

**OPINION 6**  
NEPAL STARING AT  
POLITICAL DISQUIET

**WORLD 8**  
IRAN BLAMES ISRAEL  
FOR NATANZ INCIDENT

**SPORT 12**  
BAYERN CAN BEAT  
PSG: KIMMICH

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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## EC slaps 24-hour ban on Mamata

Campaign ban till 8pm today, Didi to sit on protest; PM, CM continue slanging match;

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee traded charges on the Cooch Behar killing, the Election Commission (EC) on Monday imposed a 24-hour campaigning ban on the West Bengal Chief Minister for her "highly insinuating" and "provocative remarks" that the poll regulating body described as having "serious potential" to lead to a breakdown of law and order during elections.

As per the order issued by the EC, the ban will come into effect from 8 pm on April 12, and continue till 8 pm on April 13. The action was taken by the polling body after Mamata was found "violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC)" for appealing to the voters on communal lines.

Condemning Mamata's statements made during poll rallies on April 7 and 8, the EC advised her to desist from



TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee during campaign for the State Assembly polls in Ranaghat, Nadia district on Monday

using such statements in public while model code of conduct is in force.

The EC noted that the TMC chief made "highly insinuating and provocative remarks laden with serious potential of breakdown of law and order and thereby adversely affecting the election process."

The EC said, "In fact, it is a matter of deep regret that a media narrative was sought to be weaved hour after hour to misguide the biggest stakeholder which is the voters by a candidate who also happens to be the CM of the State."

At least this should have been appreciated that the sideshow was fraught with immense potential to have adverse impact on law and

order across West Bengal and may be some other States. And all this was being done when the election process was/is on. There could not have been a greater misdemeanour," it said.

Lashing out at the EC order, Mamata said she would stage a dharna in the city on Tuesday in protest. The TMC questioned why only Mamata has been punished and BJP leaders left off hook.

Meanwhile, Modi launched a fierce broadside against Mamata. "Didi has been instigating her workers against the Central forces."

Do not do this. Didi o didi, if you want to take out your anger, abuse me. But don't insult Bengal's dignity and tradition," he said.

## India's daily rise outnumbers US-Brazil total

### India records around 1.5 lakh new cases; total count soars by 20 fold since Feb 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid horror stories of dead bodies piling up in hospitals and Covid treatment centres running out of beds and ventilators, India's Covid-19 count grew by around 1.5 lakh, going past the US and Brazil combined. India now has the second-highest number of cases in the world with the total crossing 1.34 crore, behind the US which has reported 3 crore cases so far.

On Sunday, India's daily count of 1.68 lakh cases was higher than the combined tally of the USA (47,874 cases) and Brazil (37,537).

However, on Monday the cases dipped mainly due to lower testing on Sunday. Maharashtra reported a major decline, reporting around 51,751 cases, nearly 11,000 less than the previous day's tally.

However, the situation in Delhi and neighbouring Uttar Pradesh remained grim, with the national Capital reporting 11,491 cases and UP recording 13,604 cases.

While Gujarat reported 6,021 new cases, 2,854 recoveries and 55 deaths in the last 24 hours, Rajasthan reported 5,771 new cases, 1,291 recoveries and 25 deaths during the same period.

India's cases are also doubling and tripling at an alarming speed. From 8,579 cases on



A health worker takes a sample of a woman to test for Covid-19 at a hospital in Hyderabad on Monday

February 1, it has taken just ten weeks for the country to see a 20-time spike in the daily number of cases, a record of sorts across the world.

Meanwhile, on the second day of countrywide Tika Utsav (vaccination festival), India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage went past the 10.50 crore mark on Monday. Eight States account for 60.13 per cent of the total doses given so far in the country, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The first day of Tika Utsav on Sunday saw the administration of 30 lakh vaccination doses at 63,800 Covid Vaccination Centres across the country.

### Covid-19 IN INDIA

<b>TOTAL CASES:</b>	<b>1,36,71,851 (+1,46,472)</b>
<b>DEATHS:</b>	<b>1,70,956 (+747)</b>
<b>RECOVERED:</b>	<b>1,21,45,432 (+91,719)</b>
<b>ACTIVE:</b>	<b>12,49,835</b>
<b>MAHARASHTRA:</b>	<b>35,58,996</b>
<b>KERALA:</b>	<b>11,72,883</b>
<b>KARNATAKA:</b>	<b>10,74,869</b>
<b>TAMIL NADU:</b>	<b>9,40,145</b>
<b>DELHI:</b>	<b>7,36,688 (+11,491)</b>

### 14 hospitals in Delhi turned into Covid facilities

New Delhi: 14 hospitals in the national Capital will be converted in Covid-19 facilities. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday had directed officials to convert some Government and private hospitals into dedicated Covid-19 facilities to cope with the alarming rise in the Covid cases.

## Sputnik V gets DCGI expert panel approval

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the country grapples with surging Covid-19 cases and vaccine shortage, a panel of experts has recommended Russia's Covid vaccine Sputnik V for use in India with certain conditions.

If approved by the regulator, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), this will be the third vaccine to be used in India after Serum Institute of India's Covishield — developed by Oxford-AstraZeneca — and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

Sources in the Government said that the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the DCGI on Monday took up the application of Dr Reddy's



Laboratories seeking emergency use authorisation for Sputnik V. The DCGI will take a final call on the recommendation. The vaccine would be imported from Russia for emergency use in the country, the sources said.

The DCGI has already given the emergency use authorisation for two Covid-19 vaccines — Covaxin of Bharat Biotech and Covishield of Oxford-AstraZeneca manufactured by Serum Institute of India in Pune.

### Night curfew imposed in Haryana

Chandigarh: The Haryana Government on Monday imposed night curfew in the State amid a surge in coronavirus cases. "Night curfew between 9 pm and 5 am will be imposed from tonight and will remain in force till further orders," Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij said.

### Yogi: Won't impose lockdown nor let people die in misery

Lucknow: UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to be on their toes to control the exponential spread of Covid-19 across the State. The CM made it clear that neither his Government will impose another lockdown nor let the people die in misery.

### State again urges Centre for vaccine supply

25 lakh doses as 10 days' stock sought

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Health Minister Naba Kishore Das on Monday again wrote to Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan to supply adequate Covid vaccine to the State urgently.

Covid vaccination in the State has been affected due to less and irregular supply of vaccine by the Centre. Till April 11, the State has received 46,08,650 doses of vaccine, out of which 42,71,870 doses are of Covishield and 3,35,780 are Covaxin, Das pointed out.

At present, there is nil stock of vaccine in SVS, RVS and DVS; and 1,59,439 doses of Covishield and 71,010 doses of Covaxin are in pipeline across State. The balance stock of Covishield would last for one day only. Das in his letter further stated that due to short and irregular supply of vaccine, State has been forced to close over 700 vaccination centres. Thus, State is unable to contribute to the Tika Utsav properly. Hence, the Centre should supply vaccines for 10 days at least (25 lakh doses) as an emergency measure.

## Sensex plunges 1,707 pts on Covid, grim growth outlook

### Retail inflation 4-month high at 5.5% as food prices soar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Spooked by the grim Covid-19 scenario and slashing down of India's growth outlook by multiple rating agencies, investors on Monday went for heavy selling of equity in banking, finance, and auto counters, triggering a huge collapse which saw Sensex crashing by over 1,707 points.

In more bad news on the economic front, India's retail inflation rose to a four-month high of 5.52 per cent in March as food prices soared, according to the Government data released on Monday.

The consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation was 5.03 per cent in the previous month (February 2021) and was 5.91 per cent in the same month



last year (March 2020).

Food inflation accelerated to 4.94 per cent in March, as compared to 3.87 per cent in February. Inflation in "fuel and light" category remained elevated at 4.50 per cent during March compared to 3.53 per cent in February.

At the same time, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) contracted 3.6 per cent for February 2021, showed

data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

The industrial output contracted by 1.6 per cent in the previous month (January 2021) and expanded to 4.5 per cent in February 2020.

The manufacturing sector output contracted by 3.7 per cent in February, while the mining output declined by 5.5 per cent.

## State Govt issues protocol for hospitals

### BMC allows pay and use quarantine

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government is taking new measures to contain the spread of coronavirus and as part of the process issued Covid-19 protocol for hospitals on Monday.

In a letter, the Health Department asked the Superintendents of medical colleges, Director, Capital Hospital, RGH Rourkela, CDMOs to strictly follow the protocols meant for health-care institutions which were issued in March and May 2020.

The Health Department directed the concerned officials to ensure social distancing to decongest the health facilities and also see that healthcare personnel as well as non-Covid

patient do not get infected. The guidelines clearly suggested for stopping all elective surgeries and taking up emergency surgeries with universal precautions. Meanwhile, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has now decided to resume its pay-and-use quarantine facilities in different parts of the capital city.

The BMC has now identified certain properties of the OYO Hotels and rooms which would be used as paid quarantine and isolation facilities.

The move came in the wake of the second Covid-19 wave which has gripped several parts of the country and the State.

Under such circumstances, it is estimated that there would be a need of large numbers of quarantine and isolation facilities for housing suspected positive cases, asymptomatic, mild symptomatic cases in order to contain the virus spread.

## Will personally look after Pipili dev, says Naveen

Pradhan to visit constituency today

CM Patnaik addresses voters by virtual mode

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Monday addressed the people of by-election-bound Pipili Assembly constituency on virtual mode and said that due to the Covid restrictions he is not able to meet the people personally.

Patnaik said, "I know you all love me a lot. Had I been to Pipili, you all would have turned up in large numbers to bless me. I do not want that anyone of you is pushed to danger for me. Therefore, I came before you through videoconferencing." Be it the farmers' issue or the welfare of the



poor, Odisha has made a mark for itself in the national level. Today, the mothers of Odisha are leading projects under Mission Shakti, which is a major achievement in the direction of women empowerment, he said.

"I request you all to vote for the 'Shankh' (conch) symbol in large numbers," he said, adding that he would personally look after the development works of the Pipili-Delang region. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is scheduled to visit Pipili on Tuesday to campaign for BJP.

## Haider still at large; aide surrenders to trace him

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Even as dreaded gangster Sheik Haider is still untraceable for more than 48 hours after his escape from custody during treatment at the SCB Medical College Hospital here on Saturday last, an aide of his, Mohammad Yakub alias Sallu, of Cuttack city on Monday surrendered before police unexpectantly, Yakub assured that he would help police in tracing Haider.

City DCP Prateek Singh informed that Yakub, a resident of Mahanadi Vihar of the city, was providing Biryani to Haider in the hospital for four days prior to his escape.

"Yakub during interrogation so far has been claiming that he had no knowledge of any plan or conspiracy having been made for his escape from the hospital," the DCP said. Meanwhile, suspended Constable Mohammad



Mousim, who was on duty when Haider escaped, on Monday filed an FIR at the Mangalabadi police station of the city stating that Haider's family members were behind his sensational escape. On that day, Haider's son, brother-in-law, son-in-law and a nephew had visited him in the hospital, the FIR said.

"His family members flung certain poisonous substances at me and I cannot recollect what happened after that since I became unconscious instantaneously," Mousim's FIR stated, adding that his family members were regular visitors to the hospital cabin, where Haider was undergoing treatment.

## 190 new corona cases in BBSR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

State capital city Bhubaneswar on Monday registered 190 more Covid-19 cases, with which its total tally increased to 33,702.

Out of the new cases, 152 were local contacts and 38 were from quarantine. The local contacts included 10 from Khandagiri, nine each from Badagada and Jharpada, seven each from Samantrapur and Mancheswar, six each from Patia and Old Town and five each from IRC Village and Patrapada.

Currently, the active cases stood at 1,111. While 32, 320 patients have recovered from the disease, 250 have succumbed to it.

## State reports two more Covid deaths

TOTAL TOLL REACHES 1,928

YEAR'S HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY 1,741 CASES RECORDED

MAX 268 CASES IN SUNDARGARH; 538 MORE RECOVER

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The total toll due to coronavirus infection surged to 1,928 in the State with the death of two patients in Nuapada district on Monday, the Health and Family Welfare Department said. Meanwhile, 1,741 more persons tested positive for the virus on the day in 30 districts and the State pool, with which the total positives tally in the State surged to 3,51,302. Out of the new cases, 1031 were from quarantine and 762 local con-

tacts. This was the fourth consecutive day the State recorded more than 1,000 new cases while this was the biggest single-day spike of cases reported in 2021. The State had last posted 1,700-plus cases on October 23, 2020 when 1,793 people had tested positive.

Sundargarh district reported the day's highest 268 cases followed by Khordha with 204, Baleswar 158, Sambalpur 121 and Kalahandi 114, Bargarh 97, Nuapada 96, Balangir 93, Nabarangpur 80, Cuttack 58, Puri 54, Keonjhar 53, Jharsuguda 43 and Angul 43.

Besides, 46 cases were reported from State pool. Currently, the active cases stood at 9,259 while cumulative samples tested were 94,00,456, including 30,097 on Sunday. However, 538 patients recovered on day, taking total recoveries to 34,06,000 in State.

## Cancer hosp proposal in BBSR gets Cabinet nod

Palliative care unit for free service also okayed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday approved establishment of a cancer treatment facility, namely Bagchi-Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital & Research Institute, in Bhubaneswar.

The Sri Shankara Cancer Care Foundation, a charitable institute, has volunteered to establish the hospital. Subroto Bagchi, Odisha Skill Development Authority Chairman, and his wife Susmita Bagchi have pledged Rs 210 crore for the hospital. The State Government would provide 20 acres of land at

Infocity-II, Bhubaneswar, free of cost for establishment of the hospital. In the first phase, the hospital would have 250 beds and be operational by January 2024. Later, it shall be converted into a 500-bed hospital. It would provide advanced cutting-edge cancer care with evidence-based management of cancer cases.

A total of 25% beds shall be set aside for treatment free of cost, another 25% for patients supported under different Government health schemes and the rest 50% patients will pay for the services. The revenue generated shall be utilised for expansion of the hospital and supporting poor patients.

The hospital would be an oncology centre of excellence with academic and research facilities with major categories of services like surgical, medical and radiation oncology, imaging nuclear medicine, pae-

diatric and haemato oncology, centre for lung disease, anaesthesia and intensive care, laboratory diagnostic services, blood bank and immuno haematology services.

Other services like nursing, physiotherapy training centre, de-addiction clinic and occupational rehabilitation would also form a part of the centre. Besides, the Cabinet also approved establishment of a Bagchi-Karunashraya Palliative Care Centre in Bhubaneswar to provide free-of-cost facility.

The Karunashraya Hospice Trusts, a charitable organisation, has volunteered to establish the hospital, which would be first-of-its-kind in Odisha. Apart from hospice-based palliative care, it would provide home-based palliative care and take the responsibility to train local doctors, healthcare providers and caregivers in palliative care.

# DGP reviews security in poll-bound Pipili

## 2 arrested for Sunday violence

PNS ■ PIPILI

A day after violence erupted in by-election-bound Pipili, police on Monday beefed up security in the Assembly constituency to avoid any kind of unpleasant situation further.

Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay, Additional DG (Law & Order) YK Jethwa and Intelligence Director RK Sharma visited Pipili and reviewed security arrangements for the by-poll to be held on April 17.

Besides, the Puri district SP is keeping a close watch on activities of anti-socials in the



Delang segment of the constituency. The DGP informed, "A total of 80 critical booths have been identified in the constituency."

Three companies of Boarder Security Force (BSF), 15 platoons of Odisha police and one platoon Odisha Industrial Security Force (OISF) have been deployed in the constituency. Besides, 60 police officers have also been engaged. Meanwhile on the day, the Delang police arrested

two persons in connection with the pre-poll violence that had erupted on Sunday.

Notably, on Sunday evening, a group of miscreants damaged Minister Sushant Singh's car when he had gone to Delang to meet some injured Biju Janata Dal workers.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders on the day moved the State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) seeking his intervention in the alleged attack on their party members in the constituency.

# ANWESHA extended for another 5 yrs

₹569 cr earmarked to benefit 25,000 students

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Cabinet on Monday decided to continue the scheme ANWESHA launched in financial year 2015-16 to provide quality education to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students in partnership with urban educational institutions.

The scheme will now be extended to another five years with a financial implication of Rs 569.90 crore, which has already been approved by the Finance Department. In the next five years, as many as 25,000 students will be covered under the scheme and all the



students will be kept in ANWESHA hostels managed by the SC and ST Department.

Under the scheme, SC and ST students are admitted every year in Standard-I in different Government, private and Aided English medium schools of repute located in urban areas and provided education till completion of Class-XII.

At present, the programme is being implemented in 177 schools spread over 17 districts and 21,682 students are being benefitted.

# pioneer interview of the week

## Containing crime against women topmost on our agenda



Bhubaneswar, like any other metropolitan, reassembles a watermelon green outside but red hot inside. Therefore, it calls for the services of tough top cops who can effectively deal with the situation in order to provide a secure cover to the citizenry.

Saumyendra Kumar Priyadarsi is an officer who belongs to such a rare species of men in uniform, who is currently the Commissioner of Police of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack.

Endowed with suave manners and armed with an infectious smile, he is too like a granite heated red hot to deal with any situation in containing violence. A 1995-batch IPS officer, Saumyendra opened his innings to the cadre as ASP, Puri and subsequently worked as Superintendent of Police, Ganjam, Puri, Cuttack and Keonjhar.

His handling of the relief and rescue operations during the Super -Cyclone 1999 as Addl. SP, Puri, was exemplary. He had played a pivotal role in successfully accomplishing the gargantuan task of the Ratha Yatra of Puri for five years during his tenure as SP, Puri.

As the first DCP of Cuttack, he had effectively brought the crime scenario under control. Climbed the hierarchical ladder, he was posted as DIG and subsequently as DIG (Admn) and DIG, South Western Range, Koraput.

As an expert in counter-terrorism, he had contained Maoist violence as DIG, SWR, Koraput. Being elevated to the IGP rank in 2013, he continued to work in anti-Maoist field as IG (Operations) and also as IG (Intelligence). As Addl. DGP, CID, Crime Branch, he rendered a yeoman's job to the department.

The handling of the Nabakalebar festival in 2015 by him as OSD and the relief and restoration works spearheaded by him during Cyclone Fani are still fresh in the memories of people of Puri.

He was decorated with the President's Police Medal in 2011 for Meritorious Service, Governor's Medal in 2005. Earlier, he had earned laurels and encomiums by receiving DGP's Disc 2002, and DGP's Commendation 2016. In an interview to The Pioneer, Saumyendra spoke to Sugyan Choudhury on the multifarious issues concerning the police administration.

**As a seasoned top police officer, you have been entrusted**

with the onerous task of providing safety and security to the denizens of the Twin City. How are you going to implement it?

Providing safety and security to the denizens is the primary responsibility of police. My main objective will be to make police more people-centric and proactive. I will take steps to improve visibility of police in the Twin City.

Persons who are threat to security and peace of the society will be sternly dealt with. We shall make police reach the public. My special focus will be on senior citizens and women. In the process, some of the old



projects/ schemes taken up in the past will be revived. My sole aim will be to make the Twin City more safe and secured.

**How are you going to confront the organised crimes?**

In a growing city, organised crime syndicates try to spread their tentacles. We will be ruthless on organised crimes like Dadabati, tender-fixing, Chanda collection besides focusing on drugs, illegal arms and automobile theft.

Stolen motorcycles and illegal arms are two major weapons widely used by criminals. We have already taken proactive steps and in last one month and seized 15 illegal fire arms. We have a defined plan to go all out against organised crimes in a focused way.

**How do you contemplate to prevent assault on women, especially school and college girls and working women?**

Containing crime against women is topmost on the agenda of Commissionerate police. In a growing city like Bhubaneswar wherein large numbers of working women live, large numbers of schools and colleges, technical institutions exist, safety and security of women will be the primary focus.

Strengthening of Mahila and Sisu Desks at police stations, responding promptly in women helpline, generating awareness amongst working women and school and college girls will be very important. Tough action in such crimes will be priority and proper investigation of these cases leading to punishing of the criminals will be top in the agenda which will help contain these forms of crime.

In the Commissionerate, we have created women SPO volunteers who are rendering great help in identifying vulnerable areas and vulnerable

groups. Earlier, project like Pink Auto aimed at safety transportation of working women has been dysfunctional and such a proactive project will be revived.

**Cybercrimes are on the increase. What measures are contemplated to deal with such an alarming scenario?**

Increasing cybercrimes is a nationwide phenomenon. Growing payment on electronic mode and increasing use of social media and cyber space make us vulnerable to cyber-crime. Cybercrime is a contactless crime.

A person sitting at any corner of the world can cheat another anywhere. To contain this, cybercrime awareness programmes will be of great help though detecting cybercrime will remain a challenge.

We have taken sincere steps for capacity upgradation in cybercrime investigation in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. A Cyber Cell is functioning addressing the cybercrimes reported in the twin cities. But limitation in investigation hunts us. I shall be focusing on capacity upgradation and also on hiring services of cyber-crime experts to address the growing crime.

**Any plans to galvanise your police force at a par with its counterparts in Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai?**

Bhubaneswar's is a young Commissionerate created with best practices from old Commissionerate systems.

Modernisation of Commissionerate, use of technology in investigation and dissemination of knowledge will be the agenda for future to take the Commissionerate ahead.

**As Covid frontline warriors, how is Commissionerate police poised to contain the pandemic's second wave?**

Police rendered great service during the first wave of Covid-19 as frontline warriors. We are totally geared up to face the second wave.

Enforcement of Covid-19, appropriate behaviour and protocol will be on top of our agenda in coming days. Besides, sensitising the denizens to adhere to the appropriate behavior, especially wearing masks, maintaining social distance, etc., we are fully ready for the purpose.

**What happens when a policeperson succumbs while discharging his/ her duties in the pandemic? What are the provisions of compensation for those who succumb to the virus?**

The State Government has stood solid behind the police force when personnel have laid down their lives while discharging their Covid duties during the first wave. In case of death, Rs 50 lakh ex-gratia has been disbursed to the next kin of a martyr.

# 190 Brahmapur jail inmates get vaccine

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

With the help of the jail authorities, 190 inmates of the Brahmapur Circle Jail were given Covid vaccine here on Sunday, sources said.

The inmates who have crossed 45 years of age were given the first dose of the vaccine while the senior citizens took the second dose. A team of healthcare officials of the Department of Health went to the jail to vaccinate the jail inmates under the coordination and supervision of the Superintendent of the Jail Gariba Sahu and Jailor Satyanarayan Behera.

# Cabinet decisions District Judge recruitment rules amended

Subordinate Welfare Service Rules amendment okayed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Cabinet on Monday approved the rules for recruitment of District Judges.

This was done to ease the process of recruitment to the cadre of District Judge and to postulate the manner of seniority of the officers in a recruitment year. So, the Odisha Superior Judicial

Service and Odisha Judicial Service Rules, 2007 was amended by setting the cutoff date as April 1 of the year instead of August 1 for deciding the eligibility in terms of service rendered, age, duration of practice for in-service candidates as well as candidates from the bar.

The Cabinet also approved the amendment to the Odisha Subordinate Welfare Service (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1992. The recruitment and conditions of

service of Welfare Extension Officers are guided by Odisha Subordinate Welfare Service (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules.

The Government had restructured the Odisha Subordinate Welfare Service cadre as per the decision taken in the 63rd meeting of the Cabinet held on November 2, 2018.

In view of restructuring of the cadre, the existing Odisha Subordinate Welfare Service (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules,

1992 required some amendments and placed before the State Cabinet for approval. As a result of the restructuring of Odisha Subordinate Welfare Service, the post of ADWO has been upgraded and included in OWS cadre.

By this restructuring various programmes under Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Other Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department would be implemented successfully by the officers with greater motivation and dedication.

# New VCs for two Varsities

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Governor and Chancellor of Universities Prof Ganesh Lal on Monday appointed Prof Umaballava Mohapatra and Prof Sanjay Kumar Satapathy as Vice-Chancellors of Rajendra University, Balangir, and Kalandi

University, Bhawanipatna, respectively, for a period of four years with effect from the date they assume office as such or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Prof Mohapatra, a retired Professor of Botany, North Odisha University, has teaching experience of around 33 years. He has authored a book and successfully guided 14 PhD and 24 MPhil scholars.

Prof Satapathy, a retired Professor of Commerce, Ravenshaw University, has authored 24 books, including 13 academic books. He has more than 36 years of teaching experience and has successfully guided 20 PhD scholars.

# AP-Odisha border shut in P'khemundi

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

The areas under Paralakhemundi side on the Odisha-Andhra border were sealed on Monday in order to contain Covid-19 infection.

No trespassers were allowed either to enter or exit without valid prescribed documents in areas like Dhamunigaon and Labanyagada of Gosani; Bistala and Hadubhangi of Kashinagar and Kamalapur of Mohana blocks.

Except students studying in Pathapatnam of Andhra Pradesh, nobody will be allowed to go border without proper documents like antigen negative reports or two doses of Covid-19 vaccines within 72 hours, said Collector Anupam Saha and warned of stringent action against the violators.

SP Tapan Kumar Patnaik took a whirlwind tour of the border points to take stock of the situation.

# ₹22,709-crore NABARD aid to State in 2020-21

To boost agri sector during pandemic time

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The NABARD's financial support to the State Government, banks and corporations has touched Rs 22,709 crore in 2020-21 which was the pandemic year.

Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the bank provided Rs 1,700 crore under Special Liquidity Facility to Cooperative Banks and MFIs. Refinance for short term crop loans to the tune of Rs 12,193 crore was disbursed to Cooperative Banks and RRBs. To promote capital formation in agri and allied sectors, the NABARD disbursed long term refinance of Rs 1,551.85 crore to Commercial Banks, Odisha State Cooperative Bank and MFI during the year.

The bank sanctioned a whopping of Rs 3,234.25 crore to the Government of Odisha under RIDF Tranche XXVI. This sanction includes 2,510 community-based lift irrigation projects under BKVY scheme, 11 Megalift schemes under Cluster-V, 74 rural bridge projects, seven mega piped water supply projects, eight flood

protection and one system improvement project. The NABARD also disbursed RIDF assistance of Rs 2,732.75 crore to the State Government for major infrastructure projects like the Indravati Lift Canal Irrigation Project in Kalahandi, five lakh LPD OMFFED automated milk processing units and drinking water projects in Nuapada, Bhadrak, Bargarh, Nabarangpur, Dhenkanal and Jajpur. The bank disbursed an amount of Rs 5,597.50 crore for supporting paddy procurement operations in the State, while Rs 58 crore was sanctioned towards various promotional initiatives.

144 watershed projects were undertaken with financial assistance of Rs 74.92 crore covering area of 1, 12,000 ha and 41,000 households in 24 districts.

Besides, the bank implemented 63 tribal development projects with assistance of Rs 190.61 crore covering area of 41,000 acres and 48,000 tribal families in 21 districts and Rs 2.88 crore towards promotion of 242 FPOs. Total 8,420 SHGs got assistance for promotion of livelihoods, informed NABARD Odisha Regional Office CGM C Udayabhaskar.

# Cabinet allows revised amendment of OMPTS Rules

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government on Monday approved a revised amendment of the Odisha Minerals Prevention of Theft and Smuggling (OMPTS) Rules, 2007.

Keeping in mind the advance information and technology, use of modern mechanism and changing technology requirement and to make the OMPTS Rules framed by the State Government more compatible to the changing requirement, the proposal for amendment to OMPTS Rules 2007 that has got the approval of the Cabinet.

The OMPTS (Amendment) Rule, 2021 was modified in the last Cabinet meeting in order to remove the unwarranted substitution of provision in the said rule and to restore the power of the State Government vested under the said rule.

Before issue of a gazette notification, some inadvertent errors were noticed which warranted rectification in Rule 10 (15) of the OMPTS Rules. Through this amendment, such errors have been sought to be rectified.

# Rashtriya Gokul Mission

## Odisha wants semen laboratory for quality cows

### Also 2nd bovine semen station

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

While there is a growing demand for productive animal in the livestock market, productive female population of cows and buffaloes is on the rise.

Odisha wants to develop a facility to pre-determine sex of a calf and to have a sex sorted semen laboratory at Cuttack. The state-of-the-art laboratory is needed to be set up at a cost of Rs 55 crore under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission. Accordingly, the State Government has submitted a

proposal to the Union Government. Officials said, over 90 per cent demand in the livestock market is for productive animal.

Cow and bulls are only required for reproductive purpose — the demand for which is less than 10 per cent. Male cattle are less required by farmers now-a-days due to mechanization and modern age farming system.

The male cattle are adding to the cost of farmers due to share in limited available feed and fodder, so also creating hindrance for successful artificial insemination services. Further, the male cattle are creating menace for traffic. Officials said, in the sex sorting technique X and Y

chromosome is sorted out and separated. The sorted semen can be stored in the liquid nitrogen for years. Depending upon the demand, frozen semen straw of the desired sex can be inseminated in the cow.

Cost of a semen straw in the international market is roughly Rs 2,000 per dose, but the State Government would be able to subsidize the cost once it has the laboratory so that farmers could get it at an affordable price and get the calf of desired sex.

The cost of the project includes 60 per cent of the Centre share and 40 per cent of the State share. Due to the high number of female calves, there will be increase in milk production and the number of

male calves will also not increase. Farmers will get more quantity of milk and their income will also increase significantly as they will get high quality milk cattle, officials added.

As the high-quality cows and buffaloes will be available in the State, buying from other States will not be required any more and this would also help in controlling diseases among cattle, officials said, adding the expenditure incurred in the upbringing of male calves will also be saved.

Secondly, the Odisha Government has also sent a request to the Union Government to set up second semen station in western Odisha under the Rashtriya

Gokul Mission. Cost of the project is Rs 25.55 crore and it will come up at Chipilima in Sambalpur. Justifying the proposal, the Odisha Government has said that in order to cover 32 lakh breedable cattle population, there is a need of 55 lakh semen doses per year.

There is only one frozen semen station in the State having maximum production capacity of 25 lakh doses of semen.

Hence, there is an urgent need of additional semen station with production capacity of 30 lakh doses of semen per annum. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has been approached with a detailed proposal, said sources.

# Covid rule violation ₹1.59-crore fine collected in 5 days

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

On the fifth day of the special Covid enforcement drive, police acted against 11,410 violators of mask usage and social distancing rules and collected a fine of Rs 33,41, 200 in the last 24 hours.

Cumulatively, in last five days, action has been taken against 56,256 violators of Covid protocols in the State and penal fines amounting to Rs. 1, 58, 73, 200 have been collected. "We urge all to observe Covid appropriate behaviour. The enforcement measures will be further intensified in coming days," police said.

# Saranghi on Central deputation

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha-Cadre IAS officer Santosh Kumar Sarangi was on Monday relieved from the charge of Principal Secretary of Science and Technology Department as he will be sent on Central deputation.

The 1994-batch IAS officer, who is the husband of Bhubaneswar BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi, will take charge as the Additional Secretary to Government of India, Department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Education with additional charge of Chairman, National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi. IRTS officer Manoj Kumar Sarangi



will remain in additional charge of Secretary of State Science and Technology Department along with his duties as Secretary in-Charge of Electronics and Information Technology Department with additional charge of CRC-cum-Special Secretary of Commerce and Transport Department.

# Returning migrants big worry for G'jam admin

## Border checkpoints activated; Six coronavirus care centres operationalised

**KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA ■ BRAHMAPUR**

The surge in Corona positive cases at a faster pace in Ganjam once again is a cause of worry for the district administration.

Sources said the number of migrant workers has risen three-fold in just a single week.

Keeping the recent surge in number of positive patients, Ganjam Collector Vijaya Amruta Kulange called an emergency meeting through video conferencing here on Saturday and instructed all the officers to take precautionary measures to effectively contain the on-going Covid-19 pandemic in the district.

It may be mentioned here that, the number of Corona active cases has reached 136 in

Ganjam district. Kulange suggested measures to contain Corona menace including activating the checking points of the border areas from Sunday; checking all passengers entering Ganjam district and Brahmapur by bus and other mode of transport from Corona prone areas like Chhatisgarh.

The Collector reportedly instructed the Transport Officers to conduct stringent checking at Girisola Check gate point; Gurapalli near Khallikote; and Bhanjanagar check post.

The Transport Officer will have to ensure that, the passengers or returnees coming by buses are wearing face masks, maintaining social distancing in the bus and resorting to sanitisation. Similarly, the officers have also been instructed

to ensure the availability of clean drinking water, toilet, and electric line in the proposed isolation centers required to be operated in block as well as in town areas. The officers will have to check all the proposed isolation centers and check the infrastructure available and bring the centers to habitable condition, Kulange said.

The district administration once again has made the registration of all migrant workers coming to their home district mandatory, failing which stringent action would be initiated, Kulange cautioned.

Those who will be identified as Corona virus infected will have to remain seven days in home-isolation and sticker/poster will be displayed in front of the home of such patients. Similarly, commercial

establishments, malls, restaurants, and retail shops will be checked and if found that they are providing goods, food stuff, and services to those customers who do not bear face mask, will have to pay heavy fine for violation of Covid-19 guidelines, Kulange added.

Areas in which Corona virus patient is identified will be declared containment zone and the officers will ensure that the supply of food and other essential commodities are made available to those areas.

Similarly, doctors or healthcare officials will be made available in temporary care centers.

Kulange also instructed to keep 30 ambulances ready with oxygen i.e. one each for 30 blocks and the ambulance drivers should be vaccinated before being placed into service, he

added. Similarly, all bus drivers will be vaccinated. Kulange asked the Tehsildars to conduct raid on shops, malls, and restaurants and impose heavy fine to those including the public who do not bear face mask.

Six 'Covid dedicated care center' has been started from Sunday and health screening of the migrants has begun. The district administration has instructed all the teachers and officers of the district not to leave headquarters without prior permission.

The Ganjam police have intensified its raid and checking on face mask, social distancing and screening of vehicles and so far has collected Rs 4.20 lakh fine from the law violators, and recommended to RTO to cancel the driving licence of four persons.

# 'No fertile land to be acquired for S'rekha port'

## B'swar Collector allays fear locals

**PNS ■ BALESWAR**

A meeting regarding establishment of a port in the Subarnarekha river was held under the chairmanship of district Collector K Sudarshan Chakravarty to disseminate information among the villagers around Chaumukh, the proposed site of the Rs 5,500 crore port project.

The meeting was primarily intended to allay fear among the residents that their fertile land would be acquired for the port project, said an official associated with the project. Besides Chakravarty, Sub Collector Asish Iswar Patil, project head Anjani Kant and

local representatives including the Baliapal block Chairman, were present in the meeting.

It was told by Chakravarty that not a single acre of private land would be required for establishment of the port. But for construction of road and train lines respectively about 25 acres and 400 acres of private land would be required for acquisition.

For road communication while the existing road would be widened for construction of rail lines from Amarda road to Chaumukh, private land would be required.

And about 8 km stretch embankment would be constructed along the bank of the Subarnarekha river near Chaumukh end to prevent flood and jetties would be constructed to facilitate fishing

activities, he said, adding that the port would enhance economic activities and boost all-round growth.

The meeting while attended by about 250 people; most of them spoke in favour of the port barring a few who expressed fear of losing their land.

It may be noted for the port while a MoU was signed by the Odisha Government with Creative Port Development in 2006, yet the project couldn't take off after initial works for years due to certain hiccups including defence and CRZ objections.

Again in 2019 a MoU with Tata was signed for the port and the foundation stone was laid by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik ahead of the general elections that year.

# Drunk men ransack Nayagarh rly station

## As opposed for liquor consumption

**PNS ■ NAYAGARH**

A group of inebriated men barged into the Nayagarh Town railway station and ransacked properties after RPF personnel opposed their liquor

consumption near the station late on Sunday night. The drunken men also set some documents on fire in the office. Station Manager Sanjay Pradhan sustained injuries in his head as the miscreants attacked him too.

As per reports, around 15 persons were consuming liquor near the station when the RPF personnel opposed their act.

The drunken men then barged into the office, resorted to vandalism and torched some documents. The RPF personnel were overpowered by attackers as four cops were present at station. The Station Manager has lodged a complaint in this regard with the Nayagarh Town police station. An accused has been detained by police for questioning.



# No bhog, diya for Budhi Thakurani darshan

## Police issue guidelines

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

The Brahmapur police have, in view of the surge in corona positive cases in Ganjam district, issued a set of guidelines pertaining to the darshan of Maa Budhi Thakurani by the devotees in public interest. According to the guidelines, the devotees and the

general public can avail darshan between 5 am to 10 am in the morning and again between 4 pm to 9 pm in the afternoon.

Similarly, the devotees will not be permitted to offer bhogas, coconuts, banana and diyas before deity. They only have freedom to have darshan. Similarly, the district police have made face mask and social distancing mandatory for devotees coming

for darshan. The devotees will have to remain vigilant about the gold ornaments if they wear and other belongings while availing darshan.

The devotees shall have to maintain strict discipline and follow Covid-19 guidelines and have to pass through barricade while going for darshan and return through barricade after the darshan is over.



# Vegetable vendors jam Kalimandir road in Jharsuguda

## Locals face multiple inconveniences

**PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA**

There seems to be no end to woes for commuters travelling on the Kalimandir temple road, which often witnesses traffic jams. After closure of Haats, the vegetable vendors put their shops in front of the temple of Kalimandir. The local residents say lack of parking space and encroachments

by vegetable vendors have made their life difficult. Other than a school, various banks and private firms have their offices in the area. Kalimandir Para, Ghosh Para, Sivji Colony, Tali Para, Pahadi Mandir and Aadarsh Colony are thickly populated areas.

People from different parts of the town are coming for marketing to the place. Besides, devotees are coming to offer their prayers at Kalimandir. The Kalimandir temple area is not an authorised place for the



vendors to sell their vegetables as there is risk of accidents. The authorities must take note of the problem, said Pankaj Naik, a resident of Kalimandir temple area. On same road towards Engineering School near Lotan Bagicha, there is a wide area

and if these vegetable vendors shift to that place, it will be better, opined many residents in area. Further as Government has restricted gatherings at temple, the management of Kalibari has restricted celebrations like Amabasya, Neel Sasthi, Pratistha Divas, Bengali New Year.

No Bhogs are cooked for devotees. But if the administration does not co-operate to restrict such gatherings, what is justification of imposing restrictions, they asked.

## Response to CM's call

# OSL to distribute 1L free masks

**PNS ■ CUTTACK**

A major corporate house in eastern India, the Odisha Stevedores Limited (OSL) has decided to distribute one lakh masks free of cost among people.

This is in response to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's call for a 14-day 'Mask Abhiyan' to keep Covid-19 at bay. OSL chairman Mahima Mishra distributed masks among public



for creating awareness on use of masks in pandemic. He said OSL aims to distribute one lakh masks among the poor and needy in this fortnight-long drive. In a special programme organised in front of OSL

Corporate Office here on Monday, Mishra launched the drive by distributing masks to common men and women.

OSL directors Chandan Mishra, Charchit Mishra and Chinmaya Mishra were present.

The OSL Group is also going to hold a two-day corporate vaccination programme in which 260 OSL staffs will be vaccinated. The Group conducted RT-PCR test of 217

staffs recently. Chairman Mahimananda Mishra said OSL Group is fully committed for cause of State and, accordingly, extending its support to the Chief Minister's 'Mask Abhiyan'.

"We started this drive in Cuttack and will distribute masks in other OSL operation area across India. We appeal to all corporates to extend their support in this period of Covid crisis."

# 103 Emami staff test Covid +ve

**PNS ■ BALESWAR**

As many as 103 employees of the Emami Paper Mills Limited here have tested positive for Covid-19, informed Baleswar Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) on Monday.

On the day, 158 fresh Covid cases were reported from Baleswar district, of which 101 were from Emami Paper Mills. Earlier, two cases had been detected from paper mill. With sharp rise in Covid



cases in paper mill, district administration closed one of its three units to prevent spread of infections at plant.

As part of Covid-19 guidelines, one colony of paper mill has been declared as a micro containment zone following detection of positive cases on a large scale.

# Hundreds join breast, cervix cancer camp held by B'pur Rotary Club

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

The Rotary Club of Brahmapur (RCB) in collaboration with the Brahmapur Marwari Mahila Samiti and Bheshaj Clinic organised a mega health awareness camp on "Breast and Cervix Cancer" here on Sunday. President of Marwari Mahila Samiti Ruby Khemani said hundreds of breast and cervix cancer patients attended the camp to avail the benefits free con-

sultations given by a team of specialised doctors. The locals hailed the efforts made by the Mahila Samiti and the Rotary Club Managing Committee for their noble endeavour for the cause of humanity.

Among those present in the mega healthcare camp included RCB president Rotarian T Parthasarathy Tankala, Dr Bishmita Mallik from the Department of Oncology and Gynecology of MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Dr Saroj Kumar Dash from the Department of Oncology (Cancer) of MKCG, project chairman Rotarian Madhusmita Sahu, president of Marwari Mahila Samiti Ruby Khemani and several other healthcare professionals.



# Cops thrash youth for no mask

**PNS ■ BHADRAK**

Several police personnel allegedly thrashed a youth at the Aradi police outpost in Bhadrak district as he was not wearing mask as part of Covid-19 guidelines.

As per reports, one Subharanjan Mekap of Betali village had on April 10 visited a temple without wearing mask, for which he was detained by police.

While his family members were having a discussion with cops at outpost, Subharanjan started recording video of incident with his mobile phone, as



a result of which the policemen got irked and beat him.

# 73rd Foundation Day

# Self-sufficient neighbourhood planning best for BBSR



**MAYARANI PRAHARAJ**

April 13 is the Foundation Day of Bhubaneswar. It was on this day in 1948 that India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had laid the foundation stone for the new capital city of Odisha. The city was bordered by forests until 1947 when it was chosen as the site for new capital. The new capital constructed on a green field site.

The Master Plan of Bhubaneswar was prepared by the internationally acclaimed urban planner, Otto H Koenigsberger in 1948 for a population of 40,000 over an area of 16.48 sqkm with a density of 10 to 12 families per acre.

The initial planning was done on neighbourhood planning concept. In each neighbourhood, rows of Government quarters were built. Large Government build-

ings and a market place were designed at the town center. Koenigsberger's visualisation was of a horizontal plan in consideration with budget and the general characteristics of the living style of the people.

Each residential neighbourhood is planned around an educational and recreational centre with open spaces for community functions.

Local shopping area for every two sets of neighbourhoods is grouped together with the intention of improving business prospects. The town centre consisted of the market building, weekly market, and daily market.

Koenigsberger's overall design for Bhubaneswar was based on the simple device of one main traffic artery to which the neighbourhood units were attached. Initially emphasis was given to meet housing requirements of Ministers and gazetted officers, ministerial and nongazetted staffs and class IV employees.

Six units were designed namely Unit - I (Bapuji Nagar), II (Ashok Nagar), III (Kharavela Nagar), IV (Bhauma Nagar), V (Keshari Nagar), and VI (Ganga Nagar). Public utilities like market, hospital were distributed in each unit.

Unit-1 is the first of the six units, which caters to the daily market, first public bank and police station along with different types of quarters for the



Government employees. Unit V was earmarked for administrative functions. Other units were planned as residential neighbourhoods.

The city has now undergone various transformations. Bhubaneswar was a small sacred town in 1921 with population of 8,110 persons only. Later on the city became a class IV town and retained the same status until 1951.

In 1951 the population increased to 16,512. The population further increased to 38,211 in 1961, 1,05,491 in 1971 and 2,19, 211 in 1981. In

1991 population was 4, 11,542. Bhubaneswar got the NAC status in 1952. It became a Class III town in the next Census of 1961 and a Class I city with municipality status in 1971, depending on its population strength and other urban characteristics.

The city was declared a Municipal Corporation in the year 1994 and according to the 2001 census it accommodated 6,48,032 people in the city. As per the 2011 census, the population of Bhubaneswar is 837,737 and covers an area of 135 sqkm. The decadal growth

rate of the city is 30.2 per cent indicating that Bhubaneswar is growing very fast. The Temple City, Bhubaneswar is part of the tentative list to qualify for inclusion in the World Heritage List. The city declared as the smart city proposal in 2015.

Now-a-days there are loss of green cover due to different development activities. On the other hand the density of population has increased in different neighbourhoods.

In the present situation children find it difficult to go to school and women find it difficult to move around the

city. A climate change effect has been observed during hot summers. There are pollution problems due to increase of vehicles on the road.

A report by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) revealed that pollutants in the ambient air were found to be far above the permissible limit at all the six pollution monitoring stations in the city. However, the pollution level during the Covid 19 lockdown fell drastically in Bhubaneswar.

The air quality in Bhubaneswar improved significantly and got better with a 60% drop in particulate matter (PM) within a week during the lockdown period. This was due to the less number of vehicles on the road. However, the negative side is that corona virus affected the life style of all the people in the city.

When lockdown restrictions for Covid -19 were lifted, people gathered in different public spaces. Narrow streets, few green open spaces, crowded commercial places and apartment buildings with common staircase and lift make it difficult to maintain proper social distancing. As per the WHO guidelines, the quarantine, social distancing and isolation are essential to reduce the spread of the disease.

There is a need to keep people safe and healthy in the temple city. The built environ-

ment can play a significant role in creating a healthy environment during pandemic situation. The buildings in different neighbourhoods, transportation facility, and open spaces including parks and playgrounds significantly affect the life of individuals.

We have learned some lessons during lockdown which gives an opportunity to plan the city for better future. The pandemic underlines the need for our cities to incorporate smart technologies for real-time data monitoring about the status of corona virus cases in different wards. This can help to prepare containment plan with proper medical facilities for early recovery of the patients and create awareness to take precautionary measures.

It is time to rethink the concepts of self-sufficient neighbourhood planning applied in Bhubaneswar by Otto Koenigsberger. Neighbourhood unit planning offers many advantages. It is part of the development plan which provides the opportunity to develop each unit as per the present as well as future need.

It can provide parks, gardens and playground for recreation and leisure activity considering the number of population. The people of the neighbourhoods need not go to big market complexes and big

shopping malls which are located at several kilometers from each neighbourhoods. It is a good opportunity to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists to move in their own neighbourhood. This way residents travel short distances for their daily need. It will reduce the transportation cost and protect the area from air pollution. It is necessary to think about the urban development which will create a healthy environment for future.

In the pandemic situation people should change their behaviour and they should avoid large gathering in market complexes and big malls. Rather, they should avail the facilities provided in each neighbourhoods and prevent overcrowding.

There is a need to provide green spaces between the neighbourhoods. The open spaces, parks, recreational areas and plantation should be properly organised in each neighbourhood to provide environmental functions such as control of microclimate and environmental pollution. Besides, it is desirable to provide healthcare facility to all residents. This will create a healthy environment during pandemic situation and also for the future.

(Dr Praharaj teaches in Department of Architecture, College of Engineering and Technology, Bhubaneswar)

# CBI summons ex-Maha Home Minister over graft charges



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has called former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh for questioning on Wednesday in connection with a preliminary inquiry into probe allegations of corruption levelled against him by former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh and suspended police officer Sachin Waze.

On Sunday, the agency had grilled two Personal Assistants—Sanjeev Palande and Kundan— in connection with the ongoing PE for over eight hours. Two drivers of Waze were grilled on Sunday.

Waze, an Assistant Police Inspector, is also accused in the NIA case relating to investigation of parking of an explosive-laden SUV outside industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence in Mumbai.

The CBI notice, calling Deshmukh to join its probe team in Mumbai, was issued on Monday morning, a day after grilling of his two aides Sanjeev



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Palande and Kundan, sources said.

The CBI is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the allegations against Deshmukh levelled by Singh after he was removed from the coveted post of Mumbai Police Commissioner.

Singh's allegations are said to have been corroborated by Waze before the CBI probe team. Waze is in the custody of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) which is probing the SUV bomb scare case, the sources said.

Last week, the Bombay High Court had directed the CBI to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the allegations levelled by Singh against Deshmukh and submit a report within 15 days.

In a letter addressed to Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Singh had

# IAF Commanders' meet to discuss tension at LAC, LoC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh and the situation at the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir will figure prominently during the three-day IAF Commanders' conference here starting Thursday.

The top brass will review operational readiness to meet any threat from China in the backdrop of the continuing friction points at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Given the always present threat of a two-front war simultaneously with China and Pakistan, the IAF commanders are likely to draw their future strategies in the three-day meet. It will be first bi-annual conclave of the IAF brass this year and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate it.

Besides these operational issues, the commanders will also review the ongoing modernisation plans of the IAF. With the induction of Rafale fighter jets from France going as per schedule, the commanders are likely to focus to their attention on manufacturing 110 multi-role aircraft within the country.

This strategic partnership project is worth over ten billion

# Several parts of country likely to get rainfall in next 5 days: IMD



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said several parts of the country are likely to receive rainfall in the next five days due to different cyclonic circulations.

According to the National Weather Forecasting Centre of the IMD, under the influence of trough and cyclonic circulations over the south peninsula, scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with a thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph are likely over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha during next 4-5 days and over Jharkhand during next 24 hours.

The IMD said a fresh active western disturbance is very likely to affect the western Himalayan region during April 14-17 and adjoining

# Now, Aahaar Kranti in India for balanced diet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Though India produces as much as two times the amount of calories that it consumes, unfortunately, many in the country are still malnourished, mainly because of a lack of nutritional awareness across sections in the society.

Now, to spread the mes-



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is a need for a nutritionally balanced diet also in the context of the current Covid-19 pandemic. A healthy body would be able to handle the infection much better with greater immunity and higher resilience," said a statement from the Science and Technology Ministry.

Vijina Bharati (Vibha) and Global Indian Scientists' and Technocrats' Forum (GIST) have come together to conceptualize the mission with the motto of Uttam Aahaar Uttam Vichaar ('Good Diet-Good Cognition').

The United Nations has also declared 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, which vites very well with Aahaar Kranti. Fruits and vegetables make a large part of a balanced diet. Further, UN sustainable goal # 3 that emphasises on human well-being reads, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." This goal too makes Aahaar

# Sonia's letter to PM on Covid triggers charge of 'lobbying'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

amid a massive surge in the country once again, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighting certain issues and suggested some points to take into consideration to curb the spread of virus.

The ruling BJP, however, accused the grand old party for "lobbying" for a particular pharmaceutical company.

Sonia, in her letter which comes after her virtual meeting with the Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States, underlined three issues for PM's consideration and appropriate action.

"I have had a detailed interaction with the Chief Ministers of States ruled by the Congress Party and Ministers from States where the Congress is in alliance Governments, to take stock of the most disturbing Covid-19 situation," Sonia said in her letter.

Speaking on vaccinations, she said, "Vaccines are our foremost hope. Sadly, most of the states, are left with a stock of just 3 to 5 days. While it will be necessary on one hand to substantially ramp up our domestic production capacity. It will also be prudent to allow emergency use authorities of all the vaccine candidates that have the required clearances without any further delay."

BJP's national general secretary BL Santosh countered the calls for approval to all vaccines and said, "Sputnik V had been approved for emergency use in India after bridge study by Dr

# Vice President calls for ending gender discrimination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday called for ending every form of gender discrimination in the society and to ensure equal rights to women in every field of activity.

Releasing a Commemorative Postage Stamp in memory of the former chief of the Brahma Kumaris, Rajyogini Dadi Janki, Naidu praised the Brahma Kumaris for being a women led organisation. He said that this worldwide movement has been an exemplary champion of empowerment and independence of women, demonstrating the fact that spirituality unites an individual with his social and natural environment. When such harmony exists, one can contribute positively to society and the world, he said.

# NGT nixes review plea for its order directing removal of illegal constructions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has dismissed a plea seeking review of its order directing removal of illegal constructions in south Delhi's Jaunapur and Dera Mandi forest areas.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel said direction for removing the encroachment could not be recalled while the issue as to whether the encroachment is there or not is yet to be determined by the statutory authorities.

"Since the tribunal has not undertaken the exercise of determining individual issues and only directed compliance of mandate of law by statutory authorities, if the applicants are aggrieved, they are free to take their appropriate statutory remedies against orders by which they are aggrieved," the bench said.

The NGT had earlier directed the Delhi government to remove illegal constructions in south Delhi's Jaunapur and Dera Mandi forest areas, saying forest laws cannot be defeated by allowing encroachments.

The tribunal had noted the submission that the proposed demolition on August 18, 2020, could not be held due to the non-availability of the police force despite informing them well in advance to depute sufficient police on the date of demolition.

"While it is true that removing such encroachment is a challenge but if the Rule of Law is not to be enforced, we will have a lawless society. Forest laws cannot be defeated by allowing encroachments and thereafter pleading helpless in enforcing the law," the bench had said.

According to the status report filed by the Deputy Commissioner, South District, there are about 5,000 encroachers and 750-800 structures set up illegally over a period of time and about 3000 encroachers are living at another camp.

The tribunal was hearing a plea by south Delhi resident Amarjit Singh Nalwa and others seeking execution of a 2015 NGT order directing the Delhi government to remove encroachments.

# Waste storage facilities need to be compliant with rules, says NGT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's waste storage facilities, Dhalaos, need to be compliant with Solid Waste Management Rules, the National Green Tribunal has said while directing a committee to hold a meeting on the issue within a month.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel formed the committee comprising Secretary, Urban Development, Delhi; Central Pollution Control Board; Delhi Pollution Control Committee and local bodies in the national capital.

The bench said: "The meeting may be presided over by the Secretary, Urban Development, Delhi. The nodal agency will be CPCB and DPCC for coordination and compliance. Further action may be taken in accordance with the decision taken in the said meeting. If necessary, CPCB may issue an appropriate Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the subject applicable in all States/UTs."

The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by Delhi resident Anubhav against non-removal of garbage from Military Road, Bapa Nagar side, Karol Bagh.

The petition stated that the garbage pit where the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NrDMC) used to collect the garbage is situated in the middle of the residential area and it is causing acute respiratory health problems to the residents of the area.

# India must withdraw from Quad alliance: CPM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

serious concern about the American Seventh Fleet warship's blatant intrusion into India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters off the coast of Lakshadweep violating international law and the sovereignty of our country.

"Moreover, the arrogant statement of the Seventh Fleet exposes its intentions not to respect the long-standing India's maritime claims.

At the same time the response of the Indian government is very weak. It shows once again in the name of strengthening its role in the Indo-Pacific, it became a junior partner to the US and serving the American interests in Indo-Pacific by joining the Quad alliance," CPI National Secretariat in a statement.

Communist Party of India strongly demands that to safeguard our sovereignty and self-respect it should come out from the Quad alliance, added the statement, urging Modi Government to maintain India's sovereignty and self respect.

# CMERI exhibits solid waste management, ginger-turmeric processing technologies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) exhibited several technologies related to ginger-turmeric processing and municipal solid waste management in a conclave in Meghalaya, the Council for Scientific and Industrial

# The technologies were exhibited in the 'Conclave and Techno-Fair on Transforming Meghalaya State through Science and Technology Interventions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Research (CSIR) said on Monday.

The technologies were exhibited in the 'Conclave and Techno-Fair on Transforming Meghalaya State through Science and Technology Interventions' organised by the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR), an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), on April 9-10.

"The technologies exhibited by CSIR-CMERI at the conclave are the ginger-turmeric processing technologies, municipal solid waste management, solar tree and artifacts, complete water purification technologies (arsenic-iron-fluoride) and solutions, effluent treatment plant, hybrid mini-grid among others," the CSIR said.

# SC refuses to entertain plea for uniform retirement age for SC and HC judges

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking uniform retirement age for judges of the apex court and the high courts.

At present, the retirement age for the Supreme Court judges is 65 years whereas for the high court judges, it is 62 years.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramaswami observed that the petitioner can make a representation to the government on the issue.

Petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay, an advocate and BJP leader, argued that different age of retirements for judges of the high courts and the top court is irrational.

# EC fixes April 30 to elect 3 RS members from Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Consequent to the direction by the Kerala High Court's directive on Monday to hold the biennial election to the Rajya Sabha from the Kerala Legislative Assembly before May 2, the Election Commission of India (ECI) fixed April 30 as the date of polling to elect the three members to the Upper House from the State.

The ECI had announced earlier that the election to the three Rajya Sabha seats falling vacant from the State would be held on April 12 but deferred the election citing the legislative Assembly poll scheduled for April 6.

Justice PV Asha while disposing of the petition filed by Secretary of the Kerala Legislative

Assembly and S Sarma, a CPI(M) leader, challenging the ECI decision to defer the polls to Rajya Sabha said it was for the present House to elect the three members in lieu of the vacancies to be caused by the April 21 retirement of three members.

"It is up to the ECI to fix the schedule of election. But that does not mean that the Commission could fix any date," said Asha.

On April 21, three MPs, Abdul Wahab of Muslim League, Vayalar Ravi of the Congress and KK Ragesh, the CPI(M)'s intellectual face in New Delhi are completing their tenure and retiring from the Upper House.

If only the election is held before May 2, 2021, the CPI(M) could send two of its nominees to Rajya Sabha. The Congress-led UDFFF has already announced

that Wahab would be the Front's nominee.

The petitioners asserted that Section 12 of the RPA 1951 envisaged completion of the entire process of election before the actual retirement so as to fill up the seats as soon as the seats became vacant, particularly since Article 83 provided that the council of States is a continuing body.

Judge Asha said that the intention was not to keep the seat unfilled but to complete the process of election before the retirement of the members so as to have the full strength of the members of the Upper House represent the State. A different view is warranted only when there is any law and order situation or any practical impossibility, the judge said.

# Navratri celebrations in J&K to be low-key affair amid rise in corona cases

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The nine day long Navratra festival which starts from Tuesday is expected to remain a low key affair due to a spike in Covid-19 cases.

For the last couple of days the overall footfall at the cave shrine is already witnessing a declining trend.

At present the Union Territory administration has fixed the upper limit of 25,000 pilgrims who can perform darshan inside the sanctum sanctorum on a daily basis but close to 14,000 or less pilgrims are undertaking the yatra for the last couple of days.

During the Navratra festival the shrine board authorities are expecting a marginal increase but compared to previous years the mood in the Katra township is not upbeat.

The virus has spread in the Katra town affecting a large number of local residents/members of the business community.

On its part the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board authorities have decorated the cave shrine with ornamental flowers to attract the pilgrims but closer look at the yatra statistics clearly revealed rising number of coronavirus cases is expected to cast its shadow on the nine day long festival. The businessmen in Katra including hoteliers, tour operators and those running dry fruit/handicraft businesses are already a worried lot as they are staring at a bleak future ahead.

The district administration in Reasi has also geared up its entire machinery to strictly enforce SOP's at the Katra base camp and has also advised the Shrine Board Authorities to follow all the guidelines to prevent spread of Coronavirus at the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi.

Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board Monday visited Bhawan and various other locations on the track and on spot reviewed these arrangements. He also took stock of the arrangements at Yatra Registration Counters at Katra and, besides, at Darshani Deodi, Banganga, Adhkuwari, Tarakote Marg, Sanjichhat, Himkoti Marg, Bhawan, Bhairon Complex and at other locations enroute Katra to Bhawan with Deputy CEOs and others.

Giving details of these arrangements, the CEO said that like in the past, the Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Atka and the area surrounding it have been beautifully decorated with exquisite flowers. Likewise, the illumination of the Bhawan area with attractive and colourful lights has also been done.

He added that as was done in the last year's Shardiya Navratras, there will be bhajan and bhaini performances by the renowned artistes during Morning and Evening Atka Aarti during these Navratras also. Other special features of these arrangements include organising of Shat Chandi Maha Yagya at the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji during the Navratras for peace, prosperity and health of humanity. The Shat Chandi Maha Yagya will be telecast live from 10.30 am to noon daily during the Navratras, he added.

# Army chief attends closing ceremony of multi-lateral counterterrorism exercise in B'desh

**Dhaka:** Indian Army chief Gen MM Naravane on Monday attended the closing ceremony of the 10-day-long multilateral UN-mandated counterterrorism exercise held in Bangladesh and praised the members of the Army contingent from India who participated in the drills.

"General MM Naravane #ClosingCeremony of Multinational Exercise #ShantirOgroseena2021 and addressed the participants of

the exercise," the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) tweeted. During the Shantir Ogrosena 2021 (Frontrunners of Peace) exercise, he also interacted with the members of the Indian Army contingent and lauded them for their high standards of training and professionalism, according to another tweet. There were 30 personnel in the Indian Army contingent. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was the Chief Guest of the ceremony,

ADG PI said. The counterterrorism exercise, which commenced on April 4, was participated by the Armed Forces of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka along with observers from the US, UK, Turkey, Kuwait, Singapore and Saudi Arabia. The aim of the exercise was to strengthen the procedures and enhance interoperability amongst neighbourhood countries to ensure robust peacekeeping operations in the region. **PTI**

# Andhra Police arrests 10 treasure hunters for hammering Nandi idol

IANIS ■ JAGAMARLA (ANDHRA PRADESH)

Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor Police arrested 10 persons for stealing and destroying a Nandi idol from a temple in a Dalit colony in Jagamarla village, believing that diamonds were embedded inside it.

Police arrested M. Venkata Chalapati (43), K. Srinivasulu (34), K. Hari (34), B. Sridhar (27), G. Venkatesh (24), P. Dasaradaiah (40), G. Narasimhulu (60), K. Ranga Babu (40), D. Prakash (34) and B. Munnendra (29).

On April 4, police received a complaint that the Nandi idol belonging to Vandana Malleswara Swamy temple, Srinivasulu dispatched Hari, who along with Chalapati, Sridhar, Venkatesh and Ranga Babu stole the idol and hid it in a pond at Gangesagaram village belonging to one Munnindra.

The treasure hunters planned to break open the idol on March 27 but one of the thieves, Ranga Babu, came with Prakash Naidu, Narasimhulu, Dasaradhayya and Gopi to steal it again from the place where it was hidden.

Jagamarla forest area, prompting the cops to round them up and question.

"On questioning, they admitted that they decamped with the Nandi idol, believing that it had diamonds inside it. Another five more persons have been arrested as part of the probe," said a police official.

Chittoor superintendent of police (SP) S. Senthil Kumar said that Srinivasulu, also known as Ashwathama, belonging to Nagarkurnool district in Telangana and his local friend Hari from Kandada together went to check the idol on March 21, which they would eventually decamp with.

Kumar said on March 26, Srinivasulu dispatched Hari, who along with Chalapati, Sridhar, Venkatesh and Ranga Babu stole the idol and hid it in a pond at Gangesagaram village belonging to one Munnindra.

The treasure hunters planned to break open the idol on March 27 but one of the thieves, Ranga Babu, came with Prakash Naidu, Narasimhulu, Dasaradhayya and Gopi to steal it again from the place where it was hidden.

In the second theft of the idol, Ranga Babu and his accomplices stole it away to Poyya village in Thottembedu mandalam and buried it.

On April 2, they dug out the idol and hammered it into pieces to find no diamonds in it. Since abandoning the idol pieces will raise suspicion, they threw the Nandi pieces in Swarnamukhi river.

"Gopi, who broke the idol into pieces died in a road accident three days ago while the remaining 10 accused have been arrested, along with the confiscation of an auto rickshaw, one Tata Ace, three two-wheelers and the idol pieces," he said. This incident comes in light of several alleged temple attacks which already rocked the southern state.

Under the TDP government, 163 temple offences were reported in 2015, 139 in 2017, 123 in 2018 and 177 in 2019, when the government transitioned to the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

In 2020, a year which saw an uproar following the chariot burning at the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Antarvedi, there were 143 alleged temple offences.

# Will neither impose lockdown, nor let people die in misery, says Yogi

**Lucknow:** Asking officials to be on their toes to control the exponential spread of Covid-19 disease across the State, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath clarified that neither his Government will impose a lockdown nor let the people die of misery.

"It is the responsibility of the officers to ensure that there is no shortage of hospital beds for the patients. The people should get all facilities and there should be no shortage of essential items in the market," CM said while addressing officials in the meeting here on Monday.

Expressing anger over private hospitals and labs fleeing people by charging more than the prescribed rate, he directed officials to take action against them. He said that nobody will be allowed to take advantage of the helplessness of the people.

"Stop it strictly. Incorrect information will result in harsh action against the guilty," he said and directed officials to takeover such hospitals. "Investigation report should not be delayed and this should be communicated to the labs," he said.

He emphasized on the expansion of lab and testing capabilities. Instructions have been given to increase the test capacity of RTPCR to 70 per cent.

He said: "Our priority is to implement an effective strategy to stop the spread of Covid-19. We will have to fight the pandemic vigorously with full preparation as there is no scope for any sort of negligence in this fight." **PNS**

# 8 killed, 4 hurt in road accident in J&K's Doda

IANIS ■ JAMMU

At least eight passengers were killed and four seriously injured on Monday in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district.

Police sources said a mini bus travelling on the Thathri-Gandola road went out of the driver's control and dropped into Kalnai river 42 Kms from Doda town.

"Eight passengers were killed and 4 seriously injured in this accident. A rescue operation has already started," police said.

The ill-fated mini bus was on its way from Doda to Chillili village.

Meanwhile, an IAF helicopter from Jammu city was pressed into action for the rescue of critically injured passengers, a defence ministry spokesman said.

Authorities are ascertaining the exact number of passengers who were travelling in the mini bus when the accident happened.

## SUV PLANTING-HIRAN MURDER CASES

# Mumbai Police suspends Vaze's former colleague API Kazi

TN RAGHUNATHAN ■ MUMBAI

A day after he was arrested by the NIA in connection with the twin explosive laden SUV planting and alleged Mansukh Hiran murder cases, the Mumbai police on Monday suspended Assistant Police Inspector (API) Riyazuddin Kazi, a close associate and colleague of incarcerated police officer Sachin Vaze.

Kazi is the second serving officer from the Mumbai police to have been suspended in the twin sensational cases. API Vaze, who had been arrested on March 13, was later suspended from the Mumbai police force on March 15.

Kazi, who was on Sunday remanded by a holiday court in NIA custody till April 16, was directly working under Vaze, an API heading the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) of the

Crime Branch-CID of Mumbai Police. Kazi was shunted out of the CIU last month.

The NIA is looking into Kazi's role in the planning of a Gelatin sticks' laden Scorpio and a threatening letter inside the vehicle, in the vicinity of Mukesh Ambani's 27-storey residence "Antilia" on Carmichael Road in south Mumbai on February 25 and the subsequent alleged murder of Thane businessman Mansukh Hiran.

Hiran's body was recovered from the marshy Reti-Bunder creek Mumbra in the neighbouring Thane district on March 5.

The NIA suspects that acting allegedly at the behest of Vaze, Kazi might destroyed evidence in the case and procured fake vehicle number plates number plates

Sources said that Kazi was

- in a CCTV footage recovered by the NIA -- was seen entering a number plates shop at Vikhroli in n orth-east Mumbai. In the footage, he was also seen conversing with the outlet's owner. In addition, he was seen taking away a digital video recorder and a computer from the shop.

Kazi is the fourth accused to be arrested in the SUV planting and the alleged Mansukh Hiran murder cases. Vaze was the first accused to have been arrested by the NIA which registered an FIR in the explosive-laden SUV recovery case on March 8. Vaze, who was arrested on March 13 in connection with the gelatin sticks laden Scorpio recovery case, was earlier booked under sections 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy) 286 (negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance), 465 (forgery) 473

(making or possessing counterfeit seal) and 506 -2 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 4 (a)(b)(i) of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908. He was subsequently booked under sections 16 (Punishment for Terror act) and 18 (Punishment for conspiracy etc) of the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

Subsequently, Maharashtra's Anti Terrorism -- which initially investigated the circumstances leading to the alleged murder of Hiran -- on March 21 arrested convicted Mumbai Police constable Vinayak B. Shinde (51) and a cricket bookie Naresh R. Gaur (31) in connection with Hiran's alleged murder. The arrest of Shinde and Gaur came a day after the Union Home Ministry asking the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to

take over the investigations into the murder of Hiran.

Shinde and Gaur are said to be accomplices of Vaze. Shinde is a dismissed policeman, who has been convicted in the case involving the fake encounter of Ramnarayan Gupta alias Lakhna Bhaiya.mn Shinde has been on parole.

The investigations by the ATs have revealed that Shinde was in regular touch with Vaze and helped the latter in his activities.

During the investigations that followed, the NIA seized from Shinde and Gaur two mobile, one iPhone, 7 SIM cards, a blank cover of SIM card, a note with 14 mobile numbers mentioned including 5 in the name of arrested-suspected cop and prime accused Sachin Vaze with 'Ok' written (for activation) beside them.

# Make Remdesivir available to every patients, HC to Guj Govt

**Gandhinagar:** The Gujarat High Court on Monday pulled up the State Government for having such a system that put entire control of remdesivir injections under one agency, asking why was the crucial anti-Covid medicine not made available for everybody.

It also suggested that the government set up accountability at every booth level to keep a check on the outbreak.

In wake of the rising number of coronavirus cases in the state and the worsening situation in healthcare facilities, the high court had taken a suo moto cognizance of the issue and filed a PIL, titled 'Uncontrolled upsurge and serious management issues in Covid control', with the Central and state governments made respondents.

The bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Bhargav D Karia, set up to hear the matter, heard Advocate General, Kamal Trivedi, on behalf of the state government and posed a salvo of questions on various fronts due to which the present uncontrolled situation arose.

"Initially, when the pandemic struck last year, people were advised to home quarantine and also get treated at home. Now why have you changed it and insist on hospitalisation? Why are you insisting that remdesivir should only be available at hospitals and not for home patients quarantined who require the injections? Why is it not being available at all the hospitals? Why is it not available for anyone who needs it?"

Controlling these injections by supply from one outsourced agency is not at all in public interest," it said.

Accusing hospitals of exploiting the situation, the court said: "We have come to know that hospitals have refused to admit patients despite having beds available."

The court also noted that "right now it takes 5 to 7 days for a common man to get himself RT-PCR tested. By the time he or she gets results, has infected a lot many others."

"Why is it taking so long? We advise ramping up the testing facilities and centres," it said.

As the court asked the government what steps were taken to ensure the reduction of staff in various offices, the Advocate General said that only the paan shop owners association had come forward and voluntarily had decided to shut down for the weekends.

"Then they are acting with more wisdom and responsibility," the court observed.

The court also stressed that fighting this pandemic was impossible without the cooperation of people, but "the people had lost trust in administration".

"We are not happy with many of the policies of the government and there are some things which need to be corrected. At least people should feel that government is doing something. At present there is a total deficit in trust of people in the administration. That trust should be restored," it maintained. **IANIS**

# Bihar reports 7,225 new Covid cases in last 48 hours

IANIS ■ PATNA

In Bihar, 7,225 people tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 48 hours and 12 lost their lives, according to the State health department officials on Monday.

An official said since the pandemic began last year the overall tally in the State has reached 2,83,229, including 1,610 persons who lost their lives.

He said that 1,053 persons recovered from Covid-19 in the last 24 hours.

The state capital, Patna, is the most affected city in Bihar where infection is hitting the frontline corona warriors.

On Sunday, two doctors and seven medical staff of Patna Medical College and hospital tested Covid positive. On Saturday, two doctors of AIIMS Patna and nine doctors of the PMCH were put in isolation after their Covid-19 reports came positive.

A total of 1,382 infected persons were reported from Patna on Sunday. On Saturday, the health department detected 1,431 patients.

There are 157 patients infected with corona who are admitted in PMCH.

Raj Kumar Bhagat, a resident of Purnea district, who was admitted in the PMCH, died due to the corona infection on Sunday. Besides, a 90-year-old person of Jahanabad named Shiv Yadav also died due to Covid. **IANIS**

# Girl who was assumed dead by family, found in jail

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The girl (Pushplata), whom her family had assumed that she had die anywhere, is unaccounted for the charge of stealing a child and is in the prison here for the past two years. However, the mentally weak, married Pushpalata had revealed her maiden address to the police at the time of her arrest.

But the police could not verify that address and sent her to jail and made a report. Now the family of the girl has been discovered by the effort of the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority. The jail authorities have made the girl talk to her father and preparations to meet him soon. The special thing is that due to the treatment given by the jail administration, now her health is also quite fine.

Pushpalata, daughter of Durgesh Prasad, resident of Bihar was married to Raviranjana of Jharkhand. After marriage, Pushpalata and Raviranjana came to Delhi. The couple had a daughter Pari, who is four years old. According to Raviranjana, when Pushpalata became pregnant again, she suffered mental illness and disappeared from Delhi in June 2019, 15 days before delivery. On the morning of 28 July 2019, while stealing and carrying away a 6-year-old child Kabir, the people handed over Pushplata to police at Sarni Gate Bihari Nagar. At that time she was considered pregnant and mentally weak. The police sent her to jail in the case of child theft attempt.

# Christian leader's call for Hindu nation jolts Kerala politics

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala's political landscape was in for a jolt late on Sunday evening as PC George — MLA and head of the faction of a Kerala Congress — owing allegiance to the Catholic Church demanded that India be declared a Hindu Republic at the earliest.

"The rulers should understand that the minorities would be able to live here with a sense of security only if India is declared a Hindu Nation. I am speaking this knowing fully well what would be the impact of my words," said George (70), who represents Poonjar Assembly constituency and has been a seven-term member of Kerala Legislative Assembly.

George is seeking re-election from Poonjar for a record eighth time as an independent sans the support of no major players like the CPI(M), the Congress and the BJP. He was in the news recently when cadres belonging to extremist Islamic organizations disrupted his campaign meetings.

What made George to demand the authorities to declare India as a Hindu nation was the increasing number of Love Jihad incidents (wooing of non-Muslim girls by Muslim youth with the promise of marrying them only to dump them later in countries like Syria and Iraq as sex slaves). There were reports and surveys by NGOs like Christian Association for Social Action that found more than 2,000 Christian girls from Kerala ending up as victims of Love Jihad along with Hindu girls.

The Supreme Court said that there was no Love Jihad in India. But I am sure and certain that there is Love Jihad happening all over India. That's why I said that the

Supreme Court was wrong in its observation and assessment. The only way to save India from this predicament is to declare the country as a Hindu Republic," said George, a devote Catholic.

Addressing a public meeting at Thodupuzha, the senior legislator who wages a one-man army battle against corruption, said he has no complaints against the Muslim religion. But there are some misguided elements in the community who is out to disintegrate India and they are spoiling the reputation and good name of Islam. They have to be isolated and exposed to save all," said George.

Kevin Peter, who heads the Christian Association for Social Action (CASA), an umbrella organisation for the entire Christian sects in the country said the demand by George has to be noted seriously. "It is the indifference of the Congress-led UDF and the CPI(M) led LDF towards the genuine grievances of the Christian community that made George come out with a demand like it.

Though the Christian community is also a minority like the Muslims, the latter is allocated 80 per cent of the funds meant for minority welfare while the Christians have to content with just 20 per cent of the funds. This is nothing but gross injustice," said Peter.

The CASA leader said that though the community representatives have been alerting the unprecedented increase in the number of Christian girls ending up as victims to the evil designs of Love Jihad, no action has been taken by either of the fronts. "It was not CASA or P C George who alerted the nation about Love Jihad. **PTI**

# Muslim outfits welcome SC's decision to dismiss plea seeking removal of 26 verses from Quran

**Lucknow:** Muslim clerics and organisations on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision of rejecting a plea seeking removal of 26 verses from the Quran, saying this proves that religious books are treated with honour in the country.

The apex court termed as "absolutely frivolous" the petition filed by former Uttar Pradesh Waqf Board chairman Waseem Rizvi and dismissed it with a cost of ₹50,000.

"We welcome the decision of the Supreme Court. This proves that religious books are being treated with honour in the country. It will increase the confidence of Muslims in the Constitution and in the judiciary," All India Muslim Personal Law Board member Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali told PTI. He also demanded that the government take strict action against Rizvi so that "no one can raise questions on religious books in the future".

All India Shia Personal Law Board spokesperson Maulana Yasoob Abbas said that they congratulate Muslims of the country on this verdict. "We trust our judiciary and it will continue to give justice in the future too so that no one can raise a finger on Islam or any other religion," he said. **PTI**

# 6K Remdesivir vials arrive in Pune: Official

**Pune:** Amid a rise in coronavirus cases and clamour for Remdesivir, a key medicine in the treatment of the infection, a batch of 6,000 vials of the drug arrived in Pune on Monday for distribution in hospitals, said district collector Rajesh Deshmukh. All hospitals have been instructed to strictly follow directives issued by the state health department on prescribing Remdesivir to patients, Deshmukh added. The batch of 6,000 vials has been distributed in hospitals in proportion to the number of patients each facility has," he said, adding that flying squads have been formed to visit hospitals and pharmacy shops to check any irregularity in the drug's distribution. **PTI**

# 3 killed after being run over by truck in UP's Etawah

**Etawah (Uttar Pradesh):** Three persons were killed and eight others injured when a truck ran over them on the national highway in Etawah on Monday morning.

According to Medical Superintendent, Dr. Piyush, the deceased persons were on their way to Jhansi from New Delhi by car for participating in the Panchayat polls.

The passengers of the car were sitting on the side of the road after their car tyre was punctured near a roadside eatery.

Suddenly a truck came at high speed and ran over them. The driver apparently lost control over the vehicle. The doctor said the injured have been admitted to the hospital where their treatment is underway. There are two children among the injured persons who have been referred to Sefai, the doctor added. **IANIS**



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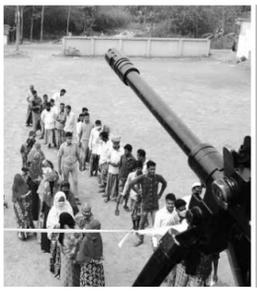
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PAPER WITH PASSION

## No golden rule

Armed Forces personnel react differently to different life-threatening situations

There are no golden rules for self-defence except that one has to gauge the gravity of the situation and act accordingly. Whether the security personnel deployed at West Bengal's polling stations would fire below or above the waist — especially as an agitated mob advances towards them — depends upon their threat perception and exigency. Even firing to kill is justified if the situation calls for it and if there are no other practical options. What is uncalled for in a certain situation can be well defensible in another. Recently, what happened in Sitalkuchi, Cooch Behar, is really unfortunate as four lives were lost in firing by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel and no amount of sympathy or compensation can bring them back.



However, what is more unfortunate is the blame game politics taking place between the BJP and the TMC. While Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee termed the incident "genocide", Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that her exhortation to gherao the Central forces had instigated the people to attack the CISF. Sceptics argue that the deaths could have been averted had the CISF jawans fired on their legs with the intention of dispersing the mob and not killing anybody — an argument echoed by Mamata. However, such suggestions are solely being made based on politicisation of the issue and are far from being practical; these people know nothing about what is required to be done by a professional force under such circumstances and have no idea of how fast things develop on the ground.

It cannot be denied that when an agitated mob of 300-400 people advances towards a polling booth to ransack it or towards the security personnel with an intention of snatching their weapons or even killing them should they put up resistance, the use of mild or medium force can aggravate the situation. In such a situation, the use of means like lathicharge, water cannon, rubber bullets or teargas, instead of acting as a deterrent, can rather act as a provocation to the mob which then can charge the personnel with more ferocity. What would follow is a bloodbath in which the security personnel and common citizens both lose their lives in large numbers. To keep the body count low and to disperse the bloodthirsty mob, there is no practical option but to fire with the intention to kill as only that would act as a deterrent under such circumstances. However, such nitty-gritty and technical knowhow are an integral part of the training of any professional force which is deployed to maintain law and order. Mamata's allegations that the CISF has no experience in controlling mobs are more unfounded than real. However, there should be a thorough inquiry into the incident and those responsible for instigating the violence should not be spared. If the security personnel are at fault, strictest action must be taken against those responsible. But we expect our politicians not to do any further politics on the matter — at least not over the deaths. It's plain shameful.

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### PICTALK



Devotees offer prayers at Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar during the ongoing Kumbh Mela

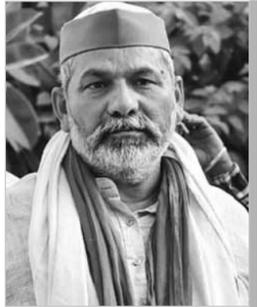
PTI

## Tikait flexes muscles

The farmers have renewed their dialogue call while throwing a challenge to the Haryana CM

It appears that Bharatiya Kisan Union leader and Samyukt Kisan Morcha linchpin Rakesh Tikait has returned to the protest theatre with renewed vigour after his sabatical, a period he had advised his comrades to utilise harvesting the season's crop till next month. Freshly back after attending to their domestic chores and familial duties, the cultivators sitting on dharna since November 2020 along the Capital's borders already made their presence felt last weekend when they blocked the Ghazipur border in what they said was a "warning to the Government". Thousands among these protesters have come from Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh, even though there now is a nationwide wave in support of their cause — the repeal of the three agriculture legislations that, they say, have been enacted to benefit certain corporates. But now, it seems, the farmer leaders have opted to flexing their muscles even though they well realise that no important political decisions at the national level would be taken in earnest till the results of elections to four States and a Union Territory are declared in early May.

It is in this light that Tikait is taking the fight to Haryana Chief Minister ML Khattar's door by claiming that the latter wouldn't be allowed to enter Badauli village in Panipat, where the Chief Minister is scheduled to be on April 14 for unveiling a statue of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on the Dalit icon's birth anniversary. The farmer leader alleged that the actual reason for Khattar's visit was to "disturb the amity" among the area's cultivators "as per the BJP's plot". To avoid causing any imagined injury among Babasaheb's followers, Tikait also clarified that the farmers were not against the statue, they were against Khattar. In the same vein, however, ostensibly not to shut down any possible avenue which may lead to a dialogue with the Centre, the farmer leaders have also claimed that they are still willing to talk to the Centre on the three contentious Acts if invited for the same. Their only preconditions remain that the talks should resume where these were discontinued on January 22 and that their demands for total repeal remain unchanged. Well, though it seems like catch-22 without any quick resolution in sight, one would sincerely hope that under no situation would either side resort to any abhorrent step, such as violence.



# Nepal staring at political disquiet

The Nepal top court's decision not favouring Oli has come as a surprise and now his political survival hangs by a fine thread



RISHI GUPTA

After long political and judicial scuffling in Nepal, its top court in two important verdicts nullified the dissolution of the democratically elected Parliament by the President and termed illegal the 2018 merger of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) into the Nepal Communist Party (NCP), saying that another party existed with the same name. It means that the UML and the Maoist parties are back to their old selves.

While the reinstatement of the House comes as a big blow to Prime Minister KP Oli, who has emerged as an ultra-nationalist leader, an unexpected verdict on the future of a divided NCP has eventually put a full stop to the power struggle between the party chairs of the erstwhile NCP, Oli and Prachanda.

The verdict is being seen as an extrajudicial effort to save the country from plunging into political instability. Considering Oli's influence over the President's office, the Council of Ministers, Security Council, extraconstitutional bodies and the Press, it was believed that the court would favour Oli and acknowledge his fact as the legitimate NCP. That would have left Prachanda with no option but to form a new faction. Oli's legal team had also believed in a favourable verdict but the actual result has deepened the political crisis. Now, if the Maoists withdraw support, the Government will fall. The Madhesh-based Janata Samajbadi Party might prove to be the kingmaker as it can support the Nepali Congress and the Maoists to form a Government or ally with Oli to give further lease to his premiership.

An expected outcome: The 2018 merger of the two mainstream rivals had generated optimism among the Nepalese people that the new leadership was showing political maturity. However, it was only a matter of political survival for Oli and Prachanda as the former had planned to weaken the



Opposition by bringing archrival Prachanda on board. Prachanda was facing serious corruption cases and the charges of *en masse* killing during the decade-long Maoist movement. Prachanda has gone on record to claim alleged 5,000 killings during the movement. Since Oli was the strongest ally, Prachanda could avoid trials at the UN and the International Court of Justice. Therefore, the merger was a self-serving decision by the duo against the widespread belief that they had shown political maturity in the interest of their people. Hence, the fallout was inevitable.

Blaming and seeking: With the eventual fall, Oli is seeking to mend ties with New Delhi. To reach out to India, he has appeared on a number of Indian news channels to cry foul against former Prime Minister Prachanda, blaming him for dividing the party. The same Oli created his political stronghold through his anti-India manoeuvring and bashing of the Indian media for being unfair towards the "victim" country.

Oli's public relations office and foreign policy advisory group had come fully geared to criticise India on the border



IF THE MAOISTS WITHDRAW SUPPORT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL FALL. THE MADHESH-BASED JANATA SAMAJBADI PARTY MIGHT PROVE TO BE THE KINGMAKER AS IT CAN SUPPORT THE NEPALI CONGRESS AND THE MAOISTS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT OR ALLY WITH OLI

dispute. These offices are now attempting all the tricks to reach out to New Delhi. Also, despite a projected bonhomie with China, Oli is pushing for the supplies of the COVID-19 vaccines from India.

However, testing the trust will be the core of India's new relations with Nepal. On the other hand, Oli's biased approach towards China had come at the cost of substantial economic losses. Also, he signed the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance with Beijing, endangering the lives and rights of 20,000 Tibetan refugees in Nepal. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an obsession with the current regime despite Sri Lanka's exposé of the Chinese wrongdoings.

While Oli may call it a balancing act between India and China, his actions speak otherwise. The alleged soft funding from China to Oli's political adventures in Nepal through the Madan Bhandari Foundation needs no explanation to assert his bonhomie with the dragon.

Uncertain future: While the politicians do not wish for Nepal to plunge back into insurgency, Oli's authoritarian attitude has cost Nepal dearly.

Politically, democracy is a casualty considering Oli's dream of a one-party rule in Nepal, with no political opponents outside and within the UML.

On the foreign policy front, Nepal, with its vast hydropower potential, can use India's expertise in generating power. A mutually beneficial plan could have paved the way for Nepal's economic growth. However, far from new agreements, Nepal seems to have no plan to revitalise treaties like the Mahakali, signed in 1996 with India, which can generate cooperation between them. Meanwhile, false promises under the BRI and dreams of a trans-Himalayan railway with China have garnered Oli enough political capital.

Oli's aspirations, accompanied by hollow economic and development strategies, will lead Nepal towards an uncertain future which is being watched carefully by the people of Nepal and international actors, including India.

(The author is an ICSSR Doctoral Fellow at the JNU and Visiting Fellow at the Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs, Kathmandu. The views expressed are personal.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### TIME TO REDEFINE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

Sir — When Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov visited both New Delhi and Islamabad during his whirlwind tour, the visible and palpable warmth between the two nations at Islamabad was conspicuous by its absence in Delhi. Not mere photo ops, Russia's assurance to Pakistan on supply of highly sophisticated military equipment and the promise to conduct joint military exercise there does not bode well for India's interests. Well, it is not as if all of a sudden Moscow has found a new strategic and military partner in Islamabad. For years, after a considerable period of strong dislike, Russia has built bridges with Pakistan in its own way. But in international relations, what is unsaid often matters more than what is said. Foreign policy is a matter of costs and benefits; no two nations are permanent foes. New Delhi, of course, is not on a slippery slope as far as its military and trade ties with Moscow are concerned.

But international diplomacy is a clever struggle where minds speak more than words. New Delhi's proximity with Washington has not gone unnoticed in Russian diplomatic circles, especially when India has always called Russia an "old friend". Friends have the right to quarrel but if that translates into a fight, then the repercussions are bound to vitiate the atmosphere in the region. As a matter of protocol, a visiting Foreign Minister may or may not call on the Prime Minister of the host country. But PM Narendra Modi is known to rise above formalities. Therefore, tongues wagged when Lavrov left for Islamabad without meeting the PM.

Ganapathi Bhat | *Akola*

#### MAMATA BANERJEE IS LIKE LAKSHMI BAI

Sir — Visuals of an injured Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on a wheelchair leading the fight bring up the memory of Rani Lakshmi Bai, the warrior queen of the princely State of Jhansi, on horseback with a raised sword challenging the mighty British Raj undaunted. Bouquet or brick-

## CAPFs inept in handling law & order



It seems that the personnel of the central security forces deployed in election duties are not adequately trained to defuse a threat created by a violent mob without resorting to firing to kill. What happened in West Bengal's Cooch Behar has proved their incompetence in handling the law and order situation. The perception that the central forces deployed in the State are not as politically neutral as they should be is not far from reality and it erodes their institutional credibility. Further, the Election Commission (EC) is supposed to

ensure a level playing field for all the parties and apply rules uniformly and not selectively. But its decisions that invariably go in favour of the BJP make it look like an arm of the ruling party. The EC has given us reasons to wonder if it follows the dictates of the Government.

It would be disingenuous of the EC to claim that it had not scheduled the polling in eight phases at the BJP's behest to suit its campaign plan. The task of safeguarding democracy is better served by the EC by being party-blind and playing its role impartially. Mahatma Gandhi's teaching is that means should be as fair as the end. But if what the BJP does in West Bengal is anything to go by, for it the end of wresting power from the TMC justifies whatever means it adopts, be it communal polarisation, misuse of institutions, splurge of money or unleashing violence. It is an inversion of truth to say that the BJP adheres to Gandhian non-violence.

G David Milton | *Tamil Nadu*

,including my mother, had to cancel their train tickets to Chennai from Tuticorin — most of them have been wearing masks. What exactly is the reason for the current tense situation? Countries have been fighting with the pandemic for more than a year now. In fact, all the healthcare and emergency measures like vaccines, face masks, washing of hands and social distancing have been in place to date. In spite of such strict guidelines, people have started ignoring mandatory things like wearing a mask for unknown reasons, maybe due to their lethargic attitude to the crisis.

People must understand that prevention is always better than cure. The WHO should take immediate steps to explain the latest status on COVID and vaccines. P Senthil | *Mumbai*

### SOUNDBITE

I urge everyone to cooperate and follow the COVID protocols and don't rush to hospital unless necessary and go and vaccinate if you are eligible.

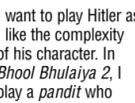


Delhi CM — Arvind Kejriwal



The struggle against Iran and its proxies and Iranian armament is a huge task. The situation that exists today is not necessarily the one that will exist tomorrow.

Israeli Prime Minister — Benjamin Netanyahu



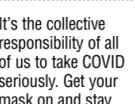
I want to play Hitler as I like the complexity of his character. In *Bhool Bhulaiya 2*, I play a *pandit* who helps the family when they feel the existence of ghosts.

Actor — Govind Namdev



It was lovely to watch Prithvi bat so effortlessly and timing the ball so nicely. He went through a bad patch earlier and has come back as a champion.

Cricketer — Shikhar Dhawan



It's the collective responsibility of all of us to take COVID seriously. Get your mask on and stay safe.

Telangana's Cabinet Minister — KT Rama Rao

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## FIRST COLUMN

## REMEMBERING THE 'GREATEST INDIAN'

Ambedkar did not seek equality only for Dalits but tried to bring all of India under the umbrella of his great ideals



RATTAN LAL KATARIA

A few years ago, a major English TV news channel in the country started a drive to choose the "Greatest Indian" through online and mobile voting. The people of the country chose Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar as the "Greatest Indian." This is Babasaheb's greatest legacy. Unlike other leaders, he is still as relevant in the hearts of crores of Dalits and those who fight for a dignified life for underprivileged Indians, as he was in his time. As the country celebrates the 130th birth anniversary of Babasaheb on April 14, Ambedkar's struggle and values continue to inspire Indians and even the Black community in the US and others fighting discrimination across the globe. Ambedkar was different from other leaders in the sense that he encouraged the underprivileged to get their rights through education and political struggle. Despite all the protests, insults, reproach and neglect, he did not tread the path of violence and never dreamed of destroying the system. Staying within the confines of constitutional commitments, working within the system and changing it from within, were the hallmarks of his struggle.



Babasaheb was not only the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, he firmly believed in the role of constitutional values in keeping the democratic system alive. Education, democratic struggle and unity were the core of his philosophy. He drew the path between socialist philosophy and communism for social justice. After the Round Table Conferences in 1931, the British proposed a separate electorate. When Madan Mohan Malaviya spoke to Babasaheb in this regard and envisaged its wider implications on Hindu society, Ambedkar agreed to have a more consistent reservation system for Dalits in place of a separate electorate. Thus, the historic Poona Pact of 1932 was signed. Ambedkar always fought for social justice and said that the scriptures that approve untouchability needed to be seen in the light of new knowledge. Ambedkar did not seek equality, fraternity and freedom only for the Dalits but also tried to bring the entire Indian society under the umbrella of his great ideals. When Pandit Nehru went back on his promise on the Hindu Code Bill, Ambedkar resigned from the Cabinet. Currently, while there is intense churning on its role in ensuring democracy and social justice on a global scale, Babasaheb has become more relevant than ever.

The values of dialogue, constitutional struggle and constant coordination are now playing an important role in making the present system more effective. Babasaheb had also made similar efforts in the process of nation building. Just as the Government is working to re-establish India as the "Vishwa Guru", Ambedkar, too, constantly strived for a global stature for Bharat. He was opposed to the prominence of competitive allegiance of religion, culture, caste and language. He believed that this made it difficult to cultivate Indianness and loyalty to India. He said, "I want people to be Indian first and to be Indian till the end, nothing but Indian."

Following in his footsteps, the Centre is not only ensuring social justice, but is also striving to bring the underprivileged into the mainstream through economic empowerment. 'Start-up India', 'Stand-up India', the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation and scholarships for secondary and higher studies, are all efforts in this direction. On April 14, the whole world will salute Babasaheb, the true son of the nation, and his contribution towards nation building will be remembered. However, the younger generation must not only follow Babasaheb's ideals on his birth anniversary but every moment of his life.

(The writer is Minister of State, Social Justice & Empowerment and Jal Shakti. The views expressed are personal.)

## Nix sovereign guarantee clause for the NaBFID

To bail out an entity majority-owned and controlled by private parties using the taxpayers' funds is a bad idea



UTTAM GUPTA

In her Budget speech, Finance Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman had proposed setting up of a new Development Financial Institution (DFI) termed the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID). The Government passed a Bill to establish the NaBFID, its objective being "to coordinate with the Centre and States, regulators, financial institutions (FIs), institutional investors and other relevant stakeholders, in India or outside India, to facilitate building and improving the relevant institutions to support the development of long-term non-recourse infrastructure financing in India, including the domestic bonds and derivatives markets."

The NaBFID will also be involved "in lending or investing, directly or indirectly, and seek to attract investments from private sector investors and institutional investors, in infrastructure projects located in or outside India." It will also help provide financing options for projects under the much-trumpeted National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). Under the NIP, the Union Government has identified over 7,000 projects in all crucial sectors such as roads, highways, railways, ports, power transmission lines, gas pipelines and so on, requiring an investment of over ₹100 lakh crore over the next five years.

The Government will infuse ₹20,000 crore in NaBFID as budgetary support which will be leveraged to generate a financing capability of over ₹3,00,000 crore. This is peanuts when compared to the mammoth requirement of around ₹90 lakh crore (excluding about ₹10 lakh crore: ₹4,39,000 crore spent during 2020-21, plus a planned spending of ₹5,54,000 crore for 2021-22). But the moot question is whether the new DFI is a sustainable proposition?

This is not the first time that the idea of a DFI has been floated. The first such institution, namely the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), was set up in 1948, followed by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) in 1964. In the private sector, the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) was set up in 1955. This was in sync with the global trend in Europe, Japan, the US and other Asian countries where the DFIs were set up primarily to rebuild infrastructure devastated by World War II. After the task was completed, those institutions were wound up. In India, how far these institutions (IDBI/IFCI) helped in building infrastructure is debatable. However, one thing is abundantly clear; they became a drain on the national exchequer through a variety of supports such as Government guarantees, capital commitments including from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) along with direct and indirect financing by the latter to meet their needs.

In the 90s, the Narasimham/Khan committees recommended — as part of the financial reforms package — their gradual phase-out. They were either required to transform into banks or close if they couldn't.

The panels also recommended the development of domestic bonds and derivatives markets to galvanise investors to deploy their savings for long-term financing infrastructure projects. As a follow up, the then Vajpayee Government converted the IDBI into a commercial bank in 2003. The promoters of ICICI did this much earlier in 1994 by converting the institution into the ICICI Bank. However, the other most



ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THESE PREREQUISITES ARE LACKING, RESULTING IN SHORTFALL IN CASH FLOWS, THEN EVEN THE OFFER OF SOVEREIGN GUARANTEE WON'T PROVIDE MUCH COMFORT EVEN AS THE NaBFID, TOO, WILL END UP BEING A DRAIN ON THE EXCHEQUER JUST AS THE ERSTWHILE IDBI

The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.



crucial recommendation remained unattended. In the absence of sustainable arrangements for channelising household savings for long-term investment (a bank's source of capital is primarily short-term deposits resulting in what is termed as asset-liability mismatch), currently much of infrastructure financing is done by the Government of India (GOI) by way of budgetary support.

The GOI, in turn, raises resources — albeit for providing budgetary support — by imposing cesses, fees and other levies such as the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), the Permanent Bridge Fees Fund (PBBF) and monetisation of the National Highways Fund (NHF). For instance, during 2020-21, out of the ₹42,500 crore allocated to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for executing roads and highways projects, the contribution of the above-mentioned funds was 49 per cent, 27 per cent and 24 per cent respectively.

In this backdrop, and with the present arrangement meeting only a small portion of the mammoth funding needs (₹100 lakh crore under the NIP), setting up of dedicated institutions such as the NaBFID *prima facie* appears to be an attractive proposition. In fact, the Modi Government wants to use the NaBFID as an anchor DFI.

To begin with, the NaBFID will be 100 per cent owned by the GOI, with equity capital coming by way of budgetary support. Over a period of time, the latter will reduce its shareholding to 26 per cent, implying that the majority ownership and control

(albeit 74 per cent) will eventually be in private hands. It would be a professionally-run body, with the Government only appointing the Chairperson.

The proposed structure of the new DFI points towards the Government going for a hands-off approach as the Act does not provide for an oversight mechanism; it will be free from the "three Cs" i.e. the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Central Vigilance Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. In fact, it goes a step forward by seeking to protect the management for the decisions taken as an "act of good faith." Up to this point, things are hunky-dory.

However, problems begin to creep when we look at this: "The Act empowers the GOI to extend sovereign guarantee in case of a default." The guarantees cover a wide range like any liabilities of its own subsidiaries, joint ventures, branches and other similar arrangements; letters of comfort, or letters of credit for loans or bonds and debentures issued by any DFI funding infrastructure projects in India; and guarantee of the NaBFID's bonds, debentures, loans and borrowings from multilateral institutions, sovereign wealth funds (SWFs), and other foreign institutions. To bail out an entity majority-owned and controlled by private parties using the taxpayers' funds is a bad idea. Furthermore, to do this when the Government is not even exercising any external oversight makes it abhorrent. The FM's defence that "an audited report would be placed in Parliament every year, besides the

NaBFID having to furnish to the GOI and the RBI a copy of its balance sheet and accounts, together with a copy of the auditor's report and a report of its working during the relevant year, within four months from the date on which its accounts were closed and balanced" does not inspire confidence.

One shudders to fathom the contingent liabilities emanating from the above open-ended guarantees provided under the Act and their impact on the fiscal deficit (FD). Already, the FD for 2021-22 is put at 6.8 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product which is almost double of what is permitted under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management. For 2025-26, the FM puts it at 4.5 per cent. The NaBFID Act would result in spiralling of these numbers.

Team Modi needs to take a relook at the "sovereign guarantee" clause in the NaBFID Act. It should be deleted. As for giving comfort to investors, if only project proponents can generate the desired cash flows (this would require transparency and efficiency in project execution, simplified processes, enforcement of contracts, freedom from bureaucratic red tape and above all, realistic pricing of services shorn of populism), this will be automatically assured.

On the other hand, if these prerequisites are lacking, resulting in shortfall in cash flows, then even the offer of sovereign guarantee won't provide much comfort even as the NaBFID, too, will end up being a drain on the exchequer just as the erstwhile IDBI.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THIS IS GENOCIDE. I HAVE SEEN THE PICTURES. THE CENTRAL FORCES HAD SIMPLY SPRAYED THE BULLETS INSTEAD OF AIMING AT THE LEGS.

—WEST BENGAL CM  
MAMATA BANERJEE



EVERY DEATH IS SAD BUT WHY IS IT THAT MAMATA DIDI HAS TO PLAY POLITICS OF APPEASEMENT WITH EVERY DEATH?

—UNION HOME MINISTER  
AMIT SHAH

## Playing politics over vaccines will not help the cause

The Opposition should develop credible policy alternatives instead of blaming the Govt, and the Centre must be transparent in distribution of the COVID shots

Should political parties play politics over COVID-19? That is what is happening over the delivery of vaccines in the last few days. It has resulted in a fight between the Opposition-ruled States and the Centre for more doses of the coveted jabs as the former and the latter have accused each other of "discrimination" and "neglect" respectively.

When COVID-19 hit the country in January 2020, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi took the Chief Ministers (CMs) and even the public on board about how to effectively deal with the situation. He held several meetings with the CMs and consulted and guided the States, promising them of all possible help. They worked in tandem. The pandemic helped the Governments focus on the



KALYANI SHANKAR

The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.

deteriorating healthcare system, lack of hospitals and facilities, inadequate social protection, the need for more funds for the health sector, health insurance and so on. Both the PM and the CMs needed each other and leaned on each other to tackle the enormous medical emergency.

However, both were looking at an electorate and their position at the end of their terms. Therefore, it became an individual race for every one of them. However, whether the Government mishandled the lockdown last year came into question. Still, the lockdown itself did not turn into a political issue. Even the Opposition parties could not go beyond a point to criticise the Modi Government. Now, after one year, with the pandemic running into its

second wave, politics seems to have taken over. When things go wrong, it is politics that comes to the fore.

Now, there are vaccine shortages and there was an obvious miscalculation on the part of the authorities. If something goes wrong, the Centre blames the States while the States blame the Centre for not delivering the required doses of vaccines. The demand pertaining to the shots has also gone up. The initial response from the public was one of "wait and watch", but now there is a clamour for vaccines as India became the second worst-hit nation in the world.

While the BJP touts Modi as the saviour of the people and lauds his efforts in handling the pandemic, the CMs of the non-BJP ruled States are now alleging that they are getting a stepmotherly treat-



ment. The fact is that all the political parties have realised that COVID-19 has become a long-term game and they cannot simply sit and not play politics over it. So, everything, right from the approval of the vaccines to allocation to the States, is being politicised. Former CM of Uttar Pradesh Akhilesh Yadav has declared that he would not take the "BJP vaccine". Others have questioned the efficacy of the vaccines and rightful-

ly the promise of vaccine availability made to the people in poll-bound States by the ruling party.

It is a time of reckoning for the State Governments and all political parties. Recently, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, while addressing the CMs of Congress-led States, asked them to prioritise COVID-19 containment. She also accused the Modi Government of "mismanaging the pandemic situation by allowing the export of vaccines resulting in vaccine shortage" in India.

She said: "As the principal Opposition party, it is our responsibility to raise issues and push the Government to move away from PR tactics and act in the interest of the people."

The current wave of infections will test the country's health infrastructure and

improvements in it since last year. Maharashtra was the worst-hit State during both the significant surges of COVID-19 cases. As of April 8, almost 24 million doses were in stock and another 19 million were in the pipeline. Some 3-3.5 million doses have been administered on an everyday basis, according to data made available by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The second wave came when people started celebrating the success with respect to effectively tackling the first wave. The period also coincided with the Assembly elections in five States and mega religious events like the Kumbh Mela. On March 7, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan even declared that "we are in the endgame of the COVID-19 pandemic."

However, this is not the

appropriate time to question "who" and "why" with respect to the mishandling of the crisis. The real question is what the Centre and State Governments have done during the pandemic and what they can do to contain the second wave. The Opposition must understand that it should be more vigilant, active, public-spirited and courageous.

The Opposition parties should play their role as an institutional watchdog and develop credible policy alternatives instead of blaming the Government. The Modi Government should be transparent in distributing the vaccines and in addressing the concerns of the CMs of the Opposition-ruled States. All the sides should realise that this is an unprecedented crisis, and playing politics will not help.

# Iran blames Israel for Natanz incident

AP ■ DUBAI  
Iran blamed Israel on Monday for a sabotage attack on its underground Natanz nuclear facility that damaged its centrifuges, an assault that imperils ongoing talks over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal and brings a shadow war between the two countries into the light.



Israel has not claimed responsibility for the attack. It rarely does for operations carried out by its secret military units or its Mossad intelligence agency. However, Israeli media widely reported that the country had orchestrated a devastating cyberattack that caused a blackout at the nuclear facility.

While the nature of the attack and the extent of the damage at Natanz remains unclear, a former Iranian official said the assault set off a fire while a spokesman mentioned a "possible minor explosion."

The attack also further strains relations between the U.S., which under President Joe Biden is now negotiating in Vienna to re-enter the nuclear accord, and Israel, whose Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to stop the deal at all costs.

Netanyahu met Monday with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, whose arrival in Israel coincided with the first word of the attack. The two spoke briefly to journalists but took no questions.

"My policy as prime minister of Israel is clear: I will never allow Iran to obtain the nuclear capability to carry out its genocidal goal of eliminating Israel," Netanyahu said. "And Israel will continue to defend itself against Iran's aggression and terrorism."

At an earlier news conference at Israel's Nevatim air base, Austin declined to say whether the Natanz attack could impede the Biden administration's efforts to re-

engage with Iran in its nuclear programme.

"Those efforts will continue," Austin said. The previous American administration under Donald Trump had pulled out of the nuclear deal with world powers, leading Iran to begin abandoning the limits on its atomic program set by the accord. But German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas expressed concern that it could affect the talks. "All of what we are hearing from Tehran is not a positive contribution to this," Maas told reporters.

In a statement, the White House said it was aware of the Natanz attack and that "the U.S. was not involved in any manner," without elaborating.

## Lebanon extends area claimed in border dispute with Israel

AP ■ BEIRUT (LEBANON)  
Lebanon's outgoing minister of public works said Monday that he has signed a decree that would increase the area claimed by the Mediterranean country in a maritime border dispute with Israel.

Public Works Minister Michel Najjar told reporters that he has signed an amendment of the decree that would

formally extend Lebanon's claims by 1,430 square kilometers (550 square miles).

The unilateral move by Lebanon is likely to anger Israel and the U.S. Who are not expected to recognise Beirut's extension of the disputed area.

Lebanon and Israel began indirect talks with U.S. Mediation in October to reach a deal over the disputed area that is believed to be rich with oil and natural gas deposits.

## White House issuing reports on states' infra needs

AP ■ WASHINGTON  
The Biden White House is amplifying the push for its \$2.3 trillion infrastructure package with the release of state-by-state breakdowns that show the dire shape of roads, bridges, the power grid and housing affordability.

The figures in the state summaries, obtained by The Associated Press, paint a decidedly bleak outlook for the world's largest economy after years of repairs being deferred and delayed. They suggest that too much infrastructure is unsafe for vehicles at any speed, while highlighting the costs of extreme weather events that have become more frequent with climate change as well as dead spots for broadband and a dearth of child care options.

President Joe Biden is scheduled to meet Monday afternoon with Republican and Democratic lawmakers and can use the state summaries to show that his plan would help meet the needs of their constituents.

Drawn from an array of private and public data, the reports show there are 7,300 miles (11,748 kilometers) of highway in Michigan alone that are in poor condition. Damaged streets in North Carolina impose an average yearly cost of \$500 on motorists. Iowa has 4,571 bridges in need of repair.

# COVID LOCKDOWN EASES IN ENGLAND 'Behave responsibly', urges Boris

PTI ■ LONDON  
Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged people to continue to "behave responsibly" as shops, hairdressers, restaurants, pubs and gyms reopen their doors on Monday in the latest stage of the coronavirus lockdown easing in England.

People were seen queuing overnight outside some clothing stores and also some pubs and restaurants, which are now allowed to serve customers outdoors. Social mixing indoors remains heavily restricted and people are still expected to work from home where possible to minimise the amount they have to commute.

"I'm sure it will be a huge relief for those business owners who have been closed for so long, and for everyone else it's



Customers sit outside a restaurant in Liverpool on Monday

a chance to get back to doing some of the things we love and have missed," Johnson said.

"I urge everyone to continue to behave responsibly and remember 'hands, face, space and fresh air' to suppress Covid as we push on with our vaccination programme," he said. According to some media reports, the UK PM will be among some of the first in line to get his haircut ahead of a special House of Commons

session for tributes to the late Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, who passed away on Friday.

Under this stage of the lockdown easing roadmap laid out by the government, public buildings such as libraries and community centres can reopen. Most outdoor attractions including zoos, theme parks, and socially-distanced drive-in performances can reopen.

Some smaller outdoor events such as fetes, literary fairs, and fairgrounds can take place; weddings, civil partnership ceremonies, wakes and other commemorative events can take place for up to 15 people. People are not allowed to visit each other's homes and socialising indoors remains prohibited outside of households and support bubbles.

The Metropolitan Police also urged people to exercise caution as it prepared to enhance patrols in busy areas of London.

"The Met is ready to welcome back people to the streets of London. We will be stepping up our patrols to busy high footfall areas, to look out for everyone's safety and to disrupt any criminal activity," said Deputy Assistant Commissioner Jane Connors, the Met Police's lead for Covid-19 response.

"Of course, where we need to take action against those who dangerously flout the rules we will do. While the case rate has declined in London, we have seen the concerning position in northern Europe. It is important that we all stick to the rules so further lockdowns, or restrictions, are avoided," she said.

## Small but quick: Bhutan vaccinates 93% of adults

Thimpu: When plotted on a graph, the curve of Bhutan's Covid-19 vaccination drive shoots upwards from the very first day, crossing Israel, United States, Bahrain and other countries known for vaccinating people rapidly.

Those countries took months to reach where they are, painstakingly strengthening their vaccination campaigns in the face of rising coronavirus cases. But the story of Bhutan's vaccination campaign is nearly finished — just 16 days after it began.

The tiny Himalayan kingdom wedged between India and China has vaccinated nearly 93 per cent of its adult population since March 27. Overall,

## Germany aims to unify restrictions

Berlin: The German government aims to agree on a bill Tuesday that would shift more powers from state to federal authorities to set pandemic restrictions.

The country's decentralised political system has resulted in an often confusing patchwork of rules and regulations to reduce coronavirus infections in Germany's 16 states. Government spokesperson Steffen Seibert told reporters on Monday that the goal of the bill is to have a single nationwide rule for all areas where there are more than 100 new weekly cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

## Chilly weather doesn't dampen UK joy at lockdown easing

AP ■ LONDON  
People across Britain flocked to shed shaggy locks and browse for clothes, books and other "non-essential" items as shops, gyms, hairdressers, restaurant patios and beer gardens reopened Monday after months of lockdown.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged people to "behave responsibly" as the country that has had Europe's deadliest coronavirus outbreak took a big step on its roadmap toward a resumption of normal life.

Monday brought the easing of restrictions that have

been in place in England since early January to suppress a surge in infections linked to a more transmissible new virus variant first identified in the southeast of the country.

Long lines formed outside some stores, including a branch of Nike Town on London's busy Oxford Street, and pubs and restaurants with outdoor space reported a flood of bookings.

Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the British Retail Consortium, said businesses that have endured months of enforced closure were "excited and desperate" to welcome customers back.

## Muslims navigate restrictions in the 2nd pandemic Ramadan

Cairo: For Ramadan this year, Magdy Hafez has been longing to reclaim a cherished ritual: performing the nighttime group prayers called taraweeh at the mosque once again.

Last year, the coronavirus upended the 68-year-old Egyptian's routine of going to the mosque to perform those prayers, traditional during Islam's holiest month.

The pandemic had disrupted Islamic worship the world over, including in Egypt where mosques were closed to worshippers last Ramadan.

"I have been going to the mosque for 40 years so it was definitely a very, very, difficult thing," he said. "But our religion orders us to protect one

## Daunte Wright death in Minnesota traffic stop sparks unrest

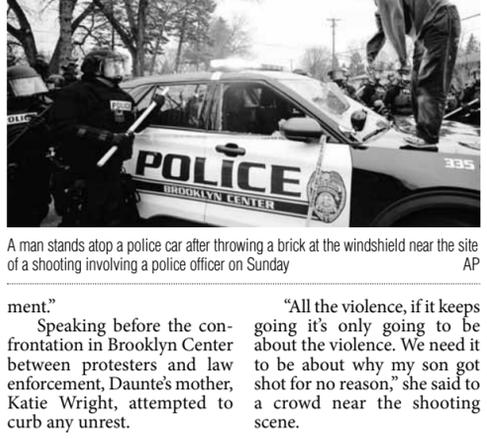
AP ■ BROOKLYN CENTER, MINN.  
A Black man died after being shot by police in a Minneapolis suburb during a traffic stop and crashing his car several blocks away, sparking violent protests that lasted into the early hours Monday as officers in riot gear clashed with demonstrators and the man's mother called for calm.

The man was identified by family as 20-year-old Daunte Wright, and he died Sunday in a metropolitan area already on edge and midway through the trial of the first of four police officers charged in George Floyd's death. Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz tweeted he was praying for Wright's family "as our state mourns another life of a Black man taken by law enforce-

ment."

Speaking before the confrontation in Brooklyn Center between protesters and law enforcement, Daunte's mother, Katie Wright, attempted to curb any unrest.

"All the violence, if it keeps going it's only going to be about the violence. We need it to be about why my son got shot for no reason," she said to a crowd near the shooting scene.



A man stands atop a police car after throwing a brick at the windshield near the site of a shooting involving a police officer on Sunday

**निदेशालय**  
महिला सशक्तिकरण एवं बाल विकास विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड  
लिकट नन्दा की चौकी, सुन्दरवाला विकासखण्ड रोड, देहरादून  
दूरभाष नं० 0135-2775813-2775814, ई-मेल-ndir.lcds.ia@gmail.com  
पत्र संख्या CG-76/महालक्ष्मी फिट/2021-22 दिनांक 12 अप्रैल, 2021

**ई-निविदा विषयवस्तु**  
निदेशालय, महिला सशक्तिकरण एवं बाल विकास विभाग, नन्दा की चौकी सुन्दरवाला देहरादून उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा मुख्यमंत्री महालक्ष्मी योजना के अंतर्गत आंगनबाड़ी केंद्रों एवं मिनी केंद्रों हेतु महालक्ष्मी फिट की आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा दिनांक 17 अप्रैल 2021 सायं 4:00 बजे से वेबसाइट <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध होगी। उक्त निविदा से संबंधित कोई भी संशोधन/परिवर्तन की सूचना वेबसाइट <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध होगी।

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Name of work	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of ON Load Changeover Switch in Power Cars of Delhi Division.
Tender No.	30-Elect-1T-Chg-2021-22
Approx. cost of the works in (Rs.)	Rs. 47,91,080/-
Cost of tender form	Rs. 0.00
Address of the office	Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 0.00
Period of completion of work	05 Months
Last date & time of submission of tender	03.05.2021 up to 15.00 Hrs.
And Opening of tender	03.05.2021 at 15.01 Hrs.
Website & notice board	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI

830/21

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110055

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mohammad Ali Hasan (Borrower), Nargis Parveen (Co-borrower) LBDEL00002378631	Flat No. 39, LIG, Fourth Floor, Block B5, Sector 34, Pocket 1, Rohini, New Delhi 110085. Area: 344 Sq. ft.	Rs. 13,69,491/- (as on April 06, 2021)	Rs. 9,00,000/- To Rs. 90,000/-	April 16, 2021 From 12 Noon To 1:00 PM	May 05, 2021 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposahub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgages/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till May 04, 2021 before 05:00 P.M else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bag, Delhi-110055 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before May 04, 2021 before 05:00 P.M along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bag, Delhi-110055 on or before May 04, 2021 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited . 2. Augoo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC, have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

Date: April 13, 2021  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

SR. NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE HARYANA, PANCHKULA	SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE (SERC), HARYANA 112	03.04.2021 17.04.2021	EMD 2 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	7988639705 haryana100.pol@hry.in
2	PWD B&R, BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR BY PROVIDING AND LAYING WIDENING & STG. ON BABA JAGAN NATH MANDIR TO MATTA MASSANI AT VILLAGE LOHARI JATTU FROM KM 0.00 TO 2.10 IN BHIWANI DISTT. (ROAD ID NO. 9980)	09.04.2021 03.05.2021	89.10 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01664242436 pwd-eeep-bhiwani@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, PANCHKULA.	TENDER FOR SPECIFICATION, REQUIREMENT FOR PROVIDING CATERING SERVICES FOR PWD B&R REST HOUSE, SECTOR 1, PANCHKULA.	10.04.2021 29.04.2021		<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	pwd-eeep-panchkula@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, FATEHABAD	SPECIAL REPAIR OF NEHLA TO KHERI ROAD KM 0 TO 5.70 (ROAD ID 5527) IN FATEHABAD DISTT. AND 09 OTHER WORKS	08.04.2021 03.05.2021	570.88 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01667220120 pwd-eeep-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R,SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF SUB HEALTH CENTRE AT VILLAGE BAJEKAN IN SIRSA DISTRICT. + 1 NO. OTHER WORK.	15.04.2021 29.04.2021	75.86 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01666220530 pwd-eeep1-sirsa@hry.nic.in
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, SIRSA	REPLACEMENT OF PUMPING MACHINERY, REPAIR OF WATER WORKS STRUCTURES, FHT CONNECTION AT VILLAGE BHOONA, DISTT. SIRSA CONSTRUCTION & REPLACEMENT OF PUMPING MACHINERY, REPAIR OF EXISTING WATER WORKS STRUCTURES, PROVIDING FHT CONNECTION AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO AT WATER WORKS BHOONA"	09.04.2021 16.04.2021	10.45 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01666221925 ee2sirsa@phedharyana.gov.in
7	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, SIWANI	UP GRADATION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) OF 4.00 MLD CAPACITY BASED ON MOVING BED BIO REACTOR (MBBR) TECHNOLOGY LOCATED AT TOSHAM ROAD- SIWANI TOWN	09.04.2021 15.04.2021	EMD 4 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	eesiwani@phedharyana.gov.in
8	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING KURUSHETRA	PROJECT REPORT BOQ & COST ESTIMATE PREPARED BY EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HWATH ENGINEERING DIVISION KURUKSHETRA FOR UPGRADATION & COMMISSIONING AFTER CONVERSION OF EXISTING & MLD CAPACITY SEWAGE TREATMENT BASED ON MOVING BED BIOLOGICAL	08.04.2021 28.04.2021	EMD 8 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2583005 eecoord@phedharyana.gov.in
9	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,NARNAUL	RAW WATER ARRANGEMENT FOR PROPOSED MULTIMODEL LOGISTIC HUB AT NARNAUL, DISTRICT MOHINDERGARH, BY PROVIDING & LAYING 600MM DI PIPE LINE, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF RAW WATER BALANCING RESERVOIR, PUMP CHAMBER, PANEL ROOM, PUMPING MACHINERY,(ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL COMPONENTS) AT BOOSTING STATION NEAR ND-II AND ALL OTHER ALLIED WORKS.	CLOSING DATE 26.04.2021	1412.19 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xen-wsmnri.irr@gov.in
10	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER COURSE OF Q/L RD 11260-R OF LOHGARH 1ST. DISTY. FOR A LENGTH OF 1600 FEET ( EXTENSION),+04 OTHER	CLOSING DATE 20.04.2021	4.78 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xenroriss@rediffmail.com
11	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,KURUKSHETRA	REPAIR OF SYL CANA DOWNSTREAM GATES AT BUDHERA COMPLEX. + 2 OTHER WORKS	09.04.2021 22.04.2021	29.13 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xenwsvnikra@gmail.com
12	PANCHAYATI RAJ, REWARI	CONSTIT. OF 5 NOS OF AYURVEDIC DISPENSARY AT DISTT. REWARI	13.04.2021 26.04.2021	65.01 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	prexeeng.rwr@hry.gov.in
13	PANCHAYATI RAJ,JHAJJAR	CONST. OF 7 NOS. ANGANWARI CENTRE AND 1 NO. COMMUNITY CENTRE, DISTRICT JHAJJAR.	09.04.2021 22.04.2021	77.68 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	prexeeng.jjr@hry.nic.in
14	PANCHAYATI RAJ,JHAJJAR	CONST. OF BIOGAS PLANT AT VILLAGE MATANHAIL, BLOCK MATANHAIL, DISTRICT JHAJJAR.	09.04.2021 22.04.2021	72.72 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	prexeeng.jjr@hry.nic.in
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ,SIRSA	CONST. OF GOBAR GAS PLANT AT VILLAGE TEJA KHERA (RE-TENDER) BLOCK DABWALI DISTRICT SIRSA	10.04.2021 16.04.2021	83.65 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01666247479 prexeeng.srs@hry.nic.in
16	CIVIL SURGEON HEALTH DEPARTMENT HISAR	RC FOR PROCUREMENT OF TYRES & TUBES FOR AMBULANCE UNDER RTS 108 OFFICE OF CIVIL SURGEON HISAR	13.04.2021 22.04.2021	EMD-10000/-	<a href="http://www.nrhmharyana.gov.in">www.nrhmharyana.gov.in</a>	7015994459 dhs.cshs@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 2561

# Remain watchful of evolving situation: RBI Govt to banks

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday asked banks to remain watchful of the evolving situation and emphasised the importance of credit flow to sustain the nascent economic recovery amid rising coronavirus cases.

In his meeting with MD/CEOs of public sector banks and select private sector lenders, Das also highlighted the recent policy measures taken by RBI to further support the ongoing recovery while preserving financial stability, the central bank said in a statement.

Das touched upon the

importance of credit flows in sustaining the nascent economic recovery and advised banks to remain watchful of the evolving situation and continue taking measures proactively for maintaining their business continuity, sharpening business strategies and raising adequate capital for strengthening balance sheets.

"He also emphasised the need for banks to maintain a close vigil on the payments and other IT systems operated by banks and fortifying those for enhanced efficiency and resilience so as to offer seamless and uninterrupted customer service," RBI said.

Among other matters,

progress in the implementation of COVID Resolution Framework, outlook on stress-test assets and capital augmentation came up for discussion.

The liquidity scenario and monetary transmission, and credit flows to different sectors, including MSMEs, and retail, were also discussed during the meeting held through video-conferencing.

Deputy Governors M K Jain, M Rajeswar Rao and a few other senior officials of RBI also attended the meetings.

There are concerns that surging coronavirus cases and resulting localised restrictions might hamper cash flow and result in stressed assets.

# Industrial production contracts 3.6% in Feb

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
However, power generation grew marginally by 0.1 per cent in the month under review.

The index had grown by 5.2 per cent in February 2020. The industrial production had plunged 18.7 per cent in March last year following the COVID-19 outbreak and remained in the negative zone till August 2020.

With the resumption of economic activities, factory output posted a rise of one per cent in September. The IIP had grown by 4.5 per cent in October. In November 2020, the factory output fell 1.6 per cent, while it again entered the positive territory by growing 1.6 per cent in December 2020.

Showing sluggishness in the economy amid the pandemic, industrial production contracted for the second straight month by 3.6 per cent in February due to poor performance of manufacturing and mining sectors, official data showed on Monday.

The manufacturing sector -- which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index of industrial production (IIP) -- declined by 3.7 per cent in February 2021, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The mining sector output declined by 5.5 per cent in February 2021.

# Sebi norms on reporting formats for mutual funds

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Capital markets watchdog Sebi on Monday came out with fresh guidelines on reporting formats for mutual funds.

The formats for the reports to be submitted by asset management companies (AMCs) to trustees, by AMCs to Sebi and by trustees to the regulator have been revised on the basis of consultation from the industry.

In a circular, Sebi said the compliance certificate to be submitted by an AMC to the trustees on a bi-monthly basis and half-yearly basis would be discontinued.

The contents of both these reports have been incorporated in the quarterly report by AMC to trustees, it added.

With regard to quarterly report on activities of mutual

# ₹ plunges to 9-month low of 75.05 against \$

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
The Indian rupee fell for the sixth straight session to mark its lowest level in nearly nine months at 75.05 against the American currency on Monday as investors fretted over the prospects of lockdown in some parts of the country amid continuous rise in Covid-19 cases.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee settled 32 paise lower against the greenback as weak domestic equities, rising crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows also weighed on sentiment.

The local unit opened at 74.97 against the greenback and traded in the range of 74.78 to 75.14 during the day.

# DoT extends network gear purchase restriction to satellite services

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Companies providing satellite connectivity services through gateway set-up in India will have to install network equipment as recommended by the Government, according to new norms issued by the Department of Telecom (DoT). At present, only BSNL has installed a satellite gateway through which it provides satellite-based communication services to authorised agencies like security forces, oil companies etc.

As per the new norms, National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) will be the designated authority that can impose conditions for the procurement of telecom equipment on the grounds of "Defence of India" or matters directly related to national security.

DoT had already announced similar restrictions on telecom operators as well as internet service providers last

month. "In pursuance of condition 5.1, chapter 1 the licensor hereby amends the provision and operation of satellite based services using gateway installed in India under 'sui-generis' licence agreement..." DoT said in the amendment to the licence agreement for procurement of telecom equipment.

The amendment was done on March 11 but updated on DoT website on Monday.

As per the new norms, with effect from June 15, such satellite service operators will be required to take permission from NCSC for upgradation of existing networks, utilising the telecom equipment not designated as trusted products.

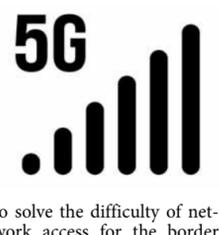
The amendment is in line with the National Security Directive on Telecommunication Sector which mandates all telecom service providers to install equipment from only government-approved vendors and sources.

# China opens 5G signal station at world's highest radar location near Tibet border

**PTI ■ BEIJING**  
China has opened a 5G signal base at the Ganbala radar station in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet which is the world's highest manually operated radar station at an elevation of 5,374 meters, the Chinese military's official website reported on Monday.

The mountain is located in Nagarze County in Tibet which is in the vicinity of borders with India and Bhutan.

At the end of last year, the People's Liberation Army started to coordinate with civilian enterprises to launch 5G base station construction in Ganbala



to solve the difficulty of network access for the border defence troops, the website said.

The stable and high-speed 5G signal enables the soldiers in the deep mountains to keep up with the information society, leaving the monotonous and boring life on the border, it said.

# Online appointment must to visit DDA

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
It has been decided that general public can visit DDA Vikas Sadan only through prior online appointment from Directors of all departments and Dy. Directors of Land Disposal and Housing Departments during public hearing hours. (Monday & Thursday; 2:30PM to 4:30PM). For ease of general public Online appointment system has been developed and made operational.

Link and steps for booking of online appointment is available on DDA website under Online Public Service section.

URL for the online appointment system: <https://citizenservices.dda.org.in/>

# HFCs likely to witness growth of 8-10% in FY22: Report

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
With demand for housing loans picking up during the last two quarters of fiscal 2020-21, housing finance companies (HFCs) are likely to witness a growth rate of 6-8 per cent during the year and 8-10 per cent in FY2021-22, says a report.

The on-book portfolio growth moderated for HFCs in the first nine months of FY2021 (compared to March 2020) to 4.3 per cent (excluding the portfolio of one large player, which had sizeable write-offs) from portfolio growth of 6 per cent (Y-o-Y) in FY2020.

Icra Ratings in a report said with revival in demand for housing credit in the industry in the last two quarters, most of the HFCs have already reached near pre-Covid level disbursements and are targeting to achieve further higher disbursements in Q4 FY2021.

"This is expected to push up the growth rate for FY2021 to 6-8 per cent. Thereafter, we estimate the growth of 8-10 per cent for on-book portfolio of HFCs in FY2022," the agency said.

According to Icra's vice president and sector head Sachin Sachdeva, given the cash flow stress faced by the borrowers, the overdue of HFCs have increased in the first nine months of FY2021 as reflected by proforma GNPA's of around 2.7 per cent as of December 31, 2020 as compared to reported GNPA of 2.4 per cent as on March 31, 2020.

The asset quality indicators could be further impacted in Q4 FY2021, he said.

He sees GNPA's of HFCs for FY2021 to be higher by 50-100 basis points, compared to FY2020, and the same to remain elevated in FY2022 as well.

Notwithstanding the improvement in business in the last two quarters of FY2021, relatively lower business growth than the earlier years, and asset quality pressures would moderate the profitability for the HFCs in FY2021, Sachdeva said.

# Dr Reddy's shares jump 5 per cent

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Shares of Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Monday jumped 5 per cent after an expert panel approved emergency use of Russia's Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V in India, with certain conditions.

In September last year, the company had partnered with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) to conduct clinical trials of Sputnik V and for its distribution rights in India.

The stock gained 4.83 per cent to close at Rs 4,989.20 on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 7.57 per cent to Rs 5,119.90.

On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), it rose 4.97 per cent to close at Rs 4,996.95.

It was the biggest gainer on both the indices.

The company's market valuation gained Rs 3,817.36 crore to Rs 82,966.36 crore on the BSE. An expert panel of India's central drug authority has recommended granting approval to Russian COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V for emergency use in the country with certain conditions, sources said. The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) on Monday took up the application of Dr Reddy's Laboratories seeking emergency use authorisation for Sputnik V.

# MG George Muthoot Cancer Centre in Kerala comes forward for Cancer treatment of lesser privileged

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
MG George Muthoot (1949-2021), Group Chairman of The Muthoot Group of Companies spent all his life relentlessly striving to ensure that millions of marginalised people across the length and breadth of our country benefitted from Financial Inclusion. His unparalleled philanthropic and CSR initiatives coupled with huge popular and affordable products & services provided countless Indians with the benefits of a formal financial system, transforming their dreams into productive reality.

**राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम**  
मुख्यालय जयपुर  
ई-बोली सूचना  
निगम द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-बोली के माध्यम से निम्नलिखित प्रपत्र में ऑन लाइन बोलियां आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट [www.rsrhc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.rsrhc.rajasthan.gov.in) एवं <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> व स्टेट पोर्टल (SPPP) पर देखा जा सकता है:-

क्र. संख्या	ई-बोली सूचना सं.	कार्य	सूचीएन नम्बर
1	01 / 2021-22	निगम द्वारा सरकार से मान्यता प्राप्त पंजीकृत संस्था / मूलभूत सैनिकों की सहकारी समिति से 800 घातको की सेवा अनुबंध पर लेने हेतु निम्नलिखित प्रपत्र में ई-बोली प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑन लाइन बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है।	RTC2122SLO300020

राज.संवाद / सी / 21 / 535 दिनांक 13/2021-22 उप महा प्रबंधक (प्रशासन)

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Ravishankar, S/o Late Sh. Kishan, R/o H. No. 403/3, Chand Nagar, Subash, Nagar, Delhi, Age: 62 years, Height : 5'4", Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Red Coat Pant, Cream Colour Shirt and Red Shoes** in his feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar, West Delhi since **15.03.2021**. In this regard a **DD No. 34A** dated **16.03.2021** has been registered at **PS Paschim Vihar, West Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in) **SHO**  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
**PS Paschim Vihar, West Delhi**  
DP/786/OD/2021 Ph: 011-252268394, 25280980

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Neha, W/o Avinash, R/o RZE-146, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi, Age: 26 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: Unknown** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar since **06.03.2021**. In this regard a Vide **DD No. 183A** dated **06.03.2021** has been registered at **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady please inform undersigned.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in) **SHO**  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
**P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**  
DP/767/OD/2021 Ph: 011-25946700, 25946710

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that one male was found from Gali No. 9, Pradhan Colony, Singhu Border Road, Narela Delhi due to falling from balcony on 25.03.2021 and admitted in Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. During treatment doctor declare him dead on 27.03.2021. In this regard a **DD No. 10A, Dated 27.03.2021** has been lodged at **P.S. Narela, Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under:

**Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 35-40 years, **Height:** 5'5" **Wearing:** Yellow and Maroon Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour undergarments and barefooted.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

**S.H.O**  
**P.S. Narela, Delhi**  
Ph: 011-27280435, 27282350  
DP/964/ON/2021

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE  
32 UBL 2021 Dated: 09.04.2021  
The undersigned, on behalf of President of India invites E-tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

Sr	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1.	Annual maintenance contract for 34 IPS systems of M/s. Stacon Power Control Systems Pvt. Ltd. Make installed over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 66,14,087.04/-
2.	Minichinal Station : Proposed modification of Electronic Interlocking System at Minichinal Station in view of closure of LC No: 92 at km 209/790 between Minichinal - Nimbāl stations in Gadag-Hotgi section over Hubballi Division in lieu of LHS work.	Rs. 11,93,076.55/-
3.	Hubballi Section : Providing track machine siding at Vyasa Colony Yard in Senior Divisional Engineer / East Jurisdiction. (PID No. 14.02.31.19.6.00.003) Sub Work I : TWR(ECW) - 193.124 km (184 SEJ). (PID No. 14.02.31.20.1.51.009) Sub Work III : TTR (P) on bridge and approaches 7.11 km in patches (PID No. 14.02.31.2.0.1.51.001) Sub Work IV : TTR (P) with 60 km rails from km 208/3-211/200 between Hosapete-Ballari (up Line) section for a length of 2.90 km (PID No. 14.02.31.19.6.51.004) Sub Work V : Chikjajur - Hubballi Section : TTR without TBR between Gudageri - Saunshi station from km 444.200 - 448.900 for a length of 4.7 km. (Saunshi Station) (PID No. 14.03.31.18.6.52.027) Sub work VIII: Chikjajur - Hubballi Section : TTR without TBR between Yalvigi Gudageri station from km 422.300-427.100 for a length of 4.8 km (Yalvigi Station) (PID No. 14.03.31.18.06.52.020) Sub work IX : Hubballi - Miral - CTR (P) for a length of 31.3 km in patches. Total length of 31.3 km (PID No. 14.02.31.20.01.51.003)	Rs. 58,08,158/-

Last date of submission of bids: Up to 11:00 hrs of 07.05.2021  
For details log on: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Divisional Railway Manager  
Signal & Telecommunication, Hubballi  
PUB/11A5P/IR/SW/2021-21

**UJVN Limited**  
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax- 0135- 2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

दिनांक: 12/04/2021

**Date Extension**  
Due to unavoidable reason dates in **Tender No. 25/EE(Maint)/Khodri/2020-21** - Under water inspection of draft tube gates and associated structure of Khodri power station shall be read as below, all other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged:  
Last date for submission of bid : 21-04-2021 (upto 16:00 Hrs)  
Date of opening of bid : 22-04-2021 (11:00 Hrs.)  
For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit our portal "<https://www.ujvn.com>"

**Executive Engineer (Maintenance)**  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Namely: NB. SUB. SHASHI BHUSHAN VERMA S/o Shri Raj Gir Singh R/o 505, Army Base Workshop, C/o 56 APO, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi** has been missing from 505, Army Base Workshop, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi since 31.03.2021. In this regard a **GD No. 45A** dated 02.04.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Naraina, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**Age:** 41 years, **Height:** 5'9", **Complexion:** **Shallow, Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Black colour Army dress and black colour shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing person, may inform **SHO, Naraina, New Delhi** at E-mail ID - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

**SHO**  
**P.S. Naraina, New Delhi**  
West Distt., Delhi  
Ph. No. 011-25891181, 25892010,  
011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
**DP/397/WD/2021** 8750871122, 9718838396

**निदेशालय**  
महिल सशक्तिकरण एवं बाल विकास विभाग, उत्तरखण्ड  
निकट नन्दा की चौकी, सुन्दरवाला विकासखण्ड रोड, देहरादून  
दूरभाष नं० 0135-2775813-2775814, ईमेल-[dir.icds.ua@gmail.com](mailto:dir.icds.ua@gmail.com)

दिनांक 12 अप्रैल, 2021

**ई-निविदा संशोधन सूचना**  
निदेशालय पत्र संख्या 56/अनुपूरक पोषाहार/2021-22 दिनांक 08 अप्रैल, 2021 के द्वारा अनुपूरक पोषाहार के अन्तर्गत होम राशन (THR) की आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित किये जाने की सूचना प्रकाशित की गयी थी। जिसमें वेबसाइट पर बिड उपलब्ध होने की तिथि 12 अप्रैल, 2021 सांय 04:00 के स्थान पर संशोधित तिथि 20 अप्रैल, 2021 सांय 04:00 की जाती है।

**उप निदेशक**

**Appeal for Identification**

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Alam, **S/o Unknown, R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 40 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Sex:** Male, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **ID Mark:** Old scar mark between both eyebrow. **Wearing :** Purple colour shirt, coca cola colour pant, yellow and red colour liner towel bare foot was found at opposite shop no 3018, Gali No.1, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, dt. 09.04.2021 Delhi. In this regard, a **DD No. 38, dated 09.04.2021** has been lodged at PS Pahar Ganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at LHMC Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours

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

**SHO**  
**P.S., Pahar Ganj, Delhi**  
Ph. : 011-23524746  
**23520787**  
DP/758/CD/2021

**ICICI Bank**  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh Delhi-110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price with Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Saket Satyam (Borrower), Sushil Kumar Shrivastava (Co-Borrower), Kumar Abhishek Verma (Co-Borrower) LBDEL0002376035	Flat No 32, LIG Block B18 Pkt 5 Sec-35, 2nd Floor Rohini, Delhi, 110085 Area 285 sq. ft..	Rs. 15,47,391.5 (as on 6th Apr 2021)	Rs. 11,10,000/- Rs. 1,11,000/-	May 10, 2021 From 12 Noon To 1:00 PM	May 28, 2021 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website <https://disposal.hub.com> of our auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. The Mortgagors/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **May 27, 2021 before 05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh Delhi-110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website online or before **May 27, 2021 before 05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh Delhi-110005** on or before **May 27, 2021 before 05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of **"ICICI Bank Limited"** payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. 2. **Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC**, have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

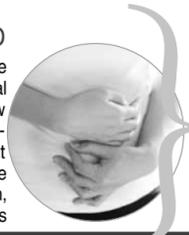
Date: April 13, 2021  
Place: Delhi/NCR  
Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited



# HEALTH

## Antioxidants Help

As many Covid-19 patients in the country are experiencing gastrointestinal symptoms in the second wave, which is now more lethal, health experts emphasise that consumption of natural antioxidants might help fight them. The experts say that natural antioxidant like gamma oryzanol, which is derived from rice bran, has multiple health and GI benefits



## YOUNG ONES STAY INDOORS

The new wave of COVID-19 is wrecking havoc, especially among children, as more and more test positive. SHALINI SAKSENA speaks to doctors to tell you more

The second wave of COVID-19 is far deadlier than what it was last year. This time round, the cause for alarm is two-fold. First, even those who have been vaccinated have tested positive. Second, more and more children are falling victim to the virus. An AIIMS report in November 2020 revealed that almost 40 per cent of all the persons who tested positive for coronavirus across age groups were found to be asymptomatic and 73.5 per cent, the highest proportion of asymptomatic cases was reported among children below the age of 12.

Come March 2021, and the number of children who have tested positive has reached alarming proportions. Dr Merlin Moni, Division of Infectious Diseases, Amrita Hospital, Kochi says that scientific explanation for the increase in the number of cases in kids is at present incomplete.

"However, they are issues specific 15 children which could contribute to current increasing number. All schools reopening with challenges on mask, social distancing, rising community spread and lack of vaccine for them is making them vulnerable. Studies have already proven that there could be as much as three times increased number of cases with school reopening. In addition, there could be variants which are evaluating especially in the scenario of complete vaccination," Moni explains. Another reason, one is told, could be due to: New viral variant which will alter behaviour of the virus.

There is a silver lining though. Most of the vaccines which are already being approved for the adults could be used in children but the phase II, III, IV trials are lagging for them.

"Many vaccines have already completed trials in adolescents (above 12 years) and have generated safety and efficacy profile of the vaccine, similar to over 18 years' age group. However, the trials in special populations including younger age group is on its way. Pregnancy and lactation are other categories for which data regarding vaccine use is lagging. The solution to this situation bears no shortcuts," Moni tells you.

Another plus is that while more children are getting infected and becoming symptomatic as compared to the first wave, the number requiring intensive care is negligible.

Dr Rachna Sharma, senior consultant, Paediatrics ICU, Centre for Child Health, BLK Super Speciality Hospital in the Capital tells you that the situation is definitely alarming at present. "As compared to last year, even asymptomatic kids are now testing positive. There is no single reason for this. The new variant, no masks, no social distancing when an adult in the house tests positive are some of the reasons," she tells you.

The solution is simple. First, keep the kids indoors at all times. "Second, when an adult in the house tests positive keep them away. The young, people under 45 need to be extremely careful since the vaccine doesn't include them. One has to behave like responsible citizens. The fact that so many doctors have also tested positive goes to show there is need to tread with caution. Third, wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, not go out and when adults do so, maintain COVID-19 SOP and keep away from social gathering can go a long way in keeping the children as well as the adults safe," Sharma says.

## DOCYARD DR PARESH DOSHI

Director of Neurosurgery

JASLOK HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE, MUMBAI



## Look out for tremors



World Parkinson's Day is celebrated on April 11 in the memory of Dr James Parkinson's birthday. It was in 1817, in a landmark essay, *Essay on the Shaking Palsy* based on the observations of six patients, he described the cardinal signs of Parkinson's disease, which included, posture, festination of gait and tremors. More than later 200 years the Parkinson's disease remains a clinical diagnosis based on the physician's observation of the symptoms of the patient.

**Early signs and symptoms:** The most common early symptom of Parkinson's disease is tremors. The typical Parkinsonian tremors are called pill rolling tremor, it looks like as if the person is rolling pills. The most important characteristics of these tremors are that they are asymmetric, and usually start on one side and are suppressed during actions. For example, if the patient wants to drink a cup of tea the tremor will stop while drinking but as soon as he puts down the cup, and the hand starts to rest, the tremor will start. The other common presenting symptom is slowness. Many patients complain that their hand has become slow or the range of the hand movement has decreased. This leads them to seek opinion from Orthopaedic doctors where the diagnosis gets little delayed.

The third common symptom again associated with tremors and slowness is the change in handwriting. It is not surprising for many patients to be diagnosed with Parkinson's disease following change in handwriting.

**The most common early symptom of Parkinson's disease is tremors. The typical Parkinsonian tremors are called pill rolling tremor, it looks like as if the person is rolling pills**

The typical change in handwriting is that when they start to write, the letters are legible and of proper height but as the sentence progresses, they continue to decrease in the height, and they become illegible. In medical terminology we call this micrographia.

Some patients present with alteration in the gait. This is a more common feature in Parkinson Disease affecting patients above 60 years of age. Their gait becomes slow and shuffling. Many times, this gets attributed to old age and hence there is a delay in the diagnosis.

Once again, the clue here is asymmetry, one leg becomes slower than the other. It looks like the patient has developed a mild paralysis and is dragging his feet. Another form of gait difficulty is freezing. Where the legs stick to the ground and it is difficult for patient to move forward. This is more pronounced when the patient walks through narrow corridors or in a crowded space. Occasionally if the gait disturbances is not detected early and diagnosed correctly it leads to falls and many patients present with falls, however, falls are not the first symptoms of Parkinson disease and if patient is suffering from falls than either he is an advanced Parkinson's disease patient or is suffering from some other disorders.

The third symptom that James Parkinson's described was stooped posture. Usually, this is also attributed to old age, if it occurs in elderly. The change in the posture comes little later. Some of the subtle symptoms of Parkinson disease that can get unnoticed are unexplained constipation, sleep disorders, lack of smell, mask like face and speech disturbances. Many of these appear much before even the tremor begins.

Parkinson's is more commonly seen in elderly patients above 60 years of age. However, a small percentage of patients present below the age of 40 years. These patients are known as young onset Parkinson's disease. A very small percentage of patients can get this disease below the age of 20 years and this is called Juvenile Parkinson's disease.

The diagnosis essentially still remains clinical. When there is a doubt about the diagnosis, specialised investigations like MRI or SPECT scans are performed to exclude other pathologies.

## SUMMER COOLERS

**WATERMELON:** Come summers, and watermelon makes it to your priority list. A refreshing and low calories summer fruit, it makes watermelon all the more important to have in the season.

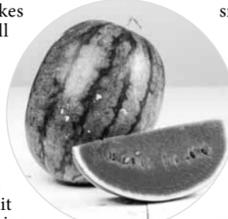
It is made up of around 90 per cent water, which makes the fruit useful for staying hydrated. It can also satisfy a sweet tooth with its natural sugars.

It also contains antioxidants. These substances can help remove molecules known as free radicals, or reactive

species, from the body. The body produces free radicals during natural processes, such as metabolism. They can also develop through smoking, air pollution, stress, and other environmental pressures.

The high water content in watermelon and the other nutrients help promote a healthy gut by preventing constipation and promoting regularity of bowel movements.

Watermelon juice may also reduce muscle soreness and improve recovery time following exercise in athletes.



# VACCINE STILL BEST BET

The growing cases of COVID-19, with people who have been fully vaccinated also testing positive, has raised an alarm. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with doctors who talk about the reasons behind it and why it is still the best option

Soon after the reports of doctors getting COVID positive even after receiving both the vaccine shots made headlines, the efficacy of the vaccine came under question. With people wondering why to get vaccinated if one can anyway get infected with Coronavirus, doctors believe it is still the best bet.

"It is not correct to think that getting vaccinated will prevent one from catching the infection. A fully vaccinated person can still be infected but the viral load of such a person will be far less than someone who is not vaccinated or partially vaccinated. The antibodies produced by the vaccine helps in fighting off the virus, which in turn, reduces the chances of that person transmitting the virus to other people," Dr Deepak Verma, Internal Medicine, Columbia Asia Hospital, Ghaziabad, tells you.

There are reports that not administering the jab at the right spot can be one of the reasons of a person catching the virus, however, Dr Verma dismisses all these facts.

"The vaccines approved for use in India are intramuscular in nature and a vaccinated person getting COVID has got nothing to do with how a vaccine is administered — there is no evidence so far that a wrong way of administering a vac-

cine can affect its efficacy; however, it can increase pain, swelling and reduce the range of motion in that area," he says.

Dr Arunesh Kumar, Senior Consultant & Head Respiratory Medicine/Pulmonology, Paras Hospital agrees with Verma and tells you that there is yet no vaccine that guarantees 100 per cent protection against the corona virus.

"Even if you are vaccinated, you must follow the safety rules suggested by doctors. Vaccination is a must to reduce the transmission rate and thus everyone must get it. Even after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, we must continue taking all precautions like the use of face cover or masks, hand sanitisation and maintain distancing. These behaviours must be followed both at the session site and in general. Vaccination reduces the severity of disease and reduce the transmissibility of virus," he explains.

However, the rising concerns may raise doubts in the mind of the people about getting vaccinated. But, experts say this is not the way out.

"One shouldn't be apprehensive about getting the vaccination done. While it doesn't provide 100 per cent efficacy, it is still the best bet. Keeping in mind the current situation, it is imperative that we must be on optimum guard. Even after

**One shouldn't be apprehensive about getting the vaccination done. While it doesn't provide 100 per cent efficacy, it is still the best bet. Keeping in mind the current situation, it is imperative that we must be on optimum guard**

— Dr Deepak Verma  
Internal Medicine,  
Columbia Asia  
Hospital, Ghaziabad



## DadiKaKehna

*With rising temperature, it is essential to keep oneself hydrated at all times. ROSHANI DEVI shares home concoctions that can help keep your body hydrated and cool*



Remaining hydrated at times is the key to prevent a heat stroke. Drinking plenty of water is the golden rule here. If the nature of your work keeps you outdoors, which one should avoid at all costs keeping in mind the rising COVID cases, carry a bottle of water with you.

Peak sun hours are from 10 am to 4 pm. Try and avoid going out during this time.

Onions are great to prevent a heatstroke. Eat them in any form, though raw would be best.

The juice of coriander

or basil leaves are also very effective in keeping the body cool.

Drink coconut water a couple of times in a day.

Wear light fabrics that allow your body to breathe can keep you cool. Cotton is the best options.

Lighter shades do not absorb heat and helps to keep the body cool.

Wear loose fitting clothes.

Eat healthy. Yogurt is a great cooling food and

easy to digest.

Eat more fruits that are high in water content. Drink at least two glasses of buttermilk.



## BOND FOR LIFE

National Safe Motherhood Day was on April 11. To mark the occasion, DR NEHA KHANDELWAL tells you all about motherhood

**What are the appropriate number of antenatal checks to ensure safe motherhood?**

Pregnancy is divided into three trimesters. In the first trimester that is up till 12 weeks, once a month visit to your doctor will suffice. From 12-28 weeks, once in 3/4 weeks is good for your doctor to keep a check on you and your baby. Then from 28-36 weeks, it should be fortnightly. After 36 weeks, your doctor would need to check you once a week since you'll be approaching your delivery day.

**What diet and exercise to follow to have a safe and healthy motherhood journey?**

One should have a balanced diet in pregnancy. Proteins in the form of pulses, eggs, chicken and fish should be a part of your meals. Adequate intake of fruits and dry fruits is very important. Milk and milk



Dr. Neha Khandelwal  
Senior Consultant Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
BirthRight By Rainbow  
Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital, New Delhi

pregnancy could be as simple as a daily walk for 30-40 minutes. Stretching exercises and yoga exercises which are safe in pregnancy and approved by your doctor may be done under supervision. Exercise helps alleviate minor aches and pains of pregnancy and increases your chances of having a natural birth.

**Breastfeed is the best feed in every motherhood journey. Why?**

Breast milk is packed with nutrients and is hygienic. Not to mention, it increases the bonding between a mother and her baby. It is loaded with antibodies that could protect your baby from a variety of diseases. So try to exclusively breastfeed your baby for a minimum of six months.

products are a good source of protein and calcium. Try to have to have three major meals with healthy snacking in between. Exercising in



## INBRIEF

Boosting immunity is on everyone's cards, more so because of raging fury of Coronavirus. Ginger, tulsi, garlic and what not, people want to have it all. To solve their woes, while also enhancing their experience of having tea, Vahdam India's 100 per cent culinary grade Pure Matcha is expertly blended with authentic Indian superfoods to bring forth the gift of focus, energy and nutrition.

Matcha is known to have 137X antioxidants than regular green tea. A known rich source of anti-oxidants, Japanese Matcha green tea improves focus and aids in boosting metabolism. Combined with various other Indian superfoods, and adding to its existing range of Japanese matcha green teas, Vahdam India continues to please tea lovers with good health.

**Cocoa Japanese Matcha Green Tea:** A scrumptious guilt-free treat, with the rich sweetness of Cocoa and the woody kick of cinnamon, this is a perfect drink to get started with a matcha wellness routine — for focus and immunity. Price: ₹699 for 50 grams.

**Ashwagandha Japanese Matcha Green Tea:** With the soothing effects of ashwagandha and the spicy notes of cinnamon & black pepper, this blend combines Ayurvedic wisdom with the exceptional effects of Matcha. A perfect brew to help alleviate stress, focus better and rejuvenate yourself. Price: ₹699 for 50 grams.



**TRENDBLAZER**

**GAUAHAR TALKS ABOUT LIFE AFTER MARRIAGE**



Actor **GAUAHAR KHAN** took to social media to share an appreciation post for her husband Zaid Darbar. "So we have not had a so called honeymoon yet. Life has been absolutely crazy ever since we got married. Shoots, Zaid's studio launch, my dad not doing well and us losing him... but what I've had is the best gift of life that Allah could give me — my Zaid. Always by side as my strength. We make even the smallest work trip into a great time to make it feel like a holiday," she wrote.

**fairtalk**  
ADARSH GOURAV



'There are a few directors and filmmakers in India as well as in the West I really want to work with and I hope that it happens someday. *The White Tiger* has definitely helped me get in touch with some of them. I have been auditioning for a lot of parts and I hope to convert some of them and begin working on something exciting really soon.'

**dailytalk**  
VIVEK OBEROI



'*Company* was a dream debut for me. At that time, it was the most unconventional debut and I cherished the opportunity RGV gave me and dived into the character. I rented a *kholi* and lived in a slum for three weeks to prepare and transform into Chandu Nagare. Nineteen years today and I wouldn't change a thing.'

**'PROUD TO BE PART OF MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE'**

Actor **MICHELLE MONAGHAN** is proud to be part of the *Mission: Impossible* franchise. She played Julia Meade, wife of Tom Cruise's super spy protagonist Ethan Hunt, in three films of the series. "That was such an extraordinary experience from beginning to end. One of my first days was the opening scene with (late) Philip Seymour Hoffman. He was such a tremendous actor and such a talent, we were fortunate to be graced with," she said.



**LET IT ALL OUT**

**ROHAN PARIKH** shares how schools can help students as well as parents to manage stress in such adverse times



**'Remember to be truthful in situations where you may not have the answer. Kids are more intuitive than we think and they can pick up when things are not right. It's important to acknowledge and validate their feelings of fear, and let them know that it is ok to have them'**

people, be it family that doesn't live with them or their friends who they would otherwise play with at school. Staying connected with their friends is critical to their happiness, as it gives them companionship and helps maintain good mental health. Make sure to celebrate all the birthdays, anniversaries, holidays like you would otherwise, follow patterns that you would outside of this pandemic. By staying connected with the world around them will help students to have a sense of normality through these tough times.

By keeping the above advice in mind parents, teachers and schools for that matter can keep an open line of communication with the children, allowing them to address their feelings and rationally work through them without getting overwhelmed or stressed out about it. Balancing the socio-emotional development of children, and helping them appropriately navigate through this time gives students the skills which they carry with them into adulthood and learn how to stop, analyse, and problem solve whenever they come upon a difficult situation.

(The writer is the MD of The Green Acres Academy.)

We are currently facing a situation unlike any other. As we watch the world slowly emerge from the pandemic, it's only natural to have feelings of anxiousness and stress about what the future holds. If we, as adults, feel this way, then it's only logical that our children will feel it as well, and they may not possess the same ability to rationalise the current state of the world. In such a situation, the mechanisms provided by socio-emotional learning proves crucial for students and parents. It equips students to rationalise, analyse and navigate through difficult and stressful times, something they will carry with them into the workforce and as adults. So now you can see the importance schools must place on the socio-emotional development of students and how they come into play. The vital role that

teachers and schools will now play will be in providing parents with the correct guidance, advice and support in helping students manage their stress.

Here are the three main things parents should keep in mind while helping their children:

**Talk to them about the current situation**

The pandemic has been around long enough, and its effects will continue to be there, both good and bad. Avoiding difficult conversations will only make matters more confusing and stressful for children. Parents should calmly explain the current scenario to children, and work with them through their feelings. By doing so, parents will be better preparing them for uncertain situations and how they can cope with it in future.

Remember to be truthful in situations where you may not have the answer. Children will appreciate the honesty and learn that it is ok that we don't always know everything. Do not pretend like nothing is wrong. Kids are more intuitive than we think and they can pick up when things are not right. It's important to acknowledge and validate their feelings of fear, and let them know that it is ok to have those feelings.

Balance out the conversations by ensuring to share some good news as well, let them know that it's not all bad out there. And most importantly, make sure conversation is continuous. Encourage them to talk to you, communicate with you and make sure to check on their feelings at frequent intervals.

**Helping them deal with big and difficult feelings**

We are all going through a whole host of emotions, sometimes it's almost like a rollercoaster. While it's completely ok to experience this range of feelings, it's not good to remain distressed. Staying in a state of distress prevents one from thinking clearly and can also affect one's learning. This is because the brain goes into a state of 'Fight or Flight' and the brain is looking for the fastest response but not the best response. To help students work through this, we have to teach them how to first identify their feelings. Teach your children what being in distress means or feels like, and what are the different emotions that could cause it; is it anger, frustration, disappointment etc. Once they have identified the emotions, the next step is to teach them how to cope with it. Give children a few tools to help them manage the emotions, like

giving kids a hug to make them feel safe or deep breathing, slow body movements to help them slow down their mind and emotions. Once they have coped with their big overwhelming feelings, now is the time to solve the problem. Teach them that once they have reached a calmer stage, their minds will be in a better place to think of the best solution and not the fastest solution to the problem. So now, you can both revisit the problem together and assess what possible solutions you can come up to tackle the problem at hand.

**Proactive tools to make your family feel safe**

Proactive tools or strategies are those which help us take charge of our own decision making and problem-solving. These help us

plan for specific issues or scenarios that may arise and be prepared for them. Being prepared and ready will only help children feel more confident and secure when the situation arises as they won't be lost or confused with how to react. The important proactive tools to equip children with is helping them schedule their day, and to follow a routine. If they know how the day is going to be, it helps them be more prepared both emotionally and mentally.

Other important tools for children are adequate exercise, sleep, food and water. Many studies prove that children need up to one full hour of exercise in a day which helps with their mental and physical health.

Last but not least, it's important for students to stay connected with

**Want to do my bit to portray women better: Parineeti**



Actor Parineeti Chopra says she has always tried to change the narrative of how women should be portrayed on screen right from her debut. Parineeti with her superlative performances in *Ladies Vs Ricky Bahl*, *Ishaqzaade*, *Shuddh Desi Romance*, *Hasee Toh Phasee*, among others had established herself as an effective, unconventional counterpoint to the Bollywood norm that heroines should play a certain type of roles and look a certain way. Parineeti says, "I strongly feel that actresses have to change the narrative of how women are portrayed on screen. Right from my debut, I have tried to do this. I have always taken it on myself to do something out of the ordinary, not portray the quintessential heroine that Bollywood has tried to depict for ages." Pari, through her last three releases *The Girl On The Train* (TGOTT), *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar* (SAPF) and *Saina*, has shown her intent to play diverse roles that brought to screen confident, unconventional heroines who are in control of their own destiny. She says, "My last three films - TGOTT, SAPF and Saina were also an attempt by me to give varied, bold, confident, ambitious heroines to the audience. My forthcoming film choices will resonate this thought process too because I definitely want to do my bit to portray women better." Pari wishes that all the actresses in Bollywood should be conscious about how they represent women on screen. She says, "If all of us are able to change the way women are presented on screen, it will go a long way in changing the perception of girls in our society. Cinema can impact the minds of the audience and so, let us use this medium to affect positive changes in our society."

**Toofaan a dream project for Mrunal**

Dreams truly have come true for Mrunal Thakur, who someday hoped to star in a Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra film after watching *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*. The actor is now part of the ensemble starcast of Mehra's sports drama *Toofaan* in association with Excel Entertainment and ROMP Pictures. With *Toofaan*, Mrunal, who has worked with some of the leading names in the industry early in her career, now got the opportunity to work with both Farhan Akhtar and Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, both of whom she's had deep admiration for. Says Mrunal Thakur, "I kind of manifested it, I believe. I remember watching *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag* alone in a theatre during my college days and I wrote a huge note just assuming that Rakeysh sir would one day read my message. At that time I didn't even know I would be an actor. Working with Excel is like a dream, especially when you have a combination of Farhan and Rakeysh sir. We were completely pampered and the treatment on set was so amazing." The actor is also excited that *Toofaan* is releasing on the OTT platform, making it the film accessible to a global audience. She adds, "The fact that the film is releasing in 240 countries and territories on the OTT platform is a blessing in dis-



guise because there are no geographical barriers here. I'm glad that the film is on Amazon since I love their content. A film like *Toofaan*, which is inspirational, is most needed at a time like this to motivate people during a pandemic." The film, the inspirational sports drama produced by Ritesh Sidhwani, Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra and Farhan Akhtar will premiere on Amazon Prime Video on May 21.

**INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
(A GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR UNDERTAKING)

First Floor, Udyog Bhawan, East Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800 004  
E-mail: md@idabihar.com, Website-www.idabihar.com,  
Phone-0612-2675933, 2675935, Fax-2675934

**NOTICE INVITING SHORT RE-TENDER No.- 07/TEN/IDA/21**  
(केवल ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in))

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए समुचित श्रेणी में केन्द्रीय सरकार/राज्य सरकार/ उपक्रम/ बोर्ड/ निगम में निबंधित अथवा ख्याती प्राप्त राष्ट्रीय/अन्तरराष्ट्रीय स्तर के Agency से प्रतिशत / मदवार निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का विवरण :

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	कुल प्राक्कलित राशि (₹00)	अग्रघन की राशि (₹00)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (₹00) (online payment)	ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया शुल्क (₹00) (online payment)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	Construction of Integrated Unit for Irradiation-cum-Pack House (Common Facility Centre) at Bihta, Patna, Bihar.	23,87,98,500.00	47,76,000.00	10,000.00	As appeared on <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> website	12 Months

**निविदा समय सारणी (Tender Schedule)**

क्र.सं.	गतिविधि	स्थान, तिथि एवं समय
1	विज्ञापनदाता का नाम	आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पूरव, पटना-800004
2	निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि	दिनांक 07.04.2021
3	निविदा डाउनलोड तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 15.04.2021 से 24.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे तक ( <a href="http://on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
4	प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	दिनांक 19.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पूरव, पटना-4
5	निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 26.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे तक ( <a href="http://on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
6	अग्रघन राशि एवं सभी शपथ पत्र की मूल प्रति जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	दि 27.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे तक पी0डी000 शाखा, आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पूरव, पटना-800004
7	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 27.04.2021 को 15:30 बजे ( <a href="http://on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
8	वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के पश्चात। ( <a href="http://on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
9	निविदा बंधनता की अवधि	120 दिन

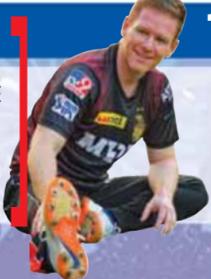
निविदा की विस्तृत शर्तों एवं आवश्यक सूचना आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार एवं कार्यपालक अभियंता (पी.डी.ए.) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है एवं कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट एवं वेबसाइट [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) / [www.idabihar.com](http://www.idabihar.com) पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR-000362 (N.I.) 2021-22 कार्यपालक अभियंता (पी0डी000)

किमी भी तरह आपदा को जानकारे अथवा सुझाव देते आपदा प्रबंधन के हेल्पलाइन नं. 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

# GAME ON 2021

ONE OF THE MANY STRENGTHS WE (KKR) HAVE WITHIN OUR SQUAD IS TWO OF THE MOST TALENTED GUYS (RANA AND GILL) IN THE COUNTRY OPENING THE BATTING FOR US  
— EINO MORGAN



TODAY



VS



LIVE FROM 7:30PM IST

STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

# CAPTAIN PUNJAB

## KL (91), Hooda (64 off 28) take Punjab Kings to 221

PLAYER	RUNS
1. KL Rahul (PBKS)	91
2. Shikhar Dhawan (DC)	85
3. Nitish Rana (KKR)	80

PLAYER	WKTS
1. Harshal Patel (RCB)	5
2. Avesh Khan (DC)	2
3. Rashid Khan (SRH)	2

MOST SIXES	COUNT
1. Deepak Hooda (PBKS)	6
2. KL Rahul (PBKS)	5
3. Nitish Rana (KKR)	4

GAYLE'S FIRST INNINGS OF A SEASON FOR PUNJAB				
RUNS	BALLS	OPPOSITION	VENUE	YEAR
63	33	Chennai Super Kings	Mohali	2018
79	47	Rajasthan Royals	Jaipur	2019
53	45	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Sharjah	2020
40	28	Rajasthan Royals	Mumbai	2021



Punjab Kings skipper KL Rahul congratulates teammate Deepak Hooda after he scores fifty against Rajasthan Royals during IPL match in Mumbai

I WAS JUST REACTING TO THE BALL AND SHOWING AGGRESSIVE INTENT IN MY BATTING. I GOT THIS ROLE AT NO 4 AND I AM HAPPY TO GET THIS ROLE, AS I BAT AT THIS POSITION IN DOMESTIC CRICKET. THERE WAS NO DEW, THE BALL IS HOLDING UP ON THE WICKET FOR A BIT. THE SCORE IS QUITE GOOD AND WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND IT  
—DEEPAK HOODA

the Wankhede that made the difference to their total as the duo tore into the opposition attack on way to their 105-run stand. Courtesy their monstrous hitting, Punjab added 111 runs in the final eight overs. Hooda, who had made a 62 against CSK in his last competitive game in November, had stormed out of the Baroda camp ahead of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy after claiming that Krunal Pandya misbehaved with him. Hooda was subsequently suspended.

### SUMMER SLAM



Jos Buttler's wife Louise Buttler and daughter Georgia Rose in stands during IPL match between Rajasthan Royals and Punjab Kings at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai

**HARDIK WILL BOWL SOON: ZAEHER**  
Hardik Pandya did not bowl against RCB due to a shoulder concern but he will soon contribute in team's cause with ball in his hand, MI's Director of Cricket Operations Zaheer Khan said. "Hardik, as a whole package is always of great value. It was a workload related thing in the previous game. There was a little bit of a shoulder concern but I don't think it is worrisome. You will see him bowl very soon. We are very confident that he will be chipping in with the ball in his hand as well," added Zaheer.

**WILLIAMSON NEEDS EXTRA TIME**  
SRH head coach Trevor Bayliss said Kane Williamson was left out against KKR as he needs more time to be match fit. "We just felt that Kane needed a little bit of extra time to get match fit and a little bit more time in the nets," Bayliss said. "He would have played in place of Bairstow if that had occurred. But we aren't too perturbed about that, Jonny has been in form recently. Kane will obviously come into calculations as the tournament unfolds."

**AVESH TAKES HIS DREAM WICKET**  
DC pacer Avesh Khan said he fulfilled a long-cherished dream when he got former India skipper MS Dhoni's prized wicket. "Three years ago, I had a chance to take Mahi bhai's wicket, but somebody had dropped the catch. But now my dream of taking Mahi bhai's wicket is fulfilled, so I am very happy about it," Avesh said."

**SHAW MADE COMEBACK LIKE CHAMPION**  
DC opener Shikhar Dhawan heaped praise on his batting partner Prithvi Shaw, who made 72 off 38 balls against CSK. "It was lovely to watch Prithvi bat so effortlessly and timing the ball so nicely. He went through a bad patch earlier and has come back as a champion. I am so happy to see him perform that well."

POINTS TABLE						
	P	W	L	NRR	PTS	
1	DC	1	1	0	+0.779	2
2	KKR	1	1	0	+0.500	2
3	RCB	1	1	0	+0.050	2
4	PBKS	0	0	0	+0.000	0
5	RR	0	0	0	+0.000	0
6	MI	1	0	1	-0.050	0
7	SRH	1	0	1	-0.500	0
8	CSK	1	0	1	-0.779	0

PTI ■ MUMBAI

KL Rahul and Deepak Hooda pummeled the Rajasthan Royals bowlers into submission with their sensational stroke play, propelling Punjab Kings to an imposing 221 for six in the IPL here on Monday. While Rahul smashed seven fours and five sixes in his 50-ball 91, Hooda, playing his first game since the last IPL, plundered six maximums and four boundaries as he blazed his way to 64 off just 28 balls. Put into bat, Punjab lost opener Mayank Agarwal (14) early, who edged it back to Royals captain and wicket-keeper Sanju Samson for IPL debutant Chetan Sakariya's first wicket. He ended being the pick of the bowlers, conceding only five runs in the 20th over. Rahul, who got his first four with a glance to the fine-leg fence, and Chris Gayle (40 off 28) gave the team a good start with their 67-run stand. Rahul got a 'life' after Ben Stokes dropped him at the fence in the seventh over even as Gayle, looked in his elements. The duo then took on Stokes, as Gayle hit his 350th IPL six, a pull over deep square in the 8th over with Punjab racing to 70 for one. Gayle was dropped by leggie Rahul Tewatia (0/25) off his own bowling and the very next ball, the left-hander smashed a six. However, in the 10th over, Riyan Parag (1/7) removed Gayle, who was holed out to Stokes in the deep. Rahul then changed gears and got to his fifty with a six over Shivam Dube's (0/20) head in the 13th over. Hooda then smashed two maximums in the same over and then struck three sixes off Shreyas Gopal (0/40) in the next as Punjab went ballistic. It was Rahul and Hooda's show at

## MI for Knight Riders

**KEY PLAYERS**

**NITISH RANA**  
Rana adds value to KKR with an ability to stabilise the innings and accelerate when required

**KRUNAL PANDYA**  
The Sr Pandya is never out of the game be it with the ball in hand or with the bat

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Fresh from their clinical display against Sunrisers Hyderabad, two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to set the record straight against nemesis Mumbai Indians in their second match here on Tuesday. They have won just once in their last 12 games against MI, and have an overall lopsided 6-21 head-to-head record. Having missed the last two playoffs, KKR looked a completely different unit, in the manner in which they defeated SRH on Sunday. Be it the aggression shown by the top-order or the explosive finish by Dinesh Karthik, KKR's displayed a fearless approach under skipper Eoin Morgan. The left-right opening combination of Nitish Rana and Shubman Gill started to attack right from the first ball, clearly indicating that the new approach had Morgan's success mantra written all over it. But on Tuesday it will all boil down to battle of wits between Morgan and Rohit Sharma, under whose captaincy MI has won a record fifth IPL title last season in UAE. MI will pose real challenge for KKR as the title holders would be desperate to secure their first win of the season after their two-wicket loss to Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL opener. KRR found it easy against SRH bowlers, which lacked fire-power but in Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult, MI attack will be a completely different proposition. Gill's struggle to bat at T20 pace has been a concern for KKR and it will be interesting to see the young opener's approach against the finest in the business. In his debut match for MI, Chris Lynn was their top-scorer, albeit with some stroke of luck as he survived some edges and mishits. But now with Quinton de Kock available for selection, MI may go back to their preferred left-right opening combination of Rohit and de Kock.

VENUE: CHIDAMBARAM STADIUM, CHENNAI

**HEAD TO HEAD**

Matches	27
Kolkata Knight Riders	06
Mumbai Indians	21

**LAST YEAR'S MATCHES**

- Mumbai Indians defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by 49 runs at Abu Dhabi
- Mumbai Indians beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 8 wickets at Abu Dhabi

**954**

Shubman Gill who scored 954 runs at an average of 32.89 in 39 innings of 42 matches, needs 44 runs to become 11th batsman to score over 1000 runs for Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL

**47**

Krunal Pandya who took 47 wickets at an average of 32.61 in 70 innings of 72 matches, needs three wickets to become the sixth bowler to complete a fifty of wickets for Mumbai Indians in IPL

Faisal Features

## Women's T20 Challenge likely to remain three-team affair

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI is likely to stick to three teams for the Women's T20 Challenge tournament, usually held during the IPL play-offs. The Board had planned to increase the exhibition event to four teams last year but it will continue to be a three-team affair due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since the delayed IPL was held in the September-November window last year, the Women's Challenge clashed with the WBBL, making the Australian players unavailable. "As of now the plan is to have three teams. A final decision will be taken shortly. There is a good chance that it will be held in Delhi. Talks are on with the leading Australian and England players," a BCCI official said on Monday. The last edition, comprising four games, was held in Sharjah as the IPL play-offs took place in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The decision on the event could be taken during BCCI's

Apex Council meeting on April 16, when the appointment of Indian women's team support staff and its Future Tours Programme will also be discussed. The Indian players have been badly short on match practice amid the pandemic. India played their first series in a year last month when they lost both the ODI and T20 series to the visiting South African team.



The 'setback' called Covid-19 behind him, RCB opener Devdutt Padikkal is now completely ready to play his part in the IPL and confident of replicating his stupendous domestic form. The 20-year-old left-hander represented Karnataka in Vijay Hazare in March and was the second highest run-getter (737 runs) in the tourney

## Linde leads SA to series-levelling win



AFP ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa levelled their four-match T20 International series against Pakistan with a comfortable six-wicket win in the second match at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Monday. Left-arm spinner George Linde and fast bowler Lizaad Williams took three wickets each as Pakistan were restricted to 140 for nine in their 20 overs. Captain Babar Azam made 50 for Pakistan. Aiden Markram led an aggressive South African reply, hitting 54 off 30 balls, and the hosts romped to victory with six overs to spare. Stand-in captain Heinrich Klaasen made 36 not out from 21 balls and added 49 runs for fifth wicket with George Linde (20 off 10 balls, 2 sixes). The third game of the four-game series is on Wednesday.

## Bayern can beat PSG: Kimmich

MUNICH: Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich is convinced the holders can beat Paris Saint-Germain at the Parc des Princes on Tuesday in their Champions League quarter-final second leg to reach the last four.

**CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
C-73  
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
Tender ID : 2021\_ORULB\_67745  
Bid Reference No. MC(CMC)CTC\_Div-I\_No1/2021-21  
Tender Call Notice No. 9130 (PW) Date.12.04.2021

Name of Works : Civil Works  
No of Works : 10 Nos  
Bid Value : Rs. 3.50 Lakh to Rs. 35.00 Lakh  
Period of Completion : One Calendar Month to Two Calendar Months

Date and Time schedule :

Start	End	Opening
3.00 PM on dt. 13.04.2021	5.00 PM on dt. 22.04.2021	11.00 A.M. on dt. 27.04.2021

Tender Details : can be seen from the procurement portal : [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
Superintending Engineer, City Div-I  
OIPR-13031/11/0004/2122