



**US Senate approves legislation that could lead to Chinese companies such as Alibaba and Baidu being barred from listing on US stock exchanges**

**American tech giants Apple and Google offer health authorities around the world their platform for contact tracing**

**OVER 5 MILLION** people around the world have been infected with coronavirus since its outbreak and over 3,29,000 people are dead. US has recorded over 1.5 million cases and 93,000 deaths



**A new study suggests that Italy's outbreak may have begun earlier than first thought.** The findings, from Milan Polyclinic Hospital, suggest that the virus was spreading in Italy for at least 2 weeks before its first case was diagnosed on Feb 20. Similar evidence has emerged in France



**Boris Johnson-led UK govt extends Bereavement Scheme, which grants permanent UK residency to families of overseas medics who die after contracting virus, to all healthcare & social care workers**

# 72 killed as Amphan ploughed through Bengal; PM visit today

**Kolkata Wakes Up To Sight Of Floating Bodies**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata/Bhubaneswar:** As Cyclone Amphan fizzled out in Bangladesh after one final assault, West Bengal was on Thursday left counting its dead — up from 12 to 72 overnight, including 15 in Kolkata — and scouring through the debris of devastation that CM Mamata Banerjee said would require days to assess and massive central financial assistance to salvage and rebuild. Many of the casualties during the cyclone's nine-hour

**FULL COVERAGE: P 9**

march through seven south Bengal districts on Wednesday were either caused by electrocution or houses collapsing. Kolkata woke up to the macabre sight of 11 bodies floating

## 44 LAKH AFFECTED IN ODISHA

**72 deaths across Bengal, including 15 in Kolkata; no casualties in Odisha. Bangladesh toll 26**

**88,000 hectares of paddy and 1 lakh hectares each of vegetable and sesame crops destroyed in Bengal**

**In Kolkata, 5,000-odd trees and 2,500 electricity poles uprooted; 14 lakh consumers without power till late on Thursday**

**Damage in Odisha restricted to northern part; standing crops damaged and 44 lakh people across 6,745 villages affected**



The full extent of destruction will take days to assess: Mamata

**Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee announces ₹2 lakh compensation each to kin of dead**

**PM Narendra Modi to visit Bengal & Odisha today, hold review meet with CMs**

**Over-consumption underlies cyclone', P 9**

**Jobless migrants now lose homes as well, P 9**

**Storm causes extensive damage in Kolkata, P 9**

ting down inundated streets.

South 24-Parganas, which bore the brunt of Amphan's impact, reported 12 deaths. Hundreds of houses were destroyed and embankments were

breached at many places, leaving scores of villages swimming in misery. Rivers over-ran farmlands throughout the Sunderbans, damaging acres and acres of standing crops.

The damage, still being assessed, is believed to be more extensive than what Cyclone Aila had caused 11 years ago.

**Terrifying experience, P 9**

## J&K cop killed, 2 others injured in Pulwama attack

**A** J&K Police head constable was killed and two others were injured when two terrorists attacked a naka in Prichoo area of Pulwama district on Thursday, a day after two BSF personnel were shot dead in Ganderbal district. Intel sources said the attack was carried out by The Resistance Front — an amalgam of JeM, LeT and Hizbul Mujahideen. **P 8**

## Palam at 44°C on city's hottest day

The capital recorded its hottest day of the season with the mercury touching 42.7 degrees C at Safdarjung and crossing 44°C at Palam. Temperatures are likely to rise even further. **P 4**

## Gzb Class 6 boy harasses woman

**A** Class 6 student in Ghaziabad has been accused of harassing a woman by allegedly threatening to circulate her morphed photos if she did not pay him or participate in a sex chat with him. **P 7**

## LOCKDOWN DAY 59

## Canteens pull swadeshi order

**I**n a breather for MNCs, central police canteens have withdrawn the order that had put all fresh procurement on hold after the decision to sell only "swadeshi" products at the outlets. **P 13**

## Govt priority to health spend

The Centre is expected to prioritise expenditure on sectors such as healthcare, food and transporting migrants over areas such as culture, steel or sports for the full financial year. **P 13**

## TALES OF GIVING

## Land gift for ailing woman

**A**L Lazar, Kerala Fire and Rescue Services officer, registered a part of his eight-cent land in the name of Omana Rappayi, a landless woman battling breast cancer. **P 11**

## PPE kits as tribute to dad

**A**man in Khajuraho presented PPE kits to a hospital on the 13th day rites after death of his father. He said it was a better tribute to his father to buy PPE kits for doctors. **P 11**

# Govt says troops didn't cross LAC, China 'hindering normal patrols'

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**New Delhi:** A day after China accused India of crossing the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India pushed back firmly and said Chinese troops were "hindering India's normal patrolling patterns" and any Indian activity took place on its side of the LAC.

The MEA spokesperson said while India had taken a "responsible approach towards border management", the government remained "deeply committed to ensuring India's sovereignty and security". The remarks were the sternest since the Chinese incursions came to light, leading to physical confrontations in Sikkim and Ladakh.

Sources in the government said India took a dim view of China's actions in Ladakh, where Chinese troops infiltrated several kilometres into Indian territory, creating a face-off near Galwan river, then intruded in the Finger-4 area on the north bank of the Pangong Tso, leading to an escalation of

## US OFFICIAL'S REMARK NONSENSE: CHINA

**MEA says while India has taken a 'responsible approach towards border management', govt remains 'deeply committed to ensuring India's sovereignty and security'**

**Says any suggestion that Indian troops have undertaken activity across LAC in western sector or Sikkim sector is not accurate. Indian troops are 'fully familiar' with alignment**

**of LAC and abided by it**

**China dismisses as "nonsense" senior US diplomat Alice G Wells' remarks blaming it for using constant aggression on the border with India to try to change the status quo**

**'There are consultations and diplomatic channels between two sides that have nothing to do with the US,' says China**

## Nepal plans 3 more armed outposts

**D**ays after Nepal opened an armed police border outpost near the Lipulekh Pass, sources said preparations are on to start three more similar BOPs along the Nepal border in Uttarakhand. **P 14**

## Govt slams Pak claim on false flag attack

**W**ith Pakistan PM Imran Khan claiming that India is plotting a "false flag" terror attack in J&K, India has accused him of indulging in malicious propaganda not deserving a response. **P 14**

tensions. India believes China is being unnecessarily provocative by planting flags on what is patently Indian territory. The Centre said all disputes

should be resolved peacefully and in keeping with international agreements.

**'Allegations false', P 14**

# Covid deaths: 50% aged above 60 yrs; 73% had other illnesses

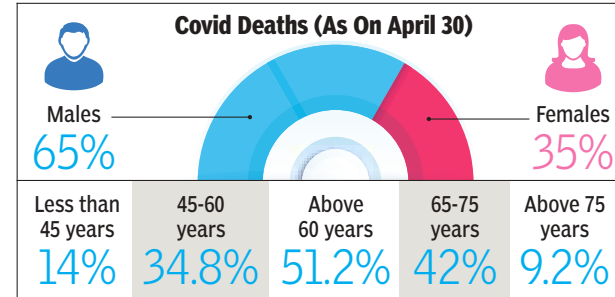
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**New Delhi:** The elderly and those with co-morbidities continue to be most vulnerable to Covid-19 infection as over 50% of total fatalities are among people above 60 years of age, whereas 73% of those who died had underlying co-morbidities like diabetes, heart disorders and chronic kidney ailments, the latest health ministry analysis of deaths showed.

Although the share of deaths in these two categories in the total fatalities has declined slightly as compared to the statistics released by the ministry on April 30, the latest figures show people above 60 as well as those with underlying conditions continue to be very high risk groups.

**35% deaths, P 11**

## GENDER & AGE-WISE FATALITIES



## Fresh cases hit 5,864 in a day, 148 deaths

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to surge in India, with the number of fresh cases rising to another high of 5,864 on Thursday, the fifth peak recorded in daily cases in the past six days. As many as 148 deaths were reported by state governments during the day, the third highest so far. Maharashtra added 2,345 new cases on Thursday as the state's count crossed 40,000, with Mumbai cases topping 25,000. Tamil Nadu again saw a surge, with 776 fresh cases. Bihar had its highest single-day count of cases (313), while UP reported 341. **P 9**

# 24 babies born during journeys aboard spl trains for migrants

Rohan Dua & Arindam Ghosh

**New Delhi/Jhansi:** When Kanti Banjari, a 21-year-old woman aboard a Shramik Special to Chhattisgarh went into labour, the non-stop train was halted for around 55 minutes at Pandurna Station near Nagpur so that she could give birth in a coach with medical practitioners in attendance. The woman, who had boarded from Amritsar in Punjab, gave birth to a healthy boy on Wednesday.

As hordes of migrant workers continue to board Shramik Special trains, at least 24



A boy born in a coach of Amritsar-Champa Shramik Special

pregnant women have given birth during their journey home between May 1 and May 21.

**Co-passengers help, P 9**

## 30L ferried, but 70% still waiting to return home

**I**ndian Railways has ferried over 30 lakh migrant workers, students and tourists by 2,050 Shramik Specials, but data from different states show that a large number is still waiting for trains to return home. Across states like Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka, Haryana and Punjab, not more than 30% have returned home, according to data compiled by TOI. **P 8**

# Govt sets fare range for flights, 40% tickets to be sold below mid-point

**Min ₹2K, Max ₹18,600 As Per Length Of Trip**

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**New Delhi:** The government has fixed minimum and maximum fares, effective till 11.59pm on August 24, for domestic flights that will resume from Monday. Airlines will need to sell 40% seats below midpoint of the fare band on each flight. Based on flying time, there are seven categories.

**FULL COVERAGE: P 4 & 11**

**Contactless food on menu when IGI starts, P 4**

es: starting at flights below 40 minutes having a range of Rs 2,000-6,000 and going upto those with flying time of 3-3.5 hours with a range of Rs 6,500-18,600 (see graphic). With flight services set to resume from May 25, most airlines have started taking bookings. Aviation minister H S Puri

## Students can now pursue 2 degree courses simultaneously

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**New Delhi:** A student of mathematics in Delhi University can now choose to simultaneously pursue any other degree course, say English literature from Ignou or any other institution.

In a move to improve their career prospects, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved a proposal to allow students to pursue two degree programmes at the same time. One of the degrees has to be in the regular mode and the other either in open and distance learning or online. A student can pursue two degrees in different streams as well as from different institutions. S/he may also opt for the same institution, provided it offers multiple mode of learning. The detailed guidelines are to be notified soon.

**Online mode, P 10**

## Deposits rise ₹2.8L cr in 6 wks of lockdown, credit dips ₹1.2L cr

The latest RBI data shows that bank deposits have risen by over Rs 2.8 lakh crore in three fortnights of the lockdown till May 8, while bank credit during the period dipped by Rs 1.2 lakh crore, reports Mayur Shetty. This has added Rs 4 lakh crore to the liquidity in the banking system, resulting in a surge in bank investments. On March 27, bank deposits stood at Rs 135.7 lakh crore. A fortnight later on April 10, outstanding deposits surged to Rs 137.1 lakh crore. In another two fortnights, by May 8, the deposits rose to Rs 138.5 lakh crore. These three fortnights also saw bank credit decline from Rs 103.7 lakh crore on March 27 to Rs 102.5 lakh crore on May 8. **P 13**

## CP's 'leather doctor' says worst is over

**T**hings may not be fully normal on K G Marg and only a few kiosks have resumed business, but a more reassuring sign in the city's central business district is the reopened "Beauty Parlor for Shoes" near Antriksh Bhavan. Cobbler Raj Kamal is back, though he has few customers so far.

Raj Kamal, who calls himself a *chamra chikits-hak* (leather doctor), catered to officer-goers since 1988, until the two-month lockdown. The cheerful cobbler is confident the worst is over, reports Sidhartha Roy. **P 2**

## PRICE BANDS & NEW SOPs

**Category: Flight Time: Fare**

- A. Under 40 mins:** ₹2,000-6,000: Delhi-Jaipur
- B. 40-60 mins:** ₹2,500-7,500: Delhi-Lucknow
- C. 60-90 mins:** ₹3,000-9,000: Delhi-Varanasi/Patna
- D. 90-120 mins:** ₹3,500-10,000: Delhi-Pune or Bhubaneswar
- E. 120-150 mins:** ₹4,500-13,000: Delhi-Agartala/Bangalore/Goa
- F. 150-180 mins:** ₹5,500-15,700: Delhi-Imphal/Kochi/Mangalore
- G. 180-210 mins:** ₹6,500-18,600: Delhi-Coimbatore/Thiruvananthapuram

## Key Rules For Flyers

- Flyers not allowed to consume any eatables** except on health grounds
- Pregnant women and those with health issues advised to avoid air travel** in first phase
- Those staying in containment zone** and those who are Covid +ve can't fly. Will face penal action
- Web-check-in, only one cabin bag, one check-in bag allowed**
- Download bag tag & stick its printout on check-in bag.** If unable to get printout, write PNR on paper & string it to bag. Instead of bag tag as receipt, will get an SMS
- Children below 14 don't need Aarogya Setu app**

said there may not be any requirement to quarantine domestic passengers. "The rules of different states will need to be followed. It does not seem domestic flyers will need to be quarantined," Puri said.

The new protocol for flying has also been finalised that, among other things,

prohibits eating on board (except for health reasons), advises pregnant women, the elderly and people with health issues not to fly for now and replaces check-in bag tags that passengers used to get with SMSS.

**Containment zone, P 11**

## BIG CITY PARKS OPEN, WALKERS BACK



After remaining shut to the public for close to two months, the bigger parks and gardens under New Delhi Municipal Council reopened on Thursday. Morning walkers were an elated lot, glad to leave behind their claustrophobic, Covid-forced existence for some fresh air. They may have missed the spring blooms, but there were other attractions — like this flock of ducks at Lodhi Garden. The iconic central Delhi park opened its gates to walkers and joggers at 7 in the morning | **P 5**

# DDA reopens sports complexes, but keeps swimming pools shut

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**New Delhi:** The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) reopened 15 sports complexes, 39 fitness centres and two golf courses on Thursday, with strict adherence to social distancing norms and health protocols as per the government guidelines.

However, swimming pools will remain closed. Two months after it was closed for the public, several members hit the badminton courts, jogging tracks and golf range at the Siri Fort complex on Thursday.

"We have put up advisory outside all parks asking people to maintain a 2-metre distance, not to touch open gym equipment. Those with symptoms like cough, cold, sneezing, fever have been strictly advised not to visit any park," a DDA official said.

**Members only, P 5**

## ONLINE BOOKING

- Only members allowed at sports complexes** after booking online slots
- Tokens to be given if online booking not available**
- Members need to have Aarogya Setu app, wear mask, gloves, carry hand sanitizers, water and towels**
- Facilities opened include tennis, badminton, TT, golf, shooting range, archery, walking and jogging track**

## Are pools safe? Debate rages on

**S**wimming pools across the city are likely to remain shut all through the summer amid debates over whether chlorine concentration between 1 and 5 mg/l decontaminates the water and neutralises the coronavirus. At least 183 establishments have licences to run swimming pools in the city. **P 5**

## At 571, biggest spike in Delhi cases; count up 1,605 in 3 days

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**New Delhi:** New Covid-19 cases in Delhi surged to another new high, the third in as many days, with 571 more people testing positive for the disease on Thursday and 18 patients succumbing to the virus.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the city had recorded 500 and 534 new cases, respectively. Delhi has seen a 16% rise in positive cases in the three days since May 18, pointing to a surge in infections as the city opens up after three lockdown phases.

It is not clear from which areas the maximum number of new cases is coming from because the Delhi government is not making district-wise or containment zone-wise data public.

**Cases may peak soon, P 3**

# Riot accused turns out to be man who took gunshot victim to hosp

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**New Delhi:** A recent bail order of a man accused of rioting in northeast Delhi in February this year has revealed that he had, in fact, rushed a gunshot victim from his locality to a hospital.

Asad (23), through his co-counsel UA Khan, had sought bail with the contention that he had helped a person named Asaf, who was injured by a bullet during the riots. The co-counsel also said that no specific role in the case had been attributed to Asad. The prosecutor, however, argued that the

## ₹20K BAIL BOND

- Asad had sought bail saying he had helped a person named Asaf, who was injured by a bullet during the riots**
- When asked, IO told court Asad hadn't caused the gunshot injury** and had taken the injured person to hospital
- Court directed Asad to furnish bail bond of ₹20,000 and a surety of same amount**

applicant was a "close associate of the accused persons".

In his testimony, the investigating officer first stated that a patrol officer saw a

large number of rioters near Jafraabad Metro station who pelted stones and then he heard a gunshot. He said Asad was standing with the rioters and sloganeering. However, when the court specifically asked if Asad had caused the gunshot injury, the IO replied in the negative. He also admitted that Asad had taken the injured man to hospital.

Additional sessions judge Manjushwa Wadhwa then held that the applicant hadn't caused the gunshot injury and he deserved bail.

**Under scanner, P 4**





Another 37 trains to start from Delhi's five railway stations from June 1 | 4

42.7°  
MAXIMUM

24.8°  
MINIMUM

FORECAST ▶ Partly cloudy sky. Possibility of very light rain set up for quarantine homes, containment zones and home isolation cases

SUNRISE 5.27AM (SAT)  
SUNSET 7.09PM (FRI)

MOONRISE 5.12AM (FRI)  
MOONSET 7.48PM (SAT)

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020



Delhi high court to operate with its full strength of judges from today | 7

11659 TOTAL COVID-19 CASES			
NEW CASES 571	ACTIVE CASES 5,720		
DISCHARGED 5,898	DEAD 194		

IGI to offer contactless food service when operations resume on May 25 | 4



# Gloves off: Medical waste poses a new crisis

## Discarded PPE Kits And Other Items Up Risk Of Infection

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**New Delhi:** With discarded PPE kits, masks, gloves and items used to treat Covid-19 patients collecting by the minute in hospitals, the risk of this biomedical waste infecting sanitation workers has also gone up. Under new guidelines, Central Pollution Control Board has instructed healthcare facilities to use double layered bags to store Covid-19 related biomedical waste and label it for easy identification by Central Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTFs). Delhi has two CBWTFs, which can process up to 63 tonnes of biomedical waste each day.

According to Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the capital daily generates 25 tonnes of biomedical waste. A study by environmental poison watchdog Toxics Link in 2019 titled "Spreading infections?" noted after inspecting healthcare facilities and hospitals in Delhi's 11 districts that infectious waste was being dumped as part of municipal solid waste. To compound the problem, a number of such facilities were not registered with DPCC.

The study observed that 27.8% of the bedded healthcare facilities did not even have needle cutters, mandatory under the rules for disposal of needles. Around 34% did not have wheeled transportation for waste and often moved the hazardous garbage through patient areas. An alarming 26.4% of the surveyed facilities were also found pouring liquid waste in public sewers.

Priti Mahesh, programme coordinator, Toxics Link, and part of the study, said deficiencies in Delhi's health-

## NO EASY WAY OUT

### How corporations are managing biomedical waste

- ▶ Parallel stream of waste collection set up for quarantine homes, containment zones and home isolation cases
- ▶ Each zone has one auto-tipper vehicle reserved for parallel stream
- ▶ Each vehicle has three people with PPE kits and disinfecting knapsack pump
- ▶ Staff trained about precautions
- ▶ Waste handed over in twin-layer yellow bags
- ▶ Waste taken to biomedical waste processing facility and incinerated by EDMC and North DMC; SDMC

### What experts say

- 1 Safai Karamchari Ayog has demanded better quality equipment for workers and safer methods to collect masks
- 2 Experts say instead of single-use mask, people should use reusable cloth masks
- 3 Waste segregation at homes should be encouraged

### The problems

A 2019 Toxics Link study in Delhi at 38 healthcare facilities found healthcare staff were handling biomedical waste without appropriate personal protective equipment

Study also found that 27.9% of the bedded facilities did not have needle cutters (mandatory under the rules) to destroy needles while disposing waste

34% did not have wheeled intramural transportation systems and were transporting waste through patient areas

26.4% were disposing the liquid waste in public sewers

Only 57.9% were found to have a dedicated biomedical waste management committee mandated under the rules

Photo: Paras Singh

### Healthcare facilities

5,394 healthcare facilities in Delhi till 2017

1,478 are bedded hospitals and nursing homes

Around 25 tonnes of biomedical waste being produced each day at hospitals and healthcare facilities

Waste coming from 78 containment zones and 2,739 home isolation cases is categorised as biomedical

2 Biomedical waste handling units in Delhi with capacity to handle 63 tonnes of hazardous waste per day



the bedded facilities did not have needle cutters (mandatory under the rules) to destroy needles while disposing waste

34% did not have wheeled intramural transportation systems and were transporting waste through patient areas

26.4% were disposing the liquid waste in public sewers

Only 57.9% were found to have a dedicated biomedical waste management committee mandated under the rules

Graphic: Sunil Singh

care system's management of biomedical waste have become crucial with the Covid-19 pandemic. "We have rules for disposal, but they need to be implemented," Mahesh said. "Anything that can possibly infect people have to be taken to the biomedical waste treatment facility and incinerator properly. If mixed with general waste or poorly packed, sanitation workers could get infected."

As recently as January 2020, DPCC had informed the National Green Tribunal that 48 Delhi healthcare facilities were not in compliance with

the biomedical waste management rules and imposed fines of Rs1.3 crore on them. "The new guidelines have been sent to hospitals and isolation centres dealing with Covid-19 patients. Inspections will also be carried out to ensure they comply with the norms," said a DPCC official.

Swati Singh Sambyal, a Delhi-based solid-waste management expert, rued the lack of implementation of CPCB's swift guidelines on handling of Covid-related trash. "If we want to reduce community transmission, effective management of bio-

medical waste is important. DPCC and other state pollution control boards need to be active and monitor healthcare facilities," Sambyal said, pointing out in addition that even quarantined houses are not segregating waste posing a problem for society. This highlights the need to incentivise sanitation workers, she said.

A doctor at Rajiv Gandhi Super-Specialty Hospital, designated a Covid-19 treatment facility, agreed that the magnitude of biomedical waste had increased. "We have large quantities of used PPEs, masks and disposable bedsheets. A private company takes care of their disposal," the doctor said. He admitted that healthcare workers involved in waste management had become apprehensive about handling Covid waste, but said they were provided protective gear and training to undertake their tasks.

Ashish Jain, founder director, Indian Pollution Control Association, advised the segregation of masks, gloves and PPE kits for 72 hours to kill the virus. "Disinfecting items before getting rid of them also reduces chance of infection," said Jain.

## Why home isolation is a headache for civic bodies

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**New Delhi:** Covid-19 patients with mild or no visible symptoms are being sent into self-isolation at their homes. This is a big challenge to the municipal system that collects and disposes of household garbage. There are two biomedical waste management units in Delhi that currently take care of waste from quarantine homes and containment zones, but the civic bodies might need to look at alternatives if the volume of hazardous trash increases.

Since the coronavirus outbreak, Delhi has had a separate system for collecting waste from infected households and institutions designated to handle Covid-19 patients. An SDMC sanitation worker involved in the process explained how specially designated teams were equipped with PPE kits and worked for six hours each day. He and his team members have been provided temporary accommodation to prevent infection at home, and are subjected to thermal tests numerous times during the day. The worker said, "We ask self-isolated households to place the garbage in a bag at some corner and spray it with sodium hypochlorite solution. We disinfect the bag and the surrounding areas before placing the trash in the auto tipper."

Ira Singhal, deputy commissioner of North Delhi Municipal Corporation, said more than 11.4 tonnes of biomedical waste had been accumulated in the civic body's areas. "Our concessionaires have a team specifically for this purpose in each of our six municipal zones," Singhal said. "When a new positive case is reported to us, we communicate the house address to the collection teams." A collection vehicle with a team of three wearing personal protection equipment kits collect the garbage in double-layered yellow bags as prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board. The bags are disinfected with sodium hypochlorite and deposited in the processing facility.

The south corporation, which has the highest load of contaminated garbage, too has a special team each for its four zones. SDMC spokesperson Radha Krishan said that around three tonnes of biomedical trash are collected and incinerated at the Okhla waste-to-energy plant every day. The east corporation has a similar setup, and its collection teams handle trash not only from the containment zones, but also from 300-500 houses depending on cases and quarantine pendencies.

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TONNES OF BIOMEDICAL WASTE IN AREAS UNDER NORTH CORPORATION

Initially the workers unions alleged unsafe practices, but the arrangements are better now. Sanjay Gahlot, president, Delhi Safai Karamchari Aayog, said, "Workers are provided protection kits, though we wish the quality was better." Gahlot also an awareness campaign against people throwing face masks in the household garbage. The civic bodies need to find better ways for the disposal of used masks, he added.

Experts say that using cloth masks and segregating household waste will aid the authorities in safely handling daily waste. As it is, it is already a problem that used masks are ending up at the landfills. Chitra Mukherjee, advocacy head at NGO Chintan, which works with ragpickers, said ideally people should use cloth masks and reuse them after frequent washing. "The only solution to the disposal of single-use masks, which can't be reused like cloth ones, is to collect them separately and incinerate them but we don't have a separate collection process," she said, adding it was risky that lakhs of masks were being mixed with normal household waste.



Paras Singh

A COVER-UP THAT'S MUCH NEEDED

## 75 corp'n teachers go 'missing', issued show-cause notices

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** At a time when most corporation schools are working as ration distribution centres, more than 75 teachers from south and north corporation schools — who were supposed to be deployed on distribution duty — stopped responding to municipal corporations' attempts to contact them. The civic bodies have issued show-cause notices to all such teachers, threatening to start disciplinary proceedings against them.

A senior south corporation official said that these teachers have been missing since March 20, while it was explicitly mentioned in the orders that they cannot move out of station without seeking a prior permission from the department.

"For last two months they have not been responding to phone calls or notices. We were forced to issue the 24-hour notices now," the official added. A senior official said that teachers have been deputed on food and ration distribution duty as well as online teaching courses.

The show-cause notices issued by the deputy director of education stated that clear guidelines were issued through WhatsApp to all the teachers. "You were supposed to perform duty at the cooked food distribution centres during Covid pandemic, but without sanctioned leave you left Delhi, which is in contravention to department rules and an intentional act to disrupt government services. If you do not respond in 24 hours, action will be initiated under conduct rules, 1964," the notices said.

## Cops to maintain safe distance while handling crowds

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Policemen overseeing the gathering of migrants and, at times, protesters, have been asked by their superiors to maintain a safe distance, even while removing them from the site.

In the guidelines issued by Delhi Police commissioner SN Shrivastava, cops handling a crowd have been asked to wear protective gear over their uniform. The crowd would be warned and asked from a distance to disperse after which the area would be cordoned off with barricades so that no one else joins in.

Police officers said the guidelines were only illustrative in nature and other instructions issued from time-to-time would be meticulously followed. "It is imperative that the duties by police station staff are performed in such a manner that they are able to protect themselves from Covid-19," the guidelines added.

All protesters would be warned about the threat of the spread of the novel coronavirus. They would also be advised to follow social distancing and use face masks, sanitisers and gloves.

"The policemen will be provided face shields and other protective equipment as per requirements. All anti-riot equipment must be



Anindya Chattopadhyay

CAUTION IN THE LINE OF DUTY

disinfected before being used," the guidelines mentioned. Cops have been asked to use sufficient barricades and ropes to avoid physical contact with the crowd.

The SHO of the local police station would be accountable for providing sufficient quantities of sanitiser, soap, gloves and face masks to the lower-rank officers. The requirements would have to be sent to office of the additional DCP and followed up so that they are made available in time.

ACPs have been asked to visit

one police station daily and minutely inspect the entire complex, right from the sentry post to the barracks, to see whether the guidelines are being followed.

A daily report will have to be submitted by them to the DCP by 5pm on WhatsApp along with photographs mentioning the shortcomings and remedial measures taken. The report will also mention the availability of equipment like sanitisers, face masks and shields, gloves, thermal meters, etc at the police station.

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**New Delhi:** With several food volunteers getting infected with Covid-19 in the past few days, Delhi government has asked district administrations to capture the data of all people who are provided lunch and dinner at each hunger relief centre (HRC) in the capital.

In a note to all district magistrates earlier this week, the revenue department has asked them to depute volunteers at the HRCs to collect contact details of each and every beneficiary to ensure that they can be traced later in case of corona outbreak at any of these centres.

Though the DM offices had been asked to collect the details in April itself, sources said it was done only to some extent.

The district magistrates

have been asked to compile the data and send it to the divisional commissioner's office on priority. Each HRC will have two defence volunteers, who will collect the details and feed them on a web-link prepared by the revenue department.

"All DMs should ensure that we have the contact details of each and every beneficiary to meet any eventuality related to contact tracing, which is absolutely essential for containment of corona pandemic. All DMs should submit the data within two working days," said the revenue department's note.

Officials said that data capturing was required as per the direction of the ministry of home affairs.

According to officials, more than nine lakh people are

provided both lunch and dinner at about 1,400-odd HRCs and over 400 other locations. Each centre has the capacity to provide cooked food to 500 people. The food is prepared by various agencies that were involved in providing mid-day meal to government schools students and several other religious and charity organisations.

The HRCs have been set up at various government and corporation schools in the city. While the principals of the schools have been made in-charge of the centres, teachers and civil defence volunteers distribute the food. Every day, the principals report the details of the time when the food arrive at HRCs, its quantity and quality to the revenue department.

9L  
PROVIDED MEALS AT THE FOOD CENTRES DAILY

AS OFFICE HUBS REOPEN, THE CHAIWALLAH, THE COBBLER AND OTHERS ARE BACK IN BUSINESS — ALBEIT AT A MUCH LOWER SCALE

## The shoe must go on: Roadside shops limping back to normalcy

Sidhartha.Roy@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Things may not be fully normal on Kasturba Gandhi Marg and only a few kiosks selling biscuits and wafers have resumed business though there is a small crowd at Maurya Tea Stall, popular for its brew with the alluring taste of ginger, cardamom and saffron. But a more reassuring hint of normalcy in Delhi's central business district is the reopened 'Beauty Parlour for Shoes' near Antriksh Bhavan. After two months, cobbler Raj Kamal is back on watch though he has as yet few customers.

The 57-year-old, who calls himself a *chamra chikitshak* (leather doctor) and his trade the beautifying of soles, continually catered to officer goers since 1988, until the novel coro-



STITCHING TOGETHER A LIVELIHOOD: Raj Kamal's 'beauty parlour for shoes' has reopened after two months; tea is back in demand too

navirus forced a two-month break. The cheerful cobbler is confident that the worst is now behind. His face clearly smiling behind his mask, Raj Kamal said, "The last two months have been extremely tough and

I had to borrow money to sustain my family of five. However, this is an unprecedented event. We have to move on."

From Shankar Market to Shivaji Stadium, the arc of interconnected lanes and by-



Photos: Piyal Bhattacharjee

lanes of Connaught Place is dotted with eateries, stationery and photostat outlets, grocery stores and cyber cafes, garages and paan shops, their clientele being the thousands of employees in the

high-rise office buildings. The shops here, like in the office hubs of Nehru Place, ITO, Rajendra Place, Central Secretariat, among others, fully depend on office workers for their livelihood.

"Most offices are functioning with less than half the staff and between 11 am and 4 pm. As a result, I don't have too many customers at the moment, but things will im-

COBBLER SAYS  
Most offices have half the staff so I don't have too many customers, but things will improve

ning yet. "I have been staying near the food van this entire period because I couldn't return to my home in Bihar," said cook Santosh Kumar. "My employer has been providing

SHOPOWNER SAYS  
Most people are working from home now. I don't think things will improve before December

prove," Raj Kamal exuded optimism. Sanjay Kaul, who has run a stationery and photostat business near Barakhamba Road since 1998, wasn't so sure. "I don't think things will improve before December," he said.

The usually popular roadside eateries aren't func-

me food. There's no point going home now because shops are gradually reopening."

On Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, the kiosk selling paan masala, cigarettes, soft drinks, biscuits, even pens and lighters, used to be crowded with bankers, marketing executives, courier boys and

media professionals. Owner Rajendra (name changed), who didn't have the time to take a deep breath earlier, today sits waiting patiently for a customer. "I have been trying to earn something after the relaxations were announced," he said. "Before the lockdown, I was busy from 9.30am right up to 10.30pm when I packed up for the day. But few people are coming to the offices at the moment."

He continued, "I have been desperate to open the shop, having eaten into most of my savings in the last two months. Business is slow, but I hope my regular customers are back soon." He surveyed the normally choked lane, taking heart in his shop at least reopening, unlike the area's famous paratha shops, which continue to remain shuttered.



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# At 42.7°C, Delhi's hottest day so far

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The capital recorded its hottest day of the season so far with the mercury touching 42.7 degrees Celsius on Thursday and crossing 44°C at Palam. Temperatures are likely to rise even further in the next few days, touching 44° by Sunday, say IMD officials. Met officials forecast a spell of light rain on Friday, with gusty winds by the night.

This season, the previous highest at Safdarjung — the base station for the capital — was 40.9 degrees Celsius on May 9. Before this, Delhi had largely been witnessing days cooler than what is considered normal. In fact, till May 15, Delhi's average monthly temperature had been 1.5 degrees below the average normal monthly temperature.

"A spell of very light rain may occur on Friday and Saturday, but it will not be enough to bring a cooling effect," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist at IMD. Last year, temperatures touched 44.7°C on May 31. Since 2011, the maximum in May has always touched 44°, going as high as 46° in 2013 and 2015.

Forecast for Friday shows the possibility of light rain, accompanied by gusty winds at a speed of 30-40 km/hr. However, the maximum temperature is expected to be around 43 degrees Celsius.

# Four more zones sealed, total 77

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** With four more additions, the total number of containment zones in Delhi touched 77.

According to the list shared by the government on Friday, the new zones sealed by the administration included three blocks at Jahangirpuri and one in Azadpur in the north district. Friday's list also included the names of two areas of south district — parts of Zamrudpur village and blocks of Dakshin-puri — whose containment orders were issued on Wednesday.

In fact, Jahangirpuri has emerged as one of the biggest Covid-19 hotspots in the city, with six blocks already contained by the administration. Sources said that several blocks in the periphery of the containment zones have been categorised as buffer zones, with limited activities permitted in the area.

Of the 77 containment zones, scaling down orders have been issued for nine areas. The government has also de-contained 32 residential pockets, which have completed 28 days of containment.

**32**  
RESIDENTIAL COLONIES IN THE CITY DE-SEALED

# 'Contactless' food on menu when IGI reboots

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** To minimise Covid-19 infection risks to passengers, as mandatory under protocols announced by the central government, Indira Gandhi International Airport will offer the first-of-its-kind contactless food orders when operations resume on May 25.

The airport will partner HOI, an app that helps travellers navigate airports, to safely order and pick up meals before the flights. Contactless food ordering and payment services are unique features of the HOI app. It promises to provide the enhanced safety features necessary while traveling during the pandemic.

Officials said that carrying food from home could lead to tedious check processes at a time when the passengers' focus should be to catch flights on time. The HOI app is help-



WAY TO GO IN THE FUTURE

ful, therefore, in identifying food outlets at the terminal for orders via smartphones. Payments too can be similarly processed. It will optimise the travellers' wait times at the food courts because orders and payments can be done before the passenger reaches the airport.

Officials said that passengers can download the app on their Android or iOS device, sign up and add their flight details. For contactless orders, passengers have to scan the QR codes at the outlets or directly go to the app's web catalogue, add their choice of

meals to the cart, pay online and pick up their order. The user can choose either the eat-in option or collect-at-outlet alternative for their meals.

Apart from contactless food ordering, the app has other useful features, such as real-time flight status alerts, boarding gate and belt information, airport facility information, time to gate and waiting estimates and information about the weather at the destination.

"Passenger experience is prime to us even at this challenging time. As social distancing has become the new normal due to the pandemic, we have taken many initiatives to enhance passenger safety and comply with Covid-19 safety measures and adopted a unique platform to extend contactless solutions to the flyers," explained the spokesperson of GMR Airports Ltd, the airport developer. The

same model is being installed at the Hyderabad airport too.

The spokesperson added, "HOI app comes with a comprehensive feature that lets the passenger enjoy contactless food service at the airport. Besides food and beve-

## IGI DEVELOPER SAYS

**As social distancing has become the new normal, we have taken initiatives for passenger safety**

rages, passengers can also discover retail stores and other facilities available at the Delhi and Hyderabad airports. Further, this app enables users to get connected to the airport Wi-Fi with its One Touch Free Wi-Fi feature and download content in a jiffy."

# Come June, 37 more trains to run from Delhi's five railway stations

Platforms For Departure & Arrivals To Be Demarcated; Separate Entry & Exit

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@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** After successfully operating 15 special and Shramik trains from New Delhi, Delhi Junction and Anand Vihar, the capital's railway stations are set to get busier from June 1 as Northern Railway plans to run 100 more trains.

Of the 100 trains, 37 will be connected to the five major stations — New Delhi, Delhi Junction, Sarai Rohilla, Hazrat Nizamuddin and Anand Vihar. The trains, including Mail, Express, Jan Shatabdi and non-AC Durgam, will cover locations that were previously not on the list of the 15 special trains.

Northern Railway clarified that Delhi Junction and Anand Vihar would continue to operate Shramik Specials, while hosting passenger trains from June 1.

"We are currently operating a large number of Shramik Specials daily, in addition to the special trains. A system is being developed that will ensure Shramik and special trains can run from the same station," said Deepak Kumar, CPRO, Northern Railway. Going forward, social dis-

**NOW RUNNING...**

**TOTAL TRAINS FROM DELHI** **37** 74 journeys, including trains back to Delhi

**Mail/express train**

**From New Delhi (NDLS):** To Lucknow Jn (Lucknow Mail) | Rajgir (Shramjeevi Express) | Rajendra Nagar (Sampark Kranti Express) | Prayagraj (Prayagraj Express) | Lucknow (Gomti Express) | Kanpur (Shram Shakti Express) | Manduadih (Shivganga Express) | Yesvantpur (Karnataka Sampark Kranti Express) | Hyderabad (Telangana Express) | Puri (Purushottam Express) | Visakhapatnam (AP Express) | Varanasi (Mahamana Express) | Saharsa (Vaishali Express) | Howrah (Poorva Express)

**Sarai Rohilla (DEE) | To** Jodhpur (Sampark Kranti)

**Old Delhi (DLI) | To** Ahmedabad (Ashram Express), Alipurduar (Mahananda Express), Dibrugarh (Brahmaputra Mail)

**Hazrat Nizamuddin (NZM) | To** Habibganj (Bhopal Express), Ernakulam

**(Mangla Express),** Udaipur (Mewar Express), Jabalpur

**Anand Vihar (ANVT) | To** Bapudham Motihari (Champan Satyagrah Express), Muzaffarpur (Sapt Kranti Express), Raxaul (Satyagrah Express), Ghazipur (Suhaildev Express)

**Janshatabdi trains**

**New Delhi (NDLS) | To** Dehradun, Una Himachal, Darbhanga

**Sarai Rohilla (DEE) | To** Ajmer

**Hazrat Nizamuddin (NZM) | To** Kota, Ahmedabad, Vasco Da Gama

**Durgam trains having non-AC coaches**

**Hazrat Nizamuddin (NZM) |** Ernakulam, Secunderabad

Photo: AFP

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EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN TRIBUTE

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**SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

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(26.11.1931-22.05.2018)

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Bhijayant 'Jay', Paramita, Nivedita, Subhrakant, Jagi, Braja, K.G. Shailika, Rishi, Reva, Anvita, Aditya, Roshni, Kaetana  
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With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved

**Mr Brij Mohan Saxena**  
S/o Late Shri Girdhari Lal Saxena  
(of Hoshiarpur) on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

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You will be in our hearts forever.  
May your soul rest in peace.

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Rahul Saxena,  
Ishaani & Shaina

(15.01.1943 to 10.05.2020)

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*Shree Baba Bhagat Mohanram*

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# Work at Honda's Gurgaon plant to resume in June

Shubhra.Pant@timesgroup.com

**Gurgaon:** Honda Motorcycles and Scooters India will be the third original equipment manufacturer, after Maruti and Hero, to resume production in Gurgaon since the lockdown began. It will start with its Karnataka plants on May 25 and the Gurgaon plant will resume production in the first week of June.

"Production will resume in a phased manner starting May 25 from our biggest plant at Narsapura in Karnataka, followed by the other three plants from the first week of June," a Honda spokesperson said. All of Honda's 300-odd supplier plants have also received approvals to resume operations. The company said it will follow guidelines issued by the Union home ministry and state governments and conduct temperature checks of staff, ensure they wear masks

and enable social distancing.

As for the demand, the company said things are picking up. "Over 60% of Honda dealers have resumed sales and service operations by now. Initial enquiries, though subdued compared to the pre-lockdown period, are gaining momentum," the spokesperson added.

## A UNION MEMBER SAYS

**Usually, about 6,000 workers are employed at the Manesar plant. Now, the number is just 600**

The two other OEMs that have resumed production, however, are still operating on a small scale. Maruti resumed production at its Gurgaon plant three days ago and at Manesar on May 12. Hero Motocorp had started production in Gurgaon and Dharuhera

earlier this month. But both have not stepped up production.

"The plant is functional, but with about 15-20% of its capacity. Usually, about 6,000 workers are employed at the Manesar plant. Now, it's just about 600," said a labour union member who works at Maruti. Those at the Hero units said the same. In fact, ancillary units have not been able to step up production either: Union leaders said ancillary units are functioning at 50% capacity. "As of now, we are working with half our total strength. And workers are just being trained now, actual production has not even begun," said Atul, a union member at auto components manufacturer Bellsonica Corporation.

The reason comes down to availability of labour — most workers are either migrants from other states or from other NCR cities. Hero said the "company will step up production in a graded manner." Maruti did not comment.

# Riots: Jamia student booked under UAPA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police's Special Cell on Thursday booked Asif Iqbal Tanha, a student of Jamia Millia Islamia, under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) accusing him of being a conspirator in the riots that took place in the capital earlier this year.

Tanha was earlier arrested by Delhi Police's Crime Branch on charges of being involved in the riots outside Jamia in December last year.

A resident of Jharkhand's Hazaribagh, Tanha lived in Abul Fazl Enclave and was pursuing a bachelor's course in Arabic from the varsity. He was also one of the leaders of the United Against Hate movement. Cops found WhatsApp chats that suggested that Tanha was actively involved in the conspiracy, which led to the violence that killed over 50 people in northeast Delhi. According to the cops, Tanha, an office bearer of the Students Islamic Organisation, was allegedly found to be instigating students to resort to violence during the anti-CAA protests outside Jamia in December last year. He was arrested on the basis of the eyewitness accounts.

The FIR registered at the Jamia Nagar police station after the violence had named Tanha along with student leader, Chandan Kumar, and former MLA, Asif Muhammad Khan. Sources said that in several videos, Tanha was seen leading students who later got violent and pelted stones. According to police, Tanha had also asked his followers to block the road near the Jamia even as a mob had gone berserk and burnt several DTC buses.

During interrogation, Tanha claimed that initially he had tried to contain them but had left the area when the crowd became violent.

# Aid given to Covid +ve cops cut by 90%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** With more number of police personnel getting infected with the novel coronavirus, Delhi Police has decided to reduce the amount being given to the positive cops by 90%. Now, a Covid-19 positive cop will get just Rs 10,000, instead of Rs one lakh as announced earlier.

Senior officers, however, said that Delhi Police would continue to bear medical expenses of the infected cops. Around 300 police officers have tested positive for the coronavirus so far.

Meanwhile, the amount for police officers who die on duty due to Covid-19 has been increased from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

The decisions were taken at a recent meeting. "If any police officer gets infected, we make all efforts to ensure that they heal fast. We even ensure that their families are doing fine. Senior police officers have been asked to facilitate their hospital admissions and cater to other needs," a senior policeman told TOI on Thursday.

Until recently, the money from the police welfare fund was being used for various measures which are being implemented for the cops who got affected from novel coronavirus.

Sources said that the proposal to set up a separate Covid fund had also been approved. It would have around Rs 4 crore which might be used for the medical and other expenses of the police officers on duty. From senior officers to the constabulary level, everyone would contribute to the fund. Even the multi-tasking staff members would contribute around Rs 200 towards the special fund.

# Autos, taxis to be sanitised at CNG stations

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**New Delhi:** Auto rickshaw, taxi, gramin sewa and other public service vehicles (PSV) will soon be thoroughly sanitised daily at the nearly 350 filling stations in Delhi where CNG is available.

"It is mandatory for all PSV drivers to disinfect the passenger seat after each drop-off for the safety of the next passenger. While all drivers are following the guidelines, we have found out that there is no uniformity in the material they are using to disinfect the seats," a Delhi government official said. "For instance, many are not getting the right proportion of surface disinfectants like sodium sulphate with water. Also, different types of disinfectants are being used," he added.

To ensure there is uniformity and vehicles are disinfected in a scientific manner, the government is planning to provide disinfection facilities at filling stations where CNG is available.

"There will be a nominal charge of around Rs 20-25 for the facility and vehicles will be provided certificates of disinfection," he said. The enforcement branch has also launched a drive against vehicles carrying excess passengers than allowed.

# 'Riot accused under scanner in 700 cases'

► Continued from P1

Keeping in view that the investigation in the present matter qua the applicant is complete and the fact that he did not cause the gunshot injury to the victim, rather he had taken the injured to the hospital, the applicant is admitted to bail," the court said. He was directed to furnish a bail bond of Rs 20,000 with one surety of the same amount.

The prosecution had argued that Asad's role was being "scanned" in about 700 cases registered in relation to the riots. "He may threaten the complainant and get involved in similar offences, if released on bail," it was contended.



# As parks reopen, Delhi takes corona restrictions in stride

## While NDMC Has Thrown Open Its Gates, Others Yet To Take A Final Call

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**New Delhi:** West Kidwai Nagar resident R K Beniwal, an orthopaedic surgeon, hadn't been able to go for his morning jogs for two months and was making do with yoga at home. On Thursday, he had a pleasant surprise at Lodhi Gardens. "I was here by chance," he said, elated to see that the green space favoured by early-morning walkers had reopened

But it wasn't quite the regular sight that the 52-year-old saw around him. When the garden opened at 7am after the Covid-19 closure, as did Nehru Park a couple of kilometres away, the regulars who congregate there for exercises and the casual visitors alike were protected by face masks, face shields, even surgical caps. "This is the new normal. We have to live with Covid-19 for two-three

### A DOCTOR SAYS

**We have to live with Covid-19 for 2-3 years at least. This is a good start to regaining normalcy**

years at least," Dr Beniwal remarked. "This is a good start to regaining normalcy."

On Wednesday New Delhi

Municipal Council had issued an order reopening parks and gardens in its areas, including Lodhi Garden, Nehru Park and Talkatora Garden, "for the limited purpose of walking, jogging and running on the walking tracks from May 21 till further orders". These green areas are to be open between 7am and 10am and from 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

At Talkatora Garden, however, the gates were still clo-

sed. "Kagaz nahi aaya humare yaha (We are yet to receive a written order to reopen)," a guard said. Nakul Gill, 31, who lives in Gole Market, was disappointed. Drinking "herbal juice" at a stall nearby, he said, "I will come tomorrow. Hopefully, the kagaz will have come by then."

Naveen Gupta had no such problems at the sprawling Nehru Park. Deprived of his daily workout, he persevered at home using apps for instructions. He read the news about the reopening and was there on Thursday. "Reopening is a good idea provided we take precautionary measures and maintain social distancing," the 46-year-old Sarvapriya Vihar resident said.

Many people met their walking buddies "after ages", but kept a safe distance from each other. Some came with their dogs, others to feed the stray canines in the parks. A few jogged, but most walked on the manicured, if slightly unkempt, pathways. Some performed yoga, while a 25-year-old could be seen shadowboxing.

There were a couple of cases of spitting detected, despite an enhanced fine of Rs 1,000 since April under the Disaster Management Act for urinating and/or spitting in the open, both acts that risk visitors to Covid-19 infection. "People just don't seem to care," rued Lajpat Nagar resident Sonam Tobgyal, 50, who was there with his 17-year-old son Deva. "In these troubled times, you must care about yourself and for those around you."

Delhi has over 18,000 parks and gardens spread across 8,000 hectares. While globally, experts remain divided about whether opening of green spaces will lead to crowding or spreading of infection through touching of park equipment, many argue for resumption accompanied by capping of visitors. "Walking is a must for immunity," insisted B K Narula, 64, of Defence Colony, a regular at Lodhi Garden since 1983.

### YOU AREN'T INVITED...

**182** licensed establishments that run swimming pools  
**17** run by DDA sports complexes  
**7** north corporation  
**1** south corporation  
**3** NDMC  
\*Rest are private or run by clubs

**1 pool per 1.2 lakh population in Delhi**

Normal season **April to July**

### GLOBAL DEBATE

#### FOR OPENING OF POOLS

- No data to show how coronavirus responds to chlorine, but chlorine known to inactivate similar viruses
- Chlorine concentration between 1 and 5 mg/L decontaminates pool water
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found no evidence of transmission through pool water

#### AGAINST

- Crowding can happen in pools, their premises
- Problem of commonly touched surfaces like handrails and general hygiene
- Indoor pool likely to pose a similar risk of spread as other indoor spaces
- Water going inside the body through the mouth is a risk

# No splash: Pools likely to stay shut entire summer

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**New Delhi:** Though sports complexes have been allowed to open, swimming pools across the city are likely to remain shut all through the summer due to fear of spread of the novel coronavirus.

Globally, the debate continues whether chlorinated water would be able to neutralise the virus. US Center for Disease Control and Prevention has found no evidence of transmission of Covid-19 through pool water and numerous experts have argued that chlorine concentration between 1 and 5 mg/L decontaminates the water and inactivates the virus.

There are 183 establishments that have licences to run swimming pools. Of these, 17 are with DDA and the rest are operated by private clubs and hotels. Many private academies said that under the current circumstances, it was highly unlikely that pools would be permitted to open, but a few have been taking advance bookings.

Pradeep Kumar from Friends Swimming Academy in New Friends Colony said, "We usually start operations in April, but in the current situation it doesn't seem that swimming will be allowed this year. Even if the government opens pools later, social distancing will be hard to achieve."

A private swimming pool chain in Malviya Nagar has been taking advance bookings in anticipation of a relaxation. "We will ensure FINA guidelines on hygiene. We expect pools to open by mid-June. Normally, we have 15-

20 people in one shift, but that will be restricted now," said a representative.

With just one pool per 1.2 lakh population, the danger of crowding, risks from commonly touched surfaces like handrails, and general hygiene are imminent. Raj Kumar, a caretaker at Khazan Singh Swimming Academy near Baba Gang Nath Marg, said, "We are also waiting for the government relaxation." Last year, when TOI visited the pool, it found no upper limit to the number of swimmers in one batch.

There are just eight swimming pools run by the municipal corporations at Prashant Vihar, Sector 3 Rohini, U and V Block in Shalimar Bagh, Bindra Park Rajouri Garden and mini-stadium Keshavpuram. While north corporation operates seven, the south civic body has only one. East corporation has no such facility.

New Delhi Municipal Council runs just three pools located at Mandir Marg, Sarojini Nagar and Laxmibai Marg. A senior corporation official said, "The pools are likely to remain shut as it will be hard to ensure sanitisation and social distancing. Even if the chlorine levels in the water are increased, the surrounding environment can't be controlled."

Dr Harish Gupta, member of National Medical Commission and Delhi Medical Council, said the effect of chlorination on Covid-19 was still under study and it wouldn't be advisable to open pools. "USA has opened beaches, but not pools. Pools are a closed space and it will be difficult to maintain social distancing. Changing rooms and handrails also pose a risk," he added.

**17 POOLS IN CITY ARE OPERATED BY DDA**



Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay

# In Ggn, odd-even rule to apply for walks

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**Gurgaon:** Residents will be allowed to take walks in the common areas and parks of their housing societies and condos on the basis of odd-even house numbers, guidelines issued by the Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) on Thursday said. The resident welfare associations (RWAs) have been directed to further issue guidelines on this.

While team games and group activities will not be allowed, walks will be restric-

ted between 7am and 7pm. Residents will be allowed to enter or exit the gates of their sectors, colonies and condos for joining their workplaces, but measures like thermal scanning, hand sanitisation and social distancing will have to be followed. Moreover, those living in containment zones or those who have tested positive for Covid-19 or are in home quarantine cannot go to work.

Meanwhile, the MCG also cleared the air on the entry of domestic staff in housing societies, asking the RWAs to permit them with certain restrictions.

While the home ministry guidelines had earlier said domestic helpers could be allowed with all precautions in place, there had been several cases of RWAs refusing to let them in. One society had even asked residents to get their domestic workers tested for Covid-19 and permit them to come only after a negative report.

In the new guidelines issued by MCG commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh, RWAs have been asked to ensure thermal scanning and hand sanitisation of domestic helpers at the entry gate. The

workers must also wear face masks at all times. If the associations fail to adhere to the rules, they could face action. Residents have also been advised to make arrangements for stay of the domestic staff inside their houses to avoid their daily movement.

The restrictions in containment zones remain in place. "If the area of residence of the helpers has been declared as a containment zone, then their entry is not to be permitted by the RWA. Their entry to a containment zone is also not to be permitted," read the guidelines.

## Interview (Online/Offline) in DBT funded projects at ICAR-NBPGR

Online applications are invited to attend the interview for filling up of various posts of project Associates, Research Associates, JRFs, Project Assistants & Field worker etc. in the respective DBT funded projects. The applications may be sent latest by 16.06.2020. Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview (Online/Offline). For more Details please visit website [www.nbpgg.ernet.in](http://www.nbpgg.ernet.in)

Sd/-  
Asstt. Admn officer

# DDA's centres open for members only

► Continued from P 1

Only members were allowed at the sports complexes after booking online slots so that there is no crowding, the official said. The sports complexes, which do not have online booking facilities, were asked to provide tokens to members and put up temporary receptions at main entrance, the official added.

Entry into the facilities is allowed after members download Aarogya Setu application on their mobile phones, wear face mask and gloves, carry hand sanitizers, drinking water and towels. Thermal screening of members and sanitization of shoes inside indoor sports

facilities have been made mandatory.

Those above 65 years of age, children below 10 years and persons with co-morbidity and suffering from chronic disease have been prohibited from entering sports complexes and golf courses, according to the DDA.

Facilities that were opened for members on Thursday include tennis, badminton, table tennis, golf, shooting range, archery, walking and jogging track. The sports complexes will remain open from 8am to 6pm. Not more than 50 members are allowed at jogging tracks at any time. Lockers, shower and changing rooms are not available for members.



SIRI FORT COMPLEX

## WIPRO LIMITED

Registered Office: Doddakannelli, Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru - 560 035.  
Tel:-+91-80-2844 0011, Fax:+91-80-2844 0054  
CIN: L32102KA1945PLC020800  
Email: corp-secretarial@wipro.com  
Website: [www.wipro.com](http://www.wipro.com)

### NOTICE

(For the attention of Equity Shareholders of Wipro Limited)

In order to send annual reports, notices and other communications/benefits to shareholders in electronic form, we request the Members of Wipro Limited ("Company"), who have not yet registered their email address or bank account details, to register the same in respect of shares held in electronic form with the Depository through their Depository Participant(s) and in respect of shares held in physical form by writing to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, KFin Technologies Private Limited, Selenium, Plot 31 & 32, Gachibowli Financial District, Nankramguda, Hyderabad 500 032.

Pursuant to the General Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the Company has enabled a process for the limited purpose of receiving the Company's annual report and notice of the Annual General Meeting (including remote e-voting instructions) electronically and the member may temporarily update their email address by accessing the link <https://www.wipro.com/investors/annual-reports/>.

For **WIPRO LIMITED**  
M Sanaula Khan  
Company Secretary

Date: May 21, 2020  
Place: Bengaluru

### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030

#### RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced persons for the following positions:

Name of the Post	No. of Positions
1 Assistant Director, Pedagogy	1
2 Assistant Director, Evidence-based Policy Analyst (Skills & Livelihoods)	2
3 Assistant Director (e-learning)	1
4 Mission Managers (Training & Development)	2
5 Project Officer (e-learning Operations)	1
6 Project Officer (Training Operations)	2
7 Assistant Director (M&E)	1
8 State Team Manager (M&E)	7
9 Project Officers (M&E)	3
10 Software Engineers	3
11 Legal Officer	1
12 Manager (HR)	1
13 Project Associate (HR & Admin)	2
14 Thematic Expert (Research & Policy)	1
15 Thematic Expert (MIS)	2
16 Thematic Expert (Finance)	1
17 Thematic Expert (IE & ICT)	1
18 Project Assistant	1
19 Content Manager	1

Positions from S. No. 1 to 13, are based at NIRDPR, Hyderabad  
Positions from S. No. 14 to 19, are based at New Delhi

For other details such as Job Description, Qualification, Experience, Work Location, Application Submission etc., please visit our website: [www.career.nirdpr.in](http://www.career.nirdpr.in) ; [www.nirdpr.org.in](http://www.nirdpr.org.in)

Advt. No. : 09/2020  
F.No.: NIRD/AajeevikaSkills/REC/2014-Part(1)

Last Date : 10/06/2020 Addl. Project Director

### CAUVERY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

(A Body Corporate under the Department of Water Resources River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation)

#### Vacancy Circular for one post of Chairman, CWMA

Applications are invited for the post of Chairman, Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), in Level -17 (Rs. 2,25,000/- fixed) of pay matrix to be filled by **deputation (including short term contract)**. The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) has been constituted by Government of India vide its Notification No.S.O.2236 (E), dated 01.06.2018 under the provisions of Section 6A of the Inter-State River Dispute (ISRWD) Act, 1956 to give effect to the decision of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 16.02.2018.

**The last date for receipt of applications for appointment on deputation (including short-term contract) basis to the post of Chairman, CWMA, earlier published in the Employment News editions dated 9-15 November, 2019, 25-31 January, 2020 and 21-27 March, 2020 is hereby extended up to 05.07.2020.**

Persons meeting the eligibility criteria may apply for the post by sending their application, duly signed (in triplicate), in the prescribed proforma, to the Under Secretary (Estt.-IV), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Room No. 435, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001 and by email at [usbm-mowr@nic.in](mailto:usbm-mowr@nic.in) through proper channel.

**Advance copies of applications or applications received after the prescribed period or not accompanied with the requisite information/ documents are liable to be rejected.**

Details of the post, eligibility conditions etc. are available at [www.dopt.gov.in](http://www.dopt.gov.in) and [www.mowr.gov.in](http://www.mowr.gov.in) .

(Shalini Juneja)  
Under Secretary to the Government of India

### Noida Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

Block-III, 3rd Floor, Ganga Shopping Complex, Sector-29  
Noida-201301, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Ph: 0120-4344483 / 84

#### RFP - E-tender for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Plastic Bottle Crushing Machines at NMRC stations.

Tender No: NMRC/CIVIL/PLAST.CRUSHING.MACH/102(R2)/2019 Dated: 22.05.2020

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the captioned project. The Tender shall be uploaded on website <https://etender.up.nic.in> and [www.nmrcnoida.com](http://www.nmrcnoida.com) on date 26.05.2020. The Bidders can download the document from the E-Tender website from tender search by organization name: "Noida Metro Rail Corporation Limited". Amendment/Modification in tender, if any, will be uploaded on either/ both the websites. DGM (Civil)

#### HEAVY WATER PLANT (MANUGURU) Corrigendum to Notice Inviting e-Tenders

General Manager, HWP (M), Gautaminagar, Aswapuram [PO], Bhadradi-Kothagudem [Dist]. T.S., 507116, invites for and on behalf of President of India, online item rate tenders on two bid system for the following work, e-NIT No: **HWPM/CIVIL/COL/NIT/2019/31(2nd Call)**, Name of Work: "Renovation of floors in old "D" & "E" type residential quarters at HWPM colony." Estimated Cost: **Rs.1,42,88,000/-** Earnest money : **Rs. 2,85,760/-**, Period of completion: (18) Eighteen Calendar Months. Dates of Availability of Tender documents for View and Download: Up to **03.06.2020. 23:00 hrs.** Last date and time of submission of online bid: **08.06.2020 (23.00 Hrs).** Last date and time of submission of Contractor Credentials (Hard Copies): **12.06.2020 (14.00hrs).** (With all Credentials) Date and time of Online opening of Technical bid (Part A) : **12.06.2020 (14.30hrs).** Tender forms and details can be obtained from **website www.tenderwizard.com**. Registered contractors only can download & upload tenders. Interested agencies may visit this website for Registration. Tender notice is also available on [www.hwb.gov.in](http://www.hwb.gov.in).

Sd/-  
General Manager

### INSTITUTE OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR & ALLIED SCIENCES (IHBAS)

Hospital based autonomous academic Institute, under Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, dealing with "Brain - Mind Problems & their Solutions"  
Dilshad Garden, Delhi 110 095 (India)  
Tel: 22586492, 22597883, Fax: 22114066  
E-mail: [ihbaslibrary@rediffmail.com](mailto:ihbaslibrary@rediffmail.com)  
[www.ihbas.delhi.gov.nic.in](http://www.ihbas.delhi.gov.nic.in)

F. No. 4/2/Lib/IHBAS/2020/123 Dated: 04/05/2020

#### E-procurement of Scientific Journals Tender Notice

On behalf of Director IHBAS, E-tenders under two bid systems are invited in the Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences for the supply of Scientific Journals for the year 2020. The details along with terms & conditions and e-procurement Tender form will be available on website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Schedule of Tenders:

Date of release of tender through e-procurement Solution:	08.05.2020
Last Date Time for submission/receipt of EMD along with uploaded Documents Through e-procurement solution and in physical form:	29.05.2020 till 14:00 Hrs
Date & time for opening of Technical bids:	29.05.2020 at 15:00 Hrs
Date & time for opening of Financial bids:	will be intimated later on (Only for short listed firms)

In the event of holiday or any discrepancy of the server, the tender will be opened on the next working day at the same time. The bidders must have register with this portal (<http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) and required to have digital certificate. Tender ID No. 2020\_IHBAS\_190470\_1.

Sd/-  
Administrative Officer  
IHBAS

DIP/Shabdarth/0043/20-21



CORPORATE BUZZ

Northern Railway runs Special Rajdhani trains

Extending a helping hand to provide transportation facility during the lockdown, Northern Railway has initiated Special Rajdhani trains from New Delhi to some major cities across India. Two such trains commenced their run from New Delhi Railway Station on May 12, one each to Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) and Dibrugarh (Assam). The



response to the initiation of movement of the passenger trains other than the Shramik Specials is overwhelming. The percentage occupancy has been 137% and 122% respectively. Chairman Railway Board, VK Yadav visited New Delhi Railway Station prior to the departure of the New Delhi-Bilaspur Rajdhani Special train. He was accompanied by DRM Delhi Division, SC Jain and other senior officers. He inspected the platform and expressed satisfaction on the arrangements made. Elaborate arrangements have been made for boarding of the passengers at the New Delhi Railway Station.

NDMC collecting waste from quarantine homes

To collect highly contagious Covid19 waste from quarantine houses and dispose of it in a scientific manner, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has a systematic mechanism in place. Every day at 7 am, NDMC starts collecting bio-medical hazardous waste from



each and every quarantine home. The list of houses is provided by the District Magistrate - New Delhi office on a daily basis. The driver of the vehicle and two other employees are deployed equipped with full new PPE kits. The collected waste is filled in yellow bags treated with sodium hypochlorite solution. After filling the bag, it is sealed by a tight tag and loaded on the vehicle. The garbage bags weighing 150 kg to 200 kg are then given to BioTec Solutions for final disposal in a scientific manner as per guidelines of Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

SJVN contributes to CM Relief Fund, PM CARES Fund

Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman and Managing Director of SJVN informed that as responsible corporate citizens and understanding the seriousness of the fight against Covid-19 pandemic, the employees of SJVN are voluntarily donating their one-day salary to CM Relief Fund/H.P.Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund amounting to Rs 44,50,000. Sharma informed that in a series of steps to support the government in the battle against pandemic, SJVN has contributed Rs 25 crore towards PM CARES Fund. He also informed



that SJVN has provided financial support of around Rs 2 crore to the government of Himachal Pradesh for procuring ventilators, PPEs, food, masks, sanitizers and gloves in various hospitals. SJVN has also set up 48 quarantine units in its projects and is extending support for distribution of food and other essential items to the needy.

IRCON signs MoU with Russian company

Irocn International Limited [IRCON], a Miniratna (Category-I) Schedule - A public sector enterprise has signed a memorandum of understanding with RZD International LLC, a subsidiary of state-owned Russian Railways Company to explore opportunities for joint

development of railways and other infrastructure projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The MoU was signed by Parag Verma, Chief General Manager (Business Development), IRCON International Limited and Sergey Stolyarov, Provisional Director General of RZD International LLC. According to MoU, both parties have agreed to form a joint Indian - Russian working group. This group will look into ways of developing strong partnership to coordinate, plan and subsequently implement projects in field of railways and other infrastructure not only in India but also in countries of mutual interest.

CWC stays active on field and live on podium



A live webinar was undertaken by C e n t r a l Warehouse Corporation (CWC) MD Arun Kumar Shrivastava on April 27, 2020. The webinar was facilitated by I n d i a n Infrastructure magazine to deliberate on the requirements for a comprehensive agri-logistics framework, highlight the key trends of developments and recent initiatives in the segment, examine new opportunities and discuss the key issues. Topical issues were discussed along with the MD's strategy to overcome the barriers posed to supply chain ecosystem by Covid-19 pandemic. A detailed discussion over CWC's SILO construction and management plans for construction of warehouses on the vacant land of CWC and creation of low cost space for those approaching CWC also took place. A Q&A session was also held with participants from DHL, Leap India and others from the industry.

Appointments



Ravi Dadhich takes over as Director (HR) - Delhi Transco Ltd  
Ravi Dadhich, a bureaucrat of DANICS (1996 batch) has taken over as Director (HR) of Delhi Transco Limited. An alumnus of Maharaja College Jaipur



PK Gupta, CMD of NBCC; Rajendra Chaudhari, Director (Commercial); Neellesh Shah, Director (Projects) accompanied by other senior executives of NBCC administered the Anti-Terrorism Pledge at its corporate office, New Delhi on May 21, 2020.



Dinesh Sood, CGM (HR), NFL, CO, Noida handing over 150 PPE kits worth Rs.1.20 lakh to Suhas LY, DM Gautam Budha Nagar on behalf of Lotus Ladies Welfare Club (ladies club of NFL, Noida) to strengthen the efforts of Noida administration to fight Covid-19.

- University of Rajasthan, he has done his post-graduation in sociology. During his career spanning over 25 years, he has held many challenging postings in Delhi as well as in Lakshadweep. His first posting was as SDM - Preet Vihar Delhi. Among the other few important postings he held in Government of NCT of Delhi include as Officer on Special Duty to Lieutenant Governor, Additional Secretary to Chief Minister, Member (Administration) - Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, etc. He has also worked with Delhi Development Authority and New Delhi Municipal Council. In addition to his duties with Delhi Transco Limited, Dadhich is also holding the responsibilities of Registrar - Guru Gobind Singh Indraprasth University, General Manager (Delhi Tourism), Special Secretary (Power & Finance) and Director (HR) of IPGCL, PPCL and DPCL.



Pradip Kumar Das assumes charge as CMD, IREDA

Pradip Kumar Das assumed charge as new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) on May 6, 2020. Prior to joining IREDA, he was serving Indian Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (ITDC) as Director (Finance) and Chief Finance Officer (CFO). Das has a vast experience of finance sector and has worked with REC, BHEL, NPCIL, BHFV, KPL etc. in different capacities. He was an important member of Inter-

Ministerial Group of Govt. of India for disinvestment/divestment of hotel properties of ITDC and its subsidiaries and successfully divested several properties during his tenure. He is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and Associate Member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. He did his Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar.



Dr. Chandra Pal Singh elected KRIBHCO's Chairman

Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), world's premier fertilizer giant had conducted a Special General Body Meeting on January 9, 2020 at NCUI Auditorium, New Delhi for election of nine directors. The reconstituted board consists of 8 unanimously elected Directors including Dr. Chandra Pal Singh from two constituencies along with Dr. Sunil Kumar Singh, Dr. Bijendra Singh, R. Rajendra, Paresh Bhai Patel, Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat and V. Sudhakar Chowdry. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh, MP, Rajya Sabha, a dynamic farmer leader has been unanimously elected Chairman of KRIBHCO in the meeting of the reconstituted Board of Directors of the Society. Dr. Singh has been Chairman from July 1999 to May 2010 and thereafter from February 2015 to till date. V. Sudhakar Chowdry, a versatile farmer's leader has been unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman of the Society.

**NOTICE INVITING e-Tender**  
The Group General Manager (Civil), RITES Ltd. Suburban Sector, in the name of M/s. MCL, Lakhnau Area, online percentage rate bid on two packet system for the following work(s):  
NIT No. RITES/BSR/MCL/LAKHANPUR/OT-02/2020 Dated: 22.05.2020  
Name of Work: "Earthwork in formation, Construction of Major & Minor bridges, retaining wall, drains, supply of PSC sleepers, Turnouts Sleepers, Supply of Ballast, P/Way fittings & Track Linking Works, Construction of building and Allied works for proposed siding for Dispatch of Washed Coal from proposed Washery at Lakhnau Area of MCL." Estimated cost: Rs. 162,98,62,836.95, Earnest Money: Rs. 25 lakhs Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve) months. Last time and date of submission of bid: 15.00 Hrs (IST) of 16.06.2020.  
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website: <https://tenders.gov.in> eprocuremap.  
Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only.

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Procurement, Jammu Power Distribution Corp. Ltd., Ball Road, Model, Jammu, Jammu Kashmir, PIN - 180012.  
e-mail: [seprocurement@jpsc.co.in](mailto:seprocurement@jpsc.co.in) [seprocurement@jpsc.co.in](mailto:seprocurement@jpsc.co.in) TEL/FAX: 3991-2473482  
Corrigendum to e-NIT No. JEPD/JPS/1402-21 Dated 11.05.2020  
For Purchase of Distribution Transformer of rating 50, 500 & 250 KVA R/S Level-3.  
Sub: Tender for Poles Outside UT of J&K  
Please read tender fee amount mentioned at S. No. 5 of e-NIT notice for Poles outside UT of J&K as Rs. 4000/- (Four Thousand only) instead of Rs. 5000/- (Five Thousand only). Other terms and conditions shall remain same.  
Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer, Procurement, JPDCL, Jammu.

**INSTITUTE OF NANO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MOHALI**  
(An autonomous Research Institute of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India) Habitat Centre, Sec-64, Phase X, Mohali - 160062, PUNJAB  
Ph: 0172 - 2210075/74/73, Fax No: 0172 - 2211074 Website: [www.inst.ac.in](http://www.inst.ac.in)  
Ref. No. INST/12(226)/2019-Pur Date: 20/05/2020  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
Sealed tenders are invited from registered and reputed firms for purchase of Atomic Force Microscope (AFM) with PFM Facility tender ID 2020\_MST\_518251.1. The specification of tender has been modified after pre-bid meeting held on 03/03/2020. Last date for submission of tender has been extended upto 24/06/2020 upto 2.00PM.  
Tender document/corrigendum can be downloaded from INST website i.e. [www.inst.ac.in](http://www.inst.ac.in) in under Tenders head. Tender head is available at the bottom of the homepage of INST website. Tender document can also be downloaded from CPPP website: [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in). Sd/- HOO

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT RH, UNA DISTT. UNA HP**  
No. HPW-Una (E-Tender/2020-655-55 Dated :- 13/05/2020  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Sealed tenders are invited from individual, registered firms proprietorship firms/partnership firms/limited company/Corporation Society or any legal entity for providing Sanitation/Chaf/Washing for the under mentioned institutions. Prescribed tender form can be downloaded from website <https://www.tenders.gov.in> on or before last date and time for submission of tender. Details are under :-  
Sr. No. :- 1 Name of institution :- Medical Superintendent Regional Hospital Una Name of Tender :- Sanitation Earnest money (in Rs.) :- 1,00,000/- Time period 01-04-2020 to 31-03-2021 :- One year Cost of tender Documents (in Rs.) :- 1,000/- Last date & Time uploading :- 28/05/2020, 5 PM Tender Opened Date & Time :- 28/05/2020, 10 AM  
Sr. No. :- 2 Name of institution :- Medical Superintendent Regional Hospital Una Name of Tender :- Dori Earnest money (in Rs.) :- 60,000/- Time period 01-04-2020 to 31-03-2021 :- One year Cost of tender Documents (in Rs.) :- 1,000/- Last date & Time uploading :- 28/05/2020, 5 PM Tender Opened Date & Time :- 28/05/2020, 10 AM  
Sr. No. :- 3 Name of institution :- Medical Superintendent Regional Hospital Una Name of Tender :- Washing Earnest money (in Rs.) :- 25,000/- Time period 01-04-2020 to 31-03-2021 :- One year Cost of tender Documents (in Rs.) :- 1,000/- Last date & Time uploading :- 28/05/2020, 5 PM Tender Opened Date & Time :- 28/05/2020, 10 AM  
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT RH, UNA DISTT. UNA HP  
Add No. 3802/11/22/2020  
HIM SUCHANA AWAM JAN SAMPARK

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (CAPITAL ZONE)**  
**P.W.D. BHOPAL (M.P.)**  
**Tender Notice**  
**Bhopal, Date 18-05-2020**  
Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e- Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal <https://mptenders.gov.in> Tender details are as below:-  

S. No.	Tender No.	District	Nature of Work	Name of Work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In lack)	Physical Submission (Original EMD & Other Document) Through Speed Post Only at the Office of as mentioned
1	2020_PWD RB_89777_1	Hoshangabad	CRF	Upgradation of Sohagpur Kamti Madhai road under C.R.F. Length 16.90 KM.	1st Call	1759.16	Office of the The Chief Engineer (C/Z) PWD Nirman Bhawan Plot No. 27-28 Area hills Bhopal
2	2020_PWD RB_89779_1	Raisen	Plan	Construction of Road Chouras-Bouras-Sultanganj-Udiya Road Length 6.80 Km.	1st Call	523.87	Office of the The Chief Engineer (C/Z) PWD Nirman Bhawan Plot No. 27-28 Area hills Bhopal
<b>Total</b>						<b>2283.03</b>	

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document on line is Dated 06.06.20 up to (17.30). Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.  
The Original FDR & Other document will be received on Dated 11.06.2020 to (17.30.) in the office mentioned Through Speed Post Only.  
Sd/-  
Chief Engineer (Capital Zone) P.W.D. Bhopal Madhya Pradesh  
G-11360/20

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
**Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**  

N.I.T. No.	NIT-02(A,B)-20-21-W-2
Name of work	A). Execution of At welds in loop lines/sidings under ADEN/SMQL & GZB. B). Complete renewal / through Sleeper/Renewal of points and crossing of 1in8.5, 1in12 & 1 in 16 laid with any type of sleeper with fan shaped T/out with PSC Sleepers in the section of ADEN/GZB.
Approximate Cost of Work	As per IREPS Notice
Earnest Money	As per IREPS Notice
Completion period	As per IREPS Notice
Cost of Tender on Cash/by post	As per IREPS Notice
Date and Time for submission of tender & opening of tender	02.06.2020 to 16.06.2020 upto 15:00 hrs. Opening of tender 16.06.2020 at 15:00 hrs.
Similar Nature of work	As per IREPS Notice
Website Particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

NIT-02(A,B)-20-21-W-2 Dated :- 18.05.2020 1144/20  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**Nivida No.12 of 2019-20 CORRIGENDUM NO.9**  
Following rectification is made in Tender Notice No.12 of 2019-20 of Executive Engineer, Ver-II Project Division, Vyara PIN CODE NO.394 650 Phone No. 02626-222090 Dist. Tapi.  

Event	Old Date	New Date
1 Online Tender upload date	08/01/2020 to 20/05/2020 Up to 18.00 Hrs.	08/01/2020 to 06/06/2020 Up to 18.00 Hrs.
2 Submission of Document date.	Up to 30/05/2020 at 18.00 Hrs.	Upto 16/06/2020 at 18.00 Hrs.
3 Opening of Pre Qualification Bid date	01/06/2020 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Ukai Circle (Civil), Ukai at 12.00 Hrs.	17/06/2020 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Ukai Circle (Civil), Ukai at 12.00 Hrs.

All other conditions remain unchanged. No. Mahil-Surai/05/2020

**APPEAL**  
General Public is hereby informed that during riots in North-East Delhi on 25.02.2020 namely Zameel Qureshi S/o Shamshul Haq, R/o: C-67, Gali Number 04, Chaman Park, Indira Vihar, Gokulpuri, Delhi, Age-30 years, was admitted to Mehar Nursing Home Brijpuri Pulis Mustafabad, Delhi by an unknown person in injured condition and who later died during the treatment. The general public, through this appeal, is requested to identify this Photo and please inform SIT-1, SIU-1, Crime Branch, Daryaganj, Delhi, personally or on the phone numbers given below as from which place this person was admitted to Mehar Nursing Home Brijpuri Pulis, Old Mustafabad, Delhi in injured condition. In this regard a FIR No. 160/20, dated 21.03.2020, U/s 147/148/149/302/120B/ 34 IPC, has been registered at P.S. Gokulpuri, North-East District, Delhi.  
The identity of the Informer will be kept confidential and they will be given suitable reward.  
Insp. Lokendra Chauhan,  
SIT-1, SIU-1, Crime Branch, Daryaganj, Delhi  
Ph. No.: 011-23240135, 9911682121  
DP/21/Crime/20

**:CORRIGENDUM-2:**  
Following rectification is made in E-Tender Notice No.2 OF 2020-21 of Executive Engineer Ukai Division No. 1, Ukai PIN CODE NO.394680 Phone No. 02624-233221 Dist: Tapi  

Event	Old Date	New Date
1. Downloading and Uploading of tender Document	Dt. 04-05-2020 to Dt.22-05-2020 up to 18.00 Hrs.	Dt. 04-05-2020 to Dt.01-06-2020 up to 18.00 Hrs.
2. Last date & Physical Submission	Dt.30-05-2020 up to 18.00 Hrs.	Dt.06-06-2020 up to 18.00 Hrs.
3. Price Bid Opening Date & Time	On Dt.01-06-2020 12.00 Hrs	On Dt.08-06-2020 12.00 Hrs

Further details please visit us at above stated office during office hours, details are also available on web site [www.nprocure.com](http://www.nprocure.com) other conditions remains unchanged.  
No. Mahil-Surai/06/2020

**कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, कर्णप्रयाग**  
निविदा सूचना सं: 725 / लेखा - 4 / 48 दिनांक : 20.05.2020  
**ई-टेंडर नोटिस**  
1. कार्य का नाम : जनपद चमोली के अंतर्गत विकास खण्ड गैरसैनी की सारिंगगांव (ग्राम समूह) पेयजल योजना के खेतों, पाइप लाईन, जलाशय एवं अन्य तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।  
2. कार्य की अनुमानित लागत/कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि : ₹ 90.00 लाख / 12 माह।  
3. पोर्टल पर निविदा उपलब्ध होने की प्रारम्भ तिथि : तिथि 22.05.2020 समय 17:00 बजे।  
4. पोर्टल पर निविदा प्राप्ति की अन्तिम : तिथि 06.06.2020 समय 17:00 बजे।  
5. निविदा की पूर्ण जानकारी, सुद्धि-पत्र एवं निस्स्वीकरण आदि हेतु [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) एवं/या [www.peyjal.uk.gov.in](http://www.peyjal.uk.gov.in) पर लौग इन करते रहें। अधिशासी अभियन्ता

**IRCON INTERNATIONAL LTD.**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Web: [www.iron.org](http://www.iron.org) CN : L43800L197600008171  
**e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
eTender No.: IRCON/2059/CERL-I/e-TENDER/Feeder Routes/2020-21 Dated: 19.05.2020  
e-Tender for and on behalf of Chhattisgarh East Railway Limited is invited in two packet system from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of 'Civil works including Earthwork and Blanketing work for railway formation, Minor Bridges, Major Bridges, ROBS, Track linking works (including supply of sleepers and Ballast but excluding supply of rails) for the feeder lines connecting Chhal siding (Km 0-8.45), Baroud siding (Km 0-4.45) & Durgapur siding (Km 0-6.85) in connection with the construction of New BG Electrified Railway Line of East Corridor-I between Kharsia (Km-0) to Dharamajaygarh (Km-74.0) with a spur from Gharghoda to Gare Pelma in the State of Chhattisgarh over South East Central Railway'.  
Estimated Cost of the work Rs. 162.99 Cr  
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 10.06.2020 at 15:00 Hrs  
For further details visit website <https://tenders.gov.in> eprocure/app. Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website only. Chief General Manager/CCP, New Delhi

**THE PUNJAB STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING**  
Plot No. 1-A, Sector 36-A, Chandigarh, Phone : 9172-2622156, 2615369  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
COMPUTER BASED/INTERNET BASED ONLINE EXAMINATION  
E-tenders are invited for Computer based/Internet based Online Examination. For participating in the above e-tender, the firms should visit website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> 22.05.2020 onwards for tender document and corrigendum (if any) in future.  
The last date of online submission of e-tender is 09.06.2020 upto 5.00 pm. Sd/- Secretary

**NOTICE**  
**Tender Notice for Network hardware procurement**  
National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) invites offer for procurement of network module for its existing equipment. For details refer [www.nixi.in](http://www.nixi.in). Last date of bid submission is within 10 days of this publication.

**National Highways Authority of India**  
(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**  
1. NHAi is exploring the possibility of undertaking a holistic assessment of land monetization potential for the land parcels available with NHAi. In order to capitalize on this potential, NHAi is looking at the possibility of developing facilities including commercial spaces, logistic parks, traveler facilities such as wayside amenities etc. on land parcels in possession of NHAi. In addition, NHAi wishes to explore acquisition of additional land parcels in areas with high future monetization potential. NHAi wishes to appoint a consultant for each region (East, West, North and South) to support in monetizing the land parcels available in the jurisdiction of the region and to support NHAi in acquiring additional land parcels with potential for monetization.  
2. Proposals are hereby invited from eligible Consultants for conducting study for identifying & finalizing land monetization options for available land parcels in respective regions and in acquisition of additional land parcels with potential for monetization.  
3. The Letter of Invitation (LOI) and Terms of Reference (ToR) including Request for Proposal (RFP) is available online on NHAi website: [www.nhai.gov.in](http://www.nhai.gov.in) and e-tender portal of <https://tenders.gov.in>.  
4. Bid must be submitted online at e-tender portal of <http://tenders.gov.in> on or before 05.06.2020 at 11:00 hrs  
**BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS**

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH**  
**WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 3, MACHADOLI DISTT.- KORBA (C.G.)**  
**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
**eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> (FIRST CALL)**  
**System Tender No. 64033 NIT No.: 01/SAC/2020-21, Dated: 19-05-2020**  
**Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 10-06-2020 at 17.30 Hour**  
**Name of work : GARDEN DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF SURROUNDING AREA OF D/S OF EARTHEN DAM AND INFRRONT OF INSPECTION GALLERY/OPERATION CHAMBER OF MINIMATA BANGO DAM.**  
**Probable Amount of Contract:- Rs. 442.03 Lakhs.**  
The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 27-05-2020 at 17.31 Hours (IST) onwards.  
**NOTE:- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.**  
Sd/-  
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 3 MACHADOLI, DISTT.- KORBA (C.G.)**  
**G-80889**

**WESTERN RAILWAY- RATLAM DIVISION**  
**TENDER NOTICE FOR VARIOUS WORKS**  
No. W/623/5/1/NIT Date: 18.05.2020. The Divisional Railway Manager (WA) Ratlam invites 'Open Tender' through e-tender on Website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The details are as under-  

E-Tender No. & Name of Work	Approx Value	Earnest Money
(1) RTM/2019-20/0170 Nagda-Bhopal, Maksi-Dewas & Indore-Dewas-Ujjain Section-Cess repair work in connection with improvement of track under jurisdiction of DEN (South) Section.	₹ 1,02,50,697.45/-	₹ 2,01,300/-
(2) RTM/2019-20/0171 Nagda-Bhopal, Maksi-Dewas & Indore-Dewas-Ujjain Section-Providing tool cum rest room for gangs.	₹ 2,23,65,607.07/-	₹ 2,61,900/-

Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 5,000/- for No. 1, ₹ 10,000/- for No. 2 Completion Period: 10 Months for No. 1, 2. Similar type of work: Any Civil Engineering Work for No. 1, Construction of any building/Civil engineering structure for No. 2. Date of uploading tender on website: No. 1, 2 on 18.05.2020. Date of Tender Opening: No. 1, 2 on 26.05.2020. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available on Website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
Divisional Railway Manager (WA) Western Railway, Ratlam  
SNP 31  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)



# Class VI boy harasses woman, seeks sex chat

Avishek Kumar Dubey | TNN

**Ghaziabad:** A Class VI student of an English medium school in Ghaziabad has been accused of harassing a 21-year-old woman by allegedly threatening to circulate her morphed pictures if she did not pay him money or participate in a sex chat with him. The woman and the boy happen to be part of a common Telegram group, which comprises students, police said. He found her number there. The woman — who completed her BSc and is preparing for the civil services exam — has shared 18 screenshots with the police. The boy has claimed his phone was hacked and he was unaware of the messages, investigators said.

The revelation comes close on the heels of the #BoisLockerRoom scandal that unravelled on social media, bringing to the public domain in a lurid world of obscene messages and morphed pictures shared within closed groups formed by senior school students.

The woman's parents have alleged in their complaint that their daughter received the first message on May 7, but it pertained to exchange

ing notes about studies.

"Most of his initial messages were about studies. It seemed he gradually wanted to develop a rapport with her," the complaint, lodged at Kavi Nagar police station, states. It also says that around 3.30am on May 17, the boy sent a few pictures of the woman that he had morphed after sourcing them from her social media account.

He allegedly wanted her

## POLICE SAY

**He said someone had hacked his account and circulated the messages**

to either give him money or exchange lewd messages with him. He even told her that he knew of ways to hack her phone and would subsequently use her social media accounts to circulate the morphed pictures, the FIR says. The woman subsequently switched off her phone. Unable to contact her for days at a stretch, some of her friends dialled her parents and sought to know why she had suddenly gone incommunicado. Her parents, who had

no idea of the alleged threats till then, spoke to their daughter and persuaded her to confide in them.

"She said she was scared that the boy might hack her phone and use pictures from her social media accounts to morph and circulate them. The parents even spoke to the boy, but he seemed undeterred by their threats to lodge a complaint against him," a police officer said.

Mohammad Aslam, SHO of Kavi Nagar police station, said an FIR had been registered against unidentified persons under sections 507 (criminal intimidation by an anonymous communication) and 386 (extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt) of the IPC. "Preliminary investigation has revealed that the boy is 12 years old. The woman has submitted 18 screenshots of the chats," Aslam said.

The officer said both the boy and his parents had denied the allegations. "The boy said someone had hacked his account and circulated the messages. We have asked the social media company to share with us all information they have regarding the messages. The cyber team is tracing the IP address," he said.

**New Delhi:** A 58-year-old man suffering from oral cancer drove 1,400 kilometres—from Ranchi to Delhi—with his son for the surgery. Doctors at Sir Ganga Ram hospital, where the surgery was conducted recently, said Sachidanand Singh from Gumla district in Jharkhand had contacted them on May 11 for surgery after being diagnosed with cancer of the oral cavity, but due to the lockdown, he was asked to wait.

"Because trains and flights weren't available, the patient decided to drive to Delhi with his son to get the surgery done. He arrived at the hospital on May 16 and was operated upon two days later," Dr Rakesh Koul, chairman, department of surgical oncology at SGRH, said. He added that the patient tested negative for Covid-19.

"He had a large tumour which was occupying front part of his oral cavity. We made three teams, one from the department of surgical oncology and others from the department of plastic and re-

constructive surgery and anaesthesia, along with 15 OT technicians and nurses, to remove the tumour," Dr Koul said.

The surgery started at 9 am on May 18 and it took nearly 14 hours to complete it due to extra precautions required while operating with Personal Protective Equipment on. The doctors said removing the whole tumour was challenging and it involved surgical removal of lower lip, front part of lower jaw and dissection

of the lymph nodes in the neck.

According to Dr Anubhav Gupta, senior consultant, department of plastic and reconstructive surgery at the hospital, they re-constructed the patient's lower jaw, floor of the mouth and skin of the chin by using the calf bone, muscle and skin from mid of his leg bone.


Currently the patient is stable. He has been removed from ventilator and has started taking Ryles' tube feed, Dr Koul said.

## B-21

**Government of Odisha  
"e" Procurement Notice  
WORKS DEPARTMENT  
Bid Identification No. S.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 01 / 2020-21  
e-mail: sekcpwd\_keonjhar@yahoo.com**

Letter No.1243	dt. 15.05.2020
1. No of the work - 05 Nos Building Works	
2. Estimated cost - Rs 131.53 Lakhs to Rs. 410.65 Lakhs	
3. Period of completion - 06 (Six) Calendar Months to 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months	
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal - From 11.00 Hours of 30.05.2020 to 16.00 Hours of 13.06.2020	
5. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal - 16.00 Hours of 13.06.2020	
6. Date of opening of Bid from Portal - 12.00 Hours on 16.06.2020	
7. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid - Superintending Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001	
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal " <a href="http://tenders.odisha.gov.in">http://tenders.odisha.gov.in</a> "	

Sd/- P. K. Rath  
Superintending Engineer  
Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar  
OIPR-3403/31/0001/20-21

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ				
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 20/24		E-Procurement Tender Notice		Date: 19.05.2020
On behalf of the President of India, <b>The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj</b> (An ISO 9001:2015 certified unit) invites the following E-Procurement Tenders.				
S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
1.	90191061 B	Peeled Bar Size 42.1 mm x 4525 mm	199.5 MT	10.06.2020
2.	90191062 C	Peeled Bar Size 42.1 mm x 4460 mm	316.3 MT	10.06.2020
3.	20193642	Set of lock nut	38 Set	15.06.2020
4.	20203492	Elastic Aclathan Ring	100 Nos.	15.06.2020
5.	40191624 B	Regulating Equipment [ATD] Three pulley type	463 Nos.	22.06.2020
6.	50195023 B	Supply & Installation of Industrial Grade Fanless Embedded box	37 Nos.	18.06.2020
<b>Note:</b> 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tenders are available on <b>IREPS</b> website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">http://www.ireps.gov.in</a> . 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with <b>IREPS</b> website along with class III, digital signature certificates issued by <b>CCA</b> under <b>IT Act-2000</b> . 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. 55620 (R)				
North central railways		<a href="http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in</a>		 @CPONCR

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDERING						
OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. NIT-04/UMB-2020-21 DATED 21.05.2020						
Open tenders through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Coordination, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15:00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.						
S No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender document (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Date of closing & opening
1	Balance work to prevent water logging in LHS at LC NO 113, 114, 118 & 119 over DHPHR-CDG section and Balance repair work in Railway colonies at GHG & DHPHR Stations in the Section of ADEN CDG in c/w doubling of UMB - CDG section.	17501933	237500	5000	10 Months	15.06.2020
2	Improvement to existing LHS NO 74A between BXC-DNX & 78A between DNX-RPHR etc. to prevent water logging on JHL-HSR Section in the section of SSEW/SAG Under ADEN/NTA.	2331810	46600	3000	06 Months	15.06.2020
3	Widening of cess between CDG-KLK on UMB-KLK section in the section of SSEW-II/CDG under ADEN/CDG in c/w TBR - 125.974 km over Ambala Division.	7778321	155600	5000	09 Months	15.06.2020
4	Maintenance of lawns, flower beds and potted plants of railway stadium, parks, officers club, type-IV & V bungalows in rail vihar and old railway colony, Ambala cantt.	3720873	74400	3000	12 Months	15.06.2020
<b>NOTE :</b> 1. Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions. The required Earnest Money & Tender document cost will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking/or Payment Gateway payment only well before & upto 15:00 hrs. of closing date & time of tender. 2. Tenderers should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of works tenders. 3. For detail, please log on IREPS website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . 4. GST will be levied as per GST Act, 2017. 1145/2020						
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority				
 Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.) Website: <a href="http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com">www.noidaauthorityonline.com</a>				
E-TENDER NOTICE				
E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: <a href="http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com">www.noidaauthorityonline.com</a> & <a href="http://tender.up.nic.in">http://tender.up.nic.in</a> . Please ensure to check these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.				
Above-Rs. 70.00 Lacs				
Sl. No	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount in Lac	
A	06 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-2)/2020-21	Annual Repair of drain (Regular Maintenance & Minor work for the year-2019-20 in work circle-2 area), Noida.	₹ 92.77	
	07 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-2)/2020-21	Strengthening of road (P/L Mastic in internal roads and repair of footpath in Ganga Shopping complex in Sector-29), Noida.	₹ 72.04	
	02 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-3)/2020-21	D/O Sector-43 (C/O Barat Ghar at near village-Sadarpur in Sector-43), Noida	₹ 344.70	
	17 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	M/O DRAIN (ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL/EXTERNAL DRAIN IN SECTOR-23, 23, 24, 33, 33A, 34, 35, 52, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 121 AND 123), NOIDA	₹ 92.56	
	18 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	M/O ROAD (P/L C.C. PAVEMENT BLOCK ON 18 MT. WIDE ROAD AND REPAIR OF INTERNAL DRAIN IN SECTOR-61), NOIDA	₹ 107.31	
	19 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	STRENGTHENING OF ROAD (PROVIDING AND LAYING B.C. WORK ON 12 MT. 3 MT. WIDE ROAD IN A.B.C-BLOCK AND NEELGIRI-I, SECTOR-34), NOIDA	₹ 129.70	
	21 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	(PROVIDING AND LAYING C.C. PAVEMENT, M/O DRAIN, RAISING OF CULVERT AND P/F M.S. JAL IN G-BLOCK, SECTOR-22), NOIDA	₹ 198.87	
	22 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	MAINTENANCE OF ROAD (PROVIDING AND LAYING C.C. PAVEMENT, M/O DRAIN AND P/F M.S. JAL/SFRC COVER IN D-BLOCK, SECTOR-22), NOIDA	₹ 90.57	
	23 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	M/O BUILDING (ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF STAFF QUARTER/ OFFICES IN SECTOR-24, 33A, 34, 52 & 71), NOIDA	₹ 70.87	
	24 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	MAINTENANCE OF DRAIN (REPAIR OF DRAIN, CULVERT AND P/F M.S. JAL/SFRC COVER IN POCKET-B-5 DHAWALGIRI, SECTOR-34, NOIDA	₹ 89.99	
	25 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	STRENGTHENING OF ROAD (PROVIDING AND LAYING C.C. PAVEMENT BLOCKS ON PATRIS OF ROADS BETWEEN SECTOR-66-71 AND SECTOR-67-70), NOIDA	₹ 171.82	
	26 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	MAINTENANCE OF ROAD (REPAIR OF FOOTPATH AND PAINTING OF FOOTPATH/CENTRAL VERGE ON D.S. ROAD BETWEEN SECTOR-67-68 AND SECTOR-70-121), NOIDA	₹ 78.53	
	27 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	MAINTENANCE OF ROAD (CONSTRUCTION OF R.C.C. CENTRAL VERGE ON ROAD BETWEEN SECTOR-70-71), NOIDA	₹ 152.57	
	28 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	MAINTENANCE OF ROAD (CONSTRUCTION OF R.C.C. CENTRAL VERGE ON ROAD BETWEEN SECTOR-66-71 AND SECTOR-67-70), NOIDA	₹ 214.25	
	29 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-5)/2020-21	M/O ROAD (ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL/EXTERNAL ROADS IN SECTOR-23, 23, 24, 33, 33A, 34, 35, 52, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 121 & 123), NOIDA	₹ 96.50	
Which can be uploaded by Date: 04-06-2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date: - 05-06-2020 at 11.00 AM				
B	64 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-2)/2018-19	External Development work around Indoor Stadium at Integrated sports Complex, Sector-21A), Noida	₹ 383.57	
	42 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-2)/2019-20	Strengthening of Road (P/L DBM & BC & other misc work from Kalindi Kunj road to Underground Car Parking Sector-95), Noida	₹ 74.00	
	05 / G/M (R) / S/M (WC-2)/2019-20	M/O Staff Houses and Office building in work circle-2 area Noida.	₹ 124.37	
Which can be uploaded by Date: 28-05-2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date: - 29-05-2020 at 11.00 AM				
General Manager (R) NOIDA				
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA				

## Form panel to take care of labourers' interest: LG

**L**G Anil Bajjal asked the government to constitute a committee to analyse and suggest measures to help people and businesses in these tough times with special focus on protection of interests of labourers. TNN

**उत्तर प्रदेश सहकार संशोधन संस्थान**  
**कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**

ई-निविद विस्तार निविदा सूचना सं. 06-ईसीटीसी/सू/20/2020-21 अपेक्षित मात्रा में निविदा प्राप्त न होने एवं पर्याप्त प्रतिस्पर्धा के अभाव में, निविदा सूचना सं 72-ईसीटीसी/सू/20/2019-20 के अनर्गत क्रमंक-04 एवं निविदा सूचना सं 83-ईसीटीसी/सू/20/2019-20 के अनर्गत क्रमंक-05, 06 को निविदाएं जोकि दि 20.05.2020 को 14.00 बजे तक प्राप्त कर दि 21.05.2020 को 14.00 बजे खोली जानी थीं, अब दि 27.05.2020 को 14.00 बजे तक प्राप्त कर दि 28.05.2020 को 14.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। अन्य नियम व शर्तें पत्रावल रहेगी। हेतुपत्रावल-0591-2480911 अपेक्षित अभियन्ता विद्युत जानपद पारंपरा मण्डल मुरादाबाद "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें" RO 393/21.05.2020

**BRIDGE WORKS & HIRING OF VEHICLES**

E-Tender Notice No. DCBL062020MLG Dated: 19-05-2020 E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work:  
Tender No. DCBL092020MLG. Name of work: Repairing/Strengthening of bridges including corroded members, replacement of corroded rivets in Br. No. 3DN, 44DN, MK11UPDN, 195DN, 111DN, SUP & 32UP under SSLEB/Line Malgaon. Tender Value: ₹2,20,00,272.61. Earnest Money: ₹2,60,000/- Cost of tender document: ₹10,000/-. Tender No. DCBL192020MLG. Name of work: 1 line (00) nos. light motor vehicles along with licensed driver cover with hard top wheel drive diesel operated Non A/C w/c. Minimum 6000 cc engine for a period of 24 months (24 months + 30 days + 480 days/leave) for use of XENIAKEH/Bridge Tender Value: ₹35,57,473/- Earnest Money: ₹77,200/- Cost of tender document: ₹3,000/- Date of closing of tender: 19-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. & opening on 19-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. & opening on 19-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. & opening on 19-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. For details please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). By DC Bridge-Line Malgaon. For details please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

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**NIT No. 1/2020 - 256# SC (S&C)**

A Tender Commencement Date	22/05/2020	11 00 Hrs
B Tender Forms request Last Date	22/06/2020	18 00 Hrs
C Tender Closing Date (CAT-1 e-submission)	23/06/2020	1100 Hrs
D Tender Closing Date (CAT-2 - Manual submission)	23/06/2020	1700 Hrs

**Cost of tender form including GST ₹ 3,540/-**  
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**U.P. Rajya Viduyat Utpadan Nigam Ltd. Obra Thermal Power Station Obra-Sonebhadra. Time Extension. Tender ID No. 2020\_RVUNL\_456268\_1.** The opening dates of e-Tender No. 43/O&MMC-V/TMD/BTPS/2019-20 of the work of Work services for Operation & Maintenance of Central Air Conditioning Plant for UCBs and MCB and other related works of 5x200MW, BTPS, Obra, is hereby extended again as below:- Last Date and Time For Submission Of e-Bids (Technical and Financial) at e-procurement website: <http://tender.up.nic.in> : 08/06/2020 up to 18:00 hrs. Last Date and Time For Submission of Hardcopy of: Requisite Documents in the Office of Undersigned : 09/06/2020 up to 13:00 hrs. Date and Time of Opening of e-Bids : 11/06/2020 From 16:00 hrs. Other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain the same. **Superintending Engineer, O&MMC-V, BTPS, Obra-Sonebhadra.** Save Electricity for Nation. RO 121 dt 21.05.2020

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# From today, HC to work with full strength of judges

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** From Friday onwards, the Delhi high court will operate with its full strength of judges to take up urgent cases via videoconferencing.

Chief Justice DN Patel and senior judges decided that from Friday all high court judges will sit every day to take up "urgent matters of all kinds" via videoconferencing, after an analysis showed that due to restricted functioning, the high court and the lower courts together have taken up 20,726 urgent matters during the lockdown from March 24 till May 19.

"As per the latest initiative taken by the chief justice, now, w.e.f. May 22, all the division benches and all the single-judge benches will take up urgent matters of all kinds, through videoconferencing, during the suspended functioning of the court. All such benches will sit daily on all the working days," said a note, issued by high court registrar general Manoj Jain.

Till now, urgent matters were being taken up by two division benches and 10 single-judge benches, but the judges of these benches were sitting on rotation basis. As per the latest decision all judges will sit simultaneously like before when high court was functioning before lockdown. At present, there are seven division benches and 19 single-judge benches in the high court.

The note further said that the roster benches will also take up the matters which are at the stage of final arguments and in which consent has been received from both the sides agreeing for disposal of case on the basis of written submissions alone. "Non-urgent matters will be taken up by the roster benches on resumption of regular hearings," the note further stated.

# Ration scheme during lockdown under HC lens

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Delhi government's ration distribution system for the poor during the lockdown came under the scanner of high court on Thursday which questioned why e-coupon holders were left "high and dry".

A bench of justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad was hearing a petition that said thousands of needy people in the capital were not getting ration under the public distribution system (PDS) despite having e-coupons issued by the state government. It alleged that new coupons were being issued, even as existing coupon holders were still waiting for ration. The bench said it was "unacceptable that e-coupons were distributed in such a large number and yet e-coupon holders were left high and dry. Delhi government ought to have ensured that sufficient ration was available in proportion to number of coupons issued."

Brushing aside request from the state government to give it a week's time, the court fixed a deadline of Friday evening, to provide ration to stranded e-coupon holders in Sultanpuri and nearby areas.

The court acted on a plea filed by a third-year law student Shabnam, who argued that Delhi government had announced that e-coupons will be required to get ration immediately even if the person doesn't have a PDS card. Yet, despite e-coupons being issued to 73 persons in Sultanpuri and 1,909 in nearby areas, they have not been delivered ration for the past one month.

The state government conceded that there was a paucity of ration at some PDS centres, but efforts were being made to supply sufficient amount to the needy.

# 2 held for ferrying migrants illegally

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Police arrested two men for allegedly trying to ferry 49 migrant labourers illegally to Bihar. The accused were nabbed after the vehicle was intercepted at a check point in southeast Delhi. Police said the bus driver had charged Rs 4,000 from each person.

Police said that on Monday night a tourist bus bearing an Uttar Pradesh numberplate was spotted at Estate Entry Road. When questioned, the driver pointed to an e-pass pasted on the windshield. However, on checking, the labourers were found sitting in the bus headed towards Kishanganj, Bihar. The e-pass also proved to be fake on verification.

According to the cops, a case has been registered against the driver Manish Kumar Jha (31) and the owner of the bus, Shrawan Kumar Shukla (42).

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**Sr. No.-: 1 Name of Work:-** Construction of U-shape Covered Drain including foot path Dhali Tunnel to Mashobra Junction on Kalka-Shimla-Wantoo Road NH-22 (New NH-05) (Cutting earth work Construction of Breast wall Construction of Covered Drain along with foot path from km 153/180 to 153/765 against Smart City Project. **Estimated Cost :- 1,59,26,204/- EMD:- 208000/- Cost of tender:- 5000**





## HC SETS ASIDE \$3.5M ARBITRATION AWARD AGAINST JACKIE SHROFF, CALLS IT 'PERVERSE'

## BSY PROMISED FIR AGAINST SONIA FOR CONG'S PM-CARES TWEET WILL BE WITHDRAWN: DKS

## 2 Maoists gunned down in Dantewada

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Raipur:** Security forces gunned down two hardcore Maoists in an encounter in the forests of Dantewada of Bastar on Thursday. A 5kg IED was found at the encounter site.

The two were identified as Rishu Istam, deputy commander of PLGA platoon 16, and Maata, commander of Pidiyakot

Jan Militia. While Istam carried a bounty of Rs 8 lakh, Maata had a reward of Rs 1 lakh.

Dantewada SP Abhishek Pallava said a team of District Reserve Guards set off on an operation on specific input that 20 Maoists, led by Mallesh, commander of platoon 16 and Istam, was on the move, and area committee members Ajay and Muri were with them.

A few key local-level Maoist leaders have been gunned down in the past month. On April 29, a woman Maoist named Ranai, who headed the area committee of East Bastar division supply team, was shot. On May 9, Maoist divisional committee member Ashok and three others were killed in Rajnandgaon in which a police officer, SI Shyam Kishore Sharma, also died.

## After 2,050 Shramik trips, just 30% of migrants have managed to leave

### Rlys Ready To Run 300-350 Trains A Day Till Needed

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Even as Indian Railways has moved over 30 lakh stranded migrant workers, students and tourists by 2,050 Shramik Special trains, data from different states indicate a large number is still waiting for trains or buses to return home. Across Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka, Haryana and Punjab not more than 30% have returned home, data compiled by TOI suggest.

Sources said though railways had worked out a ballpark figure of about 30 lakh stranded migrants who needed trains to return to their home states, now it seems the numbers are higher and the national transporter is ready to run 300 to 350 Shramik Special trains per day till there is demand. Railway minister Piyush Goyal said over 50% Shramik Specials (1,054) had reached Uttar Pradesh and over 25% (562) terminated in Bihar. Goyal said Gujarat had sent 636 Shramik Specials, which was the

### LONG WAIT TO RETURN HOME

State	No of migrants registered to go home (in lakh)	No of migrants who have left (in lakhs)
Haryana	10.93	2.08
Punjab	17.19	2.7 by trains
Maharashtra	20	5 by trains
Karnataka	7.88	1.6 by trains
Himachal	0.9	0.52
Delhi	4	0.65
Goa	0.85	0.25

Note: Approx. figures till May 20

maximum among all sending states, while lauding UP and Gujarat chief ministers. He alleged that some states, including West Bengal, Rajasthan and Jharkhand, were not cooperating in accelerating migrants return through trains.

Details from Maharashtra show that nearly 5 lakh out of the 20 lakh stranded migrants registered with the state authorities had taken the special trains. According to sources in Mumbai police, more than 2 lakh out of the 3.5 lakh migrants registered with them had left the city in such trains indicating a large

number from other centres in the state were still waiting their turn.

Nearly 4 lakh registered in Delhi, but only around 65,000 had been able to leave as of Wednesday.

In the case of Karnataka, nearly 7.88 lakh registered and till Wednesday nearly 1.6 lakh had gone back by the special trains. However, there are also indications that a section of the registered people may stay back as construction work has resumed, sources said.

Even sources in railway ministry feel the demand for the SS trains may reduce as economic activi-

ties restart. Details from Haryana show 10.93 lakh had registered and nearly 2.08 lakh had left by 53 trains and 4,257 buses till Wednesday. Out of the 1.76 lakh who wanted to come back from their home states once work resumed, only 11,000 had returned to Haryana.

In the case of Punjab, 17.19 lakh had registered and till Wednesday 2.7 lakh had boarded 236 trains. Data of passengers who are availing bus services was not readily available.

There is no consolidated data of how many want to go home from Kerala. A study conducted by Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation had estimated there are 25 lakh migrant workers in the state. So far 42 special trains have ferried around 65,000 passengers.

In the case of Rajasthan, nearly 1 lakh migrant workers had left by 78 trains till Thursday. "Now we have 45,000 stranded labourers for whom we are arranging at least 36 more trains," said Ravi Jain, commissioner transport. Rajasthan has also started Shramik Special buses for the migrant workers for intra-state movement.

(With inputs from Manthan Mehta in Mumbai, Rakesh Prakash in Bengaluru & Ashish Mehta from Jaipur)

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## tender & notices

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Interested firms may send expression of interest along with profile and details to assess the above criteria to reach by 1700 hrs on 30 May 2020 at the address below. The envelope should be superscribed as 'Expression of Interest for ISBMS'. Only prequalified firms will be issued the bid documents.

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## tender & notices

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## CRPF to have dedicated VIP security wing

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The CRPF, which currently protects former PM Manmohan Singh and all three members of the Gandhi family among others, will now have a dedicated VIP security wing made up of five battalions comprising around 5,000 personnel led by an inspector general-level officer.

The VIP security headquarters will be located at R K Puram here. The CRPF had also sought a separate range and training centre in its proposal sent to the home ministry earlier. Sources said the home ministry has approved the proposal but asked the CRPF to set up the dedicated VIP security wing with its existing resources.

A CRPF officer told TOI VIP security was earlier under an IG who was primarily handling the intelligence wing. Now, an IG will separately head the VIP wing. IG (VIP security) will exercise all requisite statutory and financial powers.

Full report on [www.toi.in](http://www.toi.in)

## Baby born in ambulance as lions block road

Nimesh.Khakhariya @timesgroup.com

**Rajkot:** A 30-year-old woman gave birth to a baby girl in an ambulance after her journey to hospital from Bhakha village of Gir-Gadhda taluka was stopped short by a pride of lions that blocked a mud-track running through Gir Somnath forests on Wednesday.

The ambulance, carrying Afsana Rafique had travelled 12 km of the 18 km to hospital, till it met the lions near Rasulpur Patia, around 10.30pm.

Unable to move onwards, the ambulance staff, along with an ASHA worker who was also present in the vehicle helped Afsana deliver a healthy baby girl in the middle of the jungle. According to team, the baby girl weighed nearly 3kg. The lions left 20-25 minutes after the baby was born.

## State can't be impulsive prosecutor, says HC

Sureshkumar.K@timesgroup.com

**Chennai:** A bunch of 28 Jayalithaa-era criminal defamation cases against several media houses was quashed by the Madras high court saying a 'State' cannot be an 'impulsive prosecutor', that too in the era of social media.

Justice Abdul Quddhose, while quashing the proceedings on Thursday, said: "An individual or a public servant/constitutional functionary can be impulsive, but not the State, which will have to show utmost restraint and maturity in filing criminal defamation cases. If the State becomes an impulsive prosecutor in criminal defamation matters, that too in an era of social media where there are scores of abusive contents made against public figures, the sessions court will get clogged with innumerable matters which are sometimes vindictive in nature, initiated only to settle scores with opposition political parties."

Quddhose was allowing the batch quash petitions filed by several media houses, including the TOI, challenging the defamation cases initiated during 2012-13, when J Jayalalithaa was chief minister. "When the State is having other avenues under law to make the of-

## 15% cut in funds for tiger reserves across country

Shivani.Azad@timesgroup.com

**Dehradun:** In what might come as a double whammy for tiger reserves across the country this year, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has decided to slash funds by 15% for each state, officials in the know said. Already, the prime tiger tourism season from March to June 15 has fallen flat due to the lockdown. Park officials are worried that conservation efforts would suffer amid the alert issued by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).

In Uttarakhand, Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) earns about Rs 10.5 crore per annum and Rajaji Tiger Reserve (RTR) earns around Rs 54 lakh a year from tourism-related activities. Earnings have taken a dip because of the lockdown for the otherwise self-sustaining tiger reserves.

Uttarakhand was sanctioned around Rs 25 crore in the previous year by the NTCA, according to officials. Directors of Corbett and Rajaji reserves feel reduced funds will adversely affect infrastructure-related works in the reserves.



FUTURE TENSE

A source in the forest department said the NTCA itself didn't get its full share of funds and, hence, it has no other option but to further cut funds for the states. Incidentally, the NTCA's budget has been declining since the past four years.

Surprisingly, NTCA officials are in 'denial'. NTCA's DIG Nishant Verma said, "I am not aware of any such move, and we are not reducing any funds. The annual plan of operations (APOs) are getting approved like before."

## MIT downgrades Aarogya app

Anam.Ajmal@timesgroup.com

**India's** contact tracing app, Aarogya Setu, met with another setback as researchers at MIT downgraded its rating from two to one out of five stars. India further lost points on the parameter of "data minimisation", which means the app collects more data than the information it needs for the purpose of contact tracing.

Meanwhile, technology giants Google and Apple released their "privacy-centric" software tool to enable governments across the world to build their contact tracing applications to counter Covid-19.

Experts say one of the major differences between the technology used by Google and Apple and the one used in Aarogya Setu is that the former does not collect location data.



India lost points on 'data minimisation', which means the app collects more data than it needs for contact tracing

According to Paran Chandrasekaran, CEO and founder of cyber security firm Scentrics, while Aarogya Setu makes use of both Bluetooth and GPS location data, the Google and Apple API uses bluetooth technology, which may have limitations.

Full report on [www.toi.in](http://www.toi.in)

## FB launches new feature in India

**Facebook** has launched a new feature in India, which will allow users to "lock" their profiles, thereby allowing only friends to see their photos and posts, reports Anam Ajmal. The move is aimed to give people, especially women, more control over who sees the content they share. It will start rolling out in India on Thursday, and be available to everyone in the country in the coming week. In a video conference, Facebook product manager Roxna Irani said the feature is an addition to the "profile picture guard", which prevented other users from downloading a person's display photo.

Full report on [www.toi.in](http://www.toi.in)

## web special

### Eco-system of temple towns in tatters

**Shivang Kaushik**, a priest in Haridwar, often chooses to go hungry than stand in line for ration kits. "I was earning a dignified living until the lockdown bought all religious activities to a halt. It's embarrassing for me to be seen standing in queues for food," he said. Priests in Haridwar, Rishikesh and other holy towns who depend on yajmans for their income are in dire straits. Similar is the case with sellers of flowers and puja items. According to Ajay Mittal, who runs a shop at a temple in Mathura, since shrines have closed, thousands in the town engaged in making garlands, prasad, chandan tika are jobless, report **Abhijeet Singh & Anuja Jaiswal**.

Full report on [www.toi.in](http://www.toi.in)

## Another attack in J&K, cop killed, 2 injured

Saleem.Pandit@timesgroup.com

**Srinagar:** One security personnel was killed and two others were injured when two terrorists attacked a temporary naka in Prichoo area of Pulwama district on Thursday. Intelligence sources held The Resistance Front (TRF) — an amalgam of Jaish-e-Muhammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen — responsible for the attack.

The Prichoo attack comes a day after terrorists shot dead two BSF personnel in Pandach area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

The deceased was identified as J&K Police head constable Anoop Singh. The two injured are police constable Mohammad Ibrahim and CRPF jawan Krishan Kumar. Ibrahim was critically injured and shifted Srinagar.

## US deports Osmania grad with Qaida link

Bharti.Jain & Srinath Vadali | TNN

**New Delhi/Hyderabad:** A

40-year-old civil engineering graduate from Osmania University in Hyderabad who had moved to the US for higher studies but got involved in terror financing of al-Qaida has been deported by the US to India after completing his prison term there.

Mohammed Zubair Ibrahim (40) and his brother Yahya Farooq Mohammad were influenced by Anwar Al Awlaki, leader of al-Qaida Arabian Peninsula who was designated a terrorist by the US in 2009 and killed in 2011 in Yemen. Zubair is presently in quarantine at Amritsar.

Full report on [www.toi.in](http://www.toi.in)



# Covid count rises by 5,800, deaths up 148

Positive Case Count Sees 5th Peak In 6 Days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The Covid-19 pandemic continued to surge in India, with the number of fresh cases rising to another high of 5,864 on Thursday, the fifth peak recorded in daily cases in the past six days. As many as 148 deaths were reported by state governments during the day, the third highest so far.

With this, the total number of Covid cases recorded in the country rose to 1,16,744, as per reports from states till late on Thursday. The total death toll stood at 3,583, while 48,256 Covid patients had recovered from the infection.

Yet again, Maharashtra reported by far the highest number of fresh cases at 2,345, its second highest addition in a single day, taking its total to 41,642 cases. With this the state has breached the 40,000 mark in total cases, with Mumbai alone crossing 25,000. This is the fifth day in a row that the state has added over 2,000 new cases in a day, while the doubling time taken to reach the 40,000 was 12 days. Apart from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu again saw a big spike in cases. The state reported 776 fresh infections, a major jump from the 400-odd cases it had registered in the past two days.



A chef prepares food for home delivery in Bhopal on Thursday

Meanwhile, Delhi and Bihar recorded their highest spike in daily cases, reporting 571 and 313, respectively, on Thursday. As in the past few days, the death toll in the national capital remained high, with 18 fatalities reported on the day.

Along with Bihar, Uttar Pradesh too reported over 300 new cases (341). The two states have received the maximum number of workers returning from other parts of the country, many bringing the infection along with them.

The Bihar government said as many as 999 migrants had tested positive after May 5 in the state, which is more than half of the total number of cases. Most of the migrants who have tested positive for the virus are from Delhi with 296 cases, followed by Maharashtra with 253 cases. Another 180 cases are those with travel history from Gujarat, 66 from Haryana and 58 from West Bengal.

## All railway ticket counters to open from today, says govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Signalling a return to pre-lockdown normalcy, the railway ministry said all reservation counters will be opened across the country from Friday. While citing there was brisk booking of tickets for 200 new trains soon after IRCTC opened its window on Thursday, railway minister Piyush Goyal said that reverse booking has also started across several cities indicating people are ready to come back to work.

Goyal said reverse booking was a positive indicator as normalising rail services will make people return to their place of work. He said passengers can book tickets at around 1.7 lakh common service centres from Friday. "Besides counters at stations, people can book or cancel tickets at post offices, Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra licensees and through authorised agents of IRCTC," a ministry official said. In an interaction with BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra, Goyal had said, "We have to ensure there are no crowds gathering at counters so we are studying the situation and devising a protocol for this."

The ministry also added that more than 2.37 lakh tickets had been booked online for 5.5 lakh passengers in 101 trains in the first six hours.

# ‘Over-consumption underlies Cyclone Amphan and Covid-19’



As Cyclone Amphan wreaked havoc across eastern India, **Amitav Ghosh**, renowned author, anthropologist and an authority on climate change, spoke to **Srijana Mitra Das** at **Times Evoke**, on the impact and implications of Amphan—and what Cyclone Amphan and Covid-19 have in common:

## Are climate change and extreme weather events like Cyclone Amphan linked?

■ Yes, scientists say there is a clear link. Hurricanes, cyclones and other tropical storms draw their energy from warm water, and many stretches of ocean are now exceptionally warm. One reason for the rapid intensification of Cyclone Amphan was the warmth of the Bay of Bengal. Also warmer air holds more moisture, so storms carry more rain.

## How will Cyclone Amphan impact the mangroves and life of the Sundarbans?

■ Mangroves are resilient; they are well adapted to cyclones — indeed they play a very important role in protecting the interior. The impact on the wildlife of the Sundarbans is a different matter. If the storm surge is 30 feet in height, then all the land and most of the trees will be submerged. Tigers may be able to save themselves by climbing up the tallest trees — but that will not be an option for the deer.

However, it's the people who live in the Sundarbans who will suffer the most. Their villages will be inundated, their dwellings swept away. There will be extensive damage to the embankments that protect the interiors of the islands. Arable land will be swamped with salt water and won't be cultivable for years. Freshwater ponds will also be flooded with sea water. Many fishermen will lose their boats and nets.

This time, with the cyclone arriving during a pandemic, evacuations themselves may have adverse consequences — it's almost impossible to carry out large-scale evacuations while observing social distancing. Nor will it be possible to maintain social distancing in crowded cyclone shelters. On top of that, an untold number of people — many already suffering from the effects of the lockdown — will lose their livelihoods. A good number of the migrant workers walking back to Bengal are from the Sundarbans. They will arrive to find further devastation. It will be a humanitarian disaster of epic proportions.

## Why is India's eastern coast so vulnerable to such cyclonic activity?

■ The Bay of Bengal has long been known as a 'storm breeder' — indeed, Henry Piddington, who coined the

word 'cyclone', lived in what was then Calcutta. He was one of the first scientists to investigate the phenomenon of the storm surge.

We can only hope that Cyclone Amphan's impacts are not like those of the cyclone that struck Kolkata in October

Mumbai was hit by very destructive storms in 1618 (when a fifth of the population was killed), 1740, 1783, 1837 and 1854.

Then, there was a lull, ending in 1998 — between then and 2001, three cyclones have hit to the north of Mumbai, claiming over 17,000 lives. There's been a big uptick in cyclonic activity in the Arabian Sea — this is one of the predicted effects of climate change. It is increasingly likely that Mumbai will be hit by a major storm in the years to come. I have written about this in 'The Great Derangement'.

Photos: Getty Images



**THE EYE OF THE STORM:** Cyclone Amphan has torn through the eastern coast



**'STORM BREEDER':** A 19<sup>th</sup> century engraving shows a cyclone battering Kolkata

**You mentioned the pandemic. Do you see a link between the Covid-19 situation and Cyclone Amphan?**

■ There is no direct causal link — but these phenomena are cognate in the sense that they are all products of the tremendous acceleration that occurred over the last 30 years, a period in which extreme forms of neo-liberal capitalism have been imposed upon the world by global elites. This period has been called the 'Great Acceleration', which is appropriate because it is the acceleration of consumption and production, and the resulting rise in greenhouse gas emissions, that lies behind all these crises, from the climate breakdown to the pandemic.

## Migrants help woman to give birth in train

► Continued from P 1

Of the 24 pregnant women who gave birth during their journey home between May 1 and May 21, 16 new mothers gave birth in train coaches while others were rushed to hospitals just in time, railways officials have revealed.

Madhu Kumari, 27, who gave birth to a girl aboard the Ahmedabad-Banda train on Tuesday, was helped by fellow women passengers who fetched buckets of water from the toilets and collected towels and sanitisers from others. The newborn and the mother got medical attention after the train reached Jhansi 110km away. For the father, Manoj Kumar, the entire journey is a blur. "I thought I would lose them both. I blamed myself for making this journey. But what other option did we have? There was no job or income left," said the man, who hails from UP's Raebareli.

However, Subhadra, 23, aboard Jalandhar-Moradabad, and 21-year-old Mintu Devi on a train to Jirania-Khagaria were able to get medical assistance arranged by Railway Police Force while they gave birth in coaches.

But for a 29-year-old pregnant woman aboard a train from Jodhpur to Basti, the journey home proved a nightmare as she went into premature labour. "She gave birth to twins but one was stillborn and the other died shortly after birth. She was later admitted to the Basti Civil Hospital," said a railways official.

In all, 13 of the women who gave birth hailed from UP, four from Bihar and two each from Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

# 20L migrants return to UP, 10L more expected

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**Lucknow:** Over 20 lakh migrant workers have so far returned to UP, almost double of what the government was initially expecting, according to figures available with the administration till Thursday. In the next 10 days, another 10 lakh or so are expected to return.

With nearly 2.6% of symptomatic migrants who have been tested turning Covid-19 positive, districts where a large number of people have returned are proving to be a cause of worry for the administration. Many returning from states like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Delhi belong to the districts which lack industrial development and are considered backward. Districts like Siddharth Nagar, Balrampur, Ambedkar Nagar and Maharajganj have seen around one lakh people or more returning over the past weeks.

"A team has been in touch with officials of all districts, councillors and gram pradhans to monitor the home-quarantine situation. It has been making calls to all 75 districts. In districts where a large number of people have returned, we are alerting DMs and ensuring that community surveillance is extremely strong," said an official.

Additional chief secretary (home) Awanish Awasthi on Thursday said that he has appealed to people com-



ing from other states and the families of these people to come forward if they are showing any symptoms so that their treatment can be started at the right time.

"CM Yogi Adityanath has also said that due to the large number of migrants returning, testing capacity should be increased to 10,000 samples daily. The health department is doing about 7,000 tests every day," Awasthi said. As many as 841 trains carrying migrant workers have arrived in UP till now, including 355 from Gujarat, 181 from Maharashtra, 144 from Punjab, 28 from Rajasthan, 36 from Delhi and 33 from Karnataka. Another 313 are either on the way or will arrive in a couple of days.

Awasthi said 11 trains are being operated from Delhi on a daily basis now.

## States told to carry on routine immunisation

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**New Delhi:** With Covid-19 making routine immunisation difficult, the health ministry has issued guidelines asking states to continue birth dose vaccinations at health facilities irrespective of the categorisation of zones. However, areas enlisted as a 'containment/ buffer zone' have been advised to stop health facility-based sessions and outreach sessions.

According to the guidelines, health facility based immunisation can be allowed on demand in containment and buffer zones to walk-in beneficiaries. However, outreach sessions have been barred in these areas. In areas beyond buffer zone and green zone, immunisation is allowed. According to guidelines released by the health ministry, an area exiting a containment or a buffer zone category can start facility-based and outreach immunisation activities only after a gap of 14 days.

## Govt: Lockdown used to ramp up health infra

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Responding to concerns about the efficacy of the national lockdown and the government's response to Covid-19, the health ministry said the period was gainfully utilised to ramp up the health infrastructure with there now being 3,027 dedicated Covid hospitals and health centres along with 7,013 care centres.

The government said 45,299 people were cured, taking the recovery rate to 40.32%. Also, 26,15,920 samples were tested and 103,532 tested in the last 24 hours through 555 testing labs. There are more than 2.81 lakh isolation beds, 31,250 ICU beds and 1,09,888 oxygen-supported beds in dedicated Covid hospitals and health centres, the ministry said. Also, the government has supplied 65 lakh PPE coveralls and 101.07 lakh N95 masks to states, it added.

## 200 nurses from Kerala have quit Maha hospitals

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**Mumbai:** Over the past few days, nearly 200 nurses have left Mumbai and Pune for their Kerala homes. Their reasons range from homesickness to their employers' insensitivity when they tested Covid-positive.

"Five buses with 25 nurses each have left and a few more will be operated over the next few days," said a United Nurses Association official. The association said many nurses had decided to not renew their contracts. "They were upset with how several private hospitals dumped them in government quarantine centres when they tested positive," said a nurse from a Mumbai hospital.

# Didi recalls 'terrifying' experience; PM to visit Bengal & Odisha today

► Continued from P 1

North 24 Parganas accounted for 27 deaths. Roads went under water and trees blocked roads, including NH-35, restricting the movement of relief workers heading out to the affected zones.

More than 88,000 hectares of paddy and one lakh hectares each of vegetable and sesame crops may have been lost statewide, officials said. "No stone will be left unturned in helping the affected. Top officials are closely monitoring the situation and working in close co-ordination with the Bengal government," PM Modi tweeted even as the state government created a Rs 1,000-crore fund to repair damaged embankments and houses and restore water supply to the affected areas.

Mamata announced compensation of Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of the deceased.

The PMO later announced that Modi would visit Bengal and Odisha on Friday to take stock and discuss relief and rehabilitation



measures with the CMs of both states. The PM is scheduled to reach Kolkata at 10.45am and set out for an aerial survey along with Mamata. They are scheduled to hold a meeting before Modi flies out to Bhubaneswar in the afternoon.

While apprising Union home minister Amit Shah of the situation during their second conversation in as

many days, Mamata sought immediate assistance from the Centre's disaster relief fund. "I told him (Shah) that we need the money immediately... cannot wait 500 days. I hope he will respond. But I cannot be sure till assistance actually comes," she said.

The CM said restoring communication and power — many neighbourhoods of Kolkata and North and South

24 Parganas were without electricity and internet till late on Thursday — was the immediate priority. "We are waiting for the skies to clear. Roads are blocked by uprooted trees and there is no electricity in many areas."

Mamata said she was still shaken by the thought of the "terrifying" experience of seeing the cyclone rage from the 14th floor of Nabanna, the state secretariat. "When I went up to my room on the 14th floor, I found it shaking. Several glass windows were broken," she said, adding that the disaster could not have come at a worse time for Bengal. "We are also having to deal with the pandemic, migrant labourers' problems and the rising cost of quarantining people."

In Odisha, Amphan affected 44 lakh people across 10 northern districts and destroyed standing crops spread over one lakh hectares of land. The state government said 6,745 villages in 1,500 gram panchayats and 89 blocks suffered damage. (With inputs from Delhi)

Full report on www.toi.in

# In 21 states, info panels didn't hold any RTI hearing: Report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Even as the central information commission (CIC) has been carrying out hearings using modes like video-conferencing during the lockdown, it turns out that as many as 21 information commissions out of a total of 29, were not holding any hearings related to Right to Information applications as of May 15.

These 21 states include the state information commissions of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The findings are part of a report brought out by Satarik Nagrik Sangathan (SNS) and Centre for Equity Studies (CES) that examines the functioning of ICs from the commencement of the lockdown on March 25, 2020 till May 15. The analysis of websites was undertaken between May 1 and May 11 and



**LOCKDOWN TROUBLE**

phone calls were made to information commissions between May 14 and May 18.

The analysis shows that only 7 of the 29 information commissions, made provision for taking up urgent matters or those related to life and liberty during the period when normal functioning was affected due to the lockdown. These were the CIC and the state information commissions of Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Manipur, Punjab and Telangana. The SIC of Rajasthan made provision for hearing such matters, though only from May 4.

"Of the 29 ICs, two com-

missions - Jharkhand and Tripura - were found to have no commissioners for varying lengths of time. They were completely defunct as the serving information commissioner in both retired during the period of the lockdown," it is stated.

Of the 29 information commissions, four were functioning without a chief information commissioner: Bihar, Goa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The SIC of Rajasthan has been functioning without a chief information commissioner for more than 15 months, since December 2018. The chiefs of the Goa and Uttar Pradesh SICs retired in February 2020, while the chief of the Bihar SIC retired in July 2019.

Anjali Bhardwaj from Satarik Nagrik Sangathan stressed that although the challenges thrown up by the crisis are immense, it is absolutely critical that all information commissions conduct hearings and dispose cases to ensure people can exercise their fundamental right to information.

# Amhpan uproots over 5,000 trees, many of them decades old

Subhro Niyogi & Saikat Ray | TNN

**Kolkata:** As the true impact of Amphan's fury emerged on Thursday morning and the count of uprooted trees crossed the 5,000 mark, environmentalists, horticulturists and nature lovers mourned the "stupendous loss". But they also felt the city could emerge stronger from the destruction if it used the opportunity to move from arbitrary plantation drives that has been the practice for over decades to one that is "rational and scientific".

"The sheer scale in which the city has lost its greenery in the cyclone is staggering. With several trees decades old, the loss is irreparable. It will take years of concerted effort to get the greenery back," rued WWF state director Saswati Sen. The loss will



A section of Kolkata airport was inundated. However, there was no major damage. Barely 14 hours after the cyclone hit the city, a Boeing B757-28A touched down on Thursday afternoon to evacuate 102 Russian citizens left stranded by the lockdown

impact the micro-climate in different localities as oxygen levels will go down, pollution will increase and so would the heat. With an average tree producing 118kg of oxygen in a year, Amphan has caused the depletion of 5.9 lakh kg of oxygen in Kolkata.

"It is time to develop a poli-

cy where species for plantation are scientifically chosen according to the location where the plantation is to take place to prevent the kind of devastation and disruption that happened after Wednesday," said environmentalist Bonani Kakkar.

Full report on www.toi.in

## Migrants who returned don't have homes now

**Kolkata:** Jamal Mondal (45), a migrant labourer who returned from Bengaluru to his hometown Gosaba in South 24 Parganas district on Monday, was happy to be reunited with his family, even though he had lost his job due to the nationwide lockdown. But his happiness was short-lived.

On Thursday, along with his four daughters and wife, Mondal was jostling outside a relief camp in the district for two loafs of bread and a tarpaulin sheet to spend the nights at a cyclone shelter; as his one-storey mud house was washed away by Amphan on Wednesday. The story is the same for hundreds of migrant labourers in South 24 Parganas who lost their jobs due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown and are left with nothing due to the monstrous cyclone now. pn



Give migrants food, footwear and meds: NHAI to toll operators

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New Delhi: Now migrant workers walking on highways to reach their destinations will get assistance from the toll operators across the country.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has asked all toll operators to record the number of migrants who received help from them. They also need to provide details of facilities provided such as drinking water, resting place, footwear and medical assistance besides food.

They also need to record any other assistance for their safety such as pasting radiant tapes on cycles so that vehicles can spot them from a distance. Some of the toll operators told TOI that there has been significant reduction in the number of migrant workers walking on highways in recent days.

“Still we see many walking. We have been providing food and water to these migrants on our own. Now NHAI has asked us to keep the details,” said a toll operator.

Sources said the issue of migrants taking highways is more in states like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

The NHAI along with the road transport ministry is working on a protocol to deal with this while ensuring that the people in distress get the best possible help.

# Experts want govt to fund vaccine, meds

Health Spend Needs To Rise: Fin Panel Chief

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Health experts, including Niti Aayog member VK Paul and ICMR chief Balram Bhargava, have suggested the establishment of a contingency fund to help meet vaccination and medicine costs in he battle against Covid-19 as the drugs are expected to come with a hefty price tag.

The issue was flagged during a meeting of the high-level group on health sector set up by the 15th finance panel on Thursday. Sources said that the experts suggested a flexible use of the funds to ensure that individuals were not burdened. The details of how the fund will be set up were not immediately available.

The panel has reconvened after the Coronavirus pandemic to assess the impact on government finances and the road ahead. NK Singh, chairman of the 15th finance commission chairman said that health spending would have to go up in the coming years from the current level of around 0.9% of GDP, and FM Nirmala Sitharaman had already announced measures that would strengthen the system.



Covid patients being discharged from a Chandigarh hospital on Thursday

## States given flexibility to borrow

Fifteenth finance commission chairman NK Singh on Friday said that the government's move to allow higher borrowings was optional and brought synergy with the Centre's debt mobilisation efforts. While some of the states have been critical of the Centre's move to link additional borrowing with reforms such as those in the power sector and ease of doing business, Singh said that it was up to states to decide if they want to raise more funds to meet their requirements. Asked about suggestions that the government should monetise its debt, Singh said: “We must not foreclose the option.”

Bhargava told the meeting that the government was working on a differential peaking time and differentiated fatality time to ensure that the peaking was dispersed. Containment and testing facilities are proposed to be developed at the block level to ensure that cases are contained.

While masks and PPE kits are now available in large numbers, ventilators was an area that the experts identified for a possible ramp up with healthcare professionals to manage the equipment being another area of scarcity. There were suggestions to deploy final year students. “There is a wide disparity in the availability of health personnel across states and use of technology to address this gap was suggested. The other area of discussion was around how to address the needs of rural areas,” he said.

## BMC plans Covid beds at Mehboob Studios, St Xavier's, JJ School

Yogita Rao and Richa Pinto | TNN

Mumbai: As Covid-19 patients are increasing, plans are afoot to create more jumbo care centres here, like MMRDA grounds at Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) and NESCO in Goregaon. BMC plans another 1,000-bed centre at Mehboob Studios in Bandra, and has put up beds at St Xavier's College and JJ School of Applied Arts, while some rooms and the auditorium of DG Ruparel College in Matunga have also been taken over.

Cabinet ministers Aditya Thackeray and Aslam Shaikh on Wednesday visited the studio. Shaikh said, “We are considering care centres 2 for mild symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. It can accommodate almost 1,000 beds. We want to ensure jumbo facilities are created, as managing them is also more viable, with doctors and other paramedical staff being in one place.” Civic officials said creating smaller facilities would require more doctors, nurses, ward boys and cleaners.

The iconic college hall and canteen foyer on St Xavier's campus have been converted into a quarantine centre for close contacts of patients. Around 180 beds have been set up, and 70 will come up on the terrace of Xavier's Institute of Management building on the campus. Around 80 beds are put up in a hall of the landmark JJ School of Applied Arts too.

## 2nd degree has to be through online mode

► Continued from P 1

A committee under UGC vice-chairperson Bhushan Patwardhan worked on the proposal based on feedback from the public. As per the committee, since there is a minimum attendance criteria attached to regular degree programmes, the second degree has to be through distance or online mode. The committee feels that this will offer better career opportunities to students.

UGC secretary Rajnish Jain said: “The commission has approved the proposal and guidelines on the same would be notified. Based on this decision, a student will be allowed to pursue two degrees simultaneously but for both the degrees the mode of delivery will be different. A student pursuing a regular degree can pursue a second degree only via ODL or online mode.”

### NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

In the corrigendum published in news paper on the date of 24.03.2020, 05.04.2020 & 28.04.2020 the contract for the work of pay and use toilets of Haridoi, Chandauli and Moradabad railway stations of Moradabad division was extend to 08.04.2020, 30.04.2020 & 29.05.2020 which is postponed again due to the lock down, which will now be invited on 15.06.2020. Tender Notice: 9/Pay & Use / MB - Div / 2019 / C D - 20.05.2020 11512020  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male namely Susil, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age: Approx 35 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'3", Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Identity: He was Look like a Beggar & Drug addict, wearing Grey Shirt, was found dead at Safdarjung Hospital Emergency Ward, New Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 71-A, dated 05.04.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. His dead body has been preserved in Safdarjung Hospital Mortuary for 72 Hours. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos. SHO P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi Ph.: 011-24106345, 7065036331 DP/147/SW/2020

# Are we closer to courts we don't have to do the rounds of?

For an institution already struggling to cope with a massive burden of over 3 crore cases, the Covid-19 lockdown poses a grave setback for the Indian judiciary. But the crisis has also presented a chance for courts to augment their use of tech-based solutions that can revolutionise the justice delivery system. With the Chief Justice of India SA Bobde recently saying “there is no looking back” now on the path of greater tech integration, here's a look at an analysis of the challenges and opportunities by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

## THE SITUATION DURING LOCKDOWN

● Functioning of most district courts in India are suspended. Wherever they are functioning, hearings are limited to urgent matters. As for SC, it will hear all cases via video and audio link between May 18-June 19

● But in a letter to the CJI last month, Bar Council of India has opposed continuation of virtual hearings after the lockdown is lifted, saying 90% of advocates and judges are “unaware of technology and its nuances”

**KEY TAKEAWAY:** The Supreme Court, in a note earlier this month defended the use of virtual courts, saying they can be a “game-changer” for the time, energy and money they can save for litigants and lawyers

## JUDICIARY'S BABY STEPS TO TECH SOLUTIONS

● While computerisation was introduced in the Indian judiciary in 1990, it was the eCourts mission mode project — whose origins date back to 2005 — that aimed at a closer integration of tech and the judiciary through the setting up of infrastructure at the district level

● But the Vidhi report says that apart from timely collection of pendency data and automation of some processes, there is little evidence of tech being utilised for video conferencing, e-payment or e-filing

**700** e-filings were done in high courts of Delhi, Punjab and Haryana, says an SC e-committee report last year, whereas

**1.9 lakh** cases instituted through regular method at these courts in just the first half of 2019

Compiled by Kenneth Mohanty | Illustration: Sajeew Kumarapuram

## WHAT A VIRTUAL COURTS ROADMAP COULD LOOK LIKE

While virtual courts are here to stay, experts felt these should not completely replace ‘brick and mortar’ court structures. Vidhi maps a civil case in terms of an end-to-end virtual court to analyse each stage under four primary considerations:

**URGENCY** To enable basic access during the lockdown, a few courts have activated two key features — virtual hearings and e-filing. These two aspects, along with authentication of orders, rate high on the urgency index

**IMPACT** There are four core users in the justice system:



A specific solution may be more beneficial to one than the other, and the priority should be to benefit the maximum number of stakeholders

SYSTEM CAPABILITIES (STAGES OF A CASE)	URGENCY	IMPACT	FEASIBILITY	VIABILITY	OVERALL SCORE
E-filing	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
E-notice	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
Virtual hearings	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
E-evidence	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
Authenticating orders	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH

● Apart from the above, Vidhi assesses general capacities that undergird all the above stages. These include digitisation of registry processes, document management, and smart scheduling

● Warning that a crisis can lead to “a knee-jerk adoption” of tools that can violate fundamental principles, any tech solution will have to keep true to a bedrock of constitutional, tech and data principles

## HARDWIRED ISSUES: ADMINISTRATIVE & BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

● A crucial element in moving to more tech-based solutions is behavioural change. Vidhi notes that technology has not necessarily meant more efficiency. For instance, e-filings at Delhi high court require that a hard copy of the petition be filed along with a scanned copy. This kind of digitisation has only duplicated efforts

● Vidhi also stresses on the need to enlist expertise from the fields of management, behavioural science, design and systems thinking to devise a holistic framework for technology integration. It adds that a body of experts should steer digitisation, eventually creating an authority through parliamentary legislation on the lines of UIDAI, which was established under the Aadhaar Act, 2016

## Pvt hospitals can procure PPE directly from manufacturers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With domestic production of PPE kits used by medical professionals now rising, the coveralls are now being offered to private hospitals for direct procurement, the textiles ministry said in a public notice.

The ministry estimates that given the rising manufacturing capacity, the projected requirement of 2 crore body coveralls (PPE kits) will be met by June-end. So far, over 50 lakh PPE kits have been manufactured and another 50 lakh are expected to be ready by the end of this month. Around 1 crore PPE kits are expected to be manufactured over June.

Earlier this week, textiles minister Smriti Irani had tweeted, “PPE update as on May 18—today we have crossed per day production of 4.5 lakh PPE suits. India now has over 600 companies who are lab certified to manufacture PPE.”

The government has now informed private hospitals about availability of PPE kits for procurement and advised buyers to verify the unique certification. “The UCCs are issued by the testing organisations based on the prototype samples submitted by the respective manufacturers. However, this does not guarantee the quality of materials during the supply process. Buyers are advised to test random samples,” it said.

Full report on www.toi.in

## Helped migrants most in party-run states, says Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Subodh.Ghildiyal @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Countering the government's charge that states run by Congress have been reluctant to repatriate migrant workers, a senior party functionary asserted that the party has leveraged maximum relief work where it is in office. The functionary also alleged “non-cooperation” from a couple of “friendly” states besides managing a good impact in Gujarat, Haryana and Telangana.

According to the data compiled by the AICC, Punjab has run 130 trains to ferry migrants, pilgrims and students, accounting for nearly 1.73 lakh people. The state has a large concentration of migrant labour working in industries and agriculture. Rajasthan engaged 31 trains while Chhattisgarh utilised 23 trains to ferry people.

Rajasthan has also sent two and half lakh people home by bus while Punjab used over 11,000 buses to transport people. The three states have Congress governments. “It created a lot of hurdle for us. Kerala and Maharashtra were the most



Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Singh Baghel pays tribute to former PM Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary on Thursday

non-cooperative states. Karnataka waffled as it came under pressure from lobbies against sending migrants home. Similar issues cropped up in Gujarat. However, in less than a fortnight, we managed to do well,” the senior party leader claimed.

The Congress functionary added that the party had sponsored a good number of passengers adding up to 35 trains in Gujarat, 10 in Telangana and seven in Haryana. The three states are known as magnets for migrants because of their booming industries and agriculture.

As per party data, it has done well in providing food kits, cooked food and corona protection kits to locals, poor and migrants..

Full report on www.toi.in

## SP, BSP to skip Cong-led oppn meeting, AAP not invited yet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) will stay away from the meeting of opposition parties called by Congress president Sonia Gandhi to discuss Centre's response to the coronavirus pandemic on Friday.

Sources said SP and BSP were extended invitations to join the discussion on the raging issue but “they have expressed regret”. Both the UP outfits have generally steered clear of big opposition gatherings though their representatives do attend discussions that the opposition calls on floor coordination in Parliament.

Interestingly, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), it is learnt, was not invited. The Delhi outfit fought a bitter battle with BJP in state polls but has since been warm towards the central government.

While absence of SP and BSP will continue to be a spoiler in opposition unity, Shiv Sena supreme and Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray will participate in the meeting. It will be his first appearance in a formal opposition brainstorming.

Sources said the discussions are likely to focus on the government's handling of the pandemic, migrant crisis and the economic situation, including the Centre's help to states and relief package.

## Food delivery major to bring booze home

John.Sarkar@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In a move that could change alcohol retail in India, on-line food-delivery major Swiggy on Thursday started delivery of liquor in Ranchi, Jharkhand, while rival Zomato may follow suit soon.

Orissa, Telangana and Haryana are next, sources said. “We will start operations in a city once we are able to build up a critical mass of retailers,” said a senior official of a food-delivery app. “Not all liquor shops are currently open, which is a big challenge.”

“By enabling home delivery of alcohol in a safe and responsible manner, we can generate additional business for retail outlets



People jostle with each other to buy liquor in Jammu on Thursday

while solving the problem of overcrowding, thereby promoting social distancing,” said Anuj Rath, VP — products at Swiggy. Most state governments grap-

pled with long queues and overcrowding once they allowed a few liquor shops to open in their respective states. While some states, such as Punjab and Maharashtra had allowed home delivery of alcohol through phone calls and WhatsApp orders, retail sales suffered as consumers mostly stayed indoors instead of braving the crowd.

Swiggy, meanwhile, said that it has introduced measures such as mandatory age verification and user authentication to complete deliveries, including capping the order quantity to ensure a customer does not order alcohol above the prescribed limit as per the state's law.





LANA DEL REY HITS BACK AT CRITICS WHO SAY SHE 'GLAMOURISES ABUSE': HAVE BEEN HONEST ABOUT 'CHALLENGING RELATIONSHIPS'



'FULL HOUSE' STAR LORI LOUGHLIN, HUSBAND TO PLEAD GUILTY IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SCANDAL, AGREE TO PRISON TIME

## US Senate passes bill to delist Chinese cos from exchanges

### US Also Hints At \$180m Arms Sale To Taiwan, Angering China

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**Washington:** From barring Chinese companies listing on American stock exchanges to turfing out Chinese students from American universities, the US is gradually tightening the screws on China with each passing day, with Beijing's retaliatory tactics taking their bilateral relations juddering down a slippery slope. The precipitous decline in ties, coming on the heels of mutual recrimination about issues relating to the coronavirus pandemic, is aggravating at alarming speed in part due to the upcoming electoral season in the US.

On Wednesday, the US Senate overwhelmingly approved a legislation that could lead to Chinese companies such as Alibaba and Baidu being barred from listing on US stock exchanges. It seeks the firms to certify that they are not under the control of a foreign government. Lawmakers also said Chinese companies will require to be audited by or the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board for three consecutive years, even as Washington has indicated that companies that trade on the NYSE and Nasdaq exchanges will have to adhere by US accounting rules.

Separately, there is growing demand in hardline Republican ranks to stop Chinese students and scholars from acce-



### TRACKING OUTBREAK

Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	1,562,714	93,863	188 countries/regions hit
Russia	317,554	3,099	
Brazil	291,579	18,859	5,047,377+ infected globally
United Kingdom	252,234	36,124	
Spain	233,037	27,940	329,816+ have died
Italy	228,006	32,486	
France	181,700	28,135	
Germany	178,748	8,195	1,924,231+ have recovered
Turkey	153,548	4,249	
Iran	129,341	7,249	Source: Johns Hopkins University

ssing USSTEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education amid charges of spying and stealing. China has indicated that it is happy to facilitate the return of its 4,00,000 students in the US — if they can pay their way back.

While the US and China are duking it out diplomatic brinkmanship, there is concern that India could suffer collateral damage, although an American official said on Wednesday

that Indian students are still welcome in the US despite the anxiety and uncertainty created by the pandemic. The state department's outgoing point-person for South Asia, Alice Wells, said the administration wanted to keep the upward trajectory of Indian students, which last year topped 2,00,000. But the Trump White House is also under pressure to end the Optional Practical Training programme that allows

graduating students to work for one to three years as paid interns, with the anti-immigration critics arguing that US cannot afford it at a time of massive job loss (Another 2.4 million workers filed for jobless benefits last week, the government reported on Thursday, bringing the total of new claims to over 38 million in nine weeks). President Trump is expected to issue an executive order on the OPT issue soon.

Meanwhile on Thursday, the US administration pushed the envelope even further on China by announcing a potential \$180 million arms sale to Taiwan amid another torrent of invective from President Trump, even as Beijing tightened its grip on Hong Kong by proposing a new security law that would bypass local lawmakers. "China is on a massive disinformation campaign because they are desperate to have Sleepy Joe Biden win the presidential race..." he tweeted. Trump has been lashing out at China on an almost daily basis.

The attacks came even as a national election model released by Oxford Economics showed that Trump will lose 2020 polls in a landslide defeat with the country's coronavirus-hit economy proving a "near insurmountable obstacle" to him winning. The study predicted that Trump would win just 35% of the popular vote. *Full report on www.toi.in*

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### UK PM won't face action over links to US bizwoman

British PM Boris Johnson will not face criminal action following allegations of misconduct over his relationship with a US tech entrepreneur, the police watchdog said. The Independent Office for Police Conduct launched a probe last September following a newspaper report that Johnson, when mayor of London, had failed to disclose his personal links to Jennifer Arcuri, who received thousands of pounds in public funding. Johnson has denied any wrongdoing. The IOPC said there was no proof



**HANDS-FREE SOLUTION:** A mall in Bangkok has swapped lift buttons for foot pedals to stem the spread of the virus. Thailand opened malls on Sunday for the first time since March

to indicate Johnson influenced any payments to Arcuri, but "the officers making decisions thought that there was a close relationship between Johnson and Arcuri, and this influenced their decision-making".

### UK extends residency plan to all overseas med workers

**London:** The British government has extended a Covid-19 Bereavement Scheme — which grants indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in the UK free of charge to the family members of overseas medics who die on coronavirus frontlines — to all healthcare staff and social care workers. Home secretary Priti Patel on Wednesday said the scheme will apply not only to the families and dependents of foreign doctors and nurses, but also to lower-paid National Health Service support staff.

"Every death in this crisis is a tragedy, and sadly some NHS support staff and social care workers have made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of saving the lives of others," the Patel said. "Today we are extending the scheme to NHS support staff and social care workers," she said. The UK has so far officially recorded 312 healthcare-related deaths from coronavirus. These deaths include many Indian medics.

On Thursday, PM Boris Johnson did a U-turn as he ordered his ministers to work out an exemption of a surcharge on foreign medics, including Indians. The move comes a day after he had dismissed the possibility of a review into what critics have called an "unfair" burden. *PTI*

## World sees biggest 1-day jump in cases as infections cross 5m

Global coronavirus cases surpassed 5 million on Thursday, with Latin America overtaking the United States and Europe in the past week to report the largest portion of new daily cases globally. The virus has infected more people in under six months than the annual total of severe flu cases, which the WHO estimates is around 3 million to 5 million globally. The UN agency's chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that on Tuesday, there were "106,000 cases reported to WHO — the most in a single day since the outbreak began" in December.

Though China has faced criticism of its initial handling of the virus, the country has since brought domestic cases down to a trickle. In the latest symbol of normalisation, China opened its biggest political event of the year — the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference — after months of delay over coronavirus fears.

In Italy, a new research by the Milan Polyclinic Hospital suggested that the virus was spreading in Italy for at least two weeks before its first case was diagnosed on February 20. The study found that one in 20 adult blood donors in the area already had the virus's antibodies at the time.

Similar evidence had emerged in France, where officials said on Thursday that over 100



**MARCHING AHEAD:** PLA soldiers march during the opening ceremony of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Beijing. In the latest symbol of normalisation, China on Thursday opened its biggest political event, which was postponed from March due to coronavirus

### 'Lockdown delays cost 36,000+ US lives'

New estimates from disease modellers at Columbia University show that if the US had begun imposing social distancing steps one week earlier in March, about 36,000 fewer people would have died in the pandemic. And if the country had begun locking down cities and limiting social contact on March 1, two weeks earlier than when most people started staying home, about 83% of the nation's deaths would have been avoided, the researchers estimated. President Trump urged all on March 16 to limit travel, avoid groups and stay home. This week, all 50 US states began reopening to some degree. *NYT*

people have tested positive at a slaughterhouse. The cases follow outbreaks at meat plants in Germany, Spain, Australia, the United States and Brazil.

Meanwhile, health workers in Britain and Thailand have started taking part in a trial to determine whether two anti-malarial drugs can prevent Co-

vid-19, including one that President Trump says he has been taking. The study, involving over 40,000 health workers across Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, seeks to determine whether chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine could play a role in the fight against the coronavirus. *AGENCIES*

### STORIES YOU SHOULDN'T MISS

## China pushing laws to tighten grip over HK

**Beijing:** China is pushing for new national security laws that would give the Communist Party more authority in Hong Kong, a move announced on Thursday that could reignite anger over the erosion of freedoms in the city-state. Such rules would allow Beijing to take aim at anti-government protests that roiled Hong Kong last year. Any legislation put forth in China could allow Hong Kong officials to crack down on dissent under the guise of protecting national security. Similar legislation was proposed by Hong Kong government in 2003 but was abandoned after it triggered large protests.

This time, a broad outline for the new rules would likely be approved by China's Nation-

al People's Congress on Friday. The process would effectively circumvent the Hong Kong government, undercutting the relative autonomy granted to the territory under a political formula known as "one country, two systems." Zhang Yesui, spokesman for the National People's Congress, said on Thursday that delegates would review a plan to set up a legal framework and enforcement mechanism for safeguarding national security in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong media reported that the legislation would ban secession, foreign interference, terrorism and all seditious activities aimed at toppling the central government and any external interference in the financial hub. *AGENCIES*

## US to exit 'Open Skies' arms control treaty

President Donald Trump has decided to withdraw from another major arms control accord and will inform Russia on Friday that the US is pulling out of the Open Skies Treaty, negotiated three decades ago to allow nations to fly over each other's territory with elaborate sensor equipment to assure they are not preparing for military action.

"I think we have a very good relationship with Russia. But Russia didn't adhere to the treaty. So until they adhere we will pull out," Trump told reporters. He said there was a "very good chance we'll make a new agreement". In Moscow, RIA state news agency quoted Russian deputy foreign minister Alexander Grushko as sa-

ying that Russia has not violated the treaty.

US officials have long complained that Moscow was violating the accord by not permitting flights over a city where it was believed Russia was deploying nuclear weapons that could reach Europe, as well as forbidding flights over Russian military exercises. The Pentagon and US intelligence agencies have also contended the Russians are using flights over the US to map out critical infrastructure that could be hit by cyberattacks. The decision is bound to worry European allies who are also signatories to the treaty. They fear after US exit Russia will cut off their flights, too, which the allies use to monitor troop movements on their borders. *NYT*

## Pat-down searches not for all flyers: New SOP

### 'One In Five To Be Checked On Random Basis'

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**New Delhi:** All passengers shall not be subjected to pat-down search during pre-embarkation security checks at the country's airports in view of Covid-19 threat, though at least one out of every five persons must undergo pat-down search and/or explosives trace detector (ETD) search on continuous, random basis based on reasoned selection. This is meant to mitigate threat from any non-metallic explosives.

As per new SOPs for passenger screening at airports applicable when domestic flights resume on May 25, sufficient space shall be created and earmarked to maintain social distancing.

Monitoring by high-definition CCTV cameras will help digitally record boarding pass details and identity of passengers. These recordings shall be preserved for 30 days.

Before passing through the door-frame metal detector (DFMD), cellphones, wallets, keys etc shall have to be removed for X-Ray screening. If the DFMD alarm still goes off, the person will be put through screening by a hand-held metal detector, pat-down search, explosives trace detector, or a combination of any of these three. *Full report on www.toi.in*

### IF YOU ARE FLYING...

#### PASSENGERS HAVE TO GIVE A DECLARATION STATING

- They are not residing in any containment zone
- They are not suffering from any fever/cough/any respiratory distress
- They are not under quarantine
- If they develop any of the above-mentioned symptoms, they shall contact health authorities concerned immediately
- They have not tested



positive for Covid-19 in last two months

- They are eligible to travel as per the extant norms
- They shall make mobile number / contact details available to airlines whenever required
- They understand that if they undertake the air journey without meeting the eligibility criteria, they would be liable to penal action

## 'Those from containment zones not allowed to fly'

► Continued from P 1

People staying in containment zones and those who have been detected corona positive in the last two months can't fly. And if they do so, penal action will be taken against them. Meanwhile, the economy one-way fares fixed by the government, that do not include user development fee of airports, passenger security fees (Rs 150 for domestic) and GST, will be in force till 11.59 pm of August 24, 2020.

Delhi-Mumbai, one of the world's busiest domestic air routes, falls in a category with fare range of Rs 3,500-10,000. Airlines will need to sell 40% seats at below the

mid point of Rs 6,750. This sector had about 100 daily flights and now having about 33 could have meant sky-high fares — with a sneak peak being provided by a low-cost airline, which opened bookings for some time on Wednesday night. Delhi-Mumbai one-way was going for over Rs 17,000.

"It is important to open up (the skies) now... to strike a balance between life and livelihood. So we are beginning with about one-third (of approved DGCA summer schedule) domestic flights in a calibrated manner. Based on the experience, we will increase domestic flights," aviation minister H S Puri said. *Full report on www.toi.in*

## TN opposes resumption of domestic flights till end of May

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**Chennai:** The Tamil Nadu government has opposed the ministry of civil aviation's announcement of resumption of domestic flights on May 25, saying it should be held off until May 31. The TN government, however, made a request to the Centre on Wednesday to commence four evacuation flights a week, along with Shramik special trains and Rajdhani express twice a week.

The state health department has found 66 positive cases among returnees from abroad and other states, who took the air and train route in the last 10 days.

The aviation ministry's decision is a clear case of Centre not heeding to the request of CM Edappadi K Palaniswami to PM Narendra Modi recently. Civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday chose to announce on Twitter the government's decision to resume domestic service. This has surprised service providers who presumed that the operations would commence from June 1.

Chief secretary K Shanmugam said the government would write to the ministry, renewing its plea not to resume regular services before May 31. "We cannot handle the passengers. They are talking about 60 flights a day, which means 12,000 passengers a day. All of them must be tested. For that, we need two lakh quarantine facilities. It's impossible," he said.

## Fireman gifts land to woman with cancer

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**Kochi:** A station officer in the Kerala Fire and Rescue Services department, A L Lazar, registered a part of his 3485 sq ft land in the name of a landless woman who is battling breast cancer.

Omana Rappayi, 57, from Thrissur had sought the assistance of the fire department for her hospital visits during the lockdown. She was provided all help to get her chemotherapy done. But, to her surprise, along with that came nearly 1307 sq ft of land gifted to her on Monday by Lazar, station officer. He also spent the land registration fee from his pocket.

Omana has been staying in a rented house for over 12 years. "I have two daughters and we had sold our five-cent

### Man in Khajuraho donates PPE kits to doctors as part of father's last rites

A man presented PPE kits to a local hospital in Khajuraho on the Terahvin — the 13th day rites after death — of his father on Wednesday. The donor, Surendra Singh of Khajuraho, said his father died at 98 and instead of observing the Terahvin in traditional manner, he decided a better tribute was to buy PPE kits worth Rs 10,000 and offer them to doctors fighting against Coronavirus. Singh said had ordered the kits, manufactured by a self-help group (SHG) in advance. Of late, many SHGs in MP have started stitching PPE kits under the supervision of chief medical and health officers. Block medical officer Dr Pankaj Rastogi said, "It will inspire others to join forces in fight against the virus." *NN*

property to marry them off. My husband used to go for work but fractured his arm a few months ago. He is also an asthma patient. He works as a security guard now. My eldest daughter and her two daughters also stays with us. She used to work at a shop but that too stopped," she said.

Lazar said it took him and his wife only a few minutes to decide on donating the land after Paralam panchayat president Sadeep Joseph suggested the idea to him. "Kerala Fire Drivers and Mechanics Association had promised to build a house for her. She didn't have any land, so I promised to

give the land," he said.

Sadeep had called up Lazar in April, seeking help for making travel arrangements for a woman to go for chemotherapy. "I asked him to contact the Thrissur fire station. She told her plight to drivers from Thrissur fire station who went to help her and that is how we came to know about her," Lazar said.

He said the drivers' association in the district does charity work in the name of Vinodkumar, a fire and rescue officer who died in the line of duty. "Vinod had worked with me once. I also thought it could be in my destiny to donate land for the cause," he said. Omana said the fire officials had put a roof over them. "I have not paid rent for at least three months now. The fire officials have given us a new hope."

## 'Those aged 45-60 yrs account for 35% of deaths'

► Continued from P 1

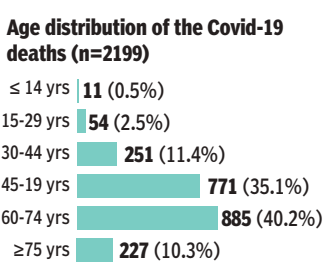
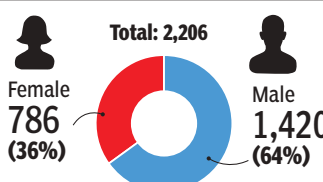
On April 30, people above 60 accounted for 51.2% fatalities, whereas 78% deaths were among people with co-morbidities.

Earlier, men are more at risk when it comes to fatalities, accounting for 64% of deaths. The age analysis of deaths showed that 0.5% of deaths were reported in the under-15 age group, 2.5% between 15 and 30 years, 11.4% between 30 and 45 years, 35.1% between 45-60 years and 50.5% among those above 60 years.

Covid-19 deaths increased from 1,075 on April 30 to 3,435 on Thursday. The case mortality rate in India is 3.06%, which

### FATALITY RATE IS 3.1

- A total of 3,291 deaths have been reported among covid-19 patients by the IDSP state surveillance units till date
- The case fatality rate is 3.1
- Median age of the deceased was found to be 60 years with the range being from 1 month to 101 years



compares favourably with the global rate of 6.65%, the ministry said, underlining the need for timely case identification and proper clinical management which it said helped keep the mortality rate low.

Officials said the low case fatality among younger people indicated that most of them were cured of the infection.

The ministry said the number of cases had climbed to 1,12,359 with 132 deaths and 5,609 cases added in the last 24 hours till 8 am on Thursday. A total of 45,299 patients have recovered so far and 3,002 were cured in the last 24 hours, the ministry said. "The recovery rate is improving and is 40.32% at present," it said.





A thought for today

You drown not by falling into a river  
but by staying submerged in it

PAULO COELHO

# Amphan's Tragic Toll

Centre must generously support Bengal  
and Odisha with rehabilitation

Nature's fury was unleashed full-blown as severe cyclonic storm Amphan battered Bengal and Odisha with wind speeds of up to 165 kmph. And it couldn't have come at a worse time with the country already battling the Covid-19 pandemic. Incidentally, Bengal and Odisha are states that send out large numbers of migrant workers. The latter returning home in the last few weeks had already complicated Kolkata and Bhubaneswar's Covid fight. Amphan now feels like a body blow, particularly in Bengal where it made landfall.

Illustrating how Covid-19 had made difficult preparations to receive the strongest storm in the Bay of Bengal since 1999, around 500 personnel of the Kolkata Police Combat Force – who are deployed in disaster preparedness and rehabilitation – were actually protesting their deployment in containment zones fearing Covid infections before Amphan struck. Going forward, authorities need to beef up resources and protocols to handle two simultaneous natural disasters. After all, climate change means the frequency of extreme weather phenomena has been increasing over the past two decades and now the threat of pandemics is also here to stay.

For now, Amphan has left behind a massive trail of destruction in its wake. While Odisha was spared the worst – reportedly thanks to accurate predictions by the meteorological department that also facilitated lower than usual evacuations – southern Bengal, particularly the districts of South and North 24 Parganas and East Midnapore were badly hit. The toll would have been higher had the authorities not evacuated more than five lakh people. Telecommunication systems are down in several areas, electricity cut off, and thousands of dwellings, roads, bridges and jetties lie ravaged. The total amount of damage may take weeks to assess as highways and roads remain blocked. The damage from cyclone Bulbul last year, which was far less severe than Amphan, was estimated at Rs 23,000 crore. The figure this time could be two-three times higher.

Which is why for Bengal to pick up the pieces and rebuild amidst the coronavirus pandemic, it would need substantial central support. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has already tried reaching out to the Centre, saying that politics should be set aside and the devastation viewed with compassion. Something that New Delhi can do quickly is remove the conditions attached to availing higher borrowing limits for Bengal and Odisha. This will provide some extra resources to start rehabilitation and reconstruction. Topping this up with direct financial assistance would be necessary in light of the serious Covid-related constraints that the two states are working with. Centre-state coordination must rise to the challenge in these extraordinary times.

## To Fly Again

Airlines need a supportive policy  
environment to return to the skies

The limited resumption of air travel planned from Monday is a sign that lockdowns are yielding to the imperative of restarting the economy. Complete freedom to travel outside containment zones, accompanied by the scaling up of all public transport modes, is critical to economic revival. Aviation of course is a sector that has been gravely wounded by the pandemic. After zero revenues for two months, airlines need a supportive policy environment to resume business. And as we now know that masks, frequent use of sanitisers and other disinfection measures offer a reasonable measure of protection, it's time that fear psychosis gives way to a 'new normal'.

Recall that not long ago domestic air travel could even boast of competitiveness with rail fares, a tribute to the distance travelled by India and private airlines from the days of public sector monopoly. While the lockdown hit almost everyone, contact industries like aviation, hospitality, malls and multiplexes are expected to keep suffering low footfalls even after reopening. Most airlines are heavily in debt and want a helping hand from the government. Stipulating price range caps on air fares in such an environment will do more harm than good – the spectre of monopolies returning after most firms become unprofitable and shut down is grim. Airlines are still figuring out a new business model in the changed scenario and could do without micromanagement and complicated price regulations.

When economic activity picks up air fares are expected to soar across the world but the job of moderating them should be left to market dynamics. Even-handed regulation would recognise these global trends and the debt woes of airlines. Various state governments' quarantine procedures also need to sync up. But social distancing norms followed by airports and airlines and their outcomes will have multi-sectoral implications. In time other closed air-conditioned spaces like metros, malls and multiplexes could replicate the same practices to reopen.

## Vocally local

PM's call to buy swadeshi goods could see the  
emergence of a whole lot of new brand names

Jug Suraiya



Following the PM's rallying call of 'vocal for local', urging people to buy swadeshi goods and services, India could get a brand new desi makeover, quite literally, as this post-lockdown scenario suggests. A family of four, Mom, Dad, and two kids visiting friends:

**Mr Host** (opening door to guests): Helloji! Come in, come in. Did you come by an Ooper cab, or Jhola cab?

**Mr Guest:** Neither. We came by our brand new Soosooki.

**Guest Kid 1:** Daddy, Daddy! You said Soosooki and now I want to do toilet!

**Mrs Host:** Come I'll take you to the toilet. And remember to wash your hands after with the Lifebbhai soap.

**Mr Host:** Let's have some nashta. The kiddies can have some Bhaskar and Rabina ice cream, some Harshi chocolates, and Kokum Kola or Peepsi Kola to drink.

### jugularvein

**Guest Kid 2:** Daddy, Daddy! Uncle said Peepsi now I want to do toilet!

**Mrs Guest:** Oof, oh! Off you go, then. And don't forget to use the Lifebbhai.

**Mrs Host** (to Mrs Guest): Bahenji, you'll have some tea and biscuits?

**Mr Host:** And something stronger for Bhaaisheb. Jahni Wahkar ho jai?

**Mr Guest:** Bilkul ho jai!

**Mrs Guest:** This tea and biscuits are very good. What are they?

**Mrs Host:** The tea is Dilliptan Lal Chhaap, and the biscuits are Birtanya Patla Arraaroot.

**Mrs Guest:** They're very nice. I wonder who this Tanya is who got a biscuit named after her.

**Mr Guest:** And this Jahni Wahkar is truly Wah, wah! Where did you get it from?

**Mr Host:** From Dubai, the last time I flew there on Amirates...

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jugglebandhi*

Soumya Kanti Ghosh



In his 'Open secret of economic growth' David McCord Wright had observed: "The fundamental factors making for economic growth are non-economic and non-materialistic in character. It is the spirit itself that builds the body." Something like this comes to mind when one goes through the Atmanirbhar Bharat package that came in wake of the Covid-19 crisis.

On May 12 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced its five pillars, the core was non-economic and non-materialistic in character. For the first time the approach to growth had truly turned towards internal strength with the slogan, vocal for local to make it global, which should not be misconstrued as protectionism. A logical corollary should be a demand-based economy system, which is self-producing and self-consuming as was revealed over the course of the next five days by our finance minister.

A self-reliant India will stand on five pillars: 'economy', which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change; 'infrastructure'; 'system', based on 21st century technology driven arrangements; 'vibrant demography', which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India; and 'demand', whereby the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilised to full capacity. Let me summarise how the PM's vision is being translated into action.

Post-Covid revival strategy gives a major thrust to agriculture and MSMEs. Since the first generation reforms, dwindling prospects in agriculture have capped economic growth by containing the overall demand. The government now wishes to create a unified market in agriculture commodities, pushing investment in agriculture supply chain through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, better price realisation for farmers and bringing modern technology in agriculture.

Income generation through agriculture and allied activities is expected to support the MSME sector along with preference for our local products and

# Building Atmanirbhar Bharat

It is about channelling India's strengths and should not be misconstrued as protectionism



government procurement. The thrust to mining notably in coal and other minerals, introduction of a seamless exploration-mining-production regime, measures in civil aviation, privatisation of power distribution and space will bring private interest in these sectors. Also, indigenisation of defence hardware could open huge opportunities downstream for domestic manufacturing.

The economic disruption caused by the pandemic is of gigantic proportions. The loss to economy could be at least one quarter of GDP growth, given that the economy has been in a lockdown mode since the last two months. The dislocation of migrant labour and disruption in domestic transport have adversely impacted agriculture, business units, suppliers and exporters. It is uncertain as to how households will react to loss in income due to the pandemic. There are predictions that discretionary consumption and consumption of durable items will significantly slow this financial year. It is to rebuild this lost ground that the revival package has been granular.

MSMEs will benefit from a range of measures which include easy access to

**Exclusion of Covid-19 related debt from the definition of 'default' under the IBC for the purpose of triggering insolvency proceedings is also a welcome move**

loan and de-risking the sector with a credit guarantee to help banks draw comfort. The emphasis on technology driven systems in health and education, administrative reforms, and privatisation of public sector units except in strategic sectors will bring the required efficiencies, thus releasing resources over and above what has been allocated. Opening up of space and atomic energy for private sector also entails positive spillover effect of technology.

Announcements in the financial sector cover a wide turf, addressing the concerns of all. As a follow up, the government has already announced changes in the NBFC guarantee scheme like inclusion of CPs and bonds issued

by NBFCs being considered eligible for this. Such liquidity support to low rated NBFCs will help in damping volatility and build confidence. Banks will draw a lot of comfort from changes announced in the bankruptcy code for MSMEs and from the raising of thresholds to initiate insolvency. Exclusion of Covid-19 related debt from the definition of "default" under the IBC for the purpose of triggering insolvency proceedings is also a welcome move. We now expect the next set of regulatory announcements from RBI to complete the cycle.

The people centric approach adopted in the package deserves praise. Increase in allocation for MGNREGS by Rs 40,000 crore to accommodate migrant workers, faster refunds, low cost housing and ease of doing business will cushion against the adverse impact of the Covid-19 crisis. In fact, the issue of reverse migration assumes significance in the context of supporting agriculture through MGNREGS.

This issue of gainfully employing migrant workers in the long run and their upskilling, though not included in the package, should be addressed in due course possibly through a digital infrastructure push and an encompassing policy for unorganised sector workers that is long due.

Economic policies have always been fascinating in terms of the diversity of opinions. As an example, unlike Keynes, the proponent of demand management policies, Friedrich Hayek who predicted the 1929 Great Depression believed that genuine recovery from a post-boom crash requires a return to sustainable production. Interestingly, in 1974, Hayek and Gunnar Myrdal were awarded the Economics Nobel prize but for completely contrasting economic views. We may thus always differ regarding the economic solutions and Atmanirbhar Bharat should only be a stepping stone for such unity in diversity.

Echoing such diversity, we should be mindful that the objective of Atmanirbhar Bharat will now require at least a double digit growth rate over a period of 10 years to not just regain lost ground but also build resilience in the economy to cope with such shocks.

*The writer is group chief economic adviser, State Bank of India. Views are personal*

## Covid, and now Amphan: Bengal lies devastated and is badly in need of succour

Boria Majumdar



**Kolkata:** The ordeal started at 12.30pm on Wednesday when two friends, both part of the senior management at Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, called me to say "If you have a water tank on your terrace make sure you tie it with rope and fill it up with water." Having tracked Cyclone Amphan updates for the last three days, the warning did not come as a surprise. The wind picked up at 2.30pm, when we started to hear a hissing sound. A beast was on the prowl, and the sound went up steadily. Doors and windows started creaking, the latch would make strange sounds. You had the scary feeling that the window panes would come off and the wind would come and get you.

If this was in Kolkata in a strong pucca house, the devastation in North and South 24 Parganas and Medinipur is beyond comprehension. Millions have been rendered homeless with houses destroyed, roofs blown away, crops submerged under waist high water and livelihoods snatched away.

Proper roofs of school buildings were hurtling around like projectiles, and electricity poles all across the state, having been uprooted by the cyclone's fury, were acting as speed breakers.

While Covid-19 has infected 1,20,000 people in India in 3 months, of which 45% have now recovered, Amphan in 3 hours destroyed a few million livelihoods and uprooted as many families. With Covid you

**The first lesson for us all is Amphan was not Bengal's or Odisha's misery. It is India's misery and we need to treat it as such. The next week is hugely critical in recovery**

have every reason to believe you can save yourself with proper behavioural hygiene, social distancing and early detection. Against Amphan we were all sitting ducks, waiting to be pounced upon and tormented. Against Covid we have hospitals and ICUs, against Amphan the



ICUs themselves stood destroyed.

And now in the post-Amphan context the state has to battle Covid as well. I don't think there has ever been anything deadlier in our lives. Bengal witnessed an unprecedented evacuation of 5 lakh people for Amphan. Where were they put? Was social distancing even remotely possible? Did anyone even think of it when there was literally no option?

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee summed things up in her press briefing at 11pm on Wednesday when she said all she was seeing around her was destruction and misery. Have we even been able to gauge the scale of destruction yet? Not

fully. With roads blocked and blown away, thousands of villages are still beyond the reach of rescue personnel and government officials. All we know is that millions, and not thousands, have lost their basics – roti, kapda and makaan.

The period between 7 and 8pm was the worst. We had endured the trauma for more than four hours and patience was starting to run out. Hope was giving way to fear and a deep sense of helplessness was gripping each one at home. Finally, around 10.15pm, the wind started to subside. The cyclone had passed us in Kolkata, but the state was still not out of danger.

What Amphan has exposed

### dilbert



## Traditional Vedic Insights To Boost Your Immunity

Atmanand Douglas Rexford

India is in a unique position to resist disease and educate the rest of the world, because she is home to the world's supreme natural health care systems. Ayurveda, yoga and yajna offer remedies for every stress-related disease. Here are a few simple, powerful, time-tested techniques, in addition to washing hands and social distancing.

Ayurveda recommends respecting your food and eating moderately. *Do not overeat.* Avoid processed, packaged foods, bleached white sugar and bleached white flour. Reduce fried food, dairy, cold foods and cold drinks.

Improve your diet. Favour organic food. Reduce toxic food grown with chemical fertilisers, pesticides, and herbicides, which poison the earth. Grow fresh, organic veggies in a backyard garden (if you have one). Compost and recycle.

Eliminate red meat from your diet. Reduce consumption of fish and fowl in order to aid your digestion and to reduce the confinement and torture of helpless animals. Industrial meat production is a crime against nature.

Cook with ginger, cumin, black pepper, coriander, cinnamon and turmeric. Squeeze lemon juice on your food. Brew teas with tulsi, lemongrass, ginger, turmeric, giloy, cinnamon and licorice root for strong immunity. For specifics, consult your local vaidya.

Breathe deeply. Stretch regularly. Take a walk in the morning before breakfast and after dinner. Practise yoga asanas daily. Start with simple surya namaskar and pranayama, breathing exercise.

Maintain a regular schedule – early to bed, early to rise. Avoid day sleep. Eat your main meal at midday, when

digestive fire is strongest. Eat dinner several hours before bedtime.

Learn meditation from a certified instructor. Practise meditation twice a day around sunrise and sunset, before breakfast and before dinner, to reduce stress and promote health and happiness.

Store drinking water over night in a clean copper vessel. Each morning, drink water lukewarm with a drop of organic, unheated honey and a squeeze of fresh lemon.

In the morning swish a little organic sesame oil in mouth; sniff in nose, and rub on limbs before bathing.

Play Gandharva Veda ragas in your home. Notice how much more healthy your houseplants become as these soothing rhythms enliven natural law. Also listen to Shanti Mantras and Vedic stotrams to create positive energy in your home.

Stapathya Ved Vastu Vidya describes

the subtle but noticeable environmental influences of your home: In general, if possible, enter your home from the East or North. East is the direction of rising vitality and nourishment from the sun. West is characterised by diminishing energy. North entry favours abundance. South entry may invite disintegration.

Another subtle influence comes from the Brahmansthan, the exact centre point of your home. Make a small, open, clean, shrine-like space to centre the activities of your home, just as the inner silence of meditation can centre the activities of your life. The effects of Vedic Vastu are subtle, but cumulative – adding or detracting from your health, wealth and happiness day after day.

Greet others with hands together in the respectful 'Namaste' prayer gesture. Join your two palms in front of your heart to express "Unity from Duality". Practise social distancing. *(The writer resides at Maharishi Ashram, Uttarakshi)*

### Sacredspace

Peace & Silence

*In its purest form, peace is inner silence filled with the power of truth. Peace is the prominent characteristic of what we call a civilised society, and the character of a society can be seen through the collective consciousness of its members.*

Brahma Kumaris



## US SEAFOOD BUSINESS HIT HARD BY COVID-19

The coronavirus crisis is hitting US seafood businesses even harder than the meat industry, prompting fishermen and processors to overhaul their operations and look for new customers. American supermarket shoppers are buying more fish and shellfish to prepare at home during quarantine, but business owners say the rise isn't enough to offset the loss of sales to restaurants, where 70% of seafood is consumed



# TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020

Share of seafood volume sale in 2019



Source: WSI

# Deposits rise over ₹2.8L cr in six weeks of lockdown

## Credit Dips ₹1.2L Cr, High Liquidity Forces Banks To Invest

Mayur.Shetty  
@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Bank deposits have risen by over Rs 2.8 lakh crore in three fortnights of the lockdown till May 8, while bank credit during the period dipped by Rs 1.2 lakh crore, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India. This has added nearly Rs 4 lakh crore to the liquidity in the banking system, resulting in a surge in investments by banks.

A few days into the lockdown, on March 27, bank deposits stood at Rs 135.7 lakh crore. A fortnight later on April 10, outstanding deposits surged to Rs 137.1 lakh crore. In another two fortnights, by May 8, the deposits rose to Rs 138.5 lakh crore — a rise of Rs 2.8 lakh crore in the six weeks since March 27. These three fort-

### FLIGHT TO SAFETY

(All figs in ₹ cr)	May 8	Difference since Mar 27
Deposits*	138L	2.8L
Savings/current	15L	-1.6L
FDS	124L	4.4L
Investments	40L	3.4L
Credit*	102L	-1.2L

\*Other than from bank \*Excluding inter-bank advance Source: RBI

nights also saw bank credit decline from Rs 103.7 lakh crore on March 27 to Rs 102.5 lakh crore on May 8 — a drop of Rs 1.2 lakh crore in six weeks.

Banks have grown outstanding deposits by over 2% in six weeks, while the whole of FY20 (up to March 27) bank deposits had gone up by only 7.9%. The numbers indicate a big shift to bank deposits during the lockdown. Most of the money went into fixed deposits, where the outstanding amount rose to Rs

123.9 lakh crore on May 8 — an increase of Rs 4.4 lakh crore over March 27.

Current and savings deposit balances declined by Rs 1.6 lakh crore to Rs 14.6 lakh crore. While a decline in bank credit in April is not unusual, what accentuates this year's decline is that the year-end surge in March, which leads to a pullback in April, was missing. As a result, FY20 credit growth was only 6.1% — less than half of

the 13% growth in FY19.

Last week, SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar had said that in April 2020, the public sector lender had seen a bank deposit growth of Rs 1.25 lakh crore, attributing it to a flight to safety. He added that credit growth was negative during April, leading to surplus liquidity in the banking system. Speaking to **TOI**, the SBI chairman said that top-rated corporates were raising funds from the money markets.

“People's savings are shifting to banks since it is safe and people are not ready to spend, while trade and industry are withdrawing. The government must address the demand side by crediting cash to the affected sections of the society,” said Maharashtra State Bank Employees Federation general secretary Devidas Tuljapurkar.

# Banks to pay 0.25% for govt guarantee

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** To get a government guarantee against defaults on the bonds or the loans that they buy from finance companies, banks will pay to the government a fee of 0.25% of the portfolio value. This fee, which has to be paid in advance, will protect up to 20% of the NBFC issued bonds in their portfolio or 10% of the loan book banks have purchased from NBFCs.

The government on Thursday released detailed guidelines of the partial credit guarantee scheme, which has now been extended from credit to bond investments. NBFCs, which include housing finance companies and microfinance institutions and who receive bank support under this scheme have to rework their asset-liability management to ensure that in three months their future fund flows match their outgo.

They must also ensure that

their capital adequacy ratio does not go below what has been stipulated by regulation.

Loans that NBFCs sell to banks have to be at least six months old and if they are raising money by issuing bonds, they should be of AA rating or below. The window for the one-time partial credit guarantee offered by the government will remain open until March 2021 or until Rs 10,000-crore guarantees

### ON NBFC PORTFOLIO

are provided by the government. For purchase of pooled assets, the government guarantee will be valid for 24 months from the date of purchase, while for purchase of bonds the guarantee will be coterminous with the tenure of the instruments.

To be eligible, the tenure of the bonds at the time of purchase should be from nine months or 18 months.

# Covid-19: FM to look at credit flow

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** In her meeting with banks on Friday, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will take up the progress of Covid-related credit and the extent of pre-approved loans that have been sanctioned. The minister will meet with chiefs of public sector banks and heads of Nabard, Sidbi and the National Housing Bank through videoconference.

The FM has also called for details on the loan offers accepted and disbursement effected. In the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, several banks have extended additional working capital limits and term loans to businesses to help overcome the liquidity challenges arising out of the lockdown. While many borrowers have sought increased lines of credit, quite a few have not

## Slippages may rise by ₹5.5L cr in FY21

**Mumbai:** With economic activity coming to a standstill due to the Covid-19 crisis, total slippages in the banking system may rise by up to Rs 5.5 lakh crore in the current fiscal, India Ratings and Research said in a report. AGENCIES

drawn them as they await the lockdown to be lifted.

The new projects announced by the government under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Scheme will also be discussed on Friday. These include the emergency credit line guarantee scheme providing up to Rs 3 lakh crore for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The FM has also called for data on the utilisation of the refinance limits by Nabard, NHB and Sidbi.

## Sebi for quicker post-default rating upgrade

**Mumbai:** Markets regulator Sebi has come to the rescue of corporates who may be downgraded to a 'default' rating for a brief period due to issues related to Covid-19.

On Thursday, it allowed credit rating agencies to shorten the 90-day period required for a company rated 'D' to be upgraded to a non-investment (junk) grade and 365 days to investment grade.

Rating agencies can curtail the cooling-off duration between two ratings, also called 'curing' period, on a case-to-case basis, but with additional safeguards in place, a Sebi circular said. **TNN**

# Birla MF stops inflows in 2 debt funds, no ban on redemptions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Aditya Birla Sun Life MF has stopped taking money in two of its debt schemes — Medium Term Plan and Credit Risk Fund. But the fund house said that regular redemptions and switch to other funds will continue as usual. It said the decision, which has been taken to safeguard the interests of existing investors, is effective May 22.

Together, the two debt schemes currently manage about Rs 5,000 crore. The fund house has already informed its investors about its

decision to suspend inflows. Both the funds had exposure to debt papers of IL&F's companies, which were written down, and also of Essel Group, which were recovered.

“We believe that there are substantial gains in our funds, which would be real-

### SWITCHES TO CONTINUE

sed by the existing investors over next few months. Since we do not wish to dilute this for existing investors by taking more money in these funds, we have stopped fresh subscriptions,” a spokesper-

son for Birla MF said. Systematic investment plans (SIPs) and systematic transfer plans (STPs) registered till May 21 will continue, but no new SIPs and STPs will be registered.

A Birla MF executive explained that this decision has been taken to keep 'opportunistic' investors away from making quick gains by investing in these funds now. Suppose some investors enter these schemes now and the two schemes make recoveries in some of the investments that had turned bad, then the net asset value (NAV) of the funds could jump, bringing in gains.

## Cop canteens withdraw order, relief for MNCs

John Sarkar  
& Namrata Singh | TNN

**New Delhi/Mumbai:** In what has come as a breather for multinational companies in India, the central police welfare stores body, Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandar (KPKB) canteens, has withdrawn the order that had put all fresh procurement on hold after the government's decision to sell only "swadeshi" products at these outlets.

The move to withdraw the order comes on the back of the authorities clarifying that "swadeshi" means Make-in-India, for instance, a Coke or a Samsung TV manufactured in India can be sold at these canteens. On Thursday, a ministry of home affairs (MHA) spokesperson said in a tweet, "Some media reports have been confusing the KPKB order to put purchases on hold, with

### CLARIFYING ON SWADESHI

MHA's decision to sell only made in India products at the CAPF canteens and stores across the country. MHA decision still stands."

"We source all our raw materials from Indian farmers. Our manufacturing facilities with thousands of Indian workers are located in India," said a senior executive at one of India's largest food and beverage company with headquarters in the US. Nestle India's chairman and MD Suresh Narayanan had asserted that the Switzerland-headquartered company, which has been present in India for more than a century, sources milk, wheat, spices and coffee through farmers. Earlier this week, most foreign companies had flagged concerns after receiving queries from government-run stores.

# Govt expected to prioritise expenditure

## Health, Food To Pip Culture, Steel While Keeping Tabs On Spends

Sidhartha & Surojit Gupta | TNN

**New Delhi:** The government is expected to prioritise expenditure on sectors such as healthcare, food and transporting migrants over areas such as culture, steel or sports for the full financial year. The plan is to keep the overall spending under check at a time when revenue flow has nearly stalled due to the lockdown, which has halted economic activity across the country.

In early April, the expenditure department had put in place a new cash management system for the April-June period under which there was no spending limit for ministries such as health, Ayush, agriculture, aviation, food, railways and textiles, which were at the centre of the battle against Covid-19.

In contrast, ministries such as coal, commerce and industry, urban affairs, education and skill development were among the 52 heads where spending in the first quarter was capped at 15% of the annual outlay. There was also a third set where the quarterly expenditure ceiling was fixed at 20% of the allocation for 2020-21.

When contacted, expenditure secretary T V Somanathan confirmed that a proposal was being looked at for the full financial year. "The details will have to be worked out in terms of ministries in each category," he said. On the expenditure fund, the government is budgeting for savings under some heads such as petroleum, where the subsidy on cooking gas has vanished, and official travel, which has come to a halt. In fact, petroleum may turn into a revenue spinner

after the government raised central excise duty, although the funds will move into a special entity to finance infrastructure projects such as highway construction.

### COUNTERING PANDEMIC

► The move to prioritise expenditure comes amid an assessment that revenue flow will take a few more months before showing any signs of pick-up as economic activity is just starting after nearly two months of lockdown

► For 2020-21, the government had aimed to rein in fiscal deficit at 3.5% of GDP

► But, it estimates widening of deficit to 5-7% of GDP on increased market borrowing to provide funds to counter Covid-19 impact on economy

But food subsidy is expected to go up as the government is going to distribute foodgrains to ensure that the poor do not go hungry, while also procuring aggressively to fill up granaries. At the same time, it expects higher outflow for health for which an additional Rs 15,000 crore is being sanctioned with Rs 4,100 crore going to states under the National Rural Health Mission to help them develop testing facilities and other infrastructure.

**Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project Division, Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560 068.

No. BBMP/EE/BPD/Tend-01/2020-21  
Date: 20-05-2020

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**  
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

The Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project Division, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approx. value of work	EMD (in Lakhs)
<b>Package No.: 1-BZ-BPD-A2, A5, A6 (W-174, 186, 188, 191), (2nd Call)</b>			
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavana and allied facilities at Parangipalya in Ward No.174 surrounding area of KCDC.</li> <li>Construction of Anganwadi Building and allied facilities at Agara Village in Ward No.174.</li> <li>Construction of Library Building and allied facilities at Agara Village in Ward No.174.</li> <li>Improvements to Govt. Middle School and allied facilities at Agara Village in Ward No.174.</li> <li>Providing concrete Roads in Astalakshmi Layout and Abbaiah Reddy Layout at Jaraganahalli in Ward No.186.</li> <li>Improvements of Roads and Drains at Chandra Reddy and Munivenkatappa Layout in Ward No.188 Bilekahalli.</li> <li>Comprehensive development at Singasandra Village at Manipal County Main Roads in Ward No.191 in Bommanahalli Constituency surrounding area of KCDC.</li> <li>Comprehensive development at Ambedkar Colony and surrounding Roads in Ward No.191 in Bommanahalli Constituency surrounding area of KCDC.</li> </ul>	Rs.1375.00 Lakhs.	Rs.15.00 (One lakh to be transferred through e-Portal and remaining amount to be provided in the form of BG/DD/FDR)
<b>Package No.: 2-BZ-BPD-A2, A6 (W-175, 186, 188, 189), (2nd Call)</b>			
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements and comprehensive Development works in Park Devarachikkanahalli BDA Layout in ward No. 175 Bommanahalli.</li> <li>Improvements and Comprehensive Development works in Park Devarachikkanahalli in ward No. 175 Bommanahalli.</li> <li>Construction of gallery and allied works in play ground behind Sathya Ganapathi Temple at Jaraganahalli in Ward No.186.</li> <li>Construction of additional Class room blocks and additional equipments for Govt. School at Jaraganahalli in Ward No.186.</li> <li>Comprehensive Development works to play ground in Ward No.188 Bilekahalli.</li> <li>Construction of Library, Bangalore one and BBMP office building at 4th Main near burial ground in Ward No.189, Hongasandra.</li> </ul>	Rs.1000.00 Lakhs.	Rs.15.00 (One lakh to be transferred through e-Portal and remaining amount to be provided in the form of BG/DD/FDR)
<b>Package No.: 3-BZ-BPD (W-190), (2nd Call)</b>			
3.	Providing AMC for Biofilter and Duct at KCDC Plant for 2 years.	Rs.60.00 Lakhs.	Rs. 1.20 (One lakh & Twenty Thousand to be transferred through e-Portal)
<b>Package No.: 4-BZ-BPD (W-193)</b>			
4.	Improvements to Park and other Developmental works at Shanthinikethana Layout and Surrounding area in Ward No.193 Arakere.	Rs.55.00 Lakhs.	Rs.1.10 (One lakh & Ten Thousand to be transferred through e-Portal)

**Calendar of events :** 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from **23-05-2020**. 2) Pre bid meeting : **28-05-2020 at 11:00 a.m.** 3) Last date for submission of tender document on or before: **05-06-2020 upto 4:00 p.m.** 4) Date of opening of Technical Bid : **06-06-2020 at 4:30 p.m.** Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days and website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project Division, BBMP.

**"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"**

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**  
**OPEN TENDER**

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162 Date:18/05/2020/ The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link [www.iरेps.gov.in](http://www.iरेps.gov.in). Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link [www.iरेps.gov.in](http://www.iरेps.gov.in) → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Qty.; Earnest Money Deposit (₹);Tender Closing Date & Time (IST):[1];75201003;Brass Pipe Fittings (59 items) for WAP-7 for CCB Brake System, Drg/Spec No.- CLW/TS/99/CF/5 Alt-8. Specn.: CLW/TS/99/CF/5 Alt-8; 26 set;125720;05/06/2020 at 11:00am. Office Address: Dy.CMM-III/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711. or SMM/HQ, 9163340719

Principal Chief Materials Manager  
RDS-025 CLW/Chittaranjan  
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**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**  
**OPEN e-RA**

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/20/0162 Date: 19/05/2020. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link [www.iरेps.gov.in](http://www.iरेps.gov.in). Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link [www.iरेps.gov.in](http://www.iरेps.gov.in) → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Qty.; Earnest Money Deposit (₹); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): [1]; 91190884D; Machined Stator Assembly [Modified], Drg. No.- 1TWD.096.102 Alt-13 [As per Annexure-M], Specn. No.- 4TMS.096.070 Alt-7, STR No.- CLW/TM/18600 Rev.-0; 1624 set; 5000000; 18/06/2020 at 11:00 am. Office Address: Dy.CMM-HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or SMM/G, 9163340704.

Principal Chief Materials Manager  
ABC-026 CLW/Chittaranjan  
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# IIT-Ropar, TSW join hands on artificial intelligence certificate programme

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** According to Gartner, by 2020, Artificial Intelligence would open up approximately 2.3 million job opportunities. To give a head start to those aspiring to build a career in this domain, Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, and TSW, the executive education division of Times Professional Learning (a part of The Times of India Group), have joined hands to offer a postgraduate certificate programme in artificial intelligence and deep learning.

In a virtual launch ceremony on Thursday, Professor Sarit Kumar Das, director of IIT-Ropar, and Anish Srikrishna, CEO, Times Professional Learning, signed an MoU for a long term collaboration. The postgraduate certificate programme is the first to be launched as a part of the collaboration. The six-month course will have an exhaustive curriculum that includes modules on emerging technologies and AI, data science, machine learning (ML), programming with Tensorflow, deep learning (DL) and neural networks, image recognition, speech recognition, AI applications and a capstone project.

Designed with inputs from industry and striking the right balance

between rigour and effort to make it highly suitable for working professionals, the programme will be conducted on weekends via live online sessions. Upon completion of the course, the scholars will be awarded a joint certificate by TSW and IIT-Ropar. They will also be accorded the status of IIT-Ropar executive education alumni.



Applications for the course will commence from July 20, and classes are likely to begin from the first week of September. To be eligible, an aspirant should have a minimum of two years of work experience in the IT industry. Though an engineering degree is desirable, a coding or mathematics background is not a criterion for admission. Selection will be on the basis of application and an interview.

IIT-Ropar has a global reputation, with high ranking in Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020, QS India Rankings 2020

and Union HRD ministry's National Institutional Ranking Framework. Professor Das said, "IIT-Ropar focuses on promoting cutting-edge research and high-quality publications in all disciplines. It is expanding its outreach to industry and the best academic institutions in the world through active collaborations."

The AI and machine learning components will be coordinated by Indo-Taiwan Joint Research Centre (ITJRC), supported by the ministry of science and technology, Taiwan) at IIT-Ropar. The online sessions will be delivered by faculty from IIT and by industry experts. Rohit Sharma, co-ordinator of the centre, said, "ITJRC focuses on academia-to-academia and academia-to-industry collaborations in AI and ML domains. This partnership with TSW will help us take our expertise to a wider audience."

Times Professional Learning's Srikrishna responded, "We are happy to partner IIT-Ropar in bringing AI and DL to our learner community. With the job market for AI poised to grow substantially, the programme will surely help meet the career aspirations of professionals."

To know more, you can email: [tsuadmission@timesgroup.com](mailto:tsuadmission@timesgroup.com) or call: 7400084666



GALLERY

Graeme Smith wants Ganguly to head ICC

**Johannesburg:** South African director of cricket Graeme Smith on Thursday made a strong call for Sourav Ganguly to be the next chairman of the International Cricket Council. Smith said he believed Ganguly, a fellow former Test captain and current Indian board president, was the right person to lead the game at a time of crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. "It is very important to have the right person as head of the ICC," said Smith.

**Johri optimistic about IPL:** BCCI chief executive Rahul Johri says cricketing activities can start "in earnest" only after the monsoon but he remains "optimistic" about the IPL happening this year. Johri said, "We are going to be guided by the government...Cricketing activity in earnest can start practically only after the monsoon season."

**CSA hopeful of India series in August:** South Africa are optimistic about hosting India for three Twenty20 Internationals in late August, but are trying to find new dates for their proposed tour to the West Indies. Cricket South Africa (CSA) has earmarked India's visit to raise revenue. CSA director of cricket Graeme Smith says the body is in constant contact with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

**Pole vaulters to make 'cinema' debut:** Fans starved of live athletics action could consider bringing popcorn to an event in Dueseldorf next month with top pole vaulters set to compete at a drive-in cinema. Germany's top pole vaulters **Raphael Holzdeppe**, Bo Kanda

Lita Baehre and Torben Blech will be in action at the June 12 "Flight Night" event, with fans able to watch from the confines of their cars, European Athletics said in a statement.

**No Tokyo Games postponement debated 2021, says Bach:** Olympics chief Thomas Bach agreed that 2021 was the "last option" for holding the delayed Tokyo Games on Thursday, stressing that postponement cannot go on forever. Bach said he backed Japan's stance that the Games will have to be cancelled if the coronavirus pandemic isn't under control by next year.

**Swiss legal chief faces sack in Infantino probe:** Swiss lawmakers on Wednesday decided to open proceedings that could see the country's attorney-general dismissed as part of an investigation into FIFA president Gianni Infantino. A Swiss parliamentary commission voted by 13 votes to four to initiate a case against Michael Lauber.

**SL scraps \$40mn cricket stadium on advice of top players:** Sri Lanka's prime minister Thursday scrapped plans for a \$40 million cricket stadium after local legends of the game warned it would end up a white elephant. Former captains Sanath Jayasuriya and Mahela Jayawardene slammed the proposed grounds near the capital Colombo, saying the money would be better spent supporting young players. AGENCIES

Coaching fraternity hit hard by Covid-19

Prakash Padukone

One prominent sector in sports hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic is the coaching fraternity. Having turned to full-time coaching once they realised that sport in the country was on the ascendancy in recent times, these professionals have lost their livelihoods now.

I am not referring to top-level coaches of the Sports Authority of India or other public sector units who are regular employees. I am talking about the unseens faces at the grassroots and club levels, who found in coaching a full-time vocation around 5-8 years back, encouraged by India's performance at the world level and the Olympics. They are former players, many of them having played at the state level. Some of them even gave up their jobs in big companies to make a living out of coaching because that is what they were good at.

Unfortunately, they belong to an unorganised sector which not many outside the realm of sport are aware of. The coaches are not restricted to badminton alone, there are thousands of them spread across the country involved in various sports. Not only coaches, others who represent the



CONCERNED: Padukone

entire support system that an athlete requires to excel — physios, sports psychologists, nutritionists, trainers — have no source of income now.

Having worked as individuals all along, the coaches feel neglected with no one to represent their case to the government, national sports federations or state associations. They don't have a formal platform to air their grievances. No one is aware of their problems, the government or the public. They don't have an association or a body to represent them.

It's time we took cognisance of their suffering. Immediate relief may not be possible, but we can definitely think of finding a long-term solution to their financial needs. Going forward, NSFs can take the initiative by starting a fund.

Ideally, I would want badminton to take the first step. If a beginning can be made here, it will show the way to other sports. I request the Badminton

Association of India president to take the lead, identify those in need and help them. For this to happen, BAI needs to create a countrywide database of coaches, umpires and all other support staff related to the sport, like they have done for players. Such information can also be helpful in identifying talent among coaches. Things will also become a lot easier if the coaches can come together to form an association to represent their case in the future.

This pandemic break is a big setback to sports. We need to learn our lessons from it. If not, coaches will have second thoughts about taking it up as a full-time profession. This will hit sport at the grassroots level. Also, parents may discourage their children from taking up sports related careers if they find that there is no future in it. We are far behind USA and Europe in sports science. In a bid to bridge the gap, many enterprising people tried their best to keep pace with change in recent years, going abroad for courses in sports management, psychology and other specialised fields, spending a lot of money. If this is what they get in return, the gains the country has made in sport may well and truly be lost.

(As told to V Narayan Swamy)

Apurvi pursues love for photography

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**Jaipur:** The Covid-19 outbreak has left many sportspersons with deflated confidence, poor fitness levels and a fogged career vision. But not Apurvi Chandela. The 10m air rifle shooter, a good bet to win an Olympic medal, is making good use of this lockdown by pursuing her love for photography and competing in online matches from her Jaipur residence.

LOCKDOWN DIARIES

A multiple Commonwealth Games and ISSF World Cup medalist, Apurvi's desire to learn photography was fuelled by one of her mentors, 2012 London Games bronze medalist Gagan Narang, apart from her uncle Hem Singh Khangarot.

Veteran shooter Narang is well-known amongst his peers for nature/wildlife photography. With the lockdown forcing the postponement/cancellation of high-profile events including the Tokyo Olympics, Apurvi saw a golden opportunity to turn into a quality lenswoman.

"I had seen images shot by Gagan (Narang) and I really liked them. Somewhere at the back of my mind I always wanted to learn nature/wildlife photography. So, I am doing an online course. I wanted to get better at it but never got time earlier due to shooting. I enrolled myself at this portal called udemy. I began with a short course which explains about my own camera — shutter speed, aperture, ISO — all basic stuff. After that I advanced a bit more into



NEW VISION: Apurvi Chandela

what kind of light is important — back light, front light, golden hours of the day to shoot etc. I am getting to learn a lot like editing images online on lightroom and photoshop. I also seek tips from Gagan and my uncle Hem Singh, who has been a photographer since a long time." Apurvi told TOI in an exclusive interview.

The sharpshooter also has plans to learn German. "I also want to learn German after finishing the photography course as a lot of shooting events happen in Germany. German is one of the most widely spoken languages worldwide. My uncle speaks very good German so he can also guide me if I falter."

Apurvi is also an animal lover and as a globetrotter wasn't able to find time for her canines. The lockdown has come as a blessing for her to spend quality time with her family and pets.

Girl, who cycled 1200km carrying dad, earns trial from cycling fed

**New Delhi:** In what could be a life-changing opportunity, the cycling federation will invite 15-year-old Jyoti Kumari to appear for a trial next month, impressed with her sheer doggedness with which she pedalled her way to Bihar from Gurugram, carrying her ailing father. Stuck in Gurugram due to lockdown, a tenacious Jyoti asked her father to sit on the rear side carrier of her cycle and took him to his native place, covering 1200km in seven days.

Cycling Federation of India Chairman Onkar Singh said that if Kumari, a class eight student, passed the trial, she will be selected as a trainee at the state-of-the-art National Cycling Academy at the IGI Stadium complex here.

The academy, under the aegis of Sports Authority of India, is one of the most advanced facilities in Asia and has the recognition of UCI, the world body of the sport.

"We spoke to the girl this morning and we have told her that she will be called to Delhi next month as soon as the lockdown is lifted. All the expenses of her travel, lodging and other will be borne by us," Singh said. "If she needs to accompany somebody from home, we will also allow that. We will see in consultation with our Bihar state unit on how she can be brought to Delhi for a trial," he added.

SAI tells athletes to resume training at their own risk

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**New Delhi:** Indian athletes will have to sign a consent form if they wish to resume formal training amid the Covid-19 scare at various Sports Authority of India-managed (SAI) regional centres and national centres of excellence (NCOE). The country's sports authorities will not be held accountable if the athletes — who represent India on the international stage — get infected during their stay at national camps in their quest to restart on-field training after more than two months of the lockdown.

SAI, on Thursday, unveiled its revised and final 'Standard Operating Procedure' (SOP) guidelines to resume sports activities after the central government gave its go-ahead to reopen stadia and sports complexes across the country. It outlined measures for resuming training at SAI centres following the government's guidelines.

However, it is strange that athletes interested in joining these camps have been told to sign a consent form to indicate their willingness to resume training at their own risk.

Putting the onus of his/her own well-being on athletes, the consent form says: "I hereby acknowledge the risks associated with resuming training at the centre under the present Covid-19 pandemic situation; I hereby acknowledge the centre cannot guarantee the complete elimination of risks posed by Covid-19 through the implementation of the precautions and protocols identified by the centre; and I hereby declare that I am willing to resume training at the centre on my own consent without the influence of any other party."

Similarly, concerned national sports federations (NSFs) will also have to give a written undertaking to the

Some permitted activities

**Athletics:** Use of high jump/long jump/triple jump/pole vault pit is not permitted unless available for personal use. Relay training must not include contact or baton exchange.

**Hockey:** Individual skill training permitted with number of athletes not exceeding 12 players on field (3 each in 1 quadrant) at a time. Activities requiring player to kneel, sit or lie on turf is prohibited. Tackling is prohibited.

**Boxing:** Skill training using personal bags only. Human sparring, use of boxing ring, etc. is prohibited.

**Wrestling:** Sparring with personal dummies with 1 wrestler per mat at a time. Human sparring of any form or contact is prohibited.

**Badminton:** Indoor court training limited to singles only.

**Shooting:** Dry and live fire training permitted with alternate lane gap. No equipment sharing.

centre, acknowledging the risk associated with resuming training. SAI has left it to the NSFs to secure the agreement copy from athletes.

The SAI's decision to obtain consent from athletes has raised a few questions: Why is it implementing SOP when it can't ensure an athlete's well-being? Why can't SAI sign the consent form on behalf of athletes taking responsibility for their health and safety? If SAI isn't sure about freeing its own centres from Covid-19 infection, then what's the hurry in opening these centres? Why should the athletes sign the consent form when SAI itself is declaring that SOP can't guarantee the elimination of risks associated with the pandemic?

We cannot be enforcers, says DGC on age issue

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**New Delhi:** With golf clubs in many parts of India opening up, it has been a blessing for professional as well as leisure golfers to swing again in wide open spaces. However, with government regulations stating that citizens over 65 years must stay away because of susceptibility to the Covid-19 virus, the Delhi Golf Club officials reasoned members can't be turned away from the gates because of their age.

"We cannot be enforcers," said Maj (Retd) RS Bedi, the president of DGC. "It is in the first paragraph of the new protocol. The advisory has been given that all standing government regulations apply but we cannot stop people coming in. There have been instances of elderly people walking in but to me, personally, it is a sensitive subject. I feel it is a short-sighted directive."

Major Bedi, at 77, feels he is fitter than a "50-year-old". "You see I think I'm healthy enough to play on the course. It would be extremely unfair if I did, having set the protocol for the 65+ members," he said.

Golfer Amandeep Johl, mean-

while, pointed out he didn't notice any senior citizens on the course. "There were not too many people," he said. "There must have been just 50 cars parked. Usually, the elderly members play between 5.30 and 7.30 in the morning. My mother, in her eighties, wanted to go out for a round of golf but we advised her not to. I have also heard that at the Qutub Golf Course, so many bookings have been cancelled because of the age issue."

Johl, who heads the coaching excellence programme, played 41 holes over two days out, and even took out "four kids on the B-course" on Thursday. "All the while, we practised physical distancing and wore masks. And everything has been set up in such a way that we needn't be worried. Temperature is checked, you are sanitized, the caddies wear masks and gloves and are not allowed to touch the clubs, only allowed to carry your bag on a trolley, one person per cart, no rakes in the bunker, cups are inverted and you are not allowed to touch the flag, and you have only 50 balls on the driving range so that everyone gets their chance."

Nepal may open more border outposts

'After First Near Lipulekh, 3 More Soon In U'khand'

Prem Punetha | TNN

**Pithoragarh:** Days after the Nepalese government opened an armed police border outpost (BOP) at Chhangru village near the Lipulekh Pass — the first time it had deployed armed police personnel on the border — sources said preparations were afoot to start three more BOPs along the India-Nepal border in Uttarakhand. The move assumes significance in the wake of escalation of tensions along the border after the Nepalese government registered its protest at an almost 80-km-long road that was inaugurated by defence minister Rajnath Singh on May 8. The road will allow vehicular movement till near the Lipulekh Pass, regarded as the gateway to Tibet.

Nepal has been claiming the pass as part of its own territory. In the middle of last week, 25 armed personnel of Nepal Police had reached Chhangru by helicopter to set up the post situated near the pass.

Sources in Nepal confirmed to TOI that the border outposts are being set up at Jhulaghat, Laali and Pancheshwar — all bordering Pithoragarh district — and are expected to be up in the coming week. Notably, all



The outposts are being set up at Jhulaghat, Laali and Pancheshwar — all bordering Pithoragarh district — and are expected to be up in the coming week

these places also have bridges that are used in facilitating cross-border movement between the two countries.

The Indian side of the border at all the three points is manned by the Sahastra Seema Bal. On the Nepalese side, till now, regular police personnel used to patrol the border.

A source said Jhulaghat is going to be the most prominent BOP since on an average 200 people used to cross the border here before the lockdown came into effect. The source said there are also plans to establish customs offices at all the three BOPs by the Nepalese government.

Pithoragarh district magistrate Vijay Kumar Jogdande said, "Jhulaghat, Laali and Pancheshwar are in Nepalese territory and it is up to them if they are upgrading their establishments."

Dispute over Kalapani is continuing since 1960s

Six months after India released its new political map placing Kalapani — an area that falls in the tri-junction between India, China and Nepal — within its borders, Kathmandu unveiled a new map this week showing the region along with Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh areas in Uttarakhand as part of its territory. The dispute about the areas is not new; it has cropped up every now and then since the 1960s. What is the history of the dispute and reasons for current flare-up? TOI takes a look.

A river lies at the heart of the border issue

At present, Kalapani — a 372-sqkm area — is controlled by ITBP which has a post there since 1962. India claims Kalapani as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district while Nepal says it's part of its Dhaulagiri district. The Kalapani valley falls along the Indian route to Kailash-Mansarovar in Tibet.

In 1816, the Sugauli Treaty signed between Nepal and British India said 'west of the Kali river' belonged to India. The treaty, however, did not mention the source of Kali which runs through Ka-

lapani. British surveyors subsequently showed the origin of the river, with many tributaries, at different places. This digression has led to territorial disputes between the two countries. Nepal claims the river to Kalapani's west is the main Kali, and thus the country has territorial rights to the region. India holds that a ridgeline to Kalapani's east is the border, thus Kalapani falls in India.

Another disputed area, the Lipulekh Pass atop Kalapani, is a mountain pass at the Uttarakhand-Nepal border. It was used as an ancient route for trade and pilgrimage but was temporarily closed following Indo-China war of 1962. The third area is Limpiyadhura, which Nepal claims is the origin of Kali, hence Kalapani and Lipulekh belong to Nepal.

Why is Kalapani territory significant?

A high mountain pass, Lipulekh is of strategic interest to New Delhi. It helps India track Chinese movements in the region. Kalapani's significance is centuries-old for its location on the trade and pilgrim route to Tibet.

In 2000, during Nepalese

PM Girija Prasad Koirala's visit to New Delhi, the then Indian PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee had agreed to a study of Kalapani to resolve the border dispute. But it was never initiated. In 2014, the two countries again decided to settle the issue but no further progress was made. A year later, Nepal again raised objections when India and China came to an agreement to boost trade at Lipulekh Pass.

Build up to the current tensions

In November 2019, India released its new political map following the reorganisation of J&K. The map showed Kalapani as part of Indian territory. Kathmandu raised concerns and suggested talks be held on the dispute.

Tensions grew early this month when defence minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80km-long high-altitude road from Dharachula (Uttarakhand) to Lipulekh Pass. The road is to serve as a faster route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pilgrims. Nepal expressed regret over the inauguration and claimed the road passed through its territory.

Full report on www.toi.in

Allegation of troops acting across LAC not accurate: India

► Continued from P 1

The MEA went out of its way to castigate China for its actions in the South China Sea, describing it as "part of the global commons" and reiterating its strong interest in "peace and stability" in the maritime region. Slamming China for its aggressive actions in the region, India said all disputes should be resolved peacefully and in keeping with international agreements like UNCLOS which China has flouted despite being a signatory and an adverse ruling on its activities.

Asserting that Indian actions were within its side of the LAC, the government said, "Any suggestion that Indian troops have undertaken activity across the LAC in the western sector or the Sikkim sector is not accurate." Indian troops were "fully familiar" with the alignment of the LAC and abided by it scrupulously, it added. The comments came after assertive statements by China and the US on Wednesday describing Beijing as a threat to its neighbours.

India and China have been in contact diplomatically, with the Indian government communicating with Beijing.

"The Indian troops strictly follow the procedures laid down in various bilateral agreements and protocols to resolve any situations which may arise due to difference in perception of the LAC. The two sides have established mechanisms to resolve such situations peacefully through dialogue," the government said.

The statement came a day after the Chinese foreign ministry accused Indian troops of crossing the border in Sikkim. "The Indian Army has crossed the line across the western section of the Sino-Indian border and the Sikkim section to enter Chinese territory," the Chinese ministry said.

China also asked India to immediately withdraw personnel across the line, restore the status quo, strictly restrict frontline troops and respect agreements — which it claimed were breached — to maintain peace and stability in the border areas.

India reminded China on Thursday that maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas was an "essential prerequisite to the further development of India-China bilateral relations". The Indian statement should be seen as a warning to China, sources said.

Govt: Pak claim of 'false flag' op plan malicious propaganda

**New Delhi:** With Pakistani PM Imran Khan once again claiming that India was plotting a "false flag" terror attack in J&K, the government accused him of indulging in malicious propaganda not even deserving of a response. MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said India didn't want to dignify Khan's remark with a response.

Khan was quoted as saying that a false flag operation was "imminent from India in order to divert world attention from its ongoing genocide" in J&K. "Fifteen homes (were) torched by Indian occupation forces in Srinagar yesterday as 900k security forces subject Kashmiri to brutal oppression. (Indian PM Narendra) Modi's Hindutva supremacist occupation government is committing war crimes in JK, including changing the demography in violation of 4th Geneva Convention (sic)," Khan had tweeted.

Sources said the allegation reflected Khan's frustration. Pakistan, which used terrorists trained, nurtured and controlled by it to pursue its plans in J&K, has consistently tried to pass off terror attacks as acts of India's "homegrown militants". It has also floated conspiracy theories that New Delhi engineers violence to turn attention away from its "failures". TNN









Share a picture wearing a homemade mask on your social media handles using #MaskIndia. The best pictures will be featured in this space and on [maskindia.com](https://maskindia.com)

## Rana, Miheeka make it official with an intimate roka ceremony



Rana Daggubati took to social media yesterday to share pictures from his roka ceremony with Miheeka Bajaj. Earlier this month, the actor had shared a picture with his lady love, informing fans of their relationship

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Rana Daggubati and lady love Miheeka Bajaj kick-started their wedding festivities with a traditional roka ceremony on Wednesday. The ceremony took place at Rana's grandfather D Ramanaidu's memorial, at Ramanaidu Studios, Hyderabad. D Suresh Babu, Rana's father, says, "It was not a formal engagement ceremony. It was just an intimate gathering with only immediate family present. Roka is a tradition from the girl's side to make the alliance official. It was a beautiful ceremony and both families are extremely happy."

Rana opted for a crisp white cotton kurta and lungi set, keeping things understated at the roka and letting his to-be-bride Miheeka shine in her salmon pink and red pattu sari. Miheeka's mother, Bunty Bajaj, shares, "We come from a Marwari family and a roka is part of our tradition. We started the day with a small Ganapati puja at home and then we had the roka ceremony, where we applied tilak to the groom, and the families exchanged sweets. This was

**THE ROKA WAS THE FIRST FUNCTION TO KICK OFF THE WEDDING FESTIVITIES, SO WE'RE ALL QUITE EXCITED... WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FINALISING A WEDDING DATE SOON**

— Bunty Bajaj, Miheeka's mother

the first function to kick off the wedding festivities, so we're all quite excited. We also discussed about the wedding dates and are in the process of finalising a date soon."

The Daggubati and Bajaj families elaborate a little more on the formal ceremonies that are likely to follow, saying, "We've not yet decided whether to have a formal engagement or to directly have a wedding and reception. There will be formal functions soon and we'll share the details once they're finalised," Suresh Babu adds. When contacted, both Rana and Miheeka refused to speak.

## Man linked with Nawaz's wife Aaliya rubbishes rumours of their affair

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A day after Nawazuddin Siddiqui's wife Aaliya Siddiqui (original name Anjana Kishor Pandey) opened up on why she decided to send the actor a legal notice seeking divorce and maintenance, some media reports surfaced, hinting at an alleged relationship between her and their friend, Peeyush Pandey. A picture of the two was published in certain media reports, speculating 'what's brewing'. The said photo was told to be Aaliya's WhatsApp display picture a few days ago.

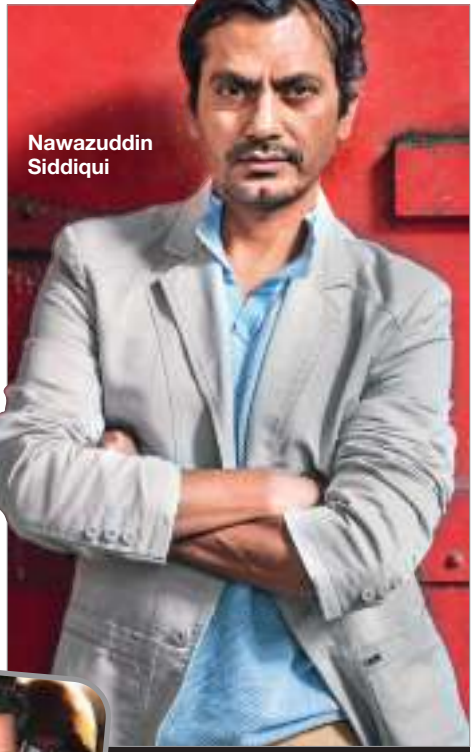
We reached out to Peeyush, a media professional. Sounding shocked, he clarified, "I got to know about their divorce notice through media. I am the scapegoat here. These link-up rumours are completely baseless and ridiculous! Why am I being dragged into this? I have nothing to do with this. People around them know about their feud and what is going on between them (their estranged relationship). I want to stay away from it. Why is my name and reputation being tarnished? I am in a relationship with someone, and this sort of rumour is extremely distasteful. This puts me in a spot with my family and friends."

Luckily, my better half is aware of the truth as she is also friends with Aaliya. I will consult my lawyer as to what needs to be done to safeguard my interests."

We learnt that the picture used by some media outlets of Aaliya and Peeyush was a cropped photo (see right). The original photo, which we have seen, has three people — Aaliya, Peeyush and his girlfriend. (We were requested to withhold the photo from being published to safeguard the third person's privacy).

A source close to Aaliya added, "Aaliya had that picture as her display photo a few days ago on WhatsApp. That picture has three people and not two as is being portrayed. She put it out there, because there's nothing to hide. She is friends with Peeyush and his girlfriend and all three feature in that picture. There's nothing more to it. To insinuate that she is having an affair is playing dirty. People can part ways in a dignified manner without resorting to this kind of mudslinging. This wasn't required."

Speaking about the picture, Peeyush said, "That picture was taken at a party and there were over 20 people there. We all click pictures. If there are



(L) The picture of Aaliya Siddiqui and her friend Peeyush Pandey that was published in some media reports

**WHY IS MY NAME AND REPUTATION BEING TARNISHED? I AM IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE, AND SUCH RUMOURS ARE EXTREMELY DISTASTEFUL**

— Peeyush Pandey, the media professional with whom Aaliya has been linked

## I've asked hospital authorities to discharge me as I don't have money for treatment: Ashiesh

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Ashiesh Roy, who has featured in TV shows such as *Sasural Simar Ka*, *Jeannie Aur Juju*, *Tu Mere Agal Bagal Hai* and *Mere Angne Mein*, admitted himself to a Mumbai hospital for dialysis on May 14. Soon after, he appealed to people in an online post, requesting monetary help for his treatment.

However, he now wants to get discharged as he is not able to bear the medical expenses. He said, "I was facing a money crunch as I've been out of work for six months. The situation has worsened due to the lockdown. I had savings of ₹2 lakh, which I spent during the first two days of being hospitalised. I was tested for COVID-19, which cost me around ₹11,000, followed by other expenses. I spent around ₹90,000 on a single round of dialysis. I have to undergo a treatment, which will cost me ₹4 lakh, but I don't have the



Ashiesh Roy; (inset) in the hospital

**MY CONDITION IS SUCH THAT I NEED TO GO FOR DIALYSIS EVERY TWO WEEKS. I JUST NEED TIME AND MONEY TO RECOVER**

be dependent on anyone. He says, "My condition is such that I need to go for dialysis every two weeks. I need time and money to recover. I know I can get back to work, and so, I'm requesting my industry friends to help me. I don't mind playing any character; I need to keep going."

He is in a vulnerable emotional state, too. He says, "I planned to relocate to Kolkata where my sister lives. I don't have any emotional support here. I should've got married, but I didn't when the time

was right. The only thing I want is to get back on my feet again."

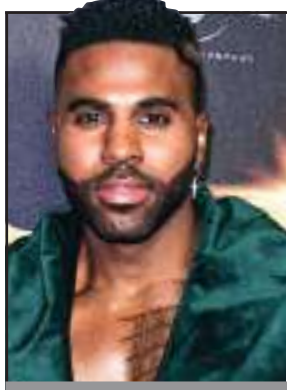
Meanwhile, Sooraj Thapar, his co-actor from *Rishita Sajhedauri Ka*, has been requesting people to help him financially. He has also approached a few NGOs for help. Sooraj tells us, "Ashiesh's sister has managed to send some money. Some others from the industry have also transferred money into his account after reading his post. But, we need more money, as we don't know for how long the treatment will last. We need someone to take charge of his medical expenses."



## BUZZSTOP

### DERULO BREAKS HIS FRONT TEETH IN TIKTOK CHALLENGE

**JASON DERULO** broke his front teeth while attempting a TikTok challenge, where one has to eat corn on the cob attached to an electric drill. His stunt took a bad turn when Derulo switched the power drill on, and suddenly shouted out in pain, and revealed his broken teeth. **IANIS**



## WITH LOCKDOWN 4.0 AND STRICT SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES:

# NO JASHN-E-EID THIS YEAR



### #THROWBACK EID 2019

The father-sons trio posed for us last year at Jama Masjid, as they shared their fondest Eid memories in the city

### 'I'LL MISS FRIENDS COMING OVER ON EID'

Amaan Ali Bangash says that while he isn't a regular to Eid parties, he'll miss the gathering at home. "Eid at home has always been with some close friends, who come home to greet our family, and we have a great time talking and eating good food. This year I'll miss that human presence. *Abhi toh achcha khaana khaane ka bhi mann nahi hai*, since there are so many people who aren't even getting two meals a day. When I was a kid, I remember my father would go to some iftar and Eid parties, but I've always loved spending time with family on Eid. This time also, I'll be with my family and we'll pray, but will miss the celebrations," he says.

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Every year, there are celebrations galore in Delhi with power-packed iftar evenings and Eid lunches. However, celebrations this year are low-key, owing to the pandemic. Delhiites, who either organise these parties or attend them, tell us what are they missing the most about those gatherings.

**Renu Hussain and Shah Nawaz Hussain** host an Eid lunch every year at their home. Renu tells us, "This year, we're celebrating Eid at home with only family members. We've been hosting Eid parties for the last 20 years, and there have seldom been times when we couldn't host one. I'm really touched to hear how much my friends are missing celebrating Eid with me. This year I'll organise a Zoom party with my friends, so we can have a virtual celebration."

**Neelam Pratap Rudy** says, "Eid means celebrations with Renu and Shah Nawaz Hussain. They are like family to me, and my younger daughter ties a rakhi to Renu's two sons. So for me, it's like a family event. This will be the first time I won't be at their place on Eid, but I'll pray we meet soon and celebrate together."



A file picture of Leena Singh with her staff on Eid

### 'WILL MISS MEETING FRIENDS AT EID PARTIES'

**Leena Singh** says, "For me, Eid has always been an occasion to celebrate with my staff, spend time with them and celebrate the rest of the day with my friends at an Eid ki dawat. This year, I will greet everyone on phone. What I am already missing is hugs from my friends. Eid gale milne ka tyohaar hai and it is sad that we won't be able to do that this year. I never miss Eid parties because I get to meet all my friends, and we all sit for hours and chat. Also, the food at their Eid parties is the best — I always eat jalebi, rabri and kulfli."

Though **Vani Tripathi Tikoo** will miss going to Eid and iftar parties, she reminds us that the need of the hour is social distancing. She says, "It's important to understand that social distancing is necessary. We haven't celebrated any festival in the last two months, and we'll all celebrate Eid at home. However, I'm definitely missing going to iftar and Eid parties, the warmth of hosts and meeting my friends."