FOLLOW US:
thehindu.com
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu

THE HINDU

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

MUMBAI
CITY EDITION
14 pages • ₹10.00

RJD leader Raghuvansh resigns from top party post; 5 MLCs join JD(U)
page 9

CBI to quiz former Manipur CM Ibobi in embezzlement case
page 9

Decision likely today on CBSE Class 10 and 12 exams, SC told
page 11

Djokovic tests positive for coronavirus, apologises to other players
page 14

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

NEARBY

BEST starts terminating staff for absenteeism

MUMBAI
The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) Undertaking has started terminating the services of drivers and conductors on the grounds of absenteeism during May. It had earlier issued chargesheets to nearly 2,000 workers and the latest action is a result of the same.

REGION ▸ PAGE 2

3,214 new cases, 248 deaths in Maharashtra

MUMBAI
Maharashtra reported 3,214 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, with the cumulative number of cases in the State reaching 1,39,010. Of these, 62,833 cases are active, while 69, 631 patients have been discharged till now, health officials said. On Tuesday, 1,925 patients were discharged. Another 248 deaths took the total toll due to the virus to 6,531.

REGION ▸ PAGE 3

All India GS Prelims
Test Series (4500 Qs)
Weekly Test
crack IAS .com ARROW EDUCATION
₹ 8000/-
921-7070707

OPPORTUNITIES ▸ PAGE 11

India, China to 'cool down' LAC tension

Both countries agree to disengage after detailed talks were held between Corps Commanders

DINAKAR PERI
ANANTH KRISHNAN
NEW DELHI

India and China have arrived at a "mutual consensus" to disengage on their disputed eastern Ladakh boundary, an Army official said on Tuesday after detailed talks between Corps Commanders on Monday.

The disengagement, eight days after 20 Indian soldiers were killed by Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley of Ladakh, came on a day Army chief M.M. Naravane visited his injured colleagues in a Leh hospital.

Beijing, too, echoed the sentiments expressed in New Delhi, with the Foreign Ministry spokesman welcoming the Corps Commander-level talks "to take necessary measures to cool down the situation". He said arrangements towards de-escalation were being coordinated by the two militaries on the ground.

Altitude control: Indian soldiers patrolling the mountainous terrain in Leh on Tuesday. ▪ AFP

Phased disengagement

An Indian Army official, who wished not to be named, said, "The Corps Commander-level talks between India and China on June 22 were held at Moldo in a cordial, positive and constructive atmosphere. There was a mutual consensus to disengage. Modalities for disengagement from all friction areas in eastern Ladakh were discussed and will be taken forward by both the sides."

Another Army official said the disengagement would be done from different places in a phased manner without giving a specific time frame or sequence. There would be more ground-level talks to take forward the disengagement.

In the first Corps Commander talks on June 6, both sides identified five locations of conflict – Patrolling Point (PP) 14, 15, 17A, North bank of Pangong Tso and Chushul – and agreed on limited "disengagement" in some of the places. But that consensus ended with the Galwan clash.

Interestingly, both rounds of talks between the Corps Commanders took place in Moldo, the designated meeting point on the Chinese side. They were reportedly sought by the Chinese side and hosted by the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

'False information'

The Chinese Foreign Ministry rejected a statement made by Gen. V.K. Singh (retd.) that China lost more than 40 soldiers in the June 15 clash, terming it "false information". Beijing has not revealed the number of casualties from the Galwan clash.

The Ministry said the holding of Monday's Corps Commanders meeting, the first since the clash, "showed that the two sides hope to resolve differences, and control and ease the situation through dialogue and consultation".

When asked about Monday's agreement to disengage, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said, "The relevant measures are being coordinated and arranged by the border forces of the two countries on the ground."

The Ministry said both sides agreed to take forward the consensus reached on June 6.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

India, China need no help, says Lavrov

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Russia has appreciated India and China for not resorting to "non-diplomatic" language during the tension at the Line of Actual Control near Ladakh.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at the Russia-India-China Foreign Minister-level virtual interaction on Tuesday that both countries were capable of solving the crisis without escalation. The discussions among Mr. Lavrov and his Indian and Chinese counterparts backed an upgrade of the group to include inter-ministerial meetings covering defence, health, culture and technology.

"New Delhi and Beijing have shown commitment to peaceful resolution after they initiated contacts between military officers and Foreign Ministers. Neither side has made any statement regarding finding non-diplomatic solution... I don't see any reason for Russia or anyone else to impose its services to help India and China," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Slash staff at mission, India tells Pakistan

New Delhi cuts numbers at Islamabad

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Protesting "espionage" and "terrorism-related" activities by officials of the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi as well as the "ill treatment" of Indian High Commission officials in Islamabad, the government has decided to reduce the staff strength at both missions by half.

The government's decision, which will bring down Indian staff strength in Pakistan to 55, follows the return of two Indian staffers from Pakistan on Monday, who had been subjected to torture by Pakistan security agencies earlier this month, the MEA said.

On Tuesday, MEA's Joint Secretary Deepak Mittal summoned Pakistan's Charge d' Affaires Syed Haidar Shah to inform him of the decision, giving Pakistan seven days to complete the process.

2001 Parliament attack

The last time this kind of reduction of diplomats was seen was in 2001, after the attack on Parliament.

Pakistan has denied all allegations and responded by asking India to reduce its staff in Islamabad.

"The behaviour of Pakistan and its officials is not in conformity with the Vienna Convention and bilateral agreements on the treatment of diplomatic and consular officials. On the contrary, it is an intrinsic element of a larger policy of supporting cross-border violence and terrorism," the MEA said in its statement.

It referred both to the arrest and expulsion of two Pakistan High Commission officials on May 31 for suspected spying activities and attempting to recruit an agent, and the arrest and torture of two Indian staffers in Islamabad on June 15.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Downward spiral

A look at the changes in the Indo-Pak. relationship

2019

Feb. 15: India revokes Pakistan's MFN trade status after Pulwama attack

Aug. 7: Pak. expels Indian High Commissioner, suspends trade ties over decision on Article 370 and J&K re-organisation

2020

May 31: India expels 2 Pak. High Commission officials accused of espionage

June 16: Pak. CDA summoned, protest lodged over abduction of Indian High Commission staffers

Wedding receptions allowed, but with 50 attendees at most

State seeks extension on free rice, dal provision for the poor

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday said citizens can now organise wedding receptions, but only with a maximum of 50 attendees and ensuring that physical distancing norms are followed strictly.

Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Vijay Vadettiwar said the State government has received numerous requests asking to lift the restrictions on holding wedding receptions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We were constantly receiving requests to this effect. Therefore, we have decided to allow wedding receptions with a maximum 50 attendees," the minister said, reiterating that all physical distancing norms have to be followed.

> **We were constantly receiving requests. Therefore, we have decided to allow wedding receptions with a maximum 50 attendees**
>
> VIJAY VADETTIWAR
> Relief and Rehabilitation Minister

The receptions can be organised only on open lawns, non air-conditioned wedding halls, people's residences or the nearby area. Mr. Vadettiwar said the decision was taken in view of the government's move towards easing the lockdown restrictions and resuming activity in the State.

Meanwhile, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Chhagan Bhujbal has written to Union Minister of Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan, requesting an extension to the provision of free rice and dal to the poor till September. The relief is being provided under the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Ann Yojana.

"For the last three months, we have been giving 5 kg rice per person and 1 kg dal per family for free to those with ration cards every month. Businesses have not restarted yet, neither are there jobs available for the poor. I have requested that the scheme should be continued for the next three months, till September," Mr. Bhujbal said.

On Tuesday, he met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief and Rajya Sabha MP Sharad Pawar, requesting him to discuss the matter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Crowds pull out

Pandemic impact: The wooden chariots of Lord Jagannath, elder brother Lord Balabhadra and sister Goddess Subhadra outside the temple in Puri on Tuesday. The Rath Yatra this year was a pale shadow of the grand spectacle, with the pilgrim town under curfew and the sea of devotees missing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT (REPORT ON PAGE 11)

CRPF jawan, two militants killed in J&K

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Two unidentified militants and a CRPF jawan were killed in an encounter in south Kashmir's Pulwama on Tuesday.

A police spokesman said the terrorists were killed in the gunfight and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter in Bundzoo area of Pulwama.

A CRPF jawan also received critical gunshot injuries. "He succumbed to his injuries in a hospital," the police said. He was identified as head constable Sunil Kala of the CRPF's 182 Battalion

The identification and the affiliation of the killed terrorists are being ascertained, the police added.

At least 108 militants have been killed so far this year.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

'Country of origin' must on GeM platform: govt.

'Steps towards Atmanirbhar Bharat'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a push to promote local products, the Union government has made it mandatory for all sellers on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), a platform for public procurement, to list the country of origin while registering new products.

Those who had uploaded products are getting regular warnings that they will be removed if the origin details are not updated.

Local content

The changes to the GeM, a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, are in line with the Centre's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India policies, an official statement said.

Buyers on the platform can now see the percentage of local content in various products. They can also switch on a new Make in India filter to see products that match their preferences on local content.

For example, buyers can choose to buy only those products that meet a minimum 50% local content criteria. "In case of bids, buyers can now reserve any bid for Class I local suppliers (local content > 50%). For those bids below INR 200 crore, only Class I and Class II local suppliers (local content > 50% and > 20% respectively) are eligible to bid, with Class I supplier getting purchase preference," said the statement.

Ayush lens on Ramdev's COVID-19 cure

Centre asks Patanjali to stop advertising the drugs, seeks details on formulation

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Hours after yoga guru Baba Ramdev unveiled Ayurvedic medicines – 'Coronil' and 'Swasari' – on Tuesday, claiming that clinical trials on COVID-19 affected patients had shown favourable results, the Central government asked Patanjali Ayurved Limited to stop advertising the drug and sought details on its claimed "successful trial and cure".

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Ayush on the claims made by Haridwar (Uttrakhand)-based Patanjali Ayurved in treating COVID-19, the Ministry noted that it had taken cognisance of the news being recently flashed on its drug. Facts of the claim related to the drug and details of the stated scientific study are not known to the Ministry, the statement said.

A photo of the kit released by Patanjali. ▪ TWITTER

List of details

Patanjali Ayurved has been asked to provide, at the earliest, details of the name and composition of the medicines being claimed as successful in COVID-19 treatment; site(s)/ hospital(s) where the research study was conducted; the protocol, sample size, Institutional Ethics Committee clearance, Clinical Trials Registry-India (CTRI) registration, and results data of the study, and to stop advertising/publicising such claims till the issue has been duly examined.

The Ministry has also requested the concerned State Licensing Authority of the Uttarakhand government to provide copies of the license and product approval details of Ayurvedic medicines being claimed as useful in the treatment of COVID -19.

"Also, the concerned Ayurvedic drug manufacturing company has been informed that such advertisements of drugs, including Ayurvedic medicines, are regulated under the provisions of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, and Rules thereunder and the directives issued by the Central government in the wake of COVID outbreak," the Ministry said.

Meanwhile, a scientist associated with the trial, said trial investigators had not yet published the results. Dr. Abhishekh Sharma, assistant professor of medicine, National Institute of Medical Sciences and among those who supervised the trial, said that 100 patients, who had tested positive for the virus, were recruited for the trial. Of them, 50 were given the medicine and five dropped out midway. The remaining 50 were administered a placebo.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Trump suspends H-1B visas till year end

Move draws flak from tech industry

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Tech workers in India hoping to move to the U.S. for work suffered a setback on Monday with U.S. President Donald Trump signing an executive order (EO) pausing new H-1B visas effective June 24 through the end of the year.

H4 visas (H-1B dependents), L visas (intra-company transfers), as well as H-2B (non-agricultural workers) and J visas will be on pause through the year end.

Mr. Trump's order was issued ostensibly to protect American jobs during the ongoing pandemic but it has been criticised by the tech industry as well as politicians on both sides of the aisle as damaging to the U.S. economy. Monday's order also extended to year-end, the April 22 order suspending new immigrant visas issued to those outside the U.S.

The order does not apply to existing green card holders, spouses and children of U.S. citizens, those already in the U.S. on temporary work visas (such as H-1Bs) or their derivative visas.

Also exempt are those outside the U.S. who have valid non-immigrant visas issued before June 24. Individuals may still apply from within the U.S. for H-1B transfers, but if these are denied for any reason, such individuals could fall out of status.

PICHAI DISAPPOINTED ▸ PAGE 10

State must respond to needs of the poor

An interim report by YUVA recommends how to plug gaps in implementation of relief work

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

An interim report on the 'Access to Entitlements and Relief among the urban poor in Mumbai Metropolitan Region during Covid-19,' prepared by Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) highlights the prevailing and continued anxiety over survival amongst the poor. The question marks over future livelihood, distressed families in debt, and lack of any savings further adds to their uncertainties.

"YUVA has been actively engaged in relief work for past three months of lockdown across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region in the urban poor section. This interim report is based on the survey of 7,515 households in this region," said Roshni Nugehalli, executive director, YUVA. A detailed report, with results of survey of over 15,000 households, will be released next month.

In the interim report, recommendations have been made to the three levels of governance – central, State and local – keeping in mind relief packages that have already been announced, with pointers to enable access and plug gaps in implementation. Immediate actions by local and State governments to respond to immediate needs of the poor in the region are suggested, along with medium-term and long-term measures for the post-COVID situation.

Ground work: Volunteers from YUVA conducting surveys in various parts of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. The report is based on reponses from 7,515 households from the urban poor section of the region. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The Government of India must bring out a central mandate to allow provision of emergency ration cards in an attempt to universalise the Public Distribution System (PDS). There are a large number of workers and families who do not possess ration cards in their current place of residence," the interim report said.

For the State government, it recommended a fast-track process at every Fair Price Shop (FPS) / ration shop to issue emergency ration cards issued based on current place of residence which will help millions of poor workers in securing food. "These can be for six months, and with these ration cards, people can access the benefits announced by the Government of Maharashtra under the PDS," the report recommended.

Local civic bodies can ensure FPS shops register individuals, families or groups of migrant workers living together and issue them a single ration card. Each FPS should have a jurisdiction of slums and low income neighbourhoods for this fast-track emergency ration card preparation to avoid duplication, the interim report says.

The Maharashtra government has announced a direct transfer of ₹2,000 into the accounts of all construction workers registered under the Building and Other Construction Worker's (BOCW) Welfare Board.

"The Board has currently over ₹7,482.33 crore collected through building cess. Those who are unregistered must be encouraged to do so through a simple non-bureaucratic process and the government should disassociate the 90-day work certificates as proof to be registered. It will be of enormous help to construction workers," it said.

The report has also recommended measures such as expanding the scope of central government's scheme of direct cash transfer; ensuring Ujjwala gas access to all poor households; loan benefits under National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) to be spread through self help groups; waiver on rentals in all slums for three months; child protection committees at the ward level under the leadership of the corporators for the well-being, nutrition and protection; and municipal and private schools to make arrangements for free access to technology if the lockdown persists for educational institutions.

Reply to petition against reinstating suspended policemen: HC to State

Plea filed by mother of man who allegedly died in custody

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday directed the State government to reply to a contempt petition filed by the mother of Khawaja Yunus, who allegedly died in police custody in 2003, against reinstating suspended police officers in the case.

On June 12, Khwaja's mother, 72-year-old Asiya Begum sent a contempt notice to Param Bir Singh, Commissioner of Police and chairman of the review committee set up for review of suspension orders of various officers of the city police.

On June 6, assistant police inspector Sachin Hindurao Vaze and constables Rajendra Rajmani Tiwari and Sunil Vasant Desai took charge in the local arms unit and constable Rajaram Nikam resumed duty in the motor vehicle department. They were all suspended in 2004.

Khwaja, then 27, was arrested by the Powai Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on December 25, 2002, following the Ghatkopar bomb blast. Two days later, when his brother visited him in Mumbai, he found Khwaja weak and unable to stand. On January 6, 2003, the accused either died in custody at Powai or while being taken to Aurangabad.

Recap: In its 2004 judgement, the HC had said the State investigation was shoddy and improper. ▪FILE PHOTO

The petition filed through advocate Chetan Mali quoted the HC's April 2004, judgement, which said, "till date no disciplinary action has been taken against Sachin Vaze and three absconding police constables. We find from the record that the investigation conducted by the State has been totally shoddy and improper."

The State government was then directed to suspend all the three constables and Mr. Vaze immediately, and start a disciplinary inquiry against them as they were prima facie found to be involved in the offence.

The petition also said the State government had moved court seeking to recall the order, however HC refused to do so.

The court had said, "Under these circumstances, we find no ground whatsoever to recall our earlier order whereby we had directed the State CID to treat the statements of eye witnesses Dr. Mohammad Abdul Matin Abdul Basit made before the learned Special Judge under Prevention of Terrorism Act as FIR and register a separate case for the offences under Sections 302 (punishment for murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) of the Indian Penal Code.

A Division Bench of justices S.S. Shinde and Abhay Ahuja adjourned the matter to July 3.

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
022-22021099, 22027586

EDUCATIONAL

General Studies Paper 2 Plus
Pre-cum-Mains
New Online Batch
by
M. PURI
Starts 29th June 2020
The most comprehensive coverage of
GS PAPER 2
Claim 10% Early Bird Discount
(24th June - last date for discount)
www.stellariasacademy.online
CALL: 99152-14599
Stellar IAS ACADEMY
Your Ambition Our Guidance

For enquiries on announcements in
CLASSIFIEDS MART
Please contact our office at the following number between
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Mumbai : 9619045762
Please mail your query at :
mumbaimaterial@thehindu.co.in
Fixed Rate for Mumbai :
Rs. 35/- per sqcm.
Minimum size of 3.5 cm (w) x 5 cm (h)
Log on to
www.thehinduads.com
For Placing
Advertisement Online

Set up board to examine minor rape victim: HC

Committee to comprise KEM doctors

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday called for a medical board to be set up to examine a minor rape victim who moved court seeking permission to terminate her 21-week pregnancy.

Accused arrested

A Division Bench of justices R.D. Dhanuka and Madhav Jamdar was hearing a plea filed by a minor' mother through advocate Meenaz Kakalia. The minor is a rape victim and the accused, an acquaintance, has been arrested under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act after an FIR was filed on June 9 at the RCF police station.

The court directed to constitute a medical board/ committee comprising of doctors from KEM Hospital to give an opinion under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. The board will comprise the hospital's dean, the head of departments of psychology, paediatrics, cardiac surgery and radiology, and two other doctors suitable for the examination, as chosen by the dean.

Next hearing on June 26

The medical team is expected to submit its report on or before June 25 and the matter will be heard a day later, on June 26.

BEST starts terminating employees for remaining absent in May

Seven drivers, one conductor dismissed as of Tuesday

AJEET MAHALE
MUMBAI

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) Undertaking has started terminating the services of drivers and conductors on the grounds of absenteeism during the month of May. It had earlier issued chargesheets to nearly 2,000 workers and the latest action is a result of the same.

Union sources said the administration had started issuing termination orders from Monday and until Tuesday, seven drivers and one conductor had been dismissed. The dismissed workers are attached toWadala, Backbay, Dindoshi, Dharavi and Deonar depots.

On June 13, over 15,000 workers shocked to find that their May salaries had been slashed by the undertaking. A total of 6,419 ground staff, such as drivers, conductors and ticket checkers received salary as they were not present for a single day throughout the month.

Senior BEST officials said it is very rare that workers are dismissed on the first instance of a chargesheet and the previous track record of the worker.

BEST staff at work in Borivali. Ridership has increased after private companies started functioning. ▪FILE PHOTO

"The chargsheets are all one sided and did not take the workers' realities into consideration. Many of them were out of the city under the lockdown and could not come back, while some had health issues," Shashank Rao, general secretary, BEST Workers' Union, said.

The passenger load of BEST has been steadily increasing over the last couple of weeks, with many private companies functioning at 10% capacity. Despite starting of suburban trains in the city, the average ridership of BEST has increased by around two lakh in the last week. On Monday, it earned ₹77.52 lakhs by transporting 7.78 lakh passengers on 2,786 buses.

BEST spokesperson Manoj Varade said they had used all forms of communication to ask workers to report to work, yet many continued to be absent and they could not run more buses to cater to the rising demand.

Four held for robbery on JNPT highway

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

The Panvel police have arrested four people for robbing a truck driver, supervisor and a watchman on JNPT highway on June 11.

The accused, Najare Aalam Mohammad Jareef Aalam Ansari (21), Shamsuddin Sahabuddin Ansari (19), Mohammad Nohid Mohammad Umed Khan (21) and Shahid Mohammad Rais Khan (19) were arrested on June 21.

According to police, they are history-sheeters and have records with the Shivaji Nagar, Deonar and Kherwadi police. "The gang consists of seven accused of which four have been arrested, one is a minor and two others are in custody of Kherwadi police," senior police inspector Ajay Landge said.

The accused had approached the parked truck on bikes and asked for directions. While one was asking for directions, the others carried out the robbery

They were booked under Sections 392, 395 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Shri T.K.RAJAGOPAL (Thirumala Kumara) 73 yrs Retd Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai expired on 19.6.2020 at 7:30am at Thiruchanoor after brief illness. Mourned by sisters Usha and Vasantha brothers T.K.Seshadri and T.K. Raghunathan and brother's son T.K. Rajiv. Dasasthu on 28.06.2020 at Thiruchanoor,Tirupathi. Ph:8555068867.

DEATH

OBITUARY

R SRINIVASAN
(Ambi)
Retd. Chief Procurement Adviser, World Bank, Washington DC
attained Acharyan Thiruvadi in Chennai at 10.15 pm on Sunday, 21st June 2020.
Survived by his children Vijay, Bharat, Ranjani and Malini and grandchildren.
9444440315, 9444042593

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

Sri. R.GOPALAN
CGM(Retd) State Bank of Mysore
Date of birth : 15.01.1946
Date of death : 22.06.2020
Landline number : 044 24988191
Cell no. 097909 23062
Deeply mourned by
Family Members

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
Fixed Rate for Mumbai :
Rs. 40/- per sqcm.
Minimum size of 3.5 cm (w) x 5 cm (h)
Log on to
www.thehinduads.com
For Placing
Advertisement Online

In memory of your loved ones To dedicate a space in this section,
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

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/09/2020, Date 22/06/2020

S.N.	Short Description of item	Quantity	T.O.D.
186	High Tensile Transition CB Couper	8 Nos.	25.06.2020
187	Roller Bearing Commutator End TM4303 by Traction Motor	31 Nos.	25.06.2020
188	Axle Box Complete W/O Bearing	5 Sets	26.06.2020
189	Contractor for control Electronics	6 Nos.	26.06.2020
190	Circuit Breaker for Traction Motor Blower and Oil Cooling	20 Nos.	26.06.2020
191	Cochlear Implant	1 No	27.06.2020
192	Duty Register	189 Nos.	01.07.2020
193	Sick and Fit certificate	669 Nos.	01.07.2020
194	Modified Elastomeric Pad for Casnub Bogies	51905 Nos.	06.07.2020
195	9W (2 Feet Length) LED Tubular Lamp	5009 Nos.	07.07.2020
196	POH Kit	2700 Set	10.07.2020
197	Video Laryngo Scope with S.S. Blade	6 Nos.	13.07.2020
198	Solenoid Emag 110 V R8	6 Nos.	15.07.2020
199	Narrow Jaw Adapter	3500 Nos.	15.07.2020
200	Aluminium Chequered Sheet for Flooring	14000 Kg	16.07.2020
201	Diesel Forklift Trunk Cap - 6 tons	1 No	16.07.2020
202	Flap Door Arrangement	180 Nos.	20.07.2020
203	Security Plate for Anti Roll Bar Arrangement	2500 Nos.	23.07.2020
204	Upgraded High Capacity Draft Gear	215 Nos.	24.07.2020

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in.
For Principal Chief Materials Manager
D-09
Like us on : facebook.com/WesternRly | follows us on : twitter.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY

"WALK IN INTERVIEW"
FOR THE POST OF SENIOR RESIDENTS IN VARIOUS SPECIALTIES

Walk in interview for filling up the post of SENIOR RESIDENTS in various specialties in JRH is Scheduled to be held on 06.07 2020 at 11.30 AM in Divisional Railway Manager's office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai.
The candidate may apply ONLINE on our official website : http://203.153.40.19/bct (ekarmik) and as well as on ekarmikbct downloadable application available on Google Playstore. The date of submission of online application is from 26.06.2020 to 02.07.2020. Applications sent by post will not be accepted.
Interview will be held on 06.07.2020. If number of candidates applied will be more, then specific date for interview will be communicated to candidates on Contact number given in Application form (In order to maintain social distancing). Applications are invited for the 16 posts of Sr. Residents in following Specialty -

CVTS Medicine	03	Obst & Gynae	01
CVTS Surgery	02	Gen Surgery	01
CVTS Anaesthesia	02	Gen Anaesthesia	01
Gastro-enterology	02	G I Surgery	01
Gen Medicine	01	Paediatrics	02*

*Engagement of Senior Resident in Paediatrics will be w.e.f 09.08.2020 & 04.09.2020

Total category wise break up of above 16 posts are Gen-07, SC-03, ST-01, OBC-03, EWS-02. Senior residents posts of Jagjivanram Hospital, W.Rly. Mumbai Central are accredited for DMER, Mumbai, Maharashtra, Government Post PG Service Bond as per their letter dated 15.01.2015. The candidates should bring all original documents along with a set of self attested photocopy of the same pertaining to age, qualification, MCI registration, work experience, recommendation from previous employer. Caste etc. For more information visit www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in under News and recruitment section and on http://203.153.40.19/bct (ekarmik) and apply online on the same within scheduled date & time VISIT> http://203.153.40.19/bct (ekarmik)
CLICK > MEMO/NOTIFICATION on Home screen > click DISPLAY MEMORANDUM > select type>NOTIFICATION > click SEARCH
Please bring the filled application form downloaded from application history/status of above website.
D-03
Like us on : facebook.com/WesternRly | follows us on : twitter.com/WesternRly

Timings
MUMBAI

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 24		
RISE 06:03	SET 19:19	
RISE 08:44	SET 22:12	
THURSDAY, JUN. 25		
RISE 06:03	SET 19:20	
RISE 09:45	SET 22:59	
FRIDAY, JUN. 26		
RISE 06:04	SET 19:20	
RISE 10:44	SET 23:44	

Mumbai Weather	max	min
Mumbai Airport	33	26
Pune	31	22
Mumbai City	33	26

Mumbai Today
33°C A comfortable morning. Moderate rain and thundershower are expected. The sky will remain cloudy.

Mumbai Tomorrow
33°C Moderate rain and thundershower will effect. A comfortable morning. The sky will remain cloudy.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

HC refuses interim stay on RBI order cancelling cooperative bank's licence

Decision taken protect interests of depositors, says HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has refused to grant an interim stay on operation of the order passed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelling the licence of the CKP Co-op Bank and observed that there was no fundamental error in the decision.

In an order passed in the last week, a Division Bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and S.P. Tavade noted the RBI had taken the decision with an objective of protecting the interests of depositors and other stake-holders.

'Attempt to cover up'

The court was hearing a petition filed by Thane resident Vishwas Utagi challenging the April 24, 2020 order of the RBI cancelling the licence of the cooperative bank. Mr. Utagi said he had filed the petition on behalf of the 500 share-holders, account-holders, depositors, employees and other stake-holders of the CKP Co-op bank.

He said the RBI order was an attempt to cover up failures of the members of the Board of Administrators who were nominated by the State government to run the cooperative bank from May 2012. He also alleged that the RBI overlooked the interests of the bank's depositors and other stake-holders.

The Bench noted that before the licence of the bank was cancelled, it was preceded by various notices and inspections by the RBI which revealed several irregularities. "The RBI has the power of superintendence over the banks in the country in the interest of the banking policy. Various powers are available to the RBI under the Banking Regulations Act," the HC said.

"The financial position of the bank (CKP) deteriorated from time to time. The RBI found that the affairs of the bank were conducted detrimental to the interest of the depositors and public," the court said.

'No fundamental error'

It is in this background that the RBI formed an opinion that the order cancelling the bank's licence had to be passed, the Bench said.

"The steps taken by the RBI are for the benefit of the depositors. The RBI is entrusted with powers to take necessary steps in the interest of depositors, banks and public," the high court said. The court added that prima facie it did not find any fundamental error in the approach of the RBI.

The HC refused interim relief and directed that the petition be heard when normal court resumes.

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by N. Vaidyanathan at Dangat Media Pvt Ltd, No. 22, Dighe MIDC, Vishnu Nagar, TTC Industrial Area, Dighe, Navi Mumbai-400701 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
MAHENG/2015/69444 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 6 • No. 150

Maharashtra COVID-19 tracker

TOTAL CASES	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS
1,39,010	3,214	62,833	69,631	6,531

DISTRICTS AFFECTED: 35

DISTRICT	CASES	DEATHS	DISTRICT	CASES	DEATHS
Mumbai	68,410	3,844	Ahmednagar	300	12
Thane	26,506	751	Nanded	295	11
Pune	16,907	624	Hingoli	262	1
Aurangabad	3,686	201	Yavatmal	251	8
Palghar	3,866	93	Latur	227	13
Nashik	2,965	179	Osmanabad	183	6
Raigad	2,714	93	Sindhudurg	164	4
Solapur	2,345	215	Buldhana	176	9
Jalgaon	2,476	189	Gondia	101	0
Nagpur	1,352	13	Parbhani	85	4
Akola	1,272	66	Beed	102	3
Satara	868	40	Nandurbar	89	5
Kolhapur	750	8	Washim	79	3
Ratnagiri	504	23	Bhandara	77	0
Dhule	587	47	Chandrapur	60	0
Amravati	463	24	Gadchiroli	60	1
Jalna	395	11	Wardha	14	1
Sangli	302	9			

POSITIVE CASES OVER LAST 15 DAYS

824 (25.63%) of Tuesday's cases are from Mumbai

CASES TREND Positive cases · Active cases · Cured

49.85% is the State recovery rate

MORTALITY RATE

Maharashtra 4.63%

India 3.18%

AFFECTED (AGE-WISE) As on June 21

QUARANTINE NUMBERS

6,01,182 Home quarantine

26,910 Institutional quarantine

CASES (GENDER-WISE) As on June 20

MALE 62% (81,668) FEMALE 38% (50,364)

DEATH (GENDER-WISE) As on June 20

MALE 65% (2,901) FEMALE 35% (1,583)

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
Mumbai suburbs: 022 26556799 / 26556806
Thane: 022 25301740
Palghar: 02525 297474
Raigad : 02141 222118
Ratnagiri: 02352 226248
Sindhudurg: 02362 228847

Source: Public Health Department, Maharashtra, BMC

State reports 3,214 new cases, 248 deaths

While 75 patients died in last 48 hours, 173 fatalities were recorded earlier but not attributed to COVID-19

Door-to-door: Healthcare workers conduct a check-up in Kurla on Tuesday. • VIJAY BATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Maharashtra reported 3,214 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, with the cumulative number of cases in the State reaching 1,39,010.

The State also reported 248 deaths, taking the total fatalities due to the virus to 6,531. While 75 e deaths took place in the last 48 hours, the remaining 173 had taken place earlier but were not attributed COVID-19 then, a health official said. The COVID-19 mortality rate in the State is now 4. 69%.

Of the total cases, 62,833 are active, while 69,631 patients have been discharged till now, health officials said. On Tuesday, 1,925 patients were discharged.

So far, the State has tested 8,02,775 people for COVID-19. Currently, 6,05,141 people are in home quarantine and 26,572 people in institutional quarantine.

There have been 68,410 COVID-19 cases in Mumbai alone with 3,844 deaths so far. The Thane division, which includes Mumbai city, has reported 1,01,496 cases and 4,781 deaths so far.

Nashik division has reported 6,417 cases and 432 deaths so far. Pune division has reported 20,120 cases with 879 deaths, which includes 14,036 cases and 534 deaths in Pune city alone.

There have been 1,720 cases and 44 deaths in Kolhapur division. Aurangabad division has reported 4,428 cases and 217 deaths, Latur division 807 cases and 33 deaths, Akola division 2,241 cases and 110 deaths, while Nagpur division has reported 1,664 cases and 15 deaths. In all, 117 people from other States tested positive in Maharashtra, including 17 deaths.

Navi Mumbai crosses 5,000-case mark

Nine more deaths reported

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) reported 111 fresh COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, taking its total number of cases to 5,072. With nine more deaths, the toll has gone up to 177.

Of the 111 cases reported on Tuesday, 73 were men and 38 women. In some good news, the NMMC recorded more recoveries than cases during the day. With 151 patients discharged, the city's recovery rate increased from 57% to 59%. The total number of recoveries now stands at 3,001.

The NMMC currently has 1,894 active cases and a mortality rate of 3.4%. Till date, the corporation has tested 17,604 people for COVID-19, of which 11,643 have tested negative, while reports of 889 are pending. A total of 39,431 people under NMMC have completed home quarantine till now.

Cases rise in Panvel

The Panvel Municipal Corporation (PMC), meanwhile, reported 53 new cases, pushing its total number of cases to 1,435, while five fatalities raised its death toll to 63.

With 56 patients discharged, the total number of recoveries went up to 979 and the recovery rate rose to 68% from the earlier 66%. There are now 393 active patients under the PMC, while its mortality rate is 4.3%.

In Panvel rural limits, 10 new cases pushed the total to 646, while one person died, taking the COVID-19 toll to 15. Nine recoveries increased the number of patients discharged so far to 456. Panvel rural currently has 175 active cases, and a recovery rate of 70.5% and mortality rate of 2.3%.

3 new civic chiefs in Thane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THANE

In light of the rise in COVID-19 cases in Thane district, the government has replaced three civic chiefs in the region, a district official said on Tuesday.

While former Palghar collector Abhijit Bhangar will head the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Dr. Mantada Raja Dayanidhi has been appointed municipal commissioner of Ulhasnagar. Dr. Vijay Rathod has been put in charge of the Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation.

Pollution watch

	FORECAST TODAY (AQI*)
Bhandup	35
Colaba	38
Malad	58
Mazagaon	32
Worli	48
Borivali	57
BKC	54
Chembur	16
Andheri	78
Navi Mumbai	39

*AIR QUALITY INDEX

Good 0-50 · Satisfactory 51-100 · Moderate 101-200 · Poor 201-300 · Very poor 301-400 · Severe 401-500

IN MAJOR CITIES

	PM10	PM2.5	AVG.
Mumbai	39	20	39
Delhi	62	33	68
Pune	47	30	48
Ahmedabad	45	24	45

COVID-19 facility set up at college campus in Thane

MNS, institute chairman oppose move

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THANE

The Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) has set up a 700-bed COVID-19 treatment facility at a campus of an educational institute in the city, following an increase in cases, an official said on Tuesday.

The TMC has converted 70 classrooms in seven buildings of the Vidya Prasarak Mandal (VPM) into the healthcare facility.

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, meawhile, has opposed the move and warned the TMC against setting up COVID-19 hospitals in educational institutions.

The party's Thane-Palghar district president Avinash Jadhav said that educational institutions should not be used as healthcare facilities and the civic body can instead acquire event halls and reserve more beds in big hospitals.

VPM chairman Dr. Vijay V. Bedekar also criticised the decision and said that educational institutions should not be used for any other purpose.

He said that as per the norms of the National Centre for Disease Control, COVID-19 facilities should be set up in a single building and not in multiple structures, as it will hamper the management of the disease.

Panvel civic body seals 57 shops for violating COVID-19 safety norms

Physical distancing, odd-even formula not followed

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

The Panvel Municipal Corporation (PMC) has sealed 57 shops in its jurisdiction over the last two days for violating safety guidelines laid down to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Most shops were sealed for not ensuring physical distancing among customers at the shop, not following the odd-even formula to reopen, not making available sanitiser, and for entertaining customers who are not wearing masks.

Municipal Commissioner Sudhakar Deshmukh said, "As per the notification issued on June 3, the guidelines are clear for shopkeepers. The customers waiting outside the shop need to be in a queue to follow physical distancing. It's also the shop owner's responsibility to make sure that no one crowds around the counter. With the lockdown relaxed, many have started feeling that the pandemic is over. People might be wearing masks, but yet are seen hugging shop owners they are meeting after a long time."

He said that as per the Epidemic Diseases Act, the PMC has the right to penalise those not following norms. "We will take stricter action if people are found flouting norms more often," Mr. Deshmukh said.

Twelve shops have been sealed in Kharghar (ward A), 11 in Kalamboli (ward B) and 17 each in Kamothe (ward C) and Panvel (ward D). "The shops can be opened after the owners submit an affidavit mentioning that they will not flout the norms henceforth and will abide by the government's notification. If they are found flouting norms again, we will file a case with the police against them as permitted under the Epidemic Diseases Act," deputy municipal commissioner Jamir Lengarekar said.

THE HINDU
Surcharge:
Ahmedabad – Rs. 5.00

TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT
Mr M.Bala
Ph: 9619045762
mumbaimaterial@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

ADVERTISEMENT

Unacademy Summit: A 3-Day Conclave for Civil Services Aspirants

- The virtual summit will help learners get complete guidance for UPSC CSE examinations
- Sessions to be conducted by leading civil servants, top Unacademy-educators and famous personalities like Shri. Pranab Mukherjee, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Dr. Kiran Bedi, Kapil Dev, Jairam Ramesh, Rajkummar Rao and more

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Former President of India

Jairam Ramesh, Economist, MP

Kapil Dev, Former India Captain

Dr. Kiran Bedi, IPS (Retd), Lt. Governor (Puducherry)

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP

DP Agrawal, Ex. UPSC Chairman

Unacademy, India's largest learning platform, will be organizing a 3-day live virtual summit for all civil services aspirants across the country from June 26 - 28, 2020. The Unacademy Summit will provide learners with an opportunity to connect with top educators, civil servants, and the senior leadership team at Unacademy to gain insights on cracking one of the toughest examinations in the country.

The virtual summit spanning across three days will include sessions from IAS and IPS officers namely Armstrong Pame, Prasanth Nair, Roopa DM, Sanjukta Parashar along with Unacademy's top educators such as Mrunal Patel, Sunil Singh, Deepanshu Singh, Sumit Kapoor, Atish Mathur and others. Additionally, well known personalities from different fields such as Pranab Mukherjee, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Dr. Kiran Bedi, Kapil Dev, Jairam Ramesh, D P Agrawal, Rajkummar Rao will also be conducting live sessions to share their experiences and success stories with the learners.

unacademy LET'S CRACK IT! · UNACADEMY SUMMIT 2020 · in association with THE HINDU GROUP

The summit will cover all queries and general doubts of aspirants such as the future prospects of pursuing Civil Services as a career, the most appropriate strategy to prepare for the UPSC exam, quick and handy tips for preparation, maintaining a balance between personal and academic life as well as the importance of mental and physical wellness while preparing for the exam. The summit will also keep the learners and speakers engaged by organizing sessions, workshops, panel discussions, strategy for optional subjects and activities for learners such as essay writing and more.

To view the complete schedule and be a part of the summit, learners can visit unacademy.com/upscsummit2020 and register for free.

Mrunal Patel,Top Educator at Unacademy said, "For UPSC CSE, Unacademy has a large volume of structured educational videos and study material on its platform that any candidate from any part of India can access from the convenience of their homes. This Unacademy Summit is a continuation of Unacademy's initiatives to help aspirants prepare for competitive exams."

Sidharth Arora, Top Educator at Unacademy said, "The road to a long journey starts with a small step and a guiding hand. The Unacademy Summit has various speakers from different walks of life who will guide and motivate learners in their journey to crack the UPSC exam. Aspirants will benefit greatly by being a part of this summit."

The Unacademy Summit is being conducted in association with The Hindu.

Scan to register

About Unacademy:

Unacademy is an education technology platform founded by Gaurav Munjal, Roman Saini and Hemesh Singh in 2015. It was started as a YouTube channel by Gaurav Munjal in 2010. Headquartered in Bengaluru, Unacademy is India's largest learning platform that brings expert educators together with millions of learners in need of quality education. With a growing network of more than 10,000 registered educators and 13 million learners, Unacademy is changing the way Indialearns. The Unacademy group consists of Unacademy, Unacademy Subscription, Wifistudy, Chamomile Tea with Toppers and Let's Crack it Brands. The company is backed by prominent investors such as General Atlantic, Facebook, Sequoia India, SAIF Partners, Nexus Venture Partners, Steadview Capital, and Blume Ventures.

To know more download Unacademy Learning App from Play Store, App Store or visit us at https://unacademy.com/

Fairy tale: Actors Rahul Bose and Tripti Dimri; (below) a still from Bulbbul and filmmaker Anvita Dutt ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Don't be a Sleeping Beauty waiting for Prince Charming'

Anvita Dutt's ***Bulbbul*** is a cautionary tale for women everywhere to snatch agency instead of waiting for it

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

On the very first day of shooting *Bulbbul*, actor Rahul Bose thought he was going crazy. The Netflix film, with an 1880s Bengal milieu, features a lavish *haveli* and equally extravagant costumes. "I didn't know whether it was my imagination or not, but I saw a woman from that era," recalls the actor who firmly declares he's a non-believer of the paranormal. The apparition would only make an appearance when the cameras were rolling no one else seemed to be bothered by the strange woman. Had Bose began his slow descent into madness? A crew member identified the supposed poltergeist. It was director Anvita Dutt decked in beautiful Banarsi saris with a solid red tikka adorning her forehead. "Directors are normally fat men or women, usually unshaven, wearing sneakers with wrinkled socks and a lack of deodorant," laughs Bose.

Inner journeys

In addition to crushing Bose's archetypes, Dutt also looked like a character straight out of her directorial debut *Bulbbul*. The film - starring Bose along with Avinash Tiwary, Tripti Dimri, Paoli Dam, Rahul Bose and Parambrata Chattopadhyay - slowly unravels a strange mystery. While men indiscriminately drop dead like flies in this Bengali village, sinister events grip the family that lords over the hamlet's inhabitants. A murderer is on the loose and no one is safe. "When it came to actually writing a story for myself to direct, I sat down and it turned out to be fantasy. If you give me a bird, chances are, it will peck out your eyes." says the 48-year-old Dutt who voraciously devoures the works of Ursula K. Le Guin, Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett. "*Bulbbul* started with a vision of a pair of muddy feet with alta (red vermillion), retreating under a sari in fear." Feet would become a central motif in *Bulbbul*, taking on supernatural elements and signifying greater social issues that are evident for the clever amongst us to spot.

Distinctive voices

For Bose, the film was a no-brainer, not simply for his own complex character, but because of Dutt. "I've worked with 11 first-time directors," he says. "If a director has a calm, assured voice, it automatically puts the audience at ease." Bose foresees a long, successful career for his director, who will surely create a signature style in Bollywood.

In *Bulbbul*, Dutt's nascent albeit signature aesthetics lend themselves to her film's narrative and pace. In spite of the promise of horror, justice and mystery, she doesn't allow the film to descend into chaos and turbulence. Even Dutt's protagonist, the eponymous Bulbbul, embodies the virtue of self-assuredness. "There were days, that I was a 20-year-old, then 25-year-old; going back and forth between different zones," says Tripti Dimri whose character transitions from child bride to matriarch of the household. "I had to focus on my inner journey, to become a person who is comfortable in her own skin."

Against a fictional backdrop intended to entertain, Dutt juxtaposes an important message for women everywhere. Her personal journey, traversing close to five decades, has instilled the importance of agency, being still and complete in oneself regardless of the impact of others. "Those are things you learn and pay a price for," she says, adding that sub-consciously her protagonist too embarked on a similar course which takes on a brutal and savage approach. But it's an antithesis to Dutt's real-life experiences. "I don't want girls out there to live those 20 extra years to get here," she asserts. "I want to seed the thought, that it is possible to wake up now. Don't be sleeping beauties waiting for princes' kisses. No. Wake up now!"

Bulbbul *premières on Netflix today*

The day after tomorrow

Coimbatore-based design student Kiran on her second book, *Hope*, whose premise is about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

Claim to fame A book cover of *Hope*; (inset) Kiran ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

:: SUSAN JOE PHILIP

During the lockdown, 21-year-old Kiran wrote a children's book titled *Hope* which won the D'Source Corona Design Challenge, an international competition organised by Indian Institute of Technology - Bombay. Kiran's work was selected from 1,254 entries from over 2,000 participants in 52 countries. "The book is aimed at creating awareness among kids on COVID-19. I did not expect to win the competition. I had tears of joy when I heard the news. In addition to a certificate and trophy, my book will also be published online by IIT Bombay," says the postgraduate student from DJ Academy of Design.

Set in a rural backdrop, *Hope* tells the story of a community getting over the pandemic. "It centres around a young girl who teaches the villagers the importance of maintaining social distancing and personal hygiene to tide over the situation." It took Kiran 10 days to come up with the story and do the illustrations. "I worked from 9.30 am till night. I took breaks only for food. It was challenging, but I thoroughly enjoyed the process."

Her illustration is inspired by kalamkari art. "My professor Sandesh Gaundalker suggested that I use Indian art. So I researched on various art forms like Toda embroidery and *kolam* designs before I fixed on kalamkari. I think the style has a beautiful feel that goes well with the setting," she says. Kiran pencil-sketched the illustrations and later used Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to make the final tweaks. "I am not formally trained in art. All I know is from what I learnt in school and college. I did three drafts before I came up with the final one," she says. Once the illustrations and story were done, she forwarded them to a few parents of young children. "I wanted to know if it went down well with the kids. Knowing that the children loved the book increased my confidence. The parents also gave me a few suggestions that I incorporated into the book," she says.

Hope is Kiran's second book. Her first book called *The Bear and a Crab* was done as a part of her course. "I downloaded the story from the Internet and drew illustrations to go with each scene. The designs in it are inspired by Toda embroidery and I used the traditional colours of the art – red, black and white in it," she says. Kiran follows the works of illustrator Jon Klassen known for his book, *I Want My Hat Back*. "I admire his style and artistic approach. His works inspire me to get over my creative blocks." Kiran dreams of pursuing graphic designing as a career. "I plan to set up my design studio and this award has boosted my confidence."

POOCH CAFE

PEANUTS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

CALVIN AND HOBBES

TIGER

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

State notifies Tillari forest as conservation reserve

The 29 sq. km area connects Mhadei sanctuary in Goa and Bhimgad in Karnataka

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday declared the Tillari forest area in the Dodamarg and Sawantwadi range in coastal Sindhudurg district as a conservation reserve area.

The total area of this forest reserve will be 29.53 square km, and it will be the 13th such reserve in the western ghats.

The Revenue and Forest departments on Tuesday issued a notification of the first such reserve in Sindhudurg district, and the 62nd in the State. Tillari conservation reserve is located near the border of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka, connecting Mhadei sanctuary in Goa and Bhimgad in Karnataka. "This could be an important route for tigers' trail in the area," said an official from the Forest department.

Uddhav Thackeray

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said that the government will not neglect the protection of biodiversity of the State while taking it on the path of development. "The State will always give preference to save the biodiversity," he said.

Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray said that it will add a small pug mark in the effort to protect wildlife, biodiversity, and the tiger. According to officials from the Forest department, the region is known for tigers, elephants, leopards, bison, sambar deer, barking deer and chaushinga.

"The announcement will ensure that the biodiversity of the area is protected," they said. A committee will soon be set up for the management of the reserve.

Maharashtra has 62 conservation reserves, of which 13 are in the western ghats. Tillari reserve has semi-evergreen forest, tropical moist deciduous forests, and a number of unique trees, butterflies, and flowers.

Bhima-Koregaon: Centre seeks time to reply to plea against transfer of probe

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Union government on Tuesday sought time to file its reply before the Bombay High Court in response to a plea filed by two accused in the Bhima-Koregaon violence case, challenging the transfer of investigation to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

A Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and Abhay Ahuja was hearing the petition filed by advocate Surendra Gadling and journalist Sudhir Dhawale on June 19. They were arrested on June 6, 2018, for their alleged links with the Communist Party of India (Maoist), and are currently lodged at Taloja jail.

They moved the HC through advocate Madhavi Ayyappan, challenging the Centre's decision to transfer the investigation into the case from the Pune Police to the NIA, on the grounds that the transfer is contrary to provisions of the NIA Act.

Their petition said, "There is no provision that empowers the Central government to transfer the investigation after completion of the probe and filing of the charge sheet, particularly when there were no compelling circumstances necessitating the transfer. The transfer of investigation to the NIA amounts to re-investigation." The 190-page petition further said in order to keep the false implications and wrongful incarcerations of innocent people unconnected with the Bhima-Koregaon case, the investigation was transferred by the Central government to the NIA, immediately after the Bharatiya Janata Party lost power in Maharashtra.

"The allegations that Mr. Dhawale of Kabir Kala Manch was making provocative statements, performing inflammatory street plays and songs, and distorting the history as per the agenda of the CPI (Maoist), were vague and cryptic, and it is not possible to infer from such allegations that the petitioners are organisers of Elghar Parishad," the plea said.

Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh sought time to file an affidavit. The matter will be heard on July 14.

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 Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Delhi, west Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3.7	34.3	26.6	Kozhikode	4.4	31.5	23.8
Ahmedabad	–	37.5	27.4	Kurnool	3	34.0	25.5
Aizawl	–	26.9	19.1	Lucknow	–	35.1	27.2
Allahabad	14.5	35.1	26.8	Madurai	–	37.0	28.0
Bengaluru	2.4	30.4	20.6	Mangaluru	19.3	30.6	23.1
Bhopal	5.4	–	23.5	Mumbai	5.6	33.5	26.0
Bhubaneswar	–	35.4	27.5	Mysuru	2.1	30.5	21.0
Chandigarh	24	35.0	22.6	New Delhi	–	37.0	27.8
Chennai	–	38.0	27.5	Patna	11.2	33.0	27.4
Coimbatore	–	30.4	22.5	Port Blair	–	31.3	25.3
Dehradun	–	34.6	25.1	Puducherry	3.9	33.4	25.8
Gangtok	43	22.2	18.2	Pune	–	32.0	22.8
Goa	–	31.4	22.5	Raipur	120.8	31.6	23.2
Guwahati	14.7	33.6	24.4	Ranchi	2.3	27.3	23.0
Hubballi	–	28.0	22.0	Shillong	4.1	25.7	19.0
Hyderabad	–	34.2	24.2	Shimla	–	26.4	20.6
Imphal	11.7	30.4	22.6	Srinagar	–	31.2	15.9
Jaipur	–	40.2	28.6	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.9	25.1
Kochi	9.2	31.4	23.4	Tiruchi	–	36.5	27.8
Kohima	11	25.0	18.2	Vijayawada	–	35.0	25.8
Kolkata	–	33.4	27.0	Visakhapatnam	–	35.0	29.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	14	20	24	39	–	
Bengaluru	9	18	38	25	44	
Chennai	7	18	98	66	–	
Delhi	13	15	152	45	65	
Hyderabad	15	16	12	34	51	
Kolkata	3	10	17	34	50	
Lucknow	3	2	47	107	–	
Mumbai	6	11	23	17	44	
Pune	22	8	45	28	27	
Visakhapatnam	13	49	28	47	87	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Amritsar, Punjab recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 169 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Will consider taking measures to keep COVID-19 at bay in jails: State to HC

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The State government told the Bombay High Court on Tuesday that it would like to adopt measures on testing and creating temporary prisons recommended by advocates, to keep COVID-19 at bay in prisons across the State.

One of the suggestions is that the State should create separate quarantine facilities for asymptomatic and COVID-19-positive prisoners, and instruct police officers not to arrest the accused "unless custody is inevitable."

Senior advocate Mihir Desai along with advocate Isha Khandelwal presented a document before a division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice M.S. Karnik as suggestions to a draft circulated by the advocate general with respect to testing inmates and creating temporary prisons. Among other things, the advocates' suggestions relate to documenting the number of beds available, the total square foot area available per inmate, the list of inmates in temporary prisons, the number of rooms and prisoners per room, as well as the number of bathrooms.

"Prisoners must be tested before being shifted from one jail to another. Where other inmates have been diagnosed as COVID-positive, all the prisoners and staff from such correctional facilities (temporary prisons included) must be tested," says the document of suggestions.

Testing can be done in a phased manner, and priority should be given to inmates and staff over 50 years of age, and those with co-morbidities, it says. Every prisoner should be allowed one call per week to contact either the family or lawyer for 10 minutes at a go, as opposed to two minutes earlier. Prisons should update the family members and lawyers of those who are asymptomatic but COVID-19 positive with mild, moderate or severe symptoms, it says.

Prison population

The capacity of prisons in Maharashtra is 24,032 while the prison population as on March 23, as per the first High Powered Committee (HPC), is 37,192. The ideal prison population to maintain physical distancing, the State says, is 16,000.

As on May 11, 5,105 undertrials were granted bail while 2,229 convicts were granted emergency parole. On May 23, the prison population reduced to 29,762. On June 19, according to the State, prison population was at 28,950, including 22,588 undertrials and 6,362 convicts.

India needs to be self-reliant to take on China: Sena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Amid the border standoff with China, the Shiv Sena on Tuesday said India will have to become 'self-reliant', and not depend on U.S. President Donald Trump, to take on the neighbouring country.

An editorial in Sena mouthpiece *Saamana* also said doing business with China will be an insult to sacrifices made by the 20 brave soldiers, who were killed in a violent clash with Chinese troops at Galwan Valley in Ladakh last week. "If we want to fight China, there should be less of politics and more of national interest. For that, we don't require President Trump. We need to become *atmanirbhar* (self- reliant)," it said.

HC to hear on Friday Sudha Bharadwaj's bail application

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court will hear on Friday a bail application filed by activist Sudha Bharadwaj, an accused in the Elgar Parishad case.

Ms. Bharadwaj, who was arrested in August 2018, moved the HC last week against the order of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Mumbai, which rejected her interim bail plea on May 29.

The case was scheduled for hearing before a Bench led by Justice S.S. Shinde on Tuesday, but the hearing was adjourned to Friday as the NIA, the prosecuting agency, was yet to be served a copy of the petition by Ms. Bharadwaj's lawyers. She has sought bail on health grounds, citing high risk of the spread of COVID-19 in Byculla women's jail.

'8,900 workers reached Pune in few days'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

Over 8,900 labourers have arrived in Pune in the last few days and the labour department is monitoring the movement of migrant workers who are returning to the city, district Collector Naval Kishore Ram said.

After the lockdown was enforced in March and COVID-19 cases started increasing in Pune district, scores of migrant labourers working in various industrial belts, construction sites, hotels and other commercial establishments, went back to their home towns.

Following the resumption of rail services recently on some key routes, 144 trains crossed the Pune railway station and nearly 23,000 passengers deboarded, the Collector told reporters on Monday.

Helping hand

Reaching out: Members of a social group along with Saheli, an NGO, handing over dry ration sacks to sex workers at Budhwarpeth in Pune on Tuesday. • JIGNEH MISTRY

CRPF jawan from Solapur killed in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The CRPF jawan killed in an encounter with militants in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday hailed from Solapur in Maharashtra and authorities are working to bring his mortal remains to his native place.

An official from Solapur confirmed that CRPF jawan Sunil Kale, a resident of Pangaon village in Barshi tehsil of the district, was killed in the encounter.

He joined the service in 2000 and had been posted in Jammu and Kashmir since some time. "The process to bring his body to Solapur is being worked out with the authorities concerned," he said. Besides the CRPF jawan, two unidentified militants were killed in the encounter, the police said.

Security forces launched a search operation at Bundzoo on Tuesday morning after receiving information about the presence of militants.

Taloja jail to submit ex-IL&FS official's health reports

HC direction comes during hearing on Hari Sankaran's interim application

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday directed the Taloja jail authorities to submit medical reports of Hari Sankaran, former vice-chairman of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), to show if he is vulnerable to COVID-19.

A single Judge Bench of Justice Revati Mohitedere was hearing an interim application filed by Mr. Sankaran, seeking to vacate the stay on the bail granted by the sessions court.

On April 28, Mr. Sankaran was granted temporary bail for a period of eight weeks by the trial court on furnishing a surety of ₹50,000.

However on May 5, the HC had cancelled the temporary bail after Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) counsel Hiten Venegavkar had said that Mr. Sankaran's bail application itself was premature as the HC had stayed its own order of quashing criminal proceedings against him and other auditors for eight weeks.

He was arrested by the SFIO in April 2019 in connection with an IL&FS case for alleged irregularities.

Family to be informed in 48 hours if prisoner tests positive, govt. tells HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court on Tuesday that prison authorities will inform the family members of a patient if he or she tests positive for coronavirus within 48 hours of getting test results.

The government made the submission before a Bench led by Chief Justice Dipankar Datta during the hearing of a bunch of Public Interest Litigations (PILs).

Advocate General Ashutosh Kumbhakoni submitted to the court revised draft guidelines for safeguarding the health of inmates of prisons across the State, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

All the inmates will be allowed to contact their lawyers through phone and email, the draft guidelines said. Last week, the government submitted a detailed draft of guidelines that provided for daily thermal screening of all the inmates, creation of temporary quarantine and COVID care centres at requisitioned buildings across 26 districts, and a regular health check-up of inmates with co-morbidities.

On Tuesday, the government said it had added more provisions, such as informing the inmate's kin within 48 hours if he or she tests positive for coronavirus, and updating them about the inmate's health status. The court was hearing PILs filed by the People's Union for Civil Liberties and some others.

The PILs, filed through senior counsel Mihir Desai, demanded that the government ensure safety of inmates of the Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai and prisons across Maharashtra, as there were reports of several inmates and staff members testing positive for coronavirus at the Arthur Road Jail.

Last month, the government told the HC that it had applied to courts concerned seeking permission to release 14,400 inmates to free up spaceinside jails.

The next hearing before the HC will be on Friday.

Undesirable acquittal

HC verdict in caste murder case, a setback to push for protecting freedom of marital choice

There is understandable disbelief and shock over the Madras High Court's judgment acquitting a man found guilty of ordering the heinous murder of a Dalit youth married to his daughter. While the lower court, after an expeditious trial, had awarded the death sentence to B. Chinnasamy in the sensational Udumalpet Shankar murder case, the High Court has ruled that no conspiracy has been proved. It is indeed disappointing that an emblematic case of murder against a member of the SC in the name of preserving the honour of a dominant caste has been reduced to a narrative without an author. None other than five hirelings unknown to the victim has been found guilty. Their death sentences have been commuted to a life sentence without remission for 25 years. V. Shankar had succumbed to as many as 33 injuries inflicted under the gaze of CCTV cameras at a busy marketplace at Udumalpet town in Tamil Nadu in March 2016. The assailants grievously attacked his wife Kowsalya, Chinnasamy's daughter. Fortunately, she survived and her courageous deposition against her parents and fellow members of the dominant Thevar community led to the trial court sentencing her father and five assailants to death. The verdict was a shot in the arm for progressive sections concerned about the rising trend in murders and attacks related to caste pride. The exoneration of Kowsalya's family impedes the social agenda of protecting the freedom of women to make marital choices.

The failure to prove the conspiracy charge reflects poorly on the investigation and prosecution. The main question that arises is who had sent the assailants to eliminate the couple, if not Kowsalya's parents. It is indeed true that a conspiracy ought to be proved through an unbroken chain of circumstances, and that strong suspicion cannot take the place of proof. However, it is unfortunate that the court treated a peaceful parting of ways in the family soon after their temple wedding in 2015 – when Kowsalya gave a written statement before the police that her parents did not interfere with her marital life and her father's complaint that Shankar had 'abducted' her was closed – as evidence that her father could not have plotted to attack them. It is not beyond human nature to suppress one's anger in public and strike at a more opportune time. It is possible to say the court could have taken a different view of the call records that showed Chinnasamy being in contact with the assailants and withdrawing money close to the crime. Despite some flaws in its case, the prosecution is expected to appeal against the verdict. It will be in the society's interest that the Supreme Court gets to examine the full dimensions of this horrific crime.

Downing the shutters

Trump's visa halt may run into opposition from America Inc. before the November poll

The White House has made a proclamation restricting the issuance of non-immigrant work visas across the board, purportedly to clamp down on American jobs going to foreign workers, a consistent policy priority of the Donald Trump administration. The broad-brush order includes the H-1B visa for skilled workers, which is widely garnered by Indian nationals, the H-2B visa issued to seasonal workers in the landscaping and hospitality industries, the L-1 visa for intra-company transfers, and the J-1 visa for students on work-study summer programmes. It will also impact the H-4 visa for dependents of H-1B visa holders. The proclamation will enter into force on June 24 and be applicable until the end of the calendar year, which notably includes the November 3 presidential election. It is intended as a follow-on order reducing the number of foreigners entering the U.S., as it comes on the back of the 60-day halt in legal migration that began on April 23. While a broad swathe of workers is likely to be affected by the latest pause in visa processing, the latest restrictions will not apply to visa-holders who are already within the U.S., or those who are outside it and have already been issued valid visas. The reasoning offered by the White House is that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has "significantly disrupted Americans' livelihoods," to the extent that the overall unemployment rate in the country nearly quadrupled between February and May 2020 to 13.3%.

There is little doubt that the policies of the Trump White House are likely to genuflect to the broader requirements of the 2020 presidential campaign, one of which is a sharp focus on "America First," or in this case the need to project aggressive action against American jobs allegedly being lost to foreign workers. This week's proclamation offered data to bolster that claim, noting that between February and April, "more than 20 million U.S. workers lost their jobs in key industries where employers are currently requesting H-1B and L workers to fill positions". It also observed that similar or higher numbers could be found in the other listed visa categories. However, Mr. Trump may find that the blowback from America Inc., the employers of millions of non-immigrant foreign workers, is speedy and savage. Already Google CEO Sundar Pichai has responded by tweeting, "Immigration has contributed immensely to America's economic success, making it a global leader in tech, and also Google the company it is today. Disappointed by today's proclamation – we'll continue to stand with immigrants and work to expand opportunity for all." If more captains of the Fortune 500 companies strike this note of disappointment – and lobby quietly behind closed doors to boost the prospects of Mr. Trump's rival in the November election, former Democratic Vice-President Joe Biden – this might be the straw that breaks the back of the Trump campaign juggernaut.

Arrest the virus of arbitrary power

What is worrisome today is the whimsical curtailment of liberty and brazen partisanship

RAJEEV BHARGAVA

In the early days of the lockdown, when COVID-19 cases began to rise, we witnessed a second virus spreading equally rapidly in the country – the virus of communalism. But there is a third virus around which is less spoken about; a virus eating into and severely corroding our democratic structure – the virus of arbitrary power. There is no better evidence of this than the denial of bail to a pregnant student-activist, arrested for creating disorder on an 'unprecedented scale' when all she appeared to have done was actively participate, like many others, in a protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, proposed by the government.

Tyranny and slavery

This arbitrary use of power, implied by the absence or selective use of law, is deeply troublesome. More so, when exercised by a democratically elected government. Frequent arbitrariness in the political domain leads to tyranny, quite like when persistently present in the social sphere, it leads to slavery. Either way, it tramples upon basic freedoms. But what, one might ask, is the connection between arbitrariness and the loss of freedoms?

Individuals, communities or citizens cannot function freely without a stable set of expectations. By stabilising expectations, laws enable significant freedoms, even as they restrict some others. To take just one example, once it is widely known that I am legally restricted to driving only on the left, I drive with greater freedom, knowing that headlong collision is unlikely. I regulate the speed of travel and calculate the time to get from home to office. This helps me schedule my work for the day and coordinate with others who likewise make their own schedules. By jointly accomplishing our goals, we enhance our freedom. Laws enable our actions and interactions to become broadly predictable. Many of our freedoms require that the arbitrary, by which is meant 'unpredictable, random or unexpected' does not throw us off balance. The arbitrary blocks freedom.

However, an even more basic feature of arbitrariness, one that produces much greater harm, is to be at the mercy of the whim or fancy of someone else, especially the powerful. Return to the traffic example. Suppose that two vehicles stop at the traffic light but just beyond the zebra crossing. The policeman, embodying the entire might of the state, issues a ticket or a *challan* to one but not the other. Worse, instead of fining the violators, he seizes the driving licence of a careful driver, who has stopped a good metre behind the crossing, merely because he dislikes the make of his car. Surely, this arbitrary implementation of the law is grossly unjust. This shows that the minutest aspect of daily life – travelling to work – can be dependent upon the arbitrary opinion of someone else. When power is exercised arbitrarily by the state, a person is made to act not in accordance with a legitimate, general rule but at the pleasure of state officials. The most extreme example of this is political enslavement, when an entire people are colonised, subjected to the will of the colonisers, where laws, good or bad, flow from the like and dislike of colonial masters.

This is equally true of the arbitrary exercise of social power, for instance under social slavery. A slave must comply with any, just any whimsical order of his master.

GETTY IMAGES

Since the master owns him, the master is legally permitted to do just about anything with the slave. The slave breathes at his pleasure, sits or stands at his pleasure, eats, works, sleeps at his pleasure. Slaves can be awakened and asked to work in the field at an unearthly hour of the night, if the master so desires. They are never sure of what to expect from the master. One moment, objects of affection or charity, at the very next, they are treated with utter disdain, sold, even killed. After all, the master can dispose of his property at will. Such arbitrary power was routinely exercised by the patriarch in the family and continues even today. Likewise, unbridled capitalism is marked by an absence of laws to regulate labour; workers can be hired or fired at the will of the employer and no fixed hours of work exist. Unregulated wage-labour works pretty much like slavery. Are not domestic workers still treated in many homes like slaves?

The Emergency and now

These examples strengthen my point about an inverse relation between arbitrary political power and freedom. In dictatorships, entire populations are subject to the whim of the supreme leader or a tiny elite. Who did not fear the midnight knock in the regimes of Hitler and Stalin? While the devastation they caused is well chronicled, smaller tyrannies abound in our world too. Even democracies contain authoritarian spaces within them where the law can be used to continuously harass opponents. Anyone who has lived through the Emergency knows that Opposition leaders were thrown in jail on the false charge of conspiring against the state and thereafter a small crack unit began to arbitrarily control the activity of anyone politically significant. Surely that experience should have sufficed to make all of us realise the supreme value of freedom from arbitrary rule. However, with the number of first information reports (FIRs) being filed at the behest of random persons, on unsubstantiated complaints and little explanation, largely uncontested by a tired, silent political Opposition, one begins to wonder if we are headed in that awful direction once again.

Upending rights

Consider the arrest of activists. Article 21 of the Constitution gives every citizen the right of basic liberty and security. No one can be deprived of liberty, held without properly following procedures prescribed by law. Article 22 requires that anyone arrested and detained must be informed of the ground for such an arrest and must be brought before a competent legal authority within a prescribed time frame. Legal scholars have rightly pointed out that the best interpretation of this Article requires that the grounds of arrest and detention must be reasonable. The grounds of preventive detention, to be used in very rare cases, must likewise assume that the suspicion of offence is well-grounded, based on available evidence, on relevant information that satisfies any objective observer, and not on mischievous allegations. But reality seems to confirm what every other Indian movie has shown about police acting on the caprice of a ruling leader, and the law being used to harass citizens. Is suspicion always supported by available facts? Is the 'offender' really a threat to internal security, or merely present at the scene of the 'crime'? Whatever the facts of the case, was the offence committed by a pregnant student-activist so grave that bail could not be granted until yesterday, on her 4th attempt? If ordinary persons could smell arbitrariness here, why could not the sessions judge? Anyhow, why fill our coronavirus-infested jails with what are largely political prisoners, when other countries are releasing even non-political inmates? Minimum lockup during lockdown should be the political slogan in our catastrophic times.

Arbitrary curtailment of liberty existed under previous State and central governments. This is deplorable. Yet, what is worrisome today is its frequency and brazen partisanship. We should remind ourselves that participants in the anti-corruption movement of 2011-12 were not thrown in jail. Nor was the media muzzled when it went after the central government of the day, Why are political activists and journalists charge sheeted today for simply doing their job?

The Emergency, whose anniversary falls tomorrow, was meant to be a watershed in the life of Indian democracy, a brief, critical phase when the Indian political system could have gone either the way of authoritarian rule or mature as a democracy. By restoring faith in democracy, India appeared to have passed one of its crucial tests and firmly taken the second route. But are we on the verge of giving up the gains from that chastening experience? Has the struggle against the suspension of democracy been in vain? Have a small section of its victims now become perpetrators?

Rajeev Bhargava is Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi

A tribute to a quintessential finance man

B.P.R. Vithal's traits, of professionalism, pragmatism and an open mind, were what made him a colossus

DUVVURI SUBBARAO

Intellectual bureaucrat – an oxymoron? Perish the thought. B.P.R. Vithal (BPRV), who passed away at 93 last week in Hyderabad, was a stellar example of a true blue Renaissance man whose scholarship straddled a host of disciplines – economics, philosophy, theology, physics, history, literature, and political science, just to cite a few. And he had the erudition to combine all that into a worldview that was at once humane and pragmatic.

BPRV was a quintessential finance man. He was the Finance Secretary of Andhra Pradesh for over a decade (1972-82). In some sense he defined the job and the job defined him. In a career in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), where flitting from one job to another and one department to another is the norm, that BPRV had such an extended stint as Finance Secretary was a testimonial to his exceptional personal and professional traits.

Having been Finance Secretary myself, both in Andhra Pradesh and at the Centre, I know that an occupational hazard of a finance job is having to say "no" most of the time. Ministers and colleagues approach the Finance Secretary with projects and initiatives to seek funding. Charged as the Finance Secretary is with balancing the government's books, saying "no" becomes unavoidable, no matter your inclination to be positive. But how you say 'no' makes a difference. It is here that BPRV stood out. He heard out everyone's proposal with an open mind, gave them the benefit of the doubt and took a final view balancing the merits of the proposal and the finances available. And even when he said "no", he did so in such an agreeable way that the other party left his office possibly disappointed but never disgruntled. It was these traits – professionalism, pragmatism and an open mind – that earned him the confidence of stalwart Chief Ministers, the respect of colleagues and made him a role model for junior officers posted in the Finance Department. And he was such a colossus that even Finance Secretaries of other States looked up to him for advice and guidance on critical public finance issues.

A balancing act

BPRV was a member of the Tenth Finance Commission (1992-94). As

NAGARA GOPAL

many might know, the Finance Commission is a constitutional body appointed by the President every five years to make recommendations on sharing of taxes between the Centre and the States. It is an unenviable job, having to balance between the genuine and decidedly vociferous demands of States for a higher share and the plea of the Centre to leave enough for it to take care of critical national needs including defence and security.

Recall that was also a time when stalwart Chief Ministers like NTR, Ramakrishna Hegde and Jayalalithaa rode into office on strident anti-Centre platforms. NTR even famously said "the Centre is a conceptual myth", meaning that if you looked at the map of India, it was filled completely with States; so where was the need for any money for the Centre?

I was the Finance Secretary of Andhra Pradesh at the time and had occasion to interact with BPRV quite frequently as we had offered him office space in our premises to facilitate his work. I suspected, and honestly even hoped, that BPRV would be biased towards the States, especially as he was steeped in State finances. I was proved wrong. I was impressed by how he was able to combine his appreciation of the States' needs with his firm nationalistic outlook that you cannot have strong States without a strong Centre.

For a full day last week after I got the sad news of his passing, I was engrossed in going though our e-mail correspondence going back over more than two decades. It was nostalgia but it was also an intellectual *tour de force* – a reminder of his sharp intellect and wisdom. As goes with wise people, he also had remarkable wit. Here is just one example.

The bank seal

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), set up in 1935, celebrated its platinum jubilee year in 2009-10 and I was privileged to be the RBI Governor at that time. To mark the occasion, the RBI brought out a special edition of *Without Reserve*, its in-house magazine, pulling together snippets from its history. One of the items there was about the RBI seal which was adapted from the East India Company's gold *mohur*, with the lion there changed to a tiger. Sir James Taylor, the Deputy Governor at the time of RBI's establishment, was unhappy with the tiger on the seal which did not quite look like a tiger! "The Tiger," wrote Sir James, apparently inclined to be a bit ribald, "looks like some species of dog, and I am afraid that a design of a dog and a tree would arouse derision among the irreverent."

I sent a copy of the magazine to BPRV and he sent me the following e-mail reply:

"A dog and a tree on the RBI seal! The Governor should get a sketch of a dog actually doing what Sir James was thinking of and leave it to the viewers to imagine what the tree stands for, the dog – watchdog – being the RBI, of course! Whenever the dog is upset with its master, this is the least it can do!"

When news of his passing came, I was not surprised; age had been showing up on his health for the last few years. But there is a deep sense of vacuum for having lost a teacher, guide, well-wisher and someone who had genuine affection for me. A remarkable man in many respects, BPRV will be long remembered for the dignity and distinction with which he served the government, society and the nation.

Duvvuri Subbarao is a former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India

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.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

The U.S. and racism

The suggestion in the article, "In anti-racism fight, the Lyndon B. Johnson option" (Editorial page, June 23), that the former U.S. President can be a guiding light for the current "anti-racism" struggles in the U.S. is outdated. During his tenure as the accidental President after Kennedy's assassination, he passed the Civil Rights and the Great Society legislations in 1964, which were the incubators of medicare and other progressive programmes. However, after his landslide victory over Barry Goldwater in 1964, and with a very progressive Congress at his beck and call, he failed to grasp the golden opportunity and fund them to the fullest. Instead, what took centrestage was the brutal war in Vietnam and its rapacious needs. When Rev. Martin Luther King criticised these policy shifts that laid waste two nations and its resources in a seminal speech in Riverside church in New York, it soon spelt the end of the road for him (King).

Therefore, what the U.S. currently needs is not the "reactionary nativism" of Presidents such as Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump, nor the "technocratic subservience" of pretentious liberals such as Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. After the brutal murder of George Floyd, and for the first time in recent American memory, there are a lot of young people of all races, united and braving their hearts while marching in the streets for economic and social justice. Their symbols of hope and light will have to be unifiers just as Rev. Martin Luther King, Fannie Lou Hamer and the distinguished dissident intellectuals like Noam Chomsky. A return to the failed myopic vision of the past would be squandering this precious opportunity to build an inclusive nation.

G. PARAMESWARAN,
Coimbatore

Nod for festival

The green signal given by the Supreme Court to conduct the Puri Rath Yatra with a "bare minimum number of people", along with 11 other conditions – including permitting only those who have been tested COVID-19 negative being allowed to pull the chariots and participate in the rituals – will most probably prevent the spread of the virus in the event (Inside pages, "Puri Rath Yatra gets conditional nod," June 23). But, what if this decision becomes a precedent for more and more religious rituals at various places across our country? Primarily, it will become mandatory to test all participants in religious observances. However, testing is scarce in India. So how much sense will it make to deploy limited resources on selected individuals solely because they are going to perform a particular religious ritual? If testing resources are diverted to many other religious ceremonies, then 'deprivation' is going to be felt in some other place. Hence, what is the guarantee of containment at some other place because of the lack of availability of testing? We must remember that this virus is excellent in identifying weak spots.

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Rajinder Goel

It is saddening that left-arm spinner Rajinder Goel could never represent India despite being an immensely talented bowler ('Sport/Life' page, "A spinner and a gentleman", June 23). Even at the peak of his professional career, he had to live in the shadows of Bishan Singh Bedi, as this was the time when the Indian spin quartet was ruling the roost. Nevertheless, Goel proved to be a king in domestic cricket, scalping 637 Ranji Trophy wickets.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

■ With the Bombay-Delhi clashes of the 1970s, Padmakar Shivalkar was more in the news than Goel, thanks to the rivalry with Bedi. That both Shivalkar and Goel had no regrets for not having played for India is praiseworthy. With domestic cricket the mainstay for top cricketers then, the quality of those on the fringes of selection was also high.

SAURABH SINHA,
Bhilai, Chhattisgarh

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In "Who does Galwan Valley belong to?" (FAQ page, June 21, 2020), it was erroneously mentioned that the Galwan River "flows *east* to Ladakh." It should be corrected to say "flows *from the east* to Ladakh."

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

The sharp end of military power

Unless there is vision and an acceptance of the importance of air power along the LAC, there is danger

ARJUN SUBRAMANIAM

In 1962, an uninformed political leadership, dominant Army brass, and diffident Air Force leadership ensured that a reasonably potent offensive element of the Indian Air Force (IAF) watched from the sidelines as the People's Liberation Army (PLA) rolled into Ladakh and down the Sela Pass into Bomdila. Swayed by the assessments of a British Operations Research expert, Patrick Blackett, and the U.S. Ambassador to New Delhi, John Kenneth Galbraith, then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru baulked at the idea of using the IAF to stem the Chinese tide. IAF fighter pilots posted at air bases that could impact operations in Ladakh and the Tawang Sector (Pathankot and Tezpur) recall that they were battle ready and waited for the call to action that never came.

"In the next decade or so, the IAF will lose its competitive advantage with the PLAAF as the latter has invested heavily in modernisation." A Su-30 MKI of the IAF lands at Dimapur airport during a routine training exercise in Dimapur, Nagaland in 2019. • PTI

Defensive and offensive strategy

Fast forward to the winter of 1986 and the summer of 1987. Following the establishment of a camp at Wangdung grazing grounds in the Sumdorong Chu Valley (northwest of Tawang and in the same area where Indian forces were overwhelmed in 1962), the trio of General Krishnaswamy Sundarji, Lieutenant General Narahari and Major General J.M. Singh put together a logistically viable envelopment strategy that spooked the Chinese with numbers, firepower, and aggression without needless confrontation. An important element of this strategy was the use of helicopters and transport aircraft to facilitate and sustain this deployment.

That was not all. They even developed an offensive strategy to take the battle to Le, the forward most PLA base in the sector. There was close coordination between 4 Corps in Tezpur and the fighter base close by and training was stepped up in the valleys to support offensive operations if required. In an interview with the author, Major General J.M. Singh was emphatic that air power held the key in operations on the Tibetan Plateau. He argued, "'We must have the capability to gain and maintain a favourable air situation for limited periods of time, and carry out interdiction to back shallow multi-pronged thrusts across road-less terrain to outflank the Chinese build-up that will take place on the existing road and rail networks."

The IAF's advantage

On June 15, 2020, there was a violent clash at Patrolling Point 14 in Galwan. The ground situation across the entire Line of Actual Control (LAC) is largely one of parity and for any tangible gains or tactical advantage to be gained on the ground the Indian Army needs a numerical superiority of at least 5:1. Therefore, if there is any asymmetric advantage to be gained, it is air power that will prove to be decisive in depleting the PLA's combat potential before it is applied along the LAC.

By all recent operational assessments including one by the Harvard Kennedy School, the IAF currently enjoys both a qualitative and quantitative advantage over the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) across the LAC. It's fighter fleet of 4th Generation Aircraft (Su-30 MKIs, Mirage-2000s and MiG-29s) are superior in almost every respect to the PLAAF's J-10s, J-11s and SU-30 MKKs. The IAF has more operational bases than the PLAAF close to the LAC. There is reasonable redundancy and survivability to withstand an initial attack on IAF bases by the PLA Rocket Force (PLARF).

There are, however, two areas of concern. The first is a strong ground-based air defence network strung up by the PLAAF in Tibet comprising the S-300, S-400 and HQ-9 systems that the IAF will have to contest during its offensive operations. The second is the advantage that the PLAAF has in long-range air delivered cruise missiles (500-3,000 km) from the H-6 bomber. As compared to this, the IAF's Su-30 MKI has just been cleared to carry the BrahMos land attack cruise missile with a range of 300 km which could be a significant force multiplier against targets in Aksai Chin and Tibet.

The other area of significant advantage enjoyed by the IAF is in the aerial mobility department where the IAF transport fleet of C-17s, Il-76s, An-32s and C-130s are as proficient in diverse roles as the best air forces in the world. Whether it is rapid troop induction into major bases or at Advance Landing Grounds like DBO, Nyoma or Mechuka, or inter-valley transfer and insertion of special forces with helicopters like the recently inducted Chinooks and the versatile Mi-17 series, these are areas that will provide great confidence to the Indian Army. After initial setbacks in Afghanistan, the U.S. Army has figured out a way to exploit the lethal firepower of the Apache Attack Helicopter at altitudes of 12,000-14,000 feet. It would be reasonable to expect that the IAF's Apaches would add significant firepower in Ladakh.

Finally, in the area of surveillance, China possesses a large complement of the Yaogan series of low earth orbit surveillance satellites that offer it an almost persistent stare capability over areas of interest. To counter this India must leverage its existing space-based surveillance assets and airborne surveillance platforms to support wide-spectrum operations and provide better situational awareness.

The importance of air power

Unless there is vision and an acceptance of the importance of air power in what has been till now a significantly land-centric operational philosophy across the LAC, there is a clear and present danger. In the next decade or so, the IAF will lose its competitive advantage with the PLAAF as the latter has invested heavily in modernisation and is continuing to do so. On the other hand, with deep budgetary cuts and the likelihood of the slowing down of the induction of cutting-edge platforms and weapon systems, the choice is not about what the IAF wants but what the country needs in the prevailing complex security environment. Air power represents the sharp end of contemporary military power. We need to ensure that it does not get blunt.

Arjun Subramaniam is a retired Air Vice Marshal from the IAF and a military historian

Transforming education

Instead of presenting each discipline as distinct and separate, we ought to integrate their domains with the natural world

SUJATHA BYRAVAN

COVID-19 has knocked down economies, stranded people, hit education, work and travel, and cut short people's lives. If the pandemic has one lesson for humanity, it is that people, places and non-human entities and processes are connected. These connections have long been ignored in most spheres, including economic landscapes, food systems and pedagogies.

At this time, there has been a lot of talk about investing in a "green economy" with more renewables, reduced motorised transport or travel, and more working from home. These are all good ideas but they could also be interpreted as mere tinkering at the edges. In another 15-18 months, perhaps with a vaccine in place, the understanding we have gained during the lockdown may be all but forgotten. The green economy, as promising as it could be to tackle climate change, may leave the discourse on development untouched. If we want long-lasting and transformational changes to connect sustainably with the web of life, we have to think about how we educate ourselves.

A different education

We must recognise, at an early age, the interconnectedness of the natural world with our everyday lives, and with the well-being of the planet. To accomplish that, education in history, geography, economics, biology and chemistry, for example, would have to be very different. Instead of presenting each discipline as distinct and separate, we ought to integrate their domains with the natural world.

History is set in periods divided by wars and victors, but should include ecological changes to the landscape in a region as part of the lesson. Just as there was a movement in history to include narratives of the subaltern, we need integration with ecological connections and changes. What were the consequences, for instance, of the British building railways across the country for better extraction of resources? Trains were earlier powered by wood from deforestation. Where did the wood come from and what was the local effect on people and forest cover? Similarly, geography must describe the land and the forests, how cities develop and what these changes do to the coast and the hinterland, water bodies and the commons.

There is a renewed interest in using more illustrations and models to enliven learning in the sciences. Biology and chemistry need not begin with the periodic table, reactions and cells, but start by framing the organism and cells as located within a milieu where materials, energy and information are exchanged. Chemistry could begin with cycles such as the nitrogen, carbon, phosphorus, and water cycles, which link together the biosphere, rocks and minerals. This type of teaching and learning will not do away with previously taught knowledge. It introduces a holism where there is reductionism, and the foundation would be the linkages across human and non-human entities.

Small beginnings

Such new learning would set the grounds for understanding climate change from rising anthropogenic greenhouse gases. There has been a small movement to include the anthropogenic changes we have wrought on the earth into fields of inquiry such as literature, culture studies and history. Still, this inclusive thinking is not mainstream. A significant level of unlearning will have to be done along with new learning. Curriculum developers will have to restructure and rebuild materials used to impart knowledge.

In *Unruly Waters*, historian Sunil Amrith describes the subcontinent's history by looking at the rain, rivers and coasts. He writes how water was studied, managed and divided as a result of human activity through political and economic development. In *Indica*, Pranay Lal teaches geology and natural history simultaneously. Amitav Ghosh's *The Great Derangement* is about imperialism and its role in climate change. The economic historian, Prasannan Parthasarathi, is preparing new materials to teach modern history incorporating ecological changes, and novelists and poets are beginning to integrate the Anthropocene in their writing. The initial waft of change we see in some areas of knowledge will have to deepen and spread.

The Gaia hypothesis put forth by James Lovelock is an ecological theory proposing that living creatures and the physical world are in a complex interacting system that maintains equilibrium. One might imagine the COVID-19 crisis as Gaia giving us a warning, showing how flimsy human life and the structures we rely upon are. Unchecked rapaciousness has been unleashed by policies that support "growth at any cost". It will ultimately fail since all goods used in any economy arise from the natural world. Our educational system needs to lay down the bricks for this understanding.

Sujatha Byravan is a scientist who studies technology, science and development policy

Crop of ironies

Food security and farmer welfare are intertwined

MADHURIKA SANKAR

It is ironic that it took a devastating pandemic to force the government's hand for long-overdue agrarian reforms. Amendments have been made to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The Finance Minister has urged States to dismantle the Agricultural Produce Market Committees. Several long-term changes have been made to the agricultural sector, such as fair pricing and e-trading, along with liquidity measures. The Centre has also encouraged the State governments to adopt three model laws on contract farming, agricultural land leasing, and marketing.

These developments came as the Indian agriculture sector was impacted by lockdowns across States following the COVID-19 outbreak. Migrant farm workers fled the fields en masse, unable to sustain their livelihoods. Crippling bottlenecks in the supply chain resulted in prices sky-rocketing in consumer markets, even as farmers, stuck with inventory, started dumping them at throwaway prices. Many remained hungry even as the Food Corporation of India's godowns overflowed with grain stock at three times the buffer stock norms.

It is an irony that many migrants to the cities who come from farming backgrounds sought the city for a better life but it is the same cities and their employers that have forced them to return to their homes. What India has been witnessing over the past few months is a historic reverse migration. It is an irony that the very people who ensure food security in this nation are being made to go hungry now. It is equally an irony that the lockdown was imposed to contain COVID-19 but migration of the poor and vulnerable might be taking the virus to the hinterland of India.

While the concept of One Nation, One Ration Card has potential, people are concerned about immediate relief for the hungry. This is being provided with the release of fixed quantities of free foodgrains and pulses to the migrants, even to those without ration cards, for the months of June and July. Implementation needs to be seen through. India has always struggled to fill the gap between policy prescriptions and implementation.

Just as rabi crops were set to be harvested, unseasonal rain and hail arrived at the beginning of the year. Parts of the country reeled under a pernicious locust invasion. Looming loans could push farmers into a tailspin of poverty. The Reserve Bank of India announced an extension of the moratorium on loan EMIs by three months, but given that many farmers rely on a system of informal borrowing, this negates the intended effect. The government has also hiked the MSP of 14 kharif crops, but some argue that this may not offer the intended extent of relief due to a lack of manpower, working capital, machinery (stuck in other States) and storage.

Steps that economists suggest are to switch from cash to food crops; listen to the Prime Minister's 'go local' message and invest in redirecting supply chains locally; increase government allocations to poor farmers through the PM KISAN scheme by including everyone, even those who do not own land; ensure timely availability of seeds and fertilizers for the next season by roping in gram sabhas to verify claimants; and involve Farmer Producer Organisations in the process to ensure the safeguarding of farmers' rights.

The world observed World Hunger Day on May 28, 2020. India was ranked 102 out of 117 qualifying countries on the Global Hunger Index. Although agriculture accounts for around 17% of India's GDP, nearly 50% of the country's population depends on farm-based income. The Prime Minister's vision for doubling farmers' income in two years seems a distant dream in the wake of the pandemic. Climate scientists warn about climate change. The resilience of Indian farmers has meant that the nation was fed even through multiple lockdowns. Now, it is our turn to give them a brighter day.

Madhurika Sankar is a Chennai-based writer

DATA POINT

No exit from the dragon

Amid border clashes, calls for boycotting Chinese products have intensified. While India relies heavily on imports from China, a much smaller portion of China's imports are from India. India's unicorns are also heavily dependent on investments from China. An economic boycott seems infeasible

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC In FY19, 5.1% of India's exports were destined for China, while only 3% of China's came to India. Also, 13.7% of India's imports were from China, while only 0.9% of China's were from India

	India-China (% of total)		China-India (% of total)	
Year	Export	Import	Export	Import
FY15	3.9	13.5	2.6	0.8
FY16	3.4	16.2	2.8	0.7
FY17	3.7	15.9	3.0	0.9
FY18	4.4	16.4	3.1	0.9
FY19	5.1	13.7	3.0	0.9

TOP PARTNER Imports from China accounted for over 14% of India's total imports in FY20 (until Feb.), the highest share among all the nations. Exports to China accounted for over 5% of India's exports, the third highest

Top 3 imports		Top 3 exports	
China	14.09%	U.S.	16.93%
U.S.	7.58%	UAE	9.32%
UAE	6.39%	China	5.33%

10.6% China's Share of India's total Trade in FY20

HIGH DEPENDENCE The chart depicts the imported products for which India depends on China the most. For instance, 76.3% of all antibiotics imported by India are from China

• India is heavily dependent on China for electronics and pharma products

START-UP STORY Many Indian unicorns (start-ups with valuation > $1 billion) have a Chinese investor. The chart depicts the estimated investment by Chinese companies in select start-ups

Source: Commerce Ministry, CII, Brookings India and IMF

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 24, 1970

U.K. to resume arms sales to S. Africa

Mr. Heath's new Conservative Government gave itself a bad start to-day [June 23, 1970] with its reported decision to resume arms sales to South Africa at an early date. The sales though selective and strictly controlled, would still be contrary to the spirit of the 1963 U.N. Council resolution, which the Wilson Government had respected. The proposed sale is said to cover supply of, and repairs to, armaments from Britain. It was meant primarily to let Britain use a South African naval base within a general concept of keeping the seaway around the Cape of Good Hope open to free navigation. Although the Russian naval presence in the Indian Ocean has recently increased, it cannot be seriously contended that shipping around the Cape of Good Hope is threatened. Even NATO sees a Russian naval threat in the Mediterranean and not in the Indian Ocean around South Africa. The scope of the Simonstown agreement had been interpreted by South Africa to include naval and other arms supplies to that country to strengthen its capacity to safeguard the seaway. Whether the Tories agree with this interpretation of the agreement is not clear.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 24, 1920

Indians in Colonies.

The Managing Committee of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association [Bombay] has submitted a representation to the Government of India in regard to the Indian situation in South Africa, Fiji and East Africa. So far as South Africa is concerned the Committee is opposed as a general principle to any scheme of State repatriation whether compulsory or voluntary and cannot reconcile itself to any scheme of repatriation that carries with it forfeiture of the right of domicile in South Africa. The Committee trusts that before coming to any final decision the Government will publish all available information and admit full discussion of the manner in which things are moving in South Africa. The Committee relies upon the Government of India to protect the civil rights of British Indian settlers in strict conformity with the settlement of 1914. Regarding Fiji riots the Committee reserves the right to revert to the matter when official information is available. Meanwhile the need for providing transport for unfortunate Indians waiting to leave Fiji is emphasised.

FROM PAGE ONE

India, China to 'cool down' LAC tension

"During the meeting, based on the consensus reached at the first Commander-level meeting, the two sides have had candid and in-depth exchange of views on outstanding issues related to border control, and agreed to take necessary measures to cool down the situation," said Mr. Zhao. "The two sides agreed to maintain dialogue and work together for peace and tranquillity in border areas."

To a query about Chinese casualties, Mr. Zhao said, "China and India are in dialogue and talks with each other to resolve this issue through diplomatic and military channels. As for what you saw in the media, for example some people alleged that casualties on the Chinese amounted to 40, I can tell you for sure this is false information."

Indian Army chief General Naravane, meanwhile, is on a two-day visit to review operational preparedness on the ground in Ladakh. "The Army chief will be visiting Ladakh for reviewing the ground situation, discuss the ongoing stand-off with ground commanders, visit forward locations and interact with troops on the ground," a source said.

Upon reaching Leh, Gen. Naravane interacted with soldiers at the military hospital. This is his second visit to Ladakh since the stand-off with the Chinese troops that began in May. He visited the Leh-based 14 Corps Headquarters on May 22.

India, China need no help, says Lavrov

"Russia, India and China consistently speak in favour of inter-state relations based on a firm and, let me stress this, generally recognised international legal basis in order to ensure global stability and general prosperity," Mr. Lavrov said in his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said upholding the fundamental principles of international relations was necessary for maintaining order in the world.

"Leading voices of the world must be exemplars in every way. Respecting international law, recognising legitimate interests of partners, supporting multi-lateralism and promoting common good is the only way to build a durable world order. This special meeting reiterates our belief in time-tested principles of international relations, but the challenge today is not of concepts and norms but equally of their practice," he said.

However, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi subtly hinted at bilateral issues. He called for revitalisation of the three countries, while "correctly treating and properly handling sensitive factors in bilateral relations".

India tells Pakistan to slash staff at mission

"These officials who have returned to India on June 22 have provided graphic details of the barbaric treatment that they experienced at the hands of Pakistani agencies," the MEA said.

Pakistan denied the allegations, and summoned the Indian Charge d'Affaires Gaurav Sabharwal to inform him that they intended to reduce the Indian mission in Islamabad's strength by 50%, and also gave them seven days to carry out the reductions.

"The MEA's statement is another effort to distort facts and deny the culpability of these Indian High Commission officials in criminal offences," Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said in a statement on Tuesday evening. The reduction in staff strengths in the latest in a series of measures taken by New Delhi and Islamabad who have seen bilateral ties plummet since the Pulwama terror attack last year and the government's decision to amend Article 370 of the Constitution and reorganise the State of Jammu and Kashmir. In the past year both sides have snapped trade ties, reduced visas to a minimum and cancelled overflight rights for a few months.

In August last year, Pakistan expelled the Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria, and both missions have functioned without a High Commissioner since then.

CRPF jawan, two militants killed in J&K

"The operation was launched on a specific input generated by the Pulwama police regarding their presence in Bundzoo area. They were given the opportunity to surrender. However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party," said the police spokesman.

The villagers claimed the slain militants were locals.

"The bodies of the terrorists have been sent to Handwara for their last rites after conducting medico-legal formalities, including collection of their DNA. In case any family claims them to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for the identification and participation in the last rites," the police said.

The police said incriminating material, including two AK rifles and ammunition, were recovered from the site.

Ayush lens on Ramdev's COVID-19 cure

"69% of the 45, when tested on the third day, were found clear of the virus and half of those on the placebo recovered," said Dr. Sharma. That works out to 31 of those on the treatment tested negative, and 25 of those on placebo tested negative.

No other details on the profiles of the COVID-19 positive persons – the degree of sickness in those who enrolled for the trial, their age, whether they were on other medication prior to enrolment – were immediately available. A check on the clinical trial registry, where all trials must be registered, showed that a wide spectrum of patients were solicited. The medicine regime involved are the Tablet Swasari Ras (500 mg), Tablet Pure Ashwagandha Extract (500 mg), Tablet Pure Giloy Extract (500 mg), Tablet Pure Tulsi Extract (500 mg) and Anu Taila (nasal drop), according to information on the clinical trial website.

Karnataka, A.P. toll up, Telangana case tally soars

Eight deaths each reported by two States; Hyderabad contributes most of 879 new cases in Telangana; one dies in Kerala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Andhra Pradesh witnessed eight new COVID-19 deaths in the highest single-day spike so far, and Telangana recorded 879 positive tests for the infection. With eight more deaths on Tuesday, Karnataka's toll touched 150.

Kerala reported one more death and 141 new cases of COVID-19. With 60 recoveries, the active cases were 1,620. The death toll in the State stood at 22.

COVID-19

A 68-year-old man belonging to Mayyanad, Kollam, died at Kollam Government Medical College hospital. He had returned from Delhi on June 10 and was in hospital since June 15 after he developed fever and tested COVID-19 positive.

The cumulative cases reported since the outbreak began was 3,451, of whom, 1,807 had recovered.

On Tuesday, of 141 new cases recorded, local transmission resulted in 10 cases, including that of a health care worker at Ernakulam. The rest were imported cases – people from abroad or other States.

Health department data showed 2,811 cases in the State since May 4, and 2,545 were imported cases.

Nine districts now had over one hundred active cases in hospitals. These included Malappuram (201), Palakkad (154), Kollam (150), Ernakulam (127), Pathanamthitta (126), Kannur (120), Thrissur (113), Kozhikode (107) and Kasaragod (102).

A.P cases high

The toll in Andhra Pradesh with eight new fatalities rose to 119. Three new deaths occurred in both Krishna and Kurnool and one each in Guntur and Kadapa.

In the past five days, 27 deaths were reported, and Krishna district continued to register the highest number of deaths, standing at 40.

Meanwhile, the State detected 462 new cases after 20,639 samples were tested in 24 hours. Of the total, 407 fresh cases were of locals.

The overall tally mounted to 9,834, including 7,858 local cases.

East Godavari district reported 87 new cases and Anantapur 68 cases. They were followed by Kurnool (53), Guntur (50), Krishna (33), West Godavari (31), Chittoor (26), Kadapa (24), Visakhapatnam (21), Nellore (7), Prakasam (5), Srikakulam (1) and Vizianagaram (1). The State had so far tested 7.14 lakh samples.

In another daily of high case numbers, Telangana recorded 879 positive tests on Tuesday, recording a total of 9,553.

The 879 new cases included 652 from Greater Hyderabad, 112 from Medchal, 64 from Rangareddy, and 14 from Warangal Rural.

Of the total 9,553 cases, 5,109 were active cases, 4,224 were discharged, and three died. With eight more deaths on Tuesday, Karnataka's toll touched 150. While six deaths were from Bengaluru Urban, one death each was reported from Dakshina Kannada and Ballari.

Bengaluru Urban had 107 new cases, while Ballari and Bidar reported 53 and 22 cases respectively.

(With inputs from Vijayawada, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru bureaus)

Ramping up

With the COVID-19 numbers increasing, the Andhra Pradesh government is fighting to contain its spread by setting up six mobile centres to test samples in Vijayawada

Cleaning drive: A corporation worker sanitising the COVID iMASQ mobile testing centre in Vijayawada on Tuesday. ▪ V. RAJU

Karnataka govt. fixes fee for treatment in private hospitals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Tuesday fixed the rates for COVID-19 treatment in private hospitals, with charges ranging from ₹5,200 to ₹25,000, depending on the category and severity of the infection. Rates have been fixed for both Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) patients and other insurance/cash paying patients.

In an order, the State government said 50% of beds in private hospitals having facilities to treat COVID-19 patients should be reserved for patients referred by the public health authorities.

The government, it is learnt, did not want to wait till the Cabinet approved it as the need for referring patients to private hospitals is high, with the number of cases on the rise every day.

While the rate per day for the general ward has been fixed at ₹5,200 for AB-ArK patients and ₹10,000 for other insurance and cash patients, the rate for ward with oxygen has been fixed at ₹7,000 for AB-ArK and ₹12,000 for other insurance and cash patients.

The rate for Isolation ICU has been fixed at ₹8,500 for AB-ArK and ₹15,000 for other insurance and cash patients. And for Isolation ICU with ventilator, the rate is ₹10,000 for AB-ArK and ₹25,000 for other insurance and cash patients.

Fixing the rates: The per day charges in private hospitals now range from ₹5,200 to ₹25,000. ▪ SOMASHEKAR G.R.N.

HC for action against lockdown violators

'Set up mechanism for complaints'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Taking a serious note of violations of lockdown regulations by political figures and elected representatives, the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday directed the State government to take strict action against them.

"The State must ensure that strict action is taken against everyone violating lockdown regulations, especially political figures and elected representatives. It will send a wrong signal if no action is initiated against them," the court said, pointing out that some sections of society have thrown the norms to the wind.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Nataraj Rangaswamy issued the direction while admitting a PIL petition filed by the city-based Letzkit Foundation. The petitioner had produced records of violations of lockdwon regulations such as not wearing masks and not maintaining social distance by people, including political leaders. Also, the Bench directed the government to set up within a week a Grievance Redressal Mechanism to enable the citizens to lodge complaints about violation of lockdown regulations through e-mails, WhatsApp messages, SMS and to send photos of instances of such violations.

Stalemate over test for expatriates

Kerala's request for TrueNat test rejected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala has stuck to its stance that expatriates returning by chartered and other flights from June 25 should not be allowed to board the flight untested for COVID-19, even as the Centre rejected the State's request for a relatively speedier and cheaper TrueNat Beta CoV test.

"We cannot compromise on the security of those waiting to fly down and the government is committed to bringing all Non-Resident Keralites [NoRKs] back home. All boarding the aircraft should undergo the test and they should not get infected during the flight," Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Tuesday.

Talks to be held

In the wake of the difficulties pointed out by Indian missions to the External Affairs Ministry on the conduct of tests, the government will hold consultations with the Centre to overcome the situation without causing any hardship to the NoRKs. "We are expecting a quick decision," the Chief Minister said, giving details of the External Affairs Ministry's communication to the Chief Secretary.

Operational clearance

The State had made it clear that operational clearance would be given only to airline companies and chartered flight operators that ferry COVID-19 positive and negative passengers on separate flights.

The State urged the Centre to direct the embassies to make arrangements to conduct the test where expatriates are facing difficulties in getting them done. For those who cannot afford the test, it should be done free of cost.

The External Affairs Ministry, which held discussions with various Indian missions abroad following the stance taken by the Cabinet, has informed the State that Rapid Antibody Tests were being conducted in the United Arab Emirates and TrueNat test could not be conducted.

Public exhibit

On display: The Russian built Mi-8 helicopter, which served the Indian Air Force for more than 35 years before being decommissioned from service, being fixed on a platform at Shankumugham in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. ▪ S. MAHINSHA

Rules flouted to bail out Mohanlal?

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

The Forest Department issued ownership certificates for four elephant tusks to actor Mohanlal by violating the "due process" of the Wildlife (Protection) Act and without holding a "proper inquiry regarding the legitimacy of tusks and ivory", reveals a document of the Forest Department accessed by *The Hindu*.

The violations were highlighted in a statement prepared by Surendrakumar, Chief Wildlife Warden, to be submitted before the Kerala High Court.

The document, forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Wildlife, is yet to be submitted to the court. Yet, it has been made available to all senior law officers of the State and the Forest Department, sources said.

On his application, the government on December 16, 2015, issued an order assigning the ownership of the tusks to Mr. Mohanlal. But the order was not published in the gazette.

The possession of ivory and tusks surfaced after an income tax raid at the actor's Kochi residence. Recently, the government issued a No Objection Certificate for withdrawing the prosecution against him for the possession of ivory.

IN BRIEF

'Ensure house site pattas are distributed by July 8'

GUNTUR

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday asked district Collectors to ensure house sites are handed over to all eligible beneficiaries by July 8. "I would like to achieve the target of disbursing 25 lakh house site documents before July 8. I want total compliance on this and I also want the process of identification of beneficiaries through the lottery system ," Mr. Jagan said.

Kerala HC nod for estate acquisition for airport

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday allowed the State government to go ahead with the proceedings to acquire the Cheruvally estate for the proposed Sabarimala greenfield airport. The court said that nothing prevents the government from taking over the land while adhering to the Land Acquisition Act of 2013. However, the court said the petitioner shall not forcibly be dispossessed from the occupation of the land.

NEET centres cannot be allotted abroad, HC told

KOCHI

The National Testing Agency and the Medical Council of India on Tuesday submitted before the Kerala High Court that it was not possible to allot test centres abroad for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) scheduled for July 26. The court has sought the views of the External, Home and Civil Aviation Ministries on whether applicants can come to India to write the exam.

Man held for social media posts on YSRCP leaders

VISAKHAPATNAM

CID officials have arrested Nalanda Kishore over the 'objectionable contents' on YSRCP leaders he allegedly posted on a social media platform. TDP MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao said, "Mr. Kishore just forwarded the posts sent to him by somebody. He did not post the contents intentionally. The posts do not target any YSRCP leader. The CID arrested the 68-year-old man post midnight as if he had committed a major crime."

100 years later, Malabar Rebellion fights for screen space

Four films on the theme have been announced back-to-back within two days; actor Prithviraj fires the first salvo

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The 1921 Malabar Rebellion has once again caught the creative imagination of Mollywood.

With the rebellion turning 100 next year, four movies have been announced back-to-back within two days.

Three of them will narrate the story of freedom fighter Variyamkunnath Kunhahamed Haji, who was shot dead by the British police at Kottakkunnu, Malappuram, while the fourth film is said to 'bring out the real truth behind the incident'.

The battle on screen comes almost 32 years after the late filmmaker I.V. Sasi gave his version of the rebellion through the movie *1921*.

Actor Prithviraj Sukumaran fired the first salvo when he announced through social media his titular role in *Variyamkunnan* on Monday. Ashique Abu and Muhsin Parari will be directing the movie. The creative team was at the receiving end of a social media attack by right-wing radicals on Tuesday after they opposed the portrayal of Variyamkunnath as a Muslim hero against British rule.

Veteran playwright Ibrahim Vengara was the next to announce his movie, *The Great Vaariyam Kunnathu*. "Besides actors in Malayalam, artists from abroad will be part of the movie. The lead actress will be played by an African artist," he said.

Filmmaker P.T. Kunju Muhammed joined the bandwagon of directors working on the theme when he announced the title of the movie as *Shahid Vaariyamkunnan*. "The script will be ready in two months. I hope to start the shooting by the start of next year," he said.

Mr. Muhammed, elected twice to the Kerala Assembly as a Left Independent candidate, said there was nothing wrong in having four versions of a common theme.

Ali Akbar, filmmaker and fellow-traveller of the BJP, took to Facebook to say that his movie *1921* will portray the real heroes behind the incident. His post also left a hint that the film may not be showing Variyamkunnath Haji as a hero.

India plans international flights

But U.S. has threatened to ban Air India services under Vande Bharat Mission

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

India is likely to enter into bilateral agreements with the U.S., the U.K., France and Germany to restart international air travel. The government is discussing a template known as "travel bubble", which permits relatively unrestricted and risk-free travel between two countries positioned similarly *vis-a-vis* the spread of COVID-19.

"As we contemplate further opening up in response to demands, we are looking at the prospect of establishing individual bilateral bubbles – India-U.S., India-France, India-Germany, India-U.K. These are all destinations where demand for travel has not diminished. Final decisions pursuant to negotiations are expected to be taken soon," a spokesperson of the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

The decision was made public on the day the U.S. served an ultimatum to Air India.

U.S. ultimatum

The decision was made public on a day the U.S. served an ultimatum of 30 days to Air India, threatening to ban it from conducting repatriation charters under the Vande Bharat Mission. The U.S. said the special flights were putting American airlines at a "competitive disadvantage" because India did not allow them a share of the pie, which also allegedly amounted to the denial of reciprocal rights enshrined under the Air Services Agreement of 2005 signed between the two countries. "Air India's so-called evacuation charters have gone beyond true evacuations [at least on the India to the United States segments] and involved sales to any member of the general public able to enter the United States. As such, it appears that Air India may be using its passenger repatriation charters as a way of circumventing the GoI (Government of India)-imposed prohibition of all scheduled services," said the U.S. Department of Transportation (DoT) in its order.

The DoT said Delta Air Lines had not received a response to its request made to India's Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on May 26 to perform repatriation charter services. The MoCA issued a rebuttal: "We have also had one round of negotiations with the U.S. on 15 June 2020 with representatives of U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Embassy on this issue. They were invited to submit precise proposals in this respect. A communication has now been received on 19 June, 2020 detailing these requests."

Five RJD MLCs join JD(U) in Bihar

Twin blow for Opposition party as Raghuvansh Prasad Singh resigns as V-P

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

In poll-bound Bihar, the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) on Tuesday suffered a shock with five of its MLCs quitting the party to join the ruling Janata Dal(U). Another blow came to the party when ailing senior party leader and former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh resigned from the post of national vice-president.

The five RJD MLCs – Sanjay Prasad, Radha Charan Seth, Ranvijay Kumar Singh, S.M. Qamar Alam and Dilip Rai – met Acting Chairman of the Legislative Council Awadhesh Narain Singh and handed over their resignation letters. They requested Mr. Singh to allow their group to merge with the JD (U). With five of the RJD's total eight members in the Upper House having resigned, party leader Rabri Devi may lose her position as Leader of the Opposition in the 75-member Council. Under the rules, the main Opposition party must have at least 10% of the total seats in the Upper House for its leader to don the post of Leader of the Opposition.

Major setback: Former MP Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, right, with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav. • FILE PHOTO

JD(U) leader Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh said, "the RJD does not respect its party leaders ...we welcome them to our party."

However, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said, "Since elections are coming, leaders from one party will switch over to another party-...but, this has also exposed that the JD(U) has no vote bank of its own and it throws all kinds of allurement to other party leaders to remain in power." The RJD leaders held a meeting at the official residence of Ms. Rabri Devi to review the situation.

In another blow, Raghuvansh Prasad Singh resigned from the post of party's national vice-president (V-P). He is currently undergoing treatment for COVID-19. Mr. Singh, the four-time RJD MP from Vaishali, is said to be miffed over the recent meeting of his rival Rama Kishore Singh with Mr. Yadav. The buzz in RJD is that Mr. Rama Kishore Singh is to join the RJD on June 29.

Chidambaram hits back at BJP president

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidamabaram on Tuesday hit back at BJP president J.P. Nadda for accusing the Congress of 'signing a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese Communist Party' and blaming Rahul Gandhi of trying to divide the nation and demoralise the armed forces.

In a series of tweets, he said," "BJP President Mr Nadda asked ex-PM Dr Manmohan Singh to explain the 600 Chinese incursions into India between 2010 and 2013. Yes, there were incursions but no Indian territory was occupied by China and no lives of Indian soldiers were lost in violent clashes. Will Mr Nadda please ask the present PM to explain the 2264 Chinese incursions since 2015? I bet he will not dare to ask that question."

'Govt. mishandled LAC situation'

At virtual CWC meet, Sonia also slams Centre on its handling of COVID-19 crisis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday told a virtual meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) that the Narendra Modi government "gravely mishandled the border situation with China that has resulted in a full-blown crisis and is attributable to the wrong policies of the government".

While former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the border crisis could lead to a serious situation if not tackled firmly, former party chief Rahul Gandhi said it was a "complete and total failure of diplomacy".

After starting the proceedings with two-minute silence and homage to Colonel B. Santosh Babu and the 19 jawans who were killed in the violent face-off with the Chinese troops last week, the CWC adopted three separate resolutions: the face-off with China, the Centre 'abandoning' the States in handling COVID-19 cases and the 'extortionate increases in petrol and diesel prices'.

Ms. Gandhi said India had been hit by a terrible economic crisis, a pandemic of huge proportions and a full-blown crisis on the borders with China and the cumulative effect of "widespread misery, fear, and danger to the security and territorial integrity of the country". "Mature diplomacy and decisive leadership should inform the Modi government's actions in protecting India's territorial integrity", she stated. The Prime Minister was "called out" when he announced that no one had intruded into Indian territory in Ladakh, she observed.

"The undeniable fact is that since April-May, 2020 till date, Chinese troops have committed brazen transgressions into our territory in Pangong Tso Lake area and the Galwan Valley, Ladakh. True to its character, the government is in denial," said Ms. Gandhi, adding, "...there is a growing feeling among people that the government has gravely mishandled the situation," she said

Mr. Gandhi said, "The established institutional structure of diplomacy has been demolished by the PM. Our relations with our once friendly neighbours lie in tatters."

On the COVID-19 pandemic, the CWC accused the Centre of leaving the States to fend for themselves.

At the CWC, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, backed by others, is learnt to have pitched for Mr. Rahul Gandhi to take over as party chief again. But at the press conference, the party denied that it was discussed.

CBI to quiz former Manipur CM in embezzlement case

Move comes days after Cong. staked claim to form govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Central Bureau of Investigation team (CBI) is in Manipur to question former Manipur Chief Minister O. Ibobi Singh and some officials in connection with the alleged embezzlement of ₹332 crore by the four former chairmen of the Manipur Development Society (MDS).

The CBI visit comes just days after Mr. Ibobi Singh, as head of the Congress legislature party, staked claim to form a new government in Manipur. "Mr. Ibobi Singh, who was the MDS chairman during the check period, has been asked to appear before the probe team on Wednesday," a CBI official said.

O. Ibobi Singh

"The CBI wanted to record his statement at their Imphal office. We requested them to go for videoconferencing or visit our residence in view of the COVID-19 scenario. They agreed to come to our house tomorrow [on Wednesday]. We are not running away anywhere," a member of Mr. Ibobi Singh's family said. The former Chief Minister could not be contacted.

In November last year, the agency had registered the case and searched multiple locations in Gurugram, Aizawl and Imphal, on the day when Manipur Congress legislators led by the former CM staged a protest in Delhi against the Naga Accord.

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार
सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग
(प्रशासन प्रभाग)
संख्याः– 02 / सू.एवंज.सं.वि.(प्रशा0)–701 / 2020
लखनऊ : दिनांक: 22,जून, 2020
निरस्तीकरण सूचना
इस कार्यालय के पत्र संख्या–829 / सू.एवंज.सं.वि.(प्रशा0)–701 / 2020 दिनांक 27.02.2020 द्वारा उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के प्रचार–प्रसार तथा ब्रांडिंग किये जाने से सम्बन्धित पी0आर0 एजेंसी चयन हेतु आमंत्रित ई–निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है।
(शिशिर)
सूचना निदेशक
RO no: - 152766 Ro Date :- 22/6/20. website- www.upgov.nic.in

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN– U40102RJ2000SGC016484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
CHHABRA SUPERCRITICAL THERMAL POWER PROJECT, CHHABRA
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER – TN-SC-38 (RVU2021WLOB00422)
Online e-tenders are invited for Annual Contract for the work of complete operation, maintenance and housekeeping of coal handling plant at CSCTPP, Chhabra, including wagon unloading, operation & maintenance of heavy machineries and other equipments, Electrical & C&I works, of CHP area and other related works as specified in the scope of work. Tender details are available on websites http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.
Raj.samwad/C/20/1313 RVUN/PR-3395 Addl. Chief Engineer (CSCTPP)

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
Online counselling Notice
Registration for online counselling of MD/MS courses for July 2020 session will be held on 24.06.2020 & 25.06.2020 upto 10.00 PM. Eligible candidates are advised to visit website i.e. pgimer.edu.in for registration & exercise their choices of speciality. The list of eligible candidates for 1st round of counselling is available on PGI website. For further details kindly visit institute's website.
PGI/RC/Advt./20/HR-000439 REGISTRAR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
PROJECT ORGANISATION
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer, Projects, Podanur, Southern Railway, Coimbatore - 641 023, invites E-TENDER from the tenderers for the following work:

1.	Tender Notice No.	E-Tender Notice No: SG/PROJ/PTJ/TVC-HASSDAC/2020/EOT(03) (Revised) Dt: 19.06.2020	E-Tender Notice No: SG/PROJ/PTJ/4 DIV-HASSDAC/2020/EOT(04) Dt: 22.06.2020
2.	Name of the work	Provision of Dual Detection with High Availability Single Section Digital Axle Counter (HASSDAC) in 30 Block Sections Thiruvananthapuram Division over Southern Railway.	Provision of Dual Detection with High Availability Single Section Digital Axle Counter (HASSDAC) in 25 Block Sections Tiruchchirappalli, Madurai, Chennai and Salem Division over Southern Railway.
3.	Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 9,74,49,841.80	Rs. 7,21,04,538.13
4.	Cost of Tender document	Rs. 11,200/-	Rs. 11,200/-
5.	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 6,37,300/-	Rs. 5,10,500/-
6.	Completion period of the work	12 Months from the date of issuance of LOA	
7.	Date & time for closing of tender	Closing at 14:00hrs. of 14.07.2020	Closing at 14:00hrs. of 16.07.2020
8.	Website particulars from where tender documents can be downloaded : www.ireps.gov.in		

Note : For more details, terms and conditions, the tenderer is advised to refer the tender documents. (Volume I and Volume II)
Deputy Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/ Projects/Podanur.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS: TIRUPATI
CHITTOOR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH.
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Adv.No.14/D3/CE/TTD/2020-21 21/06/2020

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs & Time for completion	Schedule Download Start Date	Down Load End Date & Last Date for Bid Submission
1	2	3	4	5	6
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER-I					
1	23/SE-I/ TTD/ 2020-21	For selection of Architectural Consultant through "Design Competition" for "Development of Spiritual City at Alipiri, Tirupati".	Request for Proposal	23-06-2020 5.00 p.m.	08-07-2020 1.00 p.m. & 3.00 p.m.
Note: For NIT No.23/SE-I/TTD/2020-21 for full details log on to the website https://www.tirumala.org.					
2	24/SE-I/ TTD/ 2020-21	Conversion of existing ICU Rooms adjacent to New Operation Theaters into Additional Operation Theatres in New OPD Block BIRRD, Tirupati.	Open Tender 6 Months	24-06-2020 5.00 p.m.	09-07-2020 1.00 p.m. & 3.00 p.m.
Note: For full details log on to the website https://tender.apeprocuement.gov.in// or http://www.apeprocurerment.gov.in/					

Roc.No.PR4/13919/Adv.No.56/PRO/2020; Dated:23-06-2020 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार
सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग
सोशल मीडिया
संख्याः 04 / सू.एवंज.सं.वि.(से0मी)–701 / 2020
लखनऊः दिनांकः 23, जून, 2020
ई निविदा–सूचना(तृतीय काल)
उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के विकास कार्यों के प्रचार–प्रसार एवं ब्रांडिंग के लिए प्रतिष्ठित पी0आर एजेन्सी के चयन हेतु पंजीकृत फर्मों से प्राप्त ई–निविदा ऑनलाइन दिनांक 24.06.2020 के अपरान्ह 12.00 बजे से दिनांक 30.06.2020 के अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे तक ई–टेण्डरिंग की वेबसाइट http://etender.up.nic.in से डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। ई–निविदा की तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 01.07.2020 को अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे निविदा समिति के समक्ष, निविदादाताओं की उपस्थिति/अनुपस्थिति में सूचना निदेशालय, 6–पार्क रोड हजरतगंज, लखनऊ में खोली जाएगी।
ई–निविदा मूल्य रूपये 10000/– का डिमाण्ड ड्रॉफ्ट तथा अर्नेस्ट मनी रूपये 05.00 लाख डीडी/एफडीआर/पीबीजी के रुप में निदेशक, सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, लखनऊ के पक्ष में देय होगा। ई–निविदा की हार्ड कापी डीडी/एफडीआर/पीबीजी मूलरुप में सूचना निदेशालय, लखनऊ में तकनीकी बिड खोले जाने से पूर्व जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा।
ई–निविदा के संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण, निविदा प्रपत्र, नियम एवं शर्तें वेबसाइट http://etender.up.nic.in और निविदा सूचना, कार्यालय की वेबसाइट http://information.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। निविदादाता के पास सर्टिफाइड डिजिटल सिग्नेचर (DSC) होना अनिवार्य है। किसी भी प्रकार के वाद–विवाद की दशा में न्याय क्षेत्र लखनऊ होगा। ई–निविदा को आंशिक एवं पूर्णत निरस्त करने का अधिकार सूचना निदेशक के पास सुरक्षित होगा।
(शिशिर)
सूचना निदेशक
Ro No 152768, Ro Date :- 23/6/20. website- www.upgov.nic.in

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division,
2nd Floor, BBMP Building,
J.C. Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru.
No. : BBMP/EE/HBL/TEND/PR/13/2019-20 Date : 22-06-2020
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from registered contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any state Government Organisations for the work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Drilling of Borewells, Installation of Pump and Commissioning of Motor in Muneshwara Layout, Ayappa Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 22 V. Nagenahalli.	100.00	2,00,000.00
2.	Improvements to Roads and Drains in Cross Roads of Hanuman Layout, 11th Cross Manorayanapalya and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 22, V. Nagenahalli.	100.00	2,00,000.00

(1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of GOK from 25-06-2020. (2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 29-06-2020 at 3.00 pm in the Office of the Chief Engineer (East Zone), PUB Building, Mayohall, MG Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. (3) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is 04-07-2020 upto 4.00 pm. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on the Website : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, on 06-07-2020 at 4.30 pm if possible. (5.) Date of Opening of Financial Bid is on 07-07-2020 at 11.00 am if possible.
The Details regarding participation for this tender can be obtained by logging on to : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division.
Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
Nanthancode, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003
Phone: 0471-2314288. E-Mail: dcotdb@gmail.com
Website: www.travancoredevaswomboard.org
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD INVITES E-TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF:
Dry Rice, Raw Rice, Jaggery Powder, Sugar Candy, Black Raisins, Cardamom, Dry Ginger, Cuminseed, Green Gram Dal, Beaten Rice, Butter Paper Bag, Pure Ghee, Ghee Pouch, Carton Box, BOP Tape, Composite Cans, Easy Open Lids in connection with the festival period 1196 ME (2020-2021) of Sree Dharmasastha Temple, Sabarimala.
E-Tender Starting Date : 24-06-2020 - 11.00 AM
E-Tender Closing Date : 10-07-2020 - 05.00 PM
E-Tender Opening Date : 13-07-2020 - 11.00 AM
Venue : Office of The Commissioner, Travancore Devaswom Board, Thiruvananthapuram
Detailed e-tender notifications and special instructions to the bidders are available on www.travancoredevaswomboard.org
For the submission of tender visit the website : www.e-tenders.kerala.gov.in
ROC NO : 4/20/Sab. Sd/- DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER
Dated : 24-06-2020 (For and behalf of Travancore Devaswom Board)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TIRUVANNAMALAI MUNICIPALITY
Tender Notice No.: 179/2014/E1 Dated: 22.06.2020
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ) for Construction of New Bus Stand in Tiruvannamalai Municipality on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ) - TENDER DATE upto 30.07.2020 (IInd Call)
Tiruvannamalai is a Temple and also known for its trading activities. The existing Bus stand of the Tiruvannamalai Municipality was constructed around 20 years back with 50 bus bays as "A" class bus stand being operated at present to connect surrounding villages and towns. Considering the future growth of the town, Tiruvannamalai Municipal Council approved the proposal to construct a new bus stand with all required amenities in Municipality land situated at New Survey 26/1, 26/2, 27, 28, 29/1, 29/3, 29/5... Esaniyam in Tiruvannamalai.
"Request for Qualification (RFQ)" is invited from Developers for construction of Bus Stand on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis for a period of 22 years. Interested Developers may apply for the project based on their eligibility as per eligibility criteria mentioned in the RFQ document (para 34 to 38).The bidders should be single Business Entity incorporated as a Public / Private Limited Company, incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956/ 2013. More details are provided in the RFQ document.
The eligible bidders shall be evaluated as per the qualifying criteria and become eligible to participate in the Request for Proposal (RFP).
The RFQ document can be obtained on payment of Rs.10,000/- (Non refundable) from the Tiruvannamalai Municipality office from 25.06.2020 to 29.07.2020 up to 3.00 p.m. RFQ document can also be downloaded from the following websites: http://tntenders.gov.in and Tiruvannamalai municipal website: https://www.tnurbantree.tn.gov.in/thiruvannamalai/ between 25.06.2020 to 29.07.2020 up to 3.00 pm.
The pre-proposal meeting shall be conducted on 06.07.2020 at 11.00 hrs. at the address noted below to clarify the queries that may be raised by the bidders.
The duly filled-in and wax sealed tender documents shall be submitted online or offline method on or before 29.07.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.
Proposals will be opened on 30.07.2020 at 15.30 Hrs. at the address indicated below.
Commissioner, Tiruvannamalai Municipality, Tiruvannamalai - 606 601. Tamilnadu
DIPR/2381/Tender/2020

THE PONDICHERRY CO-OP. SUGAR MILLS LIMITED (PCSM),
P315, LINGAREDDIPALAYAM, PUDUCHERRY-605502
TENDER FOR LONG TERM LEASE OF SUGAR MILL
e-Tender No: 2020_COOP_6269_1
e-Tenders are invited from reputed Companies/ Consortium/Proprietary Firms/Partnership Firms/Trust/ Society for long term lease of Sugar Mill for 20 years on Lease, Develop, Operate and Transfer (LDOT) basis along with Existing Liabilities.
Tender Documents can be downloaded from the portal https://pudutenders.gov.in starting from 24.06.2020.
MANAGING DIRECTOR
No.063/DIP/AD(Press)/2020-21

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Chief Engineer, Generation & PED – Thiruvananthapuram
Tender ID: 2020_KSEB_352748_1 *Execution of Electromechanical works of Peruvannamuzhy Small Hydro Electric Project 6 MW (2x3 MW) * PAC : Rs. 37.88 Crore * Last Date: 18-07-2020.
Office of the Chief Engineer, Distribution Central – Ernakulam
Tender ID: 2020_KSEB_365989_1 * Supply of HT ABC of size 3x120 sq.mm +1x95 sq.mm (Insulated Messenger) * PAC: Rs. 29,32,30,000/- * Last Date: 22-07-2020.
Office of the Chief Engineer, Supply Chain Management – Thiruvananthapuram
Tender ID: 2020_KSEB_366689_1 *Supply of 10,00,000 Nos. DLMS complaint LT, AC, Single Phase Static Energy Meters having ToD facility and LCD Display with Backlit of Rating 5-30A Accuracy Class1.0 * PAC: Rs.62,80,00,000/- * Last Date:13-07-2020, 4.30 PM. Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.kseb.in
Ref. PR/MC1/E 208/E-Tender/2020

KERALA STATE TRANSPORT PROJECT
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-Procurement Notice, (Engineering, Procurement, Construction ("EPC") Contract following Two Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Dated: 24.06.2020
1. The Government of India has received financing as Development policy loans from the World Bank towards the cost of rebuilding climate resilient infrastructures in Kerala and Government of Kerala (GoK) intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for construction of works as detailed below.
2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedures as per the World Bank & GoK guidelines. Bidding is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers.
3. The Project Director, Kerala State Transport Project, Public Works Department, Government of Kerala, now invites online bids through EPC mode of execution for the construction of works detailed below:

State	Bid No.	Name of work	Length Km	Completion Period	Maintenance Period
Kerala	KSTP II/RKI-9	Up-gradation of Alappuzha-Changanassery Road into Semi Elevated Highway	24.164 Km	30 Months	5 Years

4. The complete bid document can be viewed/downloaded from the e-procurement portal of Kerala Government https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/ from 29/06/2020 to 14/08/2020 (up to 16:00 Hrs. IST). Bids received online shall be opened on same day 14/08/2020 (at 16.30 hours IST).
5. Bids received through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, EMD, tender fee, Power of Attorney, joint bidding agreement, etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 14/08/2020 (upto 16:00 hours IST). Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.
6. The address for communication is as under:
Project Director, Kerala State Transport Project, Project Management Team, T.C.11/339, SreeBala Building, Keston Road, Nanthancode, Kowdiar P.O., Thiruvananthapuram–695003, e-mail: pdkstp@gmail.com, cepmtkstp@gmail.com
(Sd/-) Project Director, KSTP

Tech giants slam visa curbs

We will continue to stand with immigrants, says Google CEO Sundar Pichai

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

U.S. President Donald Trump's executive order on Monday suspending new H1-B visas till the end of the year in an effort to ease unemployment will impact both IT firms like TCS, Cognizant and Infosys as well as big tech companies like Google, Apple, Amazon and Facebook, who use the H-1B programme for their staffing needs. Each year, the U.S. issues 85,000 new H-1Bs, most of which go to Indians.

"While the May [unemployment] rate of 13.3% reflects a marked decline from April, millions of Americans remain out of work," the presidential proclamation on Monday said. The order's impact would save 5,25,000 American jobs by the end of this year, a senior administration official told reporters.

Donald Trump

Nevertheless, unemployment rates in 'computer occupations' was just 2.5% in May 2020, according to Bureau of Labour Statistics analysed by the National Foundation for American Policy, a non-partisan research organisation.

The decision has been criticised both in the U.S. and India with tech leaders voicing dismay.

Tesla founder and former Trump adviser Elon Musk said the skillsets brought by visa holders are net job creators. "Visa reform makes sense, but this is too broad," he tweeted.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai, who immigrated to the U.S. from India, underscored the importance of immigration in Google's journey.

"Immigration has contributed immensely to America's economic success, making it a global leader in tech, and also Google the company it is today. Disappointed by today's proclamation – we'll continue to stand with immigrants and work to expand opportunity for all," Mr. Pichai tweeted.

"The H-1B programme in particular plays a crucial role in addressing our dangerous shortage of health care professionals while also providing other key sectors of our economy with talent from around the world to not only fill jobs, but create new ones," Indian-American Congressman from Illinois, Raja Krishnamoorthi said.

HC grants bail to pregnant student

Centre agrees to the release of Jamia activist 'purely on humanitarian grounds'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted bail to Safoora Zargar, Jamia Coordination Committee media coordinator, who was arrested in the northeast Delhi violence case.

Justice Rajiv Shakdher passed the order after the Central government, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, agreed to the grant of bail to Ms. Zargar, who is 23-week pregnant, "purely on humanitarian grounds".

Mr. Mehta said the order granting her bail should not be made a precedent in any other case and insisted on a slew of conditions to be followed by Ms. Zargar. Taking note of his request, the court said Ms. Zargar should not indulge in activities for which she had been investigated. She should refrain from influencing or hampering the investigation and seek the permission of the court concerned if she was required to go out of Delhi.

Violent times: The Delhi police during a flag march in February. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

Mr. Mehta also sought that Ms. Zargar be present at the police station concerned every 15 days, but Justice Shakdher declined the plea, saying an interaction with the investigating officer concerned on the phone once in 15 days was enough.

The court also received some documents filed on behalf of the Delhi police in a sealed cover. "I have not opened the sealed cover. The documents, which are in sealed cover, are returned to the Registry," the court said, asking the Registry to return it to the State government officer concerned. Advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan, appearing for Ms. Zargar, agreed to the terms and conditions set by the court.

Earlier, the Delhi police objected, in the status report, to the grant of bail to Ms. Zargar, arguing that she was part of the "conspiratorial design" to use any means to cause death, injuries and loss. "Their main target was to uproot the government of India through violent means by instigating riots," the report said.

The police said 39 deliveries had taken place in Delhi prisons in the past 10 years and jail officials were providing Ms. Zargar with proper medical care.

IN BRIEF

Mayawati seeks probe into infections at shelter

LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Tuesday demanded a high-level independent probe into the case of 57 girl inmates of a government shelter home in Kanpur, including five who were pregnant, testing positive for COVID-19. Taking to Twitter, Ms. Mayawati asked the Uttar Pradesh government to take strict action against the accused and not cover up the issue.

CBI books Videocon CMD on graft charges

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked Venugopal Dhoot, chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of Videocon Industries Limited, and unknown officials of a consortium led by the State Bank of India, for alleged undue pecuniary gains to Videocon. The agency had last year initiated a preliminary inquiry against unknown officials of ONGC Videsh Limited, Oil India Limited, Bharat Petro Resources Limited, and the consortium of banks (SBI, IDBI Bank and ICICI Bank).

Delhi riots: ED conducts searches at six places

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at six places in Delhi and Noida in connection with the 2020 Delhi riots cases. "The premises of suspended Aam Aadmi Party councillor Tahir Hussain have also been searched. The money laundering probe pertains to the cases registered by the Delhi police against those involved in the riots in February," said a ED official. The money laundering probe is based on an FIR lodged by the police against Mr. Hussain and others.

PM CARES finances ventilators

Fund has allocated ₹2,000 crore for 50,000 'Made-in-India' machines: govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The PM CARES Fund Trust has allocated ₹2,000 crore for the supply of 50,000 "Made-in-India" ventilators to government-run COVID-19 hospitals in all States and Union Territories. Further, ₹1,000 crore has been allocated for the welfare of migrant labourers, a Union government release said on Tuesday.

The Indian companies involved in manufacturing the ventilators include Bharat Electronics Ltd., AgVa Healthcare and AMTZ Basic.

"So far 2,923 ventilators have been manufactured of which 1,340 have already been delivered to the States/UTs," the release said.

The prominent recipients include Maharashtra (275), Delhi (275), Gujarat (175), Bihar (100), Karnataka (90) and Rajasthan (75). By month-end, 14,000 more will be delivered to cover all States and Union Territories.

"Further, ₹1,000 crore has already been released to States/UTs for the welfare of the migrant labourers."

The distribution of the fund is based on the formula of 50% weightage for the population as per the 2011 Census, 40% weightage for the number of positive COVID-19 cases and 10% for equal distribution among all the States/UTs.

"This assistance is to be used for arranging accommodation, food, medical treatment and transportation of the migrants. The main recipients of the grant are Maharashtra (₹181 crore), Uttar Pradesh (₹103 cr.), Tamil Nadu (₹83 cr.), Gujarat (₹66 cr.), Delhi (₹55 cr.), West Bengal (₹53 cr.), Bihar (₹51 cr.), Madhya Pradesh (₹50 cr.), Rajasthan (₹50 cr.) and Karnataka (₹34 cr.)," said the release.

Highs and lows

With 15,687 new COVID-19 cases and 465 fatalities, the total infections stood at 4,55,788 while total deaths were 14,479 as of 10.30 p.m. on Tuesday. Lately, many States are not testing enough. The graphs plot the tests conducted per confirmed case ▬ and the number of positive cases for every 100 tests ▬ on four different dates to gauge the States' testing rates

ON TUESDAY

NEW CASES	NEW DEATHS
15,687	465
7 DAY-CHANGE	7 DAY-CHANGE
+18.6%	+44.9%

▪ In Maharashtra and Delhi, as of June 22, the % of positives is **increasing** while the tests per case is **decreasing.** This suggests that these States are **not testing enough** relative to their outbreaks. Most States belong to this category

▪ In States like Rajasthan and Punjab, as of June 22, the % of positives is **decreasing** while the tests per case is **increasing.** This suggests that these States are **testing enough** relative to their outbreaks. M.P. and Meghalaya too follow this trend

SC gives nod to woman to abort foetus

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has allowed a woman in her 25th week of pregnancy bearing twins to medically terminate one of the foetuses detected with substantial abnormalities.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971 bars abortion if the foetus has crossed the 20-week mark. An exception to the law is made if a registered medical practitioner certifies to a court that the continued pregnancy is life-threatening for the mother.

In the present case, a three-judge Bench led by Justice R. Banumathi set aside the Bombay High Court's rejection. It allowed the woman to go ahead with the "selective foetal reduction" procedure after a medical expert reported that the process would not harm the other normal foetus or the mother.

Centre to reimburse applicants for Haj

No international pilgrims this year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Following a phone call by Saudi Arabia's Haj and Umrah Minister Mohammad Saleh Bin Taher Benten to Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi informing him that no international pilgrims will be allowed for Haj due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian government said it would reimburse payments made by Indian pilgrims for the same.

"Honouring the decision of the Saudi Arabia government because of serious challenges of corona pandemic and keeping in mind the health and well-being of the people, it has been decided that Muslims from India will not go to Saudi Arabia to perform Haj (1441 H/2020 AD)," said Mr. Naqvi in a statement.

2,13,000 applications

He said that the process of immediately refunding (without deductions) the amount deposited by pilgrims for the journey was being initiated.

Around 2,13,000 applications had been received for Haj 2020. The money will be refunded through online DBT mode into the bank accounts of the applicants, he added.

Women pilgrims

Of these pilgrims, 50% were women, with 3,040 women having performed Haj after the Union government ensured Muslim women can perform Haj without *Mehram* (male companion) in 2018.

This year too, more than 2,300 women had applied to perform Haj without *Mehram*. These women pilgrims will be allowed to go to Haj 2021 on the basis of this year's application.

Women pilgrims who file a new application for the journey will also be considered for Haj next year.

Change in ICMR rules delays local test kits

Rapid rise in COVID-19 cases has forced the States to adopt faster tests

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

COVID-19 testing kits developed by labs of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are yet to make it to the market thanks to a change in rules by the ICMR that now requires additional data and not just results from laboratory-controlled conditions.

With nearly 4,50,000 positive cases nationally, several States have adopted testing strategies beyond the standard-of-diagnosis RT-PCR kits. The Delhi government last week allowed the use of a cheaper, rapid antigen test that gives quicker results but is less reliable when there is limited background prevalence of the disease. The ICMR recommends the kit developed by SD Biosensor, a South Korean company, but manufactured in India, as a confirmatory for positive test but a requires a retest with PCR if the person tests negative.

On May 5, the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) announced a collaboration with Tata Sons Ltd. to develop a paper-based test, called FELUDA, that could detect the presence of the virus. Unlike the conventional RT-PCR test that requires a specialised machine, FELUDA (FNCas-9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay), was relatively more adaptable and could be used in conventional pathology labs that didn't have a PCR machine. Moreover the results, its developers say, would be available in one hour.

Early results

However, officials said approvals for FELUDA would take more time. The FELUDA kit, which uses a CRISPR-cas9 gene editing system to detect the coronavirus, was developed completely in-house and based on the results, Tata Sons decided to take it up for production. In March and April, when ICMR was approving homegrown kits, it only needed a single batch of test kits to pass muster.

Following the change in the ICMR's rules, Dr. Anurag Agrawal, Director, CSIR-IGIB said, "Now at least three batches have to be made and, by the company, in their facilities."

Following the earlier nod, Dr Agrawal said, "Tata Sons got a factory in place in Chennai but due to the lockdown, there were delays in readying it as well as in procuring some of the equipment needed for the test."

Another testing kit announced in April by the Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMS), Thiruvananthapuram, that was initially approved by the Pune-based ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV) sister-lab in Alappuzha, and commercially developed along with Ernakulam-based Agappe Technologies, is nowhere near ready.

NPP MLAs flown out to meet BJP leadership

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
IMPHAL/GUWAHATI

Four MLAs of the National People's Party (NPP), who had withdrawn support to the BJP-led government triggering a political crisis in Manipur last week, were on Tuesday flown to Guwahati.

They were expected to be flown to Delhi from Guwahati for a meeting with the BJP's central leadership to bring them back to the government.

For the second time in 48 hours, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma and Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took a special flight to Imphal on Tuesday to hold closed-door parleys with the NPP lawmakers and three BJP leaders who had quit.

While Mr. Sangma is the national president of the NPP, Mr. Sarma is the BJP's trouble-shooter and convener of the North East Democratic Alliance, a BJP-helmed forum of most regional parties in the region.

The Nongthombam Biren government was reduced to a minority after nine MLAs – the four of NPP, the three of the BJP, one of the Trinamool Congress and an Independent – withdrew support and went to the Opposition Congress.

TH CROSSWORD + 12970

(set by Afterdark)

There is no lockdown for your brain! Try solving a puzzle today! @ https://crossword.thehindu.com

SCAN TO PLAY

ACROSS

9 Cold and hot times become disorderly for pharmacist (7)
10 Concern at home against love that's odd (7)
11 Fugitive at last got cover in South Dakota and got away (7)
12 Blind dog getting tense and primarily aggressive at home (7)
13 So free, dancing topless at Times hotel for inaugural event (9)
15 Wife's the first lady to get a braid (5)
16 A new date bungled? Have a small preferably (7)
19 Perhaps officer is in complete security (7)
20 Lively beer, right? (5)
21 Complain on record to Jesus, perhaps (9)
25 Claim it, a terrible suppressing of copy (7)
26 Foolish to lose half of the cash while taking grant (7)
28 Mostly unnecessary points... (7)
29 ...concerning atoms, relative with new advancement at Russia to begin with (7)

DOWN

1 Stress on bill to get change perhaps (6)
2 Save on spending first, stimulus to come later (6)
3 Stagger to border avoiding military leader (4)
4 Custodian can be sacked mismanaging the workshop (6)
5 Provisions (some cereals and livestock) provided at cooking places (8)
6 Primarily eccentric, so wife and her direction is all over the place (10)
7 Satisfying prayer with an Indian holy man (8)
8 Restriction on rivers for animal (8)
14 Match at centre court with partner finally (10)
16 Antiviral distributed, after vacating Vatican and Rome primarily; scare starts for these people (8)
17 Sample spice mixed with meal halfway, not in the beginning (8)
18 By December, virus essentially will abate and diminish (8)
22 Riot is contained within group (6)
23 Probably a telemarketing agent, out of college takes time to become greater (6)
24 Pay on delivery first to avoid confrontation (6)
27 Cars crash on curves (4)

SUDOKU

					7	3	1	
	3			5		8		
	5		2					9
6				7	2			
5			6		8			3
			5	9				1
2					5		7	
		5		2			3	
	7	6	1					

No.SS4755 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12969

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	3	2	5	7	1	6	8	4
4	1	8	2	9	6	5	3	7
5	7	6	4	8	3	2	1	9
8	2	3	9	4	5	7	6	1
6	5	1	7	3	8	4	9	2
7	9	4	1	6	2	3	5	8
3	4	7	6	1	9	8	2	5
1	6	5	8	2	7	9	4	3
2	8	9	3	5	4	1	7	6

FAITH

The Lord's incarnations

The Gita explains the purpose of the Lord's incarnations as primarily to protect the good, destroy the evil and to establish dharma in the world. The Lord can accomplish all this out of His mere Sankalpa even without taking an avatar. The Lord is ever free, unattached, distinct, birthless and deathless. But He chooses to be born out of His power of Maya. When He takes a human form as in Rama and Krishna avatars, it is not owing to any karma as is the case with jivatmas, pointed out Sri R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal in a discourse.

Like a doctor visiting a hospital to cure the patient, the Lord comes to the world to rid the samsara burden of the jivatmas. The sickness does not pertain to the doctor. To quote another analogy, the Lord's avatars can be likened to the frequent visits of the official in charge of prisons, who, unlike the prisoner, is not a resident in it. Depending on the exigencies of the situation, there is variety in the ways He appears and the forms He assumes. He comes as Matsya, fish, Kurma, tortoise, and Varaha, boar, to save the Vedas and Dharma. He has taken an avatar as half lion and half man Narasimha to save His devotee Prahlada from Hiranyakasipu's wrath. He comes out of a pillar in the most astonishing manner and makes true the child's belief of the Lord's omnipresence.

He explains to Arjuna that He too has assumed many forms in various births just as other jivatmas but out of His own divine Will. He is also fully aware of all the births of all jivatmas while the jivatmas are limited in their understanding of their own past births. Their births are controlled by their prakriti, ignorance and karma. Many eons ago in the hoary past He had instructed Vivaswan these truths which He now explains to Arjuna.

Russia to speed up defence deals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Russia has said that it will accelerate deliveries of some defence contracts with India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday in Moscow after meeting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov.

"I have been assured that ongoing contracts will be maintained and not just maintained, in a number of cases will be taken forward in a shorter time. All our proposals have received positive response from the Russian side. I am fully satisfied with my discussions," Mr. Singh elaborated in a statement.

India has been asking Russia to speed up deliveries of the S-400 long range air defence system in addition to spares and support for military hardware.

Mr. Singh is in Moscow to participate in the Victory Day parade to mark the 75th anniversary of the Second World War. On Wednesday, an Indian tri-service contingent comprising 75 personnel will march in the parade at the Red Square.

On the India-China border tensions, a defence source said Mr. Singh conveyed that India is a peace loving country and never in history has it looked at other people's territory. "We are on for resolving all disputes by dialogue. But if there are any questions on sovereignty and territorial integrity, our resolve to protect our interests at any cost cannot be doubted," the source quoted Mr. Singh as having said.

Centre and CBSE likely to take decision today

Top court also asks ICSE to abide by govt. plan on exams

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Union government and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that the "decision-making process" on whether the remaining Class X and XII exams from July 1 to 15 should be held amid the pandemic was at an "advanced stage".

"Solicitor-General has informed us that the expert body is in the process of taking a final decision in the matter very shortly and hopefully by tomorrow, June 24. In the circumstances, we defer the hearing of these matter(s) to June 25, 2020 at 2:00 p.m," a three-judge Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar said in a short order.

Parents' pleas

The court said it would consider on Thursday separate petitions filed by parents of students of both the CBSE stream and those of the ICSE (Indian Certificate of Secondary Education), an examination conducted by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre and the CBSE, said that "we understand the anxiety of the students" and a decision may be finalised by "tomorrow [June 24] evening".

Advocate Rishi Malhotra, on behalf of the parents, said the students were worried about the uncertainty caused by the pandemic. A group of parents has sought the quashing of a notification to conduct the remaining Class X and XII exams in July.

They have asked for students to be awarded marks based on an internal assessment or in line with the marks allotted for practical exams.

A similar request has been made by the Maharashtra, Delhi and Odisha governments to the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

The parents said in the plea that students could potentially be exposed to COVID-19 infection if they appeared for exams amid an increase in the number of coronavirus cases.

"The government is deciding... Let the government take a decision. These times are unprecedented," Justice Khanwilkar, flanked by Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna, told Mr. Malhotra orally.

ICSE exams case

The Bench also took up a separate petition filed seeking clarity on the part of the ICSE authorities regarding the pending examinations. The Bombay High Court had raised concerns over the conduct of the exams in the middle of rising COVID-19 cases and deaths.

The court asked the ICSE authorities to make their stand clear on the examinations.

The court asked the ICSE, represented by senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, to "take the informed decision of the government [about conduct of exams] seriously and abide by it".

The government initially told the court that it could not decide for the ICSE.

"We cannot decide for the ICSE. They have to say 'we will follow the decision of the government'. We cannot bind the ICSE to our decision, they have to bind themselves," Mr. Mehta said.

Students in focus

But the court told Mr. Gupta that the ICSE should go by what the government decided.

"In the interest of students, ICSE should go by what the government decides about the conduct of the exams. The decision of the government will be taken after consultations with experts. It will be an informed decision. You [ICSE] abide by it," Justice Khanwilkar addressed Mr. Gupta.

Mr. Gupta, at one point, asked the court to defer the case in the Bombay High Court.

He urged the court to list it with the CBSE matter coming up on June 25.

Chariots roll in Puri without crowds

Traditional servitors who tested negative for COVID-19 performed the rituals

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath was held in Puri on Tuesday without the usual congregation of devotees, a historic departure from the centuries-old tradition.

The traditional servitors of Shree Jagannath Temple, who tested negative for COVID-19, performed the rituals associated with the Rath Yatra, which was allowed by the Supreme Court with stringent conditions.

As per scriptures, deities step out from their abode once a year to give darshan to all devotees. More than a million people come to Puri to witness the grand festival every year.

Break from tradition: Fire service personnel spray a sanitising solution during the Rath Yatra in Puri. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

However, in view of the pandemic, the Supreme Court directed the State government not to allow devotees to gather for the festival. The State government imposed a 41-hour shutdown in Puri.

The situation was normal in the temple. The traditional servitors started performing rituals since the early hours.

As ordered by the Supreme Court, the Puri district administration conducted a COVID-19 test on 1,143 servitors. One of them tested positive. The administration said tracing of the contacts of the lone servitor was under way.

Around noon, the servitors started towing the chariots. Before the decorated chariots rolled on the 3 km Grand Road, fire service personnel sanitised the whole stretch. The police had sealed the entrance of every lane leading to the Grand Road.

Symbolic Rath Yatra held within temple in Ahmedabad

Gujarat HC rejected govt. plea to allow street procession

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

The Jagannath temple in Ahmedabad organised a token procession of the Rath Yatra within its sprawling premises on Tuesday, after the Gujarat High Court turned down pleas for a street procession.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani conducted the "pahind" ritual to kickstart the Yatra. A few political leaders and some devotees were present.

In an urgent hearing that continued till 2 a.m. on Tuesday, a Division Bench of the Gujarat High Court rejected six pleas, including that of the State government, seeking the court's permission to allow the Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra.

The Division Bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice J.B. Pardiwala turned down the State government's proposal to allow the procession to be taken out in curfew, and said that it was proper that the chariots' movement was restricted to Lord Jagannathji Temple premises in Ahmedabad.

As many as six pleas moved late on Monday sought the court's nod, citing the Supreme Court's order which allowed the Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra procession in Puri, Odisha.

The Gujarat government, in its plea, contended that the traditional annual Rath Yatra should be allowed with limited devotees and curfew along the procession route.

It also contended that the yatra, which was begun in 1878, had never been interrupted and, therefore, that tradition should continue this year too, with restrictions in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State authorities had even prepared the route and issued advisories for traffic movements in anticipation of a favourable court ruling.

PUCL flays action against journalist

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) has condemned the attempt at criminalising the writings of Supriya Sharma, executive editor of the digital news publication Scroll.in.

In a statement, PUCL president Ravi Kiran Jain and general secretary V. Suresh said the criminal provisions invoked against the journalist do not apply to the complaint made by the aggrieved individual.

"The FIR against Supriya is an attempt to harass her via the police machinery as she showed the failure of the State to protect livelihoods," the statement read.

THE HINDU

OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

New additions to the HR lexicon

Work-from-home and other workplace realities of these times have sent HR professionals back to the drawing board

LIFFY THOMAS

'COVID leave' is the latest addition to the HR lexicon, and in some companies employees are getting familiar with synonyms of it.

Texas Instruments has introduced a four-week 'COVID leave' as a category of special paid leave. Shubhra Bhandari, Director HR, Texas Instruments India explains it could be availed on account of any personal challenges arising out of the COVID-19 situation, including treatment.

Similarly Bolo Indya, a Gurugram-based start-up, has made it mandatory that six days of "casual compensated leave" must be taken by every employee, every quarter.

Previously, though this was made available, it was not made mandatory and the COVID-19 crisis has led to the new directive.

"After we introduced WFH arrangement, some of my colleagues were not having fixed work hours and their day would extend till the wee hours, and so this leave is essentially an exercise to help them find some work-life balance in the new normal," says Varun Saxena, founder, Bolo Indya.

Both the companies have worked on their WFH policies, giving it wider scope to cover allowance to buy or rent ergonomic furniture and other technology tools.

Bolo Indya has also announced that it will also be taking care of operational expenses of air-conditioners in the work-from-home area of the employees' home.

A work in progress

HR professionals point out that regulatory and legal frameworks supporting WFH are a work in progress.

In May, NASSCOM submitted its recommendations to the Government of India on enabling WFH, and these include "changes in labour laws to redefine working hours, re-look at safety and health in the context of the new work environment and change in I-T laws as expenses incurred by employers to enable WFH".

Continuous process

HR managers say a policy or a framework must reflect the organisational philosophy, what is happening around it and it should have an element of continuity to it. COVID has become an opportunity for many companies to revise old policies.

While some policies are being reviewed annually such as insurance, those relating to leave are being revisited once in a couple of years, says Shubhra.

"For instance, in April, we made changes to our insurance policy to expand its definition so that it also covers employees with same sex partners. It was not to do with any crisis but more to do with societal changes happening around us," says Shubhra. She says a collaborative approach must be followed while making any policy changes.

Texas Instruments took a survey of employees in May to understand their needs before redrafting its WFH. "We always had a WFH policy but it was exercised flexibly. Earlier, before the COVID-19 crisis, only a maximum of 20 per cent of the employees would be exercising the WFH option at any given time; and now, only that percentage works in the office. So we wanted to gauge the response of the people," she says.

Other contracts

Among the queries that banking and finance lawyer Abhishek Ray, working as principal associate with J. Sagar Associates, has been getting is applicability of '*force majeure*' provisions in various commercial contracts.

"Parties to commercial agreements, who are facing various operational issues in the current situation, are evaluating various contractual terms including *force majeure*, sometimes to terminate an agreement or understand how it can be used," says Ray. Other concerns in relation to working from home that may arise could be in relation to information security compliances, he says.

Career transition services for laid-off employees

Job search site Naukri.com has launched 'Naukri FastForward Transition services' designed to support employers assist the laid-off employees in their career transition journey. Motivational speaker workshops, job search counselling and job assistance services also come under these services, says a release. Prior to the launch of this initiative, Naukri conducted a survey of 1600 HR heads and recruiters and it showed that 60% of them are keen on exploring career transition services for their laid-off employees.

GENERAL

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF STUDY AND RESEARCH IN LAW, RANCHI
At Nagri, PO- Bukru, Kanke- Pithoria Road, Kanke, Ranchi 834006

Ref: NUSRL/RNC/2019/9339 Date: 26/06/2019

Faculty Recruitment

National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi invites applications from suitable candidates in the discipline of law as Faculty in the University. The applications are invited for the following posts.

Sl.No.	Post	No. of Posts
1.	Professors (Law) (Regular)	2
2.	Associate Professors (Law) (Contractual)	2
3.	Assistant Professors (Law) (Regular)	2

Pay band and qualification as per UGC norms.

The details regarding posts & procedure of applying are available on University website **www.nusrlranchi.ac.in**. The last date for receiving application is 31/07/2019 5:00 PM.

Sd/- Assistant Registrar (I/c)

भारतीय पैट्रोलियम और ऊर्जा संस्थान
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM & ENERGY
(An Institute of National Importance Established Under Act of Parliament)
Visakhapatnam-530003

ADVT NO. IIPE/Recruit/01/2020-21, JUNE 2020

Online applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals For various Faculty * & Non-Teaching positions :

Petroleum Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics, Chemistry, English and Counsellor (For Counselling and Teaching Psychology).

Non-Teaching Positions : Librarian, Deputy Librarian, Officer-IT, Senior Superintendent, Secretary to Registrar, Guest House Manager, Technicians, Technical Assistants, Lab Assistant.

Interested candidates can apply **only online** through the Institute Website where the detailed advertisement is available

*For Faculty Positions Persons of Indian Origins (PIOs) & Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) can also apply.

Detailed advertisement and application form are available at http://www.iipe.ac.in/

GENERAL

State Bank of India
CENTRAL RECRUITMENT & PROMOTION DEPARTMENT
CORPORATE CENTRE, MUMBAI
(Phone: 022-2282 0427; Fax: 022-2282 0411; E-mail: crpd@sbi.co.in)

Recruitment of Specialist Cadre Officers In SBI & Wealth Management Business Unit

Applications are invited from Indian citizens for the following posts on regular/contract basis:

Sr	Post	Vacancy	Grade	Nature of Engagement	Advertisement No.
1.	Head (Product, Investments & Research)	1	------	Contractual	CRPD/SCO-Wealth/2020-21/03
2.	Relationship Manager	48			
3.	Relationship Manager (Team Lead)	3			
4.	Central Research Team (Portfolio Analysis & Data Analytics)	1			
5.	Central Research Team (Support)	1			
6.	Investment Officer	9			
7.	Project Development Manager (Technology)	1			
8.	Product Manager	6	MMGS III	Regular	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/18
9.	Manager (Data Analyst)	2	MMGS III		
10.	Manager (Digital Marketing)	1	MMGS III		
11.	SME Credit Analyst	20	MMGS III	Regular	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/19
12.	Chief Manager (Special Situation Team)	3	SMGS IV	Regular	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/04
13.	Deputy Manager (Stressed Assets Marketing)	3	MMGS II		
14.	Vice President (Stressed Assets Marketing)	1	------	Contractual	
15.	Chief Officer (Security)	1	------	Contractual	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/05
16.	Deputy Manager (IS Audit)	8	MMGS II	Regular	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/06
17.	Manager (Anytime Channels)	1	MMGS III	Regular	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/09
18.	Banking Supervisory Specialist	1	------	Contractual	
19.	Executive (FI & MM)	241	------	Contractual	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/10
20.	Sr. Executive (Social Banking & CSR)	85	------		
21.	Sr. Executive (Digital Relation)	2	------	Contractual	CRPD/SCO/2020-21/11
22.	Sr. Executive (Analytics)	2	------		
23.	Sr. Executive (Digital Marketing)	2	------		
24.	Faculty SBIL Kolkata	3	------	Contractual	CRPD/SCO-STU/2020-21/17

Eligibility criteria (age, qualification, experience, etc.), requisite fees and other details are provided under the respective detailed advertisement mentioned above on Bank's website **https://bank.sbi/careers** OR **https://www.sbi.co.in/careers** along with a link for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fee. Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement, ensuring their eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees.

Date For Filing Online Application & Payment Of Fees: 23.06.2020 To 13.07.2020

For any query, please write to us through link "CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query" which is available on Bank's website (URL- **https://bank.sbi/careers** OR **https://sbi.co.in/careers.** Please ensure to mention the Advertisement No. and name of the post in the email subject.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 23.06.2020

General Manager (CRPD)

China warns risk of naval conflict with U.S.

U.S. deployment of 3,75,000 soldiers, 60% of warships in Indo-Pacific region a cause of worry: report

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

The U.S. military is deploying "unprecedented" numbers to the Asia-Pacific region, raising the risk of an incident with China's Navy, a senior Chinese official said on Tuesday.

Tensions between the two superpowers have soared on multiple fronts since President Donald Trump took office in 2017, with both countries flexing their diplomatic and military muscle.

Brewing storm: The U.S. military deployment in the Asia-Pacific region is unprecedented, says a new report by a Chinese government think tank. ▪ REUTERS/FILE

'Freedom of navigation'

The United States' regular "freedom of navigation" operations in the South China Sea – where China and neighbouring countries have competing claims – angers Beijing, and China's Navy usually warns off the U.S. ships.

For its part, Beijing has infuriated other nations by building artificial islands with military installations in parts of the sea.

"The U.S. military deployment in the Asia-Pacific region is unprecedented," said Wu Shicun, president of the National Institute of South China Sea Studies, a government think tank.

"The possibility of a military incident or an accidental shot fired is rising," Mr. Wu said.

"If a crisis were to erupt, the repercussions on bilateral relations would be catastrophic."

Mr. Wu spoke at the presentation of a report by his institute on the U.S. military presence in the region.

The report said the U.S. has deployed 3,75,000 soldiers and 60% of its warships in the Indo-Pacific region. Three US aircraft carriers have been sent to the region.

During former President Barack Obama's eight years in office, the U.S. Navy conducted four freedom of navigation operations while there have been 22 of them under President Trump, Mr. Wu said.

The two militaries "Should step up communication" in order "to prevent strategic misunderstanding and miscalculation", according to the report.

High-level military meetings should resume, a direct phone line should be opened and joint naval manoeuvres should be done, it says.

The report says China does not regard the United States as a potential rival or "envisage a new cold or hot war with the U.S."

The document warns that "deteriorating military relations would substantially increase the possibility of a dangerous incident, a conflict or even a crisis."

'Paris deal was a charade that gave leeway to India, China'

In his book, Bolton plays down the 2019 India-Pak. crisis

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Former U.S. National Security Adviser (NSA) John Bolton's book, *The Room Where It Happened*, was officially released in the U.S. on Tuesday but much has been written about it in the press already. India finds a few mentions in the book, none of them positive, many neutral, and several as a country that has not fallen in line in the context of international treaties.

Former U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton. ▪ AP

For instance, Mr. Bolton calls the Paris Agreement a 'charade' that has given 'leeway' to countries like China and India, leaving them "essentially unfettered".

He talks about the threat the U.S. allies and others face from the INF (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) treaty because a number of countries such as China are not party to it.

"China, for example, had the greatest proportion of its large, growing, already-deployed missile capabilities in the INF-forbidden range, endangering U.S. allies like Japan and South Korea, as well as India and Russia itself, a fine irony," Mr. Bolton writes. He goes on to add India to the list of countries, along with Iran, North Korea and Pakistan whose nuclear arsenal was poised to expand. The U.S. quit the treaty in August last year, having announced its intention to leave six months prior to that.

On the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Mr. Bolton notes that "other nuclear powers" like India and China have neither ratified nor signed the treaty. "...Unsigning the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty should be a priority, so the United States can again conduct underground nuclear testing."

Six-month exemption

In November 2018, India was one of eight countries that got a six-month exemption from U.S. sanctions on the purchase of Iranian oil, after the U.S. decided to unilaterally pull out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), an international treaty signed deal during the Obama years that sought to limit Iran's nuclear programme. Mr. Trump, "while oscillating on any given day on any given issue," in Mr. Bolton's telling, was "vibrating increasingly" on the side of the scale that favoured ending the waivers after six months.

"In a phone call with Pompeo, Trump had not been sympathetic to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying, 'He'll be okay.' I recall a similar conversation reflecting Trump's indifference to notifying allies about waiver decisions," Mr. Bolton writes, adding that while India's arguments for continuing waivers was understandable, it was 'incomprehensible' to him [Mr. Bolton] that the U.S. bureaucrats would echo these so sympathetically. India had been concerned, Mr. Bolton writes, about finding new suppliers to replace Iran and worried that it would have to pay market prices – Iran had been charging below market prices to get rid of its oil.

On Afghanistan, Mr. Trump was complaining, as per Mr. Bolton, about how the U.S. was spending all these resources and that it was time to withdraw. "We'll never get out. This was done by a stupid person named George Bush," he told me.

"India builds a library and advertises it all over," Mr. Trump had allegedly said.

On the India-Pakistan crisis in early 2019 (the Balakot air strikes following the Pulwama terror attack), Mr. Bolton questions whether there was a real crisis at all. He talks about phone calls with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, then acting Secretary of Defence Patrick Shanahan and then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joseph Dunford:

"After hours of phone calls, the crisis passed, perhaps because, in substance, there never really had been one. But when two nuclear powers spin up their military capabilities, it is best not to ignore it. No one else cared at the time, but the point was clear to me: this was what happened when people didn't take nuclear proliferation from the likes of Iran and North Korea seriously."

Pandemic 'accelerating' as cases top 9 million

Greater threat is not the virus, but the lack of global solidarity and leadership, says WHO chief

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

Global coronavirus infections topped nine million as the World Health Organization (WHO) warned the pandemic was accelerating.

Europe has steadily eased its travel lockdowns in recent weeks, and France on Monday took its biggest step back to normality by allowing millions of children to return to school.

But many parts of the world, including Latin America and South Asia, are only beginning to feel the full force of the pandemic, while other regions are being hit with second waves.

"The pandemic is still accelerating," the WHO's director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual health forum organised in the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Tedros said the greatest threat was not the virus itself, which has now killed over 470,000 people, but "the lack of global solidarity and global leadership."

"We cannot defeat this pandemic with a divided world," he said. "The politicisation of the pandemic has exacerbated it."

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro is one of the leaders to have repeatedly played down the threat, comparing the virus to a "little flu" and arguing the economic impact of shutdowns is worse than the virus itself.

Tedros Adhanom

More than 50,000 people have been confirmed to have died from the virus in Brazil, with the true number believed to be far higher.

Brazil's official death toll is second only to the U.S., which has recorded 120,000 fatalities, and President Donald Trump's handling of the crisis has been widely criticised as erratic and chaotic.

Mr. Trump on Monday said the American toll could surpass 1,50,000, as two more members of his team that helped organise a controversial weekend rally for him in Oklahoma tested positive.

Mexico, Peru, Chile and Argentina are also coping with crises – Mexico City being forced to delay plans for a broad reopening of the economy as the country's death toll raced past 20,000.

With a vaccine still far away, the WHO has called for a rapid increase in production of the steroid dexamethasone, which has been shown to have life-saving potential.

French celebrations

Thousands of French people danced and partied in the streets well into Monday for an annual music festival, in the first big blowout since the lockdown. Many felt the authorities were too lax.

"This is not what a gradual end to the lockdown looks like," said Dr. Gilbert Deray.

"I understand that the Festival of Music is something of a liberation, but did we really have to have it this year?"

Only 1,000 pilgrims can attend Haj

It is limited to devotees below 65 and those without any chronic illnesses

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia on Tuesday said only around 1,000 pilgrims of various nationalities already in the kingdom will be allowed to perform a dramatically scaled-down Haj, as it battles a coronavirus surge.

The decision to exclude pilgrims outside Saudi Arabia, a first in the Kingdom's modern history, sparked disappointment among Muslims worldwide.

Devotion and safety: Worshippers praying at the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, in Mecca. ▪ AFP

The reduced number is a far cry from the 2.5 million who attended the five-day ritual last year and it remains unclear what the selection process will be for this year's Haj, scheduled for the end of July.

"The number of pilgrims will be around 1,000, maybe less, maybe a little more," Haj Minister Mohammad Benten told reporters in Riyadh.

"The number won't be in tens or hundreds of thousands" this year, he added.

The pilgrimage will be limited to those below 65 years of age and with no chronic illnesses, Health Minister Tawfiq al-Rabiah said.

The pilgrims will be tested for COVID-19 before arriving in the holy city of Mecca and will be required to quarantine at home after the ritual, Mr. Rabiah added.

After Tulsa, Trump heads to virus hotspot Arizona

Low turnout at Tulsa sharpens the focus on his future rallies

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Regrouping after a humbling weekend rally, President Donald Trump faces another test of his ability to draw a crowd during a pandemic Tuesday as he visits Arizona and tries to remind voters of one of his key 2016 campaign promises.

Mr. Trump's weekend rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was meant to be a sign of the nation's reopening and a show of political force but instead generated thousands of empty seats and questions about the President's campaign leadership and his case for another term. The low turnout has sharpened the focus on Mr. Trump's visit to Arizona, which doubles as both a 2020 battleground state and a surging coronavirus hot spot.

First, the President will travel to Yuma to mark the construction of more than 322 km of wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, an issue that he built his campaign on four years ago. Later, he will address a group of young Republicans.

Throughout the trip, the COVID-19 pandemic will shadow Mr. Trump. The Democratic Mayor of Phoenix raised safety concerns.

"Everyone attending tomorrow's event, particularly any elected official, should set an example to residents by wearing a mask," said Mayor Kate Gallego. "This includes the President."

British police to further quiz terror suspect

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

British counter-terrorism police have been given until June 27 to question a suspect in an attack which saw three people stabbed to death in a park, officers said.

A 25-year-old man, identified as Libyan Khairi Saadallah, was arrested near the scene of Saturday's attack in Reading, west of London.

Detective Chief Superintendent Kath Barnes said the investigation into the attack was "continuing".

ELSEWHERE

Riyadh says it destroyed Yemen rebel drones

DUBAI

Saudi Arabia said on Tuesday that it destroyed ballistic missiles and bomb-laden drones launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels. The Houthis claimed they targeted the headquarters of Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry, the King Salman air base and an intelligence building in the capital, along with other military buildings in the regions of Najran and Jizan in the kingdom's south. AP

U.S. seeks to widen nuclear deal with Russia

VIENNA

The U.S. wants to broaden its nuclear arms control pact with Russia to include all their atomic weapons, a U.S. envoy said on Tuesday after talks with Moscow on a new accord. U.S. special presidential envoy Marshall Billingslea urged China to join the talks on replacing the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), which expires in February. REUTERS

Anti-racism protests turn spotlight on icons of U.S. history

Initial anger was directed at statues of Confederate generals

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

As the wave of anti-racism protests rocking the U.S. brings down monuments to figures linked to the country's history of slavery, the spotlight is shifting to historic characters long considered untouchable.

Although protesters initially focused on removing statues of Confederate generals, the movement has begun to turn its focus to icons of U.S. history, including the nation's founders Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, and President Theodore Roosevelt.

The death of George Floyd, a black man, in Minneapolis police custody on May 25 has sparked debate around statues and monuments honouring people central to the U.S.' slave system, some of which have been pulled down or vandalised.

The ongoing protests are "a battle over the narrative of American history in the realm of statues," Carolyn Gallaher, a professor at American University in Washington, told AFP.

American history: Protesters trying to topple the statue of former President Andrew Jackson in Washington ▪ REUTERS

"In the South, people decided to venerate confederates. Protesters are saying, 'No more.'"

In Virginia, where some of the first English colonies were established before becoming the heart of American slave country, protesters have called for the removal of a statue of General Robert E Lee, the leader of the Confederate army. .

In Washington, a statue of Confederate general Albert Pike was torn down last week.

Increasingly, other figures who hold large places in American history are also not safe, and on Monday evening a crowd tried to topple the statue of Andrew Jackson, the seventh President, in Lafayette Park, close to the White House.

President Donald Trump has defended the Confederate monuments and said that removing them would destroy U.S. history and culture.

DR.BABU JAGJIVAN RAM LEATHER INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.,
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Lidkar Bhavan, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasantha Nagar, Bangalore – 560052.
Phone No: 080-22288895/22288897 e-mail: lidkar2018@gmail.com

Ref no: Lidkar/Devt-Tech/E-Tender/2020-21 Date: 19-06-2020

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION

Dr.BABU JAGJIVAN RAM LEATHER INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Ltd., (LIDKAR) invites Tenders from Manufactures / Fabricators/ Dealers for supply of Footwear & Leather Goods maker Toolkit, Flat Bed single needle heavy duty sewing machines, Modern Kiosk and Raw materials as per the terms and conditions laid down in the Tender Document. Tenders are floated through e-procurement and Tenderers shall submit the Tenders through e-procurement only. For necessary details visit the Website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/** help line No.**080-25501216 / 1227.**

Sl No	Particalurs	FW & LG MAKER TOOLKIT	LEATHER STITCHING MACHINE WITH MOTOR	RAW MATERIAL	MODERN KIOSK
1.	Tender Reference No and date	Lidkar/Tech/ 2020-21/273 Dated: 19-06-2020	Short term e-Tender notification no: Lidkar/Tech/2020-21/ 272, Dated: 19-06-2020	Tender Notification No: Lidkar/Tech/2020-21/ 271, Dated: 19-06-2020	Lidkar/Devt/2020-21 /270 Dated: 19-06-2020
2.	Last date & Time for submission of Tender	20-07-2020 at 14:00 hrs	20-07-2020 at 14:00 hrs	20-07-2020 at 14:00 hrs	20-07-2020 at 14:00 hrs
3.	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid	21-07-2020 at 16:45 hrs	21-07-2020 at 16:30 hrs	21-07-2020 at 16:00 hrs.	21-07-2020 at 16:15 hrs
4.	Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated to Technically qualified bidders			

Interested eligible bidders registered in e-procurement portal can download the bid documents by visiting the website **http://e-proc.karnataka.gov.in.** Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with e-procurement portal.

Sd/-
General Manager & Tender Publishing Authority

"Grand Discount sale. 20% to 50% Discount on Genuine leather products at 2nd Floor Lidkar Bhavan."

LIDKAR
Made for Life

MARKET WATCH

	23-06-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	35,430	1.49
US Dollar	75.66	-0.49
Gold	48,931	0.25
Brent oil	43.52	2.81

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	355.65	6.05
Asian Paints	1683.90	31.75
Axis Bank	443.65	13.50
Bajaj Auto	2862.15	6.40
Bajaj Finserv	6319.65	136.10
Bajaj Finance	3025.50	185.20
Bharti Airtel	578.80	-2.25
BPCL	392.00	6.85
Britannia Ind	3467.05	45.85
Cipla	659.80	3.85
Coal India	143.85	0.20
Dr Reddys Lab	4108.85	76.00
Eicher Motors	17891.15	302.20
GAIL (India)	99.25	0.95
Grasim Ind	622.35	4.75
HCL Tech	580.25	10.65
HDFC	1838.10	18.70
HDFC Bank	1042.30	13.55
Hero MotoCorp	2418.85	6.25
Hindalco	158.35	8.25
Hind Unilever	2155.95	55.15
ICICI Bank	376.15	8.60
IndusInd Bank	520.40	30.50
Bharti Infratel	232.35	9.50
Infosys	720.65	16.95
Indian OilCorp	89.35	1.30
ITC	185.85	0.85
JSW Steel	201.65	3.70
Kotak Bank	1389.90	34.55
L&T	967.60	60.15
M&M	516.40	17.65
Maruti Suzuki	5886.50	-9.50
Nestle India Ltd.	16548.45	407.65
NTPC	100.75	5.45
ONGC	85.65	0.80
PowerGrid Corp	187.45	8.85
Reliance Ind	1720.90	-25.25
State Bank	192.45	4.75
Shree Cement	22756.25	738.65
Sun Pharma	500.45	7.25
Tata Motors	104.40	1.75
Tata Steel	332.00	6.30
TCS	2035.30	7.35
Tech Mahindra	558.80	10.30
Titan	999.25	19.75
UltraTech Cement	3942.80	117.55
UPL	463.10	16.90
Vedanta	110.00	-0.05
Wipro	220.60	2.55
Zee Entertainment	181.95	4.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 23

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	75.45	75.77
Euro	85.16	85.53
British Pound	93.91	94.32
Japanese Yen (100)	70.43	70.76
Chinese Yuan	10.67	10.72
Swiss Franc	79.81	80.15
Singapore Dollar	54.18	54.42
Canadian Dollar	55.77	56.01
Malaysian Ringitt	17.64	17.72
Australian Dollar	52.23	52.46

Source:Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

'L&T committed to achieve self-reliance'

MUMBAI

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) is committed to achieving self-reliance for the domestic industry by creating a strong and feasible 'Make in India' ecosystem. S. N. Subrahmanyan, CEO & MD, L&T, said: "we firmly stand with the policy of manufacturing best-in-class products locally through Make in India."

Govt. mulls customs levy on solar equipment

NEW DELHI

The government is considering levying a basic customs duty (BCD) of about 20% on solar energy equipment to give an edge to domestic manufacturers and discourage imports, especially from China. However, solar energy developers say it will be counterproductive in view of India's ambitious target of achieving 100 GW of solar energy by 2022. PTI

'Prompt policy steps boosted economy'

NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday cited "green shoots" of recovery in agriculture, manufacturing and services' sectors, and said the prompt policy measures undertaken by the government and the RBI have helped reinvigorate the economy with a minimal damage. "The government and the RBI have taken prompt policy measures in a calibrated manner to reinvigorate the economy at the earliest with a minimal damage," it said. PTI

Titan Europe to pare stake in Wheels India

CHENNAI

Titan Europe Ltd., the foreign promoter of Wheels India Ltd., has decided to cut its stake by up to 5.09% in the auto ancillary firm. In a regulatory filing, Indian promoter Sundaram Finance Holdings Ltd. (SFHL) said it planned to buy up to 5.09% stake of Wheels India from Titan Europe. The price at which the shares are proposed to be acquired will be in accordance with applicable block/bulk deal and other relevant regulations, SFHL said.

SEBI makes raising funds easier for stressed companies

Regulator to relax pricing methodology for preferential issues by listed firms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has relaxed the norms for preferential allotment for companies that have stressed assets, thereby making it easier for such entities to raise funds.

"SEBI has decided to relax the pricing methodology for preferential issues by listed companies having stressed assets and exempt allottees of preferential issues from open offer obligations in such cases, with immediate effect," the regulator said in a release on Tuesday.

The capital markets regulator said listed entities with stressed assets can make preferential allotment at a price that is "not less than the average of the weekly high and low of the volume weighted average prices of the related equity shares during the two weeks preceding the relevant date."

A preferential issue, however, cannot be made to entities that are part of the promoter group. ▪ PAUL NORONHA

Further, the watchdog has exempted allottees in such issuances from having to make an open offer even if the quantum of acquisition triggers an open offer or there is a change in control in terms of Takeover Regulations.

A company would be eligible to be called stressed if it has defaulted on its payment obligations for more than 90 days or if the credit rating agencies have downgraded its securities to 'D'.

An entity, which has an inter-creditor agreement in terms of Reserve Bank of India (Prudential Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets) Directions 2019, will also be identified as stressed.

SEBI also included certain checks to ensure the relaxations are not misused. The preferential issue cannot be made to entities that are part of the promoter group or those that have been identified as undischarged insolvent, wilful defaulter or fugitive economic offender.

The resolution for such a preferential allotment and the exemption from an open offer will have to be passed by the majority of minority shareholders and the proposed end-use of proceeds of such preferential issue will have to be disclosed.

'Not for loan repayment'

Also, the proceeds cannot be used for repayment of any loans taken from the promoter group/ or group companies.

A three-year lock-in will also be applicable on the shares allotted in such a preferential allotment.

Money supply surge signals uncertainty amid pandemic

People hoarding cash, parking money in deposits: analysts

REUTERS
MUMBAI

Heightened uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a surge in currency in circulation as people hoard cash or park money in accessible deposits to safeguard themselves against salary cuts or job losses.

According to RBI data, M3 money supply rose 6.7% in the first five months compared with the same period last year, the highest growth in seven years.

Currency in circulation, which measures money with the public and in banks, has also surged.

A rise in money supply usually is seen as a leading indicator of growth in consumption and business investments, but the rise this time is unlikely to bolster either, analysts said.

"We suspect that the recent increase reflects higher

cash withdrawals by depositors to meet needs during the lockdown period, until normalcy returns," said Radhika Rao, an economist at DBS Bank.

Gross capital formation, or total investments toward fixed capital, fell 7% in the March quarter, a seven-year low, and analysts expect a further deterioration. Lenders too are unwilling to take risks as slowing discretionary spending slows demand for manufactured and industrial goods.

"Risk-averse individuals are putting money in bank deposits, given the high and rising uncertainty, while on the other hand risk-averse lenders are not lending to those who need it," said Kunal Kumar Kundu, India economist at Societe Generale.

However, growth in currency notes held by public was much higher than the deposits made in banks.

Since the end of March, currency held by the public rose 8.2% compared with a 4.1% increase in term deposits, the data showed. Savings and current account deposits fell 8% due to higher withdrawals.

"At the margin, people have curtailed their discretionary spending as they're not sure of their permanent income," said Rupa Rege Nitsure, chief economist at L&T Financial Holdings. "There is still heightened uncertainty about the duration of pandemic."

Loans taken not personal: Anil Ambani

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

Anil Ambani, chairman of the Reliance Group, tried to ward off shareholders' concerns regarding legal proceedings initiated against him by Chinese banks in London and State Bank of India in Mumbai.

He was addressing Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure shareholders during the online annual general meeting.

The loan, in respect of which the proceedings had been initiated, was not any personal borrowing but a corporate loan availed of by Reliance Communications in 2012 from a consortium of three Chinese banks for global refinancing, he said.

On proceedings initiated by the SBI, he said this arose from a guarantee given for a loan availed by Reliance Communications and Reliance Infratel in 2016 to repay the debts of Chinese and Indian banks.

'H-1B curbs misguided, harmful'

Visa move may worsen U.S. economic pain, warns Nasscom

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The move by the U.S. to restrict non-immigrant visas, including the H-1B, until the end of 2020, is "misguided and harmful to the U.S. economy," Indian software industry body Nasscom said.

Noting that virtually every segment of the American economy, including manufacturing and medicine, employ skilled workers from other countries for innovation and productivity, Nasscom urged the U.S. administration to shorten the duration of curbs to 90 days.

"Lengthening these burdensome restrictions on U.S. companies that are trying to recover from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic will only serve to harm our economy," it said.

It added with very few exceptions, Indian nationals and others, who are granted new H-1Bs or L-1s as well as other visa types after June 23, will not be allowed to enter the United States until the proclamation expires.

"American workers are facing greater challenges than they have in years, but that does not mean that talent shortages do not continue to exist," Nasscom said, pointing out that despite national unemployment trends across the economy, the National Foundation for American Progress found that the unemployment rate for computer professionals actually dropped from 3% in January 2020 to 2.8% in April 2020.

The Confederation of Indian Industry expressed disappointment with the order, stating businesses across the U.S. rely on temporary visas to supplemen local hiring efforts and enable highly-skilled and talented professionals from across the world to enhance U.S.' competitiveness globally.

Mildly negative

As per research agency ICRA, the move will be "mildly negative" for the Indian IT services sector considering their high dependence on such visas.

Currently, Indian IT Services is the major beneficiary of the H-1B visa programme. USCIS issued a total of 3,88,403 H-1B visas during FY2019, ICRA said.

Nasscom said without their continued contributions to the U.S. economy, the economic pain would worsen, industry would slow and the timeline for a treatment and cure of COVID-19 would lengthen.

"Moreover, the people who come to U.S on H-1B and L-1 visas pay taxes and contribute to their communities and to local economies in myriad other ways as well," it said.

Trading gains help BoB post ₹507-cr. profit in Q4

CASA ratio improves for merged entity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Bank of Baroda (BoB) reported a profit of ₹507 crore for the January-March quarter on the back of healthy trading gains compared with the ₹991 crore loss in the year-earlier period.

The numbers are not exactly comparable as the lender merged with Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank in April 2019. Trading profit in the fourth quarter of FY20 was ₹875 crore (₹502 crore). Fresh slippages for the quarter stood at ₹3,050 crore. Bad loan provisions stood at ₹3,190 crore (₹5,550 crore).

Asset quality improved sequentially with gross NPAs declining to ₹69,381 crore as on March 31, 2020 (9.4% of gross advances) compared with the ₹73,140 crore (10.43%) as on December 31, 2019. Net NPA ratio was 3.13% as on March 31, 2020, down from the 4.05% as on December 31, 2019.

Provision coverage ratio

improved significantly to 81.33% compared with 77.77% as on December 31, 2019.

"The amalgamation was designed to ensure that the complementarity with the three banks are fully leveraged," said Sanjiv Chadha, MD & CEO, BoB.

"The improvement in the CASA ratio is one of the biggest benefits which has come. Vijaya Bank was largely funded by wholesale deposits with CASA at 25%. For BoB, it was 39%. When we began the year for the combined entity, it was 37%. We have been able to improve it by 180 bps," he said.

Indian Bank Q4 loss widens on provisions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Public sector lender Indian Bank's standalone loss for the fourth quarter ended March 2020 widened to ₹217.74 crore from the ₹189.77 crore in the year-earlier period following higher provisioning.

During the period under review, the bank's provisions and contingencies rose to ₹1,921 crore from ₹1,435 crore, said the bank.

Total income rose 14% to ₹6,334 crore. Net interest income also increased 14% to ₹2,003 crore. Net interest margin stood at 2.96%. Non-performing loan provision coverage ratio was 73.05% (65.72%).

Gross non-performing assets declined to 6.87% from 7.11% while net NPAs contracted 62 basis points to 3.13%.

Recovery from bad debts improved by 65%. The bank reported a total business of ₹4,66,116 crore with a YoY growth of 8%.

'₹3.3 lakh crore MSME funds stuck'

Large corporates holding up receivables: Brickwork Ratings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Close to ₹3.3 lakh crore of MSME funds are stuck with strong large corporates in the form of receivables, Brickwork Ratings said in a study.

This was because of their low bargaining power with large corporates to have payment released for materials supplied or services provided, according to the study.

Stating that the liquidity challenges faced by MSMEs in the past two years had aggravated in the first quarter of the current fiscal year due to the COVID-19 impact, Brickwork said apart from the money stuck with corporates, MSMEs had been impacted by the lack of a funding line from the banking system. However, it said access to funding from the organised banking sector had eased owing to the announcement of the ₹3 lakh crore collateral-free loans in the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan package.

Liquidity stretched

Despite this, the liquidity of MSMEs continues to be stretched, given the long credit period extracted from MSMEs by large corporates, many of which have sufficient liquidity of their own, it said. Rajat Bahl, chief ratings officer, Brickwork Ratings, said, "Even if 50% of the funds held up by strong large corporates with high creditor days are released, it will shore up the liquidity for the MSME sector by close to ₹1.6 lakh crore and significantly reduce their liquidity pressure and working capital burden." The study is based on the data analysis of the top 1,000 companies in terms of market capitalisation and focused on companies that have negative or low working capital requirement, albeit high creditor days. While some of these corporates had weak liquidity and credit profiles, others had strong credit profiles and liquidity, it said.

Banks sanction ₹79,000 cr. to MSMEs, others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Banks have sanctioned loans of over ₹79,000 crore till June 20 to 19 lakh MSMEs and other businesses, of which ₹35,000 crore had already been disbursed, the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

As part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package, the government had last month announced its plan for ₹3 lakh crore as additional credit to MSMEs and small businesses.

The top lenders under the scheme are SBI, HDFC Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank.

Federal Bank to raise up to ₹12,000 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Federal Bank on Tuesday said it planned to raise up to ₹12,000 crore, a majority of which is targeted to come through borrowing instruments.

The board of directors, in its meeting on June 19, 2020, cleared the proposals to raise up to ₹8,000 crore through various debt instruments in Indian or foreign currency and ₹4,000 crore through a mix of debt and issue of equity shares, the Kerala-based lender said in a regulatory filing.

Insurers can offer short-term COVID-19 health cover: IRDAI

Such policies will be for a maximum term of 11 months

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Short-term health insurance cover specifically for COVID-19 may soon be available, with the insurance regulator on Tuesday issuing guidelines permitting insurers to offer such policies.

All life, general and health insurers are allowed to offer COVID-19 specific short-term health insurance policies. Such policies will be for a minimum term of three months and a maximum term of 11 months, according to the IRDAI guidelines.

IRDAI general manager (Health) D.V.S. Ramesh said short-term health insurance policies providing coverage specific to COVID-19 disease is the need of the hour. The objective is to make available insurance to various sections of people during the pandemic. The guidelines, which will remain valid for issue of the policies till March 31, 2021, unless extended further, permit issue of short-term policies both as individual or group products. No separate add-ons will be permitted. Optional covers that enhance the health insurance coverage are allowed to be offered for the same policy duration.

Advising insurers to devise inclusive short-term health insurance products, IRDAI said where waiting period is a part of the product, it should not be more than 15 days. In other words, a claim can be made after 15 days of the policy issue date.

The guidelines follow IRDAI's communication in March asking insurers to design products covering costs of treatment for COVID-19.

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU BusinessLine
KNOWLEDGE SERIES
WEBINAR
Will banks see a second wave of NPAs?

Shyam Srinivasan
Managing Director & CEO, Federal Bank
V. P. Nandakumar
Managing Director & CEO, Manappuram Finance Ltd.,
Krishnan Sitaraman
Senior Director - Financial Sector & Structured Finance Ratings CRISIL
Surabhi
Deputy Editor, The Hindu BusinessLine (Moderator)

Friday, 26th June 2020 @ 4 pm

To register visit
https://bit.ly/2V7pUFw
or
Scan the QR code

Djokovic tests positive for COVID-19

World No. 1 is the most high-profile casualty at the controversy-ridden Adria Tour

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BELGRADE

Novak Djokovic tested positive for the coronavirus on Tuesday after taking part in a tennis exhibition series – the Adria Tour– he organised in Serbia and Croatia.

The World No. 1 is the fourth player to test positive for the virus after first playing in Belgrade and then again last weekend in Zadar, Croatia. His wife also tested positive.

"The moment we arrived in Belgrade we went to be tested. My result is positive, just as Jelena's, while the results of our children are negative," Djokovic said in a statement.

Criticism

Djokovic has been criticised for organising the tournament and bringing in players from other countries amid the pandemic. There were no social distancing measures observed at the matches in both Serbia and Croatia.

Earlier in the day, Viktor Troicki had said he and his pregnant wife had both been diagnosed with the virus. Grigor Dimitrov, a three-time Grand Slam semifinalist from Bulgaria, on Sunday and Borna Coric, on Monday, had also tested positive.

The Serb defended the exhibition series. "Everything we did in the past month, we did with a pure heart and sincere intentions," Djokovic said. "Our tournament was meant to unite and share a message of solidarity and compassion throughout the region."

He apologised to anyone who had been infected as a result of the series.

Suffering the consequences: Novak Djokovic and wife Jelena, who has also tested positive, seen at one of the matches of the exhibition series he organised. ▪AP

Timeline of events

- **May 26:** World No. 1 Novak Djokovic announces the Adria Tour, across five locations in the Balkans, with fellow top players Grigor Dimitrov, Alexander Zverev, Borna Coric and Marin Cilic as invitees
- **June 13:** At the first leg in Belgrade (June 13-14), Djokovic is severely criticised for allowing thousands of fans to congregate with scant regard for distancing norms and without wearing masks
- **June 14:** Djokovic defends himself saying the Tour was following "Serbian government regulations" and since Serbia has "better numbers," it's very difficult to think of "international standards"
- **June 16:** Videos emerge of Djokovic, Zverev and Dimitrov dancing at a packed party hall in Belgrade
- **June 21:** Tour moves from Belgrade to Zadar and Dimitrov announces that he has tested positive for COVID-19 after returning to his base in Monaco. "I am so sorry for any harm I might have caused," he says
- The final of the Zadar leg, between Djokovic and Andrey Rublev, is cancelled
- **June 22:** Coric announces that he has tested positive too. Zverev and Cilic say they tested negative. Zverev apologises to "anyone that he has potentially put at risk by playing this tour"
- **June 23:** Djokovic tests positive on his arrival in Belgrade

Compiled by N. Sudarshan

Prannoy apologises to BAI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Shuttler H.S. Prannoy, who was critical of the Badminton Association of India when his name was not recommended for the Arjuna Award recently, submitted an unconditional apology to the BAI on Tuesday.

In response to the show-cause letter, Prannoy apologised for the remarks he made about the country, federation and any other person he may have hurt with his statement.

BAI general secretary Ajay Singhania said BAI has received the letter from Prannoy while president Himanta Biswa Sarma said the apology has been accepted.

"It was unfortunate to witness something like this. Going forward, we hope players reach out to the federation if they have any concern," a BAI official said.

IN BRIEF

Jaffer is Uttarakhand's Ranji head coach

MUMBAI

Former India opener and domestic stalwart Wasim Jaffer has been appointed head coach of the Uttarakhand Ranji team for the upcoming domestic season. Jaffer's contract is for a year. The highest run-getter in Ranji Trophy, Jaffer retired in March this year after playing for over two decades, primarily for Mumbai and Vidarbha. This will be his first stint as a head coach with a team. PTI

New Zealand tour of Bangladesh postponed

DHAKA

New Zealand's Test tour of Bangladesh has been postponed because of the pandemic, the Bangladesh Cricket Board said on Tuesday. New Zealand was due to play two Tests in Bangladesh in August-September as part of the ICC World Test Championship. Three Bangladesh cricketers, including former ODI captain Mashrafe Mortaza, have tested positive in recent days. PTI

Seven more Pakistan cricketers test positive

KARACHI

Seven more Pakistan players due to tour England in August have tested positive for coronavirus, the country's cricket board said Tuesday, taking the total to 10 since the first results were announced this week. Fakhar Zaman (*in pic*), Mohammad Rizwan, Wahab Riaz, Imran Khan, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Hasnain, Kashif Bhatti were all diagnosed with the virus. It comes after three teammates — Shadab Khan, Haris Rauf and Haider Ali — tested positive on Monday. Pakistan is due to play three Tests and three Twenty20 Internationals. AFP

FIBA 3x3 tournament moved out of India

BENGALURU

The FIBA 3x3 Olympic qualifying tournament, which was scheduled to be held in Bengaluru, will now take place in Graz (Austria) in May next year, FIBA announced on Tuesday. The decision meant that India lost its host spot, putting paid to its hopes of qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics. The spots occupied by the Indian teams were taken by Austria.

Former hoopster Raghunath passes away

BENGALURU

Former India and Karnataka basketball player K. Raghunath passed away here. He was 75. Raghunath represented the Indian All-Star team which toured Sri Lanka in 1962, and played for the State with distinction in the 1960s. Raghunath was also one of the founders of popular city-based club Beagles BC.

TV PICKS

Premier League: Star Sports 1, 3, SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 10.15 p.m.; Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.40 a.m. (Thursday).
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 11 p.m. & 1.10 a.m. (Thursday).

Harikrishna crashes out

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

P. Harikrishna exited from the $150,000 Chessable Masters with a final-round defeat to Alexander Grischuk on Monday.

Harikrishna, who started with the day with a loss against overnight leader Vladislav Artemiev, held Carlsen, Dubov and Nakamura before losing to Grischuk.

The Indian scored three points from 10 round-robin rounds to finish last in the six-player Group A.

The results: Group A: 10th round: Alexander Grischuk (Rus, 5) bt P. Harikrishna (3), Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 6) drew with Vladislav Artemiev (Rus, 6), Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 5) bt Daniil Dubov (Rus, 5), **Ninth:** Harikrishna drew with Nakamura, Dubov lost to Carlsen, Artemiev drew with Grischuk.

Eighth: Harikrishna drew with Dubov, Artemiev drew with Nakamura, Grischuk drew with Carlsen.

Seventh: Carlsen drew with Harikrishna, Dubov bt Artemiev, Nakamura drew with Grischuk.

Group B: Sixth round: Anish Giri (Ned, 3.5) drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 3.5), Ding Liren (Chn, 3) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 3), Teimour Radjabov (Aze, 2) bt Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 3).

'Reinvention key in post-pandemic phase'

Paes stresses on the importance of creative learning and time-management

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Olympic medallist and 18-time Grand Slam champion Leander Paes is a reservoir of knowledge.

Ever willing to share his rich experience, the 47-year-old, addressed as 'forever young' Paes by Radhakrishnan Sreenivasan in his chat show, addressed a few salient points.

Stressing that adapting to the new normal would be the way forward in the post-pandemic world, Leander said that he had reinvented himself multiple times in his three decades as a professional.

"We have to reinvent ourselves. Many have to look at other opportunities for a living. The world is going to be different. Maximising your skill-set is the call of the day," said Leander, about the stark realities of the impending future.

Conceding that he has had a "blessed career", Paes said that he was able to appreciate the time on hand in the current scenario and be with his family.

"No matter how good, a hotel is only four walls and a TV," he said, looking back at those 40 odd weeks in each year that he spent travelling.

In a sport that is so rich in competition across the world, Paes said that he had to maximise on his 'God-given talent', with hard work and a strong mental attitude.

Key elements: Creativity and learning skill will lead to progress, according to Leander Paes. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Channelising time

"I sleep only about five to six hours a day. I channelise the time to train myself to be better. So, when I compete with the others, I am physically and mentally sharper," said Paes.

Stating that he had a collection of nearly a thousand racquets that can trace his career graph, Paes said that he resumed playing tennis recently with a wooden racquet to take up the challenge of hitting the sweet spot within a small frame.

Learning from the best was his mantra, Paes said, and observed that "creativity and learning skill will move you to the forefront."

City routs Burnley

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Manchester City thrashed Burnley 5-0 to ensure Liverpool will not be able to clinch the Premier League title when it faces Crystal Palace on Wednesday.

Phil Foden and Riyad Mahrez scored twice, while David Silva grabbed one.

The results:
Premier League: Manchester City 5 (Foden 22, 63, Mahrez 43, 45+2, David Silva 51) bt Burnley 0.
Serie A: Bologna 0 lost to Juventus 2 (Cristiano Ronaldo 23-pen, Dybala 36); Fiorentina 1 (Pezzella 29) drew with Brescia 1 (Donnarumma 17-pen); Lecce 1 (Mancosu 54-pen) lost to AC Milan 4 (Castillejo 26, Bonaventura 55, Rebic 57, Leao 72).
LaLiga: Villarreal 2 (Alcacer 18, Pau Torres 45+4) drew with Sevilla 2 (Escudero 39, Munir 63).

Smart planning is very important, says Sindhu

'The lockdown also helped us learn new things in life'

BADMINTON

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

World champion P.V. Sindhu feels it is very important to plan the tournament schedule smartly whenever it is viable to resume.

"Yes, we all wanted to play in the 2020 Olympics which was just two months away when the COVID-19 crisis hit hard globally.

Will be ready

"But, then again, it is a question of one year and, hopefully, we will all be ready for the Games if everything goes fine," the 24-year-old Sindhu said during a live interaction on Instagram as part of the Olympic Day Workout on Tuesday which featured 21 top athletes from across the world.

"It is very important to plan smartly the tournament schedule once the action begins on the circuit. I know every individual has a different mindset. But the key will be to stay positive," she said.

"The next big event scheduled for us is Chinese Taipei in September this year if everything is fine. Yes, definitely waiting for that to happen," Sindhu said.

"These are hard times and it is equally important to keep oneself busy to stay positive," she said.

"This lockdown also helped us learn new things in life," she added.

"Life comes first so the emphasis right now is on safety and that is the reason I have been training at home to stay in touch with the game," she replied to a query.

"Fitness is obviously the priority during this phase and I am glad that I am in the right frame of mind," she added.

The Rio Olympics silver medallist also said that she is ready and keeps believing in herself.

"I have five medals in the Worlds – two bronze, two silver and a gold – but definitely eager to win some more. Working really hard and will give my best," she said with a big smile.

Sindhu also gave a glimpse of her fitness consciousness, saying, "I do yoga, meditation apart from the regular exercises to keep my body fit as they help us stay focused."

P.V. Sindhu. ▪FILE PHOTO

Checkmate Coronavirus programme is a big hit

2,762 tournaments played over the last one month on various portals

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

World chess governing body FIDE's novel initiative to take on the novel coronavirus has proved a roaring success.

The month-long Checkmate Coronavirus programme had aimed to have 1,500 online chess tournaments, but it exceeded the target by a long margin.

As many as 2,762 tournaments were played over the last one month on portals like *chess.com*, *chess24.com* and *lichess.org*.

There were 520,000 entries and 120,000 unique players from 140 countries. They played for 720 hours non-stop.

Those numbers are no doubt impressive. FIDE thinks it must be a World record.

It clearly has succeeded in taking the mind-sport to more people.

Top players take part

What made the programme special was that players of different levels took part. It was not just the beginners or those view chess as a hobby that competed as 20% of the world's Grandmasters and 10% of all the titled players played.

Among the male top stars were Ding Liren, Anish Giri, Wang Hao, Peter Svidler and David Navara. Four women who have been the World champions – Hou Yifan, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Antoaneta Stefanova and Tan Zhongyi – also competed.

The winners were aged between nine and 64 and they were from 37 different countries, including India. They would also get to play mini matches with Grandmasters and receive training.

Paine plays down the impact of crowds

AYAN ACHARYA
CHENNAI

Skipper Tim Paine has downplayed the impact of the crowd during Australia's home series against India later this year.

"I don't think it (no crowd) should affect anyone. Once you go out there, it very quickly narrows down to what's happening on the pitch," said Paine.

The Australian government had earlier announced that some venues will be able to host up to 10,000 spectators for sporting events from July. Paine, however, chose to focus on the controllables.

"Most players tend to forget the crowd once they're in the heat of the battle. So crowd or no crowd, it'll all boil down to performing and executing your skills better," added Paine.

Paine was also of the view that the outcome of the Test series against India will largely depend on how the Australian batsmen fare against a potent bowling attack.

"We certainly struggled against them last time. That said, they (India) played really well. I'm sure we've learnt a lot from playing against them last summer... we think we are a better team now than we were then."

Meanwhile, there has been a spike in coronavirus cases in Victoria and Paine said "all options are on the table" as far as the venue for the Boxing Day Test is concerned. It is traditionally held at the MCG.

Tim Paine. ▪GETTY IMAGES

The quiet champion who just kept playing

BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Can a player be called 'great' – that most misused term in sports – if he hasn't performed at the highest level? Or won the most important tournament in his sport? Does not having won Wimbledon make Ivan Lendl or Ken Rosewall lesser players, or are they 'great' regardless?

Barry Richards was a fabulous player, probably the best batsman of his time, whose Test career was restricted to four matches owing to South Africa's policy of apartheid which caused them to be banned from international cricket.

He finished with a Test average of 72.57, but is that enough for 'greatness' alongside his 28,000 runs in first class cricket (average 54.74)?

It takes a leap of faith to imagine that consistent performers at the domestic level would, given the opportunity, excel at the international level too.

National selectors have to make the leap all the time – sometimes they see in their mind's eye a successful career for a player despite a modest domestic record, and at other times they intuit that a statistically significant record in domestic matches is no guarantee of success at the highest level. Being human, they get it right sometimes, and mess it up at other times.

Had the late Rajinder Goel been born in any other country or even in India at another time, he might have qualified for the title of 'great'. He might have been – one can never be sure of these things that require a leap of faith – the finest spin bowler never to have played Test cricket.

In a warm and generous tribute, Bishan Bedi, the man who kept him out of the Test side, said that when he made his debut, Goel was the better bowler but Bedi himself got the lucky break. But Goel himself always conceded that Bedi was superior. There was another inflection point some eight years later when Bedi was dropped for the Bengaluru Test against Clive Lloyd's West Indies and Goel was in the squad.

Skipper Tiger Pataudi didn't insist that Goel play on that turner, a decision that might (leap of faith again!) have swung the game in India's favour. "Had Goel played," Bedi said later, "India would certainly have won the Test." It was difficult to shake off the feeling that Bedi was being protected by the powers that be. It was, said Dilip Doshi, a successor to Bedi, a cowardly decision. The point is not whether Goel would have finished with more wickets than Bedi's 266 or led India – but that he was not given the opportunity.

Unbelievable motivation

Amazingly, and that was the kind of person he was, Goel was less troubled by all this than most people who followed the game. It took unbelievable motivation to keep bowling over after over, day in and day out, year after year knowing that the big prize was not within grasp any more.

Goel, four years older than Bedi was still playing four years after the Test man had retired. On his Ranji debut, Goel played against Lala Amarnath, and in his final match dismissed Sanjay Manjrekar. There are a few generations who played in-between!

They were different types of bowlers (Goel flatter and quicker through the air) and different types of men (Goel diffident, agreeable, even deferential, words you never associated with Bedi!). Both men were given the C K Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award by the Board of Control for Cricket in India. Goel seemed almost embarrassed by the honour, but that evening at the ceremony you could see the pride in his eyes. It was validation for a player who never sought validation. He was happy he had taken more wickets in the national championship than anybody else.

Statistical quirk

It is a statistical quirk that only one of six batsmen with the highest aggregates in the national championship has played Test cricket while only one of the top six bowlers hasn't. Goel, that lone bowler, didn't dwell on this too much. He came, he bowled, he conquered. He wore out the batsman, he seldom bowled a loose ball.

He was a captain's delight, a foot soldier who made no demands, who was happy with the field he was given. No one had a harsh word for him, which in the competitive world of sport is an achievement in itself.

Was he a great bowler? Perhaps. That greatness might have existed in potential, but did not have the chance to assert itself over a career spanning 27 years. In the end, he came up against a better bowler and a future captain, understood his role and made his peace with that. There is a lesson here for the easily disappointed who complain about unfair treatment by selectors anywhere.

Director Joel Schumacher passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LOS ANGELES

Costume designer-turned director Joel Schumacher, known for helming films including "St Elmo's Fire", "Falling Down" as well as two "Batman" movies, has died after a year-long battle with cancer, his publicists said.

The native New Yorker passed away on Monday morning. He was 80, reported Deadline.

Schumacher started off as a costume designer for 1970s films such as Woody Allen directorials "Sleeper" and "Interiors", along with "Blume in Love", "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" and "The Last of Sheila".

He also was a production designer on the 1974 telefilm "Killer Bees".

Schumacher then turned writer in the late '70s and made his directorial debut in 1981 with sci-fi comedy "The Incredible Shrinking Woman".