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DCGI nod for human trials of 'Covaxin'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD
The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has permitted human clinical trials of 'Covaxin', the country's first vaccine candidate for COVID-19.

The trials are scheduled to start across the country in July. Hyderabad-based vaccine makers Bharat Biotech said on Monday. The firm has developed the product in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Virology. The DCGI approval for the Phase I and II human clinical trials follows the company submitting results of pre-clinical studies, demonstrating safety and immune response.

NEARBY

Maharashtra adds 5,257 new cases; toll now 7,610
PUNE
Maharashtra recorded a surge of 5,257 COVID-19 cases on Monday, taking its tally to 1,69,883.

WEST ▶ PAGE 5

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ARROW EDUCATION

India, China Commanders to hold talks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Corps Commanders of India and China are scheduled to meet for the third time on Tuesday amid continuing tensions along the border in Ladakh.

The talks are to be held around 10.30 a.m. at Chushul on the Indian side, a source said on Monday. The earlier talks were held on the Chinese side at Mollo, opposite Chushul.

The Indian side will be led by Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh, General Officer Commanding of the Leh-based 14 Corps, and the Chinese side by Maj. Gen. Liu Lin, Commander of the South Xinjiang Military District. At the second round of talks on June 22, the two sides had come to a "mutual consensus" to disengage along the LAC.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

MHA unveils rules for Unlock 2

Night curfew timings eased, more trains likely; PM to address nation today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) late on Monday announced fresh guidelines for Unlock 2. The restrictions will, however, be strictly enforced in containment zones till July 31.

Metro rail services, schools, colleges, gyms, auditoriums, bars, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, assembly halls and similar places will continue to remain shut across the country. All large congregations, including religious, social, political, sports and academic, continue to remain prohibited. Also late on Monday, the Prime Minister's Office tweeted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation on Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Curbs since March

The lockdown, first imposed in March, has been relaxed considerably over the past two months even though the total number of COVID-19 cases has surged past 5.6 lakh and more than 16,000 deaths have been reported.

Hours before the guidelines were issued by the MHA, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu extended the lockdown till July 31 without any more relaxations, joining West Bengal and Manipur. The dates for reopening



Tucks waiting outside Champua town in Keonjhar district of Odisha to proceed to the Joda-Barbill mines. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

prohibited activities will be decided separately, the guidelines issued by the MHA under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 said.

In significant relaxation, the MHA said: "Shops depending upon their area, can have more than five persons at a time." However, the customers have to maintain adequate physical distance. Domestic flights and passenger trains are already allowed in a limited manner. Their operations will be further expanded in a calibrated manner.

Night curfew timings have been relaxed and now shall be in force from 10.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m.

"Further, relaxations in night curfew have been given for seamless operation of industrial units in multiple shifts, movement of persons and goods on National and State Highways, loading and unloading of cargo and

movement of persons to their destinations after disembarking from buses, trains and airplanes," the MHA said.

Training to resume

Training institutions of the Central and State Governments will be allowed to function from July 15 and the standard operating procedure (SOP) in this regard will be issued by the Department of Personnel and Training.

"After extensive consultation with States and UTs, it has been decided that schools, colleges and coaching institutions will remain closed till July 31," said the MHA. International air travel has been permitted in a limited manner under the Vande Bharat mission and "further opening up will take place in a calibrated manner," the government said.

Maharashtra extends lockdown till July 31

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Monday extended its lockdown till July 31, without providing any further relaxations in urban areas amid mounting cases of COVID-19.

Chief Secretary Ajay Mehta issued the new guidelines a day after Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray

said he won't be lifting restrictions after June 30. According to the new rules, private offices can operate with up to 10% staff strength or 10 people, whichever is more. For State government employees, the ratio is 15% or 15 people, whichever is higher.

Relaxations granted earlier under Mission Begin Again will remain. All essential and non-essential shops will function as per relaxations issued on May 31 and June 4.

The order clearly prohibits inter-district movement of people and long-distance travel without any emergency.

DETAILS ▶ PAGE 10

Separatist leader Geelani quits Hurriyat Conference

Ailing hardliner cites 'current situation' to exit the grouping

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Geelani, 90, on Monday decided to quit the conglomerate, without divulging his future course of action.

"I have decided to distance myself from the Hurriyat given the current situation [in the amalgamate]," an ailing Mr. Geelani said in an audio message. He said all the constituents of his faction of the Hurriyat had been informed, in a detailed letter, about the decision.



Crowd puller: A file photo of Syed Ali Geelani in Srinagar.

Chenab Valley terror-free'

The J&K police on Monday termed the Chenab Valley in Jammu region a militancy-free zone after the killing of three militants in an encounter at Anantnag in

south Kashmir. Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said Doda was terrorist-free now. "So far, 46 terrorists have been killed in June." ▶ PAGE 9

resignation was due to the internal feud in the Hurriyat. It is likely to pave the way for a new leadership in the Hurriyat, which faced a massive clampdown in the run-up to the abrogation of J&K's special status last year. Mr. Geelani had opposed the move and asked the Centre to

Senior party leader Avinash Rai Khana described the resignation of Mr. Geelani as "a biggest benefit of the removal of Article 370".

He, however, did not clarify if he had resigned from the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat.

In the past two years, his health had deteriorated significantly, a family member said. "No one outside the family is allowed to see him."

Sources said Mr. Geelani's

BJP leader Ajaz Hussain said, "Other Hurriyat leaders should call it a day and realise their mistakes. India is the only way forward for all those who believed otherwise".

Senior party leader Avinash Rai Khana described the resignation of Mr. Geelani as "a biggest benefit of the removal of Article 370".

There has been no reaction from the other constituents of the Hurriyat.

RELATED REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 9

TikTok among 59 apps banned by the Centre

Govt. cites threat to national security

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Government of India on Monday banned 59 applications, most of them popular Chinese applications such as TikTok, Shareit, Mi Video Call, Club Factory and Cam Scanner, citing threat to national security and sovereignty.

The ban comes amid continuing tensions on the border between India and China and covers a variety of applications from e-commerce to gaming, social media, browsers, instant messaging and file sharing.

Order to Google, Apple "Upon receiving recent credible inputs that such apps pose threat to sovereignty and integrity of India, the Government of India has decided to disallow the usage ... both [on] mobile and non-mobile Inter-



Chinese applications such as TikTok, Shareit and Club Factory have been banned.

net-enabled devices," the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) said in statement.

According to sources, MeitY has issued instructions to Google and Apple to remove the banned applications from their respective application stores. Additionally, telecom operators and Internet service providers will be asked to block access and use of these applications on their networks.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

4 Rafales to land in India by July-end

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The first batch of four Rafale fighter jets is scheduled to arrive in India in the last week of July amid continuing tensions on the border with China.

The four aircraft are scheduled to depart from France on July 27 and fly to India with a stopover at the Al Dhafra air base in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a defence source said.

There was a possibility of one more aircraft being delivered but was not confirmed yet, a second source said.

As reported by *The Hindu* on April 13, the arrival of the first batch of jets was delayed from May to July due to the COVID-19 restrictions and lockdown in both India and France.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Clarify curbs on 3,500 Tablighis, says SC

Asks Centre to explain blacklisting of foreign nationals who are bona fide visitors

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Union government to clarify if the blacklisting of 3,500 foreign nationals from 35 countries in connection with the Tablighi Jamaat gathering amid the lockdown, was a blanket directive or care was taken to hear and decide the merits of each case individually.

Only a press note

"What we have here on record is a press note. It does not say notices were issued, orders were passed and action was taken on a case-to-case basis. We do not see any individual orders here. Please take instructions on the stand of the Union of India," Justice A.M. Khanwilkar addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

The court ordered the government to respond on July 2, the next date of hearing.

Four writ petitions, including one by a Thai national, who is seven months pregnant, have challenged the Centre's decision of April 2, by which 960 foreigners, belonging to 35 countries, presently in India, having entered on valid tourist visas, by merely alleging their in-

volvement in 'Tablighi Jamaat Activities' despite the guidelines of the Respondent No.1 (MHA (the Ministry of Home Affairs)) placing no bar on attending religious congregations or visiting religious places," the petitioners said.

The decision by its very unilateral nature, infringed the principle of natural justice, particularly *audi alteram partem* (hear the other side) by blacklisting foreigners present in India without first granting an opportunity of being heard, or notice of any form, and hence, depriving the aggrieved foreign nationals of their right of locomotion and travelling back to the country of their citizenship, the Thai woman's plea said.

"In barely 50 words, the impugned decision as reflected in the press release dated April 2, 2020, has arbitrarily first forfeited the personal liberty of more than 960 foreign nationals, belonging to 35 countries, presently in India, having entered on valid tourist visas, by merely alleging their in-

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8



A deserted Tablighi Jamaat Centre at Nizamuddin in Delhi.

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A B-M-B-E

Happy living for the elderly

How senior citizens who have opted for retirement homes are working on physical and mental health during the pandemic

■ SOMA BASU

Up in the hills of Dehradun, Ren Madan celebrated his 92nd birthday last week with his wife Leontine, 89, and their friends. They wore masks and gloves, and maintained the physical distancing norms of our COVID-19 times, as they gathered in the dining hall of the Antara Senior Living residential home, to cut a birthday cake baked by the wellness staff.

"Had I been in my home in Manali now, it would not have been possible to take care of things amidst the present restrictions," says the senior-most resident at the facility. He and Leontine will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary next month, unsure of when they will be able to meet their two children, both doctors in the US. Last month, the Madans had to be content with participating in the marriage ceremony of their granddaughter on a Zoom call.

All things considered though, the birthday celebration "is a nice feeling that helps to push away dark thoughts especially during these trying times," says Ren, who is learning Spanish now. "We are kept engaged like back in school," he adds with a laugh.

Seniors at risk

As one of the most vulnerable groups, the management and staff of several senior citizens' homes are taking precautions to

keep residents (including its staff) safe physically, while helping people interact with precautions, to take care of mental health too. Antara, for instance, went into lockdown a week before it was officially announced. "This allowed us time to prepare the residents mentally, stock up essentials, make provisions for the staff to stay on the campus, plan regular counselling sessions and fun activities while having zero contact with the external environment," says Tara Singh Vachani, the Executive Chairman. She says they have not reduced staff strength to make sure emergencies are taken care of in the same way they would have before the lockdown.

Locked in

Miles away, 75-year-old Prema Viswanathan living in Vanapratha, a senior citizens' home near Coimbatore, says she had a vertigo attack and the staff was at her doorstep to take her to the clinic after she made an intercom call. The management has made arrangements for the staff (that includes nursing assistants, helpers, cleaners and cooks) to stay back on the campus during the entire period of the lockdown. "Nobody is allowed to leave the premises and no outsider is allowed entry. Supplies are ordered over the phone and the delivery boy leaves them at the gate to minimise the risk of transmission of



Keeping busy: Residents at Antara Senior Living in Dehradun; (below) the Madans. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

AGE IN PLACE

Dr AB Dey, Head, Department of Geriatric Medicine, AIIMS Delhi, says that alarmist news makes senior citizens fear death more than a person who has the day's busy-ness to keep them distracted. He says there are ways of developing a positive attitude to help keep stress levels down:

Step out of the room and get some sunshine daily.

Keep walking at intervals even if it is around the house, on the terrace or balcony.

Practise deep breathing.

Gently push yourself to do some safe and simple stretching and bending exercises.

Follow a quarantine routine for meals and sleep.

However tough it may be, do smile.

ordered over the phone and after the delivery boys leave them at the gate, the items (such as milk packets, fruits and vegetables) are given a thorough wash before being brought inside. "All this may take some extra time and labour, but we cannot afford to put a single resident at risk," she says. The place has been out of bounds even for the family members of the elderly residents.

Interacting with caution

The need now is to balance the humane needs with rigour and protocol, says Major Sathyana-rayanan Parthasarathy, co-founder, Melur Meadows Retirement Village near Mettupalayam (Coimbatore). Much before the COVID-19 lockdown, he says, the group had built houses spread across the luxury of greenery, open space, air and sunlight.

Given the layout, it has not been difficult to help residents keep physical distance. "Some-

times, they'd come together for activities – cooking, baking, gardening, farming – and we make sure they do these activities in small batches," he says. For instance, the yoga sessions earlier



FILM REVIEW

Bhonsle: agents of anger and gloom

The film might be set in another time and deals with hatred of a specific kind, but it feels prescient for the here and now because hate hasn't quite died among us

NAMRATA JOSHI

Devarish Makhija's *Bhonsle* has smothered me with a bleakness that just refuses to slack off. And I say this in a good way.

Desolation cries out loud in the film through the sentient silence of retired cop Ganpat Bhonsle (Manoj Bajpayee), struggling to get a service extension. It echoes in his dark, dank and shabby room in Mumbai's Churchill chawl; the meagre, repetitive meals of pav and dal; the grubby utensils and the dysfunctional transistor.

There is his own resistance towards human contact of any kind, loath as he is to even accept greetings from the new north Indian

neighbour Sita (Ipshita Chakraborty Singh) and her brother Lalu (Virat Vaibhav). On the other hand, is the inability to fight the continual, ominous visitations of a crow. Bhonsle cuts a grim figure – an island unto himself in the vast sea of humanity – and, along with the dismal space that he inhabits, becomes a persuasive agent of gloom. Makhija's languorous build-up isn't just about striking a mood or underlining the urban heart of darkness but also making it palpable so it jumps out from the screen to reach the viewer.

The other driving force in the film is anger. Pushed deep inside the recesses of Bhonsle's heart and mind



Stellar act: Manoj Bajpayee is astounding in his internalisation of retired policeman Ganpat Bhonsle. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

but simmering on in the face of humiliating solicitations he has to make towards his seniors. There are parallel wraths – of a Marathi cab driver Vilas (Santosh Juvekar) and several others like

somewhat capped and contained, backlash from the migrants, like Rajendra (Abhishek Banerjee). All of these strands span the Ganpati festivities – from the making of the idols to their visarjan.

Irony is that all the three people, seemingly polar opposites of each other, aren't united merely by the rage they share in common – righteous in one, entitled in another and retaliatory when it comes to the third. They also partake in a collective reality – of being marginalised, dispossessed and tormented in their own unique way. At the receiving end of the power dynamics themselves, they perpetuate it further to the weaker ones.

The intense crescendo of brutality towards the end, however, left me feeling both devastated as well as a trifle troubled in how it seeks violence as a tool for collective catharsis and specially with an intelligent, bright woman forced to be at the receiving end of the worst.

But these quibbles apart, though *Bhonsle* might be set in another time and deals with hatred of a specific kind, it feels prescient for the here and now because hate hasn't quite died amongst us. The emotion has just shifted shape to become even more multifaceted and demonic. And the insider-outsider debate at the film's heart couldn't have struck a more

ironical note when a vast number of the migrants in Mumbai have emigrated back home even as the city waits for them to return for its own selfish needs.

Competent cast

Makhija harnesses a competent set of actors to great effect, be it Juvekar, Chakraborty Singh or Banerjee. Bajpayee is astounding in his internalisation of Bhonsle and acts with not just his face but by deploying his whole body – from his sullen, disinterested look to the weighed down, drooping shoulders to the unsure gait and misanthropic ways. From being a mute witness of misdemeanours to the bearer of a

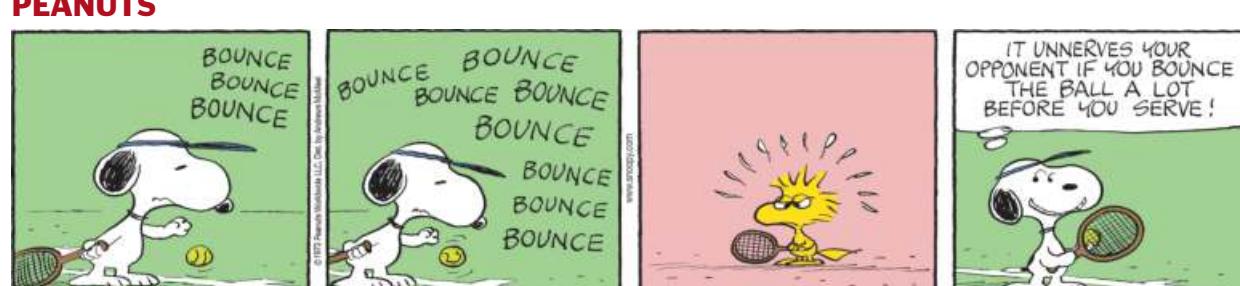
boundless personal tragedy to a ferocious moral force – he conveys it all in a measured manner. Virat Vaibhav is wonderfully vulnerable as Lalu, the reluctant offender with a heightened awareness of his guilt. He and Bajpayee together are the keepers of the sanctity of the chawl's *vachanalaya* (public reading room) and the film's conscience at large.

Bhonsle premiered at the 2018 Busan International Film Festival and also played the same year at the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival and Dharamshala International Film Festival. The film dropped on June 26 on Sony Liv and is currently streaming there.

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



Timings

MUMBAI	TUESDAY, JUN. 30
RISE 06:05 SET 19:20	
RISE 14:38 SET 01:48	
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 01	
RISE 06:05 SET 19:20	
RISE 15:38 SET 02:31	
THURSDAY, JUL. 02	
RISE 06:05 SET 19:20	
RISE 16:40 SET 03:18	

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Mumbai Today
33°C The morning will be warm. Moderate rain and thundershower will effect. The sky will remain cloudy over the city.

Mumbai Tomorrow
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IN BRIEF

COVID-19 facility at Hindu Rao starts operations

NEW DELHI
The Hindu Rao Hospital, which was declared a dedicated COVID-19 facility, has started its operations, North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash said on Monday. The order declaring the hospital such a facility was issued on June 14. The Mayor said that only 50 beds would be made available for COVID-19 patients at present and that the number of beds would be increased to 200 "in a phased manner". So far, 45 beds, five ICUs and 84 isolation beds have been prepared, the North body spokesperson said.

COVID-19 cases drop for third successive day

Capital reports 2,084 fresh cases; dates for survey extended as number of containment zones increases

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Delhi fell for the third straight day with 2,084 new COVID-19 cases being reported in the past 24 hours, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Monday. The fresh cases have taken the total number of cases to 85,161.

Also, 57 more deaths have been reported in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of deaths to 2,680. Of the total cases, 56,235 people have recovered and there are 26,246 active cases.

The number of new cases was 3,460 on Friday and it fell to 2,948 on Saturday, 2,889 on Sunday and 2,084 on Monday. The number of



A rapid antigen test in progress at Adarsh Nagar in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

active cases has also come down for the second consecutive day – the figure was 28,329 on Saturday and fell to 27,847 on Sunday and 26,246 on Monday.

After a Delhi government order to review and redesign containment zones on June 22, the number of containment zones has increased

from 261 on June 22 to 435 on Monday, according to the bulletin. The redesigning was part of a 'Revised COVID Response Plan' decided by the Delhi government, based on directions from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on June 21.

In the same directions by the MHA, it was mentioned that a 100% survey of containment zones is to be done by June 30 and a comprehensive survey of the rest of Delhi will be done by July 6.

On Monday evening, the MHA said that the dates have been extended due to the increase in number of containment zones.

"Door-to-door survey will be done first in containment zones on priority basis by July 6 [date extended as num-

bers of containment zones has increased to 435]. This will be followed by door to door survey in entire Delhi," the MHA spokesperson said on Monday night.

Before the statement, there was confusion in many of the 11 districts of the city on whether to carry out survey in areas beyond the containment zones, according to multiple Delhi government officials.

er eight weeks. This will be applicable to everyone whose current emergency parole will lapse by July 31," an official source told *The Hindu*.

On March 16, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of the risk of COVID-19 spreading within and from overcrowded prisons across India. On March 23, the top court asked the State governments to consider giving parole to those facing up to seven-year jail term to decongest prisons on account of the COVID-19 outbreak. Following the order, the government amended the Delhi Prisons Rules, 2018 and inserted a clause for 'emergency parole'.

An order is expected to be issued later this week after the Home Minister's approval, according to officials.

A total of 1,108 convicts have been released on emergency parole till now, according to official data. The parole period will be counted as part of their sentences.

"You cannot bring back convicts to the jails under these circumstances. So, their emergency parole is going to be extended by another

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Plea seeks three more sites to house foreign nationals

HC asks Centre, Delhi govt. to respond

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI



The foreign nationals at a quarantine centre. ■ FILE PHOTO

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought reply from the Centre and the Delhi government on a plea by several foreign nationals, who had participated in the religious congregation at Tablighi centre in Nizamuddin here, seeking permission to add three more places of alternative accommodation for them.

The court also issued notice to the Delhi police and posted the case for further hearing on Tuesday.

Apart from Texan Public School, the community has now identified two additional alternatives for accommodation, which may be used in the future, if need be, the plea said.

The current plea sought permission to shift some of the foreign nationals to a new accommodation.

In a status report filed in response to the allegations made by Pinjra Tod activist Natasha Narwal, who is currently lodged in the jail, prison authorities said that 15-20 foreign inmates created problem in the jail on June 16 morning.

The authorities said that an alarm was sounded at around 8.30 a.m. and reinforcement was called in, after which the inmates were

25 injured in Tihar jail violence: authorities

'Incident happened on June 16'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

physically controlled by minimum force.

Fifteen inmates and 10 jail staff, who suffered minor injuries, have been given treatment in the jail dispensary by the doctors, the prison authorities said.

It said that the telephone facility of the prisoners was temporarily restricted for a few days between June 16 to 23, to curb their movements and prevent gathering.

On Ms. Narwal's allegation that the inmates were not allowed to get in touch with persons outside jail through videoconferencing, the jail authorities retorted that on June 24 morning, her counsel had conducted videoconferencing with her.

Delhi govt. calls contempt petition 'preposterous'

Bodies lying in hospital corridors: plea

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

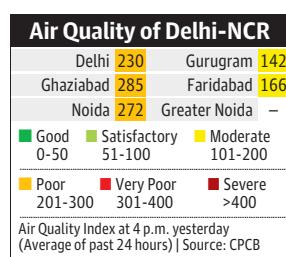
"unfortunate" and "preposterous" that a contempt petition has been filed.

Hearing on July 29

The ASG also said that the Supreme Court was seized of the issue of body management on a case initiated by it based on media reports.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Praetek Jalan taking note of the submission adjourned the hearing on the case filed by advocate Avadh Kaushik for July 29.

His petition alleged that bodies of the dead were lying in the same wards and corridors of the hospital where COVID-19 patients are being admitted and kept.



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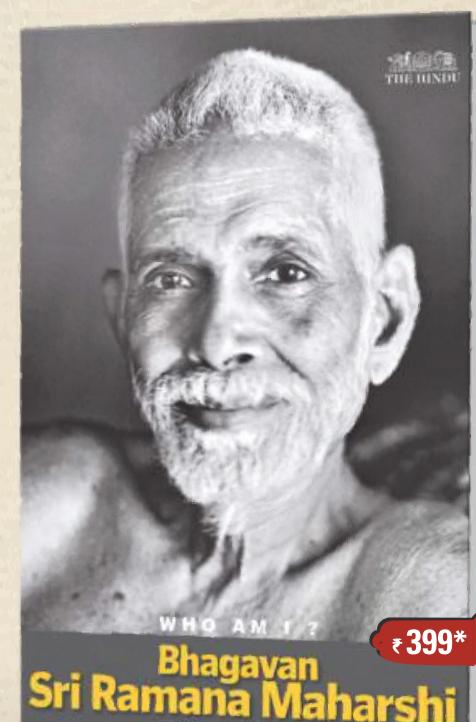
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Punjab death toll reaches 122

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab recorded 188 fresh COVID-19 cases on June 26 and reported two more deaths taking the toll to 122, said an official statement.

The number of positive cases has reached 4,957. The patients who died were from Bathinda and Patiala districts.

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS ELECTRICAL WORKS
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Sub), Western Railway, Mumbai Central invites e-Tender to the following work : (I) Tender Notice No. & Date : EL/SUB/OH/710/WA, Dtd: 29.06.2020. Name of Work : Maintenance contract for 04 wheeler tower wagons of Mumbai Suburban Section. Estimated Cost of Work : Rs. 27,91,594/- EMD : Rs. 55,800/- Completion period : 24 Months. Cost of tender documents : 3,000/- (2) Tender Notice No. & Date : EL/SUB/OH/711/WA, Dtd: 29.06.2020. Name of Work : TRD work in connection with re-alignment of UP harbor line at Mahim in Mumbai Suburban Section. Estimated Cost of Work : Rs. 94,21,989/- EMD : Rs. 1,88,400/- Completion period : 06 Months. Cost of tender documents : 5,000/- Date and time of submission : For Sl. no. 1 & 2 – Not later than 15.00 Hrs. of 27.07.2020 in the prescribed manner. Date and time of opening : For Sl. no. 1 & 2 – The tender will be opened at the office of Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Sub), Western Railway, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400008 on date 27.07.2020 at 15.30 Hrs. Validity of offer : For Sl. no. 1 & 2 – 45 days from the date of opening. Note: Please visit our website www.reps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. 04

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Punjab Chief Minister says India doesn't need their money

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

CM Amarinder Singh

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday said donations by Chinese firms to PM CARES Fund should be immediately returned by the Centre amid the ongoing stand-off between India and China.

"Various amounts have been received in PM CARES Fund from Chinese companies. At a time when confrontation is going on, I think the money should be returned. We need to take a tough stance on China. We can't take Chinese money while our soldiers are being killed."

Firstly, they (China) are responsible for COVID-19 and secondly, they are responsible for aggression against my country. India doesn't need Chinese money to look after itself," said Capt. Amarinder at a press conference here.

On the issue of reopening the Kartarpur Corridor in the backdrop of Pakistan's offer, the Chief Minister said he was in favour of opening

tion of four new testing labs. "The State has adequate equipment to manage any further spread of the pandemic," he said.

"In the first stage, 4,248 beds in government hospitals had been set aside, with another 2,014 now being added, while the private hospitals had allocated 950 beds for COVID-19 patients. The total number of isolation centres identified to accommodate a large number of cases if the crisis aggravates stands at 52 government and 195 private ones," he said.

Abide by rules' The Chief Minister said he was perturbed over reports of people being fined for violating the health safety measures and warned them to abide by the precautionary health guidelines not only to ensure their own safety but of the entire State.

The Chief Minister added that migrant labourers that had left are now returning to Punjab as they envision job potential in the State.

Guwahati goes into total lockdown

Manipur extends curbs, Meghalaya imposes restrictions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Guwahati and its outskirts under Kamrup (Metropolitan) district went into total lockdown from Monday following the community spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 14-day lockdown ends on July 12.

All government and private offices, commercial establishments, shops, industrial establishments and places of worship remained closed on Monday. Specified fuel outlets, pharmacies and hospitals were allowed to operate.

The roads were a deserted look as the authorities banned the movement of all vehicles except ambulances and those belonging to security personnel and journalists.

26 arrested

Twenty-six people were arrested for lockdown violation and 112 others were booked for using vehicles for 'non-necessary' purposes on Monday.

The police warned of action against lockdown violators and said drones would be used in areas that have had a tendency to disobey



Empty roads during the total lockdown in Guwahati on Monday. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

was critical of the total lockdown.

The total lockdown in Guwahati made Meghalaya take a similar decision, but in areas bordering the principal Assam city.

The southern part of Guwahati adjoins Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya.

"We took the decision due to the surge in COVID-19 cases in Assam. Inter-State movement continues to be restricted," Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said.

In Manipur, Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren said the existing lockdown will be extended till July 15.

Four drown, 13 lakh hit in Assam floods

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Four persons drowned on Monday and more than 13 lakh people were displaced as the flood situation in Assam worsened, affecting 25 of the State's 33 districts.

Officials said two persons were washed away in eastern Assam's Dibrugarh district while one each were killed in western Assam's Barpeta and Goalpara districts.

Altogether, 47 people have died in flood and landslides since May 22.

The water level has remained "manageable" in Kaziranga National Park, but three hog deer were run over by vehicles as they tried to escape the flooded rhino habitat for the safety of the Karbi Anglong hills.

The water level at Bagjan in Tinsukia district subsided on Monday, but to a level to allow partial resumption of operations to cap the natural gas well that caught fire almost a fortnight after a blowout on May 27.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SHRADDHANJALI



Our beloved father
Shri Bhasker Bhai Shah, aged 85, peacefully left for his heavenly abode on Monday, 29th June, 2020. May we pray for his blessed soul's everlasting peace.

Deeply Mourned by :

Pushpa Shah
Hiren – Nita, Priti – Pankaj Sheth, Ashish – Michael Larivee
Priyal – Ricken – Prerna-Aria
Host of friends, relatives, well wishers and the entire Dynamic Family.
Ph. +91 86101 59073, 86101 58160 email : bshash@dynamicgroup.in

Understand one another

Value one another

Love One another and Live happily in harmony

Due to lockdown, we request family and friends to pray for the departed soul from home.

REMEMBRANCE



Dr. S Manoharam
(09/04/1951 - 15/06/2020)
Retd Asst Linguist ANSI Mysore
Former Head in Charge - Dept of Lexicography CICT & External Expert Chennai.
Deeply Mourned by Family. Thanks for all Condolences.

For enquiries on
Obituary Announcement / Death Anniversary, Please contact Mr. M Bala at the following number between

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mumbai : 9619045762

Please mail your query at : mumbaimaterial@thehindu.co.in
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Please contact: 9619045762

Please mail your query at : mumbaimaterial@thehindu.co.in

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For placing advertisements online log on to

www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), **Nikhil Kumar Verma S/o Rajesh Prasad R/o H. No. 580, Plot No. 38, Kh. No. 292/218, Mukundpur-I, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 19.06.2020 from the area of P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 379/20 u/s 363 IPC dated 20.06.2020 has been registered at Police Station Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age: 17 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Hair: Black, Wearing: Black colour cap, Black colour jeans pant, orange colour shirt and white colour shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi at E-mail Id – cic@cbi.gov.in or Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi
Outer North Distt., Delhi
Ph. No. 011-27811933

DP/302/ON/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Kasturi Devi W/o Late Sh. Leela Ram R/o H.No.10531/1, Gali No.4, Baghchi Alauddin, Nabi Karim, Delhi **Aged-75 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 09.04.2020 from the area of P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi vide DD No.55A Dated 10.04.2020 registered at Police Station Nabi Karim, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'5", Face: Oval, Built: Thin, ID: Who has a good mental condition, Clothing: Yellow coloured blouse-Saree and Cream coloured slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped female, may inform SHO, Nabi Karim, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

**Sd/-
SHO, Nabi Karim, Delhi
Tel.: 011-23521081
Dated: 28.06.2020
DIP/J-1775/20**

Office of the Superintending Engineer Irrigation Works Circle Dehradun

Dated. 29.06.2020

E-Tender Notice
The Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Works Circle, Dehradun on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand, invites the item rate bids, in two bids system through electronic tendering, for following work from the eligible contractors registered in authorized/valid category for the estimated cost of tender in any department of central government/any state government/UT of India.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Earnest Money (In Lac Rs.)	Cost of Tender (In Rs.)	Validity of Tender	Period of Completion	No. of Calling Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Renovation and flood protection work of Aastha Path in Rishikesh area under Kumbh Mela-2021 in district Dehradun	19.96	5000.00 + 900.00 (18% GST)	120 days	2½ months	2 nd time

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 03-07-2020.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 20-07-2020 upto 05:00PM

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

DIPR/UK/12124

(Manoj Kumar Singh)
Superintending Engineer

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN, KARNAL	10.6/5K-1/2020-2021 DATED 26.06.2020 FOR HIRING OF 3 NOS. JEEP WITH HARD TOP I.E. BALERO /SUMO WITH DRIVER FOR THE USE OF S.D.O. (OP) SUB-DIVN., INDRU, GARHIBIRBAL & ISP, KARNAL UNDER XEN S/D DIVN. NO.1, UHBVN, KARNAL	Closing Date 01.07.20 at 5:00 PM Opening date 02.07.2020 at 12:00 P.M. (Technical & Price Bid) T-1 K-M, for hiring of vehicle Isp Police Station , Karnal may be read as 3700 instead of 3000 earlier shown in Annexure-B	www.uhbvn.org.in	0184-2268525 xenopuhbvnkarnal@gmail.com
2	UHBVN ROHTAK	45/CCR/2019-20 (2020_HBC_115998_1)	Construction of SHB and allied Civil Works at 33KV S/Stn. HSIDC Rohtak. Previous date of Closing: 25.06.2020 Previous date of opening: 26.06.2020 Schedule date of Closing: 09.07.2020 Previous date of opening: 10.07.2020	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenciviluhbvnrohtak@gmail.com
3	UHBVN ROHTAK	46/CCR/2019-20 (2020_HBC_116012_1)	Construction of 4-6' ht/Wall at 33KV S/Stn. Dharanagar (Panipat) Balance Work. Previous date of Closing: 25.06.2020 Previous date of opening: 26.06.2020 Schedule date of Closing: 09.07.2020 Previous date of opening: 10.07.2020	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenciviluhbvnrohtak@gmail.com
4	UHBVN ROHTAK	55/CCR/2019-20 (2020_HBC_117087_1)	Construction of 4-6' ht/Wall at 33KV S/Stn. Bhiplaut. Previous date of Closing: 25.06.2020 Previous date of opening: 26.06.2020 Schedule date of Closing: 09.07.2020 Previous date of opening: 10.07.2020	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenciviluhbvnrohtak

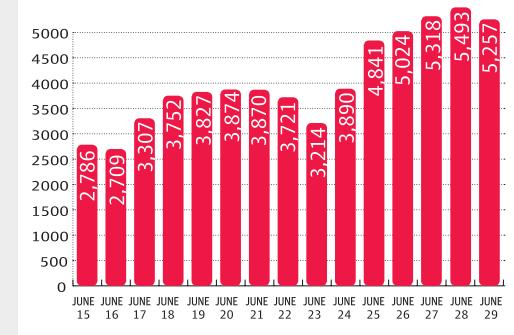
Maharashtra COVID-19 tracker

TOTAL CASES	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS
1,69,883	5,257	73,298	88,960	7,610

DISTRICTS AFFECTED: 35

DISTRICT	CASES	DEATHS	DISTRICT	CASES	DEATHS
Mumbai	76,765	4,463	Hingoli	266	1
Thane	36,002	871	Sangli	368	11
Pune	21,303	740	Nanded	342	13
Aurangabad	5,107	239	Yavatmal	283	10
Nashik	4,111	218	Latur	320	17
Palghar	5,578	101	Osmanabad	207	10
Raigad	3,980	95	Sindhudurg	218	4
Solapur	2,634	257	Buldhana	228	12
Jalgaon	3,301	228	Parbhani	96	4
Akol	1,509	73	Gondia	123	1
Nagpur	1,448	15	Gadchiroli	64	1
Satara	1,043	43	Chandrapur	86	0
Kolhapur	841	10	Nandurbar	173	7
Ratnagiri	570	26	Bhandara	79	0
Dhule	1,032	54	Wardha	17	1
Amravati	532	28	Washim	102	3
Jalna	535	14			
Ahmednagar	423	14			

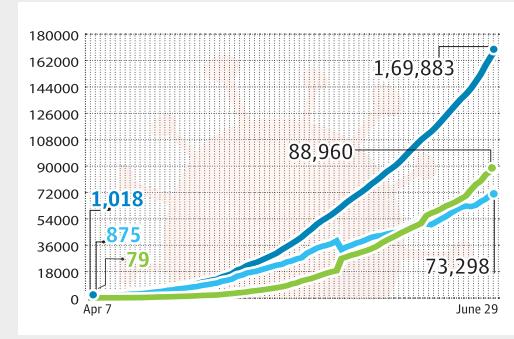
POSITIVE CASES OVER LAST 15 DAYS



1,226 (23%) of Monday's cases are from Mumbai



CASES TREND



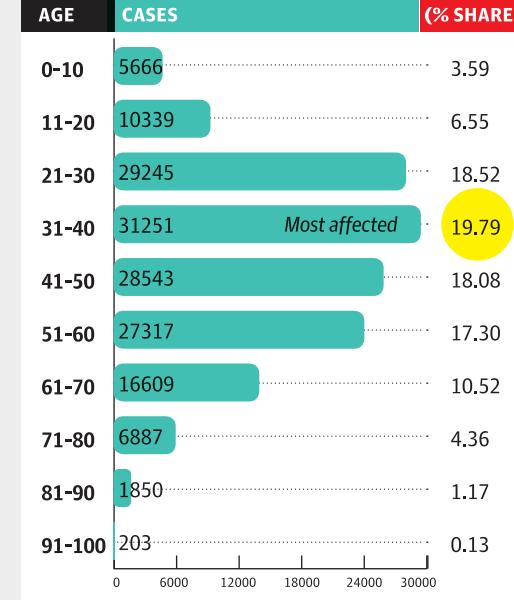
52.36% is the State recovery rate

MORTALITY RATE

Maharashtra 4.47%

India 2.99%

AFFECTED (AGE-WISE)



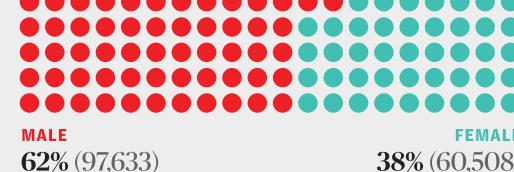
QUARANTINE NUMBERS

5,74,093 | 37,758



Home quarantine | Institutional quarantine

CASES (GENDER-WISE)



DEATH (GENDER-WISE)



70% of deaths due to co-morbidities

HELPLINE NUMBERS

Toll free number: 104/1075

Maharashtra: 020-26127394

National: 1075/1800-112-545/011-23978046

State helpline email id: ssumaharashtra@gmail.com

CITY-WISE HELPLINE NUMBERS

Mumbai city: 022 22664232 | Palghar: 0252 297474
Mumbai suburbs: 022 26556799 / 26556806 | Raigad: 02141 222118
Thane: 022 25301740 | Ratnagiri: 02352 226248
Sindhudurg: 02362 228847

Source: Public Health Department, Maharashtra, BMC

Maharashtra adds 5,257 fresh cases; death toll reaches 7,610

COVID-19 tally rises to 1,69,883; Mumbai reports 1,226 new cases

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

Maharashtra recorded another surge of 5,257 fresh COVID-19 cases on Monday, taking the State's total case tally to 1,69,883.

This is the fourth consecutive daily surge (and the third-highest thus far) of more than 5,000 cases to be reported in the State. Of the total case tally, 73,298 are active ones. The total death toll touched 7,610 with 181 more deaths. Of these, 78 were reported in the last 48 hours, while the remaining 103 were from an earlier period, said State Health Department officials.

As many as 2,385 patients were discharged on Monday, taking the total number of recoveries till date to 88,960.

With 1,226 new cases on Monday, Mumbai's total case tally has reached 76,765, of whom only 28,749 are active though. With 21 more deaths, the city's death toll has risen to 4,463.

With the 23 more deaths reported on Monday, Pune district's death toll has climbed to 740.

State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said the State's recovery rate stood at 52.37%. Its case fatality stands at 4.48%.

Pune district reported more than 450 new cases as its total case tally reached 21,303, according to the State Health Department figures. Monday's surge was relatively lower compared to the daily figures of 800-plus cases recorded in the last week.

Along with Mumbai city, most areas in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) reported record high case surges. In what may be its



Gearing up: Municipal doctors getting into their protective suits before starting a COVID-19 check-up camp at Thakurdwar in south Mumbai on Monday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

BJP MLA, wife test positive

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator from Pune's Pimpri-Chinchwad has tested positive for COVID-19.

According to sources, the MLA's wife, too, tested positive. Their results came in on Tuesday morning. Both are undergoing treatment at a private hospital in the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal

Corporation, which has witnessed an alarming surge in fresh cases in the last 15 days.

Pune district witnessed another surge of 380 new cases, taking its total case tally to 21,237. Seven more fatalities pushed the total death toll to 721, said Pune Divisional Commissioner Deepak Mhaiskar. However, only 8,106 are active cases, while there have been 12,410 recoveries.

highest single-day case surge till date, Kalyan-Dombivli reported 513 new cases, taking its total case tally to 6,555.

The upsurge in new cases continued unabated in Thane, with the district reporting 580 new cases.

Mira-Bhayander and Vasai-Virar in the MMR, too, witnessed sharp spikes of 150 and 287 new cases, respectively, to take their total case tallies to 3,396 and 4,493, respectively. Cases

continued to pile up in Nashik district in north Maharashtra, which reported 206 new cases. Of these, Nashik city alone reported 143. The district's total tally has risen to 4,111, of whom 1,727 are active cases.

Till date, of a total of 9,43,485 laboratory samples, 1,69,883 (18%) have tested positive. Nearly 20,000 samples were tested across the State on Monday," Dr. Awate said.

Meanwhile, Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation reported 227 new cases, taking the total to 6,427. Two more people succumbed, taking the death toll to 207, and 102 were discharged, taking the recoveries to 3,632.

APMC to shut vegetable market

RAINA ASSAINAR

NAVI MUMBAI

With Panvel reporting its highest single-day surge yet, the administration has decided to shut down the vegetable market in APMC and the meat and fish market at Panvel Koliwada completely until further orders.

The Panvel Municipal Corporation (PMC) had earlier sealed around 60 retail shops for flouting safety norms and warned of stricter action.

"The highest single day surge till now was 96, but on Monday, 131 cases were reported. Hence, it has been decided to shut down these markets. We have been appealing to people to follow physical distancing, but it is not being done," Deputy Commissioner Jamir Lengarekar, PMC, said.

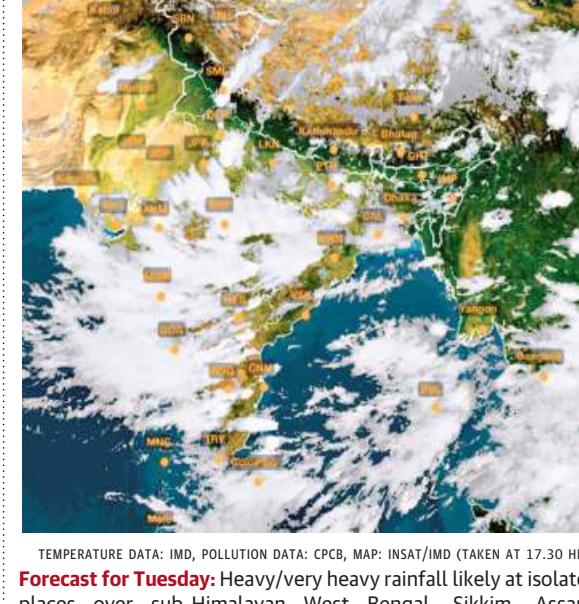
Panvel has a population of close to 10 lakh people who get their supplies of vegetables and meat from the APMC market. The retailers in the area buy the essentials from the Panvel APMC.

"The retail shops won't be shut but we will keep watch over them. If any shop is found flouting norms, it will be sealed," Mr. Lengarekar said.

Meanwhile, Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation reported 227 new cases, taking the total to 6,427. Two more people succumbed, taking the death toll to 207, and 102 were discharged, taking the recoveries to 3,632.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.30 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, south interior Karnataka and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2.2	34.0	25.6	Kozhikode	1.6	31.2	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	39.2					



Cautious, but firm

India must weigh its options against China and engage in wider domestic consultations

After weeks of more diplomatic wording, the statement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on June 26 appears to signal that patience in dealing with Beijing is reaching a dead end. The statement said publicly, for the first time since reports of the stand-off, that the Chinese build-up and clashes with Indian troops, including the Galwan Valley incident on June 15 in which 20 Indian soldiers were brutally killed, had a "larger context". Moving away from previous statements that alluded to the clashes in May as quite routine, and borne from "differences in perception" of the LAC, the MEA said that PLA behaviour "this year" was a shift from the past. It also admitted that the Chinese side had built up a large armed presence since early May, making it clear that India's strategic establishment has had much to worry about. There are other shifts of note. While each of the MEA's several references to the situation at LAC in May and June had mentioned dialogue as the way forward, its latest statement makes it clear that it is China's responsibility to restore peace and tranquillity along the LAC, without citing further dialogue. It warned that a continuation of the current situation "would only vitiate the atmosphere" for the relationship, indicating that the current status quo is unacceptable. In detailing the number of clashes, the use of unauthorised violence on June 15, and the sheer numbers of troops and weaponry "amassed", the government is pointing out that China has violated every agreement on border peace that the two sides have committed to since the 1993 Agreement. In short, the message is this – not only is the situation at the LAC of concern, but China's actions have also probably undone decades of careful negotiations on the boundary.

Given all that the MEA statement now acknowledges, it is only inevitable that the government will face probing questions on its silence when such a large troop mobilisation by China threatened Indian frontiers weeks ago, and whether it missed signals out of Beijing that this build-up was intended. Other questions remain about Prime Minister Modi's insistence and the MEA's consistent stand that Chinese troops have not come across the LAC, and that there have only been "attempted transgressions" by the PLA. Satellite pictures and media accounts point to the contrary. The government must now ensure some clarity. The nation must be apprised on the challenges and the steps planned beyond ongoing military and diplomatic exchanges, to ensure that the status quo ante, prior to May, is restored by China. Each step, whether it involves military action, international support, or sanctions by banning Chinese products or the participation of Chinese telecom and other companies, will come with serious consequences, and the government must ensure wide consultations, simultaneously preparing the people for what may follow.

Legitimate concern

A final Naga peace accord is key to maintenance of law and order in the State

By writing a strong letter to Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, alleging that "law and order has collapsed" in the State and that armed gangs "who question the sovereignty and integrity of the nation" had challenged its authority by engaging in blatant "extortion" and siphoning off funds meant for development work, Governor R.N. Ravi has thrown down the gauntlet to the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party-led government, in which the BJP is a coalition partner. The Governor went on to write that functions such as "transfer and posting of officials" who are in charge of law and order above the district level will be done with his approval, as proposed under Article 371A(1)(b) of the Constitution. In a way, he was only voicing the concerns of sections of civil society over the slide in law and order; illegal collections by armed groups have been an issue for several years. In its response to the letter, the insurgent National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM), which has been observing a ceasefire with the government for the last 23 years, has said the group was only engaged in collecting "taxes", suggesting that the Governor was not inaccurate in his description. But his letter has put the State government in a difficult situation.

The much touted peace accord with the insurgent groups involved in the long-standing Naga conflict is yet to be achieved, despite the Centre's push to conclude it last year. Mr. Ravi has remained the Centre's interlocutor, a position he took up in 2015, even after becoming the State Governor in August 2019. Despite the Centre's heady statements heralding a Naga peace accord since 2015, it is nowhere close to finalising it with the groups. In some ways, this is due to the NSCN-IM's obstinacy such as its insistence on retaining a separate flag and a Constitution for the State of Nagaland and its unwillingness to dismantle its parallel administrative and paramilitary structure. The distrust it invokes among other Naga organisations besides other north-eastern governments because of its core ideology of a "greater Nagaland", and the inherent difficulties in getting other insurgent actors on board have made this a conflict that persists despite the ceasefire and a problem that does not lend itself to a quick solution. Yet, without an agreement to rein in all the insurgent groups, the State government will have little leeway in imposing its will and prevent the blatant extortion that is hampering development and law and order. The ball is therefore in the Centre's court, and by extension its interlocutor, Mr. Ravi's, in finding a way to address this knotty issue. This the Governor must do, not by usurping the authority of the State government in governance matters, but by patiently refocusing on the peace process.

In 24 hours, Palestine faces an existential threat

India needs to ask itself whether it supports the Israeli annexation plan that is in contravention of international legality



HAMID ANSARI

On June 24, the UN Secretary General António Guterres told a virtual meeting of the United Nations Security Council that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is at a "watershed moment" and that the Israeli plans to annex parts of the West Bank have alarmed the Palestinians, many Israelis and the international community. Such annexation would be "a most serious violation of international law". He called upon the Israeli government to abandon its annexation plans and asked the Middle East Quartet (the United States, Russia, the European Union and the UN) to resume its mandated mediatory role.

A violation

The UN Secretary General's alarm has been sounded in the context of the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reported plan to annex on July 1 around 30% of the Occupied West Bank. This will include annexation of all the existing (post-1967) settlements in addition to areas surrounding them and access roads. This, from published accounts, has the approval of the Trump Administration.

Under international law, annexation is forcible acquisition of territory by one state at the expense

of another state. According to Prof. Nathaniel A. Berman of Brown University, U.S., such an act even if sanctified by Israeli law is illegal under international law and would violate the universally acknowledged principle of the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force". This, according to him, is the accepted position of all international legal bodies including the International Court of Justice.

The same position has been taken by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights). In a statement on June 16, it described the annexation of occupied territory as a serious violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Geneva Conventions, and contrary to the fundamental rule affirmed many times by the UN Security Council and the General Assembly that acquisition of territory war or by force is inadmissible. It pointed out that the 53-year-old Israeli occupation is a source of profound human rights violations of the Palestinian people and said "these human right violations would only intensify after annexation. What would be left of the West Bank would be Palestinian Bantustan, islands of disconnected land completely surrounded by Israel and with no territorial connection with the outside world. Israel has recently promised that it will maintain permanent security control between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River. Thus, the morning after the annexation would be the crystallisation of an already



unjust reality: two peoples living in the same space, ruled by the same state, but with profoundly unequal rights. This is a vision of a 21st century apartheid."

The statement concludes that despite the dismal record of Israel's past violation of international law, "accountability and an end to impunity must become an immediate priority for the international community".

The Israeli pulse

Despite Mr. Netanyahu's bravado, an opinion poll conducted by the Israeli newspaper, *Haaretz*, in March last year showed that while 28% of the Israeli opposed annexation, 11% supported full annexation with political rights for the Palestinians and 16% full annexation with no political rights for Palestinians. In addition, 15% were for partial annexation and 30% expressed no views.

An interesting, unprecedented entrant in the debate is an opinion article, titled "It's either Annexation or Normalization", written in Hebrew by the United Arab Emirates Ambassador in Washington

and published in an Israeli newspaper, *Yediot Ahronot*. It urged the Israeli government to desist from the contemplated move.

The effect of the plan

What would be the consequences of such a move? Would Palestinians living in annexed areas, and owning around 23% of its land retain their private property? Would they be enshrined in a legal framework of a two-class population divided by ethnicity and given Israeli residency as a category of "subjects" of the annexing entity? Would they be on a par with Israeli Arabs of Palestinian origin (Muslim, Christian and Druze) who together constitute about 20% of Israel's population? Above all, will it take away from the Palestinians the right to have their own state under the right of national self-determination recognised times without number by the international community?

Would there be demographic consequences? Israel, by its foundational proclamations, "is not a Jewish state only because most of its inhabitants are Jews. It is state for the Jews wherever they may be, and for any Jew who wishes to be here". Its official ideology of Zionism (somewhat analogous to other doctrines of strident nationalism of the 20th century) was described much earlier by Vladimir Jabotinsky as "a colonizing adventure and therefore it stands or falls by the question of armed force".

Ever since the war of June 1967, the Israeli effort has been to procrastinate a settlement and change

ground realities. Israel today is member of the international community and contributes to international cooperation. It has succeeded in normalising its relations with a wide range of countries. A concomitant of this is the observance of globally accepted norms of state conduct. A reluctance to do this is premised on the support of "powerful friends" and imperatives of geopolitics. Must this necessarily have permanence? The record of Palestinian resistance and of protest movements the world over show that injustice and denial of rights has no permanence and, as Jean Jacques Rousseau said a long time back, "the strongest is never strong enough to be always master unless he transform his power into right, and obedience into duty".

For New Delhi

India has a substantive relationship, reaching strategic dimensions, with Israel. It is mutually beneficial. India's amity with the Palestinian people, and its principled support to their cause, predates India's own independence. On the global stage, we have invariably supported the UN Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions supportive of the Palestinians.

At this critical juncture, and now that we are back on the Horse Shoe Table, would we support an annexation in contraventions of international legality and of our own commitments?

Hamid Ansari is the former Vice-President of India, 2007-2017

Grain aplenty and the crisis of hunger

The focus on One Nation One Ration Card is misplaced when what is needed is a universal Public Distribution System



DIPA SINHA

With the economic crisis continuing on the one hand and the health system crumbling under the burden of rising COVID-19 cases on the other, it is clear that it will take a long time for things to get back to "normal". Unemployment is high and it will take a while for lost livelihoods to be rebuilt, especially given the fact that India was already facing an economic slowdown along with high levels of inequality. Among other interventions to revive demand in the economy and create employment, it is absolutely essential that food support in the form of free/subsidised grains is made available to all without any disruptions.

An inadequate response

As a measure to address hunger, the central government announced as part of the ₹1.70-lakh crore relief package under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) in the last week of March that it would provide 5kg of foodgrains and 1 kg of pulses for free to all those who are beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for three months.

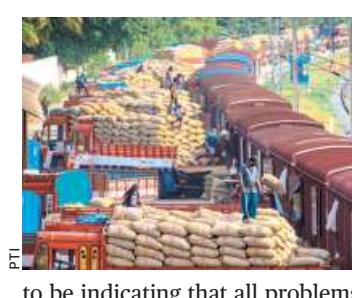
As it became obvious that many were not part of the NFSA, the government, in May, almost two months after the lockdown was in-

itiated, announced its expansion to cover an additional eight crore individuals for two months to ensure that migrants are included under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package. This basically meant each State being given foodgrain to the tune of 10% more than what they normally get under the NFSA. Many States were already covering more beneficiaries than was allotted to them by the NFSA, and some States made additional temporary provisions for these two months.

What needs to be done

As many have argued, this is an inadequate response. What is required is a universal Public Distribution System (PDS) to ensure that nobody is excluded. What is also an urgent need now is for the food support announced as part of the PMGKY and Atmanirbhar package to be extended for a longer period, as both end in June. The president of the Indian National Congress party, Sonia Gandhi, wrote to the Prime Minister last week seeking an extension in the distribution of free foodgrains until September (another three months). It has also been reported that the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan, in a video conference with State food ministers/secretaries on June 18, said that "around 10 States have written to the Ministry to extend the distribution of free food grains under the PMGKY for three more months". However, the government has not yet announced any such extension.

Rather, the government seems



to be indicating that all problems of exclusion will be resolved once the One Nation One Ration Card scheme is expanded across the country, which is supposed to be achieved by March 2021. Under ONOC, a beneficiary can receive ration entitlements as under the NFSA from any fair price shop in the country using her/his Aadhaar number and biometric authentication. This will apparently be possible once the Aadhaar numbers of all members enlisted in ration cards are seeded, which will enable transactions under the Public Distribution System across the country to be brought on to one digital platform. It has been announced that ONOC is operational in 20 States.

Biometric authentication

Portability across States is an important and valid concern that needs to be ensured so that migrant workers can access their entitlements. ONOC, however, has a number of problems in the way it has been conceived, being Aadhaar-based. The experience of biometric authentication using electronic point of sale (ePoS) machines so far suggests that it results in exclusion of some of the most marginalised because of multiple reasons including network is-

sues, authentication failure and so on. Keeping these concerns aside for now, it must be noted that ONOC is definitely not a solution to the immediate crisis of hunger that continues in the aftermath of the lockdown.

The integrated management of PDS (IM-PDS) portal, which gives real time data on transactions under ONOC, shows that for the month of May, there were a total of 378 transactions (3,077 beneficiaries) under ONOC and 479 transactions (3,856 beneficiaries) in June (as on June 29, 2020). The figures for April are even lower. Ironically, Mr. Paswan is reported to have said in the same videoconference that, "in the time of Covid-19 pandemic, the scheme proved immensely beneficial for migrant labourers, stranded and needy persons to access their quota of food grains through ONOC portability". It must not be forgotten that lakhs of migrants were stranded in different places without access to food.

Overflowing granaries

This emphasis on ONOC is an obfuscation, while the real issue is of burgeoning food stocks along with widespread hunger. If we include unmilled paddy, foodgrain stock in the Food Corporation of India has now risen to almost 100 million MTs while the buffer stock norms is 41 million MTs. This will increase even more as there is another week of procurement open in the *rabi* marketing season; there will be another round of procurement of kharif crop in a few months (49.9 million MTs of rice was the procurement during the *kharif* marketing season in 2019-

20). A universalised PDS giving 10kg of foodgrains per person per month for another four months requires about 47 million tonnes in total, assuming that nearly 85% of the population actually lifts their rations. It can be safely assumed that the rich will automatically self-select themselves out of the system. This is indicative and the actual requirements would most likely be lower.

It is unfathomable why the PDS is not being universalised immediately especially when food stocks are at such a historic high. The government seems to be hoping to get rid of grain through the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) where it sells the grains at prices lower than the procurement cost but much higher than the issue prices under PDS, so that the fiscal consequences can be contained. Earlier experiences with the OMSS do not spell much hope that this plan of the government will be successful. In the period 2017-18 to 2020-21 (up to first week of June), only 16.6 million tonnes of rice and wheat have been sold under the OMSS. The quantity sold each year was less than the quantity offered. Moreover, one-third of all sales was to State governments (almost all the rice) thereby shifting the subsidy burden to State governments. If not OMSS to private buyers, the only other options left are to either export them or let the grain go waste. Needless to say, choosing any of these options while people go hungry is nothing less than criminal.

Dipa Sinha teaches at Ambedkar University Delhi



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Remembering a PM
Though a bit late, it is good that former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has been fondly remembered on his centenary birthday celebrations (Op-ed page, "P.V. Narasimha Rao, the subversive insider", June 29). His mettle, intellect and service to the nation are in live discussion unlike before, as a result of the initiative taken by the Telangana government. He was a diamond in the rough. His deeds and remarkable achievements in his capacity throughout his long career in politics were overshadowed by other controversies which he did not give much importance to in his lifetime. He did not get his due respect even after his passing away thanks to dirty politics. He deserves all recognition.

Dr. D.V.G. SANKARARAO,
Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

■ The article took me down memory lane to a time when P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Education Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the chairman of the Board of Governors of REC, Warangal. I studied there from 1965-70. He was the chief guest of the students association at its inaugural function. I was the association vice president. He used to stay in the guest house during his frequent visits to Warangal to read books. He would often walk into the college library and seemed to enjoy solitude. The history of India has a place for him for his economic reform regime.

M.V. NAGAVENDER RAO,
Hyderabad

and now P.V. Narasimha Rao, this time by the TRS. His greatest quality was that he never sought publicity and was outstanding as a polyglot. The Congress still refuses to look beyond the Gandhis.

A.V. NARAYANAN,
Tiruchi

The Malabar Rebellion
This letter is in response to a series of news, articles and columns that have been published in *The Hindu* over the past week regarding the Mappillai Riots (also known as the Malabar Rebellion) of 1921. It is quite natural and ideal for the newspaper to remain neutral in the coverage of the event, as there has been noticeable public debate in Kerala, triggered by an announcement of a film on the subject. But in the process of trying to be a neutral observer, the newspaper has been seen to approve of a one-sided

'secularised' narrative of the event, which is in fact injustice to the thousands of victims of the brutal pogrom that the 1921 event was. The newspaper published a piece authored by Mr. Hajji, who is regarded as the leader of the rebellion. But I was upset to see the conspicuous absence of any mention of the large number of authentic records of the event, penned by eminent personalities ranging from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to Annie Besant, and K. Madhavan Nair to C. Keshavan Nair, people who were eyewitnesses to the bloody show of brutality that happened at the time. The Mappillai Riot was part of the Khilafat Movement, which was never a national freedom movement in itself, but a religious uprising incorporated into the Indian freedom movement by Mahatma Gandhi. What started off under the umbrella of the Congress,

quickly deviated from it and took the shape of a cold-blooded pogrom against the Hindus of Malabar, irrespective of caste. Those attempting to convert the event into a freedom struggle must answer why do forceful religious conversions feature in a freedom struggle. And those attempting to make it an agrarian revolt must answer why places of worship of a particular religion were destroyed.

G. NANDAGOPAN,
Pandalam, Kerala

Police reforms
The police are supposed to be your friend always and

MANI NATARAJAN,
Chennai

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:
In the story titled "Congressional" of MVA led to killing of sadhus in Palghar, says Smriti Irani" (June 29, 2020, some editions), a quote attributed to Ms. Irani should be changed to say: "As long as the Maharashtra government is under the influence of the Congress culture, we cannot rest easy."

It is the policy of *The Hindu* to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

never your foe and the case of the custodial deaths in Sattankulam is disturbing. The need of the hour is something drastic in the form of reforms. The higher-ups in the police force need to go over the procedures of dealing with people brought to the police station with their subordinates

The STARS project needs an overhaul

Instead of building state capability, the World Bank education project gives a larger role to non-state actors



KIRAN BHATTY & MARTIN HAUS

Atmanirbhar Bharat calls for an India that is able to produce and deliver local goods and services to its citizens. This applies equally to education for all children. Delivering a service, like education, requires a capable state, especially given the scale and complexity of its large and diverse population. Building state capability involves a process of learning to do things on one's own. This is precisely the idea behind an Atmanirbhar Bharat. Fundamentally, therefore, it cannot be outsourced.

In other words, state capability is about getting things done in the government, and by the government, by ensuring effective implementation that is responsive to local needs, but also about being able to design and conduct reforms. However, the World Bank's STARS project, a \$3 billion project to improve education in six Indian States, has the mistaken understanding that state capability should be built by giving a larger role to non-state actors and by increasing the use of technology. Both these premises are misguided as they do not contribute to the capability of the state to deliver better education. The reason is that there are some preconditions for effective governance within the public sector that must be met before either technology or non-state actors can be useful.

For effective governance

First, the administration must be equipped with adequate physical, financial and human resources. An overburdened bureaucracy with vacancies and without basic equipment cannot be expected to be effective. Often one hears that increasing inputs is a waste of resources as they are used inefficiently. This criticism neglects the fact that for efficiency, a critical minimum level of resources is a precondition. Unfortunately, in the education sector we are short of that level in all areas.

Second, administrative or governance reforms must give greater discretion to the front-line bureaucracy



THULASI KAKKAT

to address local issues and innovate if required. This is as much a function of better resources at the local level as of greater decentralisation of decision-making or political authorisation. The movement against corruption and towards accountability has had an unfortunate fallout on innovation for fear of misuse of an increased room for manoeuvre. Yet, for reforms to be successful, public sector entities need to be able to try new things, and at times, to fail. Outsourcing to non-state partners not just takes away discretion from state actors but also a sense of accountability and ownership towards their job.

Third, there needs to be trust within the administration among peers and across different levels within the administration. If suspicion is the guiding principle, institutional arrangements will be geared to monitoring and surveillance, not support and improvement. The goal must be to improve, not to judge and punish.

A flawed approach

Why is the STARS approach to build state capacity flawed? First, it fails to address the basic capacity issues: major vacancies across the education system from District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), district and block education offices, to teachers in schools, remain unaddressed. Without capable and motivated faculty, teacher education and training cannot be expected to improve. Similarly, at the block level, an already overburdened bureaucracy cannot be expected to perform miracles without a substantial increase in

trained manpower, support staff and other forms of institutional support.

Second, the Bank ignores that decentralising decision-making requires the devolution of funds and real decision-making power. Greater decentralisation can allow accountability to flow to the people rather than to supervising officers. It requires not just investment in the capacity of the front-line bureaucracy but also in increasing their discretionary powers while fostering social accountability.

The issue of discretion hinges crucially on trust - the third, important element requiring attention if state capability is to be enhanced. Trust, which implies listening and collaborating across different levels within the administration, is entirely ignored in the World Bank project. Instead, the Bank displays yet again an over-reliance on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as a panacea that lacks any backing in evidence. It is based instead on the idea that a flawed system can be fixed merely through the injection of more and better technology. In fact, technology does not address most of the systemic or governance challenges; it simply bypasses them. This is not to deny that technology has its uses, but its usefulness depends on whether preconditions for an effective use of ICT systems have been put in place. Otherwise the likelihood of exacerbating, rather than solving, problems increases. Technology as a short-cut to creating a capable state has not worked in the past.

Fourth, measurement is seen as a way to improve performance. Yet, just like fever does not go away by

checking the temperature more frequently, service delivery does not improve by measurement alone. It is important to know that temperature is high, but more important to understand why it is so. Schools in India need improvement. The question is: should money be invested in improving the capability of the system to improve learning or in testing infrastructure, that too for standardised assessments alone?

Lastly, outsourcing basic governance functions by "expanding private initiatives" and "reducing government tasks" will not make education "more relevant to local needs" or "democratically promote people's participation by empowering local authorities" as stated in the project document. Institutions of the state, from State-level officials who design policy changes, to district, block, cluster and school-level officials who adapt those policies for solving local problems rely on past experience (institutional memory) to meet new challenges and build additional memories with every new reform they undertake. New private initiatives do not have these institutional memories, nor do they have a grasp of socio-cultural realities that play an important part in the delivery process. While state structures need to develop more skills to enable them to solve both local and structural problems more effectively, it is not clear how they can be imparted by agencies that are extraneous to both the context and the system.

If we want DIETs, block and community resource centres, and schools to be *atma nirbhar*, we need to enable them to develop their own capability to reform themselves. Outsourcing, an over-reliance on measurement by standardised assessments, and an excessive use of ICT will not get us closer to an Atmanirbhar Bharat. The World Bank would do well to learn from its past mistakes and use evidence, often times generated by its own research arms, to formulate projects. In its current form, STARS is bound to fail to deliver its core objective: to reform the governance architecture in order to improve the quality of education.

Kiran Bhatty is Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, and Martin Haus is an independent researcher working on public sector reforms

A new era of accessibility

This is an opportunity for policymakers to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities in the post-COVID world



SHUBHA NAGESH & SARA ROTENBERG

dress the impact of the pandemic at a community level is the fundamental challenge of accessibility. Persons with disabilities already struggle for equitable access to education, healthcare, transportation, and economic opportunities. The pandemic has further decreased access to these basic services and rights.

The pandemic simultaneously presents an unprecedented challenge and an opportunity to change the course of accessibility in low- and middle-income countries in the post-pandemic world. As the world continues to re-imagine a new 'normal' for its physical and social spaces, there is a window of opportunity to improve accessibility. In low- and middle-income countries that have battled pressing challenges (mass migration, concurrent infections like TB, limited health infrastructure, etc.), COVID-19 recovery plans include investments in urban planning, health facilities, and social spaces. If accessibility is considered, these efforts can catalyse the vision of an inclusive world.

Impact of the crisis

These stories should impel us all to act on accessibility. The pandemic reveals how exacerbated inequities have become, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. In India, a study, "Locked Down and Left Behind," documents the plight of persons with disabilities during this crisis. Of the 1,067 respondents, 73% are facing severe challenges, namely with financial stability, access to essential items, adequate accommodation, and availability of healthcare. Second, thousands of families lack access to critical caretakers and domestic help, who play crucial roles in caring for a child or family member with a disability. Finally, there are significant impacts on the well-being of persons with disabilities. In particular, social isolation and limited access to accessible, adequate sanitation or isolation facilities threaten the health and safety of this already vulnerable population.

As individuals who either work with children and young adults with disabilities or are caregivers/persons with disabilities ourselves, we have seen the impact first-hand. We have seen parents and families taking on herculean tasks to deliver interventions and therapies for their children, with telephone support from therapists or other support workers. We have seen many caregivers who are coping exceptionally well and are able to support their children or family member; for others, juggling work from home, the needs of this person, alongside other responsibilities are challenging. We have seen how parents, particularly fathers, and organisations are joining forces with caregivers to collaborate on common challenges to develop innovative solutions for persons with disabilities.

However, underlying these efforts to ad-

Shubha Nagesh works with The Latika Roy Foundation, Dehradun; Sara Rotenberg is a graduate of Georgetown University and Rhodes Scholar-elect based in Toronto. Views are personal

Share public data with the public

Lack of reliable data in the public domain has hampered the search for policy alternatives in India

M. S. SANTHANAM

The unsatisfactory state of India's data collection and processing system is among the many systemic deficiencies exposed by the pandemic. It was highlighted by the recent upward revisions to the COVID-19 death toll in some States. Apart from this implicit acknowledgement of the discrepancies in the data-handling process, there are also allegations of under-reporting COVID-19 cases. In general, on every issue encountered during the last three months, from the migrants' travails to the inadequate fiscal package, lack of reliable data in the public domain has hampered the search for policy alternatives.

From 2006 onwards, several open-source software enthusiasts and civil society activists came together in the U.S. and U.K. with a demand to unlock the data gathered by governments for unfettered access and reuse by citizens. After all, the data collected at public expense must belong to the people. This principle is the basis for the Open Data Charter adopted by 22 countries since 2015. It calls upon governments to disseminate public data in open digital formats. In return, the Charter argues, governments can expect "innovative, evidence-based policy solutions".

Making data accessible online

In India, a step towards making non-sensitive government data accessible online was taken in 2012 with the adoption of the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP). However, the implementation has lagged far behind its stated objectives. The main thrust of the policy is to "promote data sharing and enable access to Government of India owned data for national planning and development". The implementation guidelines for NDSAP include lofty ideals such as "openness, flexibility, transparency, quality" of data, and aim to facilitate "access to Government of India shareable data in machine-readable form". The guidelines prescribe open digital formats suitable for analysis and dissemination. Opaque formats such as the portable document format and the image format are discouraged. As part of the Open Government Data (OGD)

initiative, data.gov.in, was launched in 2012.

In the current climate, the OGD initiative could potentially have made a substantial difference to India's COVID-19 response. Had the district-wise, demographic-wise case statistics and anonymous contact traces been released in the public domain, reliable model forecasts of disease spread and targeted regional lockdown protocols could have been generated. Model forecasts have limitations, but models without inputs from empirical data are even more unreliable. Principles of OGD notwithstanding, sufficiently granular infection data are not available. Ironically, violating the data format guidelines, OGD portal provides COVID-19 data only as a graphic image unsuitable for any analysis. The other official data sources (the Indian Council of Medical Research and mygov.in) fare no better.

In contrast, the data portals of Canada, the U.K. and the U.S. present district-wise COVID-19 cases data, and also the emergent effects on mental health, jobs and education. According to the latest report of the Open Data Barometer, an independent group measuring the impact of open data, these nations lead the pack while India is a contender to reach the top bracket and not a laggard. The government must provide the impetus and incentive to exploit this voluminous data by invigorating the dated national data portal.

Creating social impact

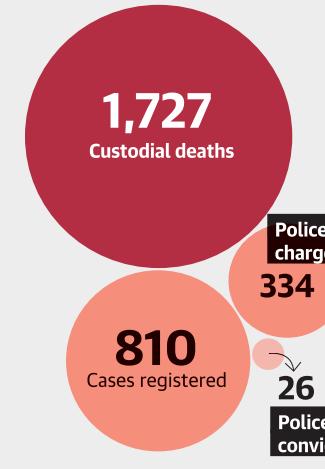
Every department must be mandated to share substantive data respecting privacy concerns. Much of the Census and socio-economic data, publicly funded research data, and scientific data are either not open or rotting in unusable formats. The government should look within for examples of creative outcomes of opening up its database. Start-ups have built novel applications using Indian Railways data to provide ticket confirmation prediction and real-time train status. Sharing public data is a way to create beneficial social impact.

M. S. Santhanam is a physicist and a professor at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune



DATA POINT

1. CRIME & PUNISHMENT
Between 2001 and 2018, 1,727 persons died in police custody. This includes both persons on police/judicial remand and those just arrested and not produced before court. Only 26 policemen were convicted in this period for such deaths



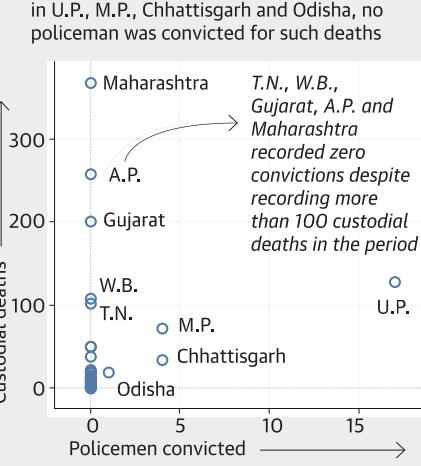
2. OTHER REASONS Only 4.3% of the 70 deaths in 2018 were attributed to "injuries during custody due to physical assault by police". The reasons recorded for the other deaths included suicide and death in hospitals during treatment

Year	Custodial deaths	Due to police assault
2018	70	4.3%
2017	100	5.0%
2016	92	8.7%
2015	97	6.2%
2014	93	9.7%

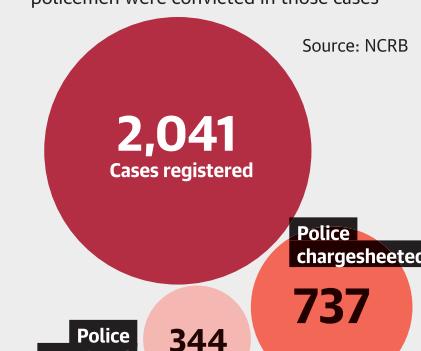
Custodial crimes

The recent death of a father-son duo from Tamil Nadu, allegedly due to custodial violence, has sparked anger across India. While calls for a fair probe are growing, data show that between 2001 and 2018, only 26 policemen were convicted of custodial violence despite 1,727 such deaths being recorded in India. As most such deaths were attributed to reasons other than custodial torture, only a few led to convictions. By The Hindu Data Team

3. A FEW STATES The graph plots the no. of custodial deaths against the no. of policemen convicted between 2001 and 2018. Except in U.P., M.P., Chhattisgarh and Odisha, no policeman was convicted for such deaths



4. GETTING AWAY Apart from custodial deaths, more than 2,000 human rights violation cases were recorded against the police between 2000 and 2018. Only 344 policemen were convicted in those cases



FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 30, 1970

Schools and playing fields (From an editorial)

In recognition of the fact that local bodies, particularly the urban ones, are the primary agencies for ministering to the citizen's social, cultural and physical needs, the Indian Institute of Public Administration has made a study of the educational and recreational activities of towns in the different States. The study points out that there is a link between education and recreation because "as a man's educational and cultural level rises, his capacity to enjoy leisure intelligently increases." To the extent that India's urban population is growing rapidly and there is the urge to rationalise working hours with more time for leisure, the needs of both education and recreation are certainly being pushed into sharper focus. It is disappointing to note therefore from the IIPA study that there is a lot of leeway to be made up in providing basic amenities.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 30, 1920.

The Provincial Conference.

(From an editorial)

The decisions arrived at by the Provincial Conference at Tinnelvelly have failed to please a certain class of people. They are in consequence engaged in that unenviable, but self-satisfying, task of abusing the leaders and attempting to discount the significance of the decisions on the ground, among others, that it was not possible for them for lack of time to carry enlightenment to the ignorant delegates. These very people, if only the delegates had followed their lead, would have labeled the delegates as the very pink of the country voicing forth its true opinion; but now that they preferred to form their opinions for themselves, they are deemed ignorant and the responsibility for the decisions of the Conference attributed to the immense depth of their ignorance. In our mind, it does not appear that you must dive so deep to find an explanation for the action that the Conference took in regard to all the important questions. The feelings of the country have been rudely shaken by the meagre measure of reforms; the Punjab scandal for which it sees few hopes of honest redress has lacerated its heart; on the Khilafat question, it feels it must, by action, support all the legitimate actions which their Muslim friends decide to take. The resolutions of the Conference on these subjects are simply the outward expression of these inner feelings of the country through its representative delegates.

FROM PAGE ONE

TikTok among 59 apps banned by the Centre

Time to uninstall

The 59 mobile applications banned in India by the Centre citing security concerns

Meitu	Vigo Video
TikTok	New Video Status
Shareit	DU Recorder
Kwai	Vault-Hide
UC Browser	Cache Cleaner
Baidu map	DU App studio
Shein	DU Cleaner
Clash of Kings	DU Browser
DU battery saver	Hago Play With New Friends
Hello	Cam Scanner
Likee	Clean Master - Cheetah Mobile
YouCam makeup	Wonder Camera
Mi Community	Photo Wonder
CM Drivers	QQ Player
Virus Cleaner	We Meet
APUS Browser	Sweet Selfie
ROMWE	Baidu Translate
	Vmate
	QQ International
	QQ Security Center
	Parallel Space
	QQ Launcher
	U Video
	V fly Status Video
	Mobile Legends
	DU Privacy

The Ministry said it was invoking its power under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.

"... in view of the emergent nature of threats, [the government] has decided to block 59 apps ... in view of information available [that] they are engaged in activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order," the government said.

Four Rafale fighter jets to land in India by July-end

While the IAF is particularly keen on accelerating the delivery of these missiles, given the ongoing tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), there is still no clarity on how many of these would be delivered along with the first batch of aircraft.

India has contracted 36 Rafale multi-role fighter jets from France in fly-away condition with 13 India Specific Enhancements (ISE) under a ₹7.87 billion Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) signed in September 2016. As per the IGA, deliveries begin 36 months from the signing of the contract and would be completed in 67 months.

India, China Commanders to hold talks

Defence sources had stated that the modalities for disengagement from all the friction areas in eastern Ladakh were discussed and would be taken forward by both the sides. However, there has been no progress since, which officials described as a wait-and-watch situation.

A similar consensus agreed between the Corps Commanders on June 6 was breached following the clash at the Galwan Valley

that resulted in the deaths of 20 Indian soldiers, including a Colonel.

India's consistent demand has been the restoration of the *status quo ante* of pre-May 5 positions and de-induction of forces built up by China along the LAC. Satellite images and reports have since emerged showing a further build-up of defensive positions by China at the Galwan area, Pangong Tso and the Depsang plains in the last few weeks.

Clarify curbs on 3,500 Tablighis, says SC

The court said the Centre "owes an explanation" on why these nationals were still in the country if their visas had been cancelled. If not cancelled, the petitions would be thrown out, it observed.

The petitions, filed through advocate Fuzail Ahmad Ayyubi and drafted by advocates Ibad Mushtaq and Ashima Mandla, contended that the en masse blacklisting of over 3,500 foreigners from 35 nations,

who were currently in India without affording any opportunity to prima facie defend themselves, was an egregious and blatant violation of Article 21 of the Constitution. It said the sudden blacklisting, apart from registration of FIRs against such foreigners, led to the forfeiture of their passports by State authorities, thereby resulting in a complete deprivation of their personal liberty sans procedure established by law.

Karnataka braces as virus deaths, new cases rise

62 die in T.N.; Kerala records 17 cases of community transmission; Greater Hyderabad is Telangana hotspot with 861 new cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a sharp rise in fatalities, Karnataka recorded 19 deaths from COVID-19 on Monday, the State's highest in a single day. Telangana registered 975 more cases and six deaths. Andhra Pradesh reported 11 deaths and 793 fresh cases.

Kerala reported 17 cases of local transmission from unknown sources in the community, among 121 new cases

COVID-19

on Monday.

This included three health care workers in Ernakulam and Thrissur districts and nine personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force in Kannur.

The pattern of local transmission had thrown up similar figures in the past two days. With the test result of one Tamil Nadu native, who died at Manjeri Medical Col-

lege hospital on June 24, turning out to be positive, the number of COVID-19 deaths in the State rose to 23.

With the number of new recoveries put at 79, active cases or people undergoing treatment in hospitals stood at 2,057.

Total cases reported in Kerala since the outbreak began were 4,311, of whom, 2,150 had recovered.

In Andhra Pradesh, which tested 30,216 samples on Monday, five new deaths in Kurnool, two each in Krishna and Nellore and one each in Vizianagaram and West Godavari made up the toll. It cumulatively stood at 180.

The COVID-19 tally rose to 13,891 and active cases to 7,479. So far, 6,232 patients had recovered including 324 new recoveries. Of active patients, 5,839 were under treatment at COVID-19 designated hospitals and 1,640 asymptomatic patients were treated at new COVID Care Centres.

Testing times

With the number of COVID-19 cases going up, there is an increasing demand that the tests be conducted aggressively. The graphs show the spread of the pandemic in southern States



Loud and clear: Activists of Communist Party of India (Marxist) displaying placards on face shields during a protest in Hyderabad. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

The latest fatalities in Telangana raised the toll to 253.

The Greater Hyderabad area continued to be the hotspot with 861 new cases, while neighbouring Rangareddy district reported 40 cases and Medchal-Malkajgiri (20).

The Health department said active cases stood at 9,559, taking the total number of affected people to 15,394. In all, 410 people were discharged during the day - raising the total number discharged to 5,582.

Also, 2,648 samples were tested, of which 1,673 were negative. The cumulative samples tested crossed 85,000 of which 69,712 tested negative.

With 19 new deaths Karnataka's toll stood at 226. A to-

tal of 1,105 positive cases were reported. Of the new cases, 738 were from Bengaluru. Of the 19 deaths, 12 were reported from Ballari district, three from Bengaluru Urban, one each in Dakshina Kannada, Ramamangar, Hassan and Bagalakote.

On Monday, the total number of positive cases in Tamil Nadu rose to 86,221 while active cases, including those in isolation, were 37,331. Among the 3,949 tested positive, 108 were from abroad and other States.

The number of people testing positive for COVID-19 infection in a day in Chennai crossed the 2,000 mark on Monday.

As many as 4,225 children were infected and 62 people including a 13-year-old boy and at least two youngsters in their twenties died of the infection. The total deaths in the State were 1,141.

(With inputs from Vijayawada, Hyderabad, Karnataka and Chennai bureaus)

IN BRIEF



Telangana Home Minister tests positive

HYDERABAD Telangana Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali (in picture) and his grandson Furqan Ahmed tested

positive for novel coronavirus on Sunday. They were admitted to Apollo Hospitals in Jubilee Hills. Sources close to Mr. Ali said that three days ago a team of health officials collected the swabs of the Minister and his family members for testing after he showed symptoms of fever, breathlessness and cough.

Three held for hanging monkey to death

HYDERABAD A monkey was hanged to death from a tree by three people in a bid to scare other simians in Khammam district of Telangana, forest officials said. "The perpetrators, who admitted their guilt, are being booked under the Wildlife Protection Act," Sathupalli Forest Range Officer A. Venkateswarlu said. The incident happened on June 26 in Vemsoor village and the video of the monkey being hanged had gone viral. PTI

A.P. govt. releases ₹513 cr. to help MSMEs

VIJAYAWADA Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday released the second tranche of nearly ₹513 crore as part of the ReSTART package aiming at reviving the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that are facing a crisis owing to the lockdown.

In the next level of containment strategy, it will have a big role in screening the commuters and to curb the spread of virus.

The railways has entrusted the zonal railways with procuring the AI-based COVID surveillance cameras. RailTel, the telecom arm of the Indian Railways, has already floated bids to purchase 800 surveillance cameras.

Kannada novelist Geetha Nagabushanam no more

KALABURGI Kannada novelist Geetha Nagabushanam, whose works were known for resistance to patriarchy and gender stereotypes, died of a cardiac arrest at a private hospital here on Sunday night. She was 78. Her writings reflected the environment she came from – poverty, and gender issues. Her works include 50 short stories, 27 novels, 12 plays, two collections of poems, and research papers.

HC reserves order on bishop's plea in rape case

KOCHI The Kerala High Court on Monday reserved its verdict on a petition filed by Bishop Franco Mulakkal seeking to discharge him from a case pertaining to the rape of a nun. When the petition filed by the accused came up for hearing, the prosecutor

contended that there was enough material to prove that he had raped the nun. The statement of the victim was enough to frames charges against him. The accused was trying to delay the trial proceedings, he said.

Tamil Nadu extends lockdown till July 31

Another week of tough restrictions for Chennai; complete shut down on all Sundays

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday extended the COVID-19 lockdown across the State by another month till July 31.

The "complete lockdown" in Chennai, and parts of the adjoining districts of Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur and Chengalpattu, and Madurai city and its adjoining areas, will be in place till July 5. Thereafter, the restrictions in these areas will revert to the pre-June 19 levels.

Across the State, the "complete lockdown" on Sundays will continue, with July 5, 12, 19 and 26 set for a total shutdown. However, the government relaxed restrictions to allow resumption



A worker moving medical waste at the Kilpauk Government Medical College Hospital in Chennai. ■ B. VELANKANNI RAJ

of business activities in most parts of the State from July 1.

Interestingly, the decision came just hours after the panel of medical and public health experts said it had not recommended an extension of the lockdown strategy. A

senior official from the panel had told *The Hindu*: "We cannot go on with the lockdown forever. The government is not keen to go for extending lockdown beyond July 31. Of course, there would be some restrictions

in large gatherings, recreation and religious gatherings."

No buses till July 15

Intra-district bus operations by government and private operators will be suspended between July 1 and 15.

While the government exempted e-passes for private vehicles for intra-district movement, the e-pass system for inter-State and inter-district movement will continue.

In a significant easing, shops selling fish, meat and eggs can resume sales with certain conditions after obtaining permission from local bodies.

The State government also relaxed restrictions (exclud-

Cong. leaders to be booked for violation of COVID-19 norms

They had taken out a rally against fuel price hike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The police will file cases against Congress leaders who violated social distancing norms while taking out a cycle rally and staging a protest here on Monday against the hike in fuel prices, said Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Chetan Singh Rathore, DCP (Central), told *The Hindu* that the police will file a report in the court of the judicial magistrate on violations of social distancing and other norms. "The report is being prepared and will like-



Flouting rules: Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar at a protest rally on June 29. ■ FILE PHOTO

ly be submitted on Tuesday," he said.

Senior leaders, including KPCC president-designate D.K. Shivakumar, former Chief Minister and Leader of

the Opposition Siddaramaiah, Rajya Sabha member Mallikarjun Kharge, and several legislators and party workers participated in the cycle rally.

COVID cameras for key rail stations in Kerala

They can detect body temperature

S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based 'COVID surveillance' cameras that can detect body temperature and whether a person is wearing a mask will be installed at key railway stations in Kerala.

Kollam, Alappuzha, Thiruvananthapuram Railway Division, have been identified for installing the cameras, a top railway official said. Already, the State's premier railway station, Thiruvananthapuram central, has the modern metal detector thermal imaging camera, and the Palakkad junction is tipped to get one.

The surveillance cameras will come in handy for the railways, health authorities and the law enforcers once the train operations commence in full swing, it has been pointed out.

Big role

In the next level of containment strategy, it will have a big role in screening the commuters and to curb the spread of virus.

The railways has entrusted the zonal railways with procuring the AI-based COVID surveillance cameras. RailTel, the telecom arm of the Indian Railways, has already floated bids to purchase 800 surveillance cameras.

Telangana to ramp up COVID-19 tests

Spike in cases after easing of curbs

M. RAJEEV
HYDERABAD

Faced with a significant rise in the number of COVID-19 cases, the Telangana government has decided to intensify testing from Tuesday.

Health Minister Eatala Rajender said there had been a spike in cases ever since lockdown restrictions were lifted and the increase was observed mainly in some parts of the west and south Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao held a review meeting on tackling the spread of the virus with senior officials on Sunday, and the State Cabinet would



meet in the next four to five days to take a decision on the future course of action.

The Chief Minister stressed the need for strict measures to check the virus spread. Reimposing lockdown is a big decision and the Cabinet will meet soon in this regard," Mr. Rajender said.

HC initiates contempt proceedings against 3 policemen in Sattankulam

Collector directed to depute Revenue officials to station

B. TILAK CHANDAR
MADRAS

Taking a serious view of police personnel attached to the Sattankulam station not cooperating with the judicial magistrate, Kovilpatti

IN BRIEF



Anandiben put in charge of Madhya Pradesh

BHOPAL President Ram Nath Kovind has given Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel additional charge of Madhya Pradesh during the absence on leave of Governor Lalji Tandon, said the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Mr. Tandon, 85, is being treated at a private hospital in Lucknow, where he was admitted on June 11. The hospital said on Monday that Mr. Tandon's condition was stable. "Owing to multiple co-morbidities, he is again shifted to critical care ventilator," the hospital said.

Defence Ministry opens portal to issue NOCs

NEW DELHI Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday launched a web portal for issue of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for power projects, research and exploration activities in the Indian territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone. To ensure ease of business and transparency in NOC, the portal was developed with the assistance of National e-Governance Division, Bhabha Characharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics and the National Informatics Centre, the Ministry said.

Punjab CM defends Vini Mahajan's appointment

CHANDIGARH Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday defended the appointment of senior IAS officer Vini Mahajan as the State's new Chief Secretary, saying it was to ensure continuity and she could continue till his government's term in 2022. He said there was nothing wrong in having a husband and wife working together as the State's police chief and Chief Secretary respectively. Ms. Mahajan's husband Dinkar Gupta is currently Punjab's Director General of Police. PTI

CBI arrests counterfeit currency case accused

NEW DELHI The CBI has arrested a person in connection with a counterfeit currency case. The accused, who was deported from Bangkok, had been absconding for seven years. Kuldeep Singh Dua belongs to Navashar in Punjab. He was allegedly involved in a case filed by the CBI and others on September 13, 2012, on a complaint from the Customs department at the IGI Airport in Delhi following the seizure of ₹6.01 lakh in fake currency. The CBI produced him before a city court that remanded him to judicial custody.

Chenab Valley terror-free: govt

Claim after Hizb 'commander', 2 other militants killed in Anantnag encounter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The J&K police on Monday termed the Chenab Valley in Jammu region a militancy-free zone after the killing of three militants in an encounter at Anantnag in south Kashmir.

"The three trapped terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the encounter site in Khulchowar area of Anantnag. One of the terrorists is Masood Ahmad Bhat, a resident of the Chenab Valley's Doda, and worked as 'district commander' of the Hizbul Mujahideen. The other two unidentified terrorists were associated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)," a police spokesman said.

46 killed in June

Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said Doda was terrorist-free now. "So far, 46 terrorists have been killed in June which is highest in a single month in several years," the IGP said.

Director General of Police



Clean-up operation: Jawans guarding the encounter site at Anantnag on Monday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

(DGP), J&K, Dilbagh Singh described the killing of Bhat a significant development. "Bhat had shifted his area of operation from the Chenab valley to the Kashmir valley. With his killing, all the militants operating from Doda have been wiped out and the district is now totally militancy free," DGP Singh said.

Around 114 militants have been killed in stepped up operations in the Kashmir valley so far this year.

DNA samples collected

The police said arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of Monday's encounter.

The bodies of the terro-

rists were sent to Handwara for the last rites.

"A medico-legal formality was conducted, including the collection of their DNA. In case any family claims the killed terrorists as their kin, they can come forward for their identification and participation in last rites at Handwara," the police said.

Fuel price hike is extortion: Sonia

Congress launches online campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday accused the Centre of setting a "new example of forced extortion" by raising fuel prices 22 times and asked it to immediately roll back the increase, as part of the party's online campaign against the regular increases.

Ms. Gandhi charged the government with "profiteering" at the expense of people instead of helping them during the present crisis.

"After the March 25 lockdown, the Modi government has raised the prices of petrol and diesel 22 times. The price of diesel has gone up by ₹1 a litre and that of petrol by ₹0.12 a litre. The Modi government has made provision for collecting lakhs of crores by raising excise duty in the last three months... when the international crude oil prices are continuously falling," she said in a video message.

'Double blow'
Taking part in the 'Speak Up Against Fuel Hike', she said the common people were finding it very difficult with the double blow of the COVID-19 pandemic and the



Sonia Gandhi

continuous rise in fuel prices. Since 2014, the government raised excise duty 12 times and garnered an additional revenue of nearly ₹18 lakh crore, she said. "The government has set a new example of extortion from people through this unjustified increase," she said.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi and his general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also joined the campaign and urged people to demand a rollback.

Party leader Ahmed Patel said: "This government knows there are no elections for the next four years, so they are going on increasing. Just before elections, they will adopt some tactic and may offer some of the money collected now."

Revenue from fuel used for welfare work, says Pradhan

'Unlike Congress, PM is putting money in the hands of poor'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday reacted sharply to Opposition Congress's attack on the Union government for continuously raising fuel prices despite falling global rates stating that the revenue collected was being used for welfare activities.

He referred to recent reports on the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) having allegedly received funds from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), the Chinese embassy in India and fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi to make his point.

"Unlike Congress's legacy of transferring money into the accounts of middlemen,



Dharmendra Pradhan

'National Daamad', 'The Family' and Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Modi ji's DBT is about putting money in the

hands of the poor, farmers, migrant workforce and women," tweeted Mr. Pradhan as the Congress spoke repeatedly against fuel price hike, 18 times in as many days.

₹65,000 cr. transferred

"I once again reiterate to Madam Sonia Gandhi ji that Modi ji has transferred more than ₹65,000 crore to 42 crore people in the last 3 months," added Mr. Pradhan.

In an interview to *The Hindu* on May 25, Mr. Pradhan made it clear that a cut in fuel prices was not on the anvil despite plunging global prices.

Chidambaram cites ex-NSA on 'intel lapse'

Cong. leader seeks answers from govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister P. Chidambaram on Monday said former National Security Adviser (NSA) M.K. Narayanan has made a 'damning conclusion' about the violent face-off between Chinese and Indian troops at Galwan Valley, terming it a result of a failure to analyse intelligence and asked what is the government's answer to Mr. Narayanan.

Referring to Mr. Narayanan's opinion piece in *The Hindu*, Mr. Chidambaram on Twitter said, "Former NSA Mr. M.K. Narayanan has reached damning conclusions on the current India/China face-off that I under-

stand as serious charges against the government".

"There are crucial charges on failure to gather imagery intelligence (IMINT) and signal intelligence (SIGINT) and analyse them," the former Union Minister added.

"It is axiomatic that leaders make better decisions when they have better information..." Mr. Narayanan observed in his piece.

"I wonder if the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and NSA have read the article. If they have, what is their answer," asked Mr. Chidambaram, who also headed the Home Ministry between November 2008 and July 2012.

India, Bhutan sign pact for first joint hydel project

600 MW Kholongchhu venture termed a 'milestone' in ties

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India and Bhutan took a major step forward for the construction of the 600 MW Kholongchhu project, their first hydropower joint venture project in Bhutan's less developed eastern region of TrashiYangtse.

The project's "Concession agreement," which was signed in the presence via video-conference of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Delhi, and Bhutan's Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji and Economic Affairs Minister Loknath Sharma in Thimphu, marks a shift as it is the first time an India-Bhutan hydropower project will be constructed as a 50:50 joint venture, not as a government-to-government agreement.

Speaking at the ceremony, both Foreign Ministers called the agreement a "milestone" in the India-Bhutan partnership, under which four hydropower projects have been built in the last 30 years totalling a capacity of 2,100 MW, and another two are under construction. The Kholongchhu project is one



Bhutan Minister Tandi Dorji with S. Jaishankar. ■ FILE PHOTO

of four additional projects agreed to in 2008, as a part of India's commitment to help Bhutan create a total 10,000 MW of installed capacity by 2020.

'Mutually beneficial'
"[The] hydro power sector has been the most visible symbol of the mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation between our two countries," said Mr. Jaishankar at the signing ceremony between the JV Partners Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), a Himachal Pradesh PSU, and the Bhutanese Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC).

"I congratulate both the JV partners for this remarkable feat and hope that they will leave no stone unturned

in expeditiously completing the project," he said.

Signed in 2014

The inter-governmental agreement for the Kholongchhu project was signed after prolonged negotiations on the structure of the joint venture, in April 2014, and the foundation stone was laid when Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Thimphu a few months later.

However, progress on preparing the site ground to a halt in December 2016 over India's new power tariff guidelines (on Cross Border Trade of Electricity - CBTE), until the government amended its guidelines after negotiations with the Bhutan government. During Monday's ceremony, the Bhutanese Foreign Minister said the delay had "some benefits" as many issues on the ground were ironed out during the period.

According to the agreement finalised, the construction for the Kholongchhu Hydro Electric Power (HEP) project will begin soon, and be completed in the second half of 2025.

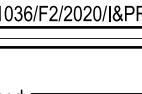
The personal shown in the photograph named Smt. Rajamani, W/o Somasundaran (Late), Sona Nivas, Para Road, Kanjikode, Palakkad is found missing since 20.10.2019 on the journey to Kanjikode. For the above, a case in Crime No. 404/2019 u/s 57 of KP Act was registered at Kozhinjampara Police Station. If any information received about the missing person, please intimate the same to the nearest Police Station or with the following telephone numbers:

Kozhinjampara Police Station- 04923 272224
Sub Inspector of Police, Kozhinjampara P.S : 9497980613
ISHO, Kozhinjampara P.S : 9497941950.

Physical feature: Height: 5 Feet Colour: Black
Known Languages : Malayalam & Tamil

(1036/F2/2020/I&PRD)

MISSING



The personal shown in the photograph named Sri. Suresh, Age - 45 Years, S/o Velayudhan, Akkaraparambil House, Ayakurissi, Naduvathapara, Perungottukurisi, Palakkad is found missing since 02/04/2019. He has engaged Eucali Tallam manufacturing last 30 years at KodaiKanal, Ooty & Pothangi. For the above, a case in Crime No. 58/2020 u/s 57 of KP Act was registered at Kottayi Police Station: If any information received about the missing person, please intimate the same to the nearest Police Station or with the following telephone numbers:

Kottayi Police Station- 04922 285501
Sub Inspector of Police, Kottayi P.S : 9497980627
ISHO, Kottayi P.S : 9497941933

DySP, Alathur : 9497990096
Physical features: Height: 158 Cm, Color : Fair Complexion
Black Mole on the neck

(1039/F2/2020/I&PRD)

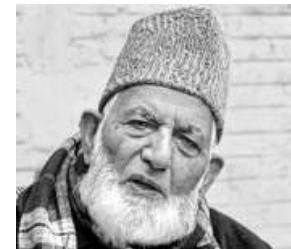
Does Geelani's resignation mark waning of separatism?

It comes at a time when the Hurriyat is under pressure

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The unexpected resignation of 90-year-old Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Geelani from the conglomerate of separatist groups on Monday, left the already squeezed Kashmiri separatists in a state of shock and Pakistan in a corner.

Mr. Geelani, suffering from multiple ailments and tended by two sons at his Srinagar residence, has been the face of hard-line separatism for many decades now.



Syed Ali Geelani, who once contested polls, called for their boycott after 1990s.

J&K's special status last year.

It remains to be seen if Mr. Geelani will also resign from his own party, the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat. Many see Mr. Geelani's move as his last bid to play the politics of deathbed" and "fulfill his wish to die a martyr, who never compromised".

From contesting Assembly elections in 1970s to issuing boycott calls against the same after 1990s, Mr. Geelani steered Kashmir's separatist movement and his ideas influenced both the people

on the streets and the fast-growing militant cadre then. However, neither age nor health nor recent political events favour him anymore.

Meanwhile, his resignation has paved the way for his old friend Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai to emerge as new 'old-guard' leader. Besides, it could also see the rise of younger leaders like Masrat Alam.

The timing of Mr. Geelani's decision is also significant. It comes at a time when the Centre's hardball politics managed to end the separatist politics, if not the sentiment, in one stroke on August 5, 2019, and succeeded in putting a pressure on them, not to rally people against the decision to revoke J&K's special status.

It remains to be seen if Mr. Geelani will also resign from his own party, the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat. Many see Mr. Geelani's move as his last bid to play the politics of deathbed" and "fulfill his wish to die a martyr, who never compromised".

From contesting Assembly elections in 1970s to issuing boycott calls against the same after 1990s, Mr. Geelani steered Kashmir's separatist movement and his ideas influenced both the people

MEA flays remark made by Pak. Foreign Minister

Attempt to link India is absurd: official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's attempts to link Monday's terror attack in Karachi with India is "absurd", said Anurad Srivastava, official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Responding to the Minister's remarks, the official said India condemns the terror attack that claimed the lives of at least five security personnel.

"Unlike Pakistan, India has no hesitation in condemning terrorism anywhere in the world, including in Karachi," said Mr. Srivastava.

Mr. Qureshi had referred to "sleeper cells of India" for being responsible for the attack which was claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army.

"Foreign Minister Qureshi may wish to reflect on this, as also his own government's position, including his Prime Minister's description of the global terrorist as a 'martyr,'" said Mr. Srivastava, referring to Mr. Imran Khan who recently referred to Osama Bin Laden as a "martyr".

Yechury slams postal ballot move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, in a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, has slammed the Commission's recent decision to provide the option of postal ballots to voters aged 65 and above.

Mr. Yechury said the move would put a large number of voters out of physical verifica-

bility matrix and give the ruling government an advantage.

**Haryana to start plasma therapy soon: Minister**

CHANDIGARH
Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij on Monday said the State would soon start plasma therapy for treatment of COVID-19 patients, after approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research. "Haryana to start Plasma Therapy in all its medical colleges after approval from ICMR," tweeted Mr. Vij. Meanwhile, the State reported 381 fresh cases of COVID-19, taking the total tally to 14,210.

BJP MLA who voted in RS poll tests positive

BHOPAL
A BJP MLA from Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district has tested positive for COVID-19, becoming the second legislator who voted in the Rajya Sabha election to have contracted the illness, said officials. Hours after the election on June 19, party MLA from Jawad Omprakash Saklecha and his wife tested positive here. Sirmour MLA Divyajay Singh, who returned to Rewa, became alert after he came to know about it and isolated himself, said officials. "We collected his sample on June 27, which tested positive a day later," they said.

Woman in quarantine found dead at home

IMPHAL
A 21-year-old woman, who was on the last day of home quarantine for COVID-19, reportedly committed suicide in Imphal East district on Sunday. The girl was a Postgraduate Sociology student studying in Chandigarh and came to Imphal on a special train. She was found to be COVID-19 positive and was lodged in the isolation ward of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences. She was discharged on June 14 and advised home quarantine. On Sunday, family members found her hanging inside her room.

Mayawati and Priyanka engage in war of words**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Taking a dig at Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati for her statement that the BSP is with the BJP on the China issue, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday said that "some Opposition leaders are acting as unofficial spokespersons of the BJP".

Ms. Mayawati said at a press conference, "The Bahujan Samaj Party stands with the Bharatiya Janata Party on the India-China border issue. Politics being done by the BJP and the Congress by levelling accusations at each other over the India-China border issue is not in the interest of the nation."

Responding to the BSP chief's stance, Ms. Vadra tweeted, "At this point of time, there is no point in standing with a political party. Every Indian should stand with India, stand with the territorial integrity of India."

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS: TIRUPATI NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(1) e-tenders are invited for Printing and Supply of Calendars-2021 i.e., S.V. (1,75,000 Nos.), SV & SP (2,00,000 Nos.), Telugu Panchangam Calendar (1,25,000) in full shape.
(2) e-tenders are invited for supply of Paper Materials of different categories for 2020-21 as per Tender Notice & Details of e-tender.

For any details of the Notification please log on to the web site <http://www.approcurement.gov.in> or <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in>. For further details please contact: 0877-2264553 and 0877-2264292.

Roc.No.PRA/13919/Adv.No.61/PRO/2020; Dated:29-06-2020

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ro.No:22-28/Jun/2020/PRD/(N)12

Government of Kerala				
Published Tenders from 22-06-2020 to 28-06-2020				
Directorate of Homoeopathy				
Tender ID: 2020 DH_367222_1 * Managing Director, * RE TENDER FOR Supply, Erection, Commissioning And Validation * Closing Date: 15-Jul-2020 * PAC: Rs.18947000				
Tender ID: 2020 DH_367425_1 * Managing Director, * TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF PACKING MATERIALS * Closing Date: 15-Jul-2020 * PAC: Rs.16950700				
Visit https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for more details.				
Ro.No:22-28/Jun/2020/PRD/(N)12				

Centre for Rural Development, Yairipok Tulihal, Imphal East, Manipur Pin: 795149				
Notice Inviting Tender				
Sealed tenders are invited under two cover system (Technical and Financial) vide Tender No. CFRDSFURTIPUR/01/2020				
Details of Plant and Machinery	EMD	Last date and time for submission of tender documents		
Machinery for Pineapple Processing and Value Addition SFURTIP Cluster, (Ministry of MSME, Govt of India), Center for Rural Development, Yairipok Tulihal, Imphal East, Manipur	Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)	15.07.2020 by 05:00pm		
Tender documents i.e. Tender form and other terms and conditions/details can be downloaded from Process and Product Development Center, (PPDC) Agra, Uttar Pradesh website (http://www.ppdcaagra.dmsme.gov.in). For queries, if any, e-mail: cfdsfuti@gmail.com				

Tender documents i.e. Tender form and other terms and conditions/details can be downloaded from Process and Product Development Center, (PPDC) Agra, Uttar Pradesh website (<http://www.ppdcaagra.dmsme.gov.in>). For queries, if any, e-mail: cfdsfuti@gmail.com

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Stay or leave? Odisha's returned migrant workers ponder grim options

Finding employment comes first, whether at home where they undergo quarantine or back in the cities they left with great difficulty following the lockdown

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
RIMULI (ODISHA)

After pondering for a fortnight in quarantined isolation at an institutional facility and then spending another week at home, Jagadish Naik, a first generation migrant worker from Keonjhar in Odisha, is thinking of returning to his factory job in Chennai.

Mr. Naik was forced to turn breadwinner at the age of 18 for his family, which gets to till their land once in three years on a rotation basis. His big joint family owns less than one acre of land at Badanai village in Keonjhar's Champua block and all its members cannot afford to depend on the small

patch of land for their survival.

Mr. Naik had resolved not to return to his previous job at a sanitised production company in Chennai, especially after a harrowing time during the nationwide lockdown. But his resolve melted in a week.

Nowhere to go

Pratap Chatamba, a 24-year-old youth from the Ho tribe, who worked as a security guard in the same Chennai-based company and has been Mr. Naik's co-traveller, also did not have a happy experience to share. Mr. Chatamba kept calling his friends from the quarantine centre in the Government

High School here, seeking information on job opportunities as well as help for a smooth return to his life at home. To his dismay, he, like others, found no one at the quarantine centre's gate to take them back to their village, despite being in possession of COVID-19 negative certificates.

"My father is immobile and whatever little land we have is locked in a joint family dispute. Before migrating to Chennai, I had tried to find a job in Keonjhar but everyone shut their door on me. Now, I don't know where my next month's income will come from," Mr. Chatamba said he had to ask himself as he walked back



Back home: Migrant workers getting their temperature checked at the Jagannathpur railway station in Odisha. ■ PTI

home from the quarantine centre.

These two young tribal youth had to migrate from a

district that accounts for close to 25% of India's iron ore production. Early this year, there were record on-

line bids for 20 iron and manganese ore mines, mostly in Keonjhar, with companies like JSW Steel, ArcelorMittal, and Jindal Steel and Power, offering higher than the average sale price for the ore, even though the metal market is experiencing a downturn.

Mineral-rich district

"A conservative estimate shows Keonjhar district has alone produced iron worth ₹2,65,000 crore in the past two decades. Not just iron ore, the district is rich in other minerals such as manganese and dolomite," said Kiran Sankar Sahu, a lead member of the Keonjhar Citizen Forum.

More than 50,000 natives of Keonjhar have registered with district administration to return. As of now, around 11,000 have returned.

Mr. Naik sees a much bleaker future ahead. People who were already living on the edge cannot move out to sell forest produce and fuel wood to make a living. Vegetable growers find their harvest remains unsold.

MGNREGA wages raised

Keonjhar District Collector Ashish Thakare says his district has become the first in the country to raise minimum wages provided by the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarante

tee Act (MGNREGA) scheme by 45%, from ₹207 to ₹298. "We have been able to create 1 lakh man-days of work per day," said Mr. Thakare, while listing out a number of livelihood interventions, from reviving cultivation of millets in mining-affected areas to doubling farmers' income through agriculture production clusters, and from promoting agro-horticulture-forestry-based livelihoods to tussar sericulture.

But not unsurprisingly, Mr. Chatamba is not inclined to work under the MGNREGA scheme. "The programme does not assure constant employment," he said.

IN BRIEF



Will free grains scheme stay?

Centre remains silent on extension of PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

SOHNA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The government remains tight-lipped on the possible extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the first relief package during the COVID-19 pandemic. The scheme ends on June 30.

The scheme, announced for a three-month period, covered 80 crore ration card holders. Each household was provided 5 kg of foodgrains (rice or wheat) and 1 kg of pulses (only channa) free of cost.

Meeting targets

Already, 21 States – both BJP-led and Opposition-led governments – have appealed to the Centre to extend the scheme for another three months till September.

According to the latest information provided by the Union Food and Public Distribution Ministry, 116.02



Good crop: Rice and wheat being stocked at the godown of the Food Corporation of India in Visakhapatnam. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been lifted under the scheme.

In April, 93% of the grains allotted to the States was distributed targeting 74.05 crore beneficiaries. In May, the distribution stood at 91% reaching 72.99 crore beneficiaries and in June, 71% of the allocation went to 56.81 crore beneficiaries.

Union Food Minister Ramvilas Paswan declined to

comment on the possible extension of the scheme. Senior officials at the Ministry said the decision lay with the Prime Minister's Office.

The States that have demanded an extension include the BJP-led Gujarat, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar (BJP is an alliance partner) and Assam.

An official statement from the Union Ministry said the

Food Corporation of India had "sufficient stock of foodgrains".

According to the Food Corporation of India, there was a stock of 266.29 lakh tonnes of rice and 550.31 lakh tonnes of wheat as on June 28. This is excluding the ongoing purchase of wheat and paddy stocks that have not yet reached the godowns. Each month, only about 55 lakh tonnes is required for distribution to ration card holders.

Reetika Khera, Associate Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and researcher on food security, said that with the beginning of the monsoon, there was a real danger of foodgrains rotting.

"Remember these buffer stocks are maintained precisely for such emergencies. The stocks are far in excess of norms, not all of it being stored safely. With the monsoon upon us, there is a danger that some of it may rot," she said.

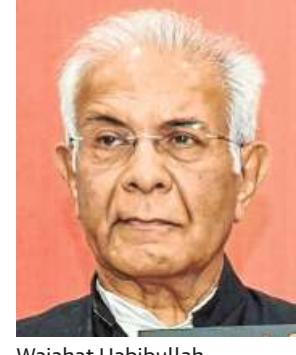
1,731 people died in custody in 2019, it said, citing a report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The alleged torture and killing of a father and son, both traders, in custody in Tamil Nadu last week points to a broken criminal justice system, and highlights the need for police reforms and the ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), the Executive Committee (India) of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) said in a statement issued on Monday.

The committee, which is chaired by former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah, said the alleged custodial killings of P. Jayraj and his son J. Benicks in Thoothukudi underlined the urgent need for a strong law in fulfilment of legal obligations.

The two were arrested for allegedly keeping their shops open past the permit-



Wajahat Habibullah

ted hours during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Need to ratify UNCAT

India remained among a handful of countries yet to ratify the UNCAT, the statement said. The National Human Rights Commission had said custodial violence and torture were "rampant" in the country, it noted.

Citing the National Campaign Against Torture's June 26 report that said 1,731 peo-

ple had died in custody in 2019, it stated, "Given the reality and the circumstances of the recent deaths, we urge the government of India to bring a draft law on torture before Parliament as a top priority and announce its commitment to the UNCAT." The Centre, particularly the Home Ministry, should engage with the UNCAT, which India signed in 1997.

"India has since pledged several times to ratify it, including as recently as 2018. Despite two official Bills which lapsed, a private member's Bill and a report by the Law Commission, the issue has not been a priority of the Central government. We wish to point out that India is among the few countries that have not ratified the CAT – 170 have, including Pakistan and China. India is among 25 other nations which have not ratified."

CA aspirants can opt out of July exams: SC

No risk of them being marked as having failed in the papers they missed due to pandemic, says court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

students should have an option to change their exam centres "till the end".

The Bench directed the ICAI to file a draft notification for approval on July 2, the next date of hearing.

The students' choice of exam centres should not be frozen but left open-ended, it said.

"The situation due to the pandemic is not static but dynamic. An exam centre may suddenly fall within a containment zone," Justice Khanwilkar, heading a three-



Judge Vacation Bench, re-marked orally.

Students could mail the ICAI their reason in connection with COVID-19 before opting out. This could be done any time before or during the exams.

If any student is unable to attend any exam, it will be deemed that he opted be.

Exams for the papers students were unable to take would be deemed as cancelled. This has to be done considering the situation now...

A situation may arise that a student's family member is tested positive, you [ICAI] cannot force him to appear for the exams and inflict other students," Justice Khanwilkar observed.

When students appeared again for the same papers in

November, it would be considered as if they were taking their July exams.

If the papers they missed out were part of a group, the students would have to take the exam for all the papers in the group. For example, if four papers comprised a group and the student was unable to take the exams for two, he or she would have to appear for all four. In the alternative, the student could opt to say that he had failed in the exams he missed out and write only those papers.

Portal for street vendors' loan scheme launched

It will accept applications from July 2

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Monday launched the portal for a loan scheme for street vendors that was started on June 1.

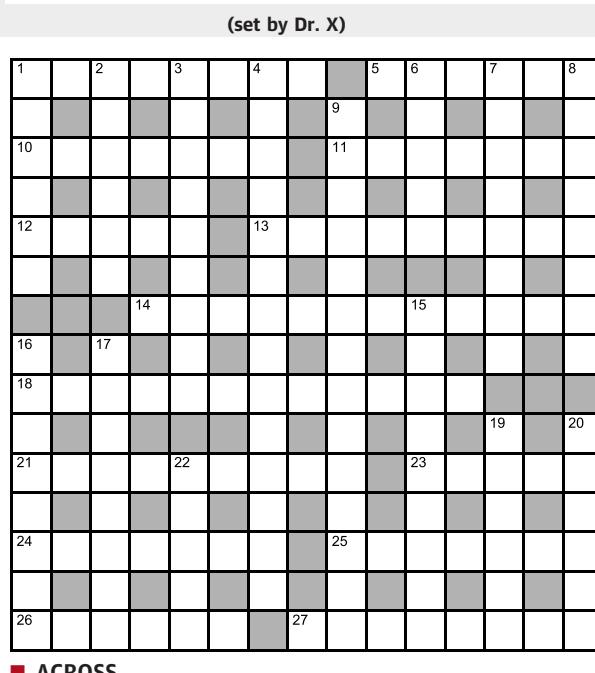
The Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors' Atma Nirbhari Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, which is part of the economic package for sectors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, provides small loans

for street vendors to restart their operations. The portal – pmsvnidhi.mohua.gov.in – provides an "integrated end-to-end IT interface to users for availing benefits under the scheme," a Ministry statement said. A beta version of the portal was also launched.

The portal will help in managing loan applications, collection of documents, integration with Aadhaar etc. The portal will start accepting applications from July 2.

TH CROSSWORD + 12975

(set by Dr. X)



- 1 Elite police unit's hesitation after one escapes in mist (4, 4)
- 5 Expels eastern residents? Not acceptable (6)
- 10 Scrutiny of South American country disregarding drug trade (7)
- 11 Lie low perhaps, finding large source of fuel (3, 4)
- 12 Some American plant (5)
- 13 Come in! Go out with oriental vegetable (9)

CM YK

Improve your language & problem solving skills. Try our Crosswords site! @ <https://crossword.thehindu.com>



SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12974

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7 killed as Baloch separatists attack Pakistan Stock Exchange

The Baloch Liberation Army has targeted infrastructure projects in the past

REUTERS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KARACHI

Gummen armed with grenades attacked the Pakistan Stock Exchange in the city of Karachi on Monday in a bid to take hostages, killing two guards and a policeman before security forces killed all four of the attackers, security officials said.

Separatist insurgents from the troubled southwestern province of Balochistan claimed responsibility, a senior counterterrorism official, Raja Umar Khattab, told Reuters.

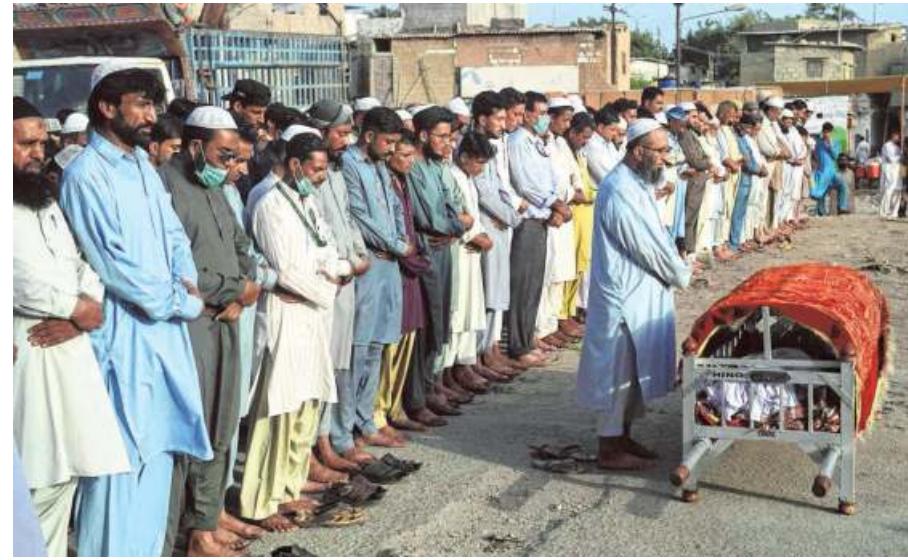
The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) had claimed responsibility in a post on Twitter but Reuters was not able to verify the authenticity of the account. Spokesmen for the group were not available for comment. Later, the group also claimed responsibility in a message sent to AFP, saying an elite unit of fighters had carried out the assault.

BLA's targets

The BLA is one of several insurgent groups fighting primarily in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, which has been rocked by separatist, Islamist and sectarian violence for years.

The group has targeted infrastructure projects and Chinese workers in Pakistan multiple times in recent years, including during a brazen daylight attack on Beijing's consulate in Karachi which killed four people in 2018.

In May last year, the BLA attacked a luxury hotel near the Afghan border at Gwadar.



Death of a guard: Mourners offering funeral prayer for a private security guard, killed in Monday's attack at the Pakistan Stock Exchange building in Karachi. ■ AFP

Last year, the U.S. State Department designated the BLA as a global terrorist group, making it a crime for anyone in the United States to assist the militants and freezing any U.S. assets they may have.

"They had come to carry out an attack inside the building and take hostages inside," the Director-General of the Sindh Rangers, a paramilitary force, Omer Ahmed Bukhari, told media, adding all attackers had been killed within eight minutes.

7 people wounded

The police chief of Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city and financial hub, Ghulam Nabi Memon, told Reuters the gunmen attacked with grenades and guns after pulling up in a silver Corolla car. Two guards and a policeman were killed and seven people were wounded, Deputy Inspector General of Police Sharjil Kharal told media.

'Hostile elements'

An aide to Pakistan's Prime Minister on national security matters, Moeed Yusuf, and the country's Foreign Minis-

ter, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, both said the attack was sponsored by hostile foreign elements. The BLA claimed responsibility in a brief message on a Twitter account set up shortly before the raid, describing it as a "self-sacrificing" attack carried out by its Majeed brigade. The account was suspended a short time after the attack.

Separatists have been fighting for years in resource-rich Balochistan, complaining its gas and mineral wealth is unfairly exploited by Pakistan's richer, more powerful provinces.

The Pakistan Stock Exchange did not suspend trading during the attack.

Islamist militants have also launched attacks in Karachi and elsewhere in Pakistan over the years but their violence has become less frequent after military operations against various factions in strongholds on the Afghan border.

China to restrict visa for some Americans over Hong Kong row

This comes in response to similar measures by the U.S.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

China announced on Monday visa restrictions on U.S. citizens who have "behaved egregiously" over Hong Kong, ahead of the expected approval by Chinese lawmakers of a national security law for the city.

The country is moving forward on a law that would punish subversion and other offences against the state in Hong Kong, which saw massive and sometimes violent protests last year.

On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump's administration said it was restricting U.S. visas for a number of unspecified Chinese officials for infringing on the autonomy of the Asian financial hub. In response, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman

Zhao Lijian said on Monday that the U.S. "scheme... to obstruct the passage of the Hong Kong national security law will never prevail".

"To target the U.S.'s above wrongful actions, China has decided to impose visa restrictions against American individuals who have behaved egregiously on matters concerning Hong Kong," Mr. Zhao said.

China's top lawmaking committee is expected to adopt the law during sessions that end on Tuesday.

While outlawing acts of subversion, secession, terrorism and colluding with foreign forces, the legislation will allow China's security agencies to set up shop publicly in the city for the first time.

U.S. Secretary of State

Mike Pompeo said Washington would curb visas for unspecified current and former officials of the Chinese Communist Party "who were responsible for eviscerating Hong Kong's freedoms".

Economic sanctions

Last week, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved a Bill that would impose mandatory economic sanctions in the U.S. against Chinese officials and Hong Kong police identified as hurting the city's autonomous status.

Mr. Zhao warned Monday that the U.S. "should not review, advance or implement relevant negative bills concerning Hong Kong, even less impose so-called sanctions on China, otherwise China will firmly take strong countermeasures".

23 killed in blasts at Afghan market

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KANDAHAR

Multiple explosions tore through a market in southern Afghanistan on Monday, killing at least 23 civilians, officials said. The blasts were at a market in the Sangin district of Helmand province, and also wounded 15 people, the Governor's office and Army said.

Rockets hit the market at 9.00 a.m. local time after which a car bomb exploded, the Governor's office said, blaming Taliban militants for the attack. The Army also accused the Taliban of carrying out the offensive. Two Taliban insurgents were killed, the Governor's office added.

The Taliban however denied responsibility, pinning the blame on the Afghan Army.

Iran issues arrest warrant against Trump

It asks Interpol for assistance in detaining U.S. President over Soleimani's killing

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

Iran has issued an arrest warrant and asked Interpol for help in detaining U.S. President Donald Trump and dozens of others it believes carried out the U.S. drone strike that killed a top Iranian general in Baghdad, a local prosecutor reportedly said on Monday.

Tehran prosecutor Ali Alqasimehr said Mr. Trump and more than 30 others whom Iran accuses of involvement in the Jan. 3 strike that killed Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad face "murder and terrorism charges," the state-run IRNA news agency reported.

Mr. Alqasimehr did not



When a general departed: Iranians in Tehran mourning Qassem Soleimani's death earlier this year. ■ REUTERS

identify anyone else sought other than Mr. Trump, but stressed that Iran would continue to pursue his prosecution even after his presidency ends.

Interpol, based in Lyon, France, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Mr. Alqasimehr also was quoted as saying that Iran re-

quested a "red notice" be put out for Mr. Trump and the others, which represents the highest-level arrest request issued by Interpol. Local authorities generally make the arrests on behalf of the country that requests it. The notices cannot force countries to arrest or extradite suspects, but can put government leaders on the spot and limit suspects' travel.

Brian Hook, U.S. special representative for Iran, dismissed the announcement during a news conference in Saudi Arabia on Monday. "It's a propaganda stunt that no one takes seriously and makes the Iranians look foolish," Mr. Hook said.

UN declaration delayed over climate text

U.S. raises concern over a paragraph on climate in commemorative declaration

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN

U.S. concerns over a paragraph on climate in a UN commemorative declaration have further delayed the statement's release after tough negotiations successfully resolved previous issues around the text. The declaration, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the UN Charter on June 26, had already been delayed until 6 p.m. on Friday as countries – successfully – worked out a compromise around language that some, including India, had objected to being too aligned with Chinese government thought.

The U.S. took issue with reference to the Paris Agreement, a second diplomatic source told *The Hindu*. The Trump administration gave notice in November last year

that it was exiting the 2015 Paris Agreement.

A U.S. diplomat at the UN told *The Hindu* on Sunday that they could not share updates and that, "ongoing diplomatic negotiations are confidential," implying that negotiations are still in process.

Letter on behalf of India

The Hindu had first reported that the U.K. had written a letter on behalf of India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. objecting to language that was considered too aligned with Chinese government's ideology. This issue was resolved by General Assembly President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande agreeing to replace the phrase, "shared vision of a

common future" – associated with Chinese President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China (CPC) as their vision of the world – with, "the common future of present and coming generations". Diplomats from Sweden and Qatar – countries that are co-chairing the consultations on the declaration – have put a lot of effort into the process so far and are likely to come up with a solution, such as separating out the U.S. on the climate point, the European diplomatic source told *The Hindu*.

"The longer this goes on, the more likely someone may come in with other language that is more problematic for everyone... like on human rights or whatever," the source said.

Dangerous path'

"Annexation is illegal. Period," the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said in a statement.

"Any annexation. Whether it is 30 percent of

Israel's annexation plans are illegal'

UN rights chief issues warning ahead of implementation date

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE GENEVA

Israel's aim to annex parts of the occupied West Bank was clearly "illegal", the UN's human rights chief said on Monday, warning that the consequences could be "disastrous". Just days before Israel intends to kick-start plans to annex its West Bank settlements and the Jordan Valley, Michelle Bachelet added her voice to the chorus urging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to drop the proposal.

'Dangerous path'

"Annexation is illegal. Period," the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said in a statement.

"Any annexation. Whether it is 30 percent of



Palestinians demonstrating in Ramallah earlier in June against Israel's plan. ■ AFP

the West Bank, or five percent," she said, urging Israel to "listen to its own former senior officials and generals, as well as to the multitude of voices around the world, warning it not to proceed along this dangerous path."

International condemnation of the possible Israeli annexations has mounted ahead of July 1, when the Jewish state could take its

first steps toward implementing part of a West Asia peace plan. U.S. President Donald Trump's proposals pave the way for annexing key parts of the West Bank.

Ms. Bachelet urged Israel to shift course, warning that "the shockwaves of annexation will last for decades, and will be extremely damaging to Israel, as well as to the Palestinians." She warned that "any attempt to annex any part of the occupied Palestinian territory will not only seriously damage efforts to achieve lasting peace in the region, it is likely to entrench, perpetuate and further heighten serious human rights violations that have characterised the conflict for decades."

INTERVIEW | SHEELA MURTHY

'Trump's H-1B ban has nothing to do with saving American jobs'

U.S.-based immigration lawyer says there may be a potential legal loophole in the administration's visa restrictions, imposed earlier this month through an order

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

On June 22, the White House made a proclamation restricting the issuance of non-immigrant work visas across the board, which U.S. President Donald Trump said was to clamp down on American jobs going to foreign workers. The broadest impact may be felt on skilled workers abroad seeking the H-1B visa – in large part granted to Indian nationals each year. In an interview with *The Hindu*, Sheela Murthy, founder of the Murthy Law Firm specialising in immigration cases and based out of Maryland, U.S., discusses the impact of President Trump's decision on the economy and immigration. Edited excerpts:

What is your sense of the long arc of the Trump administration's immigration policy, starting from 2016?

■ To some extent, it is just an evolutionary process. Even before he became President, candidate Trump talked about how he was probably going to go after immigrants and immigration, although he did not let the cat out of the bag over H-1B or professional workers. He talked about building the wall, about preventing people

who broke U.S. law from coming into the country. But as soon as he got elected, his focus was on the travel ban [on visitors from certain Muslim-majority countries] around January 2017, on various executive orders, renewed focus on building the wall, threatening to cut off Employment Authorisation Documents.

What is the impact of this proclamation on those in the H-1B visa category, and have you come across cases of people facing hardships?

■ Those who have H-1B visas or are seeking them from within the U.S. and filing for extensions or amendments won't be affected by the June 22 proclamation. But it will exacerbate the problem for those who may have travelled abroad, perhaps for a brief vacation or because of a family emergency, such as a parent being unwell, and who have been stuck there since late March. India shut its airspace to commercial flights around that time. In his April 22 proclamation, Mr. Trump targeted immigrant visas of those stuck abroad trying to come to the U.S. as green card holders, primarily family-based immigration. They may be unable to return to the U.S. at least until December 31, 2020. In the proclamation, the Trump administration has said that it reserves the right to extend this visa issuance ban beyond this date, if circumstances so warrant.

Is this move genuinely about a broad immigration crackdown to protect U.S. jobs from foreign nationals or is the motive political, in the context of the election campaign?

■ Yes, they are using the COVID-19 pandemic and its eco-

nomic impact to focus on their political agenda. This has nothing to do with saving American jobs. Research has shown that for the biggest tech companies and other corporations that are major income producers, the H-1B visa helps to create jobs for American workers, that bringing in high-skill individuals can actually boost the U.S. economy. In that climate, to pander to those people who are not necessarily the most highly educated or possess the highest technical skills is bad, because it is not going to create jobs, but actually take away jobs.

Corporate CEOs including Google's Sundar Pichai and Tesla's Elon Musk have criticised the proclamation recently. Will there be a pushback from corporate America, through lobbying or lawsuits?

■ I think there will be lawsuits, just as there with most

of the immigration-related executive orders so far, including the travel ban, building the wall, and family separations at the border. It makes even less sense, for example, if an H-4 visa holder, a spouse of an H-1B visa holder, who does not work in the U.S. and went to India for what they thought would be a short vacation are now stuck for nine months, separated from their families in the U.S. on H-1B status.

Such a person has zero impact in terms of taking away a U.S. job. These are the kinds of lawsuits that would win fairly easily. But lawsuits take time, effort and money. Organisations such as the American Civil Liberties Union have been filing these lawsuits *pro bono* or at a reduced fee.

If Mr. Trump wins and extends the visa issuance ban beyond December 31, 2020, wouldn't the impact on jobs be greater?

H-1B approval.

If Joe Biden wins the election, will the immigration policy look very different from what it is under Mr. Trump?

■ Historically, Republicans are supposed to be far more pro-business and Democrats, strangely, more protectionist. We're seeing a little bit of a reversal here because the Trump administration has been focused on being protectionist in many ways, under the guise of helping U.S. workers. Joe Biden has not come out strongly with respect to an immigration policy, but having been the Vice-President under Barack Obama, the general view has been that he would continue some of the policy thinking of that administration. I don't know that Joe Biden would seek to completely reshape immigration the way the Trump administration has looked at it.

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	34,962	-0.60
US Dollar	75.58	0.09
Gold	49,245	0.38
Brent oil	41.47	1.94

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	342.65	-0.55
Asian Paints	1691.95	5.20
Axle Bank	404.80	-20.05
Bajaj Auto	2859.50	-8.10
Bajaj Finserv	5890.20	-56.10
Bajaj Finance	2857.95	-45.55
Bharti Airtel	567.10	6.70
BPCL	383.35	-10.30
Britannia Ind.	3519.25	62.85
Cipla	644.90	10.00
Coal India	134.85	-7.25
Dr Reddys Lab	3973.85	-24.75
Eicher Motors	18113.50	-359.90
GAIL (India)	103.60	-1.55
Grasim Ind	619.25	3.10
HCL Tech.	553.70	-8.70
HDFC	1741.15	-28.20
HDFC Bank	1076.05	19.60
Hero MotoCorp	2504.05	-36.40
Hindalco	145.85	-5.20
Hind Unilever	2182.95	28.75
ICICI Bank	343.10	-6.00
IndusInd Bank	480.00	-12.55
Bharti Infratech	219.25	-1.35
Infosys	731.75	-16.45
Indian Oil Corp	87.10	-2.05
ITC	197.25	2.05
JSW Steel	190.70	-1.95
Kotak Bank	1355.65	15.55
L&T	936.60	-25.60
M&M	507.45	6.05
Maruti Suzuki	5678.70	-76.20
Nestle India Ltd.	16724.85	-47.35
NTPC	94.90	-2.10
ONGC	82.40	-1.75
PowerGrid Corp	178.25	-0.95
Reliance Ind	1723.15	-18.50
State Bank	179.25	-5.35
Shree Cement	22341.95	-181.90
Sun Pharma	482.00	2.05
Tata Motors	99.45	-1.95
Tata Steel	320.85	-3.00
TCS	2101.65	-17.20
Tech Mahindra	541.55	-19.30
Titan	957.45	-8.75
UltraTech Cement	3807.00	-53.60
UPL	431.90	-8.35
Vedanta	107.95	-2.00
Wipro	219.70	-5.75
Zee Entertainment	172.05	-4.20

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	75.38	75.70
Euro	84.93	85.32
British Pound	92.99	93.38
Japanese Yen (100)	70.29	70.62
Chinese Yuan	10.65	10.70
Swiss Franc	79.69	80.04
Singapore Dollar	54.14	54.38
Canadian Dollar	55.21	55.46
Malaysian Ringgit	17.59	17.67
Australian Dollar	51.86	52.12

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Sun's psoriasis drug wins Japanese nod

MUMBAI Sun Pharma Japan, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, has received approval from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Japan, for ILUMYA (tildrakizumab) for the treatment of plaque psoriasis in adult patients who have an inadequate response to conventional therapies. Japan has approximately 4,30,000 people currently suffering from psoriasis.

Bharat Bond ETF 2nd tranche opens July 14

NEW DELHI The second tranche of Bharat Bond ETF, through which the government is looking to raise up to ₹14,000 crore, will open for subscription on July 14. The subscription will be closed on July 17, Edelweiss AMC said. This comes after the successful launch of the initial series of the ETF in December 2019. Through the launch of the two new ETF series, Edelweiss Mutual Fund proposed to raise an initial amount of ₹3,000 crore with a green shoe option of ₹11,000 crore based on market demand. The two new series will have maturities of April 2025 and April 2031. PTI

Oracle unveils second data centre in India

NEW DELHI Technology firm Oracle on Monday unveiled its second data centre in India to support increasing customer demand for enterprise cloud services in the country. The new centre in Hyderabad follows the unveiling of the company's Mumbai Cloud region in 2019. With this, India joins the U.S., Canada, Japan, Australia, South Korea and the European Union in having multiple Oracle Cloud regions that facilitate enterprise-class disaster recovery strategies.

Tata Steel slides to a Q4 loss

Revenue drops 20% to ₹33,770 crore; company declares 100% dividend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Tata Steel's consolidated net loss for the fourth quarter widened to ₹1,236 crore from a ₹1,166 crore loss in the third quarter and compared to profit of ₹2,353 crore in the year-earlier period as the COVID-19 pandemic affected its local and overseas operations.

Revenue slumped 20% to ₹33,770 crore in the quarter.

On a standalone basis, the company reported a net loss of ₹563 crore compared with a net profit of ₹2,309 crore in the year-earlier period.

Challenging year

"FY20 has been a challenging year," said TV. Narendran, CEO & MD, Tata Steel.

"The Indian economy slowed down in the first half with key steel consuming sectors like automotive contracting sharply," said Mr. Narendran. "While the economy began recovering in the second half, the out-



Armour of liquidity: Tata Steel has cash and cash equivalents worth ₹11,549 crore, says Koushik Chatterjee, CFO. ■REUTERS

break of COVID-19 in end March led to an unprecedented disruption and heightened economic uncertainty. We have recalibrated our operations in line with the evolving business environment and are focused on conserving cash while actively de-risking the business," he added.

The board has recommended a dividend of ₹10 per ordinary share of ₹10 each and ₹2.504 per partly paid ordinary share of ₹10 each (paid-up ₹2.504 per share) for the financial year 2019-20.

Conserving cash Tata Steel had net debt in excess of ₹1,04,000 crore as on March 31, 2020.

"Given the heightened uncertainty due to the CO-

VID-19 pandemic, we are focused on conserving cash and ensuring adequate liquidity to face potential disruptions in the operating environment," said Koushik Chatterjee, executive director and CFO, Tata Steel.

Reducing expenditure

"We have pivoted business decisions on cash flows and successfully driven cash neutrality in our operations by reducing spend, managing working capital and curtailing capital expenditure," Mr. Chatterjee added.

"We have also raised additional funds of ₹4,900 crore to build a contingency buffer. Our liquidity at the end of the year remained robust at ₹17,745 crore, including cash and cash equivalents of ₹11,549 crore."

Ahead of the results, Tata Steel shares declined 0.8% on the BSE to ₹321.25 in a weak Mumbai market on Monday, valuing the company at ₹36,812 crore.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has scheduled another round of bond sale and purchase auction of ₹10,000 crore each on July 2.

"On a review of current and evolving liquidity and market conditions, the Reserve Bank has decided to conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) for ₹10,000 crore each on July 2, 2020," the RBI said in a statement.

The RBI will purchase longer tenure government bonds, that are maturing in 2027, 2029, 2031 and 2033, while selling four securities of shorter maturity, two of them maturing this year and two next year.

Operation Twist is primarily aimed at managing yields. The move will help soften the yields on long tenure bonds – that have stayed elevated – and help the government in borrowing funds at a lower rate.

CAPA estimates that In-

dian carriers could generate \$400 million more a year if they were able to offer zero baggage fares. Indian carriers have struggled to tap ancillary revenues because of curbs by the government, which is sensitive to any increase in fares. In 2015, DGCA allowed airlines to offer zero baggage fares but later rescinded the decision.

Airlines have over the years been able to unbundle many services and earn ancillary revenue, such as extra fee for seats with leg room and meals onboard. CAPA also reiterated the need to mandate that airlines have a minimum cash reserve to be able to renew their operator's permit.

"CAPA has repeatedly recommended this since 2010. Most airlines today are technically bankrupt and are starved of cash to be able to operate. This is what drives them to discount fares, locking them in a cycle of instability. Unfortunately, this is not recognised at a policy level," the consultancy added.

(RoofandFloor is part of The Hindu Group.)

allowing complete commercial freedom is a must for the revival of airlines in India. No other major aviation market in the world imposes such barriers on their carriers," the firm said.

The removal of curbs would enable airlines to tap into sources of ancillary revenue such as extending zero-baggage fares – which would allow passengers with no baggage to benefit from lower fares, while those with baggage would pay an extra fee thus providing airlines a new source of income.

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MRF Q4 income drops ₹500 cr.

Lower tax provision boosts profit; ₹94 final dividend declared

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The unprecedented lockdown resulted in a drop of more than ₹500 crore in total income for tyre manufacturer MRF Ltd. during the fourth quarter ended March 2020 from a year earlier.

Compared with the December 2019 quarter, the company reported a drop in income of about ₹400 crore.

The lockdown announced to curb the spread of COVID-19 had led to the closure of MRF's plants and godowns, the company said.

The tyre industry had been facing demand issues for some time. However, the

company imposed restrictions on tyre imports may be of immense help to the industry.

Centre imposing restrictions on the import of tyres was likely to be of immense help to the tyre industry at a difficult time as this, MRF said.

MRF had a strong net worth and serviced all its debt obligations in a timely manner. It does not foresee any incremental risk regarding recoverability of assets and ability to service financial obligations. For the fourth quarter, MRF posted standalone net profit of ₹669 crore against ₹294 crore in the year-earlier period. Total income dropped to ₹3,683 crore from ₹4,183 crore.

MRF opted for the lower income tax rate and re-measured the deferred tax liabilities/assets. Accordingly, the net provision for tax (current tax and deferred tax) for the year is ₹4 crore (₹512 crore). Therefore, the full year standalone net profit rose 27% to ₹1,395 crore.

The board recommended a final dividend of ₹94 per share. With two interim dividends of ₹3 each paid during the year, the aggregate dividend for the year is ₹100 per equity share.

Government gives nod for export of PPEs

Quota fixed at 50 lakh pieces a month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has permitted the export of personal protection equipment (PPE) medical coveralls with a permitted quota of 50 lakh PPEs a month.

As per a June 29 notification, a monthly quota of 50 lakh PPE medical coveralls for COVID-19 has been fixed for the issuance of export licences to eligible applicants. All items that are a part of PPE kits and listed in the notification dated June 22, however, continue to be prohibited for exports and these shall not be covered under the export quota.

K.S. Sundaraman, chairman of Indian Technical Textiles Association, said the Centre's proactive step would enable exporters to tap global markets.

Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council A.

Sakthivel said the current production of PPE coveralls is more than adequate to meet the domestic needs.

Export of the coveralls will not only protect health workers globally, but also revive the Indian apparel sector, he added.

Auto exports tumble 73% on lockdown, delayed orders

Import clearance delays may affect manufacturing: SIAM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Even as automobile sector exports tumbled 73% in May 2020 to \$230.3 million, the industry on Monday warned that inordinate delays in clearance for consign

TV PICKS

Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Wednesday)
Premier League: Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.45 a.m. (Wednesday)

Nakamura,
Ding in
tight battle

RAKESH RAO

NEW DELHI

A day after Hikaru Nakamura bounced back from the brink of elimination against Ding Liren, the players drew the first game of the deciding set of the quarterfinals in the \$150,000 Chessable Masters on Monday. The game was drawn following a three-fold repetition of moves in just 29 turns.

Quarterfinal results (Set three, Game one): Ding Liren (Chn) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA); **Set Two:** Nakamura bt Ding 4-3; Anish Giri bt Alexander Grischuk (Rus) 3-1.

Simmons in
self-isolation

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MANCHESTER

West Indies coach Phil Simmons is in self-isolation after attending the funeral of his father-in-law and has since twice tested negative for COVID-19, team chiefs said on Sunday.

Simmons, who went for the cremation, had returned on Friday.

Hamilton eyes Schumacher's record

Will go for a seventh drivers' title as Formula One steps into a new world

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

The event at Spielberg is being held on its original calendar date. However, it is not the once-anticipated 11th round of the championship, but the first – a season-opener delayed by COVID-19.

The race in the Styrian Alps will be run without fans, sponsors' agents and guests, and will have only a handful of reporters.

The usual high-rise motor homes will be replaced by tents and awnings while the teams, cut to 80 members and all in protective gear, will operate in sanitised



Livery change: Mercedes will sport black as it lends its voice to the anti-racism drive. ■ COURTESY: MERCEDES F1 TEAM

"bubbles within bubbles" in a paddock bereft of human contact and the usual swell of rumour and speculation.

For all involved, who are

tested four days before the event and five days later, it will be an unprecedented and unique experience.

Lewis Hamilton, powered

by the all-conquering Mercedes, will go in search of a seventh drivers' title to equal Michael Schumacher's record of most titles.

The first three races form part of an intensive spell of eight European races in 10 weeks, which may become nine in 11 if a round at Mugello, in Italy, is added.

Max Verstappen and Red Bull are expected to challenge Mercedes, with Ferrari and Racing Point in close pursuit.

It will be intriguing to see in the opening events if Hamilton's focus has been affected by his active support for anti-racism protests.

IN BRIEF

Had coronavirus in
January: Botham

LONDON

Former England allrounder Ian Botham has claimed that he got infected by the dreaded coronavirus early this year, but mistook it for "a bad case of flu."

"I think the thing to remember is that six months ago no one even knew what this was, hadn't heard of it," Botham told TV show *Good Morning Britain*. "I had it at the end of December, beginning of January, and I thought I had a bad case of flu. It's amazing



how long it has been around." Botham urged the people to show a bit of patience as he hoped things will improve in a couple of weeks. PTI

Windies players to sport Black Lives Matter logo

MANCHESTER

The West Indies cricketers will sport a Black Lives Matter logo on the collars of their shirts during the upcoming three-Test series against England to protest against racism in sports. Skipper Jason Holder said in a statement on Sunday: "We believe we have a duty to show solidarity and also to help raise awareness."

The ICC-approved logo, designed by Alisha Hosanna, will be the one which featured on the shirts of all 20 Premier League football clubs since the sport's resumption earlier this month. PTI

Ministry nod for CSA to resume training

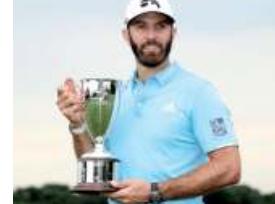
JOHANNESBURG

Cricket South Africa (CSA) has received the go ahead from the country's Sports Ministry to resume players' training. Cricketing activity in South Africa has been suspended since March due to the coronavirus outbreak. Espncricinfo reported that CSA will be meeting on Thursday to discuss the road ahead for resumption with the focus being on getting the men and women's national teams back to training. Last week, CSA had to postpone a three-team exhibition event as it had not got the Ministry's approval to train or play. PTI

Johnson wins Travelers,
keeps Tour streak alive

NEW YORK

Dustin Johnson claimed a one-shot victory over Kevin Streelman at the Travelers Championship and kept his tournament win-streak alive on Sunday. Johnson has now won at least one tournament in each of the 13 seasons he has been on the PGA Tour, a feat matched only by an elite group that includes Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino and Tiger Woods.

FA Cup: Man City and
Chelsea in semifinals

LONDON

Manchester City, thanks to Kevin De Bruyne's penalty and a stunning strike from Raheem Sterling defeated Newcastle 2-0 to move into the FA Cup semifinals on Sunday. City will face Arsenal.

Root to miss first Test,
Stokes to lead

LONDON

England skipper Joe Root is set to miss the opening Test against West Indies next week to attend the birth of his second child. Star allrounder Ben Stokes will lead the team for the first time in Root's absence. The first game of the three-Test series begins at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton on July 8 and Root's wife is due around the same time. PTI

Nitin Menon included in ICC Elite Panel

AMOL KARHADKAR

MUMBAI



Nitin Menon. ■ FILE PHOTO

Nitin Menon has become the third Indian umpire to be included in the ICC's Elite Panel of umpires, with cricket's governing body announcing his elevation to the top tier on Monday.

Ever since officiating in his maiden First Class match as a 28-year-old in 2011-12, Nitin has emerged as one of the most consistent umpires in Indian cricket.

This is reflected in the fact that he already has featured in three Tests, 24 ODIs and 16 T20Is in men's cricket.

His father, Narendra, was also an international umpire and a First Class cricketer. Nikhil, his younger brother,

has been officiating in age-group cricket as part of the BCCI panel.

Calculated risk

Nitin admitted that it was a calculated risk to shift focus to umpiring. "I realised that I wasn't that good a cricketer to sustain [myself] at the First Class level, so we discussed it at home and decided to concentrate on umpiring instead. It was a calculated risk but I am glad it has worked for me," Nitin told *The Hindu*.

"He [Menon Sr.] is also delighted, but ever since our childhood, we have never discussed cricket at home. And the same rule applies even now."

Dandiwal on
BCCI radar for
3-4 years:
ACU chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ravinder Dandiwal, the alleged kingpin of a recently unearthed international tennis match-fixing syndicate, has been on BCCI's watchlist for the last three-four years, board's anti-corruption chief Ajit Singh said on Monday.

"He is suspected to be a corrupter. "I can talk about his cricket (links only) but he has moved to other sports also," Ajit said.

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