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THE EDITORIAL PAGE**EDUCATING INDIA**

BY KUMKUM ROY
PAGE 10

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY

**EXPRESS NETWORK****CONGRESS LEADER SOMEN MITRA DIES**

PAGE 8

Delhi hotels to open, gyms to remain shut for now

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

A DAY after the Centre issued guidelines for phase 3 of its Covid unlockdown, the Delhi government Thursday allowed hotels to reopen in a move that was welcomed by the hospitality industry although concerns remain on the challenges involved, ranging from a severe staff crunch to the renewal of licences that have lapsed.

The state government said that a decision has been taken to allow the normal functioning of hotels, along with hospitality services — these were already permitted under the Union Home Ministry's guidelines issued on June 4.

The government said that it took the step since hotels in Delhi are no longer attached with hospitals to provide quarantine facilities for Covid patients.

However, official sources said that a decision on reopening gyms, which has been allowed under the Centre's latest guidelines, has been deferred in the capital till next week amid concerns over the potential spread of Covid in closed spaces. "Officials will discuss the apprehensions and revisit the decision next week," sources said.

On the move to reopen hotels, Sandeep Khandelwal, president of the Delhi Hotel and Restaurant Owners' Association, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'SC was told a blatant lie that I am a free man...why am I being stopped'

Soz says barred from moving out; free to go where he wants, says J&K administration

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JULY 30

A DAY after the Supreme Court disposed of a petition by Saifuddin Soz's wife over his "illegal detention", accepting the government's submission that he was under no restrictions, the J&K Congress leader was stopped by the police as he tried to move out of his house in Srinagar. As mediapersons watched, police personnel pulled away the 83-year-old as he talked from behind a wall, mounted by a barbed wire, around his house.

On Wednesday too, soon after the Supreme Court accepted the J&K administration's claim that he was not under detention, Soz had said he had been stopped from leaving his house.

"What the Supreme Court was told is a blatant lie," Soz said on Thursday, speaking to *The Indian Express* over the phone, adding that he would again move the court against his "illegal" detention, "for whatever it's worth". "This (UT) government and the Central government took a position before the Supreme Court that I am a free man. I am not a free man. I have been under detention since August 5, 2019. If I am not under detention, why am I being stopped? I tried to move out twice yesterday and twice today."

After stopping the former Union minister from talking to the media present outside his house, the policemen told the journalists CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Congress leader Saifuddin Soz speaks to reporters from across the boundary wall of his residence before being pulled away, in Srinagar on Thursday. Shuaib Masoodi

Security paradox: Dip in violence, locals in militant ranks and LoC heating up

NAVEED IQBAL
& P VAIDYANATHAN IYER
SRINAGAR, JULY 30

BEHIND THE barbed wire framing Congress leader Saifuddin Soz in his Srinagar home is the paradox of how security has played out over the last one year here: a sharp drop in incidents of violence with many, like Soz, at home under curbs or in custody; and yet a steady trickle of local young men into the militant ranks and a heating up along the Line of Control.

Indeed, in a recent presentation to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Jammu & Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag



J&K DGP
Dilbag Singh

J&K ONE YEAR AFTER AUGUST 5

AN EXPRESS SERIES

Singh compared law and order incidents in Kashmir over two timestamps — after July 8, 2016, when Hizbul Mujahideen CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Govt to take call on 4G in Valley after August 15

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE GOVERNMENT is likely to take a final call on the restoration of 4G mobile Internet services in the Kashmir Valley after Independence Day celebrations are over next month, official sources told *The Indian Express*.

A "favourable" decision is "already under consideration" within the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the sources said. The government is waiting for August 5, which marks a year since special status under Article 370 was revoked and J&K split into two Union Territories, and Independence Day, to "pass off peacefully" before taking a decision, they said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Priest, policemen test positive, temple Trust says event on track

AVANEESH MISHRA
& DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI,
JULY 30

JUST SIX days before *bhoomi puja* is expected for the proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya, an assistant priest and four policemen posted at the site tested positive on Thursday in a rapid antigen test for the novel coronavirus.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the ceremony, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi



Sweets being prepared in Ayodhya Thursday, ahead of *bhoomi puja* on Aug 5. ANI

Adityanath. The CM had come in contact with the assistant priest, Pradeep Das, 30, during

AHEAD OF MILITARY TALKS

China envoy pushes Pangong claim, India says pullback not over

Ambassador Sun points to Chinese claim line on contested north bank of lake

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

PUSHING HIS country's claim to Pangong Tso where Chinese troops came in 8 km west of the point which India says marks the Line of Actual Control, Sun Weidong, Beijing's ambassador to New Delhi, Thursday said "China's traditional customary boundary line is in accordance with the LAC" on the north bank of the lake.

He rejected suggestions that China has expanded its territorial claim at Pangong Tso.

The ambassador made these remarks ahead of the fifth round of talks between Corps Commanders of the two armies, expected to take place in the next few days.

Speaking at a webinar organised by the Institute of Chinese Studies, Sun said that on the north bank of Pangong lake, "China's traditional customary boundary line is in accordance with the LAC. And there's no such case as China has expanded its territorial claim. China hopes that the Indian troops will strictly abide by the relevant bilateral agreements and protocols between the two countries and refrain from illegally crossing the



Army trucks in Leh on Thursday. ANI

LAC to the Chinese side".

"With the joint efforts of both sides, the border troops have disengaged in most localities, the situation on the ground is de-escalating and the temperature is coming down," he said.

Responding to the ambassador's remarks, New Delhi said there has been "some progress" but the process of disengagement has not yet been completed.

Anurag Srivastava, official spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said, "There has been some progress made towards this objective, but the disengagement process has as yet not been completed." He said senior commanders of the two sides will be meeting in the "near future" to work out steps in this regard.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Sun Weidong

SONIA MEETING

Cong veterans say look within, young MP says start with yourself, UPA II

MANOJ CGG
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

A YEAR after the Congress's debilitating debacle in the Lok Sabha elections, months after its exit in Madhya Pradesh and right in the middle of the ongoing crisis in Rajasthan, the tension between veterans and young leaders is coming to a head.

Sparks flew at a meeting of its Rajya Sabha MPs convened by Congress president Sonia Gandhi Thursday.

Sources said former Union Minister and senior leader Kapil Sibal spoke about the need for "introspection" on the defeat. Former Union Minister P Chidambaram said the party should reach out to people to understand their disenchantment with the Congress. It is learnt that newly elected Rajya Sabha MP Rajeev Satav was more blunt — he said introspection should begin at home.

"Introspect by all means... but how did we come to 44... that should also be looked into. We were 200-plus in 2009. You are all saying this (need to

Pangong and Gogra not yet resolved, Army awaits talks

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

WITHIN HOURS of the Chinese Defence Ministry claiming that troops on both sides were gradually disengaging and the situation was moving towards de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, sources in the Indian Army said there has been no positive movement on the ground for more than two weeks now.

The standoff at Pangong Tso and Patrolling Point 17A at Gogra, Army sources said, is still to be resolved and is likely to be the focus of the fifth round of talks at the level of the Corps Commander. The fifth round of talks since June 6 is expected in the next few days. The talks were expected Friday or over the weekend but there was no official word until Thursday evening.

Senior Colonel Ren Guoqiang, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense, Thursday said China and India "have conducted effective communication and coordination through both diplomatic and military channels since the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED**Old guard versus new**

RAJEEV SATAV's swipe underlines the trust deficit between the old and the new and the sense of vacuum at the top. Bhopal to Jaipur, these are cleaving the Congress but there are few signs of any move to arrest the drift.

introspect) now. You were all ministers then. Frankly, it should also be looked into where you failed. You have to introspect from the UPA II period," an MP quoted Satav as having said during the virtual meeting.

Satav, 46, a former Youth Congress president, is the AICC in-charge of Gujarat and a permanent invitee to the CWC. Satav's remarks came in the presence of the key figures in UPA II.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JULY 30

IN MAY 2012, J Jayalalithaa declared that the Anna Centenary Library in Chennai, built by her rival M Karunanidhi of the DMK and one of the largest in the country, would be turned into a super-specialty hospital. Book lovers were shocked at the then CM's display of political one-upmanship at the cost of the treasures the library housed. The library survived, but that's another story.

Now, as the Tamil Nadu government moves to acquire Jayalalithaa's Veda Nilayam resi-

dence, in Chennai's Poes Garden area, to set up a museum dedicated to the late chief minister, another story is emerging: that of Jayalalithaa as a book lover, a voracious reader and the owner of a collection of 8,376 books, with titles ranging from the Tamil classic *Tirukkural* to Jawaharlal Nehru's *The Discovery of India*, from biographies to journals.

Officials and insiders who had direct access to Jayalalithaa and her residence recalled how she zealously maintained her books with serial numbers and title stickers. And of the long hours she spent reading on the first floor of Veda Nilayam.

The 8,376 books are part of the 32,721 'movable properties' in Veda Nilayam listed by the state government.

One of the officers who visited her library said English titles made up 75 per cent of her collection. "Her Tamil collection had works of Periyar EV Ramasamy (founder of the Dravidian movement) and former CM C N Annadurai. Translations of *Tirukkural*, a few titles of Adi Shankaracharya and poet Kannadasan's *Arthamulla Indhu Madham* are also in her library," the official said, adding that *The Discovery of India* is "prominently placed".

Jayalalithaa's collection also



Jaya at her library in Kodanadu Estate. She also had libraries in Veda Nilayam and Siruthavur bungalow. Source: J Krishnapriya

included books on law and several doctoral papers published by state universities about the political life of Annadurai, her mentor and AIADMK founder M G Ramachandran (MGR) and about Jayalalithaa herself. Officials also spotted novels of Agatha Christie and works of Khushwant Singh.

Among her 'favourites', said insiders, were biographies and autobiographies of world leaders, including of former US presidents Ronald Reagan and Abraham Lincoln.

"All these books had markings she made, or bookmarks to chapters she had read or marked

for references," said an official.

The official said Jayalalithaa's library had two portions: one for bookshelves and another section with a reading corner and her collection of journals. "The house itself isn't very extraordinary, except that there is a lift to the first floor since she had knee trouble. There is also an intercom system to communicate with guests and others downstairs," he said.

For about three decades, Jayalalithaa lived in this house with VK Sasikala and the latter's sister-in-law Ilavarasi and her children. Sasikala and Ilavarasi are in jail in Bengaluru after being convicted in the dispropor-

tionate assets case along with Jayalalithaa.

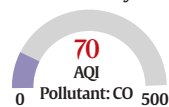
Jayalalithaa's bedroom, though big, is "simple". "Sasikala's bedroom is much smaller, with lots of stationery, petitions and papers," said one of the officials.

Karthikeyan, who was Jayalalithaa's private secretary for over a decade, recalled, "She would look up new book releases and ask me to order them. We used to order three copies of each book, one for each of her libraries — at Poes Garden, at Siruthavur bungalow (near Chennai) and Kodanadu Estate

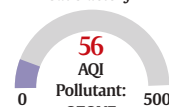
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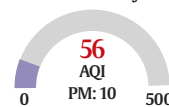
0-50 Good

ANAND VIHAR
Satisfactory

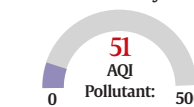
51-100 Satisfactory

SIRIFORT
Satisfactory

101-200 Moderate

SHADIPUR
Satisfactory

201-300 Poor

DWARKA-SECTOR 8
Satisfactory

301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

Centre to SC: IIT-B to sign MoU for smog towers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE CENTRE Thursday informed the Supreme Court that IIT-Bombay, will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and other stakeholders for setting up smog towers in the national capital.

On Wednesday, the apex court had pulled up the institute for backing out of the project to set up smog towers in Delhi in a bid to combat air pollution, and warned of contempt action against it.

On Thursday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench, headed by Justice Arun Mishra, that "after yesterday's hearing, we have been in contact with Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and an MoU will be signed electronically with the stakeholders".

The bench asked Mehta to place the MoU on record, and sought to know of the funds required for the project and the time needed for its completion.

Mehta pointed out that the technical aspects would be covered by IIT-Bombay, and the parts from Minnesota, United States, had been imported.

The bench reminded that its January 13 direction to set up a smog tower in Anand Vihar had a three-month deadline attached to it. "Why the order which directed compliance in three months was not complied with?" asked Justice Mishra.

Mehta replied it would take at least 10 months to complete the project and said, "I will be happy if it is done within a week."

The court asked the Solicitor General to file a detailed affidavit touching on various aspects of execution of the project by August 3.

Biomedical waste up 15 times in June: EPCA



Biomedical waste piled up at Ghazipur landfill site

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE DAILY Covid-19 biomedical waste generation in Delhi increased by 15 times in June as compared to the previous month, and the city is presently producing more refuse than its common biomedical waste treatment facilities (CBWTF) can treat, data shared with the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) shows.

The EPCA submitted a report to the Supreme Court Monday which states that a rise in Covid cases caused a "huge increase" in biomedical waste in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and UP.

Delhi has the highest daily share of biomedical waste generation out of the four states — quantity went up from 25 tonnes per day in May to 372 tonnes per day in June, which then fell to 349 tonnes per day in July, as per the data shared with EPCA.

"According to CPCB and state pollution control boards, the huge increase in June (in the four NCR states) was also because biomedical waste from households and quarantine centres was not being segregated," it states.

In a meeting on July 24, the North and South MCDs told EPCA that they were sending Covid-19 waste from houses and quarantine centres to waste-to-energy (WTE) plants and not to the CBWTF, as per guidelines.

A North MCD spokesperson said, "We are going to look into what has been pointed out and try to follow as far as possible."

REFERS DISPUTE TO PRESIDENT

L-G overturns Cabinet move to appoint lawyers in riots cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

LT-GOVERNOR ANIL Bajjal Thursday overturned the Delhi Cabinet's decision to appoint a panel of lawyers of its own choice to argue the February riots cases in the High Court and Supreme Court, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's office said.

Bajjal invoked Article 239AA(4) of the Indian Constitution and referred the dispute to the President of India. In the interim, the panel of lawyers chosen by Delhi Police and approved by Bajjal will argue the cases.

"The L-G invoked special powers granted to him under the Constitution. The Home Department has been ordered to approve the panel chosen by the Delhi Police. The Delhi government will now have to implement the order at any cost as it is mandated by the Constitution," a statement from the CM's office said.



The Northeast Delhi riots claimed at least 53 lives between February 23 and February 26. Archive

The Northeast Delhi riots claimed at least 53 lives between February 23 and February 26. There were scores of injuries, widespread arson, and damage to property.

Delhi Police proposed to the Delhi government to appoint six senior lawyers, including Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor

General Aman Lekhi, as Special Public Prosecutors in the Delhi High Court and Supreme Court in 85 cases related to riots and anti-CAA-protests.

The government had opposed the proposal, which had the L-G's backing. The matter was placed before the Cabinet on Tuesday based on the directions of the L-G, who could not invoke

Article 239AA(4) till the Cabinet had taken a position on the issue.

The Cabinet rejected the panel chosen by police, saying, "There have been allegations that the investigations of Delhi Police in these cases are biased and not impartial. The judiciary has also made adverse remarks against Delhi Police investigations on several occasions. Therefore, in order to ensure that all facts are presented before the Hon'ble judges, it is extremely critical that the government advocates are independent of the Police."

The Cabinet's decision set the stage for Bajjal to invoke Article 239AA(4), citing "differences of opinion" with the elected government.

In a statement, the Delhi government had targeted the L-G for his "repeated interferences" in the matter. The L-G had previously invoked Article 239AA(4) after a similar dispute arose over the appointment of public prosecutors to argue the riots cases in the lower courts.

3 who robbed DU staffer, mother held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THREE MEN were arrested by Delhi Police's Crime Branch Thursday for allegedly looting cash and jewellery from a Delhi University staffer's house, while holding him and his 63-year-old mother hostage at gunpoint. The incident took place at Nehru Vihar on Monday.

Police said the men, Md Chand (30), Javed (31) and Salim, have no previous cases against them. Two of their associates are on the run.



The three arrested men, with the Delhi Police team. Express

Police said Chand lost his job during the lockdown, while Javed was in debt as he spent money on his

sister's wedding.

In his complaint, Sunil Sharma, an assistant clerk at the examination branch of DU, said he and his mother were alone at home, while his wife and their children were at Bhajanpura.

Police said the five men entered the first-floor house on Monday. Two of them threatened the victims at gunpoint. When the elderly woman resisted, police said, the accused hit her on the head with their pistol. Sharma alleged in his complaint, "They also slapped and punched me. I was injured in my neck, face and hands."

Two other men entered the house, went to the bedroom and took cash and gold jewellery worth around Rs 14 lakh. Sharma and his mother were tied up with bedsheets and beaten up.

DCP (Crime Branch) Rakesh Pawariya said, "We identified a few suspects and raided possible hideouts in Loni and Hapur. On Thursday, we received information that the accused would come to Chand Bagh and leave for UP. Our team caught three of the accused from Wazirabad road," he said. Police also recovered Rs 3.7 lakh in cash.

Diesel prices dip in capital as govt rolls back tax hike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE PRICE of diesel will come down by Rs 8.36 per litre in the capital with the Delhi government rolling back its decision — taken in May — to hike tax on the fuel.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that the rate of VAT on diesel was being brought back to 16.75 per cent from 30 per cent. The decision was taken in a Cabinet meeting Thursday morning.

"The price of diesel was Rs 82 per litre on Wednesday. After the reduction of VAT, the new price will be Rs 73.64 per litre," Kejriwal said, describing the move as a significant step to bring the economy back on track.

On May 5, the Delhi government had increased VAT from 27 per cent to 30 per cent on petrol and from 16.75 per cent to 30 per cent on diesel. The decision was taken to generate revenue as the economy had to come to a halt due to the lockdown.



The CM said the move will help revive the economy

The hiked VAT on petrol has not been lowered. Petrol is being sold at Rs 80.47 per litre in the capital.

"Our main challenge now is to get the economy back on track. Many businesses are shut, industries are shut. This decision to lower VAT is an important step towards reviving the economy. We were getting representations from trade bodies that the high price of diesel was a source of

difficulty," Kejriwal said.

The CM said that over the last one week, the Delhi government has taken several measures to boost the economy. The measures he listed included the launch of a job portal and allowing street vendors to resume business. "I am very happy that it has just been three-four days since we started the job portal. Around 7,577 companies have registered on the portal, 2,04,785 jobs have been advertised here, and 3,22,865 job seekers have applied on the portal," he said.

Kejriwal once again appealed to traders, industrialists, and businessmen in the city to "join hands" to revive Delhi's economy. "I want to appeal to all shopkeepers, traders and industrialists to open their shops and industries, maintain social distancing and wear masks but restart their operations and work. In the coming days, I will be meeting many industrialists and traders through video conferencing on Zoom and will try to resolve any issues that they are facing," he said.



तीन तलाक को अपराध बनाने का एक वर्ष

शुक्रिया मोदी साहब




तीन तलाक (तलाक-ए-बिदत) जैसी सामाजिक कुरीति, कुप्रथा, क़ादम के कानूनी अपराध बनने से मुस्लिम महिलाओं की ज़िन्दगी में सकारात्मक परिणाम और संवैधानिक सुरक्षा का यकीन पुख्ता हुआ है।

1 अगस्त 2019 का मोदी सरकार का यह फैसला मुस्लिम महिलाओं की खुशहाली-सुरक्षा की गारन्टी बना।

- Muslim Women Empowerment Organisation (NGO)



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4 THE CITY

‘NEP’S BIGGEST FLAW IS ENCOURAGING PVT EDUCATION’

Sisodia red flags new education policy: ‘Highly regulated and poorly funded’

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister Manish Sisodia Thursday said the New Education Policy (NEP) provided for a “highly regulated and poorly funded” education model. He said the biggest flaw of NEP was that it “ran away from the responsibility” of providing quality education in government schools while encouraging private school education.

Addressing a press conference, Sisodia, who is also the Education Minister, read out an excerpt from the NEP, which said “private philanthropic efforts for quality education will be encouraged”. “In all progressive countries, the education system is largely dependent on a strong government school system. But here, they are encouraging private education. This is the biggest flaw of NEP,” he said.

On the higher education front, Sisodia said the focus on MDHEI (multi-disciplinary higher educational institutions) was problematic: “According to NEP, all universities will be mandatorily made

multi-disciplinary in 15-20 years... There is a need for MDHEIs but don’t destroy specific universities. You’re saying you’ll teach acting in IITs, produce engineers from FTII. How will this happen? World over, there is the importance of sector-specific universities... We cannot destroy such institutes in our romanticism of multi-disciplinarity.”

Sisodia said that while the policy states there should be free and compulsory education from nursery to class XII like under RTE, it also said how this will be achieved would be examined later. “You’ve brought NEP after 34 years, took six years to frame the policy, and even now you’re saying it will be examined later. Then what was the leadership of BJP doing for the last six years?” he said.

Sisodia also hit out at the NEP for its stand on board exams. “It says board exams will be made easier... The point was to focus on cognitive capabilities rather than rote learning abilities. The entire education system, including the board, is geared towards the latter... On this account, the policy has failed. There is no impor-



Sisodia and Atishi at the press conference Thursday. Amit Mehra

tance of board exams anymore; the entire world has moved towards continuous evaluation, but we are still stuck in our old ways,” he said.

While lauding the NEP for promoting vocational courses, he said there was no work done to increase their value in higher education: “In DU admissions, vocational subjects don’t count for anything. Then why will students take these subjects?” Sisodia also lamented the absence of sports in the policy.

He, however, appreciated certain aspects like the decision to change the name of HRD Ministry to Education Ministry, including breakfast as part of mid-day meal and decision to use mother tongue as the medium for education in the early years.

He also said that the NEP was “progressive and forward-looking in that it accepts the challenges and flaws in the current education system and talks about what should be done to address it”. However, he said it

had two problems.

“Firstly, it is unable to break away from the burden of the traditional educational system. Secondly, the policy is silent or confused about how it will achieve solutions to the current problems,” he said.

The Deputy CM also said the “policy provides for a highly regulated and poorly funded education model”.

Explaining highly regulated, Sisodia said NEP talks of a separate education department, Directorate of Education, regulatory authority, and education commission which he said would “keep clashing with each other”.

On why it was poorly funded, he said, “NEP says that 6% of GDP should be spent on education. This has been said from the time of Kothari Commission of 1966 and repeated in NEP. But it is silent on how this will be achieved. It also says budget spending on education will be taken from 10% to 20% but doesn’t say how. There will have to be a law that government and state governments have to spend 6% of GDP on education.”

HC: Why insist on physical presence to register workers?

PRITAMPALSINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE DELHI High Court Thursday did not concur with the Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board’s insistence on physical presence of construction workers for renewal of their registration, observing that many labourers have already returned to their villages amid the pandemic and shut down of construction sites.

A bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rajnish Bhatnagar also did not agree with the Board’s contention that the relaxation of physical presence will lead to allegations that it did not discharge its duty efficiently.

“...Firstly, it is our suggestion that the verification process should be undertaken on telephone or through video-call. Secondly, the guidelines... state that the process of verification be undertaken online, telephonically or through video-call... Physical verification may also leave out many construction workers who are entitled to renewal of registration, since many of them have gone back to their native places on account of lockdown,” it said.

The bench said that if the “physical verification is insisted upon, all such workers would not be able to renew their registration and receive their ex-gratia amount, till they return to Delhi. It may not happen for months...”



HC said most labourers have returned home. Amit Mehra

It ordered the 25 advocates, who have been engaged as field verification officers for verifying applications for renewal of registration, to start their work “forthwith”.

Applications for fresh registrations and renewals were received from May 15 to June 29, after a reduction in the number of workers registered with the board between 2015 and 2020 came under the HC’s scanner following a report in *The Indian Express*, based on a PIL by activist Sunil Kumar Aledia.

With the number of active workers registered with the board in Delhi coming down from over 5 lakh to around 40,000, many could not avail the lockdown assistance of Rs 5,000 each disbursed in April and May from the cess fund.


The Delhi government additional standing counsel Sanjoy Ghose and advocate Urvi Mohan, appearing for Delhi government and the Board, informed the court that they aggressively set up verification camps at construction sites as most workers do not have smartphones. “That will obviate the kind of hardship. The kind of inconvenience to the workers,” Ghose submitted.

To which, the bench responded, “My registered mobile may not have that facility. (But) I can certainly borrow from co-workers or my superior’s phone for that purpose, to make a call or to talk (for verification)...”

It further observed that there is a guideline in place for just an audio call or you can also go for the video call for verification of the details.

Govt forms panels to inspect hospitals with most Covid deaths

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL



TOTAL CASES	Total	Vacant
1,34,403	14,533	11,596
	HOSPITAL BEDS	
	1,218	823
	VENTILATORS	

Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
July 29	1,035	1,126	26	17,392
July 30	1,093	1,091	29	19,475
Total	10,743*	1,19,724	3,936	10,13,694

**Total active cases*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE DELHI government Thursday set up four committees of medical specialists to inspect hospitals that reported a large percentage of Covid-19 fatalities in the city, and suggest ways to reduce mortality rate.

“It has been observed that the percentage of Covid deaths vis-a-vis admissions and the percentage of Covid deaths in wards of 11 hospitals, government and private, was on the higher side during the period July 1-23, 2020,” said the order signed by Delhi Health Secretary Padmini Singla.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, “The deaths due to corona in Delhi have come down. But it has to be reduced further. Today, we formed four committees of doctors which will inspect these hospitals and give suggestions: 1) where there are still more deaths, 2) where there are more deaths in wards, which means the patient was not taken to ICU on time.”

On Thursday, Delhi recorded 1,093 fresh cases, taking the tally to 1,34,403, while the death toll climbed to 3,936 with 29 more fatalities recorded in

the last 24 hours. The number of active cases in the city on Thursday was 10,743, down from 10,770 the previous day.

The city also conducted 5,531 RT PCR/CBNAAT/TrueNat test and 13,944 rapid antigen tests in the last 24 hours.

The four committees, comprising four specialists each – two from internal medicine and as many from anaesthesia – have been constituted for inspecting the hospitals to examine whether standard protocols are being followed in treatment of Covid patients.

The medical specialists have been drawn from facilities, including Lok Nayak Hospital, Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, RML Hospital, and Maulana Azad Medical College. The hospitals to be inspected include GTB Hospital, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, and Max Hospital, Saket, the order said.

The committees will also examine the reason behind higher percentage of Covid-19 deaths at these hospitals as well as the cause of death of patients, if any, said the order.

The committees shall submit their reports directly to the Principal Secretary of the Delhi health department, latest by August 3.

Free ration: Paswan takes on AAP govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

DESCRIBING AAP government’s announcement of free ration to poor till November this year as “misleading”, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan Thursday said all the schemes mentioned by the Delhi government have already been launched by the Centre “for the welfare of the poor”.

“The Delhi government has announced that it will give free ration to the poor till November. This is not a Delhi government scheme. Under the Government of India’s PMGKAY scheme, free food-grain is being provided to NFSA beneficiaries from April to November,” Paswan tweeted.

His comments came days after the Delhi government announced that all PDS cardholders in the national capital will get free ration till November 2020.

“Now, the Delhi government will be providing PDS ration to NFSA beneficiaries for the next five months, including July, August, September, October and up to November, free of cost,” reads a statement issued by Delhi’s Food and Civil Supply Minister’s office on July 8.

Paswan said, “The announcement by the Delhi government that it will give free ration till November is misleading.”

Paswan, in a tweet tagging the Prime Minister, further said: “The Delhi government should indicate the additional assistance that is being made in addition to NFSA and PMGKAY. Whatever it is announcing, all these schemes have been launched by the Centre for the welfare of the poor.”

BRIEFLY

Docs’ body writes to CM

New Delhi: The Federation of Resident Doctors’ Association wrote a letter to CM Arvind Kejriwal regarding health insurance cover for doctors contracting Covid-19. It also requested expediting the ex-gratia compensation to the family of a junior resident doctor at BSA hospital who recently died after contracting the virus.

Man falls off building, saved

New Delhi: A 40-year-old man, who accidentally fell from the fourth floor of an apartment building and got stuck on an iron grill, was rescued by police Wednesday. Police said the man was taking the stairs when the railing broke during the rain.

HC asks DU for clarity on scribes for blind students

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court said it was the responsibility of DU to make writers available for visually impaired students taking the online open book exam. “On the next date of hearing (August 5), DU shall clarify the position...,” the bench said. **ENS**

Woman jumps off building

Noida: A 62-year-old woman died Thursday after she allegedly jumped off her 19th-floor apartment in Noida’s Sector 78. **PTI**



CRYSTAL CLEAR

Clear skies over Akshardham Temple after rain, Thursday. Praveen Khanna

Wife of doctor who died of Covid hopes for job in Delhi

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

TEN DAYS after Dr Javed Ali (42), a contractual doctor with Delhi government’s National Health Mission, succumbed to Covid-19, his family was paid a visit by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who handed over a Rs 1 crore cheque to them.

Kejriwal tweeted, “In the time of coronavirus, our doctors are treating patients without caring about their own life. Recently, corona warrior Dr Javed Ali passed away due to Covid. Met his family... and handed over the cheque of Rs 1 crore. In the future too, we will take care of his family.”

Dr Ali was deployed at a Covid care centre, a quarantine centre, and a sero surveillance centre since March. After a three-week battle with the virus, he passed away on July 20. He is survived by his wife, Dr Heena, and their two



Kejriwal handed over a Rs 1 crore cheque to Dr Javed Ali’s wife

children aged 6 and 12. Dr Heena said, “The CM handled this very sensitively. He paid his respects to my husband, and promised us his support in the future.”

After Dr Ali passed away, Dr Heena quit her job at a private hospital in Haryana’s Ballabhgarh, where she was a gynaecologist. She said, “My husband and daughter lived in Delhi.

My son and I in Ballabhgarh. Dr Ali and I had a deal that I will work at the hospital for two years, move back to Delhi by 2021 and find a job. The four of us used to meet over the weekend. He was very supportive of my ambition but now he’s gone... I can no longer have a hectic schedule. Kejriwal ji said he will try to help me out with a job in Delhi now.”

Govt revises antigen test protocol

New Delhi: The Delhi government has amended the testing strategy used for rapid antigen tests, after the Delhi High Court raised the issue and asked why the government was choosing RAT, which has a high rate of false-negative results, over the RT-PCR method.

The health department deleted ‘all patients admitted with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI)’ from the high-risk group of individuals who are compulsory required to be tested for Covid-19 using RAT.

This means that those coming with SARI symptoms to healthcare facilities will not be tested through rapid antigen test, a move which is expected to lower the number of RAT tests.

RT-PCR is considered to be the gold standard for testing, with an accuracy of 60%. Rapid antigen tests provide results within 30 minutes and has an accuracy of 40%. **ENS**

STUCK IN MORIGAON AMID FLOODS

How a boat, a video call helped connect Delhi doc to Assam patient

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

A FISHING boat, a mobile phone and a doctor sitting 2,000 km away — the three came to the rescue of Lalchand Bishwas (45) who suffers from a liver ailment and was stuck at his home in Assam’s Morigaon district amid floods.

Bishwas was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis in February and required regular medical attention. As the nationwide lockdown was

imposed, he was following directions given by doctors after his diagnosis. In June, his condition started to worsen and he complained of breathlessness, drowsiness, and pain in the abdomen.

Bishwas lives with his family in Jengpori village and has no internet access. Earlier this month, his friend, Mofisur Rehman (35), a pharmacist, went to meet him and realised his condition was critical. Rehman then saw a prescription that would offer hope.

“The prescription had contact

details of a doctor. His condition was turning critical and medical facilities in the area were not operational because of the floods. Taking a chance, I dialled the doctor’s number and he responded. The doctor asked me to arrange a video call to understand his medical condition,” he said.

But that was easier said than done. There was no internet connectivity in the village and floods meant getting out was nearly impossible. Rehman and Bishwas’s family decided to take him on a



boat and row till they found internet connectivity and made a call.

Dr Ushast Dhir, who works in the Department of Liver Transplantation and Surgical Gastroenterology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, was on the line.

“I have been visiting Guwahati and conducting liver OPD every month for the past

Lalchand Bishwas was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis in February

year. The last OPD was on February 29, where I met this patient. He was getting better but there could not be a follow-up due to the pandemic,” he said.

Rehman followed the instructions given by Dhir and examined his friend — all on the small boat. But for Dhir, another challenge was the language barrier and the help needed to administer injections and enema.

Off and on, the video call lasted around 6 hours. “I would explain the process to his friend,

who would explain it to the patient’s wife. He did well. We wanted to save him from going into a coma... He was drowsy and feeling uncomfortable,” Dhir said.

Bishwas has been stabilised and will be called to Delhi for treatment once the situation is normal. “We have been in touch through telecounselling on a regular basis. The hospital has also arranged medicines for a month and sent them to his village,” D S Rana, chairperson (Board of Management), SGRH.



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Managing the pandemic in Dehradun

The local administration has handled the situation skilfully by taking tough decisions and implementing guidelines across the district



THE whole world is now affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. In mid-March, the country launched a united war against the virus. A country-wide lockdown was initiated in an attempt to control the spread of the deadly COVID-19 virus. While it has affected our daily lives, we also need to realise that the move has helped save millions of lives across India. Other countries around the world, which have not taken any serious steps like lockdown, are more affected than us by this epidemic today.

Like the entire country, it was not easy to ensure the lockdown of everything except essential services in a state like Uttarakhand. Dehradun, being the capital of the state, is also an important city for the country, where the most important institutions of the country are located, through which many important services are provided to the country. With a population of over 16,96,694 people in Dehradun, trying to ensure the welfare of every citizen was a challenge for the local administration. Though the lockdown brought life to a standstill for the common man, in such a

THE DOUBLING RATE OF PATIENTS HAS INCREASED FROM 24 TO 38 DAYS

situation there are others who have to work in double shifts. They are our true hero. They are our own Corona warriors. In Dehradun, the frontline district administration officials, police, all necessary workers, farmers, scavengers, NGOs and citizens, who have been fully and united, have helped control the spread of the virus. This is the reason why the doubling rate of corona patients in Dehradun has increased from 24 days to 38 days, which is better than the recovery rate of the country. It is only when the local authorities take over and ensure that all the citizens have

their basic needs taken care of so that the citizens feel safe and secure. The Dehradun district administration has been particularly effective in managing the lockdown situation. They resurrect the city of Dehradun, distributing food kits to ensure that everyone in the district needs to survive the epidemic irrespective of economic background, caste, gender or age. They have demonstrated great management by taking tough calls and implementing guidelines across the district. They have collaborated with others to ensure that the basic needs of citizens are not affected.

Then while it was risky for the citizens to go to the market, the administration brought the market to them and significantly reduced the risk of the virus. Access to vegetables and all essential commodities were ensured for all families while maintaining social distance and similar measures. Rules and legislation were strictly enforced to control the number of positive cases in the district. To facilitate dedicated and efficient handling of all issues, Doon Smart City Limited was made the nodal agency, providing the department with authority to ensure that citizens

strictly follow the rules laid down. The department also ensures that vehicle passes are issued for travel and for any other requirement, if necessary, and no one violates the rules. In this way all the people are like a special task force working tirelessly to make the district safe and virus free. Dehradun District Magistrate Shri Ashish Shrivastava has shown tremendous courage and self-confidence during this period. It is a reflection of the dedication and commitment. Many citizens have praised the district administration through social media.

DM Message

Dehradun's recovery rate is better than the country's average recovery rate

THE testing rate of state capital Dehradun has now become better than before. Currently the situation is under control. The recovery rate in Dehradun is better than the average recovery rate in the country. At this time, the patient is not coming in the district from an unknown source. There are 18000 tests per million population in Dehradun district.



Active surveillance is being done at various levels in the district, Total surveillance for the entire population once. In view of the prevention of COVID-19 disease, the district is divided into 9 sectors, along with Asha and Anganwadi workers, sector officers are being deployed, they will monitor and report their investigation. Asha and Anganwadi workers have checked entire population twice and third round is going on. Through the information about the health of the people quarantined home and the health information of the people who have returned home after recovering from the COVID-19 infection, information is being taken on the phone by contacting the people with sickness of the district.

3 call centers have been established in Dehradun for complete monitoring. Apart from taking health information through call centers, people are also being made aware.

Sanitization campaign is now being run in Dehradun city every Saturday and Sunday.

Dr. Ashish Kumar Shrivastava /AS, District Magistrate Dehradun

(स्थापना वर्ष 2008)

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Message

31st July, 2020 is the auspicious occasion of 99th Foundation Day of **NAINITAL BANK**. I pay my heartiest and humble tributes to Hon'ble Bharat Ratna late Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant ji and other founder fathers and convey my sincere gratitude to all our customers, shareholders, stake holders, staff members and all well-wishers. Nainital bank is the only premier commercial Bank originated from the state of Uttarakhand. The objective of the Bank is to become the first Digital and Techno Savvy Bank of Uttarakhand. Bank is in process to initiate state of the art technological services to its customers by implementing the highly sophisticated and advanced system Finacle 10.x CBS platform. In addition, the Bank will procure technologies and systems that will enhance the customers overall journey with the Bank in the decades to come. The Bank proposes to have dominant presence in the state of Uttarakhand and also expand in four other operative northern Indian States namely Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi & NCR and will endeavour to take the number of Branches from 144 at present to +200 Branches and to increase its total business 20000 crore till 2023. I look forward for your continuous patronage as the Bank will enter shortly into its centenary year celebrations.

With sincere greetings,
Dinesh Pant
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

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6 GOVT & POLITICS



STRONG MESSAGE

SOME IN the government admit there is a need for awareness to remove the stigma against Covid-19 patients and those who have recovered. While calls from public figures like actors Amitabh Bachchan and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to deal with it as just another disease have been appreciated, some ministers are taking extra steps to convey the message. One such move was made by Union minister Prakash Javadekar. PIB Director General K S Dhatwalia was apprehensive about sharing a dais for a cabinet briefing as he had recovered from coronavirus infection. But Javadekar insisted that Dhatwalia be seated with him to send the message that once recovered, one is perfectly fine.

MORE RUMBLINGS

WHILE THE crisis in the Rajasthan Congress is far from over, it is said there are rumblings in the Jharkhand Congress as well. The Congress shares power with the JMM in the state. A section of Congress MLAs is demanding the removal of the state Congress chief Rameshwar Oraon. At least three of them have landed in Delhi and met Ahmed Patel, and are learnt to have urged him to implement the one-man-one-post policy in Jharkhand. Oraon is the state Finance Minister apart from being PCC chief.

NEW POST

HARDIK SATISHCHANDRA Shah, a 2010-batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer, will be the new Private Secretary to the Prime Minister. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Shah, said an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training. He is currently posted as Deputy Secretary in the PMO. He will replace Rajeev Topno, a 1996-batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer, who was appointed senior advisor to the World Bank Executive Director last month.

In SC, UGC firm on direction to conduct final exams by Sept

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE UNIVERSITY Grants Commission (UGC) on Thursday stood by its direction to universities and institutions to conduct final-year exams by September-end, saying the "Revised Guidelines" of July 6, 2020 offer "sufficient flexibility" and are intended "to protect the academic future of students".

In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, the UGC referred to its July 6 guidelines and said they "adequately account for the evolving situation of the Covid-19 pandemic because they (a) provide sufficient time till the end of September 2020 to conduct the final year/terminal semester examinations after following the prescribed protocols and procedures relating to Covid-19; (b) give sufficient flexibility to Universities/institutions to conduct such examinations in online, offline (pen and paper) or blended (online + offline) mode; and (c) provide for an examination through special chance for students who for whatsoever the reason(s) may be are unable to appear for the examinations..."

The UGC also said that the guidelines "have to be adopted and applied by all Universities/institutions in the country (including State Universities)".

It further said "therefore, the

decision of certain state governments" like Maharashtra and Delhi "to either cancel the terminal semester/final year examinations for UG/PG students and/or to graduate such students and confer degrees without appearing for the final year/terminal semester examinations is plainly contrary to the UGC's Guidelines".

The UGC said it "has issued such guidelines to protect the academic future of students across the country which will be irreparably damaged if their final year/terminal semester examinations are not held, while also keeping in mind their health and safety".

The affidavit, filed in response to petitions challenging the guidelines, noted that the guidelines were drawn up following a report by a committee under the chairmanship of Professor R C Kuhad, Vice-Chancellor, Central University, Haryana, and published "in consultation with the Universities or other bodies concerned" as mandated by Section 12 of UGC Act.

The guidelines first issued on April 29 required the exams to be held in July. However, in view of the evolving situation of the Covid pandemic and lockdown, the UGC requested the committee to revisit the guidelines. It said the MHA "has also permitted" the conduct of the exams and the matter affects the standards of higher education in the country.

response to the Covid-19 pandemic?

While I was working at 10 Downing Street with the Prime Minister on the longer-term response, what seemed very striking was, while I was there, how much of that was about our collaboration with India at the height of the crisis in the UK.

For example, the way in which the Indian government allowed the export of paracetamol at the point where supplies had become critical in the UK, the export of some PPE, the support we had as we repatriated British nationals across India.

In terms of the pandemic itself, clearly we're living with it for

TEHELKA STING OP CASE

Hrs after trial court order, HC stays 4-yr jail for Jaya Jaitly

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE DELHI High Court on Thursday stayed a four-year rigorous imprisonment sentence awarded by a lower court to former Samata Party president Jaya Jaitly in a 2001 case related to a sting operation by *Tehelka* magazine for a purported defence deal.

Jaitly and two others were chargesheeted after *Tehelka* aired the sting, "Operation Westend", showing them purportedly accepting bribes from its reporters — who posed as representatives of a fictitious company — for supply orders from the Army for hand-held thermal imagers.

Of the three sentenced by the lower court earlier in the day, Jaitly had moved the High Court.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait stayed the order considering the fact that the "appellant (Jaitly) was not arrested in the present case".



Jaya Jaitly

"However," Justice Kait noted, "without commenting on the merits of appeal, I am of the view that the appellant deserves suspension of sentence during pendency of the appeal."

The High Court also ordered that Jaitly be released on bail on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 50,000 with two sureties of the like amount, and directed that she ensure her presence during the time of hearing of the appeal.

Jaitly, along with Major General S P Murugai (ret'd) and former Samata Party leader Gopal Pachherwal, were held guilty of corruption and criminal conspiracy by the trial court on July 21.

Early Thursday afternoon,

Special Judge Virender Bhat sentenced the three to four-year imprisonment, and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh each on Jaitly and Murugai, and Rs 50,000 on Pachherwal.

While deciding on sentencing, Judge Bhat quoted Kautilya in Arthashastra and said a well-considered and just punishment makes people devoted to righteousness, while unjust punishment excites the society's fury. "Whoever imposes severe punishment becomes repulsive to people while he who awards mild punishment, becomes contemptible. The ruler just with the rod is honoured. When discerned punishment is given, it endows the subject with spiritual good, material well-being and pleasure of the senses," the court said.

Judge Bhat observed that the "virus of corruption which has engulfed the entire fabric of our society is becoming a major obstacle in the growth and

development of our nation".

The court noted, "In a democratic system, when the public offices and public institutions are misused for private advantage, they lose their legitimacy. Corruption not only corrodes the social fabric of the society but also depletes national wealth. Courts also need to play a vital role in such efforts by dealing sternly with persons... which would deter other public servants from indulging in corrupt deals."

According to CBI, which investigated the case, Jaitly entered a criminal conspiracy with Murugai, Pachherwal and Surender Kumar Surekha — who eventually turned approver — in 2000-01 and obtained Rs 2 lakh as illegal gratification for herself from Mathew Samuel, a representative from *Tehelka.com* who posed as representative of a fictitious firm, "to get the supply of Hand Held Thermal Cameras from the Ministry of Defence for the fictitious firm".



PRIYANKA VACATES GOVT BUNGALOW

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra leaves the bungalow allotted to her in the Lutyens Bungalow Zone in Delhi. The government had asked her to vacate the bungalow by August 1, saying her allotment stood cancelled since she was not an SPG protectee anymore. The Congress said that CPWD officials accepted the keys from Priyanka "after a full inspection establishing that the house was handed over in good condition". Anil Sharma

MAURITIUS TOP COURT BUILDING, BUILT WITH INDIA AID, INAUGURATED

India's development cooperation does not come with political conditions, says PM

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

IN AN oblique reference to China's debt-trap diplomacy in the region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that India's development cooperation does not come with any conditions and is not influenced by political or commercial considerations, as he — along with Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth — jointly inaugurated the new Supreme Court building in Mauritius.

"India's approach to development is mainly human-centric. We want to work for the welfare of humanity. History has taught us that in the name of development partnerships, nations were forced into dependence partnerships. It gave rise to colonial and imperial rule. It gave rise to global power blocks. And, humanity suffered," Modi said on Thursday.

"India is making development partnerships that are marked by respect, diversity, care for the fu-



PM Narendra Modi jointly inaugurates the Supreme Court building in Port Louis along with his Mauritius counterpart Pravind Jugnauth, through video conference in Delhi. ANI

ture, and sustainable development. For India, the most fundamental principle in development cooperation is respecting our partners. This sharing of development lessons is our only motivation. That is why our development cooperation does not come with any conditions. It is not influenced by political or commercial considerations," he said at the inauguration through a video-conference.

The building is the first India-assisted infrastructure project within the capital city of Port Louis to be inaugurated after the Covid-19 pandemic. The project has been completed with a grant assistance of USD 28.12 million from the government of India.

Mauritius PM Jugnauth expressed his deep appreciation for India's support for the project as reflective of the close ties.

Horse-trading rates have gone up since House session dates announced: Gehlot

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, JULY 30

STATING THAT he had told Governor Kalraj Mishra that giving a 21-day window before calling the Assembly will "increase horse-trading", Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday said the "rates" of MLAs have risen manifold after Mishra agreed to call the House session from August 14.

He also accused BSP chief Mayawati of giving statements under compulsion from the BJP.

He told the media: "Ever since the Governor declared 14th (August, for the House to convene), the telephones have started ringing. We get news who is calling and what they are offering. They (MLAs) are being asked, 'tell us what you want'..."

Gehlot maintained that earlier the "first installment" paid to MLAs — purportedly to buy their votes — was Rs 10 crore, "and the next" was Rs 15 crore. "You will be surprised to know that it is now unlimited. Now they are being asked, 'tell us what you want'. It means that from 25 (crore rupees), horse trading rates have increased."

"I am happy that the Governor agreed with me," he said, but added that he had told



CM Gehlot at a meeting with party MLAs, at a hotel in Jaipur. Rohit Jain Paras

Mishra to include the week spent exchanging letters to convince the Governor about the need to call a House session at the earliest while calculating the 21-day period.

On merger of the six BSP MLAs into the Congress last year — the BSP has moved the court in the case, calling it illegal — Gehlot said, "The BJP merged four TDP MPs (in Rajya Sabha, last year) into it overnight. That merger is correct but six MLAs merging with Congress in Rajasthan is wrong?" He accused the BJP-led Centre of "misusing" the Income Tax Department, ED, CBI to "scare and threaten everyone" and said, "Mayawati-ji is also getting scared of them and giving statements under compulsion."

HC notices to Speaker, 6 BSP MLAs who joined Congress

DEEPMUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, JULY 30

THE RAJASTHAN High Court Thursday issued notices to the state Assembly Speaker and the six BSP MLAs who had joined the Congress in September last year.

The court was hearing petitions filed by the BSP and BJP MLA Madan Dilawar against the decision of the six MLAs to join the Congress. The petitioners

cited several judgments to argue that the merger is unconstitutional.

The bench of Justice Mahendar Kumar Goyal asked the Speaker and the MLAs to respond by August 11 when the court will next hear the matter.

The BSP has issued a whip to the six MLAs, directing them to vote against the Congress in any no-confidence motion or other proceedings in the Rajasthan Assembly.

Urge restraint along LAC, oppose unilateral bid to alter status quo: Australia

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

URGING RESTRAINT along the LAC, Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell said on Thursday that Australia opposed any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo.

After meeting External Affairs minister S Jaishankar on Thursday, the Australian envoy said, "Australia urges restraint along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and supports continued moves towards de-escalation. As I told the External Affairs Minister of India today, Australia opposes any attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo, which only serve to increase tension and the risk of instability."

"It is important that the bilat-

erally-agreed principles and norms that have helped prevent escalation or miscalculation in the border areas over many decades continue to be observed," he said.

On the Indo-Pacific region and China's aggressive behaviour, he said, "The Indo-Pacific region, like other parts of the world, is grappling with the enormous challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Even as we focus on the health and economic impacts of the pandemic, Australia remains vigilant about strategic trends inimical to our vision of the region."

On the South China Sea, he said, "Australia remains deeply concerned by actions in the South China Sea that are destabilising and could provoke escalation."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

‘We are very clear, as is India, that this vaccine is for everybody’

THE NEW High Commissioner of UK in India, **SIR PHILIP BARTON**, served as the Director General in the Cabinet Office working on the UK's long-term response to the Covid-19 crisis before his arrival in India six weeks ago. On his first virtual visit to Mumbai on Wednesday, he discussed a range of issues, from the response to the Covid-19 crisis, UK's new immigration policy to laying the building blocks for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India. Excerpts from an interview with **MAYURA JANWALKAR**:

What have your discussions been with the Indian government over the

new but there is a way out through treatment and vaccines. We don't know which vaccine is going to work as trials are still going on but the one that at the moment looks promising is the Oxford University vaccine which will be manufactured with the Serum Institute (of India).

It is really exciting that something that is being investigated and worked in the UK, will be manufactured in India and, crucially, will be made available on a global, equitable basis. We are very clear, as is the Indian government, that this vaccine is for everybody. This is a global pandemic and vaccines must be for everybody... More broadly, I

think of what the opportunities are as the UK and India recover from the economic impact... There is a very big agenda around climate change and greening our recovery. We, the UK, have a particular responsibility because we are hosting COP26 (UN Climate Change Conference). This is our long-term plan with India on climate change and renewable energy.

With the UK's new points-based immigration policy, how do you reconcile the Global Britain mantra with the hostility (in the UK) towards immigrants and immigration?



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW

WITH
SIR PHILIP BARTON
UK HIGH COMMISSIONER
IN INDIA

I don't think that is a reflection of the situation in the UK. If you look at the changes we have made, we remember the European Union (EU). If you were a EU citizen, you could go visit, study in the UK without any restrictions but that wasn't true for citizens of all countries, including India. We have now levelled the playing field. So we have a new points-based system which means from wherever you come, if you have the right points, you will be allowed entry into the UK and I think that really helps a country like India...

At a time that there has been unrest in Hong Kong (over

China's imposition of a new law in the territory) and a stand-off with India at the LAC, what are your views about engagement with China?

The situation along the LAC is clearly a matter for India and China and we as the UK welcome efforts to de-escalate that. On the UK's relationship with China, the Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab spoke to the Chinese Foreign Minister (on Tuesday) and we are keen to have, if we can, a positive and constructive engagement with China but we are concerned about the situation in Hong Kong and we are concerned about the human rights issues, particularly in Xinjiang province. But we do

want to have a positive relationship with China. We, as the UK, have a particular responsibility towards Hong Kong...

How close have the UK and India moved towards arriving at a Free Trade Agreement (FTA)?

We had a very good discussion in a virtual JETCO (Joint Economic Trade Committee) meeting and we agreed to take forward what we're calling the early harvest trade partnerships and how we can deepen the trade and investment partnership between the UK and India...

FULL INTERVIEW ON
www.indianexpress.com



At a containment area in Kochi on Thursday. AP

UNLOCKING
IN STATES

- BIHAR**
WHAT'S OPEN
- Govt & pvt offices (50% staff)
 - Eateries (only takeaway)
 - Commercial establishments

- WHAT'S SHUT**
- Shopping malls
 - Public transport (taxis, autos exempted)

NIGHT CURFEW FROM 10 PM TO 5 AM

- UTTAR PRADESH**
WHAT'S OPEN
- Gyms
 - Yoga centres
- WHAT'S SHUT**
- Educational institutions
 - Cinema halls
 - Swimming pools
 - Amusement parks
 - Bars

WEEKEND CURBS TO CONTINUE

- GUJARAT**
WHAT'S OPEN
- Night curfew lifted
 - Restaurants now open till 10 pm
 - Shops open till 8 pm
- WHAT'S SHUT**
- Schools
 - Coaching classes
 - Cinema halls

FROM AUGUST 1, THOSE STEPPING OUT WITHOUT MASKS WILL BE FINED ₹500, UP FROM ₹200



Sanitisation at a mall before it reopens on August 5, in Mumbai on Thursday. Ganesh Shirsekar

After HC prod, Karnataka guidelines on last rites focus on tradition, dignity

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, JULY 30

IN THE wake of the Karnataka High Court calling for protection of dignity of people who succumb to Covid-19 and for respecting customs and traditions of their families, the state health department Wednesday issued fresh guidelines for management of bodies of Covid-19 patients, with emphasis on protection of tradition and dignity of the dead.

The July 27 court order followed instances of dumping of such bodies in pits in Ballari and families being forced to deviate from cultural practices for conducting last rites.

"The dignity of the dead, their cultural and religious traditions should be respected and protected throughout. Hasty disposal of the dead body of a Covid-19 person should be strictly avoided," state the guidelines issued by the health department.

A division bench of the high court headed by Chief Justice Abhay Sreenivas Oka had directed the state government to "come out with a protocol/guide-

lines with emphasis on maintaining the dignity of a dead person". Under the new guidelines, the government has allowed close family members to catch a last glimpse of patients who succumb to Covid-19 before the bodies are packed for funerals.

Many doctors have been recommending use of body bags where faces are visible. "We have to be a little humane and allow body bags where people can see the faces, that is not happening at present," said Dr Taha Mateen, a trustee of HBS Hospital in Bengaluru, which is associated with a voluntary group called Mercy Angels that is helping people carry out last rites of Covid-19 victims.

The guidelines say that family members can be allowed to view bodies at the hospital where they are kept after death by following safety protocols. "If family member/s of the patient wish to view the body at the time of removal from the isolation room or area they shall be allowed to do so by observing the standard precautions by a keeping a distancing of 1 metre/3 feet wearing face mask and hand hygiene," they state.

Kerala to begin home isolation for asymptomatic Covid-19 patients

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 30

THE KERALA government has decided to implement home care isolation for Covid-19 patients. In the first phase of the plan, health workers who have tested positive but are asymptomatic would be allowed to opt for home care isolation on an experimental basis.

After a review meeting, CM Pinarayi Vijayan told the media that an expert committee has recommended that home care isolation could be implemented as per ICMR guidelines. "Most patients are asymptomatic and do not require intensive care. Such patients have been moved to Covid first line treatment centres. They have been put up at such centres to prevent transmission of the disease. Such asymptomatic would be allowed for home care isolation," he said.

Vijayan said home isolation would be allowed for health workers who tested positive on an experimental basis. "Nobody would be forced. Government is not abandoning patients as alleged by the Opposition," he said.

ICMR SYMPOSIUM

India pvt sector has key role in manufacturing vaccine: Fauci

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

AS THE "world's leading manufacturer of vaccines", India's private sector has a "very important role" in the global battle against Covid-19, Dr Anthony S Fauci, one of the world's leading experts on infectious diseases, said on Thursday evening.

Dr Fauci was speaking at an online symposium organised by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which was also attended by several other internationally acclaimed epidemiologists and vaccinologists.

"India's private sector also has a very important role to play as the world's leading manufacturer of vaccines and, as effective Covid-19 vaccines emerge from our research efforts, this manufacturing capability is going to be very, very important," Dr Fauci said. "Moving forward, we and other (US National Institutes of Health) institutes will continue to work with Indian counterparts and colleagues to assure Indian scientists and Indian impressive research and development capacity are integrated in the global efforts to address the Covid-19 vaccine."



Dr Anthony Fauci

Dr Fauci is the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the top medical research agency of the US government. Dr Fauci has been in his post since 1984, and has been adviser to six US Presidents since Ronald Reagan. Dr Fauci listed three key aspects that would reduce the lag between trials and manufacture of vaccines: regulatory standards and review, harmonised data monitoring to foster comparability, and the financing of advanced vaccine production.

Giving his opinion on one of the ongoing debates in the medical community, Dr Fauci said he was against human challenge trials, in which participants are purposely exposed to the virus. The high incidence of Covid-19 makes

such risks unnecessary, and the lack of highly effective therapies makes it unethical.

Several others in the symposium, however, disagreed. Prof Adrian Hill of Oxford University, who is part of the team of researchers who partnered with India's Serum Institute to develop a vaccine candidate, said therapies such as remdesivir and convalescent plasma should allow researchers to consider both human challenge and randomised control trials to allow for "quicker and less expensive" pathways, given the unpredictability of the virus spread.

Others such as Nir Eyal, director of Rutgers's Center for Population-Level Bioethics, and Marc Lipsitch, professor of epidemiology at Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health, also disagreed with Dr Fauci, while microbiologist Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, agreed.

Participants also discussed how to equitably distribute the future vaccine in view of rising "vaccine nationalism", as Prof Piot described it. Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Health, Rajesh Bhushan asked the panelists if the aim should be to reduce cases by

distributing across populations, or to reduce the number of deaths by focusing on the elderly, those with comorbidities, or the poor. "Within the (Health) Ministry, we are engaged with this question... Outside the government, there is an emerging consensus that at least frontline health workers have the best claim over who should get the vaccine first... Would there be a priority list," Bhushan asked.

Prof Eyal responded that essential workers, not just health workers, should be prioritised. Prof Lipsitch said country distribution should be measured by per capita.

NITI Aayog member Dr Vinod Paul, chairperson of India's national Covid-19 task force, stressed the country's commitment to vaccine access. "We cannot accept a situation where the rich have the vaccine and not the poor... The vaccine is not just for India and Indians but for the world and humanity," Dr Paul said.

Other speakers included Principal Scientific Adviser Prof K VijayRaghavan, Drugs Controller General of India Dr V G Somani, WHO South East Asia Regional Director Dr Poonam Khetrarpal Singh, and ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava.

Within govt, talks on who will get vaccine first

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

WITH MULTIPLE Covid-19 vaccine candidates across the globe entering phase 3 of human trials, the government on Thursday said it has actively begun engaging with multiple stakeholders on the two crucial aspects related to distribution and administration of a potential vaccine for Covid-19.

The Centre said it is currently deliberating on two key issues — logistics and to which section of the population the vaccine needs to be administered on priority.

At a press briefing, Rajesh Bhushan, Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Health, on Thursday said, "...Has there been a discussion on prioritising how a vaccine would be distributed and administered, if and when it is available — the answer is, yes; there are multiple stakeholders within government and Ministry of Health has started actively engaging with such stakeholders."

Asked which section of the population the vaccine will be administered on priority, he said, "When the vaccine comes, it has to be administered on a much larger scale compared to the existing vaccines. There is near unanimity on this. The questions which are being discussed are the questions of logistics: how it will be procured and stored, and how it will be made available. But there are equally important ethical questions: who gets it first? These questions are still under deliberations in the Union government."

Meanwhile, as the number of Covid-19 recoveries in the country touched a million, the Centre flagged that developing herd immunity in the absence of a vaccine is not an option. "Herd immunity is kind of indirect protection, but it happens only when the population becomes immune either through vaccination or immunity developed through the previous infection... In 2011, India had a population of 121 crore according to Census data... for a country of this size, if we are talking about developing herd immunity without the vaccine. That is not an option," Bhushan said.

"It can only be an outcome, that too, at a very high cost. Lakhs of people have to get infected, get admitted to hospitals, collapsing the healthcare infrastructure, and resulting in numerous deaths. Herd immunity can never be a strategic option," Bhushan said.

ADVERTORIAL

REC Limited – The Human Side of Business

REC Limited, a Navratna central PSU under the Ministry of Power and one of India's largest power project financiers, is on a mission to aid the needy and support the frontline corona warriors

THE Covid-19 pandemic has engulfed the entire world and has posed serious challenges for the health and economic security of millions of people worldwide. In India too, the spread of coronavirus has been alarming and is posing severe health and economic ramifications for our country.

To help battle the coronavirus, the central PSU has donated ₹150 crore to the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) fund while its employees have also voluntarily contributed one day's salary to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). It has acted proactively in providing various relief measures to combat the novel coronavirus throughout the course of the pandemic outbreak and has already rolled out various preventive measures at its Corporate Office and all its Regional offices to safeguard its employees and their families.

The corporation has sanctioned funds to the tune of ₹10 crore to the offices of Distribution Companies, Collector and/or District Magistrates for distributing cooked food, ration kits, utility packs, masks, sanitizers and making shelter arrangements during the lockdown to over 95,000 beneficiaries. As on 28th July 2020, the corporation has distributed more than 4.83 lakh kilograms of food grains, 4.38 lakh meal packets, 10,007 litres of sanitizers, 3,440 PPE kits and 86,300 masks to help combat the pandemic.

REC Foundation, the CSR arm of REC has distributed 5000 customized packets carrying essentials for labourers and the workers affected by the nationwide lockdown. These sustainable cloth bags contained a drinking water bottle, roasted chana, peanuts, glucose powder, footwear and reusable masks. The distribution of these bags was done by the employees of the corporation who volunteered to help alleviate the pain of the needy.

REC had also tied up with Delhi Police to provide 500 ration kits on a daily basis for about 50 days to over 1,00,000 beneficiaries. Additionally, around 300 workers engaged in the construction of REC Headquarters in Gurugram and other labourers in the vicinity, from various states were provided ration and essential items like



Deputy Commissioner of Mamit district in Mizoram, Dr. Lalrozama inaugurating the 4 nos. of ambulances donated by REC



The employees of REC have braved the pandemic to provide support and care for the needy



REC employees volunteered to distribute bags carrying essentials for the labourers to help alleviate their pain



atta, rice, dal, edible oil, soap, sanitizers etc. on a bi-weekly basis.

Moreover, to support the frontline corona warriors, REC Limited has also partnered with TajSATS (a joint venture of IHCL and SATS Ltd) to distribute specially-made nutritious meal packs to the medical staff in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi on a daily basis. Every day, 300 food packets are being delivered as a gesture of gratitude to the

healthcare workers in New Delhi. Overall, 18,000 meals will be delivered through this collaborative endeavour.

Dr. RK Srivastava of Safdarjung Hospital said "REC has been kind enough for funding under their corporate social responsibility initiatives with TAJ SATS through a combination of TAJ CSR to provide good quality food to the doctors and staff in our hospital since 24th May 2020 from their CSR funds.

This is to last up to 23rd July 2020." On behalf of the medical team and hospital staff, Dr. Srivastava thanked REC for its magnanimous efforts while adding "We at Safdarjung Hospital have very high regard for this kind gesture of REC and hope for similar kind of support in future too. Given the gravity and urgency of the situation, we hope for a prompt and supportive response always in this regard".

In continuation of their relentless measures to provide relief from the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak, REC has donated 4 nos. of ambulances (Maruti Suzuki AC Eeco Vans) to assist the Mamit district in Mizoram by strengthening its health service deliveries. The Deputy Commissioner of Mamit district, Dr. Lalrozama expressed his gratitude towards REC by thanking them for understanding the problem faced

in the district and their constant support in procuring these ambulances. With the help of these ambulances, transportation of Covid-19 patients from quarantine centres to the Covid care centres has been made very feasible.

With India continuing its fight against the coronavirus, it's imperative that we strive to help mitigate the hardships and afflictions of the needy and underprivileged of the society through various collective efforts. In a bid to provide care and support against the virus outbreak that has plagued our country, REC has left no stone unturned in its attempt to help the nation and its citizens overcome the impediments caused by the pandemic. As the trying times linger on with many uncertainties, REC endeavours to play a vital role in the upliftment of the impoverished, whilst providing assistance in building a stronger and more resilient India in the face of adversities along the way.

REC Limited remains determined in its commitment to being a major partner in the service of the nation.

3rd BJP worker found dead in fortnight, family accuses TMC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 30

THE BODY of a 52-year-old BJP worker was found hanging from a tree in Ghoramara area of South 24 Parganas district on Thursday. His family alleged that he was killed by local Trinamool Congress leaders. Police said that they have found a handwritten “suicide note”.

Patra’s family in a complaint lodged at Sagar Police Station has named 11 local Trinamool leaders and 10 others for the “murder”. “My father was vocal against TMC leaders indulging in corruption in cyclone Amphan relief distribution,” Patra’s son Soumitra said.

This is the third such incident in the state in the last fortnight. On Wednesday, the body of a BJP worker, Purnachandra Das, was found hanging in Ramnagar area of East Midnapore district. Before that, Hemtambd MLA Debendra Nath Roy, who had joined BJP last year, was found dead. His body was also found hanging in front of a tea shop.

Cong stalwart Somen Mitra, strategist behind 2016 alliance with Left, dies at 78

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 30

CONGRESS STALWART from West Bengal Somen Mitra died at a hospital here early Thursday. He was 78.

A three-time state Congress president, Mitra had been unable to prevent a split in the party, which resulted in the creation of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the decline of the Congress as a political power in Bengal. It was during Mitra’s second term as party president in the late 1990s that the Congress had to relinquish its position as the main opposition to the TMC.

Born in 1941 in Jessore district of erstwhile East Bengal (now Bangladesh), Mitra began his political career as a student leader in the 1960s. At 31, he became the youngest MLA in the state in 1972. Except in 1977, Mitra continued to win the Sealdah seat from 1982 to 2006.

Fondly known as ‘Chhorda’ (younger brother), Mitra was viewed as one of the politicians of the 1960s and 70s who played a



SOMEN MITRA
1941-2020

role in the fight against Naxalites in Kolkata. He went on to become president of the Congress’s West Bengal unit for three terms—from 1992 to 1996, 1996 to 1998 and then from September 2018, and was instrumental in the party securing 82 seats in the 1996 Assembly elections.

However, as the Congress joined hands with Left Front at the Centre to back the United Front government, it lost credibility as the main opposition to the CPI(M) in West Bengal. It was then that Mamata Banerjee, who was then West Bengal Youth Congress president, began emerging as an opposition force.

There was a tussle between Mitra and Banerjee in the Bengal Congress unit. Relations between them soured further when Banerjee positioned herself against Mitra for the post of state Congress president. Mitra won the internal election by 22 votes. It was learnt that he along with the then Congress national president Sitaram Kesari cornered Banerjee in the party, after which she broke away to form the TMC in 1998.

As the TMC sided with the BJP and replaced the Congress as the main Opposition to the Left Front government in Bengal by winning seven seats in the 1998 parliamentary polls, Mitra stepped down as state Congress chief. He left the Congress in 2008 and launched Pragatishheel (Progressive) Indira Congress. He merged his outfit with the TMC before 2009 Lok Sabha polls and won Diamond Harbour seat on a TMC ticket.

Mitra left the TMC in 2014 following differences with Banerjee and rejoined the Congress. He became Congress president again in 2018.

Mitra was one of the chief

strategists behind the Left Front-Congress alliance in the 2016 Assembly elections. He was keen on such an alliance for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, but it could not materialise.

Mitra was admitted in Belle Vue Clinic for 17 days due to heart and kidney ailments. Hospital sources said he died following a cardiac arrest. He had tested negative for Covid-19.

His wife Sikha told reporters: “His heart remained in politics. We told him to stay away due to his health. But he continued.”

Condoling Mitra’s death, CM Banerjee tweeted, “Saddened to hear about the passing away of veteran leader, former MP and @INCWestBengal president Somen Mitra...”

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh wrote to Mitra’s wife, “He was a leader of high esteem who was highly respected by everybody irrespective of party-lines...”

Veteran CPI(M) leader Biman Bose said his death was a blow to “the secular and democratic forces in the state”. Mitra is survived by his wife and son.

PALGHAR CHARGESHEET

In days before lynching, WhatsApp groups were abuzz with rumours: CID

SRINATH RAO
MUMBAI, JULY 30

IN THE four days leading up to the lynching of two ascetics and their driver in Palghar on April 16, WhatsApp groups in the area actively spread rumours and fuelled fear in villages in parts of the district. The rumour-mongering began on April 12 with a message about thieves and alleged organ-harvesters being spotted at a few villages, progressed to warnings about 500 Muslims being “let loose” across India to spread the Covid-19 virus and culminated in an announcement at 12.59 am on April 16: If you catch a thief, do not leave him alive. The three men were killed later that day as they happened to pass through Gadchinchle village on their way to a funeral in Surat.

An analysis of five different WhatsApp groups of residents of Gadchinchle and its neighbouring villages in Palghar and the adjoining Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, is part of the Maharashtra Criminal Investigation Department’s (CID) 5,291-page-long chargesheet filed earlier this month against 126 men for allegedly lynching ascetics Mahant Kalpavruksha Giri (70) and Sushilgiri Maharaj (35) and their driver Nilesh Telgade (30). The CID wrote in the chargesheet that the spread of rumours heightened tensions in Gadchinchle to the extent that vil-



Police inspect the car that was attacked in Gadchinchle village. File

lagers accused the travellers of being thieves in disguise.

The rumour-mongering had not gone unnoticed by the district administration which had convened a meeting at Gadchinchle at 5 pm on April 15, a day before the incident. Then Kasa police station in-charge, Assistant Police Inspector Anand Rao Kale, Sub Inspector Sudhir Katare, Sarpanch Chitra Chaudhary and anti-superstition activists had pleaded with villagers not to believe in or act upon rumours and report any suspicious persons to the police.

To discourage large gatherings in public places, the authorities had also requested local boys not to play cricket in large groups and for men to refrain from selling toddy and playing cards in groups of 30-40. This message, sent by WhatsApp by Arun Kadam, a Panchayat Samiti member from Dahanu Taluka, also reminded

Gadchinchle residents that 50 men who had accosted and attacked Thane-based Dr Vishwas Walvi, his colleague and their driver at Sami Patilpada village on April 14 had been arrested by the police. It was shared in a WhatsApp group named Gadchinchle, which had as its display picture a doctor wearing a mask and cradling a map of India in her hands.

The CID has in particular flagged as suspicious the April 12 rumour about thieves being spotted at multiple locations which was posted on the following WhatsApp groups—Whatsapp Goo, AAL AADIVASI FRIEND and Group of Amboli.

Immediately after the attack on the doctors, images and videos of the incident and pictures of unidentified men being strangled and lying injured were circulated via WhatsApp. These images were found saved in the mobile phone of accused Prakash Chotke.

The CID also found a frantic exchange of text messages on another group of locals claiming to have spotted and captured thieves at multiple villages, news clips about doctors in Dahanu testing positive for Covid-19, and warnings to watch out for Muslim men posing as beggars and butchers. There were messages on this group, exhorting women not to open doors after dark and a message claiming that two busloads of thieves had crossed over from Khanvel in Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

Poll panel to Chavan: Agency hired after vetting by state govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE ELECTION Commission told former CM Prithviraj Chavan Thursday that Signpost India was hired to work on voter awareness ahead of Maharashtra polls only after it was vetted by the state’s Directorate General of Information and Public Relations. The office of the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer, the EC said, did not choose Signpost India but “requested” its service through DGIPR.

The state CEO had approached DGIPR for finding an agency since a 2017 resolution by the Maharashtra government had tasked DGIPR to engage all ad agencies on behalf of the government and its departments, the EC’s letter to Chavan said.

The Congress leader had alleged that the Maharashtra CEO hired an agency owned by Devang Dave, national convener of IT and social media of BJP’s youth wing, to work on voter awareness. The EC’s letter did not mention Dave or his agency.

RS bypolls on August 24

New Delhi: Bypolls to two Rajya Sabha seats—one each in UP and Kerala—will be held on August 24, the EC said Thursday. The bypolls were necessitated by the death of Beni Prasad Verma from UP and M P Veerendra Kumar from Kerala earlier this year.

MoS Athawale calls for ‘Buddha Vihar’ to be built in Ayodhya

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JULY 30

UNION MINISTER of State for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale Thursday demanded the construction of a ‘Buddha Vihar’ in Ayodhya. “At Ayodhya, before Babri Masjid, there was Ram temple. But before Ram temple there was a Buddha Vihar,” said the Republican Party of India chief.

Acknowledging that the Ayodhya dispute has been resolved, Athawale said, “It is now evident that the Ram temple will be built at the disputed site. And land has been allotted for mosque construction... we are working to acquire land elsewhere for a grand Buddha Vihar.”

The minister said he would meet Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to discuss the issue. “The UP government should help us in getting land which is not locked in any dispute.”

CBI takes over probe into death of Kerala violinist, daughter in mishap


Thiruvananthapuram: The CBI has taken over the probe into the death of violinist Balabhaskar and his 18-month-old daughter in a 2018 road accident near here. The family had alleged that a suspect in the case was connected with the gold smuggling racket that came to light recently. The CBI has taken over the probe even as multiple central government agencies are probing the smuggling of 30 kg gold through diplomatic cargo.

Kalabhavan Sobi, a performing artist, had alleged that two persons had been present at the accident spot and one of them was P S Sarith, arrested in the gold smuggling case pertaining to diplomatic cargo. Customs had alleged that Sarith, a former PRO at UAE Consulate, had smuggled in gold through the same route several times. Balabhaskar and his family had met with the accident on September 25. SHAJU PHILIP




New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from eligible firms/contractors for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://tender.up.nic.in> Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments/ corrigendum etc.
1. 41/DGM(Jal)/AO/SM(Jal-R)/2018-19, Computerization of Water Bill system & Facility Management Center, Noida. जल राजस्व के कार्य का ऑन लाईन पोर्टल करने के सम्बन्ध में। **(Cost - Rs. 54.32 Lacs.**
The above tenders can be uploaded by date 07.08.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 10.08.2020 at 11.00 AM.
Office : Sector-37, Noida Sr. Manager (Jal-REV.), Noida
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA



KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.A1M1B3/ Fly Ash/ BTPS/ July 2020 Date: 31.07.2020
TENDER Cum E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal of GoK)
(Two tender document system and auction thereafter)
Name of Work: **SALE OF DRY FLY ASH FROM BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION (BTPS) UNIT 1 TO 3 OF KPCL.**
Tenders are invited from Bidders (company / consortium / entity / person/s) who are direct end-users / suppliers to end-users / contractors of fly ash for 'Sale of dry fly ash of approximately 7 lakh MT to 21 lakh MT per annum (1918 MT to 5753 MT per day) on 'as available' basis for a period of three years from Ballari, i.e. from Bellary Thermal Power Station - Unit # 1 to 3 of KPCL located at Kudithini, Ballari District, Karnataka, India as detailed in the tender document. Operation & Maintenance of Ash Handling System and Silo of BTPS, Unit 1 to 3, including Spares, Consumables, Housekeeping & Miscellaneous works, if any, is in the scope of KPCL. The last date for receipt of the completed bids is **17.00 hrs on 29.08.2020**. The tender cum auction document can be downloaded from the website <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> Further details can be had from: **THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MINES), KPC Ltd., No.82, Shakti Bhavan, III Floor, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.** e-mail: cefuelskpcl@karnataka.gov.in / sfuels@gmail.com website: www.karnatakakapower.com e-Portal / Hp help desk : 080-22234115/ 22230960



GUJARAT MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Block No. 14/1, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector-10, Gandhinagar, Ph. 079-23250767, 23250766, 23257696

EMERGENCY TENDER NOTICE : DRUG-07/2020-21
Emergency Tenders are invited online from reputed Manufacturers / formulators / Authorized Distributors / direct importers for Purchase of (1) Favipiravir Tablet 200 mg (2) Remdesivir Injection 100 mg (3) Itolizumab Inj. 25 mg/5 ml. Interested manufacturer/company/Authorised dealer are invited to send Quotations of items along with their drug license. Name of manufacturer for particular drug and copy of WHO/GMP certificate of manufacturer requested to submit the tender through e-tender process. All tender documents can be downloaded free on the website: <https://gmscl.nprocure.com> & Tender Notice is available on <https://gmscl.gujarat.gov.in> and this office notice board.
Duration of downloading of tender document (online):- **31/07/20 to 07/08/20 upto 18.00 HRS.**
Last date for submission (online): **07/08/20 upto 18.00 HRS.**
Last date for submission of physical document : **10/08/20 upto 18.00 HRS.**
Opening of Technical Bid Date (online): **11/08/20 at 15.00 HRS.**
INF/577/20-21 MANAGING DIRECTOR



KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.A1M1B3/ Fly Ash/ RTPS & YTPS / July 2020 Date: 31.07.2020
TENDER Cum E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal of GoK)
(Two tender document system and auction thereafter)
Name of Work: **SALE OF DRY FLY ASH FROM RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION (RTPS) UNIT 1 to 8 OF KPCL & YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION (YTPS) UNIT 1 & 2 OF RPCL.** Tenders are invited from bidders (company / consortium / entity / person/s) who are direct end-users / suppliers to end-users / contractors of fly ash for 'Sale of dry fly ash of approximately 15 lakh MT to 45 lakh MT per annum (4110 MT to 11644 MT per day) on 'as available' basis for a period of three years from Raichur. i.e., from Raichur Thermal Power Station - Unit # 1 to 8 of KPCL and 'Yermarus Thermal Power Station - Unit 1 & 2 of RPCL, both located at Raichur District, Karnataka, India as detailed in the tender document. Operation & Maintenance of Ash Handling System and Silo of RTPS. Unit 1 to 8, including Spares, Consumables, Housekeeping & Miscellaneous works, if any, is in the scope of KPCL. Operation & Maintenance of Ash Handling System and Silo of YTPS, Unit 1 & 2 including Spares. Consumables, Housekeeping & Miscellaneous works, if any, is in the scope of RPCL. The last date for receipt of the completed bids is **17.00 hrs on 29.08.2020**. The tender cum auction document can be downloaded from the website <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> Further details can be had from: **THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MINES), KPC Ltd., No.82, Shakti Bhavan, III Floor, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.** e-mail: cefuelskpcl@karnataka.gov.in / sfuels@gmail.com website: www.karnatakakapower.com e-Portal / Hp help desk : 080-22234115/ 22230960

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
U.P. JAL NIGAM, 14 M.L.D SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT, GHATAMPUR, MOLANA MOHAMMAD ALI JOHAR ROAD, RAMPUR

Letter No.: 741/निबं-04/11 Dated 28.07.2020
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE
On the behalf of the Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam, online percentage Rate E-Tenders are invited **"for making house connection in different villages of district Rampur under Jal Jeevan Mission"**. Intending Tenderers must have experience of distribution system such as house connection laying of pipe line work, should be available with bidder, Proof of such experience must be submitted by the bidder. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://tender.up.nic.in> & <http://jn.upscdc.gov.in> latest by 06.08.2020. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their, duly filled, online as per schedule given below-
Date For (i) Uploading bid document in website : 07.08.2020 at 17:00 hrs. (ii) Online submission of e-bids : upto 17.08.2020 at 12: 00 hrs. (iii) Opening of bid: 17.08.2020 at 15:30 hrs.
Executive Engineer



SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on www.scrindianrailways.gov.in
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C.Railway can be seen on our website : www.scrindianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 58/2020 dt. 30.07.2020
SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS e-Procurement Tender Notice
The following Tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website www.irops.gov.in and submit their offer online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is 14.30 hrs of the Due date of the Tender. "For all indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on www.irops.gov.in."

Tender No.	Brief Desc.
82.20.5114	Multi Parameter monitors
56.20.5010	U/G PJFT cable 10 pair X 0.63 mm


Note :- Due date of Tender Opening: S.No. 01 on 17.08.2020; S.No. 02 on 28.08.2020;

Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs. 25 lakhs. For details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager, A0928 Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <http://www.irops.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

ARASU RUBBER CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking) Regd. Office, Vadassery Post Box No. 75, NAGERCOIL - 629 001, Kanyakumari District. Phone : (04652) 274203, 274204. E-mail : arasurubber@gmail.com C.No. D/1847/2020 (Right to do Slaughter Tapping of Latex and Felling & Removal of Matured Rubber Trees)					Date : 29.07.2020	
Sl No	Unit	Coupe No.	Bit & No. of trees	Auction cum tender Date/Time/Place		
1.	Manaladai	25B-II	- (694nos)	Date : 01.09.2020 (First of September 2020)		
		38	III (879nos), IV (578nos)			
		41	I (932nos), II (1154nos), III (1178nos), IV (898nos)			
		42	I (1267nos), II (974nos), III (933nos), IV (476nos)			
2.	Chithar	48	I (883nos), II (883nos), III (928nos), IV (929nos), V (878nos), VI (877nos), VII (903nos), VIII (930nos), IX (954nos), X (949nos), XI (541nos)	Time : 11.30 AM Onwards		
		Manuthamparai	21			I (923nos), II (931nos), III (915nos), IV (1290nos), V (915nos), VI (912nos), VII (1006nos)
3.	Kallar	81	I (968nos), II (1135nos)	Place : Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, Registered Office, Vadassery, Nagercoil		
		90	- (1277nos)			
	Kuthiyar	71	I (937nos), II (1003nos)			
For Further details, please visit our website 1) www.arasurubber.tn.gov.in 2) www.tenders.tn.gov.in 3) www.forests.tn.gov.in 4) www.diprii.org 2870 /TENDER/2020						
MANAGING DIRECTOR						



E-Tendering Notice
U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.
Short Term E-Tender Notice-15/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	Tender Cost (Including GST) & NIT Charges	Total Tender Cost	Date and Time of Submission	Date and Time of opening
29	Annual M&R of Inspection House at 132 KV Sub-station Bah (Agra).	12 Month	12,000.00	1180 + 250	1430.00	13.08.2020 /12:00	14.08.2020 /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.-30065294923, 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:1017 विज्ञापनमार्गमार्ग / निविदा / दिनांक: 30.07.2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY
(Open E-Tender Notice)
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Coaching, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites online e-tender through website <https://irops.gov.in>, for the parking contract for the period of 3 (Three) years, bid to be opened on **21.08.2020** at 15:00 hrs, at the following stations/locations (Ready Sites) :-

SN	Name of work with its location/ Railway Station	Advertise value/Reserve Price of one year In (Rs.)	Cost of Tender document & 18%GST (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen
1	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS) Ajmer Gate Side "A-1" Category Station, with measuring area of 926.68 sq. meters	Rs. 47,95,094/-	Rs. 5,900/-	Rs. 2,87,800/-	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking64-2020

* Applicable GST and TCS has to be paid by licensee extra, over and above the Advertise value/Reserve Price/ License fee. 1674/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
Sl. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AGENCY	OLD REFERENCE/INT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AGENCY	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HPPCL/PAWAT	LET P/PRISM/2000/51 (TENDER ID: 2005_HRL_13023_1)	Subj: BIDDING OF CRANE TARE FOR SELLER OF 250 MW UNIT-2 AT P/PRISM/PAWAT	Last date: 12.08.2020 at 10:00 hrs	www.hppcl.org.in 0186-258605 anurag.patel@gmail.com
2	HPPCL/PAWAT	UNIT P/PRISM/2000/51 (TENDER ID: 2005_HRL_13023_1)	Subj: BIDDING OF CRANE TARE FOR SELLER OF 250 MW UNIT-2 AT P/PRISM/PAWAT	Last date: 07.08.2020 at 10:00 hrs	www.hppcl.org.in 0186-258605 anurag.patel@gmail.com
3	DRPVCL, GURUGRAM	NIT NO. 2/NDP/CD/3/GGA/2020 - 31 DATED 22.06.2020	Subj: BIDDING OF CRANE TARE FOR SELLER OF 250 MW UNIT-2 AT P/PRISM/PAWAT	Date Extended upto 11.08.2020 (12:00 hrs)	www.drpvcl.org.in 0800222333 anurag.patel@gmail.com
82041-HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in					

कार्यालय उज्जैन नगर पालिक निगम, उज्जैन

विज्ञापन क्र./357/Workshop/E -Tender /2020 छत्रपति शिवाजी भवन आगर रोड उज्जैन , (म. प्र.) उज्जैन, दिनांक : 28.07.2020

(Online) निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निम्नांकित कार्य के लिए प्रपत्र "अ" (फार्म ए) में दूर काम या अधिक के आधार पर प्रमुख अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग म.प्र. राशन भोपाल के कार्यालय में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से उक्त विभाग में पंजीयन प्रमाण पत्र की प्रमाणित प्रति प्रस्तुत करने पर ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, तथा ठेकेदार की (श्रेणी सी) एम.पी.गवर्मेन्ट व **सिरियल क्र. 1** का टेंडर फार्म का मूल्य निम्नानुसार रहेगा।

सिरियल क्र. 1 ऑनलाइन क्रय करने की अंतिम दिनांक 10.08.2020 समय 17.30 , ऑनलाइन ई.एम.डी. राशि रुपये 10 ,000. 00 एवं समस्त दस्तावेज Submission करने की अंतिम दिनांक 10.08.2020 समय 17.30 रहेगी।

विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना एवं अन्य जानकारी वेबसाइट www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। यदि उपरोक्त निविदा में किसी प्रकार का संशोधन होता है तो इसकी सूचना ऑन लाइन दी जावेगी। पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं की जावेगी।

क्र.	टेंड
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Gangster Dubey's aide surrenders in UP court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KANPUR, JULY 30

SLAIN GANGSTER Vikas Dubey's close aide Gopal Saini, against whom the police had announced a bounty of Rs 1 lakh, surrendered before a special court in Kanpur Dehat on Wednesday, a government counsel said.

The Special Task Force (STF) and Kanpur Police were on the lookout for Saini since July 3 after eight policemen, including Deputy SP Devendra Kumar Mishra, were killed by Dubey's henchmen at Bikru village in Chaubeypur area of Kanpur when they were going to arrest him.

District Government Counsel (Criminal) Raju Porwal told *PTI* that Gopal Saini, accused in the killing of eight policemen, surrendered before the special court at Maati in Kanpur Dehat.

Saini's lawyer had moved an application for his surrender before the court, Porwal said but did not elaborate on the details of the application.

Kanpur Rural SP Brajesh Srivastava confirmed that Gopal Saini has surrendered before the court in Kanpur Dehat. "We have decided to move an application before the court requesting for his police custody so that he can be questioned properly and information about other members of Vikas Dubey's gang who are still evading arrest can be obtained," he said.

Initially, a cash reward of Rs 50,000 was announced on Saini but it was later increased to Rs 1 lakh, the police officer said.

Dubey was shot dead by police on the outskirts of Kanpur on July 10. Earlier, five members of the Dubey gang were killed in separate encounters.



Vikas Dubey

IN SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT DEATH CASE, HARSH SPOTLIGHT ON FRIEND RHEA

Sushant father, Bihar govt move SC on Rhea plea; she says falsely implicated

ENS & PTI
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

NAMED IN an FIR lodged in Patna by actor Sushant Singh Rajput's father K K Singh, accusing her of theft, cheating and abetment to suicide, among others, actor Rhea Chakraborty finds herself in a spotlight that has just got harsher.

Rhea and Sushant, who had been friends for a couple of years before the actor's death, were to appear together in director Rumi Jefferly's film that got stalled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On Wednesday, a day a Bihar Police team met their counterparts in Bandra, Mumbai, to gather information on the actor's death case following the FIR, Rhea moved the Supreme Court and sought a stay on investigations in Patna.

She also petitioned the court to transfer the probe to Mumbai.

On Thursday, Singh and the Bihar government also moved the apex court and filed caveats (a preemptive legal measure), praying that they should be heard before any decision is taken on Rhea's plea for transfer of the FIR from Patna to Mumbai.

In her petition, Rhea maintained that allegations in the FIR "reflect the influence" Singh in roping her in the case, *PTI* reported.

"In the peculiar facts and circumstances of the present case,



Sushant Singh Rajput and Rhea Chakraborty



SC JUNKS PIL SEEKING CBI PROBE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a PIL seeking a CBI probe into the "mysterious" death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde told the petitioner that the police should be allowed to do their job.

"Go to Bombay High Court if you have anything concrete to show," the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, said when the plea filed by Patna resident Alka Priya and Sindhu Singh, an associate professor of Clinical Medicine in the US, came up for hearing.

The petitioners sought a court-monitored probe by a "special investigating team" like CBI to "find out the veracity and truthfulness of unnatural death" of Rajput. **ENS**

the Petitioner has been falsely implicated..." the plea said.

"Petitioner has also received various death and rape threats and is in deep trauma due to the loss of deceased, which is multiplied further due to the media sensitivity of the case," it said.

Rhea stated in the petition that she and Sushant lived together "since a year up till June 8, when the petitioner had temporarily shifted to her own residence in Mumbai".

The plea stated that even there is an iota of truth in the case registered by Sushant's father, the jurisdiction to probe the offence would still lie with Bandra police.

An MTV VJ-turned-actor, Bengaluru-born Rhea made her silver screen debut in 2012 with a Telugu film, *Tuneega Tuneega*. Her Bollywood debut came in 2013 with Ashima Chhibber's comedy, *Mere Dad Ki Maruti*.

Some notable entries in her filmography include *Dobaara: See No Evil*, *Half Girlfriend*, and *Jalebi*.

Mayawati calls for CBI inquiry into death

Lucknow: BSP chief Mayawati on Thursday demanded a CBI inquiry into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death. She also targeted Congress leaders, doubting their intention to get justice for the actor's family.

"Every day new facts are coming in the case of the death of Bihar-origin Bollywood actor Sushant Singh, and now lodging of FIR by his father with Patna



Mayawati

Police has made the case more intense. Rather than Maharashtra or Bihar Police, it will be better if the CBI investigates the case now," she tweeted. Questioning the attitude of

Congress leaders in Maharashtra and Bihar, Mayawati said, "In the Sushant Rajput case, it appears that with the different stance taken by Congress leaders in Maharashtra and Bihar, their intention is to fulfil their personal political purpose. Getting justice for the affected family is secondary for them. This is not appropriate. Maharashtra government should be serious." **ENS**

MANIPUR

3 Assam Rifles men killed in militant attack

3 banned outfits claim joint responsibility for ambush

JIMMY LEIVON & ABHISHEK SAHA
IMPHAL, GUWAHATI, JULY 30

THREE ASSAM Rifles personnel were killed and at least six others injured in a militant attack in Khongtal area of Manipur's Chandel district near the Indo-Myanmar border on Wednesday evening, a senior police officer confirmed to *The Indian Express*.

"The Assam Rifles team was returning to their base at Khongtal when an IED exploded followed by indiscriminate fire," said a police officer in Chakpikarong, under whose jurisdiction the area is, adding that the attack took place around 6.30 pm on Wednesday.

An official statement from the Assam Rifles and the Indian Army was awaited at the time of filing this report.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Manipur Naga People's Front (MNPF), Revolutionary People's Front

A police officer said the Assam Rifles team was returning to their base when an IED exploded followed by indiscriminate fire

(RPF) and the United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) have jointly claimed responsibility for the attack, saying that they were "fighting against colonial ruler India for our independence".

The deceased have been identified as Havildar Pranay Kalita from Assam, Rifleman Metha Konyak from Nagaland, and Rifleman Ratan Salam from Manipur.

In a condolence message emailed to the press, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said that the soldiers were ambushed "while they were returning back to Company Operating Base,

Khongtai".

"I strongly condemn the cowardly attack on the Assam Rifles troops. The sacrifice made by the soldiers in fighting with the militants will not go in vain. The country will always remember their martyrdom," he said.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal expressed shock at the death of the soldiers and called it a "dastardly attack". "Militancy is not a solution to any problem rather it complicates the situation," he said, adding that the last rites of Havildar Pranay Kalita will be conducted with full state honours.

It is after several years that Manipur has witnessed a militant attack at such a scale, coming on the heels of Independence Day. In June 2015, 18 soldiers were killed and several others injured in an ambush in Moltuk valley of Chandel district. Soldiers of the 6 Dogra Regiment were going towards Pallel from their base in Moltuk when their convoy was ambushed.

IITM scientist, technical officer booked by CBI for corruption

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JULY 30

THE CBI has booked a senior scientist and a technical officer from the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and directors of a Mumbai-based private company on charges of corruption in procurement and commissioning of digital displays for a weather forecasting system.

The agency lodged an FIR on June 20 after a preliminary inquiry initiated in December last year. The CBI made the details

public on Thursday after incriminating material was recovered in searches conducted Wednesday at the office and residential premises of the accused. Officials said that the alleged corruption took place between 2011 and 2018 in purchases related to the 'System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research' (SAFAR) project -- of the Ministry of Earth Sciences -- implemented by IITM.

The FIR registered with the CBI's Anti Corruption Branch in Pune has named Dr Gufran Beig, Scientist 'F' Grade of Physical Meteorology and Aerology

Division of the IITM and in-charge of the SAFAR Project, and Senior Technical Officer Vipin Mali. It also names a private firm and its two directors. All have been booked under IPC sections for cheating, forgery, criminal conspiracy and relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The winner of the Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar award in 2006 in the discipline of Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences, Beig is known to have contributed significantly in setting up SAFAR in India.

Beig was unavailable for comment.

On call with doctors, Assam man on boat carries out emergency treatment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE WATERS of the Brahmaputra were rising, communication links faltering and his friend struggling to breathe. But Mohfisar Rehman kept his nerve, reaching out from Assam to doctors in Delhi to give Lalchand Biswas, suffering from acute liver failure, a fresh lease of life.

In a heroic tale of floods and friendship amid a pandemic, the pharmacist put his friend on a small boat, brought him to an area of Assam's Morigaon town where the mobile signal was strong, and set up a web conference with doctors at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi.

Rehman then proceeded to follow the doctor's instructions, using his training as a pharmacist to carry out a physical examination, give his friend injections, and even an enema—all from the small boat.

"We thought we would lose him. His condition was really deteriorating. His family cannot speak Hindi or English, so I offered to help them and contacted the doctor at Ganga Ram. I did what a friend in need would do," Rehman told *PTI*.

Officials at SGRH on Thursday said the distress call came about two weeks ago.

The call was to Dr Ushast Dhir, a consultant at the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology and Liver

Transplant. Rehman described the symptoms and told him that the patient was "drowsy, having difficulty in breathing and had swelling in the abdomen", a senior official said.

Rehman was not very familiar with administering injections and an enema but closely followed what the doctor was saying. "Rehman's degree in pharmacy came handy in this situation. He followed the instructions given by Dr Dhir and did clinical examinations and administered injections to his friend," the official said.

Biswas, who is in his 40s, will be called to Delhi for further medical treatment once the situation stabilises, hospital authorities said.

UTTARAKHAND'S BORDER WITH CHINA

For second line of defence, Centre looks to boost tourism in border villages

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

IN THE backdrop of the Galwan Valley standoff, the Centre is planning to build a second line of defence in villages bordering China by relaxing tourism-related activities. Sources say the first step in the direction will be to free some parts of Gangotri area in Uttarakhand from the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system.

Uttarakhand shares a 350-km border with China. Most of the border villages see outward migration owing to a lack of livelihood opportunities.

Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat had a meeting with S Deswal, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) chief, in which the latter raised issues pertaining to reverse migration, road, mobile and power connectivity, and promotion of tourism in remote areas.

Following the meeting, the Uttarakhand government announced steps to improve critical infrastructure, promote tourism and civilian settlements in the border areas of the state.

On Wednesday morning, Union Tourism Minister Prahlaad Patel and Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj had an elaborate discussion on the mat-

ter at the former's office, where the Centre is said to have agreed in-principle to the state's action plan. A formal order to the effect will come from the Ministry of Home Affairs in due course.

After the meeting, Maharaj told *The Indian Express*, "We want our border villages to be safe, for which we have mooted the concept of tribal tourism. For instance, we can have skiing activities in Niti Valley area during winter, and the place will become inhabited if people get livelihood through tourism. That will ensure safety and surveillance of our border villages and troops will get additional support."

"In the first stage, we will open up Mukhba, Bagholi and Harsil in the Gangotri area, so you can see and enjoy all these places," he said.

The minister said that once the ILP system was lifted, the state tourism department would encourage houses in the villages to be devel-

oped as homestays which will directly help the village economy.

"Next, we are looking to get permission for Kuti and Byas villages in Pithoragarh district," Maharaj said, adding that visitors in border villages would get to taste tribal cuisine. "We will also hold discussions with the Home Ministry regarding drawing up a list of other villages where they feel the need for increasing surveillance," he said.

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

A ROOM WITHOUT BOOKS IS LIKE A BODY
WITHOUT A SOUL.

—MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

NEW POLICY, OLD TEST

National Education Policy's stress on reforms is welcome. It will be tested on campus and in classroom where deep faultlines lie

THE CURRENT EDUCATION policy was drafted in the 1980s. It underwent modifications in 1992. But that was when the liberalisation of the economy was barely out of the policy books, the importance of the digital sphere wasn't recognised beyond specialist circles, the demographic dividend was scarcely talked about and the Right To Education Act was a decade-and-a-half away from entering the statute book. The New Education Policy (NEP), announced by the government on Wednesday, is thus long overdue. It has been in the making for nearly five years and reports of two committees — the TSR Subramanian Committee in 2016 and the K Kasturirangan Committee last year — have informed the final draft. The challenge before its framers was not just to respond to the dynamics of the knowledge economy but also to reckon with a milieu in which pedagogy has become deeply politicised. To its credit, the policy does not bear too heavy an imprint of the deeply polarised political climate in which it has been finalised.

The NEP proposes the extension of the Right to Education (RTE) to all children up to the age of 18 but it is also alive to the criticism that while mandating accessibility, the RTE Act paid short shrift to learning outcomes. It talks about improving foundational literacy and numeracy — deficits in which have been underlined by several ASER reports — and underlines the importance of pedagogical and technological interventions to scale down the learning crisis. It proposes a range of measures that aim “to make education more experiential, holistic, discovery-oriented, learner-centred and enjoyable” — including the move to make the mother tongue or the local language the medium of instruction. It is welcome that children will be given more choice of subjects, and “there will be no hard separation among arts, humanities and sciences”. In higher education too, it does well to envisage the breaking of boundaries between disciplines and transforming institutions “into large multi-disciplinary universities and colleges”.

Yet enormous challenges remain. The policy recognises, for instance, that “vibrant campus life is essential for high-quality teaching learning processes”. But if developments in some of the country's premier universities — JNU and Jamia Millia Islamia, for instance — are indication, the campus's promise as a space that nurtures critical thought, political argument and debate is increasingly embattled. The NEP's claims will also come up against a sharpening fault line — India's digital divide that has been highlighted and deepened by the COVID pandemic. As an ongoing series of reports in this paper during the lockdown have highlighted, the classroom itself is under pressure like never before. Disparities between the rich and poor, urban and rural, show up strikingly in access to digital tools. If technology is a force-multiplier in some cases, in others it is inaccessible. The looming economic distress is playing out harshly in schools with students dropping out, their parents out of work and unable to pay fees, teachers not being paid their dues. Surely, these are beyond the NEP's remit but the test of a policy is on the ground — not just on paper. With the largest number of young — and poor — in the world, the task is cut out.

FIGHTING THE INFODEMIC

A unified database of COVID-19 patients would streamline immediate responses and warn of future effects

A SIGNIFICANT DATA project for systematic, long-term engagement with the COVID-19 pandemic awaits clearance from the ethics committee of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). In collaboration with the health ministry, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and 15 institutions of national importance, the ICMR will pool a national clinical registry covering all COVID-19 patients who have been hospitalised. The institutions will mentor other clinical organisations involved in the response to the pandemic, to widen the footprint of the database. Both in the short and long term, the utility of a common repository for clinical data cannot be underestimated.

The biggest challenge that the pandemic has presented to health professionals and policymakers is a lack of standardised information. Amidst an infodemic, the world wasted valuable time in the pursuit of off-label miracle cures, ranging from a malaria drug to a vermifuge, on the basis of questionable or indifferent reports. Many reported results that would have been treated as anecdotal, were the world not in crisis mode. Even now, the long-term effects of the novel coronavirus remain in the realm of conjecture. Physicians are repeatedly calling for caution, as they report numerous yet anecdotal cases of recovered patients who return months after recovery with damage to organs not ordinarily affected by respiratory viruses, and vascular effects, including strokes. A unified database is essential for tracking patients over the long term, for their own safety, to propagate successful interventions globally, and to examine how the virus may interact with other factors, like genetic makeup, comorbidities, location, climate and diet.

In the short term, a database would help to answer critical questions. What is the phone number of the nearest plasma donor? Which patients can be helped immediately by a newly discovered intervention? But to be completely useful, such a database should engage patients. They should be able to report changes in their condition directly to the database in an organised, delimited manner, automatically flagging the need for intervention to the authorities, and points of interest to researchers.

AMMA'S THINGS

An inventory of her personal possessions reveals some of Jayalalithaa's secrets, shelters some stories

IN THE LONG tumultuous political life of J Jayalalithaa, No 81, Poes Garden harboured many secrets and stories. It was a house named after her mother, from where she fashioned her own transformation from film star to beloved “Amma”, and whose doors she eventually shut to most friends and family. Since the death of Tamil Nadu's former chief minister in 2016, the house was been caught in a tug-of-war that ended with the government acquiring it to turn it into a memorial.

The government has put out an inventory of moveable and immovable property in the house. What can this list of objects and possessions tell us about the enigmatic and often-ruthless politician? One could read the 4 kilos of gold, 610 kg of silver and 10,000 garments as evidence of a life of excesses and disproportionate acquisition by a politician who did go to prison on charges of corruption. But how would that square with the ferocity with which she deglamourised herself as a politician and heir to MGR? Among her possessions were 8,376 books, a collection which is not usually talked up as much as her silk saris, jewellery and shoes. But that would not surprise those who knew Jayalalithaa as an eclectic reader — from Periyar to Agatha Christie, and Annadurai to Thirukkural.

Any woman politician who succeeds in India has to lock away large chunks of herself from public view. Jayalalithaa, a Brahmin who took over a party based on Dravidian ideology, a woman who never forgave the public assault on her in the Tamil Nadu assembly, and a film star who forged an agenda of women's welfare, knew the art of living on the cusp of competing expectations. If the walls of Poes Garden could speak, they would tell that fascinating story.



KUMKUM ROY

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION Policy, an ambitious and complex document, laying down a road map for the next two decades, has been adopted in the midst of a pandemic and a lockdown, which renders discussion and debate difficult. Nevertheless, it requires closer scrutiny, in terms of its implications for the marginalised, disciplinary spaces, autonomy, and constitutional values, among other things.

What are its implications for the majority of those covered under the acronym SEDGs (Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups) in the text? Absent in the document, as far as I could see, is any mention of the term “caste”, apart from a fleeting reference to Scheduled Castes. Also absent is any mention of reservation in academic institutions, whether for students, teachers, or other employees. Reservation, necessary but not sufficient, is the bare minimum required in terms of affirmative action in the highly differentiated socio-economic milieu in which we exist. The silence of the document on this issue is troubling, to say the least.

Equally disturbing is the passing reference to educational institutions in tribal areas, designated as ashramshalas (NEP 1.8) and envisaged as part of the Early Childhood Children Education programme. What, one wonders, will be transacted in these institutions. While there are sections of the document (for instance, NEP 14.4) that describe ways in which SEDGs are supposed to gain access to higher education institutions, there is no time-frame that is specified. This is particularly crucial as the document visualises increased “benign” privatisation of education, attempting to distinguish this from commercialisation. In a situation of growing privatisation and the near collapse of public institutions of higher education, how these policies will be implemented is a matter of concern.

One of the buzz words in the document is multi-disciplinarity — an apparently attractive and flexible proposition, allowing learners to experiment with a variety of options. We learn (NEP 11.7) that “Departments in Languages, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Indology, Art, Dance, Theatre, Education, Mathematics, Statistics, Pure and Applied Sciences, Sociology, Economics, Sports, and other such subjects

Educating India

National Education Policy 2020 needs a close scrutiny, a full debate, for what it says and what it doesn't

While there is a running refrain of autonomy and choice in the document, this is circumscribed at crucial junctures. For instance, the selection of vocational subjects in middle school is described as a fun choice. At the same time, it is to be exercised “as decided by States and local communities and as mapped by local skilling needs” (NEP 4.8). Further up in the scheme of things is the National Testing Agency (NEP 4.38) which, we learn “will serve as a premier, expert, autonomous testing organisation to conduct entrance examinations... in higher educational institutions.” This is expected to be a means of “drastically reducing the burden on students, universities and colleges, and the entire education system.”

needed for a multidisciplinary, stimulating Indian education and environment will be established and strengthened at HEIs across the country.” While the list is unexceptionable, it is worth flagging what is missed out — fields of studies such as Women's Studies or Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Media Studies, Dalit Studies, Studies of Discrimination and Exclusion, Environmental Studies and Development Studies, all of which have developed over the last three or four decades. Many of these have engaged with multi-disciplinarity/inter-disciplinarity in exciting and disturbing ways, bringing to the fore issues of diversity, difference and identity. That these developments are ignored in what purports to be a forward-looking document is intriguing.

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Overall, HEIs will now be run by a Board of Governors (NEP 19.2), backed by legislative changes where required. Further centralisation is envisaged through the setting up of “the National Higher Education Regulatory Authority (NHERA)... to regulate in a ‘light but tight’ and facilitative manner, meaning that a few important matters — particularly financial probity, good governance, and full online and offline public disclosure of all finances, procedures, faculty/staff, courses, and educational outcomes — will be very effective

tively regulated, while leaving the rest to the judgment of the HEIs (NEP 20.4).” What, one wonders, remains in “the rest”.

While we have been hearing a great deal about the benefits of being *atma-nirbhar*, the policy explicitly facilitates the presence of foreign universities within higher education. Also, and perhaps more intriguing, these universities are held up as ideals to be emulated. So “MERUs (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities) will be set up and will aim to reach the global status of, e.g., the Ivy League Universities in the US.” (NEP 11.10)

Several universities and HEIs have evolved and sustained democratic mechanisms, including academic and executive councils. These formulate, discuss, and implement policies, courses and other institutional matters. What has made them vibrant institutions is the presence of faculty and students, elected, as well as on the basis of seniority and rotation. Jettisoning these structures, norms and practices for a linear top-down mode of administration, as envisaged, will deprive members of HEIs of an opportunity to engage with the challenges of democratic functioning.

Also worrisome is what happens with the Constitution — while an assortment of values are identified as constitutional, including “knowledge and practice of human and constitutional values (such as patriotism, sacrifice, non-violence, truth, honesty, peace, righteous conduct, forgiveness, tolerance, mercy, sympathy, helpfulness, cleanliness, courtesy, integrity, pluralism, responsibility, justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity)” (NEP 4.23), and there is an occasional mention of fundamental duties, one searches in vain for any allusion to fundamental rights. Are these to be erased from the memories of future generations?

It is to be hoped that beyond the immediate excitement that the announcement of the implementation of the NEP has generated, there will be opportunities to examine its long-term implications, and, if necessary, revisit it, before it is actually implemented.

The writer is professor, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU. She has been involved in developing textbooks and curriculum for NCERT



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

THIS REFERS TO Coomi Kapoor's article, ‘Gone to the dogs’ (IE, July 27). I am extremely sorry that Kapoor, a former colleague with whom I have always had the most cordial ties, was bitten by a dog. Some aspects of her piece, however, need to be contested.

She observes: “The ABC [Animal Birth Control] offers no scientific method for a systematic vaccination drive and stabilising the country's canine population.” The ABC programme is the only scientific method for controlling stray dog populations. In its Technical Report Series 931, WHO's expert consultation on Rabies, which met in October 2004, states: “Since the 1960s, Animal Birth Control programmes coupled with rabies vaccination have been advocated as a method to control urban street male and female dog populations and ultimately human rabies in Asia.”

Under the ABC programme, stray dogs are picked up from an area, sterilised and vaccinated against rabies and returned to the same area. Being territorial, they keep unsterilised and unvaccinated dogs out and the authorities can concentrate on sterilising and vaccinating in new areas until all stray dogs of a city or district are covered. Killing all dogs in an area would enable unsterilised, unvaccinated dogs to come in and the authorities will have to return to the same area to kill the new arrivals. Until the promulgation of ABC Rules, the number of stray dogs continued to increase in India despite relentless mass killing.

The ABC programme also serves to reduce cases of dog bites. Since sterilised bitches do

SOME DOG FACTS

ABC programme should be better implemented, but its criticism misses the point

not come on heat, dogs do not fight over them. This drastically reduces the number of instances in which a higher level of aggression leads to the biting of people. Also, since sterilised bitches do not litter, one does not witness the rise in their aggression level that occurs when they are guarding their puppies.

Feeding stray dogs is important. It helps to catch them for neutering. One needs a large number of feeding points because dogs are territorial and cannot venture out of their beats to eat. A well-fed dog is less likely to be aggressive than a hungry one.

Doubtless, the ABC programme is not being properly implemented. The fault lies with implementing arms — state governments and municipal bodies. They must be forced to provide adequate funds and administrative support — and not in defenestrating the programme itself.

Kapoor writes: “According to a conservative WHO estimate, there are 20,000 annual rabies deaths in India.” WHO's figures on rabies deaths in India are suspect. To cite an example, WHO's World Survey of rabies No. 34 for 1998 puts the number of rabies deaths in India at 30,000. The survey's annexure 3, had the entry “most parts” against India in the column under the heading, “Geographical distribution.” The space against India in the column under the heading “Trends” was left blank. WHO's World Survey of Rabies No. 35 for 1999 describes the geographical distribution of the incidence of rabies in India as being confined to “limited areas”. The entry in the column un-

der the heading of “Trend” is “Decrease.” How can, in the course of one year, the incidence of rabies in the country contract from “most parts” to “limited areas”? More glaringly, the 1999 survey does not give any figure for the number of human deaths from rabies in India!

Since 2005, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) has been annually publishing a National Health Profile for the country. According to its 2018 edition, there were 97 cases of human deaths from rabies country-wide in 2017. According to the relevant preceding annual National Health Profiles, there were 86 human deaths from rabies in 2016, 113 in 2015, 125 in 2014 and 132 in 2013. Nor did the figures remotely approach 30,000 or 20,000 in earlier years. There, for example, were 386, 365 and 485 deaths from rabies in 1997, 1998 and 1999 respectively. The number was 486 in 2000 and 488 in 2001.

Under-reporting to the government cannot explain the difference between its and WHO's figures. The Union and state governments' health infrastructure cover the entire country. Besides cases reported to it, it cannot miss reports in the local print and electronic media, which feature rabies deaths and dog-bite cases regularly and prominently. In any case, under-reporting can by no means explain the huge difference between the government's and the WHO's figures.

The writer is a senior journalist and member, Animal Welfare Board of India



JULY 31, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM NOTIFICATION THE CENTRE HAS paved the way for the end of the 10-month-long agitation in Assam and resumption of negotiations on the substantive question of the foreign nationals issue. It announced in Parliament its decision to withdraw on August 2 the notification issued under the Assam Disturbed Areas Act and to release detenus who were not involved with violence “on the clear understanding that the All-Assam Students Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad would withdraw all aspects of the agitation with effect from the same date. The blockade on crude oil, however, will continue.

MIZORAM CEASEFIRE HOME MINISTER ZAIL Singh announced in the Lok Sabha that the Mizo National Front had agreed to stop all underground activity in Mizoram from the midnight of July 31-August 1, 1980. Similarly, he said, the security forces would suspend operations against MNF activists from that date. However, they would continue to check the clandestine crossing of the international borders, besides maintaining and order. In a statement to the House, the Home Minister said the agreement had been achieved following two meetings between Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and the MNF leader Laldenga.

FM ON PRICES

FINANCE MINISTER Venkataraman told the Lok Sabha that now that the price rise graph had reached a plateau, it would soon start levelling up. Replying to the debate on the Finance Bill, he said that while preparing the budget, he was aware that prices would rise, for a while, for a variety of reasons, including the rise in the prices of petroleum products. But this effect had worked itself out now and “there should be no apprehension in anybody's mind that prices would continue to rise”. He said except for a big rise in the prices of a few items, like petroleum (37.4 per cent) gur and sugar (24.9 per cent), prices of other commodities had gone up by only 10 per cent.

THE IDEAS PAGE

When actors cross the line

Rajasthan High Court's interim order in Sachin Pilot case raises serious questions. It also provides an opportunity for government to revisit anti-defection law



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

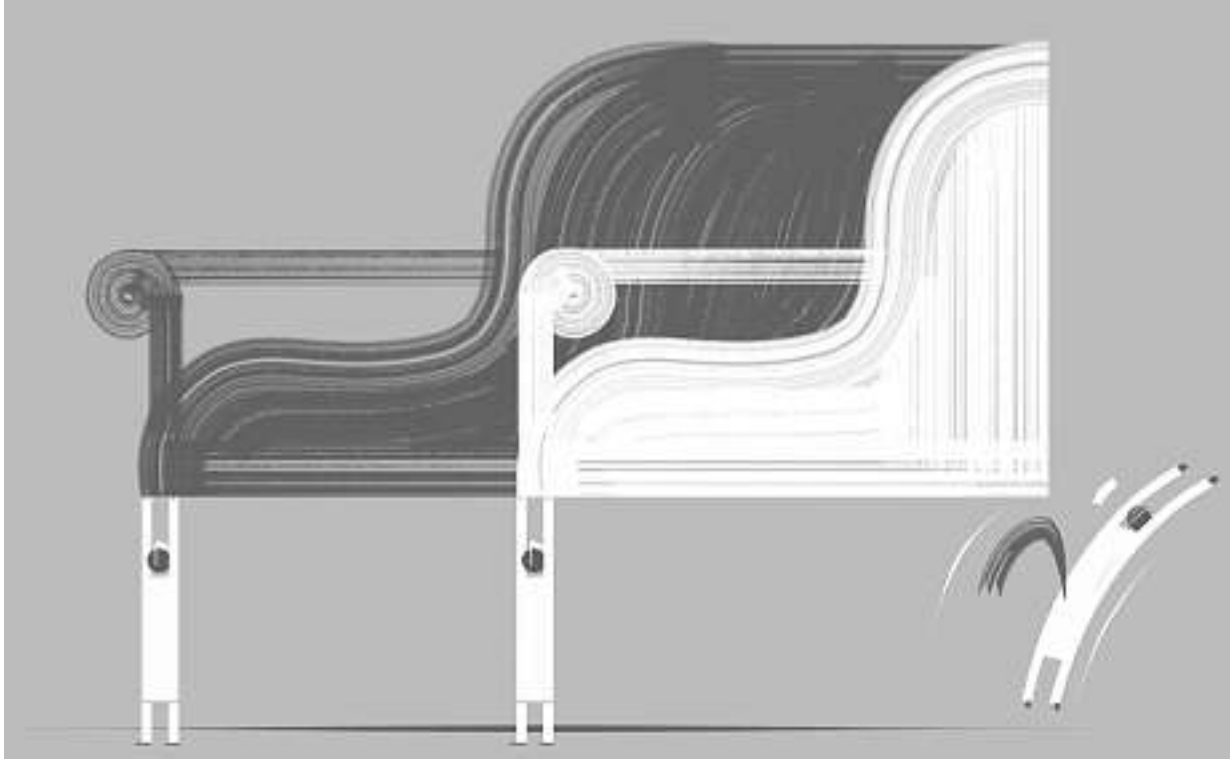
LORD DENNING, ONE of the foremost British judges of the 20th century, once observed that “a judge must not alter the material of which the act is woven, but he can and should iron out the creases”. The anti-defection law was enacted to deal with the Aya Ram, Gaya Ram malaise or floor crossing by legislators. In the last six years, as many as 119 Congress MLAs in various states have switched sides to the BJP. Between 1967-1971, 142 defections in Parliament and 1,969 in state assemblies had taken place, leading to the collapse of as many as 32 governments. About 212 of the defectors were rewarded with ministerial berths.

The Rajasthan High Court's interim order in rebel Congress MLA Sachin Pilot's case may have the undesirable effect of diluting the anti-defection law, curtailing the powers of the Speaker and political leadership of parties including the BJP and damaging the well-established law on legislative privileges. Governor Kalraj Mishra has finally agreed to an Assembly session on August 14. He had thrice rejected Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's request to convene the House before announcing the date. The governor's conduct has not been fair, impartial or constitutional.

Regarding the governor's powers on convening the Assembly, the Supreme Court in *Nabam Rebia* (2016) held that the office does not have any discretion in this matter under Article 174. The Rajasthan governor's questions to the CM, particularly whether he will “take the trust vote”, are in violation of Article 174 and established parliamentary conventions. The SC in cases of defection/dissidence has been insisting on an early floor test so that horse trading is stopped. Governor Mishra's insistence on 21 days' notice (now agreed to, taking first recommendation on July 23 into account) will encourage horse trading. Whether all CMs similarly circumstanced get 21 days needs to be seen. The governor is in violation of his oath under Article 159 since, under the provision, he has a duty to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution, not the interests of any particular political party. In *Hargovind Pant v. Dr Raghukul Tilak* (1979), the Supreme Court has held that the governor is not an employee, and he is not under the control of the central government. He is an independent constitutional entity.

COVID-19 is no excuse to refrain from convening the Assembly session. In Madhya Pradesh, the Speaker, who had adjourned the House when the pandemic was reported, was ordered by the apex court to take the trust vote. Rajya Sabha elections were held in which MLAs of various states participated. A religious event is scheduled on August 5 in Ayodhya. It is the duty of the Speaker to take safety measures, the governor need not worry about it.

The disqualification notice against the rebels has been stayed by the Rajasthan High Court without any detailed, reasoned order. Strangely, after the conclusion of arguments and on the eve of delivery of the judgment, an application was moved to make the central government a party. The high court promptly accepted the request. Why did Pilot in his orig-



C R Sasikumar

inal petition not make the Centre a party? Why did the eminent advocates who argued for Pilot, not ask the court to issue a notice to the Centre? Why didn't the high court on its own do so while hearing arguments about the constitutionality of the anti-defection law? While some of the issues framed by the HC are important, others have sought a relook at the law settled by the apex court.

As per the law laid down by the Supreme Court, the HC does not have much of a choice in determining the constitutionality of the anti-defection law. Accepting Pilot's argument that the Tenth Schedule is unconstitutional as it infringes on the legislative privilege of free speech, will open a Pandora's box. His central argument is that he cannot be disqualified under Section 2(a) or (b) of the Tenth Schedule because the Assembly is not in session and, therefore, there is no whip. But the anti-defection law does not merely talk of going against the party whip, it also prohibits what it calls “voluntarily given up membership of the party”. Whether a legislator has given up party membership has nothing to do with the legislative assembly's sessions and whips. Here, circumstantial evidence becomes crucial.

In the law of evidence, we have two kinds of evidence — direct and circumstantial. In most conspiracy cases and high-profile terror cases, accused are convicted based on circumstantial evidence. Pilot has not yet said anything about leaving the Congress. In fact, he has gone on record that he is not joining the BJP. But circumstantial evidence — the governor's actions, the lawyers representing Pilot, hospitality offered to the rebels in BJP-ruled Haryana, and the fact that the BJP is likely to be the primary beneficiary of Pilot's revolt — suggests the opposite. Thus, the well-known maxim of *res ipsa loquitur* — facts speak for themselves — goes against Pilot. In *Ravi S. Naik* (1994), the SC held that resignation is not necessary for voluntarily giving up party membership and an inference can be drawn from a person's conduct in this regard.

Clause 6(1) of the Tenth Schedule lays down that the final decision on disqualification is to be taken by the Speaker. Clause 7 of the Schedule explicitly bars the jurisdiction of courts with respect to any matter connected

Let this case be used by the government to revisit the anti-defection law and legislatively remove its defects. The Dinesh Goswami Committee in 1990 had proposed limiting disqualification to confidence or no-confidence motion, money bill and voluntarily giving up the member of a party. It had also recommended that the decision should be taken by the President/governor on the advice of the Election Commission. In 1999, the Law Commission, in its 170th report, suggested that whip should be confined to matters when the government is in danger.

with disqualification under this Schedule. The Supreme Court held in the *Kihoto Hollohan* judgment (1992) and *Jagjit Singh* (2006) that the Speaker's decision is subject to judicial review. In *Shrimath Balasaheb Patil v. Hon'ble Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly* (2019), the apex court held that the object of anti-defection law is to stop the lure of political offices or similar considerations and only limited judicial review is available against the Speaker's decision on the grounds of violation of constitutional mandate, mala fides, non-compliance with the rules of natural justice and perversity. In Pilot's case, the SC has said it will examine this issue after the Speaker announces his decision.

Notices were issued to Pilot to explain his absence from two meetings of the Congress Legislative Party. These meetings were held amidst allegations of defection. Instead of responding to the notice, the dissidents led by Pilot moved court to challenge the constitutionality of the notice. In the past, courts have upheld circumstances such as going to the governor with opposition leaders and non-compliance with party diktats as fulfilling the requirement of “voluntarily given up membership of the party”. Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu disqualified senior JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav for attending an RJD rally: Neither the Delhi High Court nor the Supreme Court stayed the decision. The law on the violation of short notice is also clear. These rules being of subordinate legislation, are merely directory, not mandatory.

Let this case be used by the government to revisit the anti-defection law and legislatively remove its defects. The Dinesh Goswami Committee in 1990 had proposed limiting disqualification to confidence or no-confidence motion, money bill and voluntarily giving up the membership of a party. It had also recommended that the decision should be taken by the President/governor on the advice of the Election Commission. In 1999, the Law Commission, in its 170th report, suggested that whip should be confined to matters when the government is in danger.

The writer is a constitutional law expert. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The people of Gilgit-Baltistan have for long been denied full rights as citizens of Pakistan thanks largely to the power games being played in South Asia, particularly the Kashmir dispute.”

—DAWN

Short may not be sweet

RBI proposal on capping bank CEO tenure is not supported by any cogent evidence, empirical or otherwise



PRATIK DATTA

LAST MONTH, the Reserve Bank of India released a discussion paper on governance in commercial banks in India. The apparent objective is to align the current regulatory framework with global best practices while being mindful of the context of the domestic financial system. However, the proposal to cap the tenure of a bank CEO needs to be supported by adequate empirical evidence rooted in Indian realities.

The paper proposes to cap the maximum tenure of a promoter/major shareholder of a bank as a CEO or a Whole Time Director (WTD) at 10 years. The rationale offered is that 10 years is an adequate period for a promoter/major shareholder of a bank as CEO/WTD to stabilise its operations and to transition the managerial leadership to a professional management. The corresponding limit for a CEO who is not a promoter/major shareholder is 15 consecutive years. Thereafter, that individual is eligible for re-appointment as CEO or WTD only after the expiration of three years.

Ordinary corporate governance norms exhort managers to run a company in the interest of shareholders. Global experience suggests that this approach may not be suitable for all types of banks. First, banks are highly leveraged, creating powerful incentives for shareholders to engage in risky strategies at great risk to creditors, including retail depositors. Second, bank failure could involve systemic risk, which could result in a government bail-out. This moral hazard creates even more high-powered incentives for shareholders to engage in risky strategies. Third, financial assets held by a bank are hard to monitor and measure. Consequently, external scrutiny of a bank by depositors and creditors, among others, is difficult. Overall, these unique factors are likely to encourage bank managers to take excessive risks to maximise shareholder value.

Bank governance seeks to curb such excessive risk-taking. It encourages prudent risk-taking by bank managers such that shareholders' interests are secondary to depositors' interests. This is the main logic for regulating the banks' board structure and managerial compensation, as suggested in the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision guidelines and the Financial Stability Board principles respectively. From this perspective, it is unclear whether imposing a maximum cap on CEO tenure to separate ownership from management would encourage prudent risk-taking by the management.

Research suggests that CEO tenure could have important implications for corporate performance. This is because the managers' decision horizons are usually shorter than the investment horizons of other corporate stakeholders, which may encourage myopic decisions by a CEO.

For Indian banks, the limited empirical

evidence seems to suggest that bank performance improves with increasing CEO tenure. For instance, a paper by Jayati Sarkar and Subrata Sarkar (2018), published in *International Journal of Financial Studies*, examines whether board governance structures (including CEO tenure) impact the performance of Indian state-owned and private commercial banks both in terms of asset quality and profitability. It uses a sample of 25 state-owned banks, 14 old private banks and seven new private banks for a period of 12 years from 2000 to 2012.

The paper finds that an increase in CEO tenure is associated with significant improvements in asset quality with an accompanying increase in the overall performance of the bank. Moreover, the effect of CEO tenure increases rapidly with the year of CEO tenure. Consequently, the later years of a CEO's tenure are more effective than the initial years in affecting bank outcomes. Further, CEO tenure effects are stronger in private banks, both old and new. These findings seem to be at odds with RBI's suggestion to cap CEO tenure.

Concerning public sector banks (PSBs), the P J Nayak Committee report had identified shorter tenure of chairmen and executive directors as a key reason for weaker empowerment of their boards. This conclusion was based on a working paper from ISB-Hyderabad authored by Krishnamurthy Subramaniam, Arkodipta Sarkar and Prasanna Tantri (2014). This paper argues that an incoming CEO in a PSB is likely to be wary about the quality of bank assets during his predecessor's tenure. Given the threat of prosecution, the incoming CEO is unlikely to lend until he understands and obtains full information about the bank's existing assets. Accordingly, the paper finds that the quarter in which a new CEO takes charge, market-adjusted lending declines by 1.7 per cent and the stock price also falls by 1.1 per cent. In such circumstances, a shorter tenure creates incentives for the incoming CEO to engage in earnings management to present an overtly positive view of the bank's business and financial position. In contrast, CEOs with longer tenure have lower incentives to engage in earnings management. Although these findings do not apply to private banks, they seem to suggest a case for a minimum CEO tenure but not maximum CEO tenure.

To clarify, this is not to suggest that the proposal on CEO tenure cap in the RBI paper is incorrect. What is merely being highlighted is that the proposal does not appear to be supported by any cogent evidence, empirical or otherwise, which is available in the public domain. This assumes significance in light of the recent decision of the Supreme Court in *Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) v. RBI*. In this case, the Court struck down an RBI circular prohibiting dealing or settling in virtual currencies on the ground that RBI did not adduce any cogent evidence of the likely harm that its circular sought to address. While there is no direct parallel that can be drawn, it may be prudent for the RBI to publish an empirical study on the impact of CEO tenure on bank performance before translating this proposal into an enforceable regulation.

The writer is senior research fellow at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., New Delhi. Views are personal



MARY E JOHN

THE GOVERNMENT'S proposal to raise the legal age of marriage for women illustrates a timeless principle of governance that rises above all ideologies. When you can't do the things that desperately need to be done, do something else that you can do easily, even if it does not need doing. At a time when the country is facing its worst overall crisis since Independence, the government has set up a special task force to advise it on the issue of raising the age of marriage for girls from 18 to 21 years.

We know only too well that India is usually near the bottom of the international rankings on gender indicators. India also has the largest absolute number of girls who marry below the age of 18. Therefore, raising the age of marriage to 21 could well be seen as a step towards gender equality that also addresses the health problems of young mothers and their infants. But unfortunately, this reasoning is both unsound and unwise.

The topic of “child marriage” in contemporary India has not received the attention it needs. Public discussion is confined to the occasional coverage in the media where child marriage and trafficking are often carelessly conflated. The periodic National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) provide an internationally-recognised measure of child marriage, namely, the proportion of those in the age group 20-24 years who married before reaching 18 years of age. In the latest survey,

Taking the easy way out

Poverty, not age of marriage, is responsible for women's poor health indicators

NFHS-4 of 2015-16, this proportion is 26.8 per cent, down from 47 per cent in 2005-06. This is a significant decline and the Census shows a similar trend between 2001 to 2011. Along with such impressive declines, NFHS-4 shows that only 6.6 per cent were marrying below the age of 15. In other words, the problem in India today is no longer of child marriage but late adolescent marriage, and a declining one. It might interest readers to know that there are no differences between Hindus and Muslims in these trends.

There is an almost global consensus on 18 years as the age of social adulthood. A common threshold for voting rights, driving privileges and much else (with employment and sexual consent at even younger ages), it is also the most common standard for marriage across the world. Scientists have recognised it as the age when the female body reaches full development, such that a healthy woman with adequate ante-natal care can be expected to have a healthy baby. It is already the legal age of marriage in India, so why the hurry to raise it above the international norm?

The best answer would probably go something like this: Raising the age of marriage will raise the age of motherhood, and thus the probability that mother and child will be healthier. It will also lower the fertility rate. But this answer rests on a partial truth that is dangerously misleading. Our health indicators on young mothers and their

infants are as bad as they are because poorer (and therefore more malnourished) women are marrying at younger ages compared to their wealthier counterparts. If poor women continue to remain poor and malnourished, raising their age of marriage by a few years will change very little. Much of the same problems will recur when they marry at 21 years. This fact is confirmed by carefully disaggregated statistical analyses.

Moreover, fertility rates in India have been declining sharply. Demographers have been pleasantly surprised by the decline even in states like West Bengal and Telangana, which have high rates of early marriage. Poor families today are having small families. Little is gained by pushing them to have these children three years later.

On the other hand, if the legal age of marriage for women were raised to 21, and the trend shown in NFHS-4 holds, then 56 per cent of Indian women in the 20-24 year age group (who married below 21) would be without legal protections and whose families would be liable for punishment under the new law. This number shoots up to 75 per cent for those in the poorest 20 per cent of the population. Even in a progressive state like Kerala, famous for high levels of education and excellent health services, one-third (of women between 20-24) marry before they are 21. Remember that these numbers are under-estimates since they do not count

those women currently in the 18-20 age group who might also marry before 21. How will it help to render such women without legal recourse by going beyond the international norm of 18 years?

There is so much else that must be tackled first. Numerous studies show that parents are investing in their daughters' education (with near gender parity even in higher education), but our education system is failing the young. With few avenues of gainful employment for young women, a home-bound school drop-out becomes a source of anxiety, and marriage the only viable prospect. Well-intentioned conditional cash transfer schemes by state governments rewarding families who obey the law are popularly known as “dahej” (dowry) schemes. Instead of tackling gender inequality, they reinforce the belief that girls are a burden relieved only by marriage. To bring genuine change, we need free education beyond schooling for girls, coupled with job guarantees, especially for those from rural areas and vulnerable social locations. This would make it genuinely possible for girls to have some say as to whether, how or when they wished to marry.

John is a researcher at the Centre for Women's Development Studies and author of the upcoming Child Marriage in an International Frame

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ONLINE VS OFFLINE

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘Children of Bastar Village get lessons via loudspeakers’ (IE, July 29). The lack of internet connectivity led to children of a village in Bastar being taught via loudspeakers. As I start appreciating the initiative taken in the village, several thoughts come in my mind: What if the student has doubts? What about the interactive sessions between students and teachers? What about the sound quality of loudspeakers? Online interaction is among the safest and most feasible mode of teaching that can support our education system during the pandemic. The government should speed up their process to provide internet to all rural and semi-urban areas.

Ayushi Singh, Agra

SCIENCE & POLITICS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The limits of science’ (IE, July 30). The failure of scientists to effectively communicate effectively the COVID-19 pandemic could be better understood by recalling the opinion of Brazilian teacher, Paulo Freire, that education is a political act. That is why science remains subordinated to the political dispensation, that is known to be inclined towards market interests. The history is replete with instances science playing second fiddle to political and

market forces. In the current pandemic, the US-China rivalry has played a significant role in the global response.

G Javid Rasool, Lucknow

IMPROVE ARMOURY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Securing caregivers’ (IE JULY 28). Health workers are at a constant risk of exposure to COVID-19 unlike other professionals. The government has to come forward with facilities for all frontline health workers like dedicated emergency set ups and protection kits and ensure the availability of medicines.

Jayesh Shah, Vadodra

TOP OF THE WORLD



Michelle Bolsonaro

BRAZIL
Bolsonaro's wife, minister Covid positive

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT Jair Bolsonaro's wife and one of his ministers have tested positive for Covid-19, according to a statement on Thursday. Just days after her husband said he had overcome the virus with a negative test following weeks in quarantine, Bolsonaro's wife Michelle has tested positive, the presidential office said in a statement. Brazil's science and technology minister, Marcos Pontes, said his test had come back positive, becoming the fifth minister in Bolsonaro's government to be diagnosed with the disease. Their infections are a palpable sign of the scale of the outbreak in Brazil.

PAKISTAN

Senate approval for two bills related to FATF

Islamabad: Pakistan's Senate on Thursday unanimously approved two bills related to the tough conditions set by the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog FATF, a day after they were passed in the National Assembly amidst vociferous protest from the Opposition parties. The bills include measures of freezing and seizure of assets, travel ban, and arms embargo on the entities and individuals, who are designated on the sanctions list of the United Nations and impose heavy fine and long term jails for those facilitating militancy.

TAIWAN

Ex-president Lee Teng-hui dies at 97

Taipei: Local media are reporting that ex-Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui, who oversaw the island's transition to full democracy, died Thursday evening. Lee was 97 and had largely dropped out of public life in his later years. As a member of the then-governing Nationalist Party, Lee was made Taiwan's leader following the death of Chiang Ching-kuo and in 1996 won Taiwan's first direct presidential election. He was also the frequent target of verbal attacks from China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory.

AFTER IMPOSITION OF NEW NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

Hong Kong moves against opposition figures: 4 arrests, 12 disqualifications

NYT & AP

HONG KONG, JULY 30

WEEKS AFTER the Chinese government imposed a new national security law on Hong Kong, raising fears of a broader crackdown on the semiautonomous territory, the city's authorities have taken aggressive steps against the pro-democracy opposition.

Officials on Thursday barred 12 candidates, including well-known pro-democracy figures, from the September legislative election. The disqualifications came a day after the police made what appeared to be the first targeted arrests of four activists accused of posting pro-independence messages online.

Opposition candidates said they had hoped to ride a wave of protests and public discontent to electoral success in the election on September 6. But they had also acknowledged the fear that the government would disqualify candidates on the nebulous grounds that they would not uphold the Basic Law, Hong Kong's local Constitution.

The government did not detail which candidates were barred or why. But many identified themselves online. Among them were Joshua Wong, a prominent activist; Gwyneth Ho, a former journalist; and four members of the moderate pro-democracy Civic Party. The government said more disqualifications could follow.



Pro-democracy Civic Party members in Hong Kong on Thursday. AP

tions could follow.

It also said in a statement that grounds for disqualification included advocating for Hong Kong's independence or self-determination, soliciting intervention from foreign governments, expressing an objection in principle to the national security law Beijing imposed last month or vowing to indiscriminately vote against government proposals.

"The excuse they use is that I describe national security law as a draconian law, which shows that I do not support this sweeping law," Wong, 23, wrote on Facebook.

"Clearly, Beijing shows a total disregard for the will of the Hongkongers, tramples upon the city's last pillar of vanishing autonomy and attempts to keep Hong Kong's legislature under its firm grip."

The police said the activists, three men and one woman whose ages range from 16 to 21, were arrested in the New Territories area of Hong Kong for the "publishing of content about secession, and inciting or abetting others for the commission of secession." Officers seized mobile phones, computers and documents during the roundup.

China holds drills over South China Sea

China said on Thursday that long-range bombers were among the aircraft that took part in recent aerial drills over the South China Sea.

The exercises included nighttime takeoffs and landings and simulated long-range attacks, Defense Ministry spokesperson Ren Guoqiang said. Among the planes were H-6G and H-6K bombers, upgraded versions of planes long in use with the People's Liberation Army Air Force and the People's Liberation Army Navy Air Force, Ren said.



LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF LIFE

■ The biggest, most sophisticated Mars rover ever built — a car-size vehicle bristling with cameras, microphones, drills and lasers — blasted off Thursday

■ The launch of NASA's Perseverance is part of a project to bring the first Martian rock samples back to Earth to be analysed for evidence of ancient life

■ In addition to addressing the life-on-Mars question, it will yield lessons that could pave the way for the arrival of astronauts as early as the 2030s. AP

Congressional hearing: US lawmakers accuse Big Tech of crushing rivals to boost profits

NANDITA BOSE & DIANE BARTZ

WASHINGTON, JULY 30

GOOGLE AND Facebook took particularly sharp jabs for alleged abuse of their market power from Democrats and Republicans on Wednesday in a congressional hearing that put four of America's most prominent tech CEOs in the hot seat.

Facebook Inc's Mark Zuckerberg, Amazon.com Inc's Jeff Bezos, Google owner Alphabet Inc's Sundar Pichai and



Sundar Pichai testifies during the hearing. AP

Apple Inc's Tim Cook parried a range of accusations that they crippled smaller rivals in their quest for market share.

Cicilline set the tone for the hearing when he began by accusing Google of theft. "Why does Google steal content from honest businesses?" he asked.

Pichai responded mildly that he would want to know the specifics of the accusation.

Facebook's Zuckerberg took a series of questions about the company's purchase of Instagram in 2012 and whether it was acquired because it was a threat, as he dubbed it in an email obtained by the committee.

In one of the more notable exchanges, Representative Pramila

Jayapal, a Democrat, pushed Zuckerberg on whether Facebook had ever copied its competitors. "We've certainly adapted features that others have led in," he said.

"How many companies did Facebook end up copying?" she asked. "Is it less than five? Less than 50?" "Congresswoman, I don't know," Zuckerberg said.

Jayapal pressed Amazon's Bezos on whether the company used data from third-party sellers in making sales decisions. Bezos answered cautiously that the company had a policy against such actions. **REUTERS**

RED PANDA BORN IN BERLIN

A rare red panda has been born at a Berlin zoo, only a few months after its parents were brought to the German capital from India, the zoo said in a statement Thursday. The little cub was first discovered on June 6 in its mother's cave at the Tierpark Zoo and it is now the size of a guinea pig. The animal's gender is known yet unknown and it has not yet been named.

Trailing in polls, Trump suggests 'delaying' election

THE NEW YORK TIMES
NEW YORK, JULY 30

SINCE THE pandemic began, Democrats have feared that President Donald Trump would seek to cancel or postpone November's general election. On Thursday, for the first time, Trump in a tweet suggested the vote be delayed "until people can properly, securely and safely vote," something he cannot legally do.

"With Universal Mail-In Voting (not Absentee Voting, which is good), 2020 will be the most INACCURATE & FRAUDULENT Election in history," Trump wrote. "It will be a great embarrassment to the USA. Delay the Election until people can properly, securely and safely vote???"

Top Republicans on Thursday rejected President Trump's suggestion.

"Never in the history of the country, through wars, depressions, and the Civil War have we ever not had a federally scheduled election on time, and we'll find a way to do that again this November 3," Senator Mitch McConnell, the majority leader, said. "We'll cope with whatever the situation is and have the election on November 3 as already scheduled."

Even for Trump, suggesting a delay in the election is an extraordinary breach of presidential decorum that will increase the chances that Trump and his core supporters don't accept the legitimacy of the election should he lose to former Vice President Joseph R Biden Jr.

Top Democrats reacted with the resigned horror of a party that has for five years faced norm-breaking attacks from Trump that would have been considered far out of bounds under previous presidents.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi simply tweeted the section of



Donald Trump

Election delay highly unlikely

THE POWER to change the date of the election does not lie with Trump. The date of the election has been fixed since 1845 — to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. For a change of date, new legislation would have to be drafted and approved by the Democrat-controlled Congress, the Senate as well as Trump, as per an NYT report. Such a change could also be challenged in courts. Furthermore, the US Constitution mandates the swearing in of a new Congress on January 3, and for a new presidential term on January 20. This cannot be altered through normal legislative channels.

the Constitution that stipulates the date of the election, while Democratic National Committee spokeswoman Lily Adams called the tweet "a desperate attempt to distract from today's devastating economic numbers..."

India, China, Russia don't take care of their air: Trump

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JULY 30

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has alleged that India, China and Russia do not take care of their air, while America does, noting that he withdrew from the "one-sided, energy-destroying" Paris climate accord which would have made it a "non-competitive nation".

Trump, in his address on energy and the Permian Basin in Midland, Texas on Wednesday, said that by imposing these punishing restrictions — and beyond restrictions — "the Washington radical-left, crazy Democrats" would also send countless American jobs, factories, industries to China and to other foreign polluting states.

"They want us to take care of our air, but China doesn't take care of its air. In all fairness, India doesn't take care of its air. Russia doesn't take care of its air. But we do. Not on my watch, it's not going to happen — I can tell you that. Because as long as I'm President, we will always put America first. It's very simple," he said.

"For years and years, we put

Covid death toll crosses 150,000 in US

Washington: The US has recorded over 150,000 Covid-19 deaths, another grim milestone that comes amidst warning from a top Indian-American physician that the country has failed to arrest the spread of the deadly pandemic.

America's death toll was 150,676 as of Wednesday — more than a fifth of the world's recorded deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University. The US also had over 4,426,000 confirmed cases, making it the world's worst-hit country. **PTI**

other countries first, and we now put America first. As we have seen in cities and towns across our nation, it's not just Texas oil that the radical Democrats want to destroy; they want to destroy our country," he said. **PTI**

'PEOPLE WEREN'T WEARING MASKS OR CLEANING THEIR HAND, THEY WERE GOING TO CROWDED PLACES'

After 100 Covid-free days, mysterious outbreak catches Vietnam by surprise

HANNAH BEECH & CHAU DOAN
JULY 30

IN A world plagued by pandemic, Vietnam seemed like a miracle. As months went by without a single recorded coronavirus death, or even a confirmed case of local transmission, residents began leaving their face masks at home.

Noodle shops resounded with the clack of chopsticks and sipped broth. Schools opened. And lured by good deals, Vietnamese tourists began taking vacations

again, crowding the coastal city of Danang, with its golden beaches and plentiful seafood.

But over the weekend, Vietnam, which had gone about 100 days without a single confirmed case of local transmission, announced that the virus was lurking in the country after all — and it was spreading.

First, a 57-year-old man from Danang tested positive for the virus and is now on life support. Then clusters quickly emerged in five hospitals. By Wednesday, the virus had spread north to Hanoi, the capital, south to Ho Chi Minh City and afflicted two provinces

in central Vietnam, as well as the remote Central Highlands.

The surge of the coronavirus in Vietnam, which has so far recorded fewer than 450 cases, revealed the dangers of the virus even in places that appeared to have done most everything right in their battle against contagion.

"In my opinion, this outbreak is more dangerous than the previous one because it is happening at the same time in many places," said Nguyen Huy Nga, the dean of public health and nursing at Quang Trung University in Binh Dinh Province. "We do not know the source of disease, especially



Health workers in Hanoi, Vietnam. Reuters

with tens of thousands of tourists flocking to Danang."

The Vietnamese authorities have reacted to the latest wave of cases with the kind of fast and forceful response that characterised their actions in the early days of the pandemic.

Hours after clusters of cases were confirmed in Danang hospitals earlier this week, officials said they would be shutting the city's airport. Up to 80,000 local tourists who had flooded the city for a summer break would be evacuated, the authorities said.

In Danang, a normally bustling city popular with tourists

and traders alike, restaurants and bars are closed. Face masks are mandatory again. With holiday swimming in the sea banned by local authorities, the city's famous beaches were deserted on Wednesday, residents said.

Across Vietnam, hospitals were getting beds ready to handle a rise in cases. Professor Nga noted that ventilators and other equipment needed in the fight against the coronavirus are limited in Vietnam.

People, he said, had become complacent.

"After 100 days with no outbreaks, people weren't taking

precautions anymore," Professor Nga said. "They weren't wearing masks or cleaning their hand with soap. People were going to crowded places."

In Danang, Nguyen Thi Minh Hoa, a director of a marketing firm, said that grocery shelves were not being emptied en masse, meaning that residents were anxious but not panicked. Renewed social distancing measures were being followed carefully, she said.

"I'm just sad that this coastal city has suddenly become a center of disease after 100 days of peace," Hoa said. **NYT**



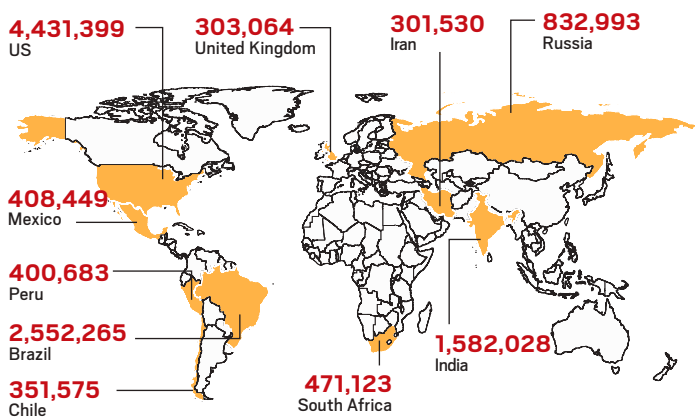
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

THE WORLD



TOTAL CONFIRMED: 17,067,754

DEATH COUNT: 668,250

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on July 30. JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match if these are accounted at different times.

Protein identified as potential Achilles' heel of coronavirus

WHEN THE coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 enters a human cell, it hijacks the cell mechanism. One of its proteins, called PLpro, is produced by the human cell itself after the virus hijacks the cell mechanism. PLpro is essential for replication of the virus. A new study in *Nature* has found that pharmacological inhibition of PLpro blocks virus replication and also strengthens our immune response.

When SARS-CoV-2 infects us, the infected body cells release messenger substances known as type 1 interferons. These attract our killer cells, which kill the infected cells. SARS-CoV-2 fights back by letting the human cell produce PLpro. This protein



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

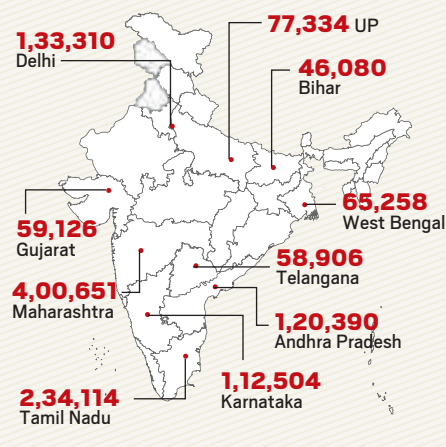
suppresses the development of type 1 interferons, which would have attracted our killer cells. Researchers have now been able to monitor these processes in cell culture. If they blocked PLpro, virus production was inhibited, and the innate immune response of the human cells was also strengthened.

To understand in detail how inhibiting PLpro stops the virus, researchers in Frankfurt, Munich, Mainz, Freiburg and Leiden have worked closely together and pooled their biochemical, structural, IT and virological expertise. The research was led by Goethe University and University Hospital Frankfurt.

Source: Goethe University Frankfurt

INDIA COUNT: 15,75,607 (34,968 DEATHS)

TOP 10 STATES



REST OF INDIA

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	428
Arunachal Pradesh	1410
Assam	36259
Chandigarh	978
Chhattisgarh	8539
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1026
Goa	5489
Haryana	33631
Himachal Pradesh	2403
Jammu and Kashmir	19419
Jharkhand	9861
Kerala	21797
Ladakh	1347
Madhya Pradesh	30134
Manipur	2458
Meghalaya	784
Mizoram	398
Nagaland	1513
Odisha	29175
Puducherry	3177
Punjab	14946
Rajasthan	38964
Sikkim	596
Tripura	4485
Uttarakhand	6866

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, July 30. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above.
10,205,82 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 35 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

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

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Reading new education policy

The new National Education Policy has proposed sweeping changes. A look at the proposals on curriculum, courses and medium of learning, and the takeaways for students, schools and universities

RITIKA CHOPRA

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

ON WEDNESDAY, the Union Cabinet cleared a new National Education Policy (NEP) proposing sweeping changes in school and higher education. A look at the takeaways, and their implications for students and institutions of learning:

What purpose does an NEP serve?

An NEP is a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in the country. The need for a policy was first felt in 1964 when Congress MP Siddheshwar Prasad criticised the then government for lacking a vision and philosophy for education. The same year, a 17-member Education Commission, headed by then UGC Chairperson D S Kothari, was constituted to draft a national and coordinated policy on education. Based on the suggestions of this Commission, Parliament passed the first education policy in 1968.

A new NEP usually comes along every few decades. India has had three to date. The first came in 1968 and the second in 1986, under Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi respectively; the NEP of 1986 was revised in 1992 when P V Narasimha Rao was Prime Minister. The third is the NEP released Wednesday under the Prime Ministership of Narendra Modi.

What are the key takeaways?

The NEP proposes sweeping changes including opening up of Indian higher education to foreign universities, dismantling of the UGC and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), introduction of a four-year multidisciplinary undergraduate programme with multiple exit options, and discontinuation of the M Phil programme.

In school education, the policy focuses on overhauling the curriculum, "easier" Board exams, a reduction in the syllabus to retain "core essentials" and thrust on "experiential learning and critical thinking".

In a significant shift from the 1986 policy, which pushed for a 10+2 structure of school education, the new NEP pitches for a "5+3+3+4" design corresponding to the age groups 3-8 years (foundational stage), 8-11 (preparatory), 11-14 (middle), and 14-18 (secondary). This brings early childhood education (also known as pre-school education for children of ages 3 to 5) under the ambit of formal schooling. The mid-day meal programme will be extended to pre-school children. The NEP says students until Class 5 should be taught in their mother tongue or regional language.

The policy also proposes phasing out of all institutions offering single streams and that all



Among proposals, 10+2 school format to become 5+3+3+4. Jaipal Singh/Express Archive

universities and colleges must aim to become multidisciplinary by 2040.

How will these reforms be implemented?

The NEP only provides a broad direction and is not mandatory to follow. Since education is a concurrent subject (both the Centre and the state governments can make laws on it), the reforms proposed can only be implemented collaboratively by the Centre and the states. This will not happen immediately. The incumbent government has set a target of 2040 to implement the entire policy. Sufficient funding is also crucial; the 1968 NEP was hamstrung by a shortage of funds.

The government plans to set up subject-wise committees with members from relevant ministries at both the central and state levels to develop implementation plans for each aspect of the NEP. The plans will list out actions to be taken by multiple bodies, including the HRD Ministry, state Education Departments, school Boards, NCERT, Central Advisory Board of Education and National Testing Agency, among others. Planning will be followed by a yearly joint review of progress against targets set.

What does the emphasis on mother tongue/regional language mean for English-medium schools?

Such emphasis is not new: Most government schools in the country are doing this already. As for private schools, it's unlikely that they will be asked to change their medium of instruction. A senior ministry official clarified to *The Indian Express* that the provision on mother tongue as medium of instruction was not compulsory for states. "Education is a concurrent subject. Which is why the policy clearly

states that kids will be taught in their mother tongue or regional language 'wherever possible'," the officer said.

What about people in transferable jobs, or children of multilingual parents?

The NEP doesn't say anything specifically on children of parents with transferable jobs, but acknowledges children living in multilingual families: "Teachers will be encouraged to use a bilingual approach, including bilingual teaching-learning materials, with those students whose home language may be different from the medium of instruction."

How does the government plan to open up higher education to foreign players?

The document states universities from among the top 100 in the world will be able to set up campuses in India. While it doesn't elaborate the parameters to define the top 100, the incumbent government may use the 'QS World University Rankings' as it has relied on these in the past while selecting universities for the 'Institute of Eminence' status. However, none of this can start unless the HRD Ministry brings in a new law that includes details of how foreign universities will operate in India.

It is not clear if a new law would entice the best universities abroad to set up campuses in India. In 2013, at the time the UPA-II was trying to push a similar Bill, *The Indian Express* had reported that the top 20 global universities, including Yale, Cambridge, MIT and Stanford, University of Edinburgh and Bristol, had shown no interest in entering the Indian market.

Participation of foreign universities in India is currently limited to them entering into collaborative twinning programmes, sharing faculty

with partnering institutions and offering distance education. Over 650 foreign education providers have such arrangements in India.

How will the four-year multidisciplinary bachelor's programme work?

This pitch, interestingly, comes six years after Delhi University was forced to scrap such a four-year undergraduate programme at the incumbent government's behest. Under the four-year programme proposed in the new NEP, students can exit after one year with a certificate, after two years with a diploma, and after three years with a bachelor's degree.

"Four-year bachelor's programmes generally include a certain amount of research work and the student will get deeper knowledge in the subject he or she decides to major in. After four years, a BA student should be able to enter a research degree programme directly depending on how well he or she has performed. However, master's degree programmes will continue to function as they do, following which student may choose to carry on for a PhD programme," said scientist and former UGC chairman VS Chauhan.

What impact will doing away with the M Phil programme have?

Chauhan said this should not affect the higher education trajectory at all. "In normal course, after a master's degree a student can register for a PhD programme. This is the current practice almost all over the world. In most universities, including those in the UK (Oxford, Cambridge and others), M Phil was a middle research degree between a master's and a PhD. Those who have entered MPhil, more often than not ended their studies with a PhD degree. MPhil degrees have slowly been phased out in favour of a direct PhD programme."

Will the focus on multiple disciplines not dilute the character of single-stream institutions, such as IITs?

The IITs are already moving in that direction. IIT-Delhi has a humanities department and set up a public policy department recently. IIT-Kharagpur has a School of Medical Science and Technology. Asked about multiple disciplines, IIT-Delhi director V Ramgopal Rao said, "Some of the best universities in the US such as MIT have very strong humanities departments. Take the case of a civil engineer. Knowing how to build a dam is not going to solve a problem. He needs to know the environmental and social impact of building the dam. Many engineers are also becoming entrepreneurs. Should they not know something about economics? A lot more factors go into anything related to engineering today."

EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

As moratorium benefit enters last month, here's how to manage your home loan

SANDEEP SINGH

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

The six-month moratorium on repayment of loans ends in another month (on August 31) – unless the Reserve Bank of India allows a second extension. The moratorium brought relief to many home loan customers who saw their incomes decline amid the pandemic-induced lockdown and the slowdown in the economy. But it is now time for borrowers to reassess their finances and optimise the outgo on home loans.

Can you bring down the interest on your loan?

Over the last 18 months, the RBI has cut repo rates by 225 basis points, and banks and housing finance companies have reduced their interest offering on new loans from around 9%

to under 7% now. But many existing home loan customers are still paying around 8.5% or, in some cases even 9%, interest. These customers should approach their bank or housing finance company and switch to a lower rate by paying a small conversion fee (which is usually a few thousand rupees). This will bring their interest rate to the levels that their bank/HFC is now offering on fresh loans.

How much will you save by doing this?

Suppose you have principal outstanding of Rs 30 lakh on an ongoing home loan, and the tenure remaining is 15 years (180 months). At an interest rate of 8.5%, you would be paying an EMI of Rs 29,540. However, if by paying a conversion fee, you can bring the interest rate down to 7.4%, your EMI could come down by Rs 1,900 – or, if you choose to pay the same EMI, the tenure of your loan can come down by 20 months to just 160 months.

Also, you should ask to be moved from the marginal cost-based lending rate to the repo rate-linked lending rate in order to ensure that whenever the RBI cuts the repo rate, the bank automatically passes on the benefit to you.

What other steps can you take?

In these uncertain times, it is important to have enough liquidity to sustain the family for at least 3-6 months. While this can be in the form of bank savings or fixed deposits, it is important to note that it may not be the right approach to have a higher component of savings in low interest-earning fixed deposits, while also paying a higher interest rate on home loans.

The State Bank of India is currently offering an interest rate of 5.1% on term deposits of 1-3 years. If you fall in the highest tax bracket, the interest income would work out to only 3.4%. However, on your home loan, you would

be paying anywhere between 7% and 8.5%.

It is, therefore, wise to not roll over fixed deposits (beyond what is required for liquidity), and utilise it to repay part of your loan. This will, again, help to either reduce your monthly EMI outgo or the tenure of the loan.

Thumb rule: any asset that is earning a lower interest than the loan outgo should be utilised to repay the loan.

If RBI extends the moratorium, should you opt for it?

The fact that the interest component of the EMI during the moratorium period gets added to the principal outstanding of the loan, will result in an increase in the EMI going forward. If possible, it is advisable to avoid availing of one more phase of moratorium.

NEXT: SHOULD YOU CONTINUE WITH YOUR MUTUAL FUND SIP?

What is abetment of suicide, and how court determines if it took place

APURVA VISHWANATH

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE CONTROVERSY surrounding the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput has taken a new turn as the actor's father filed an FIR against actor Rhea Chakrabarty and five others, for abetment of suicide.

What is the crime of 'abetment of suicide'?

The Indian Penal Code, 1860 makes abetment of suicide a punishable offence. Section 306 IPC prescribes: "If any person commits suicide, whoever abets the commission of such suicide shall be punished with imprisonment of either imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine." Generally, the fine is paid to

the kin of the deceased.

The IPC also has a separate chapter on abetment and describes who is an abettor under Section 108. Abetment is defined as including instigating, engaging in a conspiracy or assisting in committing the offence.

How serious is the offence of abetment?

Abetment of suicide is a serious offence that is tried in a sessions court and is cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.

A cognisable offence is one in which a police officer can make an arrest without a warrant from a court. A non-bailable offence means bail is granted at the discretion of the court, and not as a matter of right. A non-compoundable offence is one in which the case cannot be withdrawn by the complainant even when the complainant and the accused have reached a compromise. The court can-

not allow withdrawal of a case involving a non-compoundable offence, and every such complaint is necessarily followed by a trial where evidence is held against the accused.

So, does that mean abetment of suicide is the same as murder?

No, it does not. The Supreme Court clarified this in 1997 in the case of *Sangarabonia Sreenu v State of Andhra Pradesh*. Although causing the death of another person is a common factor in murder as well as abetment of suicide, the two are distinct offences. In a murder, the final "act" of causing the death of a person is committed by the accused, which is not the case in abetment of suicide.

How will a court determine if the accused has abetted the suicide?

There are two primary ingredients of the

crime of abetment of suicide. First is a suicidal death. The second ingredient is the intention of the accused to abet such suicide.

Legally, whether a death is a suicide or not is a determination of a fact, which means evidence has to be evaluated to pronounce that death as a suicide. In common parlance, the word suicide is liberally attributed to every case of self-destruction, but suicide is never presumed. A determination of suicide is made when the deceased person is understood to have known the probable consequence of what the self-harm is about to do to the person and yet, does so intentionally. Once this is determined, the intention of the person accused of abetment of suicide is looked into.

The only exception is abetment of the suicide of a woman married for seven years or less. Through an 1983 amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure, the law was changed

to presume the husband guilty if his wife commits suicide within seven years of marriage. The amendment was made to curb dowry deaths that were categorised as suicides.

How is the intention to drive a person to suicide determined by the court?

The intention is discerned from acts of the accused, in proving any crime. Multiple rulings of the Supreme Court, including a 2002 ruling in *Sanjay Singh v State of Madhya Pradesh* have held that a comment or a statement uttered in haste, anger would not amount to abetment of suicide.

In a 2017 ruling, the Supreme Court also said that instigation and involvement of the accused must be connected strongly and any remoteness in these features would be insufficient to charge the accused with the offence. Suppose, Person A says "go, die" to Person

B, and B happens to hang herself subsequently, Person A cannot be charged with abetment to suicide. Firstly, A did not intend to instigate B to commit suicide and merely uttered the words in a fit of anger. In such a case, the court would look into Person A's general behaviour towards B and determine the intention.

In the same case, if a husband and his family have subjected the wife to continuous physical abuse since the marriage and drove her to suicide, they can be held liable for the offence. Instigation has to have certain continuity, happen continuously over a reasonable period of time. The suicide must also be a direct consequence of the instigation and cannot be a mere coincidence or very remote to the committing of suicide. Also, if the deceased is found to be very sensitive compared to a reasonable person, the court has said the charge of abetment to suicide would weaken.



RITES LIMITED
(Schedule 'A' Enterprise of Govt. of India)
CIN: L74899DL1974GOI007227
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Group General Manager/RCED, RITES Ltd invites online item rate bid on two packet system for the following work on Open tender basis:

NIT No. RITES/RCD/RI/SHMS/2019/02, Name of Work: "Engagement of System Integrator for supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of Monitoring system for Structural Health Monitoring System (SHMS) for Bogibel Rail cum Road Bridge across river Brahmaputra near Dibrugarh, Assam, India". **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 38.2 Crore, **Earnest Money:** ₹ INR 250000.00, **Period of completion:** 32 months (08 month for execution and 24 months as maintenance period), **Last time & date of submission of bid:** 11:00 Hrs. on 18.09.2020. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>.

Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only



IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.ircon.org CIN-L45203DL1976GOI008171


e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

e-Tender No: IRCON/ELECT/5025/R-APDRP/MEERUT/Store/Disposal/03, Date :30/07/2020 e-Tender for and on behalf of IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED is invited from bidders for the work of "Sale of Surplus materials like 250KVA & 100KVA Transformer, G.I. Wires, M.S. Structure Steel-Angle, channels, MS clamps, Cables, Pole mounted D.B., Boxes and its fittings in different sizes etc. lying IRCON store at B-25 Kunj Jhargri, Jagriti Vihar, Meerut (UP) under RAPDRP Part-B Project Meerut Town of PVNVL"

Estimated Cost of work	Rs.23.60,876/-
End Date & Time of e-Bid Submission	18.08.2020 at 15:30 Hrs.

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

General Manager (Elect)/PH




NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Plot No. C-24, 'G' Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400 051.

TENDER NOTICE

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NABARD), Department of Information Technology, Head Office, Mumbai invites e-tenders from established Vendors for provision of Bulk SMS Services. The last date for submission of e-tender is 15:00 hrs on 20th August 2020. Please visit our website 'www.nabard.org' for details regarding the same.

गौव नेहरे >>> तो देरा नहरे www.nabard.org Taking Rural India >>> Forward

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Naresh S/o Unknown** R/o Hanuman Mandir, Nigam Bodh Ghat, Delhi. Age about 45 years, Height 5'5", Face long, Complexion shallow, Built normal, wearing hospital cloths was found dead at LNJP Hospital, New Delhi on 27.07.2020.

In this regard a DD No. 47-A dated 27.07.2020 U/s 174 Cr.PC has been lodged at PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

SHO
PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Ph. 011-23967889, 23968730

DP/415/N/2020

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF BAMBOO C.N.C BOTTLE MAKING MACHINE

Tripura Rehabilitation Plantation Corporation Limited (TRPC) invites Expression of Interest for Supply of Bamboo C.N.C. Bottle Making Machine, 1 (one) no to be supplied at **Surendranagar, Sub-Div: Mohanpur, Dist. West Tripura, State: Tripura**. Expression will be received in the office of the TRPC Ltd. P.N. Complex, Gurkhabasti, Agartala, Tripura, **til 3.00 PM on 10th August 2020**.

Full text of the notice inviting expression of interest may be seen in the corporate office of TRPC at Agartala and in its Zonal Offices at Udaipur, Agartala, Kumarghat and Jawharnagar on all working days and also at www.tripurainfo.com along with the state and National leading news papers.

(Abhijit Ray)
Asstt. Manager (Marketing)
TRPC Ltd. H. Q.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

S. no.	N.I.T.No.	S.N.	16-2020-21-W-V
1	Name of work with its location	1	Development of RPC-4 facilities on line no. 20 at HNZM in the section of ADE/NHNZM. Definition Of Similar Work :- Any Civil work involving concreting work.
2	Approx. Cost of work	1	Rs. 13425435.46
3	Earnest Money	1	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 201025/ICE-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) Rs. 217100.00
4	Completion period of Work	1	06 Months
5	Cost of tender	1	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/ICE-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) Rs. 5900.00
6	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender		Upto 15.00 hrs. on 28.08.2020 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 28.08.2020
7	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.		Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

128-W/280/e-Tender Notice/20-21/W-V Dated : 28.07.2020 1668/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const., N. Rly., S.E. Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under **Single Packet System** for the under noted work:-

1	Name of work and location	Out sourcing of maintenance activities to provide habitable condition in CAO/C office complex N. Rly. at Kashmere gate Delhi in the section of SSE/C/J under XEN/C/HQ, Kashmere gate, Delhi.
2	Completion period of the work	24 (Twenty four) months
3	Approx Cost of work	Rs. 54.51 lakh
4	Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 1,09,030/-
5	Date & Time for Submission of e-Tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. on 20.08.2020 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 20.08.2020.
6	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 04.08.2020 to 20.08.2020. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No.: 50-G/C/K. gate/DLI Dated: 30.07.2020 1666/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE, GROUND WATER DIVISION, BAGH ALI MARDAAAN NOWSHERA, SRINAGAR KASHMIR

Gist of e-Tender.

NIT No: -PHE/GWDS 15 of 07/2020 Dated: 29-07-2020

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in 02 Cover System for Construction of Exploratory Test Bore Well and Construction of production tube well for successful exploration at the following location/site from registered water well drillers/contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S. No.	Site	Cost of Tender Document	Cost of EMD	Estimated Cost	Time of completion	Validity of Rates	Programme
1.	Construction of Production Tube Well at Wani Mohalla Balhama in Sonwar constituency of District Srinagar.	Rs.1000/-	Rs.73240/-	Rs.36.62 lacs	30 Days	180 Days	Capex
2.	Construction of Production Tube Well at Balhama (B) in Sonwar constituency of District Srinagar.	Rs.1000/-	Rs.73240/-	Rs.36.62 lacs	30 Days	180 Days	Capex


Position of Funds:- Available/Demanded

Critical Dates / Information.

1	Publishing Date	30 -07-2020
2	Period of Downloading of Bids	30-07-2020 (9:00 A.M) to 10-08-2020 (2:00 P.M)
3	Period of Submission of bids	30-07-2020 (9:00 A.M) to 10-08-2020 (2:00 P.M)
4	Date of opening of Tender.	11-08-2020 at (11:00A.M)
5	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.	
6	Document Cost : Rs 1000/- (one thousand only) for each well (Non-Refundable) in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) on account of (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)	
7	Earnest Money: for an amount shown in Gist of Nit against each well tender in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar 190011.	
8	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	

**Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division,
Srinagar.**

No: PHE/GWD/1479.
Dated:-29-07-2020.
DIPK-3606 (1)



Office of

Executive Engineer B&R Division HPPWD, Joginder Nagar

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department, Mandi-175015

Phone No. 01908-222033 E-Mail: ee-jog-hp@nic.in

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDS (ITB)

The Executive Engineer, B&R Division, HPPWD, Joginder Nagar on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering in 2 cover system for of the under mentioned 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 contractors	Time Limit
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	Construction of Karkuhi Jalh Changher road Km. 0/0 to 5/610 MLA 1st Priority of 2015-16 under NABARD Project RIDF-XXV (Actual Name:- Karkuhi Changher road Km. 0/0 to 4/510, Link road to village Jalh Km. 0/0 to 1/100 (Sub Head:- I Formation cutting, dumping site, construction of retaining/breast walls, cross drainage works, essential soling and parapets)	₹ 2,96,93,449/-	₹ 5,94,000/-	₹ 5000/-	Class 'A'	Twelve Months

2. **Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:-** The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://hptenders.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (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: <http://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:-**

- Date of online Publication: - **05/08/2020 10:00 Hrs.**
- Document Download Start and end date:- **10/08/2020 10:00 Hrs upto 29/08/2020 17:00 Hrs**
- Bid Submission start and end date:- **10/08/2020 10:00 Hrs upto 29/08/2020 17:00 Hrs**
- Physical submission of EMD and cost of tender document:- **31/08/2020 11:00 Hrs**
- Date of Technical Bid opening will be **31/08/2020 11:30 A.M, Evaluation of technical bid opening in Joginder Nagar Division, HPPWD, Joginder Nagar** and financial bid opening will follow on accordingly.

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 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 Deposited (EMD) and other technical Documents in O/O the Executive Engineer, B&R Division HP.PWD. Joginder Nagar District Mandi (H.P) as the specified in Key dates at Sr. No. 3 on tender opening date, failing which the bids will be declared non responsive.

6. **Bid Opening Detail:-** The bids shall be opened on **31/08/2020 11:30 Hrs.** in the office of Executive Engineer B&R Division HPPWD. Joginder Nagar District Mandi (H.P) by the authorized officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tender. If the office happens to be closed on the date of 6. 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 dead-line 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 delay 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 bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

9. In addition to instructions for use of standard form in bidding documents the bidder should upload the following information also.

- Total annual volume of Civil Engineering construction work executed and payment received in the last five year proceeding this year duly verified by the Chartered Accountant.

**Executive Engineer,
B&R Division HP PWD,
Joginder Nagar
District Mandi (HP) on behalf of
Governor of Himachal Pradesh
Ph. 01908-222033**

1910/HP



RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED

VIDYUT BHAWAN, JANPATH, JYOTI NAGAR, JAIPUR - 302005

CIN - U40102RJ2000SGC016484, Ph. No. 0141-2741452

E-mail: accountsrvn1@yahoo.com, Website: energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvnul

Extract of Financial Results for the Half Year ended 31st March, 2020

Sl. NO.	Particulars	Half year Ended 31/03/2020 (01/10/2019 - 31/03/2020)	Previous Half Year Ended 31/03/2019 (01/10/2018 - 31/03/2019)	Year Ended 31/03/2020 (01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020)	Year Ended 31/03/2019 (01/04/2018 - 31/03/2019)
		Un-audited/ Reviewed	Un-audited/ Reviewed	Un-audited/ Reviewed	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	883,379.39	800,023.05	1,633,318.73	1,448,744.93
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	49,438.04	41,973.16	41,068.88	59,604.47
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	35,723.65	8,579.64	12,830.57	13,842.00
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	35,723.65	8,579.64	12,830.57	13,842.00
5	Total comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	32,363.01	2,615.19	4,539.79	4,878.12
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value ₹10/-per share)	1,021,234.00	1,006,795.00	1,021,234.00	1,006,795.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as per balance sheet of previous accounting year	(413,180.05)	(438,280.84)	(413,180.05)	(438,280.84)
8	Net Worth*	604,717.96	568,295.84	604,717.96	568,295.84
9	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	4,644,038.10	4,521,045.83	4,644,038.10	4,521,045.83
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio	7.68	7.95	7.68	7.95
12	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/-each) (for continuing and discontinued operations-basic & diluted) (Not annualised) (In ₹)	0.35	0.09	0.12	0.14
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
14	Debenture Redemption Reserve**	-	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.82	0.90	0.77	0.82
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	1.22	1.21	1.08	1.16

* Excluding Fly Ash Utilisation Fund
** Debenture Redemption Reserve could not be created due to accumulated losses

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the half yearly and yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the half yearly and yearly financial results of the Company is available under investors section of our website 'energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvnul'.
- The company has prepared the financial statements and financial results in compliance with Ind AS pursuant to the Notification of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) dated 16th Feb 2015.
- The Management has exercised necessary due diligence to ensure that these unaudited financial results provide true & fair view of company's affairs. The figures for half year ended 31st March 2020 and 31st March 2019 are the balancing figures between the figures in respect of the full financial years and the figures upto the first half of the respective financial years.

For & on behalf of the Board of Directors
(P. Ramesh)
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN: 03551794

Place: Jaipur
Date: 30-07-2020
Raj/Samwad/C/20/2916 RVUN/PR-3410

NOTICE FOR E-TENDERING


The Resident Commissioner, Punjab Bhawan invites tenders on behalf of Government of Punjab from eligible Service Providers/Contractors for the following work through e-Tendering Process:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Annual Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Form
1.	Providing Manpower/Personnel Management Services on out sources basis in the O/o The Principal Resident Commissioner, Punjab Bhawan, New Delhi for Three Years.	3 Crore	6 Lakhs	1000/-

1. Date of Release of Tender **07.08.2020.**
2. Last Date for Purchase of Online Tender **24.08.2020 upto 12.00 hours.**
3. The tender form and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website: <https://www.punjab.gov.in>.

**Sd/-
Superintendent**

56442/Pb



BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD

(Power Wing)

Notice Inviting E-Tender

N.I.T No: 558/P&D(TS)/SPNT-488 Dated: 28.07.2020


Name of Office: Chief Engineer / Transmission System, Planning & Design (TS) Directorate, SLDC Complex, Industrial Area Phase-I, BMBB, Chandigarh-160002
Tele Fax-0172-2654468

Name of Work: Design, manufacturing, testing, supply and delivery of 06 nos. Live/Dead tank design oil filled 132kV Current Transformers of various ratios suitable for outdoor service, hollow porcelain insulator for Sub-Station of BMBB Kurukshetra.

Last date and time for receipt of request for issue of tender documents	18.08.2020 upto 17:00 Hours
Last date & time of submission of bids	26.08.2020 upto 11:00 Hours
Date and time of Online of Bids	26.08.2020 from 15:00 Hours onwards

For cost of specification, earnest money deposit and detailed NIT, please visit BMBB website <https://bmbbeproc.abcpncure.com> & www.bmbb.gov.in

1199-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today



HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly Owned Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)

Corporate Office, Navanager, P.B. Road, Hubli-580 025

Tel. No. 0836-2222535, Fax No. 0836-2324307

Website: www.hescom.co.in E-mail ID: seet@hescom.co.in
eeit@hescom.co.in CIN : U31401KA2002SGC030437

No: HESCOM/SEE-IT&MT/EEIT1/AEE-IT/1/2020-21/6207 Date : 29.07.2020

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

The Tender Notification issued vide: HESCOM/SEE-IT&MT/EE-IT/1/AEE-IT/1/2020-21/CYS 1305 Dated:24.07.2020 for Implementation of web based Total Revenue Management (TRM) system in Non RAPDRP areas of HESCOM vide Bid Indent No. HESCOM/SEE(IT&MT)/EEIT-1/TRM/2020-21 stands **CANCELLED.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (EI)
No.DIPR/DWD/2020-21/231/MCA (IT&MT), HESCOM, Hubballi.

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, B&R Division, HPPWD Nahan, District Sirmour, H.P. on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rates bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of Contractors registered with HPPWD for the works detailed in the table.


Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)
1.	C/o 30.00 meter Span Bridge over Pathrala Ka Khala and Khari Ka Nala on Khajurna-Bikram Bagh-Suketi-Kala Amb Road at RD 20/75	1,86,47,000/- only	2,19,000/- only
2.	Improvement of Banog-Kheri Road 0/0 to 39/500 (SH- P/F W-Beam Crash Barrier at RD 31/0 to 31/060, 31/105 to 31/135, 31/165 to 31/250, 31/260 to 31/325, 31/335 to 31/495, 31/540 to 31/580 and R/W at RD 31/275 to 31/290 and 31/300 to 31/310)	15,75,494/- only	31,500/- only
3.	Restoration of Rain Damages Majri to Burma Papdi Road Km 0/0 to 9/0 (SH- C/o Retaining Wall at RD 3/750 to 3/793)	14,06,328/- only	28,500/- only
4.	C/o Indoor Stadium Building at Nahan, District Sirmour (HP) (SH- C/o Spiral Stair Case, Pearch, Drain and Steel Works etc.)	6,51,477/- only	13,500/- only

Starting Date for Downloading Bid :- 10.08.2020
Deadline for Submission of Bid :- 22.08.2020 up to 10:00 AM

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer
HPPWD (B&R) Division Nahan
Tel/Fax: 01702-222260
E-mail: ee-nahan-hp@nic.in
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

1963/HP



UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.

Corporate I.D. No. - UA40109UP2001SGCQ25867/2358

V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwal Road, Dehradun- 248001, Ph. No. 0135-2763672-75
Fax 0135-2763830, Websties, www.upcl.org & www.uttarakhandpower.org

E-TENDER NOTICE

TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. 03/SE(MM)/2020-21

Superintending Engineer (MM), Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd., V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Dehradun invites e- tender for sale of old and used Transformer Oil (Dehradun 103.00 Kiloiliter + Haldwani 102.00 Kiloiliter =205.00 Kiloiliter) on "**AS IS WHERE IS BASIS**" from authorised purchaser, who are registered in GST/Income Tax Department, available in Workshop Dehradun/Rishikesh/Roorkee/Haldwani/ Kashipur/ Rudrapur under EWD Dehradun/Haldwani. The last date of online request of tender document/submission/ opening date of tender are as given below:-

Sl. No.	Details of Material	Total Quantity (unit in K.L.)	Average Turnover for Previous 3 Years (In Rs.)	Earnest Money[FDR/ CDR] (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document including Trade Tax [Draft] (In Rs.)	Last Date of online request for purchase of the tender document	Last Date of submission of tender in online & off line mode	Date of opening of Tender in online & off line mode
1	Old and used Transformer Oil	205.00 KiloLiter	150.00 Lakh	Rs.112740.00	Rs. 5,900.00	18/08/2020 upto 14:00 Hrs.	18/08/2020 upto 14:00 Hrs.	18/08/2020 at 16:30 Hrs.

for Further details, please visti website www.uktenders.gov.in.

Superintending Engineer (MM)

No: 358/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Dated: 29.07-2020

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION, Customer Care No.- 18004190405
"Pay Electricity bill online 24x7 form www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity Theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 18001804185/ Fax:2760911)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK (ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2503195, E-Mail ID: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 51 OF 2020-21 Dated: 27.07.2020

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar, invites e-Tenders from established and accredited Original Pump Manufacturers (OPM's) or their Authorized Dealers or reputed Firms or Joint Venture Consortium's having relevant Experience and other requisite pre-qualification criteria's for the advertised work. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' consisting of Tender Fee, Earnest Money Deposit, Pre-qualification Criteria's, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr



TORRENT PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED
Registered Office:
Torrent House, Off Ashram Road,
Ahmedabad - 380 009, Gujarat, India.
Ph. : + 91 79 26599000
Email: investorservices@torrentpharma.com Fax : + 91 79 26582100

Extract of Consolidated Financial Results
for the Quarter Ended 30-Jun-2020

[₹ in crores except per share data]

Particulars	Quarter Ended 30-Jun-2020	Year Ended 31-Mar-2020	Quarter Ended 30-Jun-2019
	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited
Total Income from operations (net)	2056	7939	2022
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	402	1187	279
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax and after exceptional items	402	1187	279
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax and exceptional items	321	1025	216
Total Comprehensive Income (after tax)	336	833	218
Equity Share Capital	84.62	84.62	84.62
Other Equity excluding Revaluation Reserve		4739	
Earnings per share (of ₹ 5/- each)			
Basic	18.98	60.55	12.74
Diluted	18.98	60.55	12.74

Notes :

- 1 Summary details of stand-alone audited financial results of Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited :

[₹ in crores]

Particulars	Quarter Ended 30-Jun-2020	Year Ended 31-Mar-2020	Quarter Ended 30-Jun-2019
Net income from operations	1727	6168	1603
Profit before tax	370	1117	277
Profit after tax	298	939	223
Total Comprehensive Income (after tax)	318	824	227

- 2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results for the quarter ended 30-Jun-2020 filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the same, along with the notes, are available on www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.torrentpharma.com.

Place : Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Date : 30-Jul-2020

Reliance Industries Limited

Registered and Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021
Telephone: +91 (22) 3555 5000; Facsimile: +91 (22) 2204 2268
E-mail: investor.relations@ril.com • Website: www.ril.com • Corporate Identity Number: L17110MH1973PLC019786

Statement of Deviation/ Variation in utilization of funds raised

Name of listed entity	Reliance Industries Limited
Mode of Fund Raising	Rights Issue
Date of Raising Funds	June 11, 2020
Amount Raised	Rs. 13,275.19 crore ¹
Report filed for Quarter ended	June 30, 2020
Monitoring Agency	Applicable
Monitoring Agency Name, if applicable	Axis Bank Limited
Is there a Deviation / Variation in use of funds raised	No
If yes, whether the same is pursuant to change in terms of a contract or objects, which was approved by the shareholders	Not Applicable
If Yes, Date of shareholder Approval	Not Applicable
Explanation for Deviation / Variation	Not Applicable
Comments of the Audit Committee after review	No Comments
Comments of the auditors, if any	No Comments

Objects for which funds have been raised and where there has been a deviation, in the following table

Original Object	Modified Object, if any	Original Allocation	Modified allocation, if any	Funds Utilized	Amount of Deviation/ Variation for the quarter according to applicable object	Remarks, if any
Repayment/ prepayment of all or a portion of certain borrowings availed by the Company	Not Applicable	Rs. 39,755.08 Crore	-	Rs. 13,275.19 Crore (Refer notes below)	NIL	-
General corporate purposes		Rs. 13,281.05 Crore		-		

Deviation or variation could mean:

- a. Deviation in the objects or purposes for which the funds have been raised or
b. Deviation in the amount of funds actually utilized as against what was originally disclosed or
c. Change in terms of a contract referred to in the fund-raising document i.e. prospectus, letter of offer, etc.

Notes:

- 1(a) The details of funds received on allotment of 42,24,40,258 Equity shares are as under:

	No. of Equity shares	Price (in Rs.)	Amount (Rs. in crore) #	Remarks
Total Issue Size	42,26,26,894	1,257.00	53,124.20	
Details of Allotment till June 30, 2020	42,24,40,258	314.25	13,275.19	The Rights Equity Shares were issued as partly paid-up and an amount of Rs. 314.25 (i.e. 25% of the Issue Price) per Rights Equity Share has been received on application (of which Rs. 2.50 towards face value of Rights Equity Share and Rs. 311.75 towards premium amount of Rights Equity Share). The schedule for payment of the balance amount of Rs. 942.75 per Rights Equity Share is proposed as (i) Rs. 314.25 i.e. 25% in May 2021; and (ii) Rs. 628.50 i.e. the balance 50% in November 2021. The Board of the Company would make the calls for this purpose.

[#]Rounded off to two decimal places

- (b) Out of 42,26,26,894 Rights Equity Shares issued by the Company, 42,24,40,258 Rights Equity Shares were allotted by the Company till June 30, 2020.
Issue of 1,86,636 Rights Equity Shares had been kept in abeyance pursuant to an order passed by the Hon'ble Special Court constituted under the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992. The Company has on July 29, 2020 allotted the 1,86,636 Rights Equity Shares to the eligible applicants in accordance with the order passed by the Hon'ble Special Court.

The entire money raised by the Company through Rights Issue, during the quarter ended June 30, 2020, has been utilized for the objects as stated in the Letter of Offer dated May 15, 2020.

For Reliance Industries Ltd.

Sd/-

Savithri Parekh

Joint Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place : Mumbai
Date : 30.07.2020



NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED

(A Government of India Undertaking)

Regd. Office: Scope Complex, Core-III, 7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Website: www.nationalfertilizers.com, CIN-L74899DL1974GOI007417

EXTRACT FROM THE STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2020

(₹ in Lakhs)

S. N.	Particulars	STANDALONE					CONSOLIDATED				
		Quarter Ended			Year Ended		Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
		31/03/2020 Unaudited	31/12/2019 Unaudited	31/03/2019 Unaudited	31/03/2020 Audited	31/03/2019 Audited	31/03/2020 Unaudited	31/12/2019 Unaudited	31/03/2019 Unaudited	31/03/2020 Audited	31/03/2019 Audited (Restated)
1	Total Income from operations	304006	379653	315221	1319186	1248065	304006	379653	315221	1319186	1248065
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) from operations before exceptional items and tax	6504	14442	11965	13614	46337	5574	14376	11662	12609	45889
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) before tax after exceptional items	(32381)	14442	11965	(25271)	46337	(33311)	14376	11662	(26276)	45889
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax	(23935)	10777	8088	(17101)	29845	(24865)	10711	7785	(18106)	29397
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/ (loss) and Other Comprehensive Income for the period	(26205)	10690	7753	(19631)	29608	(27135)	10624	7450	(20636)	29160
6	Equity Share Capital	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year				143036	172844				141166	171979
8	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each)*										
	(a) Basic	(4.88)	2.20	1.65	(3.49)	6.08	(5.07)	2.18	1.59	(3.69)	5.99
	(b) Diluted	(4.88)	2.20	1.65	(3.49)	6.08	(5.07)	2.18	1.59	(3.69)	5.99

*Not annualised in case of quarterly figures.

Note: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Yearly 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 Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges websites, www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and website of the Company www.nationalfertilizers.com.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors

Sd/-

(Virendra Nath Datt)

Chairman & Managing Director
DIN : 07823778

Place: Noida
Date: 30.07.2020

NFL : FARMERS' FRIEND, NATION'S PRIDE



PRICOL LIMITED

CIN. L34200TZ2011PLC022194
Regd. Office : 109, Race Course, Coimbatore - 641 018. Phone : + 91 422 4336000
website : www.pricol.com, e-mail: cs@pricol.co.in

STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

(₹ in Lakhs)

PARTICULARS	Standalone				Consolidated			
	For the Quarter Ended		For the Year Ended		For the Quarter Ended		For the Year Ended	
	31-Mar- 2020 Audited	31-Mar- 2019 Audited	31-Mar- 2020 Audited	31-Mar- 2019 Audited	31-Mar- 2020 Audited (Re-presented)	31-Mar- 2019 Audited (Re-presented)	31-Mar- 2020 Audited	31-Mar- 2019 Audited
1. Total Income	28983.22	33955.65	121591.77	138579.47	37813.04	45376.45	161467.78	182626.65
2. Net Profit / (Loss) before Exceptional items & Tax	454.89	491.97	(2599.81)	390.49	37.18	(6244.41)	(5030.53)	(9271.28)
3. Exceptional Items (Net)	(12702.64)	(23197.75)	(19072.36)	(23197.75)	-	-	-	-
4. Net Profit / (Loss) before tax (after Exceptional items)	(12247.75)	(22705.78)	(21672.17)	(22807.26)	37.18	(6244.41)	(5030.53)	(9271.28)
5. Net Profit / (Loss) after tax from Continuing Operations (after Exceptional items)	(12075.52)	(22271.14)	(21287.97)	(22792.95)	223.66	(5893.84)	(4674.37)	(9374.47)
6. Profit / (Loss) from Discontinued Operations (Net of Tax Expense)	-	-	-	-	1908.27	(2818.96)	(5201.06)	(8011.53)
7. Net Profit / (Loss) after tax from Continuing and Discontinued Operations (after Exceptional items)	(12075.52)	(22271.14)	(21287.97)	(22792.95)	2131.93	(8712.80)	(9875.43)	(17386.00)
8. Total Comprehensive Income for the period	(11908.73)	(22138.17)	(21096.00)	(22761.86)	2792.28	(7195.75)	(9377.81)	(15913.74)
9. Paid-up-Equity Share Capital (Face Value of ₹ 1/-)	947.97	947.97	947.97	947.97	947.97	947.97	947.97	947.97
10. Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year)			41978.38	63074.38			38791.59	48993.08
11. Earnings per Equity Share for Continuing and Discontinued operations (Face Value of ₹ 1/-) in Rupees	(12.74)	(23.49)	(22.46)	(24.04)	2.25	(9.19)	(10.42)	(18.34)

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock Exchange websites www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com and Company's website www.pricol.com.

By Order of the Board

For Reliance Industries Limited

Sd/-

Mukesh D. Ambani

Chairman & Managing Director

DIN : 00002168

29th July 2020
Coimbatore

No.17(9)/2020-PL/NGT Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Policy and Law Division NGT Cell

Level-III, Jal Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-03
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change invites applications for filling up of the nine vacant posts of Judicial Members in the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
The qualifications, terms of office, age limit, conditions of service etc. are available on the Ministry's website www.moef.gov.in.
Details of the advertisement including the Application Form can be downloaded from the aforementioned Ministry's website.
Last date for receipt of applications in the Ministry's office is 21.08.2020.

davp 13101/11/0012/2021



No. F.A.238/Estt-I/Vol-I/2013-938 Dated: Lumami the 29th July, 2020

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications in the prescribed form are invited from eligible candidates for the posts of Senior Officer, Internal Audit Officer, Hindi Officer, Senior Technical Assistant and Pharmacist. Details of the advertisement, other terms and conditions and the application form are available in the University website www.nagalanduniversity.ac.in. Last date for receipt of filled-in application is 14th September, 2020.

Sd/-
Registrar



भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(एक नवतन्त्र कंपनी (प्राप्त धरोहर का उपाय)
(A Govt. of India Navratna Undertaking)
Regd. Office & Investors Relation Centre:
CONCOR Bhawan, C-3, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110076.
CIN : L63011DL1988GOI030915, Tel. Nos.: 4122 2500/600
E-mail: investorrelations@concorindia.com, Website <http://www.concorindia.com>

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 read with Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 07th August, 2020 to inter-alia consider and approve the unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2020.

This information is also available on the website of the Company and the websites of the Stock Exchanges where the Company's shares are listed viz. BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com).

For & on behalf of

Container Corporation of India Limited

Sd/-

Place: New Delhi

Date: 28.07.2020

Executive Director (Finance) & CS

IN THE COURT OF

ESTATE OFFICER, BATHINDA CIRCLE, BATHINDA

Present: Shri Rajinder Parshad Sharma, Advocate for the Applicant.

NOTICE OF MOTION

TAKE NOTICE that this Hon'ble Court will be moved on 07.08.2020 at 1100 hrs in the forenoon or so soon thereafter can be heard by Shri Rajinder Parshad Sharma, Advocate for the applicant for an order to substitute the respondent in Case No. 04/PPE/BI/2020 namely Shri Kuldeep son of Shri Mahle Ram, last address of respondent Village & Tehsil- Mehram, Distt- Rohtak, in the Notice under PPE Act, 1971 as mentioned in the PPE Act filed with the applications.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the event of your non-appearance in response to this Notice, no further Notice will be given to Shri Kuldeep son of Shri Mahle Ram and Notice under PPE Act will be heard and disposed of in your absence.

Dated this the 28 day of July, 2020.

Sd/-
Estate Officer,
Bathinda.

DEO-04



Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021.

Phone: 022-3555 5000 • Fax: 022-2204 2268

E-mail: investor.relations@ril.com

CIN: L17110MH1973PLC019786

Extract of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30th June, 2020

(₹ in crore, except per share data)

Particulars	Quarter Ended 30th June, 2020	Quarter Ended 30th June, 2019
Value of Sales & Services (Revenue)	100,929	174,087
Less: GST Recovered	9,691	11,734
Revenue from Operations	91,238	162,353
Profit Before Exceptional Item and Tax	8,542	14,366
Profit Before Tax	13,508	14,366
Profit for the Period*	13,248	10,141
Total Comprehensive Income (Net of Tax)	30,918	10,060
Paid up Equity Share Capital, Equity Shares of ₹ 10/- each	6,445	5,926
Other Equity excluding revaluation reserve**	-	-
Earnings per equity share (Face value of ₹ 10/- each)		
Basic (in ₹) - After Exceptional Item	20.69	16.94
Basic (in ₹) - Before Exceptional Item	12.92	16.94
Diluted (in ₹) - After Exceptional Item	20.63	16.93
Diluted (in ₹) - Before Exceptional Item	12.89	16.93

* Includes Non-Controlling Interest

** Reserve excluding revaluation reserves for the year ended as on 31st March, 2020 was ₹ 446,992 crore.

Notes:

1. The Audit Committee has reviewed the above results and the Board of Directors has approved the above results and its release at their respective meetings held on 30th July, 2020. The Statutory Auditors of the Company have carried out a Limited Review of the aforesaid results.
2. Additional information on Standalone Financial Results is as follows:

Particulars	Quarter Ended 30th June, 2020	Quarter Ended 30th June, 2019
Value of Sales & Services (Revenue)	52,263	96,867
Less: GST Recovered	1,817	3,748
Revenue from operations	50,446	93,119
Profit Before Exceptional Item and Tax	4,385	12,109
Profit Before Tax	8,805	12,109
Profit for the period	9,753	9,036
Total Comprehensive Income (Net of Tax)	11,311	8,907

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Standalone and Consolidated financial results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges pursuant to Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated financial results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2020 are available on the Stock Exchanges' websites (www.bseindia.com / www.nseindia.com) and the Company's website www.ril.com.

For Reliance Industries Limited

17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 37,736.07 ▼ 335.06 NIFTY: 11,102.15 ▼ 100.70 NIKKEI: 22,339.23 ▼ 57.88 HANG SENG: 24,710.59 ▼ 172.55 FTSE: 6,033.10 ▼ 98.36 DAX: 12,522.49 ▼ 299.77

International market data till 1900 IST

POLICY WATCH
DISINVESTMENTCOVID-19 disrupts
govt's sell-off plansSUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE MARKET disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the government to extend bid deadlines multiple times for its show-piece privatisation programmes of BPCL and Air India, while stake sale of other state-owned companies are also facing delays. This will affect the disinvestment targets for the current year, as big-ticket stake sales may take time to materialise.

The Finance Ministry on Wednesday extended the deadline for submission of expression of interest (EOI) for its strategic stake sale in BPCL for the third time to September 30. The deadline to bid for purchasing government's stake in Air India was also extended for the third time till August 31.

The Centre invited EOIs from interested parties with a net worth of at least \$10 billion for the strategic sale of BPCL — one of the largest oil marketing and oil refining companies in India with a refining capacity of 38.3 million metric tonnes per annum or about 15 per cent of the country's total refining capacity. Divestment of the government's 52.98 per cent equity stake in BPCL forms a key part of its Rs 2.1-lakh crore disinvestment target for the current fiscal year.

After initiating the divestment process for national carrier in January, the government in June extended the deadline to bid for Air India by two months till August 31. The

government originally started the process to sell 76 per cent in Air India in 2018, but later change strategy to sell its 100 per cent stake to attract buyers. With airlines being at the frontline of disruption caused by COVID-19, attracting buyers for the loss making national carrier at an attractive valuation will be challenging.

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said that the last date for bids for BPCL has been extended due to requests received from interested bidders and impact of COVID-19. "Normally strategic disinvestment takes 8-9 months.... To a lot of extent, COVID has put a brake on this because international travel has virtually stopped. To some extent, we have to grant extension to some of the EOIs that we have issued," DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on July 22.

The government had earlier extended bids for strategic sale in Central Electronics Limited. "Deadline extension does not reflect that there is no investor interest. In fact, globally central banks have injected lot of liquidity in markets at virtually zero rates, and much of it is willing to come India. While strategic stake sales will take time, we are working to speed up offer for sale in some other companies," a senior official said. Government's discussion with global investors during Bharat Bond ETF show that there is lot of interest for investments in India, the official said.

'PM meets financial
regulators, discusses
measures to revive
COVID-hit economy'PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday held a brainstorming session with financial sector regulators and discussed various measures to revive the economy hit hard by COVID-19 crisis.

As per sources, the meeting discussed various steps that regulators can take to push growth. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi, Irdai chairman SCKhuntia and PFRDA chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay were in the meet, which also saw presence of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

BRIEFLY

Import curbs on
colour TVs

New Delhi: The Centre Thursday put restrictions on imports of colour television.

Ujit Patel on GE
Shipping board

New Delhi: Great Eastern Shipping Company said Thursday its board named Ujit Patel as an additional and independent director. **PTI**

LIC NPAs rise
8.17% in FY20

New Delhi: For FY20, LIC posted an 8.17 per cent rise in NPAs at Rs 36,694 crore. **ENS**

Guj project: IRB
preferred bidder

New Delhi: IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd (IRB) has emerged as a preferred bidder for a project on Vado-dara-Mumbai Expressway.

33.4 LMT of
grains to states

New Delhi: FCI said 33.4 LMT of food grains has been given to states under PMGKAY-II.

STATES SAY COMPENSATION FUND UNLIKELY TO HAVE ENOUGH FUNDS TO EVEN MEET REVENUE SHORTFALL IN NEAR FUTURE

Pushback from states likely on AG view on market borrowings

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE TUSSLE between the Centre and the states on Goods and Services Tax (GST) payments is set to intensify. A proposal being piloted by the Union Finance Ministry to direct states to resort to market borrowing to meet their impending revenue shortfall, which is to be repaid subsequently from the compensation fund, is set to face a strong pushback from several states. States are of the view that the compensation fund is unlikely to have enough funds to even meet revenue shortfall in the near future, let alone having enough funds to cover for the borrowing by states. A legal opinion on the issue

'SEEKING LEGAL OPINION'

■ A state FM said the Council had decided to seek legal opinion on whether the central government or GST Council can take loans, not whether states can be allowed to take loans and then be repaid from the cess fund.

offered by the Attorney General of India, specifically on bridging the revenue shortfall by directing states to borrow, is learnt to have put the ball squarely in the Centre's court. While it is learnt that the AG opined that the Centre does not have the obliga-

tion to pay for revenue shortfall, the legal input suggests that the GST Council can recommend to the Centre to allow the states "to borrow on the strength of the future receipts from the compensation fund" and that the central government will have to take the "final decision in the matter".

A state Finance Minister said the option to direct states to undertake market borrowing can also be implemented in an alternate way, with the market borrowing being undertaken by the Centre and then being repaid from the compensation fund. "All these issues have to be thrashed in the GST Council meeting. If states are allowed to take loans, why can't the Centre take loans. So if the legal opinion is that states can be allowed to take loans, why

has the Centre not been allowed to take loans. The Centre can also take loans, give the borrowed money to states and be repaid from the Compensation Fund — the same proposal that they have given to states, why not the same proposal has been put forward to the Centre," the state Finance Minister told *The Indian Express*.

The minister further said that the Council had decided to seek legal opinion on whether the central government or GST Council can take loans, not whether states can be allowed to take loans and then be repaid from the cess fund. "At present, any state borrowing is as per permission from the central government, but states are guaranteed for it. This proposal just means relaxing the fiscal deficit limit by

0.5-1 percentage point and has nothing to do with the compensation fund," he said.

The economic slowdown and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to linger for a long time, so the receipts through cess flowing into the compensation fund will also not rise suddenly to be adequate to pay states, the minister said. "The economic growth is unlikely to spike all of a sudden in the next 3-4 years. The funds in the compensation fund will not be sufficient to even meet the regular requirement. So how can you repay out of that fund and for how long are you going to extend it (compensation mechanism), for 10-15 years?," he said.

Another state finance minister said that the Council needs to

look into the demand of the states and there is a need for a strong dispute resolution mechanism to resolve such unilateral ways of directions to states. "How will the states cope? 80 per cent of the welfare activities, whether it's health, or education, or even social security, are undertaken by the states," he said.

State finance ministers said that the GST Council though will have to look at rationalising the rate structure, sooner or later. "The effects of COVID-19 pandemic are going to last long, so sooner or later the Council will have to take a call on raising GST rates, cess hike or inverted duty structure. After all, tax rates were increased for petroleum products by states during COVID as well," one of the state finance minister said.

GDP CONTRACTS AT 32.9% ANNUALIZED RATE

Coronavirus sinks US
economy in Q2; biggest
blow since Great DepressionREUTERS
WASHINGTON, JULY 30

THE US economy suffered its biggest blow since the Great Depression in the second quarter as the COVID-19 pandemic shattered consumer and business spending, and a nascent recovery is under threat from a resurgence in new cases of coronavirus.

The bulk of the deepest contraction in at least 73 years reported by the Commerce Department Thursday occurred in April when activity almost ground to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Gross domestic product (GDP) collapsed at a 32.9 per cent annualized rate last quarter, the deepest decline in output since the government started keeping records in 1947. The drop in GDP was

German economy
plunges 10%

Frankfurt: Germany's economy, Europe's largest, took a massive hit during the COVID shutdowns, shrinking 10.1 per cent per cent during the April-June period from the previous quarter, official statistics agency said. **AP**

more than triple the previous all-time decline of 10 per cent in the second quarter of 1958. The economy contracted at a 5.0 per cent pace in the first quarter.

Meanwhile, the S&P 500 fell 0.79 per cent, while the Dow dropped 0.38 per cent Thursday, after data painted a worrying picture of the economy.

'Gold demand plunges 70% on
high prices, lockdown in Jun qtr'

Skyrocketing prices and the COVID-19-induced lockdown hit India's gold market, with its demand plunging 70 per cent to 63.7 tonnes in the April-June quarter, as against 213.2 tonnes in year-ago period, World Gold Council said

-₹53,000/10 GRAM:

Current gold prices in India, which have risen by:

- 60% since January 2019
- 20% since January 2020

57% Fall in value of gold transacted, from ₹62,420 crore in last June quarter to ₹26,600 crore in April-June 2020

74% Drop in demand for gold for jewellery, from 168.6 tonnes to 44 tonnes



63%: Decline in value of jewellery, from ₹49,380 crore last June quarter to ₹18,350 crore in same period this year

Why this is important: June quarter was hit by lockdowns and high prices — both combined to keep India's gold demand at record low

ENS Economic Bureau

Rural economy 'bright spot'
... to lead recovery: ParekhENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JULY 30

HDFC CHAIRMAN Deepak Parekh Thursday said the COVID-hit economy is likely to recover on the back of the rural sector and "signs of the wheels of the economy beginning to churn are evident".

"Today, the bright spot for India is the rural economy. A good monsoon, strong agricultural growth and government support through rural employment guarantee schemes is enabling rural consumption to lead India's overall recovery," Parekh said while addressing HDFC's virtual AGM.

He said foodgrain production is expected to hit a record high of over 292 million tonnes. Kharif sowing has been healthy too. "Certain sectors are limping back to normalcy, but the strong probability of cycling in and out of lockdowns does remain," Parekh said.

"My view is that one should not be too perturbed with forecasts of negative GDP growth rates. Most believe India's GDP growth which was slowing down in the pre-COVID era will contract by about 5 per cent this year," he said, adding, "recovery will happen assuming no further lengthy and complete lockdowns in future."

Since Independence, India has had a recession only 3 times — 1958, 1966 and 1980, Parekh said. In each of these years, the reason was the same — a poor monsoon which hit agriculture, and at that time agriculture was a sizable part of the Indian economy, he added.

Parekh said signs of the whe-

HDFC standalone
Q1 net falls 4.7%

New Delhi: Mortgage lender HDFC posted a 4.7 per cent fall in standalone net profit at Rs 3,052 crore for quarter ended June 2020 as against Rs 3,203 crore in the year-ago period. Net interest margin was 3.1 per cent, against 3.3 per cent in year-ago quarter. During the quarter, the company made COVID-19 provisions of Rs 1,199 crore. Revenue rose to Rs 13,017.7 crore as against Rs 12,990.3 crore in June 2019. **ENS**

els of the economy beginning to churn are evident from the fact that unemployment rates have tapered down from their peaks in May, e-toll collections are higher as are e-way bills, digital transactions and GST collections are back to Rs 90,000-crore levels. Demand for two-wheelers and tractors have risen, even though passenger and commercial vehicle demand remains subdued, he said.

"It has been an extremely challenging time for everyone ... Yet, from the utter despair that the world was in towards the end of March and the month of April since then, there has been a great deal of stability in the financial markets," Parekh said.

In India, various fiscal and policy measures have ensured that there is adequate liquidity in the system. Interest rates are the lowest in the last 10 years, he said.

Deepening economic crisis
in country: ChidambaramPRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

SENIOR CONGRESS leader P Chidambaram Thursday said the Centre should acknowledge what he alleged is a "deepening economic crisis" in the country, pointing out that the telecom and aviation sectors need its intervention. He said the two sectors are struggling and may cost thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

"When will the BJP government acknowledge the gravity of the deepening economic crisis in

the country? When will the Prime Minister acknowledge his failure and the failure of his economic managers," he asked on Twitter.

"Will the government realize that one of our major telecom companies is on the verge of collapse and the government has no plan to save the struggling telecom industry," he asked in a tweet in Hindi. Chidambaram also asked if the government realizes that the aviation industry has suffered massive losses and claimed that "each one of them will go the Air India way" unless the government steps in with a rescue plan.

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NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER Date: 24-07-2020

NIT No. & Date	Description of Work
e-NIT No. 11/2020-21 UBN No. MML2021GLRC00071	Supply of Explosives & Explosive Accessory items. Approx Qty. As per Tender, Bid Security Rs. As per Tender, Tender Document Fee Rs. 1180/-

Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at our website www.rsmm.com or www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or www.eproc.gov.in or contact Sr. Mgr. (MIM) on above address.
Raj, Samwad/C/2833/2020-2021 **SM (Admin)**

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(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)
TENDER NOTICE
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(4) 44795, (5) 68181, (6) 68177.
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GENERAL MANAGER
PRO/AAM(M)/30/2020.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Engineering Wing
Office of the Engineer in Chief, 1st Floor, PHI Building, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001 Tel: 080-22274892
e-mail: cekhdsrp@gmail.com & cekhdsrp-hfw@karnataka.gov.in
No.: HFWD/EW/EIC/TA-3/AE-2/TND/2020-21/710 Date: 29.07.2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Engineer in Chief, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-I Contractors registered in KPWD in two tender document system in e-procurement for the following work.

Sl. No.	Description of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. Lakhs)
1	Construction of Super Speciality Hospital Phase- II including Oncology Block in the premises of District Hospital in Vijayapura, Vijayapura District.	4000.00	40.00

Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **15 Months.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **01.09.2020 upto 16.00 hrs.** (2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **03.09.2020 at 16.00 Hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the e-Procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and Earnest Money Deposit and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

Note: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. (2) Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal.

Sd/-
Engineer in Chief,
H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

Boot on the other foot

Close to two dozen Indian hockey players who retired in last decade now turn to coaching

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

WHEN TUSHAR Khandker began his international career in the early 2000s, dribbling the ball along the carpet was still considered one of hockey's ultimate skills. By the time his days with the national team got over, after a 12-year career, that artistry was making way for sorcery. The dribble was quickly becoming passé and hockey, instead, was going '3D'. More and more players were learning to lift the ball off the turf and dribble it in the air while continuing to sprint simultaneously (the art of changing the direction of the ball mid-air creates an illusion of sorts, hence the name '3D').

Today, even that has become a basic skill. "Hockey is changing every four-five years nowadays," Khandker says. "And we have to keep adapting to all these changes." Adapting to changes hasn't really been India's strength. Indian hockey has been notoriously slow in responding to almost every change that has been introduced in the game over the last five decades and watching domestic hockey is sometimes akin to indulging in time travel.

Now, Khandker and his contemporaries are trying to bring about a change. Almost two dozen men and women players, who have all retired over the last decade, are going through Hockey India and International Hockey Federation's certification process to become accredited coaches and give a fillip to the eroding grassroots structure. The list of players wanting to turn into coaches is long: apart from Khandker, his former India teammates Deepak Thakur, Prabhjot Singh, Devesh Chauhan, Shivendra Singh, Bharat Chetri, Gurbaj Singh, Sameer Dad, Vickram Kanth and Girish Pimple are some of the players who have undertaken the course along with 2002 Commonwealth Games gold medallists Pritam Siwach, Sangai Chanu and Helen Marry, among others.

During the lockdown, the 32 men and 23 women's team players in the core group for the Tokyo Olympics attended a basic course online as part of Hockey India's ambitious attempt to formalise India's coaching pyramid. Since the process was introduced in April 2019, roughly 650 coaches have gone through the certification programme, according to Hockey India's high-performance director David John.

"It is by design (to have recently-retired and current players into the coaching programme).



(Left to right) Prabhjot Singh, Deepak Thakur and Tushar Khandker are some of the former players who have turned to coaching.

The idea is to give them an early introduction to see whether they like this and then it is their choice," John says.

Like in most other areas, India has woken up late to the concept of getting the players into coaching. In the Netherlands, for example, it is common for senior club or national team players to coach the junior teams simultaneously while playing. It is similar in Australia as well, where the players begin coaching while having an active career. Hence, it is common to see just-retired players taking up senior roles with different national teams: for instance, 34-year-old Chris Ciriello, who played for Australia at the 2016 Olympics, is currently the analytical coach of the Indian men's team.

India, on the other hand, has made its aversion to investing in coaches obvious over the years. That Graham Reid was the 26th men's team coach in 25 years when he was appointed in May 2019 shows the complete lack of understanding of the head coach's role. At the same time, developing domestic coaches has never been a priority until now; a fact that many say is the reason for the national team's relentless slide since the mid-1970s.

Getting up-to-date

Despite having produced some world-class players, one can count on fingertips the number

of player-turned-coaches who have made an impact since India won its last Olympic medal in 1980 – MK Kaushik, Rajinder Singh Senior, Vasudevan Baskaran and Harendra Singh. "We all assume great players become great coaches but that's not always the case," John says.

While mere certification might not be the magic bullet, John says it will help create a cohesive playing style across the country, especially at the sub-junior level, and help Indian coaches get up-to-date with modern hockey's systems and terminologies. John says the aim is to develop an overall playing philosophy that will be implemented bottom-up, and within that structure, give the domestic teams the space to maintain their own style. "Having been to four national championships, I have seen very little difference between the teams in the way they prepared and were coached... no change in patterns or style or structure in any of the teams really," John says.

He cites rolling substitutions as an example. "In international hockey, we make 60-80 rotations in a match so the players are very familiar to be changed every 2-3 minutes whereas in domestic hockey, it's seen as a slight if a player is made to change."

Khandker, who was India's assistant coach at the Rio Olympics, says the coaching programme has given him an idea about dealing

with player injuries, recovery, psychological issues and man-management. There are other visible changes as well.

For instance, at the National Championships in Gwalior two years ago, Khandker, one of the coaches of the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board team, stationed himself on top of a water tank near the ground to provide tactical inputs to Devesh Chauhan, who was handling the dugout. This role – extremely critical in modern hockey as it gives a bird's-eye view of the match – is fairly common internationally as well as club hockey elsewhere but very few domestic teams in India do it because of lack of personnel in the coaching team as well as lack of knowledge.

A lot of current coaches have a diploma from the National Institute of Sport in Patiala. "That gave an overall perspective on coaching. The current programme gives me specific insights on hockey coaching," says Pritam Siwach.

The 2002 Commonwealth Games gold medallist has been running an academy in Sonepat and has produced several players from the region. Siwach says she has made 'small but important changes' to her style. "When a young child comes, I don't give her a hockey stick. Instead, for the first few weeks, she plays football and/or relays. It takes the pressure off them and they can put to use their learnings from other sports in hockey," she says.

Following sports other than hockey is a key element of the programme. "It's also important they watch Pro League matches and see if other countries use patterns and systems which we aren't using in India," John says.

The whole purpose of the exercise, John adds, is to create a pool of Indian coaches who are well versed with the latest rules and tactics, and not necessarily to reduce India's reliance on foreign experts. In the last decade, Harendra has been the only Indian coach to have taken charge of the national men's team.

"Belgium is world number one and they don't have a Belgium-born coach coaching any of their teams, men or women," John says. "With a foreigner, you get a good viewpoint. (Legendary Australian coach) Ric Charlesworth always had a European on his coaching staff to get a perspective when they were playing a European opponent. (But) it's important to have a good representation of Indians on coaching panels. Going forward, their positions will get senior, and that's good for Indian hockey."

World number one Barty to skip US Open over Covid concerns

World number one **Ash Barty** will skip the U.S. Open and the tournament preceding it in New York due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic. "My team and I have decided that we won't be travelling to the U.S. for the Western and Southern Open and the U.S. Open this year," the Australian said in a statement issued by her manager on Thursday.

"I love both events so it was a difficult decision but there are still significant risks involved due to COVID-19 and I don't feel comfortable putting my team and I in that position.

"I wish the USTA all the best for the tournaments and look forward to being back in the U.S. next year."

The Western and Southern Open, which is held annually in Cincinnati, has been moved to New York this year and is set to start in mid-August. The U.S. Open kicks off on Aug. 31 and will be held in its usual home in Flushing Meadows, Queens, but will be played without fans in attendance to limit the spread of the virus.

The reigning French Open champion will decide later whether to defend her title at Roland Garros starting in late September.

"I will make my decision on the French Open and the surrounding WTA European



tournaments in the coming weeks," she said.

World number one Novak Djokovic and 23-times Grand Slam champion Serena Williams are among players expected to compete at the U.S. Open despite concerns about undergoing mandatory quarantine when travelling to Europe, which would have them miss tournaments in Madrid and Rome ahead of the French Open. Naomi Osaka will also play the US Open, the 2018 champion's management team said.

REUTERS

Coach tests positive at Karni Singh range, training to go on

A shooting coach at the Dr. Karni Singh Range here has tested positive for COVID-19 but the development will not force a closure of the facility, where the Olympic core group will start training from August 1. The Sports Authority of India (SAI), in a press release, said the woman coach intimated the result of her test to it on Thursday but since she did not come in contact with any of the shooters, the facility will remain open for training. The Karni Singh range was reopened for use on July 8. "The coach had visited the centre's administrative department only on July 24, 2020. She did not visit the field of play or interact with any athlete training at the centre," the SAI stated. "All actions as per protocol have been taken. The centre has been sanitised and training of shooters will be not be affected," it added. The Olympic core group of 34 Indian shooters is also scheduled to return to training from August 1 at the range after the National Rifles Association of India (NRAI) made attendance compulsory. A total of 15 Indian shooters have qualified for the Olympics.

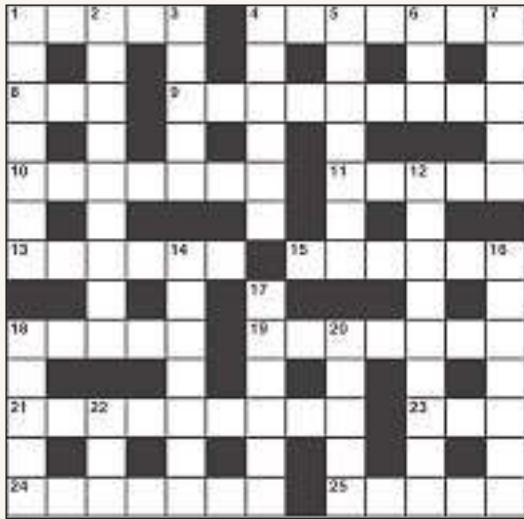
PTI

Wiley's five-for sets up 173-run chase for England vs Ireland

David Wiley marked his return to England duty with a maiden five-wicket one-day international haul after sparking an Ireland collapse as white-ball cricket resumed Thursday following the coronavirus lockdown. The left-arm paceman was appearing in his first ODI since being left out of England's World Cup-winning squad for Jofra Archer. Wiley responded by taking 5-30 from 8.4 overs as Ireland were dismissed for 172 in the first of a three-match series that launches the new World Cup Super League to determine qualification for the 2023 50-over showpiece in India. Wiley took four early wickets as Ireland slumped to 28-5 after losing the toss. But Curtis Campher held firm with an unbeaten 59 on debut. Together with Andy McBrine (40) he shared a stand of 66 after Ireland were in danger of being dismissed for under 100 at 79-7. The match is England's first home ODI since beating New Zealand in last year's World Cup final at Lord's.

BRIEF SCORES: Ireland 172 (Campher 59*, McBrine 40; Wiley 5/30) vs England

CROSSWORD 4184



ACROSS

- Appeal, one way or the other (5)
- He comes in for ill-treatment (7)
- Ring us back about a trifling sum of foreign money (3)
- Ruling based on popular decisions (9)
- Tribesman gave the doctor something to eat (7)
- Determined to return the cash (3,2)
- Bored a doctor with ailments (6)
- Greek-Cypriot union is one's design (6)
- Operatic heroine many imitate (5)
- It's hot to be in the lead in heavy going (7)
- Monarch's powerful blend of tea (9)
- One is confused for a long time (3)
- The first mate takes the others for a tough climb (7)
- Courses for non-drivers? (5)

DOWN

- Continued to give the total in a rush (7)
- Deadly hostility over mails collected by the old system (9)
- Spoke in the plural? (5)
- Pet journal has a number inside (6)
- Friar's at home and eats heartily (5,2)
- Show some consideration for age (3)
- Fittingly test (3,2)
- A willing disposition? (9)
- Proof of permission for freedom of action (7)
- Signs I'd put out for track runners needing a rest (7)
- I'm given a role to communicate (6)
- Drawing the French Canadian emblem (5)
- Like prices that have sharply risen (5)
- How to secure a replay? (3)

Solutions Crossword 4183: Across: 1 First night, 8 Swoon, 9 Be still, 10 Bromide, 11 Asked, 12 Reeves, 14 Toffee, 17 Cache, 19 Assents, 21 Extract, 22 Entry, 23 Held office. Down: 2 Isotope, 3 Sinai, 4 Nabbed, 5 Gestapo, 6 Trick, 7 Flowlessly, 8 Subtracted, 13 Eyeball, 15 Fanatic, 16 Tattoo, 18 Catch, 20 Shelf.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

Love will find a way through paths where ____ fear to ____ - Lord Byron (6, 4)

EVEER



ETLOS



EHOOPY



EELTVW



SOLUTION: REEVE, STOLE, PHOEBE, TWELVE
Answer: Love will find a way through paths where wolves fear to prey - Lord Byron

SUDOKU 4186

Difficulty Level 2s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4185

