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## It's midnight ; Do you know where your kid is ?

### Pandemic Brings Out Kids' Sneaky Side: Forbidden Apps, Burner Phones

Socially isolated and bored, kids are finding workarounds to parental controls on their devices; experts say parents have been doing it wrong

Monitor children's activity on these popular social media apps and games.



Adam4Adam



Badoo



Chat Roulette



Facebook



Fiesta



Grindr



Hot or Not



Holla



Houseparty



Instagram



KiK



Live.me



Meet.me



Omegle



Paltalk



Skout



Telegram



Tik Tok



Tinder



Tumblr



Whatsapp



Whisper



Wishbone



Yubo



Discord



Fortnite



Minecraft

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# Home Business Auto Insurance

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# The precarious status of H-1B visa holders in the US

Some sort of restrictions could be imposed even within weeks. In the proclamation, Trump directed the secretaries of labour and homeland security to review various visa programmes and recommend appropriate measures



(News Agencies)United States (US) President Donald Trump recently signed a new presidential proclamation that imposed a 60-day ban on issuing Green Cards to certain immigrants. India's information technology (IT) industry and hundreds of thousands of H-1B visa holders in the US — a significant majority of whom are Indian nationals — heaved a huge sigh of relief. The proclamation did not eliminate the 65,000 H-1B visas for fiscal year 2021.

However, H-1B workers, who number more than half a million, are not out of the woods yet. It is unlikely that they will be, till the economy picks up steam, or, at the very least, until all the ballots are counted after the presidential election on November 3.

Some sort of restrictions could be imposed even within weeks. In the proclamation, Trump directed the secretaries of labour and homeland security to review various visa programmes and recommend appropriate

measures, "and ensure the prioritisation, hiring, and employment of United States workers".

Even if no additional measures are implemented, the H-1B community is living in fear of job loss and the thought of having to leave the country. If the economy doesn't turn the corner, anywhere from 20% to 25% of H-1B employees could lose their jobs, according to one estimate.

Even if the gradual reopening of the economy results in some sort of recovery, there is no question the post-coronavirus pandemic terrain will be challenging for the Indian IT sector in the US. With the health care infrastructure overwhelmed by the pandemic and the economy in the middle of a recession, the upcoming presidential election, which is less than six months away, will be fought largely on these two issues. And jobs, 30 million of them having vanished, will be at the front and centre of the campaign for both sides.

H-1B was a big target for Trump in 2016, who repeatedly criticised it during the presidential campaign. He once vowed to "end forever the use of the H-1B as a cheap labour programme", and make it "an absolute requirement to hire American workers first for every visa and immigration programme" without any exception.

But once in power, Trump largely avoided talking about

the H-1B programme. The one major action he took was an executive order signed just three months after swearing-in as the 45th president of the US. That was the "Buy American and Hire American" order, which directed federal agencies to "propose new rules and issue new guidance" to "protect the interests of" US workers.

During the first three years of Trump's presi-

dency, the US economy created more than 6.5 million jobs, which weakened the argument that H-1B workers are depriving US citizens of jobs. But now, with more than 33 million jobs vanishing in less than three months, the voices of H-1B critics are resonating more than ever. With his management of the coronavirus pandemic diminishing his reelection prospects significantly, one shouldn't be sur-

prised if Trump returns to his 2016 self during the campaign. There is a big difference between then and now, however. In 2016, it was all rhetoric from an insurgent campaigner; now, being the president, he has the tools to implement what he preached four years ago. In the meantime, H-1B workers and the Indian IT industry should pray for the best but expect and be prepared for the worst.

## 3M sues Amazon storefront that allegedly sold fake N95 masks for \$23 apiece

(News Agencies)The 3M corporation has filed suit against a third-party Amazon seller called KMJ Trading Inc, which allegedly sold more than \$350,000 worth of N95 respirator masks, as first reported by The Wall Street Journal. The products were listed for as much as \$23 per mask — a huge markup from the list price of \$1.27. Amazon has struggled with counterfeit mask sales since the beginning of the novel coronavirus outbreak, when N95 masks became an urgent necessity for essential workers. Amazon warned Marketplace sellers against price gouging as early as February, ultimately restricting sales of

both face masks and hand sanitizer on March 11th. KMJ's alleged price-gouging took place before those restrictions went into effect, beginning on February 24th.

KMJ itself used multiple accounts to make those sales, offering 45 different products across three different storefronts. The lawsuit cites a number of customer complaints about the masks, which appear to have been both deceptively labeled and occasionally defective. "I think these are fake N95 Mask, and seller price gouged me 20 times the retail price," one

complaint reads. "Ten-pack of fake N95 mask for \$150



is just crooked during this pandemic." 3M hasn't raised its price for N95 masks, and the US supply has been tightly controlled by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. That combination of high demand and restricted supply created the perfect conditions for price-gouging, and KMJ is far from the

only company to take advantage of the situation. As part of its filing, 3M says it has filed eleven other lawsuits related to counterfeit products and price gouging during the pandemic. Reached for comment, Amazon applauded the lawsuit and emphasized its anti-counterfeiting efforts on Marketplace. The company says it has removed more than 500,000 pandemic-related products from the marketplace since the outbreak began. "We're proud to be working with 3M to hold these bad actors accountable," said Dharmesh Mehta, Amazon's VP in charge of customer trust and partner support. "When we find a bad actor violating our policies, we work quickly to remove the products and take action on the bad actor, as we've done here, and we welcome collaboration from brands like 3M." 3M has asked for statutory damages as high as \$2 million dollars and a permanent injunction against the defendants from selling goods identified with 3M. "By selling and delivering to customers counterfeit, damaged, deficient, or otherwise altered respirators and engaging in price-gouging, Defendants caused irreparable damage to 3M's reputation," the complaint reads. "There is no adequate remedy at law for these injuries."

**Melissa Mark-Viverito** @MMViverito

"We don't need any fake Democrats that are going to be coming into our district to sow division and hatred or to talk about denying rights to women and the LGBTQ+ community."

Join me in crossing out Rev. Diaz Sr. from your ballot! Put him on the Republican side where he belongs!

0:40 20 views

10:51 AM · Jun 10, 2020 · Twitter Web App

## Melissa Mark-Viverito Participates in Back-to-Back NY-15 Debates

(News Agencies)BRONX, NY — Last night, former Speaker of the New York City Council and candidate for New York's 15th Congressional District Melissa Mark-Viverito joined her opponents in the debate stage. Mark-Viverito participated in the News 12 debate and the Bronx-wide People's Candidates Forum where she discussed police reform, the COVID-19 pandemic, immigration reform, our economy, affordable housing, NYCHA, and our health care system! Mark-Viverito also took the opportunity to reinforce her stance that Reverend Ruben Diaz Sr.

needs to drop-out of the NY-15 race. Mark-Viverito stated, "we don't need any fake Democrats who align with Trump in this time of hate and division. We need coalition builders that are going to bring justice and equity to our community." Watch Melissa share her thoughts on Rev. Diaz after the debates. The Bronx-wide coalition is a group of organizations that are committed to fighting for racial justice, economic democracy, intergenerational voices, environmental sustainability, and putting those most impacted at the center of

decision-making. Mark-Viverito's performance was especially notable when asked to describe her plan to address immigration reform in Congress. Mark-Viverito noted, "the issues with these federal packages is they have left out small businesses, left out undocumented people, and mixed-status families. It's disgraceful and should not be allowed." The Bronx 12 debate was streamed live on Facebook and will be broadcast on their channel this Tuesday, June 16th. Both debates are available to watch in full on Facebook @News12Bx and @NWBCCC.



# Obscure Indian cyber firm spied on politicians, investors worldwide

**Although they receive a fraction of the attention devoted to state-sponsored groups or headline-grabbing heists, “cyber mercenary” services are widely used.**

(News Agencies) A little-known Indian IT firm offered its hacking services to help clients spy on more than 10,000 email accounts over a period of seven years.

Delhi-based BellTroX InfoTech Services targeted government officials in Europe, gambling tycoons in the Bahamas, and well-known investors in the United States including private equity giant KKR and short seller Muddy Waters, according to three former employees, outside researchers, and a trail of online evidence.

Aspects of BellTroX's hacking spree aimed at American targets are currently under investigation by U.S. law enforcement, five people familiar with the matter told Reuters. The U.S. Department of Justice declined to comment.

Reuters does not know the

identity of BellTroX's clients. In a telephone interview, the company's owner, Sumit Gupta, declined to disclose who had hired him and denied any wrongdoing.

Muddy Waters founder Carson Block said he was “disappointed, but not surprised, to learn that we were likely targeted for hacking by a client of BellTroX.” KKR declined to comment.

Researchers at internet watchdog group Citizen Lab, who spent more than two years mapping out the infrastructure used by the hackers, said they had “high confidence” that BellTroX employees were behind the espionage campaign.

“This is one of the largest spy-for-hire operations ever exposed,” said Citizen Lab researcher John Scott-Railton.

Although they receive a fraction of the attention devoted to state-sponsored espionage groups or headline-grabbing heists, “cyber mercenary” services are widely used, he said. “Our investigation found that no sector is immune.” A cache of data reviewed by Reuters provides insight into the operation, detailing tens of thousands of malicious messages designed to trick victims into giving up their passwords that were sent by BellTroX between 2013 and 2020. The data was supplied on condition of anonymity by online service providers used by the hackers after Reuters alerted the firms to unusual patterns of activity on their platforms.

The data is effectively a digital hit list showing who was targeted and when. Reuters validated the



data by checking it against emails received by the targets. On the list: judges in South Africa, politicians in Mexico, lawyers in France and environmental groups in the United States. These dozens of people, among the thousands targeted by BellTroX, did not respond to messages or declined comment. Reuters was not able to establish how many of the hacking attempts were successful. BellTroX's Gupta was charged in a 2015 hacking case in which two U.S. private investigators admitted to paying him to hack the

accounts of marketing executives. Gupta was declared a fugitive in 2017, although the U.S. Justice Department declined to comment on the current status of the case or whether an extradition request had been issued.

Speaking by phone from his home in New Delhi, Gupta denied hacking and said he had never been contacted by law enforcement. He said he had only ever helped private investigators download messages from email inboxes after they provided him with login details.

## Four Vande Bharat Mission evacuees test Covid-19 positive in Bihar

**The Covid 19 positive cases in Bihar are driven mainly by the returning migrant work force.**



(News Agencies) Four out of 2,284 passengers who landed at Bihar's Bodh Gaya international airport after evacuation from different countries in the second phase of the Vande Bharat Mission, have tested

positive for Sars-CoV-2, which causes coronavirus diseases (Covid-19).

“Two of the four passengers to have tested positive for the virus had arrived from Qatar and one each from Oman and Saudia

Arabia,” said Gaya civil surgeon Dr Brajesh Kumar Singh.

The Gulf returnees to have tested positive for the virus belong to Bihar's Gaya, Gopalganj, East Champaran and Muzaffarpur districts.

Results of five other samples sent to the Patna Medical College (PMCH) for reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), a confirmatory test for Covid-19, were pending, he added. These passengers were tested on differ-

ent dates after they landed at the Gaya international airport between May 31 and June 6. They are presently undergoing treatment at the Anugrah Narayan Magadh Medical College Hospital (ANMMCH), which has been designated a Covid-19 special facility, added Dr Singh.

“Four of the 11 samples sent for confirmatory test to the PMCH have been found to be positive, while two samples, which had tested positive on the

TrueNat machine, have turned out to be negative. Five results are pending,” said Dr Singh. 52 of the 2,284 air passengers to have arrived at Gaya were found to be symptomatic. Of them, 10 tested positive on the TrueNat machine, while another sample of a Covid-positive woman passenger's husband, was also sent for confirmatory test to the PMCH, he added.

“The Air India operated flights from nine countries to Gaya during phase-II of the Vande Bharat Mission, catering to around 2,500 passengers from Bihar and Jharkhand between May 18 and June 6,” said Dilip Kumar, director of the Gaya international airport.

“Our airport facilitated movement of 12 Air India aircraft from nine countries under Vande Bharat Mission, besides catering to special evacuation flights from Myanmar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman during this period,” added Kumar. Notably, 72% of Bihar's 5,583 Covid-19 cases are among the migrant workers. Over 2 million migrants have returned to the state by 1,491 Shramik Special trains between May 3 and June 5, said Anupam Kumar, secretary, information and public relations department, Bihar.

## Trump administration rolls back Obama-era health care protections for transgenders

In a move applauded by President Donald Trump's conservative religious base, his administration on Friday finalized a rule that overturns Obama-era protections for transgender people against sex discrimination in health care.

The Department of Health and Human Services said it will enforce sex discrimination protections “according to the plain meaning of the word ‘sex’ as male or female and as determined by biology.” This rewrites an Obama-era regulation that sought a broader understanding shaped by a person's internal sense of being male, female, neither or a combination.

LGBTQ groups say explicit protections are needed for people seeking sex-

reassignment treatment, and even for transgender people who need care for common illnesses such as diabetes or heart problems.

But conservatives say the Obama administration exceeded its legal authority in broadly interpreting gender. Behind the dispute over legal rights is a medically recognized condition called “gender dysphoria” — discomfort or distress caused by a discrepancy between the gender that a person identifies as and the gender at birth. Consequences can include severe depression. Treatment can range from sex-reassignment surgery and hormones to people changing their outward appearance by adopting a different hairstyle or clothing. “Under the old Obama rule,

medical professionals could have been forced to facilitate gender reassignment surgeries and abortions — even if they believed this was a violation of their conscience or believed it harmful to the patient,” said Mary Beth Waddell of the religious conservative Family Research Council. But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, “Religious freedom is no justification for hatred or bigotry, and every American has the right to seek and receive care without intimidation or fear.” The American Medical Association strongly criticized the Trump administration's action. “The federal government should never make it more difficult for individuals to access health care — during a pandemic or any other time,” said Dr. Susan Bailey, the group's president.



# SC directs NHRC to examine allegations of bonded labour in brick kilns in UP, Bihar

The Supreme Court also asked the NHRC to issue guidelines for protection and rehabilitation of bonded labourers in the light of their increased vulnerability due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



considered the complaints and issued directions on May 11 to the district administrations of Rohtas in Bihar and Sambhal in UP, where the three brick kilns are situated, to conduct inquiry and submit reports but no action was taken by the district authorities prompting Hussain to approach the apex court on May 25. When the matter first came up for hearing before the Supreme Court on June 3, the top court had issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar governments and also asked the District Magistrates of Rohtas and Sambhal to submit their reports regarding the allegations. The court after considering the action taken reports by the two states on Tuesday sent the matter back to the NHRC while granting

petitioner the liberty to move the Supreme Court again in case of delay by NHRC in dealing with the matter. Two of the three brick kilns are in Rohtas district in Bihar (in Bharkol and Dhaudarh villages) and one is in Sambhal district in UP. According to the petitioner, the Bharkol brick kiln has 41 bonded labourers including 14 children while the Dhaudarh kiln has 84 such workers including 27 dependent children. The one at Sambhal has 62 bonded labourers. All the 187 people are from scheduled caste communities.

Hussain had alleged that the labourers at the brick kiln are prevented from leaving the facility on their own, denied their statutory minimum wage, physically and verbally abused, and even the women and children

are often made to work long shifts of over 12 hours. "One of the labourers (at the Dhaudarh brick kiln) was beaten on his head with a stick and left bleeding merely for asking for his statutory wages. Three victims who are pregnant, are among such labourers, who are not being provided any medical assistance," the petitioner alleged. The petition filed through advocate Srishti Agnihotri said that after the NHRC passed orders directing inquiry, the district administration of Sambhal through the labour enforcement officer, conducted a very perfunctory enquiry of all the 17 families. Despite the spot enquiry, the administration of Sambhal District asked the laborers to continue to remain at the brick kiln at the mercy of the brick kiln owners/traffickers.

(News Agencies) The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to examine complaints regarding alleged bonded labour in three brick kilns in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (UP). The direction was issued by a bench of justices L Nageswara Rao and Krishna Murari while hearing a plea by social worker Zahid Hussain who had claimed

that 187 people have been forced into bonded labour in three brick kilns and are being made to do hard physical labour in inhuman conditions. The apex court also asked the human rights body to issue guidelines for protection and rehabilitation of bonded labourers in the light of their increased vulnerability due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The NHRC had earlier

## 2 men engaged for painting job stole 4 hard disks from INS Vikrant, caught: NIA

(News Agencies) The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested two persons from Bihar in connection with the last year's theft of four hard disks and other equipment related to sensitive data from INS Vikrant, the country's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier, which is being readied in Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for its commissioning next year. Both the accused were engaged in painting job at the vessel two years ago, NIA authorities said. More details are expected later in the day. Last September, the Kerala Police had registered a case on the basis of a complaint filed by the CSL general manager about the theft and later the probe was transferred to the NIA. The theft had raised serious concerns over a security breach and later a multi-agency probe began, headed by NIA.

Four hard disks, memory cards, a processor, and other equipment were stolen from the high-security area after dismantling computers installed on the ship. The theft came to light after the information technology (IT) system developed a snag. There was no closed-circuit TV (CCTV)-led surveillance mechanism since work was still going on at the vessel. NIA authorities had collected fingerprints of over 1,200 people, including the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and CSL employees, contractual workers, and others. The Central investigating agency had also announced a reward of Rs 5 lakh for any information about the theft, as the probe had appeared to have hit a dead end. Several agencies are involved in the building of the aircraft carrier, which is considered to be one of the prestigious defence projects of the country. The theft had not only embarrassed the defence sector, but there were also widespread apprehensions over the pilferage of sensitive data.

## Punjab issues fresh guideline for religious places, allows reopening of community kitchens, prasad

The order by the state government said that Centre's guidelines and all necessary Covid hygiene precautions should be followed.

(News Agencies) The Punjab government on Tuesday allowed distribution of prasad at religious places and reopening of langars and community kitchens. The order was issued by the state home department. It further said that all necessary precautions and protocols should be followed. "It has now been decided to allow community kitchens, langar and serving of prasad at religious places subject to the conditions that physical distancing norms and all Covid hygiene precautions while preparing and distributing food shall be strictly followed," the order said.

These places opened in most states on June 8 after the first phase of the relaxations (called Unlock 1) given by the central government came into force. Some of the temples, mosques and other places, however, remained closed on the first day. But the places which opened saw long queues as devotees showed up in a large number. The administration of various places of worship have put elaborate measures in place to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Many sites have disinfected tunnels in place to ensure that the devotees are completely disinfected before entering the premises. Delhi's Bangla Sahib Gurudwara is one of them. The Central government, in its guidelines issued last

week, stated that all places of worship that open up will have to ensure social



distancing is in place, and sanitise and screen devotees at regular intervals. It also put a bar on the number of people

to five who will be allowed inside at a time. The guidelines also specifically mention that only asymptomatic people will be allowed inside these religious places. In line with the Centre's guidelines, the Punjab government has not allowed cinema halls, gymnasiums, swimming pools, entertainment parks, bars, theatres, auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places to open till June 30. Schools, colleges and educational institutions will not be allowed to open in Unlock 1.

## Another new high of Covid-19 cases takes Maharashtra's tally past 94,000

(News Agencies) Maharashtra city to 52,667. Mumbai's tally alone is recorded its highest single day jump in Covid-19 cases with 3,254 new cases on Wednesday as the state's tally soared to stand at 94,041. It also recorded 149 casualties taking the death toll to 3,438, the state health department said. Of the new infections, 1,567 were from Mumbai taking total cases in the



bigger than any other state. It also recorded 97 fatalities. The city now has 26,897 active cases while 23,693 have recovered/discharged. A total of 44,517 people who had tested positive for Covid-19 have been discharged so far. There are 46,074 active cases while 5,93,784 people have been tested so far.



# Furious after married daughter elopes with lover, father hacks 2 to death

The police said that when questioned, the accused Anil Jat said that once he is released from custody he would kill the daughter and her lover too.



Deepak's father Rajveer at around 4 am, the police said.

Rajveer immediately informed the police about the incident after which dog squad was called for investigation and senior police official also reached the spot. The axe Jat used was also recovered a few metres away from the spot.

"During preliminary investigation, it was revealed that the daughter of the accused Anil Jat, native of Mahendragarh district in Haryana, had got married in Lalamandi village of Buhana town. She is allegedly absconding with another son of Rajveer identified as Krishna and things were not good between the two families. On June 2, the in-

laws of the Anil's daughter had reported her missing. We further collected evidence and detained him," said Gyan Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Buhana (in Jhunjhunu district). The police said that Anil Jat came from Haryana on a bike. "The accused movement's was also captured in a CCTV placed in Buhana police station area. After his bike got stuck in the partially constructed road, Anil walked till Rajveer's house and killed both the young men sleeping on the roof. While fleeing the spot the axe fell at some distance from his hand," Singh added.

The official further added that when questioned, Anil said that once he is released from the

police custody he would kill the daughter and her lover too. "The accused also wanted to kill Rajveer but he was not able to find him. Jat told that I have lost my prestige in society because of Rajveer's son and I will take revenge," the Buhana DSP told. The deceased Deepak had one brother Krishna and one sister. While his sister is married, both brothers were unmarried. Deepak's along with his best friend Naresh Kumar wanted to get into the armed forces and were preparing for that. The police said that both used to wake-up early in the morning and used to go for jogging together in the village and that's why Kumar used to sleep at Deepak's home.

(News Agencies) A man from Haryana, angry after her married daughter eloped with her lover, hacked two people to death in Rajasthan, the police said. One of the persons he killed was the brother of the man her daughter eloped with, the police added. The incident happened in Jhunjhunu district on Monday night. The accused has been identified as Anil Jat. He killed Deepak Kumar (20) and his friend Naresh Kumar (19) while they were sleeping on the terrace of Deepak's house. Their bodies were found stained in blood by

## Following HC order, Arnab Goswami reaches NM Joshi Marg police station for interrogation

A case has been registered against Arnab Goswami for allegedly instigating hatred against the Muslim community while anchoring a programme on April 29 on the protests by stranded migrants outside the Bandra railway station on April 14.

(News Agencies) Republic TV's editor-in-chief and prime-time anchor Arnab Goswami on Wednesday afternoon reached Mumbai's NM Joshi Marg police station for interrogation in connection with the case registered against him at Pydhonie police station for allegedly instigating hatred

against the Muslim community while anchoring a programme on April 29 on the protests by stranded migrants outside the Bandra railway station on April 14.

On Tuesday, the Bombay high court (HC) had asked Goswami to be present at Pydhonie police station while hearing his

application seeking the first information (FIR) against him be quashed.

Pranay Ashok, Mumbai police spokesperson and deputy commissioner of police (DCP), said, "Arnab Goswami reached NM Joshi police station at around 2.15pm on Wednesday while responding to the summons



issued by Pydhonie police station authorities a day before." Suresh Gaikwad, the investigating officer in the case and an inspector with Pydhonie police station, along with his team arrived before Goswami reached NM Joshi Marg police station. "Initially, Pydhonie police station authorities will question Goswami. Later, the NM Joshi Marg personnel may also quiz him related to another case registered against him, where he had made a derogatory statement about Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in connection with the lynching of two Hindu seers in Palghar on April 16," said a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) official, requesting anonymity. Goswami was summoned to Pydhonie police station on the basis of a complaint by Irfan Abubakar Shaikh, secretary, Raza Education Welfare Society.

Sheikh had alleged in his FIR that Goswami tried to create hatred against the Muslim community and targeted a Bandra-based mosque that had no links to a protest by stranded migrant workers, who wanted to go back to their native places on April 14, when lockdown 1.0, which was imposed to contain the spread of the raging coronavirus disease (Covid-19) outbreak, restrictions were slated to be lifted. Shaikh had alleged that Goswami on his April 29 show tried to spread hatred against Muslims. "The mosque near the Bandra railway station is not linked to the stranded migrant workers' protest. The workers had only gathered in an open space near the mosque. But Goswami deliberately highlighted the mosque on his show on April 29 to create communal disturbances in Mumbai," Shaikh alleged.

## Arvind Kejriwal, Amit Shah discuss Covid-19 as Delhi records 1,501 cases

(News Agencies) Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal met Union home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday to discuss the Covid-19 pandemic in the capital as 1,501 new cases took the tally to 32,810. The death toll climbed to 984 with 48 more people succumbing to the disease, the Delhi government's health



department said. It said that 384 people were cured or discharged on Wednesday taking the total number of discharge to 12,245. Kejriwal who tested negative for Covid-19 on Tuesday, said Shah assured him of all cooperation. "Met Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Discussed the situation on corona in Delhi in detail. He assured of all cooperation," Kejriwal tweeted after the

meeting. Earlier in the day, Kejriwal said Delhi Lt Governor Anil Baijal's order not to reserve hospital exclusively for the capital's residents will be followed in "letter and spirit". The chief minister said it was not a time for disagreements. Given the scale of the pandemic, the Delhi government's projection estimates 44,000 cases by June 15 and 5.5 lakh cases by July 31. On Wednesday, Baijal also ordered all major hospitals in the national capital to prominently display the availability of beds and room charges outside their establishments in large letters on the LED boards. The state health department has been asked to ensure that the data displayed on these boards is in sync with the data on the government portal.





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# Never coined Corona Express, people did: Mamata Banerjee on attack by Amit Shah

**Banerjee also announced that the period of institutional quarantine for migrant workers returning from Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu was being reduced to one week from 14 days.**

(News Agencies) A day after Union home minister Amit Shah took a jibe at West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee for dubbing Shramik Special trains as "Corona Express", Banerjee on Wednesday issued a rejoinder saying that the term was not her coinage and she was merely voicing the people's opinion. Banerjee also announced that the period of institutional quarantine for migrant workers returning from Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu was being reduced to one week from 14 days. They would be tested for Covid-19 within that period. "I never coined the term Corona Express. I said that the public was

saying so," Banerjee said while adding that had the BJP-led union government run the Shramik Special trains for a week before announcing the pan-India lockdown then labourers would not have suffered for three months.

Shah, while addressing Tuesday's virtual rally had said that the term "Corona Express", which Banerjee had used to refer to trains ferrying migrant workers, will turn into an "exit express" for the Trinamool Congress in Bengal. In May, while pinning the blame of rising coronavirus cases in the state on the railways, Banerjee had accused the national carrier of running "Corona Express trains" and not Shramik

Specials. The chief minister had accused the railways of packing in more than 2,000 migrants in one train against the capacity of 1,200, instead of increasing the frequency and number of trains to cater to the rush. Around 11 lakh people, including migrant labourers, have entered the state in trains and buses during the lockdown. Another 30,000 is expected to arrive in the next three days in 22 trains, taking the total number of trains to Bengal to 255. Banerjee also said that state government offices will now operate in two shifts to bring down the rush during office hours, which is frequently leading to overcrowding in buses. Kolkata, with 3,018 cases out of the

8,985 cases in Bengal till June 9, has been registering the highest spike in Covid-19 cases every day. While the first shift would operate from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, the second shift would operate from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Previously, government offices used to run from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. "I would also urge the private sector to allow their employees to work from home to reduce the rush on the roads and public conveyance. Only those employees must be allowed for whom it is absolutely necessary to come to office. The rest 50% to 70% of the work force can work from home. This is my appeal," she said.

## Fake currency raid in Pune; Army official, five others arrested

(News Agencies) Pune police crime branch officials arrested six persons, including an Indian Army personnel, during an operation that led to the seizure of fake Indian and foreign currency notes with a face value of at least Rs 43.4 crore and fake US dollars worth Rs 4.2 crore, said a senior official aware of the developments on Wednesday evening.

The joint operation carried out by the Pune police and the Military Intelligence (MI), had been conducted at Sanjay Park in Vimannagar. According to the official, the operation to count the counterfeit notes is still underway.

"After detailed planning with the MI team, a joint operation was carried out today (Wednesday) in which six persons including one serving military person has been detained with multiple denominations of fake Indian and foreign currency. Counting of currency is going on as per the procedure," read a statement by Bachchan Singh, deputy commissioner of police, Crime, Pune.

The arrested six men have been identified as Indian Army jawan Shaikh Alim Gulab Khan, and civilians Sunil Badrinarayan Sarda, Ritesh Ratnakar, Tufail Ahmed Mohammad Ishaq Khan, Abdul Gani Rehmtullah Khan, Abdul Rehman Abdul Gani Khan, according to the police. "After counting, Indian currency of various denominations worth Rs 43.4 crore and US dollars worth Rs 4.2 crore has been seized. The quality of the notes will be checked in due course by experts. Many of the notes are marked 'Children Bank of India'," read a police statement. The information about the fake currency operation was provided by officials of military intelligence, according to the police. The fake currency notes were in different denominations, including Rs 1,000, which has been demonetised by the central government in 2016.

## 29% rise in Asiatic lion numbers, says Gujarat

**The increase in lion population is powered by community participation, emphasis on technology, wildlife healthcare, proper habitat management and steps to minimise human-lion conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.**

(News Agencies) The Gujarat forest department has suggested that the Asiatic Lion population in Gir national park has increased by 29% in the past five years — from 523 in 2015 to 674 in 2020. The department has also said the distribution area of lions in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, where Gir is situated, has increased by 36% from 22,000 sqkm in 2015 to 30,000 sqkm.

"Over the last several years, the Lion population in Gujarat has been steadily rising. This is powered by community participation, emphasis on technology, wildlife healthcare, proper habitat management and steps to minimise human-lion conflict. Hope this positive trend continues!," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

Shyamlal Tikadar, Gujarat's chief wildlife warden and principal chief conservator of forests, said the Asiatic lion, which once faced the threat of extinction, has shown extraordinary recovery, thanks to the timely intervention by the erstwhile Nawab of Junagadh and protection programmes of the Gujarat government. "Today, Asiatic lions are present in protected areas and agro-pastoral landscape of Saurashtra covering nine districts in a sprawling expanse of over 30,000 sq. km, which is termed as the Asiatic Lion landscape," Tikadar said. He said the 15th Asiatic Lion Population Estimation based on scat analysis and camera trap modelling was scheduled to take place on June 5-6, but that did not happen

due to the coronavirus disease situation. "...the forest department conducted an exercise in which 1,400 forest guards of 13 divisions were asked to spot lions and report their presence. Based on their reports, we estimated the population. The exercise was called Poonam Avlokan (because it was conducted on full moon night)," he said.

In 2015, Gir recorded 523 lions, an increase of 27% since 2010. "That estimation was a scientific one and was based on established methodology for estimating cat population," said Anish Andheria, the president of Mumbai based Wildlife Conservation Trust. He did not comment on the methodology adopted this time, saying he did not study it.

## Hope for people, says expert as India's recovery count exceeds active infections

(News Agencies) On a day when the total number of people who have recovered from the coronavirus disease crossed the number of active cases in India, experts said that the data is as per global trends. "This should provide hope to the people of India at large who are having a mortal fear of the disease. But then this should not make them complacent and people should follow social distancing and sanitization guidelines," Dr Neeraj Gupta, professor in the Department of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at the Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi, told news agency PTI. Dr Gupta also said that 80 per cent are likely to have mild disease

and make 100 per cent recovery.

The number of active cases in the country stands at 1,33,632, while 1,35,205 people have recovered and one patient has migrated, according to the Union health ministry.

"Thus, 48.9 per cent of the patients have recovered so far," an official said.

In the last week, an average of 4,529 new active cases have been added to the national tally every day, while 5,397 patients have recovered daily. If these trajectories continue, this gap is likely to widen in the coming days.

One of key factors for the number of recoveries catching up to active cases has been India's low case fatality rate

(CFR). Since 2.8 per cent of infected people have died so far, the number of active cases (calculated by subtracting the number of recovered patients and deaths from the total tally) has been steadily dropping, particularly from the end of May.

Active cases outnumbered the total recovered patients throughout the outbreak until Tuesday - the gap peaking on May 11, when active cases had a 23,511-case lead - according to Hindustan Times' Covid-19 dashboard.

Recoveries soon picked up pace as patients, particularly the 155,668 new cases reported through May, started getting discharged.



# A Catch-22 Situation For China

## Dragon Didn't Expect A Stare Back And Now It's Clueless

India has acted in a fashionably mature manner. Not only did we hold our ground and did not give into Chinese bluff, but there was no panic either among government or military. We agreed to meet on table as equals and do what is beneficial.

By Maj Manik M Jolly, SM (Retd)

The 'talks' did not bring home the desired results it seems, and diplomacy and military are again locked together in an impasse with our bully neighbour, who is unwilling to work on improving bilateral relationships. Once tranquil and undisturbed, Galwan valley is now rife with battle cries of passionate soldiers and is suddenly one of the hottest trending topics on social media. Analysts and enthusiasts are glued to updates alike and trying their best to understand and predict outcomes.

As per latest update, China moved few thousand soldiers of its People's Liberation Army (PLA) Airborne brigade, within a few hours, from Central China's Hubei province to North-western high-altitude region. It is here that one can detect the first chink in the Chinese armour. You need a lot of peacockery when the real deal is missing. A sudden emergence of a video on Global Times News shows superefficient and clockwork precision military machine of PLA mounting soldiers, tanks, AFVs, etc and then all of them converging together in a seemingly high altitude area in a very Qin dynasty type formation. These could be actors for all we know. Forget that the distance from Hubei to Ladakh is approx. 6000 kilometers and impossible to be covered in a day for a formation this size, forget that the time required for troops to acclimatize in high altitude would be anywhere from two to three weeks, forget that the video looks like an old recording of a ceremonial parade, but how can we forget that it doesn't make any sense at all to move the troops and forma-

tions and announce it through viral videos. However bad an army might be, it still follows a considerably basic tenet of warfare called 'surprise'. Chinese Army has not seen much action apart from beating its own students and practicing Kung fu on occasional border disputes with India, so one can understand the lack of practice, but even then, this video is shocking. Since when have armies started to make promotional videos of their movement to operational area? What are they looking for, sponsors for fuel? Wasn't Sun Tzu Chinese?

China is caught between a rock and a hard place. Firstly, it jumped the gun by moving its troops into Indian territory and trying to put the blame on India. It led to some fistfights and damaging of vehicles

but finally everyone was on their side of the LAC. The diplomatic talks between the two military commanders did not yield results or we would have heard about it. To be honest, it was expected. Neither of the countries have ever given negotiating authority to its military commanders, and this was straight up the negotiating table. What is thus represented to each other and rest of the world is the willingness to have a dialogue. Chinese are rattled by infrastructure advances India is making along the LAC in Ladakh region. The 255 km DSDBO road is the main bone of contention here. In my last article, I talked about why China does what it does. Continuing the same thought process, let us talk of strategic advantages for China. China ups the ante in Leh,



and India reacts by increasing its deployment. India gets into a defensive posture, with actions depending on whether Chinese troops move ahead or go back. We are locked down! Chinese increase the deployment a little bit, and our government, not ready to accept any letdown on borders, would go two steps ahead. Soon we might have additional Corps deployed in 14 Corps zone. All

dressed up and nowhere to go. But two major achievements for China here: some deployment could come from 15 and 16 corps, thinning out the present deployment and giving an opportunity to Pakistan-led terrorists to increase their attacks; secondly, it gives China a brilliant opportunity to observe our battle plans in Leh region, once re-serves and additional troops step in, especially

those critical to choke CPEC. So, causing Indian Armed Forces to react and deploy is just extrapolation of drawing fire to know enemy sniper's location. Mounting pressure at home—about US trade sanctions, Taiwan, economy, Covid, Huawei—makes a leader look for friends. As of now, Xi Jinping has limited. Pakistan being one of them.

(Contd on page 31)

## How Much Is America Changing?

In the wake of the killing of George Floyd, there has been a leftward turn. Will it stick?

America is at a racial and political crossroads. Protests over the past two weeks in response to an interrelated set of issues and events—the killing of George Floyd, police brutality, the Covid pandemic, a nation in lockdown, joblessness, a devastated economy and a presidential election—give rise to a key question. Will the Democratic coalition of minorities and liberal whites emerge empowered? Current polling reveals a shift to the left in the public's position on key race-related issues. But there are also some potential warning signs for Democrats. The split reactions to the protests are represented by the contrasting comments of Opal Tometi, a founder of Black Lives Matter, and Ted Cruz, the Republican Senator from Texas.

**In an interview in The New Yorker last week, Tometi said:**

*My view of these protests is that they are different because they are marked by a period that has been deeply personal to millions of*

*Americans and residents of the United States, and that has them more tender or sensitive to what is going on. People who would normally have been at work now have time to go to a protest or a rally, and have time to think about why they have been struggling so much, and they are thinking, "This actually isn't right and I want to make time, and I have the ability to make time now and make my concerns heard." So I think it is markedly differently in terms of the volume of demands we are hearing.*

**On June 3, Cruz spoke on the Senate floor. Careful to note that "there are zero legitimate law enforcement justifications for what happened to George Floyd," Cruz continued:**

*What for some was legitimate First Amendment speech speaking out for justice became co-opted, became taken over by violent, criminal radicals .... There are radicals who cynically took advantage of these protests to*

*sow division, to sow fear, to engage in murder, to engage in violent assaults, to engage in looting, to engage in theft, to engage in intimidation, to engage in fear .... None of us have a right to burn the cars of police officers, to shatter the shop windows of shops throughout this country, to engage in acts of terror, threatening the lives of our fellow Americans.*

**Let's look at some of the contradictory narratives in American race relations, starting with Lilliana Mason, a political scientist at the University of Maryland. Mason posted a seven-part Twitter thread in which she makes a strong case that the United States is in the midst of a major transformation:**

*For decades we have been worried about the terrible power of an entire political party dedicated to maintaining the historical racial (and gender) hierarchy that has oppressed and denied justice to so many Americans.*

**While attention has focused on Trump and the Republican Party, Mason continued**

*What we haven't focused on as much is the potential power of the other political party that has been amassing a coalition of those who would like to upend that social hierarchy.*

**Now, she writes, the other party, the Democrats, has begun to flex its muscles:**

*As white supremacy concentrates its power in the G.O.P., it fosters an alliance of those that oppose it in the Democratic Party. The U.S. has never seen this kind of coalition. But it is showing its power now. This is one cause for hope — that we may be at the beginning of an overdue national reckoning with our legacy of white supremacy. If it were ever to happen, the first major step would probably look a lot like this.*

*And in her Twitter feed, Mason posts a photo of a mass demonstration in Washington D.C.*



# A Presidency Is a Terrible Thing to Waste India Has Stared Down The Dragon, But Is That Enough To Make China Shudder?

**The president has worsened his position with his profligate tweeting, unpresidential conduct and refusal or inability to step up to the magisterial aspect of his office.**

President Trump is in the midst of a polling swoon largely of his own making.

Gallup has his approval rating at 39 percent, and his rating in the RealClearPolitics average is down to 42 percent. It's true that events have taken a hand—a pandemic with a death toll of more than 100,000, a sharp recession, double-digit unemployment and civil unrest would be the horsemen of the apocalypse for any incumbent president.

Experiencing all of these in one term would make for treacherous political weather; experiencing them in the space of about three months is a perfect storm.

And yet the president has worsened his position with his profligate tweeting, unpresidential conduct and refusal or inability to step up to the magisterial aspect of his office. None of this is new, but it acquires a different significance playing out against a backdrop of crisis, when the stakes and emotions are elevated, rather than a backdrop of peace and prosperity, when nothing much seems to matter.

There is a substantive case to be made against the Trump administration on the coronavirus, but it would have been difficult to keep the pandemic from reaching our shores, and leaders in other hard-hit Western countries got bounces in polling. The president's poor ratings on coronavirus have much to do with his overexposure, squabbling with reporters and meandering performances at his news briefings—all of which was avoidable, and indeed was eventually avoided by stopping the briefings. Quite often, Trump has blown the easy stuff, while his team has performed admirably dealing with the more nettlesome issues of governance. Sounding sober and factual from the presidential podium at a time of crisis should be easy—any halfway accomplished conventional politician could do a pretty good job at it.

Allocating ventilators, acquiring personal protective equipment and ramping up testing on a rapid basis in the middle of a pandemic when the traditional apparatus of government isn't up to it, is hard—and the Trump team has managed it over the past couple of months, through clever problem-solving and innovative public-private partnerships. The press doesn't tell that story, and regardless, it gets overwhelmed by constant drama emanating from the Oval Office. In the case of George Floyd, there's nothing Trump could have done to stop his killing. He's not the Minnesota governor or the Minneapolis mayor. He has zero say in how the city runs its police department or disciplines its officers. Nor did he have any control over the subsequent protests and riots in any city outside of Washington. So the disapproval of his performance seems mostly based on how he has conducted himself and what he has tweeted (the conspiracy theory about the 75-year-old Buffalo protester being the latest example), not anything he did substantively to affect the situation one way or the other. He's actually said the right things about Floyd's killing, and he was set up to

do some triangulating on policing given that he signed a criminal justice reform bill into law. But his philosophy is always to give better than he gets and never to back down, so he has little appreciation for the occasional need for defensive politics—to play against type, to preempt arguments against him, to couple a hard line with a soft sentiment.

As one of the most compelling showmen of our time, his metric for success is different than that of standard politicians or political operatives. He wants to draw eyeballs. He wants to be discussed. He wants coverage, good, bad, or indifferent. The St. John's Church visit might have been poorly thought out and politically counterproductive, but who can doubt that it was a jaw-dropping spectacle? The clip of him holding up the Bible will be replayed for years.

By this standard, the period between mid-March and mid-April was an astonishing success—as Axios has pointed out, Trump dominated Joe Biden on cable news mentions, social media interactions, web traffic and Google search. But it hasn't helped his political standing, indeed the opposite. Trump is never going to change, but in the 2016 campaign, he was able to adjust and modulate at moments of peril just enough to see it through. This is one of those moments of peril. Losing to Biden would mean Trump's populist-nationalist movement would be saddled with trying to explain why its erstwhile champion was just a one-term president. It would mean all the changes he pursued through administrative action, whether EPA regulation or the Betsy DeVos change to Title IX rules on campus, would be subject to reversal.

It would mean, assuming Democrats take the Senate, too, that his historic round of judicial appointments would immediately begin to be counteracted. It would mean that immigration enforcement would be drastically curtailed. And it would mean that Trump would suffer the highest-profile, most consequential and crushing defeat that it is possible to experience in American national life, one that will become part of the annals of American political history and inevitably color how his presidency is viewed. Of course, nothing is inevitable.

Trump has kept his base, a necessary, if not sufficient, condition for victory. It's only June, not October. He's still relatively strong on the economy. And the radicalism of the Democratic Party is providing him targets. But he has created his own headwind. If he loses in November, it won't be because he pursued a big legislative reform that was a bridge too far politically. It won't be because he adopted a creative and unorthodox policy mix that alienated his own side. It won't even be because he was overwhelmed by events, challenging though they've been. It will mostly be because he took his presidency and needlessly drove it into the ground, 280 characters at a time.

**If India wants to be a dominant force in South Asia, it will not happen by achieving gold medal in reacting to harassment. It will only happen if it's known that it's not wise to trouble us, writes Major Manik M Jolly (Retd).**

In an August 1946 interview with American correspondent, Anna Louise Strong, Chinese communist leader Mao Zedong famously said, "Reactionaries are paper Tigers." His remark came at a time when he had around 900,000 guerrillas against four million regular troops of Chiang Kai-shek, supported and funded by the US almost to the tune USD 4,500 million. His explanation and some of the most remarkable words ever spoken were, "The reason is simply this: the reactionaries represent reaction, we represent progress."

Chinese ideology, planning, thinking, and actions have been largely dictated by Mao. No doubt, they have tried to break the mould, but the core DNA of aggression in thought and action, initiative, and dynastic approach to acquire more and more land and wealth has not gone.

China is a nation that aims to become a global leader by 2049. We do not have even calendars published that far. It has launched a massive plan to build its economy, defence, agriculture, technology, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to match the US, economically and militarily, by 2038-40. South China Sea, which, without a doubt, will be the hottest place in future geopolitics will be its main playground. China has been raising the issue of creating new ADIZ (Air Defence Identification Zone) regularly and that ends up irritating the US and others equally. On December 31, 2015, People's

Liberation Army (PLA) started a reorganisation and restructuring plan with an aim to create a 'Joint Force' that will make them win wars in future. Violence is not off the table for China. It is just not the right time for them. Also, China's expansionist plans have never been South of Himalayas.

David Axe quoted in his article in nationalinterest.org, "A key lesson China took from the 1991 Desert Storm campaign was to strike hard and fast during war's earliest stages, as initiative once lost would be all but impossible to regain against an opponent capable of 24-hour, all-weather guided-munitions bombardment. The Chinese also are planning on: Attacking effectively first by amassing an arsenal of long-range precision missiles and advanced targeting systems that provide a high probability of penetrating U.S. battle network defenses in the opening stages of a conflict.

Developing "Assassin's Mace" capabilities—what [the U.S. Defense Department] terms "black capabilities"—that are held in reserve until unveiled in the event of war, to surprise the adversary with attacks from unexpected vectors. Becoming the world leader in artificial intelligence and then deploying that technology for military superiority. In no analysis, India is a focus. We don't blip on their radar. Chinese banks and missiles only want to deal in dollars!

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# Operation Blue Star

## Counterbalancing even Terror-results in boomeranging horrible pain



The enemy of my enemy is my friend; or so goes the saying, lovingly followed by policymakers seeking a shortcut to victory for several millennia.

Indeed, counterbalancing continues as a steady pillar of statecraft the world over. It matters not that ultimately it doesn't work, and backfires with a painful boomerang.

Recall President Ronald Reagan's "Freedom Fighters" in Afghanistan who we trained and equipped to fight the then-USSR's excursion in Afghanistan to an unhappy exit. Then, after 9/11, when we were in hot pursuit of its mastermind OBL and ended up in Afghanistan - our Freedom Fighters became the Taliban we were fighting against. 40 years and lots of blood and treasure we have spent, only to make a recent Jello gelatin flexible peace-deal with the Taliban, and then cause the local government's twin executives to sign on after the fact to make it operational, all so we may extricate ourselves from a war we cannot lose, nor win by civilized standards in a place where our values are alien to the local ecosystem. My takeaway: don't use a counter-balance; it's sexy upfront, and painful as a nightmare divorce in the end. Recently, Kurds in Syria bear witness - as some of them became Terrorists against Turkey.

Well, let's go back to 1971 - when the Blood Telegram sent

from Dhaka was ignored in China-loving Richard Nixon's Washington DC - and Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, moved to save the remaining Hindus in now-Bangladesh from genocidal demise. India secured a striking victory in short order that exceeded expectations and was decisive to boot. Pakistan was unhappy, to state the obvious. Nations have found that sponsoring Terror is attractive - because it is what I call - war on the cheap. Pakistan enjoyed such sponsorship as a rejoinder. India's Punjab and Kashmir border Pakistan, and cross-border Terror-support in Sikh-rich Punjab was easier, as Sikhism's founder, Guru Nanak's immortal roots remain in Pakistan - a matter of great importance even now while celebrating His 550th Birthday in Nankana Sahib, Lahore Pakistan via opening the visa-free Kartarpur Corridor - thanks to P. M. Imran Khan and P. M Narendra Modi - which nations and people of goodwill celebrate.

So after 1971, Pakistan's cross-border sponsorship was for Khalistan to be born - perhaps, as a nation for a nation - with three Sikh leaders Shabeg Singh, Balbier Singh, and Amrik Singh turned separatists, who were allegedly taught tactics more familiar to Terror in Pakistan. As a result, India suffered a porous border and a porous states in Punjab and Kashmir,

such that India's sovereignty would be an afterthought if not stopped. Mrs. Gandhi decided to fight fire with fire, and allegedly "sponsored" a genuine Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. Ultimately, he and his armed supporters came under threat of arrest, being un-controllable by Delhi, and took refuge in the Golden Temple complex - the holiest Harmandir Sahib - and Operation Blue Star was born in June 1984 to turn back the hands of time and Statecraft's expediently sexy counterbalance pillar. When first trying to peacefully end the stalemate and get the innocent pilgrims released failed over two days, as the separatists were armed with even Chinese-made grenade-launchers, on June 5th military force was initiated to forcibly evict Terrorists from the house of worship complex. That goal would be tough enough without religion being implicated; but attacking the holiest Sikh Gurdwara - a sanctuary - with 10,000 booted soldiers was successful in a military sense,

but a failure by all other metrics. The Akal Takht was severely damaged, ancient scripts and artifacts forever lost in the "fire fighting fire." Thereafter, while the Indian Government rebuilt it, the Sikh community tore it down and rebuilt it afresh - perhaps, as we recently tore down our newly built embassy in Moscow and rebuilt it anew.

The price of counterbalancing Pakistan's punishment - trying to create Khalistan for loss of her East Pakistan - was that Mrs. Gandhi was assassinated on October 31, 1984 by her favorite bodyguard, Beant Singh, and Satwant, both Sikhs - whom she insisted upon keeping. What followed was nothing short of a bloodbath - known as the Anti-Sikh Riots or worse - where even innocent Sikhs were hurt, injured and even killed and some members of the Indian Congress party were allegedly directing the Sikh-killings in an opportunistic manner - a stain that India has dealt with (and still has to remedy) as we did for interning loyal Japanese-Americans after Pearl Harbor some 40 years later.

Recall in 1988, President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act to compensate more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans who were incarcerated in internment camps during World War II. The Law offered a formal apology and paid \$20,000 in compensation to each surviving victim.

Leadership requires making choices - picking between not "good" and "bad," but "bad" and "worse." This Op-Ed is aimed at policymakers - to abandon counter-balance as a pillar of statecraft, and it's noisy and genie-out-of-the-bottle progeny: state-sponsored

Terrorism. It doesn't work, and is very painful at the bitter end. Being "right," and winning by "right means" permits an end - as a civil "trial by jury" does daily in our courts even for losers. Nations, however, continue to exercise "might is right," when it really never was - given its lingering "tail." A lesson China will learn from its current collective and sequential miscalculations: Tibet, Uighurs, OBOR with AIIB, exporting Wuhan Virus (lab-engineered as it has the Spike Glycoprotein (S) spliced off the 2003 SARS Bat viruses and transplanted onto the surface of the AIDS virus in 2019 - see, my April 14, 2020 "Open Letter to POTUS et al" in public domain - recently re-confirmed by former head of MI6) as a global Pearl Harbor, with it's cover-up, followed not by an apology and compensation, but added belligerence in South China Sea and Hong King, and inter alia, converting diplomacy, a channel most useful during disputes and war, and instead burning it by making diplomats act as a "Wolf Warrior" commando doing battle. That our Hollywood celebrates Chinese-Americans and China is starkly in contrast to the steady anti-American diet fed by Chinese Communist Party leadership to her people. That is both strategic, as it is tactical - something President Trump, Secretary Esper, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell ought digest, as we too have our nation to defend in present time from folks we saw as friends, since Nixon, but who played us.

By Ravi Batra  
Chair, National Advisory  
Council South Asian Affairs

**Disclosure:** I legally represented Indian National Congress and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, merely a loving wife, mother and daughter-in-law in 1984, when they were sued by a so-called entity, Sikhs for Justice, under the Alien Tort Claims Act in United States Federal Courts in New York - SDNY and EDNY. I successfully argued that India, where all events occurred and all actors reside, was ineligible for US courts to exercise extra-territoriality and it was for India to remedy this stain. The lofty U. S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals issued two orders in 2014 and 2015, respectively, agreeing to dismiss the cases pursuant to US law. Thereafter, Rahul Gandhi, adopting my legal filings, gave an interview to Arnab Goswami confirming for the first time that "some" Congressmen were complicit in misconduct. SFJ's subsequent cases against then-PM Manmohan Singh and PM Narendra Modi were dismissed, based upon the precedents I secured, along with application of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, as Prime Ministers, as head of government, are so entitled - which neither INC or INC President Sonia Gandhi was so entitled. Now, SFJ is out of the media-rich harassing litigation, but, allegedly, based upon reports, may be subject to Foreign Agent Registration Act given its foreign supporters."



# Secure the future of migrants

## The executive and the judiciary must continue to focus on them

In a significant, albeit delayed directive, the Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday asked states and Union Territories to identify stranded migrants and arrange their transport back home within 15 days. It has also asked administrations to withdraw cases filed against migrants for violating the lockdown guidelines, and the Indian Railways to ensure the availability of trains within 24 hours if there is demand. Both the Centre and the states have been told to prepare a detailed list to identify migrants. The court has instructed that all schemes and employment

opportunities available to migrant workers must be publicised; and there must be employment relief and skill mapping. The SC's decision comes over 75 days after the national lockdown, imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), led to a humanitarian crisis. Migrant workers, suffering from an acute shortage of food and income and yearning to return home to their families and communities, began walking home, before the Centre, in early May, introduced special trains and buses for their

transport. But this process has been riddled with complications. There was a controversy over train fares (before the court stepped in to say that migrants cannot be charged); there have been difficulties in Centre-state coordination over trains; social distancing norms have often not been observed; migrants have had to wait for days, if not weeks, to be able to get on to trains, prompting many to walk; many have died due to hunger and fatigue. All of it has led to a socio-economic tragedy which is almost unprecedented in independent

India's history; this scale of people movement has not been seen since the Partition. This newspaper has argued that the SC was remiss in not taking up the issue of migrant workers earlier. It only took up the issue on May 26, two months after the crisis began. To be sure, its intervention now is welcome. But it is not just the judiciary; the primary blame for failing to anticipate the needs of migrants and not providing an adequate safety net lies with the executive. It must now expedite the movement of migrants back, and both the Centre and the

state governments need to plan ahead. While the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has emerged as an indispensable policy tool to provide incomes to those who have returned, governments will have to do more in ensuring employment — even as they focus on tackling the spread of the disease. The plight of migrant workers has undermined the credibility of the State and caused enormous distress. It is time to correct the mistakes and find ways to give them a dignified future. The SC should continue to keep an eye on this.

# A post-Covid-19 social protection architecture for India

## Stronger social protection led by an inclusive growth dividend will protect the vulnerable and drive India's economic recovery

By Karthik Muralidharan

The lockdown to slow the spread of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) has inflicted a heavy cost on India's poor. Most have seen their incomes fall; many have seen their families uprooted; some have even lost their lives. On moral grounds alone, there is a strong case for augmenting spending on social protection for the poor, and the Government of India has taken some important first steps in this regard. However, more can and should be done, because spending on social protection is not only ethically desirable but also critical for driving the broader economic recovery.

A core theme in economics is that there is a trade-off between welfare programmes and efficiency. Yet, a growing body of research suggests that when people are very poor, there may be no such trade-off. Thus, a well-designed social protection architecture should not be seen as charity, but a key engine for economic growth. Schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), public distribution system (PDS), and a modest universal income transfer can drive growth by boosting demand, correcting market failures, improving credit access, and providing the insurance needed for people to undertake risky investments to improve productivity.

### The value of MGNREGS and PDS

These facts are evident in research on India's two main pillars of social protection — MGNREGS for employment security, and PDS for food security (that cost 0.5% and 1% of GDP respectively). Many sceptics of MGNREGS (including myself) initially thought that the programme was not a good use of public funds. In addition to concerns about corruption and leakage, many economists were worried about the prospect of MGNREGS driving up wages without increasing productivity, thereby reducing market employment.

However, high-quality evidence using a large-scale randomised evaluation has found that improving MGNREGS implementation (by



reducing leakage, payment delays and uncertainty) led to a substantial reduction in rural poverty. Importantly, only 10% of the income gains were from additional MGNREGS income. The majority of the impact came through an increase in both market wages and employment of the rural poor. One reason is that when employers have high market power (which we find evidence of), programmes such as the MGNREGS can correct pre-existing market failures and increase both wages and employment. We also find longer-term benefits, including increases in credit, assets, number of non-agricultural enterprises, and employment in these enterprises. Thus,

improving wages and incomes of the poor, through social protection, can have large positive multiplier effects on the economy.

Similarly, recent research has found that PDS can insulate the poor from price fluctuations of food grains, and increase the proportion of the population that can reach minimum nutrition standards. Given the well-documented link between nutrition and productivity for labour-intensive tasks, PDS is likely to contribute not only to food security, but also to boosting the productivity of the poor. Thus, the government's decision to increase the budgets for MGNREGS and PDS make a lot of sense since the benefits likely exceed the costs.

Crucially, the existence of these two pillars provided the government with a rapidly implementable option for expanding social protection to mitigate the costs of the lockdown. For instance, phone-surveys in the last two months indicate that increased PDS allowances have been an important lifeline for those who have lost their jobs and income.

But economic recovery and India's development will need more. The time is right to add a third social protection pillar, based on modest but near-universal income transfers that will promote both public welfare and an economic recovery.

### A third pillar: An Inclusive Growth Dividend

There has been growing

support for the idea of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) of income into beneficiary bank accounts, including a prominent call for a Universal Basic Income (UBI) in the 2016-17 Economic Survey. These calls have been amplified during the current crisis. A UBI-type approach will minimise targeting costs and exclusion errors, reduce administrative cost of implementation, and offer flexible benefits. Importantly, several studies have shown that income transfers help the poor greatly and that they spend the money productively (and not on alcohol or temptation goods as commonly believed).

Yet, the idea of UBI has not gained policy traction in India, in part because the amounts suggested have been prohibitively expensive (ranging from 3.5% to 10% of GDP). To make a poverty-eliminating UBI fiscally feasible, many proponents suggest replacing existing welfare schemes (including NREGS and PDS) with UBI. However, this is politically difficult and may not even be desirable given the

(Contd on page 33)



# The spread of the pandemic

India's biggest cities, and most vulnerable rural areas, are simultaneously seeing a spike.

India's battle against the coronavirus disease pandemic has hit a rough spot. Three developments — the surge in cases in the Capital, the sustained increase in Maharashtra, and the spike in cases in six states receiving migrants — point to the challenge at hand. India's biggest cities, its most densely-populated states, and its northern rural hinterland are simultaneously seeing the spread of the pandemic, and they don't seem equipped to deal with it. First, take the

situation in the Capital. It has a little over 31,000 cases, but as Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal outlined on Wednesday, the city may see 532,000 cases by the end of July, and will need 80,000 beds. He claimed that since the city's hospitals will also be open to those from outside, the requirement for beds could be closer to 150,000. For context, the city has a little over 9,000 beds. This means the Capital has to ensure a 15-fold jump in the availability of beds — which, in turn, will

also require additional health care personnel, personal protective equipment, and oxygen and ventilator support. This surge is happening at a time when testing has reduced, although this can be remedied. Two, on Tuesday, Maharashtra crossed 90,000 cases, with Mumbai having more than 50,000 cases. It was also the ninth straight day when the state recorded more than 100 deaths in a day. While authorities expect the curve to begin flattening in the state by the end of June, new clusters

are emerging. With Unlock 1.0 in force, there is an even higher possibility of the spread of the disease. And finally, as a data-based analysis in this newspaper showed, six states — Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal — have seen a spike in cases. They contributed 8% of the cases nationally in the first week of May; this jumped to 16% between June 2 and June 8. They accounted for 10% of the deaths in the same period in June. All these states have also been receiving migrant

workers. They also have relatively poor health infrastructure. A state of the size of Uttar Pradesh has just 31 testing labs. The number of cases is still relatively low, compared to the rest of the country, but the pattern is clear. All of this indicates that while governments must keep an eye on reviving the economy, they must not let the focus dissipate from the health challenge. There is no quick fix, except following the science protocol laid out — test, trace, isolate, treat. Then rinse, and repeat.

## For India, a tipping point with China

Far from submitting to its aggression, New Delhi will adjust its policies to impose costs on Beijing

India extended the hand of friendship to China but was repaid with stealth aggression in Ladakh. The Chinese incursions into strategic areas presented India with a Kargil-like challenge. The aggression is not just a wake-up call for India; it could prove to be the deciding factor in fundamentally altering the country's approach to China. Shrewdly timing a surprise assault has been central to China's repeated use of force, as several studies underscore. In 1962, China invaded India just as the Cuban missile crisis was bringing the world to the brink of a nuclear armageddon. And in April-May, as a distracted India was wrestling with the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) that originated in Wuhan, China encroached on Ladakh's Galwan Valley and Hot Springs (both previously undisputed areas) and simultaneously occupied Lake Pangong's disputed long stretch between Fingers 4 and 8.

Military strategist Sun Tzu's advice to "plan for what is difficult while it is easy" led China to strike when India was vulnerable. India's draconian lockdown — the world's strictest — flattened not its coronavirus curve but its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) curve, as one

industrialist has noted. India now has the worst of both worlds — spiralling infection rates and a seriously-damaged economy, crimping its military options. China, which signalled a bellicose intent by conducting Himalayan military drills since the beginning of this year, seized the opening from the Indian Army's lockdown-driven deferment of its annual Ladakh exercise, which creates acclimatised troop reserves before late spring unfreezes ingress routes.

Caught off-guard, India faces difficult options while battling the pandemic. India, however, is unlikely to put up with China's encroachments, which explains its counterforce build-up in eastern Ladakh, despite the viral risks to troops. This week's mutual pullback of troops at three of the four confrontation sites reduces the threat of war but doesn't diminish China's act of belligerence. The 2017 Doklam disengagement is a reminder that China doesn't deviate from what it has set out to achieve: No sooner had the standoff ended than China began frenzied construction of permanent military structures and occupied almost the entire Doklam.

Let's be clear. China's latest aggression is very different from its Ladakh intrusions in the Depsang Plains (2013) and Chumar (2014) that had narrow

tactical objectives. For example, it withdrew from Chumar after making India demolish local defensive fortifications.

The latest well-planned encroachments seem strategically geared to altering the frontier by grabbing vantage locations, whose control will place the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in a commanding position. By building bunkers and other concrete structures, such as between Pangong's Fingers 4 and 8, PLA has signalled its intent to retain key land grabs. With PLA forces already present in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir near its frontier with Ladakh, China is seeking to ramp up pressure on both Indian flanks in Ladakh. The encroachments raise the spectre of PLA in a war cutting through northern Ladakh and physically linking up with Pakistan to put India under siege.

China's aggression potentially signifies a geostrategic sea change. China is seeking to buy enough time through negotiations with India to consolidate its hold on key encroached areas. In this light, Beijing is seeking to string India along. If China vacates occupied land after extracting a price, it won't be vantage points overlooking enemy positions but marginal territory. As Mao Zedong admitted,

China undertakes negotiations to "buttress its position" and "wear down the opponent". China has taken India round and round the mulberry bush for 39 years in the negotiations on resolving the larger boundary question. The negotiations began as "senior-level talks" in 1981 before deceptively being relabelled as "joint working group" talks in 1988 and then as "talks between special representatives" in 2003.

India also invested considerable political capital in establishing a border-management framework with China through five different agreements, each signed with great fanfare at summits between 1993 and 2013. However, by brazenly flouting the accords' basic principles through its encroachments, China has gravely fractured the framework.

In the way it has profoundly changed the status quo in the South China Sea without firing a shot, China is seeking to complete its thus far bullet-less aggression against India by forestalling through negotiations an Indian counter-offensive or an Indian tit-for-tat grab of Chinese-claimed territory elsewhere. So, it is saying the two sides must ensure "differences do not escalate into disputes". In plain language, China is asking

India to stomach its aggression or else the situation will cease to be, in its words, "stable and controllable".

With its aggression, however, China has brought its relations with India to a tipping point. By opening several international fronts, including one against India, Chinese President Xi Jinping may be biting off more than he can chew. He will discover India is no pushover. By awakening India to China's threat, Xi's aggression eventually will prove costly for China, which is already staring at a cold war with the United States.

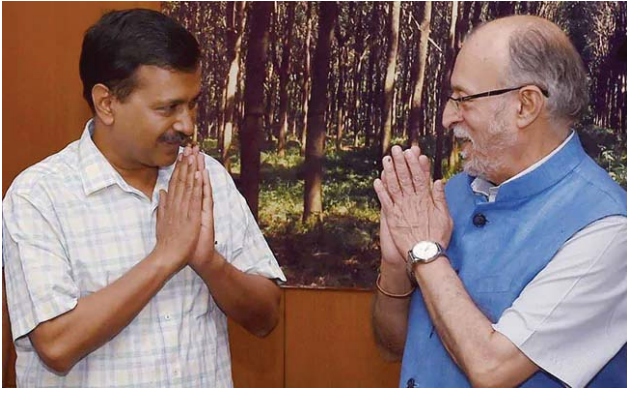
Far from submitting to China's aggression, India will make the necessary readjustments in its foreign and defence policies with the aim of imposing costs and thwarting Beijing's larger hegemonic objectives. After all, how India emerges from its military stand-off with China will have an important bearing on its international standing and on Asian security.

According to a Chinese proverb, "To feed the ambition in your heart is like carrying a tiger under your arm." By starting a conflict with India to advance his larger neo-imperial ambitions, Xi has increased the odds that the tiger under his arm will bite him.

**Brahma Chellaney is a geostrategist**



# Kejriwal's Covid-19 Stand Proves He's Become Standard-Fare Politician



"Kejriwal is ill and has quarantined himself." I was worried when I heard this news. Fortunately, his Corona test is negative. I am not worried about his political future. Whether I like it or not, the fact is that he has joined the gang called politicians, most of whom are not greatly respected in this country but certainly feared. I have no idea how much Kejriwal is feared these days, but I certainly know he was once tremendously loved by the people of Delhi.

It is the tragedy of this country that a potential political mega star has been tamed in Delhi and reduced now to a side hero in national politics. Though I am aware that any prediction about any politician at any given point of time is not safe, I can vouch for the fact that he has learnt more tricks as a politician than many in the field. Being a fast learner, he knows how to survive in politics, and how to turn a crisis into an opportunity. He knows that to remain relevant in politics, one has to always be a step ahead of his rivals and not be imprisoned by moral shackles.

In his fight against the Corona virus, he started well. Before Modi could announce the national lockdown, Kejriwal imposed a lockdown in Delhi till March 31. He also created a task force of experts to advise him on the pandemic but somewhere down the line, he lost his nerve and now Delhi is facing an unprecedented crisis. And this follows from his latest order to disallow 'outsiders' any treatment in Delhi which was rightly overturned by the central government via Lieutenant

Governor Anil Bajjal. Kejriwal's decision to not test any asymptomatic people was similarly overruled.

The 'outsiders' logic is not only faulty, but is politically dishonest. Anybody who is an Indian national is constitutionally allowed to freely move to any part of the country and can get medical treatment in any hospital in India; no hospital can deny treatment on the basis of the domicile of the individual; no government can impose restrictions on this. I have no reason to believe that Kejriwal is not aware of this constitutional po-

sition. Still he did it. I can think of two reasons for this.

One, it is a smart move to hide the failings of his government in future. He did not raise the bogey of 'outsiders' initially; this order was issued when he realised that the crisis was going to be unmanageable and he might face the brunt of public anger. So he created an excuse for the future knowing well that the centre would not let it go through. If in the future there are questions about enough beds and other medical facilities not being available for patients, he can claim that this is what he had tried to prevent. Anil Bajjal fell into his trap and has done a great service to Kejriwal.

Secondly, he has been trying to prove that it is only him and his party who are fighting for Delhi and other political parties - the BJP and the

Congress - are only paying lip service and doing what they are told by their high command, ignoring the interest of Delhi. In fact, he has been trying to create a new 'regional consciousness' which can be called 'Delhi Nationalism' - a kind of identity politics on the lines of other linguistic states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra and Telangana. He has been vociferously propagating that Delhi should be accorded full statehood, a central point of his campaign during the 2019 general election.

The order on no testing for asymptomatic individuals is devoid of any medical logic. The world over, the practice has been to test as many people as possible. Testing is the key to fighting Coronavirus. Testing is linked to contact tracing

and quarantining those who are infected. Till the Coronavirus vaccine or medicine is available, identification and segregation are the only way forward.

His government's move was dangerous as it allowed those infected with Corona but without any visible symptom to freely move and infect others.

Why? Kejriwal has repeatedly proclaimed that Delhi has invested heavily in education and health. His government has increased the health budget by more than 40% compared to 2014 and he also has successfully sold the idea of Mohalla clinics and polyclinics. Health facilities have undoubtedly improved in Delhi but not to the level that he has projected.

And if more tests are carried out, then the numbers will obviously increase exponentially as has happened nationally. The more Coronavirus

patients that are clocked, the more blame he will get from the opposition and the media. So he wants to hide the real numbers of Coronavirus patients. It is similar to what the Gujarat government has pleaded in the High Court - when asked why enough testing was not being done, the Advocate General had the audacity to tell the court that if more testing was done, 70% people would test positive and that would scare the whole population.

To be fair to Kejriwal, he is not the only one trying to conceal numbers. The UP and Bihar governments also have shown no interest in increasing the number of tests. But Kejriwal has always been credited as different from the standard-fare politician. So, if he is doing what is expected not from him but others, it proves the argument that politics has appropriated him. He has become a typical politician. That is a big disappointment.

## Defund the police movement distracts from the left's policy failures with the poorest Americans

By Tucker Carlson

As we've been telling you -- not that you need to be told because it's so obvious -- this is a dark moment in the history of the country.

People will attack you if you dare to tell the truth. They'll denounce you. They'll target your family. They'll try to turn your friends against you and deny you the ability to earn a living. In the face of that -- and we've said this repeatedly because it's true, nothing is truer -- you cannot give in. Even if you do what the mob tells you to do, you will not be spared. The people on Twitter are predators. Predators are incited by weakness. They exploit it. The only solution in the face of something like this is to tell the truth unapologetically.

On Monday night, we told you that the mass movement engulfing America right now run by the left isn't really about protecting black lives. Certainly, there are many sincere people participating who think that it is. But the people running it -- no, it's not.

That's 100 percent true. How do we know that? Well, right now, the chief demand of the Black Lives Matter movement is to get rid of the police -- defund them or abolish them entirely. Police, not criminals, they say, are the greatest threat to the well-being of African-Americans -- and that is a lie. It is a lie no matter how many times they say it. It's just not true. And we know that because the numbers are unambiguous.

The number of unarmed African-Americans shot and killed by police officers in all of 2019 was 10. The number of African-Americans murdered in all other ways exceeded 7,000. So, if all police vanished from America's streets, that number will almost certainly get much, much higher. In other words, many more African-Americans will die.

We're not guessing about this. A Princeton University paper from 2018 estimated that for every 10 police officers added in this country, roughly one murder is prevented. And

that, of course, makes sense. Why wouldn't that be true?

Robbery and other crimes went down as well, and that's not a small thing. This isn't because there were more arrests either. The sheer deterrence of more cops on the street kept people safer without sending more criminals to prison. So, what do you think doing the opposite will achieve? I think we know and we've learned even more about it just this week. On May 31 in Chicago, the police force was completely overwhelmed trying to handle protests, rioting and looting all over the city. In the city's most vulnerable neighborhoods, the poorest neighborhoods, law enforcement just evaporated. A local pastor described what he saw: "I heard people saying all over, 'Hey, there's no police anywhere.' Police ain't doing nothing. I sat and watched a store looted for over an hour. No police came." So, for the people of Chicago -- not the ones pretending to speak for them on social media or their hapless mayor -- but

the people who actually live there and don't have power, the police leaving was a disaster, and they were desperate for the police to return.

On Sunday, May 31st of this year, the city of Chicago had 65,000 calls to 911. That's 50,000 more than the usual total. With police gone from Chicago's poorest neighborhoods, the city had its deadliest day in at least 60 years -- maybe the deadliest day ever. By midnight that night, 18 people in Chicago had been murdered. That's five more than the all-time record and eight more than the total of unarmed African-Americans shot dead by police last year -- in one day. So, look, this is not a defense of people who abuse their power. The show exists to hold those people to account. Should police officers who break the law be arrested and punished? Of course. Find a person in America who disagrees with that. There aren't any.

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# 3 Traits Of Modi That Have Cost India Dearly

By Ramachandra Guha

Last week, the respected US rating agency Moody's downgraded India's sovereign rating to Baa3, the lowest grade. It thereby joined Standard and Poor and Fitch, which had already relegated India to the bottom rung in this regard. Explaining their decision, Moody's said: "While today's action is taken in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, it was not driven by the impact of the pandemic. Rather, the pandemic amplifies vulnerabilities in India's credit profile that were present and building prior to the shock, and which motivated the assignment of a negative outlook last year."

Embarrassingly, this negative verdict appeared just as the ruling party was marking the sixth anniversary of Narendra Modi's becoming Prime Minister. Meanwhile, two senior Delhi columnists independently wrote sober assessments of his tenure. Both had once hoped that Modi would be an economic reformer; both felt disappointed that he had turned out otherwise. Writing in *The Indian Express*, Tavleen Singh thought that these failures were largely the consequence of the premature death of Arun Jaitley, after which (or so she claimed), "Suddenly, the priorities and the image of the government changed dramatically." Writing in *The Print*, Shekhar Gupta laid the blame at the feet of the IAS officers who advised Modi, whom he saw as cautious and risk-averse, unlike the "stellar team of civil servants" who had advised previous Prime Ministers such as Narasimha Rao and Atal Behari Vajpayee.

My own analysis is very different. Narendra Modi has been a disappointment as a Prime Minister not because he has bad advisers or because some good advisers died relatively young, but because of his own faults and failings. There are three character traits in particular that help explain why, despite the two resounding electoral mandates he has won, Narendra Modi has not been able to deliver the sort

of progress on the economic front that his supporters had once thought he would.

The first trait is the suspicion of experts and expertise. As a self-made man, who has risen to the top on the basis of his own intelligence, his own drive, and his own will-power, Modi is suspicious of those with formal qualifications from elite institutions. His statement that he preferred "hard work to Harvard" was a striking manifestation of this belief. In truth, the second does not preclude the former; had Abhijit Banerjee not worked so industriously after securing a PhD from Harvard, he would never have won a Nobel Prize for economics. Good governance needs both focused energy as well as expert knowledge. The disaster of demonetization - which set the Indian economy back many years - could have been avoided if the Prime Minister had listened to the professional advice of the (MIT-educated) Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. More recently, the fall-out of the COVID-19 pandemic would have been far less serious had the Prime Minister based his policies on the advice of the country's top epidemiologists rather

than on his own penchant for the spectacular and the dramatic.

The second trait, which is related to the first, is the cult of personality that the Prime Minister has built around himself. As a technocrat who has worked with the PM once told me, the rule that all advisers have to observe is "total obsequiousness, no credit". The line with which the Prime Minister fought and won the 2019 elections, 'Modi Hai toh Mumkin Hai', says it all. Only Modi will defeat terrorism, Modi and Modi alone will humiliate Pakistan (and now China), Modi by himself will eliminate corruption, Modi will surely make India the Vishwa Guru - this is the sort of thinking that is ubiquitous within the ruling party and the central government. But a large and complex country like India cannot be governed effectively and well through the force of one person's will - however farsighted and hardworking that individual might be.

For all the confidence and strength he exudes, the behaviour of the Prime Minister suggests that he is, within himself, a somewhat insecure man. This is evident not just in his reluctance to publicly praise his

ministers or advisers when they do a good job, but also in the sort of people he relies on for advice. The preponderance of Gujarat cadre officers around him and in positions of influence in the central government is one sign. A second is his tendency to shun some outstanding IAS officers, merely because they once held important positions in Congress governments. Even within the top ranks of the IAS, loyalty to the Leader, and not the quality of one's intellect, is what the Modi Government prizes most.

Back in 2013-14, when Narendra Modi launched his campaign to become Prime Minister, he was enthusiastically endorsed by many Indians not otherwise inclined to the Hindutva ideology of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Disgusted by the corruption and cronyism of the Congress regime, they saw Modi as a dynamic economic reformer, an Indian Deng Xiaoping, who would unleash the forces of entrepreneurial dynamism. They were impressed by his energy, by his being self-made, and, of course, by his oratory. And they took at face value his claim that he had put his RSS past behind him.

Tragically, these well-meaning Indians were mistaken in giving Narendra Modi the benefit of doubt. For the third reason that Modi has been such a disappointment as Prime Minister is that he remains a sectarian Sanghi at heart. In his public statements, he has been careful not to appear outrightly communal - though even here he can slip, as in his notorious remark that he could identify those protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act by the clothes they wore. In any case, his silences have spoken most eloquently in this regard. His silence when his MPs and even a cabinet minister were publicly praising alleged lynchers of innocent Muslims, his silence when his Home Minister was suggesting that Muslims were 'termites', his silence when the BJP IT Cell relentlessly communalized the incident of the Tabilighi Jamaat, and above all, his endorsement of the nakedly discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act all show that he remains committed to the core Hindutva dogma that this is essentially a Hindu country, and that Indian Muslims must forever be proving their

loyalty to the Motherland or else risk persecution.

When the energies of Narendra Modi's party and of his government are so substantially taken up with showing Muslims their place, it is scarcely surprising that the economy was in free fall well before COVID-19, that our media was threatened and intimidated, that our public institutions were compromised, that social peace was so fragile. For a politics based on polarization can never be conducive to a nation's progress.

If the *Acche Din* promised by Narendra Modi in May 2014 still remain elusive a full six years after he became Prime Minister, then the buck must stop with Narendra Modi himself. Not the death of a trusted colleague, not the incompetence of a few officers in his inner circle, but his own megalomania, his own suspicion of experts, his own reluctance to share credit, and his own inability to transcend the sectarian ideology that he embraced as a young man - it is these traits of Narendra Modi himself that explain why history will judge him far more harshly than his naïve and trusting supporters believe or hope.

## Sens. Cotton and Blackburn Stop depending on China -here's how we end this threat

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed China's ability to wreak havoc on the global economy and cut off our access to essential supplies.

The Chinese Communist Party's malicious actions should come as no surprise. Decades of failed engagement, Western investment and unfair trade tactics built China into an industrial behemoth, giving the CCP control over the world's supply of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and other basic goods.

The CCP has used cheap goods, manufactured with stolen technology, to buy the West's silence about its appalling aggression in Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Tibet and elsewhere. These problems are



not new, but they have become more obvious, especially to the general public. It is now clear that our passive dependence on China for essential supplies poses a grave threat. The United States must embrace policies that will secure global supply chains and revitalize industry at home. Con-

gress should immediately focus on securing America's pharmaceutical supply chain. While the United States has invested heavily in drug discovery and development, China has prioritized pharmaceutical manufacturing, giving massive support to domestic producers to undercut

foreign competitors.

Most Americans would be shocked to learn that most active pharmaceutical ingredients — or, "APIs," the building blocks of drugs — are made in China; 95 percent of imports of ibuprofen, 70 percent of acetaminophen, and between 40 percent and 45

percent of penicillin come directly from China. Only 28 percent of facilities making API are located in the U.S. This level of dependence is dangerous, but we cannot simply wish away this problem with a one-size-fits-all mandate. Instead, Congress should consider more targeted bills to support an industry that has long been in crisis. We have two bills to do just that. The Securing America's Medicine Cabinet (SAM-C) Act and Protecting our Pharmaceutical Supply Chain from China Act would set predictable guidelines for the pharmaceutical industry, incentivize domestic drug manufacturing and give federal agencies the tools they need to protect American patients from unsafe Chinese drugs.

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# In post Covid-19 world, cities to have pedestrian-friendly markets, more cyclists: Centre

**The ministry of housing and urban affairs has recommended holistic planning for pedestrian-friendly market spaces in various cities and municipal areas in the country in consultation with stake holders.**

(News Agencies) Post-Covid 19 market spaces will need to be more pedestrian friendly, cycling and walking network will need to be expanded, the Centre has told states in an advisory issued by the ministry of housing and urban affairs. The ministry has recommended holistic planning for pedestrian friendly market spaces in various cities and municipal areas in the country in consultation with stake holders. The ministry has asked states to select at least three market places in million-plus cities for the 'pedestrianisation plan' and non-million plus cities to select at least one market area. The selection of city market spaces for the plan has to be completed by June 30, 2020 according to the advisory reviewed by Hindustan Times. "Covid-19 has brought cities around the world to a halt. Public

transport is either shut or very limited in many cities. Movement of private motor vehicles is controlled. However, cities have benefitted from cleaner air. As cities look to ease the lockdown, the need of the hour is to provide safe, affordable and equitable modes of transport and also ensure physical distancing," the advisory said. "While the lockdown is being gradually relaxed, the need for social distancing, especially in market areas, will remain. The pandemic presents us with an opportunity to re-imagine streets for people. To make market areas Covid-19 safe and people friendly, Indian cities should consider pedestrianizing them. The need for personalized forms of transport is also expected to increase as a response to Covid-19. Cities around the world are leveraging the opportunity to

expand their cycling network substantially," it added. The holistic planning for pedestrian-friendly market space may be done in consultation with the stake holders. "This will require proper survey of space used in the present scenario by various stakeholders. A movement/direction plan has to be prepared to see that there are designated walking paths where visitors are able to follow social distancing," it said. Once the plan is made and firmed up, cities may start implementation in two phases – short term and long term, the advisory states. "Short-term recommendations include interventions that are quick, temporary, easy to install, and ensure safety to commuters after the lockdown. The market spaces could be rearranged with quick and temporary measures such as barricades, road closure

for vehicles., etc... On-street parking space or even carriageway lanes can be repurposed to provide more walking and waiting space... Cyclists may be allowed with dedicated/ear-marked pathways," it said. Provision of access to motor vehicles for residents of the area to commute should be clearly delineated. Municipal Bodies may increase the width of foot paths of the streets leading to the market, it added. Adequate provision of high frequency public transit may be ensured for citizens to access the market area in a comfortable manner. The design of the vending spaces provides a good opportunity for innovations, the advisory said. "Long term permanent structures for promoting pedestrianisation can be developed after temporary

short-term measures are found working," it added. The holistic planning of the area through stakeholder consultation can be undertaken over the next three months, till September 30, the advisory noted, and the survey of the vendors and other users of the market space could be carried out and completed by July 31, 2020. "By the end of September 2020, a plan may be formalised to start implementation. Short term measures such a temporary barricading, closure of roads for traffic, earmarking spaces, etc. to assess the plan on the field may be started in the first week of October 2020. The assessment of the implemented plan through short term measures may be done by November 2020 and amendments as required may be completed by November 2020," it added.

# India, unlocking, is among 15 high-risk nations: Study

**According to the analysis, lifting lockdowns will lead to either of two potential scenarios - quick recovery in people mobility or a much 'flatter' Covid-19 curve.**



(News Agencies) India is which covers 45 major of second wave; 13 among a group of 15 economies, takes into countries showing high-risk countries account case some tentative warning where relaxing trajectories and mobility signs; and 15 countries lockdowns could lead to trends to determine the in danger zone of being a spike in new impact movement of most at risk of a second infections, creating a people will have on new wave" the report said. situation which, "in the cases. According to the extreme case", could "Our visual tool analysis, lifting lead to stringent curbs has yielded a mixed bag lockdowns will lead to being re-imposed, an of results: 17 countries either of two potential analysis by securities are on track with scenarios. "In the first research firm Nomura respect to reopening (good) scenario, a has said. The analysis, economies with no sign country or US state

experiences a quick reimposed," it added. an unprecedented recovery in people The analysis divides the erosion of earnings and mobility. Lockdown 45 countries into three employment in many measures become groups: those 'on regions. relaxed, and businesses track', facing 'warning The World resume operations with signs', or are in the Health Organization minimal increases in 'danger zone'. India urged countries to press the number of new daily falls in the danger zone, on with efforts to contain cases, resulting in an along with several other the virus and that now "is ease in public fear and low-to-middle income not the time for any further increase in countries such as country to take its foot off people mobility. As the Indonesia, Chile and the pedal". In India, malls, number of new cases Pakistan. Some of the restaurants and religious declines, a positive advanced economies in places opened on Monday feed-back loops kicks this group are Sweden, for the first time since in," the analysis said. Singapore, South Africa March 25 as most parts of and Canada. the country rolled out new "On the other hand, the second (bad) Among those on guidelines that are part of scenario is track are France, Italy the government's characterised by a much and South Korea, while "unlocking" plan. 'flatter' curve. The countries like Germany, Economists have reopening of the United States and expressed concerns that economy is associated United Kingdom face another lockdown of the with an acceleration in risks. The projections nature seen before the the number of new daily come at a time when unlock measures kicked infections, growing most of these nations in will not be feasible public fear and ceasing are easing restrictions unless the government people mobility; in in order to allow people announces adequate extreme cases, to get back to work interventions to protect lockdowns would be following what has been jobs and earnings.



# India stares at a long road to economic revival

## Cash shortage, frayed supply lines, a closed export market and labour crisis are likely to pose a tall challenge for the government as it looks to spur economy

(News Agencies) Small businesses in industrial enclaves across India are confronting the harsh new realities of a post-Covid world as they count their losses from the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown. Cash is short. Supply lines are frayed. Export markets are shut. And workers have vanished. "How do you restart business without labour? They are all gone right now," said Mayank Ajay Gupta, the proprietor of Olympic Zippers at Meerut's Partapur, once a buzzing industrial enclave of nearly 15,000 big and small units just outside Delhi.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) businesses usually rely on month-to-month operations for revenues and profits, with little reserves and staying power. It is yet uncertain when economic activity can return to pre-Covid levels because social distancing rules mean only 33% of the workforce at a unit can work at any time. The lockdown enforced from the intervening midnight of March 24 and 25 triggered the distress exodus of millions of workers and daily wage workers from the cities back to their homes in the villages of states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal that have traditionally been the source of labour for

factories such as Gupta's. The Indian economy, the world's fifth largest, had already been slowing because of a downturn in household consumption and private sector investment before the pandemic hit. Although it included just one week of the lockdown, economic growth in the quarter ended March slumped to 3.1%, official data released on May 30 showed. To spur growth, PM Narendra Modi on May 12 announced a Rs 20 lakh-crore relief and stimulus package on national television that included past fiscal and monetary measures taken by the government and the Reserve Bank of India. He also spelt out a new economic stance of self-reliance. Businesses, however, are preparing for the country's first potential recession in a generation despite large lending programmes announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The economy is precariously poised. Data from the Controller General of Accounts show the fiscal deficit, or the gap between the government's earnings and spending, for FY20 stood at 4.59% of gross domestic product (GDP), higher than budget's target of 3.8%. The revenue deficit stood at 3.27% of GDP. This would mean that the government will have limited space to fund bailouts. Sitharaman on May 13 announced several measures for MSMEs, the

backbone of Indian manufacturing, which account for 29% of India's GDP and employ over 120 million workers.

The sector is uniformly worried about capital and labour. "These reforms (announced by the government) are more medium-term in nature, and we therefore do not expect these to have an immediate impact on reviving growth," Goldman Sachs economists Prachi Mishra and Andrew Tilton wrote in a research note on May 17. India's growth woes began much before Covid-19 struck. In September 2018, Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd, a major lender to all kinds of businesses, including MSMEs, defaulted on its debt obligations, triggering a rippling liquidity crisis in the country's financial services market. Borrowing costs rose sharply. Private demand began collapsing too. Economist Hetal Gandhi of Crisil research said people's investments were locked in stalled real-estate projects, squeezing their spending ability on other goods. She cited data from the Real Estate Regulatory Authority to show that not just new projects, but the rate of completion of existing projects had come down too. The economic backdrop to the lockdown was grim. Total average earnings of farm households, according to Crisil data, from

agricultural related income, which includes rural labour wages, registered growth of 0% in 2018 at Rs 65,000 compared to an 8% increase in 2017.

Urban income growth from the formal sector, as reflected in cost of employees for 750 listed companies, which was averaging 10-12%, fell to 5% in the last quarter of 2018-19. "If I look at six-quarter data of employee cost prior to quarter three of FY19, we saw growth rate per employee of 10-12%, which in the last quarter was 5%," says Gandhi. An income crunch is clear, she says. Nobody expects a V shaped recovery now, a scenario where a downswing is quickly reversed as growth scales rapidly back up. Most expect a U or L shaped trajectory: the former represents a long drag and the latter a sustained low. The projections may not be out of place. At the Wagle industrial estate in Thane, home to 900 manufacturing units, none has been able to start operations because of a liquidity and labour crunch, says Sandeep Parikh of the Chamber of Small Industries Association. "We don't need fresh loans. We need a lower Goods and Services Tax for long term sustainability," says Ajay Rathi of Rathi Fastners, a medium enterprise.

India's economy will likely shrink 5% in the year through next March,



Goldman Sachs said in a report in the last week of May. The International Monetary Fund has slashed its 2010-21 growth projection for India to 1.9% from 5.8% estimated in January. Barclays said it saw 0% growth. The lockdown has generated a massive supply shock, which is an unexpected change in the supply of a commodity or a service. According to calculations by Pronab Sen, former chief statistician, the supply effect of the lockdown, which impacted between 50 to 55% of the economy, potentially led to a weekly loss of around Rs 2 lakh crore or 1% of 2019-20 GDP at 2019-20 prices.

**Jobs bloodbath**  
As the country clamped a shutdown on March 24, shutting factories, shops, and construction sites, the jobless migrant workers were caught in a survival battle. Thousands began walking home hundreds of miles under harsh conditions, hungry, thirsty and tired, setting off an unprecedented crisis. (RBI) released Aijaz Hassan, the proprietor of a unit that makes scissors in Meerut's famous Kainchi market, says he is hurting because the government did not allow MSMEs to open in April when the lockdown was first eased. Doing so would have averted a mass reverse migration never seen since India's Independence, he says. "That would have prevented the labourers from fleeing the city. We would have been able to

employ them," he said. Not surprisingly, the country's unemployment rate quickened to historic highs, costing well over 114 million jobs, mostly of small traders and daily wagers, data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed in May. The unemployment rate touched 27.1% in the week that ended on May 3 -- the highest ever -- indicating a bloodbath in the labour markets. A silver lining has been that an unlocking economy has now begun adding new jobs. Latest data from the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy showed urban unemployment fell sharply since the shutdown was imposed to stand at 17.08% in the week to June 7, from a high of 25.14% in the week ended May 31. On June 5, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the minutes of its monetary policy committee's May 20-22 meeting, which discussed the impact of the shutdown. They bore grim milestones. The central bank indicated India could see its economy shrink for the first time in 40 years. RBI deputy governor, Michael Patra, said the lockdown's damage was so deep that the country's potential output or GDP would take "years to repair".

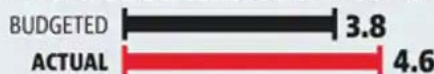
### GROWTH PANGS

From job cuts to revenue loss, businesses across the country are confronting the harsh new realities of a post-Covid world as they count their losses from the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown enforced to check the disease's spread

#### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



#### FY20 FISCAL DEFICIT WIDENS (AS % OF GDP)



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जनगणना 2020 के तहत अमेरिका में रहने वाले हर व्यक्ति की गिनती की जाएगी। आज ही जनगणना पूरी करें और सरकार को अगले दस वर्षों तक यह सुनिश्चित करने में मदद करें, कि अरबों डॉलर की सरकारी फंडिंग स्वास्थ्य केंद्र, आपातकालीन सेवाओं और शिक्षा जैसे क्षेत्रों में वितरित की जाए। **जनगणना का फ़ॉर्म ऑनलाइन अथवा डाक द्वारा पूरा करें। फ़ॉर्म पूरा करने की जानकारी इस वेबसाइट पर प्राप्त करें:**

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# India considering universal basic income, NHRC tells UN

The UN has been informed that the Indian government is examining and “actively considering” the possibility of a universal basic income to reduce poverty. Universal basic income (UBI) refers to periodic cash transfers to every citizen.



(News Agencies) India is considering a universal basic income and will not consider a repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or a moratorium on the death penalty, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has told the United Nations. In a first, NHRC, submitted a mid-term report to the United Nations on the human rights situation in the country, highlighting the government's policies on climate change, rights of women, children, disabled, and the elderly, and the right to food, work and health.

In the report, Universal Periodic Review (UPR)-III, the UN has been informed that the Indian government is examining and “actively considering” the possibility of a universal basic income to reduce poverty. Universal basic income (UBI) refers to periodic cash transfers to every citizen. The government has focused on cash transfer schemes aimed at farmers, especially, but no universal cash transfer programme. As part of UPR-III, the Indian government accepted 152 recommendations out of 250 by 112 UN member states in September 2017 pertaining to poverty alleviation, rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, elderly, marginalized populations and right to education etc. However, it refused to accept 98 recommendations including repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, a moratorium on the death penalty,

violence against marginalized groups and concerns over the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), a law regulating foreign funding to non-governmental organizations etc.

UPR is an international peer review mechanism based on a periodic self-assessment by each country of its human rights record, achievements and challenges, which is supplemented by reports from UN human rights experts, entities, treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, and civil society organizations. India was one of the first countries to be reviewed under the UPR mechanism. In the mid-term report submitted last month, accessed by Hindustan Times, NHRC has listed passing of Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, which criminalizes instant Triple Talaq, as a key step in eliminating

But there is a bright light yet in the spontaneous kneeling gesture of the Miami police to apologise for the inhuman conduct of a killer in uniform. Nations do not have unexceptional goodness.

discrimination against women. It has also listed government flagship schemes such as the PM Awas Yojana affordable housing initiative, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, the Swachh Bharat Mission, and the Ujjwala scheme of free cooking gas connections for the poor. Civil society organizations, which are part of the Working Group of Human Rights (WGHR), say NHRC has done the bidding of the government of India rather than giving an independent view on the human rights conditions in India. Henri Tiphagne, executive director of the People's Watch, said: “We are quite surprised because this NHRC UPR report reads like a government of India report. Many events have taken place (since India accepted the recommendations of UN

member countries) but nothing has been mentioned in the report. The report doesn't show the independent view of NHRC”.

Sanjoy Hazarika, director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, welcomed NHRC submitting a mid-term report but added that the non-government organisation was meeting in couple of days to brainstorm on the findings. A 12-member Working Group of Human Rights (WGHR) for India, which includes CHRI, will prepare its own report and send it to the UN. NHRC chairperson, justice (retd) H L Dattu, said, “This (mid-term) report addresses all the recommendations given by the UN members for the central government during last review meeting (in September 2017 in Geneva). The UPR is significant because it takes into account issues

pertaining to human rights including poverty, religious issues, women rights etc.” Asked about NHRC's role in the whole process, Dattu said, “The Commission has the role of an onlooker as these recommendations are for the central government (to address).” Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia Director at Human Rights Watch (HRW) said: “The NHRC, to meet standards set out under the Paris Principles, should act as an independent authority to ensure human rights protections, recommend reforms, call for accountability when there are violations. It should act as a constitutional body to provide independent checks and balances. The commission should also be speaking out about violations linked to a crackdown on freedom of speech and peaceful protest. It is not supposed to report government achievements. That is for the state party to do.”

the state party to do.”

## In India and the US, a tale of two rights movements

(News Agencies) For people who admire the world's oldest democracy, the developments in the United States (US) have caused considerable concern. If President Donald Trump's politics remains perplexing, the latest public outburst on the merciless killing of a black man, George Floyd, came as a frightening validation of the thesis that democracy is in deep trouble. To think that four years after President Barack Obama's comforting tenure, to quote from William Butler Yeats' Second Coming, “things fall apart, the centre cannot hold, and mere anarchy is loosed upon the world”.

But there is a bright light yet in the spontaneous kneeling gesture of the Miami police to apologise for the inhuman conduct of a killer in uniform. Nations do not have unexceptional goodness.



But if they know how to swiftly contain moral aberrations and encourage acts of forgiveness and reconciliation, such as the Miami police exhibited, one's faith and confidence in democracy is preserved. What happened in Minneapolis is wrong, and even in a divided society, white supremacists have been silenced, and liberals across colour and communities have been openly arguing that

“black lives matter”. Curiously, some Bollywood stars, who seem unmoved by recent events in India, have joined the US chorus for justice.

As protests over Floyd's death intensified in the US, social media was flooded with posts on police brutality. However, amid the news of rioting, tear-gas and baton charge, there were also reports of police personnel in Miami joining the protesters'

cause and apologising for the brutality. Police forces at several places laid down their shields and helmets to express solidarity with those speaking out against racism and for human rights, while some knelt before the demonstrators.

But here, at home, some courts have not found the time to seek an explanation for the police brutality writ large, but heartlessly shrouded in the exigencies of the

Covid-19 lockdown. Jamia Millia Islamia awaits justice for brutal assaults on protesting students on two separate occasions in the wake of anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) protests, despite the university management having publicly complained of the unwarranted conduct of the police. Far from reaching out to the aggrieved student body, the police have issued notices to dozens of them and arrested several under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) or Indian Penal Code to begin with, and immediately, if granted bail, under UAPA a period of incarceration without bail. The State might well be able to inflict unnecessary pain upon these young persons, even derail their career prospects, but hopefully will not crush their spirit and commitment to democracy and freedom.

(Contd on page 33)



# In Nepal's map tactics, a reflection of China's growing footprint in Kathmandu

In Kathmandu and New Delhi, PM Oli has been widely perceived to have rushed through the new political map to whip up ultra-nationalistic sentiments to consolidate support within the ruling Communist Party of Nepal.



(News Agencies) As Nepal's parliament took the first step on Tuesday to formalise the country's new political map that has set up a row with India, foreign minister Pradeep Gyawali made another request to New Delhi for dialogue. Gyawali told news agency AP that Kathmandu wanted to sit across the table with India for formal negotiations so that the two countries "with a very unique type of partnership" could develop a more inspiring relationship. New Delhi hasn't responded to requests for foreign secretary-level talks made after Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli cabinet hurriedly

passed a new political map that counts Indian territories of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura as its own. Senior government officials told Hindustan Times that Kathmandu shouldn't expect any dialogue on the three Indian territories either. "Once Nepal drew the red lines on the map to serve its domestic and foreign interests, there was nothing to talk about," he said.

In Kathmandu and New Delhi, PM Oli - who came to power on the nationalistic agenda - has been widely perceived to have rushed through the new political map to whip up ultra-nationalistic

sentiments to consolidate support within the ruling Communist Party of Nepal. That sentiment, quite similar to his election rhetoric, targets New Delhi. Domestic politics apart, the map also helps KP Oli score points with Beijing, Nepal's other giant neighbour. It hasn't gone unnoticed in New Delhi that KP Oli had timed the new political map around the same time India and China were engaged in a standoff in the Ladakh sector.

Nepal, and PM Oli have a track record of trying to steer the India-China rivalry to his advantage. But increasingly, analysts in

Kathmandu concede that China's influence over Kathmandu was rising rapidly. In some ways, one analyst in Kathmandu said, China, which poured millions of dollars in Nepal, has gradually encircled the Himalayan nation. Chinese investments in Nepal started to surge from 2008 when Kathmandu switched from a monarchy to a republic in 2008. By 2014, China outranked India in terms of total investment. In 2015-16, China contributed 42 per cent of the total FDI to Nepal. According to the latest available data, China has again surpassed India as top investor in Nepal in the first quarter of 2019-20 with a total pledge of \$ 88 million FDI representing 93 per cent of total committed FDI of \$95 million. Britain came next with \$ 1.85 million followed by India's \$ 1.76 million. Nepal is also getting a second Chinese cement plant being set up with \$ 140 million investment; the first was Hongshi Cement.

This increase is also seen in Chinese overseas

development assistance where China overtook Indian aid in 2015, growing steadily from \$ 19 million in 2010-11 to \$ 38 million in 2014-15 as compared to India's \$22 million. Nepal has also been nudging Beijing to build projects worth an estimated \$ 3 billion via a grant, not the soft loan that China has agreed to. If Nepal does eventually sign off on the soft loan, it would dwarf other Chinese loans including the ones extended to build Pokhara international airport and the Trishuli 3A hydropower project. The Chinese influence was on display earlier this year also when its mission in Kathmandu rebuked the Nepal media on February 19, and accused The Kathmandu Post editor of "ulterior motives" because the newspaper had published an article critical of China's handling of the coronavirus virus. The public reprimand, ironically, coincided with Democracy Day of Nepal. But there were no protests from the Oli government who is seen to pursue a "nationalist" agenda.

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## India has largest, most experienced mountain army in the world, says Chinese military expert

(News Agencies) India has the world's largest and most experienced troops trained for high-altitude battles, a military expert affiliated to China's leading maker of equipment for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has said, adding that mountaineering is an "essential skill" for each Indian soldier deployed in the mountains. "At present, the world's largest and experienced country with plateau and mountain troops is neither the US, Russia, nor any European powerhouse, but India," wrote Huang Guozhi, senior editor of Modern Weaponry magazine.

The magazine, considered a comprehensive military and defence journal, is affiliated to the state-owned China North Industries Group Corporation Limited (NORINCO), which describes itself as "the main platform responsible for developing mechanised, digitised and intellectualised equipment for PLA". It's one of the world's largest defence contractors and is also closely involved in President Xi Jinping's legacy project, the Belt and Road Initiative.

# South Asia must now build resilient supply chains

## Facilitate cross-border flow of goods and services by reducing tariffs; improving logistics, infra and digitisation

(News Agencies) The outbreak of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic has brought about new opportunities for regional cooperation in South Asia. On March 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi organised a regional conference with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) leaders

and set up an emergency fund of \$10 million to fight the pandemic. A senior official-level meeting was held on March 26 to frame mechanisms to further health cooperation. The region is also witnessing cooperation at a bilateral level, with Bangladesh supplying food and medical equipment to Maldives, and India stepping up its medical assistance to the region.

Many commentators envisage that there will be a decline in globalisation and rela-

tive strengthening of regional supply chains. Geography will assume an important role in supply chains, with the proximity of production centres

weighing equally against conventional elements such as facility, labour, and transportation time and cost. India, in particular (and largely the South Asian region), is foreseen to benefit from this for two reasons — one, it is expected that several firms moving out of China will look at India as a potential destination, and two, India's importance as a market for its neighbouring countries will also increase. While the shifting focus on localisation of global supply chains provides

an opportunity for the region to become better integrated economically, there are existing challenges that must be addressed.

In the recent Brookings India report, India's Limited Trade Connectivity with South Asia, we have mapped the trends in India's low trade connectivity with the region, the gaps that need to be addressed, and recommendations for increasing trade in the

region. Despite huge potential, intra-regional trade in South Asia is among the lowest in the world at 5% (World Bank). To date, India's trade with the region has ranged between 1.7% to 3.8% of its global trade. China has steadily increased its exports to the region from \$8 billion in 2005 to \$52 billion in 2018. As a result, only Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan now have a higher trade share with India as compared to that with China. However, India continues to be an impor-

tant market for all its neighbouring countries, except Myanmar and Pakistan.

The pandemic created both supply and demand-side shocks to global trade. A recent report by the Economist Intelligence Unit shows that companies with localised industries and supply chains were able to mitigate the shocks better. Recently, PM Modi also stressed on self-reliance while emphasising on bolstering India's supply chains. South Asian economies, particularly the small and medium enterprises in the region, can benefit from strengthening regional supply chains. The relatively younger population of the region and a rising middle-class, is well placed to supply workforce for labour-intensive production and generate demand for goods and services, respectively. To achieve better regional integration, there are several steps that South Asian countries can take.



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## The costs of anti-Indian nationalism in Nepal

(News Agencies) India's political stand-off with Nepal over the Lipu Lekh border persists. Nepal's Parliament is expected to pass a constitutional amendment to formalise a map to include territory, which is both claimed by India and has been under Indian control. This escalation on Nepal's side has been coupled with a rise of strong anti-Indian nationalism. At the root of the discord is a simple question. India and Nepal have a "special relationship". In practice, this has meant that India and Nepal share open borders; India allows Nepalis to work in India without restrictions; and Nepalis serve in the Indian Army. In turn, Nepal has both conceded, indirectly, a role for India in its domestic politics, and has been sensitive to Indian security interests.

The rise of ultra-nationalism and the emergence of a new generation of Nepali elite, which does not share the same emotional bond with India, mean Kathmandu wants a reset of ties now. But while India has benefited from the special ties too, this reset will have clear costs for Nepal. It can mean hard borders; it can mean restrictions on Nepalis from working in India; it can mean a reduction in bilateral support essential for Nepal's development; and it can lead to political resistance from the Tarai, Nepal's southern plains.

## Expats leaving Dubai is bad news for the economy

**It's a choice facing millions of foreigners across the Gulf as the fallout from the pandemic and a plunge in energy prices forces economic adjustments.**

(News Agencies) It took Sarah Sissons less than a month to call an end to 25 years in Dubai. The 39-year-old moved back to Australia in May with her husband and daughter. She first came to the Gulf business hub as a teenager, when her father was a pilot for Emirates, and never really left.

"Dubai is home for me," said Sissons, who owned a small cafe and worked as a freelance human resources consultant. But "it's expensive here and there's no safety for expats. If I take the same money to Australia and we run out of everything, at least we'll have medical insurance and free schooling."

It's a choice facing millions of foreigners across the Gulf as the fallout from the pandemic and a plunge in energy prices forces economic adjustments. Wealthy Gulf Arab monarchies have, for decades, depended on foreign workers to transform sleepy villages into cosmopolitan cities. Many grew up or raised families here, but with no formal route to citizenship or permanent residency and no benefits to

bridge the hard times, it's a precarious existence. The impact is starkest in Dubai, whose economic model is built on the presence of foreign residents who comprise about 90% of the population.

continuous growth. The Expat Life Is Struggling to Survive Covid-19 "An exodus of middle class residents could create a death spiral for the economy," said Ryan Bohl, a Middle East analyst at Stratfor. "Sectors that relied on those professionals and their families such as restaurants, luxury goods, schools and clinics will all suffer as people leave. Without government support, those services could then lay off people who would then leave the country and create more waves of exodus."

With the global economy in turmoil, the decision to leave isn't straightforward. Dubai

residents who can scrape by will likely stay rather than compete with the newly unemployed back home. The International Labor Organization says more than 1 billion workers globally are at high risk of pay cuts or job losses because of the coronavirus. Some Gulf leaders, like Kuwait's prime minister, are encouraging foreigners to leave as they fret about providing new jobs for locals.



## PM Modi discusses Covid-19 pandemic with Philippines president

The Philippines President appreciated the steps taken by India to maintain supply of essential pharmaceutical products to his country, an official statement said.

(News Agencies) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday discussed the Covid-19 pandemic with Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte and assured that India's well-established capacity for manufacturing affordable pharmaceutical products would continue to be deployed for the benefit of the entire humanity.



The leaders also discussed the steps being taken by the two governments to address the challenges arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic, an official statement said. The Philippines President appreciated the steps taken by India to maintain supply of essential pharmaceutical products to his country, it said. The prime minister assured President Duterte of India's commitment to support the Philippines in its fight against the pandemic. "He stressed that India's well-established capacity for manufacturing affordable pharmaceutical products, including for an eventual vaccine once it is found, would continue to be

deployed for the benefit of entire humanity," the statement said. Both leaders expressed appreciation for the cooperation extended to ensure the welfare of their citizens in each other's territory, as also for their repatriation home, during the ongoing health crisis. The leaders

shared their satisfaction at the progress seen in recent years in all aspects of the bilateral relationship, including defence cooperation, it said. Taking to Twitter, Modi later said, "India and the Philippines will cooperate to reduce the health and economic impact of the pandemic, and to give shape to our common vision for the Indo-Pacific region." Modi emphasised that India sees the Philippines as a vital partner in the Indo-Pacific Region. The prime minister also conveyed his best wishes to President Duterte and the people of the Philippines for the forthcoming National Day.

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# NYC police union president defends officers: The media is portraying us as the enemy

(News Agencies)Police across the nation are "not the enemy" of the communities they serve, New York Police Benevolent Association President Mike O'Meara said Wednesday. In an interview on "Fox & Friends," O'Meara said that law enforcement around the country mourns the death of George Floyd and stands with protesters, but he said he had to speak out at the association's press conference

Tuesday against the media and politicians who have been "vilifying" cops "like animals and thugs." "We are portrayed in the press and everywhere else as the enemy and we want people to know that we take our jobs seriously, we're professional, and the vast, vast majority of the time we act appropriately and honorably and that's what we do and that's not being portrayed right now in the media and in the world," he

stated. As calls to defund or dismantle police departments have grown amid nationwide protests against police brutality and Floyd's death, some Democratic politicians have complied, slashing budgets over police unions' objections. In Minneapolis -- the city where Floyd took his final breath -- the City Council announced its support for disbanding the city's police department. On Monday, congressional Democrats -- including the House Judiciary Committee

and the Congressional Black Caucus -- introduced sweeping legislation that would bring about wide-ranging reforms to police departments across the country. O'Meara acknowledged that while scrutiny of his profession has been magnified in recent weeks, many do not understand that the pressure on officers was already "enormous." "The notion that police are not investigated and we're some wild organization out

there, you know, doing what we wish is just a falsehood...And, that's why I think it's important...because we need people to understand that we are under scrutiny," he reassured. According to O'Meara, "99.999 percent" of the members of the New York Police Benevolent Association "act honorably every day." But, suddenly, the media and New York legislators are painting them in a bad light, he said.

## ACLU files lawsuit against border coronavirus restrictions

(News Agencies) The American Civil Liberties Union, along with two other immigrant advocacy organizations, filed the first lawsuit Tuesday against stringent border restrictions related to coronavirus that largely bar migrants from entering the United States. In March, as coronavirus swept across the country, the Trump administration invoked a public health law, citing the coronavirus, that allowed for the swift removal of migrants, including children, apprehended at the border -- a move that raised concerns among officials involved in compiling data who believed it to be driven by political motivations. The order has since been extended indefinitely. The ACLU, Center for Gender and Refugee Studies and Oxfam America are now challenging that order.

"This lawsuit will raise for the first time whether the government can close down the border to children seeking protection based on the government assertion that it's necessary for public health, without providing any of the protections Congress has afforded children and those seeking protection," said Lee Gelernt, an attorney with the ACLU. The plaintiff is a 16-year-old boy from Honduras who was seeking refuge in the United States. According to the lawsuit, the boy, who's identified by his initials, was fleeing "severe persecution" in Honduras and was apprehended by US Customs and Border Protection last week. He's in CBP custody in the El Paso, Texas, area. Since the lawsuit was filed, a federal judge has temporarily blocked the boy's removal from the US. Unaccompanied migrant children have been afforded certain protections under US law, but new border measures have undercut those protections, attorneys argue in the complaint. In this case, those measures have given way to the boy staying in immigration custody, with the threat of being swiftly removed back to his home country, instead of being transferred to a children's facility to be reunited with his father in the US.

## 12 states see rising Covid-19 hospitalizations as Arizona asks hospitals to activate emergency plans

(News Agencies)Health experts have long warned about a second peak in Covid-19, and now a rise in cases has pushed Arizona to tell its hospitals to activate emergency plans.

Arizona is one of the 19 states with the trend of new coronavirus cases still increasing. While 22 are trending downward, trends in nine states are holding steady. Nationally more than 1.9 million people have been infected by the virus and more than 112,000 have died, according to data from Johns Hopkins

University. At its peak, Arizona's intensive care unit beds were 78% in use. As of Monday, 76% were occupied. Arizona's Director of Health Services Dr. Cara Christ asked that hospitals "be judicious" in elective surgeries to ensure bed capacity. "We know Covid-19 is still in our community, and we expect to see increased cases," the Arizona Department of Health Services tweeted Tuesday night. Bed capacity and medical resources were among the top concerns in treating the coronavirus

pandemic when the nation first reached a peak. Health experts say it is a matter of when -- not if -- the country sees another surge in cases that could overwhelm healthcare systems once more. Many states have loosened restrictions that were put in place starting in March to curb the spread of the virus. But with no vaccine and more people congregating in public places and national protests, health experts warn that the high rates of cases seen in the spring may come back.

## US intercepts Russian bombers and fighter jets off coast of Alaska in international airspace



(News Agencies)The United States intercepted Russian bombers and fighter jets off the coast of Alaska on Wednesday morning, according to North American Aerospace Defense Command. The Russian military aircraft entered the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone and were intercepted by US fighter jets, supported by US tankers, NORAD said in a statement. In the first encounter, NORAD said, two Russian bombers, two Russian fighter jets and a Russian airborne early warning and

control aircraft came within 20 nautical miles of the coast of Alaska. The second formation was two bombers and an airborne early warning and control aircraft that came within 32 nautical miles. NORAD also said, "The Russian military aircraft remained in international airspace and at no time did they enter United States sovereign airspace." General Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, commander of NORAD, said Wednesday "intercepting multiple Russian aircraft demonstrates NORAD forces'

readiness and capability to defend the homelands." Flying air patrols protects the approaches to our nations and sends a clear message we continue executing our homeland defense missions with the same capability and capacity we always bring to the fight," O'Shaughnessy said. In March, US and Canadian fighter jets intercepted two Russian reconnaissance aircraft while they were flying off the Alaskan coast. There were also multiple intercepts involving Russian military aircraft off the coast of Alaska in 2019.



# Coronavirus: UK economy could be among worst hit of leading nations, says OECD



(News Agencies) The UK is likely to be the hardest hit by Covid-19 among major economies, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has warned. Britain's economy is likely to slump by 11.5% in 2020, slightly outstripping falls in countries such as Germany, France, Spain and Italy, it said. If there were a second peak in the pandemic, the UK economy could contract by as much as 14%. "The crisis will cast a long shadow over the world," the OECD added. It said that in what it called a "single-hit scenario", with no second peak, there could be contractions of 11.4% in France, 11.1% in Spain, 11.3% in Italy and 6.6% in Germany. In its latest assessment, the OECD found that the

UK's largely service-based economy meant that it had been particularly badly hit by the government's lockdown restrictions. The services sector, including financial services, hospitality and tourism, makes up about three-quarters of the UK's GDP. In response to the think tank's report, Chancellor Rishi Sunak said the UK was not the only one to suffer: "In common with many other economies around the world, we're seeing the significant impact of coronavirus on our country and our economy." "The unprecedented action we've taken to provide lifelines that help people and businesses through the economic disruption will ensure our economic recovery is as strong and as swift as possible." Shadow

chancellor Anneliese Dodds said: "Today's evidence from the OECD is deeply worrying, showing the UK was particularly exposed when the coronavirus crisis hit. "The government's failure to get on top of the health crisis, delay going into lockdown and chaotic mismanagement of the exit from lockdown are making the economic impact of this crisis worse." The central finding of the OECD forecasts is that the expectations or hopes of a rapid bounceback in the economy - a so-called V-shaped chart - is not now happening. As Secretary General Angel Gurría put it to me, it will be "U-shaped", the question is how long will be the period at the bottom of this "U".

This pattern is not affecting all countries equally. And in the event of there being no further peak, the prediction is that the UK is the worst hit this year, though just a little bit worse than Italy and France. For those who like a glass half full, it also predicts the strongest growth in the UK at 9% for 2021. But that is a rather hollow prize. The reason why is that the UK economy is peculiarly exposed as a trading economy with significant service and tourist

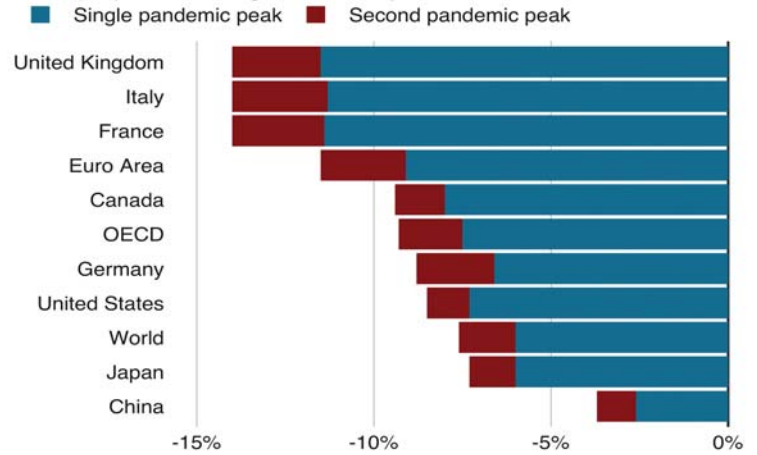
sectors. But it is also a nation that has been among the hardest hit by the underlying pandemic. This hit comes despite a much-praised rapid response deploying tens of billions to keep millions of workers on payrolls. The OECD also mentions the pandemic economic impact being "compounded" by the looming plausible failure to sign a trade deal with the EU and new trade barriers with the European Union at the end of the year.

It recommends temporarily extending the UK's stay in the single market. That is advice that the government has

shown no inclination to follow so far. The bigger point is that the OECD is subtly pointing to the fact that one rescue package is not enough. Late last week the Germans announced a massive 4% stimulus to the economy, including a thumping cut to VAT, and significant subsidies for the purchase of cars. The league table is an invitation to do more. And we will soon enough get actual hard economic data, as opposed to forecasts such as this, when the monthly GDP figure for April - entirely locked down - is published on Friday.

## Pandemic hits UK economy the hardest

2020 projected change in GDP by scenario



Source: OECD

BBC

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### मोदी का एलान-ए-जंग

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## ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ ਉਡਾਰੀ

### ਮਾਰਨ ਲਈ ਖਰਚੇ 27000 ਕਰੋੜ

ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਮਾਰਨ: ਸਰਕਾਰ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਇਸ ਸਾਲ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਮਾਰਨ ਲਈ ਖਰਚੇ 27,000 ਕਰੋੜ ਰੁਪਏ ਹੋਣਗੇ। ਇਸ ਸਾਲ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਮਾਰਨ ਲਈ ਖਰਚੇ 27,000 ਕਰੋੜ ਰੁਪਏ ਹੋਣਗੇ। ਇਸ ਸਾਲ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਮਾਰਨ ਲਈ ਖਰਚੇ 27,000 ਕਰੋੜ ਰੁਪਏ ਹੋਣਗੇ।

### ਸੱਜਣ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਧਾਂ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਬਚਾ-ਬਚਾ ਕੇ ਰੱਖੇਗਾ ਜੇਲ੍ਹ ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਾਸਨ

ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ: ਸਿੱਖ ਨਾਜ਼ੁਕਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੋਰਚੇ ਦੀ ਸ਼ੁਰੂਆਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੱਜਣ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਧਾਂ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਬਚਾ-ਬਚਾ ਕੇ ਰੱਖੇਗਾ ਜੇਲ੍ਹ ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਾਸਨ।

### ਮਾਰੀਟ-ਅਮਰਿਕਨ ਕਮਿਊਨਿਟੀ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਖੋਰ ਨਿੱਠ

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# India Has Stared Down The Dragon, But Is That Enough To Make China Shudder?

**If India wants to be a dominant force in South Asia, it will not happen by achieving gold medal in reacting to harassment. It will only happen if it's known that it's not wise to trouble us, writes Major Manik M Jolly (Retd).**

The recent standoff at Leh between India and China ended in partial disengagement. It is a reason for Indians to feel proud because we are slowly breaking the image of a sniveling and dependent nation that kept running from pillar to post to tell the UNSC or the US or Russia seeking help in our affairs. The present disposition comes with a string backbone and ability to use force if required. We stared down the dragon, and everyone deserves a pat on the back, from bureaucrats to bravehearts standing on borders with a gun in hand and resolution in mind. But how well did we do? What if the Chinese troops come back to Galwan valley?

The Line of Actual Control (LAC) has not been clear for a very long time. We even fought a war and have gone through number of border transgressions. But there seems to be no stop to 'push and shove' tactics from China. So why don't we wonder? Why don't our analysts and policy makers focus on the blatant impunity the Chinese enjoy? How is it that we are stuck in the role of reactionaries and however good we might be getting at it; we still never take the initiative to sort the matters out? As per Mao, we

are just reacting, and they are progressing.

During 90s, when China started these plans, India was a struggling economy, battling with terrorism and internal security, and unstable governments. China didn't count us as a worthy adversary, especially having won the 1962 war. I'd consider this as a mistake in hindsight because now we are Moon trotting, Mars reaching, BrahMos enabled, Tejas powered and Agni V fueled fifth largest economy in the world. Tables have turned and so has our response to various situations. Case in point, Leh standoff.

China has made its stand clear in terms of its relationship with India. It made it clear with CPEC, border transgressions, Hafeez Saeed, UNSC, South China Sea, Tibet etc. There should be no doubt on where we stand. And it sends its troops galivanting across the LAC to start these petty fights not because Chinese need those few kilometers, it's because they just want to show 'We Can'.

This brings me back to the same point as discussed earlier in this article: what can we do, except wait, for them to go back? China is very

confident that the trekking trips of its soldiers are not big enough for India to escalate it into a battle. Well, then the same rule applies to them too. Even China isn't going to start a war if we arrest its troops for trespassing without a visa. Next time they'll think twice before doing this. So why not? We cannot break out of this image of 'nice non-violent Indians' who can be trampled upon till the time we take initiative in our hands and start replying in the language they understand.

Post US elections, even US-China relations should improve. If Donald Trump wins, he wouldn't want to continue with trade sanctions. World could do with a little peace and quiet, especially post-Covid. And shattered economies don't do well with sanctions. Every nation will have to struggle to get back on track. If someone else wins, he would run to change everything Trump did. In any case, India should not be caught napping on the wrong side of geopolitics. The only missing piece in the complicated equation is Russia. We should leverage our traditional good relations and genuine camaraderie and continue to improve on them. And get those S400s!

India needs to build on its Navy,

majorly. We have to match China in sea. That is where the wars for control will be fought in future. We cannot have millions of soldiers sitting in North India while global powers are reorganising the world in South China sea. And it is our initiative that might convince the US to turn QUAD into a Naval alliance. While it's good progress that we signed a treaty with Australia last week, but for China to shudder, US has to be on board. And the US will not be on board till the time we are strong enough to be a reliable partner.

If India wants to be the leader and dominant force in South Asia, for starters, it will not happen by achieving gold medal in reacting to harassment. It will only happen if it's known that it's not wise to trouble these guys. There is time for diplomacy and time for strong arm. If we are trying to achieve diplomatic wins with soldiers on borders, there is something wrong in our approach. No one should make us come to the border to tell them, "Can you please go back, so there can be peace?". If you trained a diplomat for years, let him do his duty and ensure that this doesn't happen. But if they have failed, then let soldiers do theirs.

## Steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

**FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW:** If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have it, follow the steps below to help protect other people in your home and community.

### Stay home except to get medical care

- Stay home:** People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to recover at home. Do not leave, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- Stay in touch with your doctor.** Call before you get medical care. Be sure to get care if you feel worse or you think it is an emergency.
- Avoid public transportation:** Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.



### Separate yourself from other people in your home, this is known as home isolation

- Stay away from others:** As much as possible, you should stay in a specific "sick room" and away from other people in your home. Use a separate bathroom, if available.
- Limit contact with pets & animals:** You should restrict contact with pets and other animals, just like you would around other people.
  - Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people with the virus limit contact with animals until more information is known.
  - When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick with COVID-19. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with them. See COVID-19 and Animals for more information.



### Call ahead before visiting your doctor

- Call ahead:** If you have a medical appointment, call your doctor's office or emergency department, and tell them you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the office protect themselves and other patients.



### Wear a facemask if you are sick

- If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people and before you enter a healthcare provider's office.
- If you are caring for others:** If the person who is sick is not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live in the home should stay in a different room. When caregivers enter the room of the sick person, they should wear a facemask. Visitors, other than caregivers, are not recommended.



### Cover your coughs and sneezes

- Cover:** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Dispose:** Throw used tissues in a lined trash can.
- Wash hands:** Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



### Clean your hands often

- Wash hands:** Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Hand sanitizer:** If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- Soap and water:** Soap and water are the best option, especially if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching:** Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



### Avoid sharing personal household items

- Do not share:** Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home.



[cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

## STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

### Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



### Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



### Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



### Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



### Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



### Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



[cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)



## First human trial of potential anti-body treatment for Covid-19 begins



If the trial ultimately shows the treatment is effective against Covid-19, it could be available by autumn, according to the Indianapolis-based company. "Until now, scientists have been trying to repurpose medicines, drugs, that were designed for new diseases to see if they work in Covid-19, but as soon as this epidemic started, we got to work making a new medicine against this disease," said Dr. Dan Skovronsky, Eli Lilly's senior vice president and chief scientific officer. "Now we're ready and

testing it in patients." The treatment was created in collaboration with AbCellera, a biotechnology company based in Canada. When someone recovers from a disease like Covid-19, their body produces millions of proteins called antibodies, which fight off the disease and help them recover. AbCellera acquired a blood sample from one of the first US patients who had recovered from Covid-19, and the companies sorted through millions of this patient's cells to find hundreds

of antibodies. Scientists at AbCellera and the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases selected those they thought would be most potent and Lilly scientists engineered the treatment, known as a monoclonal antibody therapy. This approach has worked to treat other illnesses; there are monoclonal antibody therapies that treat HIV, asthma, lupus, Ebola and some forms of cancer.

(News Agencies)Eli Lilly and Company said Monday it has started the first human trial of an antibody therapy designed to treat Covid-19.

The first phase of the trial will test whether the therapy is safe and well-tolerated; those results are

expected in late June. The first Covid-19 patients being treated with the therapy are hospitalized at New York University's Grossman School of Medicine in New York, Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles and Emory University in Atlanta, the company told CNN.

## How to talk to your children about protests and racism

(News Agencies)As cities and social media explode with anger over the killing of yet another black man at the hands of police, worried parents struggle with how to protect their children from seeing the worst of the violence while simultaneously explaining the ravages of racism.

It couldn't have come at a worse time.

Sheltering at home for months to avoid the deadly coronavirus, many parents stressed by juggling work and child care from home had eased their restrictions on screen time for their children. Now it's even more likely that kids might find the video of George Floyd, an unarmed and handcuffed black man in

Minneapolis, gasping for breath as a white police officer pressed a knee into his neck.

Even if they haven't, experts say parents should assume their children are already aware of tragedies like these and their aftermath.

"Children and adolescents are experiencing the collateral consequences of the publicized murders of Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and George Floyd, whether they have a smartphone in their direct possession or not," said California pediatrician Dr. Rhea Boyd, who teaches nationally on the relationship between structural racism, inequity and health.

"Whether from social media accounts, conversations with peers or caregivers, overheard conversations, or the distress they witness in the faces of those they love, children know what is going on," Boyd said. "And without the guidance and validation of their caregivers, they may be navigating their feelings alone." How can a parent help their child traverse these disturbing times?

Let the child's age and level of development guide you, experts say, but first, be sure that you are in the right frame of mind.

"A parent's first step is to take care of themselves, their mental health, their emotional health. Put their oxygen mask on first before they put the oxygen mask on their child," said Chicago pediatrician Dr. Nia Heard-Garris, who chairs the minority health,



equity and inclusion committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). "Vicarious trauma through screens is real, especially for marginalized communities who may have experienced similar actions firsthand," said Dr. Jenny Radesky, a developmental behavioral pediatrician who teaches at the University of Michigan.

The stress of watching traumatic events on television and

smartphones "lingers within our bodies and minds," Radesky added. She suggests parents find ways to channel that energy with positive actions, such as deep breathing and re-grounding exercises, before playing with or talking to your kids.

"This doesn't mean letting go of the anger or anxiety, it just means organizing it better so you can think and act more clearly," she said.

### The protests are raising fears of a spike in coronavirus cases

(News Agencies)Government leaders and health officials have expressed their concern that coronavirus could rapidly spread during protests over the death of George Floyd.

Floyd died after since-fired Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes. Chauvin was charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

People across the country have taken to the streets to vent their frustrations over the seeming lack of value for the lives of black Americans. It was the same week the nation crossed the 100,000 death count from coronavirus.

"There's going to be a lot of issues coming out of what's happened in the last week, but

one of them is going to be that chains of transmission will have become lit from these gatherings," Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a former US Food and Drug Administration commissioner, said during CBS' "Face the Nation" Sunday. Sunday alone saw an increase of almost 20,000 cases nationwide, according to the CNN count compiled with data from John's Hopkins. In Washington DC, the health department on Monday reported a new peak in cases meaning a delay to moving from phase one of the District's reopening program to a less restrictive phase. In California, cases jumped 11% in days, from 98,980 reported Wednesday to 110,583 cases Sunday, according to the health department's data.

## Obituary

### Ramesh Patel - The Iron Man



Ramesh Patel was a giant of a man, and a dear friend of Ranju & mine. We enjoyed his support at City Hall Steps rallies we organized for defending the honor of innocent Kritika Biswas, and later, for the falsely accused Amb. Prabhu Dayal. Ramesh Patel's voice was always the loudest and strongest in support.

His lasting legacy is his unique humility-based public service by taming the unbridled ambitions of many in the Indian-American community for a fleeting photo-op and getting them all to work in support of his pride and joy, the India Day Parade in Manhattan, largest in the world - just as the Saint Patrick's Day Parade since 1762 is the largest. Indeed, he would shun the VIP-bus on the parade route to walk the Madison Avenue, and Ranju and I enjoyed walk-

ing with him. It falls on his family and the FIA team to carry on his legacy of Honor-by-service and the rest of us to help keep Ramesh Patel's glorious life choices alive.

I called him the Iron Man in USA, as Sardar Patel was in India. He will be sorely missed, as will his big smile and hug that Ranju and I always got.

By Ravi Batra



# George Floyd death: Seven solutions to US police problems



Protesters across the US have taken to the streets in the wake of George Floyd's death to demand an end to police brutality and what they see as systemic racism.

In response, Democrats have proposed legislation to address inequities and reduce deaths in custody, including measures that would require police to wear body cameras, ban chokeholds and make it easier to prosecute officers.

Here's a look at some of these proposed solutions, and other potential ways to reform policing.

## 1. Rewrite "use of force" policies

Most police departments have a "use of force" policy which dictates how and when officers can use force. These policies vary substantially from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. For example, the type of "neck restraint" or chokehold that Officer Derek Chauvin used on George Floyd has been banned in New York City since 1993.

After high-profile police killings, many departments are forced to re-examine and rewrite their use of force policies by federal consent decrees. The city of Baltimore revamped its policy in 2019 as a part of its consent decree with the US Department of Justice after the death of Freddie Gray. The new version requires officers to report use of force incidents and compels them to intervene if they see another officer improperly using force.

After Floyd's death, the Minneapolis city council forced the police department's hand by banning chokeholds and making it mandatory for officers to intervene if their colleagues are using improper force.

Advocates acknowledge that simply rewriting these policies would not effectively prevent deaths like Floyd's, and that force is still disproportionately used against communities of colour. A New York Times analysis showed that the Minneapolis police use force against black residents seven times more often than white residents.

## 2. Defund the police

Protesters believe that cities and states spend far too much money on their police departments without sufficiently funding education, mental health, housing and other community-based social services. A growing demand is for political leaders to "defund" the police - that usually means reducing funding not cutting it altogether.

These calls have been heeded by the mayor of Los Angeles, who slashed \$150m from a proposed budget increase for his city's police. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio also pledged to divert money from the NYPD towards social services, though he did not cite a figure.

In Minneapolis, a group called the Black Visions Collective is asking the city council to pledge not to increase the police department's budget, and to divert \$45m of the force's current budget to shore up the city's coffers in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Now is the time to invest in a safe, liberated future for our city," the group wrote. "We can't afford to keep funding MPD's attacks on Black lives."

## 3. Dismantle the police

On Sunday, a veto-proof majority of the Minneapolis City Council signed a pledge in front of a crowd of demonstrators promising to "begin the process of ending the Minneapolis Police Department". They vowed to create a "new, transformative model for cultivating safety". Earlier in the week, two council members used the word "dismantle" to describe their plans for the department, as did Minnesota Representative Ilhan Omar.

The statement did not make it clear if the council is merely pledging to remake the department, or if they were heeding some demonstrators' calls to "abolish the police," which would obviously be the most radical course of action. The council president said she could imagine a scenario where the department enters state receivership, and a team of medics and health care professionals respond to 911

calls instead of police.

A group called MPD 150 is calling for a "police-free future" in Minneapolis, in which mental health professionals, social workers, religious leaders and other community-based advocates would do the work of police.

There is some historical precedent for a wholesale dismantling of a department. In 2012, the Camden, New Jersey, police department was fully disbanded and all of its officers lost their jobs. However, it was certainly not abolition - a new, countywide police force was formed in its place, and about 100 former Camden officers applied for and regained their jobs. The move actually put more police on the streets of Camden. The new department adopted a very strict use of force policy and made it easier for the city to fire rogue officers.

The department has reported a steep decline in homicide and use of force complaints since.

## 4. Demilitarise

Since the 1990s, the military has transferred over \$5bn-worth of equipment, ranging from sleeping bags to ammunition and armoured vehicles, to local police departments through a special acquisitions programme with the US Department of Defense.

As a result, many advocates for police reform argue that police today function more like domestic soldiers, using techniques and equipment designed for battle, than community peacekeepers trying to keep people safe, and that this approach costs lives.

President Barack Obama put limits on how police could use the programme in 2015, but most of those were overturned by the Trump administration a few years later.

Not only have police acquired more weapons over the past two decades, but many are taught military-style tactics. This so-called "warrior training" often spins a narrative where police are heroes fending off danger at every turn, who must learn how to protect themselves at all costs - even if that means killing civilians.

Critics say it teaches cops to be afraid, and to shoot first, think later.

In 2019, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey banned cops from attending "warrior-style" training, even on their own time with their own money. But the local police union called the ban "illegal" and continued to offer the training.

There is research to show that

militarisation leads to police violence. In 2017, a study published in Research and Politics found that the more military weapons police have, the more likely they are to use them.

## 5. Sue the police

Citizens who try to sue the police in civil court for excessive force frequently see their cases thrown out because of a legal doctrine known as "qualified immunity". It was designed by the Supreme Court to protect government employees from frivolous lawsuits and give police legal breathing room surrounding their split-second decisions.

In order for a case to move forward, the court directs that it must ask two questions: first, was excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment used? And if so, is there a "clearly established" prior court ruling on the behaviour that would mean the officer knew his or her conduct was illegal?

This second question is where advocates say courts give officers a free pass, throwing out cases if there has been no previous, precedent-setting case with an almost identical set of facts. A Reuters analysis found that more than half of excessive force cases in the US get thrown out on "qualified immunity" grounds.

A portion of the sweeping Justice in Policing Act introduced this week by House and Senate Democrats would eliminate qualified immunity for police. Supreme Court Justices Sonya Sotomayor and Clarence Thomas have both said they believe the doctrine needs to be revisited. There are currently eight qualified immunity cases before the country's highest court.

## 6. Police the police

Sometimes, police violence against black people is attributed to a "bad apple" - an angry and racist cop who overreacts in the line of duty.

In an effort to keep them out, some forces have fired police officers who publicly admit to racist ideas. Last July, the Philadelphia Police Department fired 13 officers who posted racist, violent messages on social media - but only after an advocacy group brought the messages to light.

But the reality is a bit more complicated than just one bad apple ruining the bunch.

Police work in what social researchers call a "closed system" where there is little external oversight and loyalty is highly prized. If one officer crosses the line, others will back him or her up. Without a video of the incident, it often comes down to just the word of an alleged "criminal" and a respected police officer.

That's why many are pushing for police to be required to wear

body cameras, to record police interactions. They were adopted in New York a few years ago after the death of Eric Garner, and Congress is proposing making them mandatory nationally.

But there is little evidence that shows they reduce violence, according to a recent analysis of 70 studies looking at their efficacy. Campaign Zero, the non-profit behind the #cantwait hashtag pushing for police reforms, says they have limited use. While footage of police brutality has played a vital role in exposing the problem, most of it was filmed by citizens, not police. Body cameras can easily be turned off, and the footage is more likely to be used by prosecutors against civilians during criminal trials, than as a means of proving police brutality.

## 7. Start counting

There is no doubt that black Americans are more likely to be killed by police and subjected to other forms of police violence. But what's still unclear is exactly how many victims there are, or which departments are the worst offenders.

In 2014, Obama signed into law the Death in Custody Reporting Act to force police departments to report every time a citizen dies in custody. The law also required the data to be turned over to the attorney general, who would have to release a report on ways to reduce deaths every two years.

Four years later, the Department of Justice's inspector general said the department still had no mechanism to collect data from the states and didn't expect to have one until 2020.

Meanwhile, the FBI has launched the National Use-of-Force Data Collection project, to track not only people killed by police but every time a police officer uses force. They began collecting this data in 2019, but local law enforcement agencies are not required to participate and the information has yet to be made public.

In this vacuum, non-governmental organisations and journalists have had to fill in the gaps. In 2015, The Washington Post began to log every fatal shooting by an on-duty police officer in the US. Since then, they have recorded more than 5,000 people killed by police, using a mixture of news reports, social media and police reports. Their data, which is often used by policy researchers, shows that black people were almost 2.5 times more likely to be killed than white people.

(Additional reporting by  
Jessica Lussenhop)



# How India can come out of the recession stronger

## Enhance productivity; invest in skilling, digital infra, agriculture; and come up with a New Deal

So we should immediately phase out the sale of feature phones and subsidise smartphones (encouraged to be made in India) and data packages for Indians. It should also train a woman in every village to teach others how to access the full functionality of a smartphone. As we have proved time and time again, when given the right environment, Indians are quick to learn and prosper. The virus forced schools and colleges to learn to impart education digitally. Digital learning across primary, secondary, and higher education has the ability to increase flexibility, engage learners, and expand access to more students. Governments should examine best practices for delivering high-quality instruction remotely, supported by trained teachers, holistic student services, and robust online platforms. Substantial investment in digital education will make societies more resilient to any future emergencies that may require a transition to remote learning. It will also help reinvent and

modernise education. Digital education will be a powerful lever in reducing educational inequality in the medium-term. Virtual care had its breakout moment with many providers making strides in weeks for what had previously took years or decades. Denmark rolled out virtual consultation software for specialists in two weeks, Kaiser Permanente moved from 15% of oncology care in virtual settings to 95% in one week, and Queensland Health expanded their virtual care capacity from 90 to 1,600 users. Hence, governments should be bold in what they aim to do. Furthermore, the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) has presented a unique opportunity for countries to reflect on the most essential features of their system to improve health outcomes at the same or lower costs. India needs to rethink its health systems and think of innovative ways to implement new care delivery models, data and analytics, policy-setting, payments, and other important topics in health.

Both industry and government

have had to get acquainted with modern ways of working. Now, governments need to ensure that they not only retain this momentum but also accelerate their methods. A simple start would be if paper was removed from all bureaucratic offices. Couldn't all files be moved digitally and digital initials on email become a substitute? Just think of the speed and transparency it would engender. Globally, digital transformation has seen rapid progress with governments focusing on building data control towers that aggregate different public and private data sources to aid decision-making and support scenario analysis. They have established digital platforms that help facilitate market operations in sectors where value chains have been severely disrupted. A lot can be done but let us just begin with paper.

The pandemic has triggered long-lasting structural changes that will affect up to 1.5 billion jobs within the next decade. A lot of workers have already lost their jobs and companies may

be wanting to actually do away with some of the lost jobs even as the economy gets back to work. The government needs to focus on re-skilling workers in a mission mode. Vast swathes of workers out of employment should be supported by governments to obtain new skills, to improve productivity in core sectors in partnership with industry. It should identify the areas of need, areas capable of creating the maximum jobs — construction, health, textiles, logistics, schools, retail, and anything and everything that is low skilled and where our productivity is low. We should consider how we may use technology and training to re-skill and up-skill our workers.

Even though agriculture only contributes 17% to the GDP, it supports a bulk of the population. The government's actions with respect to improving agricultural productivity should be celebrated and built upon. Cropping patterns should be reviewed and pricing of produce aligned. Water and power tariffs should be introduced. Improved productivity will release labour from agriculture and

opportunities should be provided for them in rural areas. Food processing industries and contract farming should be stimulated.

Finally, the climate crisis should be part of a green economy agenda, post-Covid-19. There is an opportunity to make a push for a fossil-free, renewable electricity system. We need an urgent resolution of the mess that is in our power distribution. But more broadly, I agree with numerous commentators on the need for India to consider its version of the New Deal or a Marshall Plan by accelerating the investments earmarked in the national investment plan. Front-loading spending to build sorely-needed infrastructure (roads, rail, renewable energy, affordable housing, and provision of water) under a new deal would be the right antidote for the economy. Spending on infrastructure even by printing money will reduce transaction costs and raise productivity. As Benjamin Franklin said, "You may delay but time will not."

**Janmejaya Sinha is chairman, BCG India.**

## Migrant workers must be sent home in 15 days, says Supreme Court

In addition, they were asked to set up counselling centres to provide the workers information on welfare schemes and employment avenues that are open to them; they will also have to advise workers who want to go back to where they were employed. Millions of workers and daily-wage earners left the big cities and returned to states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal in the aftermath of the lockdown enforced on March 25 to stop the spread of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). These directions follow the May 28 order whereby the court took suo moto (Latin for on its own) cognizance of the hardships faced by migrants returning to their villages. After going through the responses of all states/UTs on the transport of the migrant workers, the bench of justices Ashok Bhushan, SK Kaul and MR Shah said: "Police officers of states, paramilitary forces wherever deployed are doing a commendable job but some instances of excess with regard to migrant labourers are also there."

The court asked the states/UTs to consider withdrawing all prosecution

proceedings or complaints lodged against the returning workers for violating the lockdown and norms of social distancing enforced under Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act. The court also noted lapses on part of the states and central agencies in implementing welfare schemes as pointed out in intervention applications filed by non-government organisations and individuals. The court said in its 38-page order, "We impress on States and Union Territories to streamline the vigilance and supervision of actions of their officers and staff and take appropriate action where required."

On the transportation of migrant workers, the court was convinced that much of the task had been completed, barring in Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat where some migrants are still stranded. The bench said: "We direct that all the States/Union Territories to transport all stranded workers by train, bus or other mode within 15 days from today." So far, some 9.8 million migrants have been transported by rail and road across the country beginning May 1. Some 171 trains are still lined up for shifting the remaining, still

stranded migrants until June 16. The court directed Indian Railways to arrange Shramik Special trains within 24 hours of request by states.

Finding gaps in the registration of migrants (in difficulties they face while filling up the registration forms such as language barriers), the court called for a "decentralizing" of the process of registration by providing this facility to stranded migrant workers at police stations and other places of local administration. In addition, states/UTs were asked to publicise journey dates of special trains and buses in local newspapers and television channels. Once they arrive at their destinations, the court directed states to gather details of migrant workers, the nature of their skill, and place of their earlier employment at the village level, block level and district level. Counselling centres would provide these migrants information about government schemes and avenues of employment so that this workforce can be utilised as a resource, the bench said. A list of all such schemes, including employment has to be tendered by Centre and states to the court in two weeks.

## A Catch-22 Situation For China

Someday, if this mystery is unraveled, don't be too surprised if this entire charade happened on behest of Pakistan, who has been feeling a lot pressure from Indian side, especially since India has, regularly and meaningfully, started to talk about taking back PoK. Also, CPEC is one aspect where China just cannot afford to gamble. Too much at stake. Also, with US moving out from Afghanistan, China must be keen to establish itself as the undeclared boss of the region. And these border transgressions are just indicators of its bullish attitude which it is wishfully presenting ahead.

Meanwhile, India has acted in a fashionably mature manner. Not only we held our ground and did not give into Chinese bluff, but there was no panic either among government or military. We agreed to meet on table as equals and do what is beneficial. On the other side, India quickly closed a bilateral treaty with Australia, strengthening one arm of Quad, something that will give China a lot of heartburn. If that was not enough, India just got invited to G7 summit, but China didn't. Beijing even issued a strong statement on it. India is playing it exceptionally smooth and it shows in the decision making of the government, while China is

making one mistake after the other, in desperation to recover and redeem. It is worth noting that since the time Leh-China debacle started, Nepal has risen its demand on border issues once, recently demand for Khalistan has been revived by a Sikh religious leader, more than 22 terrorists have been killed in different encounters in J&K in last two weeks and suddenly reports of rapid advancements in development of Gwadar port in Pakistan have emerged. We would be in much better planning space if we connect the dots and do not think of them as mere 'coincidences' happening in month of May 2020. The Dragon did not expect a stare back and definitely did not expect this international isolation at this point. It's flaring its nostrils and baring its fangs around, yet unable to do any damage. Neither will it be able to. It has realised the size of tusker in front of it and is not going to take any chances for now. It is just confused on what to do now. There is absolutely no chance of a war over Leh issue. We all should enjoy the 40-45 seconds of merriment in Chinese Army video, give it a like, and then delete whatever Chinese app it is playing on.



# Army tightens grip on Pakistan as Imran Khan's popularity wanes

The military's heightened profile comes as Prime Minister Imran Khan sees his influence and popularity dwindle due to a slowing economy, high consumer prices and corruption investigations involving his close aides. Analysts have long seen army support as critical for Khan's party, which holds 46% of seats in parliament, to hold together a government that relies on several smaller coalition partners to stay afloat. In some ways, this is nothing new: The military is Pakistan's most powerful institution and has directly ruled the country for large parts of its seven-decade history. Yet it's a far cry from the "New Pakistan" Khan promised when he took office back in 2018. "By appointing an increasing number of current and retired military officials in key positions, the government is ceding what little space civilians had in developing and executing policy in the country," Uzair Younus, non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, said by phone. "The military's overt and covert role in governance continues to grow." Many in Pakistan can see the shift during government virus briefings on state television, in which uniformed current army officers are seen assisting the

government's pandemic response. Retired lieutenant general Asim Saleem Bajwa is now Khan's communication adviser and also oversees the implementation of about \$60 billion in Pakistan investments as part of China's Belt-and-Road Initiative.

At least 12 army loyalists in the cabinet also took part in dictator-turned-President Pervez Musharraf's administration, which ended in 2008. That includes Interior Minister Ijaz Shah and Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Khan's finance adviser. The greater military involvement even has the support of civilian government advisers such as Zaigham Rizvi, member of Naya Pakistan Housing Program taskforce in charge of running Khan's main economic project of building low-cost houses. Two army officers were appointed to the body last month. "There was a feeling that if we give the majority leadership to the army, the army has a good system," said Rizvi, who worked at World Bank for 10 years as a housing expert. "They get things done." Pakistan's army declined to comment. Nadeem Afzal Chan, a spokesman for Khan, wasn't immediately available, while

Information Minister Syed Shibli Faraz didn't respond to a request for a comment.

## Economic Distress

Khan has long dismissed allegations that he was too close to the military, saying in 2017 ahead of his election win that any notion that he's an army stooge was a "bizarre conspiracy." Last year he told local media "the army is standing with me."

Yet economic distress from the pandemic is again raising tensions. Pakistan is the most infected nation in Asia after India, with more than 108,000 coronavirus cases and about 2,200 deaths. The economy is forecast to contract for the first time in 68 years, with the central bank expecting the economy to shrink 1.5% in the year ending June. The nation received an emergency loan of \$1.4 billion from the International Monetary Fund in April, and is among countries seeking debt relief. Questions over the army's role in running the government came to the fore when the virus started escalating in March. While Khan addressed the nation and urged citizens to remain calm, it was the army spokesman who announced the lockdown the next day. Most of the press statements from the country's

virus nerve center, chaired by Planning Minister Asad Umar, are produced by the army's media wing -- complete with its byline and logo. On March 24, Khan was visibly annoyed when reporters asked him "who is in charge here?" Although there was no reference to the military, he threatened to leave abruptly. Then in late May, his aviation minister, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, defended the national carrier's performance and its military leadership following a passenger plane crash in the financial capital, Karachi. "It's not a crime to appoint people affiliated to the military," he said.

## Diminishing Power

Khan's hold on power will likely continue to diminish as current and retired army officers, as well as army-backed political appointees, assume more executive authority, said Arif Rafiq, president of New York-based Vizier Consulting, a risk advisory firm focused on the Middle East and South Asia. He noted Khan will come under further pressure as Pakistan's economic challenges continue to mount. "The army has signaled its dissatisfaction with Khan's handling of the coronavirus lockdowns -- there are also indications that the army has not

been happy with the handling of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as well as governance in Punjab, the largest province," Rafiq said. "We've seen the chief military spokesman openly push for a tougher lockdown and a retired army officer assume roles as a government spokesman and top CPEC administrator." The military last year had already begun taking a more active role in policy making beyond foreign and national security policy, with Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa meeting top business leaders privately to find ways to boost the economy. The country's Parliament adopted a law in January giving Bajwa a three-year extension starting from November 2019 and he was also made a member of a government's economic board. While many democracies appoint retired military officers to senior government positions, it becomes a problem if the civilians aren't calling the shots, according to Michael Kugelman, a Washington, D.C. based South Asia senior associate at The Wilson Center. "And herein lies the risk to democracy," he said. "If retired generals are more influenced by their former bosses than by their current bosses, then democracy is not being properly served."

## Defund the police movement distracts from the left's policy failures with the poorest Americans

The point is bad police -- needless to say, there are some -- but they are not the primary problem in American cities or in the African-American community. They are a distraction from the real problems. And the real problems are the destructive effects that bad policies have had and will have on the poorest Americans.

At this moment, 65 percent of African-American children are growing up in single-parent homes. That's double the number from 50 years ago. You don't have to be an Evangelical or any kind of moralizer to think that's a disaster because it is. There's lots of social science on this. And all of it shows that having two married parents in the home does more to improve a child's odds of success than any social program ever invented. That's just empirically true.

Kids with two parents are almost twice as likely to

finish high school, half is likely to go to prison. We know this. And yet instead of encouraging healthy, intact families, the left ignores the question or actively abets the destruction of families and instead promotes abortion like that's an answer.

In New York City right now, more African-American babies are aborted every year than born. This is encouraged by the people they tell you they love black people.

How about education? All of us agree that's the key to ascending. In our public schools, the biggest racial performance gaps are not in rightwing cities in Alabama. They're in our most liberal cities. In Washington, D.C., the most Democratic city in the nation where over 90 percent of voters went for Hillary Clinton in the last cycle, 83 percent of white students are proficient in reading, but just 23 percent of black students. That's a gap

of 60 points.

In San Francisco, the gap is 58 points. Why is that okay? It's not okay. If you want to protest something, you should be protesting that. How did we get here? It wasn't always this bad.

Thanks to coronavirus lockdowns, the black unemployment rate has exploded to almost 17 percent. Is that a concern? It should be. Just when people are allowed to go to work, Democrats allow their neighborhoods to burn down, to placate university-trained extremists and rich liberals in the suburbs who dominate Twitter and The Washington Post.

A factory in Minneapolis has already announced that it plans to move its 50 jobs to a different city. That's their response to the riot -- not e m p o w e r m e n t , unemployment. How many other businesses will do the same? How many simply

won't open again? A lot.

So what's the left's big idea for saving our cities and turning things around? Oh, flooding black neighborhoods with drugs. That's the answer. Last year, congressional Democrats introduced legislation to support taxpayer-funded economically disadvantaged individuals looking to sell weed in their neighborhoods. Yes, more drug dealers. Bet that's a winning idea.

And then, of course, there's something that no one ever talks about, which is debt. African-Americans are more than twice as likely to take out predatory payday loans. Why does nobody say that? People are getting rich from that. Imagine if instead of gutting their police forces, California and Minnesota banned predatory payday lending. Black lives would actually improve instead of being hurt.

And it's not just African-Americans, by the way, it's all

poor people who are hooked on payday loans. Talk to one about what that's like to have your life in hock. It's terrible. That's what's going on right now in countless cities -- failing schools, drugs, debt. And that's why the mob censors criticism. That's why the Democratic Party hates free speech. No political party ever needed to use fear and intimidation to hide their successes. Of course, they're hiding their failures. They don't want to debate because they can't win the debate. Instead, what they want is you to shut up and hand them power. They want to shift the blame for problems they created onto police -- the police being the one urban institution that over the past 30 years has actually achieved something. And actually, it's the one institution the left doesn't already control. So that's the response to every failure. It's because we had too much debate and not enough power.



# A post-Covid-19 social protection architecture for India

benefits documented above. A more feasible option to deliver the social protection benefits of income transfers is to decrease the value of the transfer and implement it as a supplement rather than a substitute to existing programmes. One concrete implementable idea that I have proposed in an essay with Paul Niehaus and Sandip Sukhtankar, and in a more detailed paper with Maitreesh Ghatak, is an “Inclusive Growth Dividend (IGD)” pegged at 1% of GDP (Rs 120/month at current levels). The amount will be paid as a monthly supplement to every Indian, with allowances for children paid into mother’s accounts. While this will take some administrative work, the investments in Aadhaar and Jan Dhan accounts in recent years make it feasible to implement IGD in the near future. Though this is a universal income transfer, we called it an IGD because it differs from UBI in important ways. Unlike “basic income”, which connotes an amount that is enough to live on, “dividend” clarifies that this is one component of a portfolio of people’s income streams. “Inclusive growth” reflects the goals of universality, progressivity, and shared prosperity. Since the amount is the same for all citizens, the value of the IGD is much greater for the poor, but it is a shared benefit for the entire population that will grow with the overall economy. An IGD could be transformative for India in several ways. Even at the modest value of Rs 120/month (or Rs 500/month for a typical household), it would meaningfully reduce poverty — augmenting consumption for the poorest 50% of the population by over 10%, and for the poorest 10% by 20%. Since mothers would receive allowances

on behalf of their children, IGD would sharply improve female empowerment and agency — especially in rural India. It would directly contribute to universal financial inclusion by activating dormant Jan Dhan accounts, and allowing the poor to accumulate savings. It would also promote access to credit at lower interest rates (since creditworthiness will improve as a result of predictable cash flows), and increase the ability of the poor to make productivity-enhancing but risky investments (such as planting a new crop) by providing some consumption insurance. An IGD also has many advantages relative to alternative designs that aim to deliver larger income transfers to fewer (poorer) people. First, it avoids targeting costs and reduces the risks of mistargeting. Second, the IGD amount is meaningful enough to mitigate poverty, but too small to adversely affect work incentives. Third, targeted programmes have to be phased out as people earn more, which creates disincentives to work because of the loss of benefits. There is no such problem with an IGD. Finally, sociological evidence suggests that non-beneficiaries strongly resent welfare programmes that reverse the income ranking of people in a community. An IGD elegantly avoids the last two challenges by being universal and lifting all boats equally. S u c c e s s f u l l y implementing an IGD will have the added benefit of augmenting both the capacity and credibility of the Indian State. Delivering an IGD every month will represent the first time that the Indian State has reliably delivered a benefit to every citizen. On its own,

this will be a signature achievement. More importantly, the capacity to do so will dramatically increase the policy options available to the government to respond to future scenarios. The current moment of nationwide economic hardship is especially appropriate for an IGD. Historically, times of economic hardship have been associated with an increase in social strife and conflict as people compete over a shrinking economic pie. An IGD can mitigate this strife and serve as a powerful symbol of social solidarity that all Indians experience together regardless of their station (an option for the wealthy to “give it up” could add to the solidarity).

## Driving economic growth

In addition to protecting the vulnerable, a stronger social protection architecture will build the platform for a broader economic recovery. The government’s current economic strategy for businesses has largely focused on expanding credit access for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). While the approach is fiscally prudent, this strategy is missing one critical element: Measures to boost demand. Even with credit guarantees, firms are unlikely to hire workers and ramp up production unless there is adequate demand in the economy. Commentators such as Haresh Chawla and

Rathin Roy have highlighted that India’s economic performance over the past two decades has been a top-down growth story. Specifically, the top 5-10% of the population earns enough to drive consumption. This demand trickles down to sustain the next 30-40% working in smaller (mostly informal) enterprises, while the bottom 50% leads a hand-to-mouth existence.

By putting more money in the hands of the poor, an IGD could help reverse this pattern and provide a bottom-up boost to the economy. Not only will it increase income, it will also provide predictability of future income — a key driver for demand. Recent evidence on unconditional income transfers provided to entire communities in Kenya finds an economic multiplier of 2.7. More generally, both theory and evidence suggest that a broader consumption base promotes economic development by allowing firms to recover the fixed costs of investing in more productive capital and technology. Thus, while the government may be wary of making additional fiscal commitments at a time of shrinking revenues, an IGD is likely to have a substantial multiplier effect on the economy by boosting domestic demand, and thereby deliver a high public return on investment.

Another way in which social protection can contribute to growth is through supporting

migration. The heart-rending scenes of migrants travelling back to their villages have led many to call for reducing migration. Though well-intentioned, this will be a mistake because reducing migration hurts both workers and employers. Throughout the world, cities are engines of growth and migration to cities the most common pathway out of poverty. Thus, the appropriate policy response to the migrant crisis is to build a stronger social protection architecture that is nationally portable. Having a portable PDS and IGD in place (and augmenting allowances before the lockdown) could have prevented the crisis of return migration by providing migrant workers means to sustain themselves during the lockdown.

The Government of India has correctly prioritised the implementing of nationwide PDS portability, which will strengthen this key pillar of social protection.

An IGD will add a crucial component of flexible income support — especially since PDS grains alone are not enough to survive with no other income. Research in recent years has shown that even modest income support to the rural poor can sharply increase their overall productivity and income by covering the search costs of finding better

opportunities. Thus, a portable IGD is likely to boost both incomes and aggregate productivity by empowering workers to seek the best possible livelihood in any part of the country.

## Creating a win-win

The prime minister’s stated goal of “Sab Ka Saath, Sab Ka Vikaas, Sab Ka Vishwaas” is a laudable one. Yet, translating this ideal into practice is not easy. An IGD provides a practical and implementable way of doing so through its combination of universality (sabka saath; with everyone), promoting broad-based development (sabka vikaas; universal progress), and building public confidence in the government by credibly delivering a benefit to every Indian every month (sabka vishwaas; for everyone’s trust).

A key policy goal in responding to the hardship caused by Covid-19 and the lockdown imposed to slow its spread should be to both support the economy and the vulnerable in the short run, and promote long-term development goals. An IGD-led nationally-portable social protection architecture will do exactly this. It will support the poor, give them the means and confidence to migrate to better job opportunities, boost demand and productivity, help the economy recover, build social solidarity and state capacity, and lay the foundations for broad-based long-term prosperity.

# Sens. Cotton and Blackburn

Right now, the Food and Drug Administration can’t calculate how dependent American pharmaceutical companies are on Chinese APIs. The Protecting our Pharmaceutical Supply Chain from China Act would make this information available by requiring companies to disclose the sources for their APIs and finished drug products.

Eventually, the bill would prohibit federal health programs like VA hospitals and Medicare from purchasing

drugs made with APIs from China. Regulations alone could come at a great cost, so incentives and other long-term support for American companies must accompany these changes. In addition to expensing allowances for domestic manufacturing included in the Protecting our Pharmaceutical Supply Chain from China Act, the SAM-C Act would expand existing FDA programs to approve Advanced Manufacturing Pharmaceutical Technologies. These new processes will allow scientists

and engineers to prevent critical drug shortages and bring pharmaceutical manufacturing jobs back to the United States. The legislation also authorizes a \$100 million budget for workforce development and training.

The pandemic has altered our relationship with China fundamentally, and our attitudes and policies must change. Every day the CCP controls our access to essential medicine is a day that American patients are at risk.



# Pandemic Brings Out Kids' Sneaky Side: Forbidden Apps, Burner Phones

**Socially isolated and bored, kids are finding workarounds to parental controls on their devices; experts say parents have been doing it wrong**

Amy Rivers suspected something was up with her 14-year-old son when he began sleeping in later than usual. She assumed he was playing videogames on his Nintendo Switch at night, but then she noticed that one of her old iPhones was missing.

One night she walked into his room and saw him hide something under his covers. It was her old phone, which still worked on Wi-Fi. Her son had created a new Apple ID to gain unrestricted access to Snapchat, and to download social apps that help people make new Snapchat friends.

"There were hundreds of kids communicating at 2 a.m. and saying really inappropriate stuff," she said.

She asked him why he was sneaking around. He told her he was lonely.

Children have always been sneaky when it comes to tech, but they have become even more so during the coronavirus pandemic, as they wrestle with more idle time and social isolation. Parents have told me about children as young as 6 waking up in the middle of the night to watch shows or play games on their parents' devices. One mom said she's had to hide TV remotes and other electronics before going to bed.

Experts say it helps when parents join in kids' gaming and social experiences. You can better understand what motivates them, and they have a harder time running around behind your back.

Teens' use of so-called burner phones has been a big topic on a Facebook page run by online monitoring service Bark. During quarantine, the company has seen a 10% rise in alerts sent to parents regarding kid-created social-media profiles.

Ms. Rivers said before the pandemic, she



**Each year, countless children around the world fall prey to sexual predators. These young victims are left with permanent psychological, physical, and emotional scars. When a recording of that sexual abuse is made or released onto the Internet, it lives on forever. It haunts the children depicted in it, who live daily with the knowledge that countless strangers use an image of their worst experiences for their own gratification. Sexual predators have been online almost as long as there have been home computers and the internet. The first well-known case of this type of crime happened in 2002 when Alicia Kozakiewicz, then age 13, was abducted by a man she had corresponded with online. After a year-long online relationship, the 38-year-old man, whom Alicia thought was a 13-year-old boy, convinced her to meet him. He kidnapped her, took her to a house more than 200 miles away and raped and tortured her for several days before authorities rescued her.**

would occasionally catch her son up late at night playing videogames, but his full schedule of classes and sports didn't leave him much time to goof off online.

She said she never liked Snapchat because of inappropriate content she'd seen on his account, even when he was only using the app for 15 minutes a day. After she caught him with the burner phone, she told him he could send a snap to the friends he wanted to communicate with and tell them he was leaving Snapchat and that they could text him instead.

"I told him I wasn't happy that he was sneaking around but that I do feel for him," said Ms. Rivers, a sales director in Virginia.

She hasn't yet deleted his Snapchat account but isn't currently letting him use it. She said her son seems to be OK with just texting friends now. Her son

declined to comment.

Jenna Ritzmann, of Chesapeake, Va., blocked YouTube from her 8-year-old daughter Katie's Chromebook and set a 9 p.m. bedtime for the laptop through her Google Family Link account. But when her husband recently came home from a late-night shift at work and walked by Katie's room, he saw her asleep in her bed with the laptop still on. Katie discovered that if she signed into the Chromebook as a guest, instead of using her personal login, she could bypass the parental controls. (Chromebook owners can disable guest browsing.)

Katie told her parents she was watching cooking shows late at night.

Ms. Ritzmann locked the Chromebook in her home office at night, but her husband again found Katie asleep with it. "The child figured out how to pick the lock," she said.

As punishment, they didn't let Katie use the laptop for anything other than school for two days. They now place the Chromebook on a high shelf in their bedroom closet at night.

Experts say it's understandable that kids have gotten so sneaky with technology. In fact, we parents are partly to blame. "I think the bigger issue that pre-existed the pandemic is that we've taken the wrong approach to kids' time online. It's a holdover from the early days of television, when we called it the 'idiot box' or the 'boob tube,'" said Michael Rich, director of the Center on Media and Child Health at Boston Children's Hospital. "We came at it from a direction of right and wrong, good and bad. We need to be conscious of what they're doing online and help them learn to use technology effectively, not police them and

control them and restrict them, which they naturally will rebel against." How do you help your children navigate screen time and teach them about online safety? Join the conversation below. How do parents do that? Dr. Rich and other experts say the key is to "co-tech," or use technology alongside our kids. Here are some tips on how: Be the student. Our first instinct when our kids tell us they want to play a certain game or use a specific app might be to say no—and take it away if they download it without permission. Dr. Rich and others say that will only drive kids underground. Instead, parents should play the game or explore the app together, letting the kids explain how it works and why it matters. They might not be playing that first-person shooter game you disapprove of because they like shooting; they might

just like it because it's where their friends are. Teach critical thinking. Once you understand the game or app, you can talk through anything that still concerns you, such as inappropriate comments from other players or violence, by asking your kids how those things make them feel. Talking through what you're experiencing together in a nondisparaging way can help kids develop critical thinking skills and build trust, say the experts. The goal: When your kids want the next game or app, they'll come to you, rather than sneaking it because they assume you'll only say no. Suggest alternatives. If you're still not OK with a game or app, Dr. Rich said, you can suggest another one that provides the same benefits. If it's the teamwork and socializing that appeals to them, you can suggest an NBA game where kids can form a team. You can encourage your child to be a leader, and get the others to try a new game. Give them a taste. If you leave an entire cake in a room with an unaccompanied child, that cake might well vanish and that child might end up sick. Better to offer just a slice. The same principle can be applied to tech. Adrienne Principe's 13-year-old daughter wanted TikTok so she could keep up with her friends when they talked about trending videos. Rather than let her daughter download the app, Ms. Principe, executive director of digital wellness group Turning Life On, put the app on her own phone, so mother and daughter could watch together. "The more you fight, the more you push kids away," she said. "That doesn't mean you give up all the rules and let them do whatever they want."

**By Julie Jargon,**  
Courtesy WSJ.com



# Hiding in Plain Sight: How to Spot a Child Predator

Sexual predators walk among us. They are both men and women, they are both young and old, and they are from all types of occupations, economic classes, and demographic backgrounds. Perhaps you think your family is safe because you checked the appropriate websites to verify there are no registered sex offenders living near you. That is a good start; but registered sex offenders are perpetrators who have been caught and convicted of a qualifying offense. How do you detect those who have not been apprehended, or even detected? Here are some clues.

## Types of Sexual Predators

Sex offenders are often portrayed as impulsive individuals, unable to control their thoughts or behavior. Some are; but research indicates this is not always true. A study by Maria Francisca Rebocho and Rui Abrunhosa Gonçalves (2012) entitled "Sexual Predators and Prey: A Comparative Study of the Hunting Behavior of Rapists and Child Molesters" revealed that many sexual predators are in control of their faculties, and are rational decision makers. [i] Rebocho and Goncalves classified sexual offenders into three



types: manipulative, opportunist, and coercive. They found that child molesters are more likely to be manipulative, targeting known victims with whom they already have a relationship, as opposed to strangers. The goal is to avoid forming a relationship with a child predator to begin with. Unfortunately, some predators are already employed in jobs that involve working with children. But not all of them. Many predators intentionally befriend parents with children within their target age range. You want to be able to spot these offenders before they sweet talk their way into your life, and the lives of your children.

## Spotting Predatory

### Behavior

You cannot identify a sexual predator by looking; they are hiding in plain sight. In your neighborhood, your workplace, your child's school. While you cannot identify them visually, you can sometimes detect them through their behavior. In pursuit of establishing inroads to access victims, predators will push the boundaries of interpersonal relationships both physically and emotionally. Here are some red flags to be aware of.

### Where the Children Are

Many predators already live or work in an arena where they know which neighbors or colleagues have young children.

Some choose to live in areas where there are lots of young families and playgrounds. Outside of their known contacts, however, predators always keep an eye out for potential victims. Consequently, one of the simplest ways to protect your family in public, both on and offline, is to avoid advertising to strangers that you have young children.

### Stranger Danger: Contrived Conversation

Many adults will make conversation with your child in front of you, asking about their age, or their name. Such innocent contact is rarely grounds for suspicion. But be wary of strangers who strike up a conversation with your child when you are not

there. Be particularly suspicious of anyone who asks your child for help or directions, even if they are wearing a business suit or other professional clothing. This type of approach should be a notoriously transparent ploy to gain access to potential victims, but parents are often fooled by predators who, by virtue of their attire, are literally clothed with credibility.

### Pathological Identification

Predators often suffer from deviant peer identification, preferring the company of children to adults. Many offenders, apart from their illicit motives, genuinely feel more comfortable talking with children. Some are socially awkward and

uncomfortable in the company of their own age group, and admittedly prefer the nonjudgmental acceptance of children. Whether as a result of arrested development or prurient interest, adults who spend more time in public speaking to children than to adults should be noted.

### History Repeats Itself

One bright red flag is a revelation that often comes directly from the perpetrator himself: that he has previously been accused of some type of child molestation offense. In many of my cases, this revelation actually enhanced the defendant's perceived credibility in the eyes of the victim's family. Yet consider the odds. Most adults have never been accused of child molestation. Admitting one prior allegation is bad enough; more than one is highly suspect, particularly when the allegations involve different victims in unrelated settings.

### Collective Perception Enhances Protection

Staying safe does not require paranoia, but preparedness. Familiarize yourself with the tricks and tactics used by child predators in order to spot them before they spot you—and your child. By keeping these tips in mind, we can enhance both perception and perspective, improving our collective ability to spot red flags, and keep each other safe.

## Facebook paid a third-party company to build tool that helped FBI nab a child predator

Facebook worked with a third-party company to nab a child-abuser and handed him over to the FBI. The predator was a California-based man, Buster Hernandez whose online name was Brian Kil. He exploited young girls for years and forced them to send sexually explicit photos through Facebook, email, and other chat apps. He also threatened to kill them or blow up their schools, Motherboard reported.

The FBI had attempted catching Hernandez who is termed as the "worst criminal" on Facebook. But the FBI's hacking system could not get through Hernandez. Hernandez noticed the attempt and mocked the FBI about it.

"You thought the police would find me by now, but they didn't. they have no clue. The police are useless," he wrote. "Everyone please pray for the FBI, they are never solving this case lmao I'm above the law and always will be," Motherboard quoted Hernandez.

Alex Stamos, who is now part of the Zoom's security team headed Facebook's security back then (2017) and decided to lend a hand to catch hold of the criminal.

The tool used by the third-party cybersecurity was a zero-day exploit in the privacy-focused operating system Tails. Facebook paid in six figures to get hold of the predator's IP address. The tool automatically routed all of a

user's internet traffic through the Tor anonymity network, to unmask Hernandez's real IP address, which led to his arrest, the report stated. Facebook reportedly assigned a dedicated employee to track the criminal for around two years and developed a new machine learning system designed to detect users creating new accounts and reaching out to kids in an attempt to exploit them. Hernandez used Tails, a secure operating system that runs the anonymizing software Tor and is designed to encrypt and push all of a user's traffic through the network by default. This helps the user hide their real IP address.

This tool is also widely used by

journalists and activists who are under threat of being surveilled by the police.

A Tails' spokesperson told Motherboard that the OS is used by 30,000 activists, journalists, domestic violence survivors, and privacy-concerned citizens daily. Facebook has said that it does not specialize in developing hacking exploits and did not want to set the expectation with law enforcement that this is something it would do regularly. The hacking tool itself is controversial since it lets Facebook track the IP address of its own users. According to a Facebook spokesperson, it took this step only after exhausting all options.



# 6 Tactics of a Child Predator



Ten years ago the show *To Catch A Predator* showed a deep and dark problem: Countless men preying on kids despite the risk. Then it felt like almost daily there was a report of yet another female teacher arrested for statutory rape of a student. Former child actor Corey Feldman proclaimed pedophilia to be the biggest problem for child actors. Hollywood. Penn State. The systemic child sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church. It's no longer a secret. This is not a Catholic problem, a Penn State problem, a Hollywood problem, or a teacher problem. This is an epidemic that pervades every inch of our society.

Child predators are everywhere. They can be those who abduct children, but an overwhelming majority of cases are nonviolent offenders who knew the child and family well. These are the child predators we are talking about in this article. If we are going to protect our children we need to know their tactics and how they groom their victims. Discuss the tactics of child predators with your children so they are prepared to defend themselves. They may

be in a predator's grooming process already. Here are 6 tactics of child predators.

## 1. Gaining Access

The first thing a predator will do is try to gain access to children. Perhaps they will seek an occupation or volunteer program that involves children. They may go above and beyond with their time and resources to be around children. They may offer to babysit, watch your kids when you need to run a quick errand, or take the child to do something fun. You will probably even think to yourself, "What a nice person." Certainly not everyone who does these things is a predator. There are wonderful people out there, but keep a sharp eye out.

Defense: It's not safe to assume the best of people when it comes to your kids so prepare your children for the worst. Watch carefully those people who go above and beyond to spend time with your child, especially if they seek one-on-one time.

## 2. Target A Kid In Need

Next, they are most likely going to target a particular kid. Some kids make easier victims. The

kid on the fringe, the one in need, or particularly, the one who is craving attention.

Defense: Be a major presence in your child's life and talk with them a lot. Give them your attention and listen. Pay attention to their struggles, empathize, and provide support they need. If you don't someone else will.

## 3. Gain The Child's Trust

They will give the child gifts and candy. There will be things in their house to attract children. They will be the one who will be there to meet the child's unmet needs. When the child needs attention they will be eager to give it.

Defense: Be wary of adults looking to spend extra time with your child or have a desire to give them gifts and candy. Talk with your child routinely about their relationships with others. Explain to them what is appropriate and what isn't.

## 4. Gain The Family's Trust

Parents are the gateway to the child. Receiving your blessing gives them the access and power they are looking for. So while working to earn the child's trust predators will be working the family as well. Child predators tend to be

patient and work on gaining trust over a long period of time.

Defense: Never let your guard down when it comes to people who have access to your child. In most circumstances the parents couldn't believe it, often saying, "He's the last person I thought would hurt my child." Always assume that anyone is capable of anything. Ask your child questions about his or her interactions with the person.

## 5. Introduce Touch and Pushing Boundaries

When a predator has gained access and a level of trust he or she will introduce touch and gradually push the limits. Perhaps they will tell a dirty joke or show the child pornography. Seemingly innocent touches move into hugs, kisses, and then eventually a hand brushing across the genitals. At this point they may also introduce nudity.

Defense: Talk to your kids about their private areas. There is no reason to be ashamed by them, but they are private and not for others to touch. My wife and I discuss this with our children and have told them that only Mommy or Daddy can

touch you there if there is something physically wrong. The only other person can be a doctor in Mommy and Daddy's presence and with permission. You can leave the discussion here, but it also may be a good idea to discuss consensual touch and when and where that is appropriate. Don't force them to hug or kiss anyone. Give them control there.

## 6. Gaining Control Of The Child

Finally, they will try to entrap the child to gain control. They'll tell the child things that he'll ask the child to keep a secret from his or her parents. The predator may catch the child doing something bad and hold it over the child. The child will feel trapped for either fear of being exposed or feeling beholden to the predator for not telling on him.

Defense: Tell your children that they are not to keep secrets. Surprises yes, but never secrets. Impress upon them that when any adult tells them that something will be a secret between the two of them that they are to come tell you immediately, even if they think it is something they will get in trouble for.



# To catch an online predator

By Lori Adler, reporter

A review of recent Oneida County court records reveals a clear increase in the arrest and prosecution of online sexual predators over the past year. This is not simply coincidence but rather a concerted effort among law enforcement officials, beginning with the Oneida County Sheriff's Department. The sheriff's department has named the prevention of crimes against children one of its top two priorities and has been increasing efforts to capture these criminals.

For those who think this isn't a problem in Oneida County, Detective Sergeant Bob Hebein, replied, "It happens. It happens here, and it's real."

Hebein along with Detective Sergeant Chad Wanta, and several other members of the Oneida County Sheriff's Department, are part of a state-wide Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force. The task force works in conjunction with many other county, state and federal law enforcement agencies to catch and prosecute child predators, including those engaged in child enticement and sex crimes, child pornography and trafficking.

Sexual predators have been online almost as long as there have been home computers and the internet. The first well-known case of this type of crime happened in 2002 when Alicia Kozakiewicz, then age 13, was abducted by a man she had corresponded with online. After a year-long online relationship, the 38-year-old man, whom Alicia thought was a 13-year-old boy, convinced her to meet him. He kidnapped her, took her to a house more than 200 miles away and raped and tortured her for several days before authorities rescued her.

Alicia survived her attacker and went on to help pass Alicia's Law which provides a dedicated stream of funding to ICAC task forces across the country. Alicia's Law has been passed in 11 states thus far, including Wisconsin, and is a source of funding for Oneida County's program, helping to alleviate the overtime costs required for this type of work.

To begin the process of capturing a predator, Hebein and other officers have to develop a persona, essentially becoming a 14- or 15-year-old girl, create a story and then remember every detail, or they won't be believed. "There's a lot of stuff we have to learn because there's a different subculture, a different language," Hebein explained, "A lot of my job is researching what they're doing, how they're talking, so I can recognize things."

When Hebein first started working with this project, he was not overly familiar with the many social media sites and apps normally involved in these crimes. He didn't even have a Facebook page so he had a lot to learn. While many might think these activities take place on the Dark Web, these criminals are utilizing sites people commonly use daily. Even seemingly innocent sites like Pinterest have a hidden element to them.

Hebein said, "A lot of times you need to know where to look within these things, and that's a lot of our research and just gaining experience. Craigslist, Facebook, Instagram...all these things that the average person thinks are just for communicating with your friends, showing them pictures of your dog, buying a lawn mower, whatever, there's always a twist to them."

Initially, the officers dedicated a time to go online, chatted as their persona and had success in capturing someone who traveled to the area with the intent of committing a sex crime with a child. However, the criminals are getting more savvy, and now it has become a long-term effort, often taking weeks or even months to build up enough trust for the criminal to decide to travel to meet who they think is an under-aged child.

So while there was initial success, the program is an ever developing one with always something new to learn. In addition, there are certain elements that have to be met for each crime. Simply talking online with a 15-year-old and making a plan to meet is not a crime. The criminal must complete the task of actually traveling to a meeting location in order for an arrest to occur and getting to this point takes time. At no point during this process, however, is there ever really a child involved, just an officer impersonating one.

Bringing in the criminals takes more than just one person. This entire process often involves help from ICAC state headquarters in Madison and

other county and city law enforcement. In addition, Oneida County has an onsite Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI) officer. The DCI officer can often help speed up subpoena and warrant requests and has access to a whole other set of resources as well as statewide jurisdiction.

Other help in the process comes in the form of the many people who work at Oneida County Sheriff's Department, and while other officers provide assistance of course, they aren't the only ones. Hebein explained that he has worked with some of the younger women on staff for advice on things such as talking like a teenage girl.

"We use practically everybody in this building at one point or another to accomplish our goal," Hebein remarked, "Everybody here takes some kind of ownership in what we're doing, and it wouldn't get done without everybody."

While Hebein works primarily on capturing the criminals the department refers to as "travelers" (those who travel to have sex with a child), Wanta spends time working on child pornography cases. He receives leads from the National Center for Missing and Endangered Children (NCMEC) and works with many local agencies to try to track down the perpetrators. Though Wanta does not receive a large number of these leads, finding the perpetrators is important as he feels that those looking at images can very easily decide they want to act and will begin looking for children.

In addition to child pornography, Wanta and Hebein are also looking for ways to attack the growing human trafficking problem.

Wanta stated, "We don't have any specific intel that there's trafficking going on, but we're sure there is."

It's all about being proactive and trying to stay ahead of the criminals. Often just by being online, Hebein and others

discover other crimes including drugs and stolen items. In addition, sometimes officers come across a child who is engaging in dangerous activities on the internet.

Hebein said, "We try to identify these kids, and usually it's fairly easy, and we'll have a talk with them and their parents depending on their situation. Just being out there, we find a lot of stuff that isn't necessarily a person traveling to have sex with a 15-year-old kid. It's just the more you're out there, the more you'll find."

One of the main problems they see, especially when talking with children and their parents, is a lack of awareness.

"Everybody has a picture in their head of this pedophile," Hebein stated, "He's the guy hiding in the bushes. He looks dirty. He's jumping out of the bushes and grabbing a kid at the park. The people that I've been a part of arresting in the last year have ranged from the age of 20 to 55, all levels of education. We had a teacher, people with good jobs, people that are married, that have their own children. So if you walk past any one of these in Walmart, you wouldn't go 'that's the guy.'" "You never know," Wanta added, "It could be your neighbor." Both officers feel it's important for the public to be aware of what is happening in their communities. "Most people don't care," Wanta said. "As long as it doesn't affect them, they don't care. But I think anybody in this community who has children or knows children should know what the heck is going on." Explaining that it's the efforts of everyone working together that really can make a difference, Wanta added, "It's a battle." Both Wanta and Hebein continue to fight the battle every day. While they are available to handle other cases in the department if needed, leadership has made it a priority to keep these officers working on crimes against children and capturing online predators.





# The Extinction Crisis Is Accelerating, New Study Finds

(News Agencies)The sixth mass extinction in Earth's history is accelerating as humans rapidly and relentlessly destroy the natural world, according to a new study looking at the loss of terrestrial vertebrate species. And the crisis poses an existential threat not only to thousands of animal and plant species, but to human civilization as a whole.

The analysis, published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, comes as nations around the globe reel from the coronavirus pandemic — rooted in environmental destruction and the latest novel infectious disease to leap from animals to humans, with devastating consequences. Researchers examined data on more than 29,000 species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles and found that more than 500 of them 1.7% are "on the brink of extinction," with populations of fewer than 1,000 individuals. More than half of those species have populations below 250, they found.

"The ongoing sixth mass extinction may be the most serious environmental threat to



the persistence of civilization, because it is irreversible," the authors write in the report. "Thousands of populations of critically endangered vertebrate animal species have been lost in a century, indicating that the sixth mass extinction is human caused and accelerating." One reason for this alarming trend is that human pressure on natural ecosystems continues to mount. The authors point to COVID-19 as the most recent example and stress that their results "reemphasize the extreme urgency of taking much-expanded worldwide actions to

save wild species and humanity's crucial life-support systems from this existential threat." "The vaccine for Covid-19 was natural habitat," Gerardo Ceballos, an ecologist at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and lead author of the study, told The New York Times. "The pandemic is a great example of how badly we've treated nature." Scientists believe that the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 originated in bats and crossed over to humans at a live animal market in Wuhan, China. The analysis

includes a call for global action. Along with advocating for a complete ban on the trade of wildlife for human consumption in China and throughout Asia, the authors argue that the scientific community has "a scientific and moral imperative" to do whatever necessary to stop what they describe as "biological annihilation." "In view of the current extinction crisis and the lack of widespread actions to halt it, it is very important that scientists should metaphorically take to the streets," they write. A United Nations report last year found

that humans have driven up to 1 million species around the globe to the brink of extinction, and the global body released a draft biodiversity plan in January that calls for protecting 30% of all lands and oceans by 2030 to combat the crisis. Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity who was not involved in the new study, said in a statement that the findings confirm yet again that humans are gambling with their own long-term survival. "Extinction is a political choice," Curry said. "We've reached a crossroads where our own future is at stake if we don't move away from fossil fuels and end wildlife exploitation, and at the same time, necessarily, address poverty and injustice. Meanwhile the tone-deaf Trump administration has gutted nearly 100 environmental regulations, including the Endangered Species Act." The Trump administration has finalized regulations that significantly weaken the Endangered Species Act, and several high-ranking administration officials deeply detest the 1973 law, slamming it among other things as "a sword to tear down the American economy."

## The trampoline is working!

### The story behind Elon Musk's one-liner at SpaceX's big launch

(News Agencies)It was a good comeback, though you couldn't exactly call it snappy. "The trampoline is working!" SpaceX founder and CEO Elon Musk said on Saturday (May 30), shortly after the company launched its first crewed mission, the Demo-2 test flight to the International Space Station (ISS).

Musk was referring to an April 2014 barb by Dmitry Rogozin, who at the time was Russia's deputy prime minister. Today, Rogozin is the chief of Russia's space agency, Roscosmos. Rogozin was irked back then by sanctions imposed by the United States in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Some of those sanctions targeted the Russian space industry (as well as individuals, including

Rogozin), and Rogozin argued that the measures would end up hurting NASA and the global space effort in general. After all, the American space agency had relied completely on Russian Soyuz rockets and spacecraft to get their astronauts to the ISS since the space shuttles retired in 2011.

"After analyzing the sanctions against our space industry, I suggest to the USA to bring their astronauts to the International Space Station using a trampoline," Rogozin said via Twitter at the time. NASA has been grooming private industry to fill the shuttle's shoes since 2010. In September 2014, the agency awarded multibillion-dollar contracts to SpaceX and Boeing to finish developing their spacecraft — capsules known as Crew Dragon and the CST-

100 Starliner, respectively — and fly six operational crewed Demo-2 is the last big hurdle SpaceX needs to clear before beginning those contracted flights. And everything is going well with the test mission so far; Crew Dragon docked with the ISS as planned yesterday (May 31), safely delivering NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley to the orbiting lab. Rogozin took the Demo-2 success, and Musk's trampoline riposte, in stride. The Russian official congratulated NASA chief Jim Bridenstine via Twitter Sunday and wished NASA luck in getting commercial crew missions officially up and running. "Please convey my sincere greetings to @elonmusk (I loved his joke) and @SpaceX team. Looking



forward to further cooperation!" Rogozin added in another Tweet (in English). Musk responded to this tweet with one of his own, in Russian. The English translation, via Google Translate: "Thanks sir, haha. We look forward to mutually beneficial and prosperous long-term cooperation." Demo-2 is scheduled to last one to four months; NASA and SpaceX have not yet decided on the mission's duration. If everything

goes well through splashdown, SpaceX's first contracted astronaut-carrying mission, called Crew-1, could launch as soon as late August, NASA officials have said. Boeing isn't quite ready to launch astronauts yet. Starliner failed to meet up with the ISS as planned on an uncrewed test flight this past December. The capsule will re-fly that test mission before proceeding to crewed flight. +



## Particular memories can be erased, Scientists have found a way



(Insider Bureau) Particular memories can be erased, Scientists have found a way. A new study suggests that memories that trigger anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) could be erased without affecting other important memories of past by isolating molecules related to memory and selectively blocking their function. While there are many ways to boost your memory, there are certain incidents that you would rather forget. The finding could help develop drugs that can treat anxiety without affecting the patient's normal memory, sources said. Brains create long-term memories by increasing the strength of connections between neurons and maintaining those connections over time. By measuring the strength of each connection, the researchers found that the increase in the strength of each connection produced by the different stimuli was maintained by a different form of a Protein Kinase M (PKM) molecule (PKM Apl III for associative synaptic memory and PKM Apl I for non-associative).

## Cool beard styles for this hot summer



The three styles that are doing the rounds in summer are:

### Bald with beard

A shaved head complimenting a full beard or a neatly trimmed beard is quite the classic combination that always works. The secret to making it work into a well-groomed look is some brow maintenance as well.

### Carved beard

This fashionable and trendy beard style for dusky men often highlights unique facial hair contouring on a prominent jaw line. Cool beard styles Full beard with a man bun The full beard look with a man bun has become quite the rage and a look that gives casuals a whole new expression.

(Insider Bureau) Cool beard styles for this hot summer as a fashion statement. Beard these days have become a signature of fashion for men.

Rohit Jaiswal from Bombay Shaving Company and Karan Chadha, Founder, Gangs of Beard, point out

that men are not "price sensitive and will spend on products they relate to". They also added that men "are getting more adventurous in expressing themselves – whether it is growing a beard, being covered with tattoos or even sporting a shaved dome".

## Your job could be a reason for high risk of Vitamin D deficiency



(Insider Bureau) Your job could be a reason for high risk of Vitamin D deficiency. Stuck behind your office desk for most part of the day? Your nine-to-five job could be a major factor that puts you at high risk of Vitamin D deficiency.

Shift workers, healthcare workers and indoor workers in particular are at high risk of vitamin D deficiency, researchers at the University of Alberta, Canada suggest. Understanding the prevalence of vitamin D deficiency in different professions could improve public health interventions and prevention efforts. Dr. Sebastian Straube, the corresponding author said: "Our results suggest that occupation is a major factor that may contribute to suboptimal vitamin D levels. Regular

screening of vitamin D levels in at-risk groups should be considered for future clinical practice guidelines and public health initiatives. Workplace wellness programs could include education about the importance of adequate vitamin D levels. This could help prevent adverse health outcomes linked to vitamin D deficiency, such as metabolic disorders, psychiatric and cardiovascular disorders, and cancer." The researchers found that prevalence of vitamin D deficiency was highest among shift workers (80% of individuals), followed by indoor workers (77%) and healthcare students (72%).

Among healthcare workers, rates of vitamin D deficiency varied depending on whether they were students, medical residents (65%),

practicing physicians (46%), nurses (43%) or other healthcare professionals (43%).

Dr. Straube said: "Vitamin D production by the body is reliant on sunshine and UV exposure so any activity that reduces exposure tends to reduce vitamin D levels. Sunlight deprivation in young medical professionals, who may have particularly long working hours, and other indoor workers, puts them at higher risk of both vitamin D insufficiency and deficiency."

A high percentage of indoor workers (91%) were also found to have insufficient vitamin D, which means that their levels of vitamin D weren't necessarily as low as those found in vitamin D deficient individuals, but lower than levels recommended for health. By comparison, 48% of outdoor workers had vitamin D deficiency, while 75% had vitamin D insufficiency. In order to evaluate vitamin D levels, deficiency and insufficiency in different occupations and to identify at-risk groups of workers, the authors conducted a systematic review of 71 peer-reviewed journal articles which involved 53,425 individuals in total and spanned a range of latitudes in both the Northern and Southern hemisphere.

## Love playing video games?

*It might make your brain more efficient*



(News Agencies) Carried out by researchers from the Cognitive NeuroLab, Faculty of Health Sciences, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain, and the Laboratory for Neuropsychiatry and Neuromodulation, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA, the team looked at 116 scientific studies to see if any trends arose from recent research on how video games affect brain structure and behaviour. Previous studies have shown that it improves skills required for higher education and it can even be used to treat depression. "Games have sometimes been praised or demonized, often without real data backing up those claims. Moreover, gaming is a popular activity, so everyone seems to have strong opinions on the topic," says Marc Palau, first author on the review. From their analysis, which included looking at 22 studies on the structural changes in the brain and 100 on changes in brain functionality and/or behaviour, the team found that playing video games can change both how our brains perform and its structure. Some of the studies suggested that playing videos games can improve several types of attention, including sustained attention or selective attention, with the brain regions involved in attention appearing to be more efficient in gamers and requiring less activation. The studies also showed evidence that video games can increase the size and efficiency of brain regions related to visuospatial skills, with the team finding that the right hippocampus was enlarged in both long-term gamers and volunteers following a video game training program.



# The stock market no longer cares whether Trump wins

(News Agencies) Stocks have been on an amazing ride over the past few months despite a torrent of bad news about the global economy. The optimism on Wall Street comes as polls show presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden has a growing head-to-head national lead over President Donald Trump. It's a bit curious. The conventional wisdom on Wall Street is that the market likes when a Republican is in power. And Trump has enacted several investor-friendly policies, such as tax cuts and the rolling back of some federal regulations on health care and the banking sectors. The market had been moving practically in lockstep with the general election polls — until recently. “That relationship has broken down a bit in early June, with Trump’s chances (according to the betting markets) falling and the S&P 500 surging,” wrote RBC strategist Lori Calvasina in a report Monday. Even though Biden is leading in many polls, the Nasdaq hit an all-time high above 10,000 Tuesday and the S&P 500’s relentless rally since March pushed it back into positive territory for the year on Monday for the first time since February.

## Jewels worth Rs 1,350 crore brought back from Nirav Modi’s Hong Kong godown

**ED claims that Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi had kept valuables at a Hong Kong godown.**

(News Agencies) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it had brought back 108 consignments belonging to Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi including polished diamonds, silver jewellery and pearls worth Rs 1,350 crore of declared value from Hong Kong. “Value of these goods have been declared to be Rs 1,350 crores (approx). These valuables include polished diamonds, pearls, pearl and silver jewelry etc. and were kept in the godown of a logistics company in Hong Kong,” an official statement from the agency said.

The consignments weighing approx 2,340 kg were brought back to Mumbai on Wednesday, it added. Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi are Indian businessman who are wanted by the authorities in connection with cheating Indian banks of thousands of crores. Nirav Modi, the main accused, in the Rs 23,780 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud, is currently languishing in a UK prison since March last year. India is attempting to get him extradited. His uncle Mehul Choksi, also accused of cheating Punjab National Bank

(PNB), is currently in Antigua. The development comes a few days after a special Mumbai court allowed ED to confiscate Nirav Modi’s properties. The ED official statement says these consignments had been sent to Hong Kong from Dubai in early 2018 and the ED had received a tip off in the month of July the same year. “The authorities were continuously engaged in discussion with various authorities in Hong Kong to bring back these valuables to India. Various modalities were finalized and after completing all



the legal formalities these consignments have now been brought back to India.” the release added. CBI has accused Modi of pulling a large-scale fraud upon the PNB by fraudulently obtaining Letters of Understanding (LOUs or loan agreements) while the Enforcement Directorate is pursuing the businessman for laundering of the proceeds of that fraud. The ED claims to have earlier brought back 33 consignments of valuables from Dubai and Hong Kong linked to Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi case. These were valued at around Rs 137 crore, said the agency.

## ED files money-laundering case against Medanta, Naresh Trehan

**An RTI (right to information) activist, Raman Sharma, had filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in the matter in the Gurugram civil court of additional district and sessions Judge Ashwani Kumar, citing irregularities and corruption for laundering money.**

(News Agencies) New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a money-laundering case against Medanta Hospital, its chairman Dr. Naresh Trehan and unknown Haryana government officers for alleged irregularities in the allotment of land to the hospital in 2004, people familiar with the development said on Wednesday. ED’s PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) case is based on a Gurugram Police’s first information report (FIR) filed in the matter on June 6 that named Dr. Trehan; his organisation Global Health Pvt Ltd; Atul Punj of Punj Llyod; and Sunil Sachdeva and Anant Jain, two officers of Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), among others on the orders of a Gurugram civil court. An RTI (right to information) activist, Raman Sharma, had filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in the matter in the Gurugram civil court of additional district and sessions Judge Ashwani Kumar, citing irregularities and corruption for laundering money. The Medanta hospital authorities

have denied the allegations as “false, baseless and motivated”. The case pertains to the allotment of a plot of land to the hospital in 2004. The Haryana government, through HSVP, allotted 53 acres of land in Gurugram’s Sector 38 along the Delhi-Jaipur road (NH-48) for the development of The Medicity. An official statement by Medanta Hospital authorities on Gurugram Police’s FIR said: “This complaint has been filed by a person, who claims to be an RTI activist. However, it has been reported in the press that he has had an FIR for extortion registered against him. All the allegations in this complaint are completely false, baseless, and motivated.” Sharma had alleged that Medanta, in connivance with government officials, obtained pecuniary advantage as “land meant for institutional purposes was used for pure commercial, speculative and self-service purposes”, and several acres of land were allotted at undervalued rates. Sharma also alleged that the accused obtained occupational certificates based on

misrepresentation, as there was no area on the premises that was allocated for medical and paramedical education, as advertised. “The allegations in Raman Sharma’s complaint pertain to the 16-year-old land allotment on which the hospital is built. Everything about this land allotment, which was done through a public auction, is legal. The allegations are nothing short of absurd. We’ve built one of the finest hospitals in this part of the world, and we’re proud of the work we do. Sharma has chosen to file this complaint to harass



me amid a global pandemic. I’m continuing to tend to my patients despite being over 70 and putting myself at a risk because of the pandemic. It’s of grave concern and hurt that doctors and hospitals are bearing the brunt of harassment by people of dubious antecedents,” Dr. Trehan said.

## TikTok's other Indian alternative Chingari garners 1L downloads on Play Store

Lately there has been an increased emphasis on replacing China-based products with their respective desi alternatives. Now, a Bengaluru-based startup has come up with an app that is widely being touted as an Indian alternative to the popular video-sharing app, TikTok. The app called Chingari is a social media platform developed by two Bengaluru-based programmers Biswatma Nayak and Siddharth Gautamin. The app not only allows users to download and upload videos but it also allows users to chat with friends, interact with new people, share content, browse through the feed among other things. Additionally, the app also allows users to go creative with WhatsApp status, Videos, Audio clips, GIF

stickers, and photos. In addition to all this, users get access to trending news, entertainment news, funny videos, songs, status videos, quotes, shayaris and memes among other things. To make it appealing to the Indian users, the app supports content in a total of eight Indian languages besides Hindi and English. The list includes Bangla, Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, Punjabi, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu. One feature that makes Chingari different from other upcoming social media platforms is the fact it pays content creators on the basis of how viral their videos become. For every video that a content creator uploads on the Chingari app, they get points (per view) which can be redeemed for money.



## Small business gets GST compliance relief



(News Agencies) The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on Friday eased compliance burdens for pandemic-hit industry, particularly small businesses, but deferred taking a call on crucial issues such as resolving the inverted duty structure and paying timely compensation to cash-strapped states for their revenue shortfalls.

Taxpayers who could not file their GST returns between July 2017 and January 2020 can now file them after paying a reduced late fee of Rs 500 if they have tax liabilities. Taxpayers who do not have any tax liability and who missed filing returns will not have to pay any late fee, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said after the Council's 40th meeting that took place through video conference. The window to do this will be open from July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020, she said. The council has also provided compliance-related concessions to small businesses that have faced problems due to the pandemic, she said. The Union finance minister is the chairperson of the apex federal body on indirect tax and finance ministers of states are its members. Normally, the council's decisions are unanimous.

Sitharaman said the council has slashed the interest rate by half for non-compliance by small businesses having a turnover of up to Rs 5 crore. Small taxpayers who missed filing returns for February, March and April due to the pandemic will not be charged any interest till July 6; thereafter, they will pay 9% interest, she added. "In other words, for these months, small taxpayers will not be charged any interest till the notified date... up to July, there is nothing they have to worry about. They don't have to pay the late fee, but thereafter it will be 9% [interest for late filing] instead of 18%... So reduction in the interest rate is valid up to September 30," she said.

## World is looking for trusted, reliable partner, India must be ready: PM Modi

PM Modi made the comments while delivering the inaugural address at the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) annual session 2020, Getting Growth Back.

(News Agencies) Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday the government will stand shoulder to shoulder with industries in their endeavour to help India get ahead on the path of self-reliance. "The world is looking for a trusted, reliable partner and India has the potential, strength and ability. Today, all of you, including all industries must benefit from the trust that has developed for India all over the world," PM Modi said. PM Modi made the comments while delivering the inaugural

address at the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) annual session 2020, Getting Growth Back. "It's your responsibility and that of organisations such as CII that also with manufactured in India, trust, quality and competitiveness must also be attached. If you take two steps, the government will be four steps ahead in supporting you. As the Prime Minister I assure you that I will stand with you," he said through a video conference. "In this campaign, a big institution like CII will also have to come forward in a

new role post-corona," he said. Prime Minister Modi said earlier during his speech that India will tide over the coronavirus pandemic and will get back on track with the government's decisive policies. "We will definitely get our growth back. India will get its growth back," he said while addressing the session. "Corona has pushed us back but India has pushed back as well after the lockdown and entered Unlock Phase 1. As a great part of the economy has been opened up and more will open after June 8," he said.

## We all have a role to play, says Indra Nooyi as protests sweep US

Considered to be the worst-ever civil unrest in the US in decades, violent protests have engulfed at least 140 cities across the country in the days following the death of George Floyd, the 46-year-old African-American man.



(News Agencies) As protests and violence swept the United States, Indian-American former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi has said everyone has a responsibility to recognize this pain and the systemic racism that has caused it. "This past week, we've seen millions of Americans vocalize their pain in protests across the nation responding to the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmadu Arbery," Nooyi said in a statement posted on twitter

with hashtag Black Lives Matter. Considered to be the worst-ever civil unrest in the US in decades, violent protests have engulfed at least 140 cities across the country in the days following the death of George Floyd, the 46-year-old African-American man who was pinned to the ground in Minneapolis on May 25 by a white police officer who knelt on his neck as he gasped for breath.

"We all have a responsibility to recognize this pain and the

systemic racism that has caused it, and also to act by listening, reading, and supporting organizations that make justice their mission. This is especially important if you come from a place of privilege that protects you in some capacity," wrote the top India American corporate leader, who is counted among the world's most powerful women. "As we all consider how to heal this wound, I ask that we not lose sight of the power of our voices. I've always believed that confronting bias publicly is essential. If you see a bad actor, say it out loud and set an example for those around you," she said. "And don't be afraid of what you don't know. Instead, be eager to participate in conversations that may make you uncomfortable and commit to learn more. It may not be easy, but it is critical," she asserted. Nooyi cautioned that the road ahead will "undoubtedly be challenging", and the scale of the work that needs to be accomplished is staggering. "Let's vow to be kind, to roll up our sleeves, and to be part of the force that bends this path toward justice," she said.

## Small businesses across America were struggling to survive. Now they face a new threat

(News Agencies) As protests over the death of George Floyd erupt across the nation, small businesses that have struggled for months because of the coronavirus pandemic are facing a new threat to their survival. Shop owners say their stores have suffered damage such as broken windows and that merchandise has been looted. That's after months of keeping doors closed or operating at limited capacity. The problems could set back their recovery significantly, they say, or even make it impossible. Floyd, 46, died one week

ago after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck. Floyd, who was black, was unarmed and pleading for his life before he stopped breathing. Many of the protests have been peaceful, but some became chaotic: About 4,000 people have been arrested across the country since Tuesday, according to CNN's tally from officials nationwide. "I'm dealing with such a double whammy as a business owner," said Beth Aberg, owner of Random Harvest Home, a home furnishings chain with three locations that were mostly

shut down for more than two months. "I have been doing everything I know how to finally reopen the stores safely for everyone, but now I face an entirely new situation," she said. She has incurred new costs as a result. At her store in Washington DC's Georgetown neighborhood, "I paid \$2,000 to get someone to put plywood boards in front of my store because there's been a lot of looting and violence," she said. She added, "This was clear price gouging for the service, but I had no choice." In Seattle, there were at

least 61 businesses and properties damaged on Friday evening, according to James Sido, a spokesperson for the Downtown Seattle Association, a business advocacy group. "This damage (and in some cases looting) took place as some retailers were preparing to resume a level of operations in accordance with the Governor's phased re-opening," Sido said. "Businesses that we closed for months were days away from restarting, now they're faced with some measure of rebuild."



# A Day After Music Composer Wajid Khan's Death, His Mother Tests Positive For COVID-19



**Wajid Khan's mother has been admitted to the same hospital where the late music composer was undergoing treatment**

(News Agencies) Just a day after the death of music composer Wajid Khan - of the renowned composer duo Sajid-Wajid, their mother Razina Khan has tested positive for the coronavirus and she has been admitted to Mumbai's Surana Hospital in

Chembur, where the late music composer was also undergoing treatment, news agency PTI reported. A source close to the family said, "She has tested positive. She is doing fine and will remain in the hospital for few more days till her test comes out negative." Wajid Khan died at the age of 42 because of complications from kidney infection. His last rites were performed at Versova cemetery on Monday in the presence of his

family members, including his wife and brother Sajid Khan, and Bollywood actor Aditya Pancholi. On Monday, Twitter was deluged by tributes from many members of the film fraternity, including Amitabh Bachchan, Priyanka Chopra, Abhishek Bachchan among others. Wajid Khan's longtime collaborator Salman Khan, in his eulogy piece for the music composer, wrote: "Wajid, will always love, respect, remember and miss you as a person and your talent. Love you

and may your beautiful soul rest in peace." Fellow music composer Salim Merchant confirmed the news of Wajid Khan's death to news agency PTI on Monday. He said, "He had multiple issues. He had a kidney issue and had a transplant a while ago. But recently he got to know about kidney infection... He was on the ventilator for the last four days, after his situation started getting worse. Kidney infection was the beginning and then he got critical."

## Madhuri Dixit says she is unaware of Khal Nayak sequel confirmed by Subhash Ghai

(News Agencies) Filmmaker Subhash Ghai may have confirmed the sequel to his 1993 hit Khal Nayak, but the film's leading lady, Madhuri Dixit, is unaware of the developments. The original also starred actors Sanjay Dutt and Jackie Shroff. In an interview with IANS, when Madhuri was asked about the follow-up to Khal Nayak, she said, "That's news to me. I have no idea. It is a surprise for me."

Madhuri's song Choli Ke Peeche Kya Hai was one of the highlights of Khal Nayak. When asked if she would like to be a part of its sequel, she said, "It depends on the script, how they are planning to do, where they want to shoot. I think we

will take things as they come." Khal Nayak revolves around the attempt to capture a gangster named Ballu (Sanjay) after he escapes from the custody of Inspector Ram (Jackie). Ram's girlfriend, sub-inspector Ganga, attempts to salvage his reputation and goes undercover as a dancer to capture Ballu herself. Earlier this year, Subhash Ghai confirmed to Mumbai Mirror that a sequel to Khal Nayak is on the cards. "For the last six-seven months we have only been creating content and now, I'm ready with two bound scripts - a sequel to Khal Nayak and a remake of my first directorial, Kalicharan," he said. The filmmaker said that Sanjay was

the one who encouraged him to write a sequel, which will take off from where the original ended. "Part 2, which took us two years to script, starts with Ballu coming out of prison. It will also feature a younger villain," he said. Meanwhile, Madhuri has been keeping busy during the lockdown. She often shares pictures of her dance sessions at home on Instagram. She also released a new single, Candle, which brings a message of hope amid the coronavirus pandemic. Once shoots resume, Madhuri will be back on the sets of the show Dance Deewane, which she judges along with filmmaker Shashank Khaitan and choreographer Tushar Kalia.



## At times, I don't even realise which day or date it is: Kriti Sanon

(News Agencies) India, which is going through lockdown 5.0, has been on a pause mode since around mid-March, with nothing new happening in anyone's life. And like for everyone else, "things have been the same" for actor Kriti Sanon too. "There hasn't been anything new as such but what option do we have? It feels like time is just passing by.

At times, I don't even realise which day or date it is (laughs)," says Sanon, who has been "having great time" with family -- parents and sister, Nupur Sanon at her Andheri home. In fact, in her recent Instagram video, Kriti is



seen teaching "Punjabi hip-hop" moves to her mother on the song, London Thumakda (from Queen; 2014). Before lockdown 1.0 (starting towards the end of March) came into force, Sanon was busy with her next release, Mimi (it reunites the actor with

her Luka Chuppi director, Laxman Utekar). "For the first month or so, I was really chilling. But honestly, I now miss being on the sets and going through my 'normal, daily' routine," says the actor, whose debut film, Heropanti completed six years late last month. Although Sanon has been away from her work, the actor chooses to look at the positives instead. "Surely, lockdown brought along tonnes of problems and difficulties for many people," she says, adding: "But in hindsight, I feel even a busy city like Mumbai has been much calmer. You could see a clearer sky, and even hear birds chirping. That way, it has been great."



## Gone with the Wind removed from HBO Max

(News Agencies) Gone with the Wind has been taken off HBO Max following calls for it to be removed from the US streaming service. HBO Max said the 1939 film was "a product of its time" and depicted "ethnic and racial prejudices" that "were wrong then and are wrong today". It said the film would return to the platform at an unspecified date with a "discussion of its historical context". Set during and after the American Civil War, Gone with the Wind has long been attacked for its depiction of slavery. Based on the novel by Margaret Mitchell, it features slave characters who seem contented with their lot and who remain loyal to their former owners after slavery's abolition. Gone with the Wind received 10 Oscars and remains the highest-grossing

movie of all time when its takings are adjusted for inflation. Hattie McDaniel became the first black actress to be nominated for, and win, an Academy Award for her role as domestic servant Mammy. Writing in the Los Angeles Times this week, screenwriter John Ridley said the film "glorifies the antebellum south" and perpetuated "painful stereotypes of people of colour". "The movie had the very best talents in Hollywood at that time working together to sentimentalise a history that never was," continued the Oscar-winning screenwriter of 12 Years A Slave. In a statement, HBO Max said it would be "irresponsible" to keep the film on its platform without "an explanation and a denouncement" of its "racist

depictions". It said the film itself would return "as it was originally created", saying "to do otherwise would be the same as claiming these prejudices never existed".

The wording of the statement is similar to advisories that accompany Tom and Jerry cartoons and other vintage animations on various streaming services. Disney+ also advises its subscribers that some of its older films - among them 1941 animation Dumbo - "may contain outdated cultural depictions". HBO Max's move comes amid mass protests against racism and police brutality that have prompted several television networks to reassess their offerings. White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany - who panned HBO's decision - likened the removal to



conversations about whether the US should rename US military bases that are named for Confederate generals who fought against the United States during the Civil War. "Where do you draw the line here? I'm told you can no longer find on HBO, Gone with the Wind because somehow that is now offensive," she said, questioning whether sites named

after the US Founding Fathers would someday be renamed. HBO's decision follows the removal of Little Britain from Netflix, BritBox and BBC iPlayer. The show saw Matt Lucas and David Walliams play characters from different ethnic backgrounds, including Desiree De Vere - a woman played by Walliams in full blackface.

## Quarantine Curation: Before Gulabo Sitabo, 15 Hindi comedy films that will have you in splits

Before Ayushmann Khurrana and Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Gulabo Sitabo's release, we have listed 15 Hindi comedy films that you can watch with your family from the comfort of your home.



(News Agencies) An old landlord and his daily banter with his young tenant - with yet another interesting plot, Shoojit Sircar is back to tickle your funny bone with Gulabo Sitabo. Ayushmann Khurrana and Amitabh Bachchan play the lead roles in this light-hearted comedy, that will start streaming on Amazon Prime Video on June 12. Before Gulabo Sitabo's release, we list 15 Hindi comedy films that you can watch with your family from the comfort of your home.

**What to watch: Chup Chup Ke**

**Where to watch: Netflix**  
Directed by Priyadarshan, Chup Chup Ke tells the story of a guy who fakes his own death so that his parents can pay off his debt with the

insurance money. He is found by two fishermen and pretends to be deaf and mute in order to keep his identity hidden. His plans go haywire when he falls in love with a rich mute girl. The film stars Kareena Kapoor Khan and Shahid Kapoor in lead roles. It stars Neha Dhupia, Sunil Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav, Shakti Kapoor, Om Puri and Anupam Kher in supporting roles.

**What to watch: 3 Idiots**

**Where to watch: Netflix**

Three college friends and their college life taught us a whole lot about life in 3 Idiots. The film starred Aamir Khan, R Madhavan, Sharman Joshi, Kareena Kapoor and Boman Irani in key roles. The film was lauded by the critics and was

also a huge success at the box office.

**Where to watch: Bhool Bhulaiya**

**Where to watch: Netflix**

An NRI couple decides to settle in a haveli, known to be home to a ghost. Official remake of the 1993 Malayalam film, Manichitrathazhu, Bhool Bhulaiya will make you laugh while delivering a hair-raising experience. The film stars Akshay Kumar, Shiney Ahujaa and Vidya Balan in lead roles.

**Where to watch: Netflix**

This breezy romantic-comedy is best suited for this quarantine time. The film stars late actor Irrfan and Parvathy Thiruvothu in lead roles. The film's story revolves around two characters who, despite being complete opposites, find love in each other.

**Where to watch: Disney+Hotstar**

A father and his quest to get his daughter admitted to an expensive college in London, English Medium taught us the importance of family and the selfless love that parents have for their kids. English Medium is special for Irrfan's fans as it was the actor's last film before his

untimely demise on April 29.

**What to watch: Bareilly Ki Barfi**

**Where to watch: Netflix**

Though she lives in a small town, Bitti lives her life on her own terms. She is being pressured by her family to tie the knot, but she refuses to budge. Her life, however, changes when she meets two guys from own town, Chirag Dubey and Pritam Vidrohi. The film stars Kriti Sanon, Ayushmann Khurrana and Rajkummar Rao in lead roles.

**What to watch: Chennai Express**

**Where to watch: Netflix**

Rahul is set to immerse the ashes of his father at Rameshwaram. However, he takes a detour and meets beautiful Meena, a runaway bride, and his politician father's men. This Rohit Shetty directorial stars Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone in lead roles.

**What to watch: Golmaal: Fun Unlimited**

**Where to watch: Netflix**

Starring Ajay Devgn, Arshad Warsi, Sharman Joshi and Tusshar Kapoor in lead roles, this film is about these four

guys who find refuge in the home of a blind elderly couple. They soon find out that some jewels are hidden in the house. This leads to a lot of confusion and a laugh riot.

**What to watch: Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!**

**Where to watch: Netflix**

This story is about an incredibly charming man, Lucky Singh, who befriends rich people in Delhi and then robs them. The film stars Abhay Deol in the lead role. Paresh Rawal, Neetu Chandra, Manu Rishi, Richa Chadda and Manjot Singh are seen playing supporting roles in the film.

**What to watch: Lage Raho Munna Bhai**

**Where to watch: Netflix**

Munna Bhai is in love with a beautiful radio jockey. He fakes being a history professor to impress her and the people who live in the old-age that she runs. A builder takes over the old-age home with the help of Munna's best friend, Circuit. Munna fights against his own ally with the help of Mahatma Gandhi. Directed by Rajkumar Hirani, the film stars Sanjay Dutt, Vidya Balan and Arshad Warsi in lead roles.





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## George Floyd death Seven solutions to US police problems



(Story on Page 30)

## Army tightens grip on Pakistan as Imran Khan's popularity wanes



(News Agencies) There's now more than a dozen former and current military officials in prominent government roles, such as running the state-owned air carrier, the power regulator and the National Institute of Health, which is leading the country's pandemic response. Three of those appointments happened in the last two months.

(Contd on page 31)

## How India can come out of the recession stronger



(News Agencies) By the end of this fiscal year, India may need to recover by approximately a 10% negative swing in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. No current policymaker or leader has faced such a crisis. India will need to craft a suitable solution to deal with this. Crises provide seasoned politicians the space to overcome resistance from vested interest groups. What measures can India consider to lift the long-run productivity of the economy? I can suggest a few. The virus has underscored that the most important market failure in the future is likely to be in respect to access and use of digital technology and data. During the lockdown, those who had smartphones were advantaged; those who didn't suffer. A smart phone permitted access to health care, goods and services, digital payments, re-skilling, and education. The government must help India overcome digital apartheid by introducing a new paradigm where every Indian has a smartphone with easy access to data. (Contd on page 31)

## Migrant workers must be sent home in 15 days, says Supreme Court

Millions of workers and daily-wage earners left the big cities and returned to states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal in the aftermath of the lockdown enforced on March 25 to stop the spread of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

(News Agencies) States and Union territories received a time-bound mandate on Tuesday from the Supreme Court to ensure the return of all migrant workers stranded by the post-coronavirus lockdown to their home states within a fortnight and to inform the apex court within the same deadline about welfare programmes, including job opportunities, they plan to offer the returnees. A three-member bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan and comprising justices SK Kaul and MR Shah, is expected to pass directions on the matter on July 8,



the next date of hearing. To mitigate the plight faced by the migrants, the Supreme Court asked states and Union territories to identify migrant workers who have

returned at the district and block levels and prepare an inventory of the vocational skills they possess and their employment history.

(Contd on page 31)

ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਅਤ ਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾਨ

PUNJABI DUNIYA