



CHINESE SOUGHT TO ERECT STRUCTURES JUST ACROSS LAC: MEA

# Govt rejects China claim to Galwan, says PM's no-intruder remark was on situation after clash

## PMO acknowledges: This time, Chinese came in much larger strength to LAC

SHUBHAJIT ROY & KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

WITH QUESTIONS being raised about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks Friday that neither has anyone intruded into Indian territory nor has anyone captured any military post, the government made it clear Saturday that his remarks pertained to the situation in Galwan Valley after the violent clashes on the night of June 15.

This came on the day Delhi rejected Beijing's claim to the Galwan Valley, underlining that it was going against its own position in the past.

The Prime Minister's Office, in a statement, said the "focus of the PM's remarks" at the all-party meeting Friday "were the events of 15 June at Galwan that led to the loss of lives of 20 Indian military personnel" and that "attempts are being made in some quarters" to give it "a mischievous interpretation".

"The sacrifices of the soldiers of the 16 Bihar Regiment foiled the attempt of the Chinese side to erect structures and also cleared the attempted transgression at this point of the LAC on that day," the PMO said.

"As regards transgression of LAC, it was clearly stated that the violence in Galwan on 15 June arose because Chinese side was seeking to erect structures just across the LAC and refused to desist from such actions."

INSIDE



READY, DETERMINED, SAYS IAF CHIEF

KATHMANDU, KABUL HOPE FOR PEACE  
PAGE 5

Hours later, Anurag Srivastava, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, while responding to the claim by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian that "Galwan Valley is located on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control", echoed the PMO statement. He said "the Chinese side departed from the Chinese understandings in respect of the LAC in the Galwan Valley area and sought to erect structures just across the LAC" and that Beijing's claim to Galwan "are not in accordance with China's own position in the past" – not since the Sino-Indian war of 1962.

The PMO did, however, say  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Army vehicles near Leh on Thursday, on way to Eastern Ladakh, which saw a clash with China recently. Wangailkaya

## Opp asks why Army said opposite, why silence on Pangong

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's statement at the all-party meeting that nobody had entered Indian territory triggered a political firestorm on Saturday with the Opposition asking whether he had "surrendered" Indian territory to China.

The Congress asked the government to immediately clarify its position on China's claim to the entire Galwan Valley in Ladakh.

"PM has surrendered Indian territory to Chinese aggression.

If the land was Chinese: why were our soldiers killed? Where were they killed," senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

"China has now claimed the entire Galwan Valley as theirs... the Chinese are present in the Galwan Valley. The Prime Minister says there are no Chinese troops in Indian territory. Keep the two statements next to each other, the conclusion is horrifying," senior party leader P Chidambaram said.

"Before we spell out those horrible conclusions, I would ask the government to answer  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## LAC remains on edge, fear of fresh flare-ups, calls to de-escalate

SUSHANT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE MOOD on the Line of Actual Control has changed dramatically ever since the death of 20 Indian soldiers in clashes with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley on the night of June 15. So tense is the situation that there is a possibility it could deteriorate rapidly should there be another faceoff any time soon.

The Galwan incident – the first deaths on the Sino-Indian border in 45 years, and the most serious breakdown of the 1993 understanding between the two

nuclear-armed neighbours who also agreed not to use firearms along their large and often undefined border – has stalled the process of disengagement by the two sides in Ladakh.

More worryingly, the circumstances of the death of the 20 soldiers have increased chances of an escalation into a military conflict on the LAC since adherence to old protocols and SOPs will now be very hard to enforce.

"If de-escalation does not take place fast, the chances of more such clashes taking place will increase. When you have troops eyeball-to-eyeball, there  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# UP govt relaxes rule to discharge Covid-19 patients

Now, asymptomatic patients can go home after 10 days without second test

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 20

THE UTTAR Pradesh government on Saturday further relaxed the rule for discharge of asymptomatic coronavirus patients from institutional quarantine. It said that they can be discharged after spending 10 days in hospitals followed by home isolation for a week.

Until now, asymptomatic Covid-19 patients were discharged if their second test,

taken on the 12th day from the date of the first test result, returned negative, and they had the oxygen level of more than 94 per cent and no symptoms or fever in the last three days. If these conditions were met, patients were asked to isolate themselves at home for a week. Before this rule, a Covid patient had to obtain two consecutive negative reports before being discharged.

However, symptomatic patients still have to test negative  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

LOCKDOWN DAY 88  
CASES: 3,95,048  
RECOVERED: 2,13,830  
DEATHS: 12,948  
TESTS: 66,16,496  
DOUBLING RATE: 20.16\*\*



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HRS	7-DAY AVG. GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
■ Maharashtra	1,24,331	3,827	2.99%	24.06
■ Gujarat	26,198	538	2.16%	33.36
■ Delhi	53,116	3,137	5.37%	13.40
■ Tamil Nadu	54,449	2,115	4.25%	16.96
■ Bihar	7,290	250	2.59%	27.82
■ West Bengal	13,090	355	3.56%	20.20

\* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days \*\* Calculated over 7-day growth

CONCERN	CAUTION	A GLIMMER
DELHI: More than 3,000 new cases on Friday. Set to overtake Tamil Nadu case load	HARYANA: The numbers had been going down, but more than 200 in last two days	TRIPURA: One of the fastest growing not too long ago, growth now below 3 per cent

Based on daily data by Centre, ICMR, state governments

## India's hopes up as 26/11 wanted Rana re-held in US

DEEPTIMANTI WARY  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

ONE OF the key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, Tahawwur Hussain Rana, is likely to soon face extradition proceedings in the US based on a request from India.

Released recently after testing positive for coronavirus, Rana has been re-arrested by US authorities based on a provisional request from the National Investigation Agency. This paves the way for extradition proceedings to begin against him in a US court, sources said. India's request for his extradition has been pending for years.

A Pakistan-born Canadian citizen, Rana is serving a 14-year sentence in the US for his involvement in a terrorism plot  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PM Modi launches Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan Saturday. ANI

## Make villages shine now: PM at launch of job scheme for poor

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, JUNE 20

ISSUING A call to "turn adversity into opportunity", Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan, a skill-based employment scheme aimed primarily at migrant workers who have returned to their villages to escape the Covid lockdown distress.

"This programme is dedi-

cated to workers. We understand your sentiments and also your needs. This programme is a big platform to achieve this. So far, you had been making cities shine with your efforts, now you will boost your villages and localities," Modi said.

With a 125-workday mandate to create public infrastructure, with the involvement of 11 central departments, the Rs 50,000-crore initiative will focus on job creation in 116 districts  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Constable's death in riots: Delhi Police chargesheet mentions Yogendra Yadav

He says, 'My speeches in public... point out one that incited violence'

SOMYA LAKHANI  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

SWARAJ INDIA president Yogendra Yadav, student leader Kawalpreet Kaur and advocate D S Bindra find mention in a chargesheet filed by the Delhi Police in the murder case of head constable Rattan Lal (42) during the riots in Northeast Delhi in February.

While the three are not part of the list of 17 accused, the chargesheet states that the "links of the organisers of the (Chand Bagh) protest site with the likes of D S Bindra (AIMIM), Kawalpreet Kaur (AISA), Devangana Kalita (Pinjra Tod), Safoora, Yogendra Yadav, etc itself indicates a hidden agenda behind the violence".  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

According to police, the Chand Bagh protest had been going on since mid-January.

As per the chargesheet, on February 24, "serious communal riots took place in Northeast Delhi, in which more than 750 cases were registered, 53 persons lost their lives, including head constable Rattan Lal of the Delhi Police".

The chargesheet states: "Lal, along with ACP (Gokalpuri) and DCP (Shahdara) and some other police officials, was present closest to the protest site at Chand Bagh. Apparently, during the attack by mob, he could not jump over the five-feet-tall divider on the Wazirabad road, and collapsed after being shot at and hit by stones."

The chargesheet mentions  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### SUNDAY STORY

#### AS A DISTRICT UNLOCKS AN EXPRESS SERIES



Unlock, unlock, unlock, PM Modi recently told CMs. Beginning today, The Indian Express drops anchor in Bhalgaipur to track this unlockdown

BRAZIL PAST 1 MN MARK IN CASES  
PAGE 10

# The Dharavi unlock: How daily new cases down to single digit

SANJANA BHALERAO  
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

DHARAVI, the 2,400-square-meter slum sprawl, which had emerged as a Covid-19 hot spot in Mumbai by mid-April, and had the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) deeply worried, has witnessed a steady decline in the number of new cases in June. On Saturday, addition to cases was in single digit for the first time since the area reported its first case on April 1.

The drop in new cases in Dharavi is characterised by a steep fall in the doubling time of 18 days in the last week of April to 78 days as of June 19. At 78 days, it has the longest doubling time in Mumbai, where overall the cases are now estimated to double in 34 days.

On April 1, Dharavi reported its first Covid-19 case and also the first death due to the virus, albeit in a multi-storey residential complex in Baliga Nagar with good sanitisation facility and scope for social distancing. But alarm bells rang four days later,



Doubling rate in slum now longest in Mumbai. Express

### EXPLAINED Making of a new model

From roping in private and local medical practitioners to classifying every Covid-19 contact as 'high risk' given the density in the Dharavi slums, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation took bold and smart calls over the last two months.

when the virus found its way to one of the largest and most  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Meet private school principal in Telangana, forced to sell idli on a cart

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

REENIVAS JANYALA, SANTOSH SINGH & ABHISHEK ANGAD  
HYDERABAD, PATNA, RANCHI, JUNE 20

THE PRINCIPAL of a private school in Khammam is running a food cart, trying to sell idli, dosa and vada. A Social Science teacher in Ranchi is working on his paddy field. And an English teacher in Nalgonda has started

selling insurance policies. The sweeping economic distress triggered by the Covid pandemic and lockdown has pushed countless out of jobs, set off one of the biggest reverse migrations in recent times and pushed millions of small businesses to the edge.

One of the hardest hit has been private education. In cities and small towns across the country where private schools were seen as a passport to aspiration, teachers are on their knees, with parents unable to pay fees and managements left without money to pay salaries. In most cases, these teachers

are the sole breadwinners, which has meant that the distress has affected entire families. And several of them, heading households in cities like Patna and Ranchi, say they don't have the luxury of packing up and going back to their villages.

"If the students do not return to school by July-August, things will get worse for us," says Vidyasagar, a 28-year-old Science teacher in Bihar's Shekhpura who is supporting his family with loans and a credit card.

"Schools are telling teachers that they cannot pay salaries as students have not paid fees since



Maragani Rambabu, a private school principal, now runs a food cart with his wife at Sathupalli in Khammam. Express

their parents have not got salaries or are out of jobs," says Shabbir Ali, who heads a private schools teachers' association in Telangana.

"What can we do?" asks Sanjay Kumar, who owns Ankur Public School in Danapur near Patna. "We have started online classes but over 70 per cent of parents are still not able to pay the fees. Many don't have smartphones for their children to access the online classes. We are all trying not to sink together."

The Sunday Express tracked down several private school teachers, from north to south –

and found all of them caught between the Covid distress and their dream of providing a better life for their families.

MARAGANI RAMBABU, 36  
PRINCIPAL, KHAMMAM;  
SALARY: Rs 22,000,  
NOW: ZERO

He was in charge of Millennium English Medium School in Telangana's Khammam till the lockdown was announced and the school management decided that they don't need a principal till the school reopens. With no other source of income to support his wife, two children and mother,

Rambabu started a food stall when the lockdown was relaxed on June 5. "It felt odd at first... I bought a cart with Rs 2,000, and started selling idli, vada and dosa, along with my wife. At the end of the day, we make a profit of around Rs 200," he says.

BADETI RAVI, 30  
ENGLISH, NALGONDA;  
SALARY: Rs 16,000,  
NOW: ZERO

Ravi was a teacher at Krishnaveni English Medium School in Nakrekal near Nalgonda in Telangana. "The  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



## WHY LADAKH MATTERS TO INDIA, CHINA: HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND STRATEGY

What is it about this cold, dry, high-altitude territory with its extremely scarce vegetation that makes it a point of disagreement between India and China? The importance of Ladakh to both India and China is rooted in complicated historical processes.

## VIDEO OF THE DAY



## MOVIES FROM 20 YEARS AGO

You can go back to them on OTT streaming platforms

## EXPLAINED



## PROTECTIVE AIR SHIELDS FOR FLIERS

Air shields can fit on air vents in flights, reducing the risk of Covid-19

## EXPRESS AUDIO

## Will virtual reality help sports survive post-pandemic?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In the latest episode of the Express Sports podcast, we talk about how sports broadcasters are trying to reinvent themselves with the help of virtual reality.

## POLL CODE BREACH

## 2 Bihar policemen in Punjab to serve summons to Sidhu

Katihar: A police team is in Punjab to ensure that summons issued by a court here against Congress MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu in connection with a case filed last year for violation of model code of conduct is served on the cricketer-turned-politician, a senior official said on Saturday.

Katihar SP Vikas Kumar said the two-member team has been camping outside the former Punjab minister's residence in Amritsar for the past couple of days, but neither Sidhu is present nor anybody else has received the summons on his behalf.

Sidhu was booked for violating model code of conduct in April last year and banned from campaigning for 72 hours by the EC during the Lok Sabha polls for controversial remarks he had made at a rally in support of former Union minister Tariq Anwar, who was the Congress candidate from Katihar. PTI

## CLARIFICATIONS &amp; CORRECTIONS

19.06.20

RESPONDING TO a report in *The Indian Express* titled "For Class 10, NCERT lists topics for self-study, no marking", a spokesperson for the NCERT sent the following rejoinder Saturday: "The article is an attempt to misguide students, teachers and parents in this COVID-19 period... NCERT has not published any guideline, or issued circular or shared with public the content, which this article reports. Therefore, this article is baseless and untrue. Given the sensitivity of the issues related to syllabus and textbooks which has bearing on more than 25 crore students, NCERT attempts to go through a number of steps including thorough discussion not only internally but also with outside experts. NCERT also discusses with states' educational agencies including school education boards before finalizing any document."

**The Indian Express replies:** The report clearly states that the NCERT has prepared a draft document that is "still under discussion and could undergo further changes."

*The Indian Express* has accessed the 13-page draft that lists, subject-wise, topics and themes that Class 10 students can cover through "self-study, assignments or projects" this year. Its key points were highlighted in the report. This draft was circulated within the NCERT this week. *The Indian Express* stands by its report.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## UP govt

on the 12th day for discharge.

Speaking at a media briefing on Saturday, Principal Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said, "A modification has been issued to amend the discharge policy in the state. Asymptomatic patients with no symptoms can be discharged after 10 days and will have to stay in home quarantine for seven days, whereas symptomatic patients will only be allowed to go home after their Covid-19 report is negative."

According to a government bulletin on Thursday, the state had 1,01,236 isolation beds, of which, 5,661 were occupied.

In UP, all asymptomatic Covid patients have to be hospitalised. The Supreme Court had earlier this week pulled up the UP government for the mandatory institutional quarantine for patients with no symptoms. "Don't put asymptomatic people in quarantine, you will have a big problem. Noida is doing it and the UP government is in a denial mode," the court said. During a previous hearing, the court observed that the rule may create "chaos 15 days down the line" and ran counter to the national guidelines.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered that "doctors posted on administrative posts may also be considered for clinical jobs".

Presiding over a Team-11 meeting at his residence, Adityanath instructed officials to ensure that surveillance system is made more effective and that the number of surveillance committees should be increased to 1 lakh.

"He asked Health, Medical Education departments along with district administrations to work in this direction as it will be an important effort to break the infection chain," said a statement issued by the state government.

Apart from all hospitals in the state, the government also said Covid-19 helpdesks will be established in offices.

Adityanath also congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the start of the Gareeb Kalyan Rozgar Yojna. Under the scheme, 31 districts in UP have been shortlisted. Workers will be assigned work depending on their interests and capabilities under the scheme.

## 26/II wanted

against a Danish newspaper and for providing material support to the Lashkar-e-Taiba. The 59-year-old resident of Chicago was arrested in 2009 on charges of plotting the 26/11 terror attacks.

In 2013, Rana was sentenced to 14 years of imprisonment, followed by five years of supervised release.

"He was recently released after he reported that he had tested positive for Covid-19. Following this the US authorities on June 10 executed our request for his provisional arrest. This paves the way for his extradition proceedings to begin in a competent court in the US," an NIA officer said.

Since he cannot be tried for offences he has already been convicted for in the US, India is seeking extradition of Rana on the ground that he was actively involved in planning an attack on the New Delhi-based National Defence College and Chabad Houses in several cities. There is also a forgery case registered against him in India.

In case India and the US had failed to begin the extradition proceedings, Rana would have been deported to Canada.

## LAC on edge

is a lot of tension, anger, and any small incident can flare up," former Army Chief General VP Malik told *The Sunday Express*.

At the time of the clashes on June 15, the soldiers were armed — and with ammunition, as per Army officials — but did not open fire in accordance with the established practice on the LAC. The decision to not open fire has come under heavy criticism, especially from military veterans, and is unlikely to be repeated if another clash takes place.

And the chances of another clash

## Govt rejects China claim to Galwan

the all-party meeting was informed that "this time, Chinese forces have come in much larger strength to the LAC and that the Indian response is commensurate".

This is the first time that the PMO has mentioned the large Chinese presence. On June 2, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in an interview to News18 TV, said "the Chinese have come in sizeable numbers (*achhi khaasi sankhya*). But whatever needs to be done, India has also done".

On Friday, Modi told the all-party meeting that neither has anyone intruded into Indian territory nor has anyone captured any military post.

The Prime Minister, the PMO said, "was clear that India would respond firmly to any attempts to transgress the Line of Actual Control (LAC). In fact, he specifically

emphasized that in contrast to the past neglect of such challenges, Indian forces now decisively counter any violations of LAC (*unhe rokte hain, unhe tokte hain*)... The words of Prime Minister "Those who tried to transgress our land were taught a befitting lesson by our brave sons of soil", succinctly summed up the ethos and the values of our armed forces... What is Indian territory is clear from the map of India. This Government is strongly and resolutely committed to that. Insofar as there is some illegal occupation, the APM was briefed in great detail how over the last 60 years, more than 43,000 sq km has been yielded under circumstances with which this country is well aware. It was also made clear that this Government will not allow any unilateral change of the LAC,"

the PMO said. "At a time when our brave soldiers are defending our borders, it is unfortunate that an unnecessary controversy is being created to lower their morale. However, the predominant sentiment at the All Party Meeting was of unequivocal support to the Government and the armed forces at a time of national crisis. We are confident that the unity of the Indian people will not be undermined by motivated propaganda," it said.

Later in the day, MEA spokesperson Srivastava said: "The position with regard to the Galwan Valley area has been historically clear. Attempts by the Chinese side to now advance exaggerated and untenable claims with regard to (LAC) there are not acceptable. They are not in accordance with China's own position."

## Opposition parties ask why Army said opposite

China's claim today and not wait until tomorrow... so that our position is made clear," he said.

Saying that Modi's remarks had "left all of us confused" about the thinking in the government, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said it amounts to "denial of the gravity" of the situation.

Other Opposition parties also questioned Modi's remarks. "The nation stands with the government against the incursions. But was the incident in which our soldiers were martyred an incursion? If not, then why did the MEA ask for status quo ante? Is Galwan Valley Indian or not?" said the Samajwadi Party's

Akhilesh Yadav. "Mr Modi should first make up his mind and then speak, unless his attempt was to mislead all the political parties and weaken our position in diplomatic talks," said CPI(M)'s Sitaram Yechury.

CPI leader D Raja asked how Modi could be so "ambivalent" on such a sensitive issue. "The leaders were misled in a way. Whether today's clarification was correct or yesterday's statement was correct... nobody knows," he said. "In his presentation, the Foreign Minister highlighted the intrusion. How can he (PM) make such an *asatya bhashan* (false speech). He should not indulge in

the PMO said.

what the Army chief said, runs counter to what the Defence Minister said — that the Chinese, in large numbers, have entered India — and contradicts what the Foreign Minister said, that we want restoration of status quo ante."

Asking if Modi had "given a clean chit to China", he said: "If no Chinese troops crossed the LAC... what was the 'face-off' on May 5-6? Between May 5 and June 6, what was the issue on which local Indian commanders were talking to their Chinese counterparts?... Where did the clashes take place on June 15-16? Where were 20 Indian soldiers killed and 85 injured?"

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Advocate Bhanu Pratap, Bindra, Yadav and many students of JNU, Jamia and DU used to come, who used to speak against the government and NRC and would say that Muslims should be anxious. This continued from January to February 24, for 50 days".

Under the section that mentions the role of one of the accused and the evidence against him, the chargesheet states, "He is acquainted with Kawalpreet Kaur (AISA), Devangana Kalita (Pinjira Tod), Safoora, Yogendra Yadav, etc who used to visit the protest site and deliver hate speeches and instigate the public to be violent".

Yadav told *The Indian Express*, "Everything that I spoke in is the public domain. Please point out one instance where I have directly or indirectly incited violence of any kind."

Kaur said that she "will go through the chargesheet and then comment". Advocate Bindra is also mentioned as "one of the conspirators" in the chargesheet. "It has been revealed that he put up a community kitchen 'langar' at Chand Bagh at first. He was joined by some local residents whom we may term as local organisers. Conspirators were in frequent touch with the local organisers since the inception of the protest site till the violence broke out on February 24," it states.

In the chargesheet, police claim that the "riot at this site was the handiwork of Bindra, Salman Siddiqui, Salim Khan, Salim Munna, Shahdab, and Athar and others in cahoots with local rioters". Three witnesses, in the chargesheet, claim that "on the request of Bindra and others", arrangements such as "tent" and "langar were prepared for the protesters". Bindra told *The Indian Express*, "I have been organising langar for five years, and I received a request for one at Chand Bagh... I don't remember the date. I only organise langar, how am I responsible for violence?" Delhi Police PRO MS Randhawa declined to comment on the chargesheet.

The Crime Branch of Delhi Police filed the chargesheet before Metropolitan Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Rampuri on June 8.

The 17 accused in Lal's murder are between the ages of 18 and 50 years, and while most are residents of Chand Bagh, some are from neighbouring areas like Prem Nagar, Mustafabad and Jagatpuri.

In the chargesheet, Yadav's name also appears in the statement of a witness from the Chand Bagh protest site: "...Protest started here. People from outside were called and

## Dharavi 'unlock'

dense slum clusters, Mukund Nagar.

thus avoiding a rise in the mortality rate," Dighavkar said. The BMC has conducted around 7,000 tests of high-risk contacts from Dharavi till date, and an additional 2,000-2,500 tests are being done.

BMC officials said the exodus of migrant workers from Dharavi also meant lesser number of cases. Dighavkar said around 70% of Dharavi's population comprises daily wage earners, of which, over 1 lakh are migrant workers.

## Food cart to farm

school management told me there is no need to come to school unless called. I have not got my salary since April. A friend, who is an insurance agent, introduced me to a few companies and I am now selling insurance policies," he says, adding that he earns about Rs 5,000, which is "not enough" to support a family of six.

**LAGANLAAL MAHATO, 40**  
**SOCIAL SCIENCE, RANCHI**  
**SALARY: RS 5,000. NOW: ZERO**

He taught students up to Class 8 at Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir at Ranchi in Jharkhand and used to earn Rs 5,000 a month. Mahato stopped receiving his salary in April, and now works on his 1.5-acre paddy field with his family of six, including his wife, their three children — the eldest is a college-going son — and his father. "Until last year, I used to hire labourers," he says.

**MUTUKLAAL, 68**  
**MATHEMATICS, RANCHI**  
**SALARY: RS 4,930. NOW: ZERO**

He is one of the founding members of Prastavit Uchha Vidyalaya in Ranchi, with about 500 students. He last received his salary of Rs 4,930 in April, and is dependent on his son who runs a mobile repair shop. "I don't have money to buy even a cup of tea," he says. "Our school charges only Rs 150-200 per student in tuition fees. But the students can't pay now," says Laal, who stays with his family of three in Sukruhuttu village.

**ABHISHEK RANJAN, 31**  
**IT, PATNA**  
**SALARY: RS 18,000. NOW: RS 9,000**

With an additional income of Rs 5,000-7,000 from tuition, Ranjan was "living happily" at a rented home in Danapur with his wife and their four-year-old son. "But since April, the school has been giving us only half our salaries. I had to send my wife and son to my parents in Gaya, where my father is a smalltime farmer growing grain and vegetables. I have saved on Rs 3,000, which was spent on milk every month, and Rs 2,500 on rations. I have stopped eating non-vegetarian, and get rice and wheat from my village," he says.

Ranjan is looking for home tuition but has not got any response from parents who are fearful of a Covid spike.

**VIDYASAGAR, 28**  
**SCIENCE, SHEKHUPURA**  
**SALARY: RS 25,000. NOW: ZERO**

Vidyasagar supports a family of seven, including aged parents and a younger brother who is pursuing an ITI course. But without a salary since April, he has not been able to pay his brother's fee. These days, he travels 22 km daily on his bike to reach his workplace, Usha Public School in Shekhpura, on petrol paid by credit card, so that he can conduct online classes. "We led a comfortable life before the lockdown. And I had taken a loan of about Rs 1.25 lakh for other purposes. But now, I have taken another loan of Rs 30,000... no salary means more loans," he says.

How long will this distress last is anybody's guess. Owners of some of the schools say that they don't want to put pressure on students because their parents may have lost their jobs. "We want to give them some time but we don't have the reserves to last for long. We are also worried that many may drop out and join government schools," says the managing director of a school in Patna. "No one talks about us when we discuss a stimulus package, all we can do is to wait and hope."

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Since patients were isolated early, they could be monitored,

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20th July, 2020 20th Aug, 2020

**IAS CLAT**  
10th Oct, 2020 18th July, 2020

**Salient Features**

- Answers of PYQs (Sub + Obj)
- Q & A Approach
- Discussions of Recent Case Laws
- Mock Test on exam pattern

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# 6<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL YOGA Day

## SAHAJA YOGA - Today's Maha Yoga

### 50 Glorious years (1970-2020)

### MEDITATION as Inner Peace Day

Shri Mataji travelled across various countries to give self-realisation to seekers (All castes, colours and religion) of truth which gave them relief from stress and INNER PEACE. Sahaja Yoga Meditation is observed as Inner Peace Day on March 21 by 32,00,000 students of 970 Schools in 51 countries. Improved memory and concentration, self-confidence, teamwork, and self-discipline has been observed in students who started doing Sahaja Yoga Meditation.

Inner Peace began as Inner Peace Day, an international celebration of 21<sup>st</sup> March (Birthday of Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi) as the World Day for Inner Peace. The idea is to establish a day in schools dedicated to World Peace, where students could experience inner peace for themselves. Meditate to Regenerate was set up to spread the message of peace in some of the most troubled areas around the world: refugee camps, occupied territories and places devastated by war.

#### Sahaja Yoga Unites the World on International Yoga Day Sunday, 21st June 2020

Global Experts, Professionals, Social Activist, coming LIVE with 30+ sessions from more than 20 countries in more than 10 languages performing from Sunrise to sunrise, to share the unique method of YOGA by Kundalini Awakening and Self Realization through which one can achieve a Beautiful state of Thoughtless Awareness.

#### Sahaja Yoga

A Divine Gift to Humanity, H.H Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi. Please follow the Link to listen, these Global Speakers on

<https://www.SahajaYoga.org.in/YogaDay>

Also Visit for more details on Sahaja Yoga :

[www.sahajayoga.org](http://www.sahajayoga.org)

[www.nirmaldham.org](http://www.nirmaldham.org)

[www.sahajayogamumbai.org](http://www.sahajayogamumbai.org)

[www.sahajayoga.org.in](http://www.sahajayoga.org.in)

[www.freemeditation.com](http://www.freemeditation.com)

“ You cannot know the meaning of your life until you are connected to the power that created you ”



HER HOLINESS SHRI MATAJI NIRMALA DEVI  
The Founder of Sahaja Yoga

#### Self-realisation by Kundalini awakening

On this International Yoga Day, we all the Sahaja Yogi children of the world gratefully bow down to You again and again, that You discovered Sahaja Yoga and worked untiringly for the emancipation of the mankind. Millions of Sahaja Yogis across the globe are enjoying the blessings showered by Thee.



Birth Place Chindwara (M.P)  
21st March 1923



Nirmal Dham Delhi (Samadhi)  
23rd February 2011

Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi incarnated on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1923 at 12.00 noon, at Chindwara (M.P). Her father Shri P. K. Salve was a man of great character. Nationalist to the core, he became a prominent figure in the India's freedom movement. On 7<sup>th</sup> April 1947, She married Shri C.P. Srivastava, IAS, who later became Secretary to Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. Later Shri C.P.S. became secretary, International maritime origination for 16 years. After fulfilling her family duties, Shri Mataji launched Sahaja Yoga – the system of en masse Self-Realisation and through Kundalini awakening, on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1970. With Sahaja Yoga Meditation, millions of seekers today are leading peaceful and stress free lives.

### Yoga recognised Globally

Today, Yoga is practiced in various forms around the world and continues to grow in popularity. Recognizing its universal appeal, on 11 December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131. The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states. The proposal was first introduced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Sh. Narendra Modi, in his address during the opening of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, in which he said: "Yoga is an invaluable gift from our ancient tradition. Yoga embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action... a holistic approach [that] is valuable to our health and our well-being. **Yoga is not just about exercise; it is a way to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature.**"

The resolution notes "the importance of individuals and populations making healthier choices and following lifestyle patterns that foster good health." In this regard, the World Health Organization has also urged its member states to help their citizens reduce physical inactivity, which is among the top ten leading causes of death worldwide, and a key risk factor for non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes.

In the words of Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, "What is Yoga? In simple words, it is taking your attention to the Spirit. What does the Kundalini do? She raises your attention and takes it to the Spirit. Only after knowing the Spirit you can know God."



### Proclamation in memory of Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi

The Mayor of the District of Columbia, Vincent C. Gray, in recognition of Shri Mataji's achievements, has proclaimed March 21, 2012 as 'SHRI MATAJI NIRMALA DEVI DAY', in Washington, D.C. He also called upon residents to join in observing this day, enhancing one's inner awareness and world peace. On this occasion, there was a special segment dedicated to Shri Mataji during the celebration on March 21.

Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi was born on March 21, 1923 to Prasad and Cornelia Salve in India. In 1970, she founded a unique method of achieving inner peace, balance and personal growth called Sahaja Meditation, also

known as Sahaja Yoga, with the message and practise spreading to over 100 countries. Since, 1998, the National Institute of Health has been hosting weekly Sahaja Yoga Meditation programmes for patients and staff.

Shri Mataji has been nominated twice for the Nobel peace prize for her universal vision of a unified humanity and her extraordinary global work.

She has also created number of NGO and authored a book called 'Meta Modern Era', which offers deep insights and solutions for the crisis of modern times, and has merited and love and respect of countless friends and family.

### Why Sahaja Yoga Meditation? (for good health & well being)

Sahaja Yoga is a simple and effective form of meditation that helps to reduce stress and enhance physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being. It is an effortless meditation. With pure desire to have self-realisation (SR), a seeker gets it in just a minute or few. There is no physical exercise or mental exercise involved, but the state of thoughtless awareness is achieved.

Sahaja Yoga meditation grants a seeker 'YOGA' or union with the all-pervading power, by awakening the Sacred Energy (Kundalini) lying dormant in three and half coils, in the sacrum bone of every human being. The awakening of the Kundalini is felt by the seeker as a cool breeze either on top of his head or on the palm of the hand. Once the Kundalini starts flowing freely through the subtle instrument of the seeker he/she enters into a meditative state and becomes conscious of the profound and peaceful silence known as "Thoughtless Awareness". After regular meditation, a seeker can give self-realization to others.

The Founder of Sahaja Yoga, Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, brought forth the divine knowledge of how to give en-masse self-realization on May 5, 1970. Shri Mataji gave self-realisation to a small group

of seekers to start. Today Sahaja Yoga has spread more than 140 countries and seekers practising this meditation have experienced transformation in their lifestyle and are easily able to manage stressful situations. Sahaja Yoga/Self-realization is always free of charge, in line with the principle laid down by Shri Mataji.

- Sahaja Yoga meditation is very easy and can be done along with professional and family life
- People from all walks of life can derive benefits, irrespective of their religion, caste or creed
- Health improves. Relief from mental illness due to stress and other health and psycho-somatic problems. And natural cure from addictions.
- No need for any sort of rituals, penance, fasts, asceticism or physical deprivations
  - For students – progress in studies due to improvement in memory & concentration
  - Latent artistic talents get developed
  - Peace, contentment and joy are the hallmarks of Sahaja Yoga
  - Entirely scientific technique with no promotion of blind faith
  - Self-realization through Sahaja Yoga is entirely free

# 4 UTTAR PRADESH

## BABRI DEMOLITION CASE

### CBI court set to record statements of Advani, 8 others via video-conference

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 20

A SPECIAL CBI court in Lucknow, hearing the Babri Masjid demolition case, has decided to record statements of nine accused, including former deputy prime minister Lal Krishna Advani, under Section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) through video conference between June 22 and July 2.

The court has fixed dates to get their statements recorded from their residence and issued direction to the director of National Informatics Center (NIC), Lucknow, to make necessary arrangements for the same. The court will record state-



LK Advani will record statement on June 30

ment of R N Srivastava on June 22, Mahant Nriya Gopal Das on June 23, Jai Bhagwan Goyal on June 24, Amar Nath Goyal on June 25 and Sudhir Khakkar on June 26, Acharya Dhamendra Deo on June 29, Lal Krishna Advani on June 30, Murlu Manohar Joshi on July 1 and Kalyan Singh on July 2, said prosecution.

Advani, Jai Bhagwan, Amar Nath and Joshi are residents of Delhi while RN Srivastava, Das

and Kalyan Singh are living in Uttar Pradesh, and Deo in Rajasthan and Kalkar in Punjab, said prosecution.

Singh, Das, Jai Bhagwan and Amar Nath are said to be unwell. Under Section 313, a judge questions the accused on the basis of evidence put before the court during trial, and the accused is given an opportunity to explain the circumstances and the allegations levelled against him.

The statement of accused Ram Chandra Khatri, who is lodged in a Sonapat jail in Haryana in a criminal case, could not be recorded through video conference because of glitches in internet connectivity. The court fixed July 3 as the next date for recording statement.

### Murder accused who fled temporary jail arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 20

THE JAUNPUR police Saturday arrested a 22-year-old murder accused who had escaped from a temporary jail where he was lodged with other inmates.

The accused, Raju Chauhan, escaped along with another inmate Monu Kumar Gautam after cutting the grills of a window of a temporary jail on Friday. Monu is yet to be traced, police said.

On Saturday, police arrested Raju Chauhan from the area near his residence at Kateria village under Badlapur police station area. A search was on for Monu Kumar Gautam, who was booked in a fraud case, police said.

The temporary jail, which is

running from a school building-houses 236 prisoners, said a jail official. As a precautionary measure amid the coronavirus pandemic, after completing 14 days' quarantine period in temporary jail, all prisoners are transferred to the district jail.

Superintendent, Jaunpur jail, Raj Kumar said, during headcount on Friday morning it was found that two inmates were missing.

A search was carried out inside the temporary jail but they could not be traced. During preliminary inquiry it was found the two inmates escaped from prison after cutting grills of a window of the temporary jail, he added.

Senior officials, including District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, were informed about the matter.



The Lucknow office of emergency helpline 112 being sanitised after six employees tested positive for Covid-19. It will remain shut till Monday. The rest of the employees will work from home and the Prayagraj centre will take calls till the office reopens. Vishal Srivastav

### FIR against journalist: Act of intimidation, says media body

New Delhi: A media body on Saturday described as "an act of intimidation" the filing of an FIR in Uttar Pradesh against a journalist over a report on the impact of the lockdown on a village, saying it was part of an "established pattern" of harassment of independent scribes.

In a statement, the Media Foundation put on record its strong protest over the FIR filed by the Uttar Pradesh government against Supriya Sharma, executive editor of news portal Scroll.in.

The case was filed against Sharma for allegedly misrepresenting facts in a report on the impact of the lockdown in a village adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, police sources had said on Thursday. PTI

## ACTIVE CASES AT 6,297

# 592 new cases, 22 more deaths in state

### Superintendent of govt hospital in Gorakhpur tests positive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 19

UTTAR PRADESH'S coronavirus cases on Saturday jumped by 592 to 17,135—a day after it recorded its highest single day rise at 817. Friday was the fourth consecutive day when the state witnessed its highest single day jump.

According to data released by the state government on Saturday evening, 22 more coronavirus patients died in the last 24 hours taking the total to 529. Of the fresh cases, Hapur recorded the highest at 65 followed by Kanpur Nagar (59), Gautam Buddha Nagar (41) and Ghaziabad (40). On Friday, Gautam Buddha Nagar had recorded 151 fresh cases.

The superintendent-in-charge of government-run Baba Raghav Das (BRD) Medical College in Gorakhpur was among the new coronavirus patients. He had high fever and difficulty breathing for the past four days, Principal Ganesh Kumar said. People who came in contact with him are being tracked, Kumar said. According to sources, samples of more than 40 people, including doctors and health workers, have been taken for testing.

Of the 22 fresh deaths, Meerut saw five, and Kanpur Nagar, Ghaziabad, Varanasi and Hapur two each.

The state has a total of 6,297 active cases. Gautam Buddha Nagar had 690 active cases—the

### STATE COUNT

TOTAL CASES

17,135

INCREASE 592 DEATHS 22

10,369 RECOVERED

5,45,552 SAMPLES TESTED TILL JUNE 20

Prasad said that random testing was being carried out in old age homes, orphanages and juvenile homes on the directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Covid-19 cases have been found in old-age homes in Sultanpur, Kushinagar and Jalaun districts and in orphanages and juvenile homes in Meerut and Kanpur.

### '87,000 migrant workers sent back'

The Uttar Pradesh government has so far sent over 87,000 labourers, including brick kiln workers, to their native states in 56 trains. Additional chief secretary (home) Awanshi Awasthi said.

"The state government has so far sent 87,272 brick kiln workers and labourers to their native states by trains," he said.

As many as 17 trains have taken 30,403 workers to Chhattisgarh, 26 trains have taken 44,560 workers to Bihar, four trains have taken 6,756 labourers to Odisha and three trains have taken 5,553 workers to Jharkhand, he said.

On Saturday, six trains departed from Uttar Pradesh—four to Bihar and one each to Chhattisgarh and Odisha, he said.

The special trains are being operated primarily on the request of states, which want to send migrant workers stranded due to the COVID-19 lockdown to their native places. WITH PTI INPUTS

### Focus shifts to districts closer to Delhi

At a Team-11 meeting at his residence here, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stressed on the need to focus more on districts under the National Capital Region. Noida and Ghaziabad are among the worst hit districts in the state.

At a press briefing here on Saturday, Principal Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said officials have been directed to increase random testing to "assess the actual position of the Covid-19 spread". He directed officials to set up Covid helpdesks in all hospitals. He added that ASHA workers have tracked over 17,000 people. Samples of 1,567 of them have been sent for testing, he said.

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## 18-year-old Covid patient flees before being taken to hospital, booked: Police

MANISH SAHU  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 20

AN 18-YEAR-OLD youth, who had tested positive for coronavirus, has been booked after he and his family members fled their home at a village in Hardoi district.

On June 15, the family reached the village in a private vehicle to take part in a marriage function. They remained inside the house and stepped out only to attend the function. On a complaint that two of the youth's family members showed coronavirus symptoms, a team of the district administration took samples of all the six people. The youth was found coronavirus positive following which health workers reached the village to take him to hospital. A few hours before the team arrived, the family escaped.

The district administration is identifying people who came in contact with the youth. As a precaution, police have put 40 households under home quarantine. They have set up barricades at the entry point of the village to prevent outsiders.

"Police are trying to locate the youth and his family," said Station House Officer, Kasimpura police station, Brijesh Singh

The youth has been booked under IPC sections 188, 269 and 270 as well as the the Epidemic Disease Act.

**सू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.**  
CH : 0152804-19189250485  
संजीवनी कारपोरेशन : सीआर नगर, लखनऊ-226010  
E-MAIL: 022-2200944, E-MAIL: hollg@upprojects.org, Website: www.upprojects.org  
फोन: 213/पीओसीएन/महाराजगंज-549-देवर -लखनऊ -20.06.2020

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

जनपद महाराजगंज के कुलपत्र में फावर स्टेशन के मुख्य मार्ग के निर्माण कार्य हेतु इस अवसर पर ई-निविदा सूचना सं: 04/GM-5/UPPCL/2020-21 दिनांक 20.06.2020 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा <http://etender.up.nic.in> की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 22.06.2020 से दिनांक 01.07.2020 के अगस्त 05:00 बजे तक उपलब्ध/अपलब्ध की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा से सम्बंधित अन्य विवरण, नियम एवं शर्त कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट [www.upprojects.org](http://www.upprojects.org) पर दिनांक 22.06.2020 से देखी जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक (जीन-5)

**King George's Medical University U.P.**  
Chowk, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India-226003

Notice No: 2271/M-10 Date: 20.06.2020

**Short Term Tender Notice**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for execution of urgent/misc. repair of civil works in different departments of KGMU for prevention of Covid-19 area and other area from the registered Contractors of the KGMU. Tenders can be purchase upto dt. 30.06.2020 at 12:00pm and shall be opened same day at 3.30pm. The detail of tender notice and terms and conditions can be viewed at website [www.kgmucindia.edu](http://www.kgmucindia.edu) and other informations can be obtained from the office of Executive Engineer (Civil) during all working days.

Executive Engineer (Civil)

**KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**  
Civil Engineering Division, Tumkur - 572101.

No.KST.EE:TMK:JE:79:2020-21 DATE:19.06.2020

**E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION 02/2020-21**

Tenders are invited in E-Procurement mode from registered KPWD/CPWD/MES Contractors for the following work. Interested Contractors can register their names in the e-procurement cell and participate in the tenders. Tender Notification and further details for the work can be downloaded from 20.06.2020 free of cost from the e-procurement web site [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in).

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (in Lakhs)	E.M.D	Last date for submission of tenders
1.	Redevelopment of KSRTC Bus Stand in Davanagere City Under Smart City Mission	9341.00	93.41 Lakhs	07.07.2020

More details can be obtained from the office of Executive Engineer, KSRTC, CE Division, Gubbi Kalakshetra Road, KSRTC Bus Station, Tumkur during working hours on all working days.

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
KSRTC, CE Division, Tumkur.

DIPR/DDU/367/2020-21

**CANTONMENT BOARD, ALLAHABAD**  
2, Ashoka Road, New Cantt., Allahabad  
Ph.: 0532-2422121, E-mail: ceoalla-stats@nic.in

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIT)**

S. N.	Name of work	Tender Document fee (non refundable)	Estimated Cost	Estimate money	Time for completion of work	Last date & Time for submission of online bids	Last date & Time for submission of EMD, tender cost & hardcopy of affidavits	Time and date of opening of online technical bids	Time and date of opening of on line Financial bids
1.	Improvement of water supply lines in Sadar Bazar, New Cantt., Allahabad	₹ 500/-	₹ 88,82,360/-	₹ 77,850/-	4 Months	10.07.2020 (Upto 17:00 hrs)	11.07.2020 (Upto 17:00 hrs)	12.07.2020 (12:00 hrs)	Will be submitted online while uploading technical evaluation report

- Cantonment Board, Allahabad invites e-tenders from eligible and qualified tenders for "IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY LINES IN SADAR BAZAR, NEW CANTT., ALLAHABAD."
- The interested tenders shall register with the e-tendering portal of Government and submit their bids online after logging in to their accounts at themselves registered with website <http://eprocure.gov.in> (organization: Dir. Gen. Defence Estate, MCD).
- The interested bidders may also visit the website of Cantonment Board, Allahabad ([www.cantboard.org.in](http://www.cantboard.org.in)) for further details.
- Prospect bidders are requested to browse through these aforementioned websites regularly as any further amendments/contenda will be published in these websites only.
- Cantonment Board, Allahabad Chief Executive Officer, Cantonment Board, Allahabad reserve the right to postpone and/or extend the date of receipt of tenders or to withdraw the tender notice, without assigning any reason therefor. In such cases, the bidders shall not be entitled to any form of compensation from the Cantonment Board.
- No interest shall be paid on EMD and Security money.
- Bidders shall submit EMD, Security Money and Request Affidavits in Original (Hardcopy) in Office of Chief Executive Officer, Cantonment Board Allahabad. If bidder fails to submit the same within prescribed timeline, his tender bid will not be accepted.

Adv. No.: ENGG/2020-2021/07/CBA/2020/756 (Name: Amit Kumar Baburno)  
Office of the Cantonment Officer, Allahabad, Dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2020  
Chief Executive Officer, Cantonment Board, Allahabad

**मार्ग-प्रकाश, नगर निगम, प्रयागराज।**  
**ई-प्रव्योरमेन्ट निविदा सूचना**

मार्ग प्रकाश व्यवस्था के सुदृढ़ीकरण हेतु 90 वॉट/ 120 वॉट/ 190 वॉट एल.ई.डी. लाइटों की मरम्मत हेतु बजट, सूची, हैवील्यू, फिलिप, विगो, क्राम्पन आदि प्रसिद्ध एल.ई.डी. निर्माता कम्पनियों अथवा इनके अधिकृत एजेंटों/ डीलर से अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्राप्त उर प्रदेश को ई-प्रव्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> से प्राप्त, डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। किसी निविदा को स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार नगर आयुक्त को सुरक्षित रहेगा। निविदा खोलने जाने की तिथि को यदि अवकाश होगा तो निविदाएं अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी।

ई-निविदा सूचना प्रकाशन की तिथि	21-06-2020
ई-निविदा डाउनलोड करने की प्रारंभिक तिथि व समय	24-06-2020 अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे से
निविदा संशोधन मूल प्राप्त क्या करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय	04-07-2020 अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक
निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय	04-07-2020 अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तिथि व समय	04-07-2020 अपरान्ह 4.00 बजे तक

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा फॉर्म का मूल्य + 05 प्रतिशत जीएसटी	जमानत की धनराशि
1	मार्ग प्रकाश व्यवस्था के सुदृढ़ीकरण हेतु 90 वॉट/ 120 वॉट/ 190 वॉट एल.ई.डी. लाइटों के ड्राइवर को लगाने का कार्य।	₹. 4,000.00 + 200.00 = ₹.4,200.00	80,000.00

**शर्तें:-**

- निविदा के साथ निविदा शुल्क आर.टी.जी.एस. के माध्यम से यूको बैंक नगर निगम, प्रयागराज में ई-टेंडरिंग सिस्टमिटी के नाम से खाता सं.- 06940110006498 व IFSC Code UCBA0000694 में जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा तथा 02 प्रतिशत जमानत की धनराशि एफ.डी.आर./सी.डी.आर. के रूप में भी मान्य होगा जो प्रभारी अधिकारी विद्युत के पथ में प्लेन्ड हो तथा निविदा शुल्क की रसीद की प्रति निविदा के साथ अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- निविदा शुल्क एवं प्रभार धनराशि की रकम काँपी निविदा के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा। निविदा शुल्क की रसीद में टेंडर संख्या का स्पष्ट अंकन किया जाना आवश्यक है।
- निविदा स्वीकृत होने पर कुल स्वीकृत धनराशि का 10% जमानत की धनराशि एफ.डी.आर./सी.डी.आर. की मूल प्रति जमा करके ₹.-100.00 के स्टैम्प पेपर के साथ अनुबन्ध करना होगा।
- निविदा शर्तों के विरुद्ध निविदा डालने वाले टेंडरकार को जमानत धनराशि जन्क करके हुए काली सूची में दर्ज कर दिया जायेगा।
- खराब एल.ई.डी. लाइटों के ड्राइवरों को बदलने के लिए एल.ई.डी. लाइट नगर निगम स्टोर से उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी। एल.ई.डी. ड्राइवरों पर मरम्मत पिन्टिंग का दिनांक अंकित करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से उताते हुए खराब लाइटों नगर निगम के विद्युत स्टोर में आती जाएंगी एवं फर्म द्वारा उसी अनुपात में मरम्मत करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- पूर्ण कार्योतिथि एक वर्ष से अधिक हो सकती है।
- न्यूनतम 200 एल.ई.डी. लाइटों की मरम्मत के उपरान्त ही फर्म द्वारा बिल प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा।
- निविदादाता द्वारा किसी भी सरकारी/निकाश द्वारा ब्लैड लिस्टेड न होने का नोटरी प्रमाण पत्र अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- सशर्त निविदा मान्य नहीं होगी।
- सिधेर किए गए एल.ई.डी. ड्राइवर की गारंटी 01 वर्ष होगी।

हस्ता./- इला./-  
अध्यासारी अभियानता (वि./बो.) मुख् अभियानता  
नगर निगम, प्रयागराज नगर निगम, प्रयागराज

**Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited**  
e-Tender No. GMDG/ATPS-ADH-21/2020-21

Annual Over Hauling of 2x125 MW Power Plant with tools & tackles and supply of identified spares, consumables, equipments and materials

GMDG invites tender for The proposed Work of "Annual Over Hauling of 2x125 MW Power Plant with tools & tackles and supply of identified spares, consumables, equipments and materials" Via Non-competitive Bidding. Tender documents are available on following website:  
Websites: [www.gmdcld.com](http://www.gmdcld.com), <https://gmrc.nprocure.com>  
General Manager (Power), P.O. 079-2761 2962/3501, email: power@gmdcld.com

**Gujarat Urban Development Company Limited**  
(Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking)  
CIN : U75140GJ1999SGC036051  
"Karmyogi Bhavan", Block No.1, B1 wing, Ground Floor, Sector No.10/A, Gandhinagar-382010, Telefax:- 079-23246127 / 28  
Email: [contact@gudcld.com](mailto:contact@gudcld.com) Website: [www.gudcld.com](http://www.gudcld.com).

**e-TENDERING Notice Ref.No.GUDC/ e-TENDERING/SJMMSVY/84.107.115 and SOLAR /III/1to10**

Gujarat Urban Development Company Ltd. invites online tenders by e-tendering for (1) Rajpipla SEW II: Rs. 36.39 crore, (2) Kadi SEW IV : Rs. 5.82 crore, (3) Mehsana II (STP-balance works): Rs. 27.58 crore (without O&M) and (4) Solar Phase III Projects at 10 nos. of WTP/STP location of ULB of Gujarat: Rs. 6.41 crore, under SJMMSVY on EPC basis. Tenders will be uploaded soon on the web site <https://gudc.nprocure.com>. All subsequent information, notification, changes and amendments would be posted only on the aforesaid website.

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW.**

No.: ME-3/2020/993 Lucknow: Dated :- 18 June, 2020

**The Time Schedule of Second Round of Online Counseling of UP NEET PG - 2020**

The Time Schedule for the Admission through Online counseling in the State of Uttar Pradesh for Government / Private Medical / Dental Colleges / Institutions / Universities for Postgraduate (MD/MS/Diploma/MDS Courses) is as follows:-

Date of Online Registration	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020 (From 2:00 PM) To 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
Online Security Fee Payment	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020 (From 2:00 PM) To 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
Expected date of Declaration of Merit List	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020
Date of Online Choice Filling & Locking	06 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 (From 4:00 PM) to 09 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 Upto 11:00 AM
Declaration of result of seat allotment	10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
Date for Downloading Allotment letters & Admission	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 to 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020

- Registration & Security Money will be deposited through Debit Card / Credit Card / Net Banking / E-Challan.
- For further important and detailed information kindly visit the website regularly <https://upneet.gov.in> & [www.updgm.in](http://www.updgm.in).

Director General

**BUXAR BRANCH**  
Near Police Chowki No.1, P.O. Buxar, Dist-Buxar PIN-802101 (Bihar) Ph.No. 6183-225362 E-mail: [buxar@bankofbaroda.co.in](mailto:buxar@bankofbaroda.co.in)

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda**

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable properties/ies)**  
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice dated 04.01.2020, calling upon the Borrower Mr. Amit Singh, S/o Ghanshyam Singh, SH9/132, AG-1, Gangotri Nagar Colony, Sindhpur, Shivpur, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh-221003 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.71,82,817.00 (Rupees Seventy One Lacs Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventeen only) and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgageor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June of the year 2020

The Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgageor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for an amount Rs.71,82,817.00 (Rupees Seventy One Lacs Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventeen only) and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till the date of payment

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land and building, situated at Arazi Number-198, Area 3400 sq.Feet i.e. 315.99 sq.mt. situated at Vill- Shivpur, Pragana-Shivpur, Tahsil & District- Varanasi, through registered sale deed 17.02.2007, registered with sub registered-Varanasi on 20.02.2007 which is registered at Book Number-1, Volume Number 2825 all pages 161-198 (which is document no.883, Property is in the name of Smt. Gayatri Singh (Guarantor), W/o Mr. Ghanshyam Singh**

**Boundary: North:** House of O P Rai, **South:** Colony Road 20 Ft. Wide, **East:** Boundary of Sri Ram Seth, **West:** Colony road 20 Ft. Wide.

Place: Buxar Date: 15.06.2020 Bank of Baroda Authorised Officer

**MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LTD.**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI) (CONSULTING SERVICES-FIRM SELECTION)**

Country: INDIA Name of Project: MUTP-III Assignment Title: Selection of Consultant for "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE STUDY UNDER 'MUTP-III PROJECT' FOR REHABILITATION OF TUNNEL (2.73KM LONG) AT KM 90/8 TO 93/7 IN BETWEEN PANVEL AND KARJAT". Reference No. MRVC/TA/117 dated 19.06.2020

Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services for above mentioned assignment. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The consulting Services include providing Technical Assistance for REHABILITATION OF TUNNEL (2.73KM LONG) AT KM 90/8 TO 93/7 IN BETWEEN PANVEL AND KARJAT. The estimated duration of consultancy services is 06 Months. Detailed REOI with Draft Terms of Reference are available on MRVC web site [www.mrvic.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.mrvic.indianrailways.gov.in). A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS method set out in PIR. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours between 10:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs. on working days. The corrigendum if any, will be hosted on MRVC's website. Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by email) by 15.00 hrs of 30/07/2020.

**Address for correspondence:** Kanhaiya Jha, Chief Project Manager-I, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, 2nd Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020, Tel: (022)-22052012, email: [cpm1@mrvic.gov.in](mailto:cpm1@mrvic.gov.in), [dycpm1@mrvic.gov.in](mailto:dycpm1@mrvic.gov.in), Website: [www.mrvic.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.mrvic.indianrailways.gov.in).

# Discussions on with China for another round of military, diplomacy talks

SUSHANT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

AFTER THE failure of dialogue at the Major General level to break the deadlock over the standoff at the LAC in Ladakh, discussions are underway between India and China to have another round of military and diplomatic talks next week.

A government official told *The Indian Express* that the military talks will be held at the level of Corps Commander in Ladakh, where the Indian side will be led by GOC 14 Corps Lt General Harinder Singh while the diplomatic talks in Beijing will be led by India's ambassador to China, Vikram Misri. Preliminary discussions to finalise the schedule of talks are currently on between the two sides, the official said.

"The talks at the Major General level have failed to break the impasse and make progress. We thus need talks at a higher level, at the Corps Commander level, and both sides have been talking over the hotline to fix the dates for the talk," the official explained.

"The military talks can be expected to be held in the next 4-5 days, say next week," the official said.

Chinese foreign ministry's

statement late Friday had also said that "a second commander-level meeting should happen as soon as possible to deal with the situation on the ground".

The official also said that the agenda of the meeting will be finalised in due course, but it is likely to build on the decisions agreed upon in the previous meeting of the two Corps Commanders. The last meeting of the 14 Corps Commander with his Chinese counterpart was held on June 6, where certain decisions about disengagement on the the LAC were taken.

These decisions were to be implemented after meetings between the military commanders on the ground. But the whole process was derailed after the violent faceoff between the soldiers of both sides on June 15, which left 20 Indian soldiers dead, 76 injured and 10 in Chinese custody.

The last meeting between the military commanders took place at the Major General level on Thursday, where 10 Indian soldiers, including four officers, were released by the Chinese side. The Indian delegation was led by GOC 3 Infantry Division, Major General Abhijit Bapat.

The Army has clarified that no bridge has been made on the Galwan river, on the track going

to PP 14, during the period of the standoff. Army said that the bridge is on the Shyok River, very close to the Shyok-Galwan meeting point, aligned in North to South direction, and links Daulat Beg Oldie to Shyok and Darbuk.

The clarification assumes significance as the June 6 meeting at the Corps Commander level has decided to create a kind of buffer zone between the junction of Shyok and Galwan rivers on the west and the LAC on the east. It was also mentioned in the Chinese foreign ministry's statement Friday that "the Indian side promised (in June 6 meeting) that they would not cross the estuary of the Galwan river to patrol and build facilities". The violent faceoff of June 15 also happened while undertaking gradual disengagement in this 'buffer zone' after talks between local military commanders.

Meanwhile, the situation on the ground continues to remain tense with reports of massive Chinese military buildup along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) opposite Indian positions in Depsang, Galwan, Hot Springs, Pangong Tso area, Koyul, Fukche and Demchok. The Indian side has also mobilised and deployed a large number of troops in the area to respond to any situation on the border.



IAF chief RKS Bhaduria at the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad, Saturday. PTI

## Ready and determined to deliver, says IAF chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

REFERRING TO the situation on the Line of Actual Control, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria said on Saturday that the Indian Air Force is "well prepared and suitably deployed to respond to any contingency" and is "determined to deliver".

Addressing a combined graduation parade at the Air Force Academy in Dundergudi, he said: "We are well prepared and suitably deployed to respond to any contingency. I assure the nation that we are determined to deliver and will not let the sacrifices of our

soldiers go in vain."

Speaking to media persons later, Bhaduria, who visited the Leh air base earlier this week, said: "The Army is in total control of the situation at the Galwan Valley and the Air Force is ready to support the Army's efforts by deploying additional forces to meet any contingency".

He said the IAF has stepped up deployment in Leh and Srinagar. "We are aware of the full situation. Be it at LAC, be it deployments beyond LAC. All the air deployments, their postures, the kind of deployments... We have full analysis and we have taken the necessary action that we need to take to handle any contingency that may arise

with this kind of deployment. All actions have been taken," he said.

"We know what their (Chinese) fields are. We know what their air fields are, where they are deployed, what are the operational bases," he said.

Responding to a question, he said India is not at war with China but is prepared to face any situation. "You are aware of the talks that are happening at the military level... but we are prepared for any contingency," he said.

He said that despite the Chinese action after agreements reached during military talks, efforts are underway to ensure that the situation at the LAC is resolved peacefully. —WITHPTI

## Prachanda: Talks on basis of sovereign equality welcome

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE  
KATHMANDU, JUNE 20

NEPAL IS willing to settle the current dispute with India through dialogue based on "sovereign equality and mutual respect", Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, co-chairman of the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP), has said.

In a message delivered in a video conference, jointly hosted by the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the schools division of the NCP on Friday, Prachanda said Nepal wants to resolve bilateral issues with any friendly country "based on sovereign equality, mutual respect and understandings".

Although he did not mention India, his reference in the context of the current dispute over territory, including Kalapani, was obvious. "We believe that in a civilised world, coercion, intimidation and self will should not have any role in resolving conflicts between and among nations," he said.

Prachanda said "China today has capability and willingness to take appropriate role in handling global humanitarian crisis" and also said Nepal will not endorse the \$500-million grant under the Millennium Challenge Corporation agreement (with the US). "Any kind of support attached with security alignment that contradicts with our

NEPAL, AFGHAN HOPE FOR SINO-INDIAN TALKS

*New Delhi:* In their first comments on the ongoing standoff between India and China in Ladakh, two of India's neighbours—Nepal and Afghanistan—on Saturday said they are confident that New Delhi and Beijing will resolve their mutual differences "through peaceful means" and "dialogue" for bilateral, regional and world peace and stability. The Nepalese Foreign ministry said, "Nepal maintains that disputes between the countries should be resolved through peaceful means... Nepal is confident that both countries will resolve, in the spirit of good neighbourliness, their mutual differences through peaceful means in favour of bilateral, regional and world peace and stability."

The Afghan Foreign Ministry stated, "Afghanistan is concerned about recent border incident between the two countries who are Afghanistan's partners for peace, development..." —ENS

Constitution cannot be accepted," he said.

The video conference has triggered a division within the ruling party. It is believed to have taken place at the behest of the CPC.

## 'IAF has geographical advantage, decision on use depends on govt'

MANRAJ GREWAL  
SHARMA  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 20

FROM LANDING the mammoth transport carrier Hercules on Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) airstrip in 2013 to more recently deploying Apache helicopters to provide air support to troops in Ladakh, and moving fighter jets to airfields close to the LAC in the last few days, the Indian Air Force has been consistently ramping up its operations in Ladakh.



Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur (retd), Group Capt Ravinder S Chhatwal (retd)

Even as Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria on Saturday said the

IAF is "well prepared and suitably deployed" to deal with any eventuality arising out of the Galwan standoff, analysts told *The Sunday Express* that although IAF enjoys a geographical advantage over air power, any decision on its use will have to be taken after careful consideration by the government.

Also, occupation of the Galwan heights could impact the DBO airstrip, they said.

Air Vice Marshal KK Nowhar (retd), of the Centre for Air Power Studies, said utilisation of air power in direct support of the

Army along the LAC in these areas has never been contemplated. "But it is feasible. We will definitely be asked if the chips are down," he said.

Any escalation, said Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur (retd), can either be horizontal, wherein you can fan your forces across the LAC from Galwan and Pangong Tso to Sikkim, or vertical. "Use of air power enhances the force used and would constitute vertical escalation. But if one side uses it, so would the other," he said.

## Ex-IAF chief: Prudent option is to de-escalate situation diplomatically

DEEPTIMAN TIWARI  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

INDIA HAS certain advantages over China as far as air warfare is concerned, former Indian Air Force chief Fali Homi Major said, adding that military action to force the PLA to withdraw from their positions in the Galwan valley area should be the last option.

Major was Air Chief Marshal between April 2007 and May 2009 and earlier com-

manded the Air Force in Leh (Ladakh) in the aftermath of the Kargil war.

"As far as our Air Force preparations are concerned in that region, we are wonderfully placed. There is no doubt. We have many advantages of air fields, heights and altitude, etc. I am not talking of a war, but in the local area if there is some requirement, the Air Force is very well prepared and alert. It has always been so in that area. At the moment, Air Force's operational prepared-

ness is top of the line," Major told *The Indian Express* on the situation in Ladakh vis-a-vis China.

The former air chief, however, said that military action to force the PLA to withdraw from their positions in the Galwan area should be the last option.

"If everything else fails and the government feels a small military action could achieve the desired aims, then probably (it is an option). Unless a situation arises, one cannot say. The PM has already made it clear if there is a provocation

then the whole thing will take a different turn. To exercise a military option is the will of the government. And they won't do it till such time they stop making headway diplomatically. The prudent option would be to de-escalate the situation diplomatically and perhaps raise the required levels to do that. Only then would it be clear as to what the next course of action would be," Major said.

FULL REPORTS ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## BSF: Pak drone carrying weapons shot down at LoC

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, JUNE 20

THE BSF said that a Pakistani drone carrying arms and ammunition was shot down on Saturday morning at Rathua village in Kathua district's Hiranagar sector along the Line of Control — months after Punjab Police claimed to have recovered weapons dropped by Pakistani drones.

The incident comes amid reports of militants facing shortage of weapons and increased vigil along the borders.

Pakistan's attempt to use a drone to airdrop weapons adds a new dimension to the militancy in Kashmir, said BSF Inspector General for Jammu Frontiers, NS



The downed drone

Jamwal. He said a patrol party from Pansar border outpost (BOP) noticed a hexacopter drone flying at a height of 150-200 ft from Pakistan towards the Indian side around 5.10 am. The drone fell nearly 250 metres on this side of the border after the BSF party fired several rounds at it.

Fitted with four batteries, a radio signal receiver and two GPS devices, it was 8 x 6.2 ft in size and weighed 18 kg. The drone was carrying a payload of nearly 5 kg, including a US-made M4 semi-automatic carbine, two magazines, 60 rounds and seven Chinese grenades. The payload carried the name of one Ali Bhai, Jamwal said, adding that he, must be present within 1-1.5 km range of the spot to receive the consignment.

At a high-level meet on Thursday, J&K DGP Dilbagh Singh had called for "extra attention" along the UT's border with Pakistan, saying that the neighbouring country will try to push in more terrorists and give impetus to violence in view of the border situation in Ladakh.

## Army's protective gear has Made in China link, Niti member says relook

RITU SARIN  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

ON JUNE 18, two days after the violent faceoff in the Galwan Valley, the Ministry of Defence contacted manufacturers of protective gear and bullet-proof jackets worn by Army personnel in forward areas, including in Leh, for "urgent" reinforcement of supplies — estimated at 2 lakh units.

What has added a twist to this is the fact that a majority of the existing Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) use Chinese raw materials. This includes the company that got the 2017 contract — it's in the delivery stage — for supplying 1.86 lakh bullet-proof jackets to the Army. Announcing the Rs 639-crore contract to SMPP Pvt Ltd,

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had said, in Parliament, that there was "no embargo" on the import of raw materials from China for the manufacture of protective jackets for the Army.

With the changed circumstances, there are calls for a rethink. Niti Aayog member and former chief of the Defence Research and Development Organisation V K Saraswat has urged a "re-look" at these imports. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Saraswat said: "A year ago, we discouraged import of Chinese raw materials for critical items such as bullet-resistant jackets for their doubtful quality. We had even called the company which had the existing Army contract and told them to ensure testing of all imported raw materials at their end. Now I feel there should be a clear re-look at

all such imports which are made from China just because of the price differential. We should not encourage import of Chinese raw material for strategic sectors like telecom and protective gear including bullet resistant jackets worn by our troops."

On Saturday, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, earlier part of a committee formed by the Department of Defence Production on "indigenisation of critical raw materials for manufacturing defence products," wrote to the Defence Secretary on "renouncing the usages of Chinese products".

That letter specifically mentions imports of High Performance Polyethylene (HPPE) from China for manufacture of bullet-resistant jackets.

## Watchdog warns of phishing attack

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

INDIAN COMPUTER Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), the government's cyber watchdog, has warned of large-scale phishing attack across the country, taking advantage of the Covid-19 pandemic. In an advisory issued Friday, CERT-In said that the "phishing campaign is expected to impersonate

government agencies, departments and trade associations who have been tasked to oversee the disbursement of the government fiscal aid". It warned people to be aware of "malicious phishing" emails, and messages "to provide personal and financial information". It said there may be several emails, including ncov2019@gov.in, that spoof—or create fake email addresses that impersonate various authorities—which could be used in phishing.

## J&K admin plans to open 200 liquor shops, religious leaders in Valley object

BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 20

THE JAMMU and Kashmir administration plans to open about 200 liquor shops in Jammu and Kashmir, 67 of which will be in the Valley. The move has drawn opposition from religious lead-

ers in the Valley. In a letter to J&K's Financial Commissioner, Excise Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan sought approval to start the process. The letter suggests the opening of 183 liquor vendors in the Union territory — 116 in Jammu and 67 in the Valley. While liquor is sold freely in

Jammu province, there are very few shops and bars in the Valley. The new proposal to open liquor stores across Kashmir has met with objections in the Valley as Islam prohibits the consumption of liquor. "This is an attack on our culture and we will oppose it," Grand Mufti Nasir ul Islam told *The Indian Express*

## Hours after casting his vote, MLA tests positive for Covid-19

MILIND GHATWAI  
BHOPAL, JUNE 20

HOURS AFTER he cast his vote in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly premises during the Rajya Sabha election, BJP MLA Omprakash Saklecha tested positive for Covid-19 Friday night.

The 62-year-old legislator from Javad in Neemuch had also attended the BJP legislature party meeting at its headquarters on Thursday and interacted with senior local and national leaders over the last three days. While some BJP MLAs volun-

teered to get themselves tested on Saturday, the Assembly Secretariat, after going through CCTV footage, informed a few members who stood in the voting queue near Saklecha to get tested. Saklecha became the second legislator from the state to contract the disease after Congress MLA Kunal Chaudhary, who cast his vote wearing a PPE suit.

Saklecha had come to Bhopal on June 16, three days before voting. He told *The Indian Express* that he had shifted to his farmhouse from his residence in Javad town after a neighbour tested positive three weeks ago.

## Glenmark announces launch of Favipiravir to treat Covid patients

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PUNE, JUNE 20

GLENMARK Pharmaceuticals on Saturday announced the launch of antiviral drug Favipiravir (brand name FabiFlu®) for the treatment of mild to moderate Covid-19 patients.

Glenmark has received manufacturing and marketing approval from India's drug regulator, making FabiFlu® the first oral Favipiravir-approved medication in India for

the treatment of Covid-19, officials said at a press conference organised online. Favipiravir is backed by strong clinical evidence showing encouraging results in patients with mild to moderate Covid-19.

The antiviral offers broad spectrum RNA virus coverage with clinical improvement noted across age groups 20 to >90 years. Favipiravir can be used in Covid-19 patients with co-morbid conditions such as diabetes and heart disease with mild to moderate Covid-19 symptoms. It offers rapid reduction in vi-

ral load within four days and provides faster symptomatic and radiological improvement.

Of most importance, Favipiravir has shown clinical improvement of up to 88 per cent in mild to moderate Covid-19 cases, an official statement said.

Glenn Saldanha, Chairman and Managing Director of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd, said FabiFlu® has demonstrated an encouraging response in mild to moderate Covid-19 patients during clinical trials.

**VISVA-BHARATI SANTINIKETAN**  
Advertisement No. 1/2020 dated 20.06.2020

**Name of the posts :**  
1) Director 5 Nos,  
2) Registrar  
3) Finance Officer  
4) Internal Audit Officer  
(On Deputation)  
For details log on to [www.visva-bharati.ac.in](http://www.visva-bharati.ac.in) Last date of Application 15th July, 2020 before 6.00 P.M.

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**U.P. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go-Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura -281001 (U.P.)**  
Advertisement No. 01/2020 Date: 20 June, 2020

**RECRUITMENT ADVERTISEMENT - 2020**  
**LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION: 20-07-2020**  
Applications are invited from citizens of India on prescribed form for the post of Dean, College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry in pay Scale mentioned below. For more details please visit university website [www.upvetuniv.edu.in](http://www.upvetuniv.edu.in).

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post
1	Dean, College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (Pay Scale of Rs. 37400-67000 + AGP Rs. 10,000) (Tenured for 3 years)	1 (UR)

REGISTRAR

**GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY**  
(Established by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi)  
Sector-16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078  
Website : [www.ipu.ac.in](http://www.ipu.ac.in)

**ADMISSIONS OPEN**

- BBA
- BA (Economics)
- BA (English)
- B. Com (Hons)
- BCA
- BHMCT
- B. Ed
- BSc (Nursing)
- Numerous Other Programmes

Last date : 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 Apply Online at [www.ipu.ac.in](http://www.ipu.ac.in)

Registrar

**U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD. OBRA THERMAL POWER STATION OBRA-SONEBHADRA Notice Inviting e-bid E-Tender No. T-02/SE/II/HOPD/2020-21** Online e-Bids are invited for the Works of Round the clock shift maintenance of HT/LT line system & street light and emergency maintenance work of Binding of Phase separator on LT line sagging and replacement of damaged shackle insulator at Obra Project colony, AWRS & CISF Colony e-tender has been updated and published on 15.06.2020 at 12:00 Hrs. on UP Govt e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Technical Bid (Part-I) will be opened on 09.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. or later. Estimated Cost of work will be approximately Rs. 1.42 Lacs only. The E.M.D. and Tender cost for e-bid submission is Rs. 5,000.00 and Rs. 1,180.00 respectively. Total Quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition related to extension in due dates and corrigendum, if any, shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders may please note that this is an e-tender and they shall apply online only as per instructions given. They are advised to visit the above website on regular basis in order to keep themselves updated. The last date of e-bid submission is 06.07.2020 upto 18:00 Hrs. **E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE E-TENDER NO. 27/SE (Civil)/OTPS/OCCMD/2020-21** Online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Annual M&R of misc. civil works of NRB of Obra Project Colony" Sonebhadra (U.P.) e-tender has been published on 15.06.2020 at 9:00 Hrs on the e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Last date of submission end date of bid will be up to 13.07.2020 at 17:00 Hrs, last date and time for submission of hard copy of requisite documents will be up to 14.07.2020 up to 17:00 Hrs. and technical bid (Part-I) will be opened on 15.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. Estimated Cost of work is approximately Rs. 11,32,047.74 only. The E.M.D. and Tender cost for e-bid submission is Rs. 23,000.00 and Rs. 1,180.00 respectively. Total Quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Superintending Engineering (Civil), Obra reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids without assigning any reason. It may please be noted that this is online bid and shall be accepted online only on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Information related to extension in due dates and corrigendum if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website on regular basis in order to keep themselves updated. **SHORT TERM E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE E-TENDER NO. 29/SE (Civil)/OTPS/OCCMD/2020-21** Online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Treatment of leaky roofs of permanent roofing residences by cement concrete in sector no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 & 10 of Obra project colony" Sonebhadra (U.P.) e-tender has been published on 15.06.2020 at 9:00 Hrs on the e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Last date of submission end date of bid will be up to 02.07.2020 at 17:00 Hrs, last date and time for submission of hard copy of requisite documents will be up to 03.07.2020 up to 17:00 Hrs. and technical bid (Part-I) will be opened on 04.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. Estimated Cost of work is approximately Rs. 14,89,220.85 only. The E.M.D. and Tender cost for e-bid submission is Rs. 30,000.00 and Rs. 1,180.00 respectively. Total Quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Superintending Engineering (Civil), OTSP, Obra reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids without assigning any reason. It may please be noted that this is online bid and shall be accepted online only on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Information related to extension in due dates and corrigendum if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website on regular basis in order to keep themselves update. **NAME OF WORK :** Annual work of Decoupling, Coupling and Shunting of Coal Wagons at Coal Handling Plant (A), EMD (Coal), 'B'TPS, Obra. **TENDER NO. :** T-19/SE/II/BTSP/EMD(C)/2020-21 **ESTIMATED COST OF WORK :** Rs. 13,25,000.00 (Rs. Thirteen Lakh Twenty Five Thousand) **Only LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF E-BIDS (TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL) AT E-PROCUREMENT WEBSITE <http://etender.up.nic.in> :** 06.07.2020 up to 17:00 hrs. **LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER FEE AND EMD :** 09.07.2020 up to 17:00 hrs. **DATE AND TIME OF OPENING OF E-BIDS :** 10.07.2020 up to 16:00 hrs. **PLACE OF OPENING OF E-BIDS :** Office of Superintending Engineer-II, 'B'TPS, Obra, Sonebhadra **ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION :** Office of Superintending Engineer-II, 'B'TPS, Obra, Sonebhadra **E-MAIL ADDRESS :** Se.ommc\_btps@uprvnl.org **BID DOCUMENT COST :** Rs. 1180.00 (WITH GST) (Rs One Thousand One Hundred Eighty) **Only EARNEST MONEY :** Rs. 27,000.00 (Rs. Twenty Seven Thousand) **Only Note :** Tender specification is available on e-tender website <http://etender.up.nic.in> Tenders will be accepted online only. **E-TENDER NOTICE NAME OF WORK :** Annual work of Extinguishing, Quenching of fire in Coal Yard of Coal Handling Plant (A), EMD(C) B'TPS, Obra. **TENDER NO. :** T-20/SE/II/BTSP/EMD(C)/2020-21 **ESTIMATED COST OF WORK :** Rs. 5.06 Lac (Rs. Five Lac Six Thousand) **Only LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF E-BIDS (TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL) AT E-PROCUREMENT WEBSITE <http://etender.up.nic.in> :** 06.07.2020 up to 17:00 hrs. **LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER FEE AND EMD :** 09.07.2020 up to 17:00 hrs. **DATE AND TIME OF OPENING OF E-BIDS :** 10.07.2020 up to 16:00 hrs. **PLACE OF OPENING OF E-BIDS :** Office of Superintending Engineer-II, 'B'TPS, Obra, Sonebhadra **ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION :** Office of Superintending Engineer-II, 'B'TPS, Obra, Sonebhadra **E-MAIL ADDRESS :** Se.ommc\_btps@uprvnl.org **BID DOCUMENT COST :** Rs. 590.00 (WITH GST) (Rs Five Hundred Ninety) **Only EARNEST MONEY :** Rs. 10,500.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Five Hundred) **Only Note :** Tender specification is available on e-tender website <http://etender.up.nic.in> Tenders will be accepted online only. **E-TENDER NOTICE NAME OF WORK :** Round the clock shift (three shifts in each day) maintenance work of electrical system installed in CHP BTPS, Obra and daily maintenance work of air conditioner and water cooler installed at Weigh bridge and other places of CHP, A/BTSP, Obra. **TENDER NO. :** T-21/SE/II/BTSP/EMD(C)/2020-21 **ESTIMATED COST OF WORK :** Rs. 26.00 Lac (Rs. Twenty Six Lac Two Thousand) **Only LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF E-BIDS (TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL) AT E-PROCUREMENT WEBSITE <http://etender.up.nic.in> :** 08.07.2020 up to 17:00 hrs. **LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER FEE AND EMD :** 10.07.2020 up to 16:00 hrs. **DATE AND TIME OF OPENING OF E-BIDS :** 11.07.2020 up to 16:00 hrs. **PLACE OF OPENING OF E-BIDS :** Office of Superintending Engineer-II, 'B'TPS, Obra, Sonebhadra **ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION :** Office of Superintending Engineer-II, 'B'TPS, Obra, Sonebhadra **E-MAIL ADDRESS :** Se.ommc\_btps@uprvnl.org **BID DOCUMENT COST :** Rs. 1180.00 (WITH GST) (Rs. One Thousand One Hundred Eighty) **Only EARNEST MONEY :** Rs. 53,000.00 (Rs. Fifty Three Thousand) **Only Note :** Tender specification is available on e-tender website <http://etender.up.nic.in> Tenders will be accepted online only. **Tender Notice Inviting e-Bid TENDER NO. : T-02/SE/II/BTSP/EMD/2020-21** Tender ID : 2020\_RVUNL\_482733\_1 Online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Disinfectant, Chlorine, Bleaching, testing & commissioning of old & used breaker panel from ATPS to Filtration plant, Sector-3, Obra". E-tender has been updated on 12.06.2020 at 9:00 Hrs on UP Govt e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Technical Bid (Part-I) will be opened on 14.07.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. Estimated Cost of work will be approximately Rs. 3.22 Lacs only. The E.M.D. and Tender cost for e-bid submission is Rs. 6,000.00 and Rs. 296.00 respectively. Total Quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. It may please be noted that this is online bid and shall be accepted online only on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Information related to extension in due dates and corrigendum if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website on regular basis in order to keep themselves updated. The last date of e-bid submission is 11.07.2020 upto 18:00 Hrs. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER O&M-III, B'TPS, OBRA** **पता सहा. - 156/ब.सहा. निविदा विभाग, 20.06.2020**

## CANTONMENT BOARD, ALLAHABAD

2, Ashoka Road, New Cantt., Allahabad  
Ph.: 0532-2422121, E-mail: cballahabad@dgeel.org

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIT)

S. No.	Name of Contract	Tender document fee	Estimated Cost	Earnest money	Last date & Time for submission of original EMD, tender cost receipt	Last date & Time of submission online bids	Time and date of opening of original technical bids	Time and date of opening of online Financial bids
1.	(A) Door to Door collection from (1) All the households (both Army & Civilian households) of Allahabad Cantonment (New Cantt. Old Cantt. & Fort Cantt. including) (2) All the Army Messes, institutions, Shops, Cook Houses etc in separate bins by deploying suitable manpower & vehicles & transportation of Door to Door collection waste to material recovery facility located at Sadar Bazar, New Cantt.	₹ 4,000/-	₹ 1,40,00,000/-	₹ 2,50,000/-	24 hours before the opening of technical bids	11.07.2020 (upto 1200 hrs)	13.07.2020 (1200 hrs)	Will be uploaded online while uploading technical evaluation report
	(B) Integrated Solid Waste Management which includes (1) Segregation of total waste i.e. waste from Door to Door collection & from dustbins collection in biodegradable & Non-biodegradable waste. (2) Composting of biodegradable waste using suitable technology by deploying suitable manpower & machinery equipments etc. (3) Disposal of Non-biodegradable waste (Plastic, rubber, metal, paper etc.) by suitable means.							

1. The interested bidders shall register themselves with the e-tendering portal of Central Government and submit their bids online after logging into their accounts registered with website <http://eprocure.gov.in/ceppg> (organization: Ctr.Gov.Defence Estate, HQ).

2. Interested bidders may also visit the website of Cantonment Board, Allahabad ([www.cbllahabad.org.in](http://www.cbllahabad.org.in)) for further details.

3. Prospective bidders are requested to browse through these web sites regularly as any further amendments/ corrigendum will be published in these websites only.

No. Adv. No.01/Door to door's W.M.S.I./2020-2021/CBA/2020/795  
Office of the Cantonment Board, Allahabad, Dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

(Name: Amit Kumar Baburo)  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cantonment Board, Allahabad

## Bank of India Auction Notice

Zonal Office 78 - A Rajbhavan Complex, Canal Road, Kanpur - 208004, Phone : 0512-2332410

Sealed Tenders are invited for sale of confiscated vehicles whose loan amount was not paid by debtors on "As is and where is basis". Those interested to buy said Bank financed vehicles may submit their tender at Zonal Office, Bank of India 78-A Rajbhavan Complex, Canal Road, Kanpur on the date given in the list.

Sl. No.	Name of Account Holder/ Branch/A/c No. / Outstanding	Description of Hypothecated Vehicle (Car)	Reserve Price
1.	Mr. Manoj Sharma S/o Sabhash Chandra Branch: Azad Nagar A/c. No. : 695760510000158 Outstanding Dues : 5.84 Lakh + Interest W.E.F. NPA date and other charges	Vehicle/Car No. : UP78 EM D474 Make : Nissan DATSON GO+ Model: 2016 Chassis No. : MDHJBAAC0G1011727 Engine No. : 76B104C	₹ 1,94,000.00
2.	Mr. Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi S/o Mr. Ram Shankar Dwivedi Branch: Chakrapur Mandi Samil A/c. No. : 732572310000012 Outstanding Dues : 8.94 Lakh + Interest W.E.F. NPA date and other charges	Vehicle/Car No. : UP78 CT 6376 Make : Ashoka Leyland Ecomet 1214 Model : 2016 Chassis No. : MB1A2GAD1FRSNO367 Engine No. : F5E2209325	₹ 6,83,280.00
3.	Mr. Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi S/o Mr. Ram Shankar Dwivedi Branch: Chakrapur Mandi Samil A/c. No. : 732572310000007 Outstanding Dues : 3.76 Lakh + Interest W.E.F. NPA date and other charges	Vehicle/Car No. : UP77 T 6886 Make : Ashoka Leyland Mini Truck Partner 1.S. Model : 2015 Chassis No. : MB1A34K9ERV803377 Engine No. : ZD30102365L	₹ 2,96,640.00
4.	Mr. Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi S/o Mr. Ram Shankar Dwivedi Branch: Chakrapur Mandi Samil A/c. No. : 732572310000021 Outstanding Dues : 9.74 Lakh + Interest W.E.F. NPA date and other charges	Vehicle/Car No. : UP78 DN 1816 Make : Ashoka Leyland Ecomet 1214 Model : 2017 Chassis No. : MB1A2GAD1GRTR6298 Engine No. : GTHE436735	₹ 6,83,280.00
5.	Mr. Arvind Kashyap S/o Mr. Mahesh Kashyap Branch: Nawal A/c. No. : 696272310000016 Outstanding Dues : 24.31 Lakh + Interest W.E.F. NPA date and other charges	Vehicle/Car No. : UP78 DN 4461 Make : TATA LPK 2518 Tipper Model: 2017 Chassis No. : MAT446802HAED4592 Engine No. : 71D64383534	₹ 13,95,000.00
6.	Mr. Nanhake S/o Mr. Kamla Branch: Ruzukama, Unnao A/c. No. : 732972310000036 Outstanding Dues : 1.08 Lakh + Interest W.E.F. NPA date and other charges	Vehicle/Car No. : UP35 AT 3175 Make : Dill Electric Auto Pvt. Ltd. (E-Rickshaw) Model: 2018 Chassis No. : M1YDEC811818K9652 Motor No. : DEAY702952	₹ 53,600.00
7.	Mr. Sarvesh Kumar S/o Mr. Ram Ji Branch: Naucosta A/c. No. : 733030510000026 Outstanding Dues : 3.30 Lakh + Interest W.E.F. NPA date and other charges	Vehicle/Car No. : UP78 CT 6509 Make : Maruti Suzuki Wagon R LXI Model: 2016 Chassis No. : MA3EWE1500A72455 Engine No. : F8DN5661773	₹ 1,70,500.00
8.	Mrs. Minakshi Tiwari W/o Mr. Vijay Kumar Tiwari Branch: Azad Nagar A/c. No. : 695760510000160 Outstanding Dues : 1.69 Lakh + Interest W.E.F. NPA date and other charges	Vehicle/Car No. : UP78 EL 2502 Make : Maruti Suzuki Alto 800 LXI Model: 2016 Chassis No. : MA3EUA61500896250 Engine No. : F8DN5661773	₹ 1,36,000.00
9.	Mr. Arvind Kumar S/o Mr. Shankar Saini Branch: Ghatampur A/c. No. : 698580510000070 Outstanding Dues : 2.00 Lakh + Interest W.E.F. NPA date and other charges	Vehicle/Car No. : UP78 FB 4787 Make : Maruti Suzuki Omni E Model: 2018 Chassis No. : MA3EV811S01817695 Engine No. : F8DN5661773	₹ 1,28,000.00
10.	Mrs. Nimron Enterprises Branch: Weston Road A/c. No. : 695472310000007 Outstanding Dues : 3.42 Lakh + Interest W.E.F. NPA date and other charges	Vehicle/Car No. : UP78 DT 5885 Make : TATA ACE Loader Model: 2018 Chassis No. : MAT445237JZAB4924 Engine No. : 275C107ARYS11305	₹ 2,40,000.00
11.	Mrs. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava Branch: Kishori Nagar A/c. No. : 696072310000079 Outstanding Dues : 3.69 Lakh + Interest W.E.F. NPA date and other charges	Vehicle/Car No. : UP78 FN 5345 Make : Maruti Suzuki Super Carry Loader Model: 2019 Chassis No. : MA3FZBHIT00129012 Engine No. : E08AN1038256	₹ 2,87,000.00

**Date and Time to deposit Tender 09.07.2020 Time till 02.00 Noon**  
**Opening Date and Time of Tender 09.07.2020 till 04.00 PM to 05.00**

### Terms & Conditions

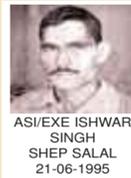
- An amount of Rs. 5000/- for each vehicle as security money should be submitted in shape of Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of Bank of India along with sealed tender.
- Successful bidders will have to deposit 25% of total amount by cash or demand draft immediately and balance 75% amount will have to be deposited within 10 days of acceptance of tender. In case the balance amount is not deposited, security deposited amount will be forfeited.
- Sealed tenders will be opened at Zonal Office of Bank of India on the date and time described in the notice. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reason thereof.
- Date and Time of tender can be extended without any reason or the sale can be postponed or cancelled.
- Details of financed vehicle can be obtain from concerned branch.
- All documents pertaining to vehicle can be received from concerned branch after opening the tender.
- Buyers will have to pickup the vehicle from bank premises within 15 days of acceptance of tender failing which a penalty of Rs. 500 per day will be charged.

**15 days Sale Notice to Borrowers/Guarantors**

Above mentioned Borrowers/Guarantors attention is invited to deposit the above mentioned outstanding including upto date interest and other expenses to release vehicle before auction date. If you failed to deposit amount mentioned above, vehicle will be auctioned and remaining amount will be recovered from you. You can also participate in above mentioned auction conducted against bank dues.

Date : 21.06.2020 Place : Kanpur Auth. Officer : Bank of India

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER



ASI/EXE ISHWAR SINGH SHEP SALAL  
21-06-1995

### Martyr of CISF on 21th June

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with the terrorists. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for his noblest deed.

### उत्तर प्रदेश प्रशासन एवं प्रबन्धन अकादमी

**सेक्टर "डी", अलीगंज, लखनऊ**  
**निविदा सूचना**

उत्तर प्रदेश प्रशासन एवं प्रबन्धन अकादमी द्वारा अकादमी व सौजीजी कार्यलय के प्रयोगार्थ Non Comprehensive AMC for Desktop Computer, Laptop, Printer, Online/offline UPS, Multimedia Projector & Networking Equipments हेतु जीएससीटीडी में पंजीकृत प्रतिष्ठानों/फिरका विगत तीन वर्षों का वार्षिक turnover न्यूनतम 10 लाख होना अनिवार्य है, तथा निम्न शरतकीय अधिसूचना संख्याओं में तीन वर्ष के Non Comprehensive AMC कार्य का अनुभव हो, से मुखबर निविदाय आमंत्रित की जाती है। इस सम्बन्ध में निविदा प्रपत्र अकादमी के लेखा प्रभाग से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में ₹ 400/- (चरमय प्रचर तो मात्र) देने पर विज्ञापन की तिथि से 09 जुलाई, 2020 तक अपरान्त 12:00 बजे तक प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक 10 जुलाई, 2020 अपरान्त 02:00 बजे तक होगी, जो अकादमी के प्रशासनिक अधिकारी के कार्यालय कक्ष के बाहर स्थित निविदा बक्स में डाली जायेगी। दिनांक 10 जुलाई, 2020 को अपरान्त 04:00 बजे निविदा खोली जायेगी। निविदा खोले जाने के दौरान निविदादाता उपस्थित रह सकते हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में अनुरोध की रूप में ₹ 2,500.00 (चरमय दो हजार पांच सौ मात्र) का बैंक ड्राफ्ट/बैंकर्स चेक जो महानिदेशक उद्योग प्रशासन एवं प्रबन्धन अकादमी, लखनऊ के पत्र में देय हो, संलग्न किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा। निविदा प्रपत्र अकादमी की वेबसाइट [www.upati.gov.in](http://www.upati.gov.in) पर भी उपलब्ध है। वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड कर फार्म के साथ अकादमी में ₹ 400/- जमा करके प्राप्ति रसीद फार्म के साथ संलग्न करनी अनिवार्य होगी। किसी भी एंजनी की निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त किये जाने का पूर्ण अधिकार महानिदेशक/सहय प्राधिकारी अकादमी को होगा।

UPID-152637 DATED:18/06/2020  
[www.upgovt.nic.in](http://www.upgovt.nic.in)

महानिदेशक,  
उद्योग

### कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, प्राचीन खण्ड, लोनिगिठि, हरदोई ई-निविदा सूचना (द्वितीय आवरण)

दिनांक : 12/06/2020

1. पत्रांक - 1005/एम-11/ई-टेंडरिंग/2020

2. महानिगम राज्यपाल महोदय, उद्योग की ओर से लोक निर्माण विभाग उद्योग में पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से नीचे दर्शाये गये कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है-

क्र. सं.	खण्ड का नाम	खाना संख्या	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (बिना जीएससीटीडी) (लाख में)	बतौर बतौर (लाख)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	पूर्ण करण की कालि (वर्ष क्रयु सित्त)	केदार की चर्चिलर की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	हरदोई	गोमनाक	खण्ड-हरदोई में किलियर वर्ष 2019-20 में 250 से अधिक अनादी की सफाई को जोड़ने हेतु 01 सेक्टर उद्योग प्रशासनिक सहाय, तम्पर रसतुलूर मार्ग से सवतीर समर्पक मार्ग का नवनिर्माण का कार्य।	28.00	2.80	944.00	03 माह	ए.सी.एस.डी

बिड डाक्यूमेंट वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 22.06.2020 से 29.06.2020 को दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक उपलब्ध है जो दिनांक 29.06.2020 को दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। निविदाओं की तकनीकी विड दिनांक 30.06.2020 को अपरान्त 12:30 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित नियम/शर्त तथा विवरण वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

हरदोई, /- (जे.पी.सी. सिटी) सहायसी अभियन्ता प्राचीन खण्ड, लोनिगिठि, हरदोई

हरदोई, /- (सी.एस.डी) सहायसी अभियन्ता प्राचीन खण्ड, लोनिगिठि, हरदोई

UPID No-152649 DATED- 19/06/2020 [www.upgovt.nic.in](http://www.upgovt.nic.in)

### Executive Engineer Construction Division No. 1, P.W.D Lucknow

Letter No. 1350/E -Tender /20-21 Dated : 16.06.2020

#### Short Term Inviting Tender Notice

1. The Executive Engineer Construction Division-1, U.P.P.W.D.Lucknow on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD For road work class A,B,C & D The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

SL No	District	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	Lucknow	Special Repair of Chhatra Sarikh Juggur Link Road.	8.60	0.86	Rs. 225.00 + 500.00 (+54.00 Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 766.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
2	Lucknow	Special Repair of Ganesh Deva to Chhatra Road. Km. (1500)	4.90	0.49	Rs. 150.00 + 500.00 +27.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 667.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
3	Lucknow	Special Repair of Chhatra Sarikh Maitiyari Link Road.	31.00	3.10	Rs. 300.00 + 2000.00 +54.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 2354.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
4	Lucknow	Special Repair of Ambedkar Nagar Chauraha to Maitiyari Chauraha Km. 1 (0.00 to 0.200) & 1 (400 to 0.500)	13.75	1.35	Rs. 225.00 + 500.00 +41.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 766.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
5	Lucknow	Special Repair of Lucknow Kursi road to Kapasi Km. 1 (Ch. 0.050 to 0.100, Ch. 0.850 to 0.950 & Ch. 0.950 to 1.00)	3.50	0.35	Rs. 150.00 + 500.00 +27.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 667.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
6	Lucknow	Special Repair of Sitapur road to Kotwala Lahangpur Link Road. Km. 1(400)	32.25	3.23	Rs. 300.00 + 2000.00 +54.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 2354.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
7	Lucknow	Renewal with BC of Chhatra Internal road.	13.50	1.35	Rs. 225.00 + 500.00 +41.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 766.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
8	Lucknow	Renewal with BC of Chhatra Deva to Dhawa road.	24.00	2.40	Rs. 300.00 + 2000.00 +54.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 2354.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
9	Lucknow	Renewal with BC of Gaurav Bihar Satrikh road via name degree college link road.	21.80	2.18	Rs. 300.00 + 2000.00 +54.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 2354.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
10	Lucknow	Renewal with PC of Khargapur road to Kausahapur Colony road via Gadariyapur via Trafalmar.	9.50	0.95	Rs. 225.00 + 500.00 +41.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 766.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
11	Lucknow	Renewal with PC of Shri Krishna Astur Sengar's House to Rama Degree college road.	5.40	0.54	Rs. 150.00 + 500.00 +27.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 667.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
12	Lucknow	Renewal with PC of Sitapur road to Mirzapur Anjanah Rasulpur Kotwala road.	25.95	2.60	Rs. 300.00 + 2000.00 +54.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 2354.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
13	Lucknow	Renewal with PC of Sirsakamalpur road Km. 2 to Batsinghpurwa and Kasirampurwa via Bibpur Link Road.	14.00	1.40	Rs. 225.00 + 500.00 +41.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 766.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
14	Lucknow	Renewal with PC of Adujniya Link road.	4.40	0.45	Rs. 150.00 + 500.00 +27.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 667.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
15	Lucknow	Renewal with PC of Harsakali Link road.	2.60	0.26	Rs. 150.00 + 500.00 +27.00 (Tender cost+Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 667.00	6 Months	Construction Division, No.1 P.W.D. Lucknow.	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
16	Lucknow	Renewal with PC of B.K.T Babaganj road Km. 5 to Shahpurwa Link Road.	11.80						

# ECONOMY

**MAR QUARTER: LOSS OF ₹697 CR, TOTAL INCOME RISES TO ₹16,388.32 CR**

## Fall in bad loans, lower provisioning help PNB cut losses; reports ₹2,617 cr NPA divergence

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

AIDED BY a decline in bad loans and lower provisioning, public sector bank Punjab National Bank (PNB) has posted a lower standalone loss of Rs 697 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2020 as against a loss of Rs 4,750 crore in January-March period of 2019-20.

The bank has reported a divergence in non-performing assets (NPAs) at Rs 2,617 crore for the year ended March 31, 2019. While the bank announced NPAs of Rs 78,472 crore for the year, the RBI's assessment put the figure at Rs 81,089 crore. Accordingly, the adjusted loss for the year works out to Rs 11,335 crore for March 2019 as against a loss of Rs 9,975 crore estimated by the bank earlier.

The bank's gross NPAs de-

### GROSS NPAs FALL TO 14.21% OF GROSS ADVANCES

■ Punjab National Bank has reported a divergence in non-performing assets (NPAs) at Rs 2,617 crore for the year ended March 2019. While the bank announced NPAs of Rs 78,472 crore for the year, the RBI's assessment put the figure at Rs 81,089 crore

■ The bank's gross NPAs declined to 14.21 per cent of gross advances at the end of March 2020, as against 15.50 per cent in March 2019. In absolute value, gross NPAs stood at Rs 73,478.76 crore at the end of 2019-20, lower than Rs 78,472.70 crore reported in the previous fiscal. Similarly, net NPAs were valued at Rs 27,218.89 crore as against Rs 30,037.66 crore.

March 2020, as against 15.50 per cent in March 2019

■ The bank has done the cash recovery of Rs 10,000 crore during the fiscal, while containing the fresh slippages to Rs 20,000 crore. The bank is expecting the recovery of Rs 6,000-8,000 crore during the current fiscal year

The bank's total income during the March quarter rose to Rs 16,388.32 crore from Rs 14,725.13 crore in the year-ago period. The provisioning for bad loans during the March quarter almost halved to Rs 4,618.27 crore.

The bank has done the cash recovery of Rs 10,000 crore during the fiscal, while containing the fresh slippages to Rs 20,000

crore. The bank is expecting the recovery of Rs 6,000-8,000 crore during the current fiscal and recovery will gather momentum from the third quarter onwards. Net NPAs also came down to 5.78 per cent as against 6.56 per cent in the year-ago period.

On the COVID pandemic, the bank said, "the situation continues to be uncertain and the bank is evaluating the situation on ongoing basis. The major identified challenges for the bank would arise from eroding cash flows and extended working capital cycles. The bank is gearing itself on all the fronts to meet these challenges."

"The management believes that no adjustments are required in the financial results as it does not significantly impact the current financial year. Despite these events and conditions, there would not be any significant impact on the bank's results in future and going concern assumptions as at presently made," it said.

PNB said the amalgamation of Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India into PNB has become effective from April 1, 2020. The bank now has a network of 10,910 branches and 13,530 ATMs in India. It has a customer base of 17 crore, deposits of Rs 10.71 lakh crore and advances of Rs 7.62 lakh crore. During the financial year ended March 2020, the government infused Rs 16,091 crore into the bank. The government holding in the bank has increased to 83.19 per cent as on March 31, 2020.

If provisioning for NPAs assessed by the RBI exceeds 10 per cent of the reported profit before provisions and contingencies or additional gross NPAs identified by the RBI exceeds 15 per cent of the published incremental gross NPAs for the reference period, then the banks are required to disclose divergence from prudential norms on income recognition, assets classification and provisioning.

## What does recent NCLAT ruling — liquidation of a firm under IBC holds precedence — mean?

AASHISH ARYAN  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE NATIONAL Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has ruled that liquidation process of a company under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) holds precedence over outcome of an arbitration proceeding.

A three-member Bench, headed by Justice Venugopal M, ruled that just because Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited had won an arbitration award against Surana Power, which was undergoing liquidation, the process would not be stopped to favour it. The Chennai Bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had earlier ruled in favour of BHEL.

### What does the NCLAT order mean?

In its judgment, the NCLAT set aside an order of Chennai NCLT on the grounds that BHEL's charge over Surana Power assets were equal to the other 10 financial creditors, and therefore it could not be given precedence. BHEL's claim that it has the first right over the assets and properties of Surana Power, was wrong as all other creditors had given the assent to liquidate the corporate debtor, the

NCLAT held.

The NCLAT's judgment essentially holds that if a corporate debtor is being liquidated, a creditor can not claim superiority over other secured creditors in the same band, and that every-one must receive their fair share by following the waterfall mechanism of liquidation.

### What is the waterfall mechanism for liquidation?

As the name suggests, the waterfall mechanism under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code gives priority to secured financial creditors over unsecured financial creditors. The mechanism says that if a company is being liquidated, these secured financial creditors must be first paid the full extent of their admitted claim, before any sale proceedings are distributed to any other unsecured creditor.

Under Section 53 of the IBC, which deals with waterfall mechanism, the top most priority, however, is given to costs related to the liquidation process and dues of workmen of the corporate debtor. The dues of the workmen include all their salaries, provident, pension, retirement and gratuity fund, as well as any other funds maintained for the welfare of

the workmen.

### Why did BHEL object to liquidation of Surana Power?

State-run BHEL, which was also a secured creditor for Surana Power, had won an arbitration award against the company. It gave BHEL complete and undisputed rights over all the assets, equipment, goods lying at the site of the power plant. It also gave BHEL title rights over the finished and unfinished buildings.

BHEL objected to the liquidation process as it held only 26.24 per cent share by value in the Surana Power, which is being liquidated. Going by the waterfall mechanism, though it would have got the money over other unsecured creditors, its share would come down by a lot.

The arbitration award route would have, on the other hand, given it complete rights over all properties, assets and equipment, while leaving little to nothing for other creditors.

Though the NCLT Chennai bench had held that BHEL was right in claiming priority over other creditors, the NCLAT held that in order to claim priority, BHEL should have had at least 60 per cent share value. Since it did not have the same, it would be unfair to stop the liquidation proceedings because of one dissenting creditor.

## CDSCO approves Hetero and Cipla remdesivir generics

PRABHA RAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE COUNTRY'S top drug regulatory body on Saturday granted emergency use approval to two Indian drugmakers for generics of Gilead Science's remdesivir, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

These approvals will allow Cipla and Hetero Drugs to manufacture and supply the injectable medicine for the treatment of suspected or laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 "with severe disease", ending weeks of uncertainty over where they can access the drug from.

Drug Controller General of India Dr VG Somani approved these applications late on Saturday, said a senior Health Ministry official on condition of anonymity. The companies will have to follow the same conditions set out by the DCGI for Gilead when its remdesivir was approved at the beginning of the month.

"Hetero and Cipla have just got the approval. The documents and samples they had submitted were extensively assessed before the approval was granted," the official told *The Indian Express*.

Remdesivir is to be administered for a maximum of five days, as per the country's clinical management guidelines.

"This is a boon for the country. We are hoping these companies will be able to supply (remdesivir) to as many patients that require it in India, maybe more," the official added. Four other companies — BDR Pharmaceuticals, Jubilant Life Sciences, Mylan Laboratories and

**The companies will have to follow the same conditions set out by the DCGI for Gilead when its remdesivir was approved at the beginning of the month**

Dr Reddys Laboratories — are still yet to get the final approvals, according to the official.

"The samples of the other companies are still to come and their test reports are yet to be made, but that too will be done," they said.

Cipla and Hetero have not officially confirmed the development and queries to the companies on Saturday night remained unanswered by press time. The development is crucial as there has been a surge in demand for the drug here, but little clarity on where patients could get approved supply. Gilead, when receiving the approval, had stated on June 3 that there was "limited global supply" of the medicine and that it was anticipating new supply in July.

In the absence of such supply here, patients had been procuring it from generic drug makers given the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's (CDSCO) approval to supply their product on compassionate grounds. In other cases, some patients had even been attempting to import the drug from countries like Bangladesh, which another official had earlier said was not approved by CDSCO.

## Aviation Secy: Limits on airfares may be extended beyond Aug 24

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED upper and lower limits on airfares may be extended beyond August 24 depending upon how the situation turns out, Aviation Secretary P S Kharola said on Saturday.

The government resumed domestic passenger flights from May 25 after nearly two months of suspension to combat the coronavirus outbreak, but placed lower and upper limits on airfares depending upon the flight duration.

It had said on May 21 that these limits would be in place for a period of three months.

"Depending on how the situation turns out, the fare band may have to be adjusted beyond that (August 24) also. But right now, it is only for three months," Kharola said at a press conference here. International passenger flights continue to remain suspended in the country.

However, the government started Vande Bharat Mission on May 6 to help stranded people reach their destinations through special flights.

Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said at the conference that during phase 3 and phase 4 of the mission, private domestic airlines have been approved to operate 750 international flights to repatriate people stranded amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Commercial flight operations had been shut since March 25.

## AAI gives more time to Adani group to take over 3 privatised airports

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE AIRPORTS Authority of India (AAI) has given three more months to the Adani group to take over the management of three privatised airports of Ahmedabad, Mangaluru and Lucknow due to the COVID-19 scenario, according to the Civil Aviation Ministry on Saturday.

This means the Adani group, which was expected to take over the operations, management and development of the three airports by August 12, can now take over the airports by November 12.

"On the advent of COVID-19

### The three airports are Ahmedabad, Mangaluru and Lucknow

scenario, AEL (Adani Enterprises Limited) has cited force majeure and filed for extension in March 2020 and sought time till February 15, 2021 (to take over the three airports)," said the statement by the Civil Aviation ministry. "AAI has agreed to the extension of time of additional three months to achieve Commercial Operation Date (COD) by the concessionaire in view of force majeure on account of COVID-19," it added.

### COVID IMPACT

## How central banks are trying to soften the blow

Central banks worldwide have slashed interest rates in recent months, providing in some cases unprecedented amounts of stimulus to help soften the blow to the global economy from the coronavirus pandemic and to keep markets functioning.



## Rising foreign currency assets push forex reserves to record high of \$507.6 billion

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE COUNTRY'S forex reserves jumped substantially by \$5.942 billion to touch a life-time high of \$507.644 billion in the week to June 12, helped by a significant jump in foreign currency assets (FCA), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

In the previous week ended June 5, the foreign exchange reserves had crossed the half-a-trillion mark for the first time, after it surged by a massive \$8.22 billion and reached \$501.703 billion, according to the weekly data released by the RBI.

In the reporting week, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the overall reserves,

The gold reserves in the reporting week rose by \$821 million to \$33.173 billion, the RBI data showed.

The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was up by \$12 million to \$1.454 billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF also rose by \$3 million to \$4.280 billion during the reporting week, the data showed.

The rising forex reserves give a lot of comfort to the government and the RBI in managing India's external and internal financial issues at a time when economic growth may contract in 2020-21. It's a big cushion in the event of any crisis on the economic front and enough to cover the import bill of the country for a year. WITHPTI

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The coronavirus pandemic has put countries in a tight spot as subsequent lockdowns have hampered tax collections, businesses and livelihoods. Governments have tried to kickstart their economies by announcing stimulus packages. However, central banks have played a key role too. They ensure stability of interest and exchange rates to provide adequate liquidity for productive sectors and ensure adequate supply of currency in these tough times.

### THE US

■ Buying unlimited quantities of US Treasuries, mortgage-backed and agency securities

■ Buying municipal bonds, corporate bonds and ETFs, and dollar swap lines set up

■ \$2.3 trillion in loan arrangements for local governments, small and mid-sized businesses

### EURO ZONE

■ 750 billion euros in additional assets

■ No change to main purchases, taking the total to about 1.1 trillion euros this year, after initially adding 120 billion euros to its

existing asset-purchase programme

### BRITAIN

■ Will buy investment-grade commercial paper with maturities up to 12 months

■ Increases bond-buying programme by 100 billion pounds

### CHINA

■ Lowers 1-year medium-term lending facility (MLF) rate on loans

■ Cuts the amount of cash that small banks must hold as reserves by 50 bps to 6.50%, releasing around 400 billion yuan

Source: Reuters

Central banks have resorted to cutting benchmark policy rates to infuse liquidity into their economies. Nations have also cut capital adequacy requirements for banks and announced moratoriums on loan repayments

## Trump intends to nominate Deven Parekh to IDFC Board

LALITK JHA  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 20

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has announced his intention to nominate leading Indian-American global venture capitalist Deven Parekh as a member of the Board of Directors of an independent agency of the government that provides financing for private development projects.

The nomination of Parekh to be a member of the Board of Directors of the International Development Finance Corporation will be for three years. He is the MD at software investment firm Insight Partners. PTI

## 'Amazon, BigBasket get nod for liquor delivery in West Bengal'

REUTERS  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

AMAZON.COM INC has secured clearance to deliver alcohol in West Bengal, according to a document seen by Reuters, signalling the US e-commerce giant's first foray into the country's multi-billion-dollar sector. In a notice on Friday, West Bengal State Beverages Corp, the authorised agency to carry out online retail of liquor trade in the state, said Amazon was among the companies found to be eligible for registration with authorities.

Alibaba-backed Indian grocery venture BigBasket has also won approval to deliver alcohol in the state, the notice said.

Amazon has been invited to sign a memorandum of understanding with the state, said the

### 'AMAZON SET TO SIGN MoU'

■ Amazon has been invited to sign a memorandum of understanding with the state, said the notice by West Bengal State Beverages Corp.

notice, which has not previously been reported.

Amazon did not respond to a request for comment. BigBasket also did not respond to a request for comment. Amazon's interest in delivering alcohol in West Bengal marks a bold move to make inroads into a market that is worth \$27.2 billion, as per estimates by IWSR Drinks Market Analysis.

## China woos Bangladesh, provides tariff exemption for 97% of exports from Dhaka

A total of 8,256 products is set to benefit from this

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA  
DHAKA, JUNE 20

IN A bid to woo Bangladesh, China has provided a huge trade boost to the country by announcing tariff exemption for 97 per cent of Bangladesh products effective from July 1. The decision has come one month after Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a discussion to upgrade their bilateral relations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PRESENT STATUS

3,095

■ Currently, 3095 Bangladeshi products enjoy duty-free access to Chinese market under Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement. With the new announcement, 97 per cent of Bangladeshi products will join this zero-tariff club from July 1 that raised the numbers of Bangladeshi products with zero duty access to Chinese market to 8,256.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh announced on Friday that 97 per

cent of items would be exempted of Chinese tariffs.

As part of the government's economic diplomacy and the outcome of exchange of letters between Bangladesh and China, Tariff Commission of the Chinese State Council issued a notice recently on granting zero treatment to 97 per cent of tariff products of Bangladesh, the Dhaka Tribune reported, quoting the ministry's statement.

With this announcement, a total of 8,256 Bangladeshi products will come under the 97 per cent of products that would be exempted from tariff.

Currently, 3095 Bangladeshi products enjoy duty-free access to Chinese market under Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA). With the new an-



Photos: Dipankar Ghose



TILKA MANJHI CHOWK

Here we are, at a labour mandi. A market where we sell ourselves for Rs 200 a day. *Hamaari halaat itni kharaab hai ki hum bolte hain, humein khareed lo. Nahin toh bhukhe rah jayenge poore din*

VISHNU DAS, A DAILY-WAGER WHO TURNS UP AT THE CHOWK EVERY DAY

## AS A DISTRICT UNLOCKS

Unlock, unlock, unlock, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently defined the way forward to chief ministers. Beginning today, *The Indian Express* drops anchor in Bhagalpur to track this unlockpdown.

With its second-highest Covid burden in Bihar, its labour chowk swelling with returning migrants, its social divides deepening in an election year, this district, of over thousand villages and with the third largest city in the state, captures both rural and urban distress — and charts the challenges ahead

DIPANKAR GHOSE



AN EXPRESS SERIES

**F**OR ONE week, it has been the same. Arrive at 6 am. Bow at the Mahavir mandir. Spend Rs 5 for a cup of *chai*. Count the rest of the money: Rs 160 today. Then, wait. At first, patiently. Sitting on his haunches, staring out into the distance. Or engaged in conversation with those around him. In an hour, Vishnu Das's eyes are more desperate, hunting for signs of a contractor, or somebody who will offer work. Sometimes, he asks a passer-by, "*Kaam chahiye kuchhi* (Do you want work done?)". By 8.30 am, the crowd around him begins to thin, the shops prepare to open. Another morning has passed. Das has not found work this entire week. Tomorrow he hopes, will be better.

Das, 46, is an old-timer at Tilka Manjhi Chowk, the site where daily-wagers collect every day before dawn to find work. The chowk is the centre of Bhagalpur town by day. But now, in these uncertain times, the centre and the ground beneath it is shifting for most people like Das as they grapple with the effects of a pandemic and the lockdown that followed.

Bhagalpur, its district headquarters 239 km from Patna, has all the trappings of small towns raring to break into the big league, its aspiration defined by its coaching centres, the markets that sell silk saris and the shopping arcades that display flatscreen televisions. It's one of four Bihar towns on the Centre's list of proposed Smart Cities, yet, the district is dragged down by high levels of poverty and malnutrition.

In a way, Bhagalpur is illustrative of challenges across the country as districts, especially those facing the brunt of migrant distress — exodus or influx — try to get back on track.

### Tilka Manjhi Chowk

At the chowk's centre is a statue of Manjhi, one of India's first recorded tribal freedom fighters, who was hung by the British for his irreverence, as folklore says, right at this chowk.

Das chuckles, "Manjhi may have died fighting for our freedom. But here we are, at a labour *mandi*. A market where we sell our-

selves for Rs 200 a day. *Hamaari halaat itni kharaab hai ki hum bolte hai, humein khareed lo. Nahi toh bhuke rah jayenge poore din* (Our situation is so bad, we put ourselves up for sale, saying we will go hungry otherwise)."

Life has always been hard for Das, who lives alone in a shanty 2 km away. He doesn't talk much about his past, except that he was born and raised in Bhagalpur. "*Akela hoon*," he says, when pushed. "*Koi nahin hai*," he adds, with a finality that resists more prodding questions.

He is more open about his present situation. When the lockdown was first announced, the chowk was empty, he says. Das tried to move out to look for work, but every time he did so, he was heckled or charged at with a police *lathi*. "I stopped after four days," he says.

For a month, from the end of March to the end of April, Das stayed home. By the second week of May, though, there was a new problem at the chowk. Migrants, who had lost jobs in Maharashtra, Gujarat, or Delhi, began arriving, desperate for money. According to state records, an estimated 63,962 migrants have returned to Bhagalpur since the lockdown.

Among them, Shyam Sundar Yadav, who worked in a warehousing company in Pune. He walked, and hitched rides to Bhagalpur. Once here, he arrived at the chowk to look for work. "I have been here for a month now. For one week I lifted cement sacks at a construction site. After that, nothing," he says.

Das continues, "When the migrants came, there was a huge number at the chowk. Maybe 400 people a day. Then slowly, people realised there was no work. Now even those who came for years have stopped. There are only about a hundred a day, and even they have no work."

Asked why there is no work even after the government announced the 'un-lockdown', Das and the others say there can only be one reason: Fear.

Ram Krishan Singh, a mason, says construction drives the economy of the labour market. "Those who were building something have stopped putting in money because they are afraid. What if another lockdown happens? Also, money is hard to come by these days. So if someone needs five people, he makes do with two. Even when we get work, we get paid less. Earlier we could get Rs 300-400 a day. Now it will be no more than Rs 150," Singh says.

Frustrated with the wait for work, the men have begun talking about "other options". Many, they say, have taken to roaming the by-lanes of Bhagalpur, asking for odd jobs by knocking on doors of shops. Some have returned to villages hoping to get MNREGA jobs.

Then, there is the other option. Right next to Tilka Manjhi, every morning, people line up on either side of the road to sell vegetables. Here, alongside the established ones who sell out of carts, there are the new entrants who sit on mats on the road. If nothing else, Yadav says, he will do that. "Some of those at the chowk have begun going to the *mandi*... They earn between Rs 50-100 a day. At least it is something."

### JLN Medical College and Hospital, Mayaganj

A paved road, with wild grass on either side, snakes around the main building of the 800-bed Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital. Past a parking lot, an administrative block and some shanties, the road ends in a place that's unsettlingly still, with only a white building in sight. It's a new building, with a board that says "MCH" — the 100-bed Mother and Child Healthcare wing. Today, it is the isolation ward of JLN Hospital, the dedicated Covid care hospital in the district.

At 11 am on a Wednesday, Balram Das arrives in his tempo that has a 'COVID duty' sticker.



### KHALIFABAGH MARKET

**75% of business has gone away. Even the 25% sales I am doing are of things like nighties, undergarments. Clothes people need at home. Beyond that, nothing."**

SHYAM SUNDAR NEWETIA, WHO OWNS 'MATCHING CORNER BOUTIQUE'



### COVID-19 CASES IN BHAGALPUR

Date	Cases	Discharged	Active
May 15	33	8	25
May 20	59	12	47
May 25	76	27	49
May 30	140	53	87
June 4	204	85	118
June 9	267	141	125
June 14	324	197	126
June 20	348	266	81

Note: The 1 death in Bhagalpur took place on May 31

He sits on the bench, a mask hanging loosely around his face, playing a game on his phone. He is waiting for the hospital staff to hand him the garbage. There are three big bags today; two weeks ago, there were many more, he says.

Bhagalpur district now has the second highest number of Covid cases in Bihar — 348, compared to Patna's 377. But recovery is strong, with 266 already discharged, and only 81 active cases. The district has recorded one death so far.

Says Dr RC Mandal, Chief Superintendent of the hospital, "About two weeks ago, we changed strategy. We realised that a vast number of our cases are asymptomatic. So while earlier, all cases were in the isolation centre, now we only have those who are symptomatic and serious. Asymptomatic patients are placed in the Covid care centres. Right now, we have no serious cases at the isolation centre, and only four who are symptomatic," Mandal says.

Thus the deserted surroundings, and the three garbage bags.

"Everything is under control. There are only four cases that require medical attention, and two patients who have fever. Even the one person who died had cancer. For now, there is absolutely no reason to panic," adds Mandal.

The lack of serious patients is reason for solace, for now, but the numbers show how small

the margin for error is. Mandal admits that JLN Hospital is the only large medical college for a 200-sq-km area covering three states. "There is a big hospital like this in Patna, Dhanbad in Jharkhand, and Siliguri in West Bengal. Everyone comes here, and we need to be ready," Mandal says. Besides, the Covid numbers have been rising steadily (see box).

For a hospital that serves so many, the numbers too allow for no complacency. There are all of 22 ventilators, 10 of them new, and 64 ICU beds. Plus not enough protective equipment.

A doctor at the hospital says on condition of anonymity, "One of the reasons asymptomatic patients were moved to Covid care centres was that the hospital couldn't handle 100 patients. There weren't enough protective equipment. Even now, we make do with kits that are hardly protective."

The testing numbers are also abysmally low. Dr Vijay Kumar Singh, Civil Surgeon in the district, says the district is conducting 315 tests a day. Overall, till June 15, it had conducted 5,632 tests. With 333 testing positive until that date, it's a confirmation rate of 6.2 per cent, higher than the national average of 5.7 per cent. Of the 333 who tested positive, 311 are from tests on 1,801 returning migrants, a confirmation rate of 17.26 per cent.

There are other concerns too. With JLN set aside for Covid cases, the non-Covid cases are being handled by the older, smaller, and much less advanced Sadar Hospital. Dr Mandal says he shifted at least 10 senior doctors to Sadar. But the hospital is showing signs of creaking under the strain. There are patients waiting on the floor, some sleeping on it.

Singh, the district Civil Surgeon, admits he is worried about the monsoon. "In crucial departments like paediatrics and anaesthesia, we have two and three doctors respectively. The load is getting too much. Which is why despite being a Covid-only hospital, we have had to open the emergency ward of JLN with 150 beds," Singh says.

### Khalifabagh Market, Bhagalpur

Bhagalpur has earned itself many monikers over the ages. The 'city of academia', because of the ancient Vikramshila University, is now associated with the 1989 Bhagalpur riots and the infamous blindings of the following year. It is called Bihar's silk city as well. And yet, for locals, what sticks is the image of a town of traffic jams.

Shyam Sundar Newetia, a shopkeeper at Khalifabagh, the town's busiest market, bristles at the sight of the crowd outside his shop.

"These people who are out on the street... You think they are coming to buy? No. They are bored at home, so they are here. Fools! I don't allow them to sit in my shop anymore," he says.



### JLN MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, MAYAGANJ

**There are only four Covid-19 cases that require medical attention, and two patients who have fever... Even the one person who died had cancer. For now, there is no reason to panic."**

DR RC MANDAL, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

Ever since restrictions began to ease, traffic has returned to Bhagalpur's narrow streets, where shops open by 11 am. The motorcycles, rickshaws and pedestrians are all out in force, enough to make mockery of any intended social distancing. Masks hang loosely on faces, if at all, and pedestrians brush past each other.

The roads might suggest normalcy, but, as Newetia says, it is all a mirage. Shops are empty, sale registers bare. It's a time of deep distress.

Newetia owns 'Matching Corner Boutique', a 50-year-old store that sells clothes, primarily for women. He opened the store on June 1 and since then, business has been dire. "About 75% of business has gone away. People want to hold on to their money in these uncertain times. Even the 25 per cent sale I am doing is of nighties or undergarments," Newetia says.

But there are things to be thankful for. Such as the fact that he owns the shop. "Those on rent have let go of most of their staff. There is no money. Last year, one of those rickshaws you see would refuse to take you to the railway station for Rs 40; today, he will go for 10," he says.

Most businessmen in Bhagalpur also complain about the timing of the shutdown. Newetia says, "From June to November, there is the wedding season, Durga Puja and then Chhat festival. Right now is when we should be having festive sales."

An employee at Hotel Chinmaye Inn, one of the city's biggest, says that during the wedding season, their 59 rooms would be fully booked. "As of today, only four rooms are occupied. Also, a lot of our clientele used to come for trade from Patna or Kolkata. As long as trains don't restart, that won't happen," says a staff member.

A km away, is Mayfair restaurant, one of Bhagalpur's most popular eating joints. At 2 pm on a Thursday, there is one family at a table.

Owner Navin Nishchal says, "People have just stopped coming. I reopened the restaurant only earlier this month. Most of the orders are deliveries from either Zomato or Swiggy... I had 22 people working with me. I have seven now," he says wistfully.

On some days, when his cellphone rings, he fervently hopes it's an order, but these days, there are more calls asking for jobs.

"One of them told me he worked in a restaurant in Pune and is now back in Bhagalpur. He said he earned Rs 22,000 a month but could make do with Rs 12,000 now. It broke my heart, but I could do nothing," he says.

Right next to Nishchal, a family of three are waiting for their order. The kitchen door swings open and three plates of *dahi vada* emerge. The waiter serves them and asks, "*Aur kuchch?*" The answer to that question, in times such as these, may well decide his future.

Across  
THE AISLE

PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in  
Twitter: @pchidambaram\_IN

Mr Modi's dream that the 21st century will be a China-India led Asian century is practically over. It is obvious that Mr Modi did not take a correct measure of Mr Xi. Whether Mr Xi took a correct measure of Mr Modi is a matter of speculation. The two leaders cannot be close friends again. They can still do business and sign one-step-at-a-time agreements in the manner that Mr Narasimha Rao, Mr Vajpayee and Dr Manmohan Singh did with their counterparts in China

ARE INDIA and China at the beginning of a new and contentious era? So it seems. In chapter 1, Chinese troops stealthily intruded a few kilometres into Indian territory — without being detected — and occupied key points in the Galwan Valley, Hot Springs and Pangong Tso. The face-off on May 5-6 brought to light the intrusion. In chapter 2, on the night of June 15-16, Chinese troops clashed with Indian troops leaving 20 men dead on the Indian side; 80 soldiers were injured and 10 were taken prisoner and released on June 18.

The India-China border — or Line of Actual Control (LAC) — has been simmering since the 1962 war, but this is the first occasion since 1975 when lives were lost. To hold the peace for 45 years was no mean achievement. Under Mr Modi's watch, that tenuous peace has been shattered.

## A FALSE NARRATIVE

The narrative that the Modi government had assiduously built in the last six years was absolutely false. That Mr Narendra Modi, then the chief minister of Gujarat, was a favourite of the Chinese, who hosted him on four occasions; that Mr Modi, unlike any other prime minister, visited China on five occasions, underscoring the special relationship between the two countries; and that Mr Modi and Mr Xi had a special chemistry between them as reflected in Wuhan

## Dance of death

(2018) and Mahabalipuram (2019) — all these were part of the false narrative. The bubble burst on June 15-16.

After the bloody confrontation and loss of lives, India remained conciliatory. The MEA put out a weak statement that read "...a violent face-off happened as a result of an attempt by the Chinese side to unilaterally change the status quo... all Indian activities were on its side of the LAC and it is expected the same of China". The Chinese counter was swift and aggressive. The PLA said "the sovereignty of the Galwan Valley region has always belonged to China" and China's Foreign Minister admonished India to "stop all provocative actions.....The Indian side must not underestimate China's firm will to safeguard territorial integrity."

## INTELLIGENCE FAILURE

There are many theories about why China acted in the manner it did in May this year. The scale of the intrusion points to careful planning over several months — maybe going back to August 2019 when the Modi government changed the constitutional status of Jammu & Kashmir. The government either overlooked or brushed aside (more likely the latter) the fact that China has been in occupation of a large tract of land in Ladakh over which it claims sovereignty; that it is building the Belt and Road connect to

Pakistan through Gilgit-Baltistan which is a part of Ladakh; and that it had objected to India constructing a feeder road to link with the DBO road on the Indian side of the LAC. China must also have taken note of the Home Minister's statement that Aksai Chin will be part of India.

It is a sobering thought that India did not suspect China's intentions. If any one must take the blame squarely for India's complacency, it is our external intelligence agencies as well as defence intelligence agencies which have boots on the ground in Ladakh. In a sense, it is an unforgivable repetition of Kargil, and especially inexplicable in an age of satellites and images and photographs beamed regularly from space. The difference between Kargil and the Galwan Valley is that the adversary is not a bumbling Pakistan but a wily China.

In Depsang (2013), India taught a lesson to China and China withdrew completely. In Doklam (Bhutan, 2017), China learned a valuable lesson about India's strengths and weaknesses. India celebrated the withdrawal of some Chinese troops from the tri-junction, but meekly acquiesced in the structures built by China on the Doklam plateau, and the Chinese are enclaved till date in the Doklam plateau!

## MR MODI'S ERROR

The Chinese are applying the Doklam lesson to the Galwan Valley and will,

eventually, apply it to Pangong Tso and the area between Finger 4 (the LAC according to China) and Finger 8 (the LAC according to India). There was an opportunity to avoid the Galwan Valley loss. Immediately after the Corps Commanders-level negotiations on June 6, Mr Modi should have dialled Mr Xi and persuaded Mr Xi to agree to a common readout by both sides *endorsing* the outcome of the negotiations. Maybe the tragedy of June 15-16 would not have happened. It was a grave error on the part of Mr Modi.

Mr Modi's dream that the 21st century will be a China-India led Asian century is practically over. It is obvious that Mr Modi did not take a correct measure of Mr Xi. Whether Mr Xi took a correct measure of Mr Modi is a matter of speculation. The two leaders cannot be close friends again. They can still do business and sign one-step-at-a-time agreements in the manner that Mr Narasimha Rao, Mr Vajpayee and Dr Manmohan Singh did with their counterparts in China and keep the peace on the 4,056-kilometre border that includes the LAC.

It is certain that there will be no more 'summits' or 'swings'. It will be just hard-nosed negotiations. It will be useful for Mr Modi to remember what Saint Thiruvalluvar said over 2,000 years ago: "Fate's strength, one's strength, the adversary's strength, allies' strength, weigh all these and decide your course of action" (Kural 471).

Fifth  
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen\_singh

Questions,  
questions,  
questions

AS A soldier's daughter, one of my most vivid childhood memories is of the war with China in 1962. In boarding school, we were infused with patriotism and so spent our free time knitting socks for the troops and making cards to send them. But when I came home to the Army station in which my father was posted, all I heard was angry talk about how the political leadership had betrayed our soldiers. They were sent to war without proper clothing, boots or weapons. And, in the ordnance factories, I remember hearing, they were producing coffee percolators instead of ammunition. I did not know much about Jawaharlal Nehru then, but remember that after his China war he was very unpopular in the Army stations of my childhood.

Buried memories came back last week when 20 of our soldiers were beaten to death by Chinese thugs in the desolate heights of the Galwan Valley. The Modi government has not been able so far to fully explain why our soldiers were unprepared for what the Chief Minister of Punjab has correctly described as a 'stone age' battle. From the Army we have heard nothing and the silence of the Defence Minister has been deafening. But, the Minister for External Affairs tells us that our soldiers were not unarmed. They chose not to use their weapons while being clubbed to death with iron rods clad in barbed wire. This explanation is bizarre because even an amateur would use his weapon if he was being beaten to death. These men were trained soldiers.

It is for military experts to investigate what really happened. For my part, I want to concentrate on the manner in which this ugly episode was handled politically. This needs analysis because in more ways than one, the manner in which the political fallout has been handled has been disastrous. When opposition leaders and the media started to question what happened on the border, the first responders came not from the government but from the BJP. They appeared on primetime TV shows to denounce as traitors anyone who dared ask questions about what happened on the border. This is a time for nationalism, they hollered, not a time for 'anti-nationalism'.

This is an old playbook that has been used so often since Narendra Modi's second term began that it has become tattered and useless. Nationalism as defined in this playbook means not questioning anything that the government does. To question Modi personally amounts to treason, because in the view of those who wrote this playbook, the nation and the Prime Minister are synonymous. Instead of fielding arrogant BJP spokesmen it would have been wiser to field those who are actually responsible for the defence of this country. Where was the Chief of Defence Staff? Where was the Army Chief? Where was the National Security Advisor? We should hear from them because from them we might get what really happened instead of silly lectures on 'nationalism'.

We should also hear from the Prime Minister. So far, we have seen him grieve publicly for the dead while solemnly chanting 'Om Shanti'. He needs to tell us much more. Are we on the verge of another war with China? Are Chinese soldiers still occupying Indian territory? Is it true that Indian soldiers remain in Chinese custody? What is our future strategy? These are questions to which only he has answers since he runs his government in a highly centralised fashion from the PMO. He also conducts foreign policy in a highly personalised way, and has chosen to invest a great deal of capital in his friendship with Xi Jinping. There is no other world leader he has met more often since becoming prime minister.

Whenever there have been tensions with Pakistan, the Prime Minister has been vocal, aggressive and assured. When the Indian Air Force conducted its strike on Balakot it was from Modi that the country heard the details. He went to the extent of saying that he personally ordered the strike on a 'cloudy night' because he believed that this would help our fighter pilots fly under the radar. In the election campaign that followed immediately afterwards, Balakot became his symbol for being a tough, decisive leader.

This time the Prime Minister has been unusually reticent, but those 'proud to be followed by Modi' on Twitter have not. Like the BJP spokesmen they have hurled abuse at anyone who has dared ask questions about why 20 Indian soldiers were killed so brutally. If I were to recount the number of times I have been called a traitor in response to the questions I have asked about the Galwan massacre, I would have to write a whole separate column. Does the Prime Minister realise the damage that his supporters are doing to him?

What is more important is for him to understand that when the country appears to be teetering on the edge of another war with China, it is not 'anti-national' to ask questions. The opposite is true. Two men who have asked exactly the questions that need to be asked by patriots and true nationalists are the Chief Minister of Punjab and another ex-soldier, Lieutenant General H S Panag (ret'd). I am willing to bet that the questions they asked last week are being asked in Army towns across India. When soldiers are battered to death, questions will be asked.

inside  
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



## RIDING HIGH, BUT RIDER

IN MODI 1.0, Rajnath Singh was fairly invisible though he held the key Home Affairs portfolio and was the senior-most Cabinet minister. Arun Jaitley was usually in the spotlight on government issues and Amit Shah on the political front. At the start of Modi 2.0, Amit Shah as Home Minister projected a larger than life image. But in February this year, Shah seemed to have gone on a temporary hiatus and Singh did most of the talking on behalf of the government, whether on the lockdown, the migrant problem, the India-China confrontation or India-Nepal relations. Political observers were surprised that Singh was even included in the Group of Ministers on the Covid-19 crisis. By virtue of his seniority, Singh automatically chaired the key committee, though epidemic management falls under the Home Ministry. Singh may be politically far more relevant today than before, but the danger of being pushed upwards is that he can also be a convenient scapegoat.

## PAWARFUL RUMBLINGS

THE outsourcing of the administration of Maharashtra to bureaucrats by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has infuriated his alliance partners and some in his party. The CM is seldom to be seen at his office or official residence, and is not available on the phone after 11 pm. He clears files only after the Chief Secretary's approval. Frustrated Congress state leaders may make the most noise but the man to watch is Sharad Pawar. The NCP leader has objected more than once to the CM's overcautious bureaucratic approach. For instance, the CM wanted to delay the resumption of domestic flights to Mumbai, hence the contradictory messages emanating from Mumbai to airlines for the first two days after flights started. While Pawar believes the only way to revive the economy is to lift the lockdown, Thackeray favours the bureaucracy's pleas for a more gradual return to normalcy. Thackeray's lack of political leadership is seen in his inability to engage with Mumbai's industry, which should have played a major role in organising relief and healthcare. After the Nisarga cyclone, Thackeray went on a single aerial survey of Raigad district, while the 79-year old Pawar, a cancer survivor, made a gruelling road trip of the devastated region.

Out of  
MY MIND

MEGHNAD DESAI



IN THE second millennium of the Common Era, England and France fought each other off and on for 800 years — across the English Channel, in Europe, in India, and North America. The result was a draw, though each thinks it won. Then, in the twentieth century, they made Entente Cordiale — an alliance which has stayed for a hundred years and more.

India and China have been in stand-off hostility since the late 1950s when India discovered the Chinese incursion into Aksai Chin, a region where not a blade of

## CRYING WOLF

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's operation 'Wolf Wolf', where he carted Congress MLAs to the JW Marriott resort, Jaipur, for over a week was not because he feared a threat from the BJP in engineering defections and sabotaging the election of the Congress's two Rajya Sabha candidates. Unlike Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, where the Congress is vulnerable, the numbers in Rajasthan are stacked squarely in favour of the Congress. There are 126 MLAs, 107 from the Congress alone, supporting the government. The Congress needed just 101 votes for both its Rajya Sabha candidates to romp home. Gehlot laid out an elaborate game plan — summoning all party MLAs to the Shiv Vilas hotel on the pretext that he was holding a meeting; keeping the MLAs there overnight; and the next day sending them home to pack their clothes as he was sending them on a week's sojourn. If Gehlot was truly suspicious of his MLAs he was hardly likely to have given them advance notice! The drama was orchestrated by Gehlot simply to paint himself as the Congress saviour with the Delhi high command and undercut his rival, Deputy CM Sachin Pilot, by insinuating disloyalty.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

IAS officer V K Pandian has been Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's right-hand man since 2011 when he was his private secretary. Pandian, in fact, is so powerful that he is often described as the de-facto ruler of the state. But the middle-rank IAS officer could not have remained a lowly PS forever. He was promoted to the post of secretary last year and given the fanciful designation of 'Secretary of 5 Ts'. The Ts stand for Transparency, Team Work, Technology, Timeliness and Transformation. A workaholic, Pandian starts his day at 4 am and keeps an eye on the functioning of all ministries on the ground as this falls within the ambit of his work description. He sits in at all major government meetings and does most of the talking.

## AGE NO BAR

Members of Delhi's prestigious India International Centre were delighted to learn that the centre was re-opening after the lockdown. The elderly members who consider themselves the Capital's intellectual elite often spend the entire day browsing the library or holding *addas* over tea, coffee and snacks. But the re-opening came with a rider. Those over 65 were advised to stay home. The mean age of the members is around 60. Take, for example, the IIC lifetime trustees. Soli Sorabjee is 90, NN Vohra, 84, Kapila Vatsyayan, 91, BN Srikrishna, 79, and Shyam Saran is 73. It was subsequently made clear that the age restriction was merely an advisory.

Life  
& WORKPROSENJIT  
CHATTERJEE

IN MARCH this year, I was shooting in South Africa for my film *Kakababur Protayaborton*. It was a big unit, around 35-40 people. Around March 15, as information about the coronavirus started flowing in, our team grew tense. In the next 48 hours, the world changed — flights were stopped, lockdowns were imposed, there was a lot of uncertainty. We somehow managed tickets to return to India on March 19, and the entire crew was put in 14-day home quarantine.

I shifted to the fourth floor of my house in Kolkata and did not meet anybody. My food was sent to me by lift. I was doing the dishes and all other chores on my own. I am not somebody who spends a lot of time on the phone, but I tried. I would talk to my family, my son, who had returned from abroad too, through video calls. At times, I got very lonely, even upset, I only had my phone.

After 14 days, when I came down from the fourth floor of my house, it felt like I was returning from an exile. By then, both our Chief Minister and the Prime Minister had announced the lockdown, and since then it has definitely not been a holiday, especially with the crisis continuing to unfold around the world.

I have started waking up late. Waking up early and being at home made the days too long. To change my sleep cycle, after finishing work I now watch shows on Netflix till 4-5 in the morning. When I wake up late, the evening comes sooner. It feels like the day has ended. Many people in my team also feel the same way. They want to make their days shorter.

Along with the Covid-19 crisis, my state is also recovering from the devastation caused by cyclone Amphan. We are fighting back all of this, but it is not a healthy situation. Even our mental state is not very healthy. Everybody is trying to do their best for others, but there are limitations.

After my shoot in South Africa, I was supposed to start a film with Shiboprosad Mukherjee and Nandita Das. And then, from April, I was slated to work on a Hindi series by Vikramaditya Motwane (director of *Sacred Games*, *Udaan*). It was an important project for me, but we can't shoot now. However, we are trying to keep the wheels turning. From my personal man-

'I miss the cameras, smell  
of sets, can't wait to return'

After three months, shooting is on for a Bengali TV show in Kolkata. Partha Paul

ager to my sister, who looks at the business side of my production company, everybody has come together in this difficult time to make the situation 'normal'. The time at home has also made me realise what is important. I have started focusing on my health, reading scripts which have been lying around for long, and discussing ideas with my team.

One day, I got a call from Mr Amitabh Bachchan to be a part of a 'made-at-home' short film, *Family*, to spread awareness about the importance of staying at home during the coronavirus pandemic. Actors such as Mohanlal, Rajinikanth were part of it. I agreed to do it. I realised that in such times people have expectations from us, from celebrities. While shooting the videos from our homes, all of us spoke about how grateful we

were for getting a chance to act, to be part of a shoot, even if it was in front of a mobile phone. Later, as part of an idea conceptualised by our CM, Mamata Banerjee, I shot a song to help raise funds for junior technicians of our film industry.

The entertainment industry across the world is going through a tough time. Films are made with large crews and are considered successful only when a large crowd watches it in the theatres. Unless there is a

miracle, no one can say with certainty when that will happen. But yes, we have to fight back. In Bengal, the silver lining is that filming of television shows has begun. Film shoots, however, will take some time since we are directly linked to cinema halls — malls have opened but not theatres. And, even if cinema halls open their gates, will large crowds rush to buy tickets again?

During the lockdown, online streaming platforms and web series have gained more popularity. They have a lot of potential and many international companies are now coming to India to set up OTT platforms. This has also given a platform to many talented actors and technicians. Having said that, cinema will stay. It has a special magic which unfolds on the big screen. It cannot be compared to watching content in isolation.

As television shoots resume in Bengal, for the first time in India there has been an insurance guarantee for actors and technicians. Talks are now on for insurance coverage in films too. As per our Chief Minister's instructions, we can begin shooting any time and I can't wait to return. I miss the smell of the set, the camera, my co-actors, technicians, my make-up van. For the past 38 years, I have spent all my time with these people, in those surroundings. I need to get back to them, to my audience.

The author is a National Award-winning actor, director and producer from West Bengal. He has been part of over 300 films.

As told to Amitava Chakraborty

## India vs China: No easy solutions

grass grew' as Jawaharlal Nehru told the Lok Sabha, hoping to avoid conflict. His attempts at negotiating with Zhou Enlai failed. The nation wanted Nehru to act. He gave orders to the Army to throw the Chinese out. We know the result.

India and China are the two oldest civilisations in Asia, the only two in the world which have lasted four millennia or more. They were never at war with each other until 60 years ago. You could blame foreigners — the British — for provoking this division. It was the move by British Raj in the first decade of the last century which made Tibet cede territory to British India. China refused to sign the Indo-Tibet Treaty.

India's territorial boundaries were drawn by the British. Before Partition, the Durand line in the Northwest and the McMahon line in the North, and then the Radcliffe lines in the west and in Bengal in 1947. All our borders have foreign names. What India's borders were before the British Rule was confirmed in 1857, no one knows.

China has a different history. It had a single State — the Chinese Empire through the 20 century, and even some centuries before, but with breaks. The last rulers were foreign but settled down somewhat like the Mughals. In the 17th century, India and China were the two most prosperous countries, with China a single Empire.

China's defeat by the British in the Opium wars forced them to concede areas in their port cities to Western Powers as concessions which they resented. China had to cede Hong Kong to the British. Tibet went autonomous.

Since China threw over the Manchu rulers and had its own government in 1911, it has wanted to regain its lost territory. Chiang Kai-shek refused to recognise the Indo-Tibet Treaty. When Nehru convened the Asian Relations Conference in 1946, the Chinese delegation refused to sit if the Tibet delegation was recognised. There was no difference between Chiang and Mao.

This is a long battle, normally dor-

mant but occasionally flaring up. There is no solution which will satisfy both sides as each nation thinks the disputed territory belongs to it. India cannot suffer loss of territory any more than it has already lost, including what Pakistan has given away from its occupied bit of Kashmir.

The Chinese feel that two centuries since the Opium war signalled its decline, it is now a powerful nation. It wants to be on top, the Middle Earth — as it believes it was. India never was a single Empire; not even the Mughals ruled over all of it.

There is no conceivable solution to this problem. India must defend its own people as much as territory.



"The climate and sustainability crisis is not a fair crisis. The ones who'll be hit hardest from its consequences are often the ones who have done the least to cause the problem in the first place."

— GRETA THUNBERG, 17-year-old climate activist

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Captain Brett Crozier was commander of the USS Theodore Roosevelt

### USA

## Navy reverses move to reinstate virus-hit aircraft carrier's captain

Washington: In a reversal, the Navy on Friday scrapped its recommendation to reinstate Captain Brett Crozier and instead upheld a decision to fire him from his command of a coronavirus-stricken aircraft carrier where he became a hero to his crew. The Navy said an in-depth investigation showed that Crozier, despite imploring top brass to do more to safeguard his sailors, had himself failed to do enough to try to halt the spread of the coronavirus. It eventually infected more than 1,200 personnel aboard the Theodore Roosevelt, killing one of them.

### USA

## Tennessee lawmakers pass Bill to ban abortion after six weeks

TENNESSEE LAWMAKERS passed one of the tightest abortion restrictions in the country on Friday, banning the procedure once a fetal heartbeat is detected at around six weeks, which is often before a woman realises she is pregnant. The "heartbeat" bill follows a wave of similar strict anti-abortion measures passed by Republican-majority legislatures in an effort to prompt the US Supreme Court to overturn Roe v Wade, the landmark 1973 case that guarantees a woman's constitutional right to abortion. In the last two years, federal judges have struck down "fetal heartbeat" laws banning abortion after six weeks in several states on the grounds that they were unconstitutional.

### BRITAIN

## Mayor promises to protect Leicester's Gandhi statue

London: The mayor of the city of Leicester has committed to protecting the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the heart of the central England city, as an online petition created to save the under-threat monument attracted over 6,000 signatures. Peter Soulsby confirmed his support for the monument as the city's "great pride" in his response to a letter from former Indian-origin Leicester East MP Keith Vaz, who has been leading a campaign ever since an online petition called for the statue's removal last week.

## BRITAIN CONSIDERS EASING SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES

# Brazil infections cross 1 mn as Beijing sees drop in cases

KEN MORITSUGU & JILL LAWLESS  
BEIJING, JUNE 20

CHINA'S CAPITAL recorded a further drop in coronavirus cases amid tightened containment measures, while Brazil surpassed 1 million confirmed infections, second only to the US.

Europe, in contrast, continues to emerge warily from lockdown, with hard-hit Britain considering easing social distancing rules to make it easier for restaurants, pubs and schools to reopen.

Officials reported 22 new cases in Beijing on Saturday, along with five others elsewhere in China. There were no new deaths and 308 people remained hospitalized for treatment.

South Korea recorded 67 new cases, the largest 24-hour increase in about three weeks. Most of them come from the densely populated Seoul area, where about half of the country's 51 million people reside. Many cases have been linked to exposure in nightlife outlets.

The head of the World Health Organization said Friday that the pandemic is "accelerating" and that more than 150,000 cases were reported the day before.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters in Geneva that nearly half of the



A CONCERT FOR THE QUARANTINED: A group of musicians playing Samba offered a small concert to the residents of Rio's Turano favela, most of whom remain quarantined to curb the spread of Covid-19. Residents could watch the performance from their windows, balconies or via internet. AP

newly reported cases were from the Americas.

Brazil's Health Ministry said the total number of cases had risen by more than 50,000 from the previous day. President Jair Bolsonaro still downplays the risks of the virus after nearly 50,000 fatalities in three months, saying the impact of social isolation on Brazil's economy could be more deadly.

The new coronavirus has infected more than 8.5 million people worldwide and killed more than 454,000. AP

## Indian crew stranded on cruise ships appeal for repatriation

London: Hundreds of Indian crew aboard cruise ships docked on the UK coast have appealed for repatriation to India amid the ongoing coronavirus lockdown.

The All India Seafarer and General Workers Union claims that around 1,500 crew members from India have been stranded at UK ports across these ships.

"This is regarding 164 crew

members stranded Indian citizens on the vessel *MV Astoria*," notes a letter from the union addressed to the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in reference to one of the vessels.

"In this pandemic coronavirus outbreak, our Indian citizens stuck in foreign waters from past 90 days, and need help," notes the letter dated June 16. PTI

# US Dept of Justice tries to oust attorney probing Trump allies, but he refuses to go

NATHAN LAYNE & SARAH N LYNCH  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 20

A TOP US federal prosecutor whose office has been investigating President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, Rudolph Giuliani, on Friday refused to step down after the administration abruptly said it was replacing him.

Attorney General William Barr, in a surprise late-night announcement, said the US Attorney in Manhattan, Geoffrey Berman, was stepping down and that he would nominate Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton to take Berman's spot.

Berman, who leads a powerful office known for prosecuting high-profile terrorism cases, Wall Street financial crimes and government corruption, said he first learned of the move from Barr's press release and would not go quietly.

"I have not resigned, and have no intention of resigning my position," Berman said in a statement. "I will step down when a presidentially appointed nominee is confirmed by the Senate. Until then, our investigations will move forward without delay or interruption."

Since being appointed in January 2018, Berman has not shied from taking on figures in Trump's orbit. His office oversaw the prosecution of Michael Cohen, Trump's former personal lawyer, indicted two Giuliani associates and launched a probe into Giuliani in connection with his efforts to dig up dirt on Trump's political adversaries in Ukraine. REUTERS



Geoffrey S Berman

## EXPLAINED

### Crisis after unusual appointment

GEOFFREY BERMAN, the federal prosecutor in Manhattan, was appointed to the post on an interim basis by then A-G Jeff Sessions in 2018.

Although he was a Trump pick, the President never officially sent his nomination to the Senate for confirmation, which is how federal prosecutors are usually appointed.

After 120 days as interim US Attorney, Berman's appointment was made permanent by the US District Court for the Southern District of New York. Refusing to quit despite A-G Barr's announcement, Berman pointed out that he couldn't be fired by the President as he wasn't appointed by the President, and that he would remain in office until another nominee was confirmed by the Senate.



## ANOTHER CONFEDERATE STATUE GOES DOWN

The statue of Albert Pike, which is the only statue of a Confederate general in the US capital, was toppled by protesters and set on fire in Washington early Saturday. It comes as the US observed Juneteenth, the day marking the end of slavery in the United States, amid continuing anti-racism demonstrations following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. AP

## Judge denies Trump bid to block Bolton book

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 20

A US judge on Saturday denied a request by the Trump administration for an injunction to block publication of a book by President Donald Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton that alleges the president sought China's help to win re-election.

"While Bolton's unilateral conduct raises grave national security concerns, the government has not established that an injunction is an appropriate rem-



Bolton was criticised by the judge, who said he 'gambled with the national security'

edy," US District Judge Royce Lamberth said in his ruling. The administration had

# China unveils details of new security law for Hong Kong

Beijing to have sweeping powers over enforcing new law

YEW LUN TIAN & GREG TORODE  
BEIJING, HONG KONG, JUNE 20

CHINA WILL have overarching powers over the enforcement of a new national security law in Hong Kong, according to details released on Saturday that signalled the deepest change to the city's way of life since it returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

The planned law has alarmed foreign governments as well as democracy activists in Hong Kong, who were already concerned that Beijing is eroding the high degree of autonomy granted to the territory when it was handed over from British rule.

According to details released by the official Xinhua news agency, Hong Kong will establish a local national security council to enforce the legislation, headed by the city's leader Carrie Lam and supervised and guided by a new central government commission created by Beijing. A mainland adviser will also sit on the new Hong Kong body.

Lam will also have the power to appoint judges to hear cases related to national security, an unprecedented move likely to unnerve some investors, diplomats and business leaders in the city.

Currently senior judges allocate judicial roster up through Hong Kong's independent judicial system.

"From these initial details, this new law presents unprecedented



Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong announces his plan to run in the upcoming Legislative Council elections. AP

## NEW NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, POLICE UNITS

HONG KONG will establish a local national security council to enforce the legislation, headed by the city's leader Carrie Lam and supervised and guided by a new central government commission created by Beijing, according to details of the new legislation.

NEW LOCAL police and

prosecution units will be set up to investigate and to enforce the law, backed by mainland security and intelligence officers deployed to Beijing's new commission.

LAM WILL also have the power to appoint judges to hear cases related to national security.

legal questions that we will have to confront in coming years," Simon Young, a barrister and professor at the University of Hong Kong's law school, told Reuters.

Young said he was troubled by the apparent "broad supremacy" of the new law over current and future Hong Kong laws.

Officials in Beijing and Hong

Kong have sought to reassure investors that the law will not erode the city's autonomy, insisting it will target only a minority of "troublemakers".

Xinhua said human rights and freedom of speech and assembly would be protected, echoing previous comments by authorities in Beijing and Hong Kong. REUTERS

## Shooting in Seattle protest zone leaves 1 dead, 1 injured

LISA BAUMANN  
SEATTLE, JUNE 20

ONE PERSON was killed and another was in critical condition in a pre-dawn shooting in Seattle's protest zone, authorities said Saturday.

The shooting happened at about 3 am in the area near downtown known as CHOP, which stands for "Capitol Hill Occupied Protest" zone, police said in a statement on Twitter.

Seattle Police Sgt. Lauren Truscott told The Seattle Times that she didn't know whether police had taken anyone into custody and that she had no immediate details about how the shooting unfolded.

Investigators were reviewing public-source video and body-camera video for clues and authorities planned to disclose more information about the shooting later, Truscott said.

Two males with gunshot wounds arrived in a private vehicle at Harborview Medical Center at about 3 am, said hospital spokesperson Susan Gregg. One died and the other one was in critical condition in the intensive care unit.

Protesters have cordoned off several blocks near a police station in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood in the wake of demonstrations against police violence since the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis several weeks ago. Police have largely retreated from the zone after clashes with protesters ended with people throwing things at police and police tearing gas people and using other crowd control munitions. AP

## 'COVID' CASKET ELIMINATES PRECIOUS WOODS, DETAILED CARVINGS AND GLASS PANES IN FAVOUR OF FAST-TO-PRODUCE PLAIN BOX

# Chileans mass producing caskets to deal with coronavirus onslaught

EVA VERGARA  
SANTIAGO, JUNE 20

NICOLÁS BERGERIE'S family has been making coffins for four generations, with barely any alteration. But when he saw the coronavirus ravaging Europe, he decided to roll out a new product.

The "COVID" is a casket that eliminates precious woods, detailed carvings and glass viewing panes in favor of a plain box of cheaper wood that is fast to produce in quantity. It's the per-

fect product for Chile, which has become a hot spot for the virus despite aggressive government measures to control its spread.

On Friday, Chile's 230,000 cases made it ninth in the world in the number of confirmed coronavirus infections, despite its relatively small population of fewer than 19 million people. With more than 5,000 new cases reported on a typical day, next week Chile is expected to pass Italy in the ranks of most-infected countries.

With more than 4,000 dead in Chile, Bergerie's business,

Bergut Funeral Services, has seen its orders boom. He said the workshop is making 100 coffins a week, double the pre-pandemic number, although the cheaper caskets mean his income has dropped by half.

"We looked at the international experience and we started to turn out more coffins because we understood what was coming," said Manuel González, the head of the workshop.

The Chilean government reported 252 deaths Friday, the highest number since the virus that can



A production line of coffins at the Bergut Funeral Services in Santiago, Chile. AP

cause COVID-19 disease arrived in Chile in early March. Most infections and deaths are concentrated in the capital, Santiago.

The true scale of the outbreak goes far beyond the official numbers — Chile is daily carrying out as many as 20,000 virus tests, and about 30% are coming back positive, a strong sign that many infections have gone undetected.

Officials admit their effort to battle the virus is falling short, particularly in tracing and isolating those who come into contact with infected people.

The pandemic has pushed the Chilean medical system close to collapse — intensive-care units in Santiago are at 96% of capacity, and that is only because dozens of patients have been sent to regional hospitals to ease the burden on those in the capital.

The coronavirus was brought to Chile by well-off travelers who vacationed in Europe. Chilean officials in April replaced a strict quarantine of several wealthy neighborhoods of Santiago with a string of constantly shifting closures in neighbourhoods

throughout the city.

"For a short while we had a window of opportunity," said Pablo Villalobos, a public health researcher at Harvard and adviser to the World Health Organization. "It was a lost opportunity."

The virus started spreading virtually uncontrolled through Santiago at the start of May, helped by officials' refusal to shut down public transport. "The government did not take the necessary restrictive measures," said Claudio Castillo, a public health expert at the University of Chile. AP

# THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

# eye



## SPOTLIGHT

### Stronger Together

Mental health is not an individual problem, it is a collective responsibility, writes Shelja Sen



## BOOKS

- Review of Chandan Gowda's *A Life in the World: UR Ananthamurthy in Conversation with Chandan Gowda*
- Historian Ira Mukhoty on her new book on Akbar & why his vilification is a British legacy

# THE FUTUREPOLIS

How will the pandemic change the city?

Shiny Varghese

**T**HINK OF a city that has a skin that can inflate and deflate, depending on the number of people it needs to accommodate. A house that can be lifted on a crane and perched on skyscrapers and detached when your work in the city is done. What if a city can hang off an airship and land overnight in a place, with a kit of moveable parts? In the late 1960s, when modernism was making chunky cubes of houses for people to live in and grids for urban layouts, a group of six British architects came together to form Archigram. They began with a single-page magazine that was filled with collages, poems and visuals of utopian possibilities of a city — flexible, mobile and adaptable. The group would challenge generations of architects to build, dream and envision possible futures. Though Archigram never built any city and critics called them out for their assumption that the earth had endless resources, many of their ideas seem to have found their way into our everyday, from escalators to monorails.

The novel coronavirus pandemic and the lockdowns that were put in place across the world to tackle it pose questions about the future of urban living. In India, among the images seared into public memory are those of crowds cheering on balconies of towering apartments and private homes, and that of workers streaming out of cities, walking hundreds of kilometres to their homes. Some of "us", for whom home remained a safe place, raised the drawbridges, switched on our WiFi and disconnected from the outside. We created islands for ourselves within our homes, while the migrant worker moved out of his dwelling place.

"Today it's the pandemic, tomorrow it could be an intense heat wave or a global climate crisis. Confined living will become the way forward," says Thiruvananthapuram-based urban designer and architect Manoj Kumar Kini. A possible future model, he says, lies in the example of Arcosanti.

Sometime in the 1970s, Italian architect Paolo Soleri planned a future city that would meld ecology and architecture. In the Arizona desert, he envisioned the utopian metropolis, Arcosanti. Its ribbed vaults allowed ample light and air to filter into spaces, and encouraged a sense of community. One could walk to the office or workshop, compost with one's neighbour or walk out of one's house into the thick of cultural action. While it had its faults, be it the people who lived there or the unadaptability of the structure, it offered a worldview that could change the way we live.

Closer home, Auroville near Puducherry aimed to be a place with "a new consciousness", with like-minded people from all over the world making it their home. "In the future, urban living could be like something between an apartment and a township like Dwarka in Delhi, where compact living will be the norm, with people choosing to walk, cycle or take public transport, because distance will compress. We will travel less, have a smaller ecological footprint, and have more time with family," says Kini.

Could buildings of the future be about empathy, about an architect who "places himself/herself in the role of a future dweller and tests the validity of the ideas through this imaginative exchange of roles and personalities?" asks Finnish architect and thinker Juhani Pallasmaa in the book *Architecture and Empathy* (Peripheral Projects; 2015). Will buildings become a shared resource? Can a university and a corporate office be in the same campus? Can government administration and cultural centres coexist? "Maybe it will open up spaces in the city, between building and non-building, where designers and architects will need to intervene to revitalise, renovate, and renew. We will have to get off our Autocads and get our hands dirty. Just the way you now want a hairdresser to come home, people might want an architect to come home and use what they have to build anew, since money and building resources will be hard to come by," says architect Moulshri Joshi of the Delhi-based firm Space Matters.

"Until now, we were aware of those who lived on pavements, in slums and chawls and overcrowded small apartments. But we didn't realise there is another lot of people who live in corridors, garages, attics, mezzanines, and lofts in every city, and their numbers are staggering. When the city turns its back on them, where can they go?" says architect and habitat professional Kirtee Shah, who lives



ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY

in Ahmedabad.

For the poor migrant to the city, there is a place called home in the village and a city where he earns his daily bread. "For some, the home is a 'resort' but for those who don't have that privilege, the city was their home. It gave them certainty. What does it mean to not have that in a lockdown? There are no easy answers, but we need to think of ideas of care and how we can create those spaces in our cities. How can we create different levels of communities and what will those spaces be?" says Mumbai-based architect and urbanist Rupali Gupta.

In a recent letter to Praveen Pardeshi, former municipal commissioner of Mumbai, Shah offered suggestions for handling the slum crisis in the city. From using vacant houses and unsold inventory in housing for migrants and using rooftops of public buildings to create temporary housing stock, Shah pushed for more dignified dwelling units.

He recounts his keynote address at the opening of the "State of Housing" exhibition in Mumbai in 2018. He asked an audience of nearly a 100 people, a majority of them architects, if they had heard of Indira Awas Yojana. "Only a few hands went up. It was one of the

world's biggest social housing projects, which lasted nearly 30 years and built more than 20 million houses, but India's architects barely intervened. It speaks volumes about the disconnect architects have with society," he says.

While architects design on a computer, the drawings are executed by masons, carpenters and unskilled labourers. "They are the ones who convert our dreams into beautiful projects. So I asked, 'Since most of you visit your sites at least every two weeks, how many of you have seen the conditions in which the workers live?' Barely one hand came up," says Shah. "We need to rethink and reshape our cities which are inhuman and hostile to the people who build them."

In the letter, Shah suggests renegotiating terms with employers so that workers are provided better places to live. "... [It] could be a rented place in a slum redevelopment colony, in an affordable low-income settlement, in a slum where a family is willing to rent a room, or in a liveable tent on a public building terrace."

The comfort of home for migrants is also

the sense of security that comes from the physical and figurative boundaries in a village. Numerous migrants testified to the urgent need of going home, even if it meant starvation or death. "Homes in villages have their own layering. The epidermis that holds you in. You have the *aangans* (courtyards), and within that the public threshold, and then within them bigger rooms, and then your own room, your clothes, your body. Here, the epidermis of life has always existed, which is not affected by the commodities of the world. With it comes immunity, when your food and shelter is homegrown," says Bengaluru-based architect Varun Thautam, who conducts workshops on handmade buildings. "Today, in cities, we don't know who grows our food or where our water comes from. But staying local is the only way forward," he argues. Case in point: the lockdown proved that the *kirana* shop and the immediate neighbourhood was equipped to handle most of our needs.

"It is in a crisis that our true belonging to a place is revealed. We want to return to our villages because our heart is at home," says Chennai-based architect-academic Durganand Balsavar. He speaks of what he learnt from his experiences of working with Sri

Lankan civil war refugees and those displaced by the 2004 tsunami in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu. Many of the Sri Lankan women, for instance, were skilled at weaving mats. Balsavar, with his team at Artes-Human Settlements Development Collaborative, encouraged them to use these as partitions for their new homes. "That should be the way forward for families returning to their villages, too, during the lockdown. None of them want anything free, they are glad to engage their skills in a productive manner. That is what we should be doing, respecting dignity and pride in their work," he says.

Home is about identity and self-definition, an expression of belonging. While our cities privilege privacy and gated elements and also disconnection from the larger masses, in our villages networks are cyclical and form the basis of life. The city and its lack of interdependency is what causes alienation. Pratik Dhanmer of Design Jatra, a rural research and architectural firm in Dahanu, Maharashtra, speaks of how the layout of houses in villages enhance interaction, where verandahs face each other and children are secure playing on the streets.

Balsavar recounts what he noticed in Nagapattinam soon after the tsunami. Several families had abandoned their newly-built concrete-box shelters. These fine-engineered solutions for living put the kitchens at the back of the house. The original homes had the kitchens in the front, which enabled women to talk among themselves, keep an eye on their children playing on the street, not to mention the excellent cross-ventilation they afforded. However, in the new homes, the kitchen was pushed to the back of the house, which meant the women worked in isolation, their front doors were shut and the streets empty. "The idea of a rural home has many layers, which architects, sociologists and engineers can learn from," says Balsavar.

While we rejoiced in employing our city balconies as a stage for approval, with all the bells and whistles, it has rarely become a site for interaction all these years. It's the park view we seek and not the sense of community. In fact, in many homes, balconies are seen as obstacles in the way of carpet area.

Delhi-based architect Gautam Bhatia has planned a design where the community is not compromised. In cities where we privilege privacy, what are the possible combinations which allow for the public and the private to come together? "Over the last couple of decades, life has been going into lockdown by itself. Within homes, too, entertainment was becoming private and recreation was getting isolated. So, the idea of an apartment that shares community values yet allows you to keep your privacy is the aim. These would be about 800-1,000 sq. ft houses, varying from one-two bedrooms. The remaining spaces are given over to the community, with meeting rooms and games areas. The idea is to force you out of your confinement. You pay much less for private space and get more shared space. You will be forced to go out into verandahs. Unlike high-end apartments that are self-contained, where there is no sense of sharing," he says. There is the need to change by-laws in our cities to accommodate more public spaces and integrate all classes to live side by side. The future, Bhatia says, is in smaller homes and rental housing.

The coronavirus has exposed the artificial and abnormal in society, argues Delhi-based Shuddhabrata Sengupta of Raqs Media Collective, which is curating the Yokohama Triennale 2020. "There is an enormous amount of resources spent to ensure that our society is not democratic. Delhi, for instance, is a lot about gated communities and large resources are used to keep people out. We are living in a highly artificially maintained dystopia. Architects and urban designers can show a new way and plan how our cities can be for the next 100 years. But I don't see them coming together to demand a commitment to urban housing from any regime." "Ultimately, it will not be about big projects but keeping life cycles intact, which our vernacular societies have always done, where life is not a straight line and relationships are important," says Thautam.

Maybe, our cities ought to be like Ersilia, from Italo Calvino's novel *Invisible Cities* (1972), where relationships nurture life, and "its inhabitants stretch strings from the corners of their houses" across the city to mark connections, be it for trade or fellowship. So that, even when walls come crumbling down and homes cease to exist, the "labyrinth of taut strings" will continue to exist.

## DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

## Getting Sweet on Spiders

Spiders are remarkable creatures, and it's possible to have healthy relationships with them

**A** LOT OF people have arachnophobia — an irrational fear of spiders. Many people, especially rednecks trying to show how macho they are, go to the other extreme and have huge furry tarantulas or black widows strolling up and down their beefy arms or thick necks. There's no need to either scream every time you see a spider or have a cuddle with a tarantula to develop a healthy relationship with these absolutely remarkable creatures. While I will keep a healthy distance from the large furry kinds that prowl about the undergrowth or crouch behind bathroom doors in forest rest houses, I am equally gob-smacked every time I see a web looking like strings of pearls on a dewy morning, and will eyeball those small, fierce, jumping spiders whose bright obsidian eyes remain fixed on you as though they're in love with you.

If you would like to get to know them better, it may be sensible to start off with the smaller ones — they're normally sparkly, sprightly and hugely entertaining. One of my favourites is the jumping spider, also known as the zebra spider or zebra jumper. They're small chocolate-brown-and-caramel and spend their time fiercely posturing on walls, feinting like boxers before a bout. Let a mosquito or fly settle close and they'll fix their eyes on them and whom! They leap so fast you can't see the movement till they land on their victim. Always, like all of their clan, they'll trail a safety line behind them, just in case the jump, say, off a table, goes wrong and they have to haul themselves back to safety. Their leaps are like vanishing tricks — they disappear from one spot and appear at another in a trice. There's another tiny little jumping spider which looks like it's made out of iridescent metal: it can appear gold or emerald green depending on the angle of the light. You might find it on your car, too, especially if it has a metallic paint finish.

The garden or large green plants may be other good haunts to look out for spiders. One morning, I stepped out into the balcony overhung with a *madhumalti* creeper and casually looked at the pale pink-and-white blooms as bees hovered around. Suddenly, one bee seemed to be



RANJIT LAL

### SIZE MATTERS

Small spiders are normally sparkly and hugely entertaining

having a fit. When I glanced at it, I froze. A translucent pearl-white crab spider, half the bee's size, had pounced and was holding the hairy bee in an embrace. All too soon, she had sunk her mandibles into the bee, injecting it with virulent venom and the bee ceased to struggle. The spider remained stock-still. I knew she was sucking up the nourishing juices from the bee, having dissolved its insides with her venom and digestive juices. She would suck it dry and then discard the empty husk. You might find this revolting, but how is it different from what politicians and taxmen do to us? Crab spiders are beautiful because often they're the same colour as that of the flowers they hide among and can change their colours accordingly.

Another common spider that lives among plants is the lynx spider, an elongated little creature that often looks like it's been made out of fine blown glass. I've found them lurking on the undersides of kumquat leaves, waiting in ambush for something small and edible to land on the surface of the leaf. Lynx spiders (like several of the clan) make fiercely protective moms — to a degree. She'll lay her eggs in a silken egg case, tethered to her by a thread, and she'll drag the contraption along. She will threaten intruders and pull her precious egg case under leaves if it starts raining. I watched just-hatched spiderlings emerge from their egg case once, and, boy, were these tiny angel-white creatures into sibling rivalry! They'd saunter down a silk line, meet each other headfirst and try to throw one another off it. But it can get worse. If there are too many babies and too little food, they (even their mom) will turn on each other and turn cannibals.

There are the famous orb weavers, which may range widely in size. It is amazing how their cleverly crafted sticky nets can vanish, until you step into them! Some orb spiders, like those belonging to the Argiope clan, sketch a conspicuous zig-zag pattern around the centre of the web, which can serve as a warning for anything too large. But even these relatively large spiders are worth watching for the deft way with which they shroud their victims with silk, keeping their meals for another time. Walk into the web of a giant wood spider and you'll feel like you've walked into a trap made of fine steel wires.

It's usually the spiders that you encounter unexpectedly that give you the biggest frights. Shuffling into the bathroom in the middle of the night to find a monstrous wolf spider beady eyeing you from the potty lid can be traumatising. But unless you're a cockroach or something similar, you're generally safe. So gently chivy it away, use the loo and go back to bed...and sweet dreams!



IMAGINE

BY SHELJA SEN

**R**IGHT FROM an early age, we are recruiting our children into believing that there is one right way to live their life. In a talk or in a workshop, I generally ask the audience if they know somebody who has experienced mental-health struggles. Some hands shoot up right away, then others start raising their hands tentatively, looking around and taking solace in the sense of solidarity until all the hands go up. Then, I make it a little more difficult and check if they know somebody who has dealt with suicidal thoughts. Majority of the hands go up again. It is all around us — in our homes, our schools, colleges, workspaces, public places — staring back at us, asking us to look, listen. But we turn away, leaving them with their silences. Maybe sometimes, that silence and shame becomes too much to live with.

It takes the death of a public figure to remind us how much mental health matters. For the coming weeks, there will be a flurry of Instagram, Facebook and Twitter posts by well-meaning people, but then it will all go away, as it generally does. Do we realise how difficult it is for people living with depression or anxiety to be their own advocates at every step, especially when they have been convinced that something is inherently wrong with them — that they are the problem?

The person is not the problem, the problem is the problem

Right from an early age, we are recruiting our children into believing that there is one right way to live their life. They are constantly struggling against the illusionary yardstick of success. They are being sold the idea that the higher they go, the better they will be. But then they wonder why every rung up leads to more misery? Off-the-chart suicide rates of IIT aspirants in Kota coaching centres should shake us out of our collective stupor of what we see as the making of a "good life". A study conducted by ASSOCHAM in 2018 found that 42.5 per cent of employees are struggling with depression and/or anxiety in their high-pressure jobs. They possibly climbed the ladder of success and security to find it is a myth. They have internalised the propaganda that the only way they are worth something is if they get into a good college, "be productive" and get into a financially stable career. Therefore, it is no surprise that the chilling statistics indicate that one in four young persons is struggling with depression or anxiety and that India tops the world in youth suicide.

The person is not the problem, the problem is the problem, and the problem is social!\*

Shiv is a young man I met who had been lured into the society's idea of success. In our discussion, he started realising that his company's work culture of constant pressure, of

# STRONGER TOGETHER

Mental health is not an individual problem, it is a collective responsibility



GETTY IMAGES

"never being good enough" was pushing him into depression. As we unspooled this problematic notion of success, he realised, "My life can't be just about meeting the next target, pay my bills and die." He renegotiated his purpose in life, had a clear chat with his boss on what he would be able to deliver and started doing things that aligned with what he valued the most. For example, getting together with his old band and jamming every weekend and not "wasting precious hours of my life thinking of how to get ahead."

There is much talk about the "epidemic" of mental-health problems reaching unprecedented proportions. We have been made to

**REACH OUT, HOLD TIGHT**  
We need to reflect on how to help each other overcome mental-health impediments

believe that it can all be understood as "chemical imbalance" but that does not hold much water in the face of growing research and begs the question, "Who has a chemically balanced brain and what does it look like?" To the point of being provocative, I can say it is pretty fictional and not helpful as it locates the problem within the person. It is an extremely complex problem within our socio-cultural context which needs a nuanced understanding. Our identities are formed at the intersection of gender, sexuality, age, caste, class, religion, looks (let's not underestimate the demand for "fair & lovely") and the most important of it all — social acceptance and social success. Mental-health problems as chemical

imbalance absolves us of the collective responsibility we need to take as adults. This pushes us to think it is not our problem and we end up making the problem individualistic, leading to, what I call, the 3 Ds.

**Dismissal** — trivialising the problem with normative judgements such as "Stop complaining all the time"; "This is so silly"; "You just need to be stronger".

**Defining** — making the problem the single story about them — "I don't think you will be able to do much in life if you are so weak."

**Dumping** — mental-health problems hide issues of gross social injustice. For example, women being diagnosed with depression when they react to marital abuse, young girls who feel rejected and suicidal as they do not fit the rigid definition of "fair & lovely." Their mental-health problems are just a mirror of a society that is unfair and damaged.

Sometimes, all people need are these simple messages:

**"I see you" "I hear you"** — People are multi-storied so let's not define them by single stories of "failure" and "unworthiness." This does not mean we have to "be positive" and "look at the silver lining" as that can be quite dismissive. It means to listen to their problems and also keep sight of their stories of courage, hopes and dreams.

**"Tell me how I can help"** — We might not know what to say or do, so asking might help. It is easy to get into the "let's fix it" or advising mode but step back from it, as it might stop them from accessing their own skills and abilities to find their solution.

**"I have your back"** — If each person knew that there is somebody out there who will accept them the way they are no matter how damaged they are feeling.

It is not a mental-health problem but a problem of social justice

As a narrative therapist (Narrative Therapy was pioneered by Michael White & David Epston), I strongly believe that the solution is not an individual's or a family's responsibility. It is a social problem, and, therefore, we need to take the lens of social justice. There is an old legend-now-turned-to-a-metaphor that canaries were sent down into coal mines to test for gas leaks. Our young people are the canaries of our present time. We have created the toxic society in which they are struggling to survive. Maybe, this pandemic is an opportunity for us to let go of the deadwood of social expectations of success and carve out something new collaboratively.

Rather than quick solutions, here are some questions we can reflect on:

- What do you think are the social beliefs and norms that contribute to the rising mental health problems?
- How fair are these social norms and expectations?
- In what ways can you resist these expectations and support others?

We need nothing short of a social movement to make this happen. We have lost too many lives and too much time. Nobody is going to come and sort this out for us. We have to do it ourselves.

\*Quoted by David Denborough, narrative practitioner, in a workshop

Dr Shelja Sen is a narrative therapist, co-founder Children First, writer, and, in this column, she curates the know-how of the children and young people she works with. Write to her [shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com](mailto:shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com)

## 'It was a golden opportunity to represent the transgender community'

A Manipuri teenager on facing the camera for the first time for the web-series *Paatal Lok*

Tora Agarwala

**ONE OF** the more moving arcs in the acclaimed web series *Paatal Lok* belongs to Mary Lyngdoh, also called Cheeni, who is one of the accused in the murder plot that opens the show. Playing Cheeni is 19-year-old Mairambam Ronaldo Singh from Manipur. In this interview, Singh talks about playing Cheeni, the challenges faced by the transgender community and life back home:



**From Moirang, Manipur, to Mumbai — how did that happen?**

I grew up watching Manipuri cinema. Acting was always a passion for me but never did I think I would be acting in front of a camera in a Hindi language series! The geographical remoteness of the place I come from and the language barrier — these are just some of the challenges we northeasterners face regularly in life. Last December, Eliza Ngangom, a transgender activist from Manipur (also my make-up teacher), told me that people from Mumbai had come looking for someone to play the role of a transgender character. Nikita (Grover) ma'am, the

**Before the series, I have never acted professionally. I was nervous...I felt like I needed to prove myself to the team all the time**

**How was your experience of filming the series?**

There was both joy and worry. I did not know Hindi — so they had to hire a Hindi teacher to give me lessons. Moreover, before this series, I had never acted professionally. I was nervous because I was sharing camera



**SCREEN TIME**  
(Left) Mairambam Ronaldo Singh in a scene from the web-series on Amazon Prime; Singh

space with known faces of the industry, so I felt like I needed to prove myself to the team all the time.

**Did you connect with Cheeni?**

Cheeni is a victim of human greed and lust. To some extent, the series showcases the challenges transgender people face reg-

ularly, such as in the jail scene where she was forced to share the room with other male inmates. *Paatal Lok* also highlights society's ignorance about the existence and problems of the trans community. I think it sent a message that we are also human beings who want to live a dignified life. Honestly, it was a golden opportunity for me to play this role and tell our story. I represent my transgender community in the series.

**Can you tell us a little about your early life in Manipur?**

I was born and brought up in Moirang, a historically and culturally important town of Manipur. My family was not well-to-do — I only attended government schools as it was difficult for my parents to get me admission in a private school. In my early years, I could not come to terms with my sexuality. Gradually — with support from the transgender community — I learnt that it is something I should be proud of. In the past, I have been mocked and subjected to numerous derogatory remarks. But what *Paatal Lok* has taught me is that we can do what we truly love, regardless of the obstacles that come our way.

**Has your life changed after *Paatal Lok*?**

The overall response and acclaim that our series has received so far is amazing. As for me, I am living the same life in Moirang, where I am a make-up artist. People in Manipur — except a few — don't recognise me even after the success of the series since most are not even aware of *Paatal Lok*. First of all, this was not a mainstream Bollywood series, and, second, the culture of Manipur is totally different from mainland India — a lot of young people follow Korean movies and songs. However, I do get a lot of comments, praises and appreciation on my Instagram handle and I do not have words to express how good that makes me feel.



COURTESY: HARPERCOLLINS INDIA

**THINK TANK**

UR Ananthamurthy (right) with Chandan Gowda

# The Critical Insider

A glimpse into the mind of UR Ananthamurthy and his reflections on the many issues of 20th century India

NS Gundur

**R**ENOWNED KANNADA writer UR Ananthamurthy (1932-2014) is best known to us as the author of *Samskara* (1965) and as a public intellectual. URA restlessly reflected on the problems of this world and had an urge to share these reflections with friends and visitors. He, therefore, immensely enjoyed conversing with others as much as thinking and writing about our life. The present book, *A Life in the World: UR Ananthamurthy in Conversation with Chandan Gowda*, is the result of one such conversation.

These conversations were shot at URA's residence by Chandan Gowda, an eminent translator of URA's fiction, along with a team of members from Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. This book, a by-product of such a documentary exercise, is structured into 10 chapters. These chapters not only reveal the mind of one of modern India's great writers but also his penetrating insights into the varied issues of 20th century India. The first three chapters 'Early Years', 'Mysore' and 'Birmingham and After' reconstruct the intellectual formation of URA. From a Brahmin *agrahara* through Maharaja's College in

Mysore to Birmingham University, his experiences with this world contributed to his "world making". He did not completely reject one space for another, but critically imbibed the virtues of all. Therefore, he became a critical insider, as the famous description of him goes.

The Mysore milieu produces in URA a voracious reader beyond the syllabus, and there, in the company of a poet like Gopal Krishna Adiga, he discovers himself as a *navya* writer. However, a completely new world opens up for him as he arrives in Birmingham to pursue his PhD. In England, his association with great cultural critics like Raymond Williams, Richard Hoggart, EP Thompson, David Lodge and the like does not influence him to become yet another Indian cultural critic, but his English days help him rediscover Kannada deeply and imbibe the art of writing a novel.

The remaining seven chapters are conversations that cover the cultural and political problems of India. Particularly, the chapters 'Tradition', 'Language', 'A Few Friends' and 'Karnataka' offer deep insights into literature, language, Kannada writers, the Veerashaiva movement, pen portraits of Kannada writers, intellectuals and politicians, among others. It is in one such conversation that URA makes a distinction between traditionalism and tradi-



A LIFE IN THE WORLD: UR ANANTHAMURTHY IN CONVERSATION WITH CHANDAN GOWDA  
 Harper Collins  
 204 pages  
 ₹399

tion. He says, "How to preserve the past is the concern of the traditionalists. My concern is not how to preserve the past, but how to make the past useful for the present world."

In the chapter 'Being in Public', we come across the idea of a common school which he believes is necessary for bringing about social changes in India. The chapter 'Language' continues his public concern, particularly his views on translation, language in general, and the interface between Kannada and English. For URA, translation is an everyday practice in multilingual spaces like India as we often switch over from one set of codes and registers to another.

In yet another chapter 'Karnataka', URA contemplates on the making of modern Karnataka and the Kannada tradition. The chapter 'India's Political Life' adds another dimension to the conversation as URA examines Mahatma Gandhi, BR Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru and Ram Manohar Lohia. In his view, Gandhi, who played with ideas, was suspicious of the modern world system because we can hurt any part of the world by doing something wrong in any other part of the world. URA looks at Gandhi and Ambedkar as complementary minds. "Both Gandhi and he (Ambedkar)," URA says, "take different spiritual journeys. One takes a spir-

itual journey and says 'Hey Ram' and dies, and Ambedkar takes to Buddhism and dies. Gandhi uses Ram for politics and Ambedkar uses Buddha for politics."

In the final chapter 'In Conclusion', we get to know about URA's personal tastes, including his favourite cuisine, favourite writers, attachments, his dislike for middle-class backbiting, among other things. As a finale, he states that he wishes to be remembered as a teacher and a writer — a Kannada writer.

Gowda's questions, as much straightforward as possible, do not interfere much in the course of the conversation. However, for a writer like URA, deeply probing questions like the craft of his fiction — how he constructed plots and fashioned his Kannada for his fictional narratives; how he wrestled with his writing — and such other questions of *techné* would have made this volume richer.

Gowda's introduction, which gives an overview of URA's works and thought, could have expanded on how such conversations extend the boundaries of autobiography. However, after reading URA's autobiography *Surugi* (2012), it is a different experience to listen to this speaking autobiography.

NS Gundur is the chairman, department of English Studies, Davangere University, Karnataka

# The Long Dark Teatime

A historic crime thriller focuses on the underbelly of the British empire's slave trade

Seema Chishty

**R**EADERS OF crime fiction cannot fully explain, even if they feel it in their bones, what might be so comforting about reading about blood and gore in the middle of a pandemic. The fact that there is a crime in an otherwise placid world, which gets resolved by the last page, gives a sense of (false) comfort to the reader. The setting of the crime, usually idyllic or well-known, gives a sense of double ease that things have stayed the way "they were" once the crime is solved.

On both counts — in describing the sulphuric air of London as well as the grisly murder of an abolitionist — debut novelist Laura Shepherd Robinson is unsparing. In *Blood and Sugar*, a vividly-told murder story set in 1781, you are thrust into a London just about beginning to savour the joys of Empire as well as get to see the underbelly of the slave trade which made it profitable.

A decorated war veteran, Captain Corsham, fancying his chances of moving up in the House of Commons, has his life turned upside down as he faces up to the murder of his oldest friend, killed in circumstances connected to the Empire's darkest dimensions. Corsham recognises that unveiling what his late friend died for is going to put him at odds with the influential West Indian lobby in London, but the truth of what he uncovers forces him to continue regardless.

The atmospheric descriptions of late 18th century London confront the darkness that colonial prosperity is built on. The profit that comes from treating human

beings worse than chattels is confronted each time a tobacco leaf or the stirring of sugar grains in teacups is mentioned. The historical context is skilfully woven into the plot which, though fictional, is based on a real incident aboard a slave ship, *The Zong*. In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, running short of supplies, its captain killed 132 slaves by drowning them. His insurance claim on the murdered slaves is what brought this to court and to light. The owners did not win the claim but there was no prosecution either as the murder of slaves did not ruffle any feathers. Former slave-turned-abolitionist campaigner Olaudah Equiano and Granville Sharp used the incident to campaign for the abolition of the slave trade, even though the abolition bill was passed only in 1807 in Britain. Slavery and systemic oppression are again in the news, this time in the US, following the murder of a black man, George Floyd, by a white police officer.

The stain of slavery may be seen as something outside the Indian consciousness but it is not. Millions were shipped away from India to work as indentured labour in British colonies in an indirect consequence of the abolition of slavery. The *Gimtiyas* — or the people of the "agreement" that they signed and willed off their freedoms — hasn't got the attention in the Indian imagination as it, perhaps, should have. But books like Robinson's shake you into understanding the ways in which the institutionalised system of treating some as "lesser-born" still lives on. The biggest achievement of the author is to leave the reader with a distinct doubt over which of the two crimes it is that this novel seeks to place at the centre. Is it about the brutal murder, or the other crime that constantly hangs in the air and makes London, the capital of the "fledgling empire" connecting mercantile and military power, flourish with its "elegant drawing rooms, washed down by bowls of sweetened teas"?



BLOOD & SUGAR  
 BY LAURA SHEPHERD-ROBINSON  
 Pan Macmillan  
 430 pages; ₹450

# 'Akbar understood the complex nature of Hindustan'

Ira Mukhoty, 51, on writing about Akbar in her new book, the Mughal response to medical emergencies and why their present-day vilification is a British legacy

Paromita Chakrabarti

**FROM THE *zenana* in your second book to the monarch who would become the face of the dynasty, what drew you to the Mughals in the first place?**

The Mughals are very close to us in time. Only around 250 years separate us from their glory days, following which they continued to exist, diminished, for another 100 years. So in a very physical, immediate sense, the legacy of the Mughals is all around us. It can be seen in the buildings that litter the landscape of India, in the clothes we wear, the *attar* we use, the words that seep into our vocabulary, the ingredients in our kitchens. It is even there, in the faux-Shahjahan arches and overly-creamy dishes served in 'Mughalai' restaurants in watery British towns.

In my first book, *Heroines* (2017), I encountered the story of Jahanara Begum, Shah Jahan's daughter. I was struck by her independence, wealth, her search for meaning outside of her opulent lifestyle. That led her to the Sufi path and the two biographies she wrote glow with the ambition of being taken as seriously as her brother Dara Shukoh, and her father, and not allowing her gender to undermine her. I found her message very moving, given that her memory had almost completely been erased, and that brought me to write *Daughters of the Sun* (2018). Since it was a re-evaluation of the *zenana* of the 'Great Mughals', a fascination for Akbar was inevitable. Akbar casts a huge shadow on Mughal history and on India as it is today. At the same time, there is a great deal of myth-making that inevitably accompanies such a personality. I thought it would be an interesting exercise to re-examine Akbar and his legacy using some fascinating new insights from art historians. Despite the fact that Akbar

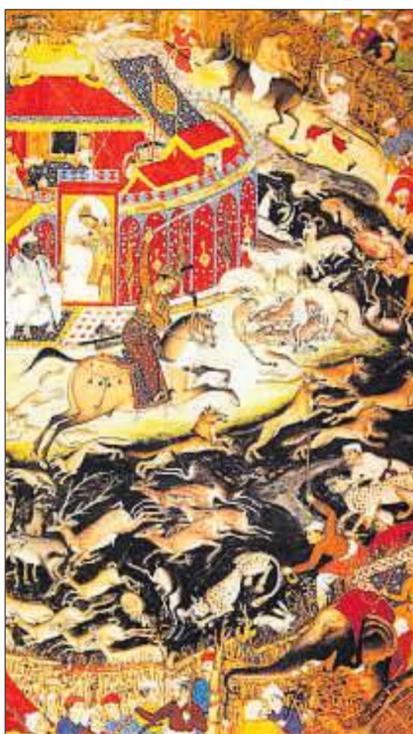
is such a talismanic figure, not nearly enough modern biographies in English have been written over the past few decades.

**How do you react to the present-day vilification of the Mughal dynasty?**

The vilification of Mughal history is, unfortunately, a product of a colonial legacy. It is the British who began speaking in terms of a pristine, un sullied earlier 'Hindu' era to distinguish from the later 'Muslim' one, as separate entities, in the 19th century. This was done to justify their own incursion into Hindustan but, unfortunately, this narrative continues to gain traction. Identities were never so simplistic as Hindu or Muslim, or indeed Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi, etc. Identities were complex things, shaped by clan loyalties, geography, language, culture, etc, with religion being one of many factors, often not even the most important one. Which is why, I believe, it is all the more important to write narrative histories for the lay person, so that these nuances can be made easily accessible for interested people.

**Would you say Akbar was the first of the Mughals to have a nuanced understanding of the syncretic nature of India? Is that why he eventually moved away from the scorched-earth policy of his Chittorgarh siege?**

Akbar was the first to respond to the diverse nature of Hindustan and he made that response the very scaffolding of the empire. Both Babur and Humayun were already aware of this diversity and also quite pragmatic about the need to work with a non-Muslim majority. They both had a large number of Hindu soldiers in their armies due to their Timurid legacy, which was entirely practical when it came to religion. But neither ruled long



COURTESY: ALEPH BOOK COMPANY

**HIGH AND MIGHTY**

A painting depicting Akbar during a Qumargha hunt, which served to demonstrate the emperor's wealth and power

enough to translate that into a coherent response. Akbar did, and that was part of his genius — to understand the complex nature of Hindustan and to create a system of administration, in which all members were invested in the system. People would not be rewarded or punished because of their religion, but through their talent and abilities.

The siege of Chittor came early in Akbar's reign (1567-68), when he was yet to formulate a clear policy. He was still facing challenges on all fronts. It was the very brutality of Chittor that allowed Akbar to then use his power as a deterrent. It was only after the fall of Chittor and Ranthambore that many previously recalcitrant Rajput clans joined the empire, bringing lasting peace. So, Akbar may have viewed it as a necessary stage in the formation of a large, wealthy and stable empire.

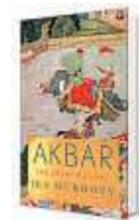
**Akbar's reign began with a pandemic and there was another epidemic after his Gujarat campaign (1572-73). How did he respond to these medical challenges?**

There have been famines, followed by epidemics, throughout history. Famines were frequent and led to widespread deaths, which then caused diseases. The people seemed to have an awareness that contagion could be spread through contact because there are accounts of entire families dying together in their homes because they locked themselves in. As far as Akbar is concerned, there is an account of a famine towards the end of the 16th century in Srinagar. Akbar took active steps to alleviate suffering — he set up food kitchens,

abolished more than 50 harsh taxes and began the construction of a fort on Hari Parbat, for which hundreds of paid labourers were employed so that they had money for food.

**You've dealt with the independence of the Mughal women and Akbar's sensitivity to them, but during his reign, the assimilation with Hindustani culture slowly invisibilised them. How do you explain this dichotomy?**

When Akbar married his Rajput wives in a bid to stabilise the empire, he was very young. The influence of the elite Rajput clan culture on the young Padshah was, therefore, substantial. One of these influences was very probably a desire, like the Rajput clans, to 'invisibilise' women behind a stricter concept of *purdah* and a fixed and defined *zenana* space. At the same time, Akbar also sought to bring order and structure into all aspects of Mughal life and society. If you go through Abu'l Fazl's *Ain-i-Akbari*, you will see that there are elaborate procedures noted down for a range of activities, almost baffling in their minutiae, from rules for the feeding of the royal elephants to the keeping of the royal tents. In a sense, the 'ordering' of the female component of the Mughal royal family fell within this same framework. It did not, in any way, suggest that Akbar altered his view towards women, which remained empathetic and caring. He continued to challenge prevailing attitudes towards women, whether it was the practice of *sati* or the stigma against widow remarriage in Hinduism or the discriminatory laws of inheritance in Islam.



AKBAR: THE GREAT MUGHAL  
 BY IRA MUKHOTY  
 Aleph Book Company  
 624 pages  
 ₹799

## THOSE MONTHS, THOSE MINUTES

Forced into an unprecedented lockdown, sport is staring at an unfathomable despair. Indian athletes, though, have given the country reasons to rejoice in the past.

**NIRUPAMA SANJEEV** tells **Shahid Jha** how she became the first Indian woman to win a match in the singles main draw of a Grand Slam.



# Sign of the times

Seasoned autograph hunters face existential crisis because of pandemic protocols

**SANDIP G**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

CHANDIGARH'S AVID autograph-hunter Dharam Vir Duggal was planning to buy a PPE kit and pair of gloves when he heard that the much-delayed Indian Premier League (IPL), despite the COVID-19 outbreak, might take place later this year.

Stuck on 572 signatures, the 58-year-old who doubles up as an occasional cricket reporter for local newspapers, was banking on the star-studded T20 tournament to take his collection to the '600' milestone. Far away in England, James Brighton too was hopeful to take his tally of signed Manchester United scarves to 11,777 till the time he heard that the English Premier League would be held behind closed doors.

With live sport action, including the IPL, expected to take place without spectators, memorabilia-seekers are facing what the grand old man of the autograph collectors' club, Chennai's T Balasubramaniam, a 75-year-old Chepauk regular, calls an "existential crisis". "Already, a lot of celebrities have tie-ups with different companies. Then there is the selfie army, which has outnumbered us. Now the players and celebrities have more reason to refuse us," he says.

Duggal too is despondent as he isn't used to being not allowed for cricket games. "I had zeroed in on the players, already brought 40 miniature bats (to be autographed), so that I can complete 600 autographs during this IPL season. They are all lying in a room gathering dust," he says.

The obsessed collector shares how he thought things would have been easier for him this season as only die-hards like him would turn up for games. "I had thought there wouldn't be much of a crowd chasing players. You know these selfie-hunters, who take a lot of time. I had plans to go in wearing a PPE kit and a pair of gloves, one for me and the other for the player (signing the autograph). The pen and the bat will be sanitised too," he says.

Duggal says the planning to get a prized signature is no different from a *shikhar*. "You wait and wait for your prey, and then latch onto it. If you can get through Chandigarh



(Clockwise from top) James Brighton was hoping to get many more Manchester United scarves autographed. Amarjeet Singh has Diego Maradona's autograph. Dharam Vir Duggal had bought 40 miniature bats for this season's IPL.



Police, you could slip past any policemen in the world," he claims.

For this persistent bunch, it's not just ink from a celebrity's pen immortalised on a piece of paper that thrills him, but the pursuit excites them too. "It's like James Bond. There is no thrill in managing an autograph without enduring some pain. You can buy autographs these days, so it's not about signatures as such, but the whole journey of getting a



cricket to sign. The longer I have to wait, the more precious the signature will be."

### Prized possession

Relentlessness pays off; so does ingenuity. Faridabad-based autograph-hunter Amarjeet Singh narrates a story of how he procured Diego Maradona's signature after several heartbreaks with a flash of ingenuity. "I went to Kolkata three times, but twice

(Maradona) cancelled the trip for one reason or the other. The third time, I was determined. But there were thousands of fans like me. But I had done my bit of genius. I had an artist draw a huge portrait of his and I began waving it. He saw it and called me by his side and gave his signature. It's the most memorable one I have," he says.

Unlike the upbeat Duggal, 28-year-old Singh, who works in the private sector, has resigned to the reality that autograph-seeking is implausible this year. "It cuts both ways. They wouldn't be comfortable signing autographs, nor would I be. The virus doesn't differentiate between a celebrity and an autograph hunter. I have to be careful about my own health. So I will lay low until the virus subsides and everything is back to normal," says Amarjeet, who has in his treasured collection the original signatures of Albert Einstein and Alexander Graham Bell.

United fan Brighton too is worried as he insists on buying scarves from the vendor from outside the stadium. "Mostly, counterfeit ones, the club anyway makes a lot of dime. Let these fellas too," he says. But with the corona protocol not allowing anyone near the stadium, he finds it tough to secure one as the IPL restarted.

But he hasn't given up. Amidst the uncertainty, all the autograph seekers agree on one thing: "The next autograph will be the sweetest of their lives." The next scarf, Brighton says, will be framed and hung on his drawing room. "Except for the two months when there's a break, I bring home a scarf every week, now I have to keep waiting till the spectators are allowed inside and the shops are opened," he says.

A former accountant from Chennai, Balasubramaniam informs that autograph-seekers are "eternal optimists".

Duggal exemplifies this. "I wanted to get Donald Bradman's autograph. I kept on writing letters to him, he didn't respond to the first 49. But to the 50th, he replied and gave me an autographed gold coin. So if I have a name in my mind, I will go to any extent to get his autograph. Last year, I jumped in front of (Chris) Gayle's car to get his autograph, as he had earlier refused me. Whether spectators are allowed or not, if cricket resumes, I will find my way," he says.

# United stave off defeat via late penalty; Arsenal humbled



Tottenham's Eric Dier fouled United's Paul Pogba, which resulted in a penalty being awarded. Bruno Fernandes converted to secure a draw. File

Paul Pogba made an immediate impact on his return from surgery, earning a penalty converted by Bruno Fernandes that recovered for Manchester United a 1-1 draw at Tottenham in the English Premier League. While the teams have endured three months without games in the pandemic, Pogba hasn't played since December. And he entered only in the 63rd minute at an empty Tottenham Stadium on Friday with the hosts leading from Steven Bergwijn's first-half strike through goalkeeper David de Gea.

But Pogba, whose United future has been mired in uncertainty, helped to inject some attacking dynamism United had been missing. Pogba was bundled off the ball by Eric

Dier and Fernandes netted his third penalty since joining United in January. United was denied a second penalty when VAR overturned the decision to penalize Dier for another foul -- this time on Fernandes. United is three points behind fourth-placed Chelsea having played an extra game.

Arsenal slumped to a last-gasp 2-1 Premier League defeat at relegation-threatened Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday in a blow to the London club's chances of securing European football next season. Frenchman Neal Maupay struck the winner five minutes into stoppage time after Nicolas Pepe's delightful second-half opener had been cancelled out by Lewis Dunk. **AGENCIES**

### US reopen plans face setback

Hopes that sport in the United States might soon return to business as usual suffered a blow on Friday as athletes from golf to hockey tested positive for the novel coronavirus, triggering a shutdown of some facilities. The PGA Tour, which only restarted last week after a three-month COVID-19 forced hiatus, confirmed its first positive test, removing Nick Watney from second-round play at the RBC Heritage in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Over a 24-hour period, Major League Soccer, National Football League, National Hockey League and Major League Baseball confirmed positive tests. **REUTERS**

### Mortaza tests positive

Former captain Mashrafe Mortaza and two other Bangladesh cricketers, Nazmul Islam and Nafees Iqbal have tested positive for the coronavirus. The 36-year-old Mortaza was reportedly unwell for the last couple of days and tested positive for the contagious disease on Saturday. He is currently in self-isolation at his residence. Mortaza, who plays only ODIs and had stepped down from captaincy earlier this year, is the second high-profile cricketer to get infected by the disease. Mortaza, who is also a member of Bangladesh parliament, was quite active with his philanthropic activities amid the pandemic. **PTI**

## BRIDGE

The first rule of declarer play is to not take a trick until you are sure what you will do next. Here is an example.  
Declarer South (Contract 3NT)

NORTH		WEST		NORTH		EAST		SOUTH	
♠ 3		1C	2S	3S				Pass	
♥ A5									
♦ A10985									
♣ A10985									
SOUTH									
♠ K1064									
♥ KQ8									
♦ QJ4									
♣ QJ7									

West's 2S was a weak jump overall. West led the 8♠ from SA-J9872, and East played the queen. You have one spade stopper, but is there any way to stop West from taking the rest of his spades as soon as East gets on lead?

The West Hand: S-A-J9872 H-6 D-32 C-K642  
The East Hand: S-Q5H-J1097432 D-K76 C-3

Here are some questions. 1. What high cards does West have in spades? 2. How many spades does West have? 3. What other high cards might West have for his vulnerable bid? 4. What is South's correct line of play?

Answers: 1. If you apply the rule of 11 after a fourth-best lead (something you should always do when you get a spot card led), you will do this arithmetic. Eight from eleven is three. There are three cards higher than the eight outside of the opening leader's hand. East played the queen, and you have the king and ten. This accounts for the high cards in the spade suit. West must have the remaining high spades, so he is marked with a suit headed by the SAJ98.

2. West bid 2S, vulnerable. Even the most daring bidder will have six cards or more for this bid when vulnerable. East had the queen and may have one more, but that is all.

3. West is vulnerable and he ought to have more than just his spade suit. He probably has one of the minor suit kings. Who knows? He might have both. If he has both, you can take 13 tricks.

4. The answer to this question depends on how many tricks you want. If you want 13, go ahead and win the first trick and start finessing. You actually have 13 tricks if the finesses work.

Let East have his SQ. He will return a spade, and regardless of what West does, you will have nine tricks.

As long as you can count on East not having three spades, it is okay to lose the first and second and even the third spade because it will stop West from leading the fourth, fifth, and sixth spades.

West leads the H3. You win in hand with the king, and once again you have to deal with the two minor-suit kings before West gets his suit running. Which suit do you play first, and how?

## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.  
One faces the future with one's past. - Pearl S. Buck

OSAER	ENRTUU
STOAT	AFOYFP

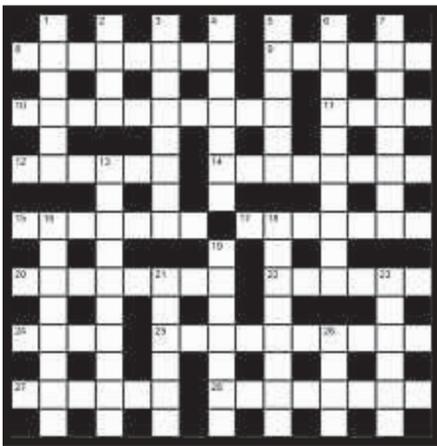
SOLUTION: AROSE, TOAST, UNTRUE, PAVORF.

## SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2274

- QUICK CLUES**  
**ACROSS**
- Gambler (8)
  - Group of nine (6)
  - Passive (10)
  - Writing fluids (4)
  - Hand covering (6)
  - Jewellery items (8)
  - Compound of nitrogen reacting with a metal (7)
  - Musician - "fit lust" anagram (7)
  - Effectiveness (8)
  - Drink of the gods (6)
  - Japan's first capital (4)
  - Trophies (10)
  - English river (6)
  - Liking (8)

- DOWN**
- Saturday in Paris (6)
  - Used to be (4)
  - Achieved or accomplished (8)
  - ... at : reaches a conclusion by deduction? (7)
  - Shooting star? (6)
  - A substance used as a germ killer (10)
  - Parcels (8)
  - Ends or concludes (10)
  - Red and sore (8)
  - Protective cases for lamps or lights (8)
  - Cosmetic blepharoplasty (7)
  - Agree to (6)
  - Not moving, free from trouble - may be dead (2,4)
  - Juice of the grape (4)

- CRYPTIC CLUES**  
**ACROSS**
- NY heir requiring change for a sovereign, but which one? (5,1)
  - Beat up as a matter of course (4)
  - Street hoodlum spins around the rink rail (8)
  - Swimmer with a deep voice? (3,4)
  - Cycling out from a western hotel to fish (6)
  - They have caused trouble in the highlands, as clans have in a way (10)
  - Young boy's voice is continuous (8)
  - Flowery glowers from the lowlands? (5,5)
  - Downtrodden, it leads to inflation (4,4)



- Lower-class irregular noun (3-1)
- Money you don't get for nothing? (4,3,3)
- Mother graduate and me in a city (6)
- Candidates oppose mine on prime environmental sites (8)
- Finds a job for a fool putting on a wrong sign (7)
- Convertible to cash - i517 (6)
- Was a solicitor to you, Edward (6)
- Old writer's material (4)

### Solutions to 2273

**QUICK CLUES** Across: 7 Meson, 8 Underhand, 10 Revile, 11 Detained, 12 Alcatraz, 13 Cheez, 15 Invents, 17 Pleased, 20 Aft, 22 Retailer, 25 Chowmein, 26 To a man, 27 Eagle-eyed, 28 Mould. Down: 1 Revealing, 2 Motivate, 3 Anodize, 4 Vertical, 5 Shrike, 6 Sneer, 9 Lear, 14 Vegetable, 16 Tethered, 18 Annimator, 19 Princess, 21 Jewels, 23 Turu, 24 Cheat. **CRYPTIC CLUES** Across: 7 Zaire, 8 Allagreed, 10 Corona, 11 Birdbath, 12 Detsroy, 13 Musk, 15 Belgian, 17 Snoring, 20 Well, 22 All right, 25 Prevouer, 26 Co-her, 27 Come under, 28 Weaver. Down: 1 Can-opener, 2 Trooping, 3 Old boys, 4 Dairyman, 5 Erebus, 6 Beats, 9 NATO, 14 Unchained, 16 All-round, 18 Railroad, 19 Parsley, 21 Ervies, 23 Lice, 24 Crook.

## If it's your Birthday

### Sunday June 21

You're still thinking hard about solid facts. Although you've got many big plans you need to put them into practice. In emotional matters, you seem to be growing closer to the truth.

### Monday June 22

You'll find out the truth about other people's intentions. You'll be working hard, yet your deep personal task is to perform favours for others. The next year looks like a fine moment for forming new friendships.

### Tuesday June 23

You still seem to be the boss, but the only way to take control is to let people share in the fun. You may have to play a subtle game.

### Wednesday June 24

Although life seems to grow busier, you'll actually have less to do in certain areas. Your long-term cycle reveals that sociable conditions are just around the corner.

### Thursday June 25

Your need for stability and security is matched by a general increase in restlessness. The urge to move on or make yourself scarce is not a new one. You can really make a genuine new start.

### Friday June 26

It's a good idea to refine your ideas, clarify your plans, and come to a better understanding of your desires before you communicate them to other people.

### Saturday June 27

Moon challenges, yet also supports, your wonderfully serious Sun. You'll be driven by sincere beliefs than usual. But listen carefully to family members.

## YOUR WEEK AHEAD

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Some things are as you want them -- but others are not. The main word of advice this week is to be selective when choosing new commitments, especially if your romantic hopes are high. Potential partners will be impressed if you score some striking successes, so it's important to focus on those areas where you know you can win.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Your personal planets are in a mischievous mood. It seems that you may now be deeply attracted to someone who completely fails to notice your abundant charms. Towards the end of the current period you may decide to make a complete break with your emotional past, even if it does mean upsetting someone.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Family affairs are moving forward in a positive manner. Work is also on your mind this week, and you may have to rely on your own resources to a far greater extent than in the past. Perhaps there will be a staff shortage. Or perhaps an employer will take a different view of your talents.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

It would do you no good to make precise forecasts for how this period will turn out for you are in a position to break away from all your past circumstances. If you follow your dreams and pursue your most mystical vision of life, you will have a bright future.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You're in for a busy professional period, and it may be important to reschedule some of your less pressing engagements. Probably the best way to get what you want is to team up with people who are older than you, or at least have more skill, wisdom and experience. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

A financial breakthrough you have been waiting for could be closer than you think. Your ideas will be perfectly workable, so don't lose sight of them whether they affect your routine chores or purely personal aspirations. A romantic bonus gives you a boost at the end of the week, which should come as a pleasant surprise.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

People you meet now will fall into two types. There are people who are deep, intense and liable to get carried away. On the other there are those whose outlook will be overwhelmingly serious and who will help you keep your feet firmly on solid ground. Helpful strangers will come to your aid.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Never again should you worry that Fate is about to overwhelm you. Instead, you should put on a smiling face and ask others for all the help and practical assistance that you need. Life is not only a question of emotional survival, but also of getting what you want for your physical happiness.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

The one word of warning now is that Mars may make you rather jumpy and inclined to become aggressive with people who have done nothing to earn your hostility. The problem is that you're liable to feel a little irritated, or angry, while the causes of such feelings are impossible to pin down.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Romantically, this could be a deeply secretive phase, and you will resent partners' attempts to keep an eye on your movements or pin your feelings down. Discreet encounters could soon become personal knowledge, though, so stick to your normal integrity. At work, stay with existing agreements -- at least for now.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

If you are to make the current situation crystal-clear you must get back to the drawing-board and work out exactly what it is that you want. One complication is that Venus, goddess of love, is tending to obscure your romantic feelings. And as long as you're not sure what you feel, you should not be making far promises.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The most amazing planetary line-up at the moment concerns Pluto, the planet of ultimate truth, an influence of the most remarkable potential. Now is the time to banish forever that shyness which has led to such uncertainty and doubt in your romantic life. Other people really do have faith in you, and in your skills and experience.