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## Pak claims Jadhav didn't file appeal, India calls it 'farce'

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

FORMER INDIAN Navy official Kulbushan Jadhav, who is on death row on charges of spying and terrorist activities in Pakistan, has refused to file an appeal in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against his conviction by a military court, the Pakistan government said Wednesday.

Hours later, India responded sharply and said Pakistan's claim that Jadhav has refused to initiate review petition is a "continuation of the farce" in play for the last four years. "Pakistan is only seeking to create an illusion of remedy," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said Wednesday.

Stressing that Jadhav has been sentenced to execution through a farcical trial and remains under custody of Pakistan's military, the MEA spokesperson said, "He has

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** After four years, back at the start

DESPITE LAST July's ICJ verdict which directed Pakistan to stay Kulbushan Jadhav's execution and held Islamabad to be in violation of international law, there has been little movement. The Indian government may now explore other options, including approaching the ICJ again.

clearly been coerced to refuse to file a review in his case.... In a brazen attempt to scuttle even the inadequate remedy under the Ordinance, Pakistan has obviously coerced Jadhav to forego his rights to seek an implementation of the judgment of the ICJ again.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## BJP leader, relatives killed in Valley, 10 in security detail held

ADIL AKHZER  
SRINAGAR, JULY 8

THREE members of a family, all linked to the BJP, were killed in a militant attack on Wednesday evening in North Kashmir's Bandipore, leading to the arrest of their entire security detail.

The dead included a member of the BJP state executive committee, Sheikh Waseem Bari, 27, and his father Sheikh Bashir Ahmad and brother Sheikh Umar, who were also office-

bearers of the party.

The attack happened right outside the Bandipore Police Station, when the three were at the family shop, run out of their home.

The J&K Police said they had arrested 10 of its personnel assigned to the security of Bari and his family, for failing to protect them. Police said the personnel security officers were not present with them when the attack happened.

The high-profile killings in a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Trucks carrying items from Priyanka Vadra's Lodhi Road home enter Sonia Gandhi's residence Wednesday. The government had asked her to vacate the bungalow. Anil Sharma

## Govt to probe finances of Gandhi family trusts, Cong calls it witchhunt

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

THE CENTRE has set up an inter-ministerial committee to "coordinate investigations" into the funding of three trusts linked to the Nehru-Gandhi family — the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF), Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust and Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

This comes a fortnight after

the BJP alleged that the RGF had received funds from China to "conduct studies that are not in the interest of the country".

Announcing the decision on Wednesday, the Ministry of Home Affairs said the committee will "coordinate investigations into violation of various legal provisions of PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act), Income Tax Act, FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) etc" by these

three organisations.

All the three organisations are headed by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and party leaders P Chidambaram, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are among the trustees at the RGF.

According to sources, the inter-ministerial committee will be headed by a Special Director from the Enforcement

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Dubey bodyguard shot, 2 policemen among 8 held

MANISH SAHU & SAKSHI DAYAL  
LUCKNOW, GURGAON, JULY 8

FIVE DAYS after eight policemen were killed during a failed raid to capture gangster Vikas Dubey in his village near Kanpur, the Special Task Force (STF) of the Uttar Pradesh Police gunned down a close associate and bodyguard of

the criminal. Vikas Dubey himself remains absconding.

Six other men — including four associates of Vikas Dubey's — and two female relatives of the gangster's associates, were arrested in three separate operations in Kanpur and Faridabad, Haryana.

Also on Wednesday, Kanpur Police arrested the former station

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Disengagement strategy firmed up Delhi's approach: Lower rhetoric, put off patrols, keep eye on friction spots



An Army convoy moving towards Ladakh on the Manali-Leh highway in Kullu district, Wednesday. PTI

### Four-pillar approach got approval after Doval briefed PM on Wang talks

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

AS IT works with Beijing to reduce tensions along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, New Delhi has decided on a four-pronged disengagement approach: lower the public rhetoric, temporarily suspend patrolling of buffer zones by either side, mount sustained surveillance and reconnaissance of friction points, and keep adequate troops in depth areas until the process is completed.

This four-pillar approach, which had been in the works since the June 24 meeting of the Working Mechanism for

Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs and the June 30 meeting of Corps Commanders on the two sides, was firmed up at a briefing by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval to Prime Minister Narendra Modi following the Special Representative-level talks with Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on July 5.

Besides the PM and the NSA, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah were instrumental in finalising this approach. It was done between the evening of July 5 and the afternoon of July 6.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Troops step back 2 km in Hot Springs, Gogra next

SUSHANT SINGH, DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

CONTINUING THE slow process of disengagement on the Line of Actual Control, Chinese and Indian troops Wednesday stepped back from another friction point in Ladakh as both sides prepared for more meetings at the diplomatic and military levels for the next steps to resolve the border situation.

A senior Army officer told *The Indian Express* that troops from both sides moved back by around 2 km from the standoff site at PP15 in the Hot Springs sector, after the remaining tents there were dismantled by Chinese soldiers and taken back in vehicles.

A security establishment officer said the withdrawal was done according to the disengagement formula used at PP 14.

"The progress is good. Both forces are moving back with vehicles and structures. The target was set for this evening and it appears it is going to be achieved.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### BUSINESS AS USUAL



### STYRENE LEAK TRAGEDY

False claim, neglect and incompetence: Probe indicts LG Polymers

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, JULY 8

Top officials of LG Polymers claimed they promptly reached the accident site but CCTV footage showed they arrived more than two hours later.

The surge in polymer content that set off the leak on May 7 at 2.42 am had also happened barely 10 days earlier but no serious note was taken.

There was no onsite and off-site emergency plan, the management didn't alert the local residents and washed its hands of the tragedy, leaving the clean-up to the administration.

Cost-cutting hurt talent; some staff classified as "engineers or senior engineers" were merely Class XII graduates.

These are among the key points in indictment of LG Polymers at Visakhapatnam by the government-appointed committee probing the Styrene vapour leak that killed 12 on May 7 and affected almost 300.

The committee is headed by Special Chief Secretary (Environment, Forests, S&T), Neerabh Kumar Prasad. The leak began at 2:42 am, and as per the committee's report,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

### TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

128 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN  
CASES: 7,42,416  
RECOVERED: 4,56,830  
DEATHS: 20,642  
TESTS: 1,04,73,771  
DOUBLING RATE: 20.87\*\*



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
Maharashtra	2,17,121	5,134	3.15%	22.86
Delhi	1,02,831	2,008	2.36%	30.55
Tamil Nadu	1,18,594	3,616	3.99%	18.03
Haryana	17,999	495	3.09%	23.32
Telangana	27,612	1,879	7.78%	9.25

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

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: 2.97 NOW: 2.78	7 DAYS EARLIER: 6.63 NOW: 7.09	DETECTED TODAY: 22,752 RECOVERED TODAY: 16,883

Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths  
Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease  
Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Based on daily data from Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive

## IIT admissions: Board marks criterion may be dropped this year

RITIKA CHOPRA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

WITH THE Covid-19 outbreak disrupting Board exams across the country, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are considering dropping the Class 12 performance criterion for admissions this year.

Usually, a general category rank holder in JEE (Advanced) should have either scored at least 75 per cent or figure in the top 20 percentile of her Board results to secure a seat at an IIT. SC/ST candidates should have either scored at least 65 per cent or fulfil the top 20 percentile requirement.

Last month, key school Boards, including CBSE and CISCE, cancelled their remaining Class 10 and Class 12 exams amidst growing concerns over student safety as many states continue to report a record surge in COVID19 positive cases on most days.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Govts to homes, Covid case spike lifts demand for oxygen

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SHYAMLAL YADAV  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

FACING A wave of domestic demand, manufacturers have stopped its export. States, hospitals and even residential societies are snapping it up. And now, experts are warning against its use without medical supervision.

From cylinders to concentrators, the demand for medical oxygen has shot up ever since it emerged as a key element in the treatment of Covid, say manufacturers, doctors and top government officials.



VENTILATORS TO TESTING KITS, OXYGEN SUPPLIES TO PPE  
AN EXPRESS SERIES PART-2



At a Covid facility in Khel Gaon, Delhi. Kajendra Yadav

Internal Trade, who also heads a Central panel that monitors the supply of medical oxygen for Covid treatment countrywide.

And yet, demand continues

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## NOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE A LIFE

Recovered Corona patients can donate their plasma and help Corona patients recover

## Delhi Government has launched India's first Plasma Bank

If 14 days have passed since you recovered from Corona, you can donate your plasma and help save someone's life.

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Delhi Government Corona Helpline - Call 1031

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Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi

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**A GIANT CROSS IN BALTISTAN SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON PAKISTAN'S CHRISTIAN PAST**  
Experts examining the cross have noted the Buddhist influences upon it and called attention to the fact that it probably dates back to the time when Buddhism was in decline in the region and was in active engagement with newer Christian influences.

**VIDEO OF THE DAY**

**FILMING IN THE TIMES OF COVID-19**  
Lots of things could be different for the industry in future

**STORIES OF STRENGTH**

**MATH LESSONS FROM KASHMIR**  
Large group of students + social distancing = open air classrooms

**EXPRESS AUDIO**

**Decoding a botched UP police raid that left 8 cops dead**

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

How a raid to arrest a gangster in Uttar Pradesh resulted in a shootout that left eight policemen dead.

FROM PAGE ONE

Delhi's approach

The *Indian Express* has been told about these four approaches to the disengagement exercise:

- Lower the public rhetoric, give some diplomatic and conciliatory space to both sides. This was reflected in the Indian statement on the SR-level talks. It did not raise the issue of Galwan Valley nor did it talk about the atmosphere being vitiated – unlike the previous statements.
- Suspend patrolling temporarily, disengage and step back 1.5 km on each side. The buffer zone reduces the possibility of a clash during disengagement. This has been communicated to troops, and is being called a temporary measure. It does not mean that either side is forfeiting the right to patrol up to their patrolling limits.
- A template for this exists – the disengagement after the Chumar standoff in September 2014. That situation was resolved only after Prime Minister Modi raised the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping who was then visiting India. Both sides agreed not to patrol for a few weeks, and then there was snowfall which ruled out patrols till the next summer.
- Aggressive surveillance and reconnaissance of friction points and the entire standoff frontier.

This has been necessitated by the trust deficit between the two sides. The government maintains there is adequate capability, and help from international partners, to get real-time intelligence on any Chinese attempt to change the status quo by stealth.

"Don't trust, verify." That's the mantra in New Delhi after the July 15 incident in Galwan Valley where 20 Indian Army personnel were killed. India has enough assets in play: images via satellites, unmanned aerial vehicles and aerial surveillance, and the backing of "like-minded countries".

- Keep troops deployed in the rear areas until the disengagement has fully happened. Since this is about the entire frontier in eastern Ladakh, there cannot be any lowering of guard.
- Officials said the Chinese have to keep their word on the disengagement. In fact, the two sides decided to issue their statements almost 20 hours after the meeting between the Special Representatives. "So, there was time of about 12 to 15 hours to approve all the understandings between the two SRs, and also see some of the process unfolding at the LAC," a source said on the time-lag between the July 5 meeting at 5 pm and the statements issued around 3 pm the next day.

Troops step back

A verification will happen tomorrow to completely assess the progress," the officer said.

"Here too, the forces will move back 1.8-2 km and then follow the 30-50 formula for assembly of soldiers further back. There will be no patrolling until further orders. The progress has been good since the Special Representative-level talks," he said.

On July 7, The Indian Express reported that Chinese troops at PP 14 had moved back 1.8 km where not more than 30 soldiers will be stationed in makeshift tents. A further kilometre behind this line, not more than 50 soldiers will be present. And further down, behind the second perimeter, forces can gather at their posts.

According to the senior Army officer, some depletion in the strength of soldiers was observed Wednesday at the third major standoff site at PP17A in Gogra, but both sides continued to be in an eyeball-to-eyeball situation there. It is expected, the officer said, that the rearward movement at PP17A "could be completed in a day or two".

There has been limited rearward movement by Chinese troops, the officer said, in the contentious Pangong Tso area, where they have come in around 8 km,

west of Finger 8 which India says marks the LAC.

On Wednesday, some vehicles, tents and troops moved back from Finger 4 towards Finger 5 on the north bank of the saltwater lake, but there was no change in Chinese positions at Finger 4 on the ridgeline.

A second officer said that following the initial step of disengagement at various standoff sites, another meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) is likely to be held this week. It will be followed by another round of talks at the level of the Corps Commander.

The second officer also struck a note of caution about the disengagement process so far, stating that China had massed more than two divisions all along the LAC in the Ladakh sector. Moreover, it has the capacity to bring in more troops and equipment to the border within three to four days.

"Some 40,000 of them have come from 2,000 km away, and 400 have moved back by 2 km," he said. This demands a matching level of preparedness from the Indian side as "intentions can change quickly", the officer said.

During the period of no-patrolling, another officer said, "both sides assure each other about

rearward movement through the military hotline in the region".

**Jadhav**

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

He said ICJ has already held that Pakistan is in egregious violation of international law. "Government will do its utmost to protect Shri Jadhav and ensure his safe return to India," he said.

Earlier in the day, in a press conference in Islamabad, Pakistan's Additional Attorney General Ahmed Irfan and Pakistan Foreign Ministry's Director General (South Asia & SAARC) Zahid Hafeez Chaudhry said an ordinance was promulgated by the government on May 20, which allowed the Indian government, Jadhav and his legal representative to file a review petition in IHC within 60 days. The deadline expires July 19.

According to Pakistan's officials, Indian authorities had requested to appoint an Indian lawyer to advocate for Jadhav but if an appeal is filed in the IHC, only a lawyer holding a licence of the respective court would be able to represent him. An Indian lawyer cannot advocate for the convicted spy but may be allowed to assist Jadhav's counsel, it said.

The Pakistani government had allowed consular access to Jadhav twice in the past and has offered to do so again, the officials said. Authorities have also offered to arrange Jadhav's meeting with his father and wife, they said. The AAG and DG (South Asia & SAARC) expressed hope the Indian government will respond positively to this offer.

The MEA spokesperson said, "We have been pursuing through diplomatic channels full implementation of the ICJ judgment. The media statement by Pakistan today seeks to mask its continuing reticence to (do so)."

The MEA said that Pakistan has on May 20 passed an Ordinance to allow for the High Court to review the sentence awarded by their military court. "They have all along maintained that their laws allowed for effective review while we have protested it all along. Now, after almost a year, they have made a U-turn and issued an Ordinance... We have already expressed our serious concerns at the content of the Ordinance and how it violates the ICJ judgment," the spokesperson said.

"Despite our repeated requests, Pakistan continues to deny India free and unimpeded access to Jadhav. India has repeatedly asked to allow a lawyer from outside Pakistan to appear for Jadhav in any review and reconsideration proceedings. Since 2017, when Military Court carried out a farcical trial, Pakistan has refused to hand over any relevant document," the spokesperson said.

In September last year, India's Acting High Commissioner in Islamabad Gaurav Ahluwalia met Jadhav in the presence of Pakistani officials. After the meeting, New Delhi had said Jadhav appeared to be under "extreme pressure" to support Islamabad's "false narrative" in his case.

In July last year, the ICJ, in its verdict, had directed Pakistan to allow consular access and effectively review the death sentence. Jadhav, a retired Navy officer, was arrested allegedly on March 3, 2016, and India was informed of this on March 25, 2016. He was sentenced to death on charges of espionage and terrorism in 2017.

Later at night, Pakistan Foreign ministry said Pakistan has invited India to file review and reconsideration petition after refusal by Jadhav to "give effect" to the ICJ judgment. "...mercy petition in Commander Jadhav case is a separate process... The review and reconsideration petition can be filed by Jadhav himself or legally authorized representative, or a consular officer of the Indian High Commission," a Pakistan Foreign

ministry statement said.

**Probe into RGF**

Directorate (ED) and will include officials from the Income Tax department, CBI, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Home Affairs.

Sources said the committee will probe the source of all funds, including foreign contributions. It will call for all relevant documents, and then, if needed, call office-bearers for questioning. It will also look into allotment of land for construction of Jawahar Bhawan, where the RGF has its office.

The Congress termed the government's move as "cowardly" and a "blind witch-hunt". "Mr Modi believes the world is like him. He thinks everyone has a price or can be intimidated. He will never understand that those who fight for the truth have no price and cannot be intimidated," Rahul tweeted.

"The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation has nothing to add, nothing to fear because you have all the machinery and you can ask every question in every inquiry... But you need to be exposed fully... you don't ask these questions of many holy cows... You are harassing each opposition segment, individual or institutional," said party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi.

"But the beauty is that these lovely questions like 9th schedule exemptions... don't get asked of Vivekananda Foundation, Overseas Friends of BJP, India Foundation or for that matter they don't get asked... of the RSS," he said. "Whose special arc of protection do they enjoy... Is there any level playing field in this country... We will send you truckloads of documents... ask at least 5 per cent of the same questions to them and share the answers with the country."

The party's communication department head, Randeep Surjewala, said the "vicious and vengeful investigation" was "devastating" of those exposing the government's ineptitude.

Defending the government's decision, BJP general secretary P Muralidhar Rao said it was a "natural outcome" of the information that has come out about the RGF. He said if there was a "political motive", the government "would not have waited for six years".

Last month, amid the India-China border row, as Rahul questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president JPNadada said the Congress had no moral right to talk about the country's security. Addressing a virtual rally for Madhya Pradesh on June 25, Nadada said: "Today, I was shocked to watch on TV that in 2005-06, People's Republic of China and the Chinese embassy gave a fat sum to RGF... These people take funds from China and then conduct studies that are not in the interest of the country... The nation wants to know for what they were paid... You take \$300,000 donation and teach us nationalism."

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also raised the issue at a press briefing the same day.

**BJP leader killed**

fortified zone came as a shock for the security establishment, especially as Bandipore has been relatively calm in recent years.

Bari had been associated with the BJP for more than four years and was earlier president of the party's Bandipore district unit. Kashmir IGP Vijay Kumar said the three were shot by some unidentified men. "They were critically injured and succumbed later."

Union Minister Jitendra Singh tweeted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi enquired about the killing and offered his condolences to the family.

In a late-night statement, the J&K Police said, "Ten policemen were deployed for his (Bari's) security but none was kept along by him at the time of incident..."

Officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime besides why he was without any security... The men deployed for his security are being detained for negligence under (the) police Act."

Sources said there might be a review of the security protocol of mainstream politicians in the Valley following the incident. After the imposition of governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018 and the subsequent abrogation of its special status, the security of a large number of mainstream politicians has been withdrawn or downgraded.

Bari had joined the BJP after unsuccessfully contesting the 2014 Assembly elections as an Independent, and emerged as a prominent face of the party in Bandipore.

"It is a big loss for the party. It is an attack on nationalist thought and those behind it are frustrated. His brother was coordinator for the BJP's youth wing in Kashmir province," BJP national vice-president (Youth Wing) Er Aijaz Hussain told The Indian Express, adding the party won't be deterred by such incidents and would continue its work.

BJP president JPNadada said the sacrifice of Bari and his family "will not go in vain". BJP national general secretary and the party's point man for the state Ram Madhav tweeted, "Shocked and saddened by the killing of young BJP leader Wasim Bari and his brother by terrorists."

Former J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah and Congress state president Ghulam Ahmad Mir were among the leaders who expressed shock at the killing. Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party's Altaf Bukhari said that "such incidents are downright appalling and disturbing".

ter a brief encounter in Chaubeypur, including one Shyam Bajpai, who carried a reward of Rs 50,000 on his head, and Sanju Dubey, the father of Amar Dubey.

Bajpai was shot in his right leg, but his condition was stated to be stable. The third man was identified as one Jahan Yadav.

ADG Prashant Kumar said Bajpai and Yadav were named in the FIR registered in connection with the murder of the eight policemen. The role of Sanju Dubey had come to light in the course of the investigation, the ADG said. A country-made pistol had been found on Bajpai, police said.

The three individuals arrested in Faridabad have been identified as Kartikey alias Prabhat, Ankur, and Shrawan Kumar, who is Ankur's father. Kartikey alias Prabhat belongs to Bikru village, while Ankur and Shrawan are from Kakorpur village under Kanpur's Shivrajpur police station area.

Ankur and Shrawan had moved to Faridabad a few years ago, and had allegedly been sheltering Kartikey alias Prabhat. Kartikey is named in the FIR on the murder of the eight policemen, Kanpur SSP Dinesh Kumar P said.

Faridabad Police PRO Sube Singh said: "On Tuesday, information was received that some aides of gangster Vikas Dubey are hiding with weapons in New Indira Nagar Complex, Hari Nagar. Based on this, a raid was conducted in the area."

A team of the Faridabad Crime Branch made the arrests after an exchange of fire. Two pistols that had reportedly been looted from the policemen killed in Bikru village were recovered.

"Prabhat has stated that Vikas Dubey and he had fled after grabbing two pistols and live cartridges that belonged to the policemen. They stayed for two days at the home of a friend in Sheoli village in Kanpur Dehat district," PRO Singh said.

Prabhat, Ankur and Shrawan were produced in court on Wednesday afternoon, and Prabhat was sent to transit remand at the request of the UP Police and handed over to the STF.

Ankur and Shrawan were remanded in judicial custody. Shrawan tested positive for the novel coronavirus, and "jail authorities will follow the guidelines of the Health Department" in dealing with him, Singh said.

IG Agarwal said, Ankur and Shrawan are not accused in the case yet.

ADG Kumar said that three of the seven police weapons looted by Vikas Dubey and his gang on the night of July 2-3 had been recovered so far. "We are yet to recover an INSAS rifle and an AK-47 rifle that were taken by the accused," he said.

Hours after the Bikru village killings, police had gunned down Vikas Dubey's maternal uncle Prem Prakash Pandey, and his associate Atul Dubey. Both these men were named in the FIR.

Then, on July 5, police arrested four people, including Vikas Dubey's associates Daya Shankar and Uma Shankar Agnihotri. Daya Shankar was allegedly among those who had fired at the police, and carried a reward of Rs 25,000 on his head.

A day later, three others, including two women, were arrested for allegedly instigating the criminals and supplying them with information on police movements. They have been identified as Suresh Verma, Kshama Dubey, and Rekha Agnihotri, the wife of Uma Shankar Agnihotri.

And on Wednesday evening, two more women – Khushi Dubey, the wife of Amar Dubey, and Shanti Devi, the mother of absconding accused Heeru Dubey – were arrested in Kanpur. Both women are accused of egging on the criminals as they fired at the police on July 3, IG Agarwal said.

**A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF CHANGE TO HELP TRACK TRENDS AND MAP THE FUTURE**

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# Board should have been careful: Sisodia on syllabus change

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS about the manner in which the Central Board of Secondary Education selected topics to drop as part of its curriculum rationalisation for Classes IX to XII, Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia Wednesday asked the board explain the reasons based on which the topics had been chosen, particularly those of strong relevance "in the contemporary context".

Sisodia had been strongly supportive of syllabus reduction, and had written to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal last month, suggesting 30% reduction in syllabus across all grades and subjects. However, on Wednesday, he said while he supported the decision on reduction, he had concerns on the manner in which it was implemented.

"The curriculum deduction details containing subject-wise topics, which have been deleted, gives no reason as to why a particular topic or chapter has been left out... Social Science is one discipline where there is maximum scope of controversy and I agree that no matter which topics are chosen or left out, the questions are bound to be raised. Hence the board should have been careful and explained its rationale behind dropping certain topics," he wrote in a detailed statement.

He asked the board to clarify why it dropped the following topics - "Democratic Rights" and "Food Security in India" for Class IX; "Democracy and Diversity", "Gender Religion and Caste", "Popular Struggles and Movement" and "Challenges to Democracy" for



Sisodia asked CBSE to explain the reasons based on which the topics were chosen

Class X; "Federalism", "Citizenship", "Nationalism" and "Secularism" for Class XI, "Social and New Social Movements in India", "Regional Aspirations" and "Understanding Partition" for Class XII.

Responding to the criticisms in a statement, CBSE stated the reduction exercise was a limited one-time measure, and only meant the topics would not be tested in the 2021 board exams and could be taught by teachers.

However, Sisodia criticised this, pointing to the exam-centred approach of school teaching.

"...asking heads of schools and teachers to cover those topics while explicitly saying these will not be part of internal or year-end board exams is not enough as it is well-known that evaluation drives teaching-learning in class. Hence, for all practical purposes, these topics are unlikely to be covered... Social Science topics are so relevant in the contemporary context that it is important that children learn about it through authentic sources rather than through 'Whatsapp University.'"

# 55-year-old businessman kills self in Shahdara

New Delhi: A 55-year-old businessman allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself inside his office premises in Shahdara Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as property dealer Naveen Bansal.

DCP (Shahdara) Amit Sharma said, "He shot himself inside his office in Panchsheel Garden. A note was recovered from the pocket of his shirt, but it doesn't indicate why he took this step." Sharma said the incident took place between 3.15 pm-4 pm. "There was no one inside the office. A relative made the PCR call... there are shops below the office, and it's possible someone may have heard the sound of the gunshot and informed the fam-

ily. Bansal's house is nearby," said a police officer.

A senior police officer said the suicide note, addressed to his wife in Hindi, says she may be troubled by this incident and "please take care of the children." "His family has been unable to point out why he would have taken such an extreme step. Financial distress is one of the angles being investigated," said a police officer.

However, CCTV footage from the first floor office where the incident took place has been recovered. "The footage shows he shot himself, but we have sent it to FSL for further investigation," said a senior police officer. Inquest proceedings in the matter have been initiated. ENS

## MOST CASES REPORTED FROM EASTERN RANGE

# Snatching cases a concern, police chief asks for list of crime hotspots

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

EAST DISTRICT with 374 cases, Northeast with 367 and Outer with 312 are the three top districts where maximum snatching incidents took place in the last six months, according to the half-yearly statistics provided by Delhi Police. To tackle this, Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava has asked all DCPs to identify crime hotspots in their areas after analysing PCR calls and to increase patrolling.

Since May 1, there has been a sudden spike in snatching cases in the city. With maximum cases being committed by repeat offenders, police are on their toes to nab them.

Data shows that 220 cases were reported from May 1-15;

TOP 5 DISTRICTS			
DISTRICT	CASES	SOLVED	ARRESTED
East	374	127	166
Northeast	367	142	143
Outer	312	93	114
Shahdara	307	203	205
Rohini	232	92	129

342 cases from May 16-31; and 471 cases from June 1-15. The districts presented the data to Shrivastava in a crime review meeting last week.

As per the data, the Eastern range - which includes East, Northeast and Shahdara districts - is the only range where every district has reported over 300 snatching cases each. With 31 cases, the New Delhi district is the only one with the lowest in-

cidents. "Of 374 cases in East district, 127 have been solved and 166 people have been arrested till June 30. In Northeast, 142 cases have been solved and 143 people arrested. In Shahdara, 307 cases were reported and 203 cases solved. They have arrested 205 people on charges of snatching, which is the highest number of arrests made as compared with the other 14 districts," said



At least 17 snatching cases are reported in a day: Police

a senior officer. DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh told *The Indian Express* that they have started analysing PCR calls of snatching incidents of the last one and half years.

"We identified at least 17 hotspots and increased police patrolling, deployed our policemen in civil dress. Apart from taking action against snatchers, we are also taking action against receivers, who purchased from

snatchers," he said. According to police, at least 17 snatching cases are reported every day, with several others going unreported.

"Western range -- Outer, West and Dwarka districts - is the second range where maximum snatching incidents are reported. 312 cases were reported in Outer district, of which 93 have been solved while 114 people have been arrested. As many as 198 cases were reported in Dwarka and they have solved 87 cases, but arrested 149 people. In West district, 73 cases have been solved out of 194 cases and 115 people arrested," said an officer.

The police chief has been holding weekly crime review meetings, which used to happen once in a fortnight. In one such meeting, Shrivastava had asked all DCPs to do "crime mapping" of crime prone areas to curb street crime.

# Can't we pay docs, asks HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

"WE ARE calling doctors corona warriors. Can we not pay them?" the Delhi High Court observed Wednesday during the hearing of a PIL on non-payment of salaries to resident doctors of Kasturba Hospital and Hindu Rao Hospital, run by the North MCD.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan observed when "you (Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain) are appearing in the matter, we want that the doctors are being paid".

"All salaried men are poor," the bench remarked, after it was informed that the North MCD was unable to pay employees, including resident doctors, as the Delhi government has not released the entire funds for the first quarter of this financial year.

The civic body also contended that around Rs 162 crore was due to it by the Delhi government in the first quarter of financial year 2020-21 and of that only Rs 27 crore has been sanctioned, which is "yet to be seen".

The submission was disputed by Additional Solicitor General Jain, who, appearing for the Delhi government, submitting that in its report filed Tuesday the amounts released to the corporation by various departments have been indicated. The ASG said, "All dues have been cleared by the Delhi government."

While clarifying that the payment of salaries/stipend is related only to the health personnel at Kasturba Hospital and Hindu Rao Hospital, the bench asked the Delhi government to file an affidavit responding to the civic body's contentions and listed the matter for July 29.

The court was hearing a PIL initiated by itself, after taking suo motu cognizance of news reports that resident doctors of the two hospitals were intending to either resign or go on strike.

# Online open book exams postponed until after August 15, Delhi University tells High Court

PRITAM PAL SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

DELHI UNIVERSITY Wednesday informed the Delhi High Court that it has decided to postpone the online open book examinations again, till after August 15. Exams for final-year UG and PG students were scheduled to be held from July 10.

The varsity's response came in the backdrop of the court's query posed to it Tuesday, seeking clarification on whether there would be a change in the exam schedule.

The submission was made before Justice Prathiba M Singh, who took note and placed the



The Indian Express report dated July 8

petitions for Thursday before the division bench, which is seized of the issue concerning postponement of exams repeatedly. The court, however, expressed displeasure over the

varsity's stand and orally observed, "Just see how you are playing with the lives of children." "You were not fair with the court about your preparedness

for holding the online examinations. You are saying you are ready, but the minutes of your meeting shows the contrary," said the court. DU's counsel submitted the varsity has decided to postpone exams from July 10. The court said in its order, "... the sudden change of mind to postpone the exam after August 15, without any certain date, as per the decision of the High-Powered Committee dated July 7, 2020, has been placed before this court today".

Hours later, the university issued a notification, stating, "with reference to the notification issued on June 27, 2020, it is hereby notified for information to all concerned that the open book examination for all

streams of final-year/semester/term of undergraduate and postgraduate students, including SOL and NCWEB, scheduled to be held from July 10, 2020 stands postponed."

"The new notification for the conduct of the examinations along with the revised date sheets and other information shall be provided on the official website of the University in due course of time," it added.

On June 29, the division bench had issued notice to DU asking why contempt proceedings not be initiated against it and its officers for trying to mislead the court by withholding information on deferment of the online OBE from July 1 to July 10.

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SHIBPUR**  
भारतीय अभियांत्रिकी विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, शिवपुर  
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी प्रौद्योगिकी, शिवपुर  
(An Institute of National Importance under MHRD, Govt. of India)

**Admission to PhD Programme July Cycle, 2020**  
Advt. No. RO/JL/20/51 Date: 07.07.2020

Applications are invited for admission to the PhD programme (July Cycle: 2020) of the Institute (Regular Candidates with Institute fellowship, Candidates with Individual Fellowship (CSIR-NET JRF/UGC-NET JRF/ICMR/DST-INSPIRE etc.), Candidates from Sponsored Research Project and Sponsored Candidates categories) through the **online portal only starting from 13th July 2020** in all disciplines of Engineering & Technology, Science, Architecture, Town & Regional Planning, Humanities & Social Sciences and Human Resource Management. For eligibility criteria, submission deadlines, seat matrix and other details please visit: [www.iiests.ac.in](http://www.iiests.ac.in). Last date of online submission is 3rd August 2020. Registrar

**ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - 2020 (OJEE - 2020)**  
No: OJEE/182 Date: 08.07.2020

**NOTICE**  
Reopening of OJEE portal for online application and fee payment

In view of the current situation arising from COVID-19 pandemics, it is hereby announced that the application portal for on-line application for various courses are reopened and the last dates of form filling and fee payment are as mentioned below.

Type of Course / Application form	Last date for submission of online application forms	Last date for online fee payment
All Courses (B.Pharm/ MBA / MCA / M.Tech/ M.Tech (Part Time)/ M.Arch/ M Plan/ M.Pharm/ Int. MBA, LE-Tech (Dip), LE-Tech (BSc), LE- Pharm and B. Tech. (Special OJEE) (Applications A, B, C, D, E and F)	25-07-2020	31-07-2020

The detailed schedule regarding dates of Examination and dates for downloading of Admit Cards etc. will be notified in due course of time, after assessment of the situation after 31.07.2020.

Sd/-  
CHAIRMAN, OJEE, ODISHA

**CORRIGENDUM PUBLIC NOTICE**

Attention of the public is drawn to the notification issued by the undersigned which was published in this newspaper on 22.06.2020 indicating the auction of various properties on 23.07.2020. In this regard, it is notified that auction of the property at item no. 5 and 6 mentioned in Delhi edition of *The Indian Express* on page no. 4 in the said notification is deferred. The auction of other properties will proceed as per schedule.

Sd/- Authorised Officer  
State Bank of India  
Stressed Assets Management Branch  
Place: HYDERABAD D.No.6-2-915.5 th Floor,Rear Block of HMWSSB  
Date: 08.07.2020 Compound, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500 004.

**उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग**  
हरिद्वार  
द्वितीय कांटे- 249464

संख्या- 28 / 09 / G-02 / PAHCE-18 / 2020-21 दिनांक: 08 जुलाई, 2020

विज्ञापित

उत्तराखण्ड स्थित किताबें कि वैयक्तिक सहायक (संविधान मातृ संघ न्यायालय उत्तराखण्ड) परीक्षा-2019 के दिनांक 28 फरवरी 2020 को सम्पन्न प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा का परिणाम दिनांक: 08 जुलाई, 2020 को घोषित कर दिया गया है। परीक्षा परिणाम, अभ्यर्थियों के आवेदन, कट ऑफ मार्क्स तथा संशोधित उत्तर कुंजी उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग की वेबसाइट [www.ukpsc.gov.in](http://www.ukpsc.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है। (संकेन्द्र सूचना) सचिव।

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. DOON MEDICAL COLLEGE**  
PATEL NAGAR, DEHRADUN  
Tel: 0135-2726020, 2726021 Email ID: [doonmedicalcollege@gmail.com](mailto:doonmedicalcollege@gmail.com), Website: [www.doonmedical.org](http://www.doonmedical.org)

Letter No.: GDMC/Advt./2020/3569 Dated: 07/07/2020

**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR FACULTY & SENIOR RESIDENT**

A walk in interview for the contractual posts of various faculty positions of Government Doon Medical College, Dehradun will be held on **17.07.2020** at 10:00 am onwards in Govt. Doon Medical College Campus, Patel Nagar, Dehradun and a walk-in-interview for Senior Resident will be held in the office of Principal, Government Doon Medical College, Patel Nagar, Dehradun on every working day from **13 July, 2020** from 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM till all the vacancies would be filled.

The details about the vacancies in various departments are uploaded in the website of Govt. Doon Medical College [www.doonmedical.org](http://www.doonmedical.org).

Principal,  
Govt. Doon Medical College, Dehradun

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The final selection of the candidates to the course will be based on the performance in the online interview.

**Course Duration:** One year, Full time, two semesters.  
**Fee Structure:** Rs. 27000 per semester (For Regular) & Rs. 54000 per semester (For Sponsored).

The last date for online application: July 20, 2020.

Sponsored candidates from companies are welcome and are required to apply through this admission process. Course fee will be payable to AcSIR, through online SBI Portal, click or type <https://www.onlinesbi.com/sbi/collect/collecthome.htm?corpID=931312>.

For further details and online application, please visit <http://pgdp.urdip.res.in>  
Contact email: [admission@urdip.res.in](mailto:admission@urdip.res.in)

Sd/-  
Administrative Officer, CSIR-URDIP

**Beware of the Bite**

**Fight against Dengue**

Prevention of dengue is everyone's responsibility and everyone's participation

**TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST DENGUE**

- Do not leave stagnant water lying anywhere in or around the house
- Always place a tight lid on containers used for water storage like water tanks etc
- Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over items that hold water, such as coolers or buckets
- Dress yourself in clothing that covers arms and legs
- Visit your healthcare provider right away if you develop a fever, headache, rash, muscle or joint pain. Never start self-medication

**PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

- Clean your hands often with soap and water, or an alcohol-based sanitiser
- Wear a mask while going outside
- Don't spit in public places
- Maintain at least 2 yard (6 feet) distance from others
- If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention

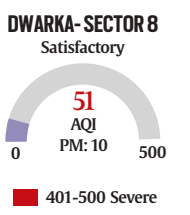
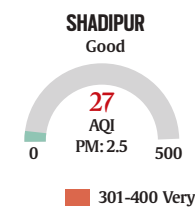
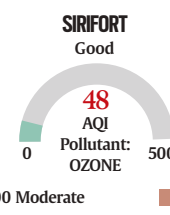
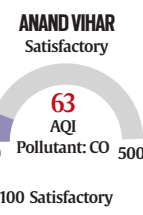
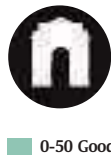
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0-50 Good

51-100 Satisfactory

101-200 Moderate

201-300 Poor

301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

## BRIEFLY

## Plea seeks 'rescue' of woman from ashram

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Wednesday asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to look into a plea by a Telangana resident seeking "rescue" of his daughter who he alleged had been "trapped" in an Ashram in Delhi and action against "17 illegal ashrams" run by "bogus babas". The petitioner claimed that his daughter, a post-doctoral scholar from Iowa State University, USA, "has been staying in a jail like condition from July 2015 in Adhyatmika Vidyalaya founded by a rape accused" in Rohini in Delhi. "See what can be done. This kind of practise gives a bad name to everyone," Chief Justice S A Bobde told Mehta.

## Govt told to speed up tests for pregnant women

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court Wednesday asked the Delhi government to expedite Covid-19 tests and results of pregnant women who seek the test. The Delhi government told the court that as per the advisory issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research, the test results would be declared within an hour.

## BSES staffer among 2 held for extortion

**New Delhi:** Two men, including a contractual employee of BSES, were arrested by Delhi Police for allegedly cheating and extorting money from customers on the pretext of electricity theft, police said Wednesday. The accused, identified as Rajesh Sool, and his gang have been extorting money from people since 2017, police said. **ENS**

## 2,033 NEW CASES, 3,982 RECOVERIES

## Kejriwal seeks detailed death data as recoveries outstrip new cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 8

WITH 3,982 recoveries and 2,033 new cases, Delhi saw almost twice as many recoveries as fresh coronavirus cases on Wednesday. The city's total case count is 1,04,864, of which 23,452 are still active. The toll reached 3,213, with 48 new deaths in 24 hours.

With over 10,000 Covid beds unoccupied in hospitals, the government is now focusing on bringing down the fatality rate, which stands at 3%.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also inaugurated the 500-bed Covid Care facility at Commonwealth Games Village, through video conferencing Wednesday. The facility is linked to Lok Nayak Hospital and a team of 80 doctors and 150 nurses will be stationed there.

The CM asked the principal



Kejriwal inaugurated a Covid care facility at CWG village

health secretary, Vikram Dev Dutt, to prepare a detailed report on the factors behind Covid-19 deaths over the past 15 days.

Officials said the data has been sought to identify at-risk categories and focus on targeted interventions. Between June 24 and July 7, 800 people died of the virus. In Delhi, reports of Covid-

19 patients from hospitals are first sent to a death audit committee, which analyses the cause of death and whether it can be attributed to the viral disease.

While an overall analysis of deaths was earlier shared in the daily health bulletin — a document that can be accessed by the public — this has not been the

## CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

TOTAL CASES		Total	Vacant	
1,04,864		HOSPITAL BEDS 15,079	10,257	
		VENTILATORS 955	442	
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
July 7	2,008	2,129	50	22,448
July 8	2,033	3,982	48	22,028
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,452*</b>	<b>78,199</b>	<b>3,213</b>	<b>7,01,859</b>

\*Total active cases

case for almost two months.

The last time death data analysis was made public was on May 20. At the time, 176 deaths had been reported in the city and the fatality rate was 1.59%.

As per the analysis then, 52% of those who died were over 60, even as the total cases that fell in this category were 14%. For those below the age of 50, the fatality rate was 21% and the share in total cases was 70%.

The data also had details regarding the prevalence of comorbid conditions in those who died. While 89% of those below the age of 50 had comorbid conditions, this figure was 90% for those above the age of 60.

Officials said the report sought by the CM will break down the cases into even smaller sections that will look at age, different co-morbid conditions and analyse who is the most at risk.

## At plasma bank, many faces and one common goal: Help anyone we can

AMIL BHATNAGAR NOIDA, JULY 8

G H Chauhan (34) waited patiently outside a glass chambered room at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) as a doctor prepared a 'Gaurav Patra' to certify that he had donated plasma.

A CISF personnel, Chauhan tested positive for Covid-19 on May 26 while he was posted in Mehrauli. Once he recovered, the first thing on his mind was how he could help someone else. "Several CISF personnel posted to Delhi were infected. Some personnel had come on deputation and we had held meetings together. It appears the infection spread from there. I was admitted to AIIMS in Jhajjar and recovered within 14 days. A doctor told me plasma could help others, so here I am," said Chauhan, who hails from Etawah.

It's been five days since the first plasma bank opened in Vasant Kunj's ILBS, and on an average more than 35 patients visit



Moinuddin (left) and Dr Astha are among those who have donated plasma



the facility to donate plasma every day.

According to a doctor, around 25 of those are deemed fit for donation, while others are deferred.

The plasma bank was inaugurated by CM Arvind Kejriwal, who has repeatedly urged recovered patients to come forward and donate.

"Anyone who has a history of a chronic illness like diabetes, hypothyroid, etc cannot donate plasma. A woman who gave

birth recently is also not eligible. Before the process, the person needs to have a meal to prevent weakness," said Dr Noor Alam, posted at the plasma bank.

According to a doctor, many of those who donated plasma since the bank was inaugurated are doctors themselves.

Dr Astha Bhutiyani, a senior resident doctor at Deen Dayal Hospital, felt it is people's "duty" to help others. "I got Covid in the hospital after 1 per-

formed surgery on a patient who later tested positive. So many like me have tested positive while simply doing their work. I feel healthy after recovering and the donation might be of immense use to a person trying to recover. Especially a senior citizen," she said.

Once the donation is carried out, an acknowledgment letter is given to the person from hospital authorities on behalf of the government, thanking the donor.

"When I tested positive, I was very worried since I live with my old mother and three-year-old son. I work in the nursing department of GTB Hospital and it is possible I got the infection there. I was contacted by a doctor who needed plasma so I came without hesitation. There is a stigma about recovery, but we need to be mentally strong. I have donated blood in the past as well, so it was a fairly smooth process for me," said Moinuddin Hussain (24), who tested positive last month.

## First-ever virtual parade for police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 8

DELHI POLICE inducted 1,320 constables into the force in a first-ever virtual passing out parade for recruit constables at the Police Training College in Jharoda Kalan on Tuesday.

Union Minister of State (Home Affairs) G Kishan Reddy, who was the chief guest, attended the parade from the Police HQ at Jai Singh Road. The event was streamed live on Facebook and YouTube. Of the 1,320 recruits, 407 are women.

Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava welcomed Union Minister Reddy and they gave an "e-salute" to all the constables.

At Jharoda Kalan, the attendees wore face masks and followed social distancing norms. Reddy congratulated all the trainees for choosing to join social service.

Delhi Police Additional PRO Anil Mittal said, "It was a special passing out ceremony."

## 2 staffers face action over AIIMS body swap

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 8

A DAY after a mix-up at the AIIMS mortuary led to bodies of two Covid patients being swapped, the hospital has suspended a staffer and terminated the services of another worker for the lapse.

"A medical lab technician was suspended and one project staff was terminated. They work in the mortuary department. While the technician is a permanent employee, the project staff was a contractual worker who handled registration and other work related to bodies. A committee has been set up under Dr T S Roy (head of the anatomy dept). Dr Sanjay Arya and Dr Lokesh Kashyap will be part of the committee," said a senior doctor.

On Tuesday, Anjum's family, including her four brothers and two young children, waited at the ITO graveyard to bury her. The 35-year-old had died a night before from Covid complications at the AIIMS Trauma Centre.

However, the family was in for a shock when they found out that the body wasn't Anjum's. One of her brothers, Gaffar (35), said, "It was an old woman. I shouted at the workers and asked for my sister. Her children had come from Bareilly to see their mother for the last time."

According to the family, the body was identified through a tag which read, Kusum Lata. The family went to the hospital and found that Lata's family had already cremated Anjum's body.

Anil Mittal, Additional PRO (Delhi Police), said, "We are looking into it."

## Man who lost relatives in earthquake, was adopted by Old Delhi family, beats Covid

SOMYA LAKHANI NEW DELHI, JULY 8

TWO MONTHS after he recovered from Covid-19, Old Delhi resident Mukhtiar Ahmed has found himself flooded with congratulations, including from Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Ahmed said he was born in a village in Maharashtra's Osmanabad in the "seventh month of 1913".

His grandson Mohd Afik (32) said that mid-April, three members of his family, including Ahmed, contracted the virus.

"We got him admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital due to his age, even though he had no symptoms.



Mukhtiar Ahmed

He was there for 17 days and returned home on May 1. My parents also tested positive and have recovered," said Afik.

A doctor at the hospital said Ahmed was discharged after his test result came negative, and that his age, "106 years", was

provided by the family. The family said there is no hospital, school or college certificate in their possession to determine his age, but this is what "Ahmed told us when we met him for the first time over a decade ago at a dingy food stall in Bara Hindu Rao".

Ahmed was "adopted" by Afik's family that day, after he told them about his life.

"I was born in Osmanabad but later moved to Mumbai, and worked at construction sites, did some masonry, and also built furniture that was used in films. *Maine Gandhi ji ko dekha hai, angrez ko raaj dekha hai, aur swatantra dekhi hai*," Ahmed said.

He said that the 1993 Latur earthquake wiped out several members of his family, includ-

ing his wife and two children. "I was in Mumbai with my son at the time... he too died a few days later... Some years later, I made it to Delhi. Here, I worked as a mason in Connaught Place, Turkman Gate, Karol Bagh. One day, I was alone and old with nowhere to go," said Ahmed, fondly called Abba by his adopted family.

His "granddaughter" Taiyaba, who plays mediator in all conversations as Ahmed is hard of hearing, said: "When we met him, he told us his age and his story. He tells us stories about seeing Gandhi ji. How could we have left him on the streets at that age?"

On Wednesday, Kejriwal said Ahmed's recovery was "inspiring", and congratulated doctors who treated him.

## Minutes from home, brothers killed in riots made desperate calls to their family

SOMYA LAKHANI &amp; ANAND MOHAN J NEW DELHI, JULY 8

JUST FIVE minutes from home, brothers Hashim Ali (19) and Amir Khan (30) made frantic calls to their family between 9 and 9.30 pm on February 26, saying they were afraid because a mob had gathered outside, targeting Muslims. By 10 pm, their phones were switched off.

Bodies of the two were among nine victims fished out from a drain during the February riots in Northeast Delhi. The brothers' last hour is detailed in a chargesheet filed by Delhi Police at Karkardooma court on June 4, based on a statement recorded by their father Babu Khan.

The siblings were staying at a relative's house in Ghaziabad and decided to return home to Northeast Delhi on February 26 after they heard that the "situation had improved in the area".

Multiple phone calls were made by Hashim to his younger brother Nasir Ali's two phones between 9 and 9.30 pm, Babu wrote in his statement to police.

"Hashim Ali told him that they have reached near Gokulpuri ganda nala puliya, and will reach within five minutes, but they were very scared as the crowd was gathering on the road and were killing Muslim people after checking their identities. He also asked them (his family members) to meet outside the gate. They were very fearful. Thereafter, around 10 pm, the family again tried to call Hashim and Amir but their mobile phones were switched off. They called several mobile phones to locate both their sons, but could not find them. This fact was also

corroborated with the call detail record of Hashim," the chargesheet states.

On February 28, Babu visited Gokulpuri police station at 9 am for help in tracing his sons. Their search ended when ASI Ram Dass took them to the GTB hospital mortuary, where Babu identified the two bodies. The police chargesheet states that the brothers were killed by a mob, which dumped their bodies in the Bhagirathi Vihar nala. Their Apache motorcycle was burnt to destroy evidence.

Advocate Mehmood Pracha, who is representing Babu, said, "Police have all manner of evidence, including WhatsApp chats. They have arrested only the foot soldiers. Police must investigate CDR of all these persons to find out who was pulling the strings."

Police have so far chargesheeted 11 persons in the case for the murders of nine Muslim men, including the brothers. Police have stated that the accused were "seething with anger as many stories/news of Hindus being targeted by Muslims" were circulating. The accused conspired to kill Muslim men on a WhatsApp group called Kattar Hindut Ekta, which had at least 125 members.

As reported by *The Indian Express*, police have largely relied on the statement of an eyewitness who was around the spot searching for his lost bike. Based on his statement, the chargesheet states: "The mob stopped two persons riding an Apache motorcycle on which Hashim Ali and Amir Khan were riding. The mob, after establishing their Muslim identity, killed both with stones, cudgel, sticks, swords and iron rods."

## Cop dies of Covid, leaves 2 kids behind

SOMYA LAKHANI NEW DELHI, JULY 8



Constable Yogender Yadav

"FOR THE last three months, the government, media, and the police have been telling people to stay at home to stay safe but no one listens... Frontline workers suffer because of this. *Mere ghar aakar dekho kaisa lagta hai jab jawan beta guzar jaata hai coronavirus se*," said Jagdish Prasad (63), father of Delhi Police constable Yogender Prasad Yadav.

Yogender (40), who was deployed at outer Delhi's Paschim Vihar (West) police station, died Tuesday afternoon. He survived by his wife and their two children aged 14 and 3 years. Yogender joined the Delhi Police in 2003.

DCP (Outer) Dr A Koan said, "He was admitted at Park hospital on June 12, and he tested positive for Covid on June 25. Around 3 pm Tuesday, he passed away."

Yogender's father said that his son suffered from a liver ailment, and was on duty till June 11. "On June 12, he complained of fever so we rushed him to the hospital... On June 25, we were informed that he tested positive for Covid-19," said Jagdish.

Park Hospital's medical superintendent Dr Rekha Gupta said that Yogender came to the hospital with a liver disease but displayed no symptoms of Covid-

19. Dr Gupta said, "His chest X-Ray was clear but a week later he showed Covid symptoms... his report came positive on June 25."

Yogender's condition deteriorated on Monday evening and he was put on the ventilator. Jagdish said, "After that I couldn't speak to him. Before this, I would send coconut water for him daily, speak to him via video call. The last time I spoke to him on Monday afternoon, I told him to do 'pranaayam and kapaal-bhaati' and not to worry. He also spoke to his son for a few minutes that day. Hours later, he was on the ventilator. On Tuesday afternoon, I was told he's no more."

Yogender is the twelfth Delhi Police personnel to succumb to Covid-19. Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal said, "A great loss for the organisation. Delhi Police will extend all possible help to his family. My deepest condolences."

## Panel outlines strategy to get business back on track

**New Delhi:** The committee formed to accelerate economic recovery in Delhi has set a three pronged strategy which will look at short, medium and long term plans to help businesses hit hard during the pandemic. In its first meeting, the committee decided to focus on ensuring survival of industry sectors by revisiting licensing norms, simplifying Covid related regulations and taking measures to revive demand.

People from different industries, who are part of the committee, suggested that relevant steps be taken for each, like permitting outdoor sitting and extending hours of operations in restaurants, and markets setting up own

control rooms to ensure social distancing and sanitisation.

Municipal corporations have initiated the process for automatic extension of all existing licenses and the department of industries has provided a moratorium on lease rent on land issued by DSIDDC and a reduction in interest rate on penalties.

Jasmine Shah, Dialogue and Development Commission vice chairperson and head of the committee, said Delhi had set the ground for economic recovery by putting in place adequate health-care facilities. "By working together with industry stakeholders, Delhi government is keen to come out stronger," he said. **ENS**

## Demolition during pandemic leaves residents in the lurch, East civic body says just following court orders

ABHINAV RAJPUR NEW DELHI, JULY 8

AROUND 56 houses in East Delhi were razed in a demolition drive carried out by the East civic body since Monday, following a Delhi High Court order to remove encroachments. The move, which comes in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, has left several residents out on the streets. The EDMC, however, said it was following the court order and has to file a compliance report by August 17.

The houses occupied the

200-metre stretch near Angad Nagar, from the Khureji traffic signal to Chitra Vihar. Most houses were jhuggis that were later converted into concrete structures, which encroached on government land, said officials.

One of the residents, Padma (45) said: "The government says people should not go out of home during corona, but we have been evicted in such a time. At least they should have allowed us to stay till the virus persists."

Another resident, Rahul Kumar said, "Most people here are unemployed at present, many work as ragpickers or as



The houses occupied a 200-metre stretch near Angad Nagar, from the Khureji traffic signal to Chitra Vihar. Prem Nath Pandey

safai karamcharis."

East MCD Mayor Nirmal Jain said stopping the demolition is not in his hands as the road belongs to the PWD and demolition is being done on court orders.

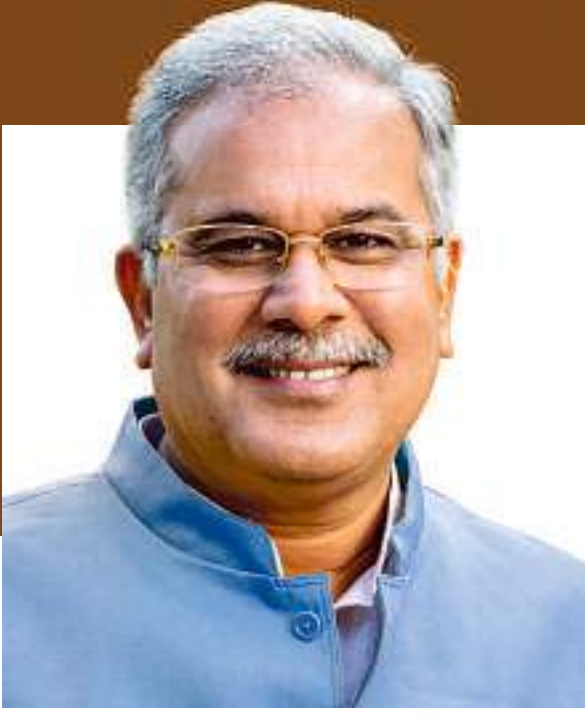
According to the EDMC spokesperson: "Police provided security, while the corporation is carrying out the exercise along with assistance from the Public Works Department (PWD) as the right of way is theirs."

A PWD official said, "We are following the court order. The mandate is that MCD carries out the demolition and PWD provides logistical support. We are provid-

ing manpower and machinery."

The spokesperson said the encroachment removal order was first given in 2015 by the High Court. Residents moved court and were asked to establish their title suit in a lower court: "The case was dismissed in 2019. It is not fair to say they have not been given time, they knew for four years that they were not the owners."

A contempt petition was filed in January and EDMC was told to submit a compliance report on August 17. "The only option for us was to comply," said the spokesperson.



# OVERCOMING DISTRESS CHHATTISGARH SURGES AHEAD

**Bhupesh Baghel**  
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

## COVID-19 Pandemic under Control with Precise Decisions at the Right Time



**80.6%**  
COVID-19 Recovery Rate

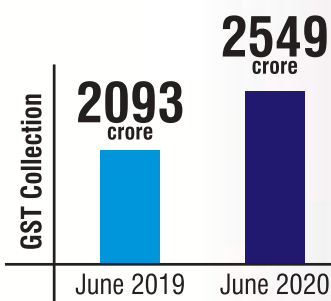
**Better  
Recovery  
Rate**  
than in neighboring states

**0.5%**  
COVID-19 Death Rate

## Hike in GST Collection during Lockdown



**22%**  
higher GST collection



## Rise in Sale of Automobiles



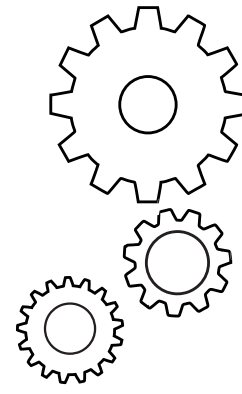
**7,603** May 2020  
**27,000** June 2020



**1,107** May 2020  
**2,889** June 2020

- ❖ Registration of vehicles: 891 vehicles in April, 9681 in May and 32,982 in June
- ❖ 3,000 new tractors purchased in the state after the transfer of first instalment of 'Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna'

## Industrial Activities Gaining Momentum



- ❖ Adhering to COVID-19 norms, 80% industrial units resume operation, more than 1.5 lakh people receiving employment
- ❖ Chhattisgarh attracts 500 cr worth fresh investment in 258 industrial units, generating employment for 3360 people
- ❖ Production of 27 lakh metric ton of iron and steel
- ❖ Uninterrupted operation of industrial units manufacturing essential medical & food items during lockdown
- ❖ Ensured availability of hand sanitizer and packing material
- ❖ Grant of 103 crore for 848 industrial units
- ❖ Loan of 2000 crore for Small and Micro Unit to promote growth and development
- ❖ Relief to 282 industrial units through exemption of stamp duty

## MGNREGA



- ❖ Chhattisgarh becomes the leading state in the country providing 100-day employment to MGNREGA job-card holding families in the current financial year
- ❖ Total of 59,951 families provided 100 days of employment in the state accounting for 41% of the total number in the country
- ❖ Chhattisgarh holds second rank for generating employment by creating employment of 8.95 crore man days in the first trimester
- ❖ 66.3% of annual labour budget's target achieved within the first trimester. Completion of more than 70% of the targeted work in 10 districts

## Minor Forest Produce



Chhattisgarh  
**Ranks First**  
in the country in  
collection of minor  
forest produce

Achieves  
annual target in just  
**Six Months**

**31 Minor  
Forest  
Produce**  
purchased at  
support price

**46039.40  
metric ton**  
of minor forest produce  
worth **104 crore**  
collected so far

## Growth in Registry of Land



**17%**  
Increase in revenue  
from registration  
of land

**19%**  
Increase  
in registration  
documents

in June 2020 as compared to June 2019

## RESERVE BANK OF INDIA APPRECIATES CHHATTISGARH

RBI has appreciated Chhattisgarh for registering robust economic growth due to uninterrupted agricultural and its allied activities despite the lockdown



**Pro Active - Pro People**

# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## BALLOT BUZZ

THE DECISION ahead of Bihar Assembly elections to allow those aged 65 and above to vote via postal ballot has snowballed into a political controversy. Five parties — the Congress, CPI, CPM, TMC and RJD — have opposed the move, with some writing to CEC Sunil Arora, arguing that it would expose senior citizens to influence by the administration and the party in power. Although the Conduct of Election Rules have been amended, the provision cannot be implemented unless the EC issues a formal notification before Bihar polls. The row forced the Commission's officers into a huddle this week. The buzz is that the EC may consider not notifying the provision before Bihar polls.

## QUESTION OF QUORUM

CONGRESS MP Jai Ram Ramesh cited difficulties in mustering quorum for the meeting of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change and sought permission to hold virtual meetings. But when the Rajya Sabha secretariat reviewed the matter, it was found that quorum is not necessary for every meeting. The officials said quorum is necessary only for taking decisions and adopting reports by the committee. They also informed Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu that committees have been meeting without quorum over the years.

## MANY CONNECTIONS

NEW BRITISH High Commissioner Philip Barton Wednesday presented his credentials to President Ram Nath Kovind in a virtual ceremony. Barton's mother was born in Shimla and he was posted in Delhi in the 1990s. He met his wife, Amanda, when they both lived and worked here in India, and they named their daughter India.

## NEW POSITION

A CAREER diplomat, J P Singh has taken charge of Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division in the Ministry of External Affairs. Singh was posted in Kabul when the Indian embassy was attacked. Later, he volunteered to serve in Pakistan, and was sent to Islamabad as Deputy High Commissioner. He accompanied the family members to meet Kulbhushan Jadhav. After serving in Istanbul as Consul General for a brief stint, he returned to Delhi and has now taken charge in South Block.

## SPELLS OUT MP BYPOLL DILEMMA

# Vijayvargiya in virtual rally: How to work with Cong leaders we fought?

MILIND GHATAI  
BHOPAL, JULY 8

"Workers like me wonder, even you must be wondering, how to work with Congress leaders we fought against. This is what politics is all about. Occasionally, you have to take a bitter pill and do social work," BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya said Wednesday, encapsulating the dilemma of party workers who will have to campaign for former Congress leaders in the upcoming bypolls.

Addressing a virtual rally for party workers in Sanver, one of the 24 Assembly seats going to polls, he said he often sensed their discomfiture at the prospect of seeking votes for their formal rivals. "Don't forget, it's because they

(Congress MLAs whose rebellion brought down the Kamal Nath government) walked out of the Congress government that Shivraj Singh Chouhan could become the Chief Minister again. Would he have become the CM had they not done so? Raise your hands," he asked party workers. He then praised Chouhan, asking workers to give their best in the bypolls to ensure he continues as CM.

Chouhan, too, addressed the rally from the party headquarters in Bhopal.

BJP has 107 MLAs in the 230-member House and the Congress was reduced to 92 after 22 MLAs joined BJP. Two vacancies were caused by death of two MLAs before the rebellion. The 22 former MLAs and BJP have maintained all 22 will be fielded in the bypolls.

## RAJIV GANDHI FOUNDATION, CHARITABLE TRUST

# Gates Foundation, US-based Trust account for bulk of foreign funds

SHYAMLAL YADAV  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

BETWEEN 2006-07 and 2019-20, the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT) together declared foreign funds adding up to Rs 326.7 crore. Of this, Rs 316.23 crore (97 per cent) came from the Rural India Supporting Trust, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (both US-based), and the Delhi-based Public Health Foundation of India.

According to the RGF and RGCT's declarations on the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) website, the Rural India Supporting Trust (RIST) contributed a total of Rs 187.84 crore; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave Rs 68.78 crore; and the Public Health Foundation

of India (PHFI) gave Rs 59.61 crore.

While the RGF received Rs 4.37 crore, the rest went to the RGCT.

The PHFI, founded in 2006, made the contributions between 2012-13 and 2016-17. Professor Dileep Mavalankar, vice-president, PHFI, and director, Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar, said: "The fund was originally received from the Gates Foundation by PHFI in partnership with Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojana. The RGCT declared it as foreign contribution under the FCRA rules as it was foreign contribution received by us."

The PHFI's FCRA licence was cancelled in April 2017. Last year, it got "prior permission" from the home ministry to receive "a specific amount from a specific donor for carrying out specific activi-

ties/projects."

The RIST, established in 2007, is chaired by Indu Rawat (aka Mata Mangla), wife of Bhole Ji Maharaj (aka Mahipal Singh Rawat), who is the younger brother of BJP leader and Uttarakhand Minister Satpal Maharaj. The RIST made the contributions between 2011-12 and 2018-19.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, founded in 2000, made the contributions between 2012-13 and 2018-19.

The other foreign donors include the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi (Rs 90 lakh in 2006-07), European Union (Rs 3.84 lakh in 2006-07), the Ireland Embassy (Rs 3,000 in 2007-08), and the Geneva-based Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (Rs 2.16 crore in 2013-14).

## CRIMINAL LAW REFORMS

# Retd judges, senior advocates write to expert panel, seek transparency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

RETIRED JUDGES and prominent advocates, including former Supreme Court judges Justices Aftab Alam and Madan B Lokur, have criticised a five-member expert committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs to suggest criminal law reforms.

In a letter to members of the committee, at least 14 retired judges and over 50 advocates and academics have demanded more transparency regarding its constitution and functioning.

"As stakeholders in the criminal justice system, we recognize the need to bring the system in compliance with the Constitution, in a manner that 'prioritises the constitutional values of justice, dignity and the inherent worth of the individual.' However, we are concerned that the composition of the present Committee lacks diversity both in terms of the social identity of the members, as well as their professional background and experience," the letter read.

The five-member committee headed by Dr Ranbir Singh, V-C of National Law University, Delhi, was set up on May 5. Apart from Singh, it includes G S Bajpai, Registrar of National Law University, Delhi; Balraj Chauhan, V-C of Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur; senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani and former Delhi district court judge G P Thareja.

In the letter, retired judges and lawyers called upon the committee to set up sub-committees and panels to "redress the lack of diversity and experience in the Committee's current composition".

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Gopala Gowda, former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court, Justice A P Shah and Senior advocates Indira Jaising and Anand Grover are also among the signatories.



PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah at the cabinet meet in Delhi Wednesday. ANI

# Cabinet nod to extend free grain scheme till Nov, 3 free LPGs till Sept

KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

THE UNION Cabinet on Wednesday approved the extension of some of the measures taken by the government to help people tide over the severe impact of the nationwide lockdown imposed on March 25.

Among the key measures, the Cabinet gave its nod to extend the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which provides for allocation of foodgrain from the Central pool, until November with an additional estimated expenditure of Rs 76,062 crore.

It also extended the time limit to avail three free LPG cylinders under the Ujjwala scheme. Starting April 1, beneficiaries of Ujjwala were allowed three free cylinders, which, if not claimed, can now be taken by September-end.

In a national address on June 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced extension of the Anna Yojana by five months.

Under the scheme, the government is providing additional 5 kg rice or wheat and 1 kg whole chana per person per month — distributed free, both are over and above the monthly entitlement of beneficiaries.

While the scheme intends to cover 81 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, 2013, the government said that 74.3 crore beneficiaries were covered in April, 74.75 crore in May, and 64.72 crore beneficiaries got the additional foodgrain in June.

The Cabinet also approved a new nationwide Central sector scheme — the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund. Under this, banks and financial institutions will provide Rs 1 lakh crore medium to long-term debt financing facility for investment in projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets over the next four years. The loans will be given to agencies such as Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers' Organisations, Self-Help Group (and farmers, among others).

The scheme will start with sanction of Rs 10,000 crore in the current fiscal and Rs 30,000 per annum in the next three financial years.

The government said that "all loans under this financing facility will have interest subvention of 3 per cent per annum up to a limit of Rs 2 crore". The total outflow as

budgetary support for the scheme will be Rs 10,736 crore.

The Cabinet gave the government a go-ahead for development of Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) for urban migrant workers and the poor. Announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on May 14 as part of the government's relief measures, this will come under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday said there are 1.08 lakh single-bedroom apartments in government-funded housing complexes across seven cities that are ready and vacant at the moment. "These will be given to migrant workers on rent," he said.

The apartments will be rented out by the respective city municipal bodies through concession agreements for 25 years. The "concessionaire" will be selected by state governments through transparent bidding, the government announced.

Additionally, special incentives such as use permission, 50 per cent more FAR/FSI, and concessional loan at priority sector lending rate will be offered to public and private entities who develop such ARHCs.

# 'Our health workers stood up to Covid challenge... we prepared for worse'

CHHATTISGARH HAS recorded more than 3,000 Covid-19 cases, and the monsoons and financial crunch are additional stresses on the system. State Health Minister and senior Congress leader T S SINGH DEO speaks to GARGI VERMA about the challenges ahead and the government's efforts to tackle them.



What are the challenges for the state in dealing with the pandemic? What are we doing to meet them?

With a large number of migrants coming back to the state, we are ramping up our tests and testing facility. Initially, the expectation was 1.5-2 lakh, but now, we estimate 7 lakh people have come to the state. With so many people coming from affected areas, the numbers in the state will definitely increase. Our concern is to minimise the deaths, which means that early detection is the key. Beyond that, our worry is community spread. To stop that, we are requesting all individuals to cooperate. All individuals have to actively participate, being a corona warrior. We are also ramping up testing facilities. New testing centres are being made in Rajnandgaon, Bilaspur and Ambikapur, and we have put out tenders for rapid testing kits and other equipment.

Seven lakh people have returned, how are we going to deal with them, and ensure they are earning?

So far, the state government has met with the task of providing employment in villages through panchayat department and MGNREGA. It is beyond expectation, as we are now currently topping the country in numbers. Of the total number of families that have worked 100 job days, Chhattisgarh has a 41% share. This is why we have written constantly to the central government to increase the number of job days from 100 to 200. If 55,000 families in Chhattisgarh have already completed their 100 days in MGNREGA, where will they get sustenance in the coming months? We have completed 67%-70% of our yearly targets, and will certainly be exceeding that. For the remaining six months, barring the three farming months, we will need double the amount of money from the Centre, over what they have sent till June. They must at least do it for the Covid times, for a couple of years to address reverse migration. There are some provisions of 51 days from FRA for some people, then the government of Chhattisgarh had instituted another 50 days, which is very difficult to be pulled through under the financial constraints. If the central government doesn't pitch in, it will be very difficult to care for the 7 lakh who have returned.

What is happening on the GST front? How is there growth from last year, despite a lockdown?

The arrears of last year's share of Rs 1,160 crore of compensation were given to us this month, indicating a 1.35% growth from last year's quarter. While everything has plummeted, to a third of last year's collection, due to lockdown... any money this year will certainly help. The central government, however, is not helping, by increasing the prices of petrol and diesel...

Rumours of dissonance between you and the CM have come forth. The Opposition has claimed that there are differences between groups in the Congress, which might lead to the government breaking down. Your comments?

All departments under me have performed well nationally. If anyone is coming in the way, there would not be such a performance. There is no hindrance by the CM. The working or the outcome is not affected. The CM has asked me to attend all GST Council meetings. We do interact and I am entrusted with important work. Some things appear different from what they are. The work is taken care of, which is the important part for the government. Chhattisgarh Congress government breaking down is impossible, as we have very comfortable numbers. We are all working as a team committed to the high command. The high command decides what happens when and we follow through.

How is the healthcare system holding up? Are there any benefits planned for healthcare workers?

Our healthcare workers have stood up to the challenge and are working non-stop. Even now, with a rise in cases, the number of people occupying beds is below



700. The number of people recovered is higher on most days than cases coming in. We had prepared for worse projections, so unless we reach those numbers, the state healthcare infrastructure will hold. Our proposals of monetary incentives for healthcare workers are pending due to financial constraints. The CM in the cabinet meeting had said that if any healthcare worker dies, they would be given compensation, but the incentive in pay over and above what they are getting hasn't been decided, although we have written to the CMO.

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## TRACKING PM GARIB KALYAN ROJGAR ABHIYAN FROM GROUND ZERO

# In district where PM launched job scheme, migrants say little work, less pay

SANTOSH SINGH  
KHAGARIA, JULY 8

LAUNCHED FROM Khagaria, Bihar, on June 20 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Abhiyan, a 125-day skill-based employment scheme, seems to have had little to offer to the people of Alauli so far.

Brajesh Kumar, now back at his village — Haripur, in Alauli, is working under MGNREGA, and also taking any other odd job that comes his way. The 18-year-old worked at a blade factory in Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh, and earned Rs 11,000 per month until two months ago, before he returned to Haripur during the lockdown. He had moved to Kasganj after finishing Class X last year.

Over the last two months, he

has earned Rs 6,000, including Rs 1,400 from MGNREGA.

"I have learnt my lockdown lesson," Brajesh said. "These small works with little income cannot hold back workers in Bihar for long. I want to resume my studies and undergo a professional course for better job opportunities."

He said his friends Diljit and Rajkumar also got 14 days' work with the MGNREGA project, but that came before the launch of the national campaign last month.

The Indian Express carried out random sampling of the campaign's progress at Haripur, Meghauna and Sahasi — all under Alauli, one of the least-developed blocks of Khagaria district.

At Haripur, there was no trace of any worker at a 565-foot proposed brick-soling site. "Around 100 workers, including 20 migrants, are engaged with the projects

but the rain has kept them away for three days," Alauli's MGNREGA programme officer, Ramekbal Pandit, said, when The Indian Express went there over the weekend.

Pandit struggled to give account of work generated after the launch of PM Garib Kalyan Abhiyan.

At Giddha village of Sahasi, Alauli's MGNREGA junior engineer Sunil Kumar said, "We have completed two cowshed works." Kumar also said, "49 per cent of its (project) cost goes as labour charge. Six people got jobs for 20 plus days."

However, one of the two cowsheds he counted — a project worth Rs 1.33 lakh built at the house of Mahavir Yadav — was completed much before the launch of the ambitious national campaign, according to Mahavir, who also worked for 14 days and is yet to receive his wages.



Work in progress under Gali-Nali scheme in Alauli. Santosh Singh

Under MGNREGA, a worker gets Rs 177 per day for this.

Mahavir owns two bighas and lives by wheat and maize grown on the land. He would have left for work outside, but for the virus, he

said. The family, he said, has seen hundreds of migrants return to the village since the nationwide lockdown was imposed on March 25.

At the same village, the cowshed of Ram Daresh Yadav lay in-

complete, with no trace of work visible. The tin shade is yet to be put in place. Ram Daresh's wife Gudiya Devi said: "Work has stopped for some days. My husband also worked (here) along with some migrant workers. My husband has returned from Delhi, where he worked as a labourer in the grocery market."

Programme officer Pandit could not explain why they could not resume work.

Of the places The Indian Express visited, some evidence of good work generation was seen under the Gali-Nali scheme of the state government's Saat Nischay programme at Dalan Haripur village, under Haripur panchayat. The 1,400-foot lane in the middle of the village road had been completed half way. Its plaster and cemented cover plates have to be readied.

Around 25 workers have been engaged for this at a daily wage of Rs 300. The project has engaged 15 migrant workers.

Banarasi Singh, who has returned from Delhi, said: "I earned Rs 1,000 daily by carrying grain bags. Here, I get Rs 300 daily. We are getting some work but the question is for how long... But we are happy to get some work at home during these Covid-19 times."

Meto Singh, who used to work at Azadpur Mandi in Delhi, said to be Asia's largest wholesale market, said they would stay home until October or November and then decide whether to go back to big cities for work.

Meghauna panchayat has seen no new employment drive since the launch of the PM employment scheme. Alauli has 21 panchayats but barely 10 have so

far started some works under the ambitious campaign.

Alauli Block Development Officer Ajeet Kumar said: "So far we have three projects for the entire block: construction of 21 community toilets, which means 30 work days for daily wages of Rs 300, with half the work going to migrants; construction of 3,000 houses, (which is) a good employment spinner; and MGNREGA work here and there. Besides, there will be tree plantation drive".

Khagaria District Magistrate Alok Ranjan Ghosh said: "Of 1.63,427 man-days (of work) created since the launch of the scheme until July 6, 36,983 man-days were created for migrant workers. Besides, 27 people were given bee-keeping work and 65 people got sanitary complex work. There are 27 agriculture loan beneficiaries."

# 7 THE OUTBREAK

Guwahati cops transferred after birthday party on ferry

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, JULY 8

SEVERAL SENIOR police officers posted in Guwahati, including a Deputy Commissioner of Police, were transferred on Wednesday after the Assam government initiated disciplinary action against them for holding a birthday party of a colleague on a ferry on the Brahmaputra, amid the lockdown in the city.

A video and photographs, which were circulated on social media, showed a group of police officers eating and consuming liquor at a gathering. Sources say the party on the ferry 'TF Damodar' was held to celebrate the birthday of an officer of the rank of an Assistant Commissioner of Police late night on Sunday, and several other officers were present.

Guwahati Police Commissioner M P Gupta said, "We have started the enquiry. The report is awaited."

The inquiry follows an order on Tuesday evening by Assam Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna to Gupta, ordering an inquiry and observing that reports about the party reflected "very poorly on the policemen" and displayed "total disregard to orders under the Disaster Act".

A statement from the office of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Wednesday said disciplinary action has been initiated, and all those involved would be transferred soon.

Guwahati, which is under a strict lockdown for over a week now, reported 588 coronavirus cases on Tuesday and is emerging as a hotspot in Assam. Sonowal on Wednesday said that due to the strict implementation of lockdown, the rate of positivity among the tested cases has come down from 36 per cent to 16 per cent in the city. As of Wednesday, 362 Assam police personnel have tested positive for the virus, of whom 109 have recovered.

## Patna, Bhagalpur to lock down, other Bihar districts may follow

SANTOSH SINGH & DIPANKAR GHOSE  
PATNA, BHAGALPUR, JULY 8

FOLLOWING A sharp spike in Covid-19 cases, the district administrations of Patna and Bhagalpur in Bihar have announced lockdowns.

Patna, where Covid-19 cases climbed from 747 on July 1 to 1351 on July 8, will be under lockdown from July 10 to July 16. Over 50 cases in Patna have links to the Chief Minister's residence where his niece, several staffers and others who came in contact with them have tested positive.

Bhagalpur, which has seen Covid-19 cases go up from 500 on July 1 to 693 on July 8, has announced a lockdown from July 9 to July 16.

Bihar's case count has gone up from 10,205 to 13,525 in a week and 100 people have died of Covid-19 so far in the state.

Sources said some other districts such as Gopalganj, Begusarai, Munger and Khagaria may also enforce lockdown soon. While Khagaria has 352 cases, Munger has 473 and Muzaffarpur has 500.

An order by Patna District Magistrate Kumar Ravi said that during the lockdown, government offices and private establishments will remain shut. People will be allowed to buy groceries, dairy items, vegetables and other essential items between 6 am and 10 am and 4 pm to 7 pm. Commercial vehicles will not be allowed, but those associated with essential services such as healthcare and the media, will be allowed to use their vehicles.

Bhagalpur District Magistrate Pranav Kumar Wednesday announced that the district would be under lockdown from 6 am on July 9 to 6 am on July 16. Kumar told reporters that the urban areas would be completely



At a containment zone in Bagbazar area of Kolkata. Partha Paul

shut, except for essential items such as dairy, vegetables and groceries, which will be open from 6 am to 10 am and 4 pm to 7 pm.

While most government offices will stay shut, essential services, including police, healthcare, media and e-commerce will be exempted from the lockdown, Kumar said.

For those associated with essential services, strict rules of wearing masks in public will apply.

Kumar said the decision was taken in view of a spike in Covid-19 cases and the failure of people to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

### '33,793 more booths'

Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi said on Wednesday that the Election Commission of India had assured that 33,793 additional polling booths would be set up to maintain physical distancing during the state polls. "Rules of voting and holding rallies would be changed and digital campaigns would be cost-friendly," he told the media.

## Seven-day lockdown in Bengal containment zones begins today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JULY 8

THE WEST Bengal government will impose a lockdown in containment zones across the state for seven days beginning 5 pm on Thursday to check the surge in Covid-19 cases, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said at the state secretariat here on Wednesday.

"This lockdown in containment zones in West Bengal will continue for seven days from 5 pm on Thursday. Will review the situation after seven days and then decide the next course of action on lockdown," Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister urged people to maintain distance and wear face masks, and ordered the administration to be strict with those violating the norms.

On Wednesday, the CM reviewed the district-wise list of containment zones, especially in Kolkata and its adjacent areas.

Banerjee was unhappy with the South 24 Parganas list, which she examined during a televised meeting with officials and doctors from government hospitals. "You can't lockdown a whole district... You have included entire civic wards... Review it," she said.

The list of containment zones in North 24 Parganas, Howrah and Kolkata has been finalised and posted on the government's website. The proposed lists of 20 other districts were sent by the respective District Magistrates to Home Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay by Wednesday evening. The final list will be announced by 5 pm on Thursday, after a review by Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha.

## MP govt to impose strict lockdown on Sundays

MILIND GHATWAI  
BHOPAL, JULY 8

WITH A sudden spike in the number of Covid cases over the last few days, Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday announced a strict lockdown across the state on Sundays and restricted movement in districts bordering Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

Badwani and Morena are among the border districts that have reported a large number of cases. The growth rate in Covid cases which had come down to 1.72 per cent has now shot up to 20.01 due to the recent surge.

Reviewing the situation, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said every district should impose a weekly lockdown when only essential services will remain available and people will be allowed to move only for emergencies such as medical treatment.

Blaming the spike in cases on those entering Madhya Pradesh from other states, Health and Home Minister Narottam Mishra said the lockdown will be imposed on Sundays and every person entering the state will now be checked at the borders.

Chouhan asked the Chief Secretary and the DGP to work out a mechanism on restricting movement in border districts and issue a public advisory. While reiterating the compulsory use of masks in public, Chouhan said that action will be taken against the shopping malls and offices that are not keeping sanitisers and not enforcing distancing norms.

## Transmission rate goes up, first time since March: study

KARISHMA MEHROTRA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

FOR THE first time in India's outbreak since March, the Covid-19 transmission rate has increased.

India's Covid-19 reproduction number, or R, which estimates the number of people infected by one already infected person, was on a steady decline from 1.83 for months since March 4. However, in the first week of the second unlocking phase in July, the rate has shown an increase for the first time, research by the Institute of Mathematical Sciences in Chennai shows.

Having an R less than one is the goal of health authorities, as it signifies a flattening of the curve.

The R is currently at 1.19, which means that each infected person on average infects 1.19 people, according to Dr Sitabhra Sinha, a scientist at the institute.

"It usually takes 10 days to two weeks for any effect to show up as increased or decreased case numbers. So, I would say that this increase we are seeing probably has its origin in events that happened around mid-June or slightly later," he said. "The bottom line is that right now we are in the situation we were in in May and early June, and the further decrease we saw in late June was not sustained or improved upon."

Delhi has shown significant strides, from an R number of 1.25 between June 13-16 to a curve that is now around 1. For a few days starting June 21, Delhi had an R slightly above one. Sinha called the curve "sub-exponential", meaning not growing exponentially for some time now.

Haryana is also showing similar signs. The only other time a heavy caseload state showed such positive trends was in April to mid-May when Tamil Nadu flattened the curve substantially.

In March, the virus was being transmitted to 1.83 people on average in India while the rate was 2.14 in Wuhan and 2.73 in Italy. Between April 6 and 11, India's R dropped to 1.55. Subsequently, it dropped to 1.49 and then 1.2 by early June, as the country began to relax the lockdown in a phased manner.

The transmission rate continued to decline into June, reaching 1.11 by June 26. However, after a month of unlocking, the transmission rate has picked up between July 2 and July 5 to 1.19.

The highest R numbers are in the south in Karnataka (1.66), Telangana (1.65) and Andhra Pradesh (1.32). Previously fast-growing states have slowed down, such as Gujarat at 1.15 and West Bengal at 1.1. "The current increase in R can most probably be attributed to the high R for some of the southern states," Sinha said.

States like Assam and Rajasthan are not currently consistent enough to estimate for, Sinha added.

Total active cases could reach around 6 lakh by the end of the month, Sinha's modelling shows. Maharashtra could have over 1.5 lakh active cases by July 21, and Tamil Nadu 1 lakh.

An analysis of district-wise data from state bulletins by *The Indian Express* shows that cases and deaths are gradually becoming less concentrated in the top 10 districts. While 46 per cent cases were in the top 10 a month ago, it is 41 per cent now. Similarly, 59 per cent of all deaths were in the top 10 districts, and it is 54 per cent now.

A total of 448 districts have seen at least one Covid-19 death, up from 391 two weeks ago.

New names have entered the top 10 districts with the most cases: Gurgaon and Indore have been replaced by Bengaluru and Palghar. However, the list of top 10 districts with the most deaths has been consistent over time.

CAN BE DESCRIBED AS LOCAL SUPER-SPREAD, SAYS MINISTER

## Coastal village emerges Kerala hotspot

VISHNU VARMA  
KOCHI, JULY 8

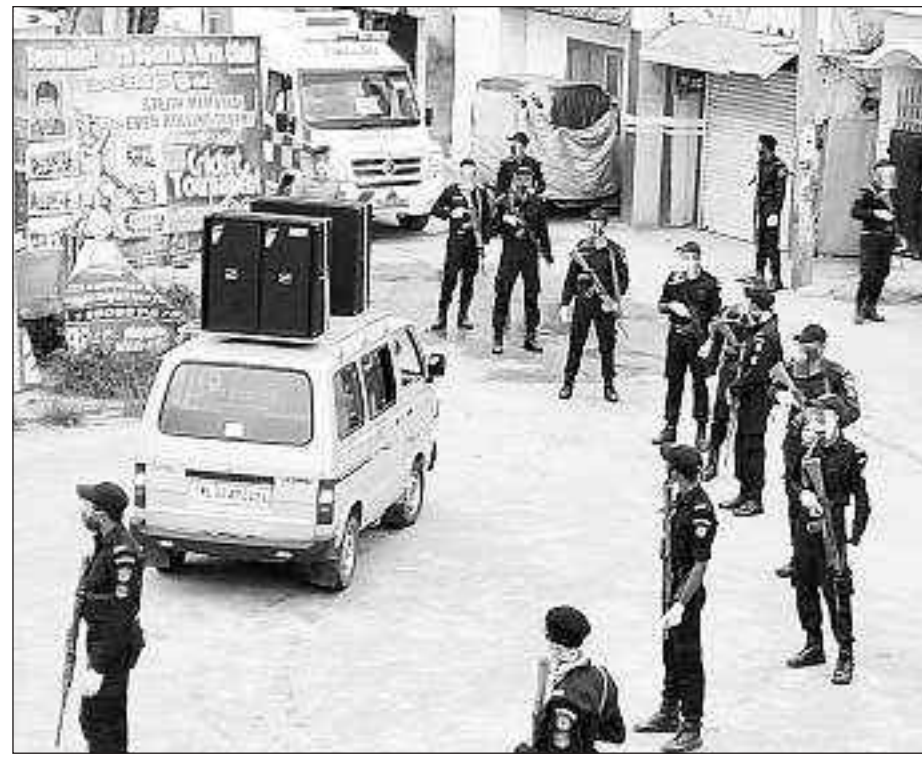
A COASTAL village on the outskirts of Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram has emerged as a Covid-19 hotspot after over 100 people in the area tested positive for the virus in the last one week.

Poonthura, a fishing village 12 km from Thiruvananthapuram, has been described by government officials as an area witnessing "super spread" of the coronavirus infection.

The origin of the infection is suspected to be a wholesale fish vendor at the local Kumarichanda market. Dozens of people, including autorickshaw drivers, fishermen and their families have tested positive in the area encompassing three wards of the local corporation. There has always been constant movement of fish workers between villages like Poonthura and Kanyakumari on the Tamil Nadu border.

"It can be described as a local super-spread," said minister-in-charge of the district, Kadakampally Surendran, denying any evidence of a community spread yet.

A densely-populated area



Special Armed Police commandos in Poonthura, 12 km from Thiruvananthapuram. Express

with congested living arrangements, a large-scale spread of the virus here on the lines of Dharavi

in Mumbai could spell disaster for health officials who have been carrying out testing using rapid

antigen kits.

On Wednesday alone, 55 people from Poonthura and ad-

joining areas tested positive for the infection. After a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, it was decided to strengthen restrictions that are already in place as part of the triple lockdown in Thiruvananthapuram. Entry and exit to the area will be allowed only for those with essential duties.

A statement from the Health Minister's office said testing will be intensified in clusters reporting higher incidence of cases so that asymptomatic persons and those with mild symptoms can be identified faster.

Fishing activities have been suspended in Poonthura until further notice. Coast Guard, Coastal Security and Marine Enforcement wings of the state police have been deputed to prevent the movement of fishing boats between Poonthura and the villages on the Tamil Nadu border. Special Armed Police commandos have been posted in the village to ensure implementation of the lockdown.

Since a majority of the residents in Poonthura and adjoining villages have livelihoods strung to fishing, the government has decided to provide five kg of free ration to families in the area.

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, JULY 8

AMID A spike in Covid-19 cases in Telangana, Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan's move to directly reach out to people and her statements that she is not happy with the state's response has not gone down well with the K Chandrashekar Rao government, according to sources.

Last week, after allegations of patients being overcharged or turned away by private hospitals started coming in, Soundararajan, a gynaecologist herself, called Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and Special Chief Secretary (Health) Shanti Kumari to Raj Bhavan on Monday for a discussion.

The officials, however, cited prior engagements and skipped the meeting. Not to be deterred, Soundararajan scheduled a video conference Tuesday morning with the top management of several super-specialty hospitals, including a few accused of overcharging patients, and gave them a piece of her mind, a Raj Bhavan official said.

The Governor also took to Twitter and started interacting with people, and soon complaints



Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan

of negligence, overcharging, and non-availability of beds started pouring in. The Governor sought details like the patient's name and the nearest hospital and asked her office to follow up on the cases instead of directing them to government officials concerned.

Two hours later, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and Special Chief Secretary (Health) Shanti Kumari reached the Raj Bhavan to discuss the Governor's concerns.

Also, since Tuesday evening, several TRS ministers were seen responding quickly to messages and videos posted by people seeking admission in government or private hospitals.

According to sources, the Telangana government has been wary of Soundararajan questioning officials on various issues. Her background as the BJP's national

secretary and president of its Tamil Nadu unit has also contributed to the uneasy relationship between the government and the Raj Bhavan, the sources said.

On June 10, she issued a statement that she was unhappy with the state government's handling of the Covid-19 crisis. She expressed concerns over low testing and ticked off the government for not responding to her requests for data.

On June 16, as Covid cases started spiking in Hyderabad, the Governor held a video discussion with a group of prominent citizens, including a former health secretary, a former DGP, members of Indian Medical Association, researchers and people who had recovered from Covid-19. "The discussion was about the Corona situation in the state and how it was being handled and what steps needed to be taken, and it did not go down well with Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. The CM was also unhappy with the Governor's statements," an official said.

Following her statements, BJP chief J P Nadla criticised the state government. "The CM and ministers are concerned but as of now they don't want to say anything openly," a senior TRS leader said.

## 'How could I take backseat due to fear of death... will be history or part of it'

WITH SENIOR citizens being particularly vulnerable to Covid-19, 13.8 per cent of those aged above 60 infected by coronavirus have died in Mumbai, as opposed to the average fatality rate of 5.7 per cent for all age groups. While most doctors, who work as consultants, are practising tele medicine from home, some, despite being senior citizens, are walking into hospitals and clinics every day to treat patients.

The *Indian Express* spoke to a few of them.

**Dr R B Dastur (67), Medical Director of Bhatia hospital**

R B Dastur has been going to Bhatia hospital every single day



since March. "My age is against me. But I cannot not go," he said, adding that this is the time doctors need to step out as it's their duty. "Just like when a fire starts, a fireman cannot say I can't go inside because it's too hot, it's similar for us. This is the fire we need to douse."

When the pandemic began, 51 staffers in Bhatia hospital got infected. The fear of infection led to multiple resignations, with nurses and ward boys refusing to join work. The staffers in the canteen also quit. Dastur had to go to hospital to negotiate with nurses, promising them accommodation

and higher salary. At present, of the 300 consultants, less than 15 to 20 doctors are coming to work regularly. "How long can we stay away? We have to learn to live with the pandemic."

**Dr Anil Pachnekar (60), General Physician**



Anil Pachnekar has been working in Dharavi for 35 years. Along with BMC, he has been instrumental in containing Covid-19 in five hotspots of the vast slum. He had mobilised 50 private doctors in April and started making door-

to-door visits to detect cases of cough, cold and fever. The aggressive efforts helped in faster detection of Covid-19 cases.

In Dharavi, home to lakhs of people with low incomes, residents hesitate to interact with civic officials. "But they open up to us. They listen to us as we have been treating them all these years. I realised I have to do my bit in saving lives. So, I let my junior doctors handle my clinic and have started going door to door to look for suspected cases along with BMC workers," Pachnekar said.

The 60-year-old would do a door-to-door survey from 9 am till 3 pm, visiting over 300 houses daily. He has diabetes but "it is under control". He had to ensure he does not put his children, both re-

nal transplant patients, at risk. "I used to go home scared. I would bathe for an hour after returning," he said.

**Dr Sujata Baveja (62), Microbiologist**



The head of microbiology at Sion hospital did not take a single day off from March until June. From handling laboratory testing to coordinating the fever clinic, training staff on antigen test to conducting sero-surveillance and making policy decisions, she has supported BMC's efforts.

The 62-year-old lives with her

husband, aged 65. She cooks in the morning and leaves for the hospital. "He manages the house," she said. "As the head of the microbiology department, I knew I had to keep working. How could I take a backseat due to fear of death? I thought either I will be history or become a part of history."

**Dr Behram S Pardiwalla (66), Consultant Physician**



Behram S Pardiwalla worked until Wockhardt hospital was forced to shut down fully in the first week of April after 82 doctors and

staffers tested positive. The index case was a heart patient who later turned out to be Covid-19 positive. Aged 66, with hypertension, a childhood episode of polio infection and obesity, Pardiwalla decided to stay home and consult through video calls.

"But I realised I cannot consult through tele medicine forever. My family was not very happy when I decided to go back to hospital." He treats Covid-19 patients too, but indirectly, junior doctors report the patient's condition to him and he directs the line of treatment. "This pandemic will change how we see patients. The personal touch is lost. I can't touch a patient's arm to comfort them."

**Dr Avinash Bhondwe**

(61), General Physician

The IMA Maharashtra president kept his Pune clinic open even when several general physi-

cians downed their shutters in March and April. He has diagnosed 50 Covid-19 patients in three months. His only safety gear — an N-95 mask.

He works for eight hours a day. Once he reaches home, he immediately takes a bath. "Social distancing is not possible at home." "Doctors are willing to pay for PPE. But the government needs to ensure that general physicians like me get access to it. If we get infected, the government is to be blamed."

## J&K IPS officer suspended for 'gross misconduct'

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, JULY 8

SENIOR IPS officer Basant Rath was on Wednesday suspended with immediate effect by the central government in connection with "repeated instances of gross misconduct and misbehaviour".

The action comes a fortnight after Rath lodged a complaint with police against Jammu and Kashmir DGP Dilbagh Singh citing "apprehensions about my life, liberty and bald head". An order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs said, "A disciplinary proceeding against Shri Basant Rath (IPS: RR: 2000, JK) is contemplated in connection with repeated instances of gross misconduct and misbehaviour, which have been brought to the notice of the Government. During the period of suspension, Rath's headquarters shall be Jammu and he will not leave it without obtaining permission of Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police."

It added that during the period of suspension, Rath shall be paid the subsistence allowances and dearness allowance as admissible under Rule 4 of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969, on production of a certificate that he is not engaged in any other employment, business, profession or vocation.

Rath could not be reached for comment as he did not respond to repeated phone calls.

A 2000-batch IPS officer who



Basant Rath

was posted as IGP Home Guards in Jammu and Kashmir. Rath had on June 25 lodged a written complaint at Gandhi Nagar police station requesting the SHO to "take note of my apprehensions about my life, liberty and bald head". The "reason", Rath had written, was "certain activities of Sh. Dilbagh Singh, IPS, 1987 batch, currently DGP, UT of J and K". He had marked a copy of the written complaint to the DGP.

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

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

Promoted as IGP in 2018, Rath became popular among people for his effective regulation of traffic. However, his stint as IGP-Traffic was short-lived. He was then made IG Home Guards.

## Called Jaishankar several times, China action incredibly aggressive: Pompeo

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

THREE DAYS after *The Indian Express* reported the quiet phone call between US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and External Affairs minister S Jaishankar, Pompeo on Wednesday confirmed that he had spoken with Jaishankar a "number of times". He also said that the Chinese troops took "incredibly aggressive action" and that the Indians have "done their best" to respond to that.

Referring to China's new territorial claims with Bhutan, Pompeo said that Beijing has a "pattern of instigating territorial disputes".

"The world shouldn't allow this bullying to take place, nor should it be permitted to continue," Pompeo told reporters in Washington DC.

Asked about the situation between India and China, he said,



Pompeo said India has 'done their best to respond' to China. File

"I have spoken with Foreign Minister Jaishankar a number of times about this. The Chinese took incredibly aggressive action; the Indians have done their best to respond to that."

*The Indian Express* had reported on July 5 that Pompeo had called Jaishankar after the June 15 clash between Chinese and Indian troops in Ladakh's Galwan Valley, when tension between

the two sides was at its peak. There have been at least three occasions since March when Pompeo and Jaishankar have interacted over phone, but this call in late-June was the first after the clashes in Galwan, which killed 20 Indian soldiers. It was kept under wraps for "strategic reasons", since Indian and Chinese sides were engaged in talks between June 22 and 24.

Pompeo on Wednesday said, "I put this in the context of (Communist Party of China) general secretary Xi Jinping and his behaviour throughout the region — indeed throughout the world. I don't think it's possible to look at that particular instance of Chinese Communist Party aggression in isolation. I think you need to put it in the larger context...when I was up there once before, we talked about the number of maritime and boundaries disputes with the Chinese Communist Party is engaged..."

"I think it's unequaled any place else in the world; there aren't many neighbours that can satisfactorily say that they know where their sovereignty ends and that the Chinese Communist Party will respect that sovereignty."

"That's certainly true now for the people of Bhutan, as well," he said.

Pompeo said, "This is what the world must come together to respond to — this increasing

revisionist effort the Chinese Communist Party is engaged in, something that (US) President (Donald) Trump has taken incredibly seriously."

He said that the US had not done that in previous administrations. "We responded to this in a way that we think is appropriate, and we have attempted to communicate to the Chinese leadership that we are serious about this."

Pompeo's reference to the Chinese territorial claims on Bhutanese territory comes days after it emerged that Beijing had claimed the Sakteng wildlife sanctuary in eastern Bhutan as its own territory. Bhutan has rejected the claims, and plans to respond to it when the next border talks take place with China.

There has been considerable disquiet in Delhi over Beijing's recent claims on Bhutanese territory, which has never been brought up in the previous 24 rounds of boundary talks.

## Gangster Act invoked against Lucknow CAA violence accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JULY 8

AT LEAST 50 people facing police cases for alleged violence during anti-CAA protests in Lucknow in December, have been booked under the stringent Gangster Act. At least 10 of them have been rearrested.

Nilabja Choudhury, joint commissioner of Lucknow Police, said the Gangster Act has been invoked against people who are facing serious charges in connection with the anti-CAA violence. "We have instructed police stations to invoke the Act against people who indulged in arson and vandalism," he said.

The Gangster Act has been invoked in cases lodged at Thakurganj, Kaiserbagh and Hasanganj police stations. The Act was invoked at different times over the last three weeks.

At Thakurganj, at least 25 people have been booked under the Act, said officials, with 15 each at Kaiserbagh and Hasanganj.

## CAA PROTESTS IN LUCKNOW

# Cart puller held, cops press ahead with recovery of damages

ASADREHMAN  
LUCKNOW, JULY 8

PRESSING ahead with recovery of damages related to the anti-CAA and NRC protests of December 2019, the Lucknow police last week arrested a man who pulls a cart for a living for failure to pay up. The city administration's plans to auction two shops in Hasanganj area on July 16 as part of the process has hit a hurdle though, with one of the properties to be auctioned not owned by the person served the recovery notice.

On July 2, the administration sealed one more property — a welding workshop in Khurram Nagar owned by Mohammad Nafees, accused of vandalism and arson in Hazratganj area on December 19 last year. The date for its auction has not been announced yet.

Tehsildar (Sadar) Shambhu Sharan, who is overseeing the recovery process in Lucknow, said Mohammad Kaleem (38) was arrested on Friday as he had failed to pay the damages. "We will be arresting others too, but they are absconding. Kaleem will be released after 14 days and we will see what assets he has and will auction them."

Kaleem is among 13 people ordered to pay Rs 21.76 lakh in all as damages in the Hasanganj area.

Kaleem's wife Nargis says she can't understand why he was arrested again, having been jailed for a month in December. The family of six live in a hut near Bithauli Chauraha in Lucknow. "Since the lockdown there has been no work," she says.

The two shops up for auction on July 16 are a big garment store, NY Fashion Bazaar, and a junk shop. While Dharamveer Singh had been served recovery notice regarding NY Fashion Bazaar, on Tuesday, Munawwar Ali Siddiqui approached Tehsildar Sharan with papers for the property.

Sharan told *The Indian Express*, "I told him he should be present when the auction happens. Whatever is inside the shop will be auctioned, while the shop won't be. He said the shop is empty. If there is nothing in the shop, we will see what has to be done next."

Dharamveer, 28, who worked as an assistant manager at NY Fashion Bazaar, was arrested on December 19, and booked for rioting and attempt to murder apart from under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. Released on bail after a month and back home in Moradabad district, he said he was working at the outlet on a monthly salary of Rs 22,000.

"On December 19, I was sent to Siddiqui's house to collect the keys to the store. Siddiqui had locked the shop as NY Fashion Bazaar had not paid rent, but with



NY Fashion Bazaar in Hasanganj area of Lucknow is among two shops up for auction. Express

## Policemen accused in Vadodara 'custodial death' case absconding

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
VADODARA, AHMEDABAD,  
JULY 8

TWO DAYS after six Vadodara policemen were booked over the alleged custodial death of a 65-year-old migrant worker from Telangana the investigating officers claimed the accused have gone into hiding.

"Immediately after the FIR was lodged, all of them went into hiding. We have formed several teams that are also actively raiding various locations but they are yet to be traced. Their phones are switched off as well. We will arrest them soon," said Deepak Meghani, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone 1.

Babu Sheikh Nisar from Telangana's Kamareddy district was picked up by police on December 10 over a theft. He was allegedly tortured at Fatehgunj police station and has gone missing since.

Reports placed on record of the Gujarat High Court have sug-

gested that Nisar was picked up at 11.30 am and was allowed to leave the police station at 5.25 pm after "making a note in the police station diary".

The Gujarat government sought a week's time on Monday on the ground that ACP E-Division SG Patil "is diligently and strenuously making an attempt to reach to the truth". The court directed that the report on the missing complaint be submitted on or before July 10.

The Vadodara police, which had despatched several teams to look for the accused, claimed it had no leads yet. On Wednesday, three accused LRD jawans — Yogendra Jilansinh, Rajiv Savijbhai and Hitesh Shambubhai — were suspended.

Accused police inspector DB Gohil was transferred to Ahmedabad a week before the FIR was lodged and sub-inspector DM Rabari was transferred to Ahmedabad city two months ago. LRD jawan Pankaj Majibhai was transferred to Amreli two months ago.

## Thoothukudi custodial deaths: CBI takes over probe

New Delhi: The CBI has taken over investigations into the killing of a father-son duo after alleged torture by police personnel at Sathankulam Police Station in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district, officials said on Wednesday.

The CBI has dispatched a special team to conduct the probe in which several Tamil Nadu Police personnel are under the scanner and some have al-

ready been arrested by the state police, they said.

"CBI has registered two cases on the allegations of custodial death of two traders in Kovilpatti district on the request of Tamil Nadu government and further notification from government of India," CBI Spokesperson R K Gaur said.

The team will be seeking the custody of the arrested accused, the sources said. PTI

## WALK IN THE PARK, 3 MONTHS ON

People in a Srinagar garden on Wednesday, a day after the Jammu and Kashmir administration ordered the reopening of all gardens and parks as part of a gradual unlocking process in the Union Territory. Shuaib Masoodi

## ASI HERITAGE SITES

# Week after govt announcement, many monuments remain shut

DIVYAA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

A WEEK after the government announced the reopening of all centrally protected monuments and sites from July 6, some of the country's most popular heritage spots, including the Taj Mahal in Agra, continue to remain shut due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on Monday reopened more than 2,000 heritage sites, but the Taj Mahal and other monuments in Agra remained out of bounds. In a signed order, Agra District Magistrate Prabhu N Singh declared all monuments in the city, including the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Akbar's Tomb and Itmad-ud-Daula Tomb, as "buffer zones" after 55 new cases were reported in the city over a period of four days. Any access to the heritage sites could lead to further spread of the infection, the order stated.

Although neither the district administration nor the ASI put any date on the reopening of the

Taj Mahal, sources told *The Indian Express* that the monument is unlikely to reopen before the end of July.

ASI officials in Maharashtra said that all the monuments in the state will continue to remain closed till the end of the month, or till further orders. Officials from the ASI's Mumbai, Aurangabad and Nagpur circles — which handle monuments such as the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, Raigad Fort and the Elephanta Caves — confirmed that as per state orders, the monuments have not been reopened.

Meanwhile, the Charminar and the Golconda Fort, two of Hyderabad's most famous monuments, were opened for visitors by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on Monday morning, only to be shut later in the day after the Telangana government opposed their reopening.

An ASI official from the Hyderabad Circle said that a few people had booked their tickets online and were allowed in but the sale of tickets had to be stopped after the local administration expressed apprehensions

that it could lead to violation of social distancing norms.

Union Culture Minister Prahlad Patel, while announcing the reopening of monuments last week, had assured that it will be done "in compliance of the state and district administration". Around one-third of the top revenue generating and popular monuments are located in the five states that are worst affected by the pandemic — Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh.

Even in the case of monuments that have reopened, only a handful of people visited them. According to officials, only 60 people bought tickets to visit the Qutub Minar on Tuesday, while Jodhpur's Chittorgarh Fort and Kumbhalgarh Fort recorded a footfall of a mere 150 each. Bhopal's Gwalior Fort, Bellary Fort in Hampi and the Mattancherry Palace Museum in Thiruvananthapuram also registered few visitors.

Officials, however, admitted that the low footfall was expected and they are anticipating things to get better in the months to come.

## Repatriated 4,000 Indians stuck overseas since May: Navy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

COVERING A distance of 23,000 km over 55 days, the Navy has repatriated nearly 4,000 Indian citizens stuck overseas due to the Covid-19 pandemic from three different countries as part of its Operation Samudra Setu.

The operation, which brought back 3,992 Indians, began on May 5 and included four vessels — INS Jalashwa, INS Airavat, INS Shardul and INS Magar — concluded on July 1, when the last ship brought back 686 Indians from Bandar Abbas in Iran to Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu.

The most number of people were repatriated from Male, Maldives — 2386. The Navy also brought back 920 Indians from Bandar Abbas, and another 686 Indians from Colombo, Sri Lanka.

A statement released by the Navy on Wednesday said Operation Samudra Setu was taken up "in these trying times and difficult conditions" to "evacuate our distressed citizens from overseas".

## Tent City at Statue of Unity site is open — as a wedding venue

ADITIRAJA  
VADODARA, JULY 8

A PANDAL, a complimentary banquet hall, e-invites, henna artists, music, all-day meals, including starters and mocktails — and of course, hand sanitisers, social distancing and seating only for 50.

Bookings are open for customised wedding packages in the Statue of Unity complex, with the Gujarat government planning to open up tourist destinations after the three-month Covid lockdown.

The wedding venue is Statue

of Unity Tent City 1, located on Dyke 4 of the Narmada Dam about 4 km from the 182-metre statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"The picturesque location and open-to-sky setting with Statue of Unity and Narmada Dam in the backdrop makes for a perfect destination wedding," says Chetan Verma, Manager-Operations, Statue of Unity Tent City 1, which has 60 tents and two "Presidential Cottages".

"We have drawn up packages for 50 persons as per the state government's Covid guidelines. The cost per package is about Rs 2.5 lakh, which is extremely affordable as our cottages cost



Packages drawn up for 50 people as per Covid guidelines. The cost per package is Rs 2.5 lakh. File

about Rs 12,000 each per night at the regular price (before the lockdown)," says Verma.

Tent City 1 is being developed, operated and managed by Lalooji and Sons, an Ahmedabad-based event management company, on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Officials say that ever since it opened on October 27 last year, it has mainly hosted official events, starting with the World Bank Conference, which saw the participation of World Bank CEO David Malpass, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.

Over the next five months,

until the lockdown in March, three weddings were held, including that of the daughter of Principal Secretary (Health) Dr Jayanti Ravi.

Before the lockdown, the complex drew an average of 15,000 visitors on weekdays and 22,000 over weekends.

Says Nilesh Dubey, Kevadia Deputy Collector and Chief Administrator of Statue of Unity: "Promoting the location for destination weddings is a good idea, and will be good for the Statue of Unity in the long run. We don't have word yet on when tourist spots can open, but we are prepared. The Tent City is open."

# Centre has taken serious note of gold smuggling case, says Union minister

**SHAJUPHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JULY 8

A DAY after senior IAS officer M Sivasankar was removed as principal secretary to the Kerala CM over his alleged links with Swapna Suresh, a key figure in the foiled attempt to smuggle in 30 kg gold from the UAE through diplomatic channels, the Opposition on Wednesday doubled down in its attack on CM Pinarayi Vijayan.

While Union MoS and senior BJP leader from Kerala, M Muralaeeharan, stated that the Centre has "taken a serious note of the scam and initiated steps to identify the culprits", Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala of the Congress demanded Vijayan's resignation. "The CMO is involved in the smuggling scandal. Removal of the principal secretary would not be enough to exonerate the CM," Chennithala said.

Both parties announced constituency-level agitations demanding Vijayan's resignation over the issue. In an editorial in party mouthpiece 'Janayugam', CPI(M)'s LDF ally CPI said the situation should have been avoided.

Hours after Muralaeeharan said that the CM cannot escape from blame in the case, Vijayan wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding "an effective



Vijayan sought a coordinated probe by central agencies

and coordinated investigation into the incident by all central agencies". He wrote, "The scope of the probe should cover all aspects from the source to the end of utilisation. Every link of this crime should be unravelled so that such incidents do not occur."

In a series of tweets late on Wednesday night, Muralaeeharan wrote the Union government will "ensure that all those associated with this crime will be brought to book. @vijayanpinarayi [Vijayan's Twitter handle] is trying to wash off his hands from the case by linking it to the UAE Consulate in Kerala. He is conveniently ignoring the fact that the carrier was an employee of a Dpt headed by @CMOKerala."

Maintaining that Swapna "enjoyed enormous influence and clout, which was clearly beyond her profile in Govt", he wrote that "Govt will ensure a foolproof

probe...by involving all relevant Central Agencies. The Customs Dept approached @MEAIndia to seek permission to gather more information from Consular officials". The matter, he stated, is "under MEA consideration".

With the Opposition trying to project the emerging political scenario in the LDF government's last year — a throwback to the solar scam of the previous UDF government in which a woman named Saritha S Nair was the key figure — Muralaeeharan said there is nothing wrong in comparing the two.

Muralaeeharan told the media Swapna has influence in the government to even bypass the chief secretary. "The Chief Minister should be ready to probe into the corruption racket related to his office. She has got links with higher-ups in the party. The principal secretary is only a tool," he said.

On Monday, Vijayan had said Swapna was only a contract employee under Kerala Information Technology Infrastructure Limited, under the IT Department, a portfolio he handles. However, on Wednesday the Opposition released documents purportedly showing Swapna had been a key member of the organising team of 'Space Conclave 2020', held by the IT Department in January. She had sent invitations to dignitaries on behalf of the state government for the event, the Opposition said.

# Smugglers use relaxed checks amid Covid, get in gold through expats in spl flights: Customs

**SHAJUPHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 8

EXPLOITING THE Covid-19 situation and inability of Customs officials at airports to do thorough check of passengers, gold smugglers have turned special chartered flights bringing back expats from West Asia to Kerala into a lucrative channel, according to sources in the Customs department and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

While Sunday's seizure of 30 kg gold from a diplomatic cargo at Thiruvananthapuram airport hit national headlines, Customs Commissioner (Kochi) Sumit Kumar said they have so far seized two dozen cases from chartered flights returning with expats from Gulf countries in which 20 kg gold have been detected from four airports in the state handling evacuation flights.

Kumar pointed out that gold smugglers operating in these West Asian countries are using passengers in evacuation flights as carriers. "A chartered flight would require only Rs 13 lakh to Rs 14 lakh (to fly to Kerala). A smuggling syndicate can easily pay that much and make a section of passengers carriers of gold by paying for their ticket, or (giving them) an amount as commission. The gangs can send gold

worth several crores in that manner."

Taking advantage of the situation, smugglers have managed to recruit people who are in distress, he said.

A DRI official said they had input that nearly 90 passengers in a single chartered flight have landed in Kozhikode with smuggled gold. Stating that large quantities of gold have been smuggled in through chartered flights, the DRI official said, "The carriers individually do not bring more than 1 kg gold. But when a chunk of passengers in a flight work as carriers, they together bring in several kilograms of gold."

A source said: "Gold in small quantities would be inserted in private parts of passengers. Such concealment goes undetected even in regular frisking (at normal times). In most smuggling cases detected in chartered flights, passengers were found to have concealed gold in their undergarments."

For a thorough checking at the time of Covid-19, passengers have to be taken to hospitals maintaining health protocols, a source said. "For that, we require the Health Department's assistance and infrastructure. At present, it is not possible to make thousands of passengers undergo such an examination every day. We are also facing a shortage of manpower," the source said.

# Govt silent about US deportation threat: Cong

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

A DAY after the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement said international students whose classes are moving completely online will be deported from the country, the Congress accused the Centre of not paying heed to the threat thousands of Indian students now face.

India and Indians have been insulted by the US's arbitrary decision and the Indian government seems clueless, the party said on Wednesday.

"Has the government used any diplomatic, economic, educational or any power to immediately get this reversed apart from 'jumble baazi'. This is on the face of it a perverse decision. We don't need to speak on it from a position of weakness. India needs to shout loud and clear and we need to force the US to roll back such a ridiculous, midstream decision but the government seems clueless. We have heard of this for the last two-three days but we have heard nothing from the Government," Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said. Singhvi also said the US is canceling H-1B "left, right and centre", which will affect a large number of Indians.

The US, he said, issues around 85,000 H-1B visas every year and India takes 70% of all H-1B visas issued annually. The move, Singhvi said, will hit nearly 85,000 workers who were issued H-1B visas this year out of 2,25,000 applicants.

# CBSE syllabus cuts trigger row, board clarifies changes for this year only

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

A DAY after the CBSE decided to rationalise its curriculum for Classes IX to XII for the current academic year, the opposition parties on Wednesday criticised the board for the choice of topics it decided to drop. However, the CBSE has clarified that the topics dropped have been covered in previous classes, and will apply for this academic year only.

Among the topics dropped for Class X students in social science were "Democracy and Diversity", "Gender, Religion and Caste", "Popular Struggles and Movements" and "Challenges to Democracy". For senior secondary students, "Citizenship", "Nationalism", "Secularism", and "Federalism" have been dropped in Political Science and "Understanding Partition" has been dropped in History.

These choices have been criticised by opposition leaders.

Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi said he was planning to approach the Supreme Court in his personal capacity as a lawyer to challenge the CBSE decision. He said, "What message are you trying to send? Are you telling the students that all these topics do not matter and they have no value?"

His party colleague Shashi Tharoor tweeted, "...One has to doubt the motives of those who selected the topics to drop. Have they decided democracy, diver-

sity, secularism & the like are more dispensable concepts for tomorrow's citizens?"

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted, "Shocked to know that the Central government has dropped topics like Citizenship, Federalism, Secularism and Partition in the name of reducing CBSE course during Covid-19 crisis..."

The CBSE responded to the criticism by saying it was done to "reduce exam stress of students due to the prevailing health emergency".

According to a senior CBSE official, the rationalised syllabus announced Tuesday was only for examination purposes. "Students will not be assessed on these topics. Schools were clearly told on Tuesday that teachers would have to explain these topics to the students," the official said.

The senior CBSE official told *The Indian Express* most of the topics quoted by politicians on Wednesday have already been covered in lower grades. "Secularism, for instance, is in the Class 8 textbook," the official said.

By Wednesday evening, the board had issued a statement in response to the criticism, stating that the 30 per cent reduction in syllabus is a "one-time measure only" to "reduce the exam stress of students due to the prevailing health emergency situation and prevent learning gaps."



# SAFETY FIRST

Healthcare workers decontaminate themselves before removing their protective suits after a checkup in Navi Mumbai Wednesday. *Amit Chakravarty*

# Final-year exams: UGC to ask all states to adopt revised guidelines

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

THE UNIVERSITY Grants Commission (UGC) will ask all states to adopt the revised guidelines on the final-year exams, even if they had announced cancellation earlier, a senior officer of the higher education regulator said on Wednesday.

The UGC this week announced compulsory exams for final-year students based on the recommendations of an internal committee. Following this, the Maharashtra Higher and Technical Education Minister wrote to Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal, stating that in his opinion the July 6 guidelines are not mandatory but "mere advisory like the earlier guidelines".

However, UGC Secretary Rajneesh Jain told Rajya Sabha TV on Wednesday that the regulator will ask state govern-

ments that had earlier cancelled exams to reconsider their decision. Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh had scrapped examinations in view of the Covid-19 outbreak. Of these, only Maharashtra has expressed unwillingness to conduct exams after the Union government said it was compulsory.

"We have learned that some state governments have announced that examinations will not be held. If we (UGC) have issued guidelines, then all states and all universities will have to adopt it. The states which have made announcements, we will ask them to reconsider it," Jain said to Rajya Sabha TV.

On Wednesday, the HRD Ministry issued SOPs to conduct final-year exams, which include wearing masks and gloves and disinfection of test centre's floors and walls, doors, gates.

# Kerala govt enables access to online classes for 2.42 lakh students

**RITIKA CHOPRA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

KERALA HAS taken a significant step towards bridging the digital divide in education by ensuring that 2.42 lakh students marked out by the government for lacking access to online classes now have the means, the state's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan project director Dr AP Kuttikrishnan told *The Indian Express*.

Since May 15, the state government has rallied support from politicians and civil society to provide television sets to anganwadis, libraries, schools and study centres where left-out students can watch their lessons, aired on the state educational channel, together. In other words, access was ensured by providing devices at common areas where a group of students can study together.

A total of 20,000 television sets have been provided to date. Of these, about 2,000 were given

**A total of 20,000 television sets have been provided to date**

by the government and its departments. The remaining were either donated by civil society organisations, private individuals and politicians or purchased from money raised by them.

"A majority of the television sets were purchased using the money donated by teachers organisations, CSR initiatives of industries and private individuals. About Rs 1.3 crore was collected like this," Kuttikrishnan said.

The state was among the first in the country to launch online classes for the 45 lakh students enrolled in Classes 10 to 12 across all government schools. The classes are being telecast since June 1 on the educational channel IT@School Vickers channel.

While students in primary classes watch online lessons

an hour every day, middle school students spend one-and-a-half hours and senior students about two hours. The lessons are also available on Youtube so that students who missed out can watch them later. "After the online lessons are over, our teachers then reach out to students to take their questions and clear their doubts," Kuttikrishnan said.

For students in tribal and shadow areas, Kuttikrishnan said, teachers have been tasked to reach out to them at least once a week so that they can watch the classes on the teacher's device and make up for lost instructional time.

The COVID-induced classroom shutdown since March 19 has forced almost all states to move their classes online. With the reopening of educational institutions uncertain, the Union government is now making an effort to assess how many students do not have access to computers or computer-like devices and the Internet to attend online classes.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU  
**Highways and Minor Ports Department**  
**TAMIL NADU ROAD DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (TNRDC)**  
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING  
INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
IFP No.: TNRDC/CPRR/JICA/PQ/002/2020  
Employer: Highways and Minor Ports Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu  
Country: India  
JICA Loan No.: ID-P278 dated January 18, 2019  
Project Name: Construction of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (Phase-I)  
Contract Name: Construction of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Phase-I (Northern Port Access Road) (NPAR) Connecting Ennore Port with Thatchur on NH-5 including Link Road to Chennai Outer Ring Road from NPAR

- The Highways and Minor Ports Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, India has received a loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of Construction of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (Phase-I) (hereinafter called "the Project") and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contracts for Construction of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Phase-I (Northern Port Access Road) resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
- The Tamil Nadu Road Development Company Ltd (TNRDC) now intends to prequalify firms for the Construction of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Phase-I (Northern Port Access Road) (NPAR) Connecting Ennore Port with Thatchur on NH-5 including Link Road to Chennai Outer Ring Road from NPAR.
- It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in November 2020.
- Pre-qualification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries, as defined in the Prequalification Document.
- Interested Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Pre-qualification Document during office hours at:  
**M/s. Tamil Nadu Road Development Company Ltd, Chief General Manager**  
No.171, II Floor, Tamil Nadu Maritime Building, South Kesavaperumal Puram, (Near Greenways Road MRTS Station), Raja Annamalai Puram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. PIN : 600 028 (From 10.00 Hrs. to 16.00 Hrs.)  
Phone: 91-44-2495 2890 / 3800 - Fax: 91-44-2493 3800  
E-Mail: tenders@tnrdc.com - Web: www.tnrdc.com
- The Prequalification Document may be purchased by interested Applicants on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of INR 15,000/- or US\$200/- (including GST). The method of payment will be Account Payee Demand Draft/Bankers Cheque in favour of Tamil Nadu Road Development Company Ltd, Payable at Chennai or through the online or offline through NEFT/RTGS to the Account of Tamil Nadu Road Development Company Ltd (TNRDC), A/c No.121912900000425, IFSC Code:KVBL0001219, Karur Vysya Bank, Whites Road Branch, Chennai. The document will be sent by Courier/Post or can be collected by the Authorised Representative of the Applicant.
- Applications for Prequalification must be delivered to the address mentioned above in para 5 on or before 16:00 Hours on 04 September 2020.

DIPR/557/DISPLAY/2020

# Goa ex-minister dies, daughter performs last rites in PPE kit

**SMITA NAIR**  
PANAJI, JULY 8

"COVID IS here... but this is the last chance we get to show that we care as a family. Take it," said Yuti Amonkar a day after she lit the pyre of her father, former health minister Dr Suresh Amonkar, who succumbed to Covid-19 on Monday. He was 68.

"I have been reading of people not even getting to do this... there are cases where many refused out of fear of infection," Yuti (28) said.

Photographs of Yuti lighting the pyre at Amona in Bicholim taluka struck a chord, as visuals in the local press showed her performing the rites in a white PPE and with an earthen pot on her shoulder.

Amonkar, who was ill for a few years, tested positive for Covid-19 on June 22 and succumbed to the infection on July 6.

He entered the Assembly from Pale in 1999, and held the portfolio of Health, Social Welfare and Labour and Employment in the Francisco Sardinha cabinet. He continued as minister in Manohar

Parrikar's cabinet. He also served as president of the Goa wing of BJP.

Yuti, who works as a software engineer, said that on July 6 evening, she saw a call from the hospital on her mother's phone. "It was the one," she said.

After her father tested positive, Yuti was shifted to a quarantine centre as she and some others tested positive too. "He used to talk to us on phone and ask if we had any symptoms," she recalled. The calls stopped after he was put on a ventilator.

Soon after the phone call on July 6, the family had to decide who would light the pyre. "My sister asked me if I wanted to do it. I felt I had to do it, for my heart, for my father," Yuti said, explaining that it is not common in their families for a girl child to conduct last rites. In the morning, a team from ESI Hospital, Goa's Covid hospital, arrived with the PPE as they brought the body in an ambulance to Amona village.

Yuti performed the rituals in the PPE set as Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Ayush Minister Shripad Naik, officials from Sakhal Panchayat and Municipal Council and locals looked on.

**TATA POWER**  
The Tata Power Company Limited  
Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Horni Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001. Tel: 91 22 6665 8232 Fax: 91 22 6665 8901  
CIN: L28200MH1919PLC000567, Email: tatapower@tatapower.com, Website: www.tatapower.com

**NOTICE OF THE 101ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the One Hundred and First (101st) Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the Members of The Tata Power Company Limited ('the Company') will be held on Thursday, 30th July 2020 at 3.00 p.m. (IST) via two-way Video Conferencing ('VC facility')/Other Audio Visual Means ('OAVM') ONLY, to transact the business as set out in the Notice of the AGM. In accordance with the General Circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs dated 8th April 2020, 13th April 2020 and 5th May 2020 (collectively referred to as 'MCA Circulars') and the Securities and Exchange Board of India ('SEBI') Circular dated 12th May 2020, the Company has emailed the Notice of the 101st AGM along with the link to the Integrated Annual Report for FY20 on Tuesday, 7th July 2020 through electronic mode only, to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company or Registrar & Transfer Agent ('RTA'), TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited ('TSRD') and Depositories. The requirement of sending physical copies of the Annual Report has been dispensed with.**

The Integrated Annual Report of the Company for FY20, inter alia, containing the Notice and the Explanatory Statement of the 101st AGM, has been uploaded on the website of the Company at <https://www.tatapower.com/pdf/investor-relations/101AnnualReport-2019-20.pdf> and may also be accessed from the relevant section of the website of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited ('BSE') and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ('NSE') at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com), respectively. The AGM Notice is also available on the website of National Securities Depository Limited ('NSDL') at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

**Remote e-Voting:**

In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 ('the Act') read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time, Secretarial Standard - 2 on General Meetings issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended from time to time, the Company is providing to the Members the facility to exercise their right to vote at the 101st AGM by electronic means only before the AGM and during the proceedings of the AGM in respect of the business to be transacted at the AGM and for this purpose, the Company has appointed NSDL for facilitating voting through electronic means.

The detailed instructions for e-Voting are given in the Notice of the AGM. Members are requested to note the following:

- The remote e-Voting will commence on **Monday, 27th July 2020 (9.00 a.m. IST)** and will end on **Wednesday, 29th July 2020 (5.00 p.m. IST)**. The e-Voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter and Members will not be allowed to vote electronically beyond the said date and time.
- The voting rights of the Members (for voting through remote e-Voting or voting during the proceedings of the AGM) shall be in proportion to their share of the paid-up Equity Share Capital of the Company as on **Thursday, 23rd July 2020 ('Cut-Off Date')**. A person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the Cut-Off Date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-Voting as well as voting during the AGM.
- Any person who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a Member of the Company after the dispatch of the AGM Notice and holds shares as on the Cut-Off Date, i.e. Thursday, 23rd July 2020, may obtain the Login ID and password by sending a request at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or may contact on toll free number provided by NSDL:1800-222-990.
- Facility of voting through electronic voting system shall also be made available during the proceedings of the AGM. Members attending the AGM through VC/OAVM, who have not already cast their vote by remote e-Voting, shall be able to exercise their right during the AGM.
- Members who have already cast their vote by remote e-Voting prior to the AGM will be eligible to participate at the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again on such resolution(s) for which the Member has already cast the vote through remote e-Voting prior to the AGM.
- Members who need assistance before or during the AGM, can contact NSDL on [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or call on toll free no.:1800-222-990 or contact Mr. Amit Vishal, Senior Manager - NSDL at [amitv@nsdl.co.in](mailto:amitv@nsdl.co.in) or call on +91 22 24994360/+91 9920264780.

As per the SEBI Circular, no physical copies of the 101st AGM Notice and Integrated Annual Report will be sent to any Member. Members who have not yet registered their e-mail addresses are requested to follow the process mentioned below, **before 5.00 p.m. (IST) on Wednesday, 22nd July 2020**, for registering their e-mail addresses to receive the Notice of AGM and Integrated Annual Report for FY20 electronically and to receive login ID and password for e-Voting:

- For Members who hold shares in Electronic form:**
  - Visit the link <https://green.tsdarashaw.com/green/events/login/po>
  - Enter the DP ID & Client ID, PAN details and captcha code.
  - System will verify the Client ID and PAN details.
  - On successful verification, system will allow you to enter your e-mail address and mobile number.
  - Enter your e-mail address and mobile number.
  - The system will then confirm the e-mail address for the limited purpose of service of the Annual Report for FY20.
- For Members who hold shares in Physical form:**
  - Visit the link <https://green.tsdarashaw.com/green/events/login/po>
  - Enter the physical Folio Number, PAN details and captcha code.
  - In the event the PAN details are not available on record, Member to enter one of the share certificate's number.
  - System will verify the Folio Number and PAN details or the share certificate number.
  - On successful verification, system will allow you to enter your e-mail address and mobile number.
  - Enter your e-mail address and mobile number.
  - If PAN details are not available, the system will prompt the Member to upload a self-attested copy of the PAN card.
  - The system will then confirm the e-mail address for the limited purpose of service of the Annual Report for FY20.

**Update of bank account details:**

Members who have not updated their bank account details for receiving the dividends directly in their bank accounts through Electronic Clearing Service or any other means, may follow the following instructions to do so:

Physical Holding	Send hard copies of the following details/documents to the Registrar, TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited, 6-10, Haji Moosa Patrawala Industrial Estate (Near Famous Studio), 20, Dr. E. Moses Road, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai 400 011, latest by 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2020. a) a signed request letter mentioning your Name, Folio Number, complete address and following details relating to the Bank Account in which the dividend is to be received: i) Name and Branch of Bank and Bank Account type; ii) Bank Account Number and type allotted by your bank after implementation of Core Banking Solutions; and iii) 11 digit IFSC Code. b) Self-attested copy of cancelled cheque bearing the name of the Member or first holder, in case shares are held jointly; c) Self-attested copy of the PAN Card; and d) Self-attested copy of any document (such as Aadhar Card, Driving License, Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the Member as registered with the Company.
Demat Holding	Members holding shares in demat form are requested to update their Electronic Bank Mandate with their respective DPs.

Mr. P. N. Parikh (FCS 327) or failing him, Mr. Mitesh Dhabliwala (FCS 8331) of M/s. Parikh and Associates, Company Secretaries has been appointed by the Board of Directors of the Company as Scrutinizer for scrutinizing the remote e-Voting process as well as for voting during AGM, in a fair and transparent manner.

The results of the remote e-Voting and votes cast during the AGM shall be declared not later than 48 hours from the conclusion of the AGM. The results declared, along with the Scrutinizer's Report, shall be placed on the Company's website [www.tatapower.com](http://www.tatapower.com) and on the website of NSDL [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) immediately after their declaration, and communicated to the Stock Exchanges where the Company's Equity Shares are listed viz. BSE and NSE and be made available on their respective websites viz. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com).

**Book Closure:**

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** pursuant to Section 91 of the Act and the Rules framed thereunder, as amended from time to time, that the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from **Thursday, 16th July 2020 to Thursday, 30th July 2020 (both days inclusive)** for the purpose of payment of dividend of ₹ 1.55 per Equity Share of ₹ 1 each (155%) for the year ended 31st March 2020, when approved.

**NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that if the dividend, as recommended by the Board of Directors, is approved at the AGM, payment of such dividend, subject to deduction of tax at source, will be made on or after Monday, 3rd August 2020, as under:

- To all Beneficial Owners in respect of shares held in electronic form as per the data as may be made available by NSDL and Central Depository Services (India) Limited as of the close of business hours on Wednesday, 15th July 2020 and
- To all Members in respect of shares held in physical form after giving effect to valid transmission and transposition requests lodged with the Company as of the close of business hours on Wednesday, 15th July 2020.

Members are requested to notify immediately any change in their addresses and/or the Bank Mandate details to their respective DPs for shares held in electronic form and to the Company's RTA, TSRD for shares held in physical form at the following address:

TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited  
**Unit: The Tata Power Company Limited**  
6-10, Haji Moosa Patrawala Industrial Estate (near Famous Studio),  
20, Dr. E. Moses Road, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai 400 011.

Those Members who do not wish to avail of the electronic mode of remittance, are requested to furnish to the DPs/RTA, the Name and Branch of the Bank and the Bank Account Number allotted by their banks after implementation of Core Banking Solutions, which will be printed on the warrants.

**For The Tata Power Company Limited**  
H. M. Mistry  
Company Secretary  
FCS No.: 3606

Place : Mumbai  
Dated : 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

FROM PAGE ONE

LG Polymers indicted by probe

Director of Operations P P C Mohan Rao claimed that he had reached the factory at 3:55 am; General Manager (Production) G Raju claimed he arrived at 4:40 am; Safety Head claimed he reached the spot first at 3:23 am, while GM (Maintenance) claimed that he arrived at 3:56 am. However, the committee said that it verified with police and personnel of various relief and rescue agencies and checked CCTV footage to find that none of the top LG officials arrived before 5 am. "This needs further investigation," the report said. The report also notes that factory data from April 25 and April 28 indicated a spike in polymer content in Styrene. On May 7, the same process led to the leak. Similar spikes, the probe said, were noticed as early as April 4 but these were "totally ignored." The report said that LG Polymers had no effective onsite emergency plan or a strategy to tackle a Styrene vapour release. "LG Polymers did not take part

in any of the rescue or evacuation activities; rather, passed the entire responsibility to the district administration and the local community. LG Polymers failed to alert residents in the neighbourhoods by activating the siren, although the siren was in a working condition and had multiple activation points, including near the factory gate. This was a fatal lapse," said the committee. The probe committee red-flagged the "inadequate qualifications" of some staff who were assigned the maintenance of the Styrene tanks and the refrigeration process. "(Graduates) of ITI and Diplomas were designated as engineers and given high posts. The Technical Committee reported that even some Intermediate-pass staff were designated as 'Senior Engineer.' The responsibility for the absence of competent and qualified employees lies squarely with the management," the report said. Despite multiple requests, LG

Polymers did not provide any documentation showing standard practices for storage of Styrene at LG's facilities outside India. This raises the concern that less stringent standards may have been applied to the Indian facility, leading eventually to the disaster, the report said. On Wednesday, the 12 executives of LG Polymers, who were arrested July 7 were produced before a magistrate who remanded them to 15 days in judicial custody. They include: Managing Director and CEO Sunkey Jeong; Technical Director D S Kim; Additional Director (operations) P P C Mohan Rao; in-charge Styrene monitoring, K Srinivas Kiran Kumar; and production team leader Raju Satyanarayana. An LG Polymers spokesperson was unavailable for comment but on May 12, in its first communication after the leak, it had said that it apologised to the affected families, it would co-operate with the probe and bear medical expenses of those affected.

Board marks criterion may be dropped

The Boards subsequently announced alternative evaluation methods for the remaining exams. For instance, CBSE's special marking scheme involves awarding the average marks of the best-performing subjects to the scrapped examination. The disruption of Class 12 examinations was discussed at a meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) earlier this month. The JIC is made up of JEE chairpersons of all IITs. During the meeting, the JEE chairpersons proposed that the Class 12 criterion should be waived for 2020 given that different Boards have responded differently to the Covid outbreak.

"There was a consensus that the IITs, instead, should insist on rank holders to have passed their Board exams this year," said a JIC member who did not wish to be identified. "This would be a one-time exception," the member said. The Class 12 performance criterion isn't a make-or-break criterion for admissions even in an average year. "There are very few rank holders who are denied admission every year for either not scoring a minimum of 75 per cent marks or meeting the top 20 percentile cut-off. So, doing away (with this criterion) for one admission cycle isn't going to make a big difference," the member said. The JIC proposal will only be

implemented once it has the Joint Admission Board's (JAB) approval. JAB has directors of all IITs and representatives of the HRD Ministry as its members. A meeting of JAB has not been called yet. Apart from the Class 12 criterion, the IITs are also looking at the feasibility of conducting JEE (Advanced) for international students at Dhaka, Dubai, Kathmandu and Singapore. The IITs are apprehensive of arranging the exam at foreign locations as different Covid-related restrictions are in place in different countries. JEE (Advanced) will be held on September 27. This is the second time the examination has been rescheduled due to Covid.

Covid spike lifts oxygen support demand

to spike as state governments brace for a surge in cases. Consider this: Nearly 5 lakh medical oxygen cylinders are currently in use. Daily requirement is around 1,300 tonnes, up from 900 tonnes in December. In May alone, as Covid cases surged, the Centre bought 1.03 lakh cylinders. Mohapatra says the government has also allowed the conversion of nearly 5 lakh industrial oxygen cylinders for medical use. While cylinders need refills, concentrators tap oxygen from the atmosphere. And among the states lining up for both is Delhi, with over a lakh cases. "We have ordered 11,000 cylinders and 4,580 concentrators, and more than 50 per cent of them have arrived," says Sanjay Goel, MD, Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation, and in-charge of Covid procurement. "Oxygen requirement for indoor patients has increased nearly five-fold from normal days," says SN Vasna, who is in charge of procurement at LNJP Hospital. "We have 2,000 beds and only 20 per cent of them need oxygen on normal days. But now, we have linked all beds with oxygen supply," he says. UP is not far behind, with the state procuring 6,000 new cylinders from the Centre and asking for 10,000 more - separately, it has purchased nearly 2,000 cylin-

ders. "So far, less than three per cent of active cases need oxygen support. But we want to be prepared," says AK Sriwastava, Nodal Covid Officer in the state that has recorded nearly 30,000 cases so far. Then, there's the Railways, which has converted over 5,231 coaches into isolation centres. "Each coach has 16 beds and two cylinders. The number of cylinders can be enhanced if the need arises," says DJ Narain, spokesperson. "Earlier, an estimated 250-300 concentrators were sold every month, and certain models were available for around Rs 25,000-30,000. Now, about 40,000 pieces of these models are being sold every month with rates up to Rs 75,000. The rental rates of concentrators have also gone up from about Rs 4,500 per month to Rs 6,000," say industry sources. The sources, however, warn that "while there are strict rules for manufacturing, pricing and storage of cylinders, the market for concentrators is largely uncontrolled and unregulated." On June 29, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) directed all manufacturers and importers of oxygen concentrators to submit the MRP being charged. Major cylinder manufacturers are also riding a surge in demand. Vijay Krishnadas Parekh, Director, Al-Can Exports, which is based in Mumbai and Gujarat, says his firm

manufactures nearly 10,000 aluminium cylinders per month, with half of the stock usually marked for export. "But now, all of it is going to the domestic market," he says. Anand Sharma, Head of Sales and Marketing in Faridabad-based Luxfere Uttam India, which manufactures 7,000 cylinders per month, says, "We are witnessing nearly 30 per cent hike in demand for cylinders of 1-50 litre capacity." Such is demand that many dealers of concentrators, most of which are imported mostly from China, say they are out of stock. Says Naveen Singh, MD, Nareena LifeSciences, Greater Noida: "We sold nearly 2,500 concentrators in June, of which 1,700 were supplied to the Delhi government." Nikhil Jain of Delhi-based Ynb Healthcare says his firm has supplied concentrators to a number of residential societies in the National Capital Region (NCR). "We bought three cylinders for our residents because we feel they may be required in coming days," says Dr Rajiv Singh, president of Eldeco Society in UP's Ghaziabad. But officials and experts strike a note of caution. "Oxygen must be used under medical supervision. This rush must be discouraged," says DPIIT's Mohapatra. (TOMORROW: ON TESTING KITS, IT'S DOMESTIC VS INTERNATIONAL)

Advocate held with suspended J&K cop was allotted 2 medical seats in Pak: NIA

Irfan Mir planned to sell seats to highest bidder, was looking for suitable candidates: chargesheet

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, JULY 8

AN ACCUSED in former Jammu and Kashmir Police Dy SP Davinder Singh case had been allotted two seats of medical colleges in Pakistan, the NIA has said in its chargesheet in the case. Irfan Shafi Mir, an advocate by profession, is alleged to be associated with Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HuM) and had been arrested by J&K Police on January 11 while travelling in Singh's car along with HuM Shopian District commander Syed Mushtaq Naveed, alias Naveed Babu. The accused, Irfan Shafi Mir, is an advocate and is alleged to be associated with Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HuM). He had been arrested by J&K Police on January 11 while travelling in suspended deputy SP Singh's car along with HuM's Shopian district commander Syed Mushtaq Naveed,

alias Naveed Babu. "During searches at Mir's house in Kashmir we found documents that show he had been allotted two seats by the Pakistani establishment to recommend Kashmiri students for medical colleges in Pakistan," a senior NIA officer said, giving details of the chargesheet. "He (Mir) had recently been given this privilege by Pakistan. He was planning to sell these seats to the highest bidder and was looking for suitable candidates before he was arrested." The NIA filed a chargesheet against suspended Singh and five others in a Jammu court on July 6. It claimed that he was "being groomed by Pakistani officials for obtaining sensitive information" and had helped HuM terrorists obtain weapons from across the border. The NIA has claimed that allotment of medical and engineering seats in Pakistani col-

leges is a major racket that feeds anti-India forces in the Valley. "Many of those allotted these seats sell them for Rs 15-20 lakh. This money is used to fuel anti-India activities in the Valley," an NIA officer said. The issue raised its head recently in the resignation of Syed Ali Shah Geelani from the All-Party Hurriyat Conference. As reported by The Indian Express, in his resignation letter Geelani accused Hurriyat representatives of corruption and cosyng up to power structures across the border. Sources said Geelani's reference was to the controversy surrounding medical seats in Pakistan. The NIA has maintained that the system of recommending students through Hurriyat leaders in Pakistan colleges has aided that country's efforts to destabilise India. In its chargesheet against Hurriyat leaders arrested in 2018,

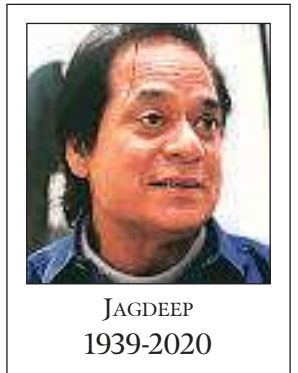
the NIA has said, "This shows a triangular nexus wherein the terrorists, the Hurriyat and the Pakistani establishment are the three verticals and they are ostensibly patronising Kashmiri students to prepare a generation of doctors and technocrats in Kashmir who will have leanings towards Pakistan." The chargesheet has alleged that most students recommended by Hurriyat leaders were either children of former militants or active militants, or were known to Hurriyat leaders. Many of these applications were allegedly recommended by Geelani himself, the chargesheet has said. Further, it stated, militants who had fled to Pakistan would pursue their case with the establishment there. The agency seized documents from houses of various Hurriyat leaders. A document seized from Hurriyat leader Nayeem Khan's residence shows

that he allegedly recommended a student for admission in 's Standard Medical College because her "family remained committed to the freedom struggle through thick and thin". According to the chargesheet on Devender Singh, Irfan Mir met the HuM leadership in Pakistan and also met "Umar Cheema, Ahshan Chaudhary, Sohail Abbas and others of ISI of Pakistan". The NIA has stated that he was tasked to identify and activate the new hawala channels for transfer of money for sustaining terrorist activities in Kashmir. The chargesheet stated, "Investigation also revealed that certain officials of Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi were in constant touch with Irfan Shafi Mir, who was provided with funds to organise seminars in J&K to mobilise the masses against the Government of India."

Comedian Jagdeep dies at 81, Soorma Bhopali lives on

SHUBHRA GUPTA NEW DELHI, JULY 8

IT'S WELL known that Jagdeep, born Syed Ishaq Ahmed Jafri, joined the Hindi film industry as a child artiste, and that his comic timing made him popular as a comedian through most of his adult career. But not enough notice was paid to the fact that he moved well and had a good singing voice. His brief stint as a leading man didn't use these skills: those films, especially AVM's 'Bhabhi', were heavy with emotion. And so he tipped over into comedy, and there he stayed, cementing his place as one of Bollywood's top comic artistes. Jagdeep died in Mumbai on Wednesday. He was 81. Thinking of Jagdeep, the first thing that comes to mind is Soorma Bhopali, the 1975 'Sholay' character that became so popular that it nearly eclipsed everything else he did. Flashback to that scene in which the heroes, Jai and Veeru, come upon Soorma Bhopali telling a bunch of spellbound listeners about how he beat the two with a stick, and how he is



JAGDEEP 1939-2020

found out: his paan-stained teeth, that Bhopali lilt, and comfort in a role meant strictly for laughs made his Soorma unforgettable. Too many of the nearly 400 roles that Jagdeep did over six decades were interchangeable. Broad, loud strokes for the comic folk meant that their tracks were filled with gags, pratfalls, and banana-peel humour: that was pretty much the way of the comedy from the 1950s to 1980s. A series of talented comics, including Johnny Walker, Mukri, Paital, Mehmoor, Rajendra Nath and Keshu Mukherjee, were type-cast and had to do that one thing the audience wanted them to do. Jagdeep too fell into that trap of repeating himself, often using the same grins and grimaces, but he could always be relied upon to make us laugh. Some of his early roles are memorable. Bimal Roy's 'Do Bigha Zameen' and Guru Dutt's 'Aar Paar', as well as 'Hum Panchi Ek Daal Ke' showcased his talent: he was a natural, and he had the ability to be droll, and both those gifts came in handy in his long career. He played a young, dapper Dilip Kumar in 'Shikwa', an unreleased 1954 film; he was equally comfortable in Ramsay Brother's horror fests. One of his last significant roles was playing Salman Khan's father in Rajkumar Santoshi's 1994 'Andaz Apna Apna', he was looking distinctly older but the familiar verve was very much there. Jagdeep's most famous avatar led him to produce a film of the same name, but 'Soorma Bhopali', the 1988 film, found no takers. The character lives on in our memories. 'Par hamara naam Soorma Bhopali aise hi nahin hai,' says Jagdeep, in that scene. Sahi jamaaya, janaab.

HARYANA'S 75% QUOTA FOR LOCALS

Despite AG backing, Law Secy told state move may not withstand scrutiny

SUKHBIR SIWACH CHANDIGARH, JULY 8

TWO DAYS after the Haryana Cabinet cleared a proposal to draft an ordinance for reserving 75 per cent private sector jobs for state residents, it has emerged that the state's Law Secretary had informed the state government in advance that the proposal "may not withstand" legal scrutiny. The opinion was conveyed to the state government by the Legal Remembrancer-cum-Law Secretary despite the state's Advocate General (AG) Baldev Raj Mahajan backing the proposal. However, the Law Department, which is headed by the Law Secretary, later suggested that the state can "proceed as per AG's opinion". The Law Secretary is the top-most legal officer of the state government, and normally, a sessions judge-level judicial officer is appointed to the assignment. The AG is a Cabinet-rank holding government functionary. In her opinion to the government, the Law Secretary said: "The proposed ordinance whereby 75

per cent jobs in companies, societies, trusts, partnership firms situated in Haryana with salary structure of up to Rs 50,000 per month are proposed to be reserved for residents of Haryana may not withstand the scrutiny of law being violative of Article 14, 19(1)(g), and 21 of Constitution of India." She added, "It would be necessary to obtain the instruction of the President of India for the promulgation of the proposed ordinance in view of proposed Clause 23 of the draft ordinance which gives overriding effect over other laws". However, the state's BJP-JJP government moved ahead with the proposal as the state Advocate General (AG) Baldev Raj Mahajan gave his consent to the proposal. A senior government official said the state's Law Department too later suggested that the government "may proceed in the matter as per the advice tendered by the...AG Haryana". The AG said, "The proposed measure would not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution of India including those relating to fundamental rights."

SC extends protection to TV anchor from coercive action in defamation cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JULY 8

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday extended protection to TV news anchor Amish Devgan against any coercive action in cases lodged over his alleged defamatory remark against Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti during a show telecast on June 15. A bench comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna asked Devgan's counsel to complete the plead-

ings in the case by serving copies of the petition to those who had filed complaints against the journalist in various states. Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra and lawyer Mrinal Bharti appeared for Devgan in the hearing conducted through video link by the court, which extended the relief granted on June 26 to Devgan till further orders. Five FIRs have been lodged against Devgan in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Telangana for using an allegedly derogatory term for the Sufi saint on his channel on June 15.

Mocked by BJP, scheme to buy cow dung earns Baghel RSS praise

GARGI VERMA RAIPUR, JULY 8



Chief Minister Baghel said he is not surprised by the RSS response. File

AT A time when the BJP in Chhattisgarh is mocking the Congress-led government's scheme to purchase cow dung, the RSS has come out in praise of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for the scheme. Godhan Nyay Yojana, under which the state government will purchase cow dung at the rate of Rs 1.50 per kg, is to be launched on July 21. On Tuesday, a group of RSS supporters met the Chief Minister and handed him an "appreciation letter". Subodh Rathi, an RSS member and prant pramukh (regional head) of Gau-Gram Swawalamban Abhiyan, said, "In November 2019, we had started a statewide programme, urging district authorities to start purchasing cow dung and cow urine to help people in villages and those who look after cows. Since the government has

accepted parts of our demands, we wanted to show gratitude and offer some suggestions," Rathi said. "We had demanded that the cow dung be purchased at the rate of Rs 5 per kg. We also want the government to buy cow urine as it can be used to make bio-pesticide," he added. The letter, signed by the Sangh's regional convener Bismaran Yadav, identifies Baghel as "our popular chief minister" and thanks him for fulfilling one of their demands. It lists other de-

The state's Godhan Nyay Yojana is to be launched on July 21

mands, including setting up a special market for crops grown with the help of biofertilisers. RSS leaders, however, claimed that this should not be seen as a letter from RSS. "It will be wrong to claim that the letter was from RSS. It is a wing of RSS that participated in this. Programmes to strengthen rural economy were always a part of our ideology," state RSS leader Prabhat Mishra said. The Opposition BJP has mocked the state government over the scheme, with former panchayat minister Ajay Chandrakar calling the government cow-dung dependent. BJP leaders have also taken a dig, stating that instead of helping educated youth get employment, the

government is forcing them to look for cow dung. "This government believes in initiating schemes. There was only a declaration and no framework," former Chief Minister Raman Singh said. "The letter was not given from the RSS. The RSS has a lot of wings, and if some individuals want to express their support, it shouldn't be taken as RSS's support." Rathi, however, said, "It is up to BJP leaders to decide if they want to go against the programme, but our group includes farmers, cattle caretakers and saints who all have their own cattle. We appreciate this scheme as it is the first step towards making the rural economy dependent on cattle strong." Chief Minister Baghel said he is not surprised by the RSS move. "They are feeling left behind politically. Since this scheme is getting appreciation from every section of the society, they want to show they are the champions of the cause," he said.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice**  
The Dy. Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, General Stores Depot Shakurbasti, Delhi for & on behalf of President of India invites sealed Open Tender on the prescribed form from reputed transporters for the under noted works: 1. M&T No: 197-S/48/GSD/Covid-19/Truck/SSB-A 2. Name of Work: Hiring of a Model Truck of 9 mt capacity for door to door/station to station distribution of Covid-19 items Ie Sanitizers, Face Mask, Gloves, Shoe covers and PPE kit etc, stocked in GSD/SSB depot at the rates quoted in the attached schedule of rates and hereby bind myself/our selves to complete the said work. 3. Approximate Cost: The Approx cost of work is 45,00,000/- (Forty five lakhs only) 4. Earnest money: 2% of the estimated cost i.e. 9,00,000/- (Rs Ninety thousand only) 5. Completion period: One year from the date of commencement of work, can be extended for further three months 6. Date of Opening of Tender: 13.07.2020 upto 15.00 hrs. 7. Address of the office & Date from which tender documents will be available: Dy. Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, General Stores Depot, Shakurbasti, Delhi from 06.07.2020 on any working day from 10.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. 8. Northern Railway Website www.rps.gov.in 9. Special Conditions: (1) The firms must quote their rates as per 'Schedule of Rates'. (2) The firms should submit attested copies of valid documents of trucks which are in their possession as per condition No-29 of 'Instructions to Tenderers'. (3) The offers received without compliance of condition No-(I) and (II) above will be immediately rejected. No. 197-S/48/GSD/Covid-19/Truck/SSB-A Dated: 06.07.2020

**दि मध्य प्रदेश स्टेट माईनिंग कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
(मध्य प्रदेश शासन का उपक्रम)  
पर्यावरण ध्वस्त, ब्लॉक नं.-1, द्वितीय तल (ए), कोल सेड, अरंग हिल्स भोपाल - 462011, फोन : (0755) 2763397, 2570343, 2763392 फैक्स : (0755) 2763394, ईमेल : info.mpsmc@mp.gov.in वेबसाइट : http://www.mpsmc.ltd.co.in CEN : U01410mp19625GCO00937 क्र. ई-निविदा सूचना क्र. रेत/निविदा/2019-20/2067 दिनांक : 08.07.2020

**रेत खनिज की ई-निविदा स्थगित किये जाने की सूचना**  
मध्य प्रदेश राज्य खनिज निगम द्वारा म.प्र. रेत (खनन, परिवहन, भंडारण एवं व्यापार) विभाग, 2019 के अंतर्गत ई-निविदा सूचना क्र. रेत/निविदा/2020-21/970 दिनांक 11.06.2020 द्वारा बोझावाह, खनिकानर, परिवहन, उत्खनन एवं अमर वाहन विभागों में रेत खदानों के निखन हेतु ई-निविदा दिनांक 11.07.2020 तक आयोजित की गई थी। एक निविदा प्रक्रिया एनर्ज द्वारा स्थगित की जा रही है। संशोधित निविदा कार्यक्रम माह सितंबर 2020 के अंतिम सप्ताह में जारी किया जायेगा। म.प्र. माध्यम/97870/2020 प्रबंध संचालक

**Govt. of Bihar**  
**Muzaffarpur Smart City Limited (MSCL)**  
Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation, MUZAFFARPUR (Bihar), 842001  
Tele : 0621-2215279, Web Site : www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

Ref No.217/MSCL

**CALL FOR INTERVIEW**

THIS IS FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION THAT THE DATES FOR THE INTERVIEW FOR ALL POSTS OF THE "SPV" OF MUZAFFARPUR SMART CITY LIMITED, HAS BEEN FINALIZED, ALL THE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE APPLIED BEFORE THE CUTOFF TIME AND DATE ARE REQUESTED TO APPEAR FOR A PERSONAL INTERVIEW AS PER SCHEDULED DATE AND TIME ALONG WITH ALL THE REQUIRED ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

DATE: 15-07-2020, TIME: 10:00 AM ONWARDS, VENUE: AMRAPALI AUDITORIUM, PAANI TANKI CHOWK, NEAR JUBBA SAHNI PARK, MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR).

For the Following Posts:

1. Chief Executive Officer (CEO),
2. Chief General Manager (CGM),
3. Chief Finance officer (CFO),
4. Sr. Manager - (Technical),
5. Company Secretary (CS)

DATE: 16-07-2020, TIME: 10:00 AM ONWARDS, VENUE: AMRAPALI AUDITORIUM, PAANI TANKI CHOWK, NEAR JUBBA SAHNI PARK, MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR).

For the Following Posts:

1. Manager - (Technical)
2. Manager - (Finance & Procurement),
3. Manager - (Monitoring & Evaluation)
4. Manager - (Implementation & Control)
5. Manager - IT

DATE: 17-07-2020, TIME: 10:00 AM ONWARDS, VENUE: AMRAPALI AUDITORIUM, PAANI TANKI CHOWK, NEAR JUBBA SAHNI PARK, MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR)..

For the Following Posts:

1. Public Relation Officer (PRO)
2. Accountant
3. Stenographer

DATE: 21-07-2020, TIME: 10:00 AM ONWARDS, VENUE: AMRAPALI AUDITORIUM, PAANI TANKI CHOWK, NEAR JUBBA SAHNI PARK, MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR)..

For the Following Posts:

1. Office Executive cum Assistant
2. Computer Operator
3. Rest all the other terms and condition remains unchanged.

2. Candidates are requested to bring all the original documents along with the DD (which was submitted with application) at scheduled time of interview.

3. For more details, please contact - MD cum - CEO, MSCL, Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation Muzaffarpur, Bihar Contact no. - 0621-2215279 OR through mail at muzaffarpursmartcity.mscl@gmail.com

**Managing Director-cum-CEO**  
**Muzaffarpur Smart City Limited.**  
**(MSCL)**

PR. No. 003514 (Ni.Ni.) 2020-21

नोबल कोरोना के संघर्ष में विरलत जागरूकी एवं सहयोग हेतु Full Page No. 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।  
चाह सामग्री - सबकी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु हमें संपर्क कर सकते हैं।



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# 'China is trying to show I am the superpower... India has shown we will not take it lying down'

GAUTAM BAMBAWALE is a former Indian Ambassador to China. In an E-Xplained event before a nationwide audience on Zoom, he interpreted China's intentions in the build-up on the Line of Actual Control, and the implications of the stand-off



## On what is different about the Galwan clash and the build-up

The Indian and Chinese civilisations are both ancient civilisations but India's civilisation can be summarised in what we call *Vasudaiva kutumbakam*, which means the world is one family. On the other hand, the Chinese way of thinking can be summarised in the word *China*. In Chinese, China is referred to as *Chung Wo*, which means middle kingdom or middle country, and their approach is that they are the centre of the world and everything else revolves around them. So they are at the centre, everyone is peripheral... they only worry about themselves. So you must start with this premise where there are two different peoples with two different approaches.

In the past there used to be stray patrols, which sometimes used to come face to face, but the number of troops was very small, it could be 40, it could be 50... it could be 100, 150, but it was only in the hundreds. This time around, a whole build-up has taken place in eastern Ladakh. The Chinese military has planned for this. Therefore, as the government says, the whole build-up is premeditated. In eastern Ladakh, not right at the border [but] a little bit in depth, there are several divisions of the Chinese Army which are prepared, at least 3-4 or maybe 5 divisions of the Chinese PLA. Now this can't happen overnight. They were planning in early April to do some kind of military exercises in this area, and they quickly diverted the forces to the eastern part of Ladakh. India has also done a corresponding military build-up and therefore, the large numbers which are involved this time show that what is happening in eastern Ladakh in the summer of 2020 is quite different from what has happened in the past...

## On the seriousness of the situation

When the PLA comes after having planned



Gautam Bambawale in conversation with Shubhrajit Roy (above) of The Indian Express

## AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

### If US, Europe and ASEAN countries club together against China

For the last 2-2.5 years they (US) has been in this trade and technology war with China. I think increasingly, European countries are also seeing that China is a spoiler in, for example, the theft of intellectual property and so on. So I think economically there will be some kind of battle between these countries...

### On whether the incident in Ladakh is linked to Belt Road Initiative

No, I don't think it is directly linked with it. Any number of suggestions are being offered as to why this is happening. I think the answers... they are trying to actually control ground up till what is their idea of the LAC, and strategically they are sending India and the rest of the world a message, that look, we are the big boys here...

means they must go back to the situation as it existed before they started all these movements.

### On why China is not declaring its casualties

They have traditionally never declared their casualties immediately after a clash or even a war. They take a few years. I think this is part of their system; they are not an open, transparent system. As you know, our sort of estimate of the casualties suffered by the PLA is higher than what our casualties are. I don't have a precise figure, we will never know a precise figure... We have come to that conclusion on the basis of what we have heard from people who have been on the ground... Our Minister of State who was a former Chief of Army Staff has put the figure at 43. I don't know if it is 43, 23, or 63, but I am told by all accounts that the Indian Army gave an excellent account of itself. You can expect many casualties on the PLA side. We can quibble about the numbers; what is more important is that for the first time the PLA has taken battlefield casualties in over four decades, and I think that is a big message that Indian Army has sent, on the ground, to the Chinese PLA.

### On the transition from Deng Xiaoping's China to Xi Jinping's China

The biggest change has been the economics of the country. If you go back to the late 1980s, in

1988, China's GDP was almost the same as India's. Today, China's GDP is roughly 4.5 times that of India. And of course China itself has changed...

In the 80s, they used to abide by what was Deng Xiaoping's famous dictum that China must hide its strength and bide its time. Now it has bided four decades and it has grown very fast in these four decades, at roughly a GDP growth rate of 10 per cent every year. Now, the current leadership under President Xi Jinping — and more important than his position as President is his position as the general secretary of the Communist Party of China — they believe their time has come, and that they have to show how powerful they are. And they are doing this all over the world. They are doing this in the South China Sea by taking over and building new islands, which they then immediately start to militarise. They are doing it in Hong Kong with the new security law, which means basically that the 'one country, two systems' formula under which China took back sovereignty over Hong Kong is dead in the water. They are threatening Taiwan. They have a trade, technology and a wider sort of battle with the US. And they are also heating up the India-China border.

### On how diplomatic negotiations take place in a situation like this

It varies from situation to situation. Let me take 2013 in Depsang. Troops on the ground told us they had their discussions about what's happening and I picked up the phone and spoke to my counterpart in Beijing, but we also used the offices... In 2013 our Ambassador to China was of course Dr S Jaishankar, who's today the External Affairs Minister, so he used to convey our messages to the Foreign Ministry of China. There were several rounds of such messaging from both sides, saying clearly what was, what should be done etc. and then eventually we insisted that our bottom line is that there will be no such visit by our Prime Minister unless this thing is resolved completely. We won't even start planning for the visit until the Depsang incident has been resolved; that's how it actually worked out.

TRANSCRIBED BY MEHR GILL  
 (Edited excerpts)  
 VIDEO: [youtu.be/0tWGbX03K0g](https://youtu.be/0tWGbX03K0g)

and prepared, it is not an accidental face-off between smaller groups of troops who may be patrolling that same area. So you have to ask yourself the question, why is he doing it? What is his message to us? And I think that there are two reasons. One is a tactical reason, one is a strategic reason. The tactical reason is very simple, he is trying to move his ground positions, where his troops actually are right up to the point, which he considers to be his LAC. Now, remember that there is no agreed boundary between India and China; also we have great differences of opinion... Now, what he is doing is, he wants to define this line unilaterally, bring his troops right up to

the line and present us with a *fait accompli*. On the strategic side, he knows very clearly that maintaining peace on the India-China border is a prerequisite for the relationship to move ahead. So if he undermines peace on the border, he says I do not want to have the current kind of relationship I have with India. So he is trying to browbeat us, trying to bully us, trying to show I am the superpower in Asia and you just have to take that lying down. India has shown, tactically on the ground, that we will not take this lying down. In Galwan we have blocked him at the LAC and our bottom line for the negotiations is the Chinese must restore *status quo*, which

## THIS WORD MEANS: PATROLLING POINTS (PPs)

# What do these markers on LAC signify?

SUSHANT SINGH  
 NEW DELHI, JULY 8

THE STANDOFFS between Indian and Chinese troops in Ladakh on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), where initial steps towards disengagement have taken place, are around a number of patrolling points or PPs in Galwan, Hot Springs and Gogra areas.

### What exactly are PPs?

PPs are patrolling points identified and marked on the LAC, which are patrolled with a stipulated frequency by the security forces. They serve as a guide to the location of the LAC for the soldiers, acting as indicators of the extent of 'actual control' exercised on the territory by India.

By regularly patrolling up to these PPs, the Indian side is able to establish and assert its physical claim about the LAC.

### Are all the PPs numbered?

No. Some of the PPs are prominent and identifiable geographical features, such as a pass, or a nala junction where no numerals are given. Only those PPs, where there are no prominent features, are numbered as in the case of PPI4 in Galwan Valley.

### Are all on the PPs bang on the LAC?

Mostly, yes. Except for the Depsang plains in northern Ladakh, where PP10, PP11, PP11A, PP12 and PP13 — from Raki Nala to Jivan Nala — do not fall on the LAC. These are short of the LAC, on the Indian side.

### Are these PPs not manned?

The PPs are not posts and thus not manned. Unlike on the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan, the border with China is not physically held by the Army all along. They are just physical markers on the ground, chosen for their location and have no defensive

potential or tactical importance for the Army.

### If the PPs are not manned, how is the claim actually asserted?

The claim is asserted by the Army or joint Army-ITBP patrols as they show more visible presence in these areas. This is done by physically visiting PPs with a higher frequency, as the deployment has moved closer to the LAC and due to improved infrastructure. As the Chinese may not see when the Indian patrols visit these PPs, they will leave some cigarette packets or food tins with Indian markings behind. That lets the Chinese know that Indian soldiers had visited the place, which indicates that India was in control of these areas.

### Who has given these PPs?

These PPs have been identified by the high-powered China Study Group, starting from 1975 when patrolling limits for Indian forces were specified. It is based on the LAC, after the

government accepted the concept in 1993, which is also marked on the maps with the Army in the border areas. But the frequency of patrolling to PPs is not specified by the CSG — it is finalised by the Army Headquarters in New Delhi, based on the recommendations made by the Army and ITBP.

### What is this frequency?

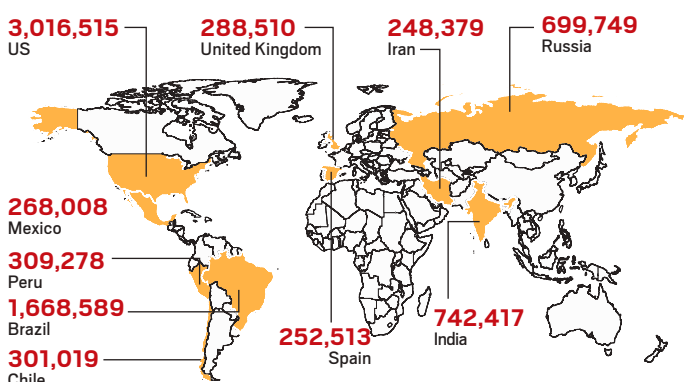
The frequency of reaching various PPs are given in the annual patrolling programme. Based on the terrain, the ground situation and the location of the LAC, the duration for visiting each PP is specified — it can vary from once a month to twice a year.

### Which PPs are currently under dispute?

PPs 10 to 13 in Depsang sector, PP14 in Galwan, PP15 in Hot Spring, and PP17 and PP17A in Gogra are currently being disputed by both sides, where the standoffs have taken place in the past nine weeks.

## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

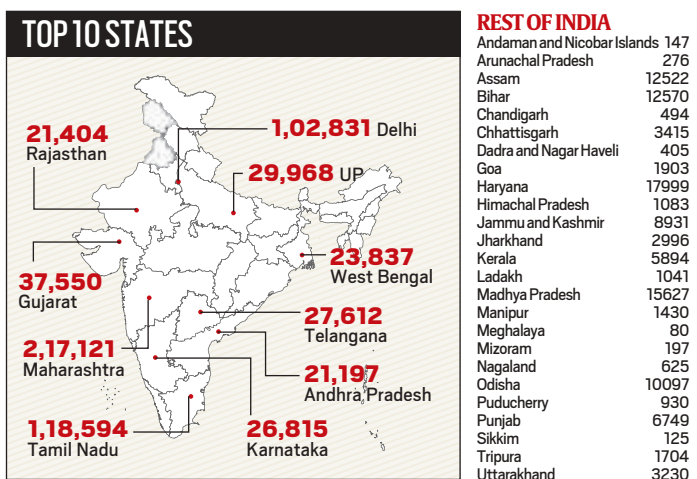
### THE WORLD



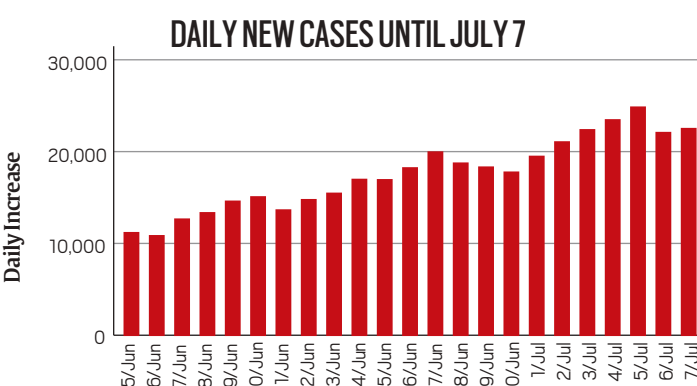
TOTAL CONFIRMED: 11,892,382 DEATH COUNT: 545,485

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on July 8. JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match as these are accounted at different times.

### INDIA COUNT: 7,42,417 (20,642 DEATHS)



Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, July 8. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above. 4,56,831 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 34 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES



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

# A crop of new apps: why users should be wary

AASHISH ARYAN  
 NEW DELHI, JULY 8

INSTAGRAM ON Wednesday launched its short video feature called *Reels in India*. But it is not the only app trying to slip into the space vacated by TikTok. In fact, less than a fortnight after the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) banned 59 Chinese apps, Google Play Store and Apple's App Store are teeming with alternatives to these platforms and software applications.

Not all of them are new. For instance, Roposo, which has an offering similar to TikTok, have been around for a few years. However, this app from the InMobi Group has seen an exponential increase in user base recently and now claims over 100 million users. A lot of the new entrants have nowhere near these numbers, nor are they able to offer the privacy features of the established apps, making them prone to hacking or stealing of critical user information, experts said.

### What are these new apps?

According to experts, there are two kinds of apps that have rushed to fill the vacuum created by Chinese apps. There are established apps which have been around for a very long period of time and were al-



Roposo, similar to TikTok, has grown in recent times. Mitron, once removed by Google Play, is now back.

ready competing with the Chinese offerings. Others, however, are like 'fly-by-night operators', which have downloaded entire app codes from online market places such as Codecanyon and are trying to take advantage of the anti-China sentiment, cyber-security experts warned.

"These apps can be bought from online marketplaces for as little as Rs 3,000. These scripts are easy to buy, and even the owner of the apps does not know how the app works. Now, if 10 people buy the same script, all the apps will have the same flaw," independent security researcher Indrajeet Bhuyan said.

This is exactly what happened with TikTok clone Mitron, which a Pakistani coding company claimed was brought from it for just \$34. The app is back now after Google Play store removed it for a while because of privacy policy violations.

### What are the problems with these apps?

One of the major problems, cyber-security experts said, is the lack of data privacy norms and guidelines in these apps.

"The nationality of an app isn't enough to guarantee its safety. One source of vulnerability of course is the app on the phone, but also where it is centrally stored, and how it is kept also matters. The location of the data by itself does nothing," Raman Chima, Asia-Pacific policy director at AccessNow, said.

With the newer apps from the smaller developers, there is no clarity on what permissions are sought on the device. For example, most of the alternatives launched over the past 10 days seek permissions to view contacts and gallery.

A Pune-based cyber-security researcher warned that with little knowledge about who owns these platforms and whether the app's code also scans and stores private data of a user, no one is likely to be held accountable in case of a breach. "For well established apps, their reputation is at stake and therefore will seek only enough data to run the programme. These new apps, which have rushed to take benefit of the vacuum, have nothing to lose. Even if the app is reading and storing your private chat, there is no way to know because no has any idea of what their codes contain," he said.

Usually a new app like this takes months to get a decent number of users. However, in the present wave even such apps are getting tens of thousands of downloads. Even for some of the older apps, the sudden increase in their user base with create vulnerabilities because of a lack of data handling capacity or safety measures, the experts said.

### Do such apps bode well for the Indian app ecosystem?

Despite the surge, experts don't see this as a long-term phenomenon, or any of these apps developing into world class products. "They (users) will quickly move on to easily available alternatives. In the short term, some knockoffs might appear but in the longer run, it is a chance for the ecosystem to mature and take the place left vacant," technology research firm Counterpoint said in a note.

Other experts, however, highlighted that India cannot benefit from creating a walled garden in which only domestic apps are allowed. "There are many other apps which are international and perhaps for a good reason. That is always going to be the case. The system will mature only when you have domestic apps which are globally or even regionally competitive. A lot of Indian apps are not aggressively marketed," Chima said.



## The Indian EXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## BLUNT CUT

CBSE decision to reduce syllabi shows misunderstanding of students' stress, gives short shrift to ways of learning

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has eaten into the academic year of schools, creating pedagogical challenges for teachers and learning problems for students. This emergency demands creative solutions from the country's education policymakers. Instead, the country's premier examination body, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), has used the blunt and mechanical measure of reducing syllabi "by up to 30 per cent" to "reduce the course load for students of Class 9 to 12". This means that students will graduate to the senior-secondary level without learning about the human eye and the magnetic effects of electric currents or engaging with social science concepts such as "democracy and diversity", "gender, religion, caste" and "popular struggles and movements". Excised from the syllabi of classes 11 and 12 are chapters on citizenship, nationalism, secularism and the Partition of the country. The algebraic basic, the binomial theorem, and the chapter on mathematical reasoning have been sacrificed at the altar of "curriculum rationalisation". The CBSE and the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development reason that the cuts will "ease the burden on students". But their reasoning actually reflects an old failing of education policy-making in India — there has been scarcely any attempt amongst policymakers to understand what actually stresses the child. The "course load" has become an easy scapegoat for student anxiety.

Teachers have been given the vague instruction that the dropped topics are to be "explained to students to the extent required to connect different topics." They have also been told that these topics "would not be a part of either internal assessment or the board examination". Such trivialisation of knowledge is symptomatic of an outlook that regards textbooks as assemblages of facts, which have to be memorised and regurgitated in examinations — the curriculum only serves the utilitarian function of enabling students to pass examinations. This thinking has fostered an ecosystem in which coaching "institutes" mushroom and there is brisk business in guidebooks and compendia of questions of past examinations and "model answers". There is now a growing body of scholarly work which shows how the emphasis on "model answers" stands in the way of students approaching examination questions in a creative way. These faultlines in the system were also exposed by the Vyapam scam in Madhya Pradesh, more than a decade ago.

Education studies experts have long agreed that the curriculum is not always the main cause of stress for students. They have shown how pedagogical systems are disconnected from a child's lived reality and underlined how the examination-centred education system robs her of the joys of acquiring knowledge. The churn created by the pandemic should have led to — it can still spark — conversations on evolving teaching methods that encourage students to apply facts to real world problems and motivate them to seek knowledge. Instead, the CBSE has chosen to knock down some of the building blocks of knowledge.

## CRUEL AND RECKLESS

Trump tries to turn health crisis into poll opportunity, using schools, colleges as pawns. A welcome push back has begun

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT will be judged by posterity on the intelligence and integrity with which they are facing the COVID-19 challenge. Going by his record so far, US President Donald Trump will be remembered primarily for his attempts to duck it or to politicise a public health disaster as he seeks a second term. Both these factors were on show on Tuesday, when he dismissed the "China virus" again and intensified the push to reopen educational institutions fully, with serious implications for foreign students, American businesses and families. American schools and colleges are rightly considering the reopening process with extreme caution, and like in other countries, a significant part of academic life has gone online. This presents a political problem for Trump, whose response has consisted almost entirely of downplaying the pandemic, which is taking a mounting toll in the US.

On Tuesday, in a meeting in the White House, Trump resolved to take a can opener to the country's schools. He would even pressure governors to reopen them, he indicated darkly. Trump has charged that schools are being kept closed for political reasons, to prevent the US from returning to normal life. On the same day, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) bureau published a draconian notification alarming the million-odd foreign students in the US, which include about 2 lakh Indians and 4 lakh Chinese. They must leave the country or face deportation proceedings if their institutions have moved instruction completely online. They must attend some physical classes, perhaps by moving to a campus which offers them, or leave before they are thrown out.

Indian students may have become collateral damage in an attack on two targets — their Chinese peers, who form the largest cohort of foreign students, and campuses which depend on the fees they pay, but refuse to physically reopen. But the White House should remember that the pre-eminence of US technology and business owes to the creativity and industry of immigrants. The loss of Indian human capital would be felt across the board, from education, medicine and IT to hospitality. In his enthusiasm to pander to xenophobes, Trump should not forget that the US success story was written by immigrants. With Harvard and MIT filing a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security and ICE agency in a district court in Boston, challenging the ill-judged order on international students — Harvard President Larry Bacow called it cruel and reckless — a heartening push back has begun.

## PLAY TIME

Cricket returns to the field, with new rules, the same lifting of spirits

FOR SOME WEEKS now, shortly before they headed out of hotel rooms to train in the sun, cricketers from England and West Indies have been taking their temperature. It had to be less than 37.5 Fahrenheit, or else. A walk down the corridor, and then only four of them in the lift at the same time, all four standing on the footprints etched on the elevator floor. Elbows to call the lift, elbows to press the lobby button and sanitising of hands as they stepped out to the ground for training. More rules awaited them there: No high-fives, no saliva on the ball, no close-proximity banter, no hanging around together in the evenings.

Before they reached Southampton, the quiet town where the Titanic once set off for that ill-fated trip and where now the cricket world hopes to stay afloat, the players did their own thing to keep the fitness and motivation up. And when England's pacer Chris Woakes says matter-of-factly, "this is my day job, this is what I want to do," in a promotional video from the England cricket board on the eve of Test match, it seems he, and other players, are saying they have had enough. It's time to play.

West Indies have had more challenges to face as they moved into a bio-secure bubble in England. As the game day approached, other issues had to be grappled with — like the Black Lives Matters flag they unfurled from the team balcony on a cloudy day. Somewhere, down below, Michael Holding gave a stirring speech about systemic racism on live television. And what the audiences, and fans? Even more than the players, it was the fans who were vocal about the need for the return of sport. Simple, everyday things that they had taken for granted have assumed an extraordinary air now.

# Digitising the state

A three-phase government project uses COVID policy window for a much needed reform



MANISH SABHARWAL AND D B PHATAK

IN A 2015 VISIT to Silicon Valley — the first by an Indian Prime Minister to the US West Coast since the semiconductor revolution in the 1970s — PM Modi suggested that "digital platforms were advancing citizen empowerment and democracy that once drew their strength from constitutions". COVID demonstrated how one element of Digital India — Aadhaar enabled Direct Benefit Transfer — facilitated quick and targeted action. But COVID also demonstrated how large parts of the Indian state continue to resist, underinvest in, and delay digitisation. We make the case that the three-phase transition to mandatory digital payments, accounting, and transactions for government proposed by the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) under a new project and law called DATA (Digital Accountability and Transparency Act) uses the COVID policy window for an empowering, elegant, and overdue reform with delightful consequences.

The Union budget grew from Rs 197 crore in 1947 to Rs 30 lakh crore last year and total government expenditure may be higher than Rs 70 lakh crore. But the form and manner of keeping accounts have more or less remained unchanged since Independence; manual transactions and manual payments often lead to manually entered data at different stages in different databases on different systems. This makes data unreliable, violates the principle of "single source of truth" and sabotages transparency and good governance. DATA recognises that digitally empowered citizens require digital public utilities that not only provide e-services but make all government revenue and expenditure data electronic, machine-readable, granular, comprehensive, purpose linked, non-reputable, reliable, accessible and searchable.

A challenge for DATA is that government "computerisation" has often mechanised manual processes rather than "re-engineered processes". This has created siloed IT systems with disparate databases that lack modern data sharing protocols for organic linking like APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) and breed valid concerns of fiscal data being incomparable (as basic as salary expenditure across states), obscure (large expenditures booked under omnibus head called other), non-traceable (actual expenditure against temporary advances drawn or

funds drawn on contingent bills), and misclassification (grants in aid as capital expenditure and bookings under suspense heads). But data underlies all transactional, accounting, and payment information and a national framework and dictionary to consistently and accurately capture, record, report, publish and analyse data both vertically and horizontally across government is now possible. DATA has many other upsides; recognising off-budget transactions (the last Union budget took steps towards this fiscal transparency and consolidation), business continuity (electronic records cannot be lost or misplaced like files or paper records), and an incontrovertible audit trail. Most importantly, it will enable Parliament and legislatures to draw "assurance" that each rupee due to the government has been collected, and each rupee has been spent for the purpose it was allocated.

The start point for DATA is mandatory and common data standards for all entities receiving government funds in all forms of funding and the endpoint is a single searchable website to ascertain total government funding by element and entity. But covering the distance between these needs three elements: 100 per cent end-to-end electronic data capture, data governance for standards across all government entities, and technology architecture. The first is clear; all receipts and expenditure transactions including demands, assessment, and invoices should be received, processed, and paid electronically. The second is complex; data standards are rules for describing and recording data elements with precise meanings and semantics that enable integration, sharing, and interoperability. Prescribing data elements for all transactions will ensure standardisation, clarify ambiguity, minimise redundant data, and create protocols for integration across different databases across entities receiving government funds, collecting revenues on behalf of the government, and those discharging core functions on behalf of the government.

The proposed government-wide data standards coupled with real-time data captured end-to-end will enable the use of cognitive intelligence tools like analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, which in turn will support the establishment of budget baselines, detecting anomalies, data-driven

project/activity costing, performance comparisons across departments and agencies, and benchmarking. The third element of technology architecture must ensure that all IT government systems should conform to a pre-scribed open architecture framework (for instance, IndEA) while ensuring robust security and maintaining privacy.

A citizen-centric view of a single source of truth encompassing every rupee of public money would make the 299 remarkable people who wrote India's Constitution proud of this 21st-century citizen empowerment innovation. Recurring operations will require a Data Governance Authority and the proposed three-year timeline is doable; one year for standard-setting by the data governance authority, two years to ministries/departments of the Government of India and states, and three years to all other recipients of government money such as local and autonomous bodies. A big gift to this project could be a 12-month mandatory deadline for all government payments to go digital; bad behaviour currently costs the RBI Rs 4,000 crore in bank agency commissions because many parts of the government do not use the RBI's free e-kuber system.

A wonderful new book *Midnight's Machines: A Political History of Technology in India* by Arun Mohan Sukumar chronicles a lesser-known political project that began on August 15 1947; the Indian state's undertaking to influence how citizens thought about technology and its place in society. He suggests that Madan Mohan Malaviya's 1916 dissent note as a member of the Indian Industrial Commission seeded the Indian state's interest in technology and drew a blueprint for India's modernisation. India's current gap between the digitisation of the private sector and government often reflects the 1972 Dandekar Committee recommendation that no entity install a computer without first "justifying" its use to employees and their trade unions. This means our rights as consumers are higher than our rights as citizens. But 100 years after Pandit Malaviya's forceful note, the digitisation of the Indian state proposed by the government and CAG imagines a giant leap in empowering our citizens.

Sabharwal and Phatak are with TeamLease Services and IIT Bombay respectively

## THE FALLACY OF RANKINGS

Archaic perceptions — not criteria of excellence — determine ratings of colleges



CHANDRACHUR SINGH

THE ONSET OF a fresh academic session coincides with the release of institutional rankings. Meant primarily to guide and assist prospective students in choosing from among the best institutions and the courses offered by them, the ranking system comes off as an innovative attempt at quantifying excellence.

With 30,000 institutions of different types and standards, the Indian Higher Education System (IHES) is the world's third-largest system. The need to map institutional unevenness and the inherent qualitative disparities in standards make rankings significant. This explains the importance of the MHRD-led National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). The other system of ranking that has got traction is the *India Today* rankings. However, when read in conjunction with each other, they produce conflating results.

For example, the NIRF for 2020-21 in the colleges' category declares Miranda House as the best college, assigning Lady Shri Ram College and Hindu College second and third positions respectively, while the *India Today* rankings declare Hindu College as the best college for arts and science and the second-best college for commerce following Shri Ram College of Commerce. It is interesting to note that Miranda House does not have a commerce department and despite being ranked behind Hindu College as per *India Today* rankings, it gets the coveted top position in the NIRF

rankings. While such confusion accrues on account of divergent weightage accorded to parameters, all the rankings end up assigning the top positions to a few select institutions.

According to the declared methodology (2019) in the college category, the NIRF allocates 40 per cent weightage to teaching-learning outcomes, which is derived from a mathematical calculation of student strength, students-teacher ratio, permanent/temporary appointments, number of PhD holders in faculty positions as well as financial resource utilisation. It accords 10 points to outreach and diversity quotients, another 15 and 25 per cent to research output and graduation outcomes respectively, and 10 points to perceptions amongst employers and academic peers.

However, I would argue that despite being based on a strong methodological platform, the NIRF rankings fail in accomplishing the mandate of segregating the chaff from the wheat. This is because the so-called top colleges top the charts largely on account of archaic perceptions, triggering the best intakes, which makes them score high on academic parameters. The student strength or the faculty-students ratio is not something these colleges can do much about. Being government-funded, they are bound to admit all those who make it past their declared cut-off marks.

The same is true of the diversity quotient. None of these colleges has any say in design-

ing any policy parameter that would encourage or discourage students' recruitments from varied backgrounds. In terms of resource use, most of the resources are rigidly fixed and even the slightest deviations attract penal action. The appointments and promotions of faculty members are controlled by their respective affiliating universities, and entirely independent of any merit-based distributive mechanism. The point is that the existing regulatory mechanisms of the IHES do not allow any flexibility to develop innovative pedagogy or outreach and diversity formulae on their own. All they need to do is to stick to the government-set policy directions and feel lucky if it rains.

It is not surprising, therefore, to find almost the same set of colleges topping the charts. They do well because they have a feeder cadre of the best. The application of a ranking methodology designed for an open and dynamic system when applied to a closed one only ends up conflating and confounding realities. It is not to say that the so-called top colleges in India do not have the drive or the capabilities to excel independently. But for a real assessment, they would need to be freed from inherent structural rigidities and be brought at par with each other.

The writer teaches Political Science at Hindu College, University of Delhi. Views expressed are personal

## JULY 9, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

### OPPOSITION WALK OUT

ALMOST THE ENTIRE Opposition today walked out of the Lok Sabha amidst an unusual display of tempers and heated exchanges with the treasury benches and even the speaker after 40 minutes of a determined but unsuccessful attempt to get an adjournment motion admitted on "alarming growth" of incidents of atrocities against women and people of marginalised communities. Only eight opposition members, belonging to the DMK, the Muslim League and the National Conference remained in the house. The storm sparked off following heated exchanges between the Speaker and Jyotirmoy Basu and Chandrashekhar reached

a flash point after the young Congress (I) members started shouting at the Opposition.

### ATROCITY IN MP

AGITATED OPPOSITION MEMBERS today rapped the Madhya Pradesh government over a gruesome incident of an alleged case of rape in Morena. The government admitted the beating and torture but disclaimed rape. Madhya Pradesh chief minister said the government accepted the "gravity" of the situation and proper action would be taken according to the judicial process. A significant aspect of this heated debate was that none of the 11 women members participated in it. The women members had also shown indif-

ference when another such issue was raised in the house five days ago.

### RELATIONS WITH ASEAN

The Indian government has sought to assure the members of the ASEAN that its relations with its members will not be adversely affected by its decision to recognise the pro-Vietnamese Heng Samren regime in Kampuchea. This assurance was given by Eric Gonsalves, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, yesterday to the ambassadors of ASEAN countries. The member countries of the group, who still recognise the Khmer Rouge government, have been critical of India's decision.



# Who is caring for children?

Pandemic has been devastating for adolescents. Identifying their areas of stress, detachment and confusion must be integral part of teaching-learning in time of crisis



AMEETA MULLA WATTAL

"MARCH 20, 2020, has been a turning point in my life. All that I valued, the human touch, tangible connections, programmes, engagements, get-togethers, festivals and assemblies seem to have lost all meaning. In fact, I think I have grown up very fast as compared to any other generation of my age. Today, more than ever, I feel triggered, flooded and overwhelmed by this situation. The question that wells up in my mind is what happened to yesterday? What will happen today? How will I step into tomorrow? My dreams have been replaced by stress, anxiety and uncertainty."

This cry of help came from an adolescent in school, who was unable to cope. The coronavirus apocalypse has been devastating for adults, but adolescents have been impacted by it in a much greater manner.

Between the ages of 13 to 17, teens and tweens have increased developmental motivation that makes it hard to isolate them. The hormonal changes during puberty combined with adolescent dynamics make them highly attuned to social status and peer groups.

Caught in a vacuum, at a time when they were ready to launch themselves, many teens are wading through complicated emotions. They have had to adjust to online learning, isolated from their friends, and eliminate meaningful events from their calendars. They mourn the loss of school groups, sports and informal get-togethers. The ritual of going to class and hanging out with people who they have grown up with, even if they have not been close friends, seems over.

Till now, the majority of children were in a vacation mode, but the reality of not going back to school has suddenly dawned upon them because the pandemic shows no signs of abatement. Levels of frustration, nervousness and disconnection have become much greater. A nostalgia of events pre-March has become intense.

A lot of adolescents hope to get back so they can have a little time to officially close the book on their lives in school. Due to this pandemic, children are afraid of venturing outside their homes. Suddenly, their safety and security has been threatened and challenged from multiple angles. The more common stressors that teens are facing are loved ones becoming ill, non-stop pandemic news, family economics with their parents losing jobs, loss of traditional milestones in their school activities that are significant rites of passage, fear of catching a flight, visiting a grocery store or even going to a dentist. All these have impacted their mental health.

Adolescence is a state of major transition. It's when they start finding their identity, their sense of self from their peer group. If at this crucial period, they are caught up



C R Sasikumar

in processing a range of very intense emotions from fear and anger to sadness and grief, the result can lead to a chronic anxiety disorder.

Different teens are having different reactions. For introverted adolescents, the current situation is giving them a sense of calm or relief. The extroverts, whose energy is recharged by communication, are devastated by the quarantine.

It is very important to be on the lookout for warning signs of depression, which range from emotional changes, feelings of despair and emptiness, mental changes, difficulty in focusing and thinking, physical changes including eating habits, weight and sleeping patterns. It is imperative that we take very seriously, actions of self-harm or even words that may lead to it.

Disorders have emerged affecting mood swings, behaviour and sleeping patterns due to the excessive use of technology. This 24-hour rhythm has now become the new norm, and has broken up the space between waking and sleep.

Parents are trying to balance their own work and the remote-learning schedules of their children, trying to find ways to help them cope. Parents have to acknowledge the anxieties of their children and have an open and honest discussion about the struggles they are facing, but with a level of reassurance.

Adolescents watch adults for psychological cues. If parents are calm, the children, in turn, will be more confident of their well-being. What may seem trivial to an adult may be very important to a teen or a tween. Dismissing or minimising their feelings is

In the immediate now, and forever, we must stop worrying about the learning gaps, but think about how our children will cope with anxiety, uncertainty and change. Can our children breathe, meditate, relax, experience tenderness, trust, and do they know if they have a self to find? If what is being taught in school and at home is not connected with the child's happiness, survival and sanity, then, who is caring for our children?

not the best approach: Parents must show compassion and validate their concerns because they will not get the moments they are missing back. The citation ceremonies, farewells, annual days, school carnivals, all of these make up the sights, sounds, feelings and fragrances of the growing-up years. It is their participation and reaction to these that will make them the adults of tomorrow.

Schools and the homes have changed roles. The online teaching model has to be embedded with an emotional compass more than anything else as mental health issues have already peaked and the domino effect is going to be felt across time. Social-emotional learning will help children to cope and prevent arousal symptoms and strong negative emotions. Capsules of meditation, yoga, motivational conversations will help to deconstruct the conflict that children are facing. Identifying their areas of stress, detachment and confusion should become an integral part of the teaching-learning experience.

In the immediate now, and forever, we must stop worrying about the learning gaps, but think about how our children will cope with anxiety, uncertainty and change. Can our children breathe, meditate, relax, experience tenderness, trust, and do they know if they have a self to find? If what is being taught in school and at home is not connected with the child's happiness, survival and sanity, then, who is caring for our children?

The writer is principal, Springdales School, Pusa Road, New Delhi

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The French president's time in office has been beset by crises. As a deep post-coronavirus recession looms, the biggest one is yet to come"

—THE GUARDIAN

# Quid without a quo

India's trade agreement with China was one-sided to begin with



BIBEK DEBROY

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS are an outcome of negotiations. To get something you want, you yield on others. There is quid pro quo and reciprocity. Thanks to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), since 1948, reciprocity has been built into the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Gains and losses needn't always be defined in narrow economic terms — the quid and the quo can be strategic. However, a quid without the quo doesn't sound rational. Outside the then socialist bloc, India was the first country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC). This happened on January 1, 1950. Pakistan followed a few days later. India followed through, in October 1954, with a trade agreement with PRC, apparently based on "equality and mutual benefit". At least, that's what the preamble to the agreement said. This trade agreement overrode many historical rights India possessed (trade missions/trading posts) in Tibet. They were signed away. Therefore, for the benefit to be mutual and not unilateral, India must have gained something. This was a narrow trade agreement. Unlike contemporary times, there was no talk of cross-border labour or capital movements. The gains could have been trade, or non-trade.

In any such trade agreement, while negotiating, negotiators try to identify products where their country has a comparative advantage, though comparative advantage is necessarily dynamic and changes over time. I try to get market access for items where my country is competitive and try to bargain and prevent market access for items where my country is relatively uncompetitive. This is the principle behind trade negotiations. As broad heads, China was allowed to export — cereals, machinery, minerals, silk and silk piece-goods, animal products, paper and stationery, chemicals, oils, and miscellaneous items. India was allowed to export — grams, rice, pulses, kyanite, unmanufactured tobacco, raw materials and unmanufactured ores, wood and timber, hides and skins, chemicals, vehicles, and miscellaneous items. At that time, both countries were planning to industrialise. China with a first five-year plan in 1953, India with a first five-year plan in 1951. That being the case, you would expect industrialisation aspirations, and moving away from agriculture, to be reflected in items either side was trying to push. If you look at those broad heads, this is not the impression you get. For example, India would export wood and timber, but China would export paper and stationery. China would export machinery, but India would export raw materials and unmanufactured ores. That is, barring chemicals and vehicles, India would remain a primary produce exporter to

China, a continuing trend this trade agreement contributed to. However, China's exports would be broad-based and have manufacturing items.

So far, I have stuck to broad heads and these are heads as mentioned in the trade agreement. Those weren't days when trade negotiators followed harmonised customs nomenclatures with digits pinning down items. Such physical descriptions sufficed. Let's look at sub-heads, under those broad heads.

Under paper and stationery, we find newsprint, mechanical pulp-free printing paper, packing paper, stencil paper, blotting paper, fountain pens, pencils, ink, printing ink, and numbering machines. At that time, India had a strong domestic base in producing all these. Indeed, when Article XVIII of GATT was amended in 1954 to introduce Article XVIII B, justifying quantitative restrictions (QRs) on imports on the balance of payments grounds, one of the eight items India imposed QRs on was fountain pens. China's fountain pen manufacturing base in Shanghai, other than Hero, is of later vintage. The Shanghai Hero Pen Company traced its antecedents back to 1931. That is when the Wolff Pen Manufacturing Company was founded, renamed Shanghai Hero Pen Company later. Companies like Jinhao didn't exist then. Given India's fountain pen and ink base, it was a bit strange that in 1954, it was decided that China would have a comparative advantage in exporting fountain pens and ink and India would not. To reiterate, we clamped down on imports of fountain pens from the rest of the world, allowed them specifically for China and didn't wish to export our own to China. If Hero pens became ubiquitous in later decades, that wasn't only due to smuggling through Nepal. Those were legitimate imports. This is only an example to illustrate the broader point about a biased trade agreement.

Trade is not based on narrow notions of comparative advantage. A country can simultaneously export and import the same item. However, if an item figures in one country's list and not on the other's, that suggests an odd kind of preference. In market access schedules, items specifically mentioned are important. What's dumped into a "miscellaneous" basket is relatively insignificant. If you scrutinise the schedules, you will find non-manufacturing items in China's miscellaneous list, but many manufactured items in India's miscellaneous list (light engineering, plastic manufactures, cement, agricultural implements, paper). By any yardstick, the 1954 agreement was one-sided. Today, any negotiator who agreed to this would be hailed over coal. Nor, since GATT was already established in 1948, could one claim that India lacked in relative negotiating capacity.

I mentioned the quid pro quo gains of trade or non-trade. Obviously, there were no trade gains. One gave away and received little in return. Non-trade gains are also dubious. "Equality and mutual benefit" was picked up from the trade agreement and incorporated into Panchsheel later in the same year.

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

# Liberty and responsibility

SC rulings on internet restrictions in J&K uphold balanced constitutionalism



AISHWARYA BHARTI

THE JANUARY 10 judgment of the Supreme Court on internet restrictions in Kashmir was criticised as one "ignoring rights and remedies". The May 11 judgment on the same issue was described as an "abdication of duty". The former judgment, in *Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India*, laid down guidelines to test the validity of internet suspension orders and their periodic review. The May 11 judgment, in *Foundation for Media Professionals vs UT of Jammu & Kashmir*, ordered the constitution of a special committee to review the orders passed by the J&K authorities by applying the safeguards laid down by the Court in its January 10 judgment. In a recent webinar hosted by CAN foundation Harish Salve cautioned: "Everybody who has a point of view today thinks the Supreme Court is a national dashboard, on which everybody who has a point of view, has the right to throw a dart. This must stop."

The case is about internet availability in Kashmir, which has a vexed background and a complex geo-political history. It has been on the receiving end of well orchestrated and incessant proxy war waged by an unstable neighbour. The repeal of Article 370, re-organisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and the prospect of a brighter future for Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh, propelled our neighbour into a desperate mode. The COVID-19 crisis has only added to the complexity of the situation on the ground. The recent turn of events bear a testimony to this trend. The excessive firepower and

hostility at the LoC and the urgency and recklessness of terrorist activities in the Valley exposes the scheme of using even the pandemic to wreak havoc.

Any analysis of merits and demerits of the SC orders should start from this background information, as a "strict" analysis of the law, without facts, is a purely academic exercise. An important facet of modern terrorism is the use of the internet. Cyber terrorism is a contemporary phenomenon, wherein terrorists use the internet to influence, communicate and fund violence on a real-time basis. There is no gain-saying that Kashmir is also prey to such technology.

On August 5, 2019, internet services for the entire union territory of Jammu and Kashmir was suspended. A case was filed before the Supreme Court seeking to quash the internet restrictions imposed under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. Strangely, the eminent counsel, arguing the case for the petitioner, conceded that he did not want to challenge the constitutionality of the Rules, rather he was only concerned with their application. Accordingly, the Court, being cognisant of the fact that the Rules do not completely secure the rights of citizens, read into the Rules certain valuable safeguards such as periodic review. The J&K government implemented the SC order by easing internet restrictions in a graded manner.

The situation of Kashmir is dynamic. The government has to be the front-line enforcer of the law laid down by the SC. The Court recognises that the imposition of restriction should be on a proportionate basis. In the past month, more than 10 terrorism incidents have been reported, with more than 15 soldiers/civilians killed. Due to the continuous onslaught of terrorism, internet restrictions may have to be used often for the protection of human lives.

The constitution of the special committee by the Court is in furtherance of "balanced constitutionalism". The Constitution provides for rights under Part III to be enforced by all the organs of the government. Accordingly, the Court cannot be understood to be the sole protector of rights — the executive and legislature have an equal responsibility.

The framework the Supreme Court has created by its two judgments rightly applies this principle. First, the SC created standards for the executive to apply, including reading in the proportionality requirement. Through its recent May order, the Court has created an important forum to review the orders passed under the Rules. Now, the onus is on the government to show how it complies.

The first step for the government is to gather inputs from individual districts across J&K to assess whether the internet is being misused to circulate fake news. Once such intelligence is gathered, the materials are required to be placed before the concerned au-

thority. The Court necessarily alluded to the fact that restrictions cannot be imposed for the entire union territory through omnibus orders — they need to be tailored district-wise. The findings ought to be based on verifiable data. Further, the government should consider bringing a narrowly tailored legislation to curtail fake news, not only for Jammu and Kashmir but also for the rest of India. The safeguards and caveats ensure that the function of the Supreme Court as an apex interpreter of law remains intact, while leaving the calibration to the executive based on the ground situation.

The supposed clarion-call of some learned academicians and members of legal fraternity of "abdication of duty by the Supreme Court" seems to have completely missed the hard facts in the Valley.

It will be apposite to quote a few prophetic lines of one of the greatest legal doyens, Nani A Palkhivala: "It is true that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. But it is true, in even a deeper sense, that eternal responsibility is also part of the price of liberty. Excessive authority, without liberty, is intolerable; but excessive liberty, without authority and without responsibility, soon become equally intolerable.... Liberty has a hypnotising sound; while, unfortunately, responsibility has no sex appeal."

The writer is a senior advocate practising in the Supreme Court and former secretary, Supreme Court Bar Association

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### MODEL STATE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Crisis of the future' (IE, July 8). The Mid Day Meal scheme has been in the news for all the wrong reasons — from corruption to non-nutritional meals being provided. Kerala has indeed been a torchbearer not only in providing cooked meals even during the pandemic but in handling the COVID crisis. It was only after the NHRC and Patna High Court orders that the Bihar government sprang into action. All other states need to learn from Kerala.

Bal Govind, Noida

### FAR APART

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Line of actual decontrol' (IE, July 8). The government's measures to discourage the import of Chinese goods may end up hurting India's economic interest in the long run. India does not have the ability to produce cheap, quality products. The technological gap in manufacturing vis a vis China is vast. This will make products costlier, and the people will suffer.

Gracy Singh, Delhi

### LEARNING VS EXAMS

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'CBSE to reduce burden, crunch syllabus for Class 9 to 12' (IE, July 8). Since COVID-19 is unlikely to end soon, what is more important — survival or saving the academic year? Why jeopardise the future of stu-

## IDEAS ONLINE

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● MARKET DOMINANCE THROUGH ACQUISITIONS: SANJAY K PANDEY

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dents by holding Class 9 to 12 exams in 2020-21 on the basis 70 per cent of the syllabus? Won't these students with a 30 per cent gap in their knowledge stare blankly when they go to higher classes?

Varin Dhir, Ahmedabad

### REVIEW QUOTAS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Social injustice' (IE, July 8) The caste-based reservation in legislatures, education, and public employment is unique to India. The founding fathers of our republic originally extended reservation to legislatures only and that too for 10 years. They left it to future generations to make an assessment of this policy periodically.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

**भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण**  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA  
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS  
Tender Id : 2020\_AAI\_51484\_1  
Airports Authority of India invites item rate e-tenders for the work of "Mechanized Environmental Support Services (Up-keeping) work at Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair." at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,69,51,608/- with period of completion 2 (Two) Years.  
Last date and time of submission of e-bid is 22.07.2020 upto 1700 hrs. For details information log on to web site [www.aai.aero](http://www.aai.aero) or <https://etender.gov.in/procure/app>.

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
(Power Wing)  
Corrigendum-1 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER  
NIT No: 553/P-59/VOL-V Dated: 27.05.2020  
Name of Office : Chief Engineer/Transmission System, Planning & Design (TS) Directorate, SLDC Complex, Industrial Area Phase-I, BBMB, Chandigarh-160002. Tele Fax-0172-2654468  
Name of work : Design, Manufacture, Assembly, Testing before dispatch, Supply, Delivery of 01 no. T/F Oil filtration set for 400 KV Sub Station, BBMB, Panipat.  
Last date and time for receipt of request for issue of tender documents : 11.08.2020 upto 11:00 Hrs.  
Last date and time of submission of bids : 18.08.2020 upto 11:00 Hrs.  
Date and time of Opening of Bids : 18.08.2020 from 15:00 Hrs. onwards  
For cost of specification, Earnest money Deposit and detailed NIT, please visit website [www.bbmbproc.abcpocure.com](http://www.bbmbproc.abcpocure.com) and [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in)  
**1188-PR-TS-4** For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

**CH. CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY, MEERUT**  
e-Tender Notice  
Tender Notice No.: FC/49 Dated: 03/07/2020  
e-Tenders are invited from manufacturers/authorized distributors/wholesaler in favour of University for supply of Medicines (approx. Rs. 21 Lac) on prescribed tender form in two bid system. Terms and conditions of work are given and can be download from website [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) and University website [ccsuiversity.ac.in](http://ccsuiversity.ac.in). The cost of tender form Rs. 1050/- (Rs. 1000/- as tender form cost + GST Non-refundable) and Earnest Money Rs. 30,000/- paid by online / RTGS / NEFT in University account only. Tender form will be submitted online before 24/07/2020 upto 2.00 p.m. The Technical bid of tenders will be open as same day at 4:00 p.m. The financial bid of tenders will be opened as intimated at the time of opening of technical bid. Finance Officer

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**  
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person Named: Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : 25-30 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion: Fair, Built : Normal, Face : Round and had Beard, Wearing: Without clothes, black thread around neck has been found dead in Canal, near Dharamshila Hospital, Nala Road, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi on 04.07.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 38A dated 04.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.  
Any person having any information or clue about this found dead person may kindly inform to the following:-  
SHO P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi East Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-22610839, 22610954  
DP/109/ED/2020

**WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT**  
CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR BRIDGE  
Dy.Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Rajkot for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites E-Tender for the following work: E-Tender Notice No. DW/CE/CR/JRT/SUR-RJT/2020-21  
(1) Name of work & its location: Construction of Major Bridge Nos. 103 & 113 between Surendranagar-Rajkot section in connection with Doubling of Surendranagar-Rajkot section.  
(2) Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 5,37,05,518.69 (3) EMD: ₹ 4,18,600.00 (4) Completion Period: 12 (Twelve) Months. (5) Date & Time of submission of bid and opening of bid: Submission : 05-08-2020 upto 15:00 Hrs. Opening : 05-08-2020 at 15:30 Hrs. (6) Website particulars Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen & address of the office: Office of the Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot. Website: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) RJT-033  
Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)/WesternRly

**WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION**  
CORRIGENDUM  
Corrigendum-1 of E-Tender notice No. 09 of 2020-21 dated 29.06.2020 of tender no. DRM-AD-1-21-20-21. The Approximate NIT cost of tender may be read ₹ 52,88,791.80 in place of ₹ 59,93,221.80 and Earnest money cost may be read ₹ 1,05,800.00 in place of ₹ 1,19,900.00. All other terms and conditions of tender Notices are unchanged.  
AD-083  
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Uttrakhand Transport Corporation, H.Q. U.C.F. Sadan, Deepnagar Road, Vishnuvihar, Ajabpurkalan, Dehradun  
E-TENDER NOTICE  
E-Tenders are invited from well reputed manufacturers for the supply of following items:-  
Name of item: New Tyres Tubes & Flaps  
Tender Cost (Rs.): 5900.00  
Tender No.: 92/2020  
Pre bid meeting date: 5.8.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.  
Last Date for Online submission of tender form: 14.8.2020 upto 14.00 Hrs. 14.8.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs.  
The tender document are available online on <http://uktenders.gov.in> the bidder can download the documents in the website, the tender can be submitted along with the cost of tender & earnest money, in the form of DD in favour of Managing Director, Uttrakhand Transport Corporation, Dehradun. General Manager (Tech), E-mail: [ucgtech@gmail.com](mailto:ucgtech@gmail.com)

**Superintending Engineer**  
Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D, Bulandshahr  
Sd/- (Surender Kumar) Executive Engineer C.D. PWD Kurja  
E-Procurement Inviting Short Term Tender Notice  
On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, S.E. Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through <http://etender.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, from 13.07.2020 to 18.07.2020 upto 12.00 PM. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 18.07.2020 at 03.30 PM. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day respectively, at the same time and validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.  
Sd/- (Ajay Shankar Singh) Superintending Engineer, Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D. Bulandshahr  
Sl. No. Name of Work Estimated cost (Rs. in Lacs) Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs) Work Completion Tender document fee including GST Contractors Category  
1. Renewal of Pahasu Danpur road (ODR) in Km. 1,2,3 & 8 with P.C. For Year 2020-21 42.00 4.10 3 Month Tender Cost- Rs. 2300.000 + G.S.T. Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00 A,B,C  
2. Renewal of Kurja Shikarpur road (ODR) in Km. (1700)2,3,4,5,6,7,8 & 9 with P.C. For Year 2020-21 86.00 6.30 3 Month Tender Cost- Rs. 2300.000 + G.S.T. Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00 A,B  
1. The Bid Security and Tender Document Fee must be deposited through Internet Banking.  
2. All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 Year and details of maximum cost work satisfactorily completed in last 5 Years on chankaya software before Submission of tender. Details of e-tender uploaded on <https://etender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on Uppwd Chanakya software, before last date & time of submission of bid.  
3. Terms & Conditions related to bids are available on <https://etender.up.nic.in>

**WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION**  
TENDER ADVERTISEMENT  
SMM (DL) SBI on behalf of the President of India invites following electronic open tenders for supply of materials:  
Sr. No. Tender No. Brief description of material Qty. Date & Time of E-Tender box closing  
1. 72-20-5186 HHP LCOB Bogie 01 Set 29-07-2020, 11:00 hrs.  
Regarding detailed tender notice containing purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). Manual offers will not be considered.  
AD-064  
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उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा है- क्रम सं. 1 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी- 57/20-21 (अल्पकालिक):- विद्युत पोषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेट्रेड के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेंद्र हस्तिसागर पर क्षमतावृद्धि हेतु 01 नया 40 एम.वी.ए. परिवर्तक स्थापित करने से संबंधित कार्य। धरोहर राशि 22000.00 निविदा प्रथम का मूल्य 1770.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 23.07.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 24.07.2020 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 2 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी- 58/20-21 (अल्पकालिक):- विद्युत पोषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेट्रेड के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेंद्र चरला पर 100 एम.वी.ए. परिवर्तक हेतु NIPFES System स्थापित करने से संबंधित कार्य। धरोहर राशि 20000.00 निविदा प्रथम का मूल्य 1770.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 23.07.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 24.07.2020 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 3 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी- 59/20-21- विद्युत पोषण खण्ड वृद्धि के अन्तर्गत 220/132 के.वी. उपकेंद्र वृद्धि पर स्थापित विभिन्न मेक आइसोलैटर के अनुसंधान विभिन्न प्रकार के सामग्री की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रथम का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 10.08.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 11.08.2020 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। अधीक्षण अधिकृत, विद्युत पोषण मंडल, 130-डी, 'पोषण भवन', विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। 'एम्प्लोई में ऊर्जा बचत' प्रारंभ 2019 वि.प्रा.म./ ETC/ मेट्रेड /MT/Tender दिनांक/Date 08/07/2020

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS AND TEXTILES**  
TENDER NOTICE FOR SIZING OF YARN  
Sized tenders with two cover system in the prescribed format are invited only from the interested eligible parties for the Sizing of following varieties of Yarn for Cost Free Distribution of Sarees and Choles Pangal 2021.  
COTTON YARN  
Sl. No. Variety of Yarn Required Quantity in MT Required Earnest Money Deposit in (Rs.) Sale period Last date and time for receipt of tender Date and time of opening of tender Supply Period  
1. 40K Grey Cotton (warp quality) Yarn 3012.00 09.07.2020 to 10.08.2020 upto 11.00 am. 10.08.2020 12.00 Noon 180 days  
2. Dyed Cotton (warp quality) Yarn 2097.00 10.08.2020 upto 11.00 am. 11.08.2020 12.00 Noon 180 days  
Eligibility of the Tenderer and Other conditions are stipulated in the Tender documents.  
1. The tender document can be downloaded at free of cost from Government tender website [www.tenders.in.gov.in](http://www.tenders.in.gov.in) and used for bidding.  
2. If requested to send through Post: By Demand Draft - Rs 2900/- in favour of 'Yarn Committee for FDS 2014' payable at Chennai City (inclusive of 12% GST). Interested tenderers are requested to submit the tender schedule duly filled, in separate covers and it should be sent in a sealed envelope super scribing "Tender for Sizing of Warp Yarn" addressed to 'The Joint Director(Uniforms) Tender Inviting Authority, C/o Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Kuratagan, II Floor, Chennai - 600 105'. (Probable Tenderers may also participate in tender meetings via video conference. The Meeting link can be had from the e-mail ID given below on request).  
Contact : Joint Director (Uniforms)  
Telephone : 044-25341539 Fax : 044-25342015 Mobile : 9443742935  
e-mail ID : [tenderwing2015@gmail.com](mailto:tenderwing2015@gmail.com)  
Joint Director (Uniforms)/Tender Inviting Authority.  
DPR/23/21/Uniforms/2020

**WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION**  
VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS  
E-Tender Notice No. 07 of 2020-21 Date: 03-07-2020. (1) E-Tender No. DRM-RJT-20-E-02R: (i) Name of Work: New Works and all ordinary repairs up to Rs. 5 Lakhs for Zone No. 2/2020-21 i.e. in Jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer, Rajkot excluding the work of Banktanjari to Rajkot. (ii) Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 79,88,463.20/- (iii) EMD: ₹ 1,59,800.00/- (iv) Date & Time of Opening of Tender: 31-07-2020, 15:00 Hrs. (2) E-Tender No. DRM-RJT-20-E-2: (i) Name of Work: Rajkot Division: Improvement in maintenance facilities in DMC for Track Machine. (ii) Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 1,84,26,885.96/- (iii) EMD: ₹ 2,42,100.00/- (iv) Date & Time of Opening of Tender: 31-07-2020, 15:00 Hrs. (v) Office Address: Divisional Railway Manager (Engineer), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot-360 001. Website: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) RJT-032  
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**कुटेशन नोटिस**  
हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन कैथल में 1/2/5/10/25 किलोग्राम के अग्निशमन यंत्रों को डिपो में भरवाया जाना है इच्छुक पार्टी दिनांक 29.07.2020 तक कुटेशन सौलतन लिफाफे में महा प्रबंधक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, कैथल के नाम रजिस्टर्ड डाक द्वारा रिफिलिंग कुटेशन लिखकर भेज सकते हैं। निर्धारित तिथि के बाद कार्यालय में प्राप्त कुटेशन पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। किस्तृत जानकारी कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।  
हस्ता./- महा प्रबंधक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, कैथल।  
81664HRY

**WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION**  
VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS  
E-Tender Notice No. 07 of 2020-21 Date: 03-07-2020. (1) E-Tender No. DRM-RJT-20-E-02R: (i) Name of Work: New Works and all ordinary repairs up to Rs. 5 Lakhs for Zone No. 2/2020-21 i.e. in Jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer, Rajkot excluding the work of Banktanjari to Rajkot. (ii) Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 79,88,463.20/- (iii) EMD: ₹ 1,59,800.00/- (iv) Date & Time of Opening of Tender: 31-07-2020, 15:00 Hrs. (2) E-Tender No. DRM-RJT-20-E-2: (i) Name of Work: Rajkot Division: Improvement in maintenance facilities in DMC for Track Machine. (ii) Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 1,84,26,885.96/- (iii) EMD: ₹ 2,42,100.00/- (iv) Date & Time of Opening of Tender: 31-07-2020, 15:00 Hrs. (v) Office Address: Divisional Railway Manager (Engineer), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot-360 001. Website: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) RJT-032  
Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)/WesternRly

**पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.**  
विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-द्वितीय, बागपत  
ई-निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना  
इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित की गयी ई-निविदा संख्या 05, 06/2020-21 जिसकी खुलने की दिनांक 07.07.2020 थी, अब अपरिहार्य कारणों से रि-टेण्डर कर दिनांक 15.07.2020 तक की जाती है। अन्य नियम व शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ संलग्न हैं।  
कृपया विस्तृत सूचना Website: [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर देखी जा सकती है। विद्युत हेल्प लाईन 1800-180-3002 (मेरठ), 1800-180-8752 (लखनऊ)  
राष्ट्रीय हित में बिजली बचाये।  
हस्ता./- अधीनस्थ अधिकृत दिनांक: 08.07.2020  
प्रारंभिक:- 928/वि.वि.ख.-द्वि बा/विज्ञापन

**पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.**  
विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-द्वितीय, बागपत  
ई-निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना  
इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित की गयी ई-निविदा संख्या 05, 06/2020-21 जिसकी खुलने की दिनांक 07.07.2020 थी, अब अपरिहार्य कारणों से रि-टेण्डर कर दिनांक 15.07.2020 तक की जाती है। अन्य नियम व शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ संलग्न हैं।  
कृपया विस्तृत सूचना Website: [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर देखी जा सकती है। विद्युत हेल्प लाईन 1800-180-3002 (मेरठ), 1800-180-8752 (लखनऊ)  
राष्ट्रीय हित में बिजली बचाये।  
हस्ता./- अधीनस्थ अधिकृत दिनांक: 08.07.2020  
प्रारंभिक:- 928/वि.वि.ख.-द्वि बा/विज्ञापन

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
(Power Wing)  
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER  
E-NIT No.: 05/BMBS, PPH Dated: 08.06.2020  
Name of Office: Superintending Engineer, Pong Power House Circle, BBMB (PW), Bikaner.  
Name of work: Procurement of Single Phase Trip Circuit Supervision Relays (220VDC).  
Documents Download Start date & time : 10.06.2020 from 16.00 Hrs.  
Documents Download End date & time : 01.07.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs.  
Last Date & Time of Online Bid Submission : 13.07.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs.  
Date & Time of Online Bid Opening : 14.07.2020 at 11.00 AM.  
For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB website : [www.bbmbproc.abcpocure.com](http://www.bbmbproc.abcpocure.com) & [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in)  
628-PR-Generation-3 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

**S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER**  
E-Tender Notice No. : DRMENGGRNC-37-41-2020, dated 07.07.2020. e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E.Railway, Ranchi for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: SL No. & Tender Notice No.; Name of Work; Tender Value; EMD: (1) DRMENGGRNC-37-2020, MURI-KSX (DL) section : Conversion of stone set bridges (27 nos.) into RCC box/pile bridges with flat top; ₹ 18,10,49,779.69; ₹ 10,55,300.- (2) DRMENGGRNC-38-2020; CNI-MURI-BRKA section : Conversion of stone set bridges to RCC box/pile bridges by cut & cover method; ₹ 12,77,68,235.03; ₹ 7,88,900.- (3) DRMENGGRNC-39-2020; CNI-MURI-BRKA section : Conversion of stone set bridges to RCC box/pile bridges by pushing method; ₹ 13,47,04,925.47; ₹ 8,23,500.- (4) DRMENGGRNC-40-2020; Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of "ECC" make USFD Weld Tester Machines Model no. DS 322 AT for a period of 02 years in Ranchi Division; ₹ 4,43,81,886; ₹ 8,700.- (5) DRMENGGRNC-41-2020; Supply of 4000 cum 50mm gauge hard stone machine crushed track ballast at Ramgarh Depot including loading into Railway Wagons/Hoppers and unloading same in Ranchi Division; ₹ 48,43,040.-; ₹ 96,900.-  
Tender Closing Date & Time: 31.07.2020 at 15:00 hrs. Tenderers can visit website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) for online tendering. Contractors are allowed to make payments against these tenders towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net Banking, Debit Card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's Cheque, Deposit Receipt, FDR etc. are not allowed. E-Tender Notice is available on Notice Board in the office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E.Railway, DRM Building, Ranchi-834003. (PR-145)

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
(Power Wing)  
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER  
E-NIT No.: 05/BMBS, PPH Dated: 08.06.2020  
Name of Office: Superintending Engineer, Pong Power House Circle, BBMB (PW), Bikaner.  
Name of work: Procurement of Slip Ring & Commutator Carbon Brushes for Pong Units 1 to 5.  
Documents Download Start date & time : 10.06.2020 from 16.00 Hrs.  
Documents Download End date & time : 01.07.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs.  
Last Date & Time of Online Bid Submission : 13.07.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs.  
Date & Time of Online Bid Opening : 14.07.2020 at 11.00 AM.  
For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB website : [www.bbmbproc.abcpocure.com](http://www.bbmbproc.abcpocure.com) & [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in)  
628-PR-Generation-5 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**  
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age : Approx. 50 years, Height : 5'5", Complexion : Sallow, wearing white colour kurta and pajama, was found dead on 02.07.2020 on Near Subway Nehru Place, Outer Ring Road, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 63-A dated 02.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Kalkaji, Delhi.  
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased person may kindly inform to the following:-  
SHO : P.S. Kalkaji, Delhi Tel. No. 011-26430607  
DP/01/SE/20

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PT. B.D. SHARMA UPE, ROHTAK	SHOP NO. 11 (CHEMIST) IN SHOPPING COMPLEX, UPE, ROHTAK	11.08.2020	6.60 LACS	<a href="http://www.upel.ac.in">www.upel.ac.in</a>	cmo@upel@gmail.com
2	HAFED, PANDEOLLA	E-TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF RICE BRAN CE-CELLED, RICE BRAN, MUSTARD CE-CELLED, MUSTARD SEED OIL, MUSTARD CE-CELLED OIL, MUSTARD SEED OIL (HYDRA-PROTEIN) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER SUPPLY, SPRINGKUM TOSHING OF 50% TANK NO. 1, TANK NO. 2, TANK NO. 3, TANK NO. 4, TANK NO. 5 AND TANK NO. 6 WITHIN 2 KM FROM V.P. BASAL AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THEREON (DO NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE GOODS) SHELLA PATA DEVI MEDICAL COLLEGE, BHIBHI HAZRA, SECTOR-102, GURUGRAM.	09.07.2020 to 21.07.2020	299.30 LACS	<a href="http://www.hafed.gov.in">www.hafed.gov.in</a>	(0172) 2594997 hafed@hry.nic.in (0172) 2594823 e-m: hofed@hry.nic.in
3	GHCL, GURUGRAM	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER SUPPLY, SPRINGKUM TOSHING OF 50% TANK NO. 1, TANK NO. 2, TANK NO. 3, TANK NO. 4, TANK NO. 5 AND TANK NO. 6 WITHIN 2 KM FROM V.P. BASAL AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THEREON (DO NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE GOODS) SHELLA PATA DEVI MEDICAL COLLEGE, BHIBHI HAZRA, SECTOR-102, GURUGRAM.	07.07.2020 to 20.07.2020	61.50 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2594823 e-m: hofed@hry.nic.in
4	GHCL, GURUGRAM	01 KM OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN GATE GURUGRAM AT VARIOUS LOCATION UNDER JURISDICTION OF GHCL FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021 (01) CONTRACT FOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN GATE GURUGRAM AT VARIOUS LOCATION UNDER JURISDICTION OF GHCL FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021	07.07.2020 to 23.07.2020	50.62 LACS	<a href="http://www.ghcl.gov.in/">http://www.ghcl.gov.in/</a>	646.gnda@gcl.gov.in
5	GHCL, GURUGRAM	01 KM OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN GATE GURUGRAM AT VARIOUS LOCATION UNDER JURISDICTION OF GHCL FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021 (02) CONTRACT FOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN GATE GURUGRAM AT VARIOUS LOCATION UNDER JURISDICTION OF GHCL FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021	07.07.2020 to 23.07.2020	20.28 LACS	<a href="http://www.ghcl.gov.in/">http://www.ghcl.gov.in/</a>	88513386@ghcl.gov.in
6	HAFED	E-TENDER NOTICE FOR OBTAINING INSURANCE COVER FOR THREE ROPS OF WEIGHTAGE 1200 KGS STOCK AT APNARA, FATEHABAD, MARNAPUR, BUKHESHTARA, HESAR, PANIPAT, KATHAL AND YAMUNA NAGAR AGAINST STEEL INSURANCE POLICY (NO. HAN/12/2019) REGARDING PURCHASE OF M/S.M.S.C ITEMS, CONSUMABLE ITEMS ETC. 28/07/2019 AND TECHNICAL DETAILS AVAILABLE ON PORTAL <a href="http://WWW.ETENDERS-HRY.IN">WWW.ETENDERS-HRY.IN</a> , AND IREPS WEBSITE: <a href="http://WWW.IREPS.COM">WWW.IREPS.COM</a>	07.07.2020 to 14.07.2020	As intimated in the tender documents.	<a href="http://www.hafed.gov.in">www.hafed.gov.in</a>	0172-2594520 hafed@hry.nic.in
7	PT. B.D. SHARMA UPE, ROHTAK	REPAIR WORKS OF ROHTAK	10.07.2020 to 25.07.2020	10.07.2020 to 25.07.2020	<a href="http://www.upel.ac.in">www.upel.ac.in</a> <a href="http://www.ebmsb.org.in">www.ebmsb.org.in</a>	0172-261511 purchase.action@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HPGCL, HISAR	NIT NO.313/RGTP/PHM-III/TCE-4297 DT. 26.06.2020 SUPPLY OF COMPLETE BATTERY BANK AT RGTP/KHEJAR.	26.06.2020 to 27.07.2020	5.71 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	8222023551 mnm2.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
2	THE JIND COOP. SUGAR MILLS LTD.	PURCHASE OF ITEMS	CLOSING DATE 12.07.2020	-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9415056689 ranchidirector@gmail.com
3	UHBVN	HIRING OF 2 NOS. PERMIT VTL VEHICLE FOR USE OF SDO 'OP' S/DIVN, UHBVN, BILASPUR AND SDO 'OP' S/DIVN, UHBVN, PARTAPNAGAR	OPENING CLOSING DATE 16.07.2020	6000/- Per Vehicle	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	93156-09707 xerocpuhvn@gmail.com
4	UHBVN, PANIPAT	1 NO. VEHICLE (CAR) FOR OFFICE USE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (OP) CIRCLE UHBVN, PANIPAT	OPENING CLOSING DATE 16.07.2020	6000/- Per Vehicle	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	0160-2651549 eno@panipat@uhbvn.org.in
5	UHBVN	MONEY INSURANCE FOR 22.08.2020 TO 21.08.2021 REGARDING CASH IN TRANSIT RS. 0.34 CR. & CASH IN CHEST RS. 8.00 CR. & SUM ASSURED FOR CASH DURING THE YEAR 532.22 CR. IN RESPECT OF 137 NO. COLLECTION CENTERS & DOOS.	07.07.2020 at 10:00 Hrs/ 15.07.2020 at 11:00 Hrs open at 15.07.2020 at 15:00 Hrs	Rs. 0.34 Cr., Rs. 8.00 Cr. & 532.22 Cr.	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	0172-2592523 saocad@uhbvn.org.in
6	MC SONPAT	HIRING OF POCLANE, JOB MACHINE AND TRACTOR WITH TROLLEY FOR DE-SILTING OF DRAIN NO 6 DURING RAINING SEASON M.C SONPAT.	OPENING CLOSING DATE 15.07.2020	6.32 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	sankhanset@gmail.com
7	HYPNL	PROCUREMENT OF 220V PDS, 66KV PDS & 132KV METERING PDS	08.07.2020 to 07.08.2020	58.23 LACS	<a href="https://www.hypnl.org.in">https://www.hypnl.org.in</a>	0172-2581789 pro@hypnl.org.in
8	HYPNL	CONSTRUCTION OF 220KV TRANSMISSION LINES IN GURUGRAM AND FARIDABAD AREA	CLOSING DATE 06.08.2020	214.53 LACS	<a href="https://www.hypnl.org.in">https://www.hypnl.org.in</a>	0172-2581789 pro@hypnl.org.in
9	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KATHAL	NIGHT SWEEPING IN ALL COMMERCIAL AREAS AND MARKETS OF MC, KATHAL.	06.07.2020 to 13.07.2020	83.52 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	94151-68848 mckathal@gmail.com
10	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KATHAL	CONST OF PAWER BLOCK STREET FROM HO KARAM SINGH TO HO RAJENDER HARSOLA WALA, VED PARKASH TO HO SUBHASH SHARMA IN WARD NO17 AT KATHAL + 2 OTHER WORKS	04.07.2020 to 27.07.2020	63.00 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	94151-68848 mckathal@gmail.com
11	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KATHAL	CONST OF GATES IN VARIOUS STREET IN WARD NO 4 AT KATHAL + 8 OTHER WORKS	04.07.2020 to 27.07.2020	110.00 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	94151-68848 mckathal@gmail.com
12	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KATHAL					

## TOP OF THE WORLD



K P Sharma Oli

## NEPAL

## Ruling party meet on PM Oli's future deferred again

**Kathmandu:** A crucial meeting of the ruling Nepal Communist Party to decide the political future of beleaguered Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli was once again deferred on Wednesday till Friday to allow more time for the top leaders to reach a power-sharing deal amid the heightened intra-party rift and his anti-India remarks. As the leaders need more time for negotiations, the 45-member Standing Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday has been postponed to Friday morning, said Surya Thapa, the PM's press adviser. With this, the meeting has been put off for the fourth consecutive time.

## PAKISTAN

## Court rejects petitions against building temple in Islamabad

**Islamabad:** A Pakistani court has dismissed three identical petitions challenging the construction of the first Hindu temple in the country's capital. The Islamabad High Court delivered the judgement late on Tuesday, making it clear that there was no bar on the Institute of Hindu Panchayat, which was allotted the land for the construction of the temple, to build it using its own funds. The court had on Monday reserved the judgement on the matter. The petitioners had asked the court to annul the construction of the temple, pleading that there was no provision for the same in the master plan of the national capital.

## CHINA

## Landslide in Hubei buries nine

**Beijing:** A landslide buried nine people on Wednesday in China's Hubei province, the *People's Daily* newspaper reported, after some of the heaviest rain in decades brought floods that have killed more than 100 people. The landslide occurred in Huangmei County in the early hours and efforts were being made to rescue the people, the newspaper said. From June 1 to July 7, accumulated rainfall in the regions of Hubei, Anhui, Zhejiang and Chongqing has reached the highest levels for this time of year since 1961.

## UNIVERSITIES SAY ICE DIRECTIVE ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS

## Harvard, MIT sue after US tells foreign students with online classes to leave

KARISHMA MEHROTRA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

A DAY after US immigration authorities announced that international students could not be in the country if their Fall classes were moving entirely online, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Harvard University sued the US' Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Department of Homeland Security to block the directive.

"Defendants have put both schools to an impossible choice: lose numerous students who bring immense benefits to the school or take steps to retain those students through in-person classes, even when those steps contradict each school's judgment about how best to protect the health of the students, faculty, staff, and the entire university community," the complaint stated.

The case filed in a US District Court in Boston, Massachusetts, claimed that the ICE directive was "arbitrary and capricious" with "virtually no reasoned decision making" and asked the court to hold the agency's action



There were around 2 lakh Indian students in the US in 2019

as unlawful. The ICE directive had shocked international students in India, who scrambled to understand if they met the mandate of having some in-person coursework to stay in the US.

The directive applies to the F-1 non-immigrant visas for academic work and M-1 non-immigrant visas for vocational coursework and requires school officials to issue new visa forms by August 4 and operational plans as soon as July 15.

Before the directive, Harvard had already announced it was housing no more than 40 per cent of undergraduates and that all classes would go online in the Fall.

MIT had announced that it would have online instruction for those away from campus and a hybrid model for those on campus.

A letter from the Harvard president stated: "The order came down without notice — its cruelty surpassed only by its recklessness... This comes at a time when the United States has been setting daily records for the number of new infections... For many of our international students, studying in the United States and studying at Harvard is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. These students are our students, and they enrich the learning environment for all... We owe it to them to stand up

and to fight—and we will."

The MIT President said in a letter: "Our international students now have many questions — about their visas, their health, their families and their ability to continue working toward an MIT degree. Unspoken, but unmistakable, is one more question: Am I welcome? At MIT, the answer, unequivocally, is yes."

Others are also planning legal action, including the Massachusetts Attorney General.

The universities' lawsuit said the directive's "effect — and perhaps even the goal — is to create as much chaos for universities and international students as possible." Students returning home just weeks from the start of the semester was "impossible, impracticable, prohibitively expensive, and/or dangerous," it said.

There were around two lakh Indian students in the US in 2019, surpassed only by China, according to a report by the US-based Institute of International Education. International students, often not on financial loans, contribute around \$45 billion, it said, citing the US Department of Commerce.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Trump threatens to cut federal aid if schools don't reopen in fall

COLLIN BINKLEY  
JULY 8

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Wednesday threatened to withhold federal funding if schools don't reopen in the fall, and he lashed out at federal health officials over school reopening guidelines that he says are impractical and expensive.

Taking to Twitter to voice his frustration, Trump argued that countries including Germany, Denmark and Norway have reopened schools "with no problems." He also repeated his claim that Democrats want to keep schools closed for political reasons.

"The Dems think it would be bad for them politically if US schools open before the November Election," Trump said, "but it is important for the children & families. May cut off funding if not open!" **AP**

## US top court lets employers deny birth control coverage on religious grounds

ADAM LIPTAK  
WASHINGTON, JULY 8

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday upheld a Trump administration regulation that lets employers with religious or moral objections limit women's access to birth control coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

As a consequence of the ruling, about 70,000 to 126,000 women could lose contraceptive coverage from their employers, according to government estimates.

The vote was seven to two, with Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor dissenting.

Contraception coverage has emerged as a key battleground in the culture wars, one in which successive administrations have switched sides.

In the Obama years, the court heard two cases on whether religious groups could refuse to comply with regulations requiring contraceptive coverage. The new case presented the opposite question: Can the Trump administration allow all sorts of employers with religious or moral objections to contraception to opt out of the coverage requirement?

In March 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Affordable Care Act, which includes a section that requires coverage of preventive health services and screenings for women. The next year, the Obama administration required employers and insurers to provide women with coverage at no cost for all methods of contraception approved by US authorities. Houses of worship, including churches, temples and mosques, were exempt from the requirement. **NYT**

The White House said the book was in Mary Trump's "own financial self-interest." **NYT**

## US notifies UN of withdrawal from WHO

KATIE ROGERS & APOORVA MANDAVILLI  
WASHINGTON, JULY 8

THE TRUMP administration has formally notified the United Nations that the United States will withdraw from the World Health Organisation, a move that would cut off one of the largest sources of funding from the premier global health organization in the middle of a pandemic.

"The United States' notice of withdrawal, effective July 6, 2021, has been submitted to the UN secretary-general, who is the depository for the WHO," a senior administration official said Tuesday.

The departure would take effect sometime next year, should the United States meet established conditions of giving a one-year notice and fulfilling its current financial obligations, Stéphane Dujarric, a spokesman for the secretary-general, António Guterres, said on Tuesday.

The notification completes a threat that President Donald Trump began making months



Experts acknowledged that the WHO had made some missteps during the pandemic but said it had largely done well given the constraints under which it operates. Reuters

ago, as the death toll from the coronavirus in the United States mounted and Trump sought to blame the Chinese government for not doing enough to stop the spread of the disease. Trump has accused Beijing of hiding the true scope of infections from the WHO, targeting the agency in the process.

"The world is now suffering as a result of the malfeasance of the Chinese government," Trump said in May when he first said the United States would

withdraw from the organisation.

There is little evidence to support Trump's belief that the Chinese misinformed the organisation.

Experts acknowledged that the WHO had made some missteps during the pandemic but said it had largely done well given the constraints under which it operates. The agency is coordinating clinical trials of treatments, as well as efforts to manufacture and equitably distribute the vaccine. **NYT**

## Trump shaped by 'sociopath' father: niece's book

Book says US President had paid someone to take his college entrance exam

MAGGIE HABERMAN & ALAN FEUER  
JULY 8

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's niece describes him in a much-awaited tell-all book as a child in an adult's body, someone psychologically brutalised and damaged by his "sociopath" father and who developed defences of anger and distrust to mask his own chronic insecurities.

*Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man,*



Donald Trump was psychologically brutalised by his father, the book says

by Mary L Trump, presents a portrait of the President familiar to readers of other books as

a transactional narcissist and accidental commander in chief. But Mary Trump, a clinical psychologist, offers a particularly dark picture of Donald Trump's father and her grandfather, Fred Trump Sr.

"From the beginning, Fred's self-interest skewed his priorities," Mary Trump writes. "His care of his children, such as it was, reflected his own needs, not theirs. Love meant nothing to him, and he could not empathise with their plight, one of the defining characteristics of a sociopath; he expected obedience, that was all."

Fred Trump Sr. wanted his eldest son, Fred Jr. — Mary's father — to be a "killer," a high form of praise that the President himself has often used to describe people he respects.

*Too Much and Never Enough* was scheduled for release next Tuesday.

Among the new disclosures in the book is Mary Trump's claim that Donald Trump paid someone to take his college entrance examination.

The White House said the book was in Mary Trump's "own financial self-interest." **NYT**



School students in Hong Kong were a big part of the mass protests that shook the city in the past year. Reuters

## HK bans protest song, other political expression at schools

New national security office opened

AGENCIES  
HONG KONG, JULY 8

HONG KONG'S education secretary on Wednesday banned students from singing the protest anthem "Glory to Hong Kong," posting slogans with political messages or forming human chains, saying "the schools are obliged to stop" such activities.

The statement by the secretary, Kevin Yeung, ratcheted up the pressure on the pro-democracy movement as Hong Kong residents struggle to determine what is acceptable behaviour under a strict new national security law that China imposed on the semi-autonomous territory last week.

Students, including middle schoolers, have been a driving force in Hong Kong's protest movement. Beijing's imposition of the national security law last Wednesday — and the subsequent arrests of teenagers at protests — has led some families to express concerns that their children could be in jeopardy for singing pro-democracy songs or even for expressing such sentiments in their homes.

Meanwhile, China on Wednesday opened its first office in Hong Kong to implement the controversial national security law.

The office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in the Hong

## China, US impose visa restrictions on each other

**Beijing:** China said on Wednesday it will impose visa restrictions on US citizens who have engaged in what it called egregious behaviour over Tibet, in an apparent retaliation against US restrictions on some Chinese officials. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Beijing would allow no foreign interference in Tibetan affairs. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, citing what he called human rights abuses by the Chinese government in Tibetan areas, had said on Tuesday the US would restrict visas for some Chinese officials because Beijing obstructs travel to the region by US diplomats, journalists and tourists. **REUTERS**

Kong Special Administrative Region was inaugurated Wednesday, establishing for the first time the presence of China's security establishment in the former British colony since its handover in 1997. The office places mainland agents in the heart of the territory for the first time.

## Some of Facebook's decisions setbacks for civil rights: audit

MIKE ISAAC  
SAN FRANCISCO, JULY 8

FACEBOOK HAS not done enough to fight discrimination on its platform and has made some decisions that were "significant setbacks for civil rights," according to a new independent audit of the company's policies and practices.

In a 100-page prepublication report, which was obtained by *The New York Times*, the social network was repeatedly faulted for not having the infrastructure for handling civil rights and for prioritising free expression on its platform over nondiscrimination. In some decisions, Facebook did not seek civil rights expertise, and auditors said, potentially setting a "terrible" precedent that could affect the November general election and other speech issues.

"Many in the civil rights community have become disheartened, frustrated and angry after



Mark Zuckerberg has defended Facebook as a champion of free speech.

years of engagement where they implored the company to do more to advance equality and fight discrimination, while also safeguarding free expression," wrote the auditors, Laura W Murphy and Megan Cacace, who are civil rights experts and lawyers. They said they had "vigorously advocated for more and would have liked to see the company go further to address civil rights concerns in a host of areas." **NYT**

## OPEN LETTER PUBLISHED BY HARPER'S ARGUED FOR OPENNESS TO 'OPPOSING VIEWS'. IT TRIGGERED A SWIFT REACTION

## Prominent artists, writers warn of an 'intolerant climate', stirring debate

JENNIFER SCHUESSLER & ELIZABETH A HARRIS  
JULY 8

THE KILLING of George Floyd has brought an intense moment of racial reckoning in the United States. As protests spread across the country, they have been accompanied by open letters calling for — and promising — change at white-dominated institutions across the arts and academia.

But Tuesday, a different type of letter appeared online. Titled "A Letter on Justice and Open Debate," and signed by 153 promi-

nent artists and intellectuals, it began with an acknowledgment of "powerful protests for racial and social justice" before pivoting to a warning against an "intolerant climate" engulfing the culture.

"The free exchange of information and ideas, the lifeblood of a liberal society, is daily becoming more constricted," the letter declared, citing "an intolerance of opposing views, a vogue for public shaming and ostracism and the tendency to dissolve complex policy issues in a blinding moral certainty."

"We refuse any false choice between justice and freedom,

which cannot exist without each other," it continues. "As writers we need a culture that leaves us room for experimentation, risk taking, and even mistakes."

The letter, which was published by *Harper's Magazine*, will also appear in several leading international publications, surfaces a debate that has been going on privately in newsrooms, universities and publishing houses that have been navigating demands for diversity and inclusion, while also asking which demands — and the social media dynamics that propel them — go too far.

And on social media, the reac-



JK Rowling and Salman Rushdie were among the signatories

tion was swift, with some heaping ridicule on the letter's signatories — who include cultural luminaries like Margaret Atwood, JK Rowling and Salman Rushdie,



along with journalists and academics — for thin-skinnedness, privilege and, as one person put it, fear of loss of "relevance."

"Okay, I did not sign THE LET-

TER when I was asked 9 days ago," Richard Kim, enterprise director of HuffPost, said on Twitter, "because I could see in 90 seconds that it was fatuous, self-important drivel that would only troll the people it allegedly was trying to reach — and I said as much."

The debate over diversity, free expression and the limits of acceptable opinion is a long-burning one. But the letter, which was spearheaded by writer Thomas Chatterton Williams, began taking shape about a month ago, as part of a long-running conversation about these issues with a small group of writers.

Williams said there wasn't one particular incident that provoked the letter. But he did cite several recent ones, including the resignation of more than half the board of the National Book Critics Circle over its statement supporting Black Lives Matter, a similar blowup at the Poetry Foundation, and the case of David Shor, a data analyst at a consulting firm who was fired after he tweeted about academic research linking looting and vandalism by protesters to Richard Nixon's 1968 electoral victory.

Signatories include leftist Noam Chomsky and neoconser-

vative Francis Fukuyama. There are also some leading Black intellectuals, including historian Nell Irvin Painter, poets Reginald Dwayne Betts and Gregory Pardlo, and linguist John McWhorter.

Pardlo said he was surprised by some of the blowback to the letter "from the left." "It seems some of the conversation has turned to who the signatories are more than the content of the letter," he said.

There was particularly strong blowback over the inclusion of JK Rowling, who has come under fierce criticism over a series of comments widely seen as anti-transgender. **NYT**

## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

**I, RAM BABU VERMA S/O-SUNDER LAL R/O A-2/844 J.C.COLONY MADANPUR KHADAR SARITA-VIHAR DELHI-110076, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAM BABU**  
0040541424-9

**I, HASEEBA W/O MOHAMMAD ASIF R/O F-7 F-BLOCK NIZAMUDDIN WEST NEW DELHI-110013 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HASEEBA BEGUM.**  
0040541380-1

**Ashish Kumar S/o Sh. Panna Lal R/O B-441, First Floor, Sector-19, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. have changed my name to Ashish Kumar Singh for all purposes.**  
0040541391-1

**I Nitya Prakash Gupta s/o Bhagwan Das Gupta R/O D-62/2, East chander Nagar Delhi-51 changed my name to Nitya Prakash.**  
0040541424-4

### NAME CHANGE



**I, SOMA W/O Late Sh. Shiv Dayal R/O S-221/47, Vishnu Garden, Gali No.2, New Delhi-110018, inform that SOMA, SOMA DEVI and SUMAN is the same person i.e. myself and pertains to me.**  
0040541420-1

**I, Vijay Kumar son of Shri Tirath Das Gudwani Resident of House No. 2304, 2nd Floor, Hudson Line, Kingsway Camp GTB Nagar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name from Vijay Kumar to Vijay Kumar Gudwani for all intents & Purposes. Inform that Vijay Kumar & Vijay Kumar Gudwani both are one & same Person Name.**  
0040541420-1

**I, Sweety Walia, W/O-Sonu Pal Singh Ahluwalia, R/O H.No-3A, Ayodhya Enclave, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, declare that actual name of mine mentioned in Aadhar Card Sweety Walia, W/O-Sonu Pal Singh.**  
0040541426-13

**I, Simon Daniel s/o Harrison Daniel R/O D-89, Khajian-Basti Nangal Sabji Mandi, Nangal Raya, Delhi-110046, have changed my name to Siman Daniel.**  
0040541424-8

**I, Rajvinder Kaur W/o Jarnail Singh R/O-staff qtrs C-3, Mata Sundari gurudwara, Minto-Road, New Delhi-110002, changed my name to Rajvinder Kaur.**  
0040541424-1

**I, Pravin Kumar Sankalchand Patel S/O, Sankalchand R/O 413 Chhella Vs Nr Shakmarket Nava Vadaj Gam West Vadaj Ahmedabad have changed my name to Pravinbhai Sankalchand Patel for all purposes.**  
0040541365-2

**I, Narinder Pal Kaur D/o Jarnail Singh R/O-staff qtrs C-3, Mata Sundari Gurudwara Minto-Road, New Delhi-110002, changed my name to Narinderpal Kaur.**  
0040541424-2

**I, Kanav Budhiraja s/o Jagdish Kumar R/O 14/65, Punjabi Bagh West, New Delhi-110026 have changed my name to KANV BUDHIRAJA permanently.**  
0040541418-1

**I, KHUSHBOO, W/O RAHUL GUPTA, R/O A-2/1103, SHIPRA SUN-TOWER, SHIPRA SUN-CITY, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, U.P.-201014, changed my name to KHUSHBOO SRIVASTAVA.**  
0040541426-4

**I, Jeevan Das S/o Lakh Ram Arenja R/O F-79 Prashant Vihar Delhi-110085, changed my name to Jeevan Dass Arenja permanently.**  
0040541426-1

**I, Gitika Bhandari D/o-Subhash Chander R/O-Tower-2 Flat.No.304, Valley-View-Estate Gwal Pahari Gurgaon changed my name to Gitika Sharma.**  
0040541426-5

**I, Dina Nath S/o Late Sh. Atma Ram R/O E-2/84/1, Shastrinagar, Delhi-110052, That Dina Nath, Deena Nath & Dena Nath Arora, All names one and Same Person deponent's. Known Dina Nath in future**  
0040541417-1

**I, Shailey Gupta W/o Nitya Prakash R/O D-62/2, East chander Nagar Delhi-51 changed my name to Shailey.**  
0040541424-5

**I, CHANCHAL/CHANCHAL KUMARI W/O DEVINDER KUMAR R/O-B-208-E, TOP-FLOOR, STREETNO-2, MAJLIS PARK, DELHI-110033. CHANGED MY NAME TO CHANCHAL KUMAR.**  
0040541426-2

**I, Baljit Singh S/o Jarnail Singh R/O-Staff qtrs C-3, Mata Sundari Gurudwara Minto-Road New Delhi-110002, changed my name to Baljeet Singh.**  
0040541424-3

**I, Amarjeet Kushwaha S/o Sikandar Kushwaha R/O Flat.No.8D, Block-B5, Dhawalji Apartment, Sector-34, Noida, DISTT-G.B.Nagar, U.P., have changed my name to Amarjeet Kushwaha.**  
0040541441-2

**I, Imran Khan S/o-sadakat Hussain Add-7/3 block-9 dakshinpur extn dr. Ambedkar-Nagar new delhi-110062. changed my name to imran.**  
0040541424-7

**I YOUSUF S/O MOHD BASHEER R/O 1148 MAIN BAZAR MATIA MAHAL JAMA MASJID DELHI 110006 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD YUSUF.**  
0040541380-2

**I Preeti Datta alias Priti Datta D/O G.S. Datta R/O H.No.96, Mohyal Colony, Sector-40, Gurgaon, have changed my name to Priti Datta.**  
0040541424-6

**I MANJU TOMAR M/O-SANCHIT TOMAR R/O-749/12 GALI NO.1, RAMYAN BHAWAN, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032. HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON NAME JEETU TO SANCHIT TOMAR, FOR ALL PURPOSES.**  
0040541426-3

### PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that my client, **MRS. KAMLA W/O Late: HIRALAL, R/O B-920 madipur colony New Delhi 110063** has disowned/dissipated her son **Virendra Kumar (Vicky)** with his family **Kanta (Pooja) & Child Kayyash (Kabu) & Shinoye (Shinu)** from all her movable and immovable assets. Our Client would not be responsible for the acts, deed and things done by them.  
**Madan Gopal Vachar (Advocate)** Ch.234, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Court, ND

### DISOWN NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that my client **Sh. Rajendra Kumar S/o Sh. Mohar Singh R/O 14/284, Dakshinpur, Ext. New Delhi-62** has severed all kinds of relations with his daughter **Smt. Ritu Kumari W/o Sh. Naval Singh**. Today onwards **Smt. Ritu Kumari** will not have any rights w.r.t. to tangible, intangible, movable/immovable property of my client. Any person entering into any kind of relationship with **Smt. Ritu Kumari** will be solely responsible for the same and my client will not be responsible in any manner for the conduct of **Smt. Ritu Kumari**.  
**Naranda Sharma (Advocate)** Ch. No. 742, Saket Courts New Delhi-17

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients **Sh. Anil Kumar Malik S/o Sh. Late Shri Satya Prakash Malik R/O C-8/18, 3rd Floor, Rana Parthab Bagh Delhi-110007** hereby severed all Relations & Disowned their son **Kush Malik** Age Approx 35 years and his wife **Smt. Simran Malik** Approx 31 Years from all their movable and immovable properties due to their hostile behaviour if anybody dealing with them my client will not be Responsible.  
**SD/- Rajesh Aggarwal (Advocate)** Enr. No. D/5046/16 45/2, Bhushan Bhawan, Ring Road, Azadpur, Delhi-33

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is informed that my client **Sh. Aarjan Gupta S/o Sh. Naresh Gupta**, aged about 21 years, presently residing at 4/84, 2nd Floor, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi, has lost Regd. Special Power of Attorney Registration No. 1234, Advt Book No. IV, Volume No. 2, Pages-6377-6383, Dated 29/02/2012 executed at Sub Registrar Kalkata, W.B by **Sh. Suresh Kumar Jain S/o Sh. Madan Lal Jain** in favor of **Sh. Jayant Kumar Jain S/o Sh. Madan Lal Jain** for the sale of properties bearing Nos. Unit Nos. 4/101, 1st Floor, 4/102, 1st Floor, Unit No. 4/201, 2nd Floor and 4/201, 2nd Floor, Sector P-II, Plot No. 4 & 7, all situated at Family Centre Scheme, Maya Puri, New Delhi to **Sh. Naresh Gupta S/o Sh. Ratan Lal Gupta R/O A-318, Meergh, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110027**. It is notified that whosoever will find these documents may kindly return to the undersigned. It is further notified that whosoever will misuse the documents of my client will be charged with the criminal offence as per law.  
**SD/- Mr. P.K. VERMA (ADVOCATE)** Reg. No. D/502/82 63, WESTERN WING TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI

### PUBLIC NOTICE

ENTIRE FIRST FLOOR, SECOND FLOOR AND THIRD FLOOR WITH ROOF RIGHT OF BEING PART OF PROPERTY NO. 2720-2724, AREA MEASURING 196.5 SQ YDS. SADAR THANA ROAD, DELHI. Public at large is hereby informed that the captioned property is owned by my client(s) **Shri Atul Jain and Smt Nisha Jain** and at present Equitable Mortgage with State Bank of India, Branch : RAACP, Janakpuri, Delhi. It is hereby notified that any person or entity, firm / company / Bank, financial institution having claim any charge, interest or lien / or objection thereof, he/ she/ they may lodge/ notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof within 15 days from the day of publication. Failing which the title shall be deemed to be clear and marketable without any defect, encumbrance, flow and impediment and my client is free to create Equitable/Registered Mortgage in respect of the captioned property with any financial Institution/Bank.  
**Amit Chaudhary (Advocate)** Ch. No. 561, 5th Floor, Saket Courts, New Delhi

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Mr. Parminder Raj Singh Bajwa S/o Indrajit Singh Bajwa owner of Property Flat No 144, Sector 7, Plot No 13, Saragoda Apartments, Dwarka, New Delhi 110075**, have lost the original papers, conveyance deed of this property vide FIR no 621/211. That the property will be mortgaged with other financial institute. Any person having any objection/claim in this regard may contact the undersigned within 15 days.  
**Rupesh Kumar Ranjan (Advocate)** Chamber No.312, Lawyers Chambers, Rohini Court, New Delhi-110085, Ph.9871273863

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the owner of Property No.9, Block-W, in the layout Plan, PVC Market, Jwalapuri, Area 84.0 Sq Mtr. situated in PVC Market, Jwalpuri, New Delhi, hereby give notice in respect of the aforesaid property's original documents have been lost. Details of document as under:  
Demand cum allotment letter, Possession Letter, Possession Slip, NOC for Electric, water connection and other documents.  
If anybody find the aforesaid documents, please inform to: **Jaswant Kumar S/o Kishori Lal 22 Ambika Vihar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087** gurdeep.khambha@gmail.com

### PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is here by informed that my client **Sh. SINGH S/O LATE SH. HARKISHAN R/O Plot No. 22, Near Kailash Hospital, Distt. G.B. Nagar (U.P.)** has detached and debared their son named **Dr. Vivek Kumar S/o Sh. Jagat Singh & his wife Dr. Shashi W/O Dr. Vivek Kumar** (who are living forcibly and illegally) Both R/O Plot No. 22, First Floor, Near Kailash Hospital, Distt. G.B. Nagar (U.P.) from all their relationship henceforth. My above named client has severed all relations with their son and for purposes for all the times to come. Any person dealing with them and shall do so at his own risk and consequences and my client will not be responsible for any claim against **Dr. Vivek Kumar & Dr. Shashi** under any circumstances.  
**D.K. Sharma (Advocate)** Chamber No. 219, New Lawyers Chambers, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi (M) 98100-46825 Place: NOIDA Date: 07-07-2020

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Smt. Mammeet Kaur W/O Late S. Harshinder Singh Madan R/O A-143, Gujrauwala Town, Part-1, New Delhi-110009**, has severed all her relationship from her son **Manik Singh Madan** and his wife **Gurpreet Kaur D/O Pritpal Singh Vohra** and their legal heirs. She has disowned and debared them from all her money(s), assets, accounts, policies, entitlements, movable and immovable properties etc. whether present or in future. My client would not be responsible for losses, acts, deeds and things done by them.  
**VIKASH TRIVEDI ADVOCATE** ENR. NO. D/874/2016 LAWYER CHAMBER NO. 704, SAKET COURT COMPLEX NEW DELHI-110011

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sh. Madan Lal Arora Son of Sh. J. R. Lal Residents of 36, F/F, Guru Angad Nagar, Extn., Delhi -110092**, disown/debar his son **Sh. Kapil Arora** and his family i.e. (i) **Smt. Neetu Arora, Wife.** (ii) **Nitika Arora...Daughter** (iii) **Ishaan Arora...Son**, from their all movable and immovable properties/assets and he shall not be responsible for any matter regarding them and he has not any type of relation with them.,  
**SD/- B. N. DEO, ADVOCATE** S.R.I.B Campus, Janakpur, New Delhi-58

### SITUATION VACANT

**OTHERS**  
**Urgent Requirement: CWSN Teacher, Salary: As per rules Rajindra Public School, Main 50 Feet Road, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi-110041**  
8505838662, rajindrapublicschool@gmail.com 0040541426-7

### LOST & FOUND

**I, Mrs Parveen Walia D/O Late D.D Grover have Lost my original-Flat Documents. Cash Receipt, Possession Letter, Allotment Letter, Possession Slip, Conveyance Deed, Sale deed for property Flat.No.53, Shubham Apartment, Pocket4, DDA,SFS Flats, Dwarka, Delhi-78.**  
0040541424-10

**I, Madhubala W/o Bhoopal Singh Tomar R/O Citadel-302, Eldeco Green Meadows, Sector-Pi, Greater Noida, U.P., have lost my Original Registry Paper of B-151, Kalindi Kunj Awasiya Vojna, Khurja, U.P.**  
0040541441-1

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client **Smt. BIMLA DEVI W/O Late Sh. Kewal Krishna Sharma R/O C-358-B, KESHAV PURAM, DELHI-110035** is the absolute owner of above stated property and the said property is proposed to be Equitable/Registered Mortgage with ICICI BANK. It is hereby notified that except the above mentioned bank, any person or entity, firm/ company, Bank, financial institution having claim any charge, interest or lien or claim on the basis of documents/ court judgment or otherwise and/ or objection to thereof, he/she/they may lodge/ notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof/ court judgment within 7 days from the day of publication, failing which the title shall be deemed to be clear and marketable without any defect, encumbrance, flow and impediment and my client(s) is/ are free to create Equitable/Registered Mortgage by deposit of Chain of available title documents with any person/ firm, company, financial institution/ Bank.  
**SD/- SUNIL GUPTA, ADVOCATE** Chamber No. 311-312, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054 Mobile- 8860313311, Email: advsg@yahoo.com

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### TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED

**NOTICE INVITING BIDS**  
1. The APTRANSCO (Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited) invites bids on e-procurement platform for supply of following Power Transformers for providing 9 Hrs. Agl. Power supply in day time and augmentation works:-  

Sl. No.	Specification No.	Name of the equipment	Quantity in Nos.	Tender availability Date
1	PMM 21-e-08/2020	160MVA, 220/132/11kV Auto Transformers	10 Nos.	09.07.2020
2	PMM 23-e-11/2020	Lot-I: 80MVA, 132/33kV Power Transformers Lot-II: 50MVA, 132/33kV Power Transformers Lot-III: 50MVA, 220/33kV Power Transformers	Lot-I: 11 Nos., Lot-II: 21 Nos, Lot-III: 13 Nos	

  
2. The interested bidders are to be required to enroll themselves on the 'e-procurement market place' at [www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in)  
3. Complete set of bidding documents are available at [www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in)  
Phone/Fax No. 0866-2429230 Extn.: 2014, 2034, 2031  
SD/- Chief Engineer/Transmission, Vidyuth Soudha, Vijayawada, AP, R.O. No.: 165PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2020-21

### BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (IRRIGATION WING)

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
NIT No.: e-56/BSL/PPR-2709  
Tender Authority: Sr. Xen, Electrical & Workshop Division BBMB, Sundernagar  
Scope of Tender: Procurement of Lubricants for transport Vehicles  
Documents Download End Date 22.07.2020 at 3:00 PM  
Date/Time of Opening of Tender 22.07.2020 at 3:30 PM  
The detail of NIT may be seen/download from BBMB Website [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in) or [www.bbmbeproc.aeprocure.com](http://www.bbmbeproc.aeprocure.com).  
892-PR-BSL-4 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

### BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Power Wing)

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
E-NIT No.: 03/BBMB, PPH Dated: 08.06.2020  
Name of Office: Superintending Engineer, Pong Power House Circle, BBMB (PW), Talwara.  
Name of work: Procurement of Fire Hydrants, Flexible Hose Pipes & Galvanized Multipurpose Nozzles for Pong Power House, Talwara.  
Documents Download Start date & time 18.06.2020 from 16.00 Hrs.  
Documents Download End date & time 01.07.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.  
Last Date & Time of Online Bid Submission 13.07.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.  
Date & Time of Online Bid Opening 14.07.2020 at 11.00 AM.  
For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB website: [www.bbmbeproc.aeprocure.com](http://www.bbmbeproc.aeprocure.com) & [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in).  
881-PR-Generation-1 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

### BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Power Wing)

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
E-NIT No.: 04/BBMB, PPH Dated: 08.06.2020  
Name of Office: Superintending Engineer, Pong Power House Circle, BBMB (PW), Talwara.  
Name of work: Procurement of Grinding Wheel, Discs, Depressed-cutting Discs, Emery paper, Emery cloth, of different sizes as per (Annexure-I) for the Pong Power House, located in Himachal Pradesh, Bhakra Power House, Nangal, Ganguwala & Kota Power House, Ganguwala & Paripal.  
Documents Download Start date & time 18.06.2020 from 16.00 Hrs.  
Documents Download End date & time 01.07.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.  
Last Date & Time of Online Bid Submission 13.07.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.  
Date & Time of Online Bid Opening 14.07.2020 at 11.00 AM.  
For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB website: [www.bbmbeproc.aeprocure.com](http://www.bbmbeproc.aeprocure.com) & [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in).  
880-PR-Generation-5 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

### HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED (A State Government Undertaking)

**CORRIGENDUM**  
The last date of receipt and opening of Tender(s) for Sale of Non-Solar Renewable Power or normal power on short term basis called vide NIT No. 15-03/2020 is hereby extended upto 17.07.2020 by 01:00 PM and shall be opened at 03:00 PM on the same day. NIT and corrigendum are already available at HPSEBI website i.e. [www.hpseb.com](http://www.hpseb.com) and [www.hpsebi.org](http://www.hpsebi.org).  
SD/- Chief Engineer (System Operation), HPSEB Ltd, Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla-171004

### NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

**E-Tendering Tender Notice**  
Date: 06.07.2020  
E-Tender Notice No. SIG-WS-CONT-AGC-86-B  
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/North Central Railway/Aggra for and on behalf of President of India on invites sealed Open Tender through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work.  

E-Tender No.	Description of work	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
SIG-WS-CONT-AGC-86-B	Leftover signaling work in connection with provision of longer loop line at Kitham station (Mathura-Agra) & at Gosara station (AF-BK) section for running of python trains of AGC Divn. on NC Rly.	₹ 5370438.94/- (Rs. Fifty Three Lakh seventy thousands Four Hundred Thirty Eight and paisa ninety four Only)	₹ 1074000/- (Rs. One Lac Seven Thousands Four Hundred Only)

  
Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 5350/- (Rs. Five Thousand Three Hundred Fifty only). Date of Closing Tender: 05.08.2020. Date of completion period from issue of acceptance letter: 09 Month.  
Tender on line can be submitted up to 15.30 hrs on 05.08.2020. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in).

## MOVE TO COUNTER INDIA'S DEPENDENCE ON CHINA FOR CRUCIAL MEDICINE INGREDIENTS

## Govt to announce scheme to boost output of 41 bulk drugs

PRABHARAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

THE GOVERNMENT is set to announce the contours of a scheme to boost the production of 41 bulk drugs — ranging from antibiotics to ingredients for lifesaving TB and heart drugs like penicillin-G, vitamin B1, prednisolone and diclofenac sodium. The scheme, coming at a time when India's dependence on China for crucial medicine ingredients has come under the scanner, is being finalised this week, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

A technical committee set up to outline the details of the Rs 6,940-crore Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, first announced by the Union Cabinet in March, is learnt to have submitted its final draft to the Department of Pharmaceuticals last week. The department is currently working to bring the guidelines out "as soon as possible", so that firms can set



Testing for COVID-19 in New Delhi, Wednesday. The scheme to boost output of 41 bulk drugs include antibiotics, ingredients for lifesaving TB, and heart drugs like penicillin-G, vitamin B1, prednisolone and diclofenac sodium. Tashi Tobgyal

up capacity to churn out these key ingredients, a senior government official directly aware of the development told *The Indian Express*. Under this scheme, the government will pay drugmakers 10-20 per cent of their annual turnover for making and selling these bulk drugs as an incentive, depending on the category of input. For in-

stance, the government will pay a firm that has set up capabilities to make fermentation-based ingredient penicillin-G around 20 per cent of their total annual sales of this product as an incentive.

The PLI scheme is expected to "encourage" domestic production of two categories of active pharmaceutical ingredients and key

starting materials — chemical synthesis-based and fermentation-based. Around 41 such bulk drugs have been approved under this scheme, including penicillin-G, vitamin B1, prednisolone, diclofenac sodium, valsartan and rifampicin. The scheme offers a "positive" development at a time when pharma companies have been facing difficulties with sourcing affordable bulk drugs from China, according to another senior government official.

China currently accounts for nearly 70 per cent of India's bulk drug imports, but the cost of several of these crucial ingredients have been on the rise lately.

"There are attractive incentives. The plan is to announce it as soon as possible, and work is going on this week to finalise the scheme," the first official said, adding it would then have to go through processes of legal vetting and approvals from the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers before it is finally announced.

"This scheme will help promote self-reliance in active pharmaceutical ingredients and key starting materials. This is very important from the perspective of Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India and strengthening the supply chain," said the official. Several firms have expressed "huge" interest in participating, they added.

The upper limit of the annual incentives in this scheme will be capped, however, and will vary depending on the bulk drug. These incentives will be given to the first 136 firms that receive approval and invest a minimum amount set in the guidelines, ranging from Rs 20 crore to Rs 400 crore, to set up the manufacturing capacities for these bulk drugs.

"Older companies with available land that can be used for this purpose will also be eligible for these incentives, but they will have to put in the minimum investment to create the facilities," said one of the officials cited above.

Once announced, it is expected

to take a year to set up the capabilities for chemical synthesis-based bulk drugs in India and two years for fermentation-based bulk drugs. Approval under the scheme will be granted by an empowered committee comprising secretaries of DoP, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Following the Cabinet announcement, DoP had constituted a technical committee under the chairmanship of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation Joint Drugs Controller, Dr Eswara Reddy, to work out the details of the PLI scheme.

While work had been initiated in the last four years to reduce India's dependence on China for pharmaceutical ingredients, industry executives earlier told *The Indian Express* that not much headway had been made.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Cabinet drops merger plan of 3 PSU insurers, okays ₹12,450 cr infusion

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

TO IMPROVE financial and solvency position of state-owned general insurance companies, the Union Cabinet Wednesday approved fund infusion of Rs 12,450 crore in Oriental Insurance Company Limited, National Insurance Company Limited and United India Insurance Company Limited. The government has given up plans of merging the three companies that was earlier announced in the Union Budget. This fundingsupport comprises Rs 2,500 crore equity that was infused in 2019-20, another Rs 3,475 crore will be released immediately, while the balance Rs 6,475 crore will be infused later.

"Further, the process of merger has been ceased so far in view of the current scenario and instead, the focus shall be on their profitable growth," the government said in a statement. To enable fund infusion in these companies, the government has also enhanced their authorised share capital. The capital infusion will enable the three general insurers to improve their financial and solvency position, absorb changes and enhance the capacity to raise resources and improved risk management.

The boards of the three insurance companies had in January approved the merger process, setting the stage for the formation of a big insurance entity. Though former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced their merger in Budget 2018-19, there was hardly any momentum in its implementation. The three companies have different technology and IT platforms, and platform migration and integration would have been an immediate challenge.

The Cabinet also gave nod for

## EXPLAINED Integration challenge

THE THREE insurers have different technology and IT platforms, and platform migration and integration would have been an immediate challenge.

a three-month extension to the ongoing EPF (employees' provident fund) contribution support for companies having up to 100 workers and 90 per cent of them earning up to Rs 15,000 per month. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in May announced the extension of the benefit under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana till August.

Under the PMGKY package, the government will make payment of 12 per cent of employer and 12 per cent employee contribution into the EPF accounts for the eligible companies for the wage months of June, July and August. The benefit was provided earlier for salary months of March, April and May.

"The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi today has given its approval for extending the contribution both 12 per cent employees' share and 12 per cent employers' share under Employees Provident Fund, totalling 24 per cent for another three months from June to August, 2020, as part of the package announced by the government under PMGKY/Atmanirbhar Bharat in the light of COVID-19, a pandemic," an official statement said.

The total expenditure under the scheme is estimated to be Rs 4,860 crore covering over 72 lakh employees in 3.67 lakh establishments.

## June equity MF inflows fall 95% on cash flow woes, profit booking

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JULY 8

INFLOWS INTO equity schemes of mutual funds (MFs) plummeted 95 per cent in June as investors held back investment plans and booked profits amid cash flow concerns in the wake of the continuing lockdown in the country. Mutual funds saw a net inflow of only Rs 240.5 crore in June, as against Rs 5,256.52 crore in May even as the benchmark SENSEX gained 2,491 points during the month on the back of foreign portfolio inflows.

## NEW INFLOWS INTO DEBT MF SCHEMES

■ The total new inflows into debt MF schemes also declined to Rs 2,861 crore in June from Rs 63,665.54 crore in May.

Figures released by the Association of Mutual Funds of India (Amfi) show that MFs reported equity mobilisation of Rs 13,760 crore and redemptions of

Rs 13,520 crore in June.

The total new inflows into debt MF schemes also declined to Rs 2,861 crore in June from Rs 63,665.54 crore in May. In the debt segment, there was an outflow of Rs 44,226 crore in June.

Arun Kumar, head of research, FundsIndia.com, said, "Equity inflows have slowed down as many investors are waiting for clarity on their own future cash flows before investing further."

Another analyst said it is possible that some investors might have sold their MF equity portfolio when the SENSEX bounced back in June.

## Project Gryphon: Twitter working on potential subscription platform

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

MICROBLOGGING PLATFORM Twitter, in a job-listing posted on its website Wednesday, said it was building a subscription platform under the codename "Gryphon". While the company did not disclose any further details of the said platform, it said that the Gryphon team was closely collaborating with the payments team and the Twitter.com team.

"We are a new team, codenamed Gryphon. We are building a subscription platform, one that

Following the news, Twitter's shares jumped 9.7% on account of experts pegging a subscription platform to diversify the firm's revenue stream

can be reused by other teams in the future. This is a first for Twitter! Gryphon is a team of web engineers who are closely collaborating with the Payments team and the Twitter.com team. We are looking for a full-stack engineer to

lead the Payment and Subscription client work, someone who values collaboration as much as we do and can act as a bridge for the engineering team. It's a great opportunity for all teams involved!" the job posting noted.

Twitter has been working on a subscription service for its business customers with additional features since 2017.

Following the news, Twitter's shares jumped by almost 9.7 per cent, mainly on account of experts pegging a subscription platform to diversify the social media company's revenue stream, which is currently almost entirely dependent on advertising.

## Amazon India's unit gets \$308 mn in fresh funds from parent firm

REUTERS  
BENGALURU, JULY 8

AMAZON.COM INC has invested Rs 2,310 crore (\$308.02 million) in Amazon Seller Services, an Indian unit, strengthening the business at a time when more people shop online in a bid to avoid crowded public places.

Amazon Singapore made a significant portion of financing, data from business intelligence firm Tofler showed.

The company's Indian arm in May said it would hire 50,000 temporary workers to meet a surge in online shopping in the country.

The company, which competes with Walmart Inc's Flipkart in India, has also been expanding its seller network in the country.

Indian laws allow foreign e-commerce companies to operate as "market places," connecting buyers with sellers online. As India went into a nationwide lockdown, Amazon encouraged small shops to join as sellers on its platform in a bid to boost local businesses and expand its reach.

Jeff Bezos-led Amazon.com in January announced a \$1 billion investment to bring more than 10 million small businesses online in India by 2025.

## SBI cuts MCLR by up to 10 bps

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JULY 8

STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI) Wednesday cut its marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by 5-10 basis points for tenors up to three months. It will come into effect on July 10. With this, SBI's MCLR up to 3 months tenor is at 6.65 per cent, on par with its external benchmark lending rate.

Meanwhile, SBI's executive committee also approved an investment of up to Rs 1,760 crore in the public offering of Yes Bank. On Tuesday, Yes Bank had approved raising funds via a further public offering.

## BMS announces 7-day stir against job loss, privatisation of PSUs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

BHARATIYA MAZDOOR Sangh (BMS) will observe 'Sarkar Jagao Saptah' (Wake Up Government) from July 24-30 to raise workers' issues at state and national level across sectors and industries.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-affiliated trade union plans to hold protests and demonstrations across the country against "five burning issues":

Problems of unorganised sector workers particularly migrant workers, non-payment of wages, huge job losses, suspension of labour laws and increase in

The RSS-affiliated trade union plans to hold protests and demonstrations across the country

working hours in many states and privatisation of public sector undertakings (PSUs), it said in a statement on Wednesday.

The decision was taken at a virtual meeting of national office bearers of BMS on Tuesday, which was presided over by BMS National President C K Saji Narayanan and convened by General Secretary Virjesh Upadhyay.

## 'Consultations ongoing to bring Indians with valid residency, work permit back to UAE'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

RESPONDING TO queries about Indian citizens with valid residency visas or work permits wanting to travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the country's ambassador to India Ahmed Albanna said that consultations are ongoing with the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation to put in place an operation dedicated to fly such people to the West Asian nation.

"There are questions about Indian nationals in India with valid residency and work permit for UAE... As I mentioned, the UAE has

opened the airports to allow visitors and residents back into UAE on two conditions. One is that they have to have an ICA (Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship) approval... and two, they need to have COVID-19 PCR test done no more than 96 hours from the date of arrival into UAE," Albanna said, adding that the problem was that India had not opened up its airports for foreign carriers to fly Indian citizens out.

"We have been talking and consulting with the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation and hopefully very soon... there will be some operation dedicated to those Indians who are in India with valid resi-

dency and work permit, ICA approval and COVID-19 PCR test to be able to travel from India into the UAE," he said, at a webinar organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry Wednesday.

Last month, the Dubai administration had announced opening up its airports for residency visa holders and tourists, upon which low-cost airline Air India Express approached authorities to seek permission to fly passengers from India to the UAE on the repatriation flights but to no avail. Earlier, UAE had reprimanded Air India Express for ferrying passengers from India to the UAE on repatriation flights meant to bring back stranded Indian citizens.

## BRIEFLY

## PM at India Global Week

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will Thursday deliver the inaugural address at the India Global Week 2020.

## Gold up ₹723 on global cues

New Delhi: Gold prices in Delhi rose Rs 723 to Rs 49,898 per 10 gram.

## Instagram's Reels in India

New Delhi: Instagram on Wednesday said it will start testing a new format Reels in India that will allow users to create and share short videos.

## Rossari Biotech IPO on Jul 13

New Delhi: Rossari Biotech will come out with its initial share-sale on July 13, which will end four months of lull in the IPO market. PTI

## Nod to Eros, STX merger

New Delhi: The CCI Wednesday approved merger of Eros International Plc with STX Filmworks. ENS

## 'Sections of households see rise in savings after lockdown'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JULY 8

OVER THE last three months since India announced a lockdown on March 24, sections of households witnessed a rise in savings — including those working in the formal sector and some parts of the informal segment — as reflected in a modest pick-up in Jan Dhan account deposits, bank deposits and small saving schemes.

According to Swiss banking group UBS, while forced savings could be going up in the formal sector on income continuity, a large chunk of labour employed in the informal sector would have increased precautionary savings despite stagnant/reduced income by lowering consumption.

During lockdown, when income for the poor was likely more impacted, the balance in their Jan Dhan deposit accounts rose by around Rs 400 per account cumulatively in the June quarter. "A part of the increase is also on account of the central government transferring money into such accounts to help beneficiaries deal with the difficulties during the lockdown," UBS said in a report.

In India, households contribute nearly 53 per cent to bank deposit outstanding. Deposits with banks have picked up to 11 per cent on year-on-year base as of June 2020 (versus the 7.9 per cent average registered in FY20). This is despite the nominal interest rates on term deposit by banks falling further by 100bps over last three-months (from March 2020).

## Nirav Modi assets worth ₹329.6 cr confiscated: ED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JULY 8

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) Wednesday confiscated properties worth Rs 329.66 crore of diamond trader Nirav Modi under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA).

An ED statement said the confiscated properties include four flats at the Samudra Mahal building in Worli; a seaside farm house and land in Alibaug; a wind mill in Jaisalmer; a flat in London; residential flats in the UAE and shares and bank deposits. The agency said a special court in Mumbai held on June 8 directed the ED to confiscate assets worth Rs 1,396 crore belonging to Modi.

## COVID impact: Voice calls are now 20-70% longer, shows Ericsson study

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

AMONG THE many behavioural changes the coronavirus lockdown has induced is the trend that people are now making voice calls that last longer than usual.

Ericsson's APAC CTO Magnus Ewerbring told *indianexpress.com* that they have been seeing how the duration of sessions are increasing. "One very clear piece of statistic that we monitor is talk-time — how long is a typical voice

communication. And voice calls are now typically 20 to 70 per cent longer than they are traditionally," he said in a video interaction, adding how this figure has been quite stable for many years. "What has been going up is how often you talk, but now we see that that the intensity is there but the duration is increasing, which is a significant change from earlier."

Ewerbring said that while for Ericsson it has always been very important to follow the commercial implementation of the network and thereby look at traffic

behaviour traffic patterns, in the last few months they have got an "extra energy to drive this kind of analysis with the COVID situation". "So, while we have fresher numbers and articulated conclusions in some areas, they are anyway pointing in a direction that we have seen for some years," he said, citing the example of when 3G was launched and how they noticed networks were busier in the evening when people were streaming content at home.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

**TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.**  
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS)

Sl. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	SE/Transmission-II	T-2151, T-2152, T-2153, T-2154, T-2155	5

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening Corrigendum, Due date extension, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in), [www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app), [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)

DIPR/2529/TENDER/2020

**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A State Govt. Undertaking) CIN: U93999HR198135G0004203  
Block No. 16 & 17, SDA Commercial Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-9 (Himachal Pradesh) (INDIA)  
Ph.: 0177-2621583, Email: [mdhpsc@himapurli.com](mailto:mdhpsc@himapurli.com)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited, Shimla invites Global E-Tenders for the procurement of Double Fortified Salt for six months supply. The detailed tender notice, tender documents and other instructions can be down-loaded or viewed on-line from the portal <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The last date of submission of on-line tenders, samples, earnest money deposit, tender document fee and processing fee shall be till **30.07.2020 upto 5:00 (PM)**. The tenders of Double Fortified Salt shall be opened on **31.07.2020 at 11:00 (AM)**. Managing Director

**BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.**  
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)  
CIN No. U27310WB1920G01003601  
"KANKARIA CENTRE", 4TH & 5TH FLOOR, 2/1, RAJSELA STREET, KOL-71

**e-NIT NO : B&R / HO / NEW JOB / TD / S.E.R - EARTHWORK / 01**

Online "Single Percentage rate" Bids / offer(s) are invited in two part system for "Earthwork in cutting and filling in embankment, Providing & Laying Blanketing materials, Construction of Minor Bridges etc. between Narayangarh (In) (Km 133.261) to Belda (In) (Km150.68) upto Bhadrak and (Km 151.9) in connection with the Construction of 3rd Line between Narayangarh - Bhadrak for S.E. Railway, Odisha."

Date of hosting in CPP Portal: 09.07.2020.  
Last date of submission of offer: 23.07.2020 within 4.00 P.M.  
Interested Bidder(s) have to enroll & register with the Government e-Procurement System and download the Tender document through logging on to <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>  
Corrigendum / Addendum, if any shall be hosted in CPP Portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and in Company's Website <http://www.bridgeroof.co.in>.

**MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**  
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)  
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004  
CIN: U40109KA2002 SGC 030425 Website: [www.mesco.in](http://www.mesco.in)  
Ph: 0824-2885795, E-mail: [sepmesco@gmail.com](mailto:sepmesco@gmail.com)

No. MESCOM/SEE/P/EE(W)/AE(W)/2020-21/4537 Date: 04.07.2020

**TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Mode Only)**

MESCOM invites tender for the work of "Reconducting work with conversion of existing single circuit to double circuit line of 33kv Bantwal- Sarapady MRPL feeder from 110/33/11kv Bantwal MUSS to Sanchayanagar to a distance of 3.85kms in Bantwal No. 1, Sub-division of Bantwal Division on Total Turnkey basis" vide bid enquiry number MESCOM/2020-21/EL/WORK\_INDENT1502.  
The interested eligible bidders may log on to [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) on or after 13.07.2020.

Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.)  
MESCOM, Mangalore

For Power Related Complaint & Assistance Cell Toll Free Number 1912

**DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004**  
BIS No. E-18/2020-21 E-Tender Notice Date: 06.07.2020

E-Tenders are invited to & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-bidder will be accepted for which vendors must have class III Digital Signature and Registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence: S.No., Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity.

S.N. 1, 03201440, (29.07.2020), Set of Neoprene Hose, PL No. 29230068, 294 Sds.  
S.N. 2, 03201546, (29.07.2020), Twin Tower Air Dryer, PL No. 29162051, 335 Nos.  
S.N. 3, 03201237, (31.07.2020), Auxiliary Compressor, PL No. 29232703, 368 Nos.  
S.N. 4, 03201293, (10.08.2020), Rubber Hose, PL No. 29235030, 271 Sds.  
S.N. 5, 03201559, (31.07.2020), Cab Side Window, PL No. 29172020, 40 Sds.  
S.N. 6, 03201557, (05.08.2020), Head Stock Assembly, PL No. 29120251, 71 Sds.  
S.N. 7, 04201285, (27.07.2020), Bar For Bogie Head Beam, Part No. 29101025, 177 Nos.  
S.N. 8, 04201141, (20.08.2020), Housing, Part No. 29100057, 814 Nos.  
S.N. 9, 01201251, (27.07.2020), Turbo Idler Gear, PL No. 16141938, 497 Nos.  
S.N. 10, 01201156, (10.08.2020), Steel Cap Piston, PL No. 10130114, 280 Nos.  
S.N. 11, 06205004, (28.07.2020), (i) Supply Commissioning and Installation of End of Train Telemetry (EOTT) as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/2019/ELS/FRS/0025, Rev. 0, dated 25.06.2019, Quantity: 250 Sets.  
(ii) Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for End of Train Telemetry (EOTT) as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/2019/ELS/FRS/0025, Rev.0, dated 25.06.2019, Quantity: 250 Sets. S.N. 12, 06201018A, (23.07.2020), Heat Shrink Tube, Part No. 18539229, 627 Nos.  
Note: Details terms and conditions can be seen and Hindi version also on website [www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in) & [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and tender can fill up on the same website.  
Corrigendum, Date: 06.07.2020, Bid No.: E-07, Tender No.: 04201354, Revision: 1, Details of Correction: The tender will open on 21.07.2020 instead of 07.07.2020.  
Corrigendum, Date: 06.07.2020, Bid Invitation No.: IREPS/019 No. E-10/2020-21, Tender No.: 06201163, Revision: 01, Details of Correction: Due date has been revised as under: Existing Due date: 10.07.2020, Revised Due date: 20.07.2020, Existing Quantity: 276 Set, Revised Quantity: 320 Set.  
Note: All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

PRO/DLW/5-22 PCMM

[www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in](https://www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in)

## Cricket returns with a message

Players take a knee before play on Day One; only 17.4 overs possible due to bad weather

REUTERS/AP  
SOUTHAMPTON, JULY 8

AFTER A 117-day absence, international cricket returned in familiar fashion on Wednesday as rain and bad light restricted the first test between England and West Indies to 17.4 overs and the hosts closed a frustrating day on 35-1.

After all the anticipation, day one of the first of three tests turned out to be a damp squib. If any fans had been allowed in they would have been jeering and complaining as the players remained in the pavilion for more than 90 minutes because of bad light, despite Southampton's Ageas Bowl having floodlights.

If that frustration, an issue administrators appear powerless or unwilling to address, was all-too familiar, much else about the occasion felt very different.

The match is being played in a "bio-secure environment" with daily health checks for everyone in the ground. There are home umpires - the first time in England since 2002 - and because of that each team have three referrals instead of the usual two per innings.

Players are not allowed to use saliva to polish the ball and umpires will not take jumpers and caps from bowlers.

After a rain-delayed start, players from both teams "took a knee" having observed a minute's silence to mark the victims of the novel coronavirus and former West Indies batsman Everton Weekes, who died last week.

A Black Lives Matter logo also was on the collar of the test shirts worn by players from both teams for the match played in a strict isolated environment and following repeated testing of players and staff members.

The West Indies squad has said the movement, which has grown since the killing of George Floyd in the United States in May, has been a source of motivation on this tour.

The kneeling gesture has been made before Premier League matches since the resumption of soccer in England last month.

**The match is being played in a "bio-secure environment" with daily health checks for everyone in the ground.**



West Indies captain Jason Holder, second left, and teammates take a knee in support of the Black Lives Matter movement on the first day of the Test match against England, in Southampton on Wednesday. AP

### 'Jerusalem on PA but far from normal'

#### SAME SPOT, DIFFERENT RESULT

In the second over, Shannon Gabriel castled Dom Sibley to what the old-fashioned Englishmen would call a bail-trimmer, a viciously deviating back-of-length ball clipping the bails en route, as the batsman let it go on the bounce. It was the exact replica of a delivery Rory Burns was given not out on umpire's call in the first over as he offered no stroke and the ball brushed the pad. Former fast bowler Derek Pringle was not amused. "Sibley out, Burns not out - crazy world of DRS protocols," he fumed on his Twitter handle. Pads to the rescue, Burns would say.

#### A SIXTH-DAY THOUGHT

Just a handful of overs were possible on the day competitive cricket returned. With more rain and smouldering black clouds forecast for the next couple of days, the match could well end up grossly truncated (cheerio, fragile batting lineups do spark hopes of a result). But with no ticketing hassles or crowd or

logistical issues, maybe the match could be stretched into a sixth day to get the required overs in, and maybe a result.

#### WINSTON'S DAY OUT

With no people in the stands, the 20-month-old cocker spaniel Winston could happily roam around with his master, the groundsman Simon Lee. In the past Lee had described Winston thus: "He's come to work with me every day since I got him. He's a bit of a lunatic but he breaks up the silence a little bit."

#### BARMY ARMY'S VOICE HEARD

Barmy Army, the official 12th man of the England team, was not present at the Ageas Bowl on Wednesday when international cricket resumed after a pandemic-induced hiatus. But they surely made their presence felt after 'Jerusalem', their signature title song popular among all English cricket fans was blared through the stadium's PA system. **ENS**

## 'You don't get over things like that and society has not got over that'

West Indies legend Michael Holding and Ebony Rainford-Brent, the first black female cricketer to play for England, lashed out against institutionalised racism and how society needs to be educated for this malaise to be eradicated, on Sky Sports. The delayed start to the first England vs West Indies Test gave Holding, Rainford-Brent and former England captain Nasser Hussain a chance to reflect on this issue and reassert why the BLM movement matters. The issue has returned to the spotlight after the death of George Floyd, a black man, at the hands of a white policeman in the United States. It sparked worldwide protests and before the start of play, the players from England and West Indies as well as match officials took a knee for 30 seconds to show their solidarity on the matter.

#### 'Dehumanisation of the blacks'

Holding said people of all races need to study what happened in the past to get the right perspective on racism.

"What I mean by education is people going back in history. What people need to understand is that this stems from a long time ago. The dehumanisation of the black race is where it started and people will tell you 'get over it'. No, you don't get over things like that and society has not got over that."

Holding argued that the black race had been dehumanised and their accomplishments wiped off from history. The 66-year-old reckoned that racism within society will not be eradicated until people from all sections of society are educated to include both black and white historical perspectives. The Jamaican cited events from history that were recorded from the white perspective.

"We have been brainwashed and not just black people, white people have been brainwashed in many ways... think about religion... I am not really a very holy person, not a very religious person, but that is what we were taught. Look at Jesus Christ and the image of Jesus Christ - pale skin, blonde hair, blue eyes. Where Jesus came from, who in that part of the world looks that way?" Holding explained.

Citing an incident in New York where a white woman had called the police on a black bird-watcher, Holding said her actions were based on established prejudices. "... by the time he (the black man) proves he is not guilty, he might be dead. She had that thing in her mind from day one. That's why she said and did what she did," he added.

#### 'We need honest conversations'

Rainford-Brent stressed on the need to have people of colour in positions where they could make a difference.

"It can't be a 'black person's problem', it has got to be everyone's problem. We have got to want a society that is representative and supports people from different backgrounds... That's what it is for me. We need honest conversations, opportunities and people in positions of power. And then we can change the landscape," she said.

The former England cricketer, who is now the head of women's cricket at Surrey, believed that apart from education, a shift in the collective attitude in society can propel a positive change.

"You have been looking away for too long" Hussain said people need to confront their biases and prejudices, and not just look the other way.

"I sat there six weeks ago and watched a black man being killed in front of my eyes. My natural reaction is to look away... the next time it came on, because of the protest, I forced myself to watch, because I felt something inside me tell that 'Nasser, you have been looking away for too long.'"

The former England captain argued that people have been looking away from this issue for far too long.

When asked if he had ever faced racism in his life, Hussain said: "Of course, I have (faced racism), with my surname growing up... with an Indian dad and an English mom, probably getting a bit from both sides... while fielding on the boundary in various parts of the world and people say 'hey Saddam'," he added. **ENS**

## CAG wants its BCCI nominee recused

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
KOLKATA, JULY 8

THE COMPTROLLER and Auditor General of India (CAG) has filed an application before the Supreme Court seeking recusal of its nominee from the management position in the BCCI's Apex Council and the IPL Governing Council. The CAG nominee has been made part of the BCCI's apex body following the 2016 Supreme Court order based on the Justice RM Lodha Committee recommendations. The apex court had made the CAG representative a part of the all-powerful committee to bring "financial and audit experience" and "independent voices" to the BCCI.

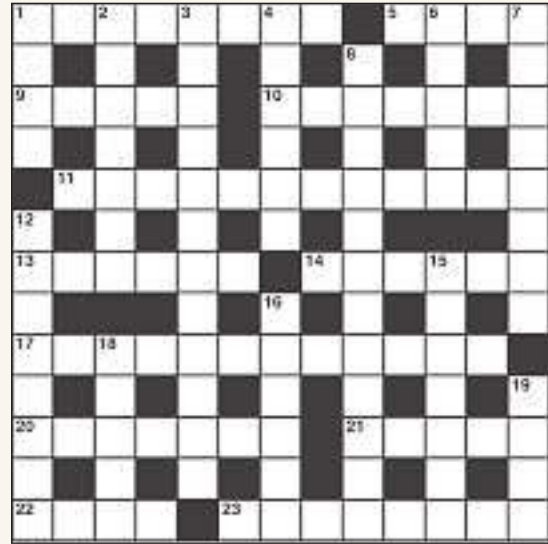
In its plea filed on July 4, the CAG has said that it's a 'Supreme Audit Institution of the Country' and the "auditor of last resort" which is called to "undertake a special audit" if there's a dispute. It further adds that it's nominee "is not serving the objectives of the Justice Lodha Committee as well as this Hon'ble Court by being part of the management decisions".

he CAG says in no way they are requesting for a recall or review of the principal judgement and only praying for a "limited relief".

On the day the CAG filed the application, its nominee in the BCCI, Alka Rehani Bharadwaj, had raised a red flag over the presence of BCCI secretary Jay Shah at a meeting of the Apex Council scheduled for July 17. Shah has completed his term as secretary, but a BCCI petition seeking extension of the terms of office-bearers is pending before the Supreme Court. Pointing to the clause regarding a cooling-off period in the BCCI constitution, she asked for the reconstitution of the apex body. Bharadwaj had said that the joint secretary "would be presumably officiating as secretary after the vacation of secretary BCCI post". A text message to Bharadwaj inquiring if she was aware about the CAG application in the Supreme Court went unanswered.

The CAG application has pointed out that its nominee is just a member in the Apex Council, while the elected office-bearers (five) form the majority. "It is relevant to submit that the CAG's nominee in the Apex Council is just one of the nine members, and one of the seven members in the IPL Governing Council, and is therefore party to decisions, whether or not she/he is in agreement with those decisions," the application stated.

### CROSSWORD 4165



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Across</b>                                   | <b>Down</b>   |
| 1. Be careful, the timekeeper's incorrect (5,3) | 1. Put in the paper (4)   |
| 5. Not considered a disfigurement (4)           | 2. Novel role, but giving difficulty (7)                            |
| 9. A wish to be in company (5)                  | 3. What post-graduates work for, to a greater extent? (6,6)         |
| 10. A palindrome immortalised (7)               | 4. Modernise a quiet duet, perhaps (6)                              |
| 11. Exemplary piece of instruction (6,6)        | 6. Another name for a criminal (5)                                  |
| 13. Form stayed disorganised (6)                | 7. The trouble about a Spaniard is he puts pleasure before work (8) |
| 14. No way to go through a congested area (6)   | 8. Where to obtain horses for a charge (6,6)                        |
| 17. An overdrawn account (12)                   | 12. Star strikes a new pose (8)                                     |
| 20. Titanic destroyer (7)                       | 15. A room redesigned by us is romantic (7)                         |
| 21. It may be used to lift an obstruction (5)   | 16. It's clear there's a note to correct (6)                        |
| 22. Old acquaintance (4)                        | 18. A factor in show business (4)                                   |
| 23. Emphasised courses need to be reversed (8)  |   |

Solutions Crossword 4164: Across: 1 Fancy-free, 8 Repel, 9 Regular, 10 Scarce, 11 Easter, 12 Arms race, 15 Reporter, 18 Reaper, 20 Wealth, 21 Bathing, 22 Rider, 23 Eccentric. Down: 2 Arena, 3 Counts, 4 Flagrant, 5 Erects, 6 Spartan, 7 Blue peter, 11 Extra work, 13 Marriage, 14 Upwards, 16 Retire, 17 Sachet, 19 Ennui.

### OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



### CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



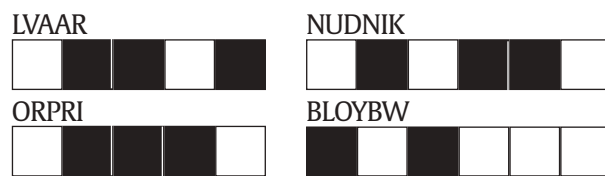
### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



### 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 clue.

The way I see it, if you want the \_\_\_ you've got to put up with the \_\_\_ - Dolly Parton (7,...,4)



SOLUTION: LARVA, PRIOR, UNKIND, WOBBLE. Answer: The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain.

### 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 4163



### DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

#### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The main pre-occupation over the current time is personal creativity. You need to express your deeply unique talents, and your main strategy should probably now be to go back and look at the way things were done in the past. You'll uncover clues as to what you should do in the present.

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

It may be irritating to be tied to what friends have in mind, but unless you want to be a hermit you will have to accept that other's feelings must come first. In love, you should abandon unrealistic expectations of what romance should or shouldn't be about.

#### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Domestic relationships should be worked at. There's no point in blaming other people because such-and-such a thing may have gone wrong, or because you may not have got your way. The past is the past, and the future must be tackled with hope and courage.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You will be unwilling to perform any task which doesn't suit your personal wishes and interests. You may therefore be a reluctant employee unless those in authority entrust you with taxing and interesting responsibilities. It's partly up to you, but also up to them.

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Home and family affairs really must take first place in your list of emotional priorities. Take some time out to try and understand what has been troubling relations, and offer them whatever moral support is required. You might do best to keep your doubts to yourself.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

If you're wondering where all the good luck has gone, hold on for just a little while longer. It might be that partners are due to have first bite of the cherry. And while you're making plans for the future, understanding that the best to come out of the present time will be enhanced self-knowledge.

#### LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

You often feel undervalued and taken for granted, sometimes with good reason. Yet, now could be the perfect time to turn the tables on partners and make them see that you are to be taken seriously, and that your feelings are worth every bit as much as theirs.

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

You're still in the driving seat, so you should gain personally from much of what is going on. However, when life is moving your way you should make a determined effort to look after other people's interests as well as your own. They'll return the favour when the position is reversed.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

A mystery of sorts should soon be cleared up, but the answer may lie within rather than without. In other words, because of your own preconceptions, you have misinterpreted someone else's intentions. Your vivid imagination may be to blame, rather than awkward circumstances.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

A great deal depends on how you get on with other people, even at work. Emotional undercurrents and beliefs count for very much more than the facts. Even in business, partners seem to be influenced by the way things once were, rather than the way they are now.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

It's no use imagining that you're not ambitious. If you do give way to false humility then you'll doubtless miss out on a major opportunity. Push yourself forward and you may open the way to emotional fulfilment, together with applause and acclaim from your peers.

#### PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)

Sometimes it's an advantage being a dreamer, but not always. Your heart's desire lies a long way off - or does it? One thing you have to sort out is your continual tendency to imagine that the grass is always greener somewhere else. Try to live in the here and now for once.