

WORLD 6
MYANMAR PARDONS
PRISONERS

MONEY 7
FISCAL PACKAGE MAY BE ON CARDS TO
MAINTAIN ECONOMIC RECOVERY

SPORT 8
RCB VS KKR
IN IPL TODAY

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Kumbh ends after Modi's appeal

After PM's urge, opinion grows in favour of holding rest of Shahi Snans symbolically

PNS ■ HARIDWAR/NEW DELHI

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to keep the remaining part of Kumbh Mela symbolic considering the surging Covid-19 cases, the Juna Akhada Acharya, Mahamandaleswar Swami Avdeshanand Giri on Saturday announced the formal conclusion of the Maha Kumbh for the Akhada.

Panch Dash Nam Juna Akhada is the largest of the 13 Akhadas.

Swami Avdeshanand Giri said the remaining Shahi Snan of the Kumbh should be observed symbolically on April 27 and later tweeted that protecting the lives of Indians is "our first priority".

"Considering the rising threat of Covid-19, we have formally immersed the various deities invoked for the Kumbh Mela," he said.

Earlier in a tweet in Hindi, the PM said, "I prayed that two 'Shahi Snan' have taken place and Kumbh (participation) should now be kept symbolic. This will boost the fight against this crisis".

Later, Modi thanks all the saints for cooperation with the administration and expressed his gratitude for their gesture.

Thousands of Kumbh visitors have tested Covid-19 positives and dozens of saints have



Har Ki Pauri Ghat wears a deserted look during Kumbh Mela 2021 following a surge in Covid-19 cases in Haridwar on Saturday

succumbed to the virus during the last two weeks inviting both domestic and international outrage for allowing such massive gathering at the time when the second wave of Covid-19 was spreading like wildfire across the country.

Earlier, addressing the media here, Giri said the PM had telephoned him to enquire about the Kumbh Mela and the health of the seers. The PM had also requested that since the main Shahi Snans have concluded, the remaining Kumbh should be observed symbolically. The Juna Akhada head said he would request devotees from across the nation to visit Haridwar only in small numbers, adding that the remaining Shahi Snan will be observed

only symbolically. The remaining Snans are to be observed mainly by the Bairagi Akhadas. Earlier, the Niranjani Akhada had asked its Sadhus to leave for their respective destinations on April 17 considering the Covid surge. The Anand Akhada had also supported this view.

A majority of the 48.51 lakh people who took part in the last two royal baths (Shahi Snan) held on the occasion of Somwati Amavasya on April 12 and Mesh Sankranti on April 14 were seen openly violating Covid norms like face masks and social distancing.

The Kumbh has already been shortened this year to just one month from April 1 to 30 due to the pandemic.

Covid test, quarantine to welcome returning devotees back home

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The ordeal of Covid-19 test and quarantine awaits thousands of devotees who are returning home after attending the Maha Kumbh at Haridwar. As India grapples with a devastating second wave of the coronavirus and States imposing lockdown, several States and UTs, including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi and Gujarat, have made Covid-19 test mandatory for Kumbh returnees. Some States are also keeping the returnees in mandatory quarantine.

Thousands of Kumbh visitors and hundreds of "sadhus" who attended Kumbh Mela in Haridwar have tested positive for the coronavirus disease. On Saturday, around 175 "sadhus" who attended Kumbh Mela have been found infected from coronavirus.

Gujarat on Saturday declared that all devotees returning to the State from Kumbh Mela will have to undergo a mandatory RT-PCR test before they are allowed to enter their respective cities and villages.

Gujarat Chief Minister



Vijay Rupani said those found infected will be isolated for 14 days.

Maharashtra Minister Anil Parab has announced those coming into the State from Kumbh Mela will be quarantined. Nasik district administration is also taking necessary steps for quarantining those coming from Kumbh.

Earlier, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) mayor Kishori Pednekar claimed on Saturday that the devotees returning from the Kumbh Mela will distribute coronavirus like "Prasad" and said they should be quarantined "at their own cost" on their arrival.

The Madhya Pradesh Government has issued order to put those returning from Kumbh in quarantine or self-isolation.

10 lakh new cases in just 7 days in India

Record over 2.6L cases in a day; Delhi, Maha too see highest rise

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India added nearly 10 lakh cases in just seven days ending April 17 as the country recorded over 2.6 lakh new Covid-19 infections and a record 1,493 deaths during the last 24 hours on Saturday.

The addition of nearly 25,000 new cases over the previous day count amounts to a rise of nearly 10 per cent, which shows that the growth of Covid-19 has more than doubled during the last two weeks.

Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are registering newer peaks and the situation remaining equally grim in the rest of the country.

The country had 1.52 lakh daily cases on April 10 when the death count stood at 838. A daily comparison shows that the death rate is steadily climbing up vis-a-vis new infections.

Amid the alarming rise in new infections and deaths, the country is battling a paucity of hospital beds, oxygen



Health workers and family members carry the body of a patient who died of Covid-19 for cremation amid surge in coronavirus cases in Jammu on Saturday

Covid-19 IN INDIA		
Dist	Total Cases	Fresh Cases
Bhopal	66,891	1,669
Indore	87,625	1,656
Gwalior	23,833	985

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL CASES:	1,47,82,461 (+2,60,533)
DEATHS:	1,77,168 (+1,493)
RECOVERED:	1,28,03,791 (+1,36,853)
ACTIVE:	17,95,278
MAHARASHTRA:	37,70,707
KERALA:	12,21,168
KARNATAKA:	11,41,998
TAMIL NADU:	9,80,728
DELHI:	8,27,998 (+24,375)

supply, ventilators, and life-safe antiviral drug Remdesivir. A majority of the State have also complained of a shortage of vaccines and shut down several vaccination centres. Several States have belatedly imposed lockdown restriction to tackle the surge, but it is too early to see if these are going to work effectively at this stage on the ground.

Maha threatens to seize Remdesivir exporting stocks

CM complains of shortage of liquid oxygen, anti-viral drug

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After a bitter stand-off over the alleged discrimination in the distribution of vaccines, the Maharashtra Government on Saturday flagged the shortage of liquid medical oxygen and Remdesivir in the State and even threatened to seize the stocks of Remdesivir from the exporting firms and supply them to the needy people.

On a day when Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray charged that he could not speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the immediate requirement of liquid medical oxygen and Remdesivir vials was West Bengal was pre-occupied with West

Bengal Assembly elections, senior Minister Nawab Malik accused the Modi Government of meeting out "step motherly" treatment to the State over the supply of Remdesivir vials.

Not to be outdone, Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal launched a virulent attack on Uddhav whom he accused of indulging in "petty politics" and said "he (the Chief Minister) needs to stop his daily dose of shameless politics and take responsibility".

Earlier in the day, Uddhav said, "Yesterday evening, I dialled him (Modi) but I could not speak to him as he was busy in West Bengal election." Uddhav said he wanted to discuss the issue of shortage of liquid medical oxygen and Remdesivir injection vials, both life-savers in case of critical Covid-19 cases. He, however, said the State Government was seeking cooperation from the Centre.

Remdesivir price drastically cut on Govt intervention

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of increasing demand for anti-viral drug Remdesivir from across the States, the Centre on Saturday urged the injection makers to slash its price considerably. The Union Health Ministry in its "Clinical Management Protocols for Covid-19" has recommended the use of Remdesivir in patients in the moderate stages of the illness.

According to a statement from the Government, the Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, Department of Pharmaceuticals, NPPA Advisor (Costs) NI Chowdhury on Saturday ordered all pharma companies to comply with the revised norms with immediate and retrospective effect.

Pharmaceutical companies have reduced the price from 25 per cent to up to 68 per cent. According to the details shared by the NPPA, Cadila



Healthcare has reduced the price of its REMDAX injection to ₹899 from ₹2,800 earlier. Similarly, Syngene International has cut the price of its brand RemWin to ₹2,450 from ₹3,950 earlier. Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories has cut the price of REDYX, which used to cost ₹5,400 earlier to ₹2,700 now. Similarly, Cipla has reduced price of its CIPREMI brand to ₹3,000 from ₹4,000 earlier. Jubilant Generics has cut the price of its remdesivir brand to ₹3,400 from ₹4,700 earlier.

Covid curfew extended till April 26 in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Ratlam

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Keeping in mind the ongoing surge in Covid-19 cases, district administrations in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain and Ratlam here on Saturday announced to extend corona curfew till April 26 at 6 am.

Besides, the State Government announced to regulate return of Kumbh pilgrims as Home ministry instructed those returning from Haridwar Kumbh fair to inform local administration upon their return so that these travellers could be kept in home isolation or quarantine.

Meanwhile, Crisis Management Groups met in different districts, agreeing to extend corona curfew in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain and Ratlam till April 26.

Indore collector Manish Singh said that corona curfew will be extended till Friday but as urban areas are under two-day weekend corona curfew, effectively the city and nearby areas will remain under prohibition orders till 6 am on



Local residents hold placards demonstrating against establishment of a crematorium in the residential locality, amid rise in the Covid-19 fatalities in Neelbad locality, near Bhopal on Saturday

April 26. "It's satisfying that infection rate has stabilised but we can't open the entire city all of a sudden," Singh said.

Ordering similar prohibition in Bhopal, collector Avinash Lavaniya said that more stringent measures will be put in place this time.

Along with Ujjain and Ratlam, Bhopal and Indore

BHOPAL AND INDORE HAVE REPORTED 1,669 AND 1,656 FRESH CASES IN LAST 24 HOURS

Bhopal and Indore have reported 1,669 and 1,656 fresh cases in last 24 hours. In the last two-three days, both the cities have reported 1,600-plus fresh cases with a high mortality rate. Both the cities have made way to top ten the most infected cities of the country.

Notably, fresh cases of infections are increasing at an alarming rate in Madhya Pradesh recording 11,269 fresh cases and 66 mortalities in last 24 hours. Bhopal continued with over 21% positivity rate for the fourth consecutive day. The numbers of active cases have surged to 63,000 and these are expected to reach one lakh by end of this month. Still the hospitals of the state are facing acute shortage of oxygen cylinders, Remdesivir injections and hospital beds. Shivraj government still putting up a brave face has claimed of arranging one lakh hospital beds and 700 metric tonnes of daily oxygen supply by month end.

CAPSULE

BENGAL: 78.09% POLLING AMID SPORADIC VIOLENCE



Kolkata: West Bengal recorded over 78 per cent turnout in fifth phase of its Assembly poll amid incidents of violence and attack on a candidate on Saturday after the bloodshed in the previous round of election. An EC official said around 78.09 per cent of the 1.13 crore voters exercised their franchise till 5 pm in 45 seats.

POPULAR TAMIL COMEDIAN VIVEKH DIES
Chennai: Popular Tamil comedian Vivekh who won the hearts of millions of people by his sharp wit and noted for his social work, promoting environmental protection died on Saturday.

Resume talks with protesting farmers, Dushyant urges PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to resume talks with the farmers protesting against the Centre's controversial three farm laws at Delhi borders.

Chautala said a team of three to four Cabinet Ministers may restart discussion with the farmers who have been camping at the Delhi borders for over 100 days. The Deputy Chief Minister wrote the letter days after State's Home Minister Anil Vij's missive to Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, saying talks with peasants should be resumed to resolve the issue.

Vij had said he was concerned as a large number of farmers were sitting on

Haryana's borders amid a surge in Covid-19 cases in the State. Haryana Chief Minister ML Khattar had also urged farmers and the Centre to resume talks.

"I would like to bring to your kind attention that our 'Annadattas' are on roads at Delhi border agitating, in respect of newly enacted three farm laws of the Central Government. It is a matter of concern that such agitation is going on for more than a hundred days," Chautala wrote in the letter. Chautala said he believes every problem has a solution by way of mutual discussions.

The earlier discussion between the Central Government and farmers' union brought a few solutions to the concerns raised by Samyukta Morcha," he wrote in his letter dated April 15.

4 Sikhs among 8 killed in mass shooting in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The distraught families of Indian-Americans working at a FedEx facility in the US state of Indiana have expressed their anger, fear and anxiety in the aftermath of the latest mass shooting incident in the country that killed eight people, including four Sikhs.

Brandon Scott Hole, 19, a former employee at the facility in Indianapolis, carried out the mass shooting on late Thursday before allegedly committing suicide.

About 90 per cent of the workers at the FedEx delivery service facility are said to be Indian-Americans, mostly from the Sikh community.

On Friday night, the Marion County Coroner's Office and Indianapolis



A body is taken from the scene where multiple people were shot at a FedEx Ground facility in Indianapolis on Friday

Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) released the names of the victims: Amarjeet Johal (66), Jasvinder Kaur (64), Amarjit Khosla (48) and Jasvinder Singh (68).

Lalu to walk free after serving half fodder sentence

Jharkhand HC grants bail in Dumka treasury case; release from jail expected tomorrow

MRITUNJAY KUMAR ■ RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Saturday granted bail to former Bihar Chief Minister and RJD Chief Lalu Prasad in a fodder case involving illegal withdrawal of funds from Dumka treasury, paying his release from jail on completion of half the sentence period. Lalu is presently being treated at AIIMS, Delhi.

The court granted bail to Lalu on bail bond of ₹5 lakh and a personal bond of ₹1



lakh. Lalu's lawyer Devarshi Mandal told PTI that they will move Special CBI court in Ranchi after it opens on Monday to seek his release following High Court order. Explaining the release procedure, Mandal said, they have sent an application to Lalu for his signature which will be submitted to the CBI court here on Monday along with the High Court order.

HOMETHEATRE

Gripping tale of terror from young eyes

UTOYA: JULY 22
Norwegian with English subtitles
&PriveHD
*ing: Andrea Berntzen, Aleksander Holmen, Solveig Kollen Birkeland
Rated: 6/10

There will always be a debate on whether it is appropriate to put out mounts of terror attacks and the impact it has on the victims. Some argue it is glorifying the terrorist in some way. Others want documentation. Over and above this debate, *Utoya* is a Norwegian movie which leaves no stone unturned to look at the terror killing on an otherwise peaceful island of Utoya in Norway's 26/11 with many left dead quite without premise. "It is the safest island on Earth, mom" one of the main protagonists says in the opening sequence of this film. The environs she is walking through are green, serene and enchanting which, by the way, is a complete contrast to what the film otherwise centres on with dogged starkness throwing up the real impact of a terror attack and its aftermath on any population in any part of the world.

Here, the movie pans out through the eyes of youngsters and the terrorist is given a grand go-by, being allowed to visit the screen only in pithy scenes with almost an abstract presence to give the audience some shape of the orchestrator. An English version of this film is set to premiere on Netflix and that promises to take over in starkness, blood and gore from *Utoya*. For now, however, *Utoya* is a powerful story told candidly



A BLACK CAPTAIN AMERICA?

FALCON AND THE WINTER SOLDIER

Episode 5
*ing: Sebastian Stan, Anthony Mackie, Wyatt Russell, Erin Kellyman, Danny Ramirez, Emily VanCamp
Rated: 6/10

Those who have been following the miniseries would know how episode 4 ended — the Shield — all bloodied. The fallout is felt by the Falcon and Winter Soldier. The Shield, for now is back with Sam just how Steve Rogers had wanted. So are we looking at yet another Captain America? A Black Captain America? Like Isaiah Bradley played by Carl Lumbly says — no self-respecting Black will take up the job. With John Walker stripped of all his duties and the title of Captain America, there is a new person who

makes an entry — Contessa Valentina Allegra de Fontaine. Who is she and what is the agenda? Well, maybe we will get to see more of Walker in episode 6. Meanwhile, Flag Smashers have upped their ante and are preparing for the final count down. Will they succeed? Will the Falcon and Winter Soldier be able to prevent Karli from going full guns ahead? Given that death hangs over Falcon's head, things will come full circle next time.

The only thing missing here is the awe-inspiring action. In almost all the episodes, till now, they have been far between. The series has Falcon, Winter Soldier and the now redundant Captain America and yet the action is way below on the makers list. That boggles the mind and wonders if it has all been saved for episode 6 for the wow factor.

Definitely something that Avengers fans will be looking forward to. — Shalini Sakseena

Plan Your Day

Cold Brew Day is on April 20. SUNDAY PIONEER brings you recipes that will surely give you chills without costing too heavy on your pocket

COLDBREW POPSICLES WITH FRESH MINT

- Ingredients:**
- half and half
 - 1 1/2 cups coffee beans
 - 2-4 tablespoons brown sugar
 - Mint leaves
- Directions:**
- Grind the coffee beans. Place the grounds in a large pitcher or carafe. Add three cups of cold water and stir to combine. Cover and let steep for 12-24 hours.
 - Strain the coffee and add 2-4 tablespoons brown sugar. Stir to combine.
 - Place a few torn mint leaves into each popsicle mold and top with a few tablespoons of half and half. Freeze for 15-20 minutes, until slightly firm.
 - Insert popsicle sticks into each mold and freeze for another 20 minutes until set.
 - Remove the pops from the freezer and top with sweetened

coffee. Freeze until firm, 30-40 minutes. Enjoy!
Half and half: It's that simple. Half whole milk, half heavy cream. The texture is thicker and more luscious than milk, but less decadent and rich than cream.

CARAMEL SURPRISE COLD BREW



- Ingredients:**
- 1-2 cups Coldbrew
 - Handful of ice
 - 1-2 tablespoons coconut milk
 - 1-2 teaspoons caramel syrup
 - Pinch of sweetener of choice (if desired)
- Directions:**
- You can prepare coldbrew at home using French press or in a mason jar using muslin cloth, important is perfect coffee blend for your coldbrew. Keep prepared cold brew coffee in a pitcher or carafe in the refrigerator.
 - Four one cup (eight-ounces) of coffee into a mug, cup or glass jar filled with ice. Stir in coconut milk and caramel syrup. Add sweetener, if desired. Serve immediately.
- Courtesy: Girish Chandra, Beverage Training Manager, Lavazza India

TELLY TALE

IT'S TIME FOR MAHASANGAM



COLORS' Mahasangam episodes have always raised the bar of entertainment with its complete package of drama and musical performances. One such blast of entertainment is the upcoming Mahasangam episode where the cast of *Choti Sardarni* and *Udairayan* will share a screen during Baisakhi celebrations. Tejo (played by Priyanka Chaudhary) and Jasmin (played by Isha Malviya) will invite Jass even after knowing that there is stress going on in Virk family due to Fath's decision of going to Canada. The celebration will be sparked with singer B Praak's presence as he will sing some of his hit song *Teri Mitti* from *Kesari* and also his recently launched soulful track, *Barish Ki Jaaye*.

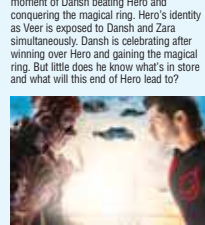
In the special episode, Fath (played by Ankit Gupta) will have his share of dramatic moments as he will get to know that the woman he saved and admitted to the hospital is awake and turns out to be Meher! (played by Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia). In a dramatic turn of events, Fath also come face to face with Sarabji (played by Avinash Rakhli). Will he be able to bring together Meher and Sarab?

Singer B Praak, who was a part of the dramatic Mahasangam episode said: "I am excited to shoot here in Punjab with the cast of two most relevant show. *Choti Sardarni* is my family's favorite and *Udairayan*'s concept strongly resonates with each one of us. The episode is going to be full of drama, entertainment and of course a beautiful new music track, *Barish Ki Jaaye*. I had a lot of fun shooting with the cast of the show. They are fun, energetic, and extremely talented."

HERO TASTES DEFEAT

Sony SAB's *Hero* — *Gayab Mode On* will take a shocking turn with Danish (Manish Wadhwa) defeating Hero (Abhishek Nigam) and stands triumphant. The upcoming episodes will send shock-waves to the viewers, with Hero assumed to be dead. At the beginning of the new series, our beloved Hero is vanquished by Danish. The intense battle between the two is set to take

the viewers on a roller coaster ride and keep them on the edge of their seats. With Rocky (Keshav Sadhana) uniting with Danish to defeat Hero, the forces of the aliens get more robust, and it becomes difficult for Hero to fight them single-handedly. Danish threatening to destroy the planet and cause harm to human beings leads to the battle of the War of Worlds. Danish launches his attack with the help of Rocky and with each passing moment, it gets trickier for Hero to fight Danish and protect his ring simultaneously. The battle gets fiercer, leading to the heart-breaking moment of Danish beating Hero and conquering the magical ring. Hero's identity as Veer is exposed to Danish and Zara simultaneously. Danish is celebrating after winning over Hero and gaining the magical ring. But little does he know what's in store and what will this end of Hero lead to?



Is Veer Nanda aka Hero dead? What will happen next?

Manish Wadhwa, essaying the role of Danish, said: "Danish is a very strong and an intense character. He never gives up and attacks back with force. The experience of shooting for this fight sequence has been amazing and it's fun to work with Abhishek. He is very hardworking and we both share great timing. Danish is happy and very delighted with getting hold of the ring, unaware of what will happen next. So, stay tuned to witness exciting twists and turns on the show and join us on this thrilling journey!"

Abhishek Nigam, essaying the role of Hero, said: "This is the most intense fight sequence we have shot on the show so far and I was so much into the character that I could feel the same energy. Hero was putting in all the efforts to save the world and protect his ring, but he chooses his loss so that he can save the world. It was a learning experience while shooting for this sequence with Manish Sir. This sequence has come out really well and it will take the viewers on a thrilling never seen before ride. So, stay tuned and don't miss the fun!"

KUMKUM BHAGYA TURNS SEVEN

Zee TV's popular fiction show, *Kumkum Bhagya* has been an audience favourite ever since it was launched in 2014. Its intriguing

plot and the authentic portrayal of relatable characters like Abhi (Shabbir Ahluwalia), Preeta (Sriti Jha), Rhea (Pooja Banerjee), Ranbir (Krishna Kaul) and Prachi (Mugdha Chapekar) have kept the audience entertained throughout these past seven years and has helped the show gain countless fans across the globe. Produced by Television's czarina Ekta Kapoor, *Kumkum Bhagya* has witnessed roaring success on the viewership charts every year and has won more than 50 awards till date. But it looks like there is no stopping the show even as the show completed seven years on April 15.

The family drama that explores and brings a range of emotions as well as the deepest intricacies of human relationships has kept the viewers hooked all this while through several interesting twists and turns in its storyline! In fact, the show has also managed to successfully reinstate the belief that goodness do attract by showcasing how despite having contrasting personalities, its lead protagonists are inseparable.

As *Kumkum Bhagya* completes seven glorious years, Shabbir Ahluwalia who plays the role of Abhi got nostalgic and said: "It is not just a show, but a feeling for me. I've been associated with it for seven years now, but it doesn't feel like it's been so long. I must say that all these years have been a breeze and the entire unit including the technicians and actors are like a family for me. Generally, you hear people saying this when the show is coming to an end, but our case is different. When you're around the same people for seven years, you know them even better, as you have seen them at their best and their worst. I have to add that the writers and the creative team are fantastic, and they've held all of us together. I've been associated with the producers, Balaji Telefilms for nearly two decades and they are like a family to me. As we complete seven years, I would like to say Thank You Ekta for believing in me, Shobha aunty for being there always and Jetu uncle, you're a rockstar and always guide us for the best. I also want to thank Zee TV for giving us such a great platform to showcase *Kumkum Bhagya*. Last but the most important, *Kumkum Bhagya* is what it is today because of all our fans, so thank you so much to all."



'I don't regret my choices'

KUNAL JAISINGH, who plays Veer in SET's *Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod Aaye*, tells MUSBA HASHMI the attraction of playing the role, how it has become his priority and his story of giving endless auditions

■ **What is your role in Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod Aaye?**

I play Veer, a self-destructive and brooding person who is addicted to alcohol. I am paired opposite Gracy, who plays Amrit in the show. I will be donning a different look. I am extremely excited to be a part of this show and to work with such a lovely production house.

■ **What made you take up the role?**

The show offers beautiful love stories, many action scenes and gives a bit of knowledge to all the viewers about how people's suffering during the partition. Earlier the show managed to depict the pain and sorrow of 1947 perfectly. Now with a leap of four years, the makers are showing the story of the 1951 era and have planned many new things for the viewers. The concept of the show is unique and the overall plot is not only interesting, but intense and heart-wrenching for me. Other than that, I wanted to be a part of the show which stands out from all the other shows I have done in the past.

■ **Did you have any apprehensions?**

No, not at all. I knew I was going to be a part of this story post leap. I was actually excited for it. With a lot of twists and turns ahead in the show, this will be a good start for me.

■ **From Mann Ke Awaaz Pratigya to Kyun Utthe Dil... how has the journey been for you?**

It has been a great one. I have been able to grow and learn so much in every role I have played. Every character I essayed holds a special place in my heart because with each character my audience and my fans started loving me more. Not only that, I learnt something from every character I played. Those were not only roles, but life lessons. My only goal during all these years has been to make sure that the audience understands the actions and emotions of the characters I play.

■ **Omikara Singh Oberoi was a much loved character...**

Each show has his trials and a story to tell. *Ishqbaaz* was focused on the story of three brothers, and India's first spin-off was *Dil Boley Oberoi*. When it comes to Omikara

"I was always passionate about my career, but getting into this space has been difficult, given the fact that the City of Dreams has a lot to offer but the hard way"

"



he was an artist who was the one balancing factor between the brothers and the family. Omikara has been a special character for me. It earned me a lot of love and support from my fans. I am grateful for all that. The character will always be valuable to me. I feel blessed and lucky and I never thought it would be so popular. The team, of course, was great. We are still like a family. We all have encouraged each other to perform at our best and that was visible in the show.

■ **How did acting happen?**

I was always passionate about my career, but getting into this space has been difficult, given the fact that the City of Dreams has a lot to offer but the hard way. I have been a part of endless auditions ever since I have come here. My experience in the industry has been a roller coaster ride with a lot of ups and downs, but I have learnt that at the end of it, it's all worth it.

■ **Do you have any regrets?**

Till date, I don't regret anything I have done in life. If I talk about my journey in the industry, it has been beautiful. None of the characters that I have played overlaps each other. We should not regret anything. After all, we do choose the opportunities that we think is right at that time. How things will unfold is not in anyone's hands. Regrets just make you sad and I don't want to feel sad for the choices that I have made. I have surely mellowed with time. I might not do the roles now which I did earlier, but when back then, I was proud of what I was doing and will always be.

■ **What is there in the pipeline?**

My pipeline is full with the current show that I am doing. It is my only priority. I am focused and would like to be loyal to it. I believe to make one's work stand out one should focus on a single thing at a time. That is the reason I prefer not to juggle projects.

Number of Covid tests should be increased: CM



A medic collects swab samples from a Covid-19 suspect during corona-induced curfew in Bhopal on Saturday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shri Singh Chouhan has said that the number of Covid tests should be increased and its report should be ensured within 24 hours. The system of home isolation should be strengthened and free medical kit should be given to every patient living in home isolation.

Chouhan said that the facilities of beds, oxygen, injections, medicines, etc. should be provided unhindered in hospitals in the State for treatment of Corona. Also, information about these facilities should be made available to the public through call center 1075 etc.

Chouhan was reviewing the situation and arrangements of Corona in the State from his residence today through video conferencing. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Public Health and Family Welfare Minister Prabhakar Chaudhary, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains,

Additional Chief Secretary Health Mohammad Suleman, Additional Chief Secretary Home Rajesh Rajuara, Health Commissioner Akash Tripathi etc. were present in the meeting through video conference. The Chief Minister said that the supply of oxygen in the state is constantly increasing and oxygen is being received as per consumption. It should be ensured that the oxygen received is made available to all the districts on time.

Four thousand oxygen concentrators are being arranged in different districts of the state. Orders have been issued in this connection. Two thousand concentrators have already been given and 150 more have come. Similarly, action is being taken in connection with the commissioning of 58 oxygen plants in all the districts. Of these, 21 have been installed and 13 will be operational soon.

There are 63,889 active cases of Corona in the state. As many as 11,269 new cases of

Corona have come up. The pace of spread of Corona infection has slowed down in the state. 58 percent of active cases are in home isolation and 32 percent in hospitals.

Chouhan said that arrangements should be made to ensure prompt supply of Remdesivir injection through aircraft. Hetero Company has been given order for one lakh Remdesivir injections.

Chouhan has issued instructions to ensure that Corona test, CT scan and Corona treatment should be conducted at the same rate prescribed by private labs, hospitals. Rates of test and treatment should be displayed outside the hospital. Action should be taken against hospitals which charge more than the prescribed rates.

Chouhan directed to increase Corona testing capacity in government and private labs. Also, arrangements should be made for such that no one has to line up to get Corona test done.



A tanker carrying oxygen overturns during a road accident near Parwalia Sadak, at Bhopal-Narsinghgarh highway, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday

HDFC BANK

Registered Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Panel, Mumbai. Department for Special Operations - 4th Floor, 8 Wing, Peninsula Business Park, Gangotri Kadam Marg, Lower Panel (W), Mumbai-400013.

DEMAND NOTICE

1. Mrs. Anant Traders, Through its Proprietor, Mr. Anil Kumar Jain (Borrower)
Dubey Colony, Galla Mandi Road, Aashok Nagar, Madhya Pradesh - 473331.
Also at: Residential House situated at Dubey Colony, Patwari Halka No. 281, Part of Land Survey No. 683, min. Old Ward No. 2, Present Ward No. 3, Tehsil & District Aashok Nagar, Madhya Pradesh - 473331.

2. Mr. Anil Kumar Jain (Proprietor, & Mortgagee)
Dubey Colony, Galla Mandi Road, Aashok Nagar, Madhya Pradesh - 473331.
Also at: Residential House situated at Dubey Colony, Patwari Halka No. 281, Part of Land Survey No. 683, min. Old Ward No. 2, Present Ward No. 3, Tehsil & District Aashok Nagar, Madhya Pradesh - 473331.

3. Mr. Anurag Jain (Guarantor)
Dubey Colony, Galla Mandi Road, Aashok Nagar, Madhya Pradesh - 473331.
Also at: Residential House situated at Dubey Colony, Patwari Halka No. 281, Part of Land Survey No. 683, min. Old Ward No. 2, Present Ward No. 3, Tehsil & District Aashok Nagar, Madhya Pradesh - 473331.

Notice is hereby given to you that the envelope containing the notice dated 30.04.2019 along with further interest at the contractual rate and other costs, charges, incidental expenses thereto till payment within 60 days from the publication of the notice, failing which HDFC Bank Ltd. (HDFC) shall take possession of the secured (mortgaged/hypothecated) assets as detailed below and exercise all the rights and powers provided in 13(4) of the said Act, without prejudice to any of the other rights provided under the laws of the land. You are also put to notice u/s 13(13) that you shall not transfer the said asset by sale, lease or otherwise without obtaining prior written consent of HDFC Bank Ltd.

Secured Assets:

(1) Hypothecation of stocks and book debts and also Personal Guarantee.
(2) Equitable mortgage of properties bearing:-
All piece & parcel of land together with structures thereon and constructed Residential Building situated at Dubey Colony, Patwari Halka No. 281, Part of Land Survey No. 683, min. Old Ward No. 2, Present Ward No. 3, Plot Area 900 Sq. Ft., Tehsil & District Aashok Nagar, Madhya Pradesh - 473331, owned by Mr. Anil Kumar Jain. Boundaries: East - Remaining land of Govind Prasad Dubey, West: Plot of Shri Ranjeet Singh, North: Land of Mahaveer Prasad Dubey, South: Land of Govind Prasad Dubey after proposed ward 201, vide.

Date: 17.04.2021
Place: Mumbai

For HDFC Bank Limited,
Sd/- Authorised Officer

One held for cheating hotel employee

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The TT Nagar police has arrested a fraudster who duped a hotel employee to the tune of ₹14 lakh in the name of doubling money investment. The victim, Rahul Yadav, works with Sathark and was duped by Ayush Aryan in the name of investment in foreign currency. The victim was lured of making the investment double-triple in very less time and assured of the accused he provide ₹14 lakh through cheque and cash.

Providing modus operandi the accused told that he is fond of luxurious life and to maintain such life he dupe victims in different frauds.

In his complaint, the victim stated that the accused used to stay at hotel for days and above hotel he would spend ₹1 lakh during his stay several times. The victim was assured and was impressed with the lifestyle and provided the money but even after 6 months, the victim was not provided with refund or double the investment.

The victim approached police and lodged complaint and based on the complaint after preliminary investigation police registered a case of fraud against the accused and nabbed him.

The accused is a resident of Bihar and used to live in rented house in Bhopal and was involved in cheating for long.

Father molests minor daughter, case filed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A case of molestation was lodged with the Kolar police after a 5-year-old girl was molested by her father at her house on Friday. The complaint was lodged with the police after the victim told her mother regarding the molestation.

According to the police, when the victim was alone, the accused father tried to molest her, but before he could succeed in his intentions, the victim managed to escape and informed her mother.

The victim told her mother about the harassment after which her mother decided to lodge a complaint and later, they lodged a complaint with the Kolar police.

The victim claimed that the accused had threatened her of killing her and told her to keep mum over the act and never report it to her mother. After the preliminary investigation, the police have started investigation.

The police have registered a case under section 354 and 506 of the IPC and sections of

the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 were also imposed and have started further investigation.

Meanwhile, a 17-year-old girl was sexually assaulted and exploited for the past six months at Chreshher Basti by a youth luring her of marriage. Later, a case of rape was registered against the accused on Friday by Ayodhya Nagar police.

According to the police, the matter came to fore after the accused refused to marry her. Police said that the victim was sexually assaulted by the accused who lives in the same locality.

The girl in her complaint stated that accused lured her and sexually assaulted and exploited her. The accused assured her of marrying and continued to sexually exploit her for the past 6 months, and when victim asked to marry her, he refused. The police after preliminary investigation registered a case against the accused. A case under sections 376 and 506 of the IPC was registered against the accused.

Online event for art lovers to mark 152nd anniv of Kasturba Gandhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

To observe 152nd anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, an online event will be held for art lovers. A painting, sketching and poem competition will be held on this topic. Women's Struggle for Emancipation, Dignity and Freedom.

The competition is being organised by ANSH Happiness Society, Bhopal. Co-founder of the youth led group Mohsin Khan shared that they are observing the 152nd anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi for which they have organised various events including webinars and poster competition.

Under the same series of events, a competition of painting, sketching, poem and article is being held for which the registrations are going on. The topic of the competition is Women's Struggle for Emancipation, Dignity and Freedom and the last date of submission is April 30.

The event is being organised with an aim to bring light to the life of Kasturba Gandhi and to create an awareness of her struggles.

Kasturba Bai was an Indian

Kasturba Gandhi first involved herself with politics in South Africa in 1904 when, with her husband and others, she established the Phoenix Settlement near Durban

political activist. She married Mohandas Gandhi in 1883. In association with her husband and son, she was involved in the Indian independence movement in British-ruled India. She was very influenced by her husband Mahatma Gandhi.

Kasturba Gandhi first involved herself with politics in South Africa in 1904 when, with her husband and others, she established the Phoenix Settlement near Durban. In 1913 she took part in protests against the ill-treatment of Indian immigrants in South Africa, for which she was arrested and on September 23, 1913 was sentenced to hard labour.

While in prison, she led other women in prayer and encouraged educated women to teach the uneducated women how to read and write.

Workshop to train theatre aspirants

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Theatre aspirants will learn about body movements and body language during a theatre workshop.

A dance and chaur workshop will be organised by Kirti Ballet Theatre Group wherein the young theatre artists will be trained on various aspects of theatre. The young theatre artists will showcase their talent by presenting the plays. The workshop will be conducted by Chandra Mahdavi Bhat.

Besides, the participants of the workshop will learn about the other forms of stage arts like dance and music

including the stage craft as well. The workshop majorly focuses on dance techniques, body language, observational skills, modulation, and abhinaya. This will provide a unique knowledge practice based techniques, which is very important to acquire in this career. Besides, the participants will be told about different instruments used in producing theatre music which they will present in the play.

In Chhau dance, body movements and expressions play a vital role. The participants will be given training of maintaining it throughout the performance.

MP got 350 metric tonnes of oxygen: Chouhan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shri Singh Chouhan has said that on Friday, we got 350 metric tonnes of oxygen, whereas consumption has been 335 metric tonnes. The supply of oxygen is fast returning to normal in the State. By making local arrangements, 1,293 MT till April 25 and 700 MT on April 30 has been obtained.

This amount of oxygen would be sufficient for estimated patients till April end. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan was conducting a meeting with senior officials at his residence. Chouhan also gave necessary guidelines to the officers on phone since morning.

He said that he is constantly in touch with all the important persons related to arrangements including the Union Ministers for the supply of oxygen, injections and other facilities in the State. Negotiations are in progress with the district authorities.

Govt making all efforts to provide best treatment to Covid patients: Sarang

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang has instructed that care should be taken to ensure that no patient should face problem. Keep constant communication with the nodal officers. He has directed that the SDM should maintain communication with the hospital of its circle. On Saturday, Sarang was reviewing the efforts being made for the corona patients in the auditorium at the Smart City office. Minister Sarang has said

that the number of beds is being continuously increased, so that patients can get proper treatment. Sarang said that arrangements should be made to have a dialogue with the family members of the patients through a zoom meeting. He also reviewed the arrangements for oxygen supply, timely arrangements at the crematorium, remedies for injections and other medicines. Patients with home isolation were also assessed. It was told that through the control room, the team of doctors of

Ayush department is constantly discussing with the patients of home isolation. Sarang instructed that the patient should receive positive, negative reports through SMS system.

Principal Secretary Food Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Divisional Commissioner KavindraKiwat, Collector Avinash Javania, DIG Irfad Vahi, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Director BasantKurre, Municipal Corporation Commissioner K.V.S. Chaudhary was present.



Health employees of Government Hamidia hospital raise slogans as they remain on strike demanding hike in their wages during the coronavirus pandemic in Bhopal on Saturday

Bank of Baroda

Bank of Baroda, Railway Station, Arera Colony Branch, Bhopal
Ph: 0755-4936706

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice issued under section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Rule 3(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned has issued notice on date mentioned below in table (sent by regd. Post) under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, i.e. Rule 3(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to you and to repay the dues mentioned therein within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice, which were returned unreturned and I have reason to believe that you are avoiding service of demand notice on you. Now, therefore, notice is hereby given to you to repay the banks dues within 60 days from this notice failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules and we, the secured creditor, shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, i.e. Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The content of the notice is as under.

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of the Secured Assets	Amount Outstanding Demand Notice Date
Borrowers: Mr. Shailendra Singh Rajput 1. House No. 287, Mandakini Colony, Kolar Road, Bhopal (MP)-462042	Flat No. 301 constructed over the Plot No. 1/3/A and 1/3/B, Kalyani Apartment, 3 rd Floor, Gram- Akbarpur Ph No. 38, Kolar Road, Tehsil Huzur Distt. Bhopal (MP) in the name of Mr. Shailendra Singh Rajput addressing builtup area: 48.87 sqmtr. Boundaries are: East: Plot No. 1/3/C, 1/3/E, 1/3/D, West: 20 Feet Wide Road, North: Plot No. 1/2/C, South: Corridor & Plot No. 306	TL (Housing Loan) Outstanding as on 31.03.2021 ₹ 7,18,662.00 + interest & charges 07.04.2021

Notice is hereby given to public not to transact / enter into any agreement and to mortgagees not to sell transfer the above said secured assets without permission of the bank in terms of sec 13(13) of the act.

Date: 17-04-2021, Place: Bhopal
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

SONKATCH BRANCH, SONKATCH

DEMAND NOTICE (SECTION 13(2)) TO BORROWER/ GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

Ref: Ref: 02/DN/SONKATCH/2021 Date: 05.04.2021

Sub: Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) Of The Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

That Below mentioned borrowers have availed the following loans/credit facilities from our Sonkatch Branch from time to time:

Name of Borrower/ Guarantor/Mortgagor	Loan No./ Nature of Limit / Loan Amount Liability with Interest As On 31.03.2021	Description of Property
Borrowers: Smt. Adishwari Singh W/o Shri. Arimandan Singh Baghel 11 MG Road, Sonkatch, Pin-455118, Distt - Dewas	5559768000014 Term Loan Rs. 46,50,000.00 Outstanding as on 31-03-2021 ₹ 45,82,820.38 + interest & other charges Rate of interest @ 8.85% Date of NPA - 30.12.2020	EMT of commercial land & warehouse building situated at Part of land Survey No. 272, Patwari, Halka No. 26, Circle-2, Tehsil & Village Sonkatch, Dist. Dewas (M.P.) addressing 2090 sq. mtrs. Boundaries: East: Land S.No. 275 of Rahgavher Singh Baghel, West: Land S. No. 270 of Mahipal Singh Baghel, North: Land S. No. 271 of Mahipal Singh Baghel, South: Land S.No. 273 of Mahipal Singh Baghel Owner-Mr. Mahipal Singh Baghel S/o Mr. Man Singh Baghel
Borrowers: M/s Mahideep Construction Proprietor: Mr. Arimandan Singh Baghel S/o Mr. Mahipal Singh Baghel 11 MG Road, Sonkatch, Pin-455118, Distt - Dewas	5559291000004-40 5559768000001-WCTL (WGPGE/PE181000012-80) Total Loan Amt. Rs. 1,98,28,000/- Outstanding as on 31-03-2021 ₹ 1,91,73,108.40 + interest & other charges Rate of interest @ 8.85% (WCTL) Date of NPA - 01.10.2020	Registered SMT of commercial land & building situated at Survey No. 273, Patwari, Ph No. 26, Tehsil & Village Sonkatch, Dist. Dewas (M.P.) addressing 697 sq. mtrs. Boundaries: East: Remaining land of owner, West: Remaining land of owner, North: Land of Rajendra Singh Baghel, South: Indore-Bhopal SH-18, Owner-Mr. Mahipal Singh Baghel S/o Mr. Man Singh Baghel
2. Guarantor-Mr. Mahipal Singh Baghel S/o Mr. Man Singh Baghel 11 MG Road, Sonkatch, Pin-455118, Distt - Dewas	EMT of commercial land & warehouse building Situated at Part of land Survey No. 272, Patwari Halka No. 26, Circle-2, Tehsil & Village Sonkatch, Dist. Dewas (M.P.) addressing 2090 sq. mtrs. Boundaries: East: Land S.No. 275 of Rahgavher Singh Baghel, West: Land S. No. 270 of Mahipal Singh Baghel, North: Land S. No. 271 of Mahipal Singh Baghel, South: Land S.No. 273 of Mahipal Singh Baghel Owner-Mr. Mahipal Singh Baghel S/o Mr. Man Singh Baghel	

The above said loan/credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the assets, more specifically described in the schedule annexed, by virtue of the relevant documents executed by you in our favor. Since you have failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the Bank has classified the debt as NPA on date mentioned above in the table. Hence, we hereby issue this notice to you under Section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability mentioned above in the table, with accrued and up-to-date interest and other expenses, within sixty days from the date of the notice, failing which we shall exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the subject Act.

Further, you are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and/or any other law in force.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The demand notice had also been issued to you by Registered Post Ack due to your last known address available in the Branch record.

Notice Date: 05/04/2021
Place: Sonkatch

Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

COVID SCARE IN THE REGION

Haryana records highest single-day spike of 7,717 infections

32 MORE DEAD

PNM ■ CHANDIGARH

There was no let-up in the Covid-19 surge in Haryana on Saturday as the State reported a record 7,717 new cases of the disease which took its cumulative infection tally to 3,49,794.

Thirty two more fatalities due to the viral disease were reported in the State in a span of 24 hours, pushing its overall death toll to 3,386, according to a health department bulletin.

Of the fresh cases, Gurugram, the worst-hit district in the state, accounted for 2,549, its highest single-day spike so far. Among other districts that reported a big spike are Faridabad (987), Karnal (477), Sonapat (646), Panchkula (349), Hissar (507), Ambala (173), Kurukshetra (201) and Sirsa (231), the bulletin said.

On Friday and Wednesday, the state had recorded 6,277 and 5,588 coronavirus cases

respectively.

Among the latest deaths, five each were from Faridabad and Panipat, three were from Hissar, Karnal, Rohtak and two each from Gurugram, Ambala, Panchkula, Palwal and Jind. One each from Fatehabad, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra districts.

The number of active Covid-19 cases in Haryana stands at 38,538. So far, 3,07,850 people have recovered from the disease, and the state has a recovery rate of 88.01 per cent, the bulletin said.

Amid rising COVID-19 cases in the State, the Haryana government has decided to allow officials equal to the rank of under secretary or below to work from home. It will restrict their physical attendance in offices to 50 per cent. A letter in this regard has been issued by the Chief Secretary's office.

Officers of the level of deputy secretary, equivalent and above are to attend offices on a regular basis, it said. According to the order, resters



for employees' attendance are to be prepared by divisional and wing heads and if required, they can call for more than 50 per cent physical attendance on administrative grounds. Officials who do not attend office on a particular day will make themselves available on phone and other electronic means of communication at all times from their residence and work from home, it said.

PUNJAB REPORTS HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY SPIKE OF 4,498 CASES, 64 MORE DIE Punjab's daily Covid-19 cases

surged to a record high of 4,498 on Saturday, taking the State's cumulative tally to 2,95,138, according to a medical bulletin.

The state's previous biggest jump of 4,333 Covid-19 cases was reported on April 15 while 3,477 cases on April 12. Punjab's death toll climbed to 7834 as 64 more people succumbed to the disease, the bulletin said. The number of active cases increased to 35,499. There are 46 critical patients who are on ventilator support while 401 are on oxygen support, it said.

Ludhiana reported the

highest number of fresh cases at 835, followed by 790 in SAS Nagar, 449 in Jalandhar, 372 in Patiala and 352 in Amritsar. Of the latest fatalities, 10 were reported from SAS Nagar, seven from Patiala, six each were reported from Amritsar, Ludhiana and Gurudaspur; four each from Tarn Taran and Bathinda.

A total of 2615 coronavirus patients were discharged after they recovered from the infection, taking the total number of cured persons to 2,54,805. So far, 65,61, 028 samples have been collected for testing in the state, it added.

431 CASES, 2 DEATHS IN CHANDIGARH Chandigarh on Saturday reported two deaths and 431 cases of coronavirus, taking the infection count to 33,309 in the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana. It had on Friday recorded 481 Covid-19 cases, the highest single-day since global pandemic struck. Last year, on September 13, Chandigarh logged 449 cases.

With two deaths, so far, 410 people have died from the infection in the union territory, according to a medical bulletin. The number of active cases stood at 3414. A total of 438 patients were discharged after they recovered from the infection, taking the number of cured persons to 29,485. A total of 3,58,865 samples have been taken for testing so far.

12 DEATHS, 1,392 NEW CASES IN HIMACHAL

The COVID-19 death toll in Himachal Pradesh rose to 1,167 on Saturday with 12 more fatalities, while 1,392 new cases took the infection count to 75,587, an official said. The active cases in the state climbed to 8,444, the official said.

Special Health Secretary Nipun Jindal said three people each died in Shimla and Kangra, two in Solan and one each in Sirmour, Mandi, Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti districts. Meanwhile, 647 people recovered from the disease in the past 24 hours, he added.

Acute shortage of Remdesivir injections may weaken fight against Covid

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Acute shortage of the Remdesivir injections could worsen after 800 vials of the lifesaving injections for Corona patients were stolen from Himachal hospital of the State Capital on Saturday.

Senior police and administration rushed to hospital after the newsbreak regarding the injection were stolen from the hospital premises which reached on the same day.

Under the worsening situation of Corona pandemic and depleting health services Remdesivir injections which work as life saving medication were run out of stock across the market by the end of the last week but were sold in black market as high as ₹20,000 to ₹35,000 per injection. A Covid-19 patient with infected lungs requires a complete dose of six injections over five days and which prove life saving in most of the cases.

The massive amount of injections were supplied to the hospital by administration on Friday. The hospital administration had stored the stock for use but on Saturday morning when a team of doc-

tors looked for vials to administer them to patients, the box was found missing.

Dr Bhupesh Irshad Wali reached the hospital and after taking stock of the situation said that the accused would be nabbed soon. Police suspect that some insider is behind the theft and staff involved in the handling of the vials would be questioned. All the CCTV footages would be checked to find the person involved in the theft.

MP Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang said that he had received the information about the theft of the injections which is a very serious matter. Divisional Commissioner Kavindra Kiyawat and Bhopal Deputy Inspector General of Police had been alerted and reached the spot and started investigations.

Apart from beds and oxygen shortage of Remdesivir injections has been reported across various parts of Madhya Pradesh which are battling a surge in Covid-19 cases. Madhya Pradesh has recorded 89,052 new cases and 439 deaths since the beginning of April.

Covid claimed one life every hour in past one week

PNM ■ RANCHI

At least one person died of Covid-19 every hour on an average in Jharkhand during the past one week, causing arguably the worst ever spike in casualty rate since the entry of the virus in the state back in March 2020, data with the state government reveals.

As many as 201 people have died of the viral infection in the state since April 10, indicating that on an average around 28 deaths occurred in

the state every day during the past seven days, figures compiled by the National Health Mission (NHM) highlights.

Ranchi topped the list in terms of casualties during the week, followed by East Singhbhum, which continues to account for the highest number of total Covid fatalities among the 24 districts in the state so far. As per NHM data, Ranchi accounted for 61 of the 201 deaths, while East Singhbhum reported 42 Covid fatalities.



Due to the weekend lockdown imposed by Chandigarh Administration, the popular tourist place of Sukhna Lake remained deserted and the crowded Sector 22 Market remained closed on Saturday



T Sharma | Pioneer Photo

Haryana Deputy CM urges PM to resume talks with protesting farmers

PNM ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urged him to resume talks with the farmers protesting the Centre's three farm laws.

In his letter, Chautala said a team of three to four cabinet ministers may restart discussion with the farmers who have been camping at the Delhi borders for over 100 days. "I would like to bring to your kind attention that our 'Annadatas' are on roads at Delhi border agitating in respect of newly enacted three farm laws of the Central government. It is a matter of concern that such agitation is going on for more than hundred days," Chautala wrote in the letter.

Chautala said he believes every problem has a solution by way of mutual discussions. "The earlier discussion between the central govern-

ment and farmers' union brought a few solutions to the concerns raised by Sanyukt Morcha. "In this regard, a team consisting of three to four senior cabinet ministers may lead the delegation for resuming talks with farmers so as to bring an amicable conclusion in this issue," he wrote in his letter dated April 15.

The deputy chief minister wrote the letter after state minister Anil Vij's missive to Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, saying talks with peasants should be resumed to resolve the issue. Vij had said he was concerned as a large number of farmers were sitting on Haryana's borders amid a surge in COVID-19 cases in the state.

Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar too has appealed to the farmers to end their agitation due to the health conditions of those under home isolation.

90% of Covid patients in Himachal in home isolation: HP CM

PNM ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday said over 90 per cent of the Covid patients are under home isolation in the state.

Presiding over a virtual review meeting of Covid-19 situation in Sirmour district from Nalagarh, he said special thrust must be laid on increasing the number of tests to detect covid-19 patients besides strengthening the mechanism of home isolation in the State.

He said that doctors must ensure proper treatment and regular monitoring of the patients under home isolation, adding that the health department must regularly monitor health parameters of the patients under home isolation. He said that elected representatives of the panchayati raj institutions must also be involved to keep a watch on the health conditions of those under home isolation.

Thakur said that the industrialists of Kala Amb and Poanta Sahib areas must be asked to ensure that the workers in their units strictly follow the SOPs and guidelines issued by the State Government to check the spread of this virus. He said that focus should be laid on contact tracing of the covid-19 positive patients.

He said that this would go a long way in timely detection of covid-19 cases in the State. He said that oxygenated bed capacity in the district should also be increased. He said that the shopkeepers must also ensure to strictly follow 'No Mask, No Service' policy to check the spread of coronavirus.

The Chief Minister said that the district administration must also ensure the social functions such as marriages etc. must strictly follow the maximum limit prescribed for such events. He said that action, if required, could be taken against the violators. He said that dis-



trict administration must also ensure that adequate arrangements be made to meet out the demand in case of any major surge in the cases.

He said that people must be motivated to use face masks and hand sanitizers and also avoid overcrowding in public places and that effective regulation of devotees must also be ensured in temples and other religious places to avoid overcrowding.

Secretary Health Amitabh

must be asked to be prepared as their services may be required in case of any eventuality.

Deputy Commissioner Sirmour R.K. Pruthi, participating in the meeting virtually from Nahan of Sirmour district, said that there has been a sharp surge in the number of Covid-19 cases in the district. He said that out of the total 598 active cases, about 500 were from industrial areas of Kala Amb and Poanta Sahib.

He has that out of these about 580 patients were under home isolation.

He said that the biggest cause of concern was the increase in the number of cases in rural areas, adding that effective IGC campaign has been launched in the district to educate the people regarding precautions to be adopted to check the spread of this pandemic.

CM REVIEWS COVID-19 SITUATION WITH STAKE-

HOLDERS AT TRADE CENTRE BADDI

The State Government is making all out efforts to check the spread of coronavirus by educating the people to take preventive measures by wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said this while addressing the review meeting with the stakeholders at Trade Centre Baddi in Solan district on Saturday.

He said that now the second surge in the cases of covid-19 pandemic was more alarming and challenging, pointing out that there were only 218 active Covid-19 cases left in the State on 23rd of February this year whereas today this number has crossed 7700 mark.

He said that the State has reported about 200 deaths during the last about 50 days. He said that the State has crossed that 2000 figure of active cases only in twenty days which was a serious matter of concern.

Every second Covid-19 infected patients admitted at PGIMER: PGI Dean (Academic) Dr GD Puri



PGI Dean (Academic) Dr GD Puri

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

Dr G.D. Puri, Dean of PGIMER and Head, Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) on Saturday said that every second Covid-19 infected patient admitted at PGIMER, Chandigarh is below 45 years of age. He said the new strain apparently affected younger patients and spread much faster than the earlier strain. Patients (young) should not wait if the baseline saturation falls below 94 per cent or drops after walking and immediately report to PGIMER, he adds.

He says that Punjab and Chandigarh region is now witnessing peak of the second wave of covid-19 pandemic. This peak may continue for another couple of weeks. The decline of Covid-19 cases in this region may witness after mid-May onwards, he adds.

Dr Puri further says that both the vaccines Covishield and Covaxin are very much effective against new variants. The Covid vaccine reduces severity of illness, even if the person gets an infection after taking the vaccine, then it reduces the chances of hospitalisation. The vaccine will help to build the herd immunity hence it would help to contain the pandemic. In an interview with The Pioneer, Dr GD Puri talks about Covid situation in Chandigarh after confirmation report of UK variant as well as arrangement for Covid-19 and Covid-19 patients at PGIMER, Chandigarh. Excerpts from the interview:

The number of Covid-19 cases in Chandigarh is increasing. How do you expect the new numbers? Is UT now witnessing the peak of the sec-

ond wave of pandemic?

Yes, this region (Punjab and Chandigarh) is witnessing the peak of the second wave of covid-19 pandemic. This peak may continue for another couple of weeks. We may see a decline of Covid-19 cases after mid-May onwards. As much as people will continue to adhere to Covid appropriate behaviour, the pandemic will be contained at the earliest.

How is the second wave of covid-19 different from the first wave of the pandemic?

In the first wave of the pandemic, the Covid-19 illness used to give a time of seven days, and the condition of patients used to deteriorate after the seventh day. This time, a lot of younger patients are deteriorating faster in just 4-5 days. In the first or second scan itself, lung involvement is diagnosed in patients. Patients are complaining with Covid pneumonia, breathlessness, chest tightness and abdominal symptoms like diarrhoea. The cough is coming late in these patients and high grade fever is there. This strain is highly contagious as all fam-

ily members are getting infected, including children. Getting a flu shot lessens the risk of severe influenza (flu) among adults, including reducing the risk of hospitalisation and admission to the intensive care unit (ICU), and also decreases the severity of illness. We all must wear face masks, maintain social distancing and adopt hand hygiene daily otherwise we will continue to face many more waves of the contagion.

Some people are getting infected with Covid-19 even after taking both the doses of the vaccine. What would you say?

It is early to say anything regarding this as the study is on. Both Covishield and Covaxin are very much effective against new variants. Getting a flu shot decreases the risk of severe influenza (flu) among the people and also the severity of illness. The vaccine will help to build the herd immunity hence it would help to contain the pandemic. Both Covishield and Covaxin are very much effective against new variants. One should fol-

low Covid Appropriate behaviour even after vaccination because it will take time to develop antibodies against the virus. The priority groups of the population should get vaccinated against Covid-19 disease which will help to protect against this disease and reduce the intensity/severity of the disease which will further help in breaking the chain of the Covid-19 transmission.

Do you think, Covid-19 cases increased in Chandigarh due to the UK variant? Which age group of people are infected more from the UK variant?

Covid-19 cases surging at a rate much faster in the second wave than the first wave in this region and UK variant could be responsible for this faster rate as it was proved by the latest findings of the PGIMER samples sent to National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), New Delhi. UT and neighbouring States including Punjab had witnessed the first wave of Covid-19 peak in September last year. Currently, this region has been witnessing the second wave of Covid-19 peak. 50 percent of total

patients having moderate and severe symptoms of Covid-19 admitted in PGIMER are below 45 years of age. A lot of younger patients need intensive care treatment and many of them are in the 20s or 30s only. The patients are deteriorating faster than before and developing severe illness. The deterioration was slow last time as the oxygen saturation used to dip at a slower pace. This time, the oxygen saturation dips faster as soon as it dips below 95 if there is lung involvement. Considering the high transmission and faster spread of Covid-19 by the UK variant, it is suggested that everyone should follow Covid Appropriate Behaviour.

After a confirmation report of UK variant in Chandigarh, what are the additional arrangements made at PGIMER?

Only patients having moderate and severe symptoms of Covid-19 are admitted at Covid hospital in PGIMER which has increased its beds for Covid-19 patients from 200 to 300 out of which 50 are of ICU beds. We are seriously follow-

ing Centre Government's 'Test, Track and Treat' to stop this emerging peak of the virus. We have scaled up the rate of RT-PCR tests, with a special focus on those areas where positive rates are high in Chandigarh. We are taking all measures to ensure that every patient can get treatment.

Whether any health workers of PGIMER are infected to Covid-19?

PGIMER has about 2000 doctors and 2000 nurses. Around 250 health workers of PGIMER have isolated themselves in the last one and half months (second wave of the pandemic). In the first wave of Covid-19, around 1500 health workers were infected to covid-19. We have a sufficient number of health workers to take care of the patients admitted here in PGIMER.

Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases, Chandigarh administration imposed weekend lockdown. Do you think some more steps should be taken to contain the peak of the pandemic?

The need of the hour is to contain the peak of the pandemic. We must take precautions as the cases are on rise again. Chandigarh administration has taken several steps to contain the pandemic. At the same time, people must adhere to the safety protocol like washing hands thoroughly with soap or using sanitizer, wear masks and maintain social distancing.

Do you think that cases are coming rapidly because virus is in the air?

It is early to say anything regarding this as study regarding the rapid rise of coronavirus due to its presence in the air is on. Some studies state that cases increase due to humidity and pollution. The virus is largely transmitted when large droplets, which are exhaled by those infected, settle on surfaces and contaminate them. The available data also indicate that exposure to air pollution may influence Covid-19 transmission. The exact reasons for this are not yet clear.

Facing shortage of oxygen, Remdesivir, ventilator: States



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Grappling with the surge in Covid-19 cases, various States in a meeting with the Centre on Saturday highlighted the shortage of oxygen cylinders, Remdesivir in hospitals, ventilator stocks and poor supply of vaccine doses.

Eleven States and Union Territories, including Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, account for 79.32 per cent of the coronavirus cases in the country were present at the meeting.

The high-level meeting was chaired by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan with the Health Ministers of 11 States and Union Territories to review measures taken by them for prevention, containment and management of the recent surge in Covid-19 cases.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to meet top officials of several ministries later in the evening to review the overall covid situation and vaccination drive.

Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have been reporting an unprecedented surge in new infections.

In a statement here, the Ministry said "Many of them (States) raised the issue of dovetailing the medical oxygen supply lines and capping of

US must lift export ban on raw materials for production of vaccines, says CPM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) polit bureau on Saturday said that the United States must lift their export ban on raw materials for the production of vaccines.

In a statement, the Left party pointed out that the export ban by the US is a double-edged sword, citing US President Joe Biden's assurances in the recently convened Quad Summit.

"The ban on exports of materials used in vaccine production goes completely against these stated aims. The Modi government, which sets

prices of essential drugs like Remdesivir which has been sold in the black market at exorbitant prices.

"Double mutant strain in Maharashtra was a key point of concern. The Delhi Government requested for additional beds in Central Government hospitals as was done in 2020 to help tide over the 'emerging health crisis', the Ministry said.

The notification of the Home Ministry granting permission to states to utilize up to 50 per cent of their annual allocation of State Disaster

Response Fund, and that of the Union Health Ministry, allowing utilisation of unspent pending balance under National Health Mission as on April 1, 2021 for COVID management purposes, were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan informed the states on the steps taken to provide medical grade oxygen and augmenting Remdesivir stocks in the country.

The states were also informed about the issuance of the calendar of medical oxygen supply from different oxygen

manufacturers in the country. The steps taken for unhindered movement of oxygen cylinders from their manufacturing units across states were also detailed, the Ministry said.

Taking note of the active surge in cases witnessed since last February in which most states have now crossed their highest tally, Harsh Vardhan urged the states to give special focus on the prominent few in six cities in their administration and map medical colleges to either these cities or adjoining 2-3 districts. The states were asked to seek out positive

cases.

"The scaling up of vaccine production in India is being hampered by the shortage of the intermediate material required for vaccine production. Much of this material such as fillers, emulsions and plastic bags come from the United States. But the U.S. Administration has banned the export of vaccine materials under its Export Control Act. Despite requests by the Indian authorities, no relaxation or exemption has been given for export of these items," the CPI(M) said in a statement.

"The reiterated its insistence on lowering the immunisation age to 25 years and above 'as also all younger persons with at-risk health disorders like asthma, angina, diabetes, kidney & liver diseases and other similar ailments'."

The Congress came out with a 14-point attack on Government over 'grave errors' in Covid-19 management.

Sonia also spoke about her letter to Prime Minister

Cong's 14-point attack on Govt over Covid 'mismanagement'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maintaining that India has been caught off guard in its fight against the deadly coronavirus once again despite having a year to prepare, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday urged the Government to ramp up its strategy to tackle the menace as she pointed out to the overwhelmed medical infrastructure and shortage of vaccines and drugs.

Sonia was speaking during the meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, which was attended by former party chief Rahul Gandhi, general secretaries and State in-charges of the party.

"I have written to the Prime Minister after meeting with them. Our Chief Ministers have spoken to the Prime Minister and written to the concerned minister from time to time pleading for relief. Some of them were left with only a few days of vaccine, no oxygen or ventilators. But there has been thundering silence on the part of the Government. On the contrary some other states have received preferential treatment/relief," she said.

"Instead of listening to the constructive suggestions of the opposition, Union Ministers are pressed into service to attack leaders of opposition for giving those sugges-

tions. This convoluted 'me versus you' debate is childish and totally unnecessary," she added.

Sonia said Goods and Services Tax (GST) on all equipment, instruments, medicines and support required to prevent and treat Covid-19 should be made free. "It is a matter of grave concern that life saving drugs like Remdesivir etc. and medical oxygen as also other basic supplements are subjected to GST @ 12%. Even basic equipment like Oxymeters and life saving critical equipment like ventilators are subjected to 20% GST. In the current state of affairs, this is inhuman and untenable," she added.

The Government must provide financial support for the poor in the form of monthly income support and transfer ₹6,000 in the account of every eligible citizen, who have been hit by the partial curfews, travel restrictions, closure and lockdowns put in place by authorities, she said in her CWC meeting statement.

"Similarly, with reverse migration of labour already having started, it will be critical to immediately address



Narendra Modi after her meeting with chief ministers of Congress ruled states to take a jibe at the Centre.

Both Sonia and Rahul earlier have written to Modi asking him to expand the country's vaccination drive against Covid-19.

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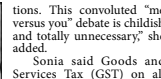
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their need of safe transportation as indeed their suitable rehabilitation in host as well as home States," Sonia said.

At the meet, she said that the Modi government was unprepared in evaluating and managing the crisis. She added that the Congress believed that fighting the pandemic was national challenge and that it should be kept above party politics. She said that the government did not listen to constructive suggestions made by the Opposition on the management of the pandemic, and that the Union ministers attacked leaders of opposition for giving suggestions.

"This convoluted 'me versus you' debate is childish and totally unnecessary," Sonia asserted accusing the Centre of giving preferential treatment to some states while maintaining "thundering silence" on the Union ministers ruled by the Congress and opposition parties.

"As the central and state governments move ahead to control the pandemic by resorting to partial curfews, travel restrictions, closure and lock downs; we will again be restricting economic activity that will hit the already beleaguered people especially the poor and the daily wagers," she said.

Taking on these challenges as Indians rather than political opponents will be true 'Rajadharma', Sonia stressed.

Vardhan said about 1.58 crore doses are still available with the states while another 1.16 crore doses are in pipeline, to be delivered by next week.

Emphasizing that there is no shortage of vaccines, he strongly pushed for further ramping up the vaccination exercise.

Wearing 2 face masks more effective in beating Covid: Study



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wearing two face coverings or masks can nearly double the effectiveness of filtering out SARS-CoV-2-sized particles, preventing them from reaching the wearer's nose and mouth and causing Covid-19, as per a recent study.

The findings published in JAMA Internal Medicine also states that the reason for the enhanced filtration is not about adding too many layers of cloth but eliminating any gaps or poor-fitting areas of a mask.

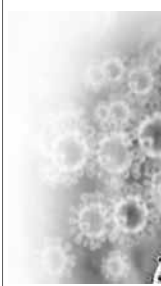
"The medical procedure masks are designed to have very good filtration potential based on their material, but the way they fit our faces isn't perfect," said Emily S. Bennett, PhD, associate professor of infectious diseases at the UNC School of Medicine and lead author of the study.

To test the fitted filtration efficiency (FFE) of a range of masks, UNC researchers worked with James Samet, PhD, and colleagues in the USEPA Human Studies Facility on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill. There they filled a 10-foot by 10-foot stainless-steel exposure chamber with small salt particle aerosols and had researchers don different combinations of masks to test how effective they were at keeping particles out of their breathing space.

A transmission electron microscopic image that shows SARS-CoV-2 also the 2019-nCoV, the virus that causes Covid-19, isolated from a patient in the US, as the Virus particles are shown emerging from the surface of cells cultured in the lab- the spikes on the outer edge of the virus particles give coronaviruses their name, crown-like.

Each individual mask or layered mask combination was fitted with a metal sample port, which was attached to tubing in the exposure chamber that measured the concentration of particles in the chamber. By measuring particle concentration in the breathing space underneath the researcher's mask. A second tube measured the ambient concentration of particles in the chamber. By measuring particle concentration in the breathing space underneath the mask

Lack of Covid-suitable behaviour, virus mutation cause Covid spurt: AIIMS head



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lack of Covid-appropriate behaviour and mutation of the virus are the two main reasons behind the rapid spread of coronavirus infections in the country, AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria on Saturday said even as he expressed concern over the religious and political activities taking place in a few States, cautioning that they must be done in a restricted manner.

"The cause for the surge... is multifactorial. But two main causes are that people have stopped following Covid-appropriate behaviour during January-February when the vaccination started and cases went down. Also, at the time, the virus mutated and spread more rapidly," Dr Guleria said to a news agency.

"This is a time when a lot

of religious activities happen in our country and polls are also underway. We must understand lives are also important. We can do this in a restricted manner so that religious sentiment is not hurt & Covid appropriate behaviour can be followed," said Dr Guleria. He also highlighted that India was witnessing a huge strain in the healthcare system and efforts need to be stepped up to keep increasing our hospital beds/resources for the increasing number of cases.

"We also have to urgently bring down the number of Covid-19 cases, he added.

"This is a time when a lot of religious activities happen in our country and polls are also underway. We must understand that lives are also important. We can do this in a restricted manner so that

religious sentiments are not in our Covid-appropriate behaviour can be followed," he said.

His remarks come in the backdrop of the ongoing Kumbh Mela in Uttarakhand, which has attracted people from different parts of the country in large numbers.

Talking about the immunisation drive, Dr Guleria said that India should gradually lift or lower the age bar for beneficiaries to widen the vaccination ambit. "We should gradually lift or lower the age bar so that more and more people come into the pool of people who can be vaccinated. That will happen in the coming few weeks."

"We will have more and more vaccines that will come into the common pool which will allow us to open up the vaccination to a larger population," he said.

altering the fit is about 40-60 per cent effective at keeping Covid-19-sized particles out. A cloth mask is about 40 per cent effective.

Their recent findings on doubling of face masks show that when a cloth mask is placed over a surgical mask, the FFE improved by about 20 per cent, and improved even more with a snug-fitting, sleeve-type mask, such as a gaiter. When layered over procedure masks, cloth masks improve fit by eliminating gaps and holding the procedure mask closer to the face, consistently covering the nose and mouth.

undergo a series of range-of-motion activities to simulate the typical motions a person may do throughout their day - bending at the waist, talking and looking left, right, up and down," said Phillip Clapp, PhD, an inhalation toxicologist in the UNC School of Medicine who has been testing mask FFE with Siebert-Bennett since the pandemic began.

According to their findings, the baseline fitted filtration efficiency (FFE) of a mask differs from person to person, due to each person's unique face and mask fit. But generally, a procedure mask without

DRDO setting up hosp in Ahmedabad for Covid patients



RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has conveyed to the Gujarat Government that DRDO is establishing a 900-bedded hospital in Ahmedabad to cater to the "alarming surge" in Covid-19 cases there.

The Union Home Ministry has also directed the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) or the Central paramilitary forces to spare 25 doctors, 75 paramedics and ensure that they report by April 21 to man the hospital in Gujarat.

The hospital is being established at the Gujarat University Convention Centre, Ahmedabad to cater to the alarming surge of the Covid cases there," reads an order issued by Additional Director General (Medical) of CAPFs under the Union Home Ministry on Friday.

It has further been decided and conveyed that CAPFs are required to provide 25 medical officers and 75 paramedics/nursing staff, reads the order.

"It is, therefore, requested that the following number of doctors and paramedics/nursing staff be detailed for the purpose please," it said.

The detailed staff should report to the nodal officer (Colonel B Chaubey, DRDO Hospital, Ahmedabad by April

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Centre and others to clear the "mass gathering" from Haridwar amid a surge in Covid-19 cases across the country and prescribe a safety protocol with respect to people returning from Kumbh Mela.

The plea, which referred to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases, has also sought directions to the Centre and the Uttarakhand government to immediately withdraw the advertisements inviting people to Haridwar for Kumbh Mela.

It said that the Election Commission should be asked to issue directions to the authorities in the states where elections are being held to strictly enforce COVID-19 guidelines during the poll process and take appropriate action against the violators.

The plea, filed by Noida-resident Sanjay Kumar Pathak, said that COVID-19 cases are increasing rapidly across the country and the health infrastructure is "crumbling" in many states.

It claimed that hospitals and crematoriums are running out of space and shortage of essential drugs has been reported from many cities.

The petition said that India is currently witnessing its highest surge in COVID-19

21 positively, it said.

Through the order, the ADG (Medical), CAPFs, Dr Mukesh Saxena has also named Devashri Raval as the nodal officer for making logistical arrangements at Gujarat University.

The letter has been circulated to Inspector General (Medical) of the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Sachatra Sema Bal (SSB).

The BSF will send 10 doctors and 30 paramedics, the CRPF will spare 10 doctors and 25 nursing staff and SSB to ship within five doctors and 20 paramedic personnel for the DRDO hospital in Ahmedabad.

Through the communication to the heads of CRPF, BSF and SSB, the Ministry has asked them to send their team on priority and the doctors and paramedics have to report to the nodal officer of the said hospital latest by April 21.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) hospital set to be operationalised by late next week, officials said.

On Friday, the Defence Minister Rajendra Prasad Singh said the DRDO to reopen the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Covid care hospital here which was set up in July last year. He has also asked the defence body to set up a new facility in Lucknow.

Kumbh Mela: Plea in SC seeks direction to clear mass gathering from Haridwar

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cases since onset of the pandemic, but visuals of lakh of devotees crowding in Haridwar for Kumbh Mela and in election rallies in states have surfaced.

"On the one hand, poor common man on the street is often punished and treated violently by the police and executive authorities for individual violation of COVID-19 rules and regulations in the name of strict enforcement, and on the other hand, the authorities are not only permitting but facilitating and promoting congregation of people in the events like Kumbh-2021 and election rallies," the plea has alleged.

It sought the apex court's direction to the Centre, Uttarakhand government and the National Disaster Management Authority to not encourage or promote any gathering or event "inconsistent with the spirit and object of the COVID guidelines" and orders issued by these authorities.

It is axiomatic that the respondents have turned a blind eye towards the violation of COVID-19 guidelines at the Kumbh Mela and during election campaigns and rallies gathering and even "inconsistent with the spirit and object of the COVID guidelines" and orders issued by these authorities.

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They were also asked to pay a fine of Rs 1 lakh, failing which they were directed to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for two years.

The accused argued before the top court that the vehicle in question was a private one belonging to accused Guneep Singh and was not a public conveyance, though it was parked on a public road.

Private vehicle would not come within expression of public place: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A private vehicle does not come within the expression of a "public place" as per the explanation given under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the Supreme Court has said.

In a bench comprising justices U U Lalit and K M Joseph made the observation while deciding an appeal challenging an order passed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court affirming their conviction and sentence under the NDPS Act.

Two bags of poppy straw were recovered from the accused while they were sitting in a jeep at a public

place. The trial court, after considering the evidence on record, acquitted accused Major hand on the convicted accused Boota Singh, Gurdeep Singh and Gurmehinder Singh, under the NDPS Act and sentenced them to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years.

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AMID COVID 2.0

Fiscal package may be on cards to maintain economic recovery

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

A fiscal stimulus package may be on the cards again as the Government looks at ways to prevent the potential surge in COVID-19 cases and the ensuing restrictions imposed by the States from derailing the economic recovery.

After last year's lockdowns, which resulted in the country's GDP contracting by (-) 23.9 per cent, it was hoped that the economy will grow handsomely in FY22 to register a double digit growth.

For this to happen, the RBI has projected a Q1 FY22 GDP growth of 26.2 per cent. But the recent surge in the pandemic has again raised serious ques-

tions about the health of the economy.

There are some discussions within the government about the need, shape and timing of a fresh fiscal stimulus package.

The idea is to see that the poor and small businesses do not suffer and their livelihood support is not disturbed, said an official source, on condition of anonymity.

The source said that any such package, if finalised, would come up later this month or next month.

The Union Finance Ministry has so far not indicated about any new stimulus to contain the disruptions caused by the fresh Covid-19

wave in the country.

Last year, the government and the RBI came up with a series of announcements to provide relief to the common man and businesses impacted by the Covid-induced lockdown.

Under its 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' package and the Garib Kalyan Yojana, the government had announced packages worth over Rs 20 lakh crore.

While the economic situation is still much better than last year and the government has indicated against a complete lockdown this year, support measures could still look at the most vulnerable sections of the society and the industry.

Sources said that like last year, the package may include measures by the government as well as compliance relief offered by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Already, various ministries are providing inputs to the Centre.

The worry for the government this time round is also about inflation that has seen an increase in the last few months.

This actually means that people are already struggling with higher food prices while their income is dogged with uncertainty.

The RBI will also have to do a balancing act over growth aspirations and containing inflation.

DPIIT notifies PLI scheme for ACs, LED lights

MERE ASSEMBLY OF FINISHED GOODS NOT TO BE INCENTIVISED

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has notified the PLI scheme for ACs and LED lights and said that selection of companies to avail the incentives would

done to support manufacturing of components which are not made in India presently.

It said that mere assembly of finished goods would not be incentivised and companies investing in basic/core components would get a higher priority.

Earlier this month, the government approved a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods - Air Conditioners (ACs) and LED Lights - with a budgetary outlay of Rs 6,238 crore. It will be implemented over 2021-22 to

2028-29. According to the notification of the DPIIT, the Empowered Group of

Secretaries chaired by Cabinet Secretary will monitor the PLI scheme, undertake periodic review of the outgo under the scheme, ensure uniformity of all PLIs and take appropriate action to ensure that the expenditure is within the prescribed outlay.

The group will be empowered to make any changes in the modalities of the scheme within the overall financial outlay of Rs 6,238 crore it said.

that the incentive per beneficiary will be applicable on incremental sales (net of taxes) of manufactured goods (as distinct from traded goods) over the base year (2019-20) subject to ceilings.

"Mere assembly of finished goods shall not be incentivised. Selection of companies for the scheme shall be done so as to incentivise manufacturing of components or sub-assemblies which are not manufactured in India presently with sufficient capacity," it said.

Indian pharma exports grow at 18% to 24.44 bn USD in FY 21

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Pharma exports from India witnessed over 18 per cent growth to USD 24.44 billion during the last financial year against USD 20.58 billion in FY20, Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexil) said on Saturday.

"We have observed a big leap in our exports in the month of March as the exports of USD 2.3 billion (figures for March are provisional) and is highest among the exports of all the months of this financial year, the growth rate for this month is 48.5 per cent against the exports in March 2020 (USD 1.54 billion)," Udaya Bhaskar, Director General of Pharmexil said in a release.

Growth rate seems relatively big as the exports of March 2020 was crunched due to lockdown across the world and supply chain disruption, he was quoted as saying.

When the global pharma market is negatively grown by 1-2% in 2020, there is a big surge in demand for Indian made generics owing to its quality and affordability, the official said. Adding Drug Formulations and Biologicals is the second largest Principal commodity being exported by India. The Pharma exports body is expecting big growth in Indian vaccine exports in the coming years and the government policy on PLI (production Linked Incentive) scheme will also help the domestic

pharma to grow by reducing export dependence and develop export potential in the days to come as most of the countries are looking at India for APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredient) he said.

North America is the largest exporting region for Indian pharmaceuticals with more than 34 per cent share.

Country wise exports to the US, Canada and Europe have recorded a growth of 12.6, 30 and 21.4 per cent respectively. South Africa being the second largest exporting country, recorded a big jump of 28 per cent growth while Europe was the third largest exporting region which has recorded approximately 11 per cent growth over previous year.

Crude to be around \$60 a barrel in 2021

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Global crude oil prices are expected to be in the range of \$60 a barrel over the long term period as OPEC+ decision to cap supply until demand recovers and the pandemic continuing to keep a check on consumption.

According to a research report by ICICI Securities, Brent has recovered and is up \$60/bbl since February 21 vs April, 20 of low of \$21/bbl driven by demand recovery from lows and OPEC+ capping supply to ensure supply deficit since July last year.

"OPEC+ capping supply until demand recovers is esti-

mated to ensure supply deficit of 1.3 million barrels of oil per day in calendar year 2021 and keep Brent above \$60/bbl," the brokerage said.

The expectation for the crude was that it may surge in 2021 on the back of economies recovering as vaccinations tamed the spread of Covid-19. But the lockdowns again due to fresh surge in Covid cases has delayed demand recovery in Europe.

Also, the probability of US sanctions on Iran's oil exports being lifted appears to have increased substantially.

EU and other signatories to the nuclear deal are talking to Iran and US separately to bring

them on the same page and revive the deal.

Indications are that US sanctions on Iran exports may be lifted as early as before Iran's presidential elections due on June 18.

"While OPEC+ capping supply should keep Brent above \$ 60/bbl, delay in demand recovery and US lifting sanctions on Iran exports would cap further rise. We estimate long-term Brent at \$60/bbl," ICICI Securities said.

While regard to gross refining margin (GRMs) the outlook is modest as capacity addition is expected to exceed to refined products demand growth.

Second Covid wave to disrupt fabric demand: Ind-Ra

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

The second wave of Covid-19 resurgence can potentially disrupt fabric demand, said India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

Woven fabrics production continued to improve mom, though marginally, in January 2021, despite remaining 21 per cent YoY lower, Ind-Ra said.

While inventories for blended and knitted fabrics were quicker, that of woven is expected to be delayed with micro-lockdowns and work-from-home culture."

Besides, export demand for woven fabrics is expected to plunge over Q1FY22 with key destinations, countries grappling with a second wave of pandemic.

"Fabric exports remained muted in January 2021 on a mom basis, and 17 per cent YoY lower."

Demand for imported fabrics surged over December 2020-January 2021, led by restocking by retailers. "Imports in value terms doubled between November 2020-January 2021 with higher shipments from China, Bangladesh and Vietnam."

AGEL arm bags 150 MWac solar project

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Green Energy arm AREH Fifteen, has bagged a 150 MWac solar energy project capacity from Torrent Power.

Adani Renewable Energy Holding Fifteen Ltd (AREH Fifteen), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), participated in a tender issued by Torrent Power Ltd for procurement of power through competitive bidding process, from grid connected solar photovoltaic power projects to be setup in Gujarat.

AREH Fifteen, has been awarded a project capacity of 150 MWac Solar Power Project, a BSE filing said.

The fixed tariff for this project capacity is Rs 2.27/kWh for a period of 25 years.

Operating margins of sugar companies expected to moderate in FY22: ICRA

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

The operating margins of sugar companies are likely to moderate in FY22 due to higher production cost and reduced export subsidy, ratings agency ICRA said in a statement.

Besides, benefits from improved distillery performance was also cited by the agency as a factor that might moderate operating margins.

"Given the sugar surplus scenario in the domestic market, any significant increase in the sugar prices is ruled out in the near term. However, the higher diversion of sugar towards ethanol and the remunerative pricing of ethanol is expected to result in an improved distillery performance in FY2022," said

As per the agency, domestic sugar production is expected to increase by 10 per cent to 302 million MT in SY2021 and outstrip consumption by

around 4.2 million MT.

ICRA expects sugar exports at around 5.5 million MT supported by the export policy and the closing stocks are likely to remain higher than normative sugar stock levels of 6-6.5 million MT at around 9.5 million MT for SY2021 season.

However, the stocks are expected to be lower than the previous season at around 11.0 million MT.

"Given the sugar surplus scenario in the domestic market, any significant increase in the sugar prices is ruled out in the near term. However, the higher diversion of sugar towards ethanol and the remunerative pricing of ethanol is expected to result in an improved distillery performance in FY2022," said

Sahayashi Majumdar, Senior Vice President & Group Head, ICRA.

Correction an opportunity to add cyclical: MOFSL

IAN S ■ MUMBAI

Market correction due to Covid resurgence is an opportunity to add cyclical stocks said Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

In a report, MOFSL said resurgence in second wave of Covid-19 has led to elevated market volatility and correction. Lately, both Nifty and Bank Nifty are down 1.5 per cent from their recent highs, respectively.

"To contain the pandemic, several states have announced localised restrictions with Maharashtra yesterday introducing set of broad-based measures for two weeks mini-lockdown."

"We expect the set of restrictive measures in the near-term economic recovery till cases stabilise. However, key

government authorities and policymakers have ruled out national lockdown again."

Consequently, MOFSL recommendation that correction should be viewed by the investors as a buying opportunity and advocated adding a balanced mix of growth, cyclical and defensive stocks in their portfolios.

"We continue to be 'OW' on the BFSI, IT, Metals, Consumer Goods, Neutral on Consumer, Auto and Pharma while staying 'UW' on Energy, Utility and Infrastructure."

On the bright side, it said that vaccinations are gradually beginning to accelerate.

"As vaccination pick up further with approvals for more vaccines now in place, we expect the focus to shift back to growth, cyclical recovery and fundamentals."

FICCI writes to 25 CMs on Covid management, urges to avoid lockdown

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body FICCI has written to Chief Ministers of 25 States urging them to avoid imposing partial or total lockdown in the wake of fresh surge in Covid cases.

The industry body also argued that the economy has barely begun to turnaround from the impact of the earlier lockdowns and such decisions now will push the push the economy into downward spiral.

In the letter written to state CMs by FICCI President Uday Shankar, the chamber has acknowledged the need to break the Covid chain but has suggested the strategy to focus more on ramping up covid testing, awareness drive and enforcement of Covid appro-

priate behaviour rather than lockdown.

"The population may be sensitised about the Covid appropriate behaviour like wearing masks, physical distancing and personal hygiene."

Support may be taken by involving volunteers from the schools, colleges and the NGOs. The chamber urged the State governments to ensure Covid protocol may be ensured with suitable penalties for violations," the letter states.

FICCI has represented to the Union Government to open up the vaccination for all the people above 18 years of age to give a massive push to the vaccination drive as there is no shortage of vaccines and the production capacity may be increased with the participation of the private sector.

Petrol, diesel price unchanged for 2nd consecutive day

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Fuel prices in the country remained unchanged on Saturday as oil marketing companies decided to go on a pause mode and analyse the global oil developments on oil prices before effecting a revision.

Accordingly, pump price of petrol and diesel remained at ₹90.40 a litre and ₹80.73 a litre respectively in Delhi. The price of the two auto fuels had fallen by 16 paise and 14 paise per litre respectively on Thursday after a 15 day break when OMCs kept its prices static.

Across the country as well the petrol and diesel price remained unchanged on Saturday but its retail levels varied depending on the level of local levies on respective states.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Name: Ishani @ Pooja D/o Shri Dharam Das R/o H. No. D-153, Vijay Vihar, Ph-II Delhi** has been missing since 26.03.2021 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 91A dated 27.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 20 Years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue colour suit and cream colour leggings and sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Vijay Vihar, Delhi at E-mail Id - cic@cbl.gov.in or Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

SHO
P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Rohini Distt, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-27061294, 27061295

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/784/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a person named **Sachin Mittal S/o Sh. Sajjan Kumar, R/o H.No. B-1/8, Budh Vihar Ph-I, Delhi** has been missing since 31.03.2021 from the area of PS, Vijay Vihar. In this regard a DD No. 107-A Dated 31.03.2021 has been lodged at PS, Vijay Vihar, Delhi. The description of Missing person is as under:-

Name: Sachin Mittal, **Father's Name:** Sh. Sajjan Kumar, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5'9", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Blue Jeans, White Shirt, Sports Shoes in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

SHO
P.S., Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-27061294
27061295

Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/781/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL



General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Kusum @ Kiran D/o Sh. Ashok R/o Jhuggi No.424, Cow Street, Indira Camp, Sector-03, Rohini, Delhi** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 21.03.2021 at about 4 AM from her residence vide FIR No.097/21 u/s 363 IPC Dated 22.03.2021 registered at Police Station South Rohini, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Wheatish, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **ID:** KS mark on right hand, **Clothing:** Green coloured suit, Green coloured salwar.

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

Tele No: 011-24368638 or 24368641
Fax No: 011-24368639
DP/775/RD/2021

SHO, South Rohini, Delhi
Tel: 011-27512189, 27510515

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 75 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown has been found dead opposite Kabutar Market, Jama Masjid, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No. 49-A, dated 12.04.2021 at PS Jama Masjid, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UDB is as under:
Sex: Male, **Age:** 75 Years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White colour kurta and white colour pajama.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Jama Masjid, Delhi.

E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/764/CD/2021

P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-23269777, 2326125

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY



General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Neeraj S/o Sh. Shambhu Nath R/o E-86, Ground Floor, Vijay Vihar, Ph-2, Delhi** Aged-13 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 13.03.2021 at 5 PM vide FIR No.118/21 u/s 363 IPC Dated 20.03.2021 registered at Police Station Vijay Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Wheatish, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Cream coloured pant, Blue coloured T-shirt and sport shoes in feet.

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

Tele No: 011-24368638 or 24368641
Fax No: 011-24368639
DP/772/RD/2021

SHO, Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-27061294-95
Mob: 8750870329

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Pooja Mishra, D/o Ravinder Mishra R/o ICZ 123, Gali No.5, Naryan Vihar, Prem Nagar 2nd, Kirari Suleman Nagar, North-West Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CC No.7962/17 S. K. Motor V/s Pooja Mishra u/s 138 NIA Act, P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Pooja Mishra cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Pooja Mishra has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Pooja Mishra of CC No.7962/17 S. K. Motor V/s Pooja Mishra u/s 138 NIA Act, P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.05.2021.

By Order,
Ms. Anuradha Sonkar
Metropolitan Magistrate (NIA) Q-08
Room No.215, 2nd Floor, Dwarka Court, New Delhi

DP/787/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a boy **Lakhman S/o Raju, R/o Aashka Kiran, Home sector-1, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing since 03.03.2021 at 04:00 PM from the area of PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard, DD No. 61-A dated 03.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing boy is as under:

Name: Lakhman, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 20 years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Blue colour jeans, green colour t-shirt and slippers on his feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing boy, kindly inform SHO/Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/779/RD/2021

P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-27521294, 27521295

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Name: Tarsen Lal, S/o: Sh. Durga Das, R/o: H.No. B-7/50, Sec-1, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 22.03.2021 from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 126A, dated 22.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped person is as under: **Age:** 64 years, **Height:** 5'8", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** White colour kurta and white colour pajama.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>
E-mail Id: cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No: 011-24368639
DP/772/RD/2021

SHO
P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-27511294, 8750870329

POLLARD TAKES PALTAN TO 150

Windies all-rounder's back to back sixes in last two balls help Mumbai to post fighting total



Mumbai Indians batsman Kieron Pollard hits SRH bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar for six during IPL game in Chennai

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Vijay Shankar and Muejeb Ur Rahman shine with the ball as Sunrisers Hyderabad produced a disciplined bowling performance to restrict Mumbai Indians to 150 for 5 in their IPL match at Chepaup on Saturday.

The opening duo of Rohit Sharma (52 off 25)

SCOREBOARD	
MUMBAI INDIANS	
Quinton de Kock c (bat) Sachin b Muejeb	40
Rohit Sharma c Virat Singh b Vijay Shankar	32
Suryakumar Yadav c and b Vijay Shankar	10
Ishan Kishan c Bairstow b Muejeb	12
Kieron Pollard not out	35
Hardik Pandya c Virat Singh b Khaleel Ahmed	7
Krunal Pandya not out	3
Extras (b 0, lb 6, w 4, nb 1, p 0)	11
Total (5 wickets, 20 overs)	150
Did not bat: Rahul Chahar, Adam Milne, Jasprit Bumrah, Trent Boult	
Fall of Wickets: 55-1 (Rohit Sharma, 6.3), 71-2 (Suryakumar Yadav, 8.3), 98-3 (Quinton de Kock, 13.5), 114-4 (Ishan Kishan, 16.5), 131-5 (Hardik Pandya, 18.4)	
Bowling	
Bhuvneshwar Kumar	4-0-45-0
Khaleel Ahmed	4-0-24-1
Muejeb Ur Rahman	4-0-29-2
Abhishek Sharma	1-0-5-0
Vijay Shankar	3-0-19-2
Rashid Khan	4-0-22-0

skipper and also surpassed Mahendra Singh Dhoni's record of hitting the most number of sixes by an Indian in the tournament.

The 33-year-old now has 217 sixes in IPL, one ahead of Dhoni.

With Rohit and de Kock looking in full flow, it seemed MI will put up a big score.

However, MI soon slipped to 71 for 2 with Vijay Shankar dismissing Rohit and Suryakumar Yadav (10) in his two overs.

While the MI skipper holed out to Virat Singh in the sixth over, Suryakumar was caught and bowled in the 9th over.

Rashid Khan and Muejeb then tightened the screw on MI as the well-set de Kock next perished at deep mid-wicket in his pursuit for a big shot.

Pollard then joined Ishan Kishan (12 off 21) in the middle but the scoring remained difficult.

With MI at 107 for 3 in 16 overs, Pollard clubbed one over mid-wicket to break the shackles but Muejeb soon dismissed Ishan with wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow taking a fabulous catch.

New man Hardik Pandya and Pollard could not produce their trademark hitting as the former holed out to Virat in the deep.

Pollard, who was dropped by Vijay, managed to smash the last two balls of the innings for two sixes as MI reached 150 in the end.

Dhoni is heartbeat of CSK: Fleming



Chennai Super Kings captain MS Dhoni cuts the cake to celebrate his 200th game for CSK

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming has called skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni the team's heartbeat and said the desire to do well even after playing 200 matches is a testament to his attitude towards the game and the franchise.

Dhoni has been leading the side since the inaugural edition of the league in 2008.

"His longevity has to be mentioned and appreciated... To play 200 games and still have a desire to do well is a testament to his attitude towards the game and franchise," Fleming said after CSK's win against Punjab Kings.

"I think the franchise has grown and MS has grown with it, so it is a great relationship and great fun," the former New Zealand skipper added.

Termining Dhoni's heartbeat of CSK, Fleming said, "He is the heartbeat of CSK, there's no doubt about it. Whether it's performance, guidance or leadership, you run out of things to say about him."

He said the manner in which the team bounced back after the first game was impressive and praised Man of the Match Deepak Chahar for his efforts (4/13).

"Really impressed with the way he bounced back after the first game. Without doubt, when Deepak gets a little bit of swing and a little bit of movement, he is one of the finest around. His ability to swing the ball is one. But his control and skill set is also very high."

"The key is keeping him simple in his plans and just operating in and around the stumps. He is very effective when the ball swings. A great bounce back from a below par performance in the first game."

boundarymeter

4s	252
6s	97

PLAYER	RUNS
1. Nitish Rana (KKR)	137
2. Sanju Samson (RR)	123
3. Manish Pandey (SRH)	99

PLAYER	WKTS
1. Harshal Patel (RCB)	7
2. Andre Russell (KKR)	6
3. Avesh Khan (DC)	5

MOST SIXES	
1. Sanju Samson (RR)	7
2. Deepak Hooda (PBKS)	6
3. Nitish Rana (KKR)	6

SUMMER SLAM

NOTION PICTURE



Rajasthan Royals English all-rounder Ben Stokes bids goodbye to his teammates before he leaves for England to undergo surgery for his fractured left index finger

@rajasthanroyals



Chennai Super Kings throwback picture of Punjab Kings batsman M Shikhar Khan

@ChennaiIPL

RCB eye hat-trick of wins

KEY PLAYERS	
	ANDRE RUSSELL Dre Russ took his maiden IPL 500 against MI in the last match & now he'll be eager to contribute with bat
	AB DE VILLIERS ABD single-handedly won against Mumbai and his 360° stroke play can turn the match at any point

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The misfiring Kolkata Knight Riders will look to bring their campaign back on track when they take on table-toppers Royal Challengers Bangalore at Chepaup on Sunday.

In the battle between the world's two best white-ball captains, Eoin Morgan and Virat Kohli, the Bengaluru franchise will hold a slight edge over Kolkata after its two wins from as many outings.

Known for his tactical nous and man-management skills, the World Cup-winning England skipper will be keen to bring KKR back on track after a familiar middle-order collapse cost them the game against Mumbai Indians.

After two ordinary seasons, the purple brigade started its campaign in an emphatic fashion, ticking all the boxes against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

But against their nemesis MI, KKR middle-order collapsed in an inexplicable fashion to suffer their 12th loss from 13 matches.

Morgan's astute captaincy in using his bowling resources was the highlight as KKR had bowled out MI for a modest 152.

In his new role of bowling at the death, Andre Russell has taken six wickets at an impressive average of 7.83, but has failed to deliver with the bat.

With 14 runs from two matches, the big-hitting Jamaica has looked a shadow of his past.

Vice-captain Dinesh Karthik, too, will be under pressure to deliver after his painstaking stay in the middle in the last game.

While Nitish Rana has impressed the most in batting, their star opener Shubham Gill has faltered after impressive starts, and KKR would hope the youngster rises in the coming days.

On a slow Chepaup deck where batting at the death has been a concern, KKR's bowling has been a revelation with Morgan cleverly using his resources.

Against the star-studded RCB who are yet to fire in this season, KKR's bowling would once again look to make an impact. It would not be a bad idea to bring in left arm wrist

VENUE: CHIDAMBARAM STADIUM, CHENNAI	
HEAD TO HEAD	
Matches	26
Royal Challengers Bangalore	12
Kolkata Knight Riders	14

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES	
Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 82 runs in Sharjah	
Royal Challengers Bangalore defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by 8 wickets in Abu Dhabi	

79

Eoin Morgan who scored 6921 runs at an average of in 297 innings of 314 matches, needs 79 runs to become the 4th Englishman and 22nd batsman overall to score 7000 runs in T20 matches

56

Virat Kohli who scored 5944 runs at an average of 38.10 in 186 innings of 164 matches, needs 56 runs to become the first batsman to complete 6000 runs in the history

Fabrizio Fabbri

spinner Kuldeep Yadav in place of veteran Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who has bowled just the opening over in each of the two matches.

Boasting a famed batting line-up in Kohli, AB de Villiers, Glenn Maxwell and the talented youngster Devdutt Padikkal, RCB are yet to perform to their full potential.

But it did not matter much as RCB have won both their matches with new signing Maxwell holding fort in the middle and the likes of Shubham Gill and the likes of Harshal Patel making the difference in bowling.

KEY PLAYERS

KAGISO RABADA
He was the highest wicket-taker in the 2020 edition and the South African is keen to repeat that feat

ARSHDEEP SINGH
The young pacer has impressed in the first two matches and will look to continue his good form

DC face Punjab in battle of equals

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant will aim to display better tactical acumen in a T20 match against a "blow-out blow-out" Punjab Kings in what promises to be a battle of brittle middle-orders at Wankhede stadium on Sunday.

Both teams are coming into the North Derby of IPL after enduring defeats in their previous games but Delhi Capitals are definitely a better side on paper.

Pant, relatively inexperienced in terms of IPL captaincy, lost the plot in the last game where he didn't finish his best bowler Ravichandran Ashwin's quota and instead used Tom Curran's friendly medium pace.

As coach Ricky Ponting pointed out, he would expect a "better" on his feet" thinking from the young captain.

The likely addition of Anrich Nortje in the playing XI will only bolster Pant's bowling attack which lost its bearings during the last match with Curran's lack of pace on a slow track being cannon fodder for Chris Morris and David Miller.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, suffered an inexplicable batting collapse against Chennai Super Kings, with Deepak Chahar's extra bounce and slight seam movement causing the damage.

This was after a healthy 200 plus total in the opening game.

The nature of the Wankhede track is posing a few questions under lights for top-order batsmen as the last two games have shown with underlying moisture aiding quality fast bowling.

So KL Rahul versus Kagiso Rabada and Chris Woakes bowling to Chris Gayle could be as enticing as Prithvi Shaw encountering the guile of Mohammed Shami and Shikhar Dhawan trying to unsettle a disciplined Arshdeep Singh.

Both teams are top heavy in batting with DC dependent on Shaw, Dhawan and Pant for the bulk of scoring while the same job profile is held by KL Rahul, Chris Gayle and Deepak Chahar in the Punjab line-up.

Even the weaknesses of both the teams are pretty similar.

If Ajinkya Rahane's lack of power-hitting and Marcus Stoinis' indifferent show is affecting the DC middle-order, Mayank Agarwal's prolonged bad-patch coupled with Nicholas Pooran's susceptibility to short balls over his shoulder are not great news for Punjab either.

The middle-orders' struggles in both the dugouts will make it an engrossing contest with DC bowlers expected to hold sway in Nortje's presence.

In case of Punjab Kings, save Mohammed Shami, the two high-priced pacers — Jhye Richardson and Riley Meredith — haven't exactly set the stage on fire.

Can Fin Homes Ltd
(Sponsor: CANARA BANK)

PLOT NO. 1, KK PLAZA, ZONE-II, MP NAGAR, BHOPAL-462011 PH.NO. 0755-2577939, 2577935
E-mail: bhopal@canfinhomes.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Rules) Whereas the undersigned being the authorized Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., under SARFAESI Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3, issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrowers/guarantors listed hereunder (hereinafter referred to as the "said Borrowers"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of notice, as per details given below.

The said Notices have been returned undelivered by the postal authorities have not been duly acknowledged by the borrowers. Hence the Company by way of abundant caution is effecting this publication of the demand notice (as per the provisions of Rule 3(1)). The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known address of the said Borrowers, as per the said Act.

As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to the Company by the respective parties as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of Borrowers/ Guarantors With address	Amount claimed As per Demand Notice*	Description of the Secured Asset	Date of NPA
1.	Mr. Ajay Kushwaha H No 219 Near Dangah, Bawadiya Kalan, Hosangabad Bhopal (M.P.)-462016 Guarantor: Mrs. Rajani Kushwaha Plot No 1 M. S. Convent School Panchsheel Nagar, Dist-Bhopal (M.P.)-462003	5,62,470/-	A property with addressing plot area of 18.59 Sq/Mtr situated at Commercial Shop No. G-6, Ground Floor "AMBAR COMPLEX" Situated at Soumitra Vihar Colony, Village- Bawadiya Kalan, Patwari Halka No. 42, R.N. Mandal-2, Tehsil-Huzur, Dist. Bhopal Boundaries: East: Shop No.05, West: Shop No. 07, North: Road, South: Shiv Temple & pathway	31/01/21
2.	Mr. Ankit Malviya 2. Mr. Bhawna Malviya Both Add: House No 248, Ward No 15, Obedulagani, Sharda Nagar, Amroha, Dist - Raigarh (M.P.) 464993	24,28,366/-	A property with addressing plot area of 69.70 Sq/Mtr situated at Plot No 90 B "Vineet kunj Colony" Vill Akbarpur, Ward No 83, Tehsil-Huzur, Dist Bhopal, (M.P.) 462010 Boundaries: East: Temple, West: Plot No 89, North: Plot No 83, South: Road	31/12/20
3.	1. Mr. Gurdur Sharma 2. Mr. Madhuri Sharma Both Add: Plot No 39 A, Seth Phoolchand Nagar, Ward No 01 Mandideep Teh-Goharganj, Dist Raigarh (M.P.) 462046	2,65,213/-	A property with addressing plot area of 74.34 Sq/Mtr situated at: Plot No 39 B, ward No 01, Seth Phoolchand Nagar, Mandideep Teh-Goharganj, Dist- Raigarh Madhya Pradesh 462046 Boundaries: East: Plot No 38, West: Colony Road, North: Plot No 39-A, South: Plot No 40	28/02/21
4.	1. Mr. Omprakash Malviya 2. Mrs. Asha Malviya 3. Mr. Shubham Malviya Add of All: House No 248, Ward No 15, Obedulagani, Sharda Nagar, Amroha, Dist - Raigarh (M.P.) 464993	23,95,223/-	A property with addressing plot area of 69.70 Sq/Mtr situated at: Plot No 90 A "Vineet kunj Colony" Vill Akbarpur, Ward No 83, Tehsil-Huzur, Dist Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462010 Boundaries: East: Plot No 90 remaining part of Plot No 90-B, West: Plot No 89, North: Plot No 83 South: Road	31/01/21
5.	1. Mr. Sanjay Sharma 2. Mr. Ranjan Sharma 3. Mrs. Sangita Sharma Add of All: Plot No 39 A, Ward No 01, Seth, Phoolchand Nagar, Mandideep Teh-Goharganj, Dist Raigarh (M.P.) 462046	26,47,490/-	A property with addressing plot area of 74.34 Sq/Mtr situated at: Plot No 39 A, ward No 01, Seth Phoolchand Nagar, Mandideep Teh-Goharganj, Dist- Raigarh Madhya Pradesh 462046 Boundaries: East: Plot No 38, West: Colony Road, North: Other Plot, South: Plot No 39-B	28/02/21
6.	1. Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh 2. Mrs. Neelam Singh Add of Both: House No 10 Padi, Indus Tower, Phase-I, Raigarh, district, Bhopal (M.P.) - 462038	18,12,180/-	A property with addressing plot area of 58.56 Sq/Mtr situated at: Plot No 375, "VDS Ghar Aangan", Village-Smrai, Mandideep, Tehsil Goharganj, Dist- Raigarh, Madhya Pradesh 464993 Boundaries: East: Plot No. 356 West - Colony Road, North: Plot No. 374, South - Garden	31/12/20
7.	MR. SUNIL PATHE Guarantor: MR. ANIL PATHE Add of Both: House No 155, Himanshu Green Campus Colony, Gram Kotra, Tehsil Huzur, Dist - Bhopal (M.P.) - 462020	10,13,755/-	A property with addressing plot area of 46.79 Sq/Mtr situated at: House No 155, B "Himanshu Green Campus Colony" Gram Kotra, P.N. No 27, Tehsil-Huzur, Dist Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462023, Boundaries: East: Colony Road West: Plot No. 148, North: Plot No. 154, South: Plot No. 156	31/10/20

* Payable with further interest at contractual rates as agreed from the date mentioned above till date of payment. You are hereby called upon to pay the above said amount with contractual rate of interest thereon within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce the aforesaid security. Further, the attention of borrowers/guarantors is invited to provisions of Section 13(3) of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 17/04/2021
Place: Bhopal

Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd