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EXPRESS
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TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

141 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

CASES: 11,55,190

RECOVERED: 7,24,577

DEATHS: 28,084

TESTS: 1,43,81,303 | **DOUBLING RATE:** 20.46**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
■ Maharashtra	3,18,695	8,240	2.90%	24.84
■ Delhi	1,23,747	954	1.21%	59.41
■ Tamil Nadu	1,75,678	4,985	3.00%	23.96
■ Karnataka	67,420	3,648	7.15%	10.07
■ Andhra Pradesh	53,724	4,074	8.12%	8.87

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

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: 2.62	7 DAYS EARLIER: 7.50	DETECTED TODAY: 37,148
NOW: 2.43	NOW: 8.03	RECOVERED TODAY: 24,491
Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths	Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease	Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on July 20, released by Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive

Amid Covid, security concerns, Amarnath Yatra stands cancelled

BASHAARAT MASOOD & NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, JULY 21



Along Jammu-Srinagar highway, Tuesday. *PTI*

ON THE day the Amarnath Yatra was scheduled to begin, the J&K administration announced that the annual pilgrimage will not be held this year. Given the coronavirus pandemic, the Yatra had already been shortened and was to start on July 21 and end August 3, instead of the usual 45-day duration.

The decision follows questions being raised over the administration planning for the Yatra even as other religious gatherings in Jammu and Kashmir have been barred till July 31 because of Covid-19. The Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) said it would organise “live telecast/virtual darshan” of the morning and evening prayers.

Sources said security of the Yatra was also a major concern this year and one of the deciding factors in its cancellation. Last

year, the pilgrimage to the hill shrine had been abruptly curtailed just ahead of abrogation of J&K's special status on August 5. The SASB announced the cancellation of the Yatra after a meeting with Lt Governor G C Murmu, who is also the Chairman of the Board. An official release said that Covid-19 had pushed the health system “to its limit”, and pointed out that all religious gatherings in the Union Territory are barred. “The spike has been particularly very sharp in July. Health workers and security forces are also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Cases surge, 23 trains run full Monday, down from 80 in early July

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

WITH PEOPLE seemingly undertaking only essential inter-state travel in the face of surging Covid-19 cases, the number of trains running with over 100% occupancy across India fell drastically to just 23 on Monday.

This was a fall from 68 just last Friday, and down to one-fourth from earlier in the month when more than 80 trains were running full.

The number of trains with 90-100% occupancy — still considered sub-par for this time of the year — remains at 25. As for trains between 75-100% seats full, the Railway Ministry data shows there were 34 such trains last week.

Indicating the slow and drawn-out un-lockdown ahead, the numbers remain low despite the fact that the Railways is running just about 230 “special trains” on important routes now, as opposed to over 13,000 daily ones before the pandemic. Thirty of them are clones of the Rajdhani Express trains on various sectors.

While around 180 of these trains have been running with occupancy below 90%, in some, just about 20% of the seats go full.

Significantly, half of the 23 trains with over 100% occupancy on Monday were the ones taking passengers to cities where migrant workers head for jobs, such as Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Amritsar and Delhi, from places like Gorakhpur, Muzaffarpur,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

M.P. GOVERNOR LALJI TANDON PASSES AWAY

PAGE 7

RWANDA

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of *The Indian Express*. These pages are an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express Group and contain content paid for by advertisers. These pages should be read as an advertisement.

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 21

■ Last week, automobile engineer Krishnakumar K P started work under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme at Thottapuzhassery village in Pathanamthitta. “This is the only work available. I have been planting saplings,” says the 23-

1 in 5 in Delhi sero-survey developed antibodies, indicating spread of virus

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

ONE IN every five individuals in a serological survey conducted in Delhi by India's apex health services and research organisation has shown the presence of antibodies that indicate exposure to the novel coronavirus that causes Covid-19.

The positivity rate of 22.86% for the IgG antibodies also indicates that the remaining over 77% continue to be vulnerable to the virus — and that rigorous measures to enforce contain-



A mobile van takes samples for rapid testing in New Ashok Nagar, New Delhi, Tuesday. *Abhinav Saha*

EXPLAINED
A means to assess

A SEROLOGICAL survey is done to detect the presence of specific antibodies, and is used to assess the prevalence of a disease in the population. The test indicates past infections (and which triggered an immune response), and is not used to detect active infections.



DIDI, DIGITAL

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee addressing a digital rally to mark 'Martyrs' Day' in Kolkata, Tuesday. She accused the Centre of destabilising Opposition governments. *Shashi Ghosh* **REPORT 7**

Pilot gets breather from HC till July 24, Gehlot holds CLP meet

HAMZAKHAN & DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, JULY 21

GRANTING TEMPORARY relief to former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and his 18 MLAs, the Rajasthan High Court on Tuesday deferred its order on their petition till July 24, and “requested” the Speaker to extend the period given to the rebel MLAs to reply to his notice till then. The Speaker later agreed to defer any action “till the evening of July 24”.

Meanwhile, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) held a meeting at Fairmont Hotel — the third since the crisis began on July 12 — where Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot asserted that his government was stable. Hearing the petition filed by

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



the rebel MLAs challenging disqualification notices, the bench of High Court Chief Justice Indrajit Mahanty and Justice Prakash Gupta said it had heard all parties and listed the matter for July 24.



CM Gehlot addressing MLAs at a Jaipur hotel Tuesday. *PTI*

“We therefore, further request the Honourable Speaker, who has been pleased to extend the period for filing reply by the writ petitioners till 5.30 pm as of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ment zones were necessary, the central government said.

The survey was conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) under the Directorate General of Health Services in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare between June 27 and July 10. A total 21,387 samples were randomly collected across the 11 districts of the capital, which were then divided into two groups, of less than 18 years and older. The results of the survey were released on Tuesday.

“The study also indicates that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DATA ON PLA, SAT IMAGES BEING SHARED

China common worry, India and US step up military, intel ties

NSA Ajit Doval and CDS Bipin Rawat spoke to US counterparts recently

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

INDIA AND the US have intensified intelligence and military collaboration and cooperation at an unprecedented level, more so in the last month.

The two countries have been working quietly to step up information sharing amid the tense military standoff between Indian and Chinese troops — it has been on for 11 weeks now — along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh.

After US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo spoke to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in the third week of June, at least two high-level phone conversations, key to this cooperation, have taken place.

The *Indian Express* has learnt that National Security Advisor Ajit Doval spoke to US counterpart Robert C O'Brien while Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark A Milley and Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat have had a conversation in the last few weeks.

These conversations have facilitated information-sharing between security, military and intelligence branches of the two countries.

On Monday, the *USS Nimitz* and warships of the Indian Navy

US HOUSE SLAMS CHINA AGGRESSION

The US House of Representatives has unanimously passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), slamming China's aggression against India in the Galwan Valley and its growing territorial assertiveness in and around disputed areas like the South China Sea. **PAGE 15**

conducted exercises designed to maximise training and interoperability, including air defence. The Nimitz Carrier Strike Group, the US Navy said, is currently deployed in the Indian Ocean in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Sources said the phone conversation between Pompeo and Jaishankar really set the stage and gave a political push to the already existing security cooperation apparatus in place. Also, Defence Secretary Mark T Esper had called up Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the second

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

India, US are close to quick trade deal: Goyal

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

INDIA AND the US are close to inking a “quick” trade deal, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said Tuesday, adding that the pact aims to get issues that have been pending over the past couple of years “out of the way”.

Following this, Goyal said, India wants to negotiate with its top trading partner for a preferential trade agreement for 50-100 goods and services.

Indications are that the negotiations involve discussions to improve access for India's generic drugs to the American market. The US, on its part, has been seeking more access for its farm goods, like almonds and apples, on which India had raised tariffs last year.

The US has also been trying to get India to remove a requirement that dairy imports from that country bear a certificate showing that the animals from which the products were derived were not fed “blood meals”, a dietary supplement

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD



EUROPEAN UNION ADOPTS \$857-BN STIMULUS TO FIGHT CORONAVIRUS RECESSION

RUSSIA MEDDLED IN SCOTTISH VOTE: UK PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

PAGE 15

Bhushan, Twitter India face SC contempt case

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE SUPREME Court has suo motu registered a contempt case against advocate Prashant Bhushan and Twitter India.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra, B R Gavai and Krishna Murari will hear the matter Wednesday. It relates to some tweets by Bhushan but specific details are not known. In his posts on Twitter, Bhushan has been critical of the judiciary and questioned its role, most recently, in cases related to the lockdown.

Currently, Bhushan is appearing in the apex court for the Centre for Public Interest Litigation seeking transfer of PM Cares funds to the National Disaster Response Fund. He also represents the Association for Democratic Reforms in a petition challenging the Electoral Bonds Scheme.

The top court will also take up on July 24 another contempt matter against Bhushan and former *Tehelka* editor Tarun Tejpal. The 2009 matter pertains to statements by Bhushan against former Chief Justices and the then Chief Justice of India

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Among Kerala's new NREGS workers, an automobile engineer

year-old who lost his job with a local dealer.

■ Five graduates have enrolled for work under the scheme at Azhiyur village in Kozhikode — the first time that men have signed up here. “This panchayat had 1,537 workers earlier, all women,” says an official.

■ C Ramachandran, the president of Bedadka panchayat in Kasaragod, says they have started a campaign for youths, who have lost their jobs, to enrol. “Four of them joined last week,” he says.



At work in the fields of Bedadka, Kasaragod. *Express*

IN THE villages of Kerala, NREGS was widely seen as the “last resort for elderly women” with no other source of income. But four months into the Covid crisis, with no money in households and no jobs in cities, the rural job scheme has become a lifeline for educated youngsters, cutting across age and gender lines.

“A new trend has emerged. Usually, about 91 per cent of the workforce are women, most of them aged above 40. Now, many young men and women have started working under the scheme. Many of them have en-

rolled for work using job cards issued to their mothers or other family members,” says a senior official at the MGNREGS State Mission.

“Over 30,000 households in the state have been newly added to the scheme in the last two months. There is still demand for job cards from all districts,” says the official.

Officials point to several numbers that signal this trend:

■ Many villages are in containment zones but the daily NREGS turnout in the state was 6 lakh


last week, and 6.40 lakh a few weeks ago. Last monsoon, the average turnout was 5-5.50 lakh. ■ The average days of employment provided per household across last fiscal was 55.73. This time, even though the scheme is yet to be fully operational due to Covid curbs, that figure is already 18.26.

■ Just three months into this fiscal, 82 households have completed the 100 days of work marked for the entire financial year. “Several families have completed 60-90 days. Normally,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WEB


EXCLUSIVE



FOREST OFFICIAL ENTERS 100-FEET-DEEP DRY WELL TO RESCUE LEOPARD

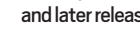
Five days after it fell in the well, the leopard was finally rescued by the team of Karnataka forest department and later released into the wild.

PHOTO GALLERY



NEAR-EMPTY STREETS IN BENGALURU

Commercial outlets shut during week-long lockdown in the city



IMPACT OF INDIGO LAYOFFS

Indigo's move is worrying for other airlines in the country

EXPRESS AUDIO

How Delhi managed to improve its Covid-19 situation

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

On the 3 Things podcast, we take a look at what led the capital to make a remarkable turnaround and whether its Covid-19 cases have now peaked

procurement price for farmers. As SMP stock remains unsold and demand for milk and its products remain low, dairies have started slashing prices paid to farmers. Thus, in Maharashtra alone, farmers, paid Rs 30 per litre for milk with 3.5 per cent fat and 8.5 per cent SNF, are being paid between Rs 17 and Rs 22.50 per litre. Before 2000, NDDB maintained a decentralised stock of SMP with cooperative dairies. **ENS**



0-50 Good



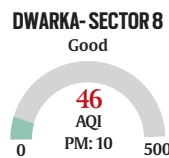
51-100 Satisfactory



101-200 Moderate



201-300 Poor



301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

CABINET CLEARS PROPOSAL

Keeping pre-poll promise, Kejriwal announces ration at the doorstep

Scheme to be implemented within six-seven months, alongside one nation-one ration card policy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE DELHI government Tuesday cleared a proposal to allow home delivery of ration to PDS (public distribution system) beneficiaries in the national capital, implementing one of the major promises made by AAP in the run-up to the assembly polls held earlier this year.

Making the announcement over a webcast, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the scheme will be implemented within six to seven months. Beneficiaries will have the option to choose between home delivery and the traditional way of collection from fair price shops.

There are around 2,030 fair price shops in Delhi, catering to around 17.54 lakh families, having 71 lakh beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, 2013. Kejriwal also announced that the Centre's 'one nation, one ration card' policy will also be implemented in Delhi from the day the doorstep delivery policy kicks in. The policy is aimed at making ration cards, issued by any particular state, valid across the country.

The preliminary plan suggests that delivery agents will be given e-POS devices. Beneficiaries will be expected to share their ration card number with the agents, which will be entered into the device, along with fingerprint scanning or entering Aadhaar card number.

The Delhi Food Department has already directed fair price shop owners to update the con-



The CM addressing the webcast, Tuesday

EXPLAINED

In 2018, it was L-G vs AAP, and then a nine-day dharna

THE AAP government's decision to roll out home delivery of ration in 2018 had met with resistance from L-G Anil Bajjal. Refusing to clear the policy, Bajjal had advised the elected government to refer the matter to the Union government with full details before taking a final decision, saying due diligence was needed before rolling out a scheme that directly impacts the weakest sections of society.

The Finance department had also raised red flags, saying home delivery of ration will replace one set of human intervention with another in the form of service providers and their agents. In an unprecedented move, Kejriwal along with his Cabinet colleagues, had then led a nine-day sit-in inside Bajjal's office, over a host of issues, including the L-G's position on the ration issue.

Ahead of the 2020 assembly elections, the CM had told *The Indian Express* that a fresh roadmap had been drawn, which was "at a very advanced stage", relating to the home delivery proposal. "It should be implemented within six months of forming government," he had said.

Before entering politics, Manish Sisodia and I used to run an NGO called Parivartan. We used to work for the welfare of people living in slums... We used to struggle and fight for people to get ration."

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

tact details and Aadhaar numbers of beneficiaries. The e-POS system, which was suspended in Delhi in April 2018 following complaints that eligible beneficiaries were being deprived of food grains due to technical glitches, is also likely to be reinstated at the shops as well.

"The decision that was taken today in the cabinet meeting is a revolutionary step. The scheme will be called 'Mukhyamantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana'. Under this scheme, people will not have to go to ration shops to collect ration, but the ration will be delivered to the homes of lakhs of people in Delhi. Wheat grains will be lifted from the FCI godowns and will be taken to the wheat grinding shops to be made into flour. Flour, sugar, rice and other items will be packed properly and will be delivered," Kejriwal said.

In April this year, the Delhi government had launched doorstep delivery of ration across the city's containment zones.

"We are expecting this scheme to be implemented

within six to seven months because there will be tendering and hiring of consultants before it is rolled out. The central government's 'one nation, one ration card' scheme will be implemented on the same day as when the doorstep delivery scheme will be implemented.

"This scheme of the central government says that there should be one ration card for all. For instance, if somebody lives in West Bengal or Bihar, and he comes to Delhi in search of a job and work, his ration card for that state must be valid in Delhi as well. Personally, I am glad that this scheme has been approved and will be launched in Delhi, because before entering politics Manish Sisodia and I used to run an NGO called Parivartan. We used to work for the welfare of people living in slums and fight for the rights of the poor people in Delhi. We used to struggle and fight for people to get ration. We fought for the RTI, and the RTI Act was implemented, and we used the RTI Act to enable people to obtain ration," he added.

When Kejriwal and Sisodia, were running the NGO, ration distribution in Sundar Nagri was among the biggest campaigns they led. Using RTI applications, they accessed records from ration shops and found up to 90% pilferage in many cases. On Twitter, the CM paid tribute to Santosh Koli, an AAP member who was associated with Parivartan since 2002, and died after being hit by a car.

"It is the sacrifice of brave activists like her that led to today's revolutionary reform in ration," he tweeted.

Gurgaon: 34k rapid antigen tests done

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, JULY 21

ALMOST A month after antigen testing was introduced in Gurgaon, over 34,000 people have been tested using this method, most of whom are residents of containment zones and large outbreak regions in the district, said officials from the health department.

According to officials, 26,125 people were tested using antigen testing kits between June 24 and July 14, and another 8,219 people since, bringing the total number to 34,333. Of those tested in the first 20 days, officials said, only 697 had tested positive. Between July 15 and July 20, 216 tested positive.

The administration is testing over 1,000 daily using antigen kits. Officials said they still have another 11,000 kits available for use.

The antigen kits are so far being used only in areas where the infection is more prevalent. Area-wise teams set up testing camps and encourage those with symptoms to get tested free of cost.

11 murder accused lost individuality, worked with mob mind, says court

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

ELEVEN MEN accused of killing two siblings during the Northeast Delhi riots, who created a WhatsApp group to target Muslims, "lost their individuality and started working with a mob mind", a Delhi court has said, adding that "Jai Shri Ram and Har Har Mahadev, which are sacred slogans and attached to victorious yelling, deadened their mind and paralysed their creative nature".

The observations were made by the court while taking cognizance of the chargesheet filed against the 11 accused in the murder of Amir Khan. The case of his brother Hashim Ali will be heard separately.

Police have stated that the accused were "seething with anger as many stories/news of Hindus being targeted by Muslims" were circulated. The group conspired to kill Muslim men on a WhatsApp group, Kattar Hindut Ekta, which had at least 125 members. The siblings were around five minutes from their home when they ran into the



At Gokulpuri after the riots. Archive

mob.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Purushotam Pathak stated in his order, "From the investigation and the statement of witnesses... it is prima facie revealed that there was a well hatched conspiracy amongst the accused persons. Same is evident from the fact that in order to take revenge from Muslims, some youths of the area, who failed to perceive the bottomless stupidity of the propaganda, as saviours of their community created a WhatsApp group. The members as discussed herein lost their individuality and

started working with mob mind. 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Har Har Mahadev', which are sacred slogans and attached to victorious yelling, deadened their mind and paralysed their creative nature."

The court stated that the accused were instrumental in the gathering at Bhagirath Vihar Nala Pulia on February 26.

"Thereupon the mob turned into rioters and in the process of rioting, they looted mobile phone and caused the death of Amir by inflicting multiple injuries in a brutal manner, and with a view to conceal the evi-

dence, all of them... threw his body in the drain. It has been found that the common object of the unlawful assembly was not only to kill but also to destroy all evidence... Thus, all... actively participated in connection with the carrying of the body or disposal of it by throwing it in drain... There cannot be any doubt that the accused... were certainly up to their neck in the conspiracy and were thus very active members of the unlawful assembly," the court said.

"In a case where a group of people conspired, thereafter assembled to take revenge and where the victims have been targeted on the basis of their religious identity, the relevant provisions of law attracting relevant offences should have been mentioned in the chargesheet. Further, no sanction has been obtained in this regard," the order read.

The accused have been identified as Lokesh Kumar Solanki, Pankaj Sharma, Sumit Chaudhary, Ankit Chaudhary, Prince, Rishabh Chaudhary, Jatinder Sharma, Vivek Panchal, Himanshu Thakur, Pawan Kumar and Lalit Kumar.

ing very difficult to deal with the crisis month after month, caused by your unjust action of withholding grants citing flimsy excuses such as non-formation of governing bodies, paucity of funds or enquiries set up in a few colleges, for which the employees are not responsible."

A government official said funds have been released for April-May, "but for June, the Deputy CM wanted to know the status of formation of governing bodies".

"The college management has been playing around with the Delhi government. They are not forming GBs and they have created some posts on their own. If the Delhi government is funding them, there is need for some financial control also," the official said.

At 28%, Covid prevalence highest in Central district

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

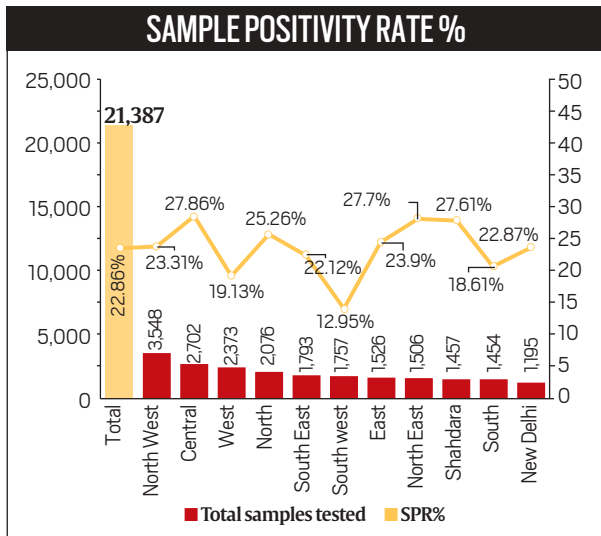
EIGHT OF the 11 districts in Delhi have over 20% prevalence of Covid, the serological survey conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to assess the exposure of the virus in the population has shown.

The survey was conducted between June 27 and July 10 with a sample size of 21,387.


The highest prevalence of the disease was found in the Central district with 27.86% of the population being affected. The lowest prevalence was reported from the South West district at 12.95%. Northeast and Shahdara districts also showed prevalence of over 27%, indicating that the population in these districts has been exposed to the virus to a larger extent than in other areas.

"We are not worried in respect to Delhi. We are partially satisfied as we still need to look at the numbers till they completely stabilise over a period of time. In the first week of July, the number of tests increased to 25,000 samples per day and the positivity rate was 9%. On Monday, the city reported only 954 cases. This means that the strategy developed by the Central government which was followed by Delhi government has worked," said Rajesh Bhushan, officer on special duty in the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, Delhi reported 1,349 new cases and 27 deaths. The total number of confirmed cases reached 1,25,096 while the toll is 3,690.



CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL



TOTAL CASES	Total	Vacant		
1,25,096	15,462	12,070		
HOSPITAL BEDS	1,179	746		
VENTILATORS				
Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
July 20	954	1,784	35	11,470
July 21	1,349	1,200	27	20,852
Total	15,288*	1,06,118	3,690	8,51,311

**Total active cases*

*Total active cases

The latest survey, officials said, gives a picture of the situation around June 19-20 as it takes time for antibodies to develop. Ministry officials also said that regular guidelines were being issued in relation to rapid antigen tests.

In Delhi, on Monday, 75% of all tests conducted were through rapid antigen kits. As per the data

shared by Ministry officials, 3,63,172 antigen tests were administered between June 18 and July 21 and the positivity rate was 6.33%. "This means around 23,000 tested positive but a large number also tested negative. Out of those, 2,294 had symptoms and underwent RT-PCR tests. Of these, 348, or 15%, were found to be positive," Bhushan said.

Drivers beaten up, 8 ambulances damaged

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

FOUR AMBULANCE drivers on Covid duty were beaten up and eight ambulances deployed with Delhi government's CATS (Centralised Ambulance Trauma Services) damaged by a group of men over a phone snatching incident in Outer Delhi's Mangolpuri Monday night.

"When police reached, it was found that front and back glasses of several ambulances were broken," DCP (Outer) Dr A Koan said. Koan said that during enquiry, it was found that a person had tried snatching a mobile from a driver while he was talking on the phone inside the ambulance.

"He was caught at the spot by CATS drivers. Meanwhile, several men reached the spot and caused damage to ambulances and freed their associate," said Koan. A case under various IPC sections has been registered at Mangolpuri police station. No ar-

rests have been made so far.

The ambulances belong to GVK Emergency Management and Research Institute (EMRI) and were attached to Delhi government's CATS during the pandemic.

A senior police officer said it appears the ambulance drivers allegedly tied up the accused and beat him up.

Ambulance driver Mohd Shahzad (27) told *The Indian Express*, "I do my shift ferrying Covid patients from their homes to hospitals. On Monday night, I reached Mangolpuri, where we park the ambulances. After the snatching attempt, I caught hold of him and took him to the baraat ghar where all drivers stay."

He claimed the accused's accomplice called at least 10 men. Praveen Shinde, HR head (Delhi) GVK EMRI, said, "Two drivers on Covid duty have received injuries on their shoulders and head. The rest had minor injuries. Eight ambulances are in the workshop. Some will be back on road late Tuesday night."

Relief for Hepatitis C, HIV patients

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

AFTER MONTHS of appealing to the government to resume testing and treatment for HIV and Hepatitis C, patients staged a sit-in protest outside the Delhi Secretariat on Tuesday.

Later in the day, health department officials told the protesters that "testing and treatment will be restarted in two days. We have passed on the instructions to the hospitals. Lok Nayak will start testing tomorrow and GTB will start the day after."

Services at both hospitals were suspended after they were turned into Covid-19 facilities amid the pandemic. Dr Suresh Kumar, Lok Nayak medical director, confirmed that services will be resumed.

The patients protesting said treatment is available at private hospitals but they cost much more.

Govt versus DU crisis deepens: Sisodia asks for legal proceedings, teachers push back over pay

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE TUSSLE between the Delhi government and Delhi University has further intensified with Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia asking the Directorate of Higher Education (DHE) Tuesday to initiate legal proceedings against the varsity for not following procedures for constitution of Governing Bodies in colleges funded by the AAP government.

On the other hand, anger against the Delhi government is growing among teachers over the delay in releasing grants for 12 colleges fully funded by the Delhi government, as a result of which many have not received salaries since May. The DU Teachers' Association (DUTA) has written

to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday threatening a protest on July 27.

BJP leaders Meenakshi Lekhi, Adesh Gupta and Ramvir Bidhuri also hit out at the Delhi government Tuesday over the delay.

In his letter dispatched Tuesday, Sisodia wrote, "The regularly constituted governing bodies of many of the colleges that are partially and fully funded by the Government of NCT of Delhi have not been reconstituted, and the colleges are functioning with truncated governing bodies since March, 2019."

"I have been informed that despite repeated reminders directing the University of Delhi to send six names of nominees of Delhi government to the colleges concerned — Lakshmbai College, Kalindi College, Keshav



DU said it is difficult to hold EC meet amid the pandemic

Mahavidyalaya, Aditi College, Maharishi Valmiki College of Education, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College — the University has not sent the complete panel of names to the colleges concerned... few of these colleges have initiated the process of election of the chairperson even in the absence of a complete

panel. This seems to indicate a conspiracy to cover up corruption in these colleges," he added.

Dean of Colleges Balaram Pani, however, said 134 out of 140 names sent by the government as their nominees had been approved: "With regard to six names, the Executive Council (EC) had some reservation, so they sent it back to the Delhi government for reconsideration. Now we have received the same six names again, with the demand that they be approved. But only the EC can do this, and for that an EC meeting needs to take place which is difficult due to Covid."

The government's decision not to release funds — barring Rs 18.75 crore released as first installment on June 4 — has invited ire. The DUTA, in its letter to the CM Tuesday, wrote, "It is becom-

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EXTRACT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020					
Rs. Crores, except per equity share data					
Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
	31.03.2020 Audited (Refer note 2)	31.12.2019 Unaudited	31.03.2019 Audited (Refer note 2)	31.03.2020 Audited	31.03.2019 Audited
Total income	273.68	177.37	431.04	1,159.30	1,413.71
Net profit / (loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	(3.27)	(31.03)	28.30	(38.32)	24.33
Net profit / (loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	(3.27)	(31.03)	28.30	(38.32)	24.33
Net profit / (loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	(2.01)	(17.89)	22.00	(21.06)	19.57
Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising Profit / (loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	(3.13)	(18.22)	19.21	(23.48)	18.15
Equity Share Capital	14.48	14.48	14.48	14.48	14.48
Other equity (excluding revaluation reserves)	-	-	-	370.39	399.11
Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)	(1.39)	(12.36)	15.21	(14.55)	13.53
1. Basic (Rs.)	(1.39)	(12.36)	15.21	(14.55)	13.53
2. Diluted (Rs.)					
Notes: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Annual/Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Annual/Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of Stock Exchange(s) (www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.smlisuzu.com). 2. The figures for the quarter ended 31 March 2020 and the corresponding quarter ended in the previous year, as reported in these financial results, are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the published year to date figures upto the end of third quarter of the relevant financial year. Also, the figures upto the end of the third quarter had only been reviewed and not subjected to audit.					
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors (Yugo Hashimoto) Managing Director & CEO DIN: 08165797 Place: Tokyo, Japan Date : 21.07.2020					

Rwanda

Celebrating 26 Years of Liberation

H.E. JACQUELINE MUKANGIRA
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE REPUBLIC
OF RWANDA TO INDIA



Greetings to all friends and readers of the Indian Express.

I am glad to be enjoying my fifth month of my stay in New Delhi. Since my arrival in this incredible country, I have enjoyed full support from everyone despite the COVID-19 pandemic that messed up everything. Nevertheless, the Government of India has been very supportive and even gave me the opportunity to present my Letters of Credence to His Excellency the President of India through video conferencing. The Diplomatic Corps has been supportive and still continues to be. I look forward to also present my Credentials to the Heads of State of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives.

Dear Friends,

On 4th July 2020, Rwanda celebrated 26 years' end of the 1994 Genocide in which more than one million of Tutsi were killed, the defeat of the genocidal regime and the Liberation of the country. Rwandans are celebrating the rebirth of their Nation.

At the High Commission, we celebrated Rwanda's Liberation on 14th July 2020 in a virtual celebration that was graced by the Minister of State for External Affairs Government of India whose presence was a big testimony to the existing bilateral relations between Rwanda and India.

Since its liberation in 1994, Rwanda has enjoyed a politically, stable and peaceful environment characterised with sustained economic growth over the past 15 years and has proven to be a role model for the African continent.

The Visionary leadership of HE President Paul KAGAME has inspired the country and the people of Rwanda to be united, accountable and to think big. Today, Rwanda is a fast developing, transformed and stronger nation, with zero tolerance to corruption. Throughout this journey, some important partners have supported us, advised us and continue to stay by our side and the people of Rwanda are forever grateful!

The country has seen its GDP growing at an average rate of between 6 and 8% annually and Rwanda was in the middle of an economic boom prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic growth rate exceeded 10% in 2019.

In order to attain this commendable achievement and sustain the social economic transformation of the country, the Government of Rwanda is always prioritising investment in Manufacturing, education, health and agriculture with a special focus on science and Information technology as the driving force of progress in all the sectors of the economy.

The bilateral cooperation between Rwanda and India has been growing exponentially in the last 5 years, touching all sectors of socio-economic development, both at Government to Government level as well as at the private sector level. I am therefore privileged to start my mission as High Commissioner of Rwanda in this great country of India.

Relations between Rwanda and India are bound to grow manifold in the coming years as we tackle global challenges, in particular the current crisis and the post COVID-19 pandemic.

I am glad to inform that, Rwanda has been at forefront in fighting the COVID-19 and today, all business and tourism are open for local business and will soon open for foreign companies bringing in business, once international flights resume. Currently, tourism is open for foreigners with chartered planes and domestic tourists but will be fully open to all from 1st August 2020.

Rwanda Development Board (RDB), a state agency for promoting business, investment and tourism in Rwanda remains reachable and offers online facilitation to all companies and individuals wishing to explore business opportunities in Rwanda.

I would like to assure you that the entire team at the High Commission in Delhi and myself will not spare any effort to facilitate anyone interested in exploring any opportunity for business or tourism.

Thank you all and please visit soon RWANDA, country of a thousand hills and home of Mountain Gorillas!

Rwanda: Your Investment destination



BILATERAL relations between Rwanda and India have been on a growth trajectory for the past few years and there has been growing confidence on the side of Indian companies as testified by over 40 Indian companies operating in Rwanda. Nevertheless, the opportunities in Rwanda remain enormous for any Indian companies seeking opportunities for business and investment on the African continent. Rwanda remains your sure launchpad if you are looking to set the base and have firm business foundation on the African continent.

During PM Modi's visit to Rwanda in 2018 and meeting with HE President Paul Kagame, both leaders committed to fortifying the relations even further. Trade and investment were strongly highlighted as a focus area that needs a big push and both leaders expressed to do whatever is needed to promote trade and investment between the countries.

The country's economic growth averaged 7-8 % in the last 15 years, but with COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of economic activity slumped.

The Government of Rwanda has put in place an economic recovery protection to re-

spond to the sectors that were hit most by the pandemic. The Central Bank of Rwanda has provided a liquidity facility worth Rwf 50 billion to commercial banks, which would then provide lending support to actors to weather the Covid-19 storm.

An economic recovery fund was also put in place to cushion business, 50% of which will go to the tourism actors.

Rwanda remains one of the easiest places in Africa to do business and government policy on incentives and benefits to investors is upheld in key sectors such as agro-processing,

Manufacturing, IT, Mining, Health, Education and Tourism. With the operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Rwanda will attract more foreign investments in the country.

Rwanda aims at becoming a continental service hub as well as best investment destination and remains ready for supporting infrastructure that will enable the 'Start in Rwanda' concept to take off. Rwanda continues to perform better in different areas and is ranked highly by international ranking bodies.

Rwanda has reopened its tourism activities for domestic and international tourists and international commercial flights reopen their operations from 1st August 2020.

The country has a stable and resilient economy with a 10-year average growth rate of 8.6%. It has also been rated the number one country in Africa for government transparency according to the 2019 Transparency International Report. Rwanda is ranked second for the rule of law in Africa according to the WJP Rule of Law Index 2020.

Rwanda's market stretches far beyond its borders and its geographical position connecting East Africa to Central Africa makes it most suitable for business across the Region. As a member of the East African Community, a six-country regional body with a population of over 180 million people, Rwanda has set all the basics right to attract investors.

The investment climate in Rwanda is one of the best on the continent and the government through Rwanda Development Board (RDB), a government agency responsible for investment and tourism promotion, provides a single clearing house for any investor coming to Rwanda.

Rwanda has created an enabling investment environment with business friendly regulations, multiples incentives for exporters and priority sectors, efficient processes and commitment to foreign ownership. Indeed, Business registration can be done online. The entire process to incorporate a company takes only six hours and within two weeks, you can also transfer a property. Rwanda has also made trading across borders easier by removing the mandatory pre-shipment inspection for imported products. Furthermore, Rwanda has made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic case management system for judges and lawyers.

Mohan Suresh: Providing India-Rwanda ties a boost



Mohan Suresh with His Excellency the President of Rwanda Paul Kagame



Mohan Suresh with the Chief Minister of Karnataka B.S. Yediyurappa



Mohan Suresh with Minister of State Pratap Chandra Sarangi

Mohan Suresh is the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Rwanda in Bengaluru and Founder Managing Director of Technospark Industries India (P) Ltd., Bangalore, India, an ISO 9001:2015 company manufacturing and exporting Pickling Line Equipment for Steel Industries for the past 30 years. Technospark Industries India (P) Ltd., has received many Awards in India and abroad for Exports and Quality including the prestigious National Award for Outstanding Entrepreneurship for the year 2011 and the National Award for Quality Engineering Granite Products for the year 2013.

As Hon. Consul of the Republic of Rwanda in Bengaluru since the year 2011, Mohan Suresh has been instrumental in the continuous and steady growth of the bilateral relations between India and Rwanda in the areas of Infrastructure, Agriculture, Education and Health-



Mohan Suresh with Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan

care. Mohan Suresh has led many business delegations to Rwanda to identify and explore investment opportunities and subsequently many new business ventures have been started at



Rwanda Student Association Karnataka "UMUGANDA" - Clean Minds Cleaner Communities

Rwanda and are growing successfully with the mutual co-operation of the Indian and Rwandan governments.

Mohan Suresh has been a part of many high

level delegations comprising Senior Central and State Ministers, Leaders in the field of Business, Education and Healthcare, from India to Rwanda which were organized by Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO), Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) for promoting Technology transfers and economic growth of both the countries.

The highlight of the India-Rwanda partnership is the exchange of high level visits between the two countries including several visits by H.E. Paul Kagame to India and subsequent visits by the PM Modi in 2018 as well as by the former Vice President of India Mohammad Hamid Ansari in 2017. These visits and particularly the visit by the first ever India PM to Rwanda brought the India Rwanda relations to new greater heights.

Multiplex Shuddi: One brand total solution for Sanitisation and Disinfection

CLEANLINESS, hygiene, sanitation and disinfection are the most important areas of interest in today's world. The novel coronavirus pandemic has forced people to understand the importance of sanitisation in their day-to-day life.

People around the world are mostly using chemical products for sanitisation and disin-



fection. It may be a surface cleaner, hand sanitiser and the concentrate used in disinfection tunnels; everywhere chemical (alcohol based) products are in use. It's a known fact that chemical-based products are dangerous to human health and the environ-

ment at large in the long run.

Bangalore based biotech company Multiplex Bio-tech Pvt Ltd., has come out with a novel bioorganic product for cleaning, bioremediation, sanitisation, disinfection and marketing under the brand name "Multiplex Shuddi".

Multiplex Bio-tech has come out with safe products, which have no side effects on hu-

mans and the environment. These products are safe, ecofriendly and viricidal. The products contain naturally derived metabolites, enzymes, organic acids along with safer stabilising agents. Multiplex Shuddi is a brand which offers total solution for sanitisation and disinfection.

For more information please contact Pradeep on his mobile number: 90082 25131

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Rwanda

Celebrating 26 Years of Liberation

A word from the Hon. Consuls and Friends of Rwanda

Rwanda is blessed with able and strong Honorary Consuls in the biggest metropolises of India. The High Commission is in regular touch with them and appreciates the important role they play in promoting business and investments as well as general awareness of Rwanda in their respective jurisdictions. Through organising trade Missions to Kigali and inter-active business meetings in respective jurisdictions, there is no doubt that they have contributed to increased awareness about Rwanda.

THANKS to Mohan Suresh, Honorary Consul of Rwanda in Karnataka, a number of business delegations to Rwanda have been organized and undoubtedly, there is an increased awareness about Rwanda in Bangalore.

In his remarks at the 26th Rwanda's Liberation virtual event, Suresh said that "Rwanda is a peaceful African nation, which has developed rapidly over the years in the areas of economy, infrastructure, health, education under the leadership of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of The Republic of Rwanda" and invited Indian investors to take up existing business opportunities in Rwanda.



MOHAN SURESH
Hon. Consul of Rwanda in Bangalore

IN his remarks at the 26th Rwanda's Liberation day ceremony in India, Prakash Jain, Honorary Consul of Rwanda in Maharashtra with a base in Mumbai, pointed out that "Rwanda has demonstrated exceptional leadership to establish a most favourable climate for trade and investment". He also added that India is proud of its partnership with Rwanda to strengthen this region and for a better future for both countries. He appealed to Indian business community to explore business opportunity in Rwanda.



PRAKASH JAIN
Hon. Consul of Rwanda in Mumbai

THE Association of the Friends of Rwanda, still in infancy, is playing an important role in bridging the gap between the business innovators in Rwanda and India. In his speech at the 26th Rwanda's Liberation day virtual celebration, Munish Gupta, the President of the Association said "Rwanda opens its arms to investment especially those that bring in technology, innovations and ensure inclusive growth with socio-economic impact". He pointed out the India - Rwanda Growth Innovation programme that creates connection between Rwandan and Indian innovators. He highlighted a number of business opportunities such as in Agro-processing and invited Indian companies to explore them. Munish highlighted a few achievements made by Rwanda such as; Number one in gender parity, high literacy, a passionate drive in every Rwandan, intolerance to corruption and respect for laws. For tourism, he dwelt on the beautiful landscapes and the gorgeous Rwandan Mountain Gorillas and said Rwanda is the best destination for MICE events.



MUNISH GUPTA, President,
India Rwanda Friendship Association

A legacy of more than 100 years



43 YEAR old Deepak Kapoor, didn't think twice before entering the world of photography. Reason is simple yet special. His great grandfather, Gokul Chand Kapoor ventured into the photography business in 1909-10 in Peshawar city (undivided India). Following Partition, the Kapoor family migrated to India and set up a photography shop in Khan Market.

And the third generation, Bharat Bhushan Kapoor continued and carried on the legacy of photography. It was sometime in 1962-64 that Deepak's father Bharat Bhushan Kapoor ventured into taking photos of diplomats. Those were the days of black & white photography.

The famous Khan Market outlet was named G.C. Kapoor & Sons.

And when Deepak became an adult of 18 years and completed his schooling from Air Force Bal Bharti, Lodi Road, New Delhi, he started spending time at the Khan Market outlet. The outlet was also a retail platform for photography goods. The year was 1994. Though young, Deepak got admission in graduation in Dayal Singh College. He spent the next nine years learning the tricks of photography from his father who is popularly known as Kapoors.

"While working as a trainee and junior with my father, I learnt not only the art of photography, but how to interact with diplomats from more than 100 diplomatic missions in Delhi," says Deepak. It was sometime in 2004 that Kapoor Sahab, took Deepak into confidence and implored him to take over the photography business, which was growing with the opening of more and more diplomatic missions.

We have great respect for African Diplomatic Community. "Africans Diplomats extend warmth, are friendly, easily accessible and very close by way of cultural affinity," he says.

"Though in this line of work, we don't have a personal life, because after 6 pm, we are clicking photographs and covering diplomatic events, almost every single day, I have no regrets. Happy to carry on the 100 year plus legacy of my ancestors. The work has given me opportunity to interact with diplomats representing more than 160 countries," Deepak adds with a smile.

Rwanda: Your tourism destination re-opens



HE. President Paul Kagame on the Nyungwe canopy walk during the shooting of "Rwanda: The Royal Tour"

FOR anyone who has visited Rwanda, they will affirm without hesitation that their visit was a lifetime experience. Also known as the land of a thousand hills, Rwanda's stunning scenery and warm, friendly people offer unique experiences in one of the most remarkable countries in the world. Rwanda's extraordinary biodiversity, with incredible wildlife living throughout its volcanoes, montane rainforest and sweeping plains offer a unique tourism experience. Tourists come from far and wide to catch a glimpse of the magnificent gorillas, yet there is so much more to see and experience.



Bisate Echo Lodge on the foothills of the Volcano National Park



Kigali, Capital of Rwanda

COVID-19 test prior to visiting any tourist attraction.

On the trip to the North in the Volcanoes National Park, a dramatically beautiful view, with six active and three extinct volcanoes, and home to the far from extinct you can enjoy your face to face encounter with Massive silver back.

The Bisate Lodge is located on the foothills of the Volcano National to give you better re-

freshment and reflections after the visit.

On the trip to Nyungwe Forest, you will take the pleasure to salute the golden monkeys and enjoy the sweet melody of over 1000 bird species chanting as you walk over the suspended canopy.

Suspended above a ravine in the lush montane rainforest of Nyungwe National Park, the canopy walkway provides an exhilarating perspective on the ancient treetops and wildlife.

The Southern cities of Nyanza and Huye will give you a glimpse of our ancient kingdom at the King's palace where you will be greeted by "INYAMBO", our prestigious long horned cows and Rwanda traditional dancers.

Take a day trip out on the water and bask in the views of the enveloping Virunga massif and don't miss one night time fishing trip with the Lake Kivu fishermen.

Your trip to the East part of the country will provide the best encounter with the big five. With open savanna on one side, mountains on the other and wetlands in between, Akagera National park is a habitat heaven for giraffe, zebra, buffalo, hippo, crocodile and impala, with a few shy lions and elephants. The lakes and marshes make for superb bird watching too.

The cleanliness of the City of Kigali, a busy metropolis set among lush valleys, often leaves travel veterans mesmerized. Visit Kigali Genocide Memorial, Campaign Against Genocide Museum located in Rwanda Parliament building and take a city tour and visit the Kimironko market at dawn.

RDB launches digital application for Liberation History Tourism Trail

AS THE country celebrates its national liberation for the 26th time, the RDB has launched a Liberation History Tourism Trail digital app.

The Liberation History Tourism Trail was initiated in 2018 in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense and Rwanda Defence Force.

The trail as a tourism product, capitalizes on the growing demand for heritage and cultural offerings as well as the global interest in Rwanda, its liberation story and post-genocide transformation.

The Liberation History Tourism Trail as a new heritage tourism product traces the



route of the Rwanda Patriotic Army's liberation struggle from October 1990 to July 4th 1994.

"The preservation of liberation heritage sites is a national priority not only for the growth of both domestic and international tourism but also as Income generating activities for the communities that supported the troops during the Liberation struggle. This App aims to connect Rwanda's heritage and cultural attractions with existing diverse tourism products and experiences."

Belise Kariza,
Chief Tourism Officer, Rwanda Development Board

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Mr. Vikram Viswanath

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Heading home with 2 daughters, Ghaziabad journalist shot in head



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e-Tender No. : IRCON/CI/ENGL/EN-TN/FacilitiesCleaning_Gurugram/20/Pkgs. IX/ Dated 21.07.2020

e-Tender for and on behalf of Iron International Limited is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of 'Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of facade cleaning system at Iron International Tower, Plot No. 16, Sector 32, Gurugram (Haryana)-Pkg. IX'.

Estimated Cost of the work	₹ 40.21 Lakh
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission	10.08.2020 at 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

General Manager/CI/CIIT
 Iron International Limited
 C-4 District Centre Saket, New Delhi-110017

7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



COVID BACK IN FOCUS

THE PANDEMIC has again halted political activities that the BJP had resumed in poll-bound Bihar. The party had begun groundwork as the situation seemed under control, but the surge in cases led to another lockdown. The national leadership has advised the state not to drop the ball in the party's political and social activities. So the Bihar leaders are back in virtual mode. State president Sanjay Jaiswal and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi had a video meeting with district presidents to take stock of the situation. It was on their feedback that these leaders advised Health Minister Mangal Pandey to provide more ventilators and asked the government to increase funds for meals provided to the poor. The government is getting 264 more ventilators this week.

IN THE WORKS

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar is coming out with a book. Titled *The India Way*, the book published by HarperCollins is due to be out in early September. Jaishankar was working on it after he retired as foreign secretary, and has finished it after two years.

SPECIAL WELCOME

LEADING BY example to dispel the stigma around Covid-19, Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Abhay Oka welcomed Mary Josephine, a court employee who reported back to work on Tuesday after recovering from the infection. Senior judges and registry officials stood at the court entrance to welcome her. Justice Oka wished her well and handed her a rose. The Chief Justice is said to be keeping track of the health of court staff and members of the lower judiciary who have contracted the virus.

Punjab chief principal secy returns vehicles, relieves staff; fuels talk on his resignation

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, JULY 21

SURESH KUMAR, chief principal secretary to Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, returned his official vehicles to the government and directed his office to relieve staff associated with him on Tuesday, fueling speculation that he had put in his papers.

Mystery surrounded the development as Kumar was learnt to have attended a meeting with the CM at the latter's residence on Monday, with Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan present. Kumar however, remained incommunicado, not answering calls or SMSs.

Sources in the government said he had conveyed to the CM that he was not willing to continue in office and had submitted his resignation in September last year. They added that a day after Monday's meeting, he returned his official Innova vehicle and a



Suresh Kumar

Gypsy given to his security guards. However, Raveen Thukral, media adviser to Amarinder, said, "The CM had not received any resignation."

Kumar has a personal assistant, a personal secretary, senior assistant, IT assistant, computer operator and four peons. He has a driver also who was sent back to the CMO, to be sent back to the General Administration Department for posting.

Sources said Kumar was upset as proceedings in the case challenging his reappointment a year after his retirement were not making any headway. The last date of hearing was February 24 and it is listed for hearing on September 14 now.

'Life of Lucknow', Lalji Tandon passes away at 85

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JULY 21

POPULARLY KNOWN as "Babuji", Lalji Tandon travelled a long way from municipal corporation politics in the early 1970s to serving as minister in Uttar Pradesh during different regimes in the 1990s and then as governor of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

Tandon died at a hospital in Lucknow early Tuesday. He was 85.

Hailing from a business family in the old city of Lucknow, Tandon was an active RSS functionary in his youth, and later came to be known as a "key associate" of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Vajpayee became MP from Lucknow for the first time in 1991 and retained the seat for five consecutive terms, after which Tandon won from the seat in 2009. BJP leaders say that much of the credit for the party retaining the Lok Sabha seat and majority of Lucknow's Assembly seats for decades goes to Tandon,



LALJI TANDON
1935-2020

who had the support of different sections of society and the full trust of Vajpayee.

His popularity in the UP capital and closeness to Vajpayee were significant factors for which he was the BJP's first choice as its candidate after Lucknow seat was vacated by Vajpayee in 2009 following his ill health. Tandon won the seat by defeating then state Congress president Rita Bahuguna Joshi by more than 40,000 votes.

In 2014, the seat was given to Rajnath Singh, and in August 2018 Tandon was made Governor of Bihar, a post he re-

BJP is power hungry, out to topple elected govts: Mamata

At virtual rally, CM says will be back next year: Bengal will be run by Bengalis

ATRI MITRA
KOLKATA, JULY 21

TEARING INTO the BJP amid the political crisis in Rajasthan, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday accused it of "destabilising governments" in Opposition-ruled states and misusing central agencies to attain its objective. She said people are unable to speak due to the "reign of fear across the country".

Addressing a virtual rally on Shahid Dibas -- the Martyr's Day marks the death of 13 people in police firing in 1993 -- Banerjee said the BJP toppled the elected government in Madhya Pradesh and was now trying to do it in West Bengal and Rajasthan.

Setting the tone for the Assembly elections in the state next year, she said the BJP was "power hungry" but she and her party would not allow it to have its way.

"Trinamool Congress will form the government again. The next elections will show a new direction to the state as well as the country," she said.

"If they are indulging in such cheap politics to take control of all states, then I would like to ask them, why hold elections? Let them bring a 'kala kanoon' (black law). Let there be President's rule all over. Let them implement the formula of 'One Nation, One Political Party'."

"The BJP's intention is dangerous as it is power hungry. They are not for the people, but for themselves. They don't believe in freedom of each and every person, be it police, teachers, professors, farmers, migrant workers, students, journalists, etc... Don't play with fire and if you think that you will scare me with agencies, then you are mis-



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee speaks during a virtual meeting on Martyrs' Day. Partha Paul

taken. I have fought my entire life and I would like to tell you that an injured tiger is more dangerous than a dead one. Let's call for democratic 'badla' (revenge) to free Bengal from these conspirators," she said.

She said the BJP has been humiliating her every day. "We will take revenge for this humiliation by winning the Assembly elections next year. Outsiders will not be allowed to run Bengal, we know how to rise to the cause. Do not think TMC is weak. Bengal will run by Bengalis," she said.

"The Centre is conspiring against Bengal, saying there is violence every day. There are some people who don't have any political experience. They speak of killing people and setting things ablaze," she said.

"They are talking about law and order in Bengal. What happened in Uttar Pradesh? The police were killed in an encounter.

Those who killed the police, they were also killed in an encounter because all evidence had to be eliminated," she said.

"They are attacking artists, educationists. We have not forgotten the NRC or NPR fight. Because Covid is here, it does not mean we have forgotten CAA or NRC," she said.

"How you killed people in Delhi and threw bodies in the drain. We will never forget," she said.

"I would like to tell all my leaders and workers to pull up their socks to fight against the BJP's conspiracy to divide people in the name of religion, caste and creed," she said.

Banerjee also urged the youth to step forward and work to take over the reins of the party in the future. "I will not be there forever. Therefore, I would like to prepare a team of young people who will run my party in the future," she said.

Next year, Mamata won't be able to take oath as CM: BJP

Kolkata: West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Tuesday said Mamata Banerjee won't be able to take oath as CM next year.

"This time, 95 per cent of her speech was directed towards targeting the BJP. This shows she is afraid of the party... Banerjee is saying all this out of depression. Next year, she won't be able to take the oath as CM," Ghosh said.

CPM's Sujan Chakraborty accused Banerjee of "lies and deceit".

Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said Banerjee was responsible for the rise of the BJP in West Bengal. "The BJP in West Bengal is nothing but a party full of rejected TMC leaders," he said. **ENS**

Rajasthan govt announces sops for needy, industry package

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, JULY 21

AMID THE ongoing political crisis in Rajasthan, the state government, in a meeting of the council of ministers held on Tuesday, took several decisions including the announcement of a fresh relief amount of Rs 1,000 to 35 lakh needy families affected by the Covid-19 lockdown in the state.

It was also decided to provide relief under the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme 2019 for one extra year to establishments in the tourism, multiplex and hotel sector. Other decisions include a relief package for industries worth Rs 220 crore and the decision to start city bus and autorickshaw services after taking due measures to ensure social distancing, a release said.

following the complaints, Saini, being the CM's OSD, had written to police officers.

Bishnoi's brother had filed a complaint with Rajasthan police, alleging that he was under pressure which led him to take the extreme step.

Two suicide notes were recovered from Bishnoi -- one addressed to his parents and the other to the Superintendent of Police of the district. The note to the SP said he was not able to bear the pressure on him.

A screenshot of a purported WhatsApp conversation between Bishnoi and one of his friends had gone viral following his death. In the screenshot, the police officer purportedly spoke about being trapped in dirty politics.

BJP leaders have alleged that the officer was being pressured by Congress MLA Poonia, a charge she has denied.

A team of CBI's special crime unit from Delhi is in Jaipur to record statements in connection with the death of Vishnu Dutt Bishnoi, SHO of Rajgarh police station in Churu

mail after Congress leader Sachin Pilot's rebellion and his subsequent removal as deputy chief minister.

The agency on Monday evening questioned Krishna Poonia, Congress MLA from Sadulpur in Churu, for nearly three hours at her home in Jaipur.

Sources said Poonia had written to the Chief Minister's office, complaining about Bishnoi, and

House panel chief to BJP's OBC MPs: Send tweets to PM, Shah on creamy layer income

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE CHAIRMAN of the Parliamentary panel on OBC welfare, BJP MP Ganesh Singh, has written to other OBC MPs in the party asking them to request Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah through "messages, tweets" to not include salary and agriculture income while calculating gross annual family income to decide the creamy layer.

Singh's letter comes at a time when the National Commission on Other Backward Classes (NCBC) is yet to finalise its views on the Centre's proposal to raise the income limit of the creamy layer and include salary as a criteria.

In a letter dated July 5 to 112 OBC MPs of both Houses, excluding Modi, Singh wrote that his Parliamentary Committee had recommended that the creamy layer limit be increased to Rs 15 lakh. He wrote that the government is "considering" a "consensus on Rs 12 lakh but salary and agriculture income is also being added in the gross annual income, which is wrong".

Presently, the income limit for the OBC creamy layer is Rs 8 lakh per annum, and decided on rank for government employees and not on salary.

The letter, written in Hindi, states: "*Pradhanmantri ji aur Ghrhmantri ji se agrah hai ki vetan aur krishi se huyi aay ko sakal varshik aay ki ganana karte samay na joda jaye. Aisa sandesh, message, tweet bhejne ka kasht karen*"

GUJARAT HIGH COURT

Oza stripped of 'senior advocate' designation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JULY 21

THE GUJARAT High Court on Tuesday stripped lawyer Yatin Oza, who was issued a notice of criminal contempt by the court, of his designation as senior advocate.

The decision was taken in a full court meeting of the high court convened on July 18 and a notification was issued by the Registrar General of the high court on Tuesday.

The move comes after the court took suo motu cognisance of a press conference held by Gujarat High Court Advocates' Association (GHAA) president Oza on May 9. The court took serious objection to him raising his "accusing fingers...against the High Court, High Court Administration and the Registry by irresponsible, sensational and intemperate delivery in an interview" during the press conference, which was also livestreamed through Facebook.

Oza had alleged the HC Registry of favouring lawyers with "billionaire clients" and alleged nepotism in getting matters circulated, following which the court initiated criminal contempt proceedings against him.

MOTOR VEHICLE RULES

Amendment relaxes norms for extra tyre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE GOVERNMENT on Tuesday amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules to allow vehicles to do away with an extra tyre as a backup in case of puncture if the vehicle has an in-built tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS) and a company-provided tyre repair kit, which basically seals any puncture of the tubeless tyre.

This, policymakers said, would do away with the need for an extra tyre and that space could be utilised, especially in case of electric vehicles, to have a battery. "The requirement of the addi-

(The Prime Minister and Home Minister are requested to not include salary and agriculture income while calculating gross annual income, please send such messages and tweets)."

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Singh, who represents Satna in MP, said: "There is nothing wrong in writing to MPs of my party. We are worried that if the government's proposal to include salary is accepted, the representation of OBCs in government ranks will shrink further."

Sources told *The Indian Express* that a draft Cabinet note -- which states that the creamy layer will be determined on all income, including salary calculated for Income Tax, but not agriculture income -- was forwarded to the NCBC by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on March 12.

While the draft excludes agriculture income, sources said that among the five members of the NCBC, which enjoys Constitutional status, four are against any possible move to include salary -- and agriculture income at any later stage.

When contacted, NCBC chairman Bhagwan Lal Sahni said: "We are discussing the proposal in the Cabinet note. We will finalise and send our views to the government in a week."

For government employees, their children are considered to be in the creamy layer if either of the parents are directly recruited in Group-A or if both are in Group-B. They will also be considered if their parents enter Group-A through promotion before the age of 40.



Yatin Oza

The full court, in its July 18 meeting, "unanimously resolved" to review and recall the full court decision of October 25, 1999, where Oza was designated as a senior advocate.

The notification issued on Tuesday states that the decision was taken "in exercise of powers conferred under Rule 26 of the High Court of Gujarat-Designation of Senior Advocates Rules, 2018."

The rule states that if a senior advocate is found guilty of conduct, which according to the full court, disintitiles the senior advocate concerned to continue to be worthy of the designation, the full court may review its decision and recall the same, provided the full court gives an opportunity of hearing to the person concerned before any action is taken.

At the time of initiating criminal contempt, the high court had also put forth for consideration before the full court to rescind Oza's designation as a senior advocate.

tional tyres has been done away with in such vehicles if provided with the tyre repair kit and TPMS. This is as per the international standards which will enable more space, which may accommodate batteries for EVs etc," according to officials in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The amendments also include for the first time a standard for "external projection" of two-wheelers. This has been prescribed "to reduce lacerations to pedestrian as well as rider in case of contact with moving vehicle."

The amendments also include a provision for a footrest and mechanism to hold during the ride.

8 THE OUTBREAK

Two private labs in Mumbai find antibody positivity rate at 24.3 pc

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA
MUMBAI, JULY 21

DATA OF 9,590 samples tested for antibodies in Mumbai's two private laboratories showed that 24.3 per cent had antibodies against Covid-19. These samples, collected from the general population comprising office-goers, businessmen, salon staff and health workers, indicates that nearly one-fourth of the city's population has already been exposed to coronavirus and generated antibodies against the infection.

Latest data also suggests Delhi is more exposed to coronavirus than Mumbai. Combined data of sero surveillance conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and samples tested by Thyrocare show a 25.10 per cent positivity rate. The NCDC did an IgG antibody test on 21,387 people in 11 districts of Delhi and found around 5,022 positive (23.48 per cent). Private laboratory Thyrocare tested 3,956 people and found antibodies in 1,340 (33.8 per cent).

In Mumbai, Thyrocare tested 5,485 people, and found antibodies in 1,501 (27.3 per cent). Suburban Diagnostics lab tested 4,105 people and found 830 (20.2 per cent) had antibodies against coronavirus.

"This is good news. This shows a large number of people who were exposed to coronavirus had no symptoms and got immunity," said Dr Sujata Baveja, head of microbiology in Sion hospital.

J&K: Hours after discharge from govt hospital, 12 test positive again, brought back

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JULY 21

THREE DAYS after they were discharged after testing negative for Covid-19, a dozen workers of a soft drink plant were brought back to a government-run hospital at Bari Brahmana in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district after their samples tested positive in another round of testing.

After discharge, many of the workers had travelled to their homes at different places in the Jammu region. They are now back at the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital.

National Health Mission director in the Union Territory, Bhupinder Kumar, who is nodal officer for Covid-19 control efforts in Jammu and Kashmir, denied knowledge of the incident. He said he will look into it and take necessary action.

According to sources, about 15 workers at a soft drink plant were quarantined after one of them tested positive for Covid-19 on July 1. The next day, their samples tested positive. They were admitted to ESIC Hospital

An IgG antibody test essentially detects whether a person has developed antibodies, and immunity therein, against an infection. It takes two weeks for a Covid patient to develop antibodies against the virus. This test is only used as a surveillance tool, and not for diagnosis, to assess the level of exposure. For diagnosis, RT-PCR (real time polymerase chain reaction) remains the gold standard. This test detects virus in swabs.

Mumbai's positivity rate through RT-PCR test stands at 23.3 per cent, while the population that tested positive for antibodies is higher at 24.3 per cent. Experts said while this indicates high viral transmission, it also shows several more have been exposed to the virus but never developed symptoms and recovered.

"The antibody positivity rate shows a larger population has been infected and didn't realise because no symptoms emerged," said Dr Caesar Sen Gupta, head of operations in Thyrocare.

"The antibody tests that we did represents general population," said Dr Anupa Dixit, chief microbiologist, Suburban Diagnostics.

Maharashtra health secretary Dr Pradeep Vyasa said, "Since number of those getting exposed are much higher and RT-PCR testing is targeted for symptomatic and close contacts, antibody IgG positivity rate will always be higher than RT-PCR. With latest research findings showing immunity is lost in a few months, antibody positivity rate may not mean anything in the long run."

Plasma therapy effective for moderately ill patients, say most doctors of ICMR trial

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

MOST INSTITUTIONS which took part in the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) trial on plasma therapy have found blood transfusion from recovered Covid-19 patients to those with moderately severe illness to be effective.

This is the only pan-India study on the topic, and institutions have submitted their findings to ICMR.

Out of 52 institutions participating in the ICMR PLACID trial, *The Indian Express* spoke with principal investigators of 36 institutions, of whom 24 said plasma therapy was effective.

Five of the enrolled institutions were not able to find enough donors or participants. Three institutions said they doubt effectiveness of plasma therapy, while two said plasma given to severe patients saw negative results.

The optimistic investigators, however, caution that timing of the transfusion will be challenging. Half of the 24 who cited positive results said the therapy should not be used on patients who have become severe.

They said antibodies must come from recovered people who were symptomatic, which can take as long as a month after their diagnosis to appear. Patients must receive the plasma within five to 10 days of their diagnosis, the trial's principal investigators recommended.

If implemented at the right time, the investigators most often cited a decrease in hospital stay time, viral load, oxygen requirements, and time till a negative test result. At least one doctor noted that the plasma must be fresh, and several doctors maintained that the next challenge will be finding donors who have had a symptomatic illness and enough antibodies detected.

ICMR plans to release their results in two weeks, ICMR's lead investigator Aparna Mukerjee said. As part of the therapy, plasma from a recovered patient is infused into a patient so that the antibodies can induce a "passive immunity".

In all, 452 patients were enrolled for the trial. At Madras Medical College, 24 patients and 24 controls (those not administered plasma) were enrolled. Eighty-five per cent of the inter-



Health workers conduct tests at a camp in Patna on Tuesday. PTI

vention group recovered, as compared to 60 per cent in the control group, Dr S Subash said.

"It is useless if you use plasma blindly; selection of cases is most important," he said.

Dr Subash gave the example of patients whose oxygen saturation had just dipped below 90 and required 10 to 12 litres of oxygen. Once given plasma, the saturation went back to 90 within a day and oxygen requirement decreased to 2 litres.

Another large patient enroll-

ment was from RCSM Government Medical College and CPR Hospital in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. Of 25 mild and moderate patients given plasma there, 85 per cent tested negative three days after the transfusion and their hospital time was on average 11 days, compared to 16 for those in controls.

"I had corona and am in the process of donating plasma. It is not a therapy that will become the gold standard in the coming days but it will be a bridge to stabilise

patients," said Dr Satyam Arora of Noida's Super Specialty Paediatric Hospital and Teaching Institute, which transfused five patients with plasma for the ICMR study and two patients outside of the trial. All seven have recovered.

Dr Ravi Dosi of Indore's Sri Aurobindo Institute has given plasma therapy to more than 90 patients suffering mild and moderate infection and saw 80 per cent of them feel symptomatically better in around four days, as compared to the average 10 days. It took roughly four days for benefits to show in radiological scans, and the recovery percentage was higher in their intervention group, he said.

However, several doctors cautioned against pushing for plasma in severe patients.

"Whatever transfusions we have conducted have been promising. But it should not be given to critical patients. There has been unnecessary panic in attendants to get plasma for critical patients in private hospitals," said Faridabad ESIC Medical College's Dr Nimisha Sharma, who enrolled 10 mild and moderate patients in the ICMR trial.

She said patients with

plasma saw their viral load decrease and did not require oxygen on the third day, rather than after one week.

At AIIMS-Patna, where four patients in the trial saw "optimistic results", Dr Neha Singh said every patient on ventilator is demanding plasma, but "it has been very difficult to find appropriate donors".

However, Dr Archana Bajpayee of AIIMS-Jodhpur, who enrolled six interventions and six controls in the trial, called it "all business". She said, "Even mild cases with plasma progressed to severe and some even expired. The corporate sector is cashing in on this therapy."

Dr Vrushi Khadke of Poona Hospital and Research Centre said, "Most mild patients recover on their own anyway. Plasma's effectiveness is all conjecture."

Dr Pankaj Malhotra of PGIMER, Chandigarh, enrolled 10 cases and controls and saw usefulness if infused in the first seven to 10 days. "I have this sense that plasma has been given such a media hype that I see a placebo effect in patients as well," he said.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Despite doubts about 'low-end' machines, Karnataka to deploy 640 PM Cares ventilators

JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU, JULY 21

DESPITE DOUBTS raised by a section of medical experts about the utility of 640 ventilators supplied under the Centre's PM Cares scheme in providing advanced respiratory support to seriously ill Covid-19 patients, the Karnataka government has decided to deploy them to tide over a severe shortage of these machines in the state's public hospitals.

"One set of doctors said that ventilators supplied under the Central scheme cannot be used for patients. We have tested them and found them capable of delivering the oxygen needs. We will go ahead and use the ventilators," Karnataka's Additional Chief Secretary and Health Secretary Jawaid Akhtar has said.

Faced with a rapidly escalating caseload, the state is staring at an acute shortage of high-end ventilators needed to assist patients with severe lung damage. As of Monday evening, there were only six ICU ventilators available, out of a total of 22 in 15 government hospitals, and only two of 77 in government medical college hospitals across the state capital. As of the same time, there were 332 patients in ICUs in Bengaluru hospitals.

The healthcare infrastructure in Karnataka, and Bengaluru in particular, is under severe pressure in the middle of a massive increase in Covid cases — from 4,555 on June 30 to 34,943 cases reported in the city as on July 21. These include 26,746 active cases. As many as 623 of 698 Covid deaths in Bengaluru have occurred since July 1.

The 640 ventilators received by the state under PM Cares is part of 1,600 approved by the Centre for supply to Karnataka. The state has, in all, sought 2,149 ventilators. The machines delivered under PM Cares met with some questions after two hospitals in Mumbai and one in Delhi reported dissatisfaction over their capabilities in supporting Covid-19 patients. Modifications and improvements have been sought in ventilators supplied to a government hospital in Delhi, while in Mumbai 81 machines were reportedly returned by two hospitals.

Some doctors in the government sector have also questioned the efficacy of these ventilators for seriously ill patients. "Around 600 ventilators supplied under PM Cares fund are waiting to be deployed in hospitals run by the Health Department," a senior Karnataka medical official said recently. "These are low-end machines, so we need to check their quality before deploying them (in hospitals). There are reports of procurements not being to specifications. It will have to be tested."

AgVa Healthcare, a start-up which has a tie-up with Maruti Suzuki India Limited and a BEL-Skanray Technologies consortium, is the main manufacturer of ventilators being procured by HLL



The week-long lockdown in Bengaluru ends Wednesday. PTI

Lifecare, the Centre's procurement agency, under PM Cares.

But maintaining that these ventilators meet the "basic requirements", Health Secretary Akhtar said on Monday, "We have checked with Maharashtra health authorities and found that PM Cares ventilators are in use in that state. There is no other choice (for Karnataka) at present. It has been provided free of cost and meets the basic requirement."

Soon after the first coronavirus case in the state was reported on March 8, the government procured 108 ventilators, 80 of them basic models and 28 high-end ones. "In March, there was only one local supplier when we were looking to procure ventilators. We took an approval from the (Covid) task force and ordered 130 from Skanray Technologies. So far we have received 80. We have also procured 28 ventilators off the shelf as emergency measure, their price varying from Rs 11 lakh to Rs 18.20 lakh (per machine)."

Akhtar said more supplies are in line, and once confirmed they should be adequate to handle the Covid-19 situation in the state.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

No lockdown in any part of state in future: Yediyurappa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JULY 21

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa on Tuesday said there will never be a lockdown in Bengaluru or any other part of Karnataka — hours before the week-long lockdown in the state capital was set to end on Wednesday morning — as it was impacting state revenues.

"There will be no lockdown in Bengaluru from Wednesday morning. People must return to living normal lives and move around. It is as important for the government to earn revenues as it is to protect lives. We have to be prepared to counter Covid-19 by taking precautions," the Chief Minister said while addressing people of the state at 5 pm.

"My only request to people is to practice social distancing and wear masks. There will be strict action against those who do not wear masks. We are trying our best to counter the spread of the disease and people must cooperate... The elders and children must continue to stay home. Covid-19 patients should not be ostracised," Yediyurappa said.

"Lockdowns are not the only solution for stopping the spread of Covid-19. In the future, there will be no lockdown in Bengaluru or any other part of the state... Only in containment zones there will be restrictions on movement of people,"



'It is as important for the government to earn revenues...'

he said.

The Chief Minister claimed that all private hospitals in Bengaluru have agreed to provide 50 per cent beds for treatment of Covid-19 patients as well as the staff required to look after the patients. "With the private hospitals joining hands with the state, we can effectively battle the disease," the CM said.

With a demand for 350 beds that is estimated to multiply soon amid a surge in cases, the state government is counting on the private sector to provide beds for Covid treatment in Bengaluru and other cities.

Yediyurappa also claimed that an effective ambulance service and hospital bed allocation system has been put in place in Bengaluru for Covid patients during the lockdown.

Bengaluru has seen a six-fold jump in Covid cases since July 1 — from 4,555 to 34,943 cases on July 21. Karnataka has recorded 71,069 cases, including 45,865 active cases as of Tuesday; there have been 1,464 deaths so far.

The government claims to have access to over 8,500 hospital beds.

Health worker to sweeper, some of 102 BMC workers who died of Covid

LAXMAN SINGH
MUMBAI, JULY 21

WITH 102 of its staff members succumbing to Covid-19, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is perhaps the worst affected among government agencies battling the pandemic in the country.

Till July 11, a total of 2,198 BMC workers had tested positive. *The Indian Express* spoke to the family members of five who died.

SUBHAS MAHADIK (53)
Mukadam, Solid Waste Management



Subhas Mahadik, who died on June 2, was posted at the SWM chowky in Goregaon

West, where, as mukadam, he supervised the garbage collection vehicles.

Twenty-seven workers from the Solid Waste Management department — which collects garbage, including biomedical waste, from assigned areas — have died of Covid so far.

When Mahadik fell ill on May 29, a local doctor diagnosed double pneumonia and advised a Covid test.

"We approached private labs, but all refused to test him saying that there was a two-day waiting period. Meanwhile, his condition deteriorated and the doctor advised immediate hospitalisation. We approached at least six-seven hospitals, but he was denied admission. Either they asked for a Covid test report, or cited unavailability of beds. Even after showing his ID card and saying that he was on duty, we were struggling for a bed,"

said Mahadik's son, Nikhil.

He said initially, the BMC's Balasaheb Thackeray Trauma Care Hospital also denied admission. But he was finally admitted on May 31, and died two days later.

Mahadik's family said he had complained of unhygienic conditions at his chowky.

VIJAY GITE (46)
Security Guard



When the Covid outbreak hit Mumbai, Vijay Gite was assigned duty at the Kasturba Hospital. In

March, Gite wrote a letter on his experience at the hospital, and appealed to citizens to stay at home. The letter went viral on social media.

Gite developed fever on May 15, and later tested positive. On May 26, as his condition worsened, he was admitted to Nair Hospital. He died on June 5.

"He was dedicated to his job. A day after he developed high fever, he had an argument with his wife because he decided to go to work and she was telling him to take the day off," said Dipali Sanap, Gite's sister-in-law.

Sanap said working for the BMC was Gite's badge of honour.

RATNAPRABHA DABHOLKAR (63)
Community Health Volunteer

Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) are the backbone of the BMC's Covid battle. From contact tracing to door-to-



records as a "suspected Covid-19" patient as the hospital did not collect her sample.

Dabholkar, who had diabetes and high blood pressure, fell ill on May 23. "After consulting a local doctor, we found that her

oxygen level was dipping fast. The doctor suggested immediate hospitalisation. For an entire day, we searched for a hospital that would admit her, but failed. On the second day, we got a bed in SRV Hospital in Chembur," said her son, Mahesh.

On May 31, within seven

hours of her admission, the hospital informed the family that she had died due to pneumonia and respiratory distress syndrome. Despite the BMC's directive that those above 55 years of age with comorbidities would not be given Covid-related duties, Dabholkar was told to report to duty, said her family.

RAFEEQ SHAIKH (58)
Driver, Mumbai Fire Brigade



Rafeeq Shaikh wanted to build a house in his hometown, Satara, after retirement. Two

days before he was due to retire, Shaikh, who worked as a driver with the Mumbai Fire Brigade at the Goregaon fire station, succumbed to Covid-19 on May 28.

Shaikh was actively involved in sanitisation work in Goregaon area. After falling ill, he got a Covid test done on May 19. Two days later, he got a positive report. He was admitted to Agarwal Hospital in Vasai.

"He used to only think about others. He would say that if he was able to save a single person's life, it would be a great achievement," said his daughter, Hina. "Two days before his death, he said he was recovering. But on May 28, we got a call from the hospital that he had died," she said.

JAGANNATH YADAV (54)
Sweeper, Sion Hospital

Jagannath Yadav, a sweeper assigned duty in the operation theatre of Sion Hospital, succumbed to Covid on May 30. He was admitted to Sion Hospital on May 5, but later shifted to Seven Hills in Marol.

"After his death, we had to keep his body in hospital for a day since there were no ambulances available. On May 31, I finally managed to get a private ambulance.



But the hospital staff refused to use that ambulance for the last rites, which had to be done as per

the Covid protocol," said Yadav's son, Roshan.

"I then decided to cremate the body with the help of the private ambulance staff," he said. Roshan said they didn't have PPE, and only had gloves. "I was scared but we did not have any option," he said.

Yadav was the only earning member of his family — both his sons were rendered jobless after the lockdown.

NSCN-IM slams order to govt staff to declare kin link with underground organisations

davp 19111/11/0059/2021



I AM NOT A PARTY CANDIDATE, AND IF ELECTED CANNOT BE PRESIDENT OF A PARTY, BUT THE PRESIDENT OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE. — ZACHARY TAYLOR

KEEP VIGIL

Delhi has registered significant decline in COVID cases, but the city cannot afford to let down its guard

ABOUT A MONTH ago, Delhi surpassed Mumbai as the Indian city with the highest number of COVID-19 cases. The capital recorded in excess of 2,000 cases daily for more than five weeks in June and July. The Delhi government apprehended that the city's caseload would cross 5 lakh by the end of July and there were fears of the healthcare system being overwhelmed by the surging virus. Since then, the Delhi government has ramped up testing and bolstered the city's medical infrastructure. The measures have led to an appreciable fall in the city's daily caseload in the past 10 days. On Monday, the capital recorded less than 1,000 cases in 24 hours for the first time since June 1. This is a heartening development. However, given the unpredictable ways of the coronavirus, the Delhi government and the city's residents cannot afford to let down their guard.

There is much that Delhi has done right over the last month. It has dedicated more than 15,000 beds in the city's hospitals to COVID patients and increased critical care facilities. The Delhi government also put in place a home quarantine system for patients with mild symptoms and asymptomatic carriers of the virus. People recovering at home are given oximeters to help them monitor any dip in oxygen levels and their condition is monitored. These are significant interventions. It is well-known that more than 80 per cent of COVID patients do not require hospitalisation. But the fear of being moved to a quarantine centre had reportedly deterred many with COVID symptoms from getting themselves tested till the infection became severe. The assurance of recuperation at home led more people to get themselves tested — the number of tests has gone up nearly four times since the first week of June. There, however, remains more scope to increase testing facilities. Last week, for instance, the Delhi High Court pulled up the Indian Council of Medical Research for giving 26 private labs one month, a period it felt was "too long", to upgrade their facilities for COVID testing.

The increase in testing in Delhi is driven largely by Rapid Antigen Tests, which deliver results in less than 30 minutes. But the possibility of false negatives is significantly higher in such tests compared to the swab test. According to figures presented by the Delhi government in the High Court, only one in 200 of those who tested negative in antigen tests was asked to undergo a swab test. The government maintains that it is going by the ICMR's protocols which prescribe re-tests only for patients with symptoms. Given the constraint on resources, it would, of course, be impossible to follow up every negative antigen test with a swab test. Yet the results of these quick tests should not lull the Delhi government into complacency — especially because of the virus's propensity to spread through asymptomatic carriers. A serological survey by the Union Health Ministry, released on Tuesday — which showed that about 24 per cent of the participants had developed antibodies — has also indicated that a large number of infected people in Delhi are asymptomatic. The reasons for Delhi's healthcare system to be on high alert remain compelling.

POWER UNDER STRESS

Fall in demand, insufficient tariff hikes, high AT&C losses adversely impact discom finances. The sector needs reform

THE FINANCIAL POSITION of power distribution companies has been deteriorating, well before the COVID shock. But the pandemic, and the ensuing lockdown, have aggravated their already precarious position by adversely affecting demand. At the aggregate level, electricity demand fell by 16 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year. In large part, this decline is due to a fall in demand from industrial and commercial users. And as these consumers account for a sizeable portion of discom earnings — they also help subsidise tariffs for other segments — this fall disproportionately affects discoms' financial position. According to some estimates, discoms may be staring at a revenue gap of around Rs 42,000 to Rs 45,000 crore this year. This deterioration in finances does not bode well for the entire power sector chain. While the government had earlier announced liquidity support to the tune of Rs 90,000 crore to help discoms clear their obligations towards power generating companies, the off-take on these loans has been slow so far.

The stress on discom finances is evident from recent reports which reveal that the audited book losses of discoms have been revised upwards to Rs 49,600 crore in FY2019, from the provisional estimate of Rs 28,000 crore, inching closer to pre-UDAY levels. The mounting losses indicate that the UDAY scheme, which was expected to engineer an operational and financial turnaround in the fortunes of the beleaguered discoms, has failed to affect the change that was hoped for, with the gap between average cost and realisation per unit of power yet to be closed. In large part, this continuing deterioration in their position stems from inadequate and irregular tariff hikes, AT&C (aggregate technical and commercial) losses not declining to the levels envisaged, and delays in disbursement of subsidy by state governments.

The central government has proposed several amendments to the Electricity Act 2003 aimed at addressing some of these issues — the suggestions range from privatisation of discoms to moving towards direct benefit transfers for subsidies. While these and other reforms need to be pushed through urgently to ensure an improvement in the financial position of the discoms, they need to be supplemented with the imposition of stiff penalties on states for failing to usher in the changes needed, or meeting the targets laid out, to effect a turnaround in the sector.

AFTER TRUMP

Is Kanye West's presidential bid serious, or a publicity stunt? It's not an either-or question

THE FIRST QUESTION on the minds of many in America, and beyond, regarding musician-entertainer Kanye West's presidential bid is: Is he serious? At his first rally, West appeared in a protective security vest and "2020" shaved on the back of his head. He asserted that Harriet Tubman (a freed slave who smuggled other Black men and women to the US states where slavery was illegal) "never actually freed the slaves, she just had the slaves go work for other White people." He weighed in on abortion, claiming his mother wanted to abort him and he, his daughter. The spectacle in South Carolina may well be a publicity stunt. Unfortunately, that doesn't mean it's not a presidential bid. West's hyper-confessional, ahistorical and over-simplified political platform is a consequence of the 2016 campaign and what has become of public conversation in its aftermath.

In the US, for long, the archetype of the politician was of the clean-cut family man. Yet, for at least a decade, popular culture has been creating a very different aspirational figure. The reality TV star — anything but real, but that's marketing — would confess, abuse, be outrageous and provocative. Any publicity was good publicity. With the candidature and election of Donald Trump, reality TV became reality, with serious consequences. West's platform, like Trump's before him, is also a result of underestimating the power of popular culture in public life, of ignoring the effects of how people spend their time on how they think.

Kanye West, though, is a far more tragic figure than Trump. In a series of tweets on Monday night (later deleted), he claimed that his wife (reality star Kim Kardashian) was trying to have him institutionalised after his rally. West has also spoken publicly in the past about his struggle with bipolar disorder. He is an excellent musician, designer and performer. Now, he could also be aspiring to be Trump.

Common cause at sea

Time for ambivalence is over. India must formally revive Quad, seek its expansion



ARUN PRAKASH

THE RECENT RE-EMERGENCE of terms like "Malabar" and "Quad" in the media, as well as in the national security discourse should be music to the ears of India's small but diehard band of "navalists" (advocates of maritime power), who had not long ago heard disheartening public pronouncements that since the Indian armed forces were not "expeditionary forces" — for global deployment — they must confine themselves to "guard and fight" only along national borders.

It is essential for India's strategic-planners and policy-makers to retain clarity about the reason India has become a partner that is sought after by the US and others. While India's status as a nuclear-weapon state and major land/air power, as well as a growing economy and attractive market, has been known for some time, New Delhi's newfound allure for the US, the Quad and ASEAN is rooted only in its ability to project power and influence in distant ocean reaches.

In the current scenario, given Chinese intransigence and our misreading of their imperialist-expansionist intent, Sino-Indian tensions are likely to persist. If India is not to cede ground physically or diplomatically, it must muster all elements of its "comprehensive national power", including the maritime, and create a strong negotiating position. Apart from the balance of forces on land favouring China, there is also the Beijing-Islamabad Axis that awaits activation. Keeping tensions confined to the Himalayan arena is, therefore, not only militarily advantageous to China but a continental focus also helps to keep India contained in a "South-Asia box".

To the navalists, this seems all the more reason for India to try shifting the confrontation to "sea-level", where the asymmetry is in its favour. In this context, if Exercise Malabar and the Quadrilateral concept are at long last going to be leveraged to make common cause in the maritime domain, the provenance of both needs to be seen in perspective.

When America first reached out to India in the early 1990s to offer military-to-military cooperation, the Indian Navy (IN), keen to shed its Cold War insularity, responded eagerly. It initiated the first-ever naval-drills

with the US Navy (USN) in May 1992. Code-named Malabar, the annual exercise got off to a good start and with a brief interruption during the post-Shakti sanctions saw its 24th edition in 2019.

China has remained bitterly opposed to Malabar because it saw the growing relationship as India's first step on the American bandwagon. Consequently, when Malabar-2007 was enlarged to accommodate Australia, Singapore and Japan, China sent a diplomatic protest conveying its fear and displeasure. It took another eight years before Japan was formally admitted to make Malabar a tri-lateral event in 2015.

The Quadrilateral traces its origins to the great Asian tsunami of December 26, 2004. IN ships, aircraft and helicopters were despatched within hours to render assistance to our Sri Lankan, Maldivian and Indonesian neighbours in distress. This swift response established our navy's credentials as a credible regional force and the following day the Commander US Pacific Fleet sought our concurrence, telephonically, for his units to join the rescue effort. Within a week, the navies of the US, Australia Japan and India had come together to form "Joint Task Force-536" headquartered in Utapao (Thailand). This established the framework for "quadrilateral coordination".

It is noteworthy that not a single PLA Navy (PLAN) ship was seen throughout the 2004 tsunami relief operations. But, as mentioned earlier, when navies of five nations assembled for a joint exercise off Okinawa, China issued a demarche to India, US, Japan and Australia seeking details about their meeting — terming it a "Quadrilateral initiative". China's extreme concern about the concepts of Malabar as well as the Indo-Pacific and Quad arises from the suspicion that they are precursors to "containment" — the Cold War geopolitical strategy used by the US to isolate and engineer the collapse of the USSR.

China's hostility arouses trepidation amongst Quad members and a degree of equivocation is evident in their actions and articulations. As early as 2008, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd decided to dump the Quad to pander to China's wishes. PM

Narendra Modi, in his speech at the Shangri La Dialogue 2018, sought to reassure Beijing by stating: "India does not see the Indo-Pacific as a strategy... and by no means do we consider it as directed against any country..."

The time for ambivalence is over and while India will have to fight its own territorial battles with determination, this is the moment to seek external balancing. A formal revival and re-invigoration of the Quad is called for. It is also time to seek an enlargement of this grouping into a partnership of the like-minded. Other nations feeling the brunt of Chinese brawn may be willing to join an "Indo-Pacific concord" to maintain peace and tranquillity and to ensure observance of the UN Law of the Seas. News of Australia being re-invited to participate in the Quad deserves a conditional welcome, given Canberra's past inconsistency and political flip-flops.

While Malabar remains a visible and reassuring symbol of Indo-US-Japanese solidarity, there is a need for the US to recast, along with partners, its Indo-Pacific strategy, which has had no impact on China's unfolding hegemonic master-plan. In this context, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's bombastic statement earlier this month regarding China's maritime claims — far from conveying reassurance — served only to highlight America's helplessness in the South China Sea. Having failed to deter China from creating and fortifying artificial islands in open defiance of the UN Tribunal's verdict, all that the US has been able to demonstrate is the hollow symbolism of US warships conducting "freedom of navigation" sailings through Chinese-claimed waters.

The US must also note that as the Chinese juggernaut continues to roll westwards, should Iran abandon India for China as a partner in the Chabahar port deal, it would represent yet another huge gain for China. The PLAN may now have not just Djibouti but also Gwadar and Chabahar as maritime footholds in India's Arabian Sea neighbourhood.

The writer is a retired chief of the Indian Navy

THE NETWORK OF THINGS

Covid compels us to understand social world differently, rethink borders



N S GUNDUR

THE CORONAVIRUS IS an infectious agent with a difference. The culture and structure of its formation seem to invite the life sciences to revisit the very idea of life and living organism. Issues such as the mutation of the virus, the way it intrudes into the human body and its afterlife, the immune system, and other biological crises might compel disciplines like microbiology and biochemistry to reorganise their disciplinary configuration.

An equally urgent intellectual task ahead is to reassemble the humanities and social sciences since the pandemic has made a devastating impact on humanity at large. What calls for the attention of these disciplines is the power of the non-human over the human. Scientists in France conducted inquiries into the role of non-human and non-living actors in human affairs during the 1980s and '90s. In their study of the life of science and scientists, Bruno Latour, Michel Callon, John Law, Peter Lodge and others stumbled upon a new insight, which has come to be known as the Actor Network Theory (ANT), that nothing is outside the network, and everything is connected in the social.

According to ANT, the social world is not merely a conglomeration of people as loosely understood by classical social scientists, but an assemblage of human, non-human and non-living entities, caught in the network of associations. It is these associations of things that social scientists have to pay attention to, marginalising anthropocentric assumptions. However, in the context of COVID-19, I would like to focus here on the interface between

the human and the non-human among several aspects of the ANT.

As practitioners of ANT observe, human society has changed over a period of time, and innumerable objects like pen, camera, telescope, airplane, cellphone, and non-human entities like microbes constitute the social. Our life is woven into the network of these things, and in this network, non-human entities, which have no will, intention and mind like humans, make a difference to our life. Therefore, in the framework of ANT, humans are not the only agents to make a difference to this network, but viruses like corona and objects like airplanes become active agents of change.

Non-human and non-living entities are called actors because they bring about change in the network of the social. Therefore, Latour elsewhere observes that the virus is the real globaliser, not just the MNCs. However, the capacity of non-human actors to make a difference is not intrinsic to them. They are powerful because they are participants in the network. They become influential in their association with the larger network of things including humans. The lesser the power of the network, the minimal will be their impact. The virus has, thus, appeared on scene when the entire network of the world, due to globalisation, has been thick and closely knit. Had COVID-19 appeared during the pre-modern world, when mobility and human connections were limited, the world would have been much better than what it is now.

What explains the intrusion of the virus into every nook and corner of the globe is the way the present world is made up of complex associations and assemblies. The greatest challenge before us is to reconfigure the network of things without holding it back. Therefore, it is quite useful to understand the thick world we inhabit today in order to solve the problem of the epidemic. The ANT's sociology of associations helps us understand it and grasp the problem of the pandemic better.

Thus, ANT compels us to reassemble not only our social world but also the social sciences and humanities. Since, as ANT shows, the natural, social and technological are not separate domains, and they create the reality around us through networking, we need to reorganise our knowledge systems based on a new interdisciplinary thinking, breaking the borders of narrow knowledge compartments. Such a project calls for integrating the sciences with arts and humanities, and social sciences. For example, assimilating the history of sciences in the study of pure sciences, scientific narratives in the discipline of historical studies, film and literary texts on ecological crises in environmental sciences, social history of epidemics in life sciences, among others, would help us look at the network of actors clearly, and empower us to deal with problems arising out of this network.

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JULY 22, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

CENTRE CAUTIOUS

THE TWO-WEEK SUSPENSION of the agitation against foreign nationals in Assam was generally welcomed in both official and political circles in New Delhi. Home ministry sources were reluctant to comment on the statement by the AASU and AAGP suspending the 10-month agitation to create an atmosphere conducive for the resumption of talks. The sources wanted to wait a few days before responding to the gesture for fear that it may turn out to be one of the quiet spells between different phases of the movement. The home minister may himself spell out the government's response in his reply to the debate on

his ministry's demands in the Lok Sabha.

KARNATAKA VIOLENCE

FOUR PERSONS DIED, two of them in police firing and a number of others were injured in large-scale violence as an agitation of farmers rocked Nargund, Navalgund and Gadag towns of Dharwad district of Karnataka. Night curfew has been clamped in all these places and prohibitory orders clamped in the entire district for a week following sporadic cases of arson and looting, according to information reaching the police headquarters. An assistant sub-inspector of the reserve police was among those killed in mob violence. A number of po-

licemen including an inspector were injured in stone-throwing. Two persons were injured in police firing at Navalgund, 35 km from Bangalore.

LUCKNOW FLOODED

THE GOMTI HAS crossed the danger level in Lucknow, flooding low-lying areas and causing panic in the trans-river localities of the city. Rising steadily after heavy rains, the river was 17 cm above the red mark. While the protective bunds on either side of the river are withstanding the fury of the floods, water is flowing back through the nullahs into the low-lying areas of the city.



Response	Percentage
Yes	45%
No	35%
Don't know	10%
Not sure	5%
Other	5%

Police don't have same rights as citizens: Floods kill five in Meghalaya; Assam toll 87 Gujarat DGP on social media ‘gag order’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JULY 21

A DAY after issuing a first-of-its-kind ‘gag order’ or ‘code of conduct’ for personnel of Gujarat Police regarding their usage of social media, Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP) Shivanand Jha, on Tuesday, said that police do not enjoy the same rights as citizens or other government staff due to the nature of their job, in the wake of several social media campaigns seeking wage hike for constable rank personnel in the force.

Jha further said that any attempts made by persons outside the police force to provoke police personnel, regarding issues such as low wages, will be strictly dealt with and police personnel involved in the agitation will face both legal and departmental action. In this regard, three persons

were detained in Gandhinagar on Tuesday. A case was filed against them for trying to provoke police force through a campaign on social media to increase the wage of Lok Rakshak Dal (LRD) constables.

“Policing is not an ordinary job, but a service towards society and the country. It cannot be compared with any other government job. If someone works in the department without the feeling of service, they cannot serve the society with the best police model... Police don't enjoy the same rights as citizens or other government personnel under the Police Forces Restriction of Rights Act, given the extremely strict departmental rules and the nature of job as a discipline force. The personnel can seek grievance redressal through proper channels in the department and not on public platforms,” said Jha in a press conference in Gandhinagar on Tuesday.

On Monday, DGP Jha issued a circular titled “Code of Conduct” for members of Gujarat Police related to their use of social media, where police personnel have been asked to not criticize the government or police force, be a part of any agitation or campaign, post any opinion related to government work, post requests related to police service or post anything political or communal on social media.

“The code of conduct will be applicable to all personnel of Gujarat Police using social media for public as well as private use... They should not make any critical comments on the government or police department while using social media related to their duty. They should not post or transmit any service related application, they should not post any personal opinion while using social media for government work (sic),” read the notification. It was issued af-

ter sustained campaigns demanding better wages for unarmed police constables and LRD constables of Gujarat Police on social media.

“...I warn those outside the police department to not provoke as this is an attempt to create unrest among personnel in the name of wage increase. It will be looked as an attack on the uniform and strict action will be taken against them. Any attempt to break the unity of khakhi will not be tolerated and such police personnel who are part of the campaign will face legal and departmental action... In the times of Covid-19, police are working with full determination and few anti-social elements with malignant intentions are trying to provoke the police force for a violent agitation. They will face legal action under the Disaster Management Act and the Epidemic Diseases Act, with respect to the pandemic,” Jha said.

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, JULY 21

WHILE ASSAM continues to be inundated with the death toll from floods in the state rising to 87 on Tuesday, flooding in the neighbouring state of Meghalaya's West Garo Hills district has claimed five lives in the past week alone.

On July 15, four children drowned in floodwaters in Tikrikilla village, followed by an 18-year-old woman in Demdema village. The state government has announced compensation of Rs 4 lakh each to the kin of the deceased.

“Saddened to see 5 lives lost because of the floods in #GaroHills. Govt has released an ex gratia amount of Rs. 4 Lakhs each to the next of kin of the deceased. We are doing everything to ensure the safety of our citizens during this time. Our condolences to the bereaved families,” tweeted Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma on Tuesday evening.



At the flooded Puthimari village in Assam on Tuesday. PTI

Earlier in the day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah assured Sangma of assistance from the Centre. “Loss of lives due to the floods in West Garo Hills, Meghalaya is very disturbing. I have spoken to the Chief Minister, Shri @SangmaConrad and assured him all possible help from the Central government. Nation stands resolutely with the people

of Meghalaya in these trying times,” Shah wrote on Twitter.

West Garo Hills includes plain areas which are contiguous to the flooded districts of Dhubri, South Salmara-Mankachar and Goalpara in Assam. “Incessant rains and waters from the Brahmaputra and Jinjiram rivers have flooded the plain areas,” said Ram Singh, Deputy Commissioner, West Garo

Hills district.

As per a report from the district administration, 1.7 lakh people in 195 villages have been affected so far.

Meanwhile, two people died in flood-hit Morigaon and Nagaon districts of Assam on Tuesday, taking the death toll in the state to 87. As per a report from the Assam Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), more than 24 lakh people in 24 districts have been affected and 44,498 people have been shifted to 397 relief camps.

“Widespread rainfall activity with isolated heavy to very heavy falls is very likely over Assam during next 2-3 days and rainfall intensity very likely to decrease thereafter,” said a CWC release.

The Brahmaputra and its tributaries continue to flow above the danger level. Meanwhile, 90 per cent of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve is submerged. So far, 143 animals have been rescued and 116—including 9 rhinos—have drowned.

TAMIL NADU CB-CID takes over another case of custodial torture, death in Thoothukudi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, JULY 21

EVEN AS the CBI investigates the custodial torture and death of a father and son at Sathankulam in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district, another such case involving a youth at the same police station has been handed over to the CB-CID.

The state government on Tuesday informed the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court that the alleged custodial death of Mahendran, 28, has been handed over to CB-CID. The state agency was also probing the custodial torture and death of father-son duo Jayaraj and Bennix, before the case was handed over to the CBI on July 8.

The Indian Express on June 4 had reported that Mahendran, a mason, was taken into custody on May 23 after his brother Durai, a suspect in a murder case, went missing.

Mahendran's mother S Vadivu told the Madras High Court in a complaint that her son was tortured on May 23 and 24 at Sathankulam police station and died on June 13 at Thoothukudi government hospital. He was bedridden, and suffered a stroke in the days that followed the alleged torture.

Her complaint had also mentioned the name of Sub-Inspector Raghu Ganesh—one of the key accused in the custodial torture and death of Jayaraj and Bennix.

According to Vadivu's complaint, Ganesh contacted the family after Mahendran's death and insisted they refuse a post-mortem. The family was forced to obey him as they were threatened with many more false cases, the complaint said.

MP Lokayukta probes video of ‘senior cop taking envelopes’

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JULY 21

TAKING SUO motu cognisance of a viral video purportedly showing a top police officer accepting envelopes from other officers in a closed room, the Lokayukta in Madhya Pradesh has initiated an inquiry into the matter.

Within hours of the 5.35-minute video going viral on social media on July 18, the state government had transferred IPS officer V Madhu Kumar, the transport commissioner, to the police headquarters late that night.

The 1991-batch officer was Inspector General (Ujjain Range) in 2016 when the video was shot, purportedly in the circuit house in Agar Malwa. The video shows the officer collecting envelopes from junior officials and keeping them in a briefcase.

Responding to calls and text messages, the officer told *The Indian Express* that he would not comment on the matter because the Lokayukta has already initiated a probe. He said he was yet to receive any notice and that he came to know about the inquiry through media reports.

The state government has already appointed Mukesh Jain as the transport commissioner.

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 10/08/2020 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

BHIWANI, BHIWANI, 119170700022845, 3096, 4000, 4108, 4178, 4205, 4211, 4252, 4931, 4945, 4948, 4975, 4989, 4996, 5000, 5026, 5031, 5037, 5067, 5088, 5107, 5116, 5157, 5204, 5213, 119170730012123, CHARKHI DADRI, 138050700000129, 0139, 0145, 0155, 0327, 0331, FARIDABAD, BALLABGARH, 122540700019087, 122540700020687, 0861, 1595, 2424, 2457, 2458, 2523, 2535, 2536, 2547, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2566, 2575, 2578, 2605, 2607, 2608, 2613, 2614, 2627, 2639, 2642, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2656, 2658, 2660, 2661, 2664, 2671, 2679, 2683, 2691, 2693, 2701, 2715, 2722, 2729, 2744, 2745, 2770, 2791, 2836, 122540730000905, 9189, 9190, 9225, 9243, 9288, 9289, 9352, 9376, 9390, 9395, 9397, 9434, 9435, 9436, 9437, 9438, 9439, 9440, 9441, 9442, FARIDABAD, 100910700028803, 8818, 8823, 8841, 8948, 8983, 9854, 9871, 9876, 9877, 9878, 9962, 9963, 9964, 9968, 9978, 9993, 100910700030019, 0075, 0080, 0103, 0114, 0168, 0175, 0229, 100910730008395, 8457, JAWAHAR COLONY, 124310700030120, 1671, 1848, 1892, 1914, 1985, 2041, 3220, 3269, 3326, 3382, 3395, 3397, 3398, 3413, 3435, 3521, 3554, 3596, 3742, 4474, 4909, 4915, 4920, 4951, 4957, 4959, 4981, 4982, 4985, 4987, 4988, 4990, 5020, 5044, 5061, 5065, 5069, 5083, 5087, 5089, 5098, 5118, 5120, 5121, 5123, 5124, 5149, 5160, 5165, 5166, 5179, 5185, 5210, 5155, 5228, 5229, 5230, 5231, 5262, 5263, 5282, 5304, 5305, 5308, 5309, 5324, 5327, 5328, 5336, 5342, 5345, 5348, 5352, 5374, 5377, 5381, 124310730007567, 7692, 8304, 8305, 8364, 8413, NEELAM BATA CHOWK, 112430700016149, 6966, 7009, 1124307300060742, 6743, NIT VK CHOWK ROAD, 118270700020529, 1532, 1549, 1584, 1585, 1622, 1655, 1781, 1839, 1854, 2406, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2556, 2563, 2584, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2591, 2593, 2602, 2604, 2605, 2624, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2645, 2646, 2655, 2656, 2661, 2669, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2703, 2704, 2725, 2730, 2737, 2744, 2746, 2747, 2754, 2755, 2777, 2778, 2804, 2805, 2807, 2808, 118270730006566, 6567, 6568, PALWAL AGRAROAD, 116870700024447, 8788, 9068, 9074, 9247, 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TOP OF THE WORLD



TikTok is already facing problems with authorities in a number of countries

PAKISTAN

TikTok now faces scrutiny over 'immoral' content

PAKISTAN'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS regulator issued a "final warning" to short-form video app TikTok on Monday over "immoral" content posted on the platform, while live streaming app Bigo Live was blocked in the country for the same reason. TikTok, owned by China-based ByteDance, is already facing problems with authorities in a number of countries including India and the US due to security issues. Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said in a statement that it had sent TikTok and Bigo Live notices to moderate content on their platforms, but their response was unsatisfactory.

SUMMIT THAT EXPOSED FAULT LINES ENDS WITH SIGNAL OF SOLIDARITY

EU adopts \$857-billion stimulus to rescue coronavirus-hit economies

Member nations to raise big sums collectively, distribute as grants to hardest-hit European countries

MATINA STEVIS-GRIDNEFF
BRUSSELS, JULY 21

AFTER NEARLY five days of intense haggling, European Union leaders early on Tuesday stepped up to confront one of the gravest challenges in the bloc's history, agreeing to a landmark spending package to rescue their economies from the ravages of the pandemic.

The 750 billion euro (\$857 billion) stimulus agreement, spearheaded by Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and President Emmanuel Macron of France, sent a strong signal of solidarity even as it exposed deep new fault lines in a bloc reshaped by Britain's exit.

The deal was notable for its firsts: European countries will raise large sums by selling bonds collectively, rather than individually; and much of that money will be handed out to member nations hit hardest by the pandemic as grants that do not have



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron at the end of the EU summit in Brussels. AP

to be repaid, and not as loans that would swell their national debts.

Those extraordinary steps reflected a difficult consensus among members: that the scale of the crisis facing them required groundbreaking measures to ensure the bloc's legitimacy, stability and prosperity.

"Europe has shown it is able to break new ground in a special

situation. Exceptional situations require exceptional measures," Merkel said in a news conference at dawn. "A very special construct of 27 countries of different backgrounds is actually able to act together, and it has proven it."

But the lengthy negotiations in Brussels were notable, too, for their exceptional rancor — and it was clear that the pooling of re-

sources and sovereignty had come at a cost.

While there is no underestimating the importance of the agreement — the generosity of its size and the novelty of its mechanisms — the acrimony and dramatics of the four-day meeting betrayed the new divisions within the bloc. They also signaled where the fractures may lie in future crises.

The talks were defined by shifting roles among members now jostling to make their voices heard and for leadership in the absence of Britain, which had often played the part of the thrifty contrarian, fastidious about rules, in past summits.

This time, Merkel, unusually for a German leader, and holding the EU's rotating presidency, put her finger on the scale on behalf of hard-hit southern countries and did battle with the nations she once championed, the northern members that have been less affected by the virus and are wary of the vast sums being thrown around. **NYT**

China makes Covid-negative certificate must for all arrivals

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, JULY 21

ALL FOREIGNERS and Chinese nationals must carry a certificate indicating that they tested negative for Covid-19 before entering China, an official announcement here said on Tuesday.

The certificate should be no older than five days at the time of boarding a flight, said the announcement.

"This will help to ensure safe and orderly restoration of international people-to-people exchanges and economic activities," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said.

China has permitted international flights from certain countries, but not from India. **PTI**

US wants to build coalition to counter China, says Pompeo

Washington sanctions 11 Chinese firms

REUTERS
LONDON, JULY 21

US SECRETARY of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday the United States wants to build a global coalition to counter China as he accused Beijing of exploiting the coronavirus pandemic to further its own interests.

Pompeo, on a visit to London, lauded Prime Minister Boris Johnson for ordering a purge of Huawei gear from its 5G mobile phone network, saying it was the right decision as data could have ended up in the hands of the Chinese Communist Party.

The secretary of state cast China as an aggressor, saying it had made illegal maritime claims, bullied Himalayan countries, covered up the coronavirus outbreak and exploited it to further its own interests in a "disgraceful" way.

"We hope we can build out a coalition that understands the threat and will work collectively to convince the Chinese Communist Party that it is not in their best interest to engage in this kind of behaviour," Pompeo told reporters. "We want to see every nation who understands freedom and democracy...to understand this threat that



The US Secy of State is on an official visit to the UK

the Chinese Communist Party is posing to them."

Meanwhile, the Trump administration barred 11 new Chinese companies from purchasing US technology and products without a special licence, saying the firms were complicit in human rights violations in China's Xinjiang. Nine of the companies that the US cited, including Changji Esquel Textile Co. Ltd., Nanchang O-Film Tech and Hetian Taida Apparel Co. Ltd., were added to the so-called entity list for their use of forced labour, the administration said. Two other companies, Xinjiang Silk Road BGI and Beijing Liuhe BGI, were added for conducting genetic analyses that were used to further the repression of minorities in Xinjiang.

US House slams Chinese aggression in neighbourhood

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JULY 21

THE US House of Representatives has unanimously passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), slamming China's aggression against India in the Galwan Valley and its growing territorial assertiveness in and around disputed areas like the South China Sea.

The NDAA amendment, moved by Congressman Steve Chabot along with Indian-American lawmaker Ami Bera and passed on Monday, said that India and China should work towards de-escalating the situation.

The troops of India and China are locked in a standoff in several areas along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh since May 5. The situation deteriorated last month following the Galwan Valley clashes that left 20 Indian Army personnel dead.

Passed unanimously by the House of Representatives along



The bipartisan amendment to the NDAA was passed unanimously in the House of Representatives

with scores of other amendments, it said that the expansion and aggression of the People's Republic of China in and around disputed territories, such as the Line of Actual Control, the South China Sea, the Senkaku Islands, is of significant concern.

The bipartisan amendment states Congress' opposition to Chinese aggression against India in the Galwan Valley on the India-China border, and expresses its concern toward the growing territorial assertiveness of China. **PTI**

2 women sue Fox News, accusing former anchor of harassment

MICHAEL M GRYNBAUM
JULY 21

FOX NEWS fired Ed Henry, one of the network's most prominent anchors, this month after the network investigated a former employee's accusation of sexual misconduct against him.

On Monday, the former employee sued Henry and Fox News, describing a history of workplace harassment and a relationship with the anchor that she said included violent sex and rape. The woman, Jennifer Eckhart, a former associate producer at Fox Business, said that Henry had coerced her into a sexual relationship by promising to advance her career.

A co-plaintiff, Cathy Areu, a frequent guest on Fox News programs, alleged in the lawsuit that Henry had harassed her, as well, by sending sexually explicit messages. Areu also described exchanges with other Fox News stars, including the anchors Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity and Howard Kurtz, that she called inappropriate and sexually charged.

Fox News, in a statement, said that it had retained an outside law firm to investigate Areu's claims and determined them to be "false, patently frivolous and utterly devoid of any merit". **NYT**

USA

Reporter dies after accident involving Revel Scooter

NINA KAPUR, 26, a reporter for CBS2, died over the weekend, police said, after she fell from a scooter that had been rented from Revel, a moped-sharing company whose Vespa-style vehicles have become a familiar sight on the streets of Brooklyn and Queens. The accident, which a company spokeswoman said was believed to be the first fatality involving a Revel moped, happened Saturday near the intersection of Franklin and India Streets, the police said, in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn.

NEPAL

Ruling party meeting fails to resolve crisis

Kathmandu: The much-awaited meeting of Nepal's ruling communist party on Tuesday failed to sort out the differences between Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and the rival faction led by party executive chairperson Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" as political issues did not figure during the brief deliberations held in the absence of the premier. The meeting of the Standing Committee of the Nepal Communist Party was held at the PM's official residence but it did not discuss political issues, said Ganesh Shah, member of the Standing Committee.

Russia meddled in Scottish vote: UK parliamentary report 'Govt failed to seek deeper assessment'

REUTERS
LONDON, JULY 21

RUSSIA MEDDLED in the 2014 Scottish referendum and the British government failed to ask for a deep assessment of possible Kremlin-directed interference in the Brexit vote, the British Parliament's intelligence and security committee said.

"There has been credible open source commentary suggesting that Russia undertook influence campaigns in relation to the Scottish independence referendum in 2014," the report, which was finished in March 2019 but shelved until Tuesday, said.

It said there were indications that Russia sought to influence the Brexit campaign but the British government had not sought deep evidence of meddling.

The report cast Russia as a hostile power which posed a significant threat to the UK and the West across a range of fronts.

"It appears that Russia consid-

EXPLAINED Rising Russian influence

THE UK parliamentary report warns that Russia's influence has increased in London as many wealthy Russian businessmen, with close connections to Putin, moved to the UK in recent years. The report said that they were forging close ties with some members of the UK House of Lords and indirectly increasing Kremlin's reach. This comes as Russia has been blamed by intelligence agencies of using methods such as infiltration and assassination to destabilise Western nations.

ers the UK one of its top Western intelligence targets," the report said. The report was leaked ahead of its publication time by the Guido Fawkes website.



VIVIENNE WESTWOOD IN ASSANGE PROTEST

Fashion Designer Vivienne Westwood, dressed in yellow, was locked into a giant bird cage outside England's Old Bailey court on Tuesday, in a protest against the imprisonment of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange who is fighting extradition from Britain to the United States. "I am Julian Assange," Westwood said. "I am the canary in the cage. If I die down the coal mine from poisonous gas, that's the signal," she said, calling on authorities to "Free Assange" **Reuters**

Trump threatens to send Feds to more cities

PETER BAKER, ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS & MONICA DAVEY
WASHINGTON, JULY 21

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump plans to deploy federal law enforcement to Chicago and threatened on Monday to send agents to other major cities — all controlled by Democrats.

Governors and other officials reacted angrily to the president's moves, calling it a election-year ploy as they squared off over crime, civil liberties and local control that has spread



He blamed Democrats for agents-protesters clashes

from Portland, Oregon, across the country.

With military-clad agents already sweeping through the streets of Portland, more units

were poised to head to Chicago, and Trump suggested that he would follow suit in New York, Philadelphia, Detroit and other urban centers. Governors and other officials compared his actions to authoritarianism and vowed to pursue legal measures to stop him.

The President cast the confrontation in overtly political terms as he seeks an issue that would gain traction with voters. Trailing badly in the polls with just over 100 days until the November election, Trump assailed the "liberal Democrats" running American cities and

tied the issue to his presumptive fall opponent, former Vice President Joe Biden.

Trump told reporters in the Oval Office: "We're not going to let New York and Chicago and Philadelphia and Detroit and Baltimore and all of these — Oakland is a mess. We're not going to let this happen in our country." The President portrayed the nation's cities as out of control. "Look at what's going on — all run by Democrats...," Trump said. "If Biden got in, that would be true for the country. The whole country would go to hell." **NYT**

CEO of Fortune 500 company quits amid misconduct probe

REUTERS
JULY 21

TAPESTRY INC said on Tuesday that chairman and CEO Jide Zeitlin would step down immediately for personal reasons.

The *Wall Street Journal*, citing people familiar with the matter, said Tapestry's board had hired a law firm to investigate allegations raised by a woman of Zeitlin posing as a photographer under an alias to lure her into a romantic relationship more than a decade ago.

Zeitlin, chairman since 2014, took over as CEO of the Coach handbag maker in September.

Born in the Nigerian city of Ibadan, Zeitlin was adopted by an American family who saw him with his mother — who worked as a domestic help — in Lagos, according to a report in *Forbes*. He lived in Pakistan and the Philippines with his American family before they moved back to the US.

Before his resignation, Zeitlin was one of only five Black CEOs on the Fortune 500.

WITH ENS INPUT

HE SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAMMES AND PROHIBIT NIGHTCLUBS FROM HOLDING LADIES' NIGHTS

'Anti-feminist' identified as suspect in killing of US judge's son

NICOLE HONG,
WILLIAM K RASHBAUM & MIHIR ZAVERI
JULY 21

ROY DEN Hollander was a self-described "anti-feminist" lawyer who flooded the courts with seemingly frivolous lawsuits that sought to eliminate women's studies programmes and prohibit nightclubs from holding "ladies' nights."

In one of his most recent cases, he openly seethed against a federal judge in New Jersey, Esther

Salas, whom he described in a self-published, 1,700-page book as "a lazy and incompetent Latina judge appointed by Obama".

Den Hollander left the case, in which he challenged the male-only US military draft, last summer, telling a lawyer who replaced him that he had terminal cancer.

On Sunday afternoon, Den Hollander showed up at Salas' home in North Brunswick, New Jersey, and fired multiple gunshots, killing the judge's son and seriously wounding her husband, who is a criminal defence lawyer, investigators said. The



Judge Esther Salas' son was killed in an attack on her home

judge, who was in the basement at the time, was not injured.

The New York State Police found Den Hollander's body near Liberty, New York — about a two-hour drive from the judge's home — after he shot himself in an apparent suicide, officials said.

The startling sequence of events was a reminder of the dangers encountered by judges, who typically do not receive special security outside the courthouse unless they face specific threats.

The FBI on Monday contacted New York state's chief

judge, Janet M. DiFiore, to notify her that Den Hollander had her name and photo in his car, according to her spokesman, Lucian Chalfen. The agents did not indicate whether Den Hollander had intended to target her as well, he said.

Investigators were exploring whether Den Hollander had decided to "take out" some of his enemies, given his cancer diagnosis, before he died, according to one law enforcement official.

Den Hollander, 69, identified with a broader movement of men who in often abusive,

misogynist and hateful language rail against "feminazis." He wrote numerous online screeds, some of which exceeded 1,000 pages.

The judge's husband, Mark Anderl, 63, was in the hospital in stable condition, Carlos Salas, an older brother of Salas, said. The couple's son and only child, Daniel Anderl, 20, died from a gunshot wound to the heart.

Daniel Anderl was about to start his junior year at Catholic University of America in Washington and was interested in pursuing a legal career as his parents had. **NYT**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

My actual/correct-DOB is 11.01.1998 as mentioned in my birth-certificate but in CBSE-certificate wrongly-mentioned as -18.07.1997.Rounak Saluja S/o-Jasbir Saluja,R/o-6/66, West-Punjabi-Bagh, New Delhi.

0040542397-8

I, TK Savitha W/o Gauranga Charan Patra R/o 148, SectorK-3A, Kalinga Nagar, Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar, Malipada, Khordha, Orissa-751003, have changed my name to Sabita Rani Patra 0070709106-1

I, Alimuddin Karimuddin Syed S/o-Syed Karimuddin Bismillahshah R/o-1206, Tower-28, 12th-Floor,Lotus-Boulevard, Sector-100,Noida, UP,have changed my son's name Azizuddin Syed to Azizuddin Alimuddin Syed. 0040542427-2

I MOHAMMAD FARZAN FARID S/O FARID AKHTAR, H.NO-F-302, TAJ-ENCLAVE, GEETA COLONY, DELHI-110031. Have Changed My Name To FARZAAN FARID.

0040542397-7

I Garima Kapoor D/o Ravinder Kumar Arora R/o-G-103 Shukan Orched, New C.G.Road, Chandkheda, Ahmedabad-382424,have Changed my Name to Garima Arora for all purposes 0040542374-1

I Gulvinder Kaur W/O-Harvinder Singh Marwah R/O W-24-44C, Mukherjee Park,PN-38, Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018,Have changed my Name to Gulvinder Kaur Marwah. 0040542427-6

I Harshit Rathour S/o Jugender Singh Rathore R/o-1/7289 Gali No-5 Gorakh Park Shahdara Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Harshit Rathore. 0040542397-9

I Ishu Garg D/O Naresh Garg R/O W-27-17-A,Krishna Puri,Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018. Have Changed my Name to Bhumika Garg. 0040542397-3

I Monika W/O Satpal Sharma R/O,H.No- 17, Sardar-Patel Jheel Pooth Kalan Rohini Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Rashi Sharma. 0040542397-1

I Parvati Sharma alias Parwati alias Baljeet Kaur D/o Late Sh.Sukh Dayal W/o Sh.Baldev Singh R/O D-226, B-Block, Front of GSS School, Sector-1, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Baljeet Kaur for all purposes. 0040542372-1

I Priyansh S/o Narendra Kumar R/o-Flat.No-109 First-Floor Tuscan City, Kundli, Sonipat-131029 Haryana, have changed my name to Priyansh Kashyap For All Purpose 0040542396-1

I, Alimuddin Karimuddin Syed S/o-Syed Karimuddin Bismillahshah R/o-1206, Tower-28, 12th-Floor,Lotus-Boulevard, Sector-100,Noida, UP,have changed my son's name Azimuddin Syed to Azimuddin Alimuddin Syed. 0040542427-1

I, Baboo Nandan S/o Sh. Somaru Ram R/o H-280, Raj Nagar-II, Palm Colony, New Delhi-110077 have changed my name from Babu Nandan to Baboo Nandan for all future purposes. 0040542409-1

I, Dharni Sisodiya D/o Surendra Singh Sisodiya R/o Mata Mandir Road, Ward No-07, Ashoknagar, Guna, MP-473331, have finally changed my name to Dharni Singh Sisodiya 0070709097-1

I, GOPAL DATT PATHAK S/O-MOTI RAM PATHAK, H.NO-6/7 BLOCK-JK BHAGWATI GRDN-EXTN D.K-MOHAN-GRDN DELHI-110059,have changed my name to GOPAL PATHAK. 0040542397-4

I, Sunder Lal S/o Jaswant Ram R/o Naya Gaon Malhan, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001, have changed my name to Ayush Kholia Mridul 0070709101-1

I, Harshita D/o Sh.Sanjiv Kumar R/O,H.No-1082, Sector-15, Sonipat, Haryana-131001, have changed my name to Harshita Dahiya for all future Purposes. 0040542427-5

I, Soniya, R/o, C/o Nagesh Choudhary, 125, Village-Kirari, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086 have changed my minor child's Name from HARSH CHAUDHARY to PRINCE CHAUDHARY. 0070709089-1

I, Sanjeev Kumar S/o-Attar Chand Dhawan R/o-C-2,Ground-Floor, Street.No.2, Near-Jharoda,Hardev-Nagar, Delhi-110084, have changed My name,from Sanjeev Kumar to Sanjeev Dhawan, for all future purposes. 0040542397-10

I, RAJIV ARORA S/O AMAR NATH R/o-460, DADA-JANTA FLATS PUL-PEHLADPUR, DELHI-10044 have changed my name to RAJEEV KUMAR PUNIYANI. 0040542397-5

I, P. Thappan Kumar Alias Tapan Kumar Patra S/o Raj Kishore Patra R/o 148, SectorK-3A, Kalinga Nagar, Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar, Malipada, Khordha, Orissa-751003, have changed my name to Gauranga Charan Patra 0070709104-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client **SH. SHEEL KUMAR D/O LATE SH. RAN SINGH R/O F-411, MAHIPALPUR, NEW DELHI-110037** has severed all his relations from his son **SH. GOURAV KUMAR**, his wife **SMT. POOJA**, his legal heirs and their associates, disowned and disbarred all of them from all his movable and immovable properties with immediate effect because of harassment, torture, cruelty, atrocities committed by them against my client. Any person dealing with them shall be doing so at their own risk, cost and consequences. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for the same.

A.K. Verma (Advocate & Consultant)
319, S.R.I. District Centre, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients **Sh. Ghanishyam Baswal S/o Late, Sh. Mangal Ram and his wife namely Smt. Santosh R/o- F 629, JJ Camp, Tigr, New Delhi -110062** have served all their relations with their son **Sh. Krishan Kant Baswal**, his wife **Kajal kirar** and his son **Harsam Kumar Baswal**, and have disowned them from all their movable and immovable properties due to their misdeeds and ill behavior. My client shall not be responsible for any act of the above said persons in any manner.

Rahul Kumar Thakur (Advocate)
Ch. No. D-705, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-32

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform general public that my clients **Sh. Bhupesh Yadav s/o Sh. Li. Harish Chander Yadav & Smt. Madhu Yadav w/o Sh. Bhupesh Yadav D/o Late, Babu Singh Yadav s/o Smt. A. Street No. 18, Na Basti, Anand Parvat, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005** have disowned and disbarred their son **Sh. Mahesh Kumar Yadav** and his individual family consisting of wife **Mrs. Neelam Yadav** from her all movable and immovable property assets on account of their misdeeds and ill behavior. My clients shall not be responsible for any act of the above said persons in law and in fact that they will be doing so entirely at their own risk.

C.B. Singh, Advocate
Mis Chandra & Associates
206, A.J. Chamber, Bank Street, New Delhi-110002, India
011-43584754

PUBLIC NOTICE
By the execution of Adoption Deed Registration No. 1455, in Book No.3, Volume No. 660, Pages 171 to 175 Dated 17-7-2020 on Friday in the o/o S.R.I.A, Delhi, Sh. Ashish, Kuchhal & Smt. Ruchi Kuchhal both R/o 827, Kuchhal Niwas, Sonipat have adopted an infant boy of Biological widow mother **Smt. Poonam having A.C. No. 71595-8856131 & Sh. Late Lalit. Name of infant boy is Harshit Kuchhal & DOB 08/07/2020**

Balram Bagla (Advocate)
En. No. D/1841/2019

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for the information of general public that my client **Smt. Harpreet Kaur Mahotra w/o Sh. Surinder pal mahotra**, a share holder of **Sh. Surinder and vikasputi New Delhi-16**, has severed all their family relations with their daughter in law and grand daughter **sahiba Mahotra and Irvya mahotra** as she is quite disloyal, disrespectful, disobedient and also disown their said daughter in law from inheriting their movable and/or immovable properties in any manner whatsoever. Any body dealing with the said daughter in law of my client shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk and costs.

Sd/- Ginny Sharma (Advocate)
D-4533/2016
Mobile: 9910977168

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client **Sh. Salekh Kumar Mangla (HUF)** through its **Karta Salekh Kumar Mangla S/o Sh. B.L. Agarwal, Sh. Navinder Gupta, S/o Sh. Shriharan, Sh. Santosh Kumar Gupta S/o Sh. Mohd Lal Gupta and Sh. Husein Kumar Jangal S/o Sh. Ramnagar Jangal** intend to sale their share bearing no. W-64/60, on land measuring 200 Sq. yds. i.e. 167.22 Sq. Mtrs. South Nagar, New Delhi-110018, which has been bought from **Sh. Anil Sharma S/o Sh. Jang Bahadur Sharma**. Any person or persons having any right, title and interest in the said property by **Sh. Anil Sharma** should send their claim in writing to the undersigned within 7 days of publication of the said notice, failing which claim if any shall be deemed to have been waived.

Sd/- TANVEER YADAV ADVOCATE
CHAMBER NO.-440, 4TH FLOOR
DWARKA COURT COMPLEX,
SECTOR-14 DWARKA,
NEW DELHI-110075
Mob. No.: 982524549

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify that we, **Rajesh Gupta & Sunil Kumar Gupta** intend to create a charge viz. Mortgage or otherwise, on basis of laminated original Title Deed of residential building bearing survey no. B-20, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110085 (Metro) Admeasuring area 70 sq. mtr. We wish to create charge for availing loan/credit facility from State Bank of India, 23, Najafgarh Road, New Delhi-110015. In case any party has any claim towards the said relevant property, the same should be lodged with the lending party and also with the above stated branch of State Bank of India, within 15 days of publication of this notice.

Dhyanish Srivastava Advocate
Chamber No.- 75-A, Civil side
Tis Hazari Court-Delhi-110054

Contingendum No-63
The following change has been made against **Tender No. DYCE/CON3/DMM/Design published vide Tender Notice No. DY/CE/CON-3/DMM/2020/MAY/03**, Dated: 16-05-2020. **Please read as: Date of Closing/Opening from 21-07-2020 to 04-08-2020.** All other terms and conditions will remain same. For details, please visit **www.jncps.gov.in**

Dy.Chief Engineer-Con-3/DMM/ Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Division)
"Serving Customers with a smile"

Shifting, Relocation and Alteration of existing Signaling and Telecomm. works.
TENDER NOTICE No.- S&T-CON-2020-09, 3-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **E-Tender No. Dy.CSTE-C-APCU-2020-09-01**, Name of work: **Shifting, Relocation and Alteration of existing Signaling and Telecomm. works in Triv. Agartala Section of Rangpur Division to facilitate Engineering Construction works (e.g. Earth work, Bridges, FCB, FOB etc.) in connection with New Bangladesh - Agartala via Rangpur Doubling Project.** Approximate cost of the work: **₹2,80,30,000/-**. Earnest money: **₹2,00,00,00/-**. E-Tender will be closed at **12:00 hrs. on 14-08-2020 & Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 14-08-2020**. For details, please visit **www.jncps.gov.in**

Dy.Chief Engineer, Con-3/DMM, Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Division)
"Serving Customers with a smile"

"IMPORTANT"
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Sd/- (ANIL TOMAR) Advocate
Ch. No. 536, Saket Court, New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BUILDINGS (CAM) CIRCLE, MEDICAL WORKS, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 600 005.
NIT No. 1/ 2020-2021 / BCMC/ MW / CHENNAI Date : 20.07.2020
FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMPSUM (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Medical Works, Chepauc, Chennai-5 invites tender for the following work at his Office upto 3.00 P.M. on 25.08.2020 in two sealed covers containing, Cover (1) Pre-Qualification details and EMD in a separate inner cover and Cover (2) Price Tender Schedule in another sealed cover and put into one common sealed cover from the experienced and Registered Contractors/ Firms in Public Works Department as detailed below. The Pre-Qualification will alone be opened at 3.30 P.M. on the same day.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Appx. value of work including G.S.T. (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Period of Completion	Cost of tender documents with GST (in Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Providing Infrastructures facilities such as Compound Wall, Approach Road, Pavement, Storm Water Drain, Culvert and other works to the New Government Medical College and Hospital at Thiruvallur in Thiruvallur District.	1050.00	Rs.5,35,000/-	12 (Twelve) Months	Rs.15,000/- + Rs.1800/- (GST)

Eligible Registration Class of Contractor : Registered in Class-I in State Level (Rs.75.00 Lakhs and above).

Cost of Tender Schedule and EMD to be remitted in favour of : The Executive Engineer, PWD, Buildings Construction Division-II, Medical Works, Chepauc, Chennai-5.

All other details including EMD, Qualification criteria are incorporated in the tender documents, which are available in the following website and can be downloaded at free of cost **www.tenders.tn.gov.in**.

The Tender documents can also be available in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Building Construction & Maintenance Circle, Medical Works, Chepauc, Chennai - 600 005 during office hours upto **05.45 PM** by remitting cost of Tender Schedule as furnished as above column 6 by remitting through Challan in State Bank of India, Chennai-1 and any Clarification will be entertained during office hours on working days upto **24.08.2020**.

DIPR/ 2722 /TENDER/2020 **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD,**

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
The Executive Engineer Spiti Division, H.P.P.W.D. Kaza on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible Class of Contractor	Time
1	C/o 54.86 mtr. Span Bailey over Spiti River at Sushna at RD 54/650 of Sumdo Kaza BRO road to provide alternate link to Attargoo Sagnam Mud Bhawa road (SH: C/o Sub-Structure, RHS Approach, LHS approach and protection wall thereof).	1,08,87,441/-	1,42,000/-	5000/-	"A"	Two Year

1. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website **https://hptenders.gov.in**. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: **https://hptenders.gov.in**. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. **Key Dates:**

1. Date of Online Publication	07.08.2020 10:00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	07.08.2020 11:00 HRS upto 17.08.2020 10:00 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	07.08.2020 11:00 HRS upto 17.08.2020 10:00 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	17.08.2020 upto to 10:30 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	17.08.2020 11.00 HRS

4. **TENDER DETAILS:**
The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover: Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information". Cover-2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. **SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:** The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/o Superintending Engineer, 11th Circle, HPPWD., Rampur as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. **BID OPENING DETAILS:** The bids shall be opened on 17.08.2020 at 11.00 HRS in the office Superintending Engineer, 11th Circle, HPPWD. Rampur by the authorised officer. In their interest the tender is advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

9. Tender documents shall be issued to those contractors/Firms who has submitted the certificate from Executive Engineer concerned to the effect that the he has completed successfully similar nature of works during last five years in respect of tarring works.

Executive Engineer, Spiti B&R Division, HPPWD Kaza.

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
1. **The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No.I, HPPWD, Shimla-3, H.P.** on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time Allowed
1	Construction/Improvement on circular road i Shimla Town (SH: C/o Pedestrian path with chequered plate in RD. 152/500 to 152/630 and raised PCC foot path safety railings in RD's 150/670 to 151/00, 151/120 to 151/540 & 152/640 to 153/00 and Crush barrier WBM railings in RDs 148/940 to 149/00, 149/020 to 149/390, 150/450 to 150/500, 151/480 to 151/810, 148/00 to 148/110 and 148/500 to 148/640 on MRR via Lakkar Bazar) (Under Smart City in Shimla Town).	19265492/-	348000/-	5000/-	180 days
2	Contraction/Improvement of pedestrian path on Circular road in Shimla Town (SH: Re-Construction W-Beam railing on RD. 145/100 to 145/200, 145/440 to 145/990, 145/550 to 145/600, 145/760 to 145/825, 145/845 to 145/952, 145/952 to 146/180, 146/520 to 147/045, 147/060 to 147/270, 147/390 to 147/870, 147/945 to 148/105, 148/265 to 148/326 and 148/590 to 149/00). (Under Smart City in Shimla Town).	9700983/-	129500/-	2000/-	180 days

2. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:** The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website **https://hptenders.gov.in**. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: **https://hptenders.gov.in**. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender

3. **Key Dates:**

1. Date of Online Publication	29.07.2020 18.00 HRS
2. Documents Download Start and End Date	29.07.2020 18.00 HRS upto 13.08.2020 6.00 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	29.07.2020 18.00 HRS upto 13.08.2020 6.00 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	14.08.2020 upto 10.30 HRS
5. Date of Opening of Technical Bids Date of Opening of Financial Bids	14.08.2020 11.00 HRS

4. **TENDER DETAILS:**
The Tender Documents shall be uploaded On-line in 2 Covers: i) **Cover-1** shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility". ii) **Cover-2** shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bids", where Contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. **SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:** The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in the O/o Executive Engineer Shimla Division No-I HPPWD, Shimla-3 as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. **BID OPENING DETAILS:** The Technical bids shall be opened on 14.08.2020 at 11:00 HRS in the office of Executive Engineer, Shimla HPPWD Shimla, H.P. by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Eligibility criteria:-

(i) The bidders must have successfully completed similar nature of one work not less than 40 % of estimated cost during the last five years under Govt. Department State or Central PSU,s (without Liquidated damages or compensation).

(ii) The executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

1745/HP

E-Tendering Notice
U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.
E-Tender Notice-14/ECTC/AGRA/2020-21
E-Tender in two parts, Part-I & Part-II valid for four months are invited for the work mentioned as under:-

Tender Specification No.	Name of Work	Period of Work	Earnest Money	Tester Cost (including GST) & Nit Charges	Total Tender Cost	Date and Time of Submission	Date and Time of opening
28	Construction of General Toilet, Roof treatment, Maintenance & Repair of 54 Khamba Transmission office Building at 220 KV Sub-station Sikandra Agra	02 Month	8500.00	590 + 250	840.00	24.08.2020 (12:00)	25.08.2020 (12:00)

The tender document against this bid specification can be downloaded from e-procurement website **http://tender.up.nic.in** & **www.upptcl.org**. Tenders can be only submitted on e-procurement website **http://tender.up.nic.in** upto schedule date & time as above. Cost of Tender and Earnest Money Submitted in the Account of Executive Engineer, Electricity Civil Transmission Division, 220 KV S/S Sikandra (Agra) with A/C No.-30065234823, IFSC Code- SBIN0005717 Payable at S.B.I Foundry Nagar (Agra) Pin Code-282006, through NEFT/RTGS. "SAVE ENERGY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ELECTRICITY CIVIL TRANSMISSION CIRCLE, AGRA. पत्रांक-927 डिवायन/विभाग/नियंत्रण/दिनांक-21.07.2020

SEARCH OF MISSING
General public is hereby informed that one person, (depicted in the photo) **Namely: Phool Singh, S/o: Lt. Sh. Jungh Bahadur Singh, R/o: F-155, C-172, JJ Colony, Kharpur, New Delhi, Aged: 72 years, has been missing from P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi since 29.06.2020. In this regard, a Case Vide DD No. 68A, Dated 01.07.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:**
Height: 5'3" Feet, Complexion: Whealish, Face: Long, Built: Normal, Wearing: Cream Colour Shirt and Pant.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Neb Sarai, New Delhi at E-mail: **cic@cbl.gov.nic.in or website: **http://cbl.nic.in** FaxNo. 011-**
S.H.O
P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi
DP/127/SD/2020. Ph: 011-29551326, 29551597, 8750870835

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.
(A State Govt. Undertaking)
CORRIGENDUM
The last date of receipt and opening of Tender(s) for Sale of Non-Solar Renewable Power or Normal Power on short term basis called vide NIT No. 15-03/2020 is hereby **EXTENDED** up to **28.07.2020 at 01:00 PM** and shall be opened at **03:00 PM** on the same day. NIT and corrigendum are already available at HPSEB website i.e. **www.hpseb.com** and **www.hpseidc.org**.
Chief Engineer (System Operation)
HPSEB Ltd., Vidyal Bhawan, SHIMLA-171004.
"Save Energy for Benefit of Self and Nation" Stay Home - Stay Safe

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
B.D.C.No.81/1617/2019
e - Re- TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited for the Superintending Engineer (Buildings) for the following work as per details furnished below
Supply, Install, Operate and Maintenance of 191 seats SUE Toilet (Precast RCC Toilets) for 2 years under Nirbhaya Scheme in various location from Zone-1 to 15 Greater Chennai Corporation
For more information see **http://tntenders.gov.in** & **www.chennaiacorporation.gov.in**
Tender Works Value approx. **Rs.8,04,72,700/-** EMD Amount **Rs.8,05,000/-**
Tender Date and Time: **03.09.2020 upto 3.00 P.M.**
Tender open Date and Time: **04.09.2020 at 3.30 P.M.**
DIPR/2719/Tender/2020 Superintending Engineer (Buildings)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJA RAMANNA CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, INDORE
e-TENDER NOTICE
e NIT No: RRCA/T/C&S/2003/004/W-4038/2020/01 Dated, 16.07.2020
Online item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering mode by Chief Engineer, RRCA/T, PO-RRCA/T, Indore, 452013, on behalf of President of India in two bids, from eligible contractors for the work **Construction of vertical extent of ADL building and lateral expansion of BDL building, including internal PD lines and external service connections at RRCA/T, Indore. Estimated cost ₹ 360,00,000/- Earnest Money: ₹ 3,20,00,000/- Completion Period 18 Months. Tender Processing Fee ₹ 5,900/-**. Detailed NIT & tender document can be downloaded from the website **www.tenderwizard.com/DAE** from **28.07.2020 (10:00 Hrs) to (15:00 Hrs) on 17.08.2020**. Date of pre bid meeting: **21.08.2020**. Last date of closing of tender uploading (i.e. submission **25.08.2020 (15:00 Hrs)**. Submission of physical EMD & hard copies of document from 9:00 hours on **28.08.2020 to 15:15 hrs. on 01.09.2020**. Online opening of Technical Bid on **01.09.2020 at 15:30 Hrs**. Financial Bids of qualified bidders will be opened at a later date to be notified separately. The detailed NIT can also be viewed & downloaded from **www.rrccat.gov.in**. After free viewing of Tender Documents in PDF Format, interested agency to download Technical & Financial Bids in Excel Format for participating, using their User ID / Password & Class III DSC before last date of sale. Registered agencies only can purchase / download & submit / upload tenders. Agencies may visit above website for registration. Contact for assistance / clarifications @ **8602465460**, e-mail : **twelpdesk777@gmail.com** Chief Engineer, RRCA/T For and on behalf of president of India

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board
Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi
Office of the Executive Engineer, C-10 Indorok, Delhi-110035
Email ID: **ee10.dusib@gmail.com**
Mobile No.- 9717999192
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Executive Engineer, C-10, DUSIB, Indorok, Delhi-110035 invites/re-invites, on behalf of Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, percentage rate bid (Online) in two bid system for the following work(s):
(1) **NIT No. 02/EEC-10/DUSIB/2020-21 Tender No. 2020_DUSIB_192615_1 Name of work:** MLA LAD Fund. **Sub Head:** Construction of Tharaps, Platform to be used as open chaupal by the local residents of SC/ST Basti at Hardyan Singh Road and Military Road in AC-23 Karol Bagh. **Estimated cost:** Rs. 32,53,684.00 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 65,100.00 **Tender Cost:** Rs. 500.00 **Period of completion:** 120 Days
(2) **NIT No. 03/EEC-10/DUSIB/2020-21 Tender No. 2020_DUSIB_192617_1 Name of work:** MLA LAD Fund. **Sub Head:** Improvement of Existing Lane by Providing and Laying CC Pavement and Drainage System at B-Block, Mota Khan, Double Story Quarter in AC-23 Karol Bagh. **Estimated cost:** Rs. 47,99,786.00 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 96,000.00 **Tender Cost:** Rs. 500.00 **Period of completion:** 180 Days
(3) **NIT No. 04/EEC-10/DUSIB/2020-21 Tender No. 2020_DUSIB_192618_1 Name of work:** Improvement of SC/ST Basties, GNCTD. **Sub Head:** Refurbishment and covering of open platforms by steel roof trusses at Block F.C and B at JRR Colony, Indir Puri in AC-39 (Rajinder Nagar). **Estimated cost:** Rs. 29,62,470.00 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 59,300.00 **Tender Cost:** Rs. 500.00 **Period of completion:** 180 Days
(4) **NIT No. 05/EEC-10/DUSIB/2021 Tender No. 2020_DUSIB_192620_1 Name of work:** Improvement of SC/ST Basti in NCT of Delhi. **Sub Head:** Improvement of Internal Lanes at (Block no. B) New Rajender Nagar by Providing and Laying CC Pavement and Drainage System in ward no. 96 (EB No. 39 to 40) in AC-24 Patel Nagar. **Estimated cost:** Rs. 35,34,488.00 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 70,700.00 **Tender Cost:** Rs. 500.00 **Period of completion:**

17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 37,930.33 ▲ 511.34 NIFTY: 11,162.25 ▲ 140.05 NIKKEI: 22,884.22 ▲ 166.74 HANG SENG: 25,635.66 ▲ 577.67 FTSE: 6,293.17 ▲ 31.65 DAX: 13,273.14 ▲ 226.22

International market data till 1900 IST

BATTLING COVID-19 IMPACT ON GROWTH, SLUMP IN REVENUE COLLECTION

Debt monetisation: Indonesia plans to buy \$40 bn in sovereign bonds, FinMin says open to concept

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

INDONESIAN CENTRAL bank's move to purchase \$40 billion in sovereign bonds, as part of a debt monetisation programme, could set a precedent for other emerging markets, including India, to look at this option as a way to raise funds for supporting the economy hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the Finance Ministry has argued that it has an open mind with regard to this proposal, the idea is gaining traction among policymakers facing challenge of contraction in growth and slump in revenue collections. "We should not close this option (monetisation), but discuss in detail what could be its impact on inflation, debt sustainability and currency market. Indonesia is already starting to do it," a senior government official said.

Sources said the Centre is

'FRESH MEASURES LIKELY IN SEPTEMBER'

■ Sources said the Centre is preparing the next set of measures that would be required to support economic activity. These measures are likely to be announced from beginning of September.

■ While fundraising through asset sales and

offer for sale route for selling equity shares in state-owned companies are among the measures to shore up non-tax revenues, direct monetisation by selling bonds to the RBI is another way of raising additional funds at lower cost

preparing the next set of measures that would be required to support economic activity. These measures are likely to be announced from beginning of September. While fundraising through asset sales and offer for sale route for selling equity shares in state-owned companies are among the measures to shore up non-tax revenues, direct monetisation by selling bonds to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is another way of raising additional

funds at lower cost.

"The government had announced a Rs 20 lakh crore of package to address various needs of the economy in the first round. Now nobody knows for how long this pandemic will last. As the information relating to various aspects of the economy comes in, we are trying to provide relief within the constraints. The government is expected to respond, by people and industry, by giving something

more than you already have," another official said, indicating that next set of measures are being worked out.

"There is a view that rating agencies will react to further jump in fiscal deficit, but there is also a counter view that strategies deployed to boost growth through higher spending will be taken positively. These are constraints within which we are studying various options," the official said. Amid rising debt levels and falling revenues, monetisation could be one way of supporting government's spending plans but it could have negative implications on inflation, currency and any possible reaction by rating agencies. Finance Ministry officials did not respond to queries seeking comments for the story.

Monetisation simply means that the RBI directly funds the central government's deficit. Until 1997, the government used to sell securities — ad hoc Treasury-Bills

— directly to the RBI, and not to financial market participants. This allowed the government to technically print equivalent amount of currency to meet its Budget deficit.

Among emerging markets, Indonesia last month announced a plan of direct monetisation totalling \$40 billion to its central bank. These funds are being raised to support funding for health care, food security and provide a stimulus package for small and large companies. In India, while the RBI provides support to the bond market through its open market operations in the secondary market, it does not monetise the government's deficit. A report by SBI economic research team Monday recommended direct monetisation as a plausible way of funding the Centre's deficit at lower rates without increasing inflation and affecting debt sustainability. Many economists have suggested this as a means to support the economy in these times of slump.

Green shoots visible, interventions can happen in future: Sitharaman

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

STATING THAT signs of economic recovery are visible, especially in rural areas, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the government has kept all options open to support the economy and more interventions can happen in the future. She also said that no sector will be in exclusive control of public sector and PSUs will be present only in pre-determined strategic sectors.

"The green shoots are based on the high frequency indicators. We will go along as we watch them. It's not as if we have concluded that the economy has seen green shoots and therefore, we won't take any more steps. We have kept all the options necessary, absolutely open. The government is willing to participate, talk with everybody and see what best has to be done, interventions can happen even in the future depending on how the industry responds," she said while addressing the 2020 India Ideas Summit organized by the US-India Business Council (USIBC).

The Finance Minister said the steps taken during the lockdown have borne fruit. "...during the lockdown the several things that have been done have now borne fruits that I can confidently tell you that we are able to see green shoots...the stimulus that we gave which has touched about 10 per cent of the GDP has actually made the difference for the com-



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses the India Ideas Summit via video conferencing in New Delhi. PTI

panies which want to come out of the lockdown and the effects of the lockdown," she said.

Measures taken by the government are having a positive impact on the ground for various sectors including MSMEs, she said adding that the government together with the Indian industry together will ensure a good, speedy and sustainable recovery post the pandemic.

Sitharaman said the rural economy is driving the economic revival. "We have had a very good summer crop. All of what was necessary has been procured at reasonable price so that farmers are not left high and dry looking for purchasers. Now the estimate for the kharif crop has also come. We can clearly see the agriculture sector is driving the revival," she said.

Speaking at the same event, Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj said the government will

soon announce privatisation policy for public sector companies and also soon come out with a production linked incentive scheme for more sectors like for mobile phones and pharmaceutical sector.

Bajaj said that asset monetisation in road, power, railways is a priority and the government is making efforts towards it apart from spending on infrastructure. "One important thing that I would like to mention is a thing that should soon come out is the privatisation of the public sector companies. This is a major announcement. I would say after 1956 when we decided to have public sector enterprises as our showpieces, this is the first time that any government has said that we will not have companies in the non-strategic sector in the public sector and in the strategic sectors also we will have less number of companies."

How revised I-T Form 26AS will increase info flow to authorities

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

IN A move which will enhance the flow of information between taxpayers and tax authorities, the Income Tax Department has launched a revised Form 26AS or Annual Information Statement from this assessment year that will reflect details of all high-value transactions. Since the details of high-value transactions will now be reflected to the taxpayers in the new form as against the tax department earlier receiving information from financial institutions and then acting upon it, there will now be a greater onus on taxpayers to be comply voluntarily.

What is Form 26AS?

Form 26AS is a consolidated annual tax statement that in-

cludes information on tax deducted/collected at source, advance tax, self-assessment that is available on the Income Tax website against a taxpayer's Permanent Account Number (PAN).

In May, the Income Tax Department notified the new annual information statement in Form 26AS, effective June 1.

What are the details in it?

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a statement said the Income Tax Department used to receive information like cash deposit/withdrawal from saving bank accounts, sale/purchase of immovable property, time deposits, credit card payments, pur-

chase of shares, debentures, foreign currency, mutual funds, buy-back of shares, cash payment for goods and services, etc. under Section 285BA of Income-tax Act, 1961 from "specified persons" like banks, mutual funds, institutions issuing bonds and registrars or sub-registrars etc, with regard to individuals having high-value financial transactions since the financial year 2016. "Now, all such information under different Statement of Financial Transactions (SFTs) will be shown in the new Form 26AS," it said.

As per Section 285BA of the Income-tax Act, filers are required to furnish a Statement of Financial Transaction for specified transactions during the financial year to

the income-tax authority or such other prescribed authority.

Banks and other prescribed reporting financial institutions in their SFTs record details of transactions involving cash deposits aggregating to Rs 10 lakh or more in a financial year, in one or more accounts (other than a current account and time deposit), cash payments made by any person totalling over Rs 1 lakh, payments of bills for one or more credit card of Rs 10 lakh or more by a person in a financial year, among others.

What is the road ahead?

The tax department will now move towards providing more auto-filled details of financial transactions in income tax returns (ITRs). For example, as of now, Form 26AS will reflect details of sale/purchase of a property but with auto-filled details in ITRs, the

taxpayer will be able to see an approximate amount of tax as per the relevant tax rate.

"As we go further, all information will be collected and given at one place. As a common taxpayer, any economic activity which results in any profit, if it's available at one place, then it will stay in my mind during return filing. It's like a tick box, one can keep ticking this is correct or this is incorrect and needs to be changed. It will facilitate correct filing of return and when the correct filing is done, correct taxes get paid. And once the correct taxes are paid, where is the question of any scrutiny. Scrutiny will only come for the mismatch. And if it comes as well, so then it can be explained in this manner," CBDT Chairman PC Mody told *The Indian Express*.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Rahul Bajaj to step down as Bajaj Finance chairman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

INDUSTRIALIST RAHUL Bajaj will step down as Non-Executive Chairman of Bajaj Finance on July 31, after being at the helm of the company for over three decades.

He will be succeeded by Sanjiv Bajaj, currently Vice Chairman, the Bajaj Finance said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday.

Rahul Bajaj, non-executive chairman of the company, having been at the helm since 1987 and the group for over five decades, as part of succession planning, has decided to demit the office as chairman of the board with effect from close of business hours on July 31, 2020, the company said. Bajaj, however, will continue to serve the company as non-executive non-independent director.

DoT to telcos: Conduct physical verification of bulk subscribers every 6 months, note details of premises

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

IN AN effort to prevent misuse of bulk connections by terror outfits and other anti-social elements, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has asked telecom companies to include details such as latitude and longitude of the premises along with the date and time when the physical verifi-

cation of such customers is done. The latest guidelines by DoT come after inputs from security agencies under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) indicated that terror outfits could be using bulk connections issued under false and fake company names to avoid being intercepted during their communications.

In the new guidelines, the DoT has said telcos should conduct the physical verification of such bulk

subscribers every six months and note the latitude and longitude of the premises along with the date and time every time. "The licensee shall identify gibberish entries (that is single nonsensical word or group of nonsensical words) in their existing CAF (customer acquisition form) and data, and shall remove all such anomalies," the DoT said in its latest guidelines.

For such bulk connection requests made by subscribers on be-

half of some company, the connection should not be activated unless the details such as name of the company, the authorised signatory, and key officials are cross-verified from the details present on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs's portal, the DoT said. As per the present norms, telcos are required to furnish details of new bulk connections on a monthly basis to a senior deputy director general of the DoT's vigilance department.

AMD COVID-19

'Higher forex kitty to lower borrowing cost, net more foreign funds'

Record forex reserves of \$516 billion will help greater foreign fund inflows and lower the cost of overseas funds for corporates, a Bank of America report said

14.9 Number of months of imports that will be sufficiently covered by the present forex reserves

Given the high forex cover, flat current account will be achieved if: ■ \$43.7 a barrel is average oil price for the year

■ \$7 billion of FPI is pumped in for the year

88.7% Share of foreign investments covered by forex kitty

Why this is important: As per the report, rupee has outperformed its peers like the currencies of Brazil, Russia, Turkey and South Africa during the pandemic shock

Source: Bank of America/PTI

Sebi amends insider trading norms; entities to keep database on UPSI

New Delhi: Sebi on Tuesday amended insider trading norms, wherein listed entities will have to maintain a structured digital database containing nature of unpublished price-sensitive information.

The amendments include providing for maintaining a structured digital database containing nature of unpublished price-sensitive information (UPSI), the names of persons who have shared the information, automation of the process of filing disclosures to stock exchanges, and restriction on trading window.

In another development, Sebi said stricter surveillance measures to tackle market volatility amid coronavirus pandemic will continue till August 27. On March 20, the capital markets regulator had come out with various measures, including revision of market wide position limit, to ensure orderly trading and settlement to contain high market volatility. Besides, ensuring orderly trading and settlement, these steps were aimed at effective risk management, price discovery and maintenance of market integrity.

On review of COVID-19 pandemic related situation, it has been decided that the regulatory measures introduced on March 20, shall continue to be in force till August 27, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a statement. PTI

Pharma body moves HC over qualifications of IPAB member

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

PHARMACEUTICAL LOBBY group Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA) has moved the Delhi High Court against the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) over the qualifications of the technical member currently overseeing patent matters at IPAB. Sources said IDMA claims that the technical member under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 has convened and held several hearings related to patent matters and that these actions are in "gross violation" of the Patents Act, 1970. IDMA has argued that even while this official was directed to act as the technical member for patents, the member does not meet the qualifications for the Technical Member Patent under the Patents Act.

BRIEFLY

PM to address summit today

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the keynote address at India Ideas Summit Wednesday, where post-COVID India-US relations will be discussed.

'Retail PV sales dip 38% in Jun'

New Delhi: Passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales in June fell 38.34 per cent to 1,26,417 units against the year-ago month, FADA said Tuesday.

Acqui-hiring by SpiceJet

New Delhi: SpiceJet Tuesday said it acqui-hired Bengaluru-based airline e-commerce tech company Travenues, an arm of ixigo.

Corona Kavach as group policy

New Delhi: Irdai Tuesday allowed health insurers to offer 'Corona Kavach' as a standard group insurance policy so that companies can provide insurance to their staff.

MF industry folio count up

New Delhi: Mutual funds industry has witnessed a 9 per cent growth in folio count to nearly 9 crore in 2019-20 on the back of addition in investors account by several fund houses including Axis MF and ICICI Prudential MF.

'FabiFlu more economical'

New Delhi: Replying to a letter by drug regulator DCGI, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Tuesday said its generic anti-viral COVID drug Favipiravir, FabiFlu, is more economical and effective than other drugs available. PTI

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
 (A joint venture company of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kerala)
 4th Floor, JLN Stadium Metro Station, Kaloor, Ernakulam-682017
 Ph: 0484-2846700

TENDER
 1. Selection of project consultancy services for the detailed structural design of the Viaduct and one elevated station from S.N. Junction to Thrupinura of Phase 1B of Kochi Metro Rail project
 E Tender ID: 2020_KMRL_368679_1; Last Date of Submission: 27.07.2020
 2. Miscellaneous civil works in Kochi Metro
 Tender Ref No: KMRL/O&M/OSC/CTR/2020-21/05
 KMRL Tenders portal Ref. No.: 2021-0057-TEND
 Submission date: 12.08.2020 @ 16 Hrs
 3. Installation of Rainwater Harvesting System at 15 metro stations
 Tender Ref No: KMRL/O&M/OSC/CTR/2020-21/06
 KMRL Tenders portal Ref. No.: 2021-0058-TEND
 Submission date: 12.08.2020 @ 16 Hrs
 Tender documents can be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kochimetro.org
 Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on websites

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.

E-tender through e-procurement platform at <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> as per the instructions in the tender specification Coal(Ship) – 67 Dated 20.07.2020 for chartering of One self-Trimming Panamax Gearless/geared (offered as gearless) vessel for coastal movement of coal by TANGEDCO:

Sl No:	Specification No.	Description of Work/Materials	Due date & Time for submission of e-tender
1	Coal (Ship) – 67 Dated 20.07.2020	ONE SELF TRIMMING PANAMAX GEARLESS/GEARED (OFFERED AS GEARLESS) VESSEL WITH THE LAYDAYS FROM 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020 TO 10TH OCTOBER 2020	21.08.2020 Upto 1400 Hours.

Submission of E-Tender : THROUGH THIS HYPERLINK <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

Date & Time of commencement of download of Tender Specification : 12:30 Hrs. on 20.07.2020

Date & Time of closing of download of Tender Specification : 14:00 Hrs on 21.08.2020

Soft copy of Tender Specification:

The tender specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website www.tangedco.gov.in, from Tamil Nadu Government Web site i.e. www.tenders.tn.gov.in and from National Informatics Center website <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> free of cost.

Tender will be opened : Through the NIC portal <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

CHIEF ENGINEER/MECH/COAL TANGEDCO/CHENNAI-2

DIPR/2710/Tender/2020

TNP
TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
 Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur District, Tamil Nadu,
 Phone No. 04324-277001 (10 lines), Mail : purchase.imp@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
202113	Procurement of Paper Machine Clothing for Paper 001694	17.08.2020

Detailed Terms & Conditions, Tender Fee, EMD, etc. are available in Tender document at our Websites : www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in
 DIPR/2708/Tender/2020 **TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper**

PEPSU ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, PATIALA
CORRINGENDUM
 In continuation to the tender notice issued in the Indian Express, Daily Ait (Punjab) and Punjab Kesari on 30.08.2020 for providing manpower, the amendments made in clause No: 1(b), 1(f) and 3(b) can be seen on www.tenderwizard.com/PUNJAB. Rest of the terms and conditions and the last date for submission of the bid as given in the tender document shall remain the same.
 Managing Director,
 Pepsu Road Transport Corporation, Patiala.
 Making Travel Safe & Comfortable

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
 (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
 Corporate Office: 4/1, Siri Institutional Area,
 August Kranti Marg, New Khas, New Delhi

Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIT No. CWC/FD/SEIS/2020-21)

Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) invites open e-tender for sale of Duty Credit Scrips issued under Service Export from India Scheme (SEIS) of foreign trade policy 2015-20.

Downloading of Tender: From 22.07.2020 to 05.08.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.; Cost of tender: 1180/- including GST (non refundable); Date/ Time of Tender Submission: From 22.07.2020 to 05.08.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.; Date & Time for Tender opening: 05.08.2020 at 15:30 hrs. For detailed information and subsequent corrigendum/addendum, if any, please log on to www.cwceprocure.com or www.cewacor.nic.in.

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR DEMAND ASSESSMENT

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. Cambay Asset, Cambay invites 'Expression of Interest (EOI)' in the prescribed format from prospective consumers of gas on "fall back" basis and "as-is-where-is basis" from field of **NELP Block CB-ONN-2004/2 (VADATAL)**. Applicants should submit their EOI in the prescribed format (Annexure-1) in sealed covers, completed in all respect including supporting documents on or **before 14:00 hours on 06.08.2020** to I/C Marketing, Surface Team, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Cambay Asset, PO Kansari, Ta. Khambhat, Dist. Anand-388630, Gujarat (India), Phone: 02698-227510, Fax: 02698-221136, Mob: 7574828118. For complete details, please log on to our website: <https://tenders ONGC.co.in>

18 SPORT

Citi Open gets cancelled, but USTA reaffirms: 'We're all in'

CHRISTOPHER CLAREY
JULY 21

THE CITI OPEN in Washington, D.C., which was scheduled to restart the men's tennis tour next month, has been canceled for 2020.

The tournament was set to begin on Aug. 14 and serve as a lead-in event for the United States Open. But Mark Ein, the Citi Open chairman, said concern about international travel restrictions and recent trends in the coronavirus had led to the cancellation. "When we committed to host the event all the trends were going in our favor, and halfway through the process they all reversed," Ein said by telephone on Tuesday. "Then we ran out of time. With a little more time we may have been able to overcome the obstacles that were in front of us, but it's better to make a decision for all the stakeholders before it gets to the last minute."

The decision, made on Monday, will increase doubts about this year's US Open, which is scheduled to be played without spectators in New York from Aug. 31 to Sept. 13. But Stacey Allaster, the US Open tournament director, reaffirmed Monday that plans remained on track for a doubleheader at the U.S.T.A. Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. The Western & Southern Open is to be played there from Aug. 22 to 28 as a prelude to the US Open, with players and officials operating inside a health and safety "bubble" similar to those being used by the NBA and other leagues.

"We're all in," Allaster said.

On Tuesday, the United States Tennis Association said in a statement that the Citi Open decision in "no way impacts the US Open or the Western & Southern Open" and that the organisation would create a "safe and controlled environment" at the US Open that has been approved by the state of New York and meets city and federal standards.

"We constantly base our decisions regarding hosting these tournaments on our three guiding principles that include safety and health of all involved, whether hosting these events are in the best interest in the sport of tennis and whether this decision is financially viable," the USTA added. **NYT**

Washington Redskins Wolves?

An NFL fan has several potential new names for the franchise registered; wants charity donation in lieu of giving one for free

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, JULY 21

HOW DOES a 61-year old American man, an actuary working from home in these pandemic times, find himself wedged in a notable moment in American sport? What does Martin McCauley have that has had fans of the National Football League team Washington Redskins ranting, raving, and betting; the American and world media chasing him; and which has made him take a week off from work just to handle the unexpected attention?

McCauley has a bunch of names related to the team, over 40 registered trademarks that he owns rights to, which could potentially be the new name of the Washington football team. It's been reported that the franchise has a name in their minds but they aren't going official as trademark issues are pending and speculation from media and the fans is that the team could be eyeing one of the names owned by McCauley, "Washington Red Wolves" in particular.

McCauley says he isn't an ordinary name squatter looking to make some quick money but is willing to give a name free to the team. "Just ask, I will give it away free. All I want in return is a charity to the natives Americans, in particular to the American Indian Graduate Center. That's not asking much, is it?" McCauley tells *The Indian Express*.

Before we hear more from him, from his home across the Potomac river in the city of Alexandria in the southeastern US state of Virginia, here is some context.

Washington Redskins, an NFL team in the US, had that controversial name for 87 years until they dropped it on July 13 this year. Since the 1970s, there have been protests, polls, and court cases to make the football team drop the word 'Redskins' as it was deemed offensive and racist to native Americans. The team owner Daniel Snyder, though, refused to budge.

But the Black Lives Matter movement, that reached a crescendo after the death of George Floyd, changed everything in a blink. Corporate sponsors such as FedEx, Nike, PepsiCo and Bank of America started to revalue their association and though he hasn't talked about the trigger, Snyder agreed to drop the name. But the dramatic change of heart from Snyder has thrown McCauley into the thick of action.



The Washington football team could be eyeing 'Washington Red Wolves' — one of the names owned by Martin McCauley. *Jorge Allocco.*

"I have all the good names registered. Washington Red Wolves, the hot favourite with the fans who have been betting on it a lot, Washington Redtails, Washington Generals Washington Americans, Washington Monuments, Washington Veterans, Washington Renegades and more," McCauley says. "My personal favourite that I registered five years ago was Washington Pandas but I guess the team is eyeing Red Wolves."

The team has two months to find a new name before the season starts in September. "Forget my names, we know that they haven't moved yet for any name as registering a new name is in the public domain. It's really strange that they haven't made any move yet," McCauley says. He isn't even a fanatic of the team but a fan who has watched them since the 1980s. "I have seen only one game at the ground; last year, I watched it on the telly."

McCauley started to register names around the time the tussle over the name change reached its peak with the Supreme Court and even former US president Barack Obama getting into the act. In 2013, Snyder asserted that, "We will never change the name. It's that simple. NEVER — you can use it in caps." Not long after, Obama said, "If I were the owner of the team and I knew that there was a name of my

team — even if it had a storied history — that was offending a sizable group of people, I'd think about changing it," Obama said.

"I have been following the team since the 80s but it was around that time in 2013-14 that I seriously started to follow the controversy. I noted arguments from both sides and came down in favour of native Americans. It's not just the name but the fans would go to the stadium with red paints on the faces and with feathers tucked in — that's so racist."

The first name he went for was a sort of a joke. "I chose Washington Pigskins. As a joke. The ball used to be made of pig leather; the team was called Skins by many."

It wasn't a cheap joke, though. It cost him \$275 to register. "The real excitement came when the NFL replied! They said, 'We note that you have registered the name and though it's similar to our football team, we will allow it.' I was so happy. That's how the expensive hobby really started to kick in." To make sure the name stayed registered and to show that he was serious, McCauley even started selling merchandise based on his name. T-shirts, mugs, caps with Pigskins floated on a site he started, WashingtonAmericansFootball.com. He began to collect more names, make more merchandise though the effort to sell it ("It was the pack-

Archer rejoins squad after second negative check

Jofra Archer rejoined England team for the deciding Test against the West Indies after a second negative test for the coronavirus on Tuesday. Archer was removed from the squad last week on the eve of the second Test after he breached the bio-secure rules with an unauthorised trip to his home in Hove. **AP**

BCCI plea on cooling-off period in SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 21

THE BCCI'S application to water down the cooling-off clause for office bearers, which will have an impact on the continuation of president Sourav Ganguly, secretary Jay Shah and joint-secretary Jayesh George in their posts, will be heard by the Supreme Court on Wednesday. The court will decide if they will have to serve a three-year cooling-off period after six years in office, as per the Lodha panel recommendation.

The hearing would be done through video conferencing before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Justice S A Bobde and Justice L Nageswara Rao. A mandatory cooling-off for three years is required for office-bearers in cricket administration after six years in office — BCCI and state association combined. Going by BCCI constitution, board secretary Shah has completed his six-year term, while president Ganguly will have to step down at the end of this month. George's term ends in August.

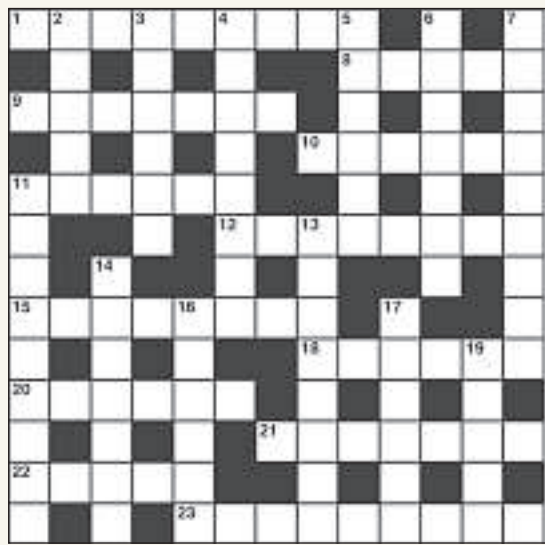
They had served as office-bearers in their respective state associations — Gujarat Cricket Association, Cricket Association of Bengal and Kerala Cricket Association — for more than five years before coming to the BCCI in October 2019. In December last year, the BCCI, however, filed an application before the Supreme Court, with a request to amend its constitution, including the watering down the clauses about the cooling-off period, changes in disqualification criteria, curbing the chief executive's powers and conflict of interest.

The proposed amendments received verbal consent from all 38 members at BCCI's 88th annual general meeting.

Ahead of BCCI's Apex Council meeting earlier this month the CAG nominee, Alka Rehani Bharadwaj, had objected to Shah attending the meeting, citing the cooling-off clause and stating that the joint-secretary "would be presumably officiating as secretary after vacation of secretary BCCI post".

The CAG has filed an application before SC, seeking recusal of its nominee from the management position in BCCI's Apex Council and IPL's Governing Council, while arguing that a role related to finances and audit would serve the purpose of Lodha reforms better.

CROSSWORD 4176



ACROSS

- Army signalling? (9)
- An unfinished picture frame (5)
- A governing body on a ship (6)
- Generous applause goes to a few (8)
- On June 4th a flower festival (9)
- At least he's private (7)
- He pretends their copy is spoiled (9)
- Very well. Beat that my friend! (9)
- Involved in forming a new dateline (8)
- Exercise done by a prisoner (7)
- Vegetable is hard to germinate (6)
- Staff provided to help the disabled (6)
- Trial tanks go on (5)

Down

- Staff of office? (6)
- A superintendent too poetic about poetry (8)
- Capital outcome in street repairs (8)
- Put in charge at the lemonade factory? (6)
- Changes which should be made by wrongdoers (6)
- High level drink Paul gets excited about (7)
- Alec's unusual ties (5)
- Token of sincerity - and nervousness (9)

Solutions Crossword 4176: Across: 1 Offered, 4 Preen, 7 Lard, 8 Foregone, 10 Pinpointed, 12 Bsect, 13 Issued, 15 Out of order, 18 Fallible, 19 Host, 20 Yearn, 21 Elapsed. Down: 1 Orlop, 2 Firmness, 3 Drowns, 4 Pretension, 5 Eros, 6 Needled, 9 Conclusion, 11 Outdoors, 12 Briefly, 14 Coolie, 16 Rated, 17 Flea.

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.

Better than a thousand __ words, is one word that brings __. — Buddha (6,...5)

LVAEE



PYLOO



EOUCLP



EEYZHW



SOLUTION: LEAVE LOOPY COUPLE. WHATEZY
Answer: Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace. — Buddha

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4177

Difficulty Level 1s

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 4176

