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10 VIVACITY

China passes buck as India blames it for LAC brawl

New Delhi accuses Beijing of flouting LAC pacts, China retorts India crossed border

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China blamed each other on Thursday over the bloody LAC brawl, with each side holding the other responsible for tension along the Line of Actual Control.

While India accused China of disregarding mutual agreements leading to the brawl on June 15 in the Galwan valley leaving 20 Indian Army personnel dead, China said the Indian side crossed the LAC for provocation and attacked the Chinese border troops and the Indian forces seriously violated agreements on border issues between the two countries.

Reiterating India's position, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said here the Chinese side departed from previously agreed understanding in respect to the Galwan valley area and sought to erect structures just across the LAC.

"When this attempt was foiled, Chinese troops took violent actions on June 15 that directly resulted in casualties," the Spokesperson asserted. He

said the conduct of Chinese forces this year has been in complete disregard of all mutually agreed norms.

On the other hand, Chinese ambassador to India Sun Weidun said, "The onus is not on China. The Indian side crossed the LAC for provocation and attacked the Chinese border troops. The Indian forces seriously violated agreements on border issues between the two countries."

He said China was ready to work with India to resolve stand-offs and cautioned "suspicion and friction" was a wrong path to follow.

India and China are able to properly manage their differences, and called upon New Delhi to avoid taking actions that may "complicate" the situation in eastern Ladakh. He went on to add that at present, the overall situation in the China-India border areas is "stable and controllable."

"We hope the Indian side meets the Chinese side halfway, avoids taking actions that may complicate the border situation and takes concrete actions to



Satellite image suggests recent Chinese construction in Galwan valley

Agency

maintain stability in the border areas," he said in an interview to PTI.

But India insisted that the Chinese tried to change the status quo in Ladakh in mid-May with the MEA saying India had registered its protest through diplomatic and military channels.

On June 6, the senior commanders of both the armies agreed on a process for de-escalation and disengagement along the LAC that involved reciprocal actions.

However, the Chinese side departed from these understandings in respect of the LAC in the Galwan valley area

said. He also said since early May, the Chinese side has been amassing a large contingent of troops and armaments along the LAC. This is not in accordance with the provisions of our various bilateral agreements, the Spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Ambassador said "mutual respect and support" is a sure way and meets the long-term interests of both countries, but at the same time, largely put the onus on India to ease tension in the region.

"China and India are both large developing countries and emerging economies with more than one billion people, and both have the historic mission of realising our own development and revitalisation," he said.

"Under the guidance of the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, we are ready to work with the Indian side to properly deal with the current situation, jointly uphold peace and stability in the border areas, and ensure a sound and steady development of bilateral relations," Sun said.

The Chinese envoy repeated his Government's stand that Indian troops are responsible for the Galwan valley clashes, and indicated that the onus was on India to improve the situation in eastern Ladakh.

Army drones, ITBP keep watch on PLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the continuing face-offs at various points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has ramped up deployment in the area as the Army has pressed heavy duty drones to keep an eye on the Chinese troops' activities.

The ITBP has withdrawn 20 companies (2,000 personnel) from various counter-insurgency operation roles for deployment in Ladakh, sources said, adding the move came after a review on the situation by the Union Home Ministry.

ITBP is a Central paramilitary under the Home Ministry tasked to secure the nearly 3,500 km Line of Actual Control along the frontier with China. ITBP is also the Lead Intelligence Agency in the LAC.

Meanwhile, the agencies have spotted tactical drones

Chinese drones spotted doing recon in four Indian positions

from China's People's Liberation Army scouring Indian positions in eastern Ladakh.

The Chinese drones are estimated to be deployed for tactical reconnaissance and were spotted at four Indian positions over the past few weeks.

Responding to the Chinese measure, to the Indian Army has also deployed heavy duty drones to gather intelligence on movement of Chinese troops and their activities.

Indian Army's 14 Corps has deployed Heron Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) drones for surveillance along the LAC.

Praises for servitors for pulling Rath barefoot

Blisters in legs as they walked on 3-km hot road

PNS ■ PURI

Following the smooth conduct of Rath Yatra on June 23 in Puri, praises have begun pouring in for servitors of the Jagannath Temple.

The servitors have been receiving kudos from devotees all over the world for successfully pulling chariots on the three-km Bada Danda (Grand Road) up to Gundicha Temple without help of public devotees.

Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saswati has also lauded the servitors for their arduous service.

While pulling, the servitors walked barefoot on the Grand Road, which was very hot under a scorching midday sun in contrast to their practice of sitting on the chariots and waving hands towards the crowd in blessing postures.

They suffered burn injuries in their legs as they walked and dragged the Raths.

Excepting half a dozen temple police personnel for each chariot, no other person was allowed to touch the ropes during movement of the cars. Other police personnel couldn't participate as they had put on boots.

"Really, pulling a Rath was an unimaginable experience. The Bada Danda was like a hot cauldron. But I did not feel any pain as it was a challenge for us to take the chariots to the Gundicha Temple," said servitor Krunal Chandra Mahasuar.

He said he has been receiving messages on social media from many people from the country and abroad.

When asked if servitors would take the responsibility of car pulling in coming years, he said all are welcomed for the purpose as the Rath Yatra is a people's festival.



Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Krishan Kumar (with red scarf around the neck) walks barefoot among the servitors during pulling of chariots in Puri

Arabinda Mahapatra | Pioneer

RGF took Chinese funds, then Cong recommended biased FTA: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Raising the pitch of its political attack on the Congress over the India-China border stand-off, the BJP on Thursday said that the Chinese Government made a donation of ₹90 lakh to Rajiv Gandhi foundation (RGF), which in turn recommended a free trade agreement with China, tilted heavily in favour of Beijing.

Union Minister and senior BJP leader Ravishankar Prasad alleged that RGF which he consider as an "extension" of the Congress received bribes from Chinese embassy.

Reacting to the allegations on Rajiv Gandhi Foundation receiving some donation from Chinese Embassy in 2005, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the BJP was trying to divert attention.

TikTok star Siya Kakkar kills self

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 16-year-old Tik Tok star allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at her residence in East Delhi's Geeta Colony area, police said on Thursday.

The deceased girl, Siya Kakkar, had over one million followers on the short-video platform, and another 1.35 lakh on Instagram.

Her father found her hanging around 9 pm on Wednesday, police said.

No suicide note was recovered from near the body. The body was sent to Subzi Mandi Mortuary for post-mortem. The reason behind the extreme step is yet to be ascertained. Inquest proceedings have been initiated, the officer said.

210 more test Covid+, State's total now 5,962

Day's highest 58 infected in Ganjam
168 recover, total recoveries 4,291

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A total of 210 persons tested Covid-19 positive on Thursday and with this, the total number of cases in the State rose to 5,962.

Ganjam district reported the day's maximum 58 cases followed by Khordha with 47. Khordha district seems fast on its way to become a coronavirus hotspot.

Gajapati district reported 29 cases, Balangir 11, Jajpur and Puri eight each, Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj seven each.

Sundargarh district reported six cases, Keonjhar and Cuttack five each, Kendrapada three, Nayagarh three,

Nabarangpur and Baleswar two each and Deogarh, Angul and Sambalpur one each.

As many as six NDRF personnel, who had returned from West Bengal after carrying out rescue and restoration work following Cyclone Amphan were also among the positives for the virus.

However, as many as 168 patients recovered from the disease on the day and were discharged from hospitals. With this, the total number recovered cases in the State climbed to 4,291.

The day's maximum recoveries were reported from Ganjam district with 39, followed by Khordha 23, Gajapati 23, Puri 19, Baragarh 13, Sundargarh eight, Baleswar seven, Bhadrak five, Rayagada five, Malkangiri four, Kendrapada four, Keonjhar four, Jagatsinghpur four, Subarnapur four, Angul three, Dhenkanal two and Jharsuguda two.

STEPPING OUT TO MEET CORONA?

Please don't step out if it's not absolutely necessary. And if you have to, please wear a mask, maintain social distancing and wash your hands when back.

20 SECONDS (Handwashing icon)
FACE MASK (Mask icon)
2 METRES (Social distancing icon)
AVOID GOING OUT (Home icon)

#OdishaFightsCorona

OIPR: 15001/13/0062/2021 DADLS-42

Discrepancies in ad for State CDR post

Consumer Protection Act 'flouted'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Recently, advertisements were issued in a section of newspapers to fill up two Member posts in the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. But it is alleged that there are discrepancies in the advertisement by which the Consumer Protection Act 1986 has been violated.

In the advertisement (June 6, 2020), it is specifically mentioned that the total number of vacancies in the State CDR Commission is two, out of which one post is open for all and another is reserved for women. But in the website www.foododisha.in, in Clause I it is mentioned that one post is reserved for woman candidate and one is reserved for

judicial member. As per the Consumer Protection Act not more than fifty percent members shall be among the persons having judicial background, stated Orissa High Court lawyer Subrat Kumar Nanda in a petition to the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Secretary and the Director.

Nanda urged fresh advertisements to be issued to fill up the posts as per the consumer law.

It might be mentioned here that the President of the Commission, who was recently appointed after a long gap is having a judicial background. Due to the vacancies in the commission, cases more than 10-year-old are pending. The State Government had issued notification for setting up of Circuit Benches of the commission in Sambalpur and Brahmapur, which would have significantly reduced the huge number of pending cases. But it is yet to see the light of day.

Covid 'mismanagement'

13 Opposition parties call for protest today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Alleging the State Government's failure in management of the Covid-19 situation, as many as 13 opposition parties under the leadership of Congress on Thursday called for a State-wide protest on Friday.

At a meeting held here, the parties unanimously decided to resort to the protest. In the State capital, political leaders would stage the stir at Master Canteen at around 11 am. Besides, a delegation of the parties would meet the Governor to submit a memorandum to him on the issue. During the protest, they would demand steps required to be taken for protection of livelihoods of people.

At the meeting, the opposition parties alleged that the

number of coronavirus cases has increased many folds in the country and the State due to mismanagement and lack of vision of both the Centre and the State Government.

"Earlier in April, though Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced that 15,000 samples will be tested every day, the number of tests being done does not even cross 4,000 per day," alleged a Congress leader. He also alleged that all migrants returning to the State are not being tested before they are sent to their respective homes.

This apart, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC), responding to the party's call for a nationwide protest against the daily fuel price hike, has decided to stage a State-wide stir on June 29, a party leader said.

Cheers for Odisha tribals, State to get 3 projects

For development of PVTGs

SHYAMHARI CHAKRA ■ BHUBANESWAR

With the Ministry of Tribal Affairs nod to Odisha Government's proposal, people belonging to three most marginalised primitive tribal groups of Odisha - Paudi Bhuyan, Juanga and Birhor - dwelling across 250 villages in the districts of Keonjhar, Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts, would receive all the welfare measures of the Centre and the State like their counterparts elsewhere.

These three tribes are known as PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) who suffer from acute social and economic backwardness. Of the 75 PVTGs identified across India, 13 are from Odisha.

As per a recent resolution of the Department of SC and ST Development, three new micro project agencies would be set up soon in the three districts. They are Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency at Banspal in Keonjhar district, Juanga Development Agency at Dhenkanal and Birhor and Juanga Development Agency at Sukinda in Jajpur district. So far, the State has 17 such micro



projects agencies for PVTGs in 12 districts.

While 17 projects were established during the period from 1976 to 1994, no new projects came up during the past 25 years. As a result, large numbers of tribal people belonging to the PVTGs but dwelling outside the projects areas were deprived of the benefits from welfare measures of the Government.

For example, the Juanga Development Agency located in Keonjhar district did not cater to the Juangas of neighbouring Dhenkanal district while the Paudi Bhuyan

Development Agency set up at Pallahara in Dhenkanal district did not cover the Paudi Bhuyans of adjoining villages of Keonjhar district.

This had prompted the State Government to move to the Centre for inclusion of the left out villages after conduct of a base-line survey two years ago that finally received the nod of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs recently, the resolution revealed.

While PBDA, Banspal will cover Paudi Bhuyans of 107 villages of Keonjhar district and the JDA, Dhenkanal will cater to Juangas of 107 villages of the district, the BJDA at Sukinda

will serve 13 villages of Jajpur district where Birhor and Juanga people inhabit.

While the concerned district Collectors would head the agency as Chairperson, Project Administrator of ITDA or Project Director of DRDA of the district would be the vice chairperson of the governing body that would also include the local MP, MLA, Tehsildar, BDO, one representative of the PVTG and top official representing district units of forest, agriculture, horticulture, soil conservation, veterinary in addition to lead bank of the district, the resolution clarified.

NCDS holds Kalinga Lecture on edu reform

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies (NCDS) here hosted the Kalinga Lecture 2020 on theme, "Towards Reforming Education in India." Chairman, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, Professor R Radhakrishna delivered the lecture. The session was chaired by Vice Chairman, Odisha State Higher Education Council Prof Ashok Kumar Das and moderated by Director, NCDS Prof Srijit Mishra.

The lecture was broadcast live in its YouTube channel and Facebook page viewed by 100+ participants. The lecture



focused on governance structure, quality and educational inequality besides discussing the issues relating to increasing prominence of privatisation at all levels and its consequences on efficiency and equity. It also pointed out the impact of

Covid-19 on the education sector in India.

Prof Shiblal Meher introduced the participants to the theme and welcomed the dignitaries and Dr Rashmi Mishra gave the vote of thanks.

CINI pledges to make Odisha TB-free

BHUBANESWAR: The Child in Need Institute (CINI NGO) inaugurated its first unit office here on Rath Yatra in presence of the local staff of CINI. The event was joined by senior management through virtual mode from Kolkata.

The main reason behind opening the new unit in Bhubaneswar is to make TB-free Odisha. CINI aims to reach different corners of the State and make the State free from TB. The organisation will be closely working with the Government officials.

Founder secretary, CINI Dr Samir Chaudhuri said, "I thank the Government and people of Odisha for the support. This enables us to work for the betterment of thousands of people in this State." PNS

Gopabandhu Rachanabali translation in Hindi

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Santiniketan Visva Bharati University Professor Chakradhar Tripathy has taken initiatives to spread the ideologies of Utkala Mani Pundit Gopabandhu Das in all India level and for that Hindi translation of entire 'Gopabandhu Rachanabali' has been started under the direct guidance and supervision of Prof Tripathy.

Gopabandhu is regarded as the jewel of Odisha and remembered for his service, fight and sacrifices. While Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan is the patron, many Vice Chancellors including Prof Balbant Jani, Chancellor of HariSingh Gour Central

University, Sagar, MP, Prof Kamalkishore Goenka, VC of Agra Central Hindi Pratishthan, Delhi University Prof Satish Chandra Bhatt, Kushavau Thakre University VC Prof Baldev Bhai Sharma, Sahitya Parisad secretary Rishikumar Mishra, Sastriya Odia Utkarsha Adhyan Kendra director Prof Basant Kumar Panda, Indian History Committee chairman Balmukund Pande, Loksevak Mandal president Deepak Malviya and secretary Niranjana Rath are among advisers.

Noted Hindi professors like Radhakant Mishra and Sankar Lal Purohit are in the review committee. Organiser Debiprasad Prusti is the joint coordinator.

38 new Covid+ cases in BBSR, total 258

14 more recover; total recoveries 127

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Out of the 47 Covid-19 positive cases reported from Khordha district on Thursday, as many as 38 were from Bhubaneswar. With the new cases, the total tally rose to 258 in the capital city.

Of the 38 new cases 25 are from home quarantine and 13 cases are local contacts, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

Following detection of the new cases on the day, further contact tracing is underway. The primary contacts and nearby houses are being quarantined, sanitised and would be under active surveillance, the BMC said.

With this, the Covid tally in Bhubaneswar surged to 258 with 127 active cases. Three patients have died of the disease so far.

However, 14 patients undergoing treatment in the hospitals recovered from the disease in the city. With this, the recoveries rose to 127 in the State capital.

Jajaba Trust felicitates 45 Covid warriors

BHUBANESWAR: The Jajaba Hashim Charitable Trust on Wednesday felicitated 45 Covid warriors at a special programme held here on Wednesday.

The meeting presided over by Jajaba president Safdar Hasim felicitated 25 journalists, 15 cine artistes and five social workers.

Cine producer Shreedhar Marthia, music director Subas Ram, actors and actresses like Alaka Sarangi, Ashrumochan Mohanty and Madhumadhab and noted singer Smruti Mohapatra, youth social activist Akshaya Patra and senior journalist Jyoti Ranjan Swain graced the occasion as guests. Soubhagini Sahu and Lija coordinated the programme. PNS

'Undeclared emergency' more dangerous

Activists demand political prisoners' release, withdrawal of false cases

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

On the occasion of Anti-Emergency Day on Thursday, activists belonging to various organisations staged a mass demonstration here alleging that the Narendra Modi-led BJP Government at the Centre has declared an "undeclared emergency", which is more dangerous than the Emergency enforced from 1975 to 77 by the Indira Gandhi-led Congress regime.

They demanded immediate release of all political pris-

oners, withdrawal of all false and fabricated cases against political, social and human rights activists as well as against anti-CAA protesters, repealing of all "anti-people" laws like UAPA and AFSPA and stopping of repression on dissent voices and interference in judiciary and constitutional bodies.

Leaders and activists belonging to the All India People's Forum (AIPF), Jan Adhikar Manch, Campaign Against Fabricated Cases (CAFC), Basti Surakha Manch (BSM), Odisha Dalit Adhikar Manch (ODAM), Chasi MuliaSangh (CMS),



Campaign for Survival and Dignity (CSD), Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF), People's Union for Civil Liberties, Sambidhan Banchara- Des Banchara, Trade Union Coordination Centre (TUCC), Committee for Release of Political Prisoners (CRPP) and ISCUF participated in the protest.

OLA 7th webinar

How to handle libraries in pandemic time

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Library Academy (OLA) hosted its 6th webinar series on June 20 on the theme, "Strategic Library Reopening in a Pandemic World."

Stephen Abram, Executive Director of the Public Libraries Federation of Ontario, Canada was the theme's chief speaker. Abram shared his insights and other tips and tricks in this pandemic era to handle the libraries / information centres/museums.

As per him staff and user safety is the first priority and we need to know our values of person and organisation. Have a positive attitude, in this setting, there is not one goal, and we need to establish comfort with uncertainty, develop a better



new normal. He voiced that there is not a digital physical lockdown. Culture always trumps strategy. OLA President Dr Banambar Sahoo presided over the webinar. DrNurshingh Dash, Bijoy

Ketan Panda, Dr Satya Ranjan Sahu, Basanta Kumar Das and Niranjana Mohapatra were present, among others.

Over 400 participants joined the session and referred to different issues faced by

their libraries and information centres. The session ended with vote of thanks by Dr Prayagan Das. OLA general secretary Dr Basudev Mohanty informed that the 7th webinar would be held on June 27.

Atmanirbhar Bharat a lesson for China

UMASHANKAR PRASAD

Recently, the Maharashtra Government has put on hold three major agreements signed with Chinese companies at the recently concluded magnetic Maharashtra 2.0 investor meet. The projects are worth around Rs 5,000 crore.

The Maharashtra Government has taken this decision with the consultation of the Central Government. Upping the ante following the growing sentiment of teaching a lesson to China for its misdeeds in the Galwan valley, the Government has made a fine beginning to boost domestic manufacturing as a strategy to hit the worm on going neighbour.

moting "Atmanirbhar Bharat" aims at achieving two big goals cutting down on import dependence on China and provide the local markets with an equal alternative.

It is our primary duty by seeking suggestions and comments from the domestic industry to find ways to curb low quality imports from china, the Government has sent an assuring message to India. Inc.

On its crucial role in India's response to Chinese belligerence, imports from China are in a wide range, from wrist watches to steel quality of certain cheap goods were always in question but pretty traders did not bother about it for the profit margins. Change in equality control

rules for inbound shipments, especially from China, is the need of the hour. Each step in this direction will go a long way for India.

However, despite its rapid expansion and vibrancy, India's start up ecosystem is far from mature. For a long time, Indian entrepreneurs did not focus on solving local problems or working with cutting edge technologies.

The reluctance can be partly attributed to the lack of bold venture funding, given the lack of investors with deep pockets, resolve, and patience. Further, changes in customer behaviour, low price points, long gestation periods, and cashburn, especially due to the diversity of stake holders in a democratic

and decentralised structure, did not allow for reforms to be rolled out at the same speed as China.

So it is my utter request to everyone that the way China is behaving "we boycott all chinese products" and accept our own nation products. So all industry should invest more and set the ball rolling.

It is a chance to change history for the Indian business fraternity and those leading India's services sector. Indian economy has respond and is showing signs of getting back to the growth path. That will be the real lesson.

(The writer is a columnist based at Khordha, Ph: 6370675562)

Disaster-resilient power infra soon

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of the massive damage to the electrical infrastructure during natural calamities, the State Government would soon develop disaster-resilient infrastructure in the power sector in coastal districts.

Chairing a meeting held here, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy reviewed the project on Thursday.

In the first phase, the infrastructures would be developed in the districts of Jagatsinghpur,

Kendrapada, Bhadrak and Baleswar at a total project cost of Rs 11,000 crore. In the second phase, the project would be carried out in the districts like Puri, Cuttack, Khordha, Ganjam and Gajapati at a cost of Rs 8,000 crore.

The Chief Secretary directed the department concerned and power distribution companies to carry out the work on a war-footing basis. He asked them to set up a 'Think Tank' for proper management of the technical, financial and legal aspects of the project.

Prez urged for release of rights activists

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Noted persons from different walks of life on Thursday observed the Anti-Emergency Day as "Black Emergency Day" alleging that the BJP Government at the Centre has enforced an "undeclared emergency" in the country, depriving people of their basic rights.

"Right to life, Press freedom, right to dissent were curtailed during the Emergency between 1975 June to 1977 March. But the people restored the largest democracy defeating dictatorial force in general elections in 1977. At present, the Union Government' undeclared actions, repression

on democratic dissenters, minority and Dalit communities and human right defenders have created fearful emergency like situation. Many innocent and law binding people like have been kept in jail on false charges. We urge that all those released soon," demanded they.

On the occasion, green activist Prafulla Samantara observed a fasting Satyagrah. Among others, former Minister Panchanan Kanungo, senior scribe Rabi Das, social activist Debi Prasad Prusty, Manorama Khatua, Manas Patnaik, Amiya Pandav, Sudarshan Pradhan, Bishwariya Kanungo participated in the protest.

Paralakhemundi SBI Manager tests Covid +ve

2 branches sealed in dist hqrs town

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

Out of the 29 Covid-19 positive cases detected in Gajapati district on Thursday, one was the Manager of the State Bank of India (SBI) Paralakhemundi Main Branch. The branch was sealed following the detection of the case, informed Gajapati district Collector Anupam Shah.

Besides, another branch of the SBI in the market area here was also sealed, he added.

Briefing reporters, the Collector said that the Branch Manager was staying in Bhubaneswar after he fell ill some days ago. During his stay, he underwent Covid-19

test and his reports came positive. Since he used to visit both the branches in Paralakhemundi, the offices have been sealed to prevent entry of the people and there-

two SBI branches have been asked to remain under home quarantine and undergo Covid-19 test.

It's worth mentioning that the number of total positive



by curbing spread of the coronavirus. Efforts are afoot for complete sanitisation of the two bank branches, he said.

The Collector also informed that all staffs of the

cases in Gajapati district so far stands at as many as 384, including 286 active cases. However, 98 patients have recovered whereas no casualty has been reported so far.

Coaching centre in B'pur sealed

For conducting classes against Covid norms

PNS ■ BRAHMAMAPUR



officials reached the coaching centre and found as many as 20 students attending classes there.

The officials sealed the coaching centre and issued a notice to its owner.

Notably, all educational institutions across the State have been closed till July 31 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

institute was closed from outside, classes were underway inside the centre.

On being informed by locals, district administration

officials reached the coaching centre and found as many as 20 students attending classes there.

The officials sealed the coaching centre and issued a notice to its owner.

Notably, all educational institutions across the State have been closed till July 31 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

2 BSF men test virus+, dist total 12

PNS ■ UMERKOTE

Two BSF jawans tested Covid-19 positive on Thursday. With this, the total cases in Nabarangpur district rose to 12. Out of the 12, nine BSF personnel stationed at the district head quarter Nabarangpur have tested positive so far.

Briefing mediapersons Nabarangpur Collector Dr Ajit Kumar Mishra said these jawans had a travel history of Maharashtra and were in institutional quarantine.

The other three cases are from Tentulikhunti Block where a Staff Nurse of the Tentulikhunti CHC and two persons having the travel history of Andhra Pradesh found positive earlier on June 18 were not under quarantine. All the patients are admitted to the Covid Hospital in Nabarangpur and are stable, said Mishra.

NEWS BRIEFS

DM MOVES ON FOOT TO SEE LOCKDOWN EXECUTION



Brahmapur: Setting an example for others, Ganjam district Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange walked down streets to oversee if 19-hour lockdown is being implemented in the city properly. Accompanied by BeMC Commissioner Chakraborty Singh Rathore and Sub-Collector Sindhe Dattatraya Bhausaheb, Kulange warned drivers against violation of lockdown norms. Later, the Collector informed that over 500 shops were sealed for violating Covid guidelines. He said a 3T (Trace, Test and Treatment) programme would be implemented to check spread of coronavirus. Doctors ASHA workers, ANM Didi would move door to door for the purpose, he said.

BJP OBSERVES MOOKERJEE'S 'BALIDAN DIVAS'



Brahmapur: The BJP, Brahmampur Assembly constituency unit observed the 76th "Balidaan Divas" of Jan Sangha founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee at the party office here on Wednesday. Former district president Kanhu Chara Pati presided over a commemorative meeting. He said PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have translated Mookerjee's slogan, "Ek desh mein do nisan do bidhan to pradhan nehin chalega" into reality. Among others, district vice-president Sunil Kumar Sahu, Pravat Kiran Sarangi, Namitarani Panda, Madan Mohan Patra, Bhabagrahi Pal, Pradeep Mishra, Hemant Panda, Kiran Kumar Sahu, Kamal Patro, Shiba Shankar Satpathy, Sunil Patro, Upendra Sahu paid tributes.

PSYCHIATRIC PATIENT JUMPS BEFORE TRUCK, DIES

Baleswar: A 32-year-old man, who was undergoing psychiatric treatment, jumped before a moving truck and committed suicide on NH-16 near Uttareswar in the Soro area of Baleswar district on Thursday. The deceased Keshav Chandra Behera of Bhadrapada village in the district was under treatment at the Soro Community Health Centre. He came out of the hospital without informing the authorities.

TRACTOR OVERTURNS NEAR ROB CONSTRUCTION SITE



Baleswar: A tractor-borne man died when the vehicle carrying a concrete pillar overturned near an under-construction railway over-bridge (ROB) at Angargadia in Baleswar district on Thursday. The deceased was identified as Sona Soren. The incident took place when Soren was shifting the pillar on to the tractor for ROB construction. The tractor overturned as its driver lost control over the vehicle. The driver fled from the spot. The Sahadevkhunta police and GRP reached the site and launched a probe into the incident.

PALLAHARA TESHIL ISSUES DEED IN TWO HOURS

Pallahara: The Pallahara tehsil office in Angul district made a record by issuing a sale deed within two hours. Bhubaneswari Pradhan of Nimiribeda village of Badasada GP sold 0.03 acre of land to Sujan Kumar Sahoo on Wednesday. The deed was issued within two hours, said, said Sub-Collector Ajit Pradhan and Tehsildar Swagat Das.

WOMAN, GRANDDAUGHTER ELECTROCUTED

Rayagada: A woman and her minor granddaughter were electrocuted in Rayagada district on Thursday. They were identified as Bangaramma Mandangi (50) and granddaughter Tapaswini (13). The tragedy occurred when the duo was drying clothes on a wire that accidentally touched an electric wire.

ICICI PRUDENTIAL LIFE DECLARES RS 788-CR BONUS

Bhubaneswar: The ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has announced a bonus totaling Rs 788 crore for its bouquet of participating products. All participating policies in force as of March 31, 2020 are eligible to receive this bonus, which would be added to their guaranteed maturity or death benefit. The company declared such a bonus and delivered long term value to policyholders. The bonus declared for FY 2020 is 15% higher than the last fiscal.

ECoR TU opposes rly privatisation move

Meets BBSR MP, appraises about demands

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The East Coast Railway Mazdoor Union (ECoRMazU), affiliated to the Bharatiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh on Thursday met Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and apprised her about their demands and opposition to the Union Government's move for privatisation of the Indian Railways.

ECoRMazU general secretary Sachita Nanda Biswal said on one hand the Central Government has declared the railway employees as Covid warriors but on the other hand it has frozen their DA and DR



from January 2020 to June 2021. In the pandemic situation all railway employees donated their one day's salary to the PM Cares Fund and during lockdown their staffs prepared isolation coaches for Covid -19 patient, Biswal said.

Hence the union demands for Rs50 lakh insurance for all railway warriors, rollback deci-

sion to freeze the DA and DR, payment of incentive arrear to the staffs of Mancheswar workshop, supply of PPEs to all staffs, Proper precautions to maintain in all Sheds/Depots of East Coast Zone, As advised by BMS We also oppose disinvestment and privatisation of central public sector enterprises."

IOCL's product app centre opened at Paradip

PNS ■ PARADIP

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday inaugurated a Product Application and Development Centre (PADC) of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited here through a video-conferencing.

The PADC has been set up on 5 acres of land near the IOCL's refinery and pharmaceutical complex at a capital expenditure of Rs 43 crore to facilitate and support the development of polymer industry in the country's eastern part.

The technical centre, the sixth of its kind in the country and the second in the east, is a recognised laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) under the Ministry of Science



and Technology. The centre is equipped with 50 latest sophisticated polymer testing and processing equipments to cater to the needs of customers and new investors.

In line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme of the Union Government, the PADC would work for development of newer grades from

Paradip and curtail polymer imports through substitution. It would operate in collaboration with research institutes like the Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Bhubaneswar, Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Chennai and National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune.

G'pati SP fulfils wishes of adopted villagers

Sindibur residents feel blessed

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

Villagers of Sindibur in Gajapati district are very happy now as they are being looked after directly by Superintendent of Police Shara Sharma.

The SP had on June 12 announced to adopt Sindibur and to resolve basic problems of its residents. The villagers had submitted a list of basic items to her. The top cop delivered all those listed items on Tuesday. The items include dresses, utensils, umbrellas, chappals, tables, chairs, books, notebooks, pens and pencils. Sharma also arranged a free health checkup camp and distributed medicines to villagers.

Earlier in the day, villagers welcomed Sharma amid tribal dances and music.

"A total of 19 families comprising 120 people are residing in Sindibur village. I have adopted the village for their development. I will continue to



support villagers," said Sharma.

She informed that she has placed a proposal before the district administration to shift the families from the hill top village to a safer location as there is a risk of landslide.

She thanked philanthropic persons and students of the

Hidayatullah National Law University for providing support for development of the Sindibur.

Villagers have expressed gratitude to Sharma for her support.

"The god has sent SP maa to save us. She comes on foot

to us. We are very obliged to her," said villagers.

ASP Sitaram Satpathy, Seranga PS IIC P Swarup Kissan and Akankhya Mahila Anusthan president Meenakshi Sahu and treasurer Tanuja Satpathy were present, among others.

'Write off loans taken by SHG women'

BHARATIYA BIKASH SENDS MEMO TO PM, CM

PNS ■ BRAHMAMAPUR

Bharatiya Bikash Parishad State president Surendra Panigrahi sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and the Orissa High Court Chief Justice through the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (Southern Division) on Wednesday, requesting them to write off loans taken by SHGs and LHGs from Government, private and microfinance institutions in Ganjam district.

Around 500 women SHG members were present at the time of submission of the memorandum.

Panigrahi mentioned that the Orissa HC, in response to a PIL, has directed that no financial institution should collect loan installments till July 15, 2020. Besides, the RBI guidelines also restrict collec-

tion of loan installments up to Aug 31, 2020.

He alleged that these financial institutions are collecting money forcibly from these SHG/LHGs in the district now. The groups have taken loans from a number of microfinance institutions and banks such as Bandana Finance, Spondana Finance, SKS Finance, Adhikar Finance, Suryodaya, Sarvodaya, Asmita, Sampark, Arnnapurna, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, GG Finance, Credit Loan Finance, Saraswati Enterprises, Muthoot Finance, L and T Finance and Magma Finance for various purposes. As most of them are forcibly collecting installments, SHG members are being forced to sale their personal belongings and mortgaging their residential houses for payment of installments as they have lost incomes during the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown, alleged Panigrahi.

Panigrahi urged the PM and the CM to waive all loans taken by the SHGs.

Why is Father's Day a low-key affair?

From my heart to all fathers

K RAVI

Unlike the case with Mother's Day, the Father's Day is, unfortunately, never a big deal in most homes. In my experience fathers never get a single gift or any form of appreciation or acknowledgment as mothers are getting on the Mother's Day.

Ordinarily, fathers don't demand too much. Some only need recognition for the both of raising kids and educat-

ing them. But such gestures are never forthcoming on our special day. I wonder why women find it so hard to spend on their men on this one occasion, even after being pampered throughout the year.

We celebrate and honour them on Mother's Day, Women's Day, Valentine's Day and many other special occasions, yet they can't even save to treat their husbands or fathers on this one day.

Even for some sections of media, who always pretend to value fatherhood and the role of a father in the modern family on this day, I hardly experience media frenzy or fanfare akin to the one that characterises Mother's Day.

Before an anniversary or a day when women are cele-

brated, they always start nagging men well in advance. But as the one and only day when men are celebrated on Father's Day, the silence is always loud. I think fathers are under siege and seem to be society's punching bag.

The court system always unfairly denies us custody of our children, in case of divorce. The media always portrays us as incompetent or absentee parents, who are never actively involved in upbringing of children. The common view in most female quarters is that men have increasingly become useless with some even bragging how they can do without husbands.

Save for their financial contribution, husbands' general contribution in homes and in

children's lives is increasingly being rendered irrelevant. The absence of a father, especially in single mother homes, is always their (men's) fault, never that of the woman.

It's true some women are responsible for the disappearance of husbands from home. But they keep making it look like the men are to blame. It's odd how fathers' successes are shared, but their failures are theirs alone.

Interestingly, there are men who feel nothing about the so-called special day for men. To this lot, this is unnecessary.

Whining that they want to be treated is a sign of how weak and misguided the whole concept of fatherhood has become. Perhaps the only urgent social

challenge that society needs to focus on to help fathers in the competitive modern society is to recreate and redefine fatherhood as a vital social role. We live in an unfortunate time, when modern society appears to believe that every child doesn't necessarily need a father.

You ask a lady whether a father figure is important to a child and the likely answer is 'not really' or 'maybe'. To better the relationship between children, especially daughters with their fathers, let's confront this uncomfortable problem and start valuing fathers once again.

(The writer lives at E-237, GGP Colony, Bhubaneswar, Mob: 9437616497)

Girl found dead in Khordha school well

Family members allege murder

PNS ■ KHORDHA

A body of a college girl was recovered from a well in the Jariput Government Upper Primary School under the Khordha Town police station on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Nitu Rana of Jariput Malisahi. She had been missing for the last two days. After failing to trace her, Nitu's parents had lodged a complaint with the police.

Some villagers first saw

Nitu's body floating in the well. Being informed, police along with a scientific team reached the spot and conducted investigation.

Alleging that their daughter was killed and dumped in the well, the deceased's family members have demanded stringent action against culprits.

The Khordha SP also visited the spot. Two persons were later detained on the basis of the family members' complaint.



BJP lambasts Cong on 45th yr of Emergency

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leaders slammed the Congress on the 45th anniversary of Emergency on Thursday, alleging that the interests of "one family" prevailed over those of the party and the country.

BJP president JP Nadda also joined other BJP leaders and union ministers including Ravishankar Prasad and Piyush Goyal, in condemning emergency and suspension of civil rights to "save the power of one person".

Nadda tweeted "India salutes all the dignitaries who, despite enduring torture, fiercely opposed the Emergency. It was the tenacity of our satyagrahis that India's democratic values successfully won over a totalitarian mindset."

Union Home Minister and former BJP President Amit



Shah criticised former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi saying one family's "greed for power" led to the imposition of Emergency 45 years ago and the country was "turned into a prison."

In a series of tweets, he said freedom was "trampled over" and "atrocities were committed on the poor and downtrodden."

"On this day, 45 years ago one family's greed for power led

to the imposition of the Emergency. Overnight the nation was turned into a prison. The press, courts, free speech...all were trampled over. Atrocities were committed on the poor and downtrodden," Amit Shah tweeted.

The Home Minister further stated that the Emergency was lifted due to the efforts of lakhs of people and democracy was restored in India but it

Centre is run by only two people: Cong

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday hit back at Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his attack on the 45th anniversary of the Emergency asking why the BJP-led Centre that runs a "majoritarian rule" is described as a "Government of two people".

Congress' chief

remained absent in the Congress. "The interests of one family prevailed over party interests and national interests. This sorry state of affairs thrives in today's Congress too!" Shah said.

In another tweet, the Union

spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the country's ruling party needs to answer why horse trading and mass defections capture its only legacy.

"As India's ruling party, BJP needs to answer: Why is its majoritarian rule described as Govt of 2 people only and all others as mere side kicks," he asked on Twitter.

Home Minister asked the Congress to question itself on why the Emergency mindset still remains and why leaders who don't belong to the first dynasty are unable to speak up.

Taking a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Shah said "During the recent CWC

"Why is horse trading, mass defections and institution capture its only legacy? Why is it obsessed in its vile hatred of Nehru-Gandhi's (sic)," Surjewala asked.

Congress leader Pawan Khera said an "undeclared Emergency" has been imposed in the country under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Working Committee) meet, senior members and younger members raised a few issues. But, they were shouted down. A party spokesperson was unceremoniously sacked. The sad truth is — leaders are feeling suffocated in Congress."

"In the last six years, the way the Prime Minister has tried to weaken democracy and destroy democratic institutions, an undeclared Emergency has been imposed in the country," he said at a press conference, adding that this is dangerous for a democracy.

Senior BJP leaders slammed the Congress on

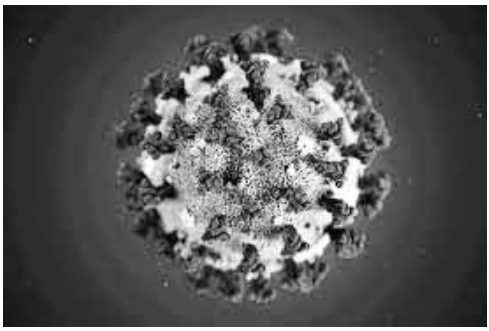
the 45th anniversary of Emergency on Thursday, alleging that the interests of "one family" prevailed over those of the party and the country.

Shah alleged that the "Emergency mindset" still prevailed in the Congress and that the "sad truth" was that leaders were feeling suffocated in the party.

Prasad said emergency was imposed to save the post of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who was disqualified by a court judgment. He said civil rights were suspended and "even media was not spared."

RAMPING UP COVID-19 MGMT

Centre rushes team to Guj, Maha and Telangana



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As India witnessed the highest spike of almost 17,000 fresh Covid cases in the past 24 hours, the Centre has rushed a team led by its Joint Secretary Lav Agarwal, to Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana to strengthen Covid-19 management efforts in these States.

The team will be in the three States between June 26 and 29 to coordinate with the State officials and review the measures undertaken by the states for containment of novel coronavirus, which has so far infected a total of 4,73,105 people across the country.

Maharashtra has reported the highest number of cases at 1,42,900, Gujarat 28,943 while

Telangana has so far reported 10,331 cases, according to Health Ministry data.

The decision was taken when India on Thursday witnessed highest spike of almost 17,000 fresh Covid cases in the past 24 hours, with Maharashtra, Delhi and Tamil Nadu contributing more than 62 per cent, while the overall fatalities rose to 14,894.

According to the Health Ministry data, 418 new deaths were reported in the last 24 hours.

The Ministry, meanwhile, said the recovery rate is 57.43 per cent amongst Covid-19 patients and a total of 13,012 patients have been cured during the last 24 hours. Thus, so far, a total of 2,71,696 patients

have been cured.

The ministry also said there are 33.39 cases in India for every one lakh population, against the global average of 120.21 cases per lakh.

Also, the number of deaths in the country is currently

Delays in diagnosis, treatment may lead to 95K addl TB-related deaths in India over next five yrs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Disruptions to health services, and delays in diagnosis and treatment due to Covid-19 pandemic may lead to 95,000 additional tuberculosis (TB) related deaths in India over the next five years, according to a study published on Wednesday.

The modelling study, published in the European Respiratory Journal, found that the COVID-19 pandemic could significantly increase the global burden of TB.

It estimates at least 110,000 additional deaths from TB in India, China, and South Africa unless health services are maintained and strengthened.

The researchers from the

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Lancaster University in the UK noted that before COVID-19 outbreak, over 4,000 people were dying from TB every day.

They estimated additional TB deaths and cases in China, India and South Africa over the next five years by examining the impact of various reductions in social contacts and on health services due to COVID-19.

Though they hypothesised that social distancing might reduce TB incidence as Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacteria which causes the disease, is transmitted via droplets in the air — similar to the coronavirus, the researchers said that even

amongst the lowest in the world with 1.06 deaths per lakh against the world average of 6.24 deaths per lakh.

Following efforts to ramp up facilities across the nation, there are in total 1,007 diagnostic labs, of which 734 are in

after taking into account this potential reduced TB transmission, the most likely scenario was estimated to result in more than 110,000 additional TB deaths.

In the worst case scenario where the impact of COVID-19 on health services is severe, this number could rise to up to 200,000 additional deaths, they said.

The most probable scenario, based on the current information and distancing measures, suggests 6,000 additional deaths could occur in China, 95,000 in India and 13,000 in South Africa, according to study first author Finn McQuaid, Assistant Professor in Infectious Disease Epidemiology at LSHTM.

the Government sector and 273 private.

From limited Covid-19 tests in January, a cumulative total of 75,60,782 samples have been tested up to June 24 with 2,07,871 samples being tested on Wednesday.

Experts discuss risks in handling multiple disaster emergencies



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Experts at a webinar on tackling simultaneous disasters like super cyclone Amphan and COVID-19 underlined the major risks involved in handling of such multiple emergencies.

They mostly stressed on the need for effective implementation of stringent rules and regulations while participating in the event organised by the Centre for Disaster Management Studies (CDMS), Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University here, an official release said Thursday.

GGSIU Vice Chancellor Dr Mahesh Varma said, "Rules and regulations are in place for various disaster emergencies in our country. The need is that all the major stakeholders execute them on ground keeping in mind the catastrophic effects of twin/multiple disasters at one time."

Acknowledging the efforts of the CDMS in organising the webinar, he also insisted on community preparedness when such a secondary disaster persists.

Acknowledging the efforts of the CDMS in organising the webinar, he also insisted on community preparedness when such a secondary disaster persists

Chairman Odisha PSC Brig (Dr) LC Patnaik focussed on the aspects of governance, management and resources of the coastal states which were affected by the super cyclone.

He stressed that disaster professionals including central government officials, private sector authorities and non-profits organisations need to analyse their strategies and develop synergised frameworks that can be enacted in handling such challenging times.

Experts from National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) elaborated on the policies, frame-

work, implementation, last mile connectivity and resilient infrastructure development in the given reference.

Maj Gen RC Padhi, Former Additional Surveyor General of India, articulated

on how GIS and remote sensing technologies can be a force multiplier in managing a crisis situation. Former Vice Chairman, Bihar SDMA, Anil Sinha spoke on how the state administration could formulate customised plans for specific regions within the state and explained how the district administration had the highest responsibility.

Besides former secretary, DCMG, Ministry of Defence, Brig. (Dr) Vinod Dutta, the webinar was attended by various academicians, research scholars, industry and government officials, the release said.

The CDMS, established by the university in 2005, promotes research, professional academics and extension work in various aspects of disaster management and provides specialised training to personnel engaged in disaster management and capacity building, it added.

Bihar records 223 fresh Covid-19 cases, tally rises to 8,273

PTI ■ PATNA

As many as 223 fresh COVID-19 cases were reported in Bihar on Wednesday, taking the tally to 8,273, while the death toll rose to 55, the state health department said.

According to the daily bulletin issued by the health department, the latest casualty was reported from Patna district.

The total number of COVID-19 cases in Patna rose to 485 from 451 on Tuesday. Other districts with high caseload are Madhubani (394), Siwan (380), Bhagalpur (377), Begusarai (348), Rohtas (316) and Munger (309).

So far, 6,106 COVID-19 patients have recovered in Bihar and 1.75 lakh samples have been tested.

Since May 3, 5,174 migrant workers have tested positive after returning to the state from other parts of the country. The state has reported more than 7,500 cases since May 3.

NPP MLAs extend support to Biren Govt in Manipur

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Four legislators of the National People's Party (NPP) in Manipur who had resigned as ministers a week ago submitted a letter to Governor Najma Heptulla on Thursday, extending their support to the government headed by Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

NPP chief Conrad Sangma, who arrived in Imphal in the morning from Delhi, said the party MLAs will also withdraw their resignation as minister as senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured to look into their issues.

He said they will be back as ministers.

The four MLAs, accompanied by Sangma and BJP's trouble-shooter and Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, visited the Raj Bhavan in the afternoon to submit letter of support to the BJP-led government.

"A delegation of National People's Party led by Shri @SangmaConrad alongwith Shri @himantabiswa called

on me and all the 4 MLAs gave their letter of support to BJP led Government in the State of Manipur," Heptulla tweeted.

They met Biren Singh at Chief Minister's Secretariat here just after meeting the governor.

Sangma, who is also the chief minister of Meghalaya, said they were given a patient hearing at their meetings with Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda in Delhi on Wednesday, and their concerns were addressed.

"We had meetings with Nadda and Shah, and we expressed all our grievances and concerns we had as a part of this alliance," Sangma told reporters outside the airport.

"Both the leaders understood and assured us that all the issues will be addressed and taken care of," he said.

Shah and Nadda assured that they will personally look into the issues and on the basis of that the ministers have decided to withdraw their resignations, he said.

Himanta Biswa Sarma, BJP's trouble-shooter and

While the four ministers from the NPP quit the government, three BJP MLAs resigned from the party and the Assembly

convenor of the North East Democratic Alliance which comprises of the BJP and its allies in the Northeastern states, took the NPP delegation to a meeting with Shah on Wednesday as the Manipur government plunged into a crisis after the rebellion of nine MLAs on June 17. They later met BJP president Nadda.

While the four ministers from the NPP quit the government, three BJP MLAs resigned from the party and the assembly.

Further, the lone Trinamool Congress MLA and an Independent legislator withdrew their support from the BJP-led government.

Deputy Chief Minister Y Joykumar had said he and his three NPP colleagues quit the BJP-led government because of the treatment they

Assessing impact of US decision on blocking H1B visas: MEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said it was assessing the impact of the Trump administration's decision to block H1B visas on Indian nationals and industry but indicated its dismay over it saying people-to-people linkages and economic cooperation are an important dimension of ties between the two countries.

In a huge blow to Indian IT professionals eyeing the US job market, the Trump administration suspended the most sought-after H-1B visas along

with other types of foreign work visas until the end of 2020 to protect American workers in a crucial election year.

"This is likely to affect movement of Indian skilled professionals who avail of these non-immigrant visa programmes to work lawfully in the US. We are assessing the impact of the order on Indian nationals and industry in consultation with stakeholders," Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs Anurag Srivastava said.

He was replying to a ques-

People-to-people linkages and trade & economic cooperation, especially in technology and innovation sectors, are an important dimension of the US-India partnership

tion on the issue at an online media briefing.

"People-to-people linkages and trade & economic cooperation, especially in technology and innovation sectors, are an important dimension of the US-India partnership," he said.

The decision by the Trump administration is going to impact a large number of Indian IT professionals and several American and Indian companies who were issued H-1B visas by the US government for the fiscal year 2021 beginning October 1.

Srivastava said high-skilled Indian professionals bring

important skill sets, bridge technological gaps and impart a competitive edge to the US economy.

"They have also been a critical component of the workforce that is at the forefront of providing COVID-19 related assistance in key sectors, including health, information technology and financial services," he said.

"The US has always welcomed talent and we hope our professionals will continue to be welcomed in the US in the future," Srivastava said.

Lightning kills 83 in Bihar, 24 in UP

Patna: At least 83 people were killed by lightning in various districts of Bihar, and 24 in Uttar Pradesh while many people were reported to be injured as heavy rain and thunderstorms lashed several areas of north India on Thursday, a Government official said.

Out of the 83 dead in Bihar, 13 people were killed in Gopalganj district alone.

According to reports, 8 people were killed in Madhubani and Nawada district each, six each in Bhagalpur and Siwan, and five each in Banka, Darbhanga and East Champaran districts.

Apart from this, three persons were killed by lightning in Khagaria and Aurangabad districts each, two each in Jehanabad, Kishanganj, West

Champaran, Jamui, Purnia, Supaul, Kaimur and Buxar and one each died in Saran, Shivhar, Samastipur, Madhepura and Sitamarhi, according to officials.

Gopalganj District Collector Arshad Aziz told IANS that according to information received so far, 12 to 13 people have died in lightning strikes in the district. He appealed to the people to remain indoors during the rain and not to stand under trees if outside.

Most of the people who died were working in the fields. The injured have been admitted in hospitals.

Heavy rain with thunderstorms and lightning has lashed various parts of Bihar even before the onset of the monsoon in the state. IANS

3,509 afflicted in TN, 45 die

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Till Thursday evening, Tamil Nadu has seen 70,977 persons testing positive for coronavirus, according to a media release issued by the State Government. On Thursday alone, 3,509 persons (highest number till date since the first case of virus was detected in the State) were diagnosed with Covid-19 and the day also saw 45 patients succumbing to the pandemic. The death toll in the State as on Thursday touched 911 making Tamil Nadu a land of death.

On a day even veteran physicians like Dr CV Krishnaswamy stood perplexed over the ever increasing numbers of patients and deaths refusing to divulge what they feel about the unabated pandemic, the only relief worth mentioning was the 2,236 patients who were discharged from various hospitals, taking the number of patients cured off this disease to 39,999.

Thursday also saw 30,307 persons getting tested in 88 laboratories across the State taking the total number of persons tested till date to 9.6 lakh.

Underscoring the fact that patients with comorbidity (suffering from serious ailments like diabetes mellitus, hypertension, coronary problems, kidney disorder) are at risk, 42 of the persons who breathed their last on Thursday had comorbidities.

2 ultras killed in J&K, terror module busted

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Two Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists were neutralised by the joint teams of security forces in village Hardshiva of Sopore while another encounter was launched in Tral area of Awantipora late Thursday evening. In a related development, another terror module linked to proscribed terror outfit LeT was busted by the Budgam police with the arrest of five terrorist associates.

According to a police spokesman, the operations were launched on the basis of specific intelligence input about the presence of terrorists in the area. So far, 121 terrorists have been eliminated by the security forces in different anti terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir since January 2020. According to a police spokesman, jawans of 22RR, 179Bn CRPF and JKP were participating in the operations.

The hiding terrorists were given an opportunity to surrender before the security forces but instead of paying heed to these appeals they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter.

"In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. The identification and affiliation of the killed terrorists is being ascertained. However, as per credible sources the killed terrorists belonged to proscribed LeT terrorist outfit", police spokesman said.

Record 4,841 +ve in Maha, 192 die

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra appeared to be still not out of the woods on Thursday, as it witnessed 192 more deaths and it registered a record daily tally of 4,841 infected cases.

Out of the total deaths reported during the day, 109 deaths occurred in the last 48 hours and rest 83 are from the previous period. With the fresh fatalities, the total number of deaths went up to 6931 in the state in a major spike in the infections, as many as 4841 people tested positive for Covid, taking the total number of infected cases in the state to 1,47,741.

Of the 83 deaths that took place earlier, Mumbai accounted for 40 deaths, while there were 31 deaths in Thane district and Municipal Corporations in Thane district, 4 deaths each in Palghar and Solapur and one death each in Malegaon, Yavatmal, Jalgaon and in Pune.

"These 83 deaths have been shown in the progressive figures instead of showing in daily figures. This report is prepared based on figures provided by the authorized laboratories on Central Government's Covid-19 Portal. Because the laboratory report scrutiny and the availability of figures accordingly is an ongoing process, state cumulative numbers are subject to change," a state health bulletin said.

Salons to reopen in Maha from Jun 28

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Come June 28, salons will reopen across Maharashtra with some restrictions and guidelines in place. However, it will take some more time before the State Government decides to allow reopening of "Beauty Parlours".

For the time being, the saloons will limit themselves to cutting hair. The barbers have not been permitted to the shave beards of their clients yet. Similarly, no decision has yet been taken to reopen "beauty parlours". A decision to reopen the salons was taken at a State Cabinet meeting held here on Thursday.

Confirming the development after the Cabinet meeting, Transport Minister Anil Parab said: "The State Government has prepared guidelines for reopening of saloons. As of now, the salons will limit themselves to cutting hair."

TMC attacks Centre for rising petrol prices

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

While the BJP is building up a political atmosphere against the Trinamool Congress ahead of the next year's Assembly elections by taking on the Mamata Banerjee Government on a number of issues — from corruption to law and order situation to nepotism and poor handling of the corona situation — the Bengal ruling outfit on Thursday built up a counterattack holding the Narendra Modi Government responsible for the rising petrol prices at a time when the country is passing through one of its worse economic slowdowns.

Attacking the BJP for doing business with petroleum prices when the people of the country were languishing TMC ideologue and Legislator Arup Chakrabarty said "due to the poor and unplanned handling of the corona situation the Central Government has suffered a huge loss in its revenue... as the central exchequer has almost gone dry they are using petroleum to make up for the loss which is why the oil prices are rising steeply despite the fact that world over the petro-prices have gone down."

Attacking the BJP for "failing to fulfill all its promises from bringing back black money from abroad and putting them in the citizens' accounts and providing 2 crore jobs yearly" Chakrabarty said "this is the same party that had said that it would pull down the dollar-rupee ratio so that our currency would cost below ₹50 per US dollar... but in reality today one dollar makes ₹75.50".

Adhir Chowdhury asks Govt to drive out PLA

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Congress queered the Ladakh pitch further with party leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Chowdhury on Thursday asking the BJP Government to push back the Chinese Army from the Indian land that they had encroached.

The Congress leader who had a field experience of tackling the CPI(M)'s 'red brigade' of Bengal, said instead of being "cowed down" by the "Red Army" India should use its armory to teach the Chinese a lesson. The large Indian arsenal was not for hatching eggs he said.

"China is furtively and fervently encroaching our land in a steady manner, much to the peril of Indian security and territorial integrity. It is a catch-22 situation for us, but we cannot afford ourselves to be cowed down by

the red army," he tweeted.

The Chinese army "are to be repulsed back by whatever means, our arsenals are not meant for hatching eggs, so strike back, drive back, force back the Chinese aggression, god will be Indian in deciding the course of conflict," he added amid reports of further build-up at the Indo-China border.

Much like the two armies the Congress and the BJP engaged each other following the alleged Chinese intrusion which however was denied by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Border tensions and subsequent brawl claimed 20 Indian soldiers on June 15 while the Chinese side lost about 45 fighters.

Saying that though India has taken all steps to cool the embers and defuse the tension at the Line of Actual Control, China was trying to change the status quo which should be stopped at all cost.

123 test +ve in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

There was no respite in Kerala's tryst with the high number of coronavirus cases even on Thursday as the State tested more than 100 covid-19 cases successively for the seventh day. According to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who briefed the media, the State diagnosed 123 persons with coronavirus on Thursday.

The Chief Minister said the hike in the coronavirus cases was due to expatriates and persons from other parts of the country who returned to Kerala. Out of the 123 persons tested positive on Thursday, 84 were those who returned to the State from abroad while 33 were from other parts of the country.

344 persons were hospitalized across the State on Thursday while 1.59 lakh were under observation. "Till date we have diagnosed 3,726 persons with covid-19 while as on Thursday, 1,761 persons were under treatment for the pandemic," said the chief minister. Vijayan said the stringent quarantine protocols being followed by his government has helped the community transmission of the covid-19 pandemic from 93 per cent of the expatriates.

Maha allows setting up of shacks in 8 beaches in Konkan

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In an effort to push tourism in coastal areas of Maharashtra, the State Government on Thursday decided to allow setting up of eco-friendly shacks in eight beaches in Konkan region.

An initiative of Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray, the beach shack project is being undertaken as a pilot project. Initially, the State Government will allow the setting up of shacks in Guhagar and Aravare beaches of Ratnagiri district, Kunkeshwar and Tarkarli in Sindhudurg district, Varsoli and Diveagar in Raigad district and Kewla and Bordi in Palghar districts.

The decision to allow setting up of eco-friendly shacks in eight beaches in the Konkan region was taken at the State Cabinet meeting held here in the afternoon.

"Today I'm thankful to my cabinet colleagues for passing two key policies for tourism development in Maharashtra. 1) Beach Shacks: 8 beaches in Maharashtra have been approved for eco friendly Beach Shacks. This will be a major tourist facility, 80% employment to locals is a must," an elated Aditya tweeted in the evening.

Recovery rate up from 48% to 60% in J&K

PNS ■ JAMMU

In the last one month, the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has added 4,881 fresh cases of coronavirus while 67 deaths were reported during the same period. Significantly, the recovery rate of coronavirus patients has increased from 48 percent to 60 percent during the same period in the region.

According to the media bulletin, 127 new patients of coronavirus were detected in Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday while two more deaths were reported, one each from Jammu & Kashmir divisions.

According to the media bulletin, between May 25 to June 25, 198257 tests were conducted across different laboratories in Jammu and Kashmir.

A total number of 1668 cases of coronavirus were there on May 25. Out of this 836 were active positive and 809 had recovered while a total number of 23 deaths were reported, three from Jammu division and 20 from Kashmir division.

In one month, the total number of coronavirus cases recorded a huge jump of 4881 cases, taking the tally of positive cases to 6549 while 90 deaths have been reported, 11 from Jammu division and 79 from Kashmir division.

YES BANK CASE CBI files chargesheet against Rana Kapoor, Wadhawan & others

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The CBI on Thursday filed a charge sheet against Yes Bank's founder Rana Kapoor, M/s Dewan Housing Finance Ltd, its promoters Kapil Rajesh Wadhawan, Dheeraj Rajesh Wadhawan and M/s DOIT Urban Ventures (India) Pvt. Ltd (DUVIPL), its promoter Ms. Roshni Kapoor and others in the ₹3,700-crore Yes Bank fraud case.

The others named in the charge sheet filed in Special CBI City sessions court were M/s Belief Realtors Pvt. Ltd; M/s RKW Developers Pvt. Ltd. The CBI filed the charge sheet in connection with a case of cheating and criminal conspiracy registered on March 7 this year against Kapoor and his family members for allegedly colluding with DHFL's promoter Kapil Wadhawan and his family members.

With 477 new cases Andhra's Covid tally touches 10,884

IANS ■ AMARAVATI

A day after it crossed the 10,000-mark, Andhra Pradesh's overall tally of Covid-19 cases touched 10,884, including returnees from other states and abroad. The state nodal officer reported that 477 Covid new cases were detected in the 24 hours ending 9 a.m., on Thursday.

While 19,085 samples were tested for the virus during the last 24 hours, till date 7,69,319 samples have been conducted and the government plans to test the entire population within a 3-month time-frame.

In all, 118 people were discharged in the last 24 hours. While the active cases stand at 5,760, the number of people who have been discharged increased to 4,988 on Thursday.

Seven persons were reported dead from different parts of the state, taking the death toll

to 136. Kurnool, Krishna and Guntur districts reported 2 deaths each while 1 death was reported from East Godavari district.

During the preceding 24 hours, new cases were reported from all the 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh. Kurnool district reported the highest tally of 72 cases, followed by Guntur with 67 cases, and East Godavari with 64 cases on Thursday.

Thursday also saw a rise in the number of Covid cases among people returning from other states. Compared to 37 cases on Wednesday, there were 69 new cases detected among people belonging to this category on Thursday. While 33 of the covid positive samples belonged to returnees from Tamil Nadu, 27 positive samples belonged to returnees from Telangana, and 2 positive samples were of people returning from Maharashtra. On

Thursday 3 positive samples were of people returning from Delhi, 2 cases pertained to returnees from Karnataka, and 1 each from Rajasthan and Jharkhand.

The overall tally of Covid positive persons who returned from other states currently stands at 1,730. Of this, the active cases tally is 652, while 1,078 persons have been discharged till date. There has been a constant flow of positive cases among foreign returnees also. On Thursday, 2 samples each were detected from people returning from Kuwait, Kazakhstan, and Bangladesh. There was also one positive case from a UK returnee.

The cumulative tally of covid patients in foreign returnees category is 371, while 80 persons have been discharged after getting cured. As of Thursday, 291 persons in this category are undergoing treatment in hospitals.

UP: Azam's close aide held, stolen buffaloes recovered

IANS ■ RAMPUR (UP)

Fasahat Ali Khan, alias Shanu, a close aide and media advisor to Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan, was arrested from Uttar Pradesh's Rampur, police said on Thursday.

The police claimed to have also recovered two stolen buffaloes and other stolen gold and silver ornaments from Fasahat's farmhouse at Koyala village.

It is noteworthy that among the cases lodged against Azam Khan, one is related to theft of buffaloes.

In September 2019, some residents of Yateem Khana had lodged FIRs against Azam Khan and his aides on charges of robbery.

They had also alleged that their houses were vandalised by Khan's supporters and their

animals were robbed.

In one of the FIRs, a complainant had alleged that her four goats, three buffaloes, one cow and a calf were taken away.

Rampur SP Shagun Gautam, said, "Fasahat Khan, during interrogation, had revealed that he had stolen the buffaloes and other items from inside the houses of the Yateem Khana residents on the instruction of Azam Khan. Most of the other accused involved in the crime are already on bail, while a few others need to be questioned."

Fasahat was produced before the court of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, late on Wednesday evening, and sent to jail.

The police said that there are 16 criminal cases registered against Fasahat.



Skyline engulfed with dust storm, at Walled City in Jaipur on Thursday

PTI



Volunteers of a social organisation clean and spray disinfectant on the walls of Dagduseth Halwai Ganapati Temple amid concern over Covid-19 outbreak, in Pune, on Thursday

PTI

Senior citizens in Agra more vulnerable to virus

Agra: Call it nature's survival of the fittest design or negligence of those who manage the medical infrastructure, the truth that emerges from a look at the mortality figures from Covid-19 in Agra, indicates that a majority who succumbed to the deadly virus were senior citizens.

Doctors of the S.N. Medical College confirmed that those in the senior age group bracket with comorbidities were particularly vulnerable, as has been feared right from the outbreak of the pandemic. Many family members of the victims have been alleging indifference and delay in treatment that aggravated the condition in the elderly people. In a large number of cases, the delay in test reports, up to five days, has proved costly.

Now, the testing facilities have considerably improved with the installation of latest machines at the district hospital and the Covid hospital in the S. N. Medical College. Retired army doctor, Col Rajesh Chauhan, told IANS, "This was clear from day one that the vulnerable sec-

tion of senior citizens will be significantly affected by the virus.

They should have focused on providing prompt relief and treatment to this age-group. In fact a separate geriatric ward managed by specialists should have by now become operational. Even now they could do that."

Agra's death toll from Covid-19 was 82 till Thursday morning. A senior citizen, an 82-year-old patient, who had a chronic breathing problem, succumbed. In the last 24 hours, nine new cases were added, taking the tally to 1,166. So far, 974 have recovered.

District Magistrate P.N. Singh said the number of active cases in Agra was now 111. The recovery rate was 84.04 per cent. The number of samples taken was 19,728 and the number of containment zones is 65.

In neighbouring Mathura, there were nine fresh cases. Firozabad had 21 new cases, Etah had eight, including an MLA, and Mainpuri had four new cases. IANS

Maha tribal woman hangs minor daughter, self

Palghar (Maharashtra): A 30-year-old tribal woman allegedly killed her minor daughter and later hanged herself from a tree in the forests on the outskirts of Jawhar, around 160 km north of Mumbai, the police said on Thursday.

According to investigating officer Appasaheb Lengare, no suicide note was found. The woman was missing along with her daughter since the last three days.

Identified as Mangala Wagh, the woman first hanged her daughter with her sari and then herself from a tree near a hillock, around 1 km on the outskirts of the Deragaon village, Lengare said.

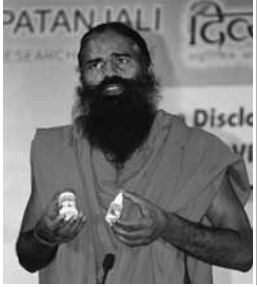
She left behind her husband Dilip Wagh and another 7-year old daughter when she walked out of their hutment on June 22 along with the younger daughter, 3-year old Roshni.

According to the locals, Dilip Wagh was a brick kiln labourer and was mostly jobless due to the lockdown, and the family lived in dire poverty.

"The Sarpanch informed us after some tribals discovered the two bodies hanging from the tree. The bodies have been sent for autopsy and further investigations are on," said Lengare. Meanwhile, social activist, former legislator and Shramjeevi Sanghatana President Vivek Pandit said that he 'felt responsible' for the incident. The Chairman of a state panel to study the status of tribal welfare schemes, Pandit said he had been telling the government to pay attention to the tribals' plight or they would die of starvation more than Corona. IANS

Ayurveda vs Ramdev

By claiming a drug for COVID while procuring its licence as a preventive, Patanjali has diluted research into our herb heritage



If the slew of products, from disinfectants to immunity boosters, is any indication, then a subsidiary economy has evolved from the fear of the pandemic. So anything claiming preventive properties against the virus is vanishing off the shelves. But it is just that, preventive, and not a cure. That, however, has not stopped some adventurous companies from claiming that they have the cure at a time when doctors, scientists and pharmaceutical companies are scrambling for a drug or a vaccine. Alternative medicine systems like homoeopathy, Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani offer prophylactics, too, but their effectiveness as a cure is still untested. Yet much

like all precautionary protocols, these, too, can be effective in proofing immunities. So Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's outrageous claim that he has found two new medicines — Coronil and Swasari — that cost ₹545 and have shown a 100 per cent recovery rate in patients within just 14 days has done a great disservice to the cause of traditional medicine, which has slowly established its place in our overall health and well-being routine. Worst, even assuming that Ramdev did indeed chance upon a magic elixir from the treasure trove of Himalayan herbs, he applied for a licence duplicitously, claiming that his was a cold, cough and fever drug with immunity-boosting properties. And once the licence was got and the time came for a rollout, he claimed it was a cure. Even his insistence that he had tested the drug in clinical trials at the Jaipur-based National Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (NIMS) rang hollow with the Rajasthan Government denying any knowledge of such an experiment. The Ministry for AYUSH, too, stopped the drug promotions, saying it had no information on either formulations or their efficacy in tests. Besides, Ramdev's Patanjali group sidestepped the Drug Controller General of India, whose approval must be sought before a medicine is put out in the market. On the contrary, he flooded fawning media houses with his invention, all of whom forgot to ask the right questions of him. Some insiders say that Patanjali did test the drug on suspects, asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic patients but stayed away from severely symptomatic patients and those with acute respiratory distress syndrome. Baba Ramdev is still adamant about his cure and claiming communication gaps but how can one trust a man, who had said he could cure homosexuality through yoga, at face value? Besides, who would condone his flagrant violation of codes and the mockery of our drug laws? Anyway, this episode has exposed how our drug regulation regime can be played around with by unscrupulous businesses. And for somebody like Ramdev, who has a hold of the public consciousness courtesy his advertisement blitzkrieg, he inevitably ends up looking like a victim of the big pharma lobbies rather than an offender. If found guilty, he and his firm can be booked under two Acts, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954. These seek to prohibit advertisements for "remedies alleged to possess magic qualities" or "misleading advertisements", which give a "false impression regarding the true character of the drug." There is provision of a six-month prison term and fine for the first conviction, extendable to one year for repeat offenders. But all such clauses mean nothing because of a glaring loophole. The owner of a company making such claims could absolve himself if he shows that the offence was committed without his knowledge or if he can prove that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the offence from being committed. Most companies have got away by exploiting this condition and Patanjali, which has good connections with the powers that be, isn't likely to be booked but asked to lie low instead.

Drug control laws need more teeth since they have an impact on our public health policies and the Advertising Standards Council of India has aired concerns time and again over the glaring mismatch between promotion campaigns and the actual potency of the peddled drug. The Health Ministry has even released the draft of Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The proposed penalty for first conviction is now up to two years and fine up to ₹10 lakh. A second conviction would lead to an imprisonment of up to five years and fine up to ₹50 lakh. But more deterrence needs to be built in, like scrapping licences. For this is not the first time that Patanjali is overselling itself to vulnerable Indians hoping to avoid visits to the doctor. Back in 2016, it was fined ₹11 lakh for "misleading ads", "misbranding" and "misrepresentation" of its products like honey, salt, mustard oil, jam and *besan*, which failed to meet quality standards. In 2017, the Army suspended the sale of its popular *amla* juice to soldiers and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Haryana judged its cow ghee as "substandard and unsafe." The biggest casualty has been ayurveda, which indeed has the capacity to root out stubborn diseases. In fact, scientists from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, in collaboration with AIST, Japan, have found that the herb, *ashwagandha*, may hold a strong potential in fighting COVID-19 and are carrying out further research. Ayurveda has never been in conflict with science. Baba Ramdev should understand that first.

Hurting China or ourselves?

With shipments from China under more scrutiny at Indian ports, we may well end up affecting manufacturing more



The news filtering out that several container shipments from China across various Indian ports have been held up by the Customs department for intense checking should not have come as a surprise to anyone who has been following current events lately. Yes, India has become addicted to cheap Chinese products — from consumer products such as toys and smartphones to intermediate goods such as plastics and paints as well as finished capital goods. Heck, every single bronze panel on the much-touted "Statue of Unity" was finished in China simply because India did not have the casting capacity or technology. Our imports from China

have grown in multiples over the past decade as cheap Chinese goods have seduced Indians, from consumers to traders and industrialists. Every single one of us must share the blame.

But in the aftermath of the face-off at the Galwan Valley that taught Indian policymakers the lesson that China speaks with a forked tongue, there has been a rush to extricate India from the Chinese supply chain. On the face of it, this might seem like a worthwhile move but is slightly silly. For example, take the issue with Ford, which uses some Chinese intermediate components on the cars that it further exports out of India. In fact, many Indian exports, even that of textiles and pharmaceuticals, depend on Chinese intermediate products and capital goods. While running intense inspections on containers arriving from China might seem like a worthwhile task, even those disinclined to Beijing might feel that it is useless right now. Yes, we should raise duties and even restrict imports from China in sectors where India has manufacturing capabilities. Just before the clash in Ladakh, India cracked down rightly on the wanton import of tyres from China because it has a whole host of manufacturers in this space. Other sectors like these that have been hollowed out by Chinese imports have to be protected now even if that means that the Indian consumer must pay a higher price. We have to build our manufacturing capabilities. This will be expensive but will add to the Indian economy. Like Pawan Goenka, Chief Executive of Mahindra & Mahindra, said, if Indian automotive manufacturers and their Tier-I equipment suppliers just halved their imports in the next few years, an additional ₹75,000 crore of manufacturing value can be created in India. This is a worthwhile cause to be worked upon. A knee-jerk reaction right now might be counter-productive.

opinion 06

India's counter strategy

India must take the lead in the South Asian region by accelerating economic activities and involving other nations in integration projects. This can serve as a deterrent to China



NISHIKANT DUBEY

Ever since independence, India's stated objective in the South Asian region has been to pursue friendly relations with its immediate neighbours. An official foreign policy planning document published by the Congress regime in early 1992 states that India respects the territorial integrity of its neighbours and intends to work for mutual cooperation on a bilateral basis. Our attempts to build a solid and constructive relationship with neighbouring nations have been successful. India shares land and maritime boundaries with nine countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and Afghanistan from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). In particular, Pakistan and China have come to challenge India's sovereignty on a regular basis. The traditional friction between India and Pakistan in my estimation is the principal threat to regional stability in South Asia. Mutual distrust and lingering hostility have provoked four wars between the two countries since 1947. However, India holds superiority in military strength in the foreseeable future. A major stumbling block to long-term improvement in relations with Pakistan is its infiltration into Kashmir and regular proxy wars here in cohorts with various terrorist organisations.

On the other hand, for India, China, too, has been a long-term threat. Our security concerns with it begins at the Himalayas and our forces have steadfastly resisted all attempts of invasion by the People's Liberation Army (PLA). In recent times, China appears to be less interested in resolving boundary issues and has instead become more assertive about claiming various regions of Ladakh and the North-east. First came an attempted inroad into Doklam and more recently the face-off at the Galwan Valley. All such skirmishes have necessitated a relook at India's Tibet policy. In particular, two unilateral concessions have been made: First, we supported the One-China policy. And second, we accepted China's sovereignty over Tibet. However, during the British era, Tibet was an independent nation and the British Government was the guarantor of its independence from China. The rights India retained in Tibet under the Simla Convention of 1914 were adequate for us to insist upon the maintenance of its autonomy. Britain preserved all these rights in Tibet as an autonomous region was vital for British India's safety and security. However, in 1954, Nehru conceded



Tibet to China to "maintain regional stability."

The Indo-Bhutan Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1949 and the 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship were signed in continuation with similar pacts issued by British India. The 1816 Treaty of Sugauli with Nepal, the Treaty of Punakha in 1910 with Bhutan and the Simla pact of 1914 with Tibet continued after India's independence and it was former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's duty to uphold the listed treaties. Thus, Nehru's decision to forego Tibet's sovereignty and boost China's imperialistic mindset was illegal.

On multiple accounts, India followed the "Panchsheel" principles, an agreement solely responsible for bringing instability to South Asia and the growth of China's imperialistic mindset. The two mistakes Nehru committed in violation of the Panchsheel Agreement were: First, in 1954, he supported China's claim to Tibet and the Aksai Chin to "maintain regional stability." Second, in 1955, in an attempt to befriend the USSR, Nehru supported its claim over Hungary at the UN.

These two decisions have had drastic effects on India's foreign policy, its relations with other countries and its ability to maintain sovereignty. When China attacked India in 1962, the USSR did not come to India's aid as Nehru had expected. This because China was a communist state. The rest of the world did not help India since it had supported the USSR at the UN against NATO and its allies.

China followed a three-pronged approach to destabilise the region in the early 1950s.

Economically: China is the biggest trading partner for a number of neighbouring countries. This helps it gain political leadership in the South-Asian region. This is evident from the way it deals with Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Nepal and Afghanistan. All these nations have been provided with funds worth billions of dollars for the completion of key projects, to settle border disputes and use their sovereign land for China's military outreach.

Militarily: China invaded Tibet in the 1950s and has unsuccessfully attempted a similar approach with India and Bhutan during the past half-century or so. It has mocked the maritime sovereignty of other countries by expanding its borders in the South China Sea and restricting the ability of countries like Japan, Taiwan, Philippines and Vietnam to conduct trade.

Intimidation: China attempts to resolve border issues only when it feels insecure. The demarcation of the border between Russia and China started after an agreement in 2004 and the projects were completed in 2009 after war-like threats. Likewise, China and Vietnam completed demarcation of their

populations. This will also undoubtedly lead to mass starvation and inhuman living conditions. We should accelerate the process of economic cooperation and involve other nations in regional integration projects. In the light of these changes, India's foreign policy would face several challenges and would require a broader approach.

Domestic factors will increasingly influence foreign policy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is aware of this. He is attempting to protect the interests of the people in India's bordering nations. He has not only been hearing and understanding people's issues but has also addressed them. Terrorism, organised crime, human trafficking, cybersecurity and Weapons of Mass Destruction proliferation continue to pose challenges to Indian security. Dealing with such challenges requires an effective counter-terrorism policy. A forward-looking approach on cooperation with neighbours to manage the borders, cybersecurity, science and technology, agriculture, education, culture and capacity-building is needed. This will meet the challenges of terrorism and of non-traditional security.

On various fora, India has created committees dedicated to resolving issues regarding national security and regional peace. South Asia cannot remain immune to the developments in the extended neighbourhood and the world in general. Thus, our neighbourhood policy is bound to be affected by developments elsewhere. It is vital that India connects with the Gulf, Central Asia, South-East Asia, and the Indian Ocean islands to ensure that its neighbourhood policy remains unaffected.

If India is able to create regional stability in the region and raise the demand of Tibet's independence in accordance with the Simla Pact, especially when resentment against China has increased owing to the COVID-19, it will be able to muster the support of Western and South-East Asian powers alike in its attempt to abolish China's imperialist mindset. In the coming years, China will also find itself in the midst of an economic crisis due to numerous businesses shifting to either India or other South Asian nations. A two-pronged approach will force China to resolve border disputes with India. In the game of cricket, there is a saying, offence is the best defence. India should initiate the offensive against China for its territorial defence and for stability in South Asia.

(The writer is a BJP leader and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha. Views expressed are personal.)

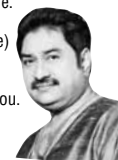
SOUNDBITE

Democratic organisations adapt better and overcome challenges. Democracy is a constant work in progress, requiring commitment, sacrifice and honest introspection.



Congress leader —Milind Deora

Nepotism exists everywhere. It's a little more in our industry. You (the audience) make us who we are. Who will stay and who will be thrown out is decided by you.



Singer —Kumar Sanu

Perhaps the best thing I can say... is that we are encouraging both parties (India-China) to engage in dialogue on the issues on the border and sort it out between them.



British Prime Minister —Boris Johnson

It's not that we didn't play good cricket earlier, but somehow we didn't have any achievement to show. Before this, it was only hockey that we were masters at.



Indian cricketer —Mohinder Amarnath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Make up for the loss

Sir — In India, the nationalist chorus is "boycott China" while in America, it is "boycott Indians" via the temporary suspension of the H-1B visas. US President Donald Trump has exercised his sovereign right to scrap work visas to save American jobs. During the 2016 presidential polls, he had promised a manufacturing renaissance that would bring back millions of jobs to Americans. As the next round of election is knocking at the door, it appears that all such promises were nothing but rhetoric. With a second term at stake for Trump, economists and industry representatives say the President has a mixed record on job creation that falls well short of his promises.

By putting a stay on H-1B visas, the Trump administration believes it can open up employment opportunities for Americans in an economy that has reported record job losses. Trump has made it clear that he sees restricting immigration as a key poll plank; it is likely that as the election draws closer, the world will see further action on

Better coordination needed to ride out crisis

As more expatriates from across the globe and the red-zone States started testing positive for COVID-19, the disease curve suddenly assumed a skyward trajectory. Kerala's fight has turned fiery and grim yet again. With the onset of Vande Bharat, the mission to evacuate non-resident Indians, Keralites started arriving at their home State in huge numbers. The flow still continues unabated. On June 24, the State reported 152 COVID-19 cases, of which 98 were expatriates, 48 from other States and only eight through contacts. As the Chief Minister had warned, the danger of community transmission, which has not happened yet, is real and near because the virus is close by for a sneak attack.

It seems Corona has befuddled Indian rulers. Wuhan in China had the first reported infection on November 17 and it started spreading rapidly. One after another, continents fell to its attacks. The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the COVID-19 as a pandemic on January 30. India went quietly under lockdown on March 24. But the question that arises is: Couldn't the Government have begun the evacuation mission immediately? During earlier days, infections were not this rampant in the Gulf countries, the Middle East and South Asia. Further, Kerala had proposed that testing be made compulsory before boarding. To a



reporter's question, a Central Minister, who hails from Kerala, replied, passengers would be tested according to the protocol set by the Health Ministry. Yet, small children, pregnant women and senior citizens travelled alongside the infected unknown. Strangely, for some, the insistence for diagnostic test before boarding is cruelty but pushing an entire community to the killer contagion is not. States have to function strictly within the guidelines set by the Centre but people suffer from the consequences of the acts of both the Centre and the State.

Haridasan Rajan Kozhikode

the issue. Considering this, *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* is not just Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rhetoric but the need of the hour.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee Faridabad

Limited impact

Sir — In an election year, US President Donald Trump has unleashed a *brahmastra* from his

executive powers by suspending H-1B and other work visas until December. Trump is obviously appealing to a domestic constituency facing job losses during the pandemic by pointing

fingers at the immigrants. The suspension until December will have limited impact on Indian IT companies given travel restrictions that are in place. Moreover, the paradigm shift to work from home has accelerated offshoring processes aided by cloud services. The hit will be taken largely by the US technology industry and international students hoping to stay on after graduation.

N Sathasiva Reddy Bengaluru

Weigh your options

Sir — A Bill has been introduced in the US Congress to consider Tibet as an independent country, just like they did for Hong Kong. The world order has changed. Before announcing Tibet as an independent country, India must either match the economic equation with China or engage in a military pact with ASEAN or NATO. NAM has lived its life. It is time to bid it farewell.

Harpreet Sidhu Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Nix regulatory barriers

The winds are currently in our favour with the US and Europe increasingly looking at a new world economic order with a seat for India



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Sun Tzu, a Chinese general, military strategist, writer and philosopher, wrote "no nation benefits from prolonged warfare." Nothing seems to resonate more today, with two mighty nations, accounting for about 37 per cent of the entire global population, enmeshed in a deadly wrestling manoeuvre. India needs to think deeply before it shuts the door on Chinese-origin money and goods. Major ports across the country, including Chennai and the west coast, have reportedly created additional checkpoints for shipments coming in from China, many of which would require physical verification. The intention here is in line with India's strategy of making itself self-reliant in manufacturing and creating more local jobs. However, the collateral here is disruption or perhaps stalling of the objective called "Atma Nirbhar Bharat." Consider this. The Government recently announced several policy measures and set-up a high-level task force to make the country a manufacturing hub for electronics and allowed several incentives for setting shop. These include huge land parcels, faster clearances, access to cheaper loans and tax sops.

China had stopped being a destination for long-term manufacturing ever since it started making aggressive imperialist overtures at the geo-political stage and copying/substituting proprietary products with Chinese labels and flooding global markets, specially those in its neighbourhood. The ongoing pandemic, with its origin in China, compelled world manufacturers to set up shop in other destinations with similar advantages. India, with its huge labour force, available land parcels with a globalised democracy and digital connect is an attractive first choice.

However, take the instance of a major Information Communication Technology (ICT) manufacturer present in India for nearly two decades since 1996. This US firm has ICT manufacturing, software services, BPO, analytics and research and development centres here and also unites a bunch of technology leaders — which promise to power the drive of digital transformation. The current pandemic furrowing through the country has expedited digitalisation of key services and sectors of national importance like healthcare, banking and education to name a few. This, taken together with India's favourable electronics manufacturing policy, opens up the possibility for this manufacturer to expand line capacity, bring fresh investments and create additional jobs. However, the company says it has witnessed disruptions and the reasons are collateral rather than strategic.

There are increasing signals of protectionism and non-tariff barriers being considered to restrict import in the near future. An example of non-tariff barrier would be additional delays at ports and physical scrutiny of goods to ascertain their country of origin. Now, the electronic industry is heavily dependent on global supply chains to manufacture a single product. A simple LCD screen will have its components manufactured across geographies before being finally put together in one country and preferably exported back to other geographies, even as much of it may be domestically taken off shelves. Due to the ongoing trade wars, many global companies have diversified their supply chains, including manufacturing units across various Asian countries but it will take a couple of years for this disruption to stabilise. Put simply, this means that manufacturing all the components of the LCD screen in India will take a few more years and much more product regulations easing.

That brings us to the real challenge to India emerging as a global manufacturing hub at least for electronics. A standalone component imported into India is subjected to multiple tests and standards regulations before it lands at a consumer's workplace. Most of these components are part of global supply chains which ultimately feed into the final finished product in a particular country. Most of the global companies are already subjecting their components to internationally-recognised safety tests and orders. Consider for a moment the number of models one single product can have and therefore the minor changes made to components. Now, subjecting all these globally-certified supply chain components to retesting in India has the potential to upset the entire idea of 'Make in India.'

The Government has to realise that moving all global supply chains, at least for electronics manufacturing, is neither feasible nor advisable. Most manufacturers will be persuaded to do so in the long-term provided regulatory chokes, at various stages of product-making including getting stuck at ports, are removed. Nowhere is the demand being raised for keeping the tap open for China to flood India — directly or through Beijing-indebted economies — with low quality products and kill local manufacturing. The ask is for creating mutually-beneficial trade corridors.

If India has to shine and usher in a \$10 trillion economy, it has to do so strategically at the global trade negotiating high table. The winds are currently in our favour with the US and Europe increasingly looking at a new world economic order with a seat for India. (The writer is a policy analyst)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE MUSIC MAFIA IN THE INDUSTRY HAS BEEN CREATING ROADBLOCKS IN THE CAREER PROGRESSION OF NEW AND ASPIRING TALENT. —SINGER SONU NIGAM



T-SERIES GAVE YOU A BREAK IN THE INDUSTRY AND PUSHED YOU AHEAD. YOU HAVEN'T INTRODUCED ANY TALENT INTO THE INDUSTRY. —DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER DIVYA KHOSLA BHUSHAN KUMAR

Urban India's Achilles heel

Spatial and structural characteristics of urban India indicate that cities, especially slums and the suburbs, are likely to remain hotspots for diseases like COVID-19 in the coming months



SOUMYADIP CHATTOPADHYAY



SIMI MEHTA

Symmetric to global trends, urbanisation in India has spread rapidly. This has led to the reordering of the urban periphery through complex processes of displacement of the central population to the margins and the creation of new functional nodes away from the traditional core. Adaptation to such realities came to a grinding halt when the pandemic hit the country. As has been evident, people of urban India — especially those living in slums and peri-urban areas — are more vulnerable to the rapid spread of COVID-19. This has brought to the fore the importance of the ways in which city governments are working to combat the spread of the virus. There is no denying that the inter-related dimensions of mobility and demographic change, infrastructure and governance influence the preparedness of urban India in outbreak management, right from disease prevention to mitigation and possible responses.

The dynamics of demography in the cities and COVID-19: High population densities in cities are major factors influencing the spread of disease. According to the Census 2011, India experienced a 37.14 per cent decadal growth in the number of slum households with 104 million people living in ghettos in 2013, as per the data of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Almost two-thirds of statutory towns in India have slums.

An overwhelming majority of the families living in the densely-populated areas of slums and peri-urban areas are migrant workers who are engaged in urban informal activities characterised by low wages, severe competition, tenuous job security with the need to travel daily to the city core to earn their livelihoods. Lack of work opportunities during the lockdown forced many of them to return to their villages. Such mobility patterns, owing to myriad social and political economic factors, bear the risk of spread of contagious diseases to the peripheries.

This points to the fact that infrastructure development for the benefit of this section of the urban population has not been adequate. A vast majority of the urban population, living in slums and peri-urban areas, lacks access to basic urban services, including water, electricity, sanitation, solid waste management and housing facilities. As per the estimates of the Technical Group on Urban Housing Shortages (2012-17) housing shortages are projected to increase to 34 million by 2022. According to the 2012 National Sample Survey (NSS), slums are incredibly packed spaces where three-fourths of India's slum tenements are cramped within two hectares.

In such a situation, an outbreak of Coronavirus in places with unsafe and precarious living conditions, where even the basic preventive measures like social distancing and frequent hand-washing are impossible to achieve, could easily turn into a grave public health emergency. Indeed, the outbreak of contagious diseases is less of a "natural" disaster but emerges alongside social and spatial inequalities in housing and access to basic services.

Governance deficits: The deplorable state of urban services is typically attributed to poor financial health and lack of planning, which in turn are linked to weak institutional capacities and the absence of effective governance structures in Indian cities. The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (1993) promised to improve the



“ BUILDING MUNICIPAL CAPACITY TO PREPARE ACTION PLANS IN ADVANCE FOR BETTER PREPAREDNESS ON THE GROUND, PROVIDING EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING AND IMPROVING COORDINATION WITH OTHER KEY DEPARTMENTS, LIKE THE NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE, SHOULD FEATURE IN ANY NATIONAL URBAN POLICY FRAMEWORK AND HAS TO BE NECESSARILY EMBEDDED IN THE CITIES OF A 'NEW INDIA' ”

delivery of basic services by devolving resources and decision-making powers to local governments. Political empowerment is weakened by infrequent elections of Urban Local Bodies (ULB) and most States rest the executive authority of city governments on the State-appointed Commissioner, with the Mayor and city Councillors having very little authority over management, let alone on emergencies like COVID at the city level.

Although, city governments are expected to have complete authority to carry out functions, including water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, public health and slum improvement, yet the actual devolution of responsibility to the municipalities, even after 25 years of decentralisation, can at best be described as partial.

State Governments control key healthcare infrastructure such as hospitals, clinics and primary healthcare centres and even these institutions lack human resources, including medical officers and skilled staff. Overlapping institutional roles and responsibilities raise questions as to who should deliver urban basic services and the problems become far severe in case of managing and preventing potential outbreaks. This is very evident in the recent war of words between the Delhi Government and municipal bodies over inadequate beds in hospitals for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Capacity constraints: Infirm financial health of the ULBs has a regressive impact on their capacity to provide basic services. Assignment of finances is completely left to the discretion of the State Governments and ULBs can levy and collect only those taxes that are specified by the States. Municipal finances are in a grossly unsatisfactory state as they collect far less revenue

than what is necessary to cover even the cost of providing urban basic services, let alone tackling any health emergencies. Lack of adequate skilled staff at the ULB level is another major drawback as there is far less emphasis on the institutional capacity of the local government. Appropriate institutional capacity enables ULBs to make policy decisions and implement them, in the manner they want, to produce the outcomes they desire.

The way forward: In essence, spatial and structural characteristics of urban India indicate that cities, especially slums and the suburbs, are likely to remain hotspots for diseases like COVID-19 in the coming months. An ability to monitor rural, urban and inter-urban migration will be crucial to mitigate the spread of this disease. Therefore, it would be useful to plan and implement a slew of short-term measures, including aggressive and affordable testing, tracing and quarantining of infected people, provision of door-to-door drinking water and mobile toilet facilities in densely-populated slum and peri-urban areas.

This pandemic provides an opportunity for genuinely empowering ULBs that should not go to waste. Cities with well-functioning governance and health infrastructure are better placed to manage pandemics and excess mortality than those that do not. In other words, the governance conundrum along with poor planning and weak healthcare systems can undermine the efforts to combat the pandemic and build upon the confusion, fear and panic.

Interestingly, in November 2019, the Global Parliament of Mayors met in Durban and the members committed to develop regional and local networks to advance the dissemination of

trusted public health information. They also pledged to promote information sharing and communication measures in and between cities to prevent and reduce the international spread of infectious diseases.

In the medium and long-term, it is pertinent to identify the lacunae in city planning and the underlying socio-economic determinants of public health and resilient cities. This would help to streamline resource flows to vulnerable areas more effectively. It is equally important to create a city-level pandemic preparedness index, using details of a ward/locality/neighbourhood-wise vulnerable population and hospital-wise beds and ICU capacities. It will serve as an evaluation tool (similar to the Rapid Urban Health Security Assessment Tool developed by Georgetown University) to assess city-level public health preparedness and response capacities.

It is important to support the city governments to prioritise, strengthen and deploy strategies that promote urban well-being and health security. This pandemic provides a rare opportunity to work in tandem with the ULBs and genuinely empower them to discharge their functions.

Building municipal capacity to prepare action plans in advance for better preparedness on the ground, providing emergency response training and improving coordination with other key departments, like the National Disaster Response Force, should feature in any national urban policy framework and has to be necessarily embedded in the cities of a 'New India.'

(Chattopadhyay is an Associate Professor of Economics at Visva Bharati University, Shanti Niketan and a Visiting Senior Fellow at IMPRI and Mehta is CEO and Editorial Director, IMPRI)

The politics of sanctions doesn't work

Out of 116 cases of global sanctions being imposed during the 20th century, in only six cases did the target Govt yield to demands



GWYNNE DYER

Last week, the US imposed new sanctions on Syria. This is part of a "sustained campaign of economic and political pressure" to end the nine-year war by forcing President Bashar al-Assad to UN-brokered peace talks where he would negotiate his departure from power. Assad's wife was already cross about not being able to shop at Harrods or Bergdorf Goodman, so he should crumble any day now.

Other things are crumbling already. Ordinary people's incomes are collapsing (down by three-quarters since the beginning of the year).

The price of food in Syria has doubled. Lebanon next-door, already in a financial meltdown, is now seeing its large trade with Syria vanish as well. Even those Syrians who support the regime — around a third of the people who have not fled the country — will have a much harder time, but they won't desert the regime.

The more prosperous ones depend on Assad's regime for their income and the poorer ones are mostly minorities who fear they will be slaughtered if the jihadis win.

The US decision to raise the pressure on Assad is probably a random by-product of President Donald Trump's obsessive campaign against Iran (which has been helping the Syrian regime stay afloat). If Trump even knows that the remaining rebel groups in Syria are by now all led by fanatical Islamists linked to the al-Qaeda, the group that organised the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers, he doesn't care.

The Syrian tragedy is mainly due to endless foreign interventions. The Syrians, who called for an end to Assad's regime in the 'Arab Spring' of 2011, were just like the young men and women who started demanding the fall of Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak at the same time. They were both genuinely popular movements, not fronts for jihadis.

The Egyptian protesters won, there was a free election and then the army struck back in 2013, slaughtered several thousand people in the streets of Cairo and put General Abdel Fatah el-Sisi in power, where he remains to this day. Egypt is at peace, although hundreds more have probably died in Sisi's prisons since then and thousands have been tortured.

The Syrian protesters didn't get that far. They were driven from the streets — but then various foreign powers started organising the rebels and giving them arms. The war has lasted another eight years and some-

where between 4,00,000-7,00,000 Syrians have been killed. Five million Syrians have fled abroad and another five million are displaced within Syria.

So here's the question: Would you prefer Egypt's fate or Syria's? Both countries are still tyrannies but one is literally in ruins, with half the population out of their homes, and the other had a few thousand deaths. It's a no-brainer, isn't it?

The Syrian power struggle would probably have ended in an Assad victory around the same time that General Sisi took over in Egypt if the US, Turkey and Saudi Arabia hadn't begun sending the Syrian rebels arms and money. The US motives were mixed but the Turks and the Saudis, both led by different kinds of militant Muslims, just saw an opportunity to replace a secular regime with a hard-line Islamist one. They would probably have succeeded if Russia had not intervened to save Assad in 2015 and

Syria would probably be divided today between al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. The groups linked to al-Qaeda absorbed or destroyed all the others and today they rule over a single province in north-west Syria under Turkish protection. But still the war drags on.

If any of these outside players had been willing to put its own troops in the ground, the war would at least have ended years ago (though it might have ended badly). But none of them were willing to risk their own soldiers' lives — not even the Russians, who stick to air strikes. And now the US is hitting Syria with even bigger sanctions.

When governments impose sanctions, they usually explain that they had to "do something" but the new sanctions will hurt ordinary Syrians very badly. They might be justified if there was a reasonable chance that more sanctions could bring Assad's regime down but there's no chance of

that and everybody knows it.

In a famous paper in 1997, Robert Pape of the University of Chicago showed that out of 116 cases of international sanctions being imposed during the 20th century, in only six cases did the target Government yield to the demands of the country imposing the sanctions. The success rate has not improved since. It has been 70 years since the US imposed sanctions on North Korea and the Kim family is still in power. It is 60 years since it put sanctions on Cuba and the Communists still rule. It has been 40 years since Washington slapped sanctions on Iran and the Ayatollahs still rule. Not to mention Zimbabwe (sanctions since 2003), or Venezuela (2006), or Russia (2014).

"Doing something" feels good but it doesn't usually do much good. (Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work')



FOREIGN EYE



STAND UP TO CHINA UNITEDLY

The US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, recently assailed China over its treatment of Uighurs in Xinjiang and its border clashes. European nations cannot counterbalance China without the US and many show no desire to do so. Those who wish to challenge China's human rights abuses or increasing forcefulness must reach out to strengthen bonds globally, including with Asian democracies. (The Guardian editorial)

US REPORT ON PAK TERROR SAFE HAVEN

Abide by UN resolutions: Guterres to all members

United Nations: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expects all member states to "live up" to their obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions, his spokesperson has said, after a US report noted that Pakistan remains a safe haven for terrorists as it did not take actions against JeM founder Masood Azhar.

The US State Department, in its Congressional-mandated 2019 Country Reports on Terrorism on Wednesday, said Pakistan remained a "safe harbor" for regionally-focused terrorist groups and that the sus-

pension of US aid to the country remained in effect throughout 2019.

Stéphane Dujarric, responding to a question during his daily press briefing, said while he will not comment on the report issued by the US State Department, "Obviously, as a matter of principle, we do expect all member states to live up to their obligations as laid out in any relevant Security Council resolution or Security Council decision."

The report said Pakistan took "modest steps" in 2019 to counter terror financing and restrain India-focused militant

groups from conducting large-scale attacks following the Pulwama attack in February, but it remained a "safe harbor" for regionally focused terrorist groups.

It further said that Pakistan took action against some externally focused groups, including Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed but did not take action against Jaish-e-Mohammed founder and UN-designated terrorist Azhar and 2008 Mumbai attack 'project manager' Sajid Mir, both of whom are believed to remain free in Pakistan.

The UN 1267 Sanctions Committee designated Azhar as a global terrorist in May last year, slapping an arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban on him, 10 years after India's first move to have him black-listed at the UN.

Following the designation, the State Department said that the designation is an "important step" in promoting a peaceful and stable South Asia.

The US designated Azhar as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist in 2010. **PTI**

Japan confirms it's scrapping US missile defence system

Tokyo: Japan's National Security Council has endorsed plans to cancel the deployment of two costly land-based US missile defence systems aimed at bolstering the country's capability against threats from North Korea, the country's defence minister said Thursday.

Defence Minister Taro Kono said the country will now revise its missile defence programme and scale up its entire defence posture.

The council made its decision Wednesday, and now the government will need to enter negotiations with the US about what to do with payments and the purchase contract already made for the Aegis Ashore systems.

Kono announced the plan to scrap the systems earlier this month after it was found that the safety of one of the two planned host communities could not be ensured without a hardware redesign that would be too time-consuming and costly.

"We couldn't move forward with this project, but still there are threats from North Korea," Kono said at a news conference Thursday.

Japan will discuss ways to better protect the country and the people from the North's missiles and other threats, he said.

The Japanese government in 2017 approved adding the two Aegis Ashore systems to enhance the country's current defences consisting of Aegis-equipped destroyers at sea and Patriot missiles on land.

Defence officials have said the two Aegis Ashore units could cover Japan entirely from one station at Yamaguchi in the south and another at Akita in the north.

The plan to deploy the two systems already had faced a series of setbacks, including questions about the selection of one of the sites, repeated cost estimate hikes that climbed to 450 billion yen (USD 4.1 billion) for their 30-year operation and maintenance, and safety concerns that led to local opposition.

Kono said Japan has signed contract worth nearly half the total cost and paid part of it to the US.

He said Japan is trying to get the most out of what it has already paid, though he did not elaborate. **AP**

With a job at Trump, Pelosi unveils new 'Obamacare' bill

Washington: Flicking a dismissive jab at President Donald Trump, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi unveiled a plan Wednesday to expand "Obamacare," even as Trump's administration is about to file arguments in a Supreme Court case to strike it down.

Pelosi announced an upcoming floor vote on her measure, setting up a debate that will juxtapose the Democrats' top policy issue, Trump's unremitting efforts to dismantle Obama's legacy, and the untamed coronavirus pandemic.

On Thursday, the Trump administration is expected to file papers with the Supreme Court arguing that the Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional.

Pelosi wants her bill on the

House floor Monday. Trying to overturn a health insurance expansion providing coverage to about 20 million people "was wrong any time," Pelosi said.

"Now, it is beyond stupid," she added. "Beyond stupid," COVID-19 cases are rising in major states like Texas, Florida and California, and millions of workers who have lost coverage in the economic shutdown to contain the virus can rely on the health law as a backup.

The White House said Pelosi is just playing politics. "Instead of diving back into partisan games, Democrats should continue to work with the president on these important issues and ensuring our country emerges from this pandemic stronger than ever,"

spokesman Judd Deere said Wednesday in a statement.

Pelosi's legislation has no chance in the Republican-controlled Senate. Her bill would expand subsidies, allowing more people to qualify for coverage under the ACA.

It would financially squeeze some states that have refused to expand Medicaid under the health law.

And it would empower Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices — a position Trump once favoured but later abandoned.

It would also undo the Trump administration's expansion of short-term insurance plans that don't have to cover preexisting medical conditions, something Democrats say will undermine a central achievement of the ACA. **AP**

Pak expresses disappointment over US report that described it as 'safe haven' for terrorists

Islamabad: Pakistan on Thursday expressed its disappointment over the US State Department's report which described the country as a "safe harbor" for regionally-focused terrorist groups.

The State Department, in its Congressional-mandated 2019 Country Reports on Terrorism, said on Wednesday that Pakistan remained a "safe harbor" for regionally-focused terrorist groups and that the suspension of US aid to the country remained in effect throughout 2019.

"Pakistan is fully aware of its responsibilities as a sovereign state. We reject any insinuation about any safe haven. Pakistan will not allow any group or entity to use its territory against any country," the Foreign Office said, commenting on the report.

It said the report was "self-contradictory and selective in its characterization of Pakistan's efforts for countering terrorism and terrorist financing."

While the report recognizes that al-Qaeda has been seriously degraded in the region, it neglects to mention Pakistan's crucial role in decimating the terror group's network, thereby diminishing the threat that the terrorist group once posed to the world, the FO said.

"Similarly, the report acknowledges the sharp decrease in the incidence of terrorist attacks in Pakistan but neglects to explain that this was only possible because Pakistan's resolute counterterrorism operations have targeted proscribed groups and outfits without discrimination," it added.

The FO said that Pakistan was still facing the threat of terrorism from externally based and foreign sponsored groups, like the TTP, ISIS-K and others and pointed out that the report was either silent or vague on the origins and locations of these terrorist groups. **PTI**

GLOBE TROTTER

Minsk: The president of Belarus has accused unidentified forces in Russia and Poland of interfering in the country's presidential election, in which he is seeking a sixth term. Speaking at a meeting on Thursday, Alexander Lukashenko alleged that "puppet masters" in the two countries are behind those campaigning to run against him in the upcoming election.

Singapore: Singapore's former PM Goh Chok Tong on Thursday announced that he is retiring from politics and will not run in the upcoming elections, after having served as a parliament member for over 40 years.

Ankara: A top Turkish official has denounced a memoir by former U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton, saying it contains "misleading, one-sided and manipulative" accounts of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's conversations with his U.S. counterpart, Donald Trump.

Washington: The United States has doubled the bounty to \$10 million for information leading to the capture of the Islamic State's new leader Amir Muhammad Sa'id Abdal-Rahma al-Mawla.

Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia): The Mongolian People's Party retained a strong parliamentary majority, preliminary election results showed Thursday, as the U.S.-allied nation sandwiched between Russia and China held onto its democratic principles amid economic woes.

United Nations: The UN Humanitarian chief warned that without massive financial support, Yemen will "fall off the cliff," with many more people starving to death, succumbing to Covid-19, dying of cholera and watching their children die because they haven't been immunized for killer diseases.

PIA grounds 150 pilots with 'dubious licences'

Islamabad: Cash-strapped Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Thursday announced that it has grounded 150 pilots with "dubious licenses", a day after the preliminary probe report of the Karachi plane crash blamed the pilots and the air traffic control for the tragedy that killed 97 people.

"Grounding so many pilots will affect the PIA flight operation," the spokesperson for the national carrier said, adding that they have already dismissed six pilots with fake degrees.

Those pilots who get their licenses verified will be allowed back on duty, Geo News quoted the PIA spokesperson as saying. The national flag carrier on Thursday said it has grounded

150 pilots with "dubious licenses", a day after the report of the plane crash blamed the pilots and the air traffic control (ATC) for the incident, the report added.

"We have asked the Civil Aviation Authority to send the list of the remaining licenses," the spokesperson said. "We acknowledge the report and are working on making our standard better." In a letter to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), PIA chairman requested the aviation authority for details of the remaining pilots with dubious and fake commercial licenses.

"Action will be taken against all those pilots with fake licenses," PIA chairman said, adding they will take all the necessary steps to make the commercial operation safe. **PTI**

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA

The Empowered Officer, Tripura RRDA on behalf of Governor of Tripura invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of road under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the district of Dhalai for 1 number of package with estimated cost totaling to ₹ 1396.90 Lakh including performance based maintenance for five years from the eligible contractor of appropriate class registered with PWD / TTAADC / MES / CPWD / Railway / Other State PWD / Central & State Public Sector undertakings*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement :- 24/06/2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement :- 23/07/2020 upto 1500 HRS.

For further details please log on to www.pmsgstenderstrp.gov.in

Sd/-
Empowered Officer, Tripura RRDA
7th Block, 2nd Floor, Secretariat Building, Agartala
ICAC-762/2020-21

Eiffel Tower reopens, ending 104-day shutdown

Paris: Marking another milestone in France's recovery from coronavirus lockdown, the Eiffel Tower reopened to visitors Thursday after its longest-ever closure in peace time: 104 days.

Tourists who are trickling back to Paris were delighted to find the landmark open when some other attractions in the French capital remain closed. The Louvre Museum isn't reopening until July 6.

"It's very special, very special because it's only the Paris people," said Annelies Bouwhuis, a 43-year-old visitor from the Netherlands.

"We've seen a lot Paris

people enjoying their city, enjoying their parks without all the tourists."

Lifts that usually whisk visitors up the 324-meter (1,063-foot) tall wrought-iron Eiffel Tower remain closed, so for now people have to take the stairs.

Of the tower's three decks, only the first two reopened. Those who made the climb Thursday were rewarded with far-away views and a light breeze in scorching summer weather.

"I booked the first slot because afterward it will be very hot," said Sabine Peaufils, a 57-year-old Parisian. "This is a real pleasure." **AP**

Who would be the first to get a Covid-19 vaccine?

Washington: Who would be the first to get a COVID-19 vaccine? Probably people in the country where the first effective vaccine is developed.

About a dozen different vaccines are in various stages of testing worldwide, including in Britain, China and the US.

This week, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top US infectious disease expert, said he is cautiously optimistic there will be a COVID-19 vaccine by the end of the year or early 2021.

Several wealthy countries have already ordered millions of doses of those experimental vaccines. Britain and the US, for example, have invested in a vaccine candidate being devel-

oped by Oxford University and produced by AstraZeneca. If it works, UK politicians have said Britons will be vaccinated with it. The US expects to start stockpiling it this fall and also has invested in other vaccine candidates. Groups including the vaccine alliance GAVI are also working to buy doses for poor countries and AstraZeneca has agreed to license its vaccine to India's Serum Institute for the production of 1 billion doses. WHO is drafting guidelines for the ethical distribution of vaccines. How vaccines are distributed within a country will vary. Last week, U.S. Officials said they were developing a tiered system for that. **AP**

Dakar: Senegal's national television says President Macky Sall is going into quarantine after being exposed to someone who tested positive for the new coronavirus.

Paris: France is stepping up efforts to root out hidden clusters of coronavirus infections by offering tests to nearly 1.3 million people in the Paris region. The expansion of France's testing program was announced Thursday by the health minister, Olivier Veran, in an interview with the newspaper Le Monde. Health authorities will send out coupons that people can exchange for a test.

Johannesburg: Africa's coronavirus cases have surged to more than 336,000, an increase of nearly 10,000 infections from Wednesday evening. That's according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The jump is largely due to South Africa announcing its largest daily number of new cases: 5,688.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION DODA, (E-mail: xensiddoda@gmail.com Tel. Fax: 01996-233076) CIN No. U40300JK2013SGC003988

EXTENSION NOTICE Dated 24.06.2020

NO- STD/Doda/ 477-81

Due to poor response to e-NIT No. 15 of 2020 dated:- 30.05.2020 for the Rate contract for execution of various works involving Lifting of materials from Divisional store Doda/ Sub Store Kishwar, Transportation, Erection of Poles, Conductor, Guys and other allied line materials as and when required for repair and Maintenance of existing 33 KV Transmission lines wherever required in district Kishwar, the last date submission of bid is extended upto 01.07.2020 and date of opening is 03.07.2020.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

No. DIPJ/1707/20 Sd/- Executive Engineer
Dated: 24.06.2020 Sub Transmission Division, Doda.

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYAL NIGAM COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT. UDHAM SINGH NAGAR

Ref No. 822/Nivda/165 Date: 24.06.2020

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the work- REMAINING WORKS OF DE-SILTING & REPAIRING OF PONDS AND OTHER APPURTENANT WORKS AT GOVT. FISH FARM, DHAURA, KICHHA (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR)

2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 63.18 Lakh

3. Period of Completion- 06 Month

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 25.06.2020 (17.00 hrs)

5. Last Date / Time of receipt of bids in the portal: 16.07.2020 (17.00 hrs)

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 18.07.2020 (12.00 hrs)

7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udham Singh Nagar).

8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 30.06.2020 (13.00hrs) Rudrapur.

9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

Project Manager

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 275/P-1/EMP-W-11709 Dt. 19-06-2020 Tender ID: 2020_POWER_48908_1

Scope of Work: Mtc. of railway track in GGSSTP railway yard (equated length 35.266 kms) and railway track from Ropar railway station to GGSSTP railway station (RTP Block section) equated length 7.506 kms.

EMD: Rs. 3,52,000.00 for contractors and Co-op Societies will submit the EMD as per Pb. Govt. notification dated 4.11.2019 issued by Registrar Co-operative Societies Punjab or at attended rates as applicable.

Date & time upto which tender shall be received / uploaded 24.07.2020 & 11.00 AM

Date & time of opening of tender 30.07.2020 & 11.30 AM

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> & no hard copy of the same will be issued by the office.

Note:
1. In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and e-procurement system Government of Punjab. Contact No. +91-(172)-2970284/63. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.
2. It is informed that in case the tender process is not completed due to any reason no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Detail regarding corrigendum may be seen on website eproc.punjab.gov.in

Dy. G.E.J Monitoring
GGSSTR, Roopnagar

RTP-28/2020
RO 40380 Consumers are requested to deposit their Electricity Bills in time.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Re-Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

1. Name of work with its location Hiring of (02) Two Nos. Non AC road Multi Utility Vehicle (INNOVA, SCORPIO/BOLERO OR EQUIVALENT on monthly basis in the jurisdiction of Dy. CE/BLTKJ for (official use, for a period of two year.

2. Approx. Cost of work Rs. 24,64,994.52

3. Earnest Money Rs. 49,300.00

4. Completion period of the work (24) Twenty Four Months

5. Cost of Tender form Rs. 3,000/-
Note:- Cost of EMD & Tender Form should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. FDR will not be accepted as cost of tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board's letter no. 2015/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)

6. Date & time for submission of tender & opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs. on 16.07.2020. Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs. on same day

7. Website particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 32-W-MUV-HIRE-DLI-20 Date: 25.06.2020. 1434/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

AXIS BANK Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Axis Bank, Ground Floor, Shop No.03,03(A), 04 & 05 Mega City Mall MG Road Gurgaon 122001, Also at: Axis Bank Limited, III Floor, Red Fort Capital Parswanath Tower, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, Near Gole Market, New Delhi -110001. Retail Asset Centre, Ghaziabad: BF-1A,2,3, 1st Floor, Aditya City Centre, Niti Khand-1, Indraprastha, Ghaziabad-201012. Retail Asset Centre Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd. SCD-8, Huda Shopping Centre, Sec. 16, Faridabad, Haryana-121002. Retail Asset Centre Gurgaon: Axis Bank Ltd. -502 Gurgaon, S5-107, DLF Galleria Complex, Near Post Office, DLF City Phase 4, Gurgaon-122009. Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025. Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartha's Temple, Law Garden, Ellishbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred on section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (B) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice
M/s Auto Needs (Proprietorship Firm) At - 97/1, Safe Express Building, (Opp. Fun and Food Village) Kapashera Delhi - 110037	Primary Security - Hypothecation Charge over entire current assets and movable fixed assets of the company both present and future.	2. Date of Possession Demand Notice (Rs.)
Also At - : M/s Auto Needs (Proprietorship) Firm) 501/2, Mehrauli Road, Gurgaon Haryana -122001	All that part and parcel of Free Hold Commercial Property bearing No - 501/2, Mehrauli Road, Gurgaon measuring 204 Sq. Yrd. Bounded as under -	1. 5-Oct-19 2. 22-Jun-2020 3. Rs. 2,86,26,779/- Rupees Two Core Eighty Nine Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Nine Only)
2. Mr. Viveck Goel (Proprietor of M/s Auto Needs) S/o - Sh. Mool Chand Goel, R/o-H. No - 78, Sector -15, Part -4, Gurgaon Haryana -122001	North-As per the Sale Deed East-As per the Sale Deed South-As per the Sale Deed West-As per the Sale Deed	
Also At - : Mr. Shairaz Goel (Proprietor of M/s Auto Needs) S/o - Sh. Mool Chand Goel, R/o -H.No - 78, Sector -15, Part -4, Gurgaon Haryana -122001	North-As per the Sale Deed East-As per the Sale Deed South-As per the Sale Deed West-As per the Sale Deed	

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 26-06-2020
Place : Delhi

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.,

GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA

Public Works Division, Pune - 411 001

Phone No. 02026122485 & 26122414 Fax No. 02026122485
Web- www.mahapwd.com & e-mail- pune.ee@mahapwd.com

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 1 FOR 2020-2021 (Short Period)

Corrigendum No. 5

This office e-Tender Notice No. 1 For 2020-2021 and Corrigendum No. 1 Published in Daily New Paper and any technical reasons Please read the changes for Work Name, Estimated Cost and Tender time schedule as mentioned below for Work No. 4.

Name of Work	Providing, Supplying, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Fighting and Fire Detection Services and Installation of Tensile Fabric Roof and Miscellaneous Civil Work in G+11 Multistoried Building and Martuary Building at Sarsoon General Hospital and B. J. Medical College Pune.
Estimate Cost	Rs. 3,95,40,486/-
Last Date of Sale of Tender Document	Dt. 06/07/2020 @ 18.00 hrs.
Pre-bid Meeting	Dt. 01/07/2020 @ 11.00 hrs. In the Office of The Chief Engineer, P.W. Region, New Central Building, Pune -1.
Last Date of online Submission of Tender	Dt. 06/07/2020 @ 18.00 hrs.
Period of online Tender opening	Dt. 08/07/2020 @ 10.00 hrs. (If Possible)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Public Work Division,
Pune 411001.

Indians' money in Swiss banks down 6% in 2019

Hits third lowest in over

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/ZURICH

Funds parked by Indian individuals and enterprises in Swiss banks, including through India-based branches, fell nearly 6 per cent in 2019 to 899 million Swiss francs (₹6,625 crore), annual data from Switzerland's central bank showed on Thursday. This marks the second consecutive year of decline in aggregate funds of Indian clients with all Swiss banks, taking the figure to the third low-

est level in more than three decades since 1987 when the Swiss National Bank (SNB) began compiling the data. The total amount of CHF 899.46 million, described by the SNB as aggregate 'liabilities' of Swiss banks or amounts due to their Indian clients at the end of 2019, included CHF 550 million (over ₹4,000 crore) of customer deposits; CHF 88 million (₹560 crore) held by other banks; 7.4 million (₹50 crore) through fiduciaries or trusts; and CHF 254 million (₹1,900 crore) as 'other amounts due to customers' in form of securities and various financial instruments. All the

four components declined during 2019. These are official figures reported by banks to the SNB and do not indicate the quantum of the much-debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. These figures also do not include the money that Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in names of third-country entities. According to the SNB, its data for 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks towards Indian clients takes into account all types of funds of Indian customers at Swiss banks, including deposits from individuals, banks and enterprises.

Stocks edge higher on Wall Street following mixed data

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Stocks edged higher on Wall Street in early trading Thursday as investors weigh a mixed batch of economic reports highlighting the damage that the coronavirus lockdowns have inflicted on the economy. The S&P 500 was up 0.2 per cent, recovering from an initial slide of 0.9 per cent. Gains in the financial, energy and technology sectors helped lift the market, outweighing losses in companies that rely on consumer spending, utilities stocks and elsewhere. Bond yields fell, another sign of caution in the market. The Commerce Department said that the US economy shrank at a 5 per cent rate in the first three months of the year. A far worse decline is

expected for the current quarter due to the pandemic. The Labor Department said another 1.5 million laid-off workers applied for unemployment benefits last week. That marks the 12th straight drop, a sign that layoffs are slowing, but remain at a painfully high level. On a more encouraging note, the government said orders to American factories for big-ticket goods rebounded last month from a steep pullback in April and March as the economy began to slowly reopen. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 93 points, or 0.4 per cent, to 25,538. The Nasdaq, which hit an all-time high earlier this week, gained 0.1 per cent. Small company stocks were faring worse than the rest of the market.

Sebi relaxes preferential issue pricing norms; makes fund raising easier for cos amid COVID-19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The regulator's board, during its meeting on Thursday, also cleared amendments to insider trading regulations and decided to streamline settlement regulations to make procedures faster and more effective. Sebi has decided to allow acquisition of shares through stock exchange settlement process by way of bulk or block deals during an open offer subject to certain conditions. Experts opined that changes in the pricing guide-

lines for preferential issues would help promoters and investors to infuse funds into companies that are facing various challenges due to the pandemic. Providing a 'temporary' relaxation, Sebi said there would be an additional option for pricing methodology with respect to preferential issues. In cases where the new option is exercised, there would be the requirement of three-year lock-in period for such shares. In a statement issued after the board meeting, the regulator said there have been

numerous representations from various stakeholders for temporarily liberalising regulations relating to raising of capital from securities market. The option in pricing would be available for the preferential issues made between July 1 or date of notification of amendment to the regulations, whichever is later, and December 31. Under this option, in case of frequently traded shares, the price of the equity shares to be allotted pursuant to the preferential issue should not be less than higher of either of two levels.

US GDP fell at 5.0% rate in Q1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The US economy shrank at a 5.0% rate in the first quarter with a much worse decline expected in the current three-month economic period because of the coronavirus pandemic. Commerce Dept reported on Thursday that the decline in the gross domestic product, the total output of goods and services, in the Jan-Mar quarter was unchanged from the estimate made a month ago. That was the sharpest quarterly decline since an 8.4% fall in the fourth quarter of 2008 during the depths of the financial crisis. The first quarter decline reflected just two weeks of the shutdowns that began in many parts of the country in mid-March.

Nirmala Sitharaman rues import of even Ganesha idols from China

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday there was nothing wrong in imports to spur growth but wondered why even Ganesha idols should be bought from China. Importing raw materials that were not available in the country and needed for our industries was not wrong, she said addressing the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit workers via a virtual link. "There is nothing wrong in imports that would spur production and create job opportunities and it can be done definitely," she said while speaking on the Centre's Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan initiative. However, imports that could

not bring benefits like employment opportunities and support growth would not help self-reliance and the Indian economy, she said. Ganesha idols made of clay have been traditionally bought from the local potters during Ganesh Chaturthi festival every year, she said. "But today, why even Ganesha idols are imported from China...why such a situation...can't we make a Ganesha idol from clay, is it the situation?" she asked. She wondered if importing household products used every day like a soap-box, plastic items or incense sticks used for pooja purposes would support self-reliance especially when such products were made locally by Indian firms.

Isolation coaches set up Northern Rlys at Shakuribasti

NEW DELHI: In an attempt to provide additional quarantine centers during the ongoing global health crisis of coronavirus 'Covid-19' Indian Railways has converted its mobile coaches as isolation centers. These coaches considered as additional health facility have an advantage as they can be moved anywhere in the country through the rail network in a short time where ever the health care facilities are limited. On the demand of the Delhi Govt, Northern Railway had placed 503 isolation coaches at 9 stations of Delhi area since 17.06.2020.

Republic of Mali has awarded Project Management Consultancy contract to NTPC

NEW DELHI: In an event held on 24th June, 2020, chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Power, NRE, Skill Development and President of International Solar Alliance (ISA), Mr RK Singh and Honorable Ambassador of Mali HE Sekou Kasse handed over the Project Management Consultancy award letter to Mr. Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC, for development of 500 MW Solar park in the Republic of Mali. ISA is an international, inter-Governmental organisation, based in India, created with the vision and leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi and announced jointly with President of France during

COP21 held in Paris in 2015. ISA's vision is for a large-scale solar revolution, hinges on creating a facilitative international ecosystem that enables access to science and economic resources, reduces the cost of technology and capital, facilitates price reduction, and enables development of storage technology and innovation. With its scale and authoritative understanding of the energy transition opportunities of diverse economies, ISA is the world's foremost energy transition catalyst for bringing a change from energy poverty to energy empowerment. The event was hosted by ISA in the Ministry of Renewable Energy, New Delhi, and graced by the dignitaries.

GM Northern Railway inspects Covid care centre

NEW DELHI: General Manager Northern & North Central Railways, Sh. Ravji Chaudhry visited the Covid Care Centre set up at Shakurbasti Railway station. The Centre has been created using 50 Isolation coaches provided for this purpose. He took stock of the facility, he was briefed about the work done by Northern Railway in maintaining the coaches and the premises. Addressing Railway and State government officials present there GM encouraged and appreciated the efforts being put in by them to mitigate the suffering of the people due to the pandemic. Interacting with

the media Sh. Chaudhry said that the Indian Railways will put in all its efforts and resources to help the Nation overcome this crisis. As more and more patients are coming in to stay in these coaches we are enhancing the amenities. He also added that 503 isolation coaches have been placed in different stations of Delhi Area to be used as Covid care centers by the Delhi Govt if need arises.

Boycotting Chinese products may not be feasible: FIEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Boycotting Chinese products may not be feasible for India as the domestic industry is dependent on inputs from the neighbouring country, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said on Thursday. FIEO president SK Saraf said that India needs to be cautious while banning or restricting Chinese goods. It is "not feasible as we are dependent so much on Chinese products," he told reporters. India can cut its dependence on Chinese goods only when it becomes self-reliant and start producing same

goods in India or source from other markets. In the wake of increasing border tensions between the two countries, voices are getting stronger to restrict or boycott Chinese goods in the country. He added that it should be left with the people whether they want to buy Chinese goods or not. FIEO director general Ajay Sahai said "knee jerk" reaction on Chinese goods is not good. According to the federation, India's exports to China grew from \$16.5 to \$16.95 billion in 2019 while imports declined from \$73.8 billion to \$68.2 billion in 2019.

People with no income still higher than pre-COVID levels, poor most affected by crisis: Study

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for the country's poor going by income generation and consumption data, according to an analysis of data of 5 lakh people for May by a credit risk assessment company. The COVID-19-induced lockdown that started on March 25 and is yet to be lifted has hit the economic activity. Sights of millions of walking, cycling or hitching rides back home have led to concerns over sustainability for the poor. Private think-tank CMIE

had said that unemployment in India had risen to 27 per cent as of May 3 and has improved later. In its analysis, Creditvidya said even though there was a decline in the number of people with no income in May at 7.5 per cent of the workforce as against 9 per cent in April, the same was elevated when compared with the pre-COVID levels of 6 per cent. However, incomes seem to be muted, as the percentage of workforce with earning less than ₹3,000 a month continues to be elevated at 24 per cent of the workforce as against 15 per cent before the onset of the cri-

sis, it said. "Covid-19 has magnified the fault lines within the consumer economy, especially income inequality," it said. On the usage front, it pointed to the mass market segment (those earning between ₹10,000-20,000 per month) data, which is showing a 40 per cent decline in consumption as compared to the pre-COVID levels. The mass market segment constitutes for 70 per cent of the population, it said, adding that consumption declines are prevalent in the other 30 per cent as well for May.



Narendra Bhusan, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Noida Industrial development authority, and Covid-19 in charge took meeting to analyse surveillance activities in containment zones and gave guidelines run the operations

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 40-45 Years approx, Sex: Male, Height: 5'7" approx, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Blue shirt and black jeans pant has been found dead on 21.06.2020 in front of Rawalpindi Jewellers, in the area of PS Subzi Mandi, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 18A, dated 21.06.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi DP/309/N/2020(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23823161, 23827354

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 48 years, Height: 5' 8", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Hair: Black & White, Wearing: Blue colour pant & yellow colour T-Shirt, who was found dead at National Highways-08 opposite NH-8 in Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 61A Dated 20.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Vasant Kunj, Delhi.



Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos. Sd/- SHO DP/166/SW/2020(UIDB) P.S. Vasant Kunj, Delhi Tel.: 011-26139361, 9650698123

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Name of work: Fabrication, supply, installation & commissioning of rain water arrester for roof in LHB type AC coaches (1st AC, 2nd AC, Chair Car & Pantry Car) of Delhi Division. Tender No.: 30-Elect-IT-Chg-2020-21. Approx cost of the work in (Rs.): Rs. 31,58,000/-. Cost of tender form: Rs. 3,540/-. Address of the Office: Sr. Div. Elect Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi. Earnest Money: Rs. 63,200/-. Period of completion of work: 04 Months. Last date & time of submission of tender: 20.07.2020 up to 15.00 hrs. And opening of tender: 20.07.2020 at 15.01 hrs. Website & notice board: www.irps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI 1428/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE No. 09/2020 Dated: 22/06/2020

The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Open Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items: Tender closing Time: 14:00 Hrs.

Sl	Tender No.	Description in brief	Qty.	Tender Due on
1	38201354	Coupler Body for Non- Transition CBC.	220 Nos.	02.07.2020
2	75201053A	Densified Thermal Bonded Polyester Blocks.	6087 Nos.	09.07.2020
3	17205015	Damper Primary Vertical 13.83 mm.	200 Nos.	09.07.2020
4	17205017	Gear case assembly kit consisting 8 items.	40 Nos.	09.07.2020
5	50201052	Lead acid cell 2 volt 80 AH.	6178 Nos.	09.07.2020
6	17205016	Set of Brake hanger assemblies.	20 Sets.	10.07.2020
7	18205016	Dynamic brake contractor repair kit.	300 Nos.	11.07.2020
8	30201250	Kit of brake gear bushes for bogie mounted brake cylinder air brake coaches consisting of 5 items.	1700 Sets.	13.07.2020
9	45201289	Starter/lead acid battery capacity 8V/290AH.	67 Nos.	13.07.2020
10	33201077B	Brake caliper unit left and right version.	75 Nos.	13.07.2020
11	33201088E	Brake disc for wheel set for LHB.	185 Nos.	14.07.2020
12	30201438	Anchor link assembly.	2600 Nos.	14.07.2020
13	12205001	MV Excitation Controller.	2 Nos.	15.07.2020
14	56201093	PVC Insulated, Armoured, Unscreened, Underground Railway Signalling Cable Copper conductor conforming.	300 KM	15.07.2020
15	18201123	Contactors ST to EMD Part No.9325207.	56 Nos.	15.07.2020
16	18205013	Gear Bull 90 teeth.	30 Nos.	15.07.2020
17	45201080	Brushless DC (BLDC) Railway carriage fans, 110V.	2141 Nos.	15.07.2020
18	17205020	Brake Controller to NYAB/KBIL.	10 Nos.	16.07.2020
19	30201329	Foot Step arrangement assembly complete.	3000 Nos.	16.07.2020
20	33201234	Inter car gangway.	200 Nos.	16.07.2020
21	33201030A	Secondary lateral damper.	465 Nos.	16.07.2020
22	56201017	Relay AC lamp proving plug-in type, style QECX 'AC-Led' all aspects, Relay unit with in-built current transformer type.	3000 Nos.	20.07.2020
23	30191101B	Rear Cover for axle box (Aluminium die casting).	5150 Nos.	21.07.2020
24	30201692	Set of lavatory doors arrangement for Non-AC coaches.	230 Sets.	21.07.2020
25	30201100	Axle box Housing Finished.	800 Nos.	23.07.2020
26	30205002	Supply of Stainless steel modular toilet for AC and SCN coaches.	140 Sets.	23.07.2020
27	30201177	Double acting hydraulic shock absorber for vertical application.	590 Nos.	23.07.2020
28	33201032A	Secondary vertical damper.	1290 Nos.	23.07.2020
29	30201362	Enhanced draw hook.	300 Nos.	28.07.2020
30	30201684	Foot Plate arrangement for UIC Vestibule.	300 Nos.	04.08.2020

For details log on to website: www.irps.gov.in
PUB/79/AASP/PRB/SWR/2020-21 Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Unknown S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown was found dead under Hanuman Mandir Flyover, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 08.06.2020 in the area of P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 06A U/s 174 Cr.P.C dated 08.06.2020 at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- Age: Approx 35 years, Sex: Male, Height: 4'11", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Pink colour T-shirt and black colour lower. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123 DP/305/N/2020

Appeal For Identification



General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 30-35 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 5 Inch, Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Long, Built : Thin, Black : Black, Wearing : Checkdar Nikkar and Bare Footed, has been found dead on 17.06.2020 on Footpath, In Front of Shop No. 1481, Elgin Electronics, Opp. Gauri Shankar Mandir, Chandni Chowk, Delhi and dead body preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary for 72 hours. In this regard a DD No. 56-A Dated 17.06.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO DP/303/N/2020(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23977100, 8750870121

WESTERN RAILWAY

PLASTIC BOTTLE CRUSHING MACHINES e-Tender Notice No. CA11 Bottle Crushing, 20 Dated: 24.06.2020 Deptt: Commercial Executive: Sr. DCM Work and location: Tender for Supply, Installation, Operation & Maintenance of 33 Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine (PBCMs) at 23 stations over Mumbai Division of Western Railway, on self-financing and license fees basis with opportunity to generate revenue through advertisement rights on body of machine and by sale of Plastic Flakes. (Stations are : Marinelines, Charni Road, Grant Road, Mahalaxmi, Khar Road, Santacruz, Vileparle, Jogeshwari, Goregaon, Dahisar, Mira Road, Bhayandar, Naigaon, Palghar, Boisar, Umergaon, Bilimora, Udvada, Vapi, Valsad, Navsari, Udhna Jn., Surat) First Year Reserve Price: ₹ 1/- (Excluding Taxes, etc.) Approx. Cost of work: ₹ 6/- (for 5 yrs. (Excluding Taxes, etc.) Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 1,000/- EMD: ₹ 5,000/- Website where Tender Form is available: www.irps.gov.in Completion Period: Five Years Date & Time of Closing of Online Submission: upto 15.00 hrs. on 24.07.2020 Date & Time of Opening of e-Tender: at 15.30 Hrs. on 24.07.2020 Note: Please visit our website www.irps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. Cost of tender and EMD shall be accepted only through online net banking or E-payment gateway. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated. P-15

WESTERN RAILWAY ROBO/FOB REPAIR WORK

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th Floor, Engrg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400008 invites E-tender as per following details Executive: DEN (Br) BCT, Tender Notice No.: R/20-2/174 dttd. 25/06/2020. Work and location: Repairs to MCGM ROB and MCGM FOBs including old staircases on condition basis etc. between Churugate-Khar Section as per IIT report. Approx. Cost of work: ₹ 8,73,70,507.72/- EMD: ₹ 86,900,000/- Date & Time of submission: on 28/07/2020 till 15:30 hrs. Date & time of opening: on 28/07/2020 at 15:30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.irps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered. P-15 Like us on facebook.com/WesternRly

Trend Slazer

'Film on corrupt practices of B'wood'

Actor **ABHAY DEOL** has taken a dig at Bollywood, saying "one could make a film about the corrupt practices" prevailing in the film industry.

Abhay penned his thoughts on Instagram while recalling the shoot of his 2012 release, *Shanghai*, which revolves around the issue of corruption in politics.

"*Shanghai*, released in 2012. Directed by Dibakar Banerji, this film puts systemic corruption in politics front and center, with devastating impact. Extremely relevant today. Looks like these days one could make a film about the corrupt practices of Bollywood," he wrote.



'My heart goes out to each person in the theatre industry who is going through these tough times. Our community has always been close-knit and we need all the support we can get. I am more than happy to do my bit for the people who have made me everything I am today. It is important that people unite to support the foundations of the theatre community.'

—Aahana Kumra



Actor **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA** says he is a huge fan of Aamir Khan's work and that he learnt something from him even before he stepped into Bollywood.

He shared that he purposely didn't see the original version of *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan* because of the lesson he received from Aamir.

"I was an MTV presenter and I remember I was interviewing him for *Ghajini*. I asked him this question, 'How is the film different from the original?' He said, 'I've not seen the original'. I was really fascinated. So I found that to be a great lesson," said Ayushmann.



'Couldn't get Rachel off my back'

Actor **JENNIFER ANISTON** says her iconic role of Rachel Green in *Friends* left her feeling typecast in Hollywood, which she couldn't escape.

Aniston opened up about how difficult it was to "shed" her role, which she played for 10 seasons on *Friends*.

She said that things changed when she got the leading role in the 2002 film *The Good Girl*.

"*The Good Girl* was the first time I got to really shed whatever the Rachel character was, and to be able to disappear into someone who wasn't. That was such a relief to me. But I remember the panic that set over me, thinking — oh god! I don't know if I can do this. Maybe they're right," she recalled.



CHANGE OF TRAVEL PLAN

Private charters are being hired by not just high-fliers but by regular commercial passengers and families pooling resources for safety, says **SAKSHI SHARMA**

The post-pandemic world will spur a new travel segment, that of private charter fliers. And this may not be limited to the upper crust but open up to family groups, who may pool their dedicated budgets to hire an aircraft and fly to their destination and back. Instead of mini-breaks and vacations, there might be that just one big trip that people may splurge on. Companies, who traditionally flew their executives on first-class, are now finding it safer and more economical to fly the same group of people on a private aircraft. Or so an industry study would have us believe.

Unlike commercial airlines, private charters do not require you to pass through lengthy security screening, various touch points or come in contact with fellow travellers. Commercial fliers have over 200 touch points at the airport, while private jets have as little as 30. Instead, it gives you the assurance of exemplary safety record and cleanliness standards. Kanika Tekriwal, CEO and founder, JetSetGo Aviation, tells us that neither do the guests have to arrive early, nor do they have to face security queues at the airport. Without much of a stretch, one can avoid immigration and Customs during international flights and directly get on-board.

COVID-19 has completely



Unlike commercial airlines, private charters do not require you to pass through lengthy security screening, various touch points or come in contact with fellow travellers

changed the way consumers engage with products and make their purchase decisions. Says Kanika, "Now safety and well-being are coming at a price. But people do not mind spending some extra amount for peace of mind during a break." She gets up to 20 enquiries a day on chartered flights, 70 per cent of which are from a new customer profile. "We are seeing a lot of requests coming from parents whose children were stuck in colleges or schools and from families who were stuck elsewhere apart from their hometown during the lockdown. There is also a big surge in requests from people who had sick parents or adults stuck in different cities. Also, we received requests from small businessmen who had travelled to close deals and were stuck," says she. There are some affordable options too like booking a seat rather than booking an entire plane and much more.

There are several companies that offer charter flights for

business travellers specifically. For PrivateFly, business aviation really matters as it saves time, both on the ground and in the air. Evojets is another such company that specialises in arranging corporate air travel solutions that help businesses. There are various modern private business jets that come fully equipped with the latest business amenities, such as wireless internet and satellite phones. Some even have private boardrooms to conduct important meetings in-flight. Not only this, charter companies even organise business dinners which allow the traveller to optimally utilise his travel time.

Travel choices are going to be need-based more than indulgence, for example a family event, as per Nishant Pitti, EaseMyTrip CEO and co-founder. Says he, "Part of the new mindset of the jet set is now centered around social distancing, one of the essential guidelines for inhibiting the spread of COVID-19. So even though the travel sector as a whole is currently down, private jet demand is much stronger than it was before." Varesh Chopra, Regional Director, South Asia and Middle East, Cosmos Vacations, tells us that leisure travel may see temporary stress on demand due to changed personal financial dynamics but will probably mutate to a larger family outing.

Excited to return as Kabir: Amit

Actor Amit Sadh's first look in *Breathe: Into The Shadows* has been unveiled. The actor, who is reprising his revered role as Inspector Kabir Sawant in the crime thriller web series, is seen mysteriously landing up in a jail, raising curiosity amongst the viewers.

Why is our beloved inspector in a prison? Was it a faux play of power and deceit or did he seriously commit a crime so grave that put him behind the bars? While we don't know the reason behind this new twist, it certainly adds an interesting layer to the mystery of this series.

Amit said, "Excited to return as Kabir in a new, unimaginable avatar! *Breathe* and Kabir have connected with fans all over the world and the show's theme of going the distance to protect the ones you love, has resonated all across. This new story has become even more special with Abhishek and Nithya joining in and together, we can't wait to take you back to the world of *Breathe*. This time, *Into The Shadows*." The series marks the digital debut of Abhishek Bachchan and Nithya Menon, who will be seen in the lead roles, along with Saiyami Kher.

(The Amazon Original is slated to release on July 10 on Amazon Prime Video.)



How will the market evolve?

As the country emerges from the Chinese contagion, how will the Indian automotive market recover? A few thoughts on some trends that will emerge in the coming months



This will, in turn, hurt new car sales since replacement buying is traditionally 60 to 70 per cent of the sales. People are unsure of future incomes, many of us have seen salaries being cut. Buyers who changed cars the moment their loan periods ended will keep their current vehicle for an extended period of time even if they have not suffered a loss.

There is another interesting dynamic in the market of late, rising fuel prices and the situation in Delhi, where diesel is now more expensive than petrol. Now, this is actually in line with Europe, where

diesel costs more than petrol. But diesel still makes sense if you drive long distances as a diesel motor burns far more efficiently. That said, with the lakh plus price difference between a diesel and petrol vehicle, the cost benefit of diesel will not kick in until you start driving 2,500 kilometres a month at the very least. I'm a petrolhead and I've never been a huge fan of diesel. 'Dieselgate' did ruin many perceptions about diesel. Yes, on a per-gram of carbon basis, diesel is still cleaner per kilometre than petrol, but even BS6 diesel has far higher levels of

other pollutants such as NOx and Sulphur Dioxide. However, these prices should also drive a demand for more economical cars. Given that engines are already burning very lean, the two-litre petrol on the 2020 Hyundai Elantra that I'm driving currently is delivering a higher fuel economy (11.5 kmpl) than the 1.2 litre engine that was fitted on my old 2010 Hyundai i20 (approximately 11 kmpl). Both naturally aspirated engines from the same manufacturer.

So an additional economy will likely be driven by higher levels of hybrid technology in the

coming years — not just 'mild' hybrids with start-stop technology but more vehicles with 48V electrical systems and battery packs that will drive 20 to 30 per cent higher economy levels.

I do not believe India will move to an 'electric' future rapidly and there is a very simple reason for this, which is China. Recent geopolitical events have displayed that we cannot trust the neighbouring country, a push to further electrification will drive manufacturing value from Indian factories to China's giant battery plants. Hybrid vehicles will not

require the massive battery packs of full electric vehicles. Then there is the Fuel-Cell Vehicle issue and Hydrogen, where India's massive push towards renewable energy might work towards more hydrogen technology. While generating hydrogen is an energy negative process, we can use excess wind and solar capacity to electrolyse water and generate hydrogen as energy storage. Less dependence on China, Japan and South Korea (that is Toyota, Honda, Suzuki and Hyundai-Kia) are promoting the hydrogen alliance big-time. Watch this space.

What does the current geopolitical situation mean for the likes of Shanghai Automotive Industrial Corporation (MG Motor), their Hector, the plans of Great Wall Motor as well as all those Indian brands importing container loads of Chinese electric two-wheelers? Not good frankly, while I do not believe India can extricate from depending on Chinese components even for the automotive business anytime soon, given that the costs of Chinese components is so much lower in China. I do believe that this has been a monumental miscalculation by the Chinese administration and it will impact Chinese brands in India in the long-run. There is a reason that SAIC wanted everyone to believe that the MG Hector is a British car, but it is a Chinese car, designed and tested in China. It just wears a British badge. This is not like Jaguar Land Rover, which is a British firm owned by an Indian company or Volvo, a Swedish firm owned by China. This is a Chinese product with a British badge. There will be a short-term and medium-term impact here.

Anyway, there will be several other interesting trends to watch, including whether consumers will shift preferences away from large, expensive Sports Utility Vehicles towards smaller and more economical hatchbacks and sedans? How will price elasticity evolve in the Indian market and many more. All food for thought in the coming weeks and months.



PUTTING HEALTH FIRST

A plant-based diet has many benefits as it is primarily responsible for improving the overall immune system of our body



The world is increasingly subscribing to the idea of a plant-based diet owing to its myriad health benefits. A healthy plant-based diet serves as a potent option when it comes to curbing lifestyle diseases such as obesity and even the more risky ones, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and more. This diet is low in fat, and therefore, reduces the chances of cholesterol, control blood pressure and helps in losing weight.

There is no denying the truth that India is on its way to becoming the breeding ground of some deadly ailments, such as diabetes and other cardiovascular diseases. And many researchers claim that consuming a plant-based diet will significantly help in lowering the risk of such illnesses by about 40 per cent. As a result, Indians are becoming aware of the benefits of a plant-based diet, which is slowly entering the mainstream. The trend is particularly prevalent among people who identify themselves as environmentalists and animal lovers.

One of the main reasons why India is marching towards a plant-based diet is that the social media has played an unquestionable role in influencing the younger generation. The internet is strewn with influencers who bust all the stereotypes that usually revolve around plant-based diets. Therefore, the internet, as a global platform, has helped people in looking at what it really is. Consequently, more Indians are coming forward and signing up for a life that is sustainable, ethical, healthy and driven by compassion with the help of a plant-based diet.

was estimated to be valued at \$18.5 billion, and by 2025, it is expected to reach \$40.6 billion. Plant-based sources of protein are a win-win situation for both your health as well as the health of the planet. However, it is essential to mix up the sources so that no vital components are missing. Legumes such as lentils, beans, peas, peanuts, nuts; and seeds like almonds, walnuts, hazelnuts, pecans, chia seeds; whole grains such as teff, wheat, oats, buckwheat, serve as great sources of protein. One can also go for vegetables that are a great storehouse of protein, such as broccoli, asparagus, Brussels sprouts and corn.

There are many naturally growing superfoods that are responsible for improving the overall immune system of the body. These include spirulina, kale, acai berries, mushrooms, kiwi, beets, cauliflower, spinach, cacao, ginger, cinnamon, green tea, to name a few. Superfoods are usually rich in antioxidants that help in preventing cancer and the fibre keeps diabetes at bay along with digestive problems. Although the Indian diet already contained most of the superfoods, people have now consciously started including them in their plant-based diets. They are also known to reduce inflammation, regulate metabolism, and shield the organs from toxins.

While it might be difficult to get all the nutrients when strictly on a plant-based diet, which makes it essential to add plant-based supplements to ensure that the body gets all the nutrition it needs. These supplements are known to offer various health benefits that are often difficult to source from those which are loaded with artificial ingredients. To give a brief overview, these supplements are organically made from fruits, vegetables, spices, nuts, seeds, leaves and other natural ingredients. Plant-based supplements are minimally processed, thereby reducing the toxicity risk.

Plant-based ingredients provide improved bioavailability, which means the body can effortlessly handle and use the nutrients that it receives. Also, plants are the ultimate source of a complete range of vitamins, minerals, phytonutrients and aromatic oils. All these nutrients tend to work together and removing one of them will deprive the body from an overall growth. They contain all the vital co-nutrients as they are directly extracted from the plants. Additionally, since they do not include any artificial flavours, chemicals, and fillers, the supplements retain the natural taste, which is also a great way to check the quality.

While most of us like to play safe while choosing our food, it is equally important to choose them wisely. Plant-based diet when coupled with plant-based supplements can help in achieving the desired health and warding off physical complications.

(The writer, MIHIR GADANI is the co-founder of OZiva.)

A ladle and a stir

TLC's latest show, *The Missing Apron*, helps to instill confidence in those who worry about not being able to cook



Over the last two-three months, many of us have been forced to enter the kitchen and don that apron we have barely touched until now. Some people have embraced the challenge wholeheartedly and are chronicling their adventures on social media with #QuarantineCooking, while there are still a few others who seem to be finding it difficult to tell apart the *karchhi* from the *kadhhi*.

To help all those who've been to learn easy to do recipes, TLC launched an interesting new show titled — *The Missing Apron* — where Cyrus Sahukar learns easy-peasy-lemon-squeezy cooking tips and some mouth-watering food under renowned chef Ananya Banerjee's guidance from the comfort of his own home. The show, supported by Rooh Afza and India Gate, is all set to tickle your taste buds.

Cyrus Sahukar said, "It's been so many days alone at home without knowing anything about cooking. I have realised that not everyone wants to be a masterchef. Sometimes you just want to get away by a couple of easy to cook recipes. Shows like this provides access to three ingredients recipes to all those who doesn't like to spend much time on tedious cuisines. The *Sous Chef* takes inspiration from this reality



and parallels our everyday as I learn cooking online from chef Ananya Banerjee. I think everybody can easily connect to this show.

Elaborating further, chef Ananya Banerjee said, "Cooking can seem like a daunting task if one isn't used to entering the kitchen. However, once you start cooking, you realise that it's not that difficult. And sometimes, the simplest of recipes can yield the most delicious of results. The idea of *The Missing Apron* is to instill confidence in those who worry about not being able to cook. One doesn't need to be a professional chef to create wonderful meals. A little bit of patience and some creativity can help anyone turn into a good cook."

R E C I P E S



GOAT CHEESE, GRIDDLED CHERRY AND GREMOLATA TOAST

WHAT YOU NEED

- Small bunch flat leaf parsley (roughly chopped)
- Zest of 1 orange
- Small clove of garlic (minced): 1
- Extra virgin olive oil: 2 tbsp
- A pinch of salt and pepper
- Cherries (cut in half and destoned): 100 gm
- Sourdough bread: 8 slices
- Soft goats' cheese: 120 gm
- California walnuts (toasted and roughly chopped): 60 gm

METHOD

- To make the gremolata, mix together the parsley, orange zest, garlic, extra virgin olive oil and season to taste.
- Heat a griddle pan until searing hot. Then place the cherries in cut side down. Sear for two minutes.
- Lightly toast the bread until golden brown and spread goats' cheese on top of each slice. Top each toast with the cherries, gremolata and finish with a sprinkle of walnuts to serve.

Courtesy: Celebrity chef Sabyasachi Gorai.

CHICKEN MOLE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Peanut oil: 1 tbsp
- Skinless boneless chicken thighs: 2 pounds
- Chicken stock: 1 cup
- Orange juice: 1 cup
- Onions (sliced): 1 pound
- Almonds (sliced): 1/2 cup
- Garlic cloves (sliced): 2
- Coriander seeds: 2 tsp
- Cumin seeds: 2 tsp
- Dried red chillies (stemmed, seeded and rinsed): 2 ounces
- Raisins: 1/4 cup
- Orange peel (orange part only)
- Oregano (dried): 1/2 tsp
- Mexican chocolate (chopped): 100 gm

- Fresh cilantro (chopped):
- Mexican chocolate (chopped): 100 gm
- Prunes (dried)
- Sugar poached apricots

METHOD

- Heat one tablespoon oil in a large pot over medium-high heat.
- Sprinkle chicken on both sides with salt and pepper. Add chicken leg to pot; sauté until lightly browned and add more oil as needed for about three minutes per side.
- Transfer chicken to large bowl.
- Return chicken and any juices to pot. Add broth and orange juice; bring just to boil.



Reduce heat to medium-low; cover and simmer until chicken is tender and just cooked through for about 25 minutes.

- Meanwhile heat one tablespoon oil in heavy large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onions and sauté until golden brown for about 18 minutes.
- Reduce heat to medium. Add almonds, garlic, cumin and coriander. Sauté until nuts and garlic begin to colour for about two minutes. Add chilli and stir until beginning to soften, about two minutes.
- Using tongs, transfer chicken to large bowl. Pour chicken cooking liquid into

saucepan with onion mixture (reserve pot). Add raisins, orange peel, and oregano to saucepan.

- Cover and simmer until chillies are very soft, stirring occasionally, about 30 minutes. Remove from heat; add chocolate. Let it stand until chocolate melts and sauce mixture cools slightly for about 15 minutes.
- Working in small batches, transfer sauce mixture to blender and puree until smooth; return to reserved pot. Season sauce to taste with salt and pepper. Coarsely shred chicken and return to sauce; stir to coat.
- Garnish with micro greens.

Courtesy: Executive chef Saurabh Srivastava, Aloft Hotels.

SPICED ALMOND BANANA JAGGERY CAKE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Butter (unsalted): 1/2 cup
- Jaggery powder: 1/2 cup
- Cinnamon: 1 1/2 tsp
- Nutmeg (ground): 1/4 tsp
- Almonds (sliced): 1/2 cup
- Sugar: 3/4 cup
- Eggs: 3
- Orange zest: 2 tsp
- Banana (ripped and mashed): 1 1/4 tsp
- All-purpose flour: 3 cups
- Baking powder: 1 1/2 tsp
- Baking soda: 1 tsp
- Salt: 1/2 tsp
- Buttermilk: 2/3 cup

METHOD

- Melt 1/4 cup of the butter and pour two tablespoons of the melted butter into an eight-cup pan.
- Brush the butter over pan sides and bottom. Mix together



jaggery, cinnamon, nutmeg and almonds.

- Sprinkle the bottom of pan

with half the jaggery mixture; combine the remaining mixture with the remaining melted butter

and set it aside.

- In a large bowl, beat remaining 1/4 cup butter with granulated sugar until blended. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until blended. Then beat in mashed banana.
- Mix all-purpose flour, baking powder, soda and salt. Add to banana mixture along with the buttermilk; stir until well blended.
- Pour half the batter into prepared pan. Spoon remaining jaggery sugar mixture evenly over top; cover with remaining batter.
- Bake in a 180 degree oven for about 50 minutes until a long wood skewer inserted into the thickest part of the cake comes out clean.
- Cool the cake on a rack for about five minutes.
- Invert cake onto a serving plate. Serve the cake warm or cool.

Courtesy: Chef Manish Malhotra, Indian Accent.

ONION BHAJJIS

WHAT YOU NEED

- Onions (sliced)
- Besan
- Ajwain
- Cumin seeds
- Turmeric powder
- Red chilli powder
- Salt

METHOD

- Add three to tablespoon besan to the onions in a bowl.
- Then add one tablespoon of Ajwain, cumin, turmeric, red chilli powder and salt as required.
- Add little water, mix and keep it aside for 10 minutes.
- Pre heat oil in a pan.
- Make small dumplings of the mixture and deep fry it till it gets golden brown.
- Stain the oil. Use napkins to remove excess oil.
- Serve the hot and crispy bhajjis with sauce.

Courtesy: Chef Sandesh Kore, Lecturer, ITM Institute of Hotel Management.



ONE STEP CLOSER

Fabinho's masterclass put Liverpool on cusp of first English title in three decades

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool are on the brink of clinching the Premier League title after the leaders powered to a 4-0 win against Crystal Palace, while Anthony Martial hit a hat-trick in Manchester United's 3-0 victory over Sheffield United on Wednesday.

Jürgen Klopp's side took control thanks to first-half goals from Trent Alexander-Arnold and Mohamed Salah behind closed doors at Anfield.

Fabinho and Sadio Mane netted after the interval and Liverpool will be crowned champions if Manchester City fail to beat Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Thursday.

If second-placed City win in west London, then Liverpool could wrap up their first English title for 30 years in their next game — against Pep Guardiola's side at the Etihad Stadium on July 2.

"Imagine if the stadium could have been full and people could have experienced that Live. It would have been amazing," Klopp said.

"The atmosphere on the pitch was incredible. That was the best counter-pressing game I have ever seen behind closed doors. The attitude the boys showed was amazing."

Asked if he would be watching when City face Chelsea, Klopp added: "Tonight was a big step, that's clear. I have to watch the game tomorrow because we play them one week later. That's being professional and doing my job."

After a drab goalless draw at Merseyside rivals Everton on Sunday, the champions-elect were far more vibrant and Alexander-Arnold opened the scoring with a superb free-kick in the 23rd minute.



Fabinho scores Liverpool's third goal against Crystal Palace during Premier League clash at Anfield on Wednesday

AP

Salah doubled the lead in the 44th minute, taking Fabinho's lofted pass and guiding in his 21st goal of the season.

Fabinho scored with a thunderous 30-yard strike in the 55th minute and Mane capped a fine move in the 69th minute as Liverpool moved 23 points clear of City.



MARTIAL'S HAT-TRICK
United are still far off challenging again for titles at the top of the table, but there are growing signs of momentum for Ole Gunnar



Solskjaer's men as they extended their unbeaten run to 13 games.

Martial produced two predatory first-time finishes before half-time to put United in command at Old Trafford.

The hosts could have piled on much more pain after the break, but were content with one more goal as Martial completed his first career hat-trick with a cheeky chip from Marcus Rashford's pass.

'DREAM BIG'
Fifth-place could still be good enough for a place in next season's

Captain fantastic

Ramos scores stunning free-kick in Real's 2-0 win over Mallorca

AFP ■ MADRID

Sergio Ramos' sensational free-kick helped Real Madrid move back above Barcelona to the top of La Liga as they defeated Real Mallorca 2-0 on Wednesday.

Ramos brushed aside Gareth Bale to take the shot and justified his claim with a curling strike into the top corner after 19-year-old Vinicius Junior had put Madrid in front in the first half.

Madrid's victory at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium means they are level again on points with Barcelona but sit above their title rivals in the table due to a superior head-to-head record.

"There are seven finals left," said Ramos. "There will be only one league in the year of coronavirus and we want to win it for the fans."

Bale has been hardly used since La Liga resumed on June 11 but Zinedine Zidane continued his rotation policy and handed the Welshman his first start since February 16.

Yet an underwhelming display is unlikely to push Bale back into Zidane's preferred eleven as Vinicius enhanced his case with another lively, if erratic, performance.

The Brazilian also hit the crossbar in the first half. "I'm very happy with the team's performance and my own," said Vinicius.

"I worked very hard at home to get in this shape. This run of matches is like a World Cup, you have to be in the right shape every three days and fired



up." Ramos, though, stole the show with his brilliant free-kick, taking his personal tally to a career-best eight goals for the season, after he became La Liga's highest ever scoring defender on Sunday by scoring a penalty against Real Sociedad.

The only worry for Madrid was that Eden Hazard was taken off shortly after the hour, raising doubts over whether the Belgian is fully fit or completely confident in his troublesome ankle.

There was also time at the end for history to be made as Mallorca's Luka Romero became the youngest player ever to play in La Liga, aged 15 years and 219 days.

Earlier, Real Sociedad suffered a third consecutive defeat at home to Celta Vigo to leave their challenge for Champions League qualification in tatters.

Iago Aspas' penalty on the stroke of half-time was enough to seal a 1-0 victory for Celta Vigo, who move eight points clear of Mallorca in 18th.

LaLiga

Coulter-Nile seeking new team to prove detractors wrong

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Disappointed at being left out of Western Australia's contract list, Australia pacer Nathan Coulter-Nile said he is looking to prove the decision makers wrong representing a new state team for the upcoming season.

The 32-year-old, who grabbed 17 wickets at 18.94 to guide West Australia to their third title in six years in the last summer's Marsh Cup, didn't receive a contract renewal after he decided to focus his attention on white-ball cricket.

Coulter-Nile, who has taken 86 wickets in limited overs cricket for Australia, said he is now "fired up" to face Western Australia.

"I'd love to face Western Australia, I'd definitely be fired up for it," he told *Cricket.Com.Au*.

"I know the boys had nothing to do with the decision and a few of them openly said they were disappointed with it, but any chance I get to prove the decision-makers wrong, I'd definitely take that opportunity."

Coulter-Nile said he is confident of his bowling and will take up any opportunity that comes his way before the Marsh Cup.

"I want to play. I was the leading wicket-taker last year, I feel like I'm bowling alright. I feel like I've still got plenty to offer," said the pacer, who took 82 wickets at 21.96 in 39 one-day games for WA since making his debut in 2009.

Dope-cleared Sanjita to get Arjuna



NEW DELHI: Cleared of doping taint, two-time Commonwealth Games Gold-winning weightlifter Sanjita Chanu will finally get the coveted Arjuna award which has been on hold since 2018.

A Sports Ministry source confirmed that Chanu will be conferred with the Arjuna as per a 2018 Delhi High Court

order, which directed the selection committee to consider her and keep the decision in a sealed cover to be disclosed only if she was absolved of the doping charges.

"Sanjita (Chanu) is absolved of all the doping charges by the International federation, so we will have to abide by the Delhi High Court

order and consider her for the Arjuna award," the ministry source said.

After she was ignored for the 2017 Arjuna Awards, Chanu had filed a writ petition before the Delhi HC challenging the decision to exclude her from the list of those recommended for the coveted honour. During the pendency of the case, she tested positive for a banned substance in May 2018.

Indian Weightlifting Federation secretary general also confirmed the development. "It's confirmed, Sanjita will get her 2018 Arjuna award," he said without getting into details.

The 26-year-old had won back-to-back Gold medals in the 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games in the 48kg and 53kg categories respectively.

PTI

Lazio falter in title race

Inzaghi's men suffer first league defeat in 9 months to stay four points behind Juventus

AFP ■ BERGAMO

Title-chasing Lazio suffered their first Serie A defeat in nine months, falling 3-2 at Atalanta on Wednesday to stay four points behind leaders Juventus after surrendering a two-goal lead.

Lazio, playing their first game since February 29 after the coronavirus lockdown, thanked a Marten De Roon own-goal for putting them ahead after six minutes in Bergamo with Sergej Milinkovic-Savic adding a superb second from distance five minutes later. But Robin Gosens headed fourth-placed Atalanta back into the game seven minutes before the break with Ruslan Malinovskyi rifling in the equaliser on 66 minutes. Jose Luis



Palomino then sealed the home win 10 minutes from time.

Lazio — bidding for their third Serie A title after 1974 and

2000 — have lost just three times in the league this season.

Their most recent defeat before Wednesday was 1-0 at the hands of Inter Milan on September 25.

"We knew that returning against Atalanta was one of the worst opponents to have," said Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi whose side were held 3-3 by the Bergamo side in Rome in October.

"Unfortunately the title race gets more complicated and we regret this, because we're coming off a long series of unbeaten games. I don't like losing and the lads are a little down."

Atalanta are four points behind third-placed Inter Milan, who were held 3-3 at home against Sassuolo.

Skriniar, Conte banned

MILAN: Inter Milan defender Milan Skriniar was suspended for three matches on Thursday following his red card in the match against Sassuolo.

Skriniar was shown a second yellow card on Wednesday and was given an automatic one-match ban for the sending off but was further punished for "making an offensive remark to the referee along with a blasphemous exclamation."

Inter coach Antonio Conte will also be suspended for Sunday's match at Parma after picking up his fifth booking of the season.

Elsewhere, Roma stay fifth, six points behind Atalanta, after a hard-fought 2-1 win over relegation-threatened Sampdoria thanks to a second-half Edin Dzeko brace — two volleys, one with his left foot and the other with his right.

Archer to join team at Ageas Bowl

PTI ■ LONDON

Star England pacer Jofra Archer was on Thursday cleared to join his teammates at Southampton's Ageas Bowl ahead of the three-Test series against West Indies after he was tested Covid-19 negative for the second time.

The 25-year-old Archer did not join the team's training earlier after a member of his household fell ill. He had tested negative for Covid-19 the first time too but the decision to

go through another test was a precautionary measure. "Jofra Archer has tested negative for Covid-19. He will join the England camp at Ageas Bowl later today and will be free to start training tomorrow with the rest of the group," the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) tweeted on Thursday.

Besides Archer, all other English cricketers vying for places in the squad for the upcoming Test series also returned negative for Covid-19.



overseeing a 1-0 series win in 2005.

The Ashes win was the culmination of her six-year stint as captain of her country. She retired from the game thereafter.

Clare to become 1st female MCC president

PTI ■ LONDON

Former England captain Clare Connor is set to become the first female president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), guardian of the laws of the game, in its 233-year history.

Connor was on Wednesday named as the successor to current chief Kumar Sangakkara, who steps down from the post next year.

The nomination of Connor, who is currently the ECB's managing director of women's cricket, was made by Sangakkara himself during Wednesday's Annual General Meeting.

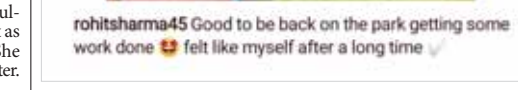
Connor will take up the post on October 1 next year, pending approval by the club's members, as Sangakkara has been invited to remain in the role for a second twelve-month tenure due to the impact of Covid-19 on the cricketing landscape.

"I am deeply honoured to be

named the next President of MCC. Cricket has enriched my life so deeply already, and now it hands me this wonderful privilege," said Connor, who was made an Honorary Life Member of MCC in 2009.

Connor made her England debut in 1995 at the age of 19, and took over the captaincy in 2000, leading England at Lord's against Australia a year later.

An all-rounder who bowled left-arm spin, Connor led England women to their first Ashes triumph in 42 years,



rohitsharma45 Good to be back on the park getting some work done 😊 felt like myself after a long time 🙌



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B-105
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. SE-(R&B)-PLB- 02/2020-21
No. 588 Dated. 17.06.2020

1	The Superintending Engineer, Phulbani (R & B) Circle, Phulbani on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of Bridge works detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.
2	Nature of work :- Bridge work
3	No. of tenders :- 3 Nos of Bridge works
4	Tender cost :- Rs. 10,000/- (through online) only.
5	Class of Contractor :- 'B', 'A' & Special class
6	Date & Time of sale & receipt of bids :- 10.00 AM of 30.06.2020 to 5.00PM of 14.07.2020
7	Date of Opening of bid :- 11.00 AM of 15.07.2020
8	The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any Addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

OIPR:34129/11/0002/2021 Sd/-Er.M.K.Tripthy Superintending Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RAYAGADA (R&B) CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. SE (RANDB) RGDA- 02/2020-21 (Online)
No. 665 Date. 20.06.2020
INVITATION FOR BIDS

1.	The Superintending Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover mode to be received in online mode only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below.
2.	Nature of work :- Road works
3.	No. of work :- 1 (One) no. of work
4.	Estimated Cost (Approximately) :- Rs. 942.43
5.	Bid Cost :- Rs. 10,000/- (each)
6.	Class of Contractor :- "Special" Class/ Super Class as per Financial Eligibility.
7.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website :- 11.00 Hrs. of Dt. 01.07.2020 to 16.00 Hrs. of Dt. 16.07.2020
8.	Date of opening of bid :- 11.00 Hrs. of Dt. 17.07.2020.

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any Addendum/ Corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

OIPR : 34128/11/0002/2021 Sd/- Superintending Engineer Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES Office of the Executive Engineer Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur
TENDER CALL NOTICE No. EE-CHID-02/2020-21
e-mail address: - eechidbam@gmail.com Phone No.0660-2281909

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Sealed tender in conformity with detail tender schedule are invited from intending bidders having valid GST certificate; PAN for Auction Sale of Diesel Jeep Wagonette Bearing Reg. No. OR-07-4077 of DEE, Ghodahada Irrigation Sub-division, Digapahandi Under Executive Engineer Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur lying in Garage Premises of Executive Engineer, Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur in Ganjam District on "As is where is basis" at an upset price of Rs.11,500.00 (Rupees eleven thousand five hundred) only in a single lot basis only.

The tender schedule can be obtained from the office of the undersigned as well as from the office of the Superintending Engineer Southern Irrigation Circle Berhampur on payment of cost Rs.400.00 from 29.06.2020 at 10.00 AM to 28.07.2020 up-to 5.30 PM on Working days during office hours. No Tender schedule shall be sold by Post.

The tender will be received in the office of the undersigned as well as in the office of the Superintending Engineer Southern Irrigation Circle Berhampur up-to 5.30 PM on 28.07.2020 on Working days during office hours. The tender will be opened in the office of the undersigned on 29.07.2020 at 11.00 AM in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives.

Bidders shall have to deposit auction money of Rs.600.00 (App.5.00%) in shape of Bank Draft of any scheduled bank in favour of the Executive Engineer, Chikiti Irrigation Division, Brahmapur/ Term Deposit Receipt pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur from any Nationalized / Scheduled Bank in India along with the tender failing which the tender will be rejected.

Intending bidders may inspect the vehicle lying in Garage Premises of Executive Engineer, Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur in Ganjam District as mentioned in schedule 'D' of the tender schedule from 29.06.2020, 10.00 AM to 27.07.2020 up-to 5.30 PM on Working days during office hours.

If the office happens to be closed due to unavoidable circumstances on the last date of sale and receipt / Date of opening as specified, the tender will be sold & received / opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The authority reserves the right not to accept the highest bid or any other bid thereof and may cancel any or all the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

OIPR: 32115/11/0002/2021 Sd/- Executive Engineer Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur