a Covid-19 patient in Uttarakhand dies, dependents will be given an assistance of Rs 1 lakh.

30 days prior to the date of hospitalisation should be admissible. Pre-hospitalisation expenses should cover the costs of diagnostics towards Covid-19," it said.

According to IRDAI's guidelines, post-hospitalisation medical expenses incurred for a period of 60 days from the date of discharge, following an admissible claim, should be included.

For the add-on cover, if the person is quarantined due to diagnosis or suspected infection, then the company will pay 1 per cent of sum insured per day, up to Rs 3,000 per day. In the case of daily hospital cash, the company will pay 0.5 per cent of sum insured per day for every 24 hours of hospitalisation on positive diagnosis of Covid-19.

The premium payable towards these two add-ons are to be specified separately so as to enable policy-holders to choose and pay based on the need, the IRDAI said.

The insurer may determine the price keeping in view the covers proposed to be offered, subject to compliance with the norms specified in the IRDAI (Health Insurance) Regulations, 2016 and Guidelines.

The base covers of standard Covid-19 product should be offered on indemnity basis, whereas add-ons should be made available on benefit basis.

The standard Covid-19 product should comply with portability provisions and premium can be made on monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly basis, IRDAI said. The premium under this product should be on pan-India basis and no geographic location or zone-based pricing is allowed, it said.

LINKING MALAPPURAM WITH ANIMAL'S DEATH CRITICISED

Kerala combs forests to probe elephant's death, Oppn leaders slam Maneka, minister

SHAJU PHILIP & ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

EVEN AS more than 250 personnel from Kerala's forest department comb private estates on forest fringes in Palakkad and Malappuram districts, looking for clues on the death of a pregnant elephant on May 27, several opposition leaders Thursday slammed ruling BJP leaders for attempts to create controversy and purportedly try to sully the state's image.

The elephant died after her mouth was severely damaged in an explosion in Palakkad district. It was first spotted in a river near the buffer zone of Silent Valley National Park on May 23.

The forest department's combing team comprises personnel from Silent Valley, Mannarkad, Palakkad and Nilambur divisions under whose jurisdictions forests in the two districts mostly fall, sources said.

The team is mainly looking for presence of snares kept by locals for wild animals, and for likely suspects in the case. They are assisted by a team of police under Palakkad Superintendent of Police. There has been no breakthrough yet, and sources said the



Saurabh, a B.Tech student, protests in Lucknow against the death of the pregnant elephant in Kerala. Vishal Srivastava

forest department has decided to extend the combing operation across the state.

A separate team of the state Crime Branch are proceeding with a simultaneous probe into use of explosives which had led to the animal's death.

In Kerala, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said, "At the national level, there is a concerted campaign against the state. The incident was reported in Palakkad district, but the name of (Muslim-majority) Malappuram was dragged into it deliberately. Even Union ministers are engaged in a baseless campaign. If somebody thinks the incident can be used to do away with the ovation (credit)

the state has gained in its Covid-19 management, it is only their delusion." He said any attempt to "question the state's self-respect would not be allowed".

Kerala Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala of the Congress also condemned the "campaign" against the state, and remarks linking the animal's death to Malappuram. In a letter to BJP MP and former Union minister Maneka Gandhi, he stated, "Your irresponsible statement has given space for airing hate speeches abusing a district and its people. Withdraw and apologise for your statement portraying this district as a centre of crime."

Malappuram MP and IUML

leader P K Kunhalikutty said, "Their attitude against one place where such incidents have not taken place in the past...that's part of their partisan and communal agenda.... They use Malappuram's name for their communal campaign."

The Congress high command also accused the BJP of giving a communal colour to the "unfortunate incident."

"The BJP must tender an unqualified and unconditional public apology for giving communal colour to the most unfortunate incident of the killing of a pregnant elephant in Kerala," AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said. He said "any kind of mindless and unreasonable violence against wildlife is totally unacceptable and unjustifiable" but pointed out that senior BJP leaders such as Maneka Gandhi and ministers like Prakash Javadekar are "deliberately spreading false information."

In remarks to a TV channel, Maneka had said, "Malappuram is perhaps the most disturbed district in the country. Some incident is reported there every day. People in the panchayat throw poison, and not just elephants, thousands of animals are killed at the same time. Birds and dogs are killed... They have killed so many women. They chop off people's arms in

communal clashes. The situation there is extremely horrifying... It seems even the Kerala government is scared of them as there is no action. The weakest people in the administration are sent to Malappuram. It is famous that you can kill anybody, the Kerala government will not do anything."

She said that an elephant is killed every three days in Kerala. Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar also stated that the elephant died in Malappuram district.

On the probe, Kerala's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden Surendrakumar said, "We suspect the culprits got local support... a few are being questioned. The wound in the mouth of the elephant was caused by an explosion. There is an illegal practice to drop cracker-loaded fruit in farmlands to target wild boars that raid crops. But we cannot conclusively say at this stage that the elephant has attempted to eat such a fruit."

Meanwhile, another elephant was on Thursday found with injuries to its mouth, and marks on its body, in Kalikavu forest range in Malappuram, around 20 km from Ambalappara, where the pregnant elephant was spotted.

With Vishnu Varma in Kochi

RAILWAY MINISTER HAD ANNOUNCED CASH REWARD

I was confident: RPF constable who sprinted with milk packet for infant on moving train

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JUNE 4

RAILWAY PROTECTION Force (RPF) constable Inder Singh Yadav was busy making announcements on a public address system, asking passengers not to venture out of a special train carrying migrant workers, when a woman passenger requested him to arrange milk for her four-month-old child.

Sharif Hashmi, who was accompanied by her husband, told the 32-year-old constable that she had been looking for milk for her child from Belgaum, from where the train began, but could not manage to get it.

The Belgaum-Gorakhpur Shramik Train had entered Platform No 1 of the Bhopal Railway Station on May 31. The constable came out to buy milk from a kiosk located just outside the railway station after telling the woman "do minute wait karo (wait for two minutes)". But when he was returning, he saw the train chug along and gather speed.

With a rifle in one hand and the pouch in another, he sprinted along and managed to hand over the milk to the woman.

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has announced a cash reward for Yadav after a video of the incident, which took place four days ago, was widely circulated on social media.



A video of Constable Inder Singh Yadav (left), sprinting after the train to make sure the infant gets his milk, was widely circulated on social media

ward for Yadav after a video of the incident, which took place four days ago, was widely circulated on social media.

"I was confident and never thought that I would not be able to hand over the milk pouch," said Yadav, who has studied upto Class XII.

After reaching Gorakhpur, the woman thanked Yadav for

his help. "I asked for milk at many stations. My three-month-old child was hungry. At Bhopal railway station, Inder Singh Yadavji's helped me. Unka bahot bahot shukriya (am very grateful to him)."

Yadav, who was previously posted at Lucknow, has been at the Bhopal RPF station for the last five years.

RS, MLC POLLS SOON

Amidst murmurs of dissidence, Yediyurappa makes key appointments

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JUNE 4

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa has made two key appointments, in what is being seen as an attempt to check dissidence ahead of elections to the Rajya Sabha and state Legislative Council later this month.

Yediyurappa has appointed former Congress leader Ramesh Jarkiholi --- who was reportedly at the helm of dissident activities which led to the fall of the Congress-JDS government last year --- as minister in-charge of Belagavi district. The CM has also appointed his grandnephew N R Santhosh --- who is said to have played a central role in arranging logistics for those dissident activities --- as his political secretary to end a brief period of estrangement.

Jarkiholi's appointment as minister in-charge of Belagavi --- which is his home district --- and Santhosh as political secretary comes in the wake of murmurs of dissidence brewing in the Karnataka BJP ahead of Rajya Sabha polls scheduled on June 19, and Council polls to be held soon.

A group of BJP MLAs led by senior leaders like Umesh Katti, Murugesh Nirani and a dozen others, who have been aspiring



BS Yediyurappa

for a cabinet berth, have reportedly emerged as a source of dissident activities in the state BJP. The group reportedly held a meeting in February and another a few days ago, prompting Yediyurappa to initiate measures to prevent the spread of dissidence, especially to other disgruntled leaders like Jarkiholi.

"I have not participated in any dissident meetings. I am a disciplined BJP worker," said Nirani, at whose home a meeting was reportedly held. "It was a meeting of friends which has been projected as a meeting of dissidents," he said in a video statement after pictures emerged of a meeting featuring him, Katti and S A Ramdas, all former ministers.

Brushing aside reports of dissidence, Yediyurappa said, "We are focused on doing what

is needed for the state." He also stated this week that Katti would be made a minister at the right time.

The murmurs of dissidence have re-emerged at a time when MLAs are due to elect four new members to the Rajya Sabha on June 19 on account of the retirement of Prabhakar Kore (BJP), M V Rajeev Gowda and B K Hariprasad (Congress) and real estate businessman Kupendra Reddy (JDS).

Given its strength of 116 members, the BJP can elect two persons to the Rajya Sabha. The retiring educationist Kore, who is from Belagavi, is keen on another term and reportedly enjoys the support of the BJP high command.

The Katti brothers of Belagavi, who are allies of the Jarkiholis, are pushing for the candidature of Umesh Katti's brother Ramesh Katti, while the BJP high command is reportedly keen on sending an eminent person and the names of Sudha Murthy and K V Kamath are in circulation.

The last date of nomination is June 9.

Seven members of the Legislative Council are set to retire on June 30 and elections are likely to be announced soon. The BJP is poised to win most of the seats on account of its 116 members compared to 68 of the Congress and 34 of JDS.

Kanpur college's principal removed over Tablighi remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 4

THE PRINCIPAL of Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Memorial (GSVM) Medical College in Kanpur was removed from her post on Thursday, four days after the controversy over a viral video in which she purportedly referred to members of the Tablighi Jamaat who tested positive for Covid-19, saying that the government is appeasing and wasting resources on them.

Sources said Principal Secretary (Medical Education) Rajneesh Dube had earlier sought a report from Kanpur District Magistrate (DM) Brahm Dev Tiwari in this regard, after which action was taken against the principal, Arati Dave Lalchandani. They further said Lalchandani would serve as principal of Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College (MLB) Medical College in Jhansi, and Professor R B Kamal would re-

Lalchandani claims the video was morphed by a journalist in Kanpur, who was trying to use the clip to extort money and get favours from her

place her.

However, this is yet to be officially confirmed.

In the nearly 5-minute video, which is claimed to be about two months old, Lalchandani can be heard saying "these people are terrorists but are provided VIP treatment", and that the hospital has to exhaust its resources, put doctors at risk and pay hotel bills for "these people". Referring to the hospital admission of "these people" as appeasement, she is heard saying said they should be handled more strictly.

When contacted by *The Indian Express*, Lalchandani claimed the video was morphed by a journalist in Kanpur, who was trying to use the video to extort money and get favours from her.

Claiming that she has never used words like Tablighi or Muslims in the video, she said she would get an FIR registered against the journalist.

She later added she was angry with the fact that a lot of Tablighis were found positive in the district, and instead of an L-1 hospital, they were sent to the medical college where they were allegedly not cooperating with the staff and doctors.

No first information report (FIR) has been registered against the journalist yet.

On May 31, Lalchandani had confirmed that Dube had spoken with her regarding the video and that she had presented her side to him. While Tiwari said he does not have any information about a transfer, Dube could not be reached via phone.

HOME ISOLATION Guidelines

Steps for Home Isolation

Step-1

On the basis of your symptoms, clinician will advise you Home Isolation

Step-2

If you meet the laid parameters, you can be Home Isolated for next 10 days

Step-3

After Home Isolation period of 10 days, 7 days of self monitoring should be done

Cover your face with tissue while coughing or sneezing and dispose them after use

Wash your hands with soap and water for 40 seconds or use alcohol based sanitizer

Avoid sharing household items like dishes, drinking glasses, eating utensils

Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces touched frequently

Avoid contact with others, keep distance of at least Do Gaj Ki Doori & wear a mask

Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

Do not panic if you or someone else in your house has tested corona positive. Above 80% of Corona patients are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. Such patients can easily recover at the comfort of their homes.

Parameters for Home Isolation

- The person should be assigned as a very mild case/pre-symptomatic case by treating doctor.
- Such cases should have requisite facility at their residence for self isolation.
- A caregiver should be available 24x7 with continuous contact with hospital which is a prerequisite for Home Isolation.
- The caregiver and all close contacts of such cases should take prescribed drug prophylaxis as directed by treating doctor.
- Download Arogya Setu App on mobile (available at <https://www.mygov.in/aarogya-setu-app/>).
- The patient shall regularly inform his/her health status to the District Surveillance team for follow-up.

Instructions to the Patient

- Use triple layer mask at all times. Discard mask after 6 - 8 hours of use or earlier if they become wet or visibly soiled. Disinfect the mask before discarding it.
- Maintain distance with others, especially elderly and those with co-morbid conditions like hypertension, cardiovascular disease, renal disease etc.
- Must drink lot of fluids to maintain adequate hydration. Follow respiratory etiquettes all the time.
- Do not share personal items with other people.
- Clean the touchable surfaces (table, doors, handles etc.) with hypochlorite solution.
- Strictly follow the physicians' instruction and medication advice.
- Check body temperature regularly and report promptly if develops any deteriorations of health condition.

Instructions for Caregivers

- Wear a triple layer medical mask and change it within 6-8 hours.
- Ensure hand sanitization by frequently washing hands with soap and water (for 40 seconds) or using alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid direct contact with body fluids of the patient, use disposable gloves.
- Avoid exposure to potentially contaminated items in patient's immediate environment. Bed sheet /linen to be disinfected with sodium hypochlorite solution before washing.
- Provide food to the patient in his room.
- Wash the utensils and dishes used by the patient separately with detergent after wearing gloves.
- Ensure the regular monitoring of patient and own body temperature and report promptly if any symptom develops.

For Further Information

National Helpline: +91-11-23978046 & 1075
e-Mail: ncaiv2019@gov.in
ncaiv2019@gmail.com

State Helpline: 85588-93911
For Ambulance: Dial 108

Health Department, Haryana



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

An agenda for a G-12

It must include respect for human rights, adherence to international law, multilateralism in trade and security



SANJAYA BARU

WEBINAR OPPOSITION

Rahul Gandhi's video interactions are a pleasant echo chamber. Surely, Opposition politics during a time of distress needs more

THE RAHUL GANDHI-RAJIV Bajaj conversation put out in the public domain on Thursday — the latest in a series of video interactions in which Gandhi talks to and/or interviews a guest under lockdown — draws attention for its content, and its format. Take that moment, about halfway down the conversation, when the Congress leader speaks about how the pandemic required a decentralised response to begin with, and how the correct response is happening now, but too late. As a "passing of the buck", not as strategy, agrees the industrialist, almost completing Gandhi's thought, if not his sentence. Such moments of strikingly affable agreement, of completing each other's sentences and thoughts, abound — that this is a "bitter sweet" time more bitter than sweet (Bajaj) and "devastating" (Gandhi); that the lockdown has been "draconian" (Bajaj) and it has "failed" (Gandhi); that India should not have looked to the West for its solutions (Bajaj), but drawn internally (Gandhi); that the economy deserved a greater stimulus and support (both). These sentiments are worthy, the arguments need to be heard, but here's the problem: By picking a guest he evidently agrees with, and who agrees with him too, the main leader of India's leading Opposition party defeats the intended purpose of portraying the leader as listener and learner. He sends out a message that he is the host of a scripted, one-sided communication, an echo-chamber, locked down.

The problem, even when the guest is former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan or Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee, is also this: Given Rahul Gandhi's own pronounced and prolonged reluctance, first in becoming Congress president and then in stepping up to the demands of the job, this series of virtual interactions in a time of real hardship for so many, invites scepticism. What's their purpose, exactly? Admittedly, the pandemic has imposed constraints on politics and political activity of the real kind, but it is also true that neither the Congress nor its leader can now persuade anyone that they are straining to take to the street. In effect, the party came to a standstill long before Covid struck. Having said that, many Congress governments in the states are showing resolve as they mount a fight against the pandemic. Rahul Gandhi would do far better by his party if he were to showcase these efforts, the women and men behind them. Or even mount a campaign more spirited than tweets against the bizarre arrest of the party's Uttar Pradesh chief.

It is understandable that the Congress leader should chafe at the narrative dominance of the BJP, amplified many times over by the political lockdown induced by the pandemic and fawning sections of the media. He is right when he says, as criticism of the NDA government, during his conversation with Bajaj, that image should be based on strength, not strength on image. But if this apparent bid to join the battle of images shows anything it is this: The Congress must listen to its own advice, instead of giving the impression that it is trying to beat the BJP in its own game. Video meetings may have become de rigueur in today's work-from-home model, but politics, especially Opposition politics in a time of distress, may need more energy and imagination than a webinar.

CRY OF THE WILD

Outcry over death of an elephant in Kerala is reassuring. It must be followed by a deeper soul-searching

THE GRUESOME DEATH of a 15-year-old pregnant wild elephant in Kerala has triggered shock, sadness and anger among people. The elephant had a part of its face blown up some days ago after reportedly biting into a pineapple stuffed with explosives when it wandered into a farm on the edge of a forest in Palakkad district. Attempts at rescue by forest officials failed and the animal died in great pain in late May. The outrage over the elephant's death in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, which is wrecking lives and livelihoods, is, in part, because the incident has been reported from Kerala, which has projected itself as a model state, setting benchmarks of responsible and sensitive caregiving in the time of the pandemic. While it is not uncommon for farmers across India to target wild animals that poach crops by letting them feed on fruit laden with poison or filled in with firecrackers, the barbaric practice is punishable under wildlife laws.

The elephant is an important element in Kerala's cultural memory and traditions — it is an integral part of temple festivals and pageantry. Some of these beasts — there are about 486 of them in the state — have a huge fan base and even dedicated social media accounts. But adulation for the animal does not always translate into genuine concern for its well-being. Stories of elephants being ill-treated by mahouts and owners may be relatively few now because a vigilant civil society, especially the elephant fans, keeps track and is quick to flag incidents of cruelty or negligence. However, genuine elephant lovers could do more: They need to prod people to question if it is human to keep an animal that prefers to be part of a herd and roam in the wild chained alone to a restricted space and subject it to unwarranted attention in the name of faith and culture.

While the outrage at the unintentional killing of the elephant is understandable, some of it has been laced with communal prejudice. The location of crime has been identified, pointedly, as the Muslim-majority district of Malappuram and questions about the incident have been framed in cultural terms. The attempt to draw political capital needs to be resisted.

CHHOTI SI BAAT

Basu Chatterjee's films starred the aam aadmi and aam aurat. They made middle-class India visible on the big screen

THE ARRIVAL OF Basu Chatterjee on the Hindi film firmament, with the 1969 *Sara Aakash* upended the elements popular cinema was packed with: Loud dialogue, high-pitched melodrama, and characters who lived in lala land. His films were rooted in the here and now, and were about people like you and me.

Along with Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Basu Bhattacharya, Chatterjee created a road map to celebrate ordinariness, humaneness, empathy. And he invested his middle-of-the-road cinema with such zest and joy that it spilled over. There were sombre moments, too, but his films never drowned in faux sentiment, they made their point with a lingering lightness of touch. Some of his best loved films (the '74 *Rajnigandha*, '76 *Chhoti Si Baat*, '79 *Baaton Baaton Mein*) dealt with issues impacting a middle-class India which had never been visible on the big screen before. Tongue-tied, shy lovers, the sparkle of newly-independent working women, the rough and tumble of office politics, buses and trains that ran late — all was gently-observed grist to Chatterjee's mill, and the bustling '70s was as much marked by his cinema, wonderfully fronted by an actor who exuded a special man-next-door ordinariness, as it was by the films of a lanky, towering volcano.

If Amitabh Bachchan's angry heroes railed against the system, and used their fists in retaliation, Amol Palekar's self-effacing gents spoke up for the men who wore their thin, tentative moustaches and large collared bush-shirts with growing confidence, and for the ladies they loved. Some of Chatterjee's not so well-remembered titles like *Chameli Ki Shaadi*, *Kamla Ki Maut*, and *Swami*, touched upon class and caste, pre-marital sex and suicide, marital discord and other tricky subjects. But it was all done in the distinctive style of a man who celebrated life in all its hues, layered with the songs still hummed. That's what's called timeless.

THE LOUD THINKING by United States President Donald Trump on the need to enlarge the membership of the Group of Seven (G-7), the club of "free market democracies", is only the most recent of many such initiatives aimed at making an anachronism relevant to a changing world. Formed in 1976, the G-7 no longer dominate the global economy as they did at their founding. It was the French who first flew the kite of membership expansion when they invited heads of government of several "emerging economies" for a meeting of the group at Evian-les-Bains, France, in June 2003. The G-7 became the G-8 in 1997 when Russia was invited to join. In 2014, Russia was debarred after it took over Crimea.

After 2003, G-8 host countries began organising a meeting on the sidelines of their summits with a select group of five or six developing countries. India and China were invited to all those summits. President Trump has, however, gone a step further. Rather than invite "guests" to a G-7 summit, he has suggested expanding the G-7 to a G-10 or G-11. Trump has come up with an interesting list of new members — Australia, India, South Korea and, possibly, Russia. Trump's pragmatism in including Russia should be welcomed. The advantage of getting Russia in is that the group would not be viewed merely as an anti-China gang-up but, in fact, as a club of "free market democracies". The group could easily be made the G-12 with the inclusion of Indonesia — one of the few democratic nations in the Islamic world.

Trump's motivation in expanding the G-7 to include India and Russia while keeping China out is transparent. If keeping China out was not the intention, the G-7 could easily have dissolved themselves and revitalised the presently inert G-20. There are, of course, good reasons why Xi Jinping's China requires to be put on notice for its various acts of omission and commission and disrespect for international law. However, disciplining China is one thing, isolating it quite another. If the

While many countries share Trump's displeasure with China for its manipulation of the World Health Organisation, many of them are equally unhappy with the manner in which the Trump administration has treated the World Trade Organisation. A G-12 cannot ignore such partisan behaviour by either the US or China. If Trump does issue an invitation to the three or four new members to join the new group, they should seek clarity on the terms of membership. Russia's experience, of being invited and then disinvented and now being considered for being re-invited should be a salutary message to all others invitees.

new group is viewed as yet another arrow in the China containment quiver it would place India and most other members of the group in a spot. Everyone wants China disciplined, few would like to be seen seeking its isolation. Asia needs a law-abiding China, not a sullen China.

Even Japan and Australia, which have serious concerns about China's behaviour, may not like the new group to be viewed purely as an anti-China gang-up. That may well be the case with South Korea too. Indeed, even India should tread cautiously. It has more issues with China than most others in the group, spanning across economic and national security issues and yet it should seek a disciplined China, not an isolated one.

What this means is that the proposed new group should define its agenda in terms that would encourage China to return to the pre-Xi era of global good behaviour. The G-7 came into being in the mid-1970s against the background of shocks to the global financial and energy markets. The G-12 would come into being against the background of a global economic crisis and the disruption to global trade caused both by protectionism and a pandemic. The two items on the next summit agenda would have to be the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the rising tide of protectionism and mercantilism and the global economic slowdown. The summit will have to come forward with some international dos and don'ts to deal with the challenge posed by these disruptions.

These new rules of international conduct would have to apply to both China and the US. The G-12 — and I do think it would make sense to include Indonesia — have a shared interest in ensuring that both China and the US respect international law and desist from unilateralism in dealing with neighbours and global challenges. To be able to alter China's behaviour without isolating it, the G-12 will have to widen their agenda, go beyond the purely economic issues that the G-7 originally focused on, and include climate change, health care and hu-

man rights.

In identifying themselves as "free market democracies" the G-12 must issue a new charter of respect for human rights, adherence to international law and multilateralism in trade and security. This is easier said than done. President Trump will have to reassure the group's members that he has their combined interests at heart in proposing a new group and has an imagination beyond just an "America First" policy. Even as the world is increasingly wary of an assertive China and of Xi Jinping's China Dream and his version of a "China First" policy, it is also wary of Trump's unilateralism on many fronts.

While many countries share Trump's displeasure with China for its manipulation of the World Health Organisation, many of them are equally unhappy with the manner in which the Trump administration has treated the World Trade Organisation. A G-12 cannot ignore such partisan behaviour by either the US or China. If Trump does issue an invitation to the three or four new members to join the new group, they should seek clarity on the terms of membership. Russia's experience, of being invited and then disinvented and now being considered for being re-invited should be a salutary message to all others invitees.

President Trump is not doing India a favour by wanting to invite it into the new group. As the world's largest free market democracy India deserves to be a member of not just a G-12 but of even a new G-7. India's political and economic credentials are certainly stronger than those of Canada, Britain and Italy. Indeed, Russia, Australia, South Korea and even Indonesia may regard themselves as natural choices for membership of an expanded G-7. In other words, Trump is not doing the new members a favour. He is, like the French before him, only coming to terms with the reality of a new world order.

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

NAMES AND LABELS

'Migrant' has become a label that declares someone a perpetual outsider



RAMA BIJAPURKAR

BEFORE THE COVID-19 pandemic, "migrant" and "migration" were emotionally-neutral words used to describe Indians who have moved their residence from one part of the country to another, temporarily or permanently. Now, with due respect to the media and to the wise people who speak on behalf of them, the word "migrant" has acquired an emotional charge, value judgement and social stereotyping, and a new slice of society called "the migrants" has been consecrated.

"The migrants" is now shorthand for a people who are poor, homeless, hungry, neglected by the states and Centre, usually from two or three of the poorest states and, most of all, who do not qualify for belonging to the city where they work. No one thinks of software folks who come from all over the country to the electronic city in Bengaluru in search of work as migrants, even though they too qualify for the "migrant" label. By the way, what do we call an upper-class person who visits parents and siblings in Andhra Pradesh for a few months of the year, lives mostly in Maharashtra and goes to Gujarat for work at certain times of the year? That's me, but no one has referred to me as "one of the migrants".

In today's context, "migrant" has become a label that declares someone as a perpetual outsider, despite having crossed no national boundaries, and despite Indians having the right to live wherever they want

Some of us may remember the ugliness of the 1960s and '70s when the Shiv Sena said that South Indians didn't belong in Maharashtra. With our new, thoughtless use of the collective noun, 'the migrants', to describe people who leave Mumbai — when in trouble — to return to their immediate or extended families, we are rekindling that same flame again: The risky 'insider-outsider' narrative for Indians within India.

without any need for any permission or registration. The government of Kerala, in a move much lauded by many, has called them "guest workers". Guests are those who come to my house and will stay or go at my pleasure and enjoy privileges based on my levels of hospitality. How can an Indian state government classify Indians from other states as guests?

Some of us may remember the ugliness of the 1960s and '70s when the Shiv Sena said that South Indians didn't belong in Maharashtra. With our new, thoughtless use of the collective noun, 'the migrants', to describe people who leave Mumbai — when in trouble — to return to their immediate or extended families, we are rekindling that same flame again: The risky 'insider-outsider' narrative for Indians within India.

Of course, many of us have a "home state". It defines, often not always, my ethnic and cultural identity (not the same as my national identity), what I eat, what my mother tongue is, how I drape my sari, my religious and social customs. But it does not define my limits of belonging to any part of the country I choose.

The creation of a new class called the migrants makes us forget that they are people and all rules that apply to people, apply to them as well. Many ask, "Why are the migrants leaving? Why can't they be persuaded to stay? Surely, they would stay if

food was actually being provided?" and so on. The fact is, they are going to their other home for pretty much the same reason many upper-class kids are back from their colleges abroad to be with their families, or, why company executives may choose to relocate to their parents' homes if they lose their jobs in Mumbai or Delhi and find the rents prohibitive. Because life at the other home may be safer and better than in a city where work has dried up, the living conditions are abysmal, and the risk of dying high.

So let's replace the label starting now. "Casual-wage-labour" or "multi-state residents" would be a less dangerous, more specific label — a category, rather than a class or caste. Diaspora is a better collective noun than migrants.

But Hindi serves the purpose so much better — *shramik* means workers, labour or "the working class". While this categorisation does signal socioeconomic-occupational hierarchy, it doesn't signal "insider-outsider". If we must use the migration word, "pravasi" is better: It has been infused with dignity and glory thanks to "pravasi bharatiya divas". Or, even OCI (other state citizen of India) will do.

Bijapurkar is the author of *We Are Like That Only and A Never-before World: Tracking the evolution of Consumer India*

JUNE 5, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

CASE AGAINST CHARAN MR DHAWAN, father of RK Dhawan, special assistant to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has filed a criminal complaint against the former prime minister Charan Singh and seven others alleging that they were party to a criminal conspiracy to wrongfully confine him for three days in a false case relating to the collection of funds for the Congress (I). Metropolitan magistrate VB Gupta fixed July 5 for recording Dhawan's statement. In his complaint, Dhawan added that the accused entered into a conspiracy in August 1977 to register a false case against him. The complaint added that the Dhawans' house was gheraoed and searched, and he and his son

were arrested.

TARAPUR FUEL

US PRESIDENT JIMMY Carter is again vacillating in America's obligations to supply fuel for Tarapur. Fresh excuses are being trotted out to delay a decision, among them the new Indo-Soviet arms deal. White House and State Department aides told *The New York Times* that the Carter administration is reviewing the position and examining the possibility of cutting the size of the shipments or postponing action until 1981. One official, while reporting that he still expected Carter to go ahead eventually with the shipments, said that the administration agreed with mem-

bers of Congress who wanted to defer to the President's action until after closed hearings on the issue by the senate foreign relations committee and possibly other panels.

INDO-SOVIET TALKS

INDIA AND THE Soviet Union seemed to have narrowed the gap between their respective positions on the Afghanistan issue. This indication came during a return lunch given by the external affairs minister, Narasimha Rao, in honour of Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko. In contrast to yesterday's somewhat rigid attitude of the two sides, they appeared to have made progress in understanding each others' viewpoint.



Even amid the tear gas, the rubber bullets, the sirens, the fires, the standoffs, the looting, the “vicious dogs” and “ominous weapons,” the best of America has been visible. — THE WASHINGTON POST

Cash transfers, not loans

The Centre's package for addressing the economic distress triggered by pandemic is debt-based — it is not helping reduce the challenges of the states



BHUPESH BAGHEL

COVID-19 HAS led the world economy to the verge of a recession. The measures adopted to deal with the crisis will take a long time to fix the situation. Meanwhile, in different regions of India, the ongoing process of migrant workers returning back home due to the jammed wheels of industries indicate a prolonged stagnation of economic activity. In this context, the challenge is to look at the Nyay scheme announced by former Congress President Rahul Gandhi during the Lok Sabha elections with a fresh perspective.

It would not be wrong to say that even before the economic downturn and the spread of COVID-19 in the country, socio-economic life was in great distress, and so, there was a need for a basic minimum monthly income. This minimum monthly income not only helps in times of illness and saves families from starvation, but also brings money to the market and strengthens the economy indirectly from the ground up.

The Centre has announced an economic package of Rs 20 lakh crore for the entire country, of which half has been used even before it was announced and much of the rest will be provided to entrepreneurs in the form of debt. Now, it is beyond understanding that amid the current lockdown situation, how demand will be generated and if demand does not rise, how will these new loans inject life into the economy. In such extreme situations, Rahul Gandhi's Nyay scheme is relevant with its goal of “transfer cash not loans”. Whether you want to save lives or the economy, cash transfers are the best solution.

Chhattisgarh has a poverty rate of 39.9 per cent. Eighty per cent of the state's population is engaged in farming, and 44 per cent of its area is covered with forests. According to government figures, the irrigation capacity is 34 per cent, but the actual figures are less. Our journey began on December 17, 2018, when people of the state rejected the former government — which had promised to double farmers' incomes — and within just two hours of our government being formed, farmers' debts were waived.

The idea behind this model was derived from the thought process of the Congress during UPA-1 and UPA2. We understood at the outset that the real entrepreneurs in our economy were our farmers and tribal forest produce collectors. We announced the commencement of the Nyay Yojana in Chhattisgarh, and for the past one-and-a-half years, the support price for the largest crop in the state — paddy — was raised from Rs 1,800 to Rs 2,500. Due to the liberal policy of our government, 80.37 lakh metric tonnes of paddy was collected from farmers at the rate of Rs 2,500 per quintal. This injected Rs 20,000 crore directly into farmers' pockets, an increase of about Rs 8,000 crore from the support price prevailing at the time. We have waived loans worth Rs 9,000 crore for farmers, and Rs 244 crore worth of irrigation tax was forgiven. We did the same for the tendu patta collectors, whose wage rate was increased from Rs 2,500 to Rs 4,000 per standard bag.

During the previous BJP government's



C R Sasikumar

tenure, only seven items of forest produce were purchased at the support price. We decided to buy 25 items at the minimum support price. In this way, by increasing the purchasing power of common villagers, farmers, and tribals residing in the forests, we were successful in reducing the effects of the economic slowdown in the state within one-and-a-half years. In 2019, when we had to buy paddy from farmers again, the Centre declared that if we will buy paddy from farmers at a higher support price — that is, if we provided a bonus to our farmers — then it will not be purchased in the central pool. While hurting the federal system, the economic interests of our farmers were given the short shrift. At that moment, we used our discretion, created a new record of purchasing 82.70 lakh MT of paddy at the support price, and decided that our farmers won't have to face any harm at any cost.

The announcement regarding the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Scheme was made in the state's 2020-21 budget. The scheme is being implemented from May 21, the day of the martyrdom of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Not just the purchase of paddy, but a “grant-in-aid” will be provided for a total of 14 items, including maize and sugarcane. A comprehensive scheme of “grant-in-aid” of Rs 5,700 crore has been prepared which will benefit about 19 lakh farmers. Of this, Rs 1,500 crore is being disbursed in the first phase to farmers for paddy, maize and sugarcane. The process began on May 21.

I strongly believe that we have turned challenges into opportunities in Chhattisgarh. Some people are talking about turning the disaster into an opportunity, but I believe that in times of disaster, what is needed is sensitivity and sincerity. This is why even though Chhattisgarh has crossed the 100-cases mark vis a vis COVID-19, our recovery rate stands at 70 to 90 per cent. There is no doubt that with limited resources, the state has found it exceedingly difficult to fight the COVID challenge. The PM-Cares Fund has received more donations by attracting CSR funds, and a crisis has been created for the state. Despite this, Chhattisgarh is fighting for both — an economic revival and the COVID-19 battle with unparalleled determination. I believe that the

Some people are talking about turning disaster into opportunity, but I believe that in times of disaster, sensitivity and sincerity serve the needed. This is why even though Chhattisgarh has crossed the 100-cases mark vis a vis COVID-19, our recovery rate stands at 70 to 90 per cent. There is no doubt that with limited resources, the state has found it exceedingly difficult to fight the COVID challenge. The PM-Cares Fund has received more donations by attracting CSR funds, and a crisis has been created for the state. Despite this, Chhattisgarh is fighting for both economic revival and against COVID-19 with unparalleled determination.

more cash we transfer into the bank accounts of farmers, villagers, the poor and tribals, under the ideology of the Nyay Scheme, our rural base will be strengthened.

All the nations of the world affected by COVID-19 are following this path of recovery. Unfortunately, the Centre's package is debt-based and is not helping reduce the challenges of the states. There is no need for dramatic announcements. Direct bank transfers should be made into the accounts of farmers, labourers, villagers, tribals, women and the deprived sections of society, who have talent and passion, but lack economic resources. We have tried to connect our society with its old cultural and ideological heritage. With this aim in mind, the scheme of “Narva (traditional water resources), Garwa (livestock), Ghurwa (organic manure), and Bari (industry)” conservation was created for the promotion and revival of rural livelihoods.

An environment of communal harmony has also become an important component in the economic development of the state. The Chhattisgarh model is inspired by the true ideology of the Congress. With the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, our social and economic culture has found a new basis, which is not a statement, but is action-oriented. At a time of a crisis, when various models of development have failed throughout the country and the world, the Chhattisgarh model sets an example for the nation. This scheme will help our migrant workers returning to their villages to get support to start their lives afresh through a major contribution to agriculture and forest produce.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has instructed us to take the initiative to provide a minimum fixed income to landless agricultural labourers as well. On the day of the martyrdom of Rajiv Gandhi, we decided that the Landless Agricultural Labour NYAY Yojana must be implemented at the earliest. For this, a high-level committee headed by the chief secretary has been asked to submit a report in two months. We believe that this initiative will play a big role in the economic-social rehabilitation of COVID-affected people in the state.

The writer is Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

Law on locusts

Imagine COVID-19 information being disseminated through the beating of drums rather than Aarogya Setu



BIBEK DEBROY

ACRID MEANS PUNGENT or bitter, and locusts leave a bitter taste in the mouth. I mean metaphorically, because of the devastation they cause. I have no idea what a locust tastes like. *Acrida* is a genus of grasshoppers. Following Carl Linnaeus, all living organisms have Latin names. But acrid and acrida have different etymological roots — via Latin, acrida owes its origin to Greek and means locust. That's the sense in which it is used (in Greek) in the Bible (Matthew 3.4, Mark 1.6), where there is a reference to eating locusts and wild honey. Indeed, locusts are efficient sources of food, far more than meat, but obviously not when swarms have been sprayed with harmful chemicals.

There was a Famine Inquiry Commission (Woodhead Commission) in 1945 which said, “as an instance of the possibility of the control of a pest over a vast area, the effective control of the desert locust, during its present cycle, may be mentioned... This warfare against the locust has been conducted by such simple means as trenching and poisoning.” Naturally, we have better means now. That Woodhead Commission led to the establishment of Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage (in 1946). This subsumed the former Locust Warning Organisation, established in 1939.

As should be obvious, there are different types of locusts. The indigenous Bombay Locust is hardly of concern now. It has been relatively benign since 1908 (there was a minor swarm in 1927). Our concern, and that of several countries, is the Desert Locust, during its swarming phase. A smallish swarm is an outbreak. When an outbreak is up-scaled, it becomes an upsurge. When an upsurge is up-scaled further, it becomes a plague. We had the last plague in 1959-62 and the last upsurge in 1997. Severity depends on the number of swarms. For instance, the 1997 upsurge had only four swarms. The 1968 upsurge had 167 swarms and the 1993 upsurge had 172 swarms.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has a Desert Locust bulletin and our Directorate also has a locust bulletin. From neither could I make out how many swarms we have now. It's a premature question. In a non-flying stage, locusts are hoppers. When hoppers move together, they are known as a group. When adults move together, they are known as a band. The bands become larger and become swarms. At any one point in time, we have individual hoppers, individual adults, groups, bands and swarms. Hence, we don't know how many swarms there will be eventually. But as of now, we don't have a plague. We do have an upsurge.

The Directorate administers statutes like the Destructive Insects and Pests Act (1914), its 1992 amendment, and the Insecticides Act (1968), neither of which is specific to lo-

custs. For locusts specifically, one should look towards the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds Act (1949), which is also applicable in Delhi. When the Centre for Civil Society identified Delhi laws for repeal, this figured in the list, but has not been repealed. Section 4(1)(2) of this statute mentions locusts, a section inserted in 1951: “Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, in the event of any area being invaded, or in danger of an invasion, by locusts, the Collector of the district or other officer authorised by him in this behalf may call upon any male person not below the age of 14 years resident in the district to render all possible assistance in carrying out preventive or remedial measures and in the destruction of locusts... It shall not be necessary to notify every person individually for his services, and a proclamation by beat of drum or other customary modes in the village or locality shall be deemed sufficient notice to all affected persons residing in that village or locality.” Imagine COVID-19 information being disseminated through the beating of drums rather than Aarogya Setu.

The Punjab (as it then was) Legislative Assembly proceedings from 1951 explain why that amendment was introduced in 1951 (initially through an ordinance). In January 1951, Hissar, Gurgaon, Karnal, Ambala and Ludhiana were visited by locusts, with them eventually settling down in Hoshiarpur. Other than the government and the army, students and zamindars were also roped in to fight locusts and this was formalised through that ordinance/amendment. Like this year, locusts travelled beyond the immediately vulnerable areas in Rajasthan. Often, a statute cannot be repealed in entirety, since some sections remain relevant. For instance, in recent years, Punjab may not have invoked Section 4(1)(2) to fight locusts, but has used other sections to control parthenium. Other states have similar legislation — Assam, Andhra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu. However, there is a difference. In those cases, legislation doesn't define an “insect pest” in the body of the legislation but leaves it to the notification. That's the problem with the East Punjab legislation — its unnecessary specificity, where locusts and beating of drums are codified. The difference between a statute and rules/orders/notifications isn't understood, a mindset that is the bane of other legislation too. A statute is passed by the legislature, rules/orders/notifications are in the executive's domain, with information given to the legislature. Anything built into legislation also has to be formally repealed — a time-consuming process. Consequently, an anachronism like Section 4(1)(2) remains.

In 2020, farmers have beaten drums and utensils, used DJ-s and burst firecrackers to ward off locusts — in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. But that's not the same as disseminating information about locust invasions through the beating of drums. I haven't found any instance of Section 4(1)(2) being invoked after 1951. The ordinance should have lapsed.

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. Views are personal.



NAVROZ SEERVAI

The freedom to criticise

As it rages against court's critics, Bar Council does not speak for legal profession

MANAN KUMAR MISHRA is a man on a mission, if his past and present conduct and utterances are anything to go by. Unfortunately, the position he presently holds, Chairman Bar Council of India, (BCI), gives his pronouncements the semblance of authority, emanating from his office. He, therefore, presumes he can portray to the public that he and the BCI speak on behalf of the entire legal profession. Nothing is further from the truth.

The BCI is a statutory body constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961. It has well-defined, limited jurisdiction, which it legally cannot transgress. Each state also has its Bar Council, with limited jurisdiction.

The press release issued by Mishra on May 30 on behalf of the BCI constitutes a clear transgression of its jurisdiction. It is an unwarranted assault on the independence of the legal profession, as also an illegal attempt to interfere with the fundamental right of free speech, thought and expression, guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. It is also an indirect attack on the press, on NGOs, activists and social workers, who were constrained to repeatedly bring to the attention of the Supreme Court the horrifying plight of millions of migrants.

The press release begins with leaping to the defence of the Supreme Court. It attacks

senior advocates and former judges for a conspiracy to weaken the Court and browbeat it. It incorrectly opines that this “concerted attack by some disgruntled members of the Bar and some unhappy and disappointed former judges” is unprecedented. It seems oblivious of the sustained and withering attacks on the Supreme Court during, and even after the Emergency.

This initial outburst is followed by rank abuse. One would have thought that the president of the BCI would refrain from such language, particularly when what he attacks is fundamental to a strong and independent Bar, namely, the right to dissent and the right to criticise. In fact, the right to think, and translate those thoughts into words and actions — what an Article of our Constitution recognises as a fundamental right, that of “freedom of speech”.

The insulting words the press release uses are defined in the following manner in the Concise Oxford Dictionary, “disgruntled” means “discontented” and discontented means “dissatisfied”. The Cassell Concise Dictionary further defines “disgruntled” as “annoyed, disappointed”. So, by using it as a pejorative against retired judges, lawyers and others, the press release has proclaimed that “the Bar” Mishra represents does not want

lawyers to be dissatisfied, disappointed or annoyed, no matter what the provocation, no matter what the justifiable reason for being annoyed, dissatisfied or discontented. In short, his preferred Bar is of unthinking, mute ants or bees, busily working away at their anthill or beehive. Thankfully, he is not going to get it.

Misleadingly, the press release paints a picture of a proactive Supreme Court having immediately gone to the rescue of the millions of migrants who were in the throes of dying as they walked home. We all know what the facts are, and why so many throughout the country were annoyed, dissatisfied and discontented with the Supreme Court's inaction. It was only because of the concerted efforts of these persons and groups, that the conscience of the Supreme Court was adequately roused to pass orders, howsoever belatedly.

To abuse, berate, and threaten these persons, which is what the press release does, means the BCI, and is an obvious attempt to curry favour with the powers that be, not to mention the Supreme Court. Surely, this is not the remit of the BCI. And I ask myself: Does the Supreme Court need to be protected with the sword of Mishra? I would like to think not. Rather, well may it echo Voltaire: “May God defend me from my friends; I can defend my-

self from my enemies.”

If anyone believes that attempts to browbeat the few courageous retired judges, the innumerable lawyers, the press and others (who took up the cause of the migrants) so that they forsake their right to comment, criticise and protest, whether it be over the government's mismanagement and callous disregard for millions of poor migrants or the Supreme Court's inaction, or the conduct of BCI itself, they are sadly mistaken. These people are not going to be deterred by press releases!

Let me also clearly say that except in the world of *Alice in Wonderland*, the BCI does not speak for the legal profession in this country. Nothing else explains the grandiloquent comment: “Bar totally disapproves and deprecates such act.”

But the question remains: Is this what the legal profession wants? Is this what the profession should tolerate? Or rather, should Mishra not be told, in the memorable words of Oliver Cromwell, when he dismissed the Rump Parliament in 1653: “You have sat too long here for any good that you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!”

The writer is a senior advocate

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

LOOK BEYOND

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘A backward turn’ (IE, June 4). Becoming “at-manirbar” is a good way of life considering the boost to the local economy and more domestic income. But is it feasible in a world where Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has already become the norm? In the era of globalisation, long-term global economic prosperity cannot come through closed borders.

Divya Singla, Patiala, Punjab

A BAD FEELING

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘The slowdown’ (IE, June 3). Moody's, which was supporting the frame of India's economic estimates till November 2017 has now downgraded its ratings. The reason is not just the lockdown impact but also the pre-pandemic slowdown. The heightening trust deficit between investors and the government is more relevant than the fiscal deficit. The government must address these negative sentiments to boost private investment and to end the economy's downward trajectory.

Anu Tiwari, Agra

WARNING SIGNS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial ‘MGNREGA in need’ (IE, June 4). A recent edition of the Economic Survey observed that the rural employment guarantee scheme, MGNREGA, offers an early indicator of rural distress. Using that measure, it's clear that rural India is in trouble. Non-farm sources of income have been bat-

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tered, suggesting MGNREGA will be in greater demand this year to mitigate hardship. Therefore, it's essential that this scheme functions smoothly. One aspect which will need careful attention is the obstacle to its functioning on account of administrative rationing.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

AMERICANA

THIS REFERS to the editorial, ‘I can't breathe’ (IE, June 3). A constitution is what shapes a country. In the US, the constitution presents a contradiction. While it enshrines liberty, equality and rule of law, it also — in its origins — has a racially graded notion of citizenship. The story of American equality and democracy turns out to be the story of racial classification as well.

Aishik Sinha, Kolkata

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SIMPLY PUT

George Floyd's America in black & white

Black Rights Matter carries echoes of MLK's civil rights movement. A look at what is similar, what is different, and what African Americans have faced in between

DEVYANI ONIAL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

ON MARCH 7, 1965, civil rights activists, in response to the police killing of fellow-activist Jimmie Lee Jackson the previous month, were marching from Selma in Alabama to state capital Montgomery when they were attacked by state troopers. The crackdown came to be famously known as Bloody Sunday in US civil rights annals.

Undeterred, two days later, Martin Luther King Jr led another march along the same path. This time, when they encountered state troopers, the marchers took a knee. They knelt and prayed before turning back.

Fifty-five years later, as a new set of American marchers — common people, students, occasional policemen even — take a knee following the killing of George Floyd by a white police officer that was caught on camera, could this mark the beginning of something new?

In the days that followed Bloody Sunday, King spoke stirringly of their aim to "achieve a society that can live with its conscience" because, he believed, "the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice." Today, as protesters across American cities march in protest over Floyd's death, they are willing the arc to bend towards justice.

The road to Floyd's murder has been littered by incidences of violence against African Americans, many becoming catalysts in the country's civil rights movement and turning points in its knotted history. "Martin Luther King's memorable observation that 'a riot is the language of the unheard' applies as much today as it did back then," said Daniel Letwin, associate professor of history at the Penn State College of the Liberal Arts, and author of *The Challenge of Interracial Unionism*.

"This is certainly a historic moment," he adds, "Not since the 1960s have we seen black street protests of such scope and magnitude, across the country. In essential ways, the dynamics are familiar... Now, as then, black unrest also drew upon a variety of underlying causes — from a persisting culture of white racism, to the disproportionate experience of run-down urban conditions, inadequate schools, poor healthcare, low pay, unemployment, unresponsive government, mass incarceration, and the like."

Racism in policing

Data by *statista.com* reveals a skewed pattern of African American killings by police. Of 1,000 fatal shootings by police in 2019, more than 23 per cent of the victims were blacks, a high proportion given that they made up less than 14 per cent of the population.

Connie Hasset-Walker, assistant professor of Justice Studies and Sociology at Norwich University, believes that the roots of racism in American policing, planted cen-



Above: Martin Luther King Jr leads a march in Alabama, and citizens at a Black Lives Matter protest in New York City; (below, left to right): Rodney King, whose assault by police was caught on video in 1991; Trayvon Martin, 17, killed in 2012; and Tamir Rice, 12, shot dead by police in 2014. Photographs: AP, NYT and public domain



turies ago, still stand strong. "I personally see the US history of slavery (about 250 years long) and then Jim Crow laws (about 80 years long) as very connected to what's happening now. To my knowledge, there has never been a reckoning for policing's slave-patrol origins. When an institution starts off with systematic racism and violence as part of its core mission, how far can it evolve from that if there is never a reckoning/commitment to change?" she said.

At the time of the American Civil War (1861-1865), said Hasset-Walker, of the 34 states then, 15 were slave states, which created patrols to nip slave revolts and escapes. "The state of South Carolina was the first to create slave patrols in 1704. By the end of the 1700s, every American slave state had slave patrols. They lasted for about 150 years, ending with the South's loss in the Civil War and the passage of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which outlawed slavery. After that, the former southern slave patrols morphed into police departments that technically were different from slave patrols, but were basically still charged with controlling the freed former slaves," she said.

Civil rights movement

About 20 years after the end of the Civil War, America saw the passage of the Jim Crow laws, which dictated a policy of segregation, enforced by police, and which persisted as recently as 1964. It was during this period of segregation that in 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Till from Chicago, visiting relatives in Mississippi, was accused of making a flirtatious remark to a white woman at a grocery store. Three days later, Till was kidnapped and killed, his body thrown in the river. The accused — the woman's husband and his half-brother — were later acquitted by an all-white jury.



The civil rights movement gathered steam after this. Montgomery saw a city-wide bus boycott when, on December 1, an African American woman, Rosa Parks, refused to give up her seat for a white man and was arrested for it. The Montgomery Improvement Association, led by a young Luther King Jr, called a boycott of the city's municipal bus company. It was eventually called off on December 20, 1956, after the segregation seating policy was held unconstitutional.

The years that followed were a time of great turbulence in America, as riots swept city after city. The Watts riots in 1965 in Los Angeles (that started after Marquette Frye, an African American, was pulled over for suspected drunk-driving and roughed up by the police), the Detroit and Newark riots the same year and the unrest in a number of cities following King's assassination in 1968, were all fuelled in large part by economic and social disparity, prejudiced policing and general disaffection, that continues today.

Rodney King, LA riots

On March 3, 1991, Rodney King, a black motorist, was beaten by LAPD officers after a

high-speed chase. A man called George Holliday, who witnessed the beating from his balcony, videotaped the incident and gave it to a local TV station. From then on, it went, what we would now call, viral. On April 29, 1992, the four LAPD officers were acquitted, sparking outrage and triggering one of the worst race riots in LA, that lasted six days and left over 50 dead, 2,300 injured.

"King was certainly not the first black man to be beaten up by the police, but it was the first time that someone video-recorded the beating. That video validated what many African Americans knew at that time — that Los Angeles police were very brutal towards black people," said Hasset-Walker.

Troy Davis, Central Park 5

More than 15 years after the LA riots, came a moment in American history that many had dreamt of but few had imagined. Barack Obama winning the presidential election in November 2008 was a moment that was both a rupture and a healing. But did it fundamentally change anything for the community? For many, it was the execution of Troy Davis that showed that nothing had changed. Davis was a black man on death row in

Georgia, who many believed had been wrongfully convicted for the murder of a police officer. Wrong convictions haven't been rare. In 2002, convictions against the Central Park Five — teenagers (four blacks and one Latino), accused of raping and grievously assaulting a jogger in Central Park in 1989 — were vacated and the charges withdrawn after over 10 years. The Central Park case — many would remember it from the Netflix series *When They See Us* — had made national news with the current President Donald Trump buying full-page ads in New York newspapers calling for the state to bring back the death penalty. Even after they were exonerated, Trump insisted they were guilty.

For Davis, thousands rallied, appealing to the country's first Black President to stay the execution. Davis was executed on September 21, 2011, and the night after as protesters filed into Union Square in Manhattan, they merged with another group — Occupy Wall Street. As Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor wrote in *The Guardian*, the convergence of the two groups underlined the economic disparity in America and showed the connections between racism and black poverty.

Birth of Black Lives Matter

But it was the shooting of Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old African American high-school student in Sanford, Florida on February 26, 2012 that started another round of conversation around racial profiling, prompting even President Obama to say, "If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon". George Zimmerman, a neighbourhood watch volunteer who claimed he had shot Trayvon in self-defence, was acquitted a year later. The prosecution had contended that Zimmermann had followed the hoodie-clad boy because he assumed he was a criminal but the six-women jury rejected it. It was

Zimmerman's acquittal that gave rise to a hashtag and a movement.

#BlackLivesMatter, started in 2013 by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, has now grown into a global network whose members "organise and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on black communities by the state and vigilantes." The BLM movement has been at the forefront of subsequent street demonstrations, most notably following the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson near St Louis and of Eric Garner in New York City.

Cornel West, a public intellectual and a fearless voice in left-wing politics, traces the current unrest to the failures of Obama. West, who had once shared the stage with Obama, is now one of the most vocal critics of many of his policies. In a recent interview to CNN, he said, "The Black Lives Matter movement emerged under a black president, black attorney general, and black homeland security and they couldn't deliver." Black faces in high places, he said, succumbed to the "capitalist economy" and "militarised nation-state".

Tamir Rice and later

The shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice in 2014 by a police officer (Rice was carrying a replica toy Airsoft gun), of Ahmaud Aubrey, who was tagged and killed by armed white residents while jogging in his Georgia neighbourhood and of Breonna Taylor in Louisville this March by plainclothes policemen, who barged into her apartment looking for someone else, all brought about a cycle of debate and protests. Could the current uprising be a crack, however slight, that will let in the light?

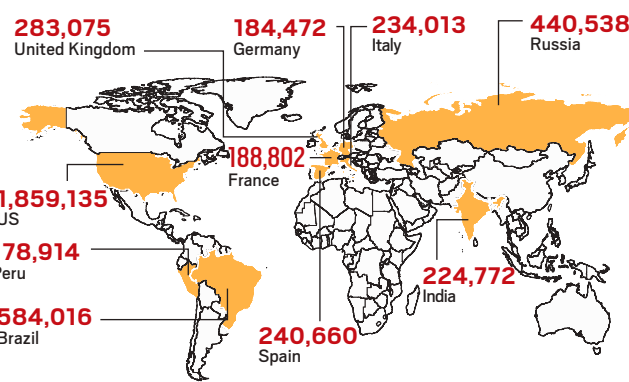
In the early days of the Floyd protests, Trump had tweeted in support of using military force to quell the riots. "Law-and-order demagogues seek to discredit black rebellion as a mindless orgy of violence committed by thugs and criminals, encouraged by radical agitators and spineless, liberal officials," said Letwin. But there are signs that this time things could be different: "For one, street protests appear much more diverse, with a higher participation of whites and Hispanics alongside African Americans. The unrest is no longer so confined as it once was to black neighbourhoods. Certainly, the ease with which acts of police violence can be recorded and publicised has changed the picture as well."

Hasset-Walker, too, pointed at a crucial difference. "What is different about the murder of George Floyd is how quickly the police officer, Derek Chauvin, who knelt on Floyd's neck, was charged with third degree murder."

On Wednesday, the former Minneapolis Police officer was charged with a fresh count of second-degree murder, and the three other officers with him were charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder. "Whether he will ultimately be convicted, we'll see. But the swift arrest and issuing of a charge — that's important, and unusual," she said.

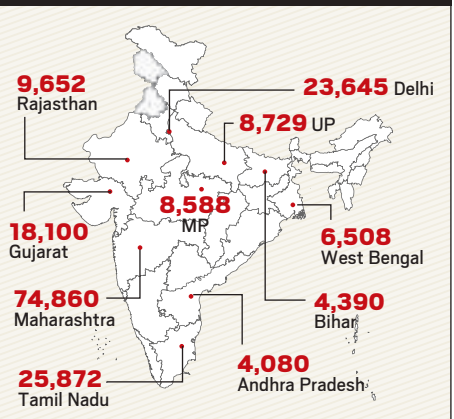
CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

THE WORLD

**TOTAL CONFIRMED: 6,563,099** **DEATH COUNT: 387,568**Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on June 4. **JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match as these are accounted at different times.**

INDIA COUNT: 216,919 (6,075 DEATHS)

TOP 10 STATES



REST OF INDIA	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	33
Arunachal Pradesh	38
Assam	1672
Chandigarh	301
Chhattisgarh	668
Dadar Nagar Haveli	7
Goa	8
Haryana	2954
Himachal Pradesh	359
Jammu and Kashmir	2857
Jharkhand	752
Karnataka	4063
Kerala	1494
Ladakh	90
Manipur	118
Meghalaya	33
Mizoram	14
Nagaland	58
Odisha	2388
Puducherry	82
Punjab	2376
Sikkim	2
Telangana	3020
Tripura	468
Uttarakhand	1085

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, June 4. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above.
104,107 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 33 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

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

Despite govt's MSME push, entrepreneurs are guarded in their optimism. Four reasons why

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

THE BIGGEST thrust of the central government's relief package has been on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), but as the pandemic endures, this segment of India's industry does not appear to be optimistic about the prospects and road ahead.

A survey by an industry body, All India Manufacturers' Organisation (AIMO), of 46,525 MSMEs, self-employed, corporate CEOs, and employees conducted online between May 24-30 had 35 per cent of MSMEs and 37 per cent of the self-employed respondents saying that their enterprises were beyond recovery.

A slightly lower 32 per cent of MSMEs said a recovery would take six months, and just 12 per cent expected a recovery in less than three months.

Only 3 per cent of MSMEs, 6 per cent of corporates, and 11 per cent of the self-employed respondents said they would stay unaffected and would continue to do well, primarily since they were engaged in supply of essential services during the lockdown.

So, what explains this pessimism? There could be four main reasons for the downbeat mood.

The MSMEs were troubled already, lockdown has made things worse

The problems faced by the MSME sector, which makes up about 45 per cent of the country's total manufacturing output, 40 per cent of its exports, almost 30 per cent of the national GDP, and employs an estimated 11 crore persons, precede the pandemic. While both demonetisation and the



Matka Chowk, Chandigarh, during the lockdown. Kamleshwar Singh

faulty implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime hit this sector the most, the mess in the banking sector and subsequent problems with the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) further impacted MSMEs, depleting their internal reserves, and exacerbating the low visibility of demand.

A LocalCircles survey in April — the first month of the lockdown — had pointed to 74 per cent start-ups and small businesses (out of 13,970 responses) saying that they expected to shut down or scale down their businesses in the following six months.

The problems were already festering. The lockdown impact has come on top of this, compounding them further.

Financial channels are mostly informal, credit guarantee of limited help

The dissatisfaction over the government's MSME package, in particular at the lack of fiscal support which would share some of the costs inflicted by the pandemic lockdown, is based on the view that the proposals on credit guarantee

has limited relevance for the sector as a whole, given that only a little over 15% of the Rs 70 lakh crore MSME credit demand was met by formal financial channels.

Willingness of lenders uncertain, so too the availability of future resources to service loan

While the extension in moratorium on term loan instalments is aimed at providing relief to borrowers and companies facing cash flow problems, much of the intended relief will come through only if banks are willing to take the bait and lend.

It's a divided house on whether this will happen as planned.

Plus, much of this intervention is aimed at firms whose loan accounts continue to remain standard up to a cut-off date. A majority of smaller units are already behind on this count, given that their receivables from customers — larger companies and state-owned units — are way behind schedule.

For leveraged companies facing a cash crunch, the moratorium of 6 months is intended to provide survival time.

But for a unit owner to borrow to essentially meet working capital expenses during a period where hardly any production happened, the interest rate will be a key determining factor, the facility of collateral-free loans notwithstanding.

Also, the concern among MSMEs is that with the additional loans, they would have to earn a sizable amount to service the loans after 12 months.

A lot of payments are pending, and there is no confidence they will be cleared soon

The total outstanding payments to units in the MSME sector is pegged at upwards of Rs 5 lakh crore, with the larger private companies and government entities accounting for a big chunk of this.

Most MSME players are not convinced by the government's assurance of dues being cleared in 45 days. Similar assurances have been handed out in the past, but have not been fulfilled.

In September last year, then Expenditure Secretary G C Murmu had said that of the outstanding non-litigated MSME dues of Rs 60,000 crore, a payment of Rs 40,000 crore had been cleared.

But not much has moved on the ground, say MSME representative bodies such as AIMO. As per industry estimates by AIMO, almost 30 per cent of the outstanding amounts are due over 120 days, 45 per cent are between 60 to 120 days, and the rest below 60 days. An estimated amount of over 60 per cent is pending from state governments and their undertakings.

There is a lack of conviction among MSME units that the government's fiat will work, especially since a bulk of the dues are on account of state government entities and larger private companies.

Australia's Great Barrier Reef suffered its most extensive coral bleaching event in March, with scientists fearing the coral recovers less each time after the third bleaching in five years. They say it is very unlikely to recover to what it looked like even five years ago, not to mention thirty years ago.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Madeleine McCann

GERMANY

Child who went missing in 2007, sparking global search, assumed dead: prosecutor

Berlin: Madeleine McCann, the British girl who disappeared in Portugal in 2007 aged just three, is assumed to be dead and an imprisoned German child abuser is the murder suspect, a German prosecutor said on Thursday. McCann vanished from her bedroom on May 3 during a family vacation in the Algarve while her parents were dining with friends nearby in the resort of Praia da Luz. Her disappearance sparked an international search, with missing posters of the little girl's face papered across the world and celebrity appeals for information that could help track her down.

New charges against Minneapolis cops as protests continue in US

3 more police officers charged; Mattis slams Trump, denounces militarisation of response to protest

AP & REUTERS
MINNEAPOLIS, JUNE 4

DEMONSTRATIONS IN cities across the US to condemn racism and police abuses remained large but turned notably more subdued on the eve of a Thursday memorial service for George Floyd that kicks off a series of events to mourn the man whose death empowered a national movement.

The calmer protests came on the same day that prosecutors charged three more police officers and filed a new, tougher charge against the officer at the center of the case. The most serious new charge Wednesday was an accusation of second-degree murder against Derek Chauvin, who was caught on video pressing his knee to Floyd's neck. The three other officers at the scene were charged for the first time with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. If convicted, they could be sentenced to up to four decades in prison.

The move by prosecutors punctuated an unprecedented week in modern American history, in which largely peaceful protests took place in communities of all



HOW 8.46 BECAME SYMBOLIC OF A MOVEMENT: All protest movements have slogans. George Floyd's has a number: 8:46. Eight minutes, 46 seconds is the length of time prosecutors say Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was pinned to the ground under a white Minneapolis police officer's knee before he died last week. In Boston and Tacoma, Washington, demonstrators this week lay down on streets staging "die-ins" for precisely 8 minutes, 46 seconds as a mark of protest as well as a way of honouring Floyd. AP

sizes but were rocked by bouts of violence, including deadly attacks on officers, rampant thefts and arson in some places.

After long refusing to explicitly criticise a sitting President, former Defence Secretary Jim Mattis accused President Donald Trump on Wednesday of trying to divide America and roundly

denounced a militarisation of the US response to civil unrest.

"Donald Trump is the first President in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people — does not even pretend to try," Mattis, who resigned as Trump's defense secretary in 2018, wrote in a statement published by The Atlantic.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army General Mark Milley, issued a message to the armed forces reminding them of their oath to uphold the US Constitution, which gives Americans the right to "freedom of speech and peaceful assembly." Similar messages were delivered by other top military leaders.

Gandhi statue vandalised in Washington

Washington: Unknown miscreants have vandalised the statue of Mahatma Gandhi outside the Indian embassy in the US with graffiti and spray painting, prompting the mission to register a complaint with the local law enforcement agencies. The vandalism took place during a week of nationwide protests. It is reported to have taken place on the intervening night of June 2 and 3, officials said. US ambassador to India, Ken Juster, on Thursday apologised for the incident. PTI

Suspect in Arbery case 'used racial slur'

A GEORGIA investigator testified Thursday that one of those accused of chasing down and killing Ahmaud Arbery, a black man who was jogging in Brunswick, Georgia, heard another defendant use a racist slur after shooting Arbery. The death of Arbery in February drew widespread condemnation that intensified after the death of George Floyd. NYT

COVID-19 PANDEMIC



At the Vila Formosa cemetery in São Paulo, Brazil. NYT

New cases multiply worldwide at fastest pace so far

THE NEW YORK TIMES
JUNE 4

THE CORONAVIRUS pandemic is ebbing in some of the countries that were hit hard early on, but the number of new cases is growing faster than ever worldwide, with more than 100,000 reported each day.

Twice as many countries have reported a rise in new cases over the past two weeks as have reported declines, according to a *New York Times* database. On May 30, more new cases were reported in a single day worldwide than ever before: 134,064. The increase has been driven by emerging hot spots in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Over all, there have been more than 6.3 million reported cases worldwide and more than 380,000 known deaths. More than a quarter of all known deaths have been in the United States. But the geography of the pandemic is changing quickly.

Brazil is reporting nearly as many deaths each day as the United States. Egypt has recorded an exponential rise in known infections. And Bangladesh and Indonesia have reported steep increases in cases for the first time.

Millions more seek unemployment benefits in the US

Even as more American states reopen and some businesses slowly start to rehire, 1.9 million people filed new claims for state unemployment benefits last week, the Labor Department reported.

The tally continues to decline from the more than six

WHERE IT IS SPREADING FAST

BRAZIL
The death toll in Brazil, Latin America's largest country, passed 30,000 on Tuesday, with Thursday recording 1,349 Covid-19 deaths, the country's highest single-day toll.

EGYPT
For months, Egypt, the Arab world's most populous country, seemed to avoid the worst of the pandemic. But recently, cases have been on the rise, reaching 27,536 Tuesday.

SOUTH AFRICA
With more than 35,000 confirmed infections, the most in Africa, South Africa still has a growing number of new cases, despite enacting a strict lockdown in March.

BANGLADESH
Bangladesh now has 55,000 known cases. This week, it reported the first death from Covid-19 in a refugee camp. This raised fears about the thousands of Rohingya who live in tightly packed tents.

million who submitted applications in a single week in March. Still, it underlines the persistent strain that the pandemic has had on the economy and the long climb back that lies ahead.

Pak aviation authority says PIA pilot ignored ATC

SYED RAZA HASSAN
KARACHI, JUNE 4

PAKISTANI AVIATION authorities have told Pakistan International Airlines that the pilot of a passenger plane that crashed into a residential district of Karachi last month had ignored air traffic control's instructions for landing, a PIA spokesman said on Wednesday.

The PIA Airbus A320 crashed on May 22 while trying to land after the pilots reported the loss of both engines. Ninety seven people on board were killed and two survived. At least one person was reported to have died on the ground.

Initial reports suggested the plane scraped its engines along the runway on a first attempt to land following what appeared to be an unstable approach, arriving steep and fast.

In a letter sent to PIA, the Civil Aviation Authority said an approach controller twice told the pilot to discontinue its approach as he came into land but he did not comply.

As it neared landing, the plane's ground speed was above the runway threshold, the letter quoted the controller as saying.

It lifted up from the runway surface and crashed over Model Colony while attempting a second approach, the letter said.

"Yes, we have received the letter, they are documenting it," Abdullah Hafeez Khan, PIA's general manager for corporate communications told Reuters.

He declined to comment on the assertions made in the letter.

The flight had been observed as being high for approach at as it passed Malki, about 100 km east of Karachi, but the pilot said he was comfortable for the descent, the letter said. He was also cautioned a second time. REUTERS



Participants gesture with five fingers, signifying the five demands raised by pro-democracy protesters last year, during a vigil for the victims of the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, at Victoria Park in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong, on Thursday. AP

Hong Kong marks Tiananmen anniversary, defying a police ban

Legislature passes bill making it a crime to disrespect Chinese national anthem

ZEN SOO & KEN MORITSUGU
HONG KONG, JUNE 4

THOUSANDS OF people in Hong Kong defied a police ban Thursday evening, breaking through barricades to hold a candlelight vigil on the 31st anniversary of China's crushing of a democracy movement centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

With democracy all but snuffed out in mainland China, the focus has shifted increasingly to semi-autonomous Hong Kong, where authorities for the first time banned the annual vigil to remem-

With anthem bill, China tightens grip

LAST YEAR, the Chinese government was rocked by sustained mass protests in Hong Kong against what the protesters saw as Beijing's moves to integrate the semi-autonomous business hub with the mainland. With those protests having now lost momentum, China has

EXPLAINED

pounced, announcing new national security laws that would further integrate Hong Kong's legal system with that of the rest of China. In this context, experts see the anthem bill as another step towards integration and an attempt to align Hong Kong's aspirations with those of Beijing.

bervictims of the 1989 crackdown. Beijing is taking a tougher

stance following months of anti-government protests last year, in

what activists see as an accelerating erosion of the city's rights and liberties. Earlier Thursday, the Hong Kong legislature passed a law making it a crime to disrespect China's national anthem after the pro-democracy lawmakers disrupted proceeding twice to try to prevent the vote.

Despite the ban on the vigil, crowds poured into Victoria Park to light candles and observe a minute of silence at 8.09 pm.

While police played recordings warning people not to participate in the unauthorised gathering, they did little to stop demonstrators from entering the park. AP

UK minister Sharma met Johnson just a day before showing Covid symptoms

REUTERS
LONDON, JUNE 4

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson held a 45-minute socially distanced meeting with business minister Alok Sharma on Tuesday, a day before Sharma was taken ill and tested for the coronavirus.

Johnson's spokesman said on Thursday. The spokesman said the meeting in Johnson's Number 10 Downing Street offices was also attended by finance minister Rishi Sunak, and that Johnson would follow medical advice if Sharma's Covid-19 test result came back positive.

"The meeting which took place in Number 10 — I believe it was in the Cabinet Room — was properly



Alok Sharma

socially distanced, so they were all two metres apart," he said.

"If the Secretary of State (Sharma) were to test positive for coronavirus then he will go through the test and trace process and follow the advice which they give to him."

Johnson has already contracted and recovered from Covid-19, but there is no certainty that would give him immunity.

RISING UNCERTAINTY

Coronavirus frustrates Saudi women's push for financial independence

MARWA RASHAD
AL ULA, JUNE 4

ABEERAL-HOWAYAN despair of ever working after spending eight years trying to find a job that would put her chemistry degree to use in the Saudi Arabian town of Al Ula.

She eventually abandoned her scientific ambitions and turned to selling homemade cakes, before she was chosen last year for a government training programme to

support a \$20 billion flagship tourism project in the kingdom's northwestern region.

The 31-year-old learned how to make artisanal soap from French experts flown in by Saudi authorities, and in late December started selling her creations at a booth near the rock-hewn tombs of Madain Saleh, site of an ancient civilisation. She also started offering her wares online.

Then the coronavirus struck. Even after all her compromises, Howayan's future is uncertain

once again.

The pandemic has hammered Saudi Arabia's nascent non-religious tourism industry — among the few new sectors to have emerged under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's drive to diversify the economy from oil and create millions of jobs.

"It is very tough, but I keep telling myself things will get better after corona. One has to remain optimistic," Howayan, whose online business has also slowed, told Reuters.



Visitors at the Madain Saleh antiquities site in Al-Ula. Reuters

For women in Saudi Arabia, the economic downturn due to the coronavirus is particularly damaging because it struck just as their efforts to enter the workforce and gain greater financial independence were gaining traction.

Howayan is among nearly one million unemployed Saudis — 12% of the working-age population — pinning their hopes on the prince's vision to modernise the conservative and patriarchal country with ambitious projects.

Women make up about 83% of the jobless, according to the Saudi statistics office. And it's an educated group; 70% of those women have high school diplomas or university degrees.

And many were counting on the new sectors such as tourism to provide their entry to the workforce.

Abeer Mohammed Jumua, 31, had joined a government training programme last year to learn cooking skills in Paris.

She has returned to a catering

role in Saudi Arabia helping Michelin-starred chefs, but it is only temporary and she will eventually need to find new work — something that has become a trickier proposition in the wake of the pandemic.

"I hope that one day I can open a café where I can offer a breakfast menu with lots of French pastries," she said. "I want to be financially independent and I want my two daughters, aged four and seven, to have a better living standard." REUTERS



GOLD

₹47,185



RUPEE

₹75.57



OIL

\$39.31



SILVER

₹49,558

Note: Spot gold markets open in Delhi; gold per 10g; silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2100 IST

International market data till 1900 IST

MoSPI RELEASES PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY FOR 2018-19

Unemployment rate inches down to 5.8%; minor rise in joblessness among SCs, STs

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

INDIA'S UNEMPLOYMENT rate inched lower to 5.8 per cent in 2018-19 (July-June) from 6.1 per cent a year ago, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Thursday showed.

Unemployment rate, however, rose among Scheduled Castes to 6.4 per cent from 6.3 per cent, and for Scheduled Tribes to 4.5 per cent from 4.3 per cent. But unemployment rate among Other Backward Classes inched lower to 5.9 per cent from 6 per cent.

In 2018-19, unemployment

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH MODERATES

■ In 2018-19, unemployment rate for youth in the 15-29 years age bracket moderated but remained high at 17.3 per cent, as against 17.8 per cent a year ago

rate for youth in the 15-29 years age bracket moderated but remained high at 17.3 per cent, as against 17.8 per cent a year ago. Unemployment rate among urban youth was higher than the all-India number at 20.2 per cent as against 20.6 per cent a year ago. The male-female split showed

■ The male-female split showed that unemployment rate for urban females was higher than the all-India number at 25.7 per cent in 2018-19, but was lower than 27.2 per cent in 2017-18

that unemployment rate for urban females remained higher than the all-India number at 25.7 per cent in 2018-19, but was lower than 27.2 per cent in 2017-18.

Unemployment rate for males moderated to 6 per cent in 2018-19 from 6.2 per cent a year ago, and that for females too inched

lower to 5.2 per cent from 5.7 per cent. Unemployment rate in urban India eased marginally to 7.7 per cent in 2018-19 from 7.8 per cent a year ago, while rural joblessness inched lower to 5 per cent from 5.3 per cent in 2017-18. The labour force participation rate during 2018-19 rose to 37.5 per cent as against 36.9 per cent in the previous year, the survey showed.

Based on literacy levels, unemployment rate for persons with secondary and above education level stood at 11 per cent during 2018-19 as against 11.4 per cent in 2017-18. Separately, the quarterly report for urban areas showed that the unemployment rate moderated to 8.9 per cent in April-June 2019 from 8.9 per cent

a year ago. The urban unemployment rate, based on current weekly status, had stood at 9.3 per cent in January-March 2019, 9.9 per cent in October-December 2018, 9.7 per cent in July-September 2018 and 9.8 per cent in April-June 2018.

The survey was conducted during July 2018-June 2019, covering 1,01,579 households (55,812 in rural areas and 45,767 in urban areas) and surveying 4,20,757 persons (2,39,817 in rural areas and 1,80,940 in urban areas). The MoSPI said the methodology remains the same as PLFS 2017-18 and the results are not comparable with results of earlier Employment Unemployment Survey of 2011-12 and earlier years.

INTERVIEW WITH DABUR INDIA LTD CHAIRMAN

'With migrant workers moving back to their villages, availability of manpower has become serious issue'

THE COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdown managed to "wipe out" all the gains made by Dabur India Ltd in the earlier months of the fourth quarter, said the consumer goods company's chairman, AMIT BURMAN. In an interview with PRABHA RAGHAVAN, he discusses how Dabur has been overcoming these challenges and what the government can do to support the industry during this time. Edited excerpts:

Has the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown affected the operations of your company and its personnel?

Dabur India Ltd continued to surge forward on its growth track through the first two months of the fourth quarter of 2019-20, with quarterly revenue from operations growing by 4.5 per cent till February-end. However, the exceptional event in the form of the COVID-19 outbreak and the resultant lockdown significantly impacted our business in March, which wiped out all the gain made in the earlier months.

The lockdown caused severe disruptions in our business and brought sales to a virtual standstill in the second fortnight of March. As the lockdown restrictions eased gradually, Dabur has been at the forefront on delivering authentic ayurvedic solution.

UNLOCKING THE ECONOMY
WISHLIST & ROADMAP
AN EXPRESS INTERVIEW SERIES



AMIT BURMAN
CHAIRMAN
DABUR INDIA LTD

The government should also consider levying a uniform 5 per cent GST for the entire ayurveda products and medicines categories, comprising classical, proprietary and OTC products

Demand patterns have changed significantly, with consumers increasingly seeking ayurveda-based interventions for boosting their immunity.

We are currently seeing a 400 per cent surge in demand for our

flagship immunity booster Dabur Chyawanprash and an 80 per cent growth in Dabur Honey.

What are some of the basic aspects on which the government can support your company and the industry during these times?

Companies continue to face challenges, particularly in the manufacturing hubs, with regards to sourcing manpower. With migrant workers moving back to their villages, the availability of adequate manpower has become a serious issue, hampering scaling up of production to pre-COVID levels. We are increasing the sourcing of local manpower from nearby areas around our manufacturing units to meet the growing need for workmen.

The government should also consider levying a uniform 5 per cent GST for the entire ayurveda products and medicines categories, comprising classical, proprietary and OTC products.

What are your expectations on the performance of your company and the industry in the current financial year?

The situation is still fluid and I would not be in a position to give any guidance for 2020-21 fiscal.

Full interview on www.indianexpress.com

India Inc failed to create right conditions for workers: Kotak

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

MIGRANT AND daily-wage workers from across the country opted to go back to their native place in villages rather than staying back at their urban workplaces during the lockdown period as India Inc had failed to create the right conditions for them, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) president Uday Kotak said.

"Its due to years of neglect of many urban or metro cities. We have created slums, we have created very poor quality of life for them. There has been very short term oriented policies by some businesses which has been temporary employment, with the ability to hire and fire," Kotak said.

'Cabinet nod to suspend IBC proceedings' initiation for 1 yr'

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

THE UNION Cabinet has approved a proposal to suspend initiation of bankruptcy proceedings against companies under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for a period of six months, which could be extended to one year, sources aware of developments said.

"The proposal is to suspend sections 79 and 10 of the IBC for a period of 6 months with an enabling provision allowing for it to be extended upto 1 year," said a government official, adding that under the proposed ordinance, lenders and operational creditors would not be able to initiate insolvency proceedings against companies which default on obligations or after March 25.

'72% of MSMEs will cut headcount to get biz on track'

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

A SURVEY by All India Manufacturers' Association (AIMO), in partnership with nine other industry bodies, has shown that 72 per cent of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are of the view that they will definitely reduce their headcount to get their businesses on track, while only 14 per

cent expect to continue with the existing headcount.

Among the corporates, 42 per cent responded that they will reduce headcount, while only 18 per cent expect to continue with the existing workforce.

The AIMO survey, which comprises 46,525 responses from MSMEs, self-employed, corporate CEOs and employees, was conducted online between May 24 and May 30.

Salary payments are another major concern faced by MSMEs along with collection of old dues, flow of new orders and EMI payments. The survey showed that 32 per cent are worried about salary payments, followed by concerns over manpower with 20 per cent vote share, and 15 per cent share each for new orders and supply of raw material. The biggest concern among self-employed was their ability to pay EMIs, with 36 per

cent stating they had issues with pending collections for work done earlier and also receipt of new orders and profitable price for the business.

Over 70 per cent loss of employment has already been recorded in Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Pune during the lockdown against the COVID-19 pandemic, as per a separate survey conducted by Azim Premji University.

Deloitte helped ITNL avoid disclosure of contingent liability by tweaking LOA: Grant Thornton forensic report

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

THE FORENSIC report by Grant Thornton India on the books of accounts of IL&FS Transportation Networks India Limited (ITNL) reveals that its auditor — Deloitte Haskins and Sells — assisted the company to tweak the language of the Letter of Assurances (LOAs) issued by the company in a bid to avoid disclosure of contingent liability in its financial statements and then failed to flag the same in its audit reports. ITNL is a group company of financial firm IL&FS.

The issue relates to LOA/Letter of Comfort (LOC) issued by ITNL in order to help borrowing at the special purpose vehicle (SPV) level for projects facing cost overruns or that required bridge funding. The Grant Thornton report, seen by *The Indian Express*, shows that there are at least 19 instances where ITNL issued LOA/LOC for loans sanctioned by group company IL&FS Financial Services (in 16 instances) and other financiers (3 instances) — aggregating to over Rs 2,700 crore — to various external parties who were also vendors of ITNL.

In one instance, when ITNL issued the LOA, its then CFO and now its CEO, Dilip Bhatia, in an email to another ITNL official Prashant Agarwal on August 31,

The issue relates to LOA/LOC issued by ITNL in order to help borrowing at the SPV level for projects facing cost overruns or that required bridge funding

2015, asked to confirm if according to auditors, giving such a letter (LOA) will not be treated as guarantee (contingent liability) for ITNL. The very next day, Agarwal replied to the email where he stated that he checked the draft LOA with Deloitte and the draft has been updated after "incorporating Deloitte's suggestions".

In relation to this, the Grant Thornton report states, "It appears that Deloitte assisted them in a change of language in LOA to avoid disclosure of Contingent liability in financial statements."

The report further states that in another mail in October 2015, an employee of ITNL wrote an email to its then company secretary Krishna Garg where it was noted that ITNL had to issue a letter of assurance to ICICI bank on behalf of Noida Toll Bridge Company Limited for availing a term loan of Rs 60 crore.

In the email, the employee also said that the LOA had been

cleared with Deloitte for checking on the contingent liability aspect.

With regard to this, Grant Thornton in its report noted, "It appears that Deloitte was aware about non-disclosure of contingent liability in the financial statements and no qualifications were raised in respect of the same point in audit reports."

While an IL&FS spokesperson declined to comment on the questions mailed, Deloitte did not respond to the email sent with a detailed set of queries.

Sources say that a copy of the report that was submitted by Grant Thornton earlier this year, has been submitted with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and also with the investigating agencies for further probe and action.

An email cited in the report also hints towards a possible influence from top management of IL&FS over such treatment of contingent liability. The report cites an email dated 15 April 2016 sent by Arun Saha (director at IFIN, a group company of IL&FS that was in the business of debt syndication and lending) to Ravi Parthasarathy (former chairman IL&FS Group) and Ramesh Bawa (MD & CEO, IFIN). In the said email, Saha states a plan of action to avoid ratings downgrade.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Private hospitals' body, Ficci propose caps on COVID-19 treatment cost

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

A WEEK after the Supreme Court called out private hospitals on the COVID-19 treatment cost, two major associations representing such facilities have suggested a cap of Rs 35,000-68,000 per day. However, this does not include additional cost of "high-end" tests and medicines, as well as treatment for those with co-morbidities.

While these rates are not binding, the Association of Healthcare Providers of India (AHPPI) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) are submitting suggestions to the central and state governments.

Major private hospitals, including Apollo Hospitals, Fortis Healthcare, Dr LH Hiranandani, PD Hinduja and Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences, are likely to implement the rates suggested by at least one of these associations, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

AHPPI has suggested various ceiling rates, depending on the type of treatment: from Rs 15,000 per day for general ward to Rs 35,000 per day if the patient is in the ICU and on ventilator support. The suggested rates include the cost of basic medicines, testing, personal protective equipment (PPE) and "all" other required elements in the treatment of a patient without comorbidities or

complications unrelated to COVID-19, said AHPPI director general Dr Giridhar Gyani. However, it will not include the cost of "high-end" investigations, medicines and treatment required for patients with underlying conditions.

Ficci has listed proposed rates according to the category of patient: whether he is government-referred, paying out of his pocket, or with insurance. Depending on these categories, and whether the patient is admitted in an isolation ward or ICU (with or without a ventilator), it has suggested a cap of Rs 13,600 - Rs 68,000 per day. The rates, based on an analysis of 150 actual COVID treatment cases in "major" private hospitals, are "indicative" and there may be individual variations to the extent of 5-10 per cent.

The rates suggested by Ficci include medicines, consumables and "basic" diagnostics, but don't include treatment for patients with comorbidities and the cost of "high end" drugs, PPEs, which it had earlier calculated to cost around Rs 10,000 per day, are also excluded. "In these difficult times, the private healthcare sector is doing its best to serve with high standards of ethics, transparency, professional competency and compassion," said Dr Sangita Reddy, Ficci president and Joint MD, Apollo Hospitals Group.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Atmanirbhar package: PSBs 'adequately capitalised', unlikely to get fresh infusion

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

DESPITE A large chunk of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package relying on aggressive lending by banks, the government does not see an immediate need for equity infusion in the public sector banks (PSBs), as their capital to risk weighted asset ratio (CRAR) is expected to stay above the regulatory requirements. Sources said the Finance Ministry believes that after series of capital infusion in PSB over the last three years, their capital adequacy ratio, or CRAR, is sufficient to absorb any expansion in credit activity.

"At this point, even if you look at the RBI data, it shows that even in a severe stress scenario, the banks' CRAR will only go down to around 10.1 per cent and the Basel norms are 8 per cent for CRAR. So our banks are adequately capitalised," a senior Finance Ministry official told *The Indian Express*.

Many analysts argue that banks, especially state-owned ones, will need significant equity

guarantees, there is no risk of fresh NPAs on that front. "With the present level of capitalisation, they can support credit growth in the economy. In any case, a lot of lending which has been recently arranged is backed by full government credit guarantee, so their credit risks reduce as well," the official said. Banks have enough capital available to support credit expansion, since growth came to a standstill in the last two months.

With the lockdown hitting banking operations in April, credit growth to various segments — including priority sector, housing loan and credit card — of the economy has shown a contraction during the month. While the overall non-food credit growth contracted by 1.2 per cent, or Rs 1.10 lakh crore to Rs 91 lakh crore, loan outstanding in the personal loan segment fell by 2.50 per cent to Rs 24.90 lakh crore, a decline of around Rs 63,000 crore, as per the latest Reserve Bank of India data.

According to a recent report by Credit Suisse, Indian state-owned and private sector banks may need to raise \$20 billion in addi-

tional capital — \$13 billion and \$7 billion, respectively — for increased provisioning over the next 12 months as credit quality weakens. Kotak Mahindra Bank is among the private lenders that have recently raised capital from equity markets.

Banks are unlikely to face problems for the next three months as regulatory relaxations — like moratorium on term loan instalments — will provide them a breather till September in recognising NPAs. Post September, NPAs are likely to rise from the current level of Rs 10 lakh crore.

On May 13, the government had announced that emergency credit facility of up to Rs 3 lakh crore will be provided to MSMEs having up to Rs 25 crore outstanding loans and Rs 100 crore turnover. Banks will provide them additional 20 per cent credit backed by 100 per cent government guarantee against these collateral free loans. A facility of providing partial credit guarantee was also announced to help stressed MSMEs get access funding from banks.



CONCOR
CONCOR CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company)
ICD, Tughlakabad, New Delhi - 110 020

TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only)

Online Open Tender in Two Bid System for the "Work of Lock & Unlock of Wagon during Loading & Unloading of Containers at Inland Container Depot/ Tughlakabad, Delhi" only through e-tendering mode.

Name of Work	CON/NR/TC/Lock Unlock/TKD/2020
Estimated Cost	₹2,40,20,154/-
Period of the Contract	2+2+1 Years
Earnest Money Deposit*	₹96,100/-through e-Payment.
Cost of Document	₹1,000/- inclusive of all taxes & duties through e-Payment
Tender Processing Fee*	₹5,310/- inclusive of all taxes & duties (Non-refundable) through e-Payment.
Date of Sale (Online)	From 05.06.2020 at 15:00 hrs. Up to 24.06.2020 16:00 hrs.
Pre-Bid Meeting	12.06.2020 at 15:00hrs.
Corrigendum, if any	On or after 16.06.2020 on www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL only
Last Date & Time of Submission	On 25.06.2020 up to 15:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening	On 26.06.2020 at 15:30 hrs.

* Through e-Payment
For eligibility criteria and other details, please login to www.concorindia.com or eprocure.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL. Bidders are requested to visit the websites regularly. CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor. For complete details login to www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL.

Group General Manager (C&O)/NR

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
KAGITHAPURAM - 639 136, KARUR DIST. TAMIL NADU
Phone: 04324-277 001 (10 LINES) / Extn: 4402/4568

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sl. No.	Material Description	Due date
1	Supply of LT Power & Control Cables for TNPL Unit-II MEP	29.06.2020
2	Supply of Installation of Low side Air Conditioning works for TNPL Unit-II MEP	29.06.2020
3	Design, Manufacture and Supply of Non-IBR Manual Ball Valves for HWFL at TNPL Unit-II MEP	29.06.2020
4	Design, Manufacture and Supply of Non-IBR Manual Butterfly Valves for HWFL at TNPL Unit-II MEP	29.06.2020
5	Design, Manufacture and Supply of Non-IBR Manual Check Valves for HWFL at TNPL Unit-II MEP	29.06.2020

Email: - Sl. No 1 & 2 - pmd1@tnpl.co.in / 3, 4 & 5 - pmd2@tnpl.co.in

Detailed terms & conditions are available in Tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com/ www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DIPR/2018/Tender/2020 TNPL - Maker of bogass based eco-friendly Paper

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)

TENDER NOTICE
e-tender is invited for the supply of following item.
(1) 67529, (2) 44795, (3) 67924, (4) 67876 (Corrigendum)

Note:
For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

PRO/AAAM(M)/14/2020. GENERAL MANAGER

Municipal Corporation, Jodhpur
Nagar Nigam Bhawan, Inside Polytechnic college campus, Residency Road, Jodhpur-342004
Phone No.- 0291-2651464 Fax 0291-2651464 e-mail- sema1@mcjodhpur.com

No.- 413 Date:- 29.05.2020

Notice Inviting Bid
UBN No.- DLB2021SLOB02106

Online Proposals are invited on behalf of Jodhpur Municipal Corporation (JMC) from eligible bidders fulfilling eligibility criteria as described in the Bid Documents for "Rate contract work for regular Sewer Cleaning with the help of Sewer Jetting cum suction machine Medium Capacity (16T Chassis) including deployment of Machines, necessary equipment and skilled Manpower in Jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation Jodhpur South." The further detailed bid conditions can be downloaded from website www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in Document will be available on website from Date - 05-06-2020

Raj.Samwadi/20/599 Commissioner

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LTD.
(TV Wing)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: (0291) 2742336 FAX: (0291) 2742529

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Short term Techno-commercial and Price e-Bids are invited for "Supply and Erection of 33KV Double circuit 9.5 km line from Chunarwadkothi 132 KVGSS to Padampur by-pass and conversion of existing 4 km single circuit line to double circuit line from Padampur by-pass to 33/11 KV sub-station at Sachbhawanagar under AEN CSD-II, Sriganaganagar against System Improvement scheme on Turnkey basis" (UBN No.-JV2021SLOB0007.) Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening etc are available on our website at www.energy.rajjasthan.gov.in/jdvnl and also at www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in. The bidders, in their own interest are requested to read very carefully the tender documents before submitting the bid only through on line on website www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in.

Note :- Interested bidders please note that in future any other notices /information regarding amendment /corrigendum/addendum/dates extension of bid submission etc for above tender will only be available on website www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in, www.energy.rajjasthan.gov.in/jdvnl.

Raj.Samwadi/20/562 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW)

बिजली संचयन विभागों के लिए टार की नंबर 1800 180 6045

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(Power Wing)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT No.: 553P-09/VOL-V Dated: 27.05.2020

Name of Office: Chief Engineer/Transmission System, Planning & Design (TS) Directorate, SLD Complex, Industrial Area Phase-I, BBMB, Chandigarh-160002
Tel: 0172-2654488

Name of work: Design, Manufacture, Assembly, Testing before dispatch, Supply, Delivery of 1 No. 1.1/0.45 Station set for 400 KV S/S, BBMB, Panipat.

Last date & time for receipt of request for issue of tender documents: 06.07.2020 upto 11.00 Hrs.

Last date & time of submission of bids: 26.07.2020 up to 11.00 Hrs.

Date & time of Opening of bids: 26.07.2020 from 15.00 Hrs. onwards

For cost of specification, Earnest money Deposit and detailed NIT, please visit BBMB website <http://bbmbprocure.bbcm.gov.in> and www.bbmb.gov.in.

1172-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)
Tel.: 022-26870078

NOTICE
Work for Advertising Agency / Public Relations Agency
Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0

MIDC invites E-tenders from Advertising Agency / PR Agency to carry out International Outreach (Advertising, Media plan). The agency must offer competent and reliable professional services. Interested agencies may download tender form from MIDC's website: www.midcindia.org and submit the same between 05.06.2020 (Time: 12 pm) to 11.06.2020 (Time: 12 pm). Terms & conditions are available on our website.

- Tenders will be open on 11.06.2020 (Time: 1 pm) probably.
- MIDC reserves the right to accept or reject one or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Note: After end of above mentioned 7 days period, the bids are received less than 3, there period will be extended automatically for next 7 days. The scheduled/changes (if any) of the same will be display on our website.

General Manager (PR)
MIDC, Head Office, Mumbai - 93.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:

1. Name of work	Repair & Strengthening of Bridge No. 5 & FOB S&B at Delhi Sadar Bazar in the section of SSE/W/NDLS under ADEN/NDLS.
2. Approx cost of work	Rs. 61,97,402.96 (Rupees Sixty One Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Four Hundred Two & Ninety Six Paise only)
3. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 1,24,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Only)
4. Cost of tender document	Rs. 5900/-
5. Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	30.06.2020 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. No. 128-W/280/E Tender Notice/NIT/05/2020-21/W-3 Dated: 03.06.2020 1266/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(A Navratna Undertaking of Govt. of India)
NSIC, New MDPB Building, 3rd Floor, Okhla Ind. Estate, New Delhi-110 020

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
CONCOR invites E-Tender in (Double) packet system of tendering for the following work:

Tender No.	CONCOR/FA/SE/2020
Name of Work	Sale of Duty Credit Scrips (DCS) issued under Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)
Total Value of Scrips	Rs. 182.98 Crores
Period of Contract	60 days
Validity of Tender	30 days from the due date for submission of tender
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5 lakhs through e-payment
Cost of Document	Rs. 1,000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee	Rs. 5,310/- inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment
Date of Sale (Online)	From 05.06.2020 (up to 11.00 hrs.) to 18.06.2020 (up to 16.00 hrs.)
Date & Time of Submission of Tender	18.06.2020 at 16:00 hrs.
Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid	22.06.2020 at 12:00 hrs.
Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid	Will be informed later online

For financial eligibility criteria, experience with respect to similar nature of work, etc., please refer to detailed tender notice available on website www.concorindia.com but the complete tender document can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL only. Further, Corrigendum/Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on website www.concorindia.com and www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same.

Group General Manager (F&L) Phone No.: 011-4122542

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(POWER WING)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice No. 01/Panipat Dated: 22.05.2020

It is informed to the General Public that the charge for the upkeep of the following Extra-High Voltage line is under the control of SDO, Transmission Line Sub-Division, BBMB, Panipat:-

Sr.No.: 1. Name of the Line: 220KV Panipat-Ch. Dadri Single Circuit Line. V/LA: Sewah, Nangal Khari, Maharana, Badshah, Maharana-Badshah road, Dabhar, Nauffia, Balana road, Israna, Ramnagar, Bijawa, Shampur Road, Kalih, Chidana, Mudelana, Kalana. Khanpur road, Sikanderpur, Gohana City, Rabyda, Mahra, Rukhi, Kahni, Jassika, Chamar-Brahman Wass, Mokrol Kala, Nasipur, Chamasna, Pochtek City, Singhpura-Jind Road, Geddikhera-Hisar Road, Baholi, Lahri, Murapur, Mokhra Road, Basana, Kalanaur, Bond Kalan, Sarjanwas, Phogat, Sarwar, Hindi Road Bhiwani, Soopkashmi, Mizi, Mirdi, Dikada, Satkwas, Fathegarh, Charhki, Dadri-Bhiwani Road Dadri Power House etc.

It is prohibited / offense to construct the house and plantation of tree or any kind of activity like lines lying lifting up line and/or adjacent the above said line i.e. 5.5 meter (approx. 18 feet) left/right, up/down away from the line as per Indian Electricity Act-1910 (Rule No. 18 Sub Rule No. 3) read with Rule No. 80 Sub Rule (1b, 2c) and 82A of Indian Electricity Act-1958. If anyone violate above said rule then legal action will be taken against him as per Indian Electricity Act and he will be fully responsible for any kind of loss/damage to BBMB or any third party.

SDO, Transmission Line Sub-Division, BBMB Panipat Sewah-132106 (www.bbmb.gov.in)

1179-PR-TS-3 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Padmanabhanagara Division, Opp. Sagar Hospital,
Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560078

No.: EE(PN)/TEND/04/2020-21 Date: 03-06-2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Tender Document System) (Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagara Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible Registered Contractor for the below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs)
1	Comprehensive development of Improvements to Drain and Asphaltting cross road and main road Chikkallasandra in Ward No.183 Annexure-2 Sl.No.1280 and CC Road and footpath works at Ward No.165 Ganesha Mandira of BBMP Annexure-2 Sl.No.1263. (Other Category)	900.00	1350,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> (2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 07.07.2020, 4.00 PM. (3) Date of Pre-bid Meeting: 01.07.2020 at 3.00 PM in the Office of The Chief Engineer (South), BBMP, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-11. (4) Date of opening of Technical Bids: 08.07.2020 at 4.30 PM at above office. (5) Date of opening of Financial Bids: at above office after the Technical Bid approval. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagara Division
"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement System
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	14200856A	Environment Friendly Bio Degradable Cooling water	23881 LTR	30.06.2020
02	20202001A	A-9 Auto Brake Valve Outline	168 NOS	01.07.2020
03	09202056	Bolster Bottom Gusset	3561 NOS	06.07.2020
04	02201120	V-Deep Groove Alternator Pulley	1000 NOS	06.07.2020

NOTE: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No. 03/2020-21 Dated: 04.06.2020 1262/2020

Serving Customers With A Smile

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
Container Corporation of India Ltd.
Navratna Company (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
ICD, Tughlakabad, New Delhi - 110 020

TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only)
E-Tender in Single Bid for providing Ambulance Services at ICD/Tughlakabad, Delhi only through e-tendering mode.

Tender No.	CON/NTK/CD&A/Ambul/2020
Name of Work	Providing Ambulance services at ICD/Tughlakabad, Delhi.
Estimated Cost	Rs.23,20,920/-
Period of the contract	2+1 years
Earnest Money Deposit*	Rs.46,500/- through e-Payment.
Cost of Document*	Rs.1000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee*	Rs.1369/- inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment.
Date of Sale (Online)	From 05.06.2020 at 15:00 hrs. (upto 24.06.2020 16:00 hrs.)
Last Date & Time of submission	On 25.06.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening	On 26.06.2020 at 15:30 Hrs.

* Through e-Payment. For eligibility criteria and other details please log on to www.concorindia.com or www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL. Bidders are requested to visit the websites regularly. CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor. For complete details log on to www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL.

Group General Manager (C&O)/NR

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJA RAMANNA CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

CORRIGENDUM - II 02.06.2020
Tender No. RR/CAT/NSD/C/2093/2020/CR-08 dated: 27.01.2020
Name of Work : Construction of Clean Modular Lab in Cavity Processing building in technical area at RR/CAT, Indore. Estimated Cost: ₹ 155 Lakh

The date of sale, online submission of pre-bid query, submission and opening of tender are changed as follows:-

Last date of availability of tender for download	11.06.2020 (17:00 Hrs)
Last date to receive Pre-bid queries (if any) by email (csdoff@rrcat.gov.in) only	15.06.2020 (10:00 Hrs)
Online uploading of prebid queries	18.06.2020 (12:00 Hrs)
Last date and time of closing of uploading / online submission of tender .	21.06.2020 at 22:00 hrs.
Date of Submission of EMD in original.	From 09:00 hrs on 22.06.2020 to 15:15 hrs on 25.06.2020.
Last date and time of online opening of Technical bid.	:25.06.2020 at 15:30 hrs.

Other informations are available on Web site: www.rrcat.gov.in. All other terms and conditions of tender shall remain unchanged. (Chief Engineer, RR/CAT) For and on behalf of President of India

UJJAIN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION,
UJJAIN (M.P.)

NIT No.: UMC/AMRUT/01, Tender ID-2020_UAD_91946_1 Dated: 03-06-2020

Ujjain Municipal Corporation Invites Short Notice Proposal For "Road Restoration Work of Sewerage Line In Different Locations of Ujjain City, Length-10Km". Interested Bidders May Purchase And Submit Their Proposals Online At www.mptenders.gov.in.

Probable Amount of Contract:	Rs. 2,06,84,750/-
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1,96,000/-
Cost of Document	Rs. 12,500/-
Last date for purchase of tender	12/06/2020 up to 17:30 hrs
Last date for Submission of Technical and Financial Bid (online)	12/06/2020 up to 17:30 hrs
Date of opening of Technical Proposals online	13/06/2020 on/after 17:30 hrs

For more details please visit <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be uploaded on this website only.

Superintending Engineer (AMRUT), Ujjain Municipal Corporation

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-TENDER NOTICE

Date: 02.06.2020. E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: Name of the work: For Provision of CT Scan of CLW's patient for a period of two years. a. Tender notice no. Med-CT scan -2020-2022. b. Tender No. Med-CT scan -2020-2022. c. Cost of Tender Form (Document) - Rs.3,000.00 (Rupees Three thousand only). d. Approx value of the work (Tender value) - Rs.30,00,000.00 (Rupees Thirty lakhs) only. Lump sum work, details as per Annexure A & Annexure B. e. Schedule -List of CT scans Plain at Annexure A (Sl.No. 1to 36) and CT scan contrast at Annexure B (Sl.No. 1to 36). item wise rate is to be quoted in attached Annexure A & B and also uploaded in the same with scanned copy. The total value of item-wise rate(i.e. total value of 72 items (Annexure A + Annexure B) is to be quoted in the schedule [Note: The total contract value will be Rs.30,00,000.00 for two years]. E Earnest money to be deposited - Rs.60,000.00. g. Completion period of work -24 months. h. Validity period- 90 (Ninety) days. I. Tender submission closing date - 06.07.2020 at 12.00 hrs. j. Complete details of tender can be seen in the Railways website www.ireps.gov.in & www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in

PCMO/KGH CLW/Chittaranjan
RDS-031
Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Notice No.- PR 129/2020

Sealed Tenders under two Bid systems are invited from reputed Firms/Companies/Agencies for "Engagement as Social Media Management Agency of Bihar School Examination Board, Patna".

Tender Schedule

Date and Time for Activity	Date / Time : Duration
Sale of Tender document	From 06.06.2020 (11:00 AM) to 26.06.2020 (02:00 PM)
Pre-Bid Meeting	15.06.2020 at 11:30 AM (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Submission of Tender form fee, Bid and EMD in Hard copy/Original	26.06.2020 up to 1:00 PM (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Opening of Technical Bid	26.06.2020 at 3:00 PM (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Financial Bid Opening	26.06.2020 at 04:00 PM (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 1,000/- (Rs. One Thousand) only (Non-Refundable)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. Fifty Thousands) only (Refundable)

❖ Tender documents can be obtained from Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna by paying cost of Tender document of Rs. 1,000/- (Rs. One Thousand) only through Demand Draft of Nationalised Banks in favour of Secretary, Bihar School Examination Board, payable at Patna. Tender documents can also be downloaded from BSEB website <http://biharboardonline.bihar.gov.in>. However, receipt of the cost of Tender document must be submitted with the Tender documents.

❖ Tender must be accompanied with the cost of Tender documents and Earnest Money in the form of Demand Draft, issued by a Nationalized Bank. No cheque will be accepted.

❖ Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, will be published on the departmental website <http://biharboardonline.bihar.gov.in> itself.

❖ For any queries, interested Agencies may contact Shri Jai Kishore Singh, Nodal Officer, Contact No.- 6299923095.

❖ Note:- Bihar School Examination Board reserves the right to accept/reject/reschedule any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Secretary

Municipal Corporation Kota (Rajasthan)
Rajeev Gandhi Bhawan Dushera Ground Kota
Tel.Ph.No.: 0744-2500197, email: nkota@gmail.com website: www.kotamc.org

No.- NKK/GENERAL/2020/440-454 Date: 04.06.2020

CORRIGENDUM-V

The e-Tender number 53/2019-20 and e-tender notice number NKK/General/2020/21258-264 dated 12.03.2020 was issued by Municipal Corporation Kota on 12.03.2020. Due to covid-19 Revised E-Tender time Schedule are as follows which can be kindly seen for reference on www.spprraj.nic.in <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and www.kotamc.org.

S. No.	Particular	Before	After
1	Period of availability/receiving of Bidding Documents (Start/End Date)	12.03.2020 to 04.06.2020 (upto 6.00 PM)	12.03.2020 to 22.06.2020 (upto 6.00 PM)
2	Submission of original Banker's Cheque/ Demand Draft for Bid Document cost, Bid Security, Bid Processing Fee & other documents listed herein after	05.06.2020 (upto 2.00 PM)	23.06.2020 (upto 2.00 PM)
3	Date & Time of technical Bid opening	05.06.2020 (6.00 PM)	23.06.2020 (4.00 PM)

Other condition will remain the same.

Sd/-
Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Kota

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:-

1. Name of work	Improvement of PF No. 02 at ANDI including provision of small shelter in the section of SSE/W/DL/Line under ADEN/DLI
2. Approx. cost of work	Rs. 2,16,77,901.93 (Two Crore Sixteen Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Nine Hundred One and Ninety Three paise only)
3. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 2,58,400/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Only)
4. Cost of tender document	Rs. 11,800/-
5. Date & Time for submission of tender bid and opening of tender	30.06.2020 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. The cost of work is exclusive of GST. No. No. 128-W/280/E Tender Notice/NIT/06/2020-21/W-3 Dated: 03.06.2020. 1267/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

INDORE SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED, INDORE
Nehru Park Campus, INDORE-452003, Ph. No.: 0731-2535572
E-mail: smartcityindore@gmail.com, Website: www.smartcityindore.org.

NIT No.: 07/15CDL/2020-21 **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Date: 02.06.2020

Indore Smart City Development Limited invites online tenders from eligible contractors having relevant experience.

S. No.	Description	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money Deposit	Service Period
1	Selection of Branding and Marketing Agency on Success Fees Basis for Selection of Builders/Investors for Redevelopment of Government Land Parcels under Smart City Mission, Indore.	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 5,00,000/-	03 Years

Key Dates:

S.No.	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last date for Purchase of Tender (Online)	03.07.2020 till 17:30 Hrs.
2.	Last date for Submission of Tender (Online)	03.07.2020 till 17:30 Hrs.
3.	Technical bid Opening (Online)	04.07.2020 at 17:30 Hrs.
4.	Last date for Submission of Hard copy of Technical Bid	05.07.2020 till 17:30 Hrs.

Note: 1. Tender Document and other details are available on website www.mptenders.gov.in
2. Amendment to NIT, if any would be published on website www.mptenders.gov.in
3. The EMD shall be deposited through online payment using Debit card/ Credit Card/ Net banking or System Generated Challan on portal.

Chief Executive Officer
Indore Smart City Development Ltd.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
E-Tender Notice No.: Br./JHS/2020-2021/01 Dated: 28.05.2020

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Engineer / Bridge / Line / Jhansi, North Central Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of the President of India, invite sealed open tenders on the prescribed forms for the under noted work :-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Cost of work	Earnest Money
1	Br.-JHS-2020-01	Construction of storm water attenuation system at LC 146(M) Road under bridge Jhansi by cross wave technology 2 No. of pits.	₹ 48,09,894.24	₹ 96200/-

Cost of Tender Form with (GST) Tax in Rs.: ₹ 3150/- (3000 + 5% GST). **Date of Opening of tender:** 26.06.2020. **Completion Period:** 03 Month. **Special Condition:** Tenderer/ Seller authorized applicator/manufacturer or storm water management by Co-Polymer Interlocking Technology approved CGWB/GRIHA/GBC. Note: (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15.00 Hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 26.06.2020. (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 COA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (6) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (7) Tender on line can be submitted upto 15.00 hrs. on 26.06.2020. 59920 (A)

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

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967

Tender Notice NIT.No.12/CW/DO/T.No.15, 16 & 17/2020-21 Dt.03.06.2020.

Short Term Tender notice

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, sealed tenders are invited under "Two Cover System" for the following work from Class-I State Level Contractors registered in State/ Central or Quasi Government Organisations having experience in similar nature of works. Tenders will be received upto 3.00 PM on 18.06.2020 and the same will be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approx. value of work	EMD
1.	Relaying of roads, desilting of drains and jungle clearance in SIPCOT Industrial Complex/Park at (Sperambudur, Bargur and Villavadi) (Retender)	Rs.502.00 lakhs	Rs.2,61,000/-
2.	Formation of link roads and providing High Mast lights in SEZ area at SIPCOT Industrial Growth Centre/Park at Perundurai and Oragadam (Retender)	Rs.262.00 lakhs	Rs.1,41,000/-
3.	Providing Barbed wire fencing, high mast light, truck park and construction of compound wall at SIPCOT Industrial Growth Centre/Park/Complex at Irungattur, Perundurai and Bargur (Retender)	Rs.300.00 lakhs	Rs.1,60,000/-

EMD in the form of DD in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai.

The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website: www.tenders.in.gov.in and www.sipcot.in

DIPR/2079/TENDER/2020 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SIPCOT, CHENNAI-8

HOMEGUARDS, CIVIL DEFENCE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT M.P.
Bhopal Dated- 03/06/2020

Corrigendum notice No. 03

With reference to Homeguards, Civil Defence and Disaster Management tender notice no./ ADG/DM/PA/173 dated 03/06/2020 and the receipt no. 636 of Jansampark Karyalay Bhopal following corrigendum notice is submitted.

Sl. No.	Name of Equipment	Quantity	EMD required in shape of BG/FDR
1	Foot pump for inflatable rubber boat	20	16000
2	Life Jacket	300	18000
3	Life Buoy	300	11000
4	Deep Diving Kit	10	68000
5	Scuba Underwater Torch	50	7000
6	Scuba High Pressure Air Compressor	5	45000
7	Portable inverter generator	20	40000
8	Rope Launcher	4	60000
9	Breathing Apparatus	30	51000
10	Chain Saw	20	22400
11	Non Contact Infrared Digital Thermometer	254	26000

Column number 4 in the table mentioned above, EMD required in shape of BG/FDR should be read -as "EMD submitted only through E-payment."

Note:-

A- Remaining terms & conditions of the tender notice no./ ADG/DM/PA/173 dated 03/06/2020 and the receipt no. 636 of Jansampark Karyalay Bhopal will remain unchanged.

B- Any changes/ modifications in the tender enquiry will be intimated through <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

C- The tenders are requested to visit our Website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>, regularly.

Sd/-
Additional Director General of Police
Disaster Management M.P.

G-11678/2020

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender ID: 2020 AAI 49712_1

E-Tender in the prescribed format are hereby invited for following Facility at CCSI Airport Lucknow. Name of facility: Car parking EMD ₹3,07,000/- MRF 14,37,547/- and other taxes and charges. Last Date of Tender Submission: 09.06.2020 for further more details & updates www.tenders.gov.in / [www](http://www.aai.gov.in)

HYDERABAD OPEN CANCELLED

The Hyderabad Open badminton tournament, scheduled to be held in August, was on Thursday cancelled by the sport's world governing body in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, days after the unveiling of a revised calendar. The tournament was to be held from August 11 to 16.

'Awards motivate Indians, foreigners get huge money'

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

WITH THE Athletics Federation of India (AFI) nominating its deputy chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair for the Dronacharya award, the debate over rewards and recognition for foreign coaches of India's international medallists has kicked up again. Nair has 'hand-held many athletes and coaches over the past few years', AFI president Adille Sumariwalla (in pic) said in a statement, which added that the 61-year-old is the 'only Indian to complete an International Coaching Enrichment Certificate Programme by the International Olympic Committee with honours'.

In an interview to *The Indian Express*, Sumariwalla makes a case for Nair, who counts among his trainees star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra. Nair has also worked as chief coach of the Republic of Maldives from 1998 to 2001, was a coach with the Indian Air Force and holds a Level-V IAAF coaching diploma. Excerpts:

The nomination documents submitted to the sports ministry says Nair first spotted and also trained Neeraj Chopra at the national camp. But foreign coaches were at the helm when Chopra won international medals.

When it comes to talent identification in recent times, he (Nair) has spotted the three best talents in the country. Hima Das, Neeraj Chopra and (VK) Vismaya. He found Neeraj Chopra in 2015, he trained Neeraj for one year, Neeraj was fifth at the National Games in 2015. He threw 73 metres, Radhakrishnan trained him and in March 2016, he threw 83 metres (82.23m). Radhakrishnan was the one who asked us to get coach (late) Gary Calvert and he handed Neeraj to Calvert. (Calvert was coach when Chopra became World Junior Champion in 2016).

This is the greatness of a coach. He could have held onto Neeraj. He didn't have to

The complexities of finding the real Dronacharya

IN THE official document submitted to the ministry of sports, deputy chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair has been credited with spotting India's most promising athlete, javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, training him at the national camp and also contributing in improving the performance of the 4x400m women's relay team and training two of its key runners VK Vismaya and Hima Das, the 2018 junior world champion in the 400 metres.

Nair has been in the national set-up since 2013 but foreign coaches have been at the helm, coaching Chopra and the relay teams, when they have won international medals. When Chopra won the world junior gold medal (86.48 metres) in 2016, it was the late Australian-born Gary Calvert who was his coach. Uwe Hohn, the only man to



Radhakrishnan Nair has been credited with spotting javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra.

throw the javelin over 100 metres, coached Chopra when he won gold medals at the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. When Chopra joined the senior na-

tional camp for the first time in March 2015, he trained on his own as he was self-taught. From time to time at the national camp, both Kashinath Naik, a 2010 Commonwealth Games bronze medalist in the javelin throw, and Nair guided him. A year later, he equalled the national record (82.23m) at the SAF Games.

Russian-born Galina Bukharina, who joined the Indian contingent three years ago, trained both Vismaya and Hima once they joined the national camp. Bukharina was in-charge when the women's 4x400m relay team, which included Vismaya and Hima, won gold at the 2018 Asian Games. The men's relay team which took silver at the Asiad was also coached by Bukharina.

NIHAL KOSHIE

bring Calvert. There was a 10 to 11-metre improvement in a year when Radhakrishnan coached Neeraj. He said that Neeraj has a chance at the Olympics, so let us find a good coach from abroad and he forced AFI to get Calvert.

So coach Nair knows his limitations. Does he deserve a nomination for that?

There are athletes who could have won a medal at the Olympic Games if a coach hadn't held onto them. But still you gave those coaches a Dronacharya even though we lost a medal. I'm not sure whether those athletes did well because of them or in spite of them. Here is a man who is saying 'get the best coach you can get in the world'. He says 'I am the best in India, but if there is somebody better in the world, we should get him'. There are other coaches who are selfish to the core. There are examples of coaches who have produced one athlete but never produced another athlete before or after who could win even a national medal. There are so many coaches who have got the award on the basis of one athlete. What do you want to give Dronacharya for? It is for a coach who finds talent, a coach who nurtures talent and a coach who at the right time gives the talent to a more specific coach.

Chopra has been coached by Calvert, Uwe Hohn and Dr Klaus Bartonietz. Why hasn't he trained more with Nair?

If Radhakrishnan had not introduced Neeraj to Calvert, he would have stayed with Radhakrishnan in the camp. People like Uwe Hohn and Calvert have worked with athletes who have thrown 85-plus metres. Radhakrishnan has not worked with an athlete who has thrown 85-plus metres. So it is his greatness that he told Neeraj to go to such a coach. Nobody will give up their athlete and send them to another coach, especially when they know the guy is so good and talented. If he had continued with Radhakrishnan, he would have still thrown 85 to 86 metres. Neeraj was already throwing 83 metres with Radhakrishnan. He would have won Commonwealth as well as Asian Games medal. You would have to give Radhakrishnan the Dronacharya.

Is the AFI giving him credit for spotting Hima Das and VK Vismaya and training them too?

When Hima Das ran the Open Nationals in 2017, Radhakrishnan went to her coach and convinced him that she should join the camp. He got her shifted from the 200 metres to the 400 metres and Galina

(Bukharina, foreign coach) had joined us by then. He spotted Vismaya at a university meet, and brought her to the camp. Today, Vismaya is the No.1 400 metre runner. He fought with us to include her in the camp. Back then, she was thin and nobody was sure if she would be able to run fast enough.

So if Nair has helped improve the performance of the relay team as AFI says, why do you appoint someone like Galina Bukharina?

Coaching is only the physical part. But you have to keep a team together. There is a whole support system which Radhakrishnan gives them. He sits with the planning team, he ensures they get everything they need, they get the masseur, they get the physio, they get the doctor. He holds them together. Galina or Uwe Hohn, or whoever is only spending those two-three hours on the track with them. The rest of the operation is done by whom? All the planning... where they will go and train, where they will compete is done by coaches like Radhakrishnan. Why did we give JS Saini (1997) the award? We gave it because he worked with the team. I want to know who the critics are and who do they think deserves the Dronacharya award?

Yuvraj faces police probe over 'casteist remark'



A lawyer has alleged Yuvraj Singh made casteist remarks against Dalits.

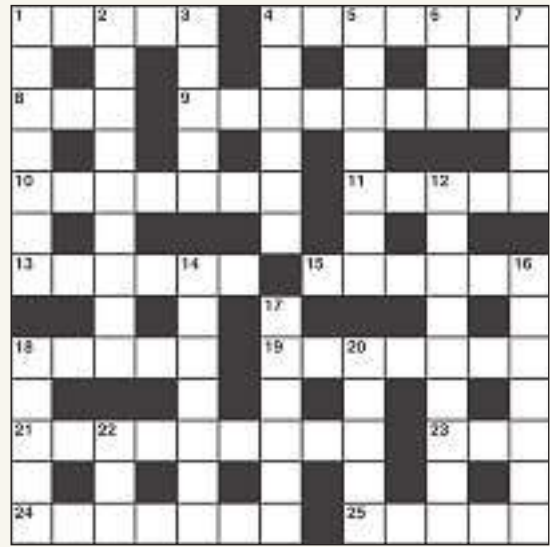
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4

THE HARYANA Police has initiated a probe against former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh after a lawyer complained against his alleged "casteist remarks" against Dalits.

Hansi-based lawyer Rajat Kalsan has lodged a complaint with local police alleging that Yuvraj had passed a casteist remark against Dalits. Hansi Superintendent of Police Lokender Singh told *The Indian Express* that they had received the complaint on May 2. "We are investigating the matter. But nothing has been decided so far. No FIR has been registered yet," he said. Kalsan alleged that Yuvraj, during an *Instagram Live* with India cricketer Rohit Sharma, had made the remark while referring to another player. "This comment has hurt the sentiments of Dalits as millions of people have watched this video on social media," Kalsan said in the complaint while urging SP Hansi to lodge an FIR against Yuvraj and arrest him.

Kalsan told this paper that a DSP-level officer had registered his statement under Section 161 of the CrPC on Wednesday. "I had also submitted a DVD containing controversial remarks in support of my complaint. The investigators watched this DVD on Wednesday," said Kalsan while referring to the short clip that has gone viral on social media. *The Indian Express* tried to get in touch with Yuvraj but he did not respond.

CROSSWORD 4136



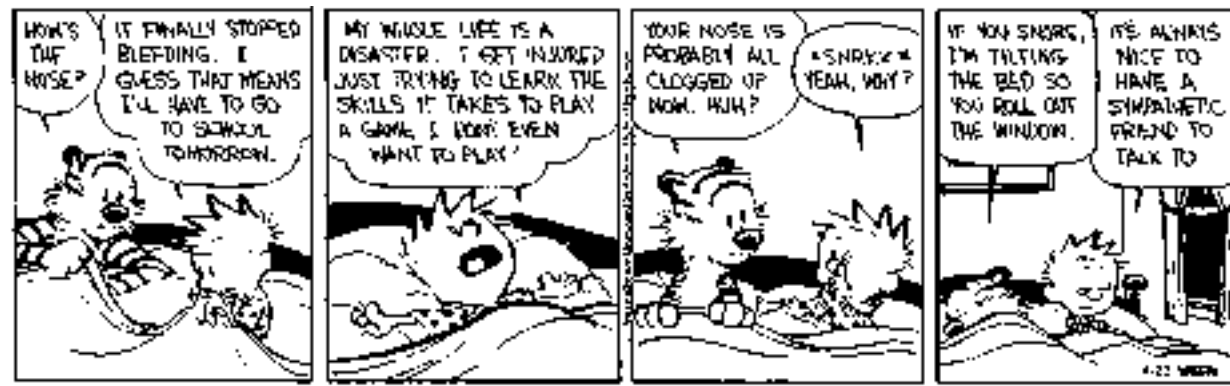
- ACROSS**
1 Is inclined to make charges (5)
4 Cast pie out, though it won't go bad (7)
8 Fool who doubles in for a killer (3)
9 A good rest ordered for the benefit of the players (5,4)
10 Ran fast but was injured having hit the front (7)
11 Bird that is below par (5)
13 Hemp is used in making this jacket (6)
15 Lines of poetry or music (6)
18 I'm illuminated round the edge (5)
19 Put into liquidation (7)
21 Act about now (9)
23 Take a course (3)
24 Is a good man able to get a game? (7)
25 Follow directions, girl (5)
- DOWN**
1 Paid informer (7)
2 Lear's wry smile is bright and penetrating (5,4)
3 Silas shows fibre when in trouble (5)
4 A male and a female (6)
5 A tremendous task for climbers the day before a holiday (7)
6 To love in excess (3)
7 Swear there's nothing out of the way (5)
12 She instructs and her charges are small (9)
14 Values seem set for a change (7)
16 Possibly respect a sign of authority (7)
17 Came in to change the pictures (6)
18 Cyril makes up a song (5)
20 Capital wear for a bishop (5)
22 Peg may put safety first (3)

Solutions Crossword 4136: Across: 1 Father's Day, 8 Beryl, 9 Latimer, 10 Apostle, 11 Sonic, 12 Kitbag, 14 Astrid, 17 Puffs, 19 Elector, 21 Control, 22 Gains, 23 Easy manner. Down: 2 Airport, 3 Helot, 4 Relief, 5 Defests, 6 Yermen, 7 Procedures, 8 Blank space, 13 Assets, 15 Ratline, 16 Bedlam, 18 Fence, 20 Egg on.

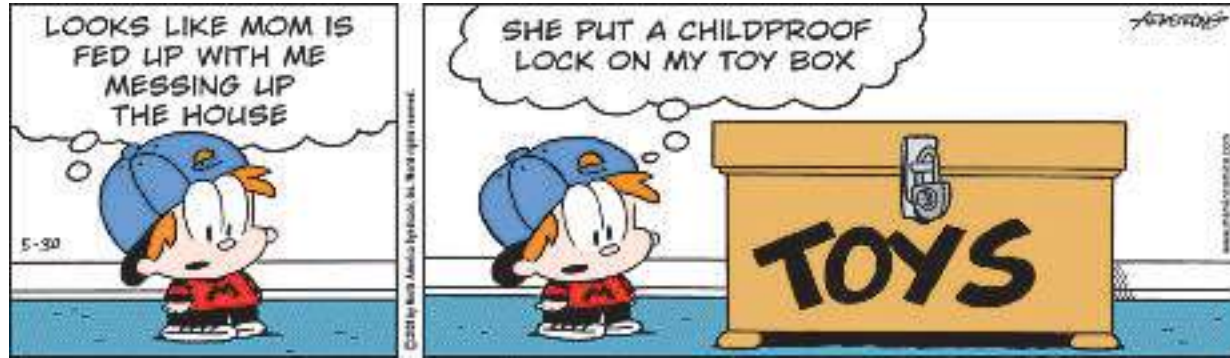
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson

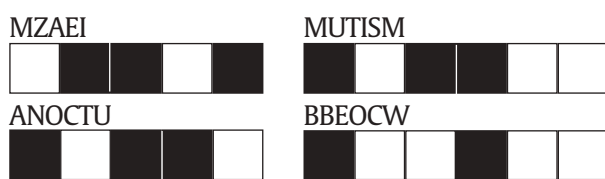


MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. I couldn't wait for success, so I went ahead without it. — Jonathan Winters (4, 7)



Answer: I couldn't wait for success, so I went ahead without it. — Jonathan Winters

SUDOKU 4130

Difficulty Level 2s
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 4129



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**
You have too many chores to be able to do everything. This may well be the perfect time to off-load certain responsibilities and allow others to decide how such matters should be handled. You may not be good at delegating essential jobs, but it's never too late to learn.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**
The past few months have sometimes been mentally as well as physically exhausting. The Sun is now moving close enough to an intriguing relationship with Pluto to remind you that, in order to achieve your goals, you must spend as much time as you need on rest and recuperation.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**
You really do seem to have the whip-hand, but I suspect that you are only now at the very beginning of a phase when you will discover your true strength. Do not throw your weight around prematurely. But, then, I am sure I don't have to remind you that subtlety is the best policy.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**
There's still a very strong chance that something is going to happen to make you feel hurt or undermined. However, there is no reason why you should read anything which is unintended into chance remarks. If you're not sure what a partner means, then say so.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**
People who have let you down may not deserve good treatment, but neither should you rush to take revenge. After all, first you have to ascertain that their motives were bad. Otherwise you should just accept that mistakes were made. Do not allow financial considerations to sway your actions.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**
The planets will add a dash of emotion to your sign today, compelling you to face up to long-forgotten feelings. On a completely mundane level, you should exert your power at home and brook no opposition. But whether that strategy works or not will depend on your sense of timing.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**
Mars is now making its aggressive presence felt over a part of your chart concerned with ethics, morals and legal questions. You may therefore wish to make your views known over the coming week or so, but I'd advise you now not to bend the rules — at least, not too far.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**
You are having a reminder of what happened three months' ago and a taste of what is likely to take place in about three months' time. Don't fall into the trap of imagining that this is your last chance, regardless of whether your concern is private or professional.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**
The Moon's emotional passage through your solar chart can be confused, and your precise intentions are not always easy to pin down. You may be critical of low standards, which is fine, but also much too fussy, which is not. Be tolerant of other people's little foibles.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**
Before you explore new possibilities, do investigate the ethical alternatives. It might be that there's a better way to do things. Also, check up to see if an overseas contact or a foreign friend has something to offer. If it's advice you're after, women may be a better bet than men.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**
You appear to be more concerned about your short-term happiness than about others' feelings but, quite honestly, it is high time that certain people stopped relying on you. Get your priorities straight as soon as you can, and then at least partners will be able to decide whether to support you or not.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**
New planetary alignments are bound to lead you along strange and exciting paths. You can afford to be optimistic socially, and organise whatever meetings will enable you to appreciate your friends to the full. Younger or more experienced friends might set the pace.



Working Towards a Greener Society



WITH THE vision of establishing a Green society, Being Green is an NGO working to alleviate the stresses on our environment caused by rampant deforestation, air pollution, and other man made environmental hazards. The NGO works in the field of tree plantations, child education, solar awareness and community service. "The simplest initiative an individual can take for our planet is just planting a tree", says Pankaj, Founder of Being Green.

Believing in the mantra of 'Act Green for a better tomorrow', Being Green NGO conducts tree plantation drives and other initiatives in Delhi-NCR to increase the awareness regarding environmental concerns in India. The NGO educates children and people regarding the degradation of our environment and the ways to overcome this. They also stress on the need to use the natural resources properly without wasting them. This NGO is continuously engaged in positively transforming the



people's attitude and behavior towards Mother Nature.

The NGO conducts tree plantation drives through CSR activities of corporate companies. They have also conducted these drives in many schools, colleges and parks of Delhi-NCR. They recently completed the plantation of 3000 trees in partnership with a big corporate in various areas of Janakpuri, Rohini and Paschim Vihar. This tree plantation event was attended by many school-going kids as well. In Najafgarh

also, they conducted a similar drive in collaboration with a likeminded corporate.

Apart from this, Being Green conducts special classes for children of the labor community. This special initiative aims at providing learning opportunities to these children so that they can have a better life in future. The NGO also organizes relief camps for people displaced due to floods or earthquakes. And during corona pandemic situation.

www.beinggrees.org



OXYGEN IN COVID TREATMENT IS REQUIRED UN-DISRUPTED. MEDO-MEDICAL OXYGEN GENERATOR IS A SOLUTION DEVELOPED BY ABSSTEM TO MAKE INDIA OXYGEN SUFFICIENT & IT HAS ALSO COME AS THE SAVER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

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MEDO runs 100% on electricity, exhaust gases are 100% cleaned with inlet air filtration at the start, eliminates daily transportation requirement of oxygen delivery, designed for an extended lifetime of operation, optimized raw material sourcing and eco-manufacturing makes a strong stand in contribution towards our country's carbon/co2 emission reduction and vows to reduce more GHG in future through other technological advancements.

www.absstem.com
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A Delicate Balance

Time has come to shift our focus to maintain a fine balance between our economic progress and ecological stability, if we are to avert an environmental pandemic of sorts in future

■ ABHISHEK PATHAK

The world today has been rendered helpless by the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The disease has posed a cruel choice to the world — the society or the economy. Many countries accepted the pandemic as a challenge and responded in a comprehensive manner. Those that didn't were mauled by its devastating impact. People stood by their chosen governments and showed faith in the measures taken by the respective heads of states. Though the pandemic is still wreaking its havoc, however, what is worth observing is the resolve of the people and the governments all over the world. True, the economic loss and dip in the financial health of countries is mammoth and unsurpassable in many aspects, however, accepting the problem and acting on it proactively is something that many countries failed to do so. These are the rich economies that at the first place didn't accept the problem, in turn, delaying their response to the pandemic.

With a population of 1.38 billion and a fragile healthcare infrastructure, India is still at a grave risk if punitive measures are not taken seriously. In the past, the country has been the hotbed of many epidemics. In fact, the Spanish Flu of 1918 decimated between 50 and 100 million lives worldwide — possibly more than both world wars combined — with India being severely affected by it. The Spanish Flu wiped out 6% of India's entire population at the time. So, in a sense, the fear of COVID-19 in India is not unfounded, given the present circumstances.

Moreover, on March 14, in an apparent jibe at the Indian governance system, British economist Jim O'Neill said, "Thank God this didn't start in somewhere like India, because there's absolutely no way that the quality of Indian governance could move to react in the way that the Chinese have done, that's the good side of the Chinese model...." On the contrary, the Indian government has been able to curtail the spread of the disease to a large extent, with the extensive support of the citizens in following the nationwide lockdown religiously. The resolve of the people to stay behind closed doors show massive faith in the government's decision. Clearly, people of India deserve applauds for their efforts in making the lockdown successful despite of all the worldly problems that they faced during this time, especially the

migrant workers.

On similar lines, think what could such a resolve and response would have done to sort out the country's critical environmental woes, especially air pollution? The answer lies in the acceptance of this problem. The fact is that most of us don't see environmental pollution as a problem at all, as we don't see people dying daily just as the case is with COVID-19. We don't see daily news or reports on the harmful effects of pollution on our health, or the fact that every year nearly 1.2 million people die because of air pollution alone. People find it hard to believe that pollution can actually kill. Consider how rampant is air pollution in our country when 15 out of the world's top 20 polluted cities are in India. In fact, environmental pollution is a silent killer, affecting our lungs and causing serious respiratory ailments especially in the elderly and children.

Dealing with environmental issues is an onerous task, given the manifold constraints that it encompasses. However, there is a serious need to deal with this harsh reality in a profound manner before it's too late to do so. The Central Government and state governments need to take collaborative efforts along with the civil society and industries to address the issues related to environmental challenges. Like in the present crisis of COVID-19, states should be held accountable to enforce measures and initiatives to put an impetus in their efforts to reduce pollution.

The need is to understand and shoulder the responsibilities that each one of us has towards Mother Nature. The economy is important but so is the need to understand the carrying capacity of Nature. The pandemic has exposed all the myths and realities regarding our developmental agendas and has rendered us vulnerable in every aspect. Expansion of economies has to be hand in hand keeping in view the environmental constraints in mind and not meddling with them in any way.

The onus of protecting and conserving our environment lies on us, just like it does currently for the abatement of COVID-19. Every year on June 5, the world comes together to observe 'World Environment Day' to promote and encourage environmental responsibility and the conservation of natural resources. Though the pollution in our river systems and air has abated for now, it is going to return to haunt us again if we



don't pay heed to the lessons learnt from the corona crisis — there has to be a joint effort at all levels in combating the environmental pollution rather than indulging in blame games, otherwise we might soon come face to face with an environmental pandemic of sorts.

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राष्ट्र की ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता के साथ पर्यावरण संरक्षण की प्रतिबद्धता

विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस
5 जून

बचाव के लिए इन सावधानियों को जरूर अपनाएं

अपने हाथ को बार-बार धोएं
अपने हाथों को साफ रखें। बार-बार धोने के लिए सैनेटाइजर और साबुन का इस्तेमाल करें। इससे आपके हाथों में कीटाणुओं का नामो-निशान भी नहीं रहेगा।

अपनी आंख, मुंह और नाक को छूने से बचें
हाथों को बार-बार आंख, मुंह, नाक पर न लगाएं। ऐसा करने से आपके हाथों से वायरस इन अंगों तक पहुंच सकते हैं। ऐसे में हाथ आर बार-बार धो सकते हैं लेकिन आंख, नाक, मुंह न धोने पर इनपर वायरस का खतरा बना रहेगा। जब भी खांसे या छींकें मारें, अपने मुंह और नाक को टिश्यू से साफ करें और फिर इसे डस्टबिन में फेंक दें।

घरों में रहना सबसे बेहतर
कोरोना वायरस से बचने के लिए आप घरों में रहें। बेवजह बाहर नहीं निकले और लोगों से दूरी बनाये रखें।

बातचीत करते हुए दूरी रखें
यह बात कुछ अजीब लग सकती है लेकिन वायरस के खतरे को देखते हुए प्रैक्टिकली इस बार को ध्यान में रखना होगा। ऐसे में जिस व्यक्ति को खांसी या छींक आ रही हो, उससे कम से कम तीन फीट की दूरी रखें। इसका कारण यह है कि छींकते या खांसते हुए मुंह से थूक निकलता है जिसमें कुछ वायरस हो सकता है। ऐसे में आपको पास रहने में कोविड-19 से खतरा हो सकता है।

एनटीपीसी NTPC

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