



Remdesivir cleared for emergency use on COVID-19 patients  
page 9



Moody's rated Modi's handling of economy a step above junk: Rahul  
page 9



As protests continue in U.S., Trump threatens to deploy military  
page 12



Court rejects petitions against Gotabaya's gazette for snap polls  
page 12

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## NEARBY



### Cyclone to disrupt train, airline operations

MUMBAI  
In the wake of Cyclone Nisarga, several special trains reaching or leaving the city on Wednesday will be diverted or rescheduled. Trains that will be diverted include Tuesday's Ernakulam-Hazrat Nizamuddin special, Thiruvananthapuram Central-LTT special, and New Delhi-Thiruvananthapuram Central special. Wednesday's LTT-Thiruvananthapuram Central special is rescheduled to leave at 6 p.m. Flight operations are also likely to be affected, with Mumbai airport likely to limit arrivals and departures. Airport authorities convened a meeting with stakeholders to devise preventive measures to tackle potential adversities accompanied by the cyclone.

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 2

### 2,287 new cases in State, tally crosses 72,000

PUNE  
Maharashtra reported another spike of 2,287 COVID-19 cases on Tuesday to take the State's cumulative tally to 72,300. The total number of fatalities rose to 2,465 with 103 more deaths. Mumbai recorded 1,117 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, pushing its tally to 42,216. The city also recorded 49 fatalities, the third-highest jump in a day, taking its death toll to 1,368. State Health Department officials said of the total cases in Maharashtra, only 38,493 were active. As many as 1,225 patients were discharged on Tuesday, taking the total so far to 31,333. The State's recovery rate currently stands at 43.33%, they said.

REGION ▶ PAGE 2

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 11

## China made significant deployment: Rajnath

Minister says important dialogue scheduled for June 6

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday acknowledged that China had moved troops in "significant numbers" in the ongoing stand-off on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). There was an important dialogue between the two countries scheduled on June 6 to resolve the issue, he said.

Separately, sources said a dialogue was held on Tuesday at the Major General level.

"It is true that there have been differences on the border at this time. A significant number of Chinese troops have come in. India too has done what it should," Mr. Singh told CNN News18. "As of now, negotiations are going on at the military level. On June 6, there will be talks between senior military officers. I discussed about this with the Army chief today," he said.

Dialogue between mili-

**India will not infringe on anyone's sovereignty and at the same time, India will not let anyone infringe on its sovereignty**  
**RAJNATH SINGH**  
DEFENCE MINISTER

tary commanders had been going on daily, sources said, including at the level of Majors General on Tuesday too. No concrete resolution had been achieved, it had been learnt and the talks would continue, the sources said.

Mr. Singh observed that China should also think seriously in this regard so that the issue was resolved completely. Asked to comment on reports of Chinese troops moving inside Indian territory, he said without getting into specifics, "India will not

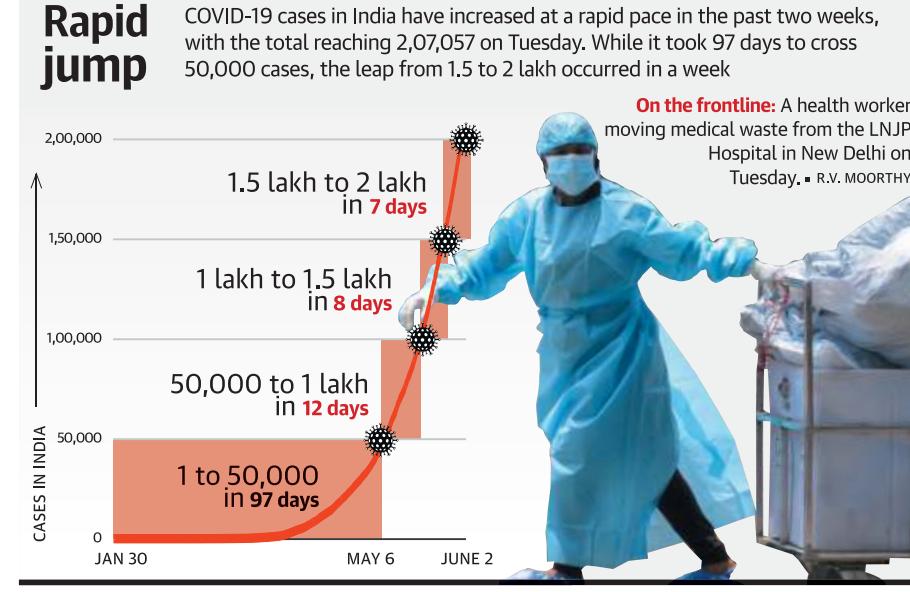
infringe on anyone's sovereignty and at the same time, India will not let anyone infringe on its sovereignty."

On the differences in perception on the alignment of the LAC, he said there was something constantly going on between India and China regarding the border. "There will hardly be a year when there is no face-off on the border between both the Indian Army and the Chinese Army," he said. Sometimes there had been such tensions that firearms had been snatched, he noted.

For close to a month now, Indian and Chinese troops have been engaged in stand-offs at several locations along the LAC after Chinese troops moved into Indian territory at Pangong Tso, Galwan Nallah, Hot Springs in eastern Ladakh and Naku La in Sikkim.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8  
ECHOES OF 2013 ▶ PAGE 11

### Rapid jump



## Notices to four private hospitals for inadequate COVID-19 beds

Govt. to post officials on site to ensure 80% beds provided

### ALOK DESHPANDE JYOTI SHELAR MUMBAI

The State government has served show cause notices to four private hospitals – Bombay, Jaslok, Hinduja and Lilavati – for not providing adequate hospital beds to COVID-19 patients and flouting guidelines issued to tackle the pandemic, Health Minister Rajesh Tope said on Tuesday.

Mr. Tope made an impromptu visit to private hospitals on Monday night, following several complaints against them.

"The Maharashtra government has acquired 80% beds in private hospitals in

Mumbai and Maharashtra. In addition, the government is providing free healthcare through the Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya scheme. Despite reserving 80% beds, the government has come to know of instances where hospitals denied beds to patients claiming full capacity," the minister said.

Going beyond the notices, the State Cabinet has decided to appoint an official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation at every private hospital to ensure the plan to use 80% beds for patients works smoothly, an official said.

Mr. Tope said he observed that hospitals had not put up

dashboards showing the availability of beds and the rate chart. "This is a violation of government rules, especially during a pandemic," he said.

Dr. Sudhakar Shinde, chief executive officer of the State Health Assurance Society, who issued the notices, said they had paid surprise visits to the four hospitals and found that the number of operational beds was less than their actual capacity. "There may be other hospitals in the city that are flouting the norms as well. Our surprise visits will continue," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Trump invites Modi for G-7 summit

Leaders discuss tensions along LAC

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the next G-7 summit to be hosted by the U.S.

Both the leaders also discussed the current tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) near Ladakh and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"President Trump spoke about the U.S. Presidency of the Group of Seven, and conveyed his desire to expand the ambit of the grouping beyond the existing membership, to include other important countries including India. In this context he extended an invitation to Prime Minister Modi to attend the next G-7 Summit," said a government press release.

Sources here indicated that India is studying the gesture and will examine if the invite is aimed at making India a permanent part of the global high table at the G-7 or its redesigned shape as G-11.

In the next three years, India is expected to play a key role in global diplomatic arena because of its three-year term at the executive board of the World Health Organization which is a crucial responsibility because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Uneasy frontier robs Ladakh's herders of pastures

Flocks of prized Pashmina goats hit as the LAC conflict has cut off crucial feeding grounds



### PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

The Chinese Army's intrusion in Chumur and Demchok since January has left Ladakh's nomadic herding Changpa community cut off from large parts of summer pastures.

The People's Liberation Army has taken over 16 kanals (two acres) of cultivable land in Chumur and advanced around 15 km inside Demchok, taking over traditional grazing pastures and cultivable lowlands. This has

destabilised the movement of over 2,000 members of the nomadic community. In a cascading effect, this has resulted in a sharp rise in deaths of young Pashmina goats this year in the Korzok-Chumur belt of Changthang plateau in Ladakh.

"Over 16 kanals of cultivable land in Chumur's Chabiji pasture has been inaccessible since January this year due to the aggression and incursions of Chinese Army there, destabilising the annual seasonal migration of

our livestocks, including yaks and Pashmina goats (also known as Cashmere). Timely migration is essential for their survival," Gyurmet Dorjey, councillor from Korzok constituency bordering China, told *The Hindu* over the phone.

The much-valued wool from the Ladakh herds is essential for the prized Pashmina shawls woven in Kashmir and famous for their intricate hand work.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

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page 12

Court rejects petitions against Gotabaya's gazette for snap polls  
page 12



## Nisarga barrels towards Mumbai

Maximum City on red alert as cyclone set to make landfall near Alibaug

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI/ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra and Gujarat on Tuesday geared up for Cyclone Nisarga, which is expected to make landfall on Wednesday evening near Alibaug, south of Mumbai.

With the India Meteorological Department declaring a red alert in Mumbai for the first cyclone that has formed near the city on the Arabian Sea in a long time, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, in a televised address, advised people to remain indoors. All activity that was set to resume from Wednesday in the State would remain suspended for two more days, he said.

"Let us fight this challenge with the same fortitude and presence of mind that we showed with COVID-19," he said, urging people to keep their belongings secured and follow official news sources for cyclone updates.



At the ready: Rescue teams at Girgaum Chowpatty in Mumbai on Tuesday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

The Chief Minister, who spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and held a video-conference with Home Minister Amit Shah, said besides the State administration, the National Disaster

Response Force, Army, Navy and Air Force were on standby. Along with IMD's red alert, a storm surge warning for Mumbai was also issued.

"Storm surge of 1-2 metres above astronomical tide is very likely to inundate low-lying areas of Mumbai during the time of landfall," the warning read.

PATIENTS MOVED OUT ▶ PAGE 10  
MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 10

## 21 killed in Assam landslips

Incessant rain triggers disaster in the Barak Valley

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Twenty-one people were killed and seven injured in a series of landslips due to incessant rain in the Barak Valley of southern Assam early on Tuesday. Many of the victims died in their sleep.

The dead included 10 minors, the youngest being three years old, and four women. Eight were killed in Hailakandi, seven in Cachar and six in Karimganj, officials said. The landslips occurred almost simultaneously in eight locations across four revenue circles in the three districts that make up the valley.

"The affected areas are about a two hours' drive

from Silchar [district headquarters]. Seven of a nine-member family died there, while a woman from a nearby area was admitted to hospital in a serious condition. She is now stable," Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Keerthi Jali said, adding that the district administration had handed over a cheque for ₹28 lakh to the survivors of the seven deceased.

State Environment Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, who hails from the Valley, had earlier announced an ex gratia of ₹4 lakh for each of those killed. "This is a sad day for us," Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said.

Apart from shifting the injured, personnel of the Na-

tional Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force evacuated 11 people from vulnerable areas. Hailakandi's Additional Deputy Commissioner R.K. Dam said the houses of two families bore the brunt of the landslips at two locations in the district. Four of the dead were minors.

Till Monday, floods across 11 districts in Assam's Brahmaputra Valley had killed nine people. There was no casualty on Tuesday. Two people also drowned in Meghalaya in May. A landslide had killed three people – a woman and her two children – in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley district more than a week ago.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

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# All bases covered to tackle Cyclone Nisarga, says BMC

Civic chief asks officers to ensure that all COVID-19 Care Centres are stable; on alert for tree, wall collapses; CM warns of possible power cuts

TANVI DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), stretched to the limit battling the spread of COVID-19 in the city, is now gearing up to face Cyclone Nisarga.

BMC Commissioner I.S. Chahal held a meeting with assistant and deputy commissioners on Tuesday as the cyclone will be making a landfall on Wednesday.

**We are prepared: CM**  
Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday, in a televised address, said, "We can only pray that its intensity decreases by the time it reaches us. But we are prepared. We have contacted all fisherfolk in the State and are bringing them back home."

He also warned of possible power cuts. He said, "Keep your belongings secured. Store drinking water. Charge all appliances that run on battery. Pay attention to announcements on Doordarshan and Akashwani."

Mr. Chahal has ordered officers to ensure that all COVID-19 Care Centres (CCCs) are structurally stable. The BMC had created CCCs overnight to shift high-risk contacts or asymptomatic patients. However, after the BMC had to shift people out of the COVID-19 hospital at Bandra Kurla Complex, questions were raised about the structural stability of the jumbo facilities as well as other CCCs.

Ashok Khairnar, assistant municipal commissioner of H East ward, said, "Even when we rapidly took over buildings for CCCs, it was not done blindly. In fact, we kept the monsoon in mind and selected buildings that are in good condition. Since a few of them are lying unused, I will be using them to shift people from low-lying areas." Mr. Khairnar has created four disaster response teams in his ward and provided them with 10 personal protective equipment (PPE) kits each.

The BMC has also instructed construction contractors



**All-out effort:** Slum dwellers in Santacruz cover their rooftops with flex banners after the IMD issued a red alert in Mumbai and Thane in view of Cyclone Nisarga, on Tuesday. ■ AADESH CHODHARI

## Western Naval Command teams gear up

ADITYA ANAND  
MUMBAI

With Cyclone Nisarga brewing in the Arabian Sea, the Western Naval Command has put its teams on alert and mobilised adequate resources for flood relief, rescue and diving assistance in the event of heavy rainfall in urban and rural areas.

The Western Naval Command is coordinating with State governments on the western seaboard. It has loaded ships of the Western Fleet with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief bricks to provide relief to

coastal areas likely to receive heavy rain.

A spokesperson of the Navy said, "In Mumbai, the Maharashtra Naval Area will be on standby with five flood rescue teams and three diving teams throughout the monsoon. These teams are stationed at naval areas across the city to enable early response over a larger area. The teams are fully equipped and trained for rescue operations. Recce of flood-prone areas has been undertaken and necessary preparations are in place."

to secure all under-construction sites to avoid incidents of scaffolding or cranes collapsing. "We have been asked to ensure the stability of hoardings," said Prashant Sapkale, assistant municipal commissioner of K East ward.

The BMC has also appealed to people to carry tools such as hammers when they venture out in their cars on Wednesday to avoid getting stuck inside on flooded roads. Last year, two people died after they got locked in.

The BMC has kept officers on high alert through Tuesday night keeping in mind the collapse of trees, dilapidated structures and walls, flooding, short circuit or fire incidents. Guardian Minister for Mumbai, Aaditya Thackeray, who was present at the meeting, has asked officers to focus on parts of city that are prone to landslides, flooding and dilapidated buildings collapsing. He also sought provision of packaged food and water for migrants or

homeless people. Staffers shifting COVID-19 patients will be provided with PPEs.

"We have already started shifting people from landslide-prone or flood-prone areas," said Mr. Chahal. When told that most municipal hospital generators can run only for four to five hours, Mr. Chahal simply said, "We are prepared."

The Mumbai Fire Brigade has stationed 93 lifeguards and 150 flood rescue members at fire stations.

Similar arrangements have been made at Karwar Naval Area, Goa Naval Area, and Gujarat Daman and Diu Naval Area. Dornier aircraft and helicopters at Naval air stations at Mumbai, Goa and Porbandar are ready to ferry teams and rescue stranded personnel at short notice.

"Area and Station Commanders are in touch with State authorities, National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force to respond to a crisis in the shortest time," the spokesperson said.

## COVID-19 patients shifted from BKC to Worli

Each patient evaluated; X-ray, ECG done as per protocol designed at NSCI facility



**Swift action:** Patients from the COVID-19 facility in BKC being shifted to the NSCI Dome in Worli, on Tuesday. ■ VIJAY BATE

had 300 patients. "Our capacity is of 600. So, we opened another block where the patients coming in from MMRDA were accommodated. We also have a holding area where suspected patients awaiting test reports are kept. Some of the patients coming from the MMRDA were admitted to the holding area," said Dr. Warty. The process of shifting the patients went on till Tuesday night. The patients were also shifted in ambulances and BEST buses that had been converted into ambulances.

The facility had been built by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) to cater to non-critical COVID-19 patients and was handed over to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) last month. The 1,008 bed facility received its first set of patients on May 25.

### Indoor stadium

Manisha Mhaiskar, principal secretary on special deputation to the BMC, said around 250 patients were being shifted as a precautionary measure. "The NSCI facility

has the capacity to take more patients," she said. The MMRDA facility is a field hospital that has been built under a German Tent, while the NSCI facility is within a massive indoor stadium.

Gynaecologist Neeta Warty, working at the NSCI facility, said the patients were brought in buses. "Some of the patients were on oxygen

support which was stopped temporarily and it was immediately restarted as they reached the NSCI," said Dr. Warty, adding that each patient was evaluated, and their X-ray as well as ECG done as per the protocol designed in the NSCI facility.

**Another block**

On Tuesday, the NSCI facility

## Evacuations in Raigad

RAINA ASSAINAR  
NAVI MUMBAI

Raigad district authorities started evacuating residents from coastal areas after the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast landfall of Cyclone Nisarga in Alibaug on Wednesday afternoon, with expected wind speeds of 100 to 120 km per hour.

Teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and India Coast Guard have also been deployed. Alibaug, Uran, Murud and Shrivardhan – all shore-based talukas – are on high alert, while Pen, Panvel, Mhasala and Tala, which are creek-based, are on alert.

Raigad Collector Nidhi Chaudhary said, "Eight of the 15 talukas in Raigad dis-

trict could be affected. Of these, four could face a bigger brunt and we are securing those talukas. Till Monday, the forecast was of landfall at Harihareshwar, at Shrivardhan. This was changed to Alibaug on Tuesday. In the short time that we got, we have identified 25 villages in Alibaug, which are on the coastline and would be affected the most, and also identified the number of people who need to be evacuated."

Ms. Chaudhary said schools, temples, and anganwadis are being used as shelter homes. "COVID Care Centers, where 200 beds are lying empty, are being used. All village panchayats have been alerted and life guards deployed," she said.

## 'Overburdened' resident doctors at KEM vent ire

Post video about severe shortage of nurses, Class IV employees

JYOTI SHELAR  
MUMBAI

Resident doctors at the civic-run K.E.M. Hospital took to social media on Tuesday to highlight the severe shortage of Class IV workers and nurses. The doctors posted a video from a ward stating that there were 35 critical COVID-19 patients and not a single nurse or Class IV worker to assist them.

Class IV workers include ward boys, cleaners and labourers, among others. While some staff members have tested positive, others are off duty as they have comorbid conditions.

Sources said some staff members are also not reporting to work due to fear of the infection.

Resident doctors wrote on Twitter about the shortage, leaving doctors overburdened. In the video shot in ward No. 4 on Tuesday, a

resident doctor said they have not had staff nurses and Class IV workers for several days. "None of the patients have relatives with them, none of them have any means to go to the washroom... only three residents are working here. We are unable to manage 35 patients on our own," the resident doctor is heard saying.

"I am helpless right now... I have no one to help me. People are dying in front of my eyes and I can't let that happen. I am loading the drugs, I am intubating patients, I am doing all the work," said another resident doctor in the video.

The hospital's dean Dr. Hemant Deshmukh said the video was misleading as it was shot when the shift was changing. "All the staff of K.E.M. Hospital are working 24 hours a day in three shifts. The patient service is running uninterruptedly," said Dr. Deshmukh. Such videos can have a negative impact on staff working continuously, besides affecting the morale of patients and relatives, he said.

## Another policeman dies

19th COVID-19 death in Mumbai Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

was admitted on Thursday. "The ASI, who was attached to general department of Santacruz police station, died due to coronavirus infection on Tuesday," according to Santacruz police station Senior Inspector Shiram Koregaonkar.

The ASI was a resident of Dharavi-Koliwada, one of the containment zones.

## 2,287 new cases in State, tally crosses 72,000

Death toll nears 2,500; recovery rate stands at 43.33%; over 1,200 patients discharged

## Mumbai goes past 42,000 cases

Patients advanced in age, with co-morbidities recovering from virus: BMC



**Staying safe:** Residents of PNGP Colony undergo thermal screening, in Dharavi on Saturday. ■ VIJAY BATE

trolled diabetes, proper treatment and management of symptoms led to their recovery. "The healthcare professional received an injection of tocilizumab and recovered in eight days," said the official. Tocilizumab is an arthritis drug which has been repurposed for COVID-19 treatment. At Nair hospital, of the 120 patients who received the drug, 108 recovered.

Officials said nearly 500 critical patients were admitted to the hospital bet-

ween March and May. So far, the condition of 250 patients has improved and 110 have been discharged. Civic officials reiterated that all patients don't need hospitalisation. "Patients with mild symptoms and without co-morbidities can remain in home isolation," a BMC official said.

BMC's ward-wise break-up of cases issued on June 1 shows K East ward's (Andheri East) tally has leaped to 2,292 cases on May 31 to 2,402. Cases in M East ward (Deonar, Govandi)

rose to 2,047. The case growth rate in the city has dropped from 3.85% on Monday to 3.68% on Tuesday. The highest case growth rate has been observed in Dahisar (8.1%) and P North ward (6.9%), while E ward (Byculla) had the slowest growth rate at 2%. Dharavi reported 25 new cases on Tuesday, pushing its tally to 1,830. The area has reported 70 deaths so far.

**3 deaths in Navi Mumbai**

Navi Mumbai on Tuesday reported 93 new cases, taking its tally to 2,377 cases. Three fatalities were reported, taking the death toll to 78. Panvel reported 23 new cases on Tuesday, pushing its tally to 565. Four deaths were also recorded, taking its death toll to 26. Panvel Rural recorded three new cases – one each from Karanjade, Paliedev, Sukapur and Karanja-Surkhipada – taking its tally to 371. With 14 recoveries, the tally has now touched 282.

*(With additional inputs from Tanvi Deshpande and Raina Assainar)*

crease of 158 new cases to take its tally to 2,887. "Till date, of the 4,83,875 laboratory samples, 70,013 have reported positive with around 12,000 samples across the State tested on Tuesday," Dr. Awate said.

He said, 5,70,453 people across the State were in home quarantine, and 35,097 in institutional quarantine facilities.

There are 3,730 active containment zones in the State, said Dr. Awate.

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# Reliance Industries Limited

Reliance Industries Limited (the "Company" or the "Issuer") was originally incorporated as "Mynylon Limited" in the State of Karnataka, under the Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated May 8, 1973 issued by the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka, at Bangalore. Thereafter, our Company obtained the certificate of commencement of business on January 28, 1976. Subsequently, the name of our Company was changed to "Reliance Textile Industries Limited" and a fresh certificate of incorporation consequent on change of name dated March 11, 1977, was issued by the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka, at Bangalore. The name of our Company was further changed to "Reliance Industries Limited" and a fresh certificate of incorporation consequent on change of name dated June 27, 1985 was issued by the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra, at Mumbai. For details of changes in our name, see "History and Corporate Structure" on page 121 of the LOF.

**Registered and Corporate Office:** 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021, Maharashtra, India; **Contact Persons:** Shri K. Sethuraman, Group Company Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer, and Smt. Savithri Parekh, Joint Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, Tel: +91 (22) 3555 5000; Fax: +91 (22) 2204 2268; E-mail: investor.relations@ril.com; Website: www.ril.com; **Corporate Identity Number:** L17110MH1973PLC019786

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#### Facilities for Application in this Issue

##### (i) ASBA Facility

In accordance with Regulation 76 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, SEBI Rights Issue Circulars and ASBA Circulars, all Investors desiring to make an Application in this Issue are mandatorily required to use either the ASBA process or the optional mechanism instituted only for resident Investors in this Issue, i.e., R-WAP. Investors should carefully read the provisions applicable to such Applications before making their Application through ASBA or using the R-WAP. For details, see "Terms of the Issue - Procedure for Application through the ASBA Process" and "Terms of the Issue - Procedure for Application through the R-WAP" on page 285 of the LOF.

Please note that subject to SCBSs complying with the requirements of SEBI Circular CIR/CDF/DIL/13/2012 dated September 25, 2012, within the periods stipulated therein, Applications may be submitted at the Designated Branches of the SCBSs. Application through ASBA facility in electronic mode will only be available with such SCBSs who provide such facility. Further, in terms of the SEBI Circular CIR/CDF/DIL/13/2013 dated January 2, 2013, it is clarified that for making Applications by SCBSs on their own account using ASBA facility, each such SCBS should have a separate account in its own name with any other SEBI registered SCBSs. Such account shall be used solely for the purpose of making an Application in this Issue and clear demarcated funds should be available in such account for such an Application.

##### (ii) Registrar's Web-based Application Platform (R-WAP):

In accordance with SEBI circular SEBI/HO/CFD/DIL/2/CIR/P/2020/78 dated May 6, 2020, a separate web based application platform, i.e., the R-WAP facility (accessible at <https://rights.kfintech.com>), has been instituted for making an Application in this Issue by resident Investors. In accordance with the SEBI Rights Issue Circulars, R-WAP is only an additional option and not a replacement of the ASBA process. Further, R-WAP is only an additional option and not a replacement of the ASBA process. At the R-WAP, resident Investors can access and submit the online Application Form in electronic mode using the R-WAP and make online payment using their internet banking or UPI facility from their own bank account thereat.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY RESIDENT INVESTORS CAN SUBMIT AN APPLICATION USING THE R-WAP.**  
**R-WAP FACILITY WILL BE OPERATIONAL FROM THE ISSUE OPENING DATE. FOR RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE R-WAP PROCESS, SEE "RISK FACTORS - THE R-WAP PAYMENT MECHANISM FACILITY PROPOSED TO BE USED FOR THIS ISSUE MAY BE EXPOSED TO RISKS, INCLUDING RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PAYMENT GATEWAYS" ON PAGE 58 OF LOF.**

For guidance on the Application process through R-WAP and resolution of difficulties faced by the Investors, the Investors are advised to carefully read the frequently asked questions, visit the online/ electronic dedicated investor helpdesk (<https://rights.kfintech.com>) or call helpline number (1800 425 9988, 1800 345 4001 and +91 (40) 67162222). For details, see "Terms of the Issue - Procedure for Application through the R-WAP" on page 285 of the LOF.

##### Application by Eligible Equity Shareholders holding Equity Shares in physical form:

In accordance with the SEBI Rights Issue Circulars, (a) the Eligible Equity Shareholders, who hold Equity Shares in physical form as on Record Date; or (b) the Eligible Equity Shareholders, who hold Equity Shares in physical form as on Record Date and who have not received the details of their demat account to the Registrar or our Company at least two Working Days prior to the Issue Closing Date, desirous of subscribing to Rights Equity Shares may also apply in this Issue during the Issue Period. Application by such Eligible Equity Shareholders is subject to following conditions:

(i) The Eligible Equity Shareholders apply only through R-WAP; (ii) The Eligible Equity Shareholders are residents; (iii) the Eligible Equity Shareholders are not making payment from non-resident account; (iv) The Eligible Equity Shareholders shall not be able to renounce their Rights Entitlements; and (v) The Eligible Equity Shareholders shall receive Rights Equity Shares, in respect of their Application, only in demat mode.

Accordingly, such resident Eligible Equity Shareholders are required to, within 6 (six) months from the Allotment Date, send a communication to our Company or the Registrar containing the name(s), Indian address, email address, contact details and the details of their demat account along with copy of self-attested PAN and self-attested client master sheet of their demat account either by post, speed post, courier, electronic mail or hard delivery, to enable process of credit of Rights Equity Shares in such demat account.

Such resident Eligible Equity Shareholders must check the procedure for Application by and credit of Rights Equity Shares in "Terms of the Issue - Procedure for Application by Eligible Equity Shareholders holding Equity Shares in physical form" and "Terms of the Issue - Credit and Transfer of Rights Equity Shares" on pages 291 and 302, respectively, of the LOF.

**APPLICATIONS SUPPORTED BY BLOCKED AMOUNT (ASBA):** Investors desiring to make an Application in this Issue through ASBA process, may submit the Application Form to the Designated Branch of the SCBS or online/electronic Application through the website of the SCBSs (if made available by such SCBS) for authorising such SCBS to block Application Money payable on the Application in the respective ASBA Accounts. For the list of banks which have been notified by SEBI to act as SCBSs for the ASBA process, please refer to <https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&inTmld=34>. For details on Designated Branches of SCBSs collecting the Application Form, please refer the above-mentioned link.

**APPLICATION ON PLAIN PAPER UNDER ASBA PROCESS:** An Eligible Equity Shareholder who is eligible to apply under the ASBA process may make an Application to subscribe to this Issue on plain paper. An Eligible Equity Shareholder shall submit the plain paper Application to the Designated Branch of the SCBS for authorising such SCBS to block Application Money in the said bank account maintained with the same SCBS. Applications on plain paper will not be accepted from any address outside India. Please note that the Eligible Equity Shareholders who are making the Application on plain paper shall not be entitled to renounce their Rights Entitlements and should not utilize the Application Form for any purpose including renunciation even if it is received subsequently. If the Eligible Equity Shareholder makes an Application using the Application Form as well as plain paper, both the Applications shall be liable to be rejected at the option of the Issuer.

##### PLEASE NOTE THAT APPLICATION ON PLAIN PAPER CANNOT BE SUBMITTED THROUGH R-WAP.

The application on plain paper, duly signed by the Eligible Equity Shareholder including joint holders, in the same order and as per specimen recorded with his bank, must reach the office of the Designated Branch of the SCBS before the Issue Closing Date and should contain the following particulars:

1. Name of our Company, being Reliance Industries Limited; 2. Name and address of the Eligible Equity Shareholder including joint holders (in the same order and as per specimen recorded with our Company or the Depository); 3. Registered Folio Number/DP and Client ID No.; 4. Number of Equity Shares held as on Record Date;

**PROMOTER OF OUR COMPANY: SHRI MUKESH D. AMBANI**

ISSUE OF 42,26,26,894 PARTLY PAID-UP EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH ("RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES") OF OUR COMPANY FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ 1,257 PER RIGHTS EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A PREMIUM OF ₹ 1,247 PER RIGHTS EQUITY SHARE) AGGREGATING TO ₹ 5,31,24,20,05,758 ON A RIGHTS BASIS TO THE ELIGIBLE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF OUR COMPANY IN THE RATIO OF 1 (ONE) RIGHTS EQUITY SHARE FOR EVERY 15 FULLY PAID-UP EQUITY SHARES HELD BY THE ELIGIBLE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF OUR COMPANY ON THE RECORD DATE, THAT IS, ON MAY 14, 2020 (THE "ISSUE"), FOR FURTHER DETAILS, SEE "TERMS OF THE ISSUE" ON PAGE 272 OF THE LOF.

**RIGHTS ISSUE CLOSES TODAY (JUNE 3, 2020)**

\*Applicants are advised to check the timings with their respective Self Certified Syndicate Banks.

**ASBA Applicants**

Submit your application before such time as permitted by your bank\*

**R-WAP Applicants**

Submit before 7 pm or such further time as may be permitted and informed on the website of the RTA at <https://rights.kfintech.com>

\*Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account.

For further details, check section on ASBA below.

Shareholders, who hold Equity Shares in physical form as on Record Date; or (b) the Eligible Equity Shareholders, who hold Equity Shares in physical form as on Record Date and who have not furnished the details of their demat account to the Registrar or our Company at least two Working Days prior to the Issue Closing Date, desirous of subscribing Rights Equity Shares may also apply in this Issue during the Issue Period. Such Eligible Equity Shareholders must check the procedure for Application by and credit of Rights Equity Shares in "Terms of the Issue- Procedure for Application by Eligible Equity Shareholders holding Equity Shares in physical form" and "Terms of the Issue- Credit and Transfer of Rights Equity Shares in case of Shareholders holding Equity Shares in Physical Form and disposal of Rights Equity Shares for non-receipt of demat account details in a timely manner" on pages 291 and 302 of the LOF, respectively.

**INVESTORS MAY PLEASE NOTE THAT THE EQUITY SHARES CAN BE TRADED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGES ONLY IN DEMATERIALISED FORM.**

**LISTING:** The existing Equity Shares are listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received "in-principle" approvals from BSE and NSE for listing the Rights Equity Shares to be allotted pursuant to the Issue through their letters dated May 8, 2020. For the purposes of the Issue, the Designated Stock Exchange is BSE.

**DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF SEBI:** Submission of LOF to SEBI should not in any way be deemed or construed that SEBI has cleared or approved the LOF. The Investors are advised to refer to the full text of the "Disclaimer Clause of SEBI" beginning on page 263 of the LOF.

**DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE (Designated Stock Exchange):** It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE Limited should not, in anyway, be deemed or construed that the Letter of Offer has been cleared or approved by BSE Limited; nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Letter of Offer. The Investors are advised to refer to the Letter of Offer for the full text of the "Disclaimer Clause of BSE" beginning on page 267 of the LOF.

**DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE:** It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Letter of Offer has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Letter of Offer. The Investors are advised to refer to the Letter of Offer for the full text of the "Disclaimer clause of NSE" on page 267 of the LOF.

**ESCROW COLLECTION BANK AND THE REFUND BANK: HDFC BANK LIMITED**

**ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT BANKS: HDFC BANK LIMITED AND STATE BANK OF INDIA**

**MONITORING AGENCY: AXIS BANK LIMITED**

**INVESTORS ARE ADVISED TO REFER TO THE LOF AND THE RISK FACTORS CONTAINED THEREIN BEFORE APPLYING IN THE ISSUE.**

**DISPATCH AND AVAILABILITY OF THE ISSUE MATERIALS:** In accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, SEBI circular SEBI/HO/CFD/DIL/2/CIR/P/2020/78 dated May 6, 2020 and the MCA clarification, our Company will send, only through email, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter, Application Form and other issue material to the email addresses of all the Eligible Equity Shareholders who have provided their Indian addresses to our Company or who are located in jurisdictions where the offer and sale of the Rights Equity Shares is permitted under laws of such jurisdictions. Accordingly, our Company is not dispatching a copy of the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, Rights Entitlement Letter, the Application Form and other issue material to the Eligible Equity Shareholders through registered post, speed post or by courier service due to prevailing COVID-19 related conditions. The Letter of Offer will be provided, only through email, by the Registrar on behalf of our Company or Global Co-ordinators and Lead Managers or Lead Managers and Lead Managers to the Eligible Equity Shareholders who have provided their Indian addresses to our Company or who are located in jurisdictions where the offer and sale of the Rights Equity Shares is permitted under laws of such jurisdictions. Accordingly, our Company is not dispatching a copy of the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, Rights Entitlement Letter, the Application Form and other issue material to the Eligible Equity Shareholders through registered post, speed post or by courier service due to prevailing COVID-19 related conditions. 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## FILM REVIEW



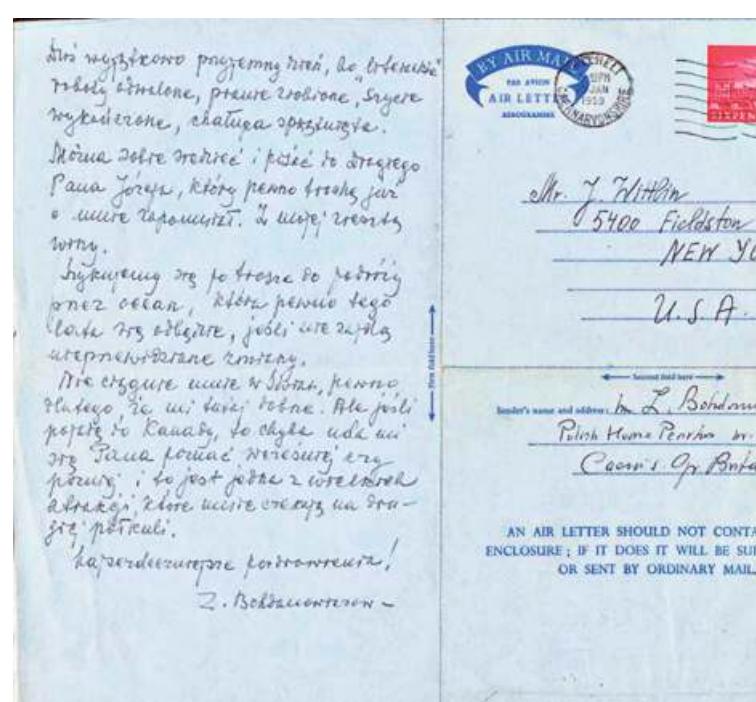
## An atavistic nod to letters

KENNETH ROSARIO

Sofia Bohdanowicz and Deragh Campbell's *MS Slavic 7* speaks of 'objecthood' of letters. The millennial Canadian protagonist, Audrey (Campbell) is obsessed with the concept, after she discovers a repertoire of letters at Harvard University's Houghton Library, written by Polish-Canadian poet Zofia Bohdanowicz (who we discover is Audrey's great-grandmother) to another Polish poet, Józef Witlin, both World War II refugees from Poland to North America. Their correspondence lasted between 1957 and 1964 over 25 letters. Audrey's insistence that the medium of the written word, the sheer object itself, which travels across oceans, has as much weightage as the content it carries, if not more. The film highlights her fascination with this school of thought by giving these letters a visual pedestal, so much so that the filmmakers provide the letters with their own subtitles, even when no words are being spoken. You can only hear Johann Sebastian Bach's baroque compositions in the background, lending these scenes an immersive and atavistic texture.

What is amusing, though, is Audrey's archetypal 'faux intellectual millennial' personality, with deadpan looks, in search of meaning and depth to life. She seemingly has a comfortable and sheltered life, as gleaned from the hotel room she checks into and later, a grand family reunion. With an ancestral history of post-war migration, Audrey has not much to complain about, as life stands today, perhaps like many third or fourth generation World War II refugees, who migrated to North America. As she doggedly archives and claims custody of her great-grandmother's

*MS Slavic 7* is an immersive but hollow exploration of the 'objecthood' of the written word



Past continuous: Despite its verbosity, an epistolary approach and a triptych narrative, the film has little to say about post-memory ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

letters, studies and discusses them over pensive, beer-fuelled conversations, we see a quintessential millennial life in the global North today, in search of meaning in a tumultuous familial past. This pursuit for purpose is most evocative in a scene where Audrey has a tiff with her aunt, Ania Bohdanowicz (Elizabeth Rucker), while arguing over the possession of her great

grandmother's literary estate. At first, Ania dismisses Audrey's obsession as a hobby but as the demand persists, she blurts out, "So are you trying to make a business out of our family history?" An offended Audrey (perhaps emoting for the first time in the film) shoots back, "Am I a hobbyist or an evil capitalist? I don't even know what you are accusing me of." This accu-

### MS Slavic 7

**DIRECTOR:** Sofia Bohdanowicz and Deragh Campbell

**CAST:** Deragh Campbell, Elizabeth Rucker, Marius Sibiga, Aaron Danby

**STORYLINE:** A young girl sieves through her Polish poet great-grandmother's letters written to another poet

sation and confused retaliation speaks volumes about Audrey, and symbolically, the film.

At the core of this film, which had its world premiere at Berlinale Forum last year, is just an unfulfilled young girl, trying to 'intellectualise' the world around her. It's evident in the title, which sounds technical and detached from anything remotely sentimental. We discover that it is merely the nomenclature for the section where you would find those letters at the Harvard library. Despite its verbosity, an epistolary approach, a triptych narrative, and cloaking itself with clean and neat artsy aesthetics, the film has little to say about the past or the idea of post-memory. Perhaps the filmmakers do not intend to, either. There are mentions of the Holocaust memorial in Berlin (and a rather amusing mugging incident attached to it) and 'tears of Israel' in poetry. The concept, on paper, is ambitious and covers a wide historic canvas but the film limits itself to a rather surface approach in what it wants to say. What we are served is an hour-long film, which is meditative, engaging and witty but hollow at the same time – almost as if the film is in search of deeper meaning, much like Audrey.

*MS Slavic 7* will stream on Mubi India from June 4

# Films are about visualising the script, seeing magic in scenes'

Director Shaan Vyas on turning director, the relentless misogyny we see around us in everyday life and making a change

NAMRATA JOSHI

Shaan Vyas, who makes his directorial debut with the short *Natkhat*, feels that the normalisation of misogyny and systematic humiliation and degradation of women is an omnipresent reality. *Natkhat* is Vyas's debut film, even though he's directed an as-yet-unseen experimental short. It's an interesting jump for Vyas. He's moved to direction from being a producer of such films as *Kshay*, *The Lunchbox* and *Maasaan*. Normally people become directors through two routes—film schools or assisting established names. "I never took either of the two trajectories," says Vyas. For him, it wasn't a bottom to top vertical; more a horizontal shift and reinvention.

### On the job

Vyas confesses getting into the business of filmmaking with no clear goal in mind. "I just went with the flow and kept learning on the way," he says. He wasn't even sure initially that he wanted to be a director. "I had these ideas in my head. I wanted to be a storyteller," he says. He got to learn writing scripts by reading others' works and a hobby grew and developed into something bigger over time. "I learnt experientially on the sets, by observing the directors," he reminisces.

*Natkhat*'s world premiere at the online, We Are One: A Global Film Festival, on June 2 also marked almost a year to the start of the short film's shooting. The film was wrapped up in two schedules—in a small town of Harda in Madhya Pradesh with the interior portions shot in Mumbai. The way Vyas sees it, most of a director's work happens much before the shoot; it's the prep and the pre-production than what happens between the 'action' and the 'cut' on the set or the location. "It is about visualising the script, seeing the magic in the scenes. You then bring out the best in people. It's auto-pilot on the set," he says. No wonder then, it's the time, energy and work that Vyas put in along with his co-writer Annukampa Harsh that still gives him the high. "If my initial writing was the body of the work, Annukampa embellished it with a soul," he emphasises.

### Rooted in reality

The idea came to him from very well-known recent incidents of violence against women and the extreme misogyny around us in general. "Like everyone else, I had this huge fit of anger. For every two cases reported, many go unrecorded. What has been our way to fix these? Palliative reforms and counselling for the victims. What about curative measures?" he asks.

He takes the curse of patriarchy back to the environment one grows up in and parenting, proposing that gender equality can be nurtured over generations and years by educating kids when their minds are like sponges, ever willing to absorb. By displaying that, *Natkhat* also disturbs its



Making a debut: Shaan Vyas ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

audience. The crude, ugly scenario, the corruption of the minds of cute kids is not easy to digest, and would be difficult to accept for many. But Vyas feels that the systematic humiliation and degradation of women happens everywhere; it is not just a hinterland reality but is present round us in cities too, something that he witnessed while growing up. What saved the day for him was his family and parents.

As does Vidya Balan, in a pivotal role in her first foray into the world of short films. She is a woman with no name. She is Sonu's mother. But she is the voice, in the film and of women in general. "She is a strong voice when it comes to women's issues," asserts Vyas, on how Balan's presence helped in strengthening the film. While *Natkhat*'s cast, includes professional actors in small key roles, like Atul Tiwari as Balan's father-in-law, Raj Arjun as her husband and Sparsh Srivastava as brother-in-law, 90% of the cast—including Sonu—comprises of non-actors who went through a workshop for training before facing the camera.

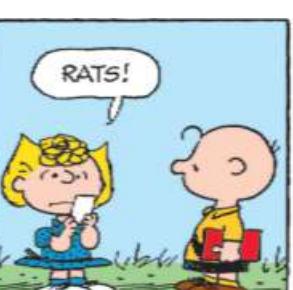
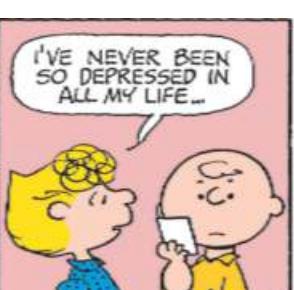
Vyas faced mental conflict and apprehension in casting the child. "We were

making the child actor do things that the film actually says that they should not be doing. I was wondering how we could undo the impact of it from his mind," he shares. It helped that they cast a girl – Sanika Patel – in the key role of the boy. The film's team kept telling her through the shoot, that she should not allow boys to do this to her or to other girls, hoping that the message made its impact on her.

### POOCH CAFE



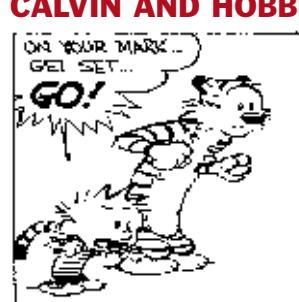
### PEANUTS



### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



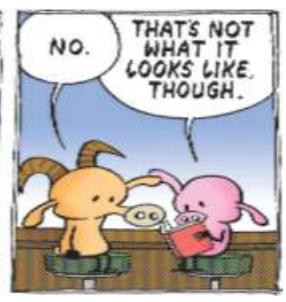
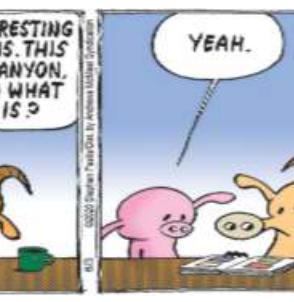
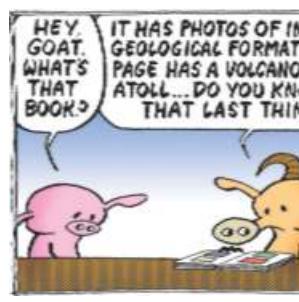
### CALVIN AND HOBBES



### TIGER



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



# ENT surgeon succumbs to COVID-19

The 61-year-old doctor had resumed duty following govt. appeals to help during emergency

JYOTI SHELAR  
MUMBAI

A 61-year-old ear, nose, throat (ENT) surgeon from Mumbai succumbed to the SARS-CoV-2 early on Monday at the SL Raheja Hospital in Mahim. Despite his co-morbidities, Dr. Chittaranjan Bhave had resumed practice in May to help people during the ongoing emergency.

He tested positive on May 19 and got hospitalised, but his condition deteriorated gradually, and he breathed his last at 2.45 a.m. on Monday. He is the seventh doctor in the city to die of COVID-19, including five alternative medicine practitioners.

A diabetic, Dr. Bhave had also undergone an angioplasty procedure eight years ago. "He had stayed at home during most of the lockdown. But with the ongoing crisis and government pleas for doctors to start their practice, he decided to slowly resume work last month," said his wife, Sujata.

He was an alumni of the G.S. Medical College attached to KEM Hospital. While he had his private clinic in Mahim, he also consulted at SL Raheja and Maru Hospital in Parel. "We were closely following his health condition over the past several days. His death came as a shock to all of us," said ENT surgeon Dr. Samir Bhargava, who is the national president of the Association of Otolaryngologists of India.

Dr. Bhave had last worked



Dr. Chittaranjan Bhave

at Raheja Hospital on March 3. "He had started seeing patients at his clinic and at the Maru Hospital last month," said Dr. Sanjay Gala, who was his co-surgeon in an

emergency procedure that they carried out on May 15, two days before he developed symptoms.

"It was a patient with facial palsy. The patient did not have COVID-19. It is unlikely that the surgery triggered the chain of infection," said Dr. Gala. He continued to follow up with the patient, who still has no infection. However, an operation theatre assistant who was in the team tested positive almost two weeks after the procedure. "We had taken all the necessary precautions while operating. Even while consulting patients, Dr. Bhave would wear the necessary protective gear like a mask and gloves," he said.

SL Raheja Hospital's chief

executive officer Dr. Hiren Ambegaonkar, who was Dr. Bhave's batch mate, said he was doing fine in the first few days but started to get breathless from May 23. "He developed acute respiratory distress syndrome. We shifted him to the intensive care unit and put him on high-flow oxygen and prone ventilation. His renal function shut down, for which we also started him on dialysis," said Dr. Ambegaonkar. Despite all interventions, Dr. Bhave's condition did not improve.

There were reports about Dr. Bhave not finding a hospital bed in time, but his family denied the allegations. Dr. Bhave's wife and daughter have also tested positive and are in home quarantine.

Pune district reports 12 deaths as toll climbs to 357

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

At least 12 more COVID-19 patients died, while over 170 people tested positive in Pune district on Tuesday as its death toll rose to 357, while its total case tally went up to 7,947, according to the district administration.

Divisional Commissioner Dr. Deepak Mhaisekar said only 2,861 remain active, while 4,729 patients (nearly 60% of the total cases)

have been discharged till date. More than 275 patients have been discharged in the past 48 hours, authorities said.

While concentrated screening and sample testing have somewhat curbed the spread of the virus in the city's high-risk zones, the number of cases in non-containment zones have been steadily rising in the past few days.

From May 3 to May 17, a little over 25% of the cases in Pune city were reported from non-containment zones. However, over the fortnight till May 31, this figure rose to 39%. Nearly 1,000 cases have been reported from non-containment zones in the past fortnight.

The Governor said the Ministry of Home Affairs had given approval and issued guidelines to conduct examinations to various State boards, and that CBSE and ICSE are doing so. He said that if school boards can conduct examinations for children, then universities can do so too.

He said the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other Central authorities are of the view that final year examinations should not be dispensed with. The State government should abide by UGC guidelines along with the provisions of the Maharashtra Universities Act, 2017, he said.

## WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.30 HRS)  
**Forecast for Wednesday:** Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at a few places over central Maharashtra, Goa, south Gujarat, Kerala, Rajasthan, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Telangana, Odisha, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... -	25.6...	18.2	Kozhikode	49.5...	28.8...	24.4
Ahmedabad	... -	39.4...	27.4	Kurnool	... -	36.1...	23.2
Aizawl	... -	36.0...	25.7	Lucknow	... -	35.0...	26.6
Allahabad	0.6...	38.0...	27.1	Madurai	... -	37.9...	26.2
Bengaluru	... -	31.8...	20.2	Mangaluru	50.1...	31.0...	23.5
Bhopal	... -	37.0...	27.2	Mumbai	... -	32.2...	23.3
Bhubaneswar	3.1...	36.2...	24.0	Mysuru	... -	32.0...	23.1
Chandigarh	... -	33.0...	23.8	New Delhi	... -	36.5...	24.8
Chennai	... -	38.0...	29.0	Patna	0.4...	35.6...	25.3
Coimbatore	... -	31.8...	25.5	Port Blair	24.4...	30.9...	25.4
Dehradun	5...	33.9...	20.6	Puducherry	... -	36.4...	28.0
Gangtok	7.4...	22.1...	15.2	Pune	5.8...	30.3...	22.2
Goa	13.6...	27.6...	25.3	Raipur	... -	37.6...	28.0
Guwahati	7.1...	34.0...	22.9	Ranchi	19.6...	31.7...	20.0
Hubballi	... -	28.0...	23.0	Shillong	10.9...	25.9...	-
Hyderabad	5.2...	34.5...	22.6	Shimla	14.4...	25.3...	14.7
Imphal	56.8...	26.2...	19.4	Srinagar	0.2...	25.0...	9.0
Jaipur	11.7...	37.4...	24.7	Thiruvananthapuram	134.1...	29.8...	24.2
Kochi	29.8...	28.6...	24.0	Tiruchi	16.5...	37.6...	24.2
Kohima	4.4...	24.2...	14.0	Vijayawada	11...	37.7...	29.4
Kolkata	... -	36.1...	26.1	Visakhapatnam	... -	35.1...	29.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO	NO	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	-	47	21	.85	-	■
Bengaluru	.9	20	47	.22	-	■
Chennai	.3	18	78	.58	-	■
Delhi	4	42	97	164	113	■
Hyderabad	.4	48	24	.51	-	■
Kolkata	.6	8	10	.23	.47	■
Lucknow	.2	32	54	.145	-	■
Mumbai	15	13	25	.50	.53	■
Pune	11	4	65	.14	.14	■
Visakhapatnam	10	23	24	.16	.38	■

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m. Jorapokharia, Jharkhand recorded an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) score of 24 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Manipur recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

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

**SO:** 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:** 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.

Koshyari writes to CM that Chancellor has final authority on all matters related to universities

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

Asserting that as Chancellor of Universities, he has the final authority over all university matters under the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Tuesday conveyed to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray that a decision regarding holding examinations of final year students "shall be taken in consonance with the provisions of the Act".

The letter is yet another instance of the Governor being at odds with the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. Earlier instances had prompted a political back and forth between the MVA and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party.

Terming Mr. Thackeray's decision cancelling examinations "unprecedented" and "without any profound thinking on the legal re-



Head to head: Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari (left) and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. ■ FILE PHOTO

cussions," Mr. Koshyari said it would jeopardise the future of students.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, the Governor said he was surprised to learn through media reports that the CM had declared that no exams shall be conducted this year, while he was still awaiting a response to his letter on the matter.

The arbitrary decision has violated the basic principle that to obtain an identical degree, there cannot be two sets of criteria, one who has given examination and for the other who has obtained marks on average. The examinations cannot be made optional," he wrote.

Mr. Koshyari said he had clearly mentioned that the Chancellor's office shall give further directions after accepting the recommendations of the committee, partially or fully, once he had received the report.

Mr. Thackeray last week said final year examinations will be cancelled as it is not

possible to hold them amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Students are to be given average marks of the previous seven semesters, and those who want to improve their score will be given a choice to appear for exams in October.

The Governor said that during his videoconference with vice chancellors, all of them had communicated to him their preparedness to conduct their respective university examinations.

He said the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other Central authorities are of the view that final year examinations should not be dispensed with. The State government should abide by UGC guidelines along with the provisions of the Maharashtra Universities Act, 2017, he said.

## HC asks Centre to file affidavit on PM CARES

SONAM SAIGAL  
MUMBAI

The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court on Tuesday directed the Union Government to file an affidavit in a plea seeking declaration of funds received by Prime Ministers Citizens Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situation (PM CARES), a public charitable trust created amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Division Bench of Justices S.B. Shukre and A.S. Kilar was hearing a petition filed by advocate Arvind Waghmare seeking a direction to the government to periodically declare funds received and their expenditure on its website. It sought that at least two members from Opposition parties be appointed or nominated to the trust for proper checks.

The petition stated that "the PM CARES trust, with

## Notices to govt., media houses over job, pay cuts

SONAM SAIGAL  
MUMBAI

The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court has issued notices to the Union, and State government and media houses, seeking their response to a plea challenging termination and forceful resignation of employees of newspaper organisations.

A Division Bench of Justices Sunil B. Shukre and Anil S. Kilar was hearing a petition filed by the Maharashtra Union of Working Journalists and Nagpur Union of Working Journalists.

The plea has challenged terminations, reduction in salaries, forceful resignations, and pay structures contrary to the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Condition of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act and Majithia Wage Board

recommendations.

The petition said, "Newspaper organisations have ignored the appeal made by the Prime Minister to protect interests of employees, and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Labour Department and Chief Secretary."

Respondents to the plea are the Union government through the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; State government through the Chief Secretary; Labour Department Principal Secretary; Indian Newspaper Society; Vidarbha Daily Newspaper Association; and managements of Lokmat, Times of India and Maharashtra Times, Sakal, Deshnkoti, Nav Bharat, Dainik Bhaskar, Indian Express, Loksatta and Lokshahi Varta. The matter will be heard after four weeks.

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## Monumental hurry

There might be a case to redevelop Central Vista, but it must not be done in haste

The Narendra Modi government is so possessed by its plan to redevelop the Central Vista, the 3-km long stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, that even a devastating pandemic is no distraction from it. In fact, amid the nation's chaotic battle against COVID-19, the Centre has been rushing ahead, ignoring pleas to pause it for further deliberations. The plan is also to construct a new Parliament building by March 2022 and a common central secretariat by March 2024 along with new residences for the Prime Minister and the Vice President near South and North Blocks which will be repurposed as museums. There will be a new building for the PMO. A draft master plan by a private firm contracted by the government has proposed a triangular-shaped Parliament building next to the existing heritage structure, and office buildings all along Rajpath, after demolishing existing buildings. Till date, the government has not publicly stated the project's estimated cost. The construction of the new parliament building, according to the CPWD application for environmental clearance for the project on March 12, is estimated to cost ₹922 crore. The Centre has given a range of reasons behind the redevelopment plan, from the structural safety of the Parliament building and the North and South Blocks, which came up between 1911 and 1931, and once delimitation is done and the number of seats increase, to the need for more space to seat MPs and office space for all of them. For the post-Independence buildings such as Shastri Bhawan and Krish Bhawan, it has cited the need for modern workspaces.

The decision on redevelopment was taken in a hurry and without adequate consultations. The utility of such a massive redevelopment is not easily defendable but the Modi government is evidently eager to recondition the capital's landscape as its monumental legacy. The Opposition, environmentalists, architects and citizens have raised a range of concerns even before the pandemic brought in additional issues. But far from pausing, several key approvals for the proposed Parliament building have been pushed during the lockdown, leading to allegations of a lack of transparency. Independent expert members of the Central Vista Committee could not attend the meeting where it was passed without much discussion, as per the minutes of the meeting. The process for change of land use by the Delhi Development Authority was completed just before the lockdown began on March 25. Activists and architects have questioned the lack of studies to ascertain the need for the project and its impact on the environment, traffic and pollution. There were enough reasons to be circumspect about this grand idea from the very beginning. In the situation created by the pandemic, it must be deferred and the idea revisited later.

## Monsoon bounty

The IMD should work at disseminating more precise localised weather forecasts

The monsoon has finally set in over Kerala in keeping with the textbook date of June 1. In May, the IMD had forecast a four-day delay in the onset over Kerala. This was premised on a relatively mild summer, in early May, in north India and several spells of Western Disturbances, which are rains from the Mediterranean, as well as the impact of super cyclone Amphan in the Bay of Bengal. A private meteorological company had, however, forecast an early monsoon arrival – on May 28 – because its models seem to suggest diminished impact of Amphan. But last week, the IMD updated its onset forecast to say that 'favourable conditions' for the monsoon onset were likely on June 1. The IMD has clearly defined criteria for declaring the onset: eight of 14 designated meteorological stations in Kerala and Karnataka must register 2.5mm rain for two consecutive days, there must be 30-40 kmph westerlies (winds from the equator reaching India) at a certain height and a certain value of radiation. Heavy rains over Kerala alone do not determine onset, the IMD has been at pains to emphasise. However, it is also true that usually it was the only agency with the equipment to measure windspeeds and radiation at higher elevations, along with multiple weather stations. It therefore has a monopoly of declaring onset.

While the IMD is a primarily scientific organisation, it faces competition from domestic and international companies in providing weather-related services. In crop insurance, power distribution and short-range forecasts, the IMD no longer has a monopoly on providing weather information. The latter has consequences for the IMD's other major role – to give its outlook on how the monsoon might pan out over India and how much rain is likely in July and August, the key months for the summer crop. This year, save for India's northeast, the IMD has forecast above normal rains in other areas, especially the northwest, the central parts and the southern peninsula. Though reassuring, it is worth remembering that just last year the IMD failed to communicate that 2019 would turn out to be the wettest in two decades. However, every year of normal monsoon has brought with it both torrential floods and long dry spells. The complexity of climate change is now such that excess rains in a year seem to have long-ranging impact with reports of a second consecutive year of a locust plague in India on the horizon which can affect the kharif crop. It is therefore time that along with improved science and forecasting, the IMD works on disseminating more precise localised weather forecasts. While its public interface and technology adoption is improving, particularly in cyclone forecasts, the organisation has a long way to go in communicating these improvements to a wider population.

# Scripting a new narrative for COVID control

If social vaccine is the legacy of HIV control, that of novel coronavirus control ought to be more far-reaching



M.S. SESADRI & T. JACOB JOHN

**I**ndia had warning about the COVID-19 epidemic in China spreading to neighbouring countries well ahead of virus importations; yet, the nation faltered. In epidemics as in war, underestimating the enemy is a costly mistake.

Strategy planning is dynamic, with revisions as the ground reality changes. What is appropriate in the beginning may become redundant midway. Eisenhower said: "In preparing for battle, I have always found that plans are useless but planning is indispensable".

India's early strategy (traditional pandemic control: prevent virus importations from China and neighbouring countries and interrupt importation-related local spread) succeeded, but importations from the West and West Asian countries before they were red flagged seeded local outbreaks in several places.

As transmission is through social contacts, social distancing in its extreme form (nation-wide lockdown) was declared early and abruptly, from March 24 midnight. As transmission is through social contacts, social distancing in its extreme form (nation-wide lockdown) was declared early and abruptly, from March 24 midnight.

### Indigenous wisdom

Indian experts are skilful to imbibe, distil and translate information into practical, socioculturally appropriate action plans. When HIV importations and local spread were detected, Indian experts studied the situation, and, rejecting advice from the World Health Organization (WHO) for only "syndromic diagnosis" of AIDS, devised multi-pronged interventions – "social vaccine" including hospital infection control and innovative laboratory-testing tactic called sentinel surveillance. For safe blood transfusion, lab-testing was mandatory. Sensitivity and specificity of HIV lab tests were near 100%.

For COVID-19, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests were necessary to detect importations and contact screening. For disease diagnosis by physicians, clinical criteria are adequate. Epidemics were asynchronous in different States; the simplest way to monitor epidemic growth was criteria-based clinical diagnosis and confirmation by PCR when deemed necessary. Instead, India blindly continues WHO advice: "test, test, test".

By May 18, testing covered 0.17% of India's population, detecting almost 100,000 infections. We cannot use such data to assess the magnitude of the epidemic.

Openly admitting community transmission of HIV was the signal for the public to change behaviour and take precautions. Social vaccine included public education and social mobilisation; its legacy is red ribbon clubs in schools and colleges.

COVID-19 community spread was denied for too long, promoting epidemic expansion and deaths particularly among healthcare personnel. Early warning and public education would have slowed the epidemic and saved lives. Everyone needed behaviour modification to protect themselves when in physical closeness in clinics and crowds.

### Lockdown vs. mask wearing

Jain munis, realising there are organisms in aerosols and droplets, wear masks to avoid inhaling them – a unique preventive measure born out of ancient wisdom. Hong Kong and Taiwan demonstrated the value of universal mask-wearing to mitigate the current pandemic.

With our mindset of "big solutions" for "big problems", we err.

Mask wearing is a simple solution;

if practised by every man, woman and child when out of home, it is twice superior to lockdowns: it flattens the epidemic curve better than leaky lockdowns; preserves

socio-economic basics which a lockdown destroys. Let us look at another simple solution – oral rehydration for cholera, developed by H.N. Chatterjee in 1957, was accepted by medical professionals and administrators only decades later.

Wise clinicians make presumptive clinical diagnosis of infectious diseases, informed by the epidemiologic setting, the patient's history, physical findings, simple laboratory tests, and initiate treatment. Laboratory tests, used to confirm clinical diagnosis, identify causative organisms in only about 50-60% of cases in many instances. Why should COVID-19 be managed differently?

Specific epidemiologic and clinical criteria and basic blood tests provide a clinical diagnosis of COVID-19; PCR is useful to confirm this. Home quarantine of all with mild symptoms is simple and safe. Their medical supervision should be through daily phone calls with the assigned doctor. For those with breathing difficulty, a chest X ray or CT scan identifies pneumonia. This approach would have fetched us more gains for less expense.

We have tested 22,79,324 persons (incurring a cost of ₹22,79,324,000 by assuming ₹1,000 for all costs per test; private laboratories charge ₹4,500). Only 95,622 (-4%) were positive; remember PCR may miss up to half of infected subjects.

The original testing policy was essential at first, but became redundant and misleading by end-March. Why evaporate the public exchequer for little or limited public benefit? Now the best use of tests is to confirm clin-

ical diagnosis.

Superficially, flattening the curve sounds attractive – infected subjects trickle in rather than as an avalanche. Lockdowns hurt lives, livelihoods and economy, while non-COVID-19 problems go unattended.

### Risk identification

What we need to flatten is the steep mortality curve. Who are those at risk of high mortality? Those over 60 years, and those with diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, chronic respiratory disease and obesity. This demanded cocooning (reverse quarantine) the elderly and the vulnerable.

Countries with their elderly living in institutions have witnessed a veritable disaster: large numbers succumbed, unprotected by cocooning; hospitals were overwhelmed.

We have far fewer citizens above 60 than the United States and Europe; flattening the mortality curve is eminently feasible and culturally appropriate. The norm in urban middle class and rural families is to protect old parents and vulnerable family members. Flattening the mortality curve by cocooning them would have resonated well with our people and found nation-wide acceptance.

"Social vaccine" stimulates society's protective knowledge and practices countering major health threats. Social mobilisation subsumes public education for attitudinal and behavioural changes to overcome social determinants of microbial transmission. When children and adults realise that mask wearing is to protect their family, none will refuse to wear one. If it is only to obey orders, many flout; even feel good flouting.

Social vaccine keeps citizens updated with authentic information and convinces them that their behaviour makes a change to the nation's health and economy. For this to happen, the government must do its utmost to suppress social toxins and convince people about a genuine concern for their

health and welfare.

Social mobilisation, our mainstay against community transmission of HIV from 1986, ensured clear guidelines for medical professionals about preventing hospital-related transmission. Educational efforts, integral to social vaccine, galvanised society to resist HIV transmission, like immunity resisting progression of infection within the body.

If social vaccine is the legacy of HIV control, the legacy of COVID control ought to be more far-reaching. The convenience of districts as units for colour zoning emphasises that they can be more self-assertive in planning for unlocking the lockdown.

### A practical platform

A COVID-19 committee as a practical platform in every district, with representation from civil administration, health management professionals, industry, businesses, educational institutions, major non-governmental organisations, voluntary organisations such as the Rotary and Lions Club can identify facilitators and deterrents of preventive processes and practices and evolve locally relevant solutions for COVID-19 control now. It can evolve into a district development committee in the post-COVID-19 future. With a wider agenda, the fruits of their labour, improved health and education, nation-wide implementation of visionary concepts such as Swachh Bharat for microbiological cleanliness at home and in all places of human congregation, will be ready for harvest.

We have a unique opportunity to script a new narrative to win the present struggle and perpetuate its legacy, with will and wisdom.

M.S. Seshadri is Retired Professor of Medical Endocrinology, Christian Medical College, Vellore and now Medical Director, Thirumalai Mission Hospital, Ranipet, Tamil Nadu. T. Jacob John is Retired Professor of Clinical Virology, CMC, Vellore and Past President of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics



## Multilateralism in the new cold war

India can set the world response, also using the opportunity to recover its global thought leadership



MUKUL SANWAL

In the new cold war, defined by technology and trade not territory, non-alignment is an uncertain option; India should craft a global triumvirate.

To benefit from global change, countries must have a bold vision and make the right strategic choice. Britain quickly built the largest military in the Subcontinent using the land revenue of Bengal, and over time conquered India. The United States fixed on splitting the Communist bloc ended up with China challenging its dominance.

As chair of the Executive Board of the World Health Assembly (it is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization), India can set the global response in terms of multilateralism, not just medical issues. In September, the United Nations General Assembly will discuss the theme, "The Future We Want"; in 2021, India joins the UN Security Council (non-permanent seat) and chairs the BRICS Summit, and in 2022, hosts the G-20, a rare alignment of stars for agenda-setting.

At the online summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, in May, Prime Minister Modi called for new principles for the international system. His new globalisation model based on humanity, fairness and equality has wide support in a more equal world as, for

the first time since 1950, everyone is experiencing the same (virus) threat.

It is in this changed context that India should look upon its own reemergence, China losing influence and the dynamics in its relations with the United States as Asia again becomes central to global prosperity, with global governance, economy, scientific research and society in need of being re-invented.

We should use this opportunity to recover our global thought leadership, think Nalanda, astronomical computation, the zero, Ayurveda, Buddhism, yoga and Ahimsa as well as clothing the world for millennia.

### Clash of values

The clash between China and the U.S. at the just concluded World Health Assembly in May marks the end of the multilateralism of the past 70 years. The donor-recipient relationship between developed and developing countries has ended with China's pledge of \$2-billion. The agenda-setting role of the G7 over UN institutions and global rules has also been effectively challenged by WHO ignoring the reform dictat of the U.S. leading to its withdrawal, and characterisation of the G7 as "outdated". The U.S. has also implicitly rejected the G20 and UN Security Council, for an expanded G7 "to discuss the future of China".

China's *Global Times* characterised the exchanges as "two different visions"; *The Washington Post* carried the headline, "The post-American world is now on full display" and *The Wall Street Journal* argued, "India is a Natural U.S. Ally in the New



Cold War".

The clash marks another seismic shift within the UN. After World War II, the newly independent states were not consulted when the U.S. imposed global institutions fostering trade, capital and technology dependence, ignoring socio-economic development. Social and economic rights have emerged to be as important as political and procedural rights and China's President Xi Jinping deftly endorsed the UN Resolution on equitable access to any new

industrial Revolution; the Digital Revolution will be shaped by different values. It is really this clash that multilateralism has now to resolve.

### Non-coercive form

For India, the strategic issue is neither adjustment to China's power nor deference to U.S. leadership. China has come out with alternative governance mechanisms to the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organization with its all-encompassing Belt and Road Initiative. The U.S., European Union and Japan are re-evaluating globalisation as it pertains to China and the U.S. is unabashedly "America First". The world is questioning both U.S. and China's exceptionalism.

The global vacuum, shift in relative power and its own potential, provides India the capacity to articulate a benign multilateralism as large parts of the world and brings both BRICS and the G7 into the tent. This new multilateralism should rely on outcomes, not rules, 'security' downplayed for 'comparable levels of wellbeing' and a new P-5 that is not based on the G7.

China, through an opinion piece by its Ambassador in India, has suggested writing "together a new chapter" with "a shared future for mankind". The U.S. wants a security partnership to contain China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations trade bloc – with the U.S. walking out of the negotiations – is keen India joins to balance China. With a new template, India does not have to

choose.

First, the Asian Century should be defined in terms of peaceful co-existence, freezing post-colonial sovereignty. Non-interference in the internal affairs of others is a key lesson from the decline of the U.S. and the rise of China. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter rightly observed that while the U.S. spent \$3 trillion on military spending, "China has not wasted a single penny on war".

National security now relies on technological superiority in artificial intelligence (AI), cyber and space, and not expensive capital equipment, as India's military has acknowledged. Instead of massive arms imports we should use the savings to enhance endogenous capacity and mould the global digital economy between state-centric (China), firm-centric (the U.S.) and public-centric (India) systems.

Second, a global community at comparable levels of well-being requires new principles for trade, for example, rejecting the 25-year-old trade rule creating intellectual property monopolies. Global public goods should include public health, crop research, renewable energy and batteries, even AI as its value comes from shared data. We have the scientific capacity to support these platforms as part of foreign policy.

Third, ancient civilisational values provide the conceptual underpinning, restructuring both the economic order and societal behaviour for equitable sustainable development, which a climate change-impacted world, especially Africa, is seeking.

Mukul Sanwal is a former UN diplomat

## 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.

### Jammu subsumed

Acting as a "nationalistic buffer" between the country and pockets of separatist tendencies in Kashmir, Jammu has long borne the consequences of "failed aspirations" (Editorial page, "Jammu, the pawn on the Kashmir chessboard", June 2). Following the dilution of Article 370, these have become a shade worse with a stagnation in economic activities. With no clear land acquisition

mechanism in place and a domicile law that is so grey, the region has still to enjoy so-called "jobs and prosperity". Jammu has become sandwiched between the central government's "vision" and the Kashmir unrest. What is even more disheartening for residents is that despite the region being at the forefront in upholding national integrity and maintaining peace, they still get the same treatment as the disturbed regions.

With the high-speed Internet ban, students and the general public live in the "Stone Age of digital communication". DINESH KOTWAL, Doda, Jammu

**Unrest in America**  
The passing away of George Floyd, an African-American, is yet another example of a persistent blind spot towards racism that has haunted the United States of America since its founding, and evident in

the use of police brutality against African-Americans (Page 1, "Clashes outside White House, more U.S. cities under curfew, June 2"). The overt lack of respect for the African-American community is clear. Stunningly over his death seems to have fired up the entire country. Although racial equality is 'guaranteed' in the law, from the social level and from people's mindsets, potential racial conflicts are still in the

making' in large swathes. R. SIVAKUMAR, Chennai  
**Saliva use**  
The 'application' of saliva on the cricket ball has been going on for years in the history of the game of cricket. There will be many who say that nothing has happened to anyone till now. But when you think of the 'practice' in terms of hygiene, there is bound to be a pause. When no one likes to touch another

person's secretions or saliva, then how on earth can anyone agree to handle a ball with saliva 'coated' by another player? Whatever be the opinion of the cricket

# The challenge of law enforcement post-COVID-19

The police will have to think of ways of dealing with new challenges in maintaining law and order



R.K. RAGHAVAN

COVID-19 has turned the world upside down. There is hardly any aspect of our life that has been left untouched by the pandemic. In a society struck by a deadly virus, strict maintenance of public order is most essential. Only then can those affected by the disease be looked after and given the best medical care.

#### Enforcing lockdown

Law enforcement is therefore next only to healthcare in its criticality. The police have taken enormous risks during the lockdown to ensure strict observance of guidelines, including physical distancing, which in India is among the most difficult rules to enforce. Policemen need to be commended for their hard work and restraint, instead of being chastised as a force for the overzealousness and indiscretion of a few of them.

How will COVID-19 affect future law enforcement and how will new patterns of crime be managed, especially given that the virus is here to stay for a long time? Apart from policymakers, the police leadership will have to introspect on its recent experience and draft a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure that will educate all policemen in the country. This will take care of future virus waves, if any.

How did the police manage to garner all the resources - manpower and material - to enforce the lockdown in all the States? In this context, we did not hear the usual complaint of lack of manpower and mobility. What helped the police greatly was public cooperation, without which there would have been chaos. In this experience lies a lesson, a building block for future police-public relations. It is a different matter that some disorderly sections also behaved themselves, possibly out of sheer fear of the virus's lethal potency. With the bulk of the population keeping off the streets, the police could bring in equipment and manpower to handle this unusual situation. They also skilfully used social



"A major challenge for public officials is keeping prisons free of the virus." Prisoners are released from Yerwada Central Jail in Pune amid concerns over the spread of COVID-19. ■ JIGNESH MISTRY

media to disseminate all relevant information to a majority of the population, both in urban and rural areas.

#### Overall drop in crime

What greatly helped the police was the fact that roads were deserted and there was nearly zero traffic on major highways. This ensured a sharp reduction in traffic accidents and fatalities caused by such accidents. Anti-social elements could be kept at bay. With anti-social elements confined to their homes, trespass and burglary also became more difficult crimes to commit.

A survey across nations has indicated a measurable drop in overall crime. Major cities that generally report a high number of crimes found a drop in crime levels during the lockdown period. Only the New York Police Department reported an uptick in murders and burglaries during the pandemic. London reported an appreciable decline in non-violent crime, especially stabbings. The National Police Chiefs Council in the U.K. reported a drop in burglary, vehicle crime, serious assault and personal robbery in the four weeks up until April 12. In India, the Delhi Police reported a 70% fall in heinous crimes (murders and rapes) between April 1 and 15 compared to the same period last year. In Chennai, the total number of crimes dropped by 79% in the March 25-April 15 period over the February 25-March 15 period. Even giving due allowance to wilful non-

registration of cases by the police and the general reluctance of the public to report crimes, particularly during difficult times such as a pandemic, the police force can be proud that it managed to keep the peace during these times.

#### Uptick in domestic violence

However, this period saw a worrying surge in domestic violence cases. The Tamil Nadu Police, for instance, reportedly received 2,963 calls on domestic violence in April alone. There are two major factors for this rise. Most men are at home, either without work or in fear of losing their jobs. Data show that domestic violence increases when there is greater unemployment. The fear and insecurity of these men cause tension at home and unfortunately, women become the victims of this tension. The second reason is the non-availability of liquor during the lockdown period, which caused frustration among those men who are habituated to drinking daily. There was a similar increase in sexual and gender-based violence in West Africa during the 2013-16 Ebola outbreak. As health workers are busy combatting the pandemic, there is little help for domestic violence victims during times such as this. This shows that epidemics leave women and girls more vulnerable to violence.

A few members of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, a network of prominent

law-enforcement, governance and development practitioners based in Geneva, believe that the pandemic is both a threat to, and an opportunity for, organised crime, especially illicit drug trade. Travel restrictions across borders, especially in Africa, have made international trade in drugs extremely difficult. Gangs have therefore been at work to innovate and adapt to the changing nature of the illicit market. The Global Initiative believes that organised gangs will infiltrate health services and make profits through the sale of prescription drugs that are not otherwise easily available to the public.

Another new trend is the rise in cybercrime. New portals have been launched to get people to donate money for the cause of combating COVID-19. Experts say that many fraudulent sites are designed so well that a large number of people are easily taken for a ride. Besides this, there is large-scale manufacture of ineffective masks and hand sanitizers.

A major challenge for public officials is keeping prisons free of the virus. Many prisons have taken steps to insulate prisoners who reported positive for the virus from the rest of the inmates. A number of human rights activists have said that we need to consider the premature and temporary release of prisoners. This is a tricky issue: should prisons be totally emptied or should they adopt a selective approach? Some human rights activists ask for complete evacuation of prisons, irrespective of whether a prisoner tests positive or not. But such a drastic move will make a mockery of the criminal justice system and expose society to many unrepentant violent offenders. On March 24, the Supreme Court directed the States and Union Territories to constitute high-powered committees to consider releasing convicts who have been jailed up to seven years on parole, in order to decongest prisons.

The pandemic and the lockdown have ensured that many crimes have gone down. However, many other crimes have gone up or will assume new forms in the near future. As we enter unlock mode, it is incumbent on law-enforcement officials to think of ways of dealing with new challenges in maintaining law and order.

R.K. Raghavan is a former Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation

# A reformative and fiscal package

The government's ₹20 lakh crore stimulus package addresses immediate concerns and also pushes for long-term reforms



S.N. SUBRAHMANYAM

sector, which was affected by an ongoing crisis in non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) even before the contagion spread. Measures for NBFCs such as providing a ₹30,000 crore liquidity facility, a ₹45,000 crore partial credit guarantee and a ₹50,000 crore refinancing facility for NABARD, SIDBI and NHB will also help in ameliorating some stress on the NBFCs.

#### The pandemic as an opportunity

In his address to the nation on May 12, the Prime Minister mentioned infrastructure as one of the five pillars to take the nation out of the current crisis. While governments will be more focused this year on dealing with the pandemic and mitigating its impact on society, it is only a question of when spending on infrastructure will pick up. The sooner, the better. I believe the States as well as the Centre will pick up the mantle of unfinished infrastructure projects. This will aid economic growth and provide employment to a significant portion of the workforce.

The injection of ₹90,000 crore liquidity for DISCOMs, reforms in tariff policy, privatisation of distribution in Union Territories, etc. will help stem the haemorrhaging of some players in this sector. Policy measures announced for the defence sector, which are meant to push indigenous production and participation of the private sector in India's space programmes, have been encouraging so far. How this will be implemented needs to be seen, however, especially since some key defence procurement programmes have been delayed for many years. A level-playing field between defence public sector units and private companies is also necessary to develop the defence sector in India.

Most significantly, this crisis has brought to surface the need for investment in healthcare infrastructure. India currently spends around 1.2% of GDP on health which is lower than even peer countries like Brazil. The allocation of ₹15,000 crore and viability gap funding for social infrastructure projects are small steps in addressing this gap. L&T, for instance, is well placed to construct ready-to-use hospitals in the shortest span of time.

This stimulus is as much a reformative package as a fiscal one. However, a majority of the stimulus measures announced are meant for the rural sector and distressed segments with a focus on supply side measures in providing credit facilities. I endorse RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das words: "It is when the horizon is the darkest and human reason is beaten down to the ground that faith shines brightest and comes to our rescue." It is time we gear up to grab the opportunities this pandemic has laid open.

S.N. Subrahmanyam is CEO & MD, Larsen & Toubro

# Seizing the moment at the WHO

As WHO executive body chair, India will have to navigate the power landscape with candour and tact

#### SOURABH GUPTA

On May 22, 2020, Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, was elected the Chair of the World Health Organization's (WHO) executive board. The 34-member body is tasked with implementing the decisions of the recently concluded World Health Assembly (WHA). The elevation affords India an important platform to steer the global public health response to COVID-19. It also comes at a time when the WHO is being rocked politically as never before.

On May 18, U.S. President Donald Trump wrote a letter to the WHO Director-General, threatening to make permanent his temporary funding freeze as well as reconsider the U.S.'s membership in the organisation if the latter did not commit to major substantive reforms within 30 days. Earlier that morning by contrast, at the WHA plenary, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged \$2 billion to fight the virus, pair up 30 African hospitals with domestic counterparts, accelerate the building of the Africa Centers for Disease Control headquarters, and ensure that vaccine development in China, when available, would be made a global public good.

#### India's policy approach

As WHO executive body chair, India will have to navigate this treacherous power landscape with candour and tact. Five elements should inform its policy approach. First, India must insist that epidemic prevention and control remain the international community's foremost priority. As the virus' chain of transmission is broken, the focus should shift to identifying the animal-to-human transmission origins of SARS-CoV-2. China shares an important interest in facilitating international access to investigate COVID-19's zoonotic origins; Wuhan and other previously infected zones could yet be susceptible to the risk of viral reintroduction.

Finally, India must lead the call for a permanent global ban on the consumption and trade of wild animals, with limited exceptions built-in for scientific research, species protection and traditional livelihood interests. With two-thirds of emerging infections and diseases now arising from wildlife, the destruction of natural habitats and biodiversity loss must be taken much more seriously. India has its work cut out. The government should seize the moment.

areas for improvement, both in the WHO's leadership and capacity as well as member states' implementation of the International Health Regulations. For those in New Delhi inclined to relish the prospect of Beijing's comeuppance, the review's findings may yet sorely disappoint. The WHO-China Joint Mission featuring renowned global epidemiologists had termed China's early COVID-19 response as the "most ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment effort in history".

Third, India must promote the establishment of an appropriate multilateral governance mechanism for ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 therapeutics and vaccines for all countries. The envisaged voluntary pooling mechanism to collect patent rights and regulatory test data should be suitably tailored to the needs of crisis, and the World Trade Organization's intellectual property rights provisions overridden (as is allowed during a public health emergency) to assure affordable vaccine availability.

Fourth, India must stay aloof from the West's campaign to re-seat Taiwan as an observer at the WHA. When Taipei last attended in 2016, it did so under the explicit aegis of UN General Assembly Resolution 2758, whereby the UN considers Taiwan to be an integral part of the People's Republic of China. That the independence-minded Tsai government is unwilling to concede this basis for attendance has more to do with domestic political manoeuvring than Chinese or international ostracism.

Finally, India must lead the call for a permanent global ban on the consumption and trade of wild animals, with limited exceptions built-in for scientific research, species protection and traditional livelihood interests. With two-thirds of emerging infections and diseases now arising from wildlife, the destruction of natural habitats and biodiversity loss must be taken much more seriously. India has its work cut out. The government should seize the moment.

Sourabh Gupta is a senior fellow at the Institute for China-America Studies in Washington, D.C.



#### DATA POINT

## Targeted brutality

Protests against police brutality have been raging across the U.S. following the death of George Floyd, an unarmed African-American, under the knee of a white police officer in Minneapolis. An analysis of police shootings between 2013 and 2019 across the U.S. shows that African-Americans were disproportionately targeted. By The Hindu Data Team

**VICTIMS BY RACE** African-Americans are three times more likely to be killed in police shootings than white people. Close to 42 per million population of African-Americans were killed in such shootings in the period, the highest among all races

Victim's race	No. of victims	Victims per million people
Black	1,944	42
Pacific Islander	42	29
Hispanic	1,335	22
Native American	112	20
White	3,378	14
Asian	118	5

**SHARE OF UNARMED VICTIMS BY RACE** Over 17% of African-American victims were unarmed when they were killed, the highest among all races. They were 1.3 times more likely to be unarmed compared to white people when they were killed. More than 15% of Hispanic victims were unarmed when they were killed

Victim's race	% unarmed
Black	17.3%
Hispanic	15.1%
White	13.4%
Asian	10.2%
Pacific Islander	9.5%
Native American	8.9%

*In a significant number of cases, it was unclear whether the victims possessed weapons at the time of the police shooting. The table reflects the share of unarmed persons among known cases*

#### LAST WORD

■ A large number of African-Americans have taken to the streets across the U.S. in the midst of the pandemic. This may adversely impact the country's fight against COVID-19, which has infected a disproportionate share of African-Americans.

While African-Americans make up around 13% of the population, they account for 26% of COVID-19 cases and 25% of deaths related to the disease

- In the U.S., race plays a role in access to housing, medical care and employment opportunities, and income levels. African-Americans have a high prevalence of comorbidities and are 1.5 times more likely to not have medical insurance compared to white Americans

#### The Hindu

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 3, 1970

Back to the helm after six years

Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who has been sworn in as Prime Minister of Ceylon, by what should be rightly described as an avalanche of mass support, is the creator of history in more than one respect. Born on April 17, 1916, and entering the political arena soon after the death of her husband, Mr. Solomon Dias Bandaranaike in 1960, completely untutored in politics, she became the world's first woman Prime Minister. Visiting Bangalore in December in the same year she addressed a travel agency reception and expressed the hope that India too would elect a woman as Prime Minister after Nehru. During her four-year tenure of office from 1960 to 1964, she had visited most world capitals and had met such diverse personalities as Nehru and Kennedy, Nasser and Khrushchev, Macmillan and Mountbatten, Tito and Chou En-lai, who were impressed by her simplicity. In her anxiety to solve once and for all the problems of a million people of Indian origin in Ceylon she visited New Delhi in October 1964 and negotiated with Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri on the various issues involved. She was successful in persuading India to agree to take back 525,000 stateless people, while at the same time committing her Government to grant Ceylon citizenship to 300,000 persons.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 3, 1920

A ridiculous rebellion  
(From an editorial)

That a committee resolved to adjust its promises to lead to a pre-determined conclusion should detect "open rebellion" in what was at worst an intense and sporadic outburst of mob violence, is nothing surprising. To justify the introduction of martial law, and more, its prolonged continuance, it was undoubtedly necessary to magnify what had occurred. Now leaving aside the severe logical of the majority report let us envisage what had happened in the way of "open rebellion". It is admitted that the disorders were grave and fairly widespread. They involved much destruction of Government property and the loss of a few European lives. To that extent they were anti-Government and anti-European. But when the Committee proceeds to argue that because that was so the disorders amounted to open rebellion they are leaving the beaten track of actual fact to lose themselves in a hog of probabilities and possibilities.

FROM PAGE ONE

## China made significant deployment: Rajnath

Chinese troops have set up tents and brought in equipment inside at some places while also building up presence close to Indian positions on their side of the border.

Mr. Singh later said on Twitter quoting the interview that India's negotiation

with China was on and so he "would not like to express doubts."

"If the issue is resolved through dialogue then what else can be a good thing," he said and added that the 'forehead of India' would not bend under any circumstances.

## Notices to four private hospitals in Mumbai

Dr. Shinde said hospitals are facing a peculiar situation due to shortage of staff. Many healthcare workers are infected with the SARS-CoV-2, while others face difficulties in reaching their workplace due to the lockdown. "We have been requesting private hospitals to oblige as much as possible because of the emergency that we are facing. They have to contribute much more in such a situation," Dr. Shinde said.

A statement from Hinduja hospital said, "Currently, we are in adherence to all the provisions laid down by the State health regulators

and are in the process of replying to the notice issued suitably." It said the hospital fully supports the government in the fight against the pandemic and has built suitable facilities for COVID-19 treatment.

Dr Gautam Bhansali from Bombay Hospital said, "We are in the process of meeting all the points highlighted by the Health Minister after his surprise visit. On Tuesday, we have added 15 more ICU beds for COVID-19 patients taking the total ICU beds to 42."

Jaslok and Lilavati hospitals did not respond to queries from *The Hindu*.

## More structural reforms on the anvil, says PM

"Build consensus. Develop concepts, think big. We will together take up more structural reforms that will change the course of our country," Mr. Modi said through a video link.

The Prime Minister called on industry leaders to conduct a detailed study of every sector to chalk out a road map for a self-reliant India, while also taking on a new role to facilitate the recovery of domestic industries, assist the next level growth, and expand market globally.

"Trust me, getting growth back is not so difficult," he said, adding that indigenous industries have a clear path of self-reliant India ahead of them.

A self-sufficient India would be fully integrated with the world economy, but it also meant that the country would not depend

## LAC row robs Ladakh's herders of pastures

Since 2017, the vital winter grazing grounds of Guntsey Phu-Tagapank Nak low-lying belt has witnessed heightened tension between the Indian and Chinese armies.

"Already 35 metres of grazing range has been encroached in the belt by the Chinese Army this year," said Mr. Dorjee. The PLA, according to the villagers, has already stopped the centuries old nomadic movement to low-lying winter pastures on the otherwise fluid border or Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"The Chinese army used helicopters to maintain a vigil on grazers in Chuchol-Gunso belt. Even the food stocks kept in shelters for seasonal migration was ta-

ken away. There is already a motorable road constructed opposite Chumur with a nallah (stream) in between," he added.

The villagers claim the shrinking of grazing pastures is impacting their prized Pashmina herds this year and the mortality among the newborns has gone up. "Around 70-80% of the kids are finding it hard to survive," Mr. Dorjee said.

The Chushol-Demchok-Chumur belt border areas are home to the maximum number of Pashmina goats, which graze at altitudes above 13,000 feet, and the belt contributed 25 to 30 tonnes out of 45-50 tonnes of the finest wool produced annually in Ladakh.

## Trump invites Modi for G-7 summit

While the invite from President Trump is for the upcoming summit, which has been postponed from June, sources indicated that they will argue for not just a change in G-7 but also at other multilateral platforms to reflect India's concerns. Mr. Modi had attended the G-7 summit at Biarritz in France last year after being invited by President Emmanuel Macron. The release did not clarify if the G-11 will be launched in the upcoming

summit for which President Trump has extended the invite. Earlier Mr. Trump had described the G-7 as "outdated" indicating that he wanted the inclusion of Russia, India, Australia, and South Korea in the group.

Significantly, despite India's claim about holding bilateral talks with China to reduce tension along the Line of Actual Control near Ladakh, Mr. Modi on Tuesday discussed the issue with Mr. Trump.

# As States begin to unlock, five die of virus

Telangana has most fatalities, elderly priest dies in Kerala; Karnataka adds a record 388 cases, mostly in non-urban districts

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

from Maharashtra made up 363 of the new cases.

In Kerala, a 77-year-old priest who died while under treatment at Government Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram, was confirmed to have had COVID-19. He originally underwent neurosurgery following a road accident.

Kerala also reported the recovery of 19 people from COVID-19 on Tuesday.

The new cases in the State were distributed as follows : Malappuram 15; Alappuzha 10; Kasaragod 9; Kollam 8; Thiruvananthapuram 7; Kottayam, Thrissur, and Wayanad 6 each; Palakkad, Kozhikode and Kannur 5 each; Ernakulam 3 and Pathanamthitta 1.

There were 774 active cases and 11 deaths in all. So far, 627 persons had recovered.

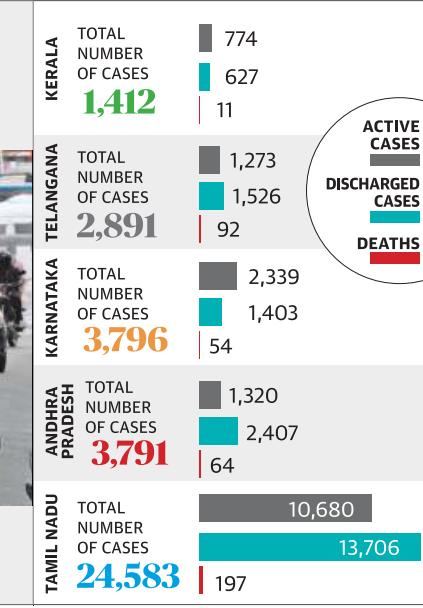
In other data, it was officially stated that 14,7010 persons were under State surveillance, with 1,45,670 in home or institutional quarantine and 1,340 isolated in

### Big battle

With more than 10,600 active COVID-19 cases in Tamil Nadu, the State government has a tough task at hand to contain the spread of the virus



Cleaning drive: Corporation workers spraying disinfectant on the busy Dr. Nanjappa Road in Coimbatore on Tuesday. ■ M. PERIASAMY



hospitals. On Tuesday, 200 persons were hospitalised.

COVID-19 cases in A.P. more than doubled in a month between May 2 and June 2 from 1,525 to 3,200.

Over the month, cases in Srikanthapuram, East Godavari shot up four-fold and in Vi-

sakhapatnam, Chittoor and Anantapur, there was a two-fold rise. Nellore had a spike of 190% while in West Godavari and Vizianagaram, cases doubled.

At least eight of the 13 districts witnessed more than 100% increase during the same period.

As of June 2, the district wise cases excluding foreign returnee and migrant returnee cases were: Kurnool (728), Guntur (519), Krishna (481), Chittoor (264), Nellore (261), East Godavari (243), Anantapur (223), West Goda-

vari (123), Kadapa (105), Prakasam (80), Srikanthapuram (28) and Vizianagaram (26).

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh added 115 COVID-19 cases of which 82 were of locals, an official bulletin said. The remaining 33 cases were those of migrant returnees and those from other states.

Two Karnataka districts – Udupi and Kalaburagi – recorded 150 and 100 cases respectively, the highest on a single day.

Udupi rose to top spot in active cases at 346. Kalaburagi followed with 270 active cases, sending Bengaluru Urban to third place.

A State health bulletin said cases in Udupi and Kalaburagi had crossed 400. All those who tested positive on Tuesday in these areas were Maharashtra returnees.

Among the new cases, 51 were from Belagavi, 16 from Raichur, 12 from Bengaluru Urban, and ten from Bidar.

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

The police conducting an inquiry into the explosion in Singareni Collieries Company. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Four killed in blast at Singareni collieries

Explosion at Open Cast Project-1

**K.M.DAYASHANKAR**  
**PEDDAPALLI**

Four contract workers were killed and three others sustained serious injuries in an explosion at the Open Cast Project-1 of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) of Ramagundam-3 division under the Ramagiri police station limits in Telangana on Tuesday.

Ramagundam Commissioner of Police V. Satyaranayana said the workers were drilling holes around

10.30 a.m. to fill it with slurry (gelatine) to explode them for removal of overburden (OB) earth from the OCP.

Out of 80 holes, they had drilled 33 holes and filled it with slurry and the blast occurred while they were fixing the detonator.

As the slurry was having high explosive content, four persons who were standing very close to the holes died on the spot and three others sustained serious injuries.

## BJP protests against article in Sapthagiri

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**TIRUPATI**

Objecting to what it called 'distorted portrayal' of Rama's son Kusa in the TTD magazine, BJP workers staged a demonstration here on Tuesday.

The dharna was against an article in the TTD magazine *Sapthagiri* by an eighth standard student under the head 'Balavakku'. The article mentions Lava as Rama's biological son and Kusa as born out of magical powers of Valmiki, while Sita was staying at the latter's hermitage.

The TTD wants to study the crowd behaviour and inadequacies, if any, in implementing the mandatory health advisories issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) before throwing the temple open to the general public.

The Andhra Pradesh government has accorded permission for the opening of the famed hill temple of Lord Venkateswara from June 8.

Special Chief Secretary, Revenue (Endowments) JSV Prasad issued the orders following a request made by TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal for conducting a trial run for the TTD employees and the residents of Tirumala.

The TTD wants to study the crowd behaviour and inadequacies, if any, in implementing the mandatory health advisories issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) before throwing the temple open to the general public.

The TTD has already drawn circles all along the darshan lines ensuring a distance of 10 feet between the devotees. It is proposed to

## TTD to open hill temple from June 8

Staff and Tirumala residents to get first chance of darshan in trial run



Spic and span: Staff sterilising the Vaikuntam queue complex in Tirumala. ■ FILE PHOTO

pliance of physical distancing, a zig-zag model of queue lines with protruding steel rods on both sides has been put in place which enables only a single person to pass through them at any given point of time.

Initially, the TTD plans to permit its 21,000-strong workforce for darshan during the first three days followed by residents of Tirumala and later of Tirupati.

The same guidelines will be implemented at all other temples under the TTD fold, including Tirupati and other districts.

It is not immediately known whether the trekking routes leading to Tirumala will be opened to the public from June 8 or only after the end of the trial run.

### IN BRIEF



Southwest monsoon intensifies in Kerala

Northern and central districts of Kerala can expect heavy spells of rain on Wednesday with the southwest monsoon, which officially set in over the State on Monday, remaining active. The India Meteorological Department has issued orange alerts for Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod for Wednesday as these districts can expect heavy to very rainfall.

### 27 held for defrauding Srisailam temple

The Andhra Pradesh police on Tuesday arrested 24 persons accused of defrauding the Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Temple at Srisailam of ₹2.12 crore over three years and recovered ₹83.40 lakh from them. The police had earlier arrested three others in related cases. Four different complaints were filed by the Executive Officer since July 2017.

### Inter-district bus services to begin today in Kerala

Inter-district bus services of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and that of private operators, which have been restricted from March 25 as part of the lockdown to contain COVID-19, will begin on Wednesday. The services will be only to the nearest adjoining district from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. in view of night curfew.

### Villagers beat man to death suspecting sorcery

A tribal, Kurasam Seetaramudu, 50, was beaten to death allegedly by a few other villagers in Andhra Pradesh on the charge that he was practising sorcery. He died on the spot. The villagers accused Seetaramudu of being responsible for the ill-health of a few other villagers. They had beat him earlier on similar allegations. The police took a few suspects into custody.

## Malayalam producers not keen on film release on OTT platform

In the poll conducted by their association, only three among 48 who responded have opted for the measure



A still from the movie, *Sufiyum Sujathayum*

G. KRISHNAKUMAR  
KOCHEE

Only three Malayalam film producers have expressed their wish to opt for a straight-to-OTT (over-the-top) release instead of waiting for cinemas to reopen amidst the current pandemic crisis, according to a poll held by the Kerala Film Producers' Association (KFPA).

They figure among the 48 producers who responded to the poll as of Tuesday. Nearly 20 movies were ready to

lease when the COVID-19 outbreak hit normal life two months ago and cinema halls were forced to close. More than 30 movies were at various stages of post-production.

"I would not like to reveal the names of the producers or the movies as it may affect their chances of securing an OTT release. Any digital platforms have not yet approached them. All the three movies have been made on a low budget," KFPA president

M. Renjith told *The Hindu*. "A majority of the producers are ready to wait till the situation turns normal. We had earlier taken a position that OTT release was an option for producers who wanted to tide over the financial crisis in this unprecedented situation by going for a direct-to-digital release," said KFPA treasurer B. Rakesh.

The KFPA had sent letters to the producers of over 50 movies who were not able to release their works owing to

the pandemic crisis asking them whether they would like to opt for digital release or wait till the cinemas re-open.

Exhibitors had opposed the straight-to-OTT release stating that it would dent their prospects. The differences between the producers and exhibitors on the issue were resolved following a meeting convened by the Kerala Film Chamber of Commerce on

May 27.

The war of words over the OTT release emerged after the makers of *Sufiyum Sujathayum* announced on May 15 that the film would skip its theatre release and go for a direct-to-digital premiere on Amazon Prime Video. It figured among seven Bollywood and regional movies acquired by the OTT platform in this COVID-19 situation.



KERALA

**Left slams 'measly' MSP hikes**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Left parties on Tuesday slammed the Union cabinet's announcement of hikes in MSP for kharif crops, with CPI (M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury calling it a 'measly' increase,

In a series of tweets, Mr Yechury said, "The claim is that MSP is increased by an unprecedented 50%. Truth is increase is measly, less than inflation costs. Burdens on our *Annadatas* will double..." A table comparing the MSP rates, that he posted with his tweet, reveals that the MSP hike for paddy common is only 2.92%, while it is just 1.8% for grade A paddy.

CPI general secretary, D. Raja, said the hike was pointless if the government doesn't procure the produce directly from farmers, who are unable to sell because of the lockdown.

# Worst is yet to come, says Rahul on economy

'PM's handling of economy a step above junk as per Moody's'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



Rahul Gandhi

Moody's has rated Modi's handling of India's economy a step above JUNK. Lack of support to the poor and the MSME sector means the worst is yet to come," Mr. Gandhi posted on Twitter, a day after the international ratings agency downgraded India's sovereign credit rating to 'Baa3' from 'Baa2'.

In a separate online press conference, former Lok Sabha MP and the Congress's Punjab chief Sunil Jakhar demanded that the the mini-

"The intention of the go-

vernment is doubtful. If it wants to help the farmer, give him the due price for his farm produce. If the MSP is declared and the farmer does not get it for his crops, then the Prime Minister's promise of doubling farmers' income will remain a pipe dream," said Mr. Jakhar.

He also questioned why the Centre was yet to notify the report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) on fixing the MSPs of various crops, and called it a 'betrayal of farmers'.

The Congress leader slammed the government's logic of offering loans to farmers who were committing suicide because of debt burden, and urged the Centre to waive off their loans and provide them cash assistance.

## BJP sets sights on M.P. byelections

The State is due to have bypolls to 24 Assembly seats by September

NITSLA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

The BJP's announcement that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will kick off the party's preparation for the Bihar Assembly polls (technically scheduled for October-November), on June 9 with a "virtual rally" has also focused attention on Madhya Pradesh, which is due to have bypolls to 24 Assembly seats, again, technically to be held by September latest.

The 24 seats include 22 vacated by former Congress MLAs when former Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia joined the BJP from the Congress. Two seats fell vacant on the death of sitting MLAs.

### Planning ahead

"Technically, the polls have to be held before September and looking at the prep in Bihar, you can see that we are getting ready as though polls



Jyotiraditya Scindia

will be held on time in both places," said a senior source in the State. "The Election Commission's decision to hold Rajya Sabha polls to three seats in the State on June 19 has pushed back the Cabinet expansion, which was earlier supposed to be held this week," said the source.

The biggest problem for it, according to the BJP, has been that a majority of the seats going to bypolls are in the Gwalior area, an old stomping ground of the Scindia family. Politics in this area has been defined by

where you stand with regard to the *mahal* or palace, that is, the Scindias' traditional leadership. Despite Vijayraje Scindia being one of the founders of the BJP, the party's politics in the area has been largely antagonistic to the palace, specifically the Congress part of the Scindia family.

The BJP, according to sources, moved strategically when it realised that Mr. Scindia wanted to join them.

"From the beginning, we kept Narendra Singh Tomar (Union Agriculture Minister and MP from the area), and Yashodhara Raje (Mr. Scindia's aunt and a former minister in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government), in the loop ... to ensure that no one felt insecure at this very high-profile – and for Madhya Pradesh a paradigm-shifting – induction," said the source, adding, "the BJP being a cadre based party,

the leaders were brought on board without too much issue."

The real problem, the sources said, would occur at the level of the rank and file, where cadre fights get more personal. Congress rebels will have to be given bypoll ticket and much heartburn was expected among the party's old cadre and aspirants over this. "We have been talking to many of them and a message has been delivered [to the cadre] very clearly - if you work to defeat the party, the government will fall, and Congress may return, how will that help you?" said the source.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, national vice president of the BJP, Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, who is also in charge of Madhya Pradesh, said: "... as a political party we are prepared to face them whenever they [the polls] happen."

Such classifications are

## Six more Rajya Sabha polls on June 19

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Elections to six Rajya Sabha seats that are set to be vacated in June and July would be held on June 19, the Election Commission of India (ECI) said in a press note on Monday. The counting of votes in three States would be held the same day. On Monday, it said elections to 18 Rajya Sabha seats, that had been deferred in March due to the COVID-19 lockdown, would be held on June 19.

The seats in Karnataka held by Prabhakar Kore, B.K. Hariprasad, D. Kupendra Reddy and Rajeev Gowda M.V. are set to be vacated on June 26. The term of Arunachal Pradesh MP Mukul Mithi will end on June 23 and of Mizoram MP Rona Sapa Tlau on July 18.

**INSTITUTE ON MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (IMAGE)  
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA)**  
Siripur, BHUBANESWAR-751003, Odisha  
Ph. - (0674) 25622151, Fax - 2561879, E-mail : [imagebsr@rediffmail.com](mailto:imagebsr@rediffmail.com)

**CORIGENDUM**

**Advertisement for recruitment of various positions under FAO-GEF Assisted Green Agriculture Project in Odisha**

Due to enforcement of Shut down, as a precautionary measure against COVID-19, the date of receipt of application from eligible candidates for engagement in different positions for the FAO-GEF assisted Green Agriculture Project to be implemented in Simlipal Bio-sphere area is hereby extended to 22.06.2020. Applications received after 22.06.2020 will not be taken into consideration.

Director, IMAGE  
OIPR-28009/11/0004/2021  
CAD-110:

**No.809/PW/PH/DB-DRI/No.678-Vol.5/2020-21  
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY**

**PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**  
P.W.D., PUDUCHERRY

Puducherry, the 02.06.2020

**PRESS NOTICE FOR PWD/2020-21**

e-Tender No.5/PHD/PWD/2020-21

On behalf of the President of India, e-Tenders are invited through the Government of Puducherry, for N/W: (1) Providing waste water treatment system of 3 MLD capacity towards abating pollution in Sankaraparani River located in Villianur Commune Puducherry (4<sup>th</sup> Call) and (2) Providing waste water treatment system of 3 MLD capacity towards abating pollution in Arasalar River located at Karaikal Puducherry (4<sup>th</sup> Call)" for further details please refer the website <https://pudutenders.gov.in>.

No.036/DIP/AD/Press/2020-21

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PHD)**

**TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**  
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu  
Ph: 04324-277 001 (10 Lines) E-Mail: Purchase.fuel@tnpl.co.in

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
202113	Steam (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 5000 GAR	16.06.2020
000842	Imported Limestone	20.06.2020
202113	Imported Limestone	20.06.2020

Detailed terms & condition, Quantity, Tender Fee, EMD, etc. are available in tender document at our websites: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)

DIPR/2022/Tender/2020

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**RTES LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
CIN No.: L74890DL1974G01007227

**CORIGENDUM**

Ref.: NIT No.: RTES/BDSR/MCL/KANHAI/LTR/OT-03/2020, Dated: 30.05.2020. Published on 31.05.2020 in The Hindu-Eng (All Edition), Samrang-Hindi (Hindi) and The Samai-Ondiya (Cuttack). The date of NIT No. is published as 30.05.2020. Please, read the date of NIT : 31.05.2020 instead of 30.05.2020 and the Last time and date of submission of bid : 15:00 hrs (IST) of 29.06.2020 instead of 22.06.2020. All other terms and condition remain same.

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM REGIONAL COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD.**  
Head Office: KSHEERA BHAVAN, PATTOM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695 004.  
Phone: 0471 2447108 2446845  
Fax No.: 0471 2449567. E-mail: [trcmmpu@gmail.com](mailto:trcmmpu@gmail.com)

**CORIGENDUM**

Tender NCT/RU/PPM-05/2020-2 dated 13.05.2020  
**TENDER FOR HIRING OF MILK TANKERS**  
Last date for submission of sealed bid is extended to 22.06.2020 at 11 AM. Bidders are requested to visit the website [www.milmatrcmpu.com](http://www.milmatrcmpu.com) for details. All other terms and conditions remains unchanged.

02.06.2020 Managing Director

**TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**  
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist, Tamil Nadu,  
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**GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING BIDS (GNIB)**

For Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of SO<sub>2</sub> Solution preparation plant and auxiliaries in chemical preparation area for pulp mill for TNPL UNIT-II MEP

Bidders may request the tender document at the above address by post/mail. Detailed GNIB may be viewed in websites: [www.tenders.tn.gov.in/www.tnpl.com](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in/www.tnpl.com)

Date of Issue of Bid Document: 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020  
Due date for submission: 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

DIPR/2011/Tender/2020

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# Remdesivir cleared for 'emergency use'

Ministry denies under-reporting of COVID-19 deaths; country far from peak: ICMR

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

Antiviral drug Remdesivir has been cleared for treatment of COVID-19 patients "under emergency use," the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday, adding that the decision was based on available evidence.

The Ministry denied any under-reporting of COVID-19 deaths in the country.



Hygiene first: A staffer moving medical waste from a COVID-19 ward in a hospital in New Delhi. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

the use of the word 'community transmission', we need to understand the extent of the spread of the disease. ICMR is conducting sero survey to determine the extent of transmission of virus. About 34,000 individuals are being tested and the results are expected to be out within a week or so."

### Recovery rate improving

The Ministry noted that recovery rate was improving and the fatality rate was going down. "Ten per cent of India's population accounts for 50% of the COVID-19 linked deaths," noted the Ministry. It added that the recovery rate was more than 48% now.

"Wrong conclusion is being drawn when we say that in terms of number of cases, our country is in the seventh place worldwide. Comparison should be made primary in terms of our population size," said Mr. Agarwal.

## MHA relaxes business visa norms

S. VIJAY KUMAR  
CHENNAI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday opened the door to foreign nationals – businessmen, healthcare professionals, engineers, health researchers and other specialists – to visit India. The MHA said in an order that the travel relaxations would apply to foreign businessmen coming on a business visa (other than on B-3 visa for sports) in non-scheduled commercial/chartered flights.

The foreign travellers would have to obtain a fresh Business Visa or Employment Visa from Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Foreign nationals holding a long term multiple entry Business Visa (other than B-3 visa for sports) would have to get the visa re-validated from the Indian Missions/Posts concerned.

## JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (JIPMER)

(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GO), Dhankar Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006

Phone: 0413 - 2296022 Website: [www.jipmer.edu.in](http://www.jipmer.edu.in) Fax: 0413 - 2272067-2272735

**No.JIP/Admin-I/Dep/I(33)/PDY/2020 Date: 03.06.2020**

Applications are invited for one post of **DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ADMN.) - Level 13** as per 7th CPC on Deputation basis at JIPMER, Puducherry from eligible Officers of the Central/State Government/Autonomous Institutions/Universities/ Research Institutions, etc. Details about pay scale, age, qualification, experience, other conditions of eligibility and application format are available at [www.jipmer.edu.in](http://www.jipmer.edu.in) The last date for receipt of filled-in application is **17.07.2020 (Friday) till 4.30 PM.**

**DIRECTOR**

## SAINIK SCHOOL BIJAPUR, (KA)

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender notification on prescribed form are invited from reputed firms for supply of gym equipments. Last date for submission of offline form is 27 June 2020. For downloading tender form and more details visit our website [www.ssbj.in](http://www.ssbj.in) or [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in).

**Sd/- Principal**

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

Madurai Highways (Construction & Maintenance) Circle

### TENDER NOTICE

T.N.NO.04/2020-21/HDO.DATED:28.05.2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 09.07.2020, 15.00 hours by the Superintendent Engineer (H), C&M, Villupuram Circle for CRIDP 2020-21 works, (Package No.64 to 79) pertaining to Karur (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 08.06.2020 onwards in the Government website <http://tntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

For Superintending Engineer (H), C&M Circle, Tirupur.

DIPR/2049/Tender/2020

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

Tirunelveli (Construction and Maintenance) Circle

### TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.5/2020-21/HDO/Dated: 02.06.2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only

will be received upto 09.07.2020 at 14.00 hours by the Superintendent Engineer(H), C&M, Tirunelveli Circle, for CRIDP 2020-21 Works, (Package No.36 to 50) pertaining Tirunelveli (H) (C&M) Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 06.06.2020 onwards in the Government website <http://tntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

DIPR/2044/TENDER/2020

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

Madurai Highways (Construction & Maintenance) Circle

### TENDER NOTICE

Telecom dept. takes stock of preparedness

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has taken stock of the readiness and arrangements made by telecom companies for ensuring network connectivity in Maharashtra and Gujarat, ahead of cyclone Nisarga.

"All our infrastructure provider (IP) members have taken necessary steps to ensure connectivity 24/7 in the areas which are likely to be affected by the cyclone and all the background arrangements like additional DG sets, battery banks, spare parts, stocking of diesel are taken care of," T.R. Dua, Director-General, Tower and Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA), said in a statement.

IPs have also deployed additional rescue teams which are kept on standby mode for all major districts likely to get impacted during Nisarga, he said.

## Nisarga: patients shifted as precaution

Evacuation from field hospital in Mumbai; NDRF, Army and Navy teams are on standby

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) on Tuesday shifted nearly 250 COVID-19 patients from the temporary facility at Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) ground to the COVID centre at the NSCI Centre, a permanent structure in Worli as a precautionary measure ahead of the landfall of severe cyclone Nisarga on Wednesday.

The facility had been built by the MMRDA to cater to non-critical COVID-19 patients and was handed over to the BMC last month. The 1,008 bed facility received its first set of patients on May 25.

The cyclone is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm with projected wind-speeds of about 110 kmph by Wednesday afternoon as it makes landfall. Thereafter the system will weaken to a less severe 'deep depression'

### Tracking Nisarga

The map shows the predicted route of Cyclone Nisarga. It is expected to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm with winds gusting up to 120 kmph and cross north Maharashtra and south Gujarat coasts between Hariharshwar and Daman, close to Alibaug (Raigad district) around 11:30 a.m. on June 3.

According to IMD, extremely heavy rainfall (> 20 cm in 24 hours) at isolated places is very likely over north Konkan (Mumbai, Palgar, Thane, Raigad district) and north Madhya Maharashtra on June 3.

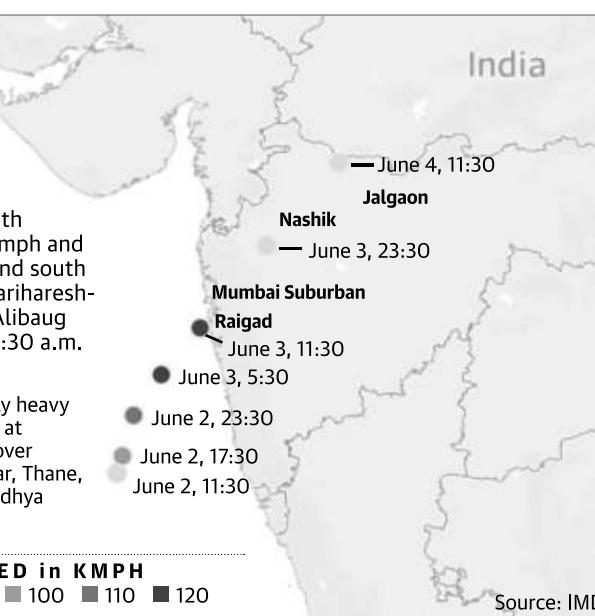
**WIND SPEED in KMPH**

■ 70 ■ 80 ■ 90 ■ 100 ■ 110 ■ 120

according to the IMD's. This is the first cyclone to form near Mumbai in the Arabian Sea since 1882.

#### Airport safety

The Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIATL) said special precautions have been



sengers and setting up of a dedicated team has been made," a spokesperson said.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation issued a circular to airlines and pilots on Tuesday, reiterating its guidelines on adverse weather operations.

"Domestic aviation activities have recently been started after a period of two months. Operators and individuals have a challenge at hand in restarting flying after a prolonged period of non-flying and the associated weather at this time of the year across India," said the DGCA. The circular was being issued to operators and pilots to reiterate some existing guidelines on adverse weather operations and suggested measures "to cater for the gap in flying of pilots", it said. "Fuel uplift calculation should be done very judiciously and it should take into account enroute and destination weather and trend forecast," the DGCA said.

(With PTI inputs)

taken for smaller and lighter aircraft typically used for general aviation as they are vulnerable to strong winds. Some aircraft have flown out of Mumbai until the cyclone passes while others have been asked to park inside the hangar.

"The airport has ensured that minimum aircraft are parked on the apron. The airport is closely coordinating with IMD to monitor the progress/dissipation of adverse weather."

Arrangements for 24/7 food to be available to pas-

## Railways keeping a close watch

Wind speed to decide cancellations

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

The Mumbai divisions of Western Railway and Central Railway have taken a series of precautions in the city in light of Cyclone Nisarga. While no trains have been cancelled yet, officials said they were monitoring the situation closely and would take call on regulating or short terminating trains if the need arose.

The Railways on Monday had partially resumed timetabled long-distance services to several parts of the country with many trains either starting from Mumbai or being routed via the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

According to the protocols laid down by the WR, which runs parallel to the coast from Mumbai to Gujarat, trains would be allowed to operate as long as wind speeds remain under 72 kmph. Senior WR officials said that wind speeds were



being monitored using two anemometers at Bhayander and Vaitarna stations, which had been calibrated and were being monitored continuously.

Chief Public Relations Officer, WR, Ravinder Bhakar, said that they were in constant touch with the India Meteorological Department and civic agencies. "We are closely monitoring the situation. We have staff patrolling sections," he added.

## NDRF sends in reinforcements

Mumbai Police forbids assembly at promenades and beaches in the city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on Tuesday deployed more personnel to tackle the possible devastation that Cyclone Nisarga could cause in the city.

The Mumbai Police, meanwhile, issued fresh prohibitory orders forbidding any assembly on promenades and beaches in the city.

The NDRF had on Monday placed three teams on standby in Mumbai, two each in Palghar and Raigad, and one each in Thane, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg.

On Tuesday, the teams on standby were deployed to various spots in their respective locations, while five



more teams were added. Two more teams were sent to Raigad, one more to Thane and one each in Ratnagiri and one to Navi Mumbai.

"Of the four teams in Rai-

gad, three are deployed at Alibaug.

One team is currently on

reserve, while five more are

on their way to Maharashtra

from Vishakapatnam, which

will also be deployed as soon

as they reach. Provisions

have been made to airlift extra teams from Hyderabad if the need is felt," NDRF Com-

mandant Anupam Srivastava said.

**Special equipment**

The NDRF has provided all

its personnel with special

equipment to ensure zero di-

rect contact with civilians in

light of the COVID-19 proto-

cols.

The teams have already been briefed on precautions to be followed in this regard.

The police issued ban orders under the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

The orders will remain in

effect from Wednesday mid-

night to Thursday midnight.

The State authorities have asked fishermen to avoid venturing into the sea while all beaches have been closed for public.

In addition to the NDRF

teams, the State government

has also deployed five teams of SDRF while more teams with equipment have been

put in standby mode in near-

by districts to deal with any

eventuality.

Union Home Minister

Amit Shah had a video con-

ference with Chief Minister Vi-

jay Rupani about prepara-

tions being done by the State

authorities. The government

has directed coastal districts

to evacuate people from low-

lying areas and those resid-

ing near the coastline.

**Indoors is best**

As the cyclone is likely to hit

the coastal areas of the State

on June 3, the administration

has appealed to people par-

ticularly in districts of Surat,

Navsari, Valsad, Bharuch in

south Gujarat and Bhavnagar

and Amreli in Saurashtra to

stayindoors and not go

near the sea.

Several parts of the State,

including Bhavnagar and Ah-

medabad, witnessed light

showers and thunderstorms

on Monday night.

SC mulls physical court hearings

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will explore the feasibility of physical appearances of advocates in the court while adhering to physical distancing norms amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

In its short circular, the court indicated that it was open to the possibility of physical court hearings, provided advocates and parties who come in person to present their cases give a joint consent.

## HC notice to U.P. on post-testing norm

Release those who have completed quarantine and are negative, court tells govt.

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW



Constitution, this court has a duty to interfere whenever there is an abuse of power or usurpation of a right conferred by the Constitution".

A Division Bench of Justices Shashi Kant Gupta and Saubhab Shamshery passed the order on May 30 on a PIL filed by Shaad Anwar.

Mr. Anwar, a Delhi-based lawyer, had sought the release of Tablighi Jamaat members who were quarantined in U.P. after their return from the Nizamuddin event in Delhi on March 5.

The court also directed the Chief Secretary to set up three-member committees in every district to "ensure smoother, greater and more effective functioning" of the quarantine centres.

They would see that the centres were properly maintained, controlled and administered.

They would provide help and guidance in the wake of difficulties and problems faced by the inmates

and ensure that those who had completed their quarantine period were released forthwith.

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## Manu Sharma released from Tihar jail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Home Department of the Delhi government has ordered the release of 19 convicts, including Siddhartha Vashishtha also known as Manu Sharma, who was serving a life sentence in the 1999 Jessica Lal murder case, on the recommendation of the Sentence Reviewing Board (SRB).

According to Sandeep Goel, the Director-General of Tihar Prison where he was lodged, Sharma was released on Monday evening. His term was scheduled to end on May 6, 2023.

The recommendations of the SRB were approved by Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal.

According to the Home Department's order, only one of the 19 life convicts whose release was ordered had served the full sentence. Of the remaining, as many as 14 were to serve their respective sentences till the 2026 and one each till 2024, 2025 and 2027.

# Depsang tensions echo 2013 stand-off

Diplomatic offensive then resolved crisis after the PLA crossed LAC and pitched tents on Indian side

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

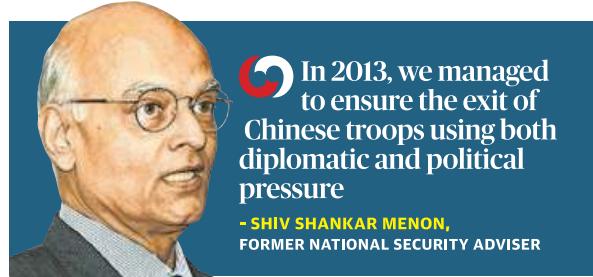
Reports of a heavy Chinese presence at Depsang, an area at a crucial dip (called the Bulge) on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), have increased tensions between Indian and Chinese troops, sources aware of the month-long stand-off at various points in Ladakh and Sikkim said.

The ADGPI, the Army's public relations wing, has declined to comment on reports over Depsang.

According to the sources, PLA troops have pitched tents in the area in the past few days, while equipment, LAVs and a "large number" of tanks can be seen further back in area that China controls.

The "Depsgang plain" is one of the few places in the Western Sector where light armour (vehicles) would have ease of manoeuvre, so any Chinese build-up there is a cause for concern, military experts say.

The build-up invokes memories of both the 1962 war,



In 2013, we managed to ensure the exit of Chinese troops using both diplomatic and political pressure  
— SHIV SHANKAR MENON,  
FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

when Chinese troops had occupied all of the Depsang plains, and more recently, April 2013, when the PLA crossed the LAC and pitched tents on the Indian side for three weeks, before they agreed to pull out.

### Two-pronged strategy

"In 2013, we managed to ensure the exit of Chinese troops using both diplomatic and political pressure," former National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon told *The Hindu*, speaking about the two-pronged measures that were used to push the PLA troops back over the LAC at the time. According to Mr. Menon, India insisted at the time that not only did the troops need to move back from the 'stand-off

point', but they also verified the 'end point' of the withdrawal so as to avoid any repeat incursions.

"We refused to negotiate until the status quo was restored at the LAC, and we were told exactly where the troops would move back to. Meanwhile, we stopped talking to the Chinese side about a planned visit by Chinese Premier Li, a message that if the stand-off didn't end, the visit would be off," said Mr. Menon. He was the NSA and Special Representative (SR) for boundary talks from 2010-2014, and had spoken to the Chinese SR Yang Jiechi, while present External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was India's Ambassador to China and negotiated the Depsang crisis with his coun-

terparts in Beijing.

As part of upgrading defences in Ladakh, beginning 2014 India started deploying tank regiments consisting of T-72s in Eastern Ladakh. This comes from the bitter experience of 1962 war when six AMX-13 tanks were airlifted to Ladakh in AN-12 transport aircraft but they failed to make any significant impact as the crew were not acclimated to the environment and the tanks were not equipped to operate in the rarefied atmosphere.

One tank regiment was deployed in 2014 and another in 2016 with the eventual objective of having a full brigade.

According to Mr. Menon, the present stand-off on the LAC would need to be negotiated differently, given changes in the current situation from 2013, as well as the fact that the stand-off has dragged on for more than double the time than it took to resolve seven years ago.

In addition, there are at this point more than four areas where Indian and China soldiers are locked in the

stand-off, including at the Galwan river valley, Pangong Tso (lake) and Naku La, while several other points on the LAC have seen significantly larger Indian and Chinese troop presence.

Sources said most of the troops that were moved over the past few weeks have finished their acclimatisation and have been deployed to counter the Chinese build-up along the Galwan Valley, larger Hot Spring Area and the Finger Area of the Pangong Lake.

When asked, Mr. Menon said the government's current position of making no comment on the ongoing stand-off was conducive to negotiations, which had enabled the PLA withdrawal from Depsang in 2013.

"The key to arriving at a successful outcome was keeping public rhetoric calm and steady, displaying strength, and giving the adversary a way out, which was our preferred solution," said Mr. Menon, who is also the author of *Choices: Inside the Making of India's Foreign Policy*, published in 2018.

## France committed to deliver Rafale: Rajnath

'Dispatch assured despite COVID-19'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



Rajnath Singh  
Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) from 2020 to 2022, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. "The two Ministers agreed to work together to fulfil the India-France joint strategic vision on the Indian Ocean Region of 2018," it stated.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria in a recent interview to *The Hindu* said the delay would be covered up in subsequent deliveries of the Rafale jets. There is still about 8-9 weeks of training left for the IAF team currently in France and also some logistic support and test equipment that has to be flown to the Ambala air base before the jets can come in.

THE HINDU

# OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY • JUNE 3, 2020

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

## 'Coded' solutions to COVID-19 problems

Women technology professionals to address work and life issues at four-day hackathon event



File photo of a hackathon used for representational purpose only

LIFFY THOMAS

Though the COVID-19 pandemic is not discriminatory in itself, socio-economic and other factors can determine how it affects different sections.

Anuranjita Kumar, founder and chairperson, Women in Technology (WIT) draws attention to why gender should be also counted as a factor. One of the subscripts of the lockdown has been gender violence.

Women in Technology (WIT) – India forum, in association with IBM, is organising a virtual hackathon from June 3 to June 6 on the theme 'Tech Solutions to Accelerate the New Normal', which will see women technology professionals coming together to address issues posed by COVID-19, and issues affecting women exclusively are expected to be among them.

More than 400 teams

from over 100 corporates, including SAP, Wipro, Optum, Dell, Credit Suisse, Volvo, Infosys, KPMG, UI Path and OLX have signed up for the hackathon so far. Registrations are open till June 3.

### A special focus

Traditionally hackathons are dominated by men, and this event has been made women-only so that they could ideate better to find solutions to problems arising from the COVID-19 situation, explains Anuranjita.

**C** We want to give these women engineers the option of integrating themselves into a larger community of engineers and leaders we partner with

On what to expect from the hackathon, she points out that a majority of the tech solutions are expected to be broad-based in their appeal, covering issues such as day-to-day household irritants; and then, obviously, industry-related issues. There is bound to a special focus on segments most paralysed by the pandemic.

One of the special expectations from the hackathon is that the participants would present solutions to take the edge off certain challenges women may be facing on the home and the work fronts as a result of the pandemic, and hopefully these solutions would serve as an eye-opener for many, and bring about empathy, details Anuranjita.

"Hackathons are generally judged by the level of coding but as many women who have good ideas but are not particularly adept at coding, we have relaxed the rules

quite a bit," she says.

Having seen first-hand the challenges faced by senior citizens while using mobile apps, a group of women technicians from Crimson Services in Gurugram will be working on bringing some of the most-used applications to one platform.

A team from OLX (National Capital Region) is working on a solution for the food and beverage industry, to make business safe for the workforce, and the dining experience for the customers.

### Mentoring support

During the hackathon, the participants would receive mentoring support through a group of experts selected for the purpose. The event goes through three levels. Each team can sport four or five members. The first round will be judged by a 30-member jury, consisting of chief technology officers

and chief innovation officers from various companies.

Anuranjita says the average experience of the participants is between five and 12 years. The projects of three teams, finishing top on top of the table, will be implemented.

Anandamoy Roychowdhary, Director – Technology, Sequoia Capital India LLP and one of the partners for the event, says hackathons are the purest expression of the builder/maker spirit.

"Some of the greatest products were conceived in a hackathon first. So what excites us is not only the event

itself, but the opportunity to engage with the participants beyond the initial phase. We want to give these women engineers the option to integrate themselves into a larger community of engineers and leaders we partner with. In the past, Sequoia India has also invested in companies started by engineers and product leads who participated in our Sequoia:Hack events. And we would be excited to explore similar opportunities through our partnership with WIT," says Roychowdhary.

For details, visit <https://womenintechology.in/womenmovidewarriors>

### GENERAL

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

ADVT No.BT/AI/28013/01/2020

JUNE 2, 2020  
**APPLICATIONS / NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED  
FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR,  
RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, INDIA**

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) is an autonomous institute under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. The four major mandates of the institute include discovery research in Disease Biology, Translational Sciences, Technology Development as well as training and education. RGCB is also unique in working across three campuses, the main campus which focuses on Discovery Research, a Bio-Innovation Center that focuses on discovery and early translation as well as a bio-incubator where biotech knowledge is converted to product and process development by start up companies. The Institute encourages creation of knowledge and benefit sharing related to IPR. Details of the Institute are available at [www.rgcb.res.in](http://www.rgcb.res.in).

Applications are invited from eminent scientists (Indian Citizens) having proven scientific record in life or medical sciences with application to disease biology and possessing excellent leadership ability for the position of Director, RGCB on deputation (including short term contract).

Scale of Pay and other benefits: The selected incumbent will be placed in the Level-15 (As per 7th CPC) / [HAG Scale Rs. 67,000 - 79,000 + annual increment @ 3% as per 6th CPC]. Other benefits/allowances shall be as per rules applicable for appointment on deputation including Short-Term Contract /Absorption basis.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Scientists from Central / State Governments, Research Institutes, Autonomous Bodies, Government funded Research Organizations/Institutes, etc.
- The applicant's/nominee's age should not exceed 58 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications and she/he must be an Indian Citizen.
- Holding analogous post on regular basis in the parent Department; or
- With 5 years service in a position with Grade Pay of Rs.10,000/- or equivalent in the parent cadre/Department and possesses the qualifications & experience as described below.

### Essential:

- Ph.D in Science or Engineering discipline or M.Tech./M.E. or equivalent.
- A minimum 15 years of research experience in the field of specialization.
- Excellent scientific track record, hand in publications, patents and awards

### Desirable:

- Experience in successfully running large programs, center and/or institution.
- Experience of guiding research activities in any of the fields of life sciences.

For more details including additional desirable qualifications login to the website: [www.dbtindia.nic.in](http://www.dbtindia.nic.in) or [www.rgcb.res.in](http://www.rgcb.res.in)

Last date for receipt of applications/nominations in Department of Biotechnology is 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News for local candidates and 45 days for the candidates residing abroad, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Island, States/Union Territories in the North-Eastern region, Ladakh, Sikkim, Sub division Chamba and Lahaul and Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh.

## Early career programme to 'create' software engineers

HCL is inviting applications for its early career programme called 'TechBee'.

The work-integrated higher education programme is open for students who have completed Class XII.

It prepares students technically and professionally for entry-level IT jobs in HCL, where candidates undergo an extensive 12-month training to become software engineers, said a release.

While working at HCL,

students may also enrol in a graduation-degree programme offered by BITS Pilani and SASTRA University.

Interested students who wish to enrol for the programme must take up an entrance test. During the

SI No	Name of posts	Grade	No. of Vacancies
1	Deputy Manager (Electronics)	2 (1 UR, 1 OBC)	
2	Deputy Manager (Information Technology)	E2	1 (UR)
	Total		3 (2 UR, 1 OBC)

For details, visit CSL website  
[www.cochinshipyard.com](http://www.cochinshipyard.com) (Careers page).  
Last date of receipt of online application is 30 June 2020.  
"Hindi version of detailed advertisement is published in the website ([www.cochinshipyard.com](http://www.cochinshipyard.com)) of CSL" Sd/  
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HR & TRG)

# Trump threatens to use military in cities

President says he's an ally of peaceful protesters; outside White House, teargas used against crowd

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN

As protests, rioting and looting spread across the U.S. following last week's police killing of George Floyd, an African American man, President Donald Trump said he would deploy the military in cities and States if local authorities could not bring the violence under control.

"Mayors and Governors must establish an overwhelming law enforcement presence until the violence has been quelled," Mr. Trump said at the White House Rose Garden on Monday evening.

"If a city or a state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the United States military and quickly solve the problem for them," he said. Earlier on Monday, Mr. Trump told State Governors on a call that they needed to "dominate" protesters and if they did not, they would end up looking "like a bunch of jerks".

Over 75 cities have seen protests over the murder of Floyd.

Warning Washington DC citizens of a seven o'clock curfew on Monday, Mr. Trump said he was deploying "thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel, and law enforcement officers" in the city.

"All Americans were rightly sickened and revolted by the brutal death of George Floyd. My administration is fully committed that, for George and his family, justice will be served," he said.

The biggest victims of the rioting are peace-loving citizens in our poorest com-



In God's name: U.S. President Donald Trump holding up a copy of the Bible outside St. John's Episcopal Church across the Lafayette Park in Washington. ■ AFP

## Lam slams U.S. 'double standards'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONG KONG

"We have recently seen these kind of double standards most clearly with the riots in the U.S.," Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam said. "We can see how local authorities have reacted. But then last year when we had similar riots in Hong Kong, what was their position?"

munities, and as their President, I will fight to keep them safe. I will fight to protect you. I am your President of law and order, and an ally of all peaceful protesters," he said.

Before Mr. Trump started speaking, police fired rubber bullets, flash-bang shells and gas into peaceful protesters in Lafayette Square – which is just outside the White

House. Before curfew, the authorities – including officers on horseback – cleared the park, the *Washington Post* reported.

His path cleared of protesters, Mr. Trump walked, after his Rose Garden remarks, across the park in Lafayette Square to the historic St. John's Church, whose basement had been set on fire in Sunday night's protests. The

Standing outside the Church, Mr. Trump posed to Hong Kong. "They take their own country's national security very seriously, but for the security of our country, especially the situation in Hong Kong, they are looking at it through tinted glasses," she said.

Ms. Lam said if any countries imposed sanctions, they would only be "hurting their own interests."

President's daughter and son in law, White House advisers Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien, Attorney General William Barr, Defense Secretary Mark Esper and General Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were among those who walked with Mr. Trump. Standing outside the Church, Mr. Trump posed

for photographs with a Bible in hand, making brief remarks.

There was widespread outrage in the clearing out of peaceful protesters from outside the White House and Mr. Trump's use of the Bible in this context.

The White House pushed back against criticism; Judd Deere, a White House spokesperson, was quoted by the American press as saying the perimeter was expanded to enforce the curfew and protesters were given three warnings by the authorities.

### 'Defeat him'

Democrat leaders were among those who criticised Mr. Trump for his actions on Monday.

"He's using the American military against the American people. He tear-gassed peaceful protesters and fired rubber bullets. For a photo. For our children, for the very soul of our country, we must defeat him. But I mean it when I say this: we can only do it together," presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden tweeted.

"Across our country, Americans are protesting for an end to the pattern of racial injustice and brutality we saw most recently in the murder of George Floyd," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a joint statement.

Democrats were not alone in their criticism. "At so many times during these past several weeks when the country needed compassion and leadership the most, it was simply nowhere to be found," Republican Governor of Massachusetts Charlie Baker said, speaking about Mr. Trump's rhetoric.

## Sri Lanka's top court dismisses petitions challenging poll date

ELSEWHERE



Libya rivals agree return to ceasefire talks: UN

TUNIS The UN Libya mission said Tuesday the country's warring parties had agreed to restart talks. The Libyan National Army (LNA) of Khalifa Haftar has been waging an offensive to seize the capital Tripoli, seat of the Government of National Accord (GNA). ■ AFP

Afghan Taliban still keeps ties with al-Qaida'

ISLAMABAD The Taliban in Afghanistan still maintain close ties with the al-Qaeda terror network, despite signing a peace deal with the United States in which they committed to fight militant groups, a UN report released on Tuesday said. ■ AP

EC had fixed parliamentary elections to be held on April 25

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed all the petitions challenging the poll date fixed by the Election Commission, and the gazette issued by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa dissolving Parliament.

The Election Commission had earlier fixed all-island parliamentary elections to be held on April 25. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EC postponed the general polls to June 20.

Further, the petitioners also sought relief on the President's March 2 proclamation dissolving Parliament and calling snap polls. Citing

pandemic. As of Tuesday evening, Sri Lanka has reported 1,643 cases, 823 recoveries and 11 deaths.

The EC is expected to convene soon to decide on a new poll date. "We have already told the Court that the Commission will be able to hold polls only after public health authorities tell us it is safe to do so," said Ratnajeevan Hoole, an Election Commissioner. "Once health officials clear this, we will need at least 60 to 70 days' time to make poll arrangements," he told *The Hindu*, following the Supreme Court's ruling.

Speaking to media persons after the ruling, senior lawyer and former parliamentarian M.A. Sumanthiran, who appeared for one of the petitioners, said: "The struggle to restore democracy will continue."

sisted desegregation orders of the Supreme Court, President John F. Kennedy deployed the National Guard to enforce it. President Donald Trump's threat to use the U.S. military to "dominate" people who erupted in protest after the killing of an unarmed African American by the police is history coming full circle.

The video footage of a police officer pinning down George Floyd by his neck until he died could not have come at a worse time for the U.S. whose reputation was already at stake in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, there was a moral defense that the U.S. was a free society that does not coerce its members.

There was also a convenient contrast to make – with China, which under Xi Jinping has offered its model of development as an alterna-

tive to liberalism. The Trump administration, and a section of the commentators, focused on whistleblower doctor Li Wenliang in Wuhan, who noticed the novel coronavirus in the early days of the outbreak. He was silenced by the local government, though posthumously declared a martyr by Beijing. Two U.S. Senators wanted to rename the street in Washington DC where the Chinese Embassy is located after him. Because of the Chinese fitters on freedom of expression, information regarding the pandemic was suppressed and the outbreak went out of control, the mainstream American argument went. U.S. also confronted China on a range of questions, from technology and trade to the Hong Kong uprising. Then came the brutal images from Minnesota.

**Holes in the story**  
It is not that holes in the American story were not vis-

ible earlier. Edward Snowden, born two years after Reagan became President, is today living in Russia in asylum, accused of espionage and theft in the U.S. Many American liberals argue that he crossed a line by revealing national security secrets; and no mainstream American politician hails him as a martyr for free speech.

How much force is legitimate in law enforcement might depend on the context

and place, but the U.S. ranks number one in the world in terms of incarceration – there are 2.2 million people in its prisons, a five-fold increase in the last four decades. America has 655 per lakh of population as opposed to 118 in China, which ranks eighth as per 2018 numbers. African Americans are disproportionately represented in the U.S. prison population, but that is no reason to overlook the

whites. Police targeted reporters and photographers in several cities over the past week in the U.S.

There used to be an argument that globalisation would gradually turn China democratic. China imbibed American style consumerism, but as for democracy and freedoms, a reverse osmosis appears to have taken place. As Senator Bernie Sanders repeatedly points out, the police resemble invading armies in local communities.

It is not a coincidence that the growing challenges the U.S. democracy is facing corresponds with its economic entanglement with China over past 40 years.

## 'China kept WHO in the dark with delayed release of key virus data'

It sat on crucial information, costing the world valuable time

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Throughout January, the World Health Organization publicly praised China for what it called a speedy response to the new coronavirus and thanked the Chinese government for sharing the genetic map of the virus "immediately."

But in fact, Chinese officials sat on releasing the genetic map, or genome, of the deadly virus for over a week after multiple government labs had fully decoded it, not sharing details key to designing tests, drugs and vaccines. Strict controls on information and competition within the Chinese public health system were largely to blame, has found from internal documents, emails and dozens of interviews.

Although WHO continued to publicly commend China, the recordings obtained by the AP show they were concerned China was not sharing enough information to



Dr. Gauden Galea

assess the risk posed by the new virus, costing the world valuable time.

"We're currently at the stage where yes, they're giving it to us 15 minutes before it appears on CCTV," said WHO's top official in China, Dr. Gauden Galea, referring to the state-owned China Central Television, in one meeting.

The story behind the early response to the pandemic comes at a time when the U.N. health agency is under siege. U.S. President Trump cut ties with WHO on Friday, after blasting the agency for

allegedly colluding with China to hide the extent of the epidemic. Chinese President Xi Jinping said China has always provided information to WHO and the world "in a most timely fashion."

The new information does not support the narrative of either the U.S. or China, but portrays an agency now stuck in the middle that was urgently trying to solicit more data. Although international law obliges countries to report information to WHO that could have an impact on public health, the UN agency has no enforcement powers. Instead, it must rely on the cooperation of member states.

The AP has found rather than colluding with China, WHO was itself kept in the dark, as China gave it only the minimal information required. But the agency did attempt to portray China in the best light, most likely to coax the country into providing more details.

## Wuhan tests nearly 10 million people, finds 300 infections

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BEIJING

China tested almost 10 million people for COVID-19 in just over two weeks in Wuhan, the city where the pandemic began, officials said on Tuesday, reporting only a few hundred positive cases.

Chinese authorities claim to have largely brought the virus under control but Wuhan officials – wary of a se-

cond wave – launched the programme after new infections emerged for the first time since the city reopened in April following two months in lockdown.

More than 9.8 million people were tested in the city of 11 million people between May 14 and June 1, officials said.

Officials added that the 300 positive results were

among asymptomatic patients. "These numbers show that Wuhan is now the safest city," said Feng Zijian, deputy director of China's national Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

China does not include asymptomatic cases in tally. No asymptomatic people were found to have infected others, said Lu Zuxun, a public health expert.

## 60 mn could be pushed into poverty'

Emerging Market and Developing Economies especially vulnerable, says WB

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN

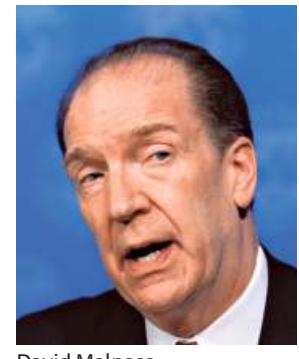
WASHINGTON DC

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have "severe" short and long-term effects on economic growth, the World Bank said in its Global Economic Prospects (GEP) June 2020 report, part of which was released on Tuesday.

EMDEs (Emerging Market and Developing Economies) are especially vulnerable, the report says.

Sixty million people could be pushed into extreme poverty this year, World Bank President David Malpass said.

"The scope and speed with which the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shutdowns have devastated the poor around the world are unprecedented in modern times. Current estimates show that 60 million people



David Malpass

and the resolution of bankruptcies and reform the costly subsidies, monopolies and protected state-owned enterprises that have slowed development," he said.

The report said EMDEs face health crises, restrictions and external shocks like falling trade, tourism and commodity prices, as well as capital outflows.

These countries are expected to have a 3-8% output loss in the short term, based on studies of previous pandemics, as per the Bank's analysis. EMDEs are also expected to witness the spillover effects of the U.S., the Euro Area and China, which represent almost half of global output, being unlikely to return to pre-pandemic levels of output before the end of 2021.

If these three big economies simultaneously lose 1% in output, EMDEs (excluding China) are expected to lose 1.3% in their output with the lag of a year, the Bank warned. Longer term, there is a risk not just of a drop in the level of output but a lowering of potential output growth, it said.

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## China gets set to build power project in PoK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD

China under the multi-billion-dollar CPEC will set up a 1,124-megawatt power project in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir despite India's objection to it, according to a media report on Tuesday.

The details of the Kohala hydropower project was presented in the 127th meeting of the Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) chaired by Energy Minister Omar Ayub on Monday.

The Express Tribune reported that an agreement has been finalised to implement the Kohala hydroelectric power project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

India had protested Pakistan's plans to build a dam in Gilgit-Baltistan, saying such projects in territories under Pakistan's illegal occupation was not proper.

## The reverse journey of the United States

Despite challenges, democracy made gains in the U.S. the 20th century, but those gains are being eroded in the early decades of the 21st



In solidarity: People holding a die-in protest in Ohio. ■ AFP

century. The flashiest advertisement for free market globalisation has been the apparent freedom, competence and prosperity of the U.S. "A shining city upon a hill," as President Ronald Reagan said. "...a beacon, still a magnet for all who must have freedom," he said, after noting that "countries across the globe are turning to free markets and free speech and turning away from the ideologies of the past." That was in 1989.

"Be like us," was the basic argument that the U.S. made to the rest of the world. The use of force by America, at home or abroad, was only for the protection of liberty, it claimed. There was merit in that argument, as it expanded freedoms for its own people through the 20th century. In 1963, when Alabama's Democrat Governor George Wallace – who had vowed "segregation forever" – re-

acted to liberalisation. The Trump administration, and a section of the commentators, focused on whistleblower doctor Li Wenliang in Wuhan, who noticed the novel coronavirus in the early days of the outbreak. He was silenced by the local government, though posthumously declared a martyr by Beijing. Two U.S. Senators wanted to rename the street in Washington DC where the Chinese Embassy is located after him. Because of the Chinese fitters on freedom of expression, information regarding the pandemic was suppressed and the outbreak went out of control, the mainstream American argument went. U.S. also confronted China on a range of questions, from technology and trade to the Hong Kong uprising. Then came the brutal images from Minnesota.

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

full circle.

The video footage of a police officer pinning down George Floyd by his neck until he died could not have come at a worse time for the U.S. whose reputation was already at stake in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, there was a moral defense that the U.S. was a free society that does not coerce its members.

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tive to liberalism. The Trump administration, and a section of the commentators, focused on whistleblower doctor Li Wenliang in Wuhan

## MARKET WATCH

	02-06-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	33,826	-1.57
US Dollar	75.36	0.24
Brent oil	39.08	3.69

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	339.95	10.60
Asian Paints	1709.30	16.05
Axisc Bank	410.10	13.15
Bajaj Auto	2796.10	37.80
Bajaj Finserv	5184.70	421.50
Bajaj Finance	2346.20	185.35
Bharti Airtel	558.10	-0.95
BPCL	341.60	-4.70
Britannia Ind	3451.00	16.15
Cipla	637.60	-4.90
Coal India	143.40	-5.15
Dr Reddys Lab	3895.30	-58.25
Eicher Motors	17396.25	410.50
GAIL (India)	96.55	4.60
Grasim Ind	596.35	12.85
HCL Tech	560.20	0.45
HDFC	1813.55	75.85
HDFC Bank	1001.00	13.35
Hero MotoCorp	1738.25	-8.05
Hindalco	141.15	2.00
Hind Unilever	2107.40	-1.15
ICICI Bank	348.40	9.15
IndusInd Bank	434.70	24.60
Bharti Infratel	223.25	-1.00
Infosys	708.10	8.55
Indian Oil Corp	85.80	-0.35
ITC	197.25	-3.30
JSW Steel	192.15	-1.80
Kotak Bank	1342.90	94.50
L&T	945.45	17.30
M&M	462.85	1.75
Maruti Suzuki	5690.10	-103.50
Nestle India Ltd.	17014.45	-169.00
NTPC	96.75	-1.15
ONGC	84.30	0.35
PowerGrid Corp	165.05	6.20
Reliance Ind	1535.70	15.35
State Bank	170.25	0.20
Shree Cement	21201.00	131.65
Sun Pharma	473.10	7.70
Tata Motors	96.50	6.95
Tata Steel	319.40	4.20
TCS	2047.15	1.90
Tech Mahindra	547.50	3.95
Titan	976.15	17.25
UltraTech Cement	3834.25	18.55
UPL	424.70	5.40
Vedanta	96.90	3.25
Wipro	215.85	0.80
Zee Entertainment	198.95	13.05

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	75.16	75.48
Euro	83.96	84.32
British Pound	94.35	94.76
Japanese Yen (100)	69.74	70.04
Chinese Yuan	10.58	10.63
Swiss Franc	78.14	78.48
Singapore Dollar	53.62	53.86
Canadian Dollar	55.62	55.86
Malaysian Ringgit	17.56	17.66
Australian Dollar	51.55	51.78

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



## Mercedes-Benz adds to GLE SUV line-up

MUMBAI  
Mercedes-Benz India has added two new, top-end variants to its popular GLE sports utility vehicle (SUV) portfolio. The newly-launched top-end GLE 450 4MATIC LWB in petrol and 400 d 4MATIC LWB in diesel are priced at ₹88,800 lakh and ₹89,90 lakh respectively (all prices ex-showroom, India, except Kerala) respectively.

Martin Schwenk, MD & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India said, "We are very satisfied with the customer response."

## EID Parry sells stake in Coromandel for ₹368 cr, Chennai

EID Parry Ltd. has sold 58.50 lakh equity shares of Coromandel International Ltd. for a total sum of ₹368 crore to bring down its debt. The firm sold these shares in an open market transaction at ₹629.19 a share, the company said in a filing. Post the sale, EID Parry holds 17.13 lakh shares of ₹1 each, representing 58.48% of the paid-up capital of Coromandel. The proceeds of sale will be used to bring down the debt of the company, EID Parry said.

## Ashok Leyland sales skid 89% in May 2020

CHENNAI  
Ashok Leyland has reported an 89% drop in its total sales volume for May 2020, following the suspension of operations across its factories as part of a nationwide lockdown to contain COVID-19. However, the company resumed operations during the first week of May 2020. The flagships company of the Hindujas Group sold 1,420 vehicles in the domestic and international markets during the month against the 13,72 units sold during May 2019.

## Electronics incentive schemes launched

Three schemes approved in March, with a ₹48,000-crore outlay, to boost manufacturing of mobiles

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Telecom and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Tuesday launched three incentive schemes with a total outlay of about ₹48,000 crore to boost large-scale manufacturing of electronics in the country.

## Approved in March

The three schemes – Production Linked Incentive (outlay of nearly ₹41,000 crore), Component Manufacturing Scheme (about ₹3,300 crore) and Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (about ₹3,800 crore) – were approved by the Union Cabinet in March this year, however, the government began inviting the applications under these schemes Tuesday onwards.

Under the Production



Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad at a press conference to launch the electronics incentive schemes. ■ R. V. MOORTHY

Linked Incentive (PLI), which is targeted at mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components, the government initially plans to incentivise 10 firms – five global and five lo-

cal.

"Globally 5-6 companies control 80% of the mobile market. We initially plan to pick up five global champions who will be permitted to participate under PLI. We

also want to make national champions, so we will incentivise five Indian companies as well," Mr. Prasad said.

He, however, clarified that these firms will be selected as per the guidelines of the scheme. "There are norms in the guidelines, such as the company's turnover, the quality and rate of their mobiles, etc. There is a proper transparent system in place... the selection norms will be followed," the Minister said.

## 'Modest success'

Stating that India had been able to achieve "modest success" in electronics manufacturing, Mr. Prasad said that India had emerged as the second largest mobile manufacturer of the world.

"In 2014-15, the value of mobiles produced was

₹18,992 crore with six crore units. This increased to ₹1.7 lakh crore in value and 30 crore in terms of units in 2018-19," he said.

With the three new schemes, the government aims to manufacture electronics worth ₹8 lakh crore, while generating employment for about 10 lakh people in the next five years, as per a presentation made by IT Secretary Ajay Sawhney.

"This is a step towards self-reliant India. A self-reliant India is not an India of isolation. It is not an inward looking India. It is one which enhances its capacity and develops an ecosystem as an asset to the global economy... Make in India is only for India...a self-reliant, resurgent and robust India. It is not against any country," Mr. Prasad said.

## Palaniappan regains control of Kumudam

'Cancellation of majority holding illegal'

## LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

A. Jawahar Palaniappan, son of Kumudam Publications founder SAP. Annamalai Chettiar, has won a major legal battle with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) declaring as illegal, invalid and non est in law the arbitrary cancellation of 3,32,640 equity shares held by him in Kumudam Publications Pvt. Ltd. (KPPL).

The tribunal held the cancellation of the shares, at a board meeting conducted at the behest of another director in the company P. Varadarajan on September 20, 2011, was a clear violation of Mr. Palaniappan's rights.

## Company directors

The NCLT also declared as illegal a form filed by Mr. Varadarajan with the Registrar of Companies intimating the cessation of Mr. Palaniappan and his mother A. Kothai as directors of the company from January 2, 2012. Such action "is considered as oppressive to the interest of the majority shareholders and to the company itself," the NCLT said.

Accepting a plea made by Mr. Palaniappan, the NCLT also ordered deletion of three amendments made to the articles of association after Ms. Kothai resigned as MD due to old age in July 2002 and Mr. Varadarajan, son of former company secretary P.V. Parthasarathy, succeeded her.

The amendments stated that Imprint Tech India Pvt. Ltd., belonging to Mr. Varadarajan and his family members, would be entitled to nominate two directors to the company's annual general meetings and that they shall not be liable to retire by rotation. They also stated

if one of those nominees happened to be Mr. Varadarajan, he would occupy the post of chairman.

Further, the amendments went on to give Mr. Varadarajan the privilege of also being the MD of KPPL as long as he was one of the directors and that he shall be entitled to receive remuneration up to 11% of the net profit of the company apart from the monthly remuneration fixed by the board for serving as the MD.

Though it was argued the amendments were made with the full knowledge of Mr. Palaniappan and his mother, the tribunal said, it was done because of mutual trust and confidence. However, the differences of opinion began to surface only in December 2008 when Mr. Varadarajan's remuneration showed an increase of 88% though the company had suffered losses.

## Voted against accounts

Since then, Mr. Palaniappan and his mother voted against approving the accounts. Consequently, they could not participate in the affairs of the company in an effective manner, despite being majority shareholders (over 66%), since the extraordinary general meetings and annual general meetings of the company were not conducted from 2010, the NCLT said.

To restore normalcy, NCLT permitted the mother-son duo to appoint two more directors in proportion to their shareholding in the company and appointed K.K. Balu, former vice-chairman of the Company Law Board, as the chairman of KPPL for a period of six months to conduct the affairs of the company.

## Indigo records ₹870 cr. loss on travel curbs

## To induct A320neo for cost-efficiency

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

IndiGo, the country's largest airline, recorded a loss of ₹870 crore in the final quarter of financial year 2020, as compared to a profit of ₹595 crore during the same period last year as travel restrictions kicked in from January and grounded hundreds of flights in the country.

The survival strategy for the airline during the pandemic will involve "managing cash and liquidity," IndiGo's CEO Ronojoy Dutta said in an earnings call. Among the key steps will be to return its 120 A320neo aircraft and replace them with newer A320neo planes



to save maintenance costs on the old variant.

"120 CEOs in our fleet will be going out in the next two years and the rate at which they go out is up to us depending on how the revenue revives. We are in active discussion with Airbus, we will take a large number," the CEO said.

## 35% MSMEs shutting shop, says AIMO

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The mass destruction of business has begun with over 35% of MSMEs and 37% of self-employed persons shutting down their operations despite the financial packages announced by the Centre, said All India Manufacturers Organisation (AIMO).

These were the findings of a survey initiated by AIMO.

"We received about 46,525 responses for our survey. The most striking aspect was that 35% of MSMEs and 37% of the self-employed respondents said that they see no chance of recovery in their business and have begun shutting down their operations," said K.E. Raghunathan, immediate past president, AIMO.

Meanwhile, foreign investors continued to maintain their buying spree with Tuesday's net buying pegged at ₹1,575.46 crore while their domestic counterparts net wild shares worth ₹459.25 crore.

Elsewhere in Asia, the benchmarks of Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, China, Philippines and Singapore all gained ground in Tuesday.

## Uday Kotak sells 2.9% stake in bank

Raises ₹6,900 crore as more than 100 investors lap up shares

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Uday Kotak, promoter of Kotak Mahindra Bank, sold 56 million shares in the secondary market on Tuesday, which was subscribed to by more than 100 investors, for ₹6,900 crore.

Kotak Mahindra Bank had hammered a deal with the RBI in January to dilute promoter stake to 26% within six months from the date of the final approval from the banking regulator. Prior to

today's transaction, Mr. Kotak had 29.63% share in the bank, while the promoter group had 29.89% stake. According to the bulk deal data of BSE, 56 million shares, or 2.93%, was sold by Mr. Kotak to 130 investors at ₹1,240 per share. The total value of the sale is around ₹6,900 crore.

Some of the investors were The

## England confirms WI Tests

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

England will play three Tests at home against the West Indies in July, subject to clearance from the British government, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced on Tuesday.

The first Test will be held at Hampshire's Ageas Bowl ground from July 8 to 12. The second and third Tests are scheduled to be played at Old Trafford in Manchester (July 16-20 and July 24-28).



**Ready to race:** The picturesque Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria, will resonate to the roar of engines with back-to-back races beginning July 5. ■ FILE PHOTO

## F1 unveils eight-race card

Spielberg, Silverstone to host two races; no spectators allowed

REUTERS  
LONDON

Formula One is set for a series of firsts after publishing a revised eight-race schedule on Tuesday that will see Austria's Spielberg and Britain's Silverstone circuits each host two Grands Prix without spectators in July and August respectively.

The first race of the year will be in Austria on July 5 with a second, designated the Grand Prix of Steiermark (Styria) after the region in which the Red Bull-owned circuit is located, a week later.

It will be the first time a circuit has hosted two champion

ships races in the same season, the first time a season has started in Austria and also the first time a race has been held behind closed doors.

### Full calendar soon

"We are pleased to be able to set out our opening eight race calendar today and look forward to publishing our full calendar in the coming weeks," said Formula One chairman Chase Carey in a statement.

Formula One is hoping to host between 15 and 18 races with the season ending in Abu Dhabi in December. A former race also racing in Bahrain.

"The health and safety of all involved will continue to be priority number one, with Formula One and the FIA having a robust and detailed plan to ensure our races maintain the highest level of safety with strict procedures in place," Formula One said.

**Revised F1 calendar:** **July 3-5:** Austrian GP (Spielberg); **July 10-12:** GP of Steiermark (Spielberg); **July 17-19:** Hungarian GP (Budapest); **July 31-Aug. 2:** British GP (Silverstone); **Aug. 7-9:** 70th Anniversary GP (Silverstone); **Aug. 14-16:** Spanish GP (Barcelona); **Aug. 28-30:** Belgian GP (Spa-Francorchamps); **Sept. 4-6:** Italian GP (Monza).

Due to the lockdown, the Ministry decided to do away with the condition of submitting the applications on-

## Nakamura takes lead

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

Favourite Hikaru Nakamura opened an intimidating 2-0 lead before completing a 2.5-1.5 victory over flamboyant Daniil Dubov in the first mini-match of the \$150,000 Lindores Abbey Rapid Challenge final on Monday. Dubov now faces a must-win situation in the second mini-match to force the decider.

**Final result (first mini-match):** Hikaru Nakamura (USA) bt Daniil Dubov (Rus) 2.5-1.5.

## The link between Gavaskar and Tendulkar

The elegant and gutsy Vengsarkar was the hope-provider for India in the latter part of the 1980s



### BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

In sport, being able to do what needs to be done shows character; knowing how to do it calls for technique. If a player has a less-than-perfect technique, he can often make up for it with strength of character, but the finest technique in the world cannot be a substitute for what coaches call 'heart'. When the going gets tough, to borrow a cliché, the tough get going.

As a schoolboy, I was often told by older fans: As long as Sunil Gavaskar is at the crease, there is hope for India. Not necessarily the hope of winning, but of escaping with a draw at least.

Different generations have their own bulwarks: Vijay Hazare, and later, Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. Not surprisingly, to a popular question on the social media recently – who will you pick to bat for your life? – the answer has been one of these players, depending on the vintage of the person responding.

### Stars of the decades

Hazare retired in the 1950s, and Gavaskar made his debut in 1970, which implies that for a whole generation, there was no similar figure in the Indian team. The 60s was the decade of the dashers, the Tiger Pataudis, Engineers, Kunderans, Jaisimhas, and Durranis.

A possible candidate for hope-provider might have been Vijay Manjre-



Dilip Vengsarkar, at his peak, was all style and substance.

■ FILE PHOTO: S. KOTHANDARAMAN

um on their wickets. They loved to occupy the crease. The occasional outlier was quickly spoken to by the elders.

### What a start!

Yet, it was a swashbuckling century that elevated Vengsarkar into the Indian team. In the Irani Trophy at Nagpur he hit a spate of sixes against Bishan Bedi and Erapalli Prasanna. Something of the upright, straight-hitting batsman's manner rekindled memories of that other six-hitter Colonel C.K. Nayudu. The then 19-year-old was dubbed 'Colonel', a nickname he didn't particularly like.

Those expecting Vengsarkar to continue in international cricket as he had begun in the domestic failed to take into account that he played for the same club as Gavaskar, and a long line of hereditary breach-fixers.

In Vengsarkar's first Test, Gavaskar made a century, and in his final one, Tendulkar did so. But Vengsarkar was more than a supporting act, and in one sequence in the 1980s, made 1668 runs at an average of 104 (eight centuries, including the last of his three at Lord's) and earned his spot as ICC's No. 1 batsman in the world. He played 94 Tests alongside Gavaskar, a Dravid to the opening batsman's Tendulkar and just as crucial to the eleven.

### Taking on the Windies pacers

His six centuries against the fearsome West Indies fast bowlers at their peak were second only to Gavaskar's. In the final Test there during the 1983 tour, he made 94, and yet in the home series against Pakistan which followed he was dropped for the first Test.

Vengsarkar and I watched that match together in Bengaluru; he was

upset, but knew he would be back for the next series, against the West Indies with Malcolm Marshall, Michael Holding, Winston Davis.

"When the big boys come, I will be picked again," he said. He was right. He made two centuries in the series. Vengsarkar was an automatic choice against the big boys, but often had to make way for flat-track bullies in lesser home series.

There was an elegance about his batting, his driving on the on-side inviting comparison with Greg Chappell at his best; he could pull and hook too, and occasionally took the ball on his body if the alternative was playing it near the close-in fielders.

In his peak season, he made an amazing 166 in a track in Cuttack which had been accidentally overwatered. Only one other batsman made a fifty in the match.

In the latter part of the 1980s, as Gavaskar's career wound down, Vengsarkar was the hope-provider in the Indian team. Centuries at Lord's and Leeds gave India their first series win in England 15 years after the summer of 1971.

### Technical acumen

All his centuries abroad came in England where he was initially expected to cause worry because of his occasional manner of squaring up to the medium pacer. But he played the ball late, his stillness in stance merely preparation for the spring to follow. It was a fine lesson in control, and allowed him the luxury of time and timing.

The generation that followed pushed Vengsarkar's heroics into the background. But he would have walked into that middle-order too. You could pick him to bat for your life.

## Now, more light on sun's coronal heating puzzle

NCRA scientists discovered tiny radio flashes

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

A group of scientists working at the Pune-based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) have recently discovered tiny flashes of radio light emanating from all over the sun, which they say could help in explaining the long-pending coronal heating problem.

"These radio lights or signals result from beams of electrons accelerated in the aftermath of a magnetic explosion on the sun. While we have not seen the magnetic explosions, these weak radio flashes that we have discovered are 'smoking guns' for the evidence for the same



**Star gazers:** Surajit Mondal, Divya Oberoi and Atul Mohan of the NCRA team. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and hence bring us closer to explaining the coronal heating problem," said Professor Divya Oberoi, faculty member at the NCRA, who directed the research.

Professor Oberoi said that these observations were the strongest evidence till date that the tiny magnetic explo-

sions, originally referred to as 'nanoflares' by eminent American solar astrophysicist Eugene Parker, can indeed be heating up the corona (the aura of plasma that surrounds the sun and other stars).

He said that while the phenomenon of coronal

heating has been known for the last 70 years, the availability of cutting edge data from the Murchison Widefield Array (MWA) radio telescope proved to be a game-changer.

"With this work, we have

the strongest evidence till date of these magnetic explosions or 'nanoflares' as called by Prof. Parker in a theory he put forth in 1988. Our discoveries were greatly facilitated by availability of data from the MWA and our work at the NCRA," Prof. Oberoi said.

The research on this was carried out by Surajit Mondal, a Ph.D. student at NCRA working under the Prof. Oberoi's supervision, along with Dr. Atul Mohan, a former student of his at the NCRA, who is presently based at the Rosseland

Centre for Solar Physics in Norway.

"The strength of the mag-

netic fields varies a lot from

one place on the surface of the Sun to another, by more than a factor of 1,000. But the corona is hot everywhere. So, this heating process has to work all over the corona, even in regions of weak magnetic fields. Until now, the process of how this magnetic energy is deposited in the corona had remained a mystery. Now, our observations can bring us closer to solving this," he said.

The three scientists have

jointly written a paper on

their discoveries titled 'First

Radio Evidence for Impulsive Heating Contribution to the Quiet Solar Corona', which was published on

Tuesday in *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

## Rani Rampal, Manika in the race for Khel Ratna

Sports Ministry extends last date for submission of applications to June 22

UTHRA GANESAN  
RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

ly with the recommendations of the authorities/persons prescribed in the award scheme (amended as on 07/09/2018).

The eligible sportspersons are now permitted to self-apply.

### The nominations:

**Athletics:** **Khel Ratna:** Neeraj Chopra (javelin).

**Badminton:** **Arjuna:** R. Satwiksairaj, Chirag Shetty and Sameera Verma; **Dronacharya:** S. Muralidharan and Bhaskar Babu; **Dhyen Chand:** Pradeep Gandhi and Manjusha Kanwar.

**Chess:** **Arjuna:** Vidit Gujrathi, S.L. Narayanan and Mallika Handa (para); **Dronacharya:** Prasenjit Dutta.

**Hockey:** **Khel Ratna:** Rani Rampal.

**Arjuna:** Monika, Vandana Kataria and Harmanpreet Singh; **Dhyen Chand:** R.P. Singh and Tushar Khandker; **Dronacharya:** B.J. Kariappa and Romesh Pathania.

**Table tennis:** **Khel Ratna:** Manika Batra; **Arjuna:** Madhurika Patkar, Sutirtha Mukherjee and Manav Thakkar; **Dronacharya:** Jayanta Pushital and S. Raman.

**Dhyen Chand:** A. Radhika.

**Wrestling:** **Khel Ratna:** Vinesh Phogat; **Arjuna:** Deepak Punia, Rahul Aware, Sakshi Malik, Sandeep Tomar and Naveen;

**Dhyen Chand:** Jai Prakash, Anil Kumar, Dushyant Sharma and Mukesh Khatri; **Dronacharya:** Virender Kumar, Kuldeep Malik, O.P. Yadav and Sujit Mann.

## IN BRIEF



**Leipzig back in reckoning for Champions League**  
BERLIN  
RB Leipzig returned to third place in the Bundesliga with a 4-2 victory at Cologne on Monday. The team climbed back above Borussia M'Gladbach and Bayer Leverkusen in the hunt for a Champions League place. The result: Cologne 2 (Cordoba 7, Modeste 55) lost to RB Leipzig 4 (Schick 20, Nkunku 38, Werner 50, Olmo 57).



**Sri Lankan cricketers train outdoors**

COLOMBO  
Members of the Sri Lankan cricket team underwent ground training on Tuesday, after indoor fitness drills on Monday, for the first time in more than two-and-a-half months. A 13-member squad began a 12-day training session to sharpen their skills and fitness ahead of a potential restart of the international game, skipper Dimuth Karunaratne said. ■ PTI

## FIH tweaks World Cup qualification process

NEW DELHI

The International Hockey Federation's Executive Board on Tuesday issued the fresh qualification process to finalise teams for the 2022 women's and 2023 men's World Cups.

**Revised continental quotas:** **Women:** Africa 1, Asia 2, Europe 4 (including hosts Holland and Spain), Oceania 2, PanAm 2. **Men:** Africa 1, Asia 3 (including hosts India), Europe 4, Oceania 2, PanAm 1.

## Buddy always ready to throw a punch

NANDAKUMAR MARAR  
MUMBAI

Senior citizens are supposed to stay indoors during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect themselves. Buddy D'Sousa, at 84, is following the rules during a short stay with his daughter in Dubai, though boxing can never be far away for the nine-time national champion.

Buddy shot a video on shadow boxing with the footage showing him moving, weaving and jabbing in an imaginary ring, punching and defending against an imaginary opponent and leaving him a little short of breath towards the end.

The first Indian boxer to win the Arjuna Award in 1961, Buddy was famous for uppercuts and knockouts. He is among many to submit a personal video to the India



Buddy D'Sousa.  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shadow Boxing Challenge (ISBC) 2020 online contest.

Indian citizens worldwide are invited to submit 30-second videos done indoors or outdoors, across age categories. The best videos received till June 15 will win prizes. The ISBC contest, modelled on the European Shadow Boxing Challenge, was launched on May 18, the champion's 84th birthday, as a celebration for sport.

"I tried to do my part for boxing, encouraged by my children," said the 1962 Asian Games bronze medalist. "I approached boxing with strict discipline, trained hard every day. No matter how good you are, without good training you will never reach the top."

The gruelling training done during his competitive days has kept him going till now. "I trained daily for three to four hours, ran 15 to 20km in the morning and worked out for three hours in the gym in the evening. Sparring was my favourite training as it would help you for the real competition."