OPINION 6

OF SRI LANKA AND

THE ANDAMANS

'SUSPICIOUS' BLACKOUT STRIKES

IRAN'S NATANZ NUCLEAR SITE

SPORT 12

PUNJAB VS ROYALS

IN IPL TODAY

Published From

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANI RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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SUIT UP, SMILE UP, SHOW UP: TAAPSEE 10 VIVACITY

5 new vaccines by year end: Govt Central team points loopholes in Punjab's

Record over 1.57 lakh cases in a day as Covid 2nd wave grips India battle against Covid-19



A policeman tries to ensure people wear face masks as a precaution against the coronavirus at a Sunday market in Jammu on Sunday

PNS NEW DELHI

India celebrated the beginning of three-day Tika utsav (vaccination festival) on Sunday amid reports of a massive shortage of vaccine in several states and indication that by the end of the third quarter of this year India will receive Covid-19 vaccines from five additional manufacturers.

Meanwhile, India recorded a new all-time high daily Covid-19 count at 1,57,028 cases with Maharashtra contributing maximum at 63,294. Tindia currently has 2 Covid-19 vaccines being manufactured locally: Covishield

and Covaxin, and we can expect five more vaccines by Q3 2021. These vaccines are Sputnik V vaccine (in collaboration with Dr Reddy's), Johnson & Johnson vaccine (in collaboration with Biological E), Novavax vaccine (in collaboration with Serum India, Zydus Cadila's vaccine, and Bharat Biotech's Intranasal Vaccine, Safety and efficacy are the Union Government's primary concerns while granting emergency use authorisation (EUA) to any Covid-19 vaccine in the country', news agency

in the country," news agency ANI reported, citing top Government sources. The report said out of the

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 1,35,12,493 (+1,57,028) DEATHS: 1,70,066 (+761) RECOVERED. 1,21,47,081 (+68,748) ACTIVE: 11,89,856

MAHARASHTRA: 34,07,245 KERALA: 11,67,191

KARNATAKA: 10,65,290 TAMIL NADU: 9.33.434

DELHI: 7,25,197 (+10,774)

pel.Hi: 7,25,197 (r40,774)
almost 20 vaccines in various almost 20 vaccines in various clinical and pre-clinical stages, Sputnik V vaccine would receive approval first, within the next ten days.

For the manufacturing of vaccine doses, the Russian Direct Investment Fund has partnered with a number of Indian pharmaceutical companies, including Hyderabad-sased Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hetero Biopharma, Gland Pharma, Stells Biopharma, and Vichrow Biotech. Sputnik Vull provide a big boost in the war against Covid-19, with a production capacity of 850 million doses in the country. "Sputnik is expected to be

UP schools shut, social gathering restricted to 50 in closed space

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Government on Sunday ordered the closure of all schools till April 30 and directed the imposition of a night curfew in the districts, which report 100 new infections in a day or have 500 active cases. The Government ordered that not more than 100 people be allowed to assemble at an open space, and 50 in closed spaces.

Detailed report on P5

available latest by June if all goes well Johnson and Johnson (Bio E) will be available by August, Cadilla Zydus will also be available by August, Novavex (Serum) by October." the source said, on when the vaccines would be available for use. The country is facine a

The country is facing a huge shortage of vaccines and several vaccination centres have closed down in Maharashtra due to this.

due to this.
Chhattisgarh, Odisha,
Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand,
Telangana and Punjab have
complained of a shortage of
vaccines.

India bans virus drug Remdesivir's export

PNS NEW DELHI

Anticipating increase in the demand for Remdesivir injection in the coming days in the wake of a spike in Covid-19 cases, the Centre on Sunday took a string of measures from prohibition of the export of the anti-viral drug as well as that of Remdesivir Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) with an aim to ensure sufficient availability in the domestic market.

The Centre's decision to ban the export of Remdesivir comes in the wake of reports of its shortage and hoarding resulting in inflated prices of the drug in black market.

There have been reports of Remdesivir shortage in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

The Government has asked

about a dozen pharmaceutical companies, including Mylan, Hetero Healthcare.

Hetero Healthcare.

Jubilant Life Sciences,
Cipla, Dr Reddy's Laboratories,
Zydus Cadila and Sun
Pharmaceuticals — to scale
up to their maximum capacity of 31.6 lakh vials per month
and lower its MRP (maximum
ratil price)

and lower its MRP (maximum retail price).

The Government has also advised all domestic manufactures of Remdesivir to display details of their stockists/distributors on their website.

In order to facilitate access to the drug while the Department of the Departmen

facturers to ramp up the pro-duction.

Negative report must for travelling to Himachal from seven worst-hit States

Shimla: The Himachal Pradesh Government on Sunday made it mandatory for people com-ing from seven States which



MONIKA MALIK CHANDIGARH

The Central team, visiting Punjab following an explosion in the Covid-19 cases, has found the health system ailing and has recommended, among other things, injecting resources into urgent development of healthcare infrastructure in the State's Tred" districts.

ture in the State's "red" districts.
Union Health Secretary
Rajesh Bhushan, in a letter to
Punjab's Principal Secretary
(Health and Family Welfare)
Hussan Lal, highlighted the
gaps in the testing, contact tracing, and even state's healthcare
infrastructure coupled with
non-adherence of Covid-19
appropriate behaviour which is
hampering the State's battle
against Covid-19.
The letter, highlighting the
areas of concern, including

The letter, highlighting the areas of concern, including sub-optimal contact ment operations, and contact tracing, skewed testing and shortage of health workers, came after the central teams, deputed to visit worst affected States, submitted its report to the Union Health Ministry.

Of the 50 districts most affected by Covid-19 across India, nine are in Puniab.

affected by Covid-19 across India, nine are in Punjab. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, in a letter to the States, shared a brief summary of key performance indicators related to testing, hospital infrastructure and vaccination, as reported by the Central teams, for suitable corrective actions by State or District Administrations.

Bhushan, taking strong note of the non adherence Covid appropriate behaviour, has advised Punjab to enforce the norms more strictly to prevent further spread of the contagion.

contagion.

In the letter, the Centre has listed out loopholes districtwise besides immediate steps required.

The team has pointed out

The team has pointed out "fast exhausting ICU bed capacity" in most of the nine "red" districts of the State. As per the report of the central team, the ICU bed occupancy rates in the State was reported to be 99 per cent in Luchiana., followed by 80 per cent in SAS Nagar (Mohali), 70.6 per cent in SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr),

63.2 per cent in Jalandhar, and

63.2 per cent in Jalandhar, and
44.4 per cent in Patiala, 40 per
cent in Amritsar, 20 per cent in
Hoshiarpur, while Ropar's data
was not available.

The Central Government
has asked the respective
District Administrations to
prioritise addressing the hospital infrastructure, especially
in Mohali, Jalandhar, and
Ludhiama, as hospital bed occupancy rates continue to rise due
to the rise in the number of
coronavirus cases.

Besides, it pointed out that
the availability of isolation beds
"with oxygen" is also declining,
As per the availabel figures, the
occupancy rate of isolation
beds with oxygen in the State
is as high as 98 per cent in
Hoshiarpur, followed by 69
per cent in Mohali, 46 per cent
in Ludhiana, 38 per cent in
Amritsar, 35.6 per cent in
Amritsar, 35.6 per cent in
Alandhar, 35.2 in Nawanshahr,
34.4 per cent in Patiala, 25 in
Rupnagar (Ropar).

In fact, more than 75 per
cent Covid-positive patients, in
the listed "eight red" districts, are
under home isolation mandating strict monitoring by the
health authorities.

the listed eight red districts, are under home isolation mandating strict monitoring by the health authorities.

The letter, giving district wise details, pointed that Patiala and Ludhiana districts are vaccinating people against Covid-19 at a slower pace. The Union health Secretary has asked the Punjab Government to address the issue on priority.

It stated that Patiala and Ludhiana districts are also lagging behind in terms of contact tracing, while the rate of testing has dropped in Patiala. Besides, Patiala and Mohali are also witnessing a shortage in cut that Mohali and Rupnagar districts have no dedicated Covid-19 hospital, and the patients are being referred to the neighbouring districts or Chandigarh.

Talking about Ropar, the

the neighbouring districts or Chandigarh.
Talking about Ropar, the team pointed out that the district neither has any dedicated RT-PCR testing laboratory, nor has enough manpower. Rupnagar's hospitals are facing a shortage in terms of manpower due to which ventilators in these hospitals are not being optimally utilised," the report stated.

Opp seeks cancellation of CBSE, ICSE Board exams

X. XII exams scheduled from May 4

Weeks ahead of the CBSE and ICSE Board examinations, political parties have expressed serious concern over the Centre's go-ahead to con-duct the examinations amid the corona pandemic. While the Congress has

sought cancellation of the Board exams, saying it will be mpossible to ensure safety of students at crowded exam centres, Shiv Sena appealed to the Centre to take a uniform deci-Centre to take a uniform deci-sion on the board exams of Classes 10 and 12 across the country in the wake of differ-ent States and Boards having different opinions on the issues. While former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said the decision to conduct the CBSE exams from May 4 should be reconsidered in view of the ris-



ing number of Covid-19 cases across the country, party gen-eral secretary Priyanka Gandhi wrote to Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank seeking cancellation of the Board exams. She also pointed out that it is our responsibility as political leaders to protect and guide the young.

According to the revised date sheet for CBSE Board exams 2021, the Class 10 exams would be held between May 4 and June 7 and those for Class 12 would be held between May 4 and June 15. CBSE officials have said exam centres across the country have been increased by 40-50 per cent to ensure social distancing among examinees. ICSE Board examinations as well as several States have also scheduled the Board examinations during the next two months.



the future of India's youth?" Rahul asked through social media platform.

In her letter to the Education Minister, Priyanka said by forcing children to sit for these exams during a raging pandemic, the Government and the CBSE board will be held responsible if any exam centre becomes a hotspot with a large numbers of children becoming infected.

"The Government and the CBSE board might want to consider whether they are prepared to own the legal liability for students or others who might be severely affected by the disease in this manner, she said.

said.

She said with over one lakh cases of Covid-19 being reported across the country, lakh of children and parents have expressed fear of getting infected with coronavirus.

Body blow to Pak ultras in J&K, 12 killed in 3 days

Eliminated Ansar chief had planned to attack Amarnath pilgrims

MOHIT KANDHARI - JAMMU

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

Pakistan-based terrorist outfits Lashkar-ex-Tayyeba, Al-Badr, and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind have suffered the worst blow this year so far with the elimination of one dozen terrorists in four back-to-back encounters in the South Kashmir districts of Shopian, Pulwama and Anantnag in the last 72 hours.

Among those killed in the Shopian gunflight early Sunday morning was one of the youngest terrorists identified as Faisal Gulzar Ganai.

According to police records, he had joined the ranks of a terror outfit on Tuesday itself, the day he reportedly went missing from his home.

During the encounter, the

his home.

During the encounter, the security forces and his parents tried to persuade him to surrender, but the other terrorists did not allow him to do so.



Villagers gather near a car and a house damaged during a gun battle between security forces and terrorists in Bijbehara, south of Srinagar, on Sunday

The security forces had launched these anti-terrorist operations to neutralise terrorists and create a conducive atmosphere ahead of the beginning of the annual Amarnath pilgrimage that is scheduled to start on June 28.

According to police. 'Chief

scheduled to start on June 28.
According to police, "Chief
of Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind
Intityax Shah, eliminated by the
security forces in Tral on
Friday, was tasked with attacking the Amarnath yatra".
Out of three outfits, Ansar
Ghazwat-ul-Hind lost a maximum number of seven terrorists. Three eliminated terrorists

belonged to Al-Badr and two had joined the ranks of LeT in

had joined the ranks of LEI III.
He region.

All of them were involved in attacks on security forces and intimidation of the local population. They were also working to recruit local youths in the ranks of Pakistan-based terror outfits.

Around three dozen ter-

outfits.

Around three dozen terrorists have been gunned down this year since January 1, 2021 in 15 encounters.

In all these four encounters, security forces ensured no major collateral damage was done.

CAPSULE

FIRMS FEAR ANOTHER EXODUS OF MIGRANTS

Combators: With the second wave of Covid-19 sweeping across various parts of Tamil Nadu, some of the industrialists in the State are apprehensive of migrant workers leaving for their hometowns considering the health conditions.

Numbai: NCP chief Sharad
Pawar was on Sunday admitted
to a hospital here for the gall
bladder surgery scheduled on
Monday, party leader Nawab
Malik said.

SANSKRIT REMAINS POPULAR IN CHINA

Beijing: Sanskrit studies are flourishing in China, over 2,000 years after the ancient Indian language was brought to this country along with Buddhism, making a profound impact on Chinese monarchs and schola over the centuries, according to a distinguished professor here.

Didi, Shah lock horns over election violence, deaths

Mamata terms deaths genocide, Shah raps her for asking supporters to gherao force

SAUGAR SENGUPTA NADIA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday termed the death of four persons in Central forces firing at Sitalkuchi a "genocide demanding the resignation" of Home Minister Amit Shah, who hit back faulting her for "playing appeasement politics even with deaths."

Talking to the media men in Sliguri, Mamata, who put on a black cloth around her as a mark of protest against what she called a "pre-planned murder of innocent people", said,

"This is genocide... I have seen the pictures... that they (central forces) had simply sprayed the bullets instead of shooting at foot and thigh only goes on to prove that they were firing to kill... how is: I that all the victims bore injuries to their neck or chest... It is a genocide."

The Chief Minister had decided to immediately visit Sitalkuchi in Cooch Behar district.— where four persons died on Saturday after Central forces

on Saturday after Central forces fired at a crowd of 300-400 peo-

entral forces



ple who had attacked a polling ple who had attacked a poining booth. But she had to postpone her journey by three days after the Election Commission put

the Election Commission put a 72-hours-ban on all politi-cians from entering the district. At Shantipur in Nadia dis-trict where the Home Minister led a massive roadshow, he hit back at the CM wondering whyshe referred to four deaths only though there was another death this time of a BJP sup-porter who was shot dead by Trinamool Congress miscreants in the same constituency.

Experts fear Kumbh can be Covid super-spreader

As tens of thousands of devotees get ready to take part in the Shahi Snan on Monday in the Ganga at Mahakumbh in Haridwar amid a raging Covid-19 pandemic, health experts fear that the mega event might turn into a super spreader, adding to the country's massive caseload which is already breaking records each passing day.

which is already breaking records each passing day.

They said that a dip in the water is not the problem but usually it has been seen that in such events where a large number of people congregate, social distancing norms are mostly overlooked while there are always chances of one person infected with the SABS-COV-2 tests in feet the water of the person infected with the SABS-COV-2 tests in feet the many others. 2 virus infecting many others.
"That person will not only infect at the gathering but also

when he comes back to his native place, he/she will be the reason for infecting his familiest meason for infecting his family members or with whomsoever, he/she comes in contact. More, so when the new variant of the Covid-19 is more infectious," asserted Dr Jugal Kishore, head of the department of community medicine at Safdariume Hosnital. at Safdarjung Hospital. This year, Kumbh Mela

expected to be attended by nearly 150 million visitors. Dr Kishor said that just like all kinds of human interactions and big gatherings, Mahakumbh in Haridwar too

and big gatherings, Mahakumbi in Haridwar too can become a reason for spreading the virus.

"Usually, in such events people forget social norms as they chant and jostle with each other to take a dip," he added.

Dr Rahul Bhargava, a hematologist from Fortis Hospital in Gurugram in Haryana, agreed, "There have been various reports along with the snaps of the events appearing daily and one can easily see that the Covid-19 safety distancing norms are being hardly followed.

A few are using masks and are not maintaining social distancing.

2 kids die, 150 shanties gutted in fire in Noida

PTI NOIDA/LUCKNOW

A major fire broke out in a Avillage in Uttar Pradesh's Noida on Sunday, leaving two children dead and around 150 shanties destroyed, police said. The fire broke out around 1 pm in the JJ cluster near Behlolpur village under Phase 3 police station limits, according to officials.

"Around a dozen fire tenders were deployed at the sight

"Around a dozen fire tenders were deployed at the sight to control the blaze. The fire has been controlled now but due to wind there is still smoke left." Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Noida, Harish Chander said.

"Around 150 shanties got destroyed in the fire and the bodies of two children have been recovered. The exact cause of the fire is being ascertained," he said.

Himachal makes -ve Covid report mandatory

For people travelling to HP from 7 States

**Mille Aging stress on strated Government on Sunday made it mandatory for people coming from Punjab, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarrat, Kamataka, Rajasthan and Up from seven high load states to produce a RT-PCR negative produce a RT-PCR negative report obtained within 72 hours of centry, from April 16 onwards.

**Hor Manage of State Government, as allowed the developed produce a RT-PCR negative report obtained within 72 hours of centry, from April 16 onwards.

**Hor Manage of State Government, he said. While laying stress on strategore the state during the Navratri festival, but at the same time, or festival, but at the same time, ore PNS III SHIMLA

A mid the spike in Covid-19
A cases in the state, Himachal
Government on Sunday made it mandatory for people coming from Punjab, Delhi,
Haharashtra, Gujarat,
Karnataka, Rajasthan and Utar Pradesh.
The high load states to produce a RF-PCR negative report obtained within 72 hours of entry, from April 16 onwards.
The high load states are Punjab, Delhi, Maharashtra,
Government to et or cargative RTPCR report not earlier than 2 hours while visiting Himachal from April 16 onwards.
As of now, the State Government has decided to allow tourists to visit the state, but at the same time hotel owners and tourists thould strictly adhere to the SoPs issued, he

He said that devotees are allowed to visit the temple to perform 'puja' and 'darshans' by maintaining social distancing and using face masks. The temple managements must also ensure strict imple-mentation of the SoPs laid

Thakur said that all this required strict vigil and pre-cautions to check further spread of the virus.

spread of the virus.
He said that people must
be motivated to get vaccinated
and also adopt SoPs issued by
the State Government. People
must also be motivated to
strictly adhere to the limit of
guests in social functions such

as marriages etc fixed by the State Government. This would help in containing the spread of the virus in a big way, he added.

in a small number by adopting

social distancing and ensuring that the gathering does not exceed two hundred, he said.

ea. The CM further said that The CM further said that the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar must be celebrated in a befitting man-ner by adopting all the SoPs of the State Govt. Steps must be taken to celebrate this occasion

Department must also take steps to increase bed capacity in order to meet out any eventu-ality. The Health Department must also ensure minimum must also ensure minimum wastage in vaccine. The virus is spreading at a fast pace which reported 10,890 new Covid cases. In addition to this, the number of deaths has also increased rapidly which is also a matter of concern, as 120 deaths were reported in the state during the last 45 days, he said. Thakur said that no overcrowding would be allowed in buses and other public transport and private vehicles. Wearing of face masks even in the vehicles must be enforced strictly. SoPs regarding organizing social functions such as marriages etc. must also be adhered strictly, he added.

The Chief Minister further said that strict action must also be taken against those involved in gross violation of SOPs.
Special focus must be laid or regular monitoring of people in home isolation. People should also be motivated to immediately go for testing as soon as they get any symptoms so that they could be provided treatment without delay, he said. He directed that focus should be paid on delay, he said. He directed that focus should be paid on Information Education and Communication regarding tak-ing fundamental precautions such as use of face mask, social distancing and seeing a doctor in

Opp demands withdrawal of case against Hisar-based journalist

The opposition has con-demned the registration of a case against Hisar-based Jour-nalist for cyber-terrorism and promoting enmity between classes for one of his alleged social media posts. The case was registered by Haryana Police against Rajesh Kundu, who runs a news por-

Kundu, who runs a news por-tal, on Friday under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Information Technology (IT)

Information Iecnnousy . . . , Act.

The opposition leaders, including Randeep Singh Surjewafa, Kumari Sela, Deepender Singh Hooda of the Congress and INLD's Abhay Singh Chautala, have condemned the registration of the case against Kundu and demanded that the case be

immediately withdrawn.

The opposition leaders claimed that the case was lodged against Kundu because he was raising the farmers' voice through his social media handles.

"When the government could not break the ongoing farmer agitation, it lodged an FIR against journalist Rajesh Kundu, who has become a voice of the farmers. Neither this voice can be suppressed nor the farmer agitation (sic.)" Surjewala said in a tweet. Police said the journalist has been booked on charges of promoting enmity between different classes, assertions prejudicial to national integration and cyber-terrorism for one of his social media posts. "When the government could not break the ongoing

The FIR was lodged on a complaint filed by a Hisar police official.

District police spokesper-son Vikas stated in his com-plaint that inflammatory mes-sages, which could incite the public, were allegedly sent to WhatsApp groups and over Facebook from Kundus mobile phone number and this can have an impact on maintaining peace. Therefore, a case should be registered against him, the complainant sought.

be registered against him, the complainant sought.

On the basis of the complaint, a case under sections 153A (promotting enmity between classes), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration) of the IPC and 66F (cyber-terrorism) of the IT Act was registered against the scribe here on April 9. The FIR has triggered a strong reaction from opposia strong reaction from opposi

INBRIEF

2 BUSES FROM BALLABGARH TO KHATU SHYAM TEMPLE

COURT TOWN DILLINGUISH 10 ANAIU SHITAM I EMPLE Chandigant: Hayana Transport Minister Mool Chand Sharma on Sunday said that two buses of Haryana Roadways will ply from bus stand of Ballabgarh, Hayana to Khatu Shyam Temple, Rajasthan on the occasion of every Ekadashi which will benefit the devotess. He gave this information while attending a religious ceremony in Ballabgarh.

PSPCL DIGITAL PAYMENTS TOUCHED A NEW RECORD

Patiala: PSPCL CMD A Venu Prasad said during financial year 2020-21, Purjab State Power Corporation Limited has collected around Rs 1960 crores digitally from 143 lakh digital transactions. Due to a number of easy to use digital platforms offered by PSPCL, more than 75 percent Collection is being received digitally now-days. PSPCL is in the toppers' list in the digital collection segment, which speaks volumes about the PSPCLs commitment towards consumers in offering Punjab of the art easy to use digital touchpoints, he said.

UT PRESS CLUB CONDEMNS FIR AGAINST SCRIBE

OI TRESS CLUB CUNIDEMINS HIR AGAINST SCRIBE Chandigarth Candigarther Sclub has condemned the registration of an FIR against Hisar-based journalist Rajesh Kundu, founder of a news web portal and web channel. The Chandigarth Press Oidenanded the cancelation of the FIR and release of the photojournalist. The entire media fraternity of the region expresses solidarily for the journalists concerned, stated a statement released by the Press Club.

ONLINE CME ON 'ANIMAL MODELS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE' Chandigarh: An online OME on 'Animal Models in Health and Disease' was organized by Advanced Small Animal Research Facility (ASARF) of POIMER to celebrate the completion of 10 years of this facility. The focus of the CME was to update scientists and clinicians about the use

100US 01 the Ower Wax to uppear scientists and similarians and office of animal models for various diseases. There were lectures from various scientists from India and the USA highlighting the use of animal models for neurological, cardiovascular and cancer research. Nearly 150 delegates registered for this CME from different institutes.

ELANTE MALL TO MARK ITS 8TH ANNI ON BAISAKHI

Chandigark. This Balsakhi, Elante will celebrate '8 years' of Happyness' in providing a superior and safe destination to its customers. On this occasion, as a token of appreciation and gratifuted to the people in the tricity region for trusting in Elante, the mall will add on to the celebrations by griving out assured revards to every customer shopping for Rs. 2,500 and above. To mark the 8th anniversary, the mall will have a glamnous installation, designed to reflect the elegance and grandeur of Elante.

94 UNITS OF BLOOD COLLECTED AT BLOOD DONATION CAMP

PGIMER-GMCH organized a blood donation camp at PGIMER, in which 94

-

PGIMER, in which 94 units of blood were collected from voluntary blood donors for Thalassemic and other serious patients. A spokesman said the Trust has organized 28 blood donation camps during COVID19 and has mobilized more than 2500 units of blood from voluntary donors. About 450 Thalassemics are availing blood transtipsion facilities in two-Day Care Centres in PGIMER and GMCH Chandigarh.

Motivate people to get Covid-19 vaccination: Thakur tells BIP workers

Expressing concern over the rapid surge in the Covid-19 cases in the state, Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Sunday urged the BJP workers to motivate people to get vaccinated against the virus.

The Chief Minister was addressine a virtual meeting of

The Chief Minister was addressing a virtual meeting of BJP workers here

S SHIMLA

Expressing concern over the trapid surge in the Covid-19 see in the state, Himachal self Minister Jia Ham Thaur.

Sunday urged the BJP works to motivate people to get cinated against the virus. The Chief Minister was tressing a virtual meeting of workers here.

He said that in the first the state on February 23 this year, the party worker work cases left in the state on February 23 this year, the party worker here.

Sharp surge has been witnessed by the state, as there were only 218 cases left in the state on February 23 this year, the party worker worked tireless-to plot of the party worker here.

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Dharmender Singh S/o amodar Singh R/o Village Chhai khar PO Achnera Tehsil Kiraoli, stt. Agra (Uttar Pradesh) PIN Code 3101, in my service record my son

L No. 13739155X Rank Ex NK where as her corre ma. All please Note

ac Ekks Sharma, Ali picase Note.

1, Amarjit Kaur Spouse of NK
amjit Singh No.3402080X R/O
age Theh Tikha, PO- Ket Santokh
7, Tehsid/Distf Gurdaspur, Punjish519, have changed my DOB
04-1982 is wrong, but my DOB
04-1972 is correct. Vide affiliavit
04.1972 is correct. Vide affiliavit
04.1972 is correct. Vide affiliavit

CHANGE OF NAME

Gurnit Kaur W/O Piara R/O Village Majra Manna Wala Tehsil Amloh, Fatehgafi (Punjab) Have Changed My From Gurnit Kaur To Gurmit I. No. 15444813K Park See

I, No. 15444833K Rank Sephet O Vijihu IV Serving in Army bet O Vijihu IV Serving in Serving Serving with 4002 Feb. Poly. Ambala Cant at presently 1 st upon 2 Serving in Serving

L Service No. 15451196F Rank Sep Hargovind Ahirwar S/o Santosh Ahirwar R/o Unit Military Hospital,Ambala Cantt.Have

I, Sanjiv S/o Satpal Singh R/o 204,Milap Nagar,Nanhera,Ambala Cantt. Have Changed my Name from Sanjiv To Sanjiv Rana.

I, No. 15473445P Ex Di

No. 3400722H Ex Naik lasvinder Singh R/o VPO Panjokhara, Ambala Cantt. Have Changed my Mother Name from Gurwinder Kaur To Ajmer Kanr.

Sharma R/o 3736/6, Bhallia Mohalla, Kartarpur. Distt. Jalandha Punjab Have Changed My Nam From Pooja Sharma To Pooja Mahan

I, Rajiv Kumar S/u Kishori Lal R/o 131, Ekta Nugar, Near Chogitti, Jalandhar-144009, Punjab have changed my name to Rajiv Kukkar (Same Person).

I Gurpreet Kour W/C divinder Singh R/O H.No.76/7

I Army No.15571905F, L/HAV Baljit Singh R/O 104, ENGR REGT. PVC Declare That In My Service Record My Wife Kawaljit Kaur's Date Of Birth Is Mentioned As

12/02/1999.

I Service No.15571890K, L/NK
Raybir Singh S.O Ajit Singh R/O 983
Jadiala Guur Amritsar Declare That Ir
My Service Record My Wift
Matinder Kaur's D.O.B. Is Wrongly
Mentioned As 14-09-1993. Her
Correct D.O.B. Is 18-03-1996.

I Service No.15575066M, HA arckar Limbaji Appaji R/O 10 NGR REGT, PVC Amritsar Declar

Mandi Board establishes control room for all districts to resolve procurement issues in Puniab

PNS CHANDIGARH

To facilitate farmers and arhityas (commission agents) during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) commenced from April 10 in the state, Punjab Mandi Board on Sunday issued contact numbers of State Control Room setup at Mandi Board Headquarters in Mo-bali

Mohali.

The numbers have been made operational for all 22 districts to promptly address the issues of farmers and arthityas during procurement operations in wake of Covid-19.

tions in wake of Covid-19.

Reiterating the resolve of Punjab Government to procure every single grain of the farmers' produce, Punjab Mandi Board chairman Lal Singh said that all necessary health protocols as well as social distancing measures would be followed in the right earnest wheep the spread of Covid-19 under check.

He added that all-board-

ier cneck. He added that elaborate arrangements are in place and necessary directions have already been issued to con-cerned authorities in this Board spokesperson said that the chairman has also suggested the farmers to download cpmb mobile app' of Mandi Board to get the latest information regarding mandi activities as well as e-passes for otheat procurement. This app would be immensely beneficial for all stakeholders in the procurement of wheat and Covid-19, added the spokesperson.

curement of wheat amid Covid-19, added the spokesperson. Spokesperson said that ini-tially, the farmers and arbitially, the farmers and arbitially, which is a consistent of the control of the control

has also created an email ID has also created an email ID wheat, proc2020.ctrl@pun-jab.gov.in for the purpose of registering complaints.

Giving details of the control room, the spokesperson stated that these have been estab-lished for all districts where teams of mandi board have been deputed to get the com-plaints regarding wheat pro-curement operations resolved.

1st Prize (50)Rs.10000/-(On last 4 digits, Common to all Series)

2nd Prize (50)Rs,5000/-(On last 4 digits, Common to all Series)

3rd Prize (50)Rs.500/-(On last 4 digits, Common to all Series)

4th Prize (50)Rs.300/-(On last 4 digits, Common to all Series)

5th Prize (50)Rs.200/-(On last 4 digits, Common to all Series)

Punjab reports 59 deaths, 3,116 fresh infections

PNS III CHANDIGARH

Fifty-nine more persons suc-Fitty-nine more persons suc-cumbed to the deadly con-tagion in Punjab on Sunday, pushing the Sate's Covid-19 death toll to 7507, while 3116 fresh cases of the novel Coronavirus took the State's

Coronavirus took the State's infection count to 2.72.72.
Of the total, maximum nine death were reported from Amritsar; followed by seven each from Ludhiana and Sangrur; six from Hoshiarpur; five from Jalandhar; four from SAS Nagar (Mohali); three each from Patiala, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Bathinda, and Tarn Taran; two each from Faridkot and Fatehgarh Sahib; and one each from Fazilka and Kapurthala.

Kapurthala.

Amng the districts,
Ludhiana reported the maximum 350 fresh cases; followed
by SAS Nagar (Mohail) with
423, Amritsar with 274, Patala
with 260, Bathinda with 252,
Jalandhar with 261, Hoshiarpur
and Ropar with 130 each,
Faridkot with 120, Gurdaspur
with 116, Mansa with 103. Kapurthala.



among others.
Currently, the state has 27,874 active cases — accounting for 10.22 percent of the total positive cases — of which, 342 patients are on oxygen support, while 43 are critical and on applications are considered.

while 45 are critical and on ventilator support.

As of now, Mohali has the maximum number of active cases in the state. With 15.10 percent of the total positive cases (31,440), the district has

cases (31,440), the district has 4,749 active cases; followed by Ludhiana with 3434 active cases, Ialandhar with 3126, Amritsar with 3124, Patiala with 2418, among others. In the past 24 hours, as many as 3,121 patients were discharged after recovering from the deadly contagion, pushing the states total num-ber of recoveries to 2,37,391.

6095

0485

2262

6594

0559

HP reports 570 fresh Covid cases

PNS III SHIMLA

reached 69686 while the death toll stood at 1102.

Of the 570 fresh cases, a maximum of 128 cases were reported in Kangra district fol-lowed by 105 in Solan and 92 in Shimla. There were 5369 active cases in the state till the evening.

Before Sh. Manish Kumar Lohan, HCS, Assistant Estate Officer, Exercising the powers of the Estate

the powers of the Estate
Officer U.T., Chandigarh.
Subject:- Regarding transfer of Lease
rights to the extent of 100% share in

rights to the autent of 100% share in respect of stafffolk No. 2673. Sector 37/C, Chandigarh on the basis of Regd WILL dated 21.08 2007 it is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned with the property known as House No. 2673, Sector 37/C, Chandigarh, which as perfected in the second of this office stands in the name of Sh. Jagdish Kumar Slo Sh. Laf Chand (100% share). Now, Mrs. Rattan Kantz Wio Late Sh. Jaedish Kumar, has anoiled for the

ow, wrs. Patian Rainiz Wo Late Sh. gdish Kumar, has applied for the insfer of lease right to the extent of 0%, in respect of House No. 2673, actor 37/C, Chandigarh on the basis registered WilL dated 21.08.2007,

Court Notice

Himachal Pradesh on Sunday reported 570 fresh Covidl9 cases. No Covid-19 related fatality was reported in the state in the last 24 hours, according to the Himachal's evening health bulletin. The total case tally reached 69686 while the death tull stood at 1102

PUBLIC NOTICE

executed by Sh. Jagdah Kumar, who expired on 22 02 200.

If any legal heirs lafare or any other person concerned with the property known as House 2673, Sector 376. Chandigath, have any objection upon the mutation of the said property to the activation of the said property to the activation of the said property to the activation of the said way of the above applicants, then heirherthery may furnish the same within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in shape of adficient duty attested by the Executive Magistrate/Notary Public undersking the genuineness of their objection being so raised, to the Statle Office, Scott 17, Chandigarh falling which the 100% share said property shall be mutatied accordingly, no furnisher date with some controlly.

जन साधारण को सुचित किया कि रीतृ गुना पत्नी स्व. राकेश गुना व नं.1136/1 बंगाली मेहाळ अन्याला जो कि राकेश गुना के नामः(kupus

care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and selers who do not owe any responsible error, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are solicits to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delibrive bills in oils, Pleades are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the venicity of any kind of almentary that a devertience of the processable to a variety of the processable to any kind of claim and where the exception of a solicit and not be made responsible to any kind of claim and where the exception of a solicit and not be made responsible to any kind of claim and where the exception of a solicit and the product excepted damages on such advertisement the processable to any kind of claim and where the exception of the processable to any kind of claim and where the exception of a solicit and the made responsible to any kind of claim and where the exception of the processable to any kind of claim and a where the exception of the processable to a sixty of colors. Once a consideration of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and of the processable to a sixty of colors and the processable and of the processable and a sixty of the processable oh every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omi

DIRECTORATE OF PUNJAB STATE LOTTERIES DRAW DATE:11/04/2021 RESULT OF PUNJAB STATE LABHLAXMI KAMIL SUNDAY



says 'Kotkapura case far from over'

DECLARES TO STAND BY SIT PROBE, ASSURES TO PUNISH GUILTY

pointing. The SIT has, so far, chargesheeted six persons in the Kotkapura case, including the then Kotkapura case, including the then Kotkapura case, including the then Kotkapura Akali MLA and halqa in-charge Mantar Singh Brar. The chargesheet against Brar clearly mentions that "On the analysis of the call details, it has been established that he made phone calls to the hen Chief Minister of Punjab Parkash Singh Badal through the Special Principal Secretary to the CM (Gagandeep Singh Brar) and OSD to the CM Gurcharan Singh."

Capt Amarinder derided Sukbbir's attempt to wriggle out of the corner in which he finds himself in the light of the chargesheet against Brar by screaming vendetta and witchbunt.

Nothing else explains the Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Sunday ridiculed SAD presi-dent Sukhbir Badal for jumpdent Sukhbir Badal for jumping the gun on the Punjab and Haryana High Court orders in the Kotkapura firing case, of which the Court is yet to release the copy, and urged the Akali leader to refrain from making merry as the matter was far from being over.

"At least wait for the copy of the orders, before claiming victory," the Chief Minister advised the SAD chief, mocking Sukhbir's reaction to media

advised the SAD chief, mocking Sukhbir's reaction to media reports of the HC's decision on the investigation into 2015 incident by the Punjab Police Special Investigation Team (SIT). The fact is that there has been no official announcement yet of the Court verdict, he pointed out. "In any case, whatever the verdict in the matter, I stand by the investigation of the SIT, which has, at no point, absolved the Badal family of involvement in the heinous

which has, at no point, absolved the Badal family of involvement in the heinous incident, that led to innocent people losing their lives," Capt Amarinder said, vowing to ensure justice for the families and punishment for the guilty, irrespective of who they are. Reiterating that his Government will challenge any Court order that either quashes the SIT probe or removes the officer in-charge, Kumwar Vijay Pratap Singh, the Chief Minister said that Sukbbir's desperation to celebrate his ron-victory' exposed his panic in the face of what he must have seen as writing on the wall, given the direction in which the SIT investigation was

pointing. The SIT has, so far,

infinite in the right of the chargesheet against Brar by screaming vendetta and witch-carming vendetta and witch-hacte of the former Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister of Punjab to seek validation of his innocence in a HC order that is yet to come, he added. The control of the control

presence at all in the state, are a laughing stock.
"Mann's charge of collusion between Congress and SAD on the issue is not only ludicrous but logic-defying," he said, quipping that "to expect any AAP leader to be logical was like expecting the sun to shine

at night."
Besides Brar, the others chargesheeted in the Kotkapura case are all senior police officers, including the then Ludhiana Commissioner of Police Paramraj Singh Umaranangal, then SSP Moga Charanjit Singh Sharma, then SHO of PS City Kotkapura Gurdeep Singh, then Kotkapura DSP Baljit Singh, and then ADCP Ludhiana Paramjit Singh Pannu.
In addition, one person, former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini, has been challaned in the case. Sainis and Umaranangal's

Saini, has been challaned in the case. Saini's and Umaranangal's anticipatory bail pleas were dismissed by the Sessions Court Faridkot on February 11, 2021, and they have not approached the High Court for the same.

Capt cautions Sukhbir | Sidhu, Sukhbir condemn assault on youth by Delhi Police

PNS CHANDIGARH

A day after cousin of gang-ster-turned-activist Lakha Sidhana, also one of the main accused in Republic Day vio-lence case, was allegelly thrashed by the Delhi Polica dreft his arrest from Punjica Accongress MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu and SAD president Sukhbir Badal condemned the development.

development. Sidhu, the former Minister, took to Twitter on Sunday to express his resentment for allowing the Delhi Police to torture Punjabis in Punjab's domain and territory, in a veiled attack on his bête noire, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh

Amarinder Singh.
"Shameful that Delhi Police
is allowed to torture Punjabis
in our domain and territory. It
violates Punjab Govt's author-

ity - with whose connivance was it done?? Lessons should be

was it done?! Lessons should be learnt from Mamata Banerjee who put CBI behind bars when they encroached in W. Bengal's jurisdiction? Sidhu tweeted.

Sukhbir, who also condemned the incident while holding the Chief Minister directly responsible, demanded registration of a criminal case against the Delhi Police team which allegedly abducted and tortured Mundi Sidhana. Notably, Lakha Sidhanas, who is on the run, on Saturday alleged that the Delhi Police behind the subducted his cousin Gurdeep Singh from Patiala and beat him badly.

ligence wing of the Delhi Police, which arrested Deep Sidhu, took away his cousin from Patiala who had gone there to give his law exam. He

alleged the police repeatedly asked Gurdeep to tell his

Sh. Manohar Lal

Participate in

टोका उत्सव

to combat Corona

11 to 14 April, 2021

All the citizens

of age of 45 years

or above must

get COVID-19

vaccine

Both the vaccines

COVISHIELD and

COVAXIN are

safe and

immunogenic

Each One

Vaccinate One

Help the elderly & less

educated people to

get them vaccinated

asked Gurdeep to tell his whereabouts.

Sidhana said that he completely blame Capt Amarinder Singh government as how could Delhi Police officials come here and take away a youth without informing the police station concerned.

Gurdeep was brought to the Civil Hospital by Sidhana's supporters, where his condition is stated to be serious. Dr Ravinder Singh at the emergency ward said that Gurdeep suffered injuries on the back and legs.

and legs. Sukhbir demanded that the Chief Minister should st up to protect the rights of the youth of the state and register a criminal case against the Delhi police team which abducted and tortured Mundi

AAP lashes out at Capt over HC ruling in Kotkapura SIT case

Reacting over the Punjab and Haryana High Court's decision to set up a new Special Investigating Team (SIT) by rejecting the probe reports of the Punjab Government-constituted SIT, headed by Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh, to investigate 2015 Kotkapura firing case, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday said that it seems less of the HC's decision and more the decision of mutual association between Capt Amarinder Singh and the Badals.

AAP's Punjab unit presi-

AAP's Punjab unit presi-

Mann demanded that if the Congress Government really anted to bring justice to the victims of this case and punish the accused, "they should bring good and big lawyers in the court on their behalf"

dent and Sangrur MP Bhagwant Mann, addressing the media, accused the Badals and Capt Amarinder of com-plicity, saying that the Badals



had withdrawn all of Capt Amarinder's cases at the last moment of their Government.

Mann says Capt-Badals are together, blames A-G Nanda for deliberately

year of his Government. The only difference between the two is that the witness in the Captain's case turned hostile and in Badal's case, the lawyer turned hostile,' he added.

Accusing the Amarinder Government of having a 'weak lawyer', Mann said that not having a big case was a planned conspiracy of the Captain government. Mann demanded that if the Congress Government really wanted to bring justice to the victims of this case and punish the accused, "they should bring good and big lawyers in the Court on their behalf".

Camp was organised under

the leadership of her grandson and former councillor Manjit Singh Mann

Resume talks with protesting farmers, Anil Vij urges Tomar

PNS CHANDIGARH

In view of surge in Covid-19 cases across the country, Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij has written to Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, urging him to resume talks with farmers

Singin Iomar, urging nim to resume talks with farmers protesting against the Centre's farm laws.

Maintaining that a surge in Covid-19 cases is being seen across the country and the situation is turning bad in Haryana too, Vij said he is worried about the farmers protesting on the state borders with Delhi.

Vij, who is also Health Minister of the state, said that all possible efforts are being made to bring the situation under control in Haryana but my worry pertains to thou-

under control in Haryana but my worry pertains to thou-sands of agitating farmers who are sitting on the borders of Haryana. I have to save them from COVID-19, he said

In his letter, the Minister also said that there is also as worry that because of them the disease may not spread in the rest of the state.

He also mentioned that being in agitation mode, the



farmers are not able to follow all COVID-related guidelines. Vij further said that a situation of uncertainty prevalls as there have been no talks for a long time between the government and the agitating farmers. I am of the belief that a problem can be solved through dialogue.

Therefore, I request you that the talks should be resumed so that the issue is resolved and the protest ends, he said. The Centre has made a lot of efforts to resolve the

he said. The Centre has made a lot of efforts to resolve the problems of farmers and held multiple rounds of talks with them but due to some reasons, the solution is yet to come, he added, in his letter written in Hindi.

105-year-old Kartar Kaur Becomes mascot of vaccination against corona



PNS MOGA

As every person above the age of 45 years is being vaccinated in India, 105-year old Kartar Kaur has become the unlikely mascot of awareness on Corona vaccination in the country.

country.

While vaccination is being given full support by the educated and socially aware people, there are some under the influence of ignorance, who are creating superstitions and misconceptions about this. Kartar Kaur, the 105-year-old lady

from Moga, carried the flag to create awareness among the people, where she and her amily have been vaccinated.

Although Kartar Kaur belongs to village Bhinder Khurd, she is now living with her son Harpinder Singh in Moga. She along with her family got vaccinated in a camp in Ward No. 3. The camp was organised under the leadership of her grandson and former councillor Manjit Singh Mann. More than 188 people were vaccinated in the camp. At present Manjit Singh Manns wife,

Amanpreet Kaur Mann is the Councilor of Ward No.3.

The family informed that Mata Kartar Kaur has been vaccinated on the sheer strength of her will and determination and was not pressured by anyone. The 105-year old thinks that vaccination is mandatory to prevent this disease and said that even if it was not the turn of some people to get vaccinated, they should follow the instructions of the government and the health department. She said she did not have fever or any other

problem after being vaccinated, adding that a healthy person has no fear of any kind of

Problem.

Fraising the spirit of Kartar Kaur, Deputy Commissioner Sandeep Hans appealed to the people above the age of 45 years to get rid of all illusions and get themselves and their families vaccinated. He said that this vaccination was being carried out in Civil Hospital Moga, all CHCs, 91 Health Wellness Centers. Apart from this special camps are also being organized in different areas.

Over 1.13L vaccine doses administered in Harvana

Following the appeal of Prime Minister Narendra Prime Minister Varendra Modi to further augment the vaccination drive by observing "Teeka Utsav" from April 11 to April 14, the Haryana Health Department had set up 1,627 covid-19 Vaccination Centres which administered 1,13,917 vaccine doses to the beneficiaries on Sunday in the State. Additional Chief Secretary, Health, Rajeev Arora said that the Health Department has administered 1,13,917 Covid-19 vaccine doses on Sunday

19 vaccine doses on Sunday thereby enhancing the consolidated number of vaccine doses administered till date to 24.69.233 doses.

24,69,233 doses.
On the Covid-19 vaccine roll out plan, Arora said that, with an aim to ensure that the vaccine is administered to a maximum number of people, the Department had set up more Vaccination Centres across the state.

across the state. He elaborated that these Centres have been strategical-ly placed in highly populated areas across the state and even in the rural areas to ensure



maximum penetration of the vaccine so as to curtail the spread of highly contagious COVID-19 virus. Most of the beneficiaries were above 45 years of age, he added.

On the administration of vaccines to Health Care Workers (HCWs) and others, Arora said that 191251 HCWs have been administered the

Arora said that 19.1251 HCWs have been administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and around 117123 HCWs have been administered the second dose.

Sharing the details of the Frontline Workers (FLWs) have been administered the first dose of the vaccine and 47446 FLWs have been administered the second dose. Also, around 19,90,399 lakh doses of vaccine have been administered to ben-ficiaries above 45 years till today, he added.

Each One Treat One

Those who are unaware of COVID-19 help them for treatment

Each One Save One

Protect yourself, Protect others & keep the spirit of helping others

Successful टीका उत्सव for vaccination Needs our support & participation



www.prharyana.gov.in W @Cmishry W @DigrHan

Capt appoints Sonu Sood Punjab's Covid vaccine campaign brand ambassador

PNS CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government has Pappointed Bollywood actor and humanitarian, Sonu Sood, the brand ambassador for its

the brand ambassador for its Covid vaccination programme. The Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Sunday after meeting Sonu, who called on him at his residence.

"There is no one more ideally suited to inspire and influence people to take the vaccine. There is a lot of hesitancy among people here in Punjab. Sonu's popularity among them, and his sevenplary role in helping tens of

thousands of migrants reach safely home since the pan-demic broke out last year, will

demic broke out last rear, will help counter the reservations, said the Chief Minister. When people hear this Punjab da puttar talk about the benefits of vaccine, and how safe and essential it is, they will believe him. Because they trust him," he added. Somu said that he was happy and honoured to be appointed the brand ambassador for this life-saving product. If feel blessed to be playing any part in this huge campaign of the Punjab Government to protect the lives of the people of my home state," he added.



On the occasion, Sonu presented to the Chief Minister his book 'I am no Messiah', which

Haryana reports highest ever daily cases

Haryana on Sunday reported 3440 fresh infections, the highest single-day spike since the Covid-19 pandemic began. Earlier, it was on November 20 last year, when the state had reported the highest 3104 cases in a single day to the virus in the last 24 hours taking the toll to 3268 in the state while the caseload surged to 316881.

Three deaths were reported in Jind,

two each in Bhiwani, Yamunanagar, Ambala, Karnal and Panipat, one death each was reported in Sirsa, Gurugram and Hisar, the state's Health Department's bulletin stated. Among the COVID-19 patients, there were 263 critical COVID-19 patients in the state out of which 217 were on oxygen support while 46 were on ventilators.

Gurugram district continued to be worst affected and recorded the highest number of infections at 1084 followed by 445 in Faridabad and 264 in Karnal.

Among other districts, Karmal reported 264 cases, Kurukshetra 194 cases, Ambala 183, Panipat 110, Hisar 177, Sonepat 155, Panchkula 116, Yamunanagar 149 cases, Jind 138 cases.

The active cases crossed 20000-mark in the state and was recorded at 20981 till the evening. The worst affected district - Gurugram reported the highest number of active cases at 5548 followed by 2167 in Karnal and 1947 in Faridabad, the bulletin stated. The fatality rate was recorded at 1.03 percent in Haryana.

India should cherish peace process on LAC, says China

PNS\PTI ■ NEW DELHI\BEIJING

With both sides unable to firm up a plan to withdraw from the flash-points during the latest round of talks, China on Sunday said India should cherish the current pos-

should cherish the current pos-titive trend of de-escalation and peace on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. This statement came two days after the 11th round of Corps Commander-level talks on Friday at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point at the LAC in Ladakh failed to show any tangible movement forward. Both the sides, how forward. Both the sides, now-ever, agreed to continue hold-ing regular dialogue at the military and diplomatic levels

military and diplomatic levels to restore peace.

In the talks lasting more than 12 hours, China dilly dallied on pulling back troops from the friction points at Patrolling Points 15, 17 and 17A at the Hot Springs and Gogra, sources said.

The Indian delegation leb by Leh-based 14 Corps chief It General P G K Menon reiterated the country's stand that

by Leh-based 14 Corps chiel Lt General P G K Menon reiter-ated the country's stand that disengagement from Hot Springs and Gogra will go a long way in bringing down ten-sion at the LAC. The pro-posed pull back will ensure peace and stability in the region besides ensuring tranquility, the Indian team insisted. China, however, did not give any commitment on a plan to disengage and continues to maintain large number of troops at the face-off sites. This led to concern in the Indian security establishment, sources said. The Chinese team was led by Major General Liu Lin.

. Faced with the stalling tac-Faced with the stalling tactics by China in Depsang val-ley where it advanced into Indian territory in 2013 and continued to remain there, the two Corps Commanders will meet again shortly to continue the momentum of dialogue,



Both sides should also

adhere to the consensus reached in the previous talks, the state-run China Global

the state-run China Global Television Network (CGTN) on Sunday quoted the press release by a PLA spokesperson on the talks held at the Chushul border point on the Indian side of the LAC.

border point on the lindain side of the LAC.

"We hope the Indian side could cherish the current positive trend of de-escalation and cooling in the border area, adhere to the relevant agreements between the two armies and the consensus of the previous talks and move towards the same direction as the Chinese side to jointly maintain peace and tranquility in the border area, a spokesperson for the Western Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA)said in a statement.

Liberation Army (PLA)said in a statement. The Indian Army statement said it was highlighted at the talks that completion of disengagement in other areas would pave the way for considering "de-escalation of forces" and ensure full restoration of peace and tranquility in the region.

The two sides agreed on the need to resolve the outstanding issues in an expeditious manner in accordance with the existing agreement and protocols, the statement said.

The two sides agreed that

The two sides agreed that it was important to take guid-ance from the consensus of

they said. In this backdrop, the Chinese military said on Sunday India should cherish the "current positive trend" of de-escalation and cooling de-escalation and cooling down of tensions in the border area. A day after the 11th round of Corps Commander-level talks, the Indian army is a statement said on Saturday both sides held a detailed deliboration on the disengagement of troops in the remaining friction points of Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang in eastern Ladakh.

Gogra and Depsang in eastern Ladakh. The sides agreed to jointly maintain stability on the ground, avoid any new incidents and resolve the outstanding issues in an "expeditious manner."

There was no visible forward movement at the latest round of military talks between the two countries as the Chinese delegation came to the talks with a "premeditated mindset" and did not show any flexibility in moving forward on the disengagement process at the remaining friction points. In its press release on the latest round of talks between two militaries held on April 9, China's People's Liberation Army (PIA) said India should cherish the de-escalation and cooling in the border area, in an apparent reference to the disengagement of troops from the most contentious area of the Pangong Lake in February.

Both the sides agreed to jointly maintain stability on the ground, avoid any new incidents

their leaders, continue their their leaders, continue their communication and dialogue and work towards a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest, it said.

"They also agreed to jointly maintain stability on the ground, avoid any new inci-dents and jointly maintain peace in the border areas," the statement said.

peace in the border areas," the statement said.

Army Chief General M M Narawane had said last month the threat to India has only "abated" following the disengagement in the Pangong lakera, but it has not gone away altogether. He said China still maintained considerable number of troops in the "rear areas." It means the Chinese troops though pulled back from the eyeball to eyeball to eyeball to eyeball to eyeball to eyeball to eyeball confrontation but continued to have heavy armour and troops close by thereby posing threat to Indian interests. Narawane also observed peace will be restored once these additional troops return to their barracks from the forward areas.

Not willing to take any chances, the Army in the last few months substantially bolstered its troop strength besides weaponry. Moreover, the troops remained deployed on the LAC throughout the harsh winter months when the temperature dipped to minus 30 degrees.

The standoff between the two armies started on May 5 last year when the troops from both the sides exchanged blows at the Pangong Tso. Soon, the face-offs commenced at some other places on the LAC.

The border saw massive troop build up by India and China after a bloody brawl on June 15 in the Galvan valley. Twenty Indian soldiers including the Commanding Officer were also killed by China was.

yet to officially announce the number of casualties.

Traders' body asks Modi not to impose night curfew, lockdown



PNS III NEW DELHI

Confederation of All India Urged Prime Minister Narendra Mod in ot to impose urged Frime Minister Narendra Modi not to impose night curfew or lockdown amid rising Covid-19 in the country and instead adopt staggered working time for different sectors. In a letter to the Prime Aminister, the traders' association said it would be more appropriate if alternate measures may be adopted at district levels all over the country. Tostead of night curfew or proved a worth yet per lockdown which have not proved a worthy step so fare to the country of the

CAIT

for different sectors," said CAIT.

CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said that a closer analysis of the COVID-19 statistics over the last one week have made it ample clear that night curfew and lock-down in different states have not brought the desired results of bringing down the cases. It suggested that working hours of different verticals of trade and commerce should be revised.

"We suggest that government offices, private offices and other all kinds of offices and other all kinds of offices may work from 8 am to 2 pm whereas the markets and shops may be allowed to work from 11 am to 5 pm," said CAIT.

Best mango? Jury is out on social media

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Social media on Sunday of mango-Alphonso, Dushehri, Langda, haldah or Totapari is the property of the state o

the best.

A twitter user
Joey@DrJoyeeta claimed that
Alphonso mangoes are the
best! Specially packed by my
dear brother for calling me a
loser. PS. Let's start the mango
war . Repeating in capitals:
ALPHONSO MANGOES ARE
THE REST!

ALPHONSO MANGOES ARE THE BEST! Responding to the tweet, Sankarshan Thakur tweeted: "No mango can aspire to come even within sniffing distance of the #langda / #Malda No com-petition. #Langda is King, Yashwant deshmukh respond-ed to Thakur saying 'Alphonso

The active Covid-19 cases in India crossed the 11 lakhmark for the first time after a record high of 1.52 lakh new infections on Saturday. The active caseload till now was at its lowest at 1,35,926 on February 12 and at its highest at 10,17,754 on September 18, 2020.



is the most overrated stuff you will ever come across. The brand-conscious Alphonso Babalog has no idea what real mango is. Try Dashahari, Chauss, Safeda and ultimate can be considered to the constant of th

mangoes are grown across India. Maharashtra is famous for Alphonso mangoes, Uttar

Active Covid cases in

India breach 11-L mark

Pradesh is known for Dusheri. West Bengal is popular for growing Himsagar mangoes while Andhra Pradesh is while Andhra Pradesh is known for the lighter coloured Safeda mangoes. Other popular varieties of mangoes in India include Chausa, Lengra, Kesar, Totapuri, Neelam and much more. Another netizen wrote: "Agree, Langra is just awesome.... although 1 have developed a taste for Banganapalli in recent years. Alphonso has a bad a hit rate, but the odd one can be brilliant".

liant". According to the agriculture ministry, mango production is estimated to increase 4.24 per cent to 21.12 million tonnes in the crop year 2020-21 ending June. The output of mango, the 'king of fruits', stood at 20.26 million tonne during the 2019-20 crop year (July-June). The arrival of mangoes from southern and western India has started, while the season in the northern states season in the northern states like Uttar Pradesh will begin from mid-June onwards.

Modi pays tribute to social reformer Jyotirao Phule

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid tributes to noted social reformer Joydriao Phule on his birth anniversary, and said his commitment to reforming the society will continue to inspire future generations.

In a tweet, Modi also hailed him as a great thinker, philosopher and writer and noted that he was committed to women's education and empowerment throughout his life.

PNS III NEW DELHI

Former Central Information Commissioner Shailesh Gandhi has called for making virtual hearing a permanent feature of the judicial system, stating that the achievements of

feature of the judicial system, stating that the achievements of a Supreme Court e-committee, which has been around since 2005, have been "inadequate". He has made this suggestion in his submission to Justice DY Chandrachud, the Chairperson of the SC e-committee, saying the draft report placed by the committee in public domain lacks "any real evaluation of the effectiveness of the earlier efforts and recommendations".

Gandhi, who had set in motion paperless working in the Central Information Commission a decade back said, "The Supreme Court E-Committee has been around since 2005 and it appears its real achievements are inadequate."

Citing the findings of the Committee, Gandhi said the report mentions that a total of Committee Gandhi Torore plus Rs 1670 crore have been spent implementing Information and Communication Technology based systems in courts.

"If I presume an expenditure

backward caste in 1827 in Maharashtra, Phule fought against social discrimination and strove to promote educa-tion among the most deprived communities.

He and his wife, Savitribai

witersary, and said his comment to reforming the sociment that sociment as a great thinker,
mod pild at recently sugmod parl at load a waccination festival
mon april at 10 April 14, birth
anniversary of Dalit icon Bhim
ano apment ment throughout his
mong the people eligible for
the shots.

of 309.411 crore for software and consultancy, it would mean Rs 2,000 crore for hardware. Assuming about 20,000 courts, this would mean an average expenditure of about Rs.10 lace per court for hardware. This should be more than adequate. Yet, most courts did not function effectively during the pandemic using virtual hearings. The said as against an increase of four lakh pending cases before courts between 2005-19, just last one year has seen an addition of 75 lakh cases to the pendency.

Gandhi said the Committee mentions setting up of "some Virtual Courts", whereas all courts should be effective virtual courts.

of 309.411 crore for software and

Ex-CIC calls for making virtual hearing permanent

feature of judicial system

CBI to probe cheating, misappropriation of funds case against ex-MP KD Singh

The CBI has taken over a case of cheating and misappropriation of funds against former Rajya Sabha MP KD Singh from Uttar Pradesh Police following a reference from the State Government

Folice following a reference from the State Government and further notification from the Centre for probe into the case by the Central agency.

The case was originally registered at Kotwali Kanpur Nagar police station in Kanpur as Crime No. 234/2019 on a complaint from one Pawan Mishra alleging cheating and misappropriation of funds invested by the complainant and other investors in Alchemist Infra Realty Ltd and Alchemist Township Ltd promoted by the former MP.

The investors were promised plots/villas/apart-



ments against their invest-ments. However, they were neither given the proments against their invest-ments. However, they were neither given the promised plots, flats, or villas. They were not even refunded the funds despite the plots or flats not being allotted to them.

Besides Singh, six directors of the two firms have also been

booked in a case of cheating and criminal breach of trust.

The UP Government had requested a CBI probe through an order dated August 16, 2020. The Centre notified the probe by the CBI on April 1 this year following which the CBI re-registered the case on Friday.

Air purifiers in lifts, poorly ventilated spaces helpful in Covid spread: Study

Air purifiers in lifts (eleva-tors) and other poorly ven-tilated confined spaces could actually increase the spread of actually increase the spread of airborne virus droplets, accord-ing to researchers who have called upon the health author-ities to look for such places which might be turning out to be super spreader for Coronavirus which is spreading like a raeine fire.

Coronavirus which is spreacing like a raging fire. When people infected with the Cov-SARS-2 virus, respon-sible for the current Covid-19 pandemic, sneeze, talk or sim-ply breathe, they expel thou-sands of contaminated saliva droplets.

ply breathe, they expel thou-sands of contaminated saliva droplets.

These droplets are now rec-ognized as being the main way in which the virus spreads to other individuals and people are being advised to wear masks to curb contamination. Regularing airing indoor spaces to reduce airing indoor spaces to reduce the concentration of viral par-ticles is also important.

Since the quality of air in a small space can quickly deteri-orate even when there is just one person in that space (mainly because of the increased CO2 levels produced as we breathe

courts should be effective virtual courts.

"In fact, I would submit that all courts should be prepared and mandated to allow lawyers and litigants to appear virtually or physically without any specific need to inform anyone or take permissions; he said.

The former Information Commissioner said to achieve this there is no requirement for any serious training, but just ability to use a keyboard, which are to any literate person and at best a two-hour familiarisation video should be adequate.

out), lift manufacturers rou-tinely include ventilator systems. These can, however, increase the rate at which air – possibly laden with bacteria and viruses – cir-culates. While adding an air purifier to the lift in addition to the ventilator should help in the-ory, the way in which the puri-fier affects air circulation, and thus transmission of airborne viruses is unclear, said the researchers. Air purifiers work by suck-

researchers.
Air purifiers work by sucking in stale air and exhausting cleansed air, but this adds to the overall circulation of air – an aspect that previous studies, or indeed air purifier manufacturers themselves, have not considered.

considered.

To investigate this issue,
Dimitris Drikakis and Talib
Dbouk of the University of
Nicosia analysed air circulation

and found that the air purifier actually increases the spread of saliva droplets in the cabin. "This is because the air intake integrated inside the purifier equipment induces flow circulation that can add to the

circulation that can add to the transport of these droplets," explains Drikakis. They also found that the risk of airborne virus transmis-sion is lowest for low ventilation rates. This is due to reduced flow mixing inside the lift, says Dbouk.

flow mixing inside the lift, says Dbouk.

"The broader implications of the present findings are that health and safety authorities must revise guidelines accordingly by considering the flow circulation and droplet dispersion effects arising from air puriflers and sanitisers in confined spaces," say Drikakis and Dbouk.



said pitching for "zero vaccine waste" and urging the people to follow COVID-appropriate

Amid an unprecedented burden on health intrastructure in 15 States and Delhi, which are witnessing an upward trajectory, authorities have started reserving more COVID hospitals and taking steps to address any shortage of medical supplies, besides enhancing curbs on the movement of People.

The Centre announced a ban on export of Remdesivir, used in coronavirus treatment and its Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, and asked all domestic manufacturers to display on their website details of heir stockists and distributors. India's COVID-19 tally of cases climbed to 1,33,58,605, and the death toll increased to Cotober 18, 2020, the data updated by Health Ministry on Sunday morning showed.

While the cumulative country has crossed 10 crore after 85 days, the "Tika Utsav" a special Vaccination festival" was started till April 14. "Anyone eligible for the vaccine should get the jab, and for this the society and administration have to make full

behaviour. "This festival is, in a way

the beginning of another major war against corona. We have to lay special emphasis on personal hygiene as well as social hygiene," he

as well as ocial hygiene," he said.
Five states — Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala -- cumulatively account for 70.82 percent of India active COVID-19 cases, while Maharashtra alone accounts for 48.57 percent, the Union Health Ministry said.
Besides these states, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal are displayine wases.
Most of these states have

Most of these states have Most of these states have reimposed restrictions, includ-ing the closure of schools, night curfew, weekend and local shutdowns, while ruling out a total lockdown, but as the latest wave of patients

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal have said that a lockdown will be the only option if the infections don't abate and the health system shows signs of col-lapsing. Kejriwal on Sunday said the COVID-19 situation

The city recorded 10,774
fresh COVID-19 cases on
Sunday, the highest singleday spike so far, with 48 more
fatalities. "The fourth wave is
more dangerous than the previous wave," he told a press
conference, and urged the
people not to step out unless
there is urgent work.

Speaking at an all-party
meeting held virtually to discuss the COVID-19 situation
in the State on Saturday,

cuss the COVID-19 situation in the State on Saturday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had indicated the imposition of a strict lockdown in the State given the alarming rise in COVID-19 cases.

Focus on micro containment zones to curb Covid march: Modi to K'taka CM

PNS III NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday suggested to Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on focusing on "micro containment zones" to contain the spread of Covid-19 infection in the State.

infection in the State.
Karnataka has seen a surge
in COVID19 cases since the
beginning of this month and is
reporting nearly 7,000 fresh
cases per day for the last couple of days.
The Chief Minister who

The Chief Minister who spoke to the Prime Minister said that the latter also appre-ciated the state government's efforts to counter the second wave of Coronavirus pandem-ic.

"Spoke to Horible Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji and apprised him about the measures being taken in the state to mitigate second wave of pandemic. PM appreciated the Government's efforts and suggested to focus on micro containment zones to contain the spread of infection," Yediyurappa tweeted.

After the video conference with Modi, Yediyurappa on Thursday had announced a corona curfew between 10 PM to 5 AM in seven district centres of the state along with Manipal, from April 10 to 20, targetted to controlling the fast spread of COVID-19.

Untill Saturday the total number of active cases in the

state stood at 61,653.

The Chief Minister also appealed to the people, those lighle, to get vaccinated.

"Vaccine is the biggest weapon available to us in this battle against Covid-19. I urge all eligible citizens to get vaccinated and also encourage people around you to get vaccinated. Let us continue to stay protected by wearing masks and following social distance," he said in another tweet.

As suggested by the Prime Minister at Thursday's videoconferencing with various Chief Ministers, the State Government is organising vaccination drives from April 11-Joyotba Phules birthday till April 14-Ambedkar's birthday.

Enhance peacekeeping budget: Army chief to UN

Indian Army chief Gen MM Naravane on Sunday urged the United Nations to enhance the budget for its peacekeeping missions and emphasised the need to provide appro-priate logistics and improved techno-logical support for the blue helmet mis-sions in view of the emerging chal-lenges.

sions in view of the emerging chal-lenges.

Gen Naravane, who is here on a five-day official tour, delivered a keynote address on "Changing Nature of Global Conflicts: Role of UN Peacekeepers" during the "Army Chiefs Conclave" hosted by his Bangladeshi counterpart General Aziz Ahmed, the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) tweeted.

tweeted. Gen Naravane laid emphasis on Gen Naravane laid emphasis on enhanced budget for UN peacekeeping activities, Bangladesh defence min-istry's Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) directorate quoted him as say-ing at the conclave. Bangladesh Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen was the

chief guest at the event.
The Indian Army chief also called or providing appropriate logistics and improved technological support for the UN blue helmet missions, pointing out their emerging challenges. He said the

UN peacekeeping missions should run on a participatory basis. The Bangladesh Army hosted the conclave coinciding with the celebra-tions of the birth centenary of the coun-try's 'Father of the Nation' Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubile of its 1971 inde-pendence.

pendence.
Force commander of UN multidimensional integrated stabilisation mission in Mall Lieutnant General Dennis
Gyllensporree, force commander of
UN multidimensional integrated stabilisation mission in the Central
African region Lieutnant General
Sidki Daniel Traore and Bhutan army's
Genutz chief of operation Reizalier Sidki Daniel Traore and Bhutan army's deputy chief of operation Brigadier General Darji Rinchen, among others attended the conclave.

Senior diplomats, security strategists and police officers also attended the seminar.

During the event, the Indian Army
Chief interacted with the senior officers
of the participating nations and military observers from the other nations.
Momen told the conclave that the
nature of peackeeping operations in
recent periods transformed both in
terms of scale and scope for what
"peacekeeping missions today are more
than truce supervising operation."
The changing situation further
expanded the missions' responsibility

taking into account "other dimensions of peace, such as establishing rule of law, protection of human rights, protection of nomen and children, support to political process, managing elections, reintegration and socio-economic development," he said.

The conclave was held as part of a multilateral UN-mandated counter-terrorism exercise, Shantir Ogroshena (Frontrunners of Peace) that commenced on April 4. An Indian Army contingent of 30 personnel are participating along with the Royal Bhutan Army, Sri Lankan Army and Bangdaeds harmy in the exercise that will conclude on Monday.

Military observers from the US, UK, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore are also attending the exercise. The aim of the exercise is to strengthen the procedures and enhance interoperability amongst neighbourhood countries to ensure robust peace-keeping operations in the region. The armies of all the participating nations shared their valuable experiences and refined their drills and procedures in peacekeeping operations.

The visit of Gen Naravane, who is here at the invitation of his Bangladeshi counterpart Gen Aziz Ahmed, comes

The visit of Gen Naravane, who is here at the invitation of his Bangladeshi counterpart Gen Aziz Ahmed, comes less than two weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to the neighbouring country.

EXPLOSIVE-LADEN SUV-HIRAN MURDER CASES =

NIA arrests Vaze's associate Kazi, suspects he destroyed evidence

In the fourth arrest in the twin explosive laden SUV planting and alleged Mansukh Hiran murder cases the National Inwestigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday took Assistant Police Inspector (API) Riyazuddin Kazi, a close associate and colleague of incarcerated police officer Sachin Vaze, into custody

a close associate and colleague of incarcerated police officer Sachin Vaze, into custody.

Shortly affer he was arrested on Sunday, Kazi was produced before a special NIA court, which remanded him to the custody of the agency till April 16.

Kazis arrest came after several rounds of questioning by the NIA over the past three weeks.

Kazi was directly working under Vaze, an API heading the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) of the Grime Branch-CID of Mumbai Police.

The NIA is looking into Kazis role in the planning of a Gelatin sticks laden Scorpio and a threatening letter inside the vehicle, in the vicinity of Mukesh Ambanis 27 -storey residence 'Antilla' on Carmichael Road in south Mumbai on February 25 and the subsequent alleged murder of 'Thane businessman Mansukh Huran. Hiranis 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 have destroyed evidence in the case and procured fake vehicle number plates 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 had earlier this week created a sensation by making a written submission before the secial NIA Court accusing Deshmukh and another Maharashtra Minister Anil Paraho d'asking him to Indulge in extortion for them.

Vaze, who was arrested on March 13 in connection for them.

se, was earlier booked under sections 120 (B) (crim case, was earlier booked under sections 120 (B) (crim-inal 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. Vaze was subsequently booked under sections 16 (Punishment for Terror act) and 18 (Punishment for comprise, set of the stripment Unlawful Activities

No. Vaze was subsequently booked under sections 16 (Paishment for Terror act) and 18 (Punishment for Consistence of Terror act) and 18 (Punishment for Consistence of Terror act) and 18 (Punishment for Consistence of Terror of

UP man held for announcing reward on priest's head

IANS III MEERUT

The Meerut police have arrested a youth for allegedly announcing a reward for killing a controversial priest of a temple in Ghaziabad's Dasna area.

a temple in Ghaziabad 5 Dasna are a temple in Ghaziabad 5 Dasna are a The man, Danish Ali, a resident of Meetr, thad uploaded a video on a social media platform saying that anyone who beheads the controversial priest, Yati Periest, Yati Per

booked him for hurting reingious sentiments.

The statements were made at a press conference at Delhi Press Club.

Danish is heard in the video purportedly saying, "will sell my property, jewelly, everything I have and will arrange Rs 51 lakh."

Though Danish did not name Saraswatt, he referred to him as the 'priest of the Dasna temple in Ghaziabad'.

Meerut's Superintendent of Police (SP) Vineet Bhatnagar said, "We have also seized the mobile phone through which he had made the controversial announcement."

World's richest Malayali, wife escape unhurt as their chopper crash-lands

MA Yusuff Ali, the richest Malayali in the world, (net worth \$4.8 billion) and his wife had a miraculous escape from an air crash on Sunday morning at Kochi. The helicopter ferrying them to a hospital owned by Yusuff Ali made a force landing in the marshy area along the Kochi-Thiruvananthapuram National Highway. There were five persons in the chopper including the Alis and all were brought out of the sleeky flying machine once the rotors came to a standstill.

The pilot and Ali suffered some minor injuries and were rushed to the Lakeshore Hospital for first-aid. All are safe and hearty, according to sources in the hospital. According to eye witnesses who watched the low flying chopper force landing in the

KIIMAR CHELLAPPAN III CHENNAL

marshy stretch, there was heavy wind and rains when the incident happened.

An enquiry has been ordered into the incident.

An enquiry has been ordered must unicident.
Yusuff Ali who owns the Lulu Group business empire is a close friend of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and other top CPI(M) leaders in the country. The business tycoon enjoys cordial ties with leaders of all political parties, though the Marxists in the State visit the oil kingdoms in West Asia as the guests of Ali who have built up a vast business empire across the Arab nations in Asia, Africa and Europe. Yusuff Ali, who owns a fleet of exec-

Arab nations in Asia, Africa and Europe. Yusuff Ali, who owns a fleet of executive jets and helicopters, had been awarded Abu Dhabi Prize, the country's highest civilian honours, on Friday by crown prince Sheikh Mohammed Bin Sayed Al

Navreh celebration in J&K from today

Jammu: Shipleevan: Slatica steep and the steep and the steep and twenty five Kashmiri Hindu organisations globally has formulated a three-day programme from 12 th to 14 th April, 2021 with the intention to celebrate Tyaag, Sankalp and Shaurya Divas and urge the Kashmiri Hindus to take a pledge for returning to their homeland on the auspicious occasion of Navreh.

The Celebrations were expected to culminate with a virtual address by Sarsanghchalak Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Dr Mohan Bhagwat.

Now it is not Cear whether Dr Bhagwat would be able to address the august gathering as he has been

admitted in the hospital in Nagpur after he tested positive for Covid-

According to a press statement issued by the Sanjeevni Sharda Kendra, 'the Navreh celebrations will commence on 12 th April - the Tyang (Sacrifice) Divas in the memory of the Shriya Bhat. The Indian history records the great contribution in saving Hindu culture by a Kashmiri Pandit Shriya Bhat, as early as the 15 th century.

Shriya Bhat was able to cure a Shriya Bhat was able to cure a dreadful disease of Sultan Zainulab-ud-Din and was offered enormous wealth and property. But Shriya Bhat instead negotiated for the safety and security of Kashmiri Hindus and their reli-

gious places.

On April 13, Navreh (first day of New Year) is being celebrated as Navreh Sankalp Divas. Globally all Kashmiri Hindus shall take a solemn pledy. Parket in the Sankary Divas will be celebrated in the honour of the great 8th century King of Kashmir, Laltaditya Muktapida for his valour and victory over Turks.

Sanjeevni Sharda Kendra has already released an audio and video of a song on Navreh Celebrations composed by Dr. Kuldeep Raina Sudeshi, written by Sunita Raina Pandit; sung by Lovely Chandra and Vishal Pandita and video elited by Pardeep Pandita.

then the industries would have to

take care of their workers. Meanwhile, he appealed the migrant labourers not to leave the

state.
"The chief minister would be

"The chief minister would be meeting top officials and on Wednesday, after which there will be a weekly Cabinet meeting where a decision regarding the lockdown would be taken," Tope said.

Less than a fortnight after it constituted a judicial probe under retired High Court Judge Kailash U Chandiwal into allegations of corruption against former State Home Minister Anil Deshmuh, the Maharashtra Government has initiated a departmental probe against Mumbar's former police commissioner Param Bir Singh under senior IPS officer Sanjay Pandey for alleged breach of service rules and dereliction of duty.

duty.

In a development that has

the midst of a

In a development that has come in the midst of a Preliminary Inquiry (PE) launched by the CBI into Singhs allegations of corruption made against Deshmukh, Pandey—who has been entrusted with additional charge as the State General Police – has begun the probe against the former city police commissioner.

The Maharashtra govern-

agamst de some chy porce commissioner. The Maharashtra govern-ment has ordered the probe against Singh on the basis of a report submitted by Mumbai's new Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale to it on mat-ters relating to suspended and incarcerated police officer Sachin Vaze Sachin Vaze.

incarcerated police officer Sachin Vaze.

Among other things, Pandey will look into the charge about Singh's alleged dereliction of duty arising out of his failure to keep the state government about his personal investigations into the alleged malpractices by Deshmukh, whether his charge of corruption made against the former state Home Minister had any substance, why had not only given so much importance to Azze but also asked him report to him directly to him and whether he assigned Vaze to investigate the explositive laden SUV recovery case.

In a report submitted to the State Home department on April 3, Nagrale also stated that Vaze was posted as the in-

against Param Bir charge of the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) of the Mumbai police as per the orders of former Police Commissioner Param Bir

Departmental probe

Commissioner Param Bir Singh. "API Sachin Vaze never reported to any officer of the Crime Branch during his tenure of nine months from 10/06/2020 to 12/03/2020. No officers of the Crime branch

omicers of the Crime branch
any
review/opinion/direction in
the investigation handled by
Sachin Vaze because he directly reported to the then
Commissioner of Police," the
report stated.
"As ner oral orders of the

"As per oral orders of the "As per oral orders of the the nominissioner of police, the then joint commissioner of police (crime) transferred police inspector Vinay Gorphade and Sudhakar Deshmukh to Unit 10 and Unit 1, respectively and Vaze was posted in-charge of CIU," the report stated. "Vaze has not followed the rules and he directly and independently reported to the then

"Vaze has not followed the rules and he directly and independently reported to the then CoP (Singh) and he investigated under his guidance... was following the guidelines of (Singh) about raid on illegal activities, whom to arrest or not, to call whom as witness and accused of sensitive crimes," stated the report.

Vaze, who jumped on his own into the investigations involving the recovery of explosive laden SUV near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's skyscraper mansion in south Mumbai on February 25, also took up points of the CIU in remands, bail, anticipatory bail pleas and other critical decisions, and if he required manpower for various investigations, it was given as per Singh's directions.

As the in-charge of CIU, Vaze handled sensational cases like TRP rigging scam, the Amaya Naik suicide case and the death of her mother Kumud Naik.

With 6,618 new persons getting diagnosed with Covid-19 on Sunday, situation in Tamil Nadu has turned grave all over the State. The State saw 22 persons succumbing to the pandemic till 7 pm on Sunday. On Saturday, 5,989 persons tested positive throughout the State while the death toll on the single day stood at 23.

TN logs 6,618 fresh cases

Chennai has to bear the brunt as the Metropolis reg-

chemhan ais to ear me brunt as me Nettropons reg-istered 2,124 new cases on Sunday while the number of new persons diagnosed with the pandemic on Saturday stood at 1,977. As on Sunday, Chengalpet, the neighboring district saw 631 new cases getting admit-ted to the hospital.

Dr. C. V. Krishnaswamy, eminent physician, boldly

Dr C V Krishnaswamy, eminent physician, boldly stated that situation was critical and grave in both Tamil Nadu and Kerala. "The ever increasing number of Covid-19 patients in these States are matters of concern. Both the State administrations should discuss with the medical fraternity and evolve a mechanism to prevent the spread of this pandemic," said Dr Krishnaswamy. He also cautioned the doctors and policy makers about the impact the disease could cause in youngsters. "You forget all those who are above 60 years of age. Their good days are over. What is of concern is the Complaints from youth who were afflicted with Covid-19. Those who came out of the ordeal have started complaining about weakness, loss of memory and stamilating about the contractions are supplied to the contraction of the contraction

19. Those who came out of the ordeal have started complaining about weakness, loss of memory and stamina. Many persons who had the harrowing experience of Covid-19 are likely to face a series of medical issues," said the doctor. Dr Rajeev, ayurvedic physician, from Kerala, too echoed the concerns of Dr Krishnaswamy. "Many persons, especially youth, are complaining loss of memory and stamina after attack by the Covid virus. This is an issue which has to be studied in detail because it is becoming detrimental to the future of the country," said Dr Rajeev.

Maha CM meets Covid task force, asks to prepare SOPs for lockdown

TN RAGHUNATHA III MUMBAI

A mid clear indications that it might go in for a full-fledged lockdown to break the chain of the rapid infections across Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday met the members of the Covid 19 Task Force, his Cabinet colleagues and senior bureaucrast to make full-fledged preparations for the proposed lockdown. At the meeting, the chief

full-fledged preparations for the proposed lockdown. At the meeting, the chief minister discussed with those present about the need for increasing vaccination, setting up oxygen plants, increasing Cowid-19 beds, increased availability of Rendesivir injections and ensuring early vaccination of health workers across the state. The chief minister said that he would make one more request to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to increase availability of vaccines to Maharashtra.

During the course of the

Maharashtra.

During the course of the meeting, the chief minister asked the Task Force members and senior bureaucrats to prepare what he called "all inclusive" Standard-Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed during the proposed lockdown. In the SOPs, the factors stemming from experiences the state government had

gained from handling the Covid-19 in the state during the past one

19 in the state during the past one year.

Among other things, the chief minister asked the state administration to explore ways to bring Oxygen cylinders in big way from the stats like Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, where there is abundant availability of Oxygen.

At the meeting, the task force members stressed on the need for reducing the excessive use of Remdesivir injections by Covid-19 patients in the state. "Nine five per cent of Covid patients get well by being in home quarantine. Only serious patients should get themselves admitted to hospitals. In housing societies, the authorities can create isolation centres and make available Oxygen concentrators and covid-19 beds so that patients can be looked after at the local levels," one of the task force members suggested at the meeting.

Earlier at the meeting, Chief

eting.
Earlier at the meeting, Chief Earlier at the meeting, Chief Secretary Sitaram Kunde said that of the 1,200 metric tonnes of Oxygen available, 980 metric tonnes of Oxygen was being used for medical purposes. "In con-sultation with the Centre, we are looking at ways to bring addi-tional oxygen to the state," Kunte said.

Talking to media persons after the meeting, State Health Minister Rajesh Tope hinted that the government might impose full-fledged lockdown to arrest the rapid spread of Covids-19 infections.

the rapid spread of Covids-19 infections.

Tope said that the chief minister would take a final decision on the imposition of full-fledged lockdown in the state. He said that if the lockdown was announced,

Mumbai: Amid a fierce controversy between the MVA government and the Centre over the the discrimination in the distribution discrimination in the distribution of vaccines to the State, Maharashtra on Sunday became the first State in the country to administer one core doses to the Covid-19 patients.

We have crossed one crore doses today. Till today noon, we have administered 1,00,38,42 doses, 'principal secretary (health) Dr Pradeep Vyas said

Of one crore-odd vaccine doses, avound 90 lakh people have been given the first dose, while the rest 10 lakh have received the two doses.

Maharashtra has worked out

MAHA BECOMES FIRST STATE TO ADMINISTER 1 CR VACCINE DOSES

a target of vaccinating 6 lakh people per month, 40 lakh a week-that comes to around 1.6 crore a month. However, it is facing a shortage of vaccines—and more than 30 per cent centres have run out of stock.

It may be recalled that State Health Minister Rajesh Tope had said on Thursday that given the gravity of the Covid-19 situation, Maharashtra would 7.5 lakh doses per week suffice for Maharashtra "We meed at least 1.60 crore doses in a month. It is only then, we will be able to implement the vaccination programme properly; the nation programme properly," the state health minister had said.

People should follow Covid protocol to keep infections under check, says Raj CM



Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has said that with the ever increasing corona infection in Rajasthan, the State govern-ment will be forced to take strict action if people will not follow the health protocol of wearing masks, keeping proper distance and keeping away from the crowd.

and Keeping, crowd.

He said that during the sec-ond wave, the infection is spreading very fast and all the people should follow the health rules and help the government

in keeping it under control. Gehlot was presiding over the review meeting on infection and vaccination status at the Chief Minister's residence on Saturday night

Chief Minister's residence on Saturday night.

He said that during the spread of corona infection last year, the same spirit and sup-port of the people of all classes and communities has given full support of the state gov-ernment and all health rules and other guidelines are need-ed again.

UP schools shut till Apr 30, Govt orders night curfew in districts logging 100 new cases/day

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Government on Sunday ordered the closure of all schools till April 30 and directed the imposition of a night curfew in the districts, which report 100 new infections in a day or have 500 active cases.

According to the statement issued on Sunday, all government and private schools will remain closed till April 30 while pre-scheduled remain closed till April 30 while pre-scheduled vaninations can be held.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi didynandh said a night curfew be imposed from power myther than the myther than the proposed from the didynandh said a night curfew be imposed from power how the myther has been put in the districts that report 100 fresh asses in a day or have 500 active COVID-19 for an event while the number has been put in the districts that report 100 fresh asses in a day or have 500 active COVID-19 for an event while the number has been put in the districts that report 100 fresh asses in a day or have 500 active COVID-19 for an event while the number has been put in the districts which are the first of the statement issued on Maccording to the statement issued on Mancy all government and private schools will remain closed till April 30 while pre-scheduled the main closed till Ap

infections in a day or have 500 active cases.

According to a government statement, the government also ordered that not more than 100 people be allowed to assemble at an open space for an event while the number has been put at 50 for closed spaces.

The fresh government directives have come on a day the state reported its highest single-day spike of 15,353 cases since the outbreak of the pandemic.

So far, 9,152 people have died from the infection in the state, which has reported 6,92,015 cases since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Earlier, a night curfew was imposed in Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Allahabad, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Bareilly, Muzaffarnagar districts and the Lucknow city body area.

On April 2, the UP government had extended till April 11 the closure of all schools for stu-

cases.

Stressing the need to focus on the "test, trace the government said the

and treat" approach, the government said the daily count of RT-PCR tests should be taken to

one lakh.

Tracing of at least 30-35 persons who have come in contact with a COVID-19 patient should be done, the directives said.

The UP chief minister said an effective COVID-19 vaccination drive should be carried out as a four-day "Tika Usaw" began in the state on Sunday. The four-day vaccination programme, which began on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotibha Phule, will continue till April 14, the birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar.

UP man, sister booked for 'forcing conversion' 2 years after marriage

Two years after marriage, a woman has accused her husband and his two sisters of forcibly converting her.

The woman said, she never realized that her husband was a Muslim and had never met her in-laws. She had retained her maiden name after marriage.

riage. The Muslim man, 25, and

The Muslim man, 2s, and his sisters have now been booked under the anti-conversion law and the conversion law and

the phone.
They met and fell in love.
"We got married in a temple,"
she said. The couple started liv-

sile salie. Fire Corper salies are in gin Noida. In her complaint to police, she said, 'On February 7 this year, we had a daughter. On March 22, he took me to his home at the Rait village in Aligarh. There, I found out his name was Afzal Khan. I was forced to read the 'namaz' and stopped from offering my prayers."

She further said, 'On April 5, they took my daughter away

She further said, "On April 8, they took my daughter away from me. Then, they convert-ed me forcefully and renamed me 'Alna'." She alleged her in-laws drove her out of the house and

Afzal Khan has been booked under the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance and Section 323 of the IPC (voluntarily causing hurt) along with his sister."

No arrest has been made so

far.

The woman's statement will be registered in court under Section 164 of the CrPC on Monday.

So far, 32 FIRs have been registered under the state's

registered under the state's anti-conversion law since it came into effect in November last year.

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pinion

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Shot shortage

Amid a plethora of issues, from safety to availability, the second wave of pandemic has hit India hard

dia seems to be back to square one where fighting the pandemic is concerned with more than 70 vaccination centres in Mumbai having shut down after running out of the COVID doses. Other parts of the country, too, like Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, are facing a shortage of the coveted shots. And this shortage is being faced despite there being major vaccine hesitancy in the country and the inoc-ulation drive still not open to all. How massive the shortage would become if the Government decides to vaccinate all citizens is anybody's guess. When the pandemic began over a year ago, India was faced with the harsh reality of a poor healthcare infrastructure, shortage of hospital beds, ventilators, healthcare professionals, sani-



tisers, drugs and the know-how regarding the han-dling of the contagion. However, to the Government's and India Inc's credit, our "jugaadu" spirit kicked in and we overcame all these shortages by manufacturing everything in India and even reached a point where we began exporting PPEs, sanitisers and so on. Even where the vaccine was concerned, we surprised the world by coming out with two vaccines: n fact, India began gifting or selling vaccines to countries around the world. All this was done parallel to our own ambitious countrywide vaccination drive. As the first wave of the outbreak seemed to sub-

side, it gave the Centre's vaccine diplomacy a shot in the arm. It looked like we had it all under control, till the second wave hit.

Now, it seems that we have not learnt any lessons from the first wave and pre-pared ourselves better to handle the inevitable second wave, which empirical evi-dence suggests is always worse than the first one. So not only are we again facing a bed and oxygen shortage, we are beginning to fall short of the vaccines as well. A political slugfest has broken out over the issue with Maharashtra alleging that the Centre was "discriminating" against the non-BJP ruled States and the Government, for its part, accusing the States of having a lackadaisical attitude. A hectic debate is also on within the country whether charity should begin at home and the Government should have ensured that all of its citizens were covered first before exporting the shots. After all, even the US, the leader of the free world, has banned all exports until it vaccinates its own citizens. Be that as it may, the fact that we were not prepared to handle the inevitable second wave is a collective failure: Of the healthcare system, the policy planners, the bureaucracy, the Centre, States and the people as a whole. To make matters worse, some European regulators are talking about a possible link between the AstraZeneca vaccine (available in India under the brand name Covishield) and some rare occurrences of blood clots. Though the Indian panel on 'adverse event following immunisation' is studying the safety of Covishield, it will be some time before it gives its verdict. So, for now, it remains to be seen how our ingenuity gets us out of this jam.



A 3,000-year-old lost city in Luxor, Egypt, which was unearthed recently

Deliverance

Uttarakhand has decided to free 51 shrines from the Govt's control and hand these back to the priests

a politically sensitive development ahead of the Uttarakhand Assembly elections in February 2022 Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat-led B.IP Government has overturned his predecessor Trivendra Singh Rawat's decision enabling the Government to take over the management of 51 prominent temples and shrines. Trivendra's argument had



been that the new Act would help in the profession-al management of these shrines. The Act paved the way for setting up the Devasthanam Board, which was chaired by the Chief Minister. The Board was meant to control the management of renowned temples such as Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri; the annual pilgrimage to these temples is popularly called the Char Dham Yatra and is a money-spinner not only for the temples but also for allied businesses like the travel, hotel and tourism industries. In 2019, over three million people visited the four shrines, though 2020 was a damp squib owing to the COVID outbreak. Most worryingly for the seers, the Act had the provision to sack a priest found involved in any "wrongdoing". It

had been a long-pending demand of these *teerth purohits* (pilgrimage priests) that the Government roll back its decision as, they pointed out, they have been managing for generations the affairs of these temples, which were set up by their ancestors.

Now, though it can't be truthfully claimed that everything was hunky-dory at these religious establishments when their affairs were being managed by the respective teerth purohits, there's also no denying the fact that the State Government's move must not have spawned from any idea of piousness or welfare for the pilgrims, who descend on the hill State from across the length and breadth of the country. It is true that the infrastructure at the halting places leading to these places of worship is in a dilapidated condition and excessive commercialisation there has massively added to the nature's burden, the result of which we all saw in the tragic Kedarnath flash floods of 2013. However, the Government didn't stir all along to ameliorate the pathetic conditions. We would suggest that rather than taking extreme positions, let the temple management remain with the *teerth purohits* but, at the same time, the Government should keep an eye on them and the way they run the temple affairs and oversee the upkeep, facilities and amenities there.

Of Sri Lanka and the Andamans



The issues between Sri Lankan Tamils and the Sinhalas may be resolved if India concurs to transfer the former to the Andamans

wo communities not being able to coexist is a perennial problem in the Indian subcontinent. An old saying goes. **Ek myaan mein do talwarein nahi reh sakti*, meaning two swords cannof tit into one scabbard. The problem began by being underscored in our own India, which was divided into Pakistan for Muslims and Hindustan for the rest. MA Hindustan for the rest. MA Jinnah argued that Hindus and

Jinnah argued that Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations and could not coexist. The first leader to push this two-nation thesis was Sir Syed Ahmad Khan of Aligarh fame. Some UP Muslims believed their new country, Pakistan, was a new Medina. Muslims in the western wing despised east-erne Bengalia as inferior, short and dark. Their economy was exploited from day one, Jinnah visited Dacca early in 1948 and peremptorily told university students that Urdu alone would be Pakistaris national language. Bengali, which they are prouc of, was not in the reckoning of, was not in the reckoning. The two wings were daggers drawn from 1948; the clash came in 1971, in less than 24 years of the new Medina's birth. In December that year, they separated; Bangladesh was born. Thus, India was divided into three. Now we hear that the people of Sindh wish to separate. This separatist movement is called "jlo Sindh". They are unable to exist under the yoke of the dominant Punjabis.

of the dominant Puniabis. Baluchistan is another unhap Baluchistan is another unhap-py province which was partly British India and partly the princely State of Kalat. It had an Embassy in Karachi until 1948 when Pakistan forcibly took it over. The Pathans of the Northover. The Pathans of the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) with their main city, Peshawar, have always wished to unite with all Pathans in Afghanistan, though this demand is dormant now. With Sri Lanka, it is an old problem. I visited my in-laws-to-be in Colombo in 1964 as they wanted to introduce me to their

society in the city where they had lived and worked for 32 years. In the course of my four-day stay,



IF WE CAN OFFER A TRANSFER OF WILLING SRI LANKAN TAMILS TO THE ANDAMANS, INDIA'S ADVANTAGE WOULD BE POPULATING THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS,

was such. Ramaswamy was likely to emigrate to Australia. My father-in-law explained that the Sinhalas were an overwhelming majority, an easy-going, fun-loving Buddhist people. They were jealous of the Tamils who were serious at work, and more efficient. There had developed a wedge between the two groups as far back as then. Their differences were bound to explode sooner or later. The fact that the people of Tamil Nadu have a soft corner in their hearts for their Sri Lankan brethren is natural but TAMILS' SURVIVAL SAFER. TAMIL NADU HAPPIER AND THE INDO-SRI LANKAN SUSPICION-FREE

WHICH MAKES RFI ATIONS PERMANENTIY

that makes the Sinhalas suspect Indian intentions from time to time. When Rajiv Gandhi was India's Prime Minister and President JR Jayewardene headed Sri Lanka, we sent the IPKF military to help the Tamils. Instead of helping them, we only killed them and left the Sinhalas alone. This indicates that our Governments have mostly not understood Sri Lankan affairs. Colombo's rulers smile at New Delhi and pretend to be friendly although they feel that the faraway yellow giant is less dangerous than the Indian giant, only 40 km to the north. They did appreciate the IPKF's help for some time; thereafter it became a distant memory. Lanka distant memory. Lanka distant memory. Lanka distant memory. that makes the Sinhalas sus

time; thereafter it became a distant memory. Lanka appears to have erred in owing China all the money owing China all the money for upgrading the Hambantota port as well as a highway from Colombo to Galle and further south. If Sri Lanka cannot repay the loan in time, these may be taken over as Chinese property. Yet Colombo would rather deal with Beijing than New Delhi. This mentality is likely to continue indefinitely until India takes a drastic stop to relieve the Sinhalas of their Tamil suspicions. From the Indian point of view, there is the fear, however remote, that one day

point of view, there is the fear, however remote, that one day the Chinese may convert Sri Lanka into a yellow colony. What should New Delhi do? Consider whether we can offer a transfer of willing Sri Lankan Tamils to the Andaman Islands. They are a community of four million people, mainly in the Jaffna area in the northeast of Sri Lanka and some scattered across the east of the island. The Andamans occupy about 9,000 sq km with only about four Jakh people. Not all Sri Lankan Tamils are likely to accept the transfer. For those willing, Sri Lanka should pay a total ₹2 lakh per head towards resettlement, convenience costs and compensation. This means several billion rupees for Sri Lanka to borrow or somehow fork out, but a small cost for solving their greatest problem. India's advantage would be populating the Andaman Islands, which makes Tamils' survival safer, Tamil Nadu happier and the Indo-Sri Lankan relations permanently suspicion-free. (The writer is a well-known

manently suspicion-free. (The writer is a well-known columnist and an author. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AMP UP VACCINE PRODUCTION

Sir — In a letter to Prime Minister
Narendra Modi, Congress leader Rahul
Gandhi has rightly questioned the Centre's
decision to export COVID-19 vaccines. It
seems that the export was also an oversight,
like many other decisions of the NDA
Government. It also cannot be denied that
it was an effort to garner publicity at the
cost of our own citizens.

The Government, before launching the
world's largest vaccination drive should

world's largest vaccination drive should have calculated the domestic demand and supply. As several States are now alleging shortage of vaccines, it is time for the Centre to completely stop their export. India played the vaccine diplomacy card thinking that it was close to developing herd immunity. New Delhi wasn't granting or exporting vaccines to only the poor nations but also to the UK, Saudi Arabia and Canada. Despite India's stupendous efforts to vaccinate at a large scale, majority of the people are outside its purview. This is situation when there exists an age criteria to get vaccinated. It's not hard to imagine the situation if this age bar is removed and everybody is allowed to get vaccinated. supply. As several States are now alleging

The current situation might lead to an increase in the prices of vaccines or, if the pharmaceutical companies ramp up propharmaceutical companies ramp up pro-duction without increasing the prices, the quality will definitely get compromised. The Centre and State Governments must give up politics and find an amicable solu-tion to this problem which will likely aggra-vate in the coming days if viable answers are not explored and worked upon. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

NEED TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY

NEED TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY
SIF— It should be a cause of worry for New
Delhi that the US Navy recently carried out
a Freedom of Navigation Operation
(FONOP) in India's Exclusive Economic
Zone (EEZ) without its prior consent to
challenge India's "excessive" maritime
claims. According to the statement issued
by the Commander of the US' Seventh

Nix the corruption in Maharashtra



I refers to the editorial 'Tightening the screws' (April 10). I fully concur with the editorial view that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the National Investigation (CBI) and the National Investigation Agency (IIIA) should work in tandem to unravel the Anil Deshmukh and Sachin Vaze maze. If tainted police officials and politicians can work hand-in-glove, then why not our sleuths? The revelations made by arrested police officer Vaze are disturbing. It shows

Fleet, the operation was conducted by guid-ed-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones on April 7 and is consistent with the inter-national law. The Ministry of External Affairs responded that the Government's stated position on the UN convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is that the Convention does not authorise other States to carry out operations in the EFZ.

Convention does not authorise other States to carry out operations in the EEZ. What is shocking is that it came at a time when India and the US are trying to strengthen their ties and working in close cooperation in Quad for a free and open Indo-Pacific. US President Joe Bidens "tough talk" on China shows that Washington sees Beijing as its rival. However, the recent US misadventure can harm its good rapport with New Delhi.

TV Jayaprakash | Palakkad

NO REASON TO LOWER GUARD

how rotten our whole system is and there is an open loot of public money. It seems that things like extortion, killings, transfer of hon-est officials, nepotism or using political influ-ence to get Government contracts have become the order of the day in Maharashtra.

Not only this, it can also not be denied that the links of corrupt police officials like Vaze and politicians like Deshmukh must be with Maoists or terrorists, else from where the gelatin sticks used in Antilia bomb scare case Both the agencies must also focus their Both the agencies must also focus their investigation on these lines. Corrupt politicians when in power at the State or the Centre give patronage to criminals and anti-social elements in a quid pro quo so that they may use them as and when required. Nothing could be more shameful for the Maharashtra Government than the recent happenings and the alleged involvement of Deshmukh in grave corruption. It must be investigated properly and the accused should not be spared.

Abhishek Singh IVaranasi

the Coronavirus cases as we have lowered our guard and are not following the guidelines. People must understand that it is necessary to break the chain of transmissions to curb the spread of the Coronavirus. Coronavirus.

The vaccines are no panacea. Not following the appropriate COVID-19 behaviour is not just laxity but is a criminal act as it is a major reason for the surge. After the vaccination programme kickstarted, people felt they should not wear masks. Many people hang their masks around their neck, some keep it in their pocket and some do not use it at all. It is only after such gross negligence and laxity on the part of people that Coronavirus cases have started increasing.

Jubel D'Cruz | Mumbai

Lockdown is not an

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

COVID is surging and it is our responsibility to push the





Plan of Action compliance. The US, which caused this crisis, should return to full compliance first.

Iranian Foreign Minister - Mohammad Javad Zarif



The Opposition gets nervous about AB de Villiers. We have depth in batting

which we want to utilise. AB is probably the only one in the team who is so

Delhi CM — Arvind Kejriwal

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BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

This can give the impetus to meet climate commitments while making contributions to post-COVID recovery



RIYA RAHIMAN

ountries have been grappling with the impact of climate change and extreme events as they pose various risks to people, infrastructure, economies and future development. A significant proportion of the economic losses due to extreme events is attributed to the loss and damage to infrastructure systems, thereby stressing the need for integrating disaster and climate resilience for infrastructure development. In the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have une development, in the dase of the CVVID-19 parament, we have witnessed an unprecedented impact on infrastructure sectors world-wide. Even though it has not led to direct damages to physical infrastructure, it led to interruptions in infrastructure services, with significant implications on economies. The outbrask is the latest reminder of the need to invest in resilient infrastructure. It exposed systemic risks across various sectors and underlying drivers such as pover-ty, poor health systems and limited social welfare schemes that per-petuated them. The risks cut across different sectors and strongly brought out the imperative to understand and address systemic and cascading dangers and fragilities



As part of global recovery, infrastructure investments are being looked at as an indispensable part of stimulus packages aimed at restarting economic activities. Countries are expected to invest heavily in infrastructure sectors as an attempt to mitigate the impacts of the economic fallouts as well as create employment and improve competitiveness simultaneously. While the health and economic implications take centre stage when planning for COVID-19 recovery, the urgency of the climate emergency cannot be ignored. The pandemic has clearly brought out the need to focus on managing systems risks for strengthening resilience, a lesson one must heed, to make insis or sureigniering resilience, a ressolt of the Titus releat, of Titake headway against climate change as well. With countries submitting their national climate action plans as part of the Paris Agreement, this is a crucial year for climate action as well. It is vital that the post-COVID recovery and climate action plans complement each other. Studies show that infrastructure construction and operations

account for 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and the provision of quality infrastructure underpins the achievement of 92 per cent of targets across all Sustainable Development Goals (SDS). The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) also highlights the role of resilient infrastructure as a cornerstone for sustainable development. The four specific targets relate to loss reduction in SFDRR, focus on cutting global disaster mortality, the number of affected people, economic loss and damage to infrastructure. However, the SFDRR target on reducing damage to critical infrastructure is an important prerequisite for achieving the three other targets on loss reduction. In view of this, infrastructure investments and policies to bolster economies should be leveraged as an opportunity of deliver on global commitments such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, SDGs and the SFDRR targets. Though some progress has been made on the SDGs and the SFDRR target, the overall action to meet them has not advanced at the required pace. The pandemic has further pushed back their progress. The COVID-19 recovery can nas further pushed back their progress. The CUVIU-19 recovery can be utilised as an opportunity to progress on these global goals and build a healthy, inclusive and climate-friendly future. Investing in dis-aster and climate-resilient infrastructure can provide the much-need-ed impetus in meeting global commitments while also making con-tributions to post-COVID recovery. (The writer is Senior Specialist for Infrastructure Resilience, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. The views expressed are personal.)

The big tent of the PPP decoded



Pragmatic centrism and the need to remain a bridge between Sindh's electorate and the political fruits of federalism may help explain why the PPP made a grab for the Senate

political fruits of federalism. The nutshell identity of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is still slotted on the left side of the conventional political divide. But over the decades and, especially after the end of the Cold War in 1991, the nature of this divide has continued to transform. According to Richard Gunther and Larry Diamond in the 2003 issue of the Journal of Political Parties, by the 1990s, the mainstream Right and Left of electoral politics had become the status quo, which began being challenged by new *anti-status quo* groups. Gunther and Diamond write that the roots of large electoral Right/Centre-Right parties can be found in the 19th century, when they emerged as a reaction to monarchism or parties can be found in the 19th century when they emerged as a reaction to monarchism or parties entirely driven by the aristocratic elite.

Ironically, this means that what evolved to become mainstream Right parties in the 20th century were originally on the Left in the 19th century were originally on the Left in the 19th century were originally on the Left in the 20th century because they represented the interests of the emerging middle classes that advocated capitalism, individualism and religious freedom and/or "classical liberalism."

Once such parties succeeded in becoming part of the new status quo, they began to be challenged by parties stressing the need to regulate capitalism through various variations of socialism. Therefore, the latter came to be understood as electoral outfits that were on the left of the established classical liberal parties, which were now slotted on the right side of the divide.

ism. I neretore, the latter came to be understood as electoral outfits that were on the left of the established classical liberal parties, which were now slotted on the right side of the divide.

In his book 'Sociologie Politique', French sociologist M Duverger writes that, because of the challenges posed by socialist parties, some classical liberal parties appropriated religion to expand their appeal but remained rooted in the post-19th century secular political paradigm. The Conservative Party in Britain, the Republican Party in the US and the Christian Democratic parties in Europe can be seen as examples of this. The mainstream Left parties were quick to adopt the same. Eventually, large parties on both sides of the divide became what are called the "big tent" or "catch-all" parties.

These parties retain an ideological core, which can be Left or Right, but they position themselves toward the Centre of the spectrum, appearing moderate in, their policy prefer-

themselves toward the Centre of the spectrum, appearing moderate in their policy preferences. "Big tent" parties become platforms for varied political players as long as they have even a semblance of recognition of the party's core ideological purpose. However, it is pragmatism that becomes the overriding nature of 'catch-all' par-

becomes the overriding nature of catch-all parties.

The PPP was formed in 1967. It was initially conceived by the Marxist intellectual JA Rahim as a vehicle for the charismatic politician ZA Bhutto. The 39-year-old Bhutto had been part of the Ayub Khan dictatorship but was ousted from the Cabinet in 1966. Bhutto positioned himself as the man who had "stood up to a dictator." This gained him traction with university and college students.

According to Rahim's analysis, the Ayub regime's economic policies had accelerated the radicalisation of Pakistan's bourgeoise, widened the gap between the rich and the poor, and an organised socialist party was not only the need of the hour, but would also be able to fill the vacuum created after Ayub's inevitable departure.



IN PAKISTAN,
BECAUSE OF
CERTAIN
OVERARCHING
INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC SHIFTS, THE MOOD WAS CLEARLY
SHIFTING TO THE
RIGHT. IN THE
SECOND HALF OF
BHUTTO'S TENURE,
THE REGIME TRIED
TO APPROPRIATE THIS MOOD AND, BY THE TIME THE GOVERNMENT FELL IN 1977, THE PARTY
BELIEVED IT HAD
UPSTAGED THE
FAR-RIGHT ISLAMIS' GROUPS THAT WERE OPPOSING IT



A reading of the PPP's Foundation Papers makes it clear that, right from the onset, its founders saw the PPP as a "big tent" party modelled on established Social Democratic parties of Europe. Rahim believed that the country's bourgeoise had begun their march towards a revolutionary phase, just as the European middle classes had done in the 19th century. Yet, at the time, a majority of Pakistanis lived in rural areas and the process of industrialisation, though rapid during the Ayub era, was still concentrated in just a few urban centres. A reading of the PPP's

centrated in just a few urban centres.

When the party was launched, it exhibited three main groupings:
On the Left were Marxist student leaders, Socialist intellectuals, trade unionists and peasant leaders. On the Right were "progressive" landed elite and in the Centre were what became to be known as "Islamie socialists", or those who appropriated Islam as a welfarist and socialist doctrine, as opposed to a theological expression of politics (à la Jamaati-Islami).

During the 1970 elections, the party's "big tent" factics were a success, aiding it to attract the major-

partys big tent factics were a suc-cess, aiding it to attract the major-ity of middle and lower-middle class votes, and the votes of small farmers and peasants in (West) Pakistan's two largest provinces,

Punjab and Sindh.

Punjab and Sindh.

In December 1971, the party suddenly found itself in power after the acrimonious departure of East Pakistan. The party S. Left wing was more assertive during Bhutto's first year in power. But this assertion was stalled when Bhutto began perceiving the party's radical Left as agents of anarchy with a juvenile understanding of Marxism.

According to Guither and

a juvenile understanding of Marxism.

According to Gunther and Diamond, in an effort to expand their electoral appeal to a wide variety of groups, the policy orientations of "big tent" parties were eclectic and shifted with the public mood. In Pakistan, because of certain overarching international economic shifts, the mood was clearly shifting to the Right. In the second half of Bhutto's tenure, the regime tried to appropriate this mood and, by the time the Government fell in 1977, the party believed it had upstaged the far-Right Islamist groups that were opposing it.

Right Islamist groups that were opposing it.

But it seems that the party did not go far enough and was toppled by an Islamist General. With its leader hanged in 1979, and its other major players either in exile or in prison, the reins of the party fell in the hands of its lower-tier leadership. Bhutto's daughter Benazir was at the helm, but she

was under arrest. This was also when the party's leftist militant tendencies, which had been subdued by Bhutto, resurfaced. In 1986, however, fearing that the US would stall the party's return to power for being 'too Left-wing', Benazir began to gradually push the party back towards the Centre. This push continued through the 1990s, especially with the appearance of the Pakistani Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) as the "big tent" party of the

as the "big tent" party of the Right. Under Asif Ali Zardari, the PPP has dug its heels deep in prag-matist centrism. Its electoral appeal in Punjab was neutralised by the PML-N and then the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). This has blocked its path to Islamabad as a

blocked its path to Islamabad as a ruling party. The PPP continues to enjoy power and electoral traction in Sindh. But this traction is largely based on the fact that the Sindh speakers perceive the PPP as a bridge between them and the eco-nomic and political fruits of fed-eralism. For this, the PPP needs to continue having a strong presence continue having a strong presence in federal institutions.

in federal institutions.

This is why it was important for Zardari to recently bag a majority in the Senate, even if he ended up upsetting his allies in the anti-Government

Pakistan Democratic Movement.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE CRPF HAS SHOT FOUR PEOPLE IN COOCH BEHAR. THERE'S A CONSPIRACY UNDER THE HOME MINISTER'S ORDER AND THIS INCIDENT IS PROOF. -WEST BENGAL CM MAMATA BANERJEE





DIDI AND HER GOONS ARE PERTURBED, SEEING THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT FOR THE BJP. SHE HAS STOOPED TO THIS LEVEL AS SHE CAN SEE HERSELF LOSING. -PRIME MINISTER

Quaking over Iran's phantom nuclear weapons

There are many countries that already had nukes when they signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. They have obligations, too. How are they doing?

The writer is a senior journalist and columnist. The views expressed are personal. Courtesy: Dawn

irst, the good news. The US and Iran had talks in Vienna on Tuesday, and the nuclear deal they and all the other great powers signed in 2015, is coming back.

It's not exactly back yet. After then US President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out of the treaty in 2018 and re-imposed harsh sanctions on Iran, the

2018 and re-imposed harsh sanctions on Iran, the Iranians retaliated by slowly deviating from their own commitments under the deal one baby step at a time. So now there has to be an agreement on a timetable for unwinding those steps as well as cancelling the US sanctions.

tions.
On a better run planet, the US special envoy for Iran, Rob Malloy, would just declare that all the US sanctions on Iran wrongly put in place by the discredited Trump Administration are



cancelled as of today. The Iranian delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, a veteran of the 2015 talks, would reply that Iran will immediately that Iran will immediately return to compliance with all the terms of the treaty and invite UN inspectors to verify that all its temporary deviations from treaty obligations over the past three years have been reversed. And we would all live happily ever after.

However, in the real world it is not so. The negotators in Vienna are not even in the same hotel. All the countries that are still observing the treaty (China, France, Germany, Iran, Russia and the UK) are in one hotel, and the American mission is in another, with messages going back and forth between the

another, with messages going back and forth between the two parties. Porcupines mate with less difficulty, but there

has already been some progress. "The United States knows that, in order to get back into compliance, it's going to have to lift those sanctions that are

compliance, it's going to have to lift those sanctions that are inconsistent with the deal that was reached with Iran," said Rob Malloy. The Iranian Government's spokesman Ali Rabiei replied that he "saluted" Malloy's remarks. "We find this position realistic and promising," he added. Two working groups have been set up that include American representatives, with the task of choreographing reciprocal moves by the US and Iran to return to the treaty and a target of full compliance by both sides within two months, Just in time for Iranian moderates to claim credit for ending the US sanctions a week or so before the June election.

So that's probably sorted,



but what about all the countries that actually do have nuclear weapons? Iran originally got into trouble because it signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1970 and later tried to get nuclear weapons anyway, but the countries that already had nukes when they signed the NPT have obligations, too. How are they doing?

The NPT states that "nuclear-weapons States agree"

"nuclear-weapons States agree to...pursue nuclear disarma-

ment aimed at the ultimate elimination of their nuclear arsenals." But it has been a long pursuit and 50 years later not one of them' has actual-ly managed to catch the damn

ly managed to catch the damn thing.

The US has got turned around somehow and is pur-suing in the wrong direction. It's in the midst of a trillion-dollar-plus "upgrade" of its nuclear forces, including a new generation of land-based intercontinental ballistic mis-siles (ICBMs) and new sub-marine-launched cruise mis-siles.

marine-launched cruise missiles.

According to President Vladimir Putin, Russia has developed nuclear-powered cruise missiles and torpedos with unlimited range, a hypersonic vehicle called Avangard to deliver nuclear weapons at a low level and ultra-high speed, and a new ultra-heavy ICBM called

'Sarmat' that is able to carry even more and bigger war-heads (10-15) over a longer range (18,000 km.) There even more and bigger warheads (10-15) over a longer
range (18,000 km.) There
have also been reports of a
new nuclear-powered drone
torpedo that is capable of
delivering a 100-megaton
warhead (biggest ever tested
was 50 megatons) over a
range of 10,000 km. Then it
would explode off an enemy's
coast to create a tsunami
wave 500 metres tall to inundate the coastal regions with
highly radioactive water. But
maybe this one is fiction.
Then there's Little Britain
with its four submarines that
carry nuclear-tipped missiles.
Prime Minister Boris Johnson
recently announced that he
was increasing the number of
warheads they carry from
180 to 240, but it doesn't really make much of a difference.
Traditionally the UK's
strategy is "no first use", which

means Britain's retaliation would be on cities, not on empty silos. So you're just bouncing the rubble after the first few dozen warheads explode. That's probably why Johnson broke with tradition and said that Britain might use nuclear weapons in response to non-nuclear attacks, including even cyber attacks, one way to compenattacks. One way to compensate for not really being very dangerous is to sound very reckless.

dangerous is to sound very reckless.

Then there's France (mostly harmless, despite some 280 nuclear weapons) and China (320 but still talk-ing about expansion). Plus India (150), Israel (90), North Korea (30-40) and Pakistan (160), all countries that 'unsigned' or never signed the NPT. But at least were safe from Irañs nuclear weapons, from Iran's nuclear weapons, which never existed and still

rynne Dyer's new book 'Growing Pains: The 'uture of Democracy (and Work)'. The views expressed are personal.

Myanmar forces kill 82 in single day | 'Suspicious' blackout strikes

At least 82 people were killed hin one day in a crackdown by Myanmar security forces on pro-democracy protesters, according to reports on Saturday from independent local media and an organisation that keeps track of casualties since the February coup. Friday's death toll in Bago was the biggest one-day total for a single city since March 14, when just over 100 people were killed in Yangon, the country's biggest city. Bago is about 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of Yangon. The Associated Press is unable to independently verify the number of deaths.

The death toll of 82 was a

The death toll of 82 was a The death toll of 82 was preliminary one compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which issues daily counts of casualties and arrests from the crackdown in the aftermath of the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of the Feb. 1 coup that output the feb. 2 coup that output the feb. 3 coup the feb. 3 c

that ousted the elected gov-ernment of Aung San Suu Kyi. Their tallies are widely accepted as highly credible because cases are not added until they have been confirmed, DITTING Q

EX-B'DESH PM KHALEDA TESTS COVID POSITIVE

Dhaka: Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday, a year after she was released from jail temporarily amidst the pandemic, according

RESCUERS FIND 4 DEAD FROM VESSEL IN ATLANTIC ladrid: Spanish authorities on Sunday that they had covered the bodies of four

migrants from a boat along with 19 survivors who had taken the treacherous route from West Africa to the Canary Islands. Spain's maritime rescue service

ECUADOR, PERU HEAD TO POLLS UNDER COVID NORMS

Lima, Peru: Ecuador and Peru choose new presidents Sunday under strict public health measures prompted by the coronavirus pandemic, which

has recently strengthened in the nas lecently steriginened in the neighboring South American nations. Ecuadoreans face a runoff between a conservative businessman and a protégé of former leftist President Rafael

to media reports.



with the details published on their website.

In its Saturday report, the group said that it expected the number of dead in Bago to rise as more cases were verified.

The online news site Myanmar Now also reported that 82 people had been killed, citing an unnamed source involved with charity rescue work. Myanmar Now and other local media said the bodother local media said the bod-ies had been collected by the military and dumped on the grounds of a Buddhist pagoda. At least 701 protesters and

bystanders have been killed by security forces since the army's takeover, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

The attack on Bago was the third in the past week involv-

third in the past week involving the massive use of force to try to crush the persistent opposition to the ruling junta. Attacks were launched Wednesday on hardcore opponents of military rule who had set up strongholds in the towns of Kalay and Taze in the country's north. In both places, at least 11 people — possibly

a preliminary one compiled by the

But as the police and mil-itary escalated the use of lethal itary escalated the use of lethal force, a hardcore faction of pro-testers armed themselves with homemade weapons such as firebombs in the name of self-defense. In Kalay, activists dubbed themselves a "civil dubbed themselves a Civil army" and some equipped themselves with rudimentary hunting rifles that are tradi-tional in the remote area. A report by Myanmar Now said residents of Tamu, a town

said residents of Tamu, a town in the same region as Kalay, used hunting rifles Saturday to ambush a military convoy, and claimed to kill three soldiers. The junta has taken other measures as well to discourage resistance. It recently published a wanted list of 140 people active in the arts and journal-ism charged with spreading information that undermines the stability of the country and the rule of law. The penal-ty for the offense is up to three including some bystanders— were reported killed. The security forces were accused of using heavy weapons in their attacks, including rocket-propelled grenades and mortars, though such allegations could not be independently confirmed by The Associated Press. Photos posted on social media from Bago appeared to show fragposted on social media from Bago appeared to show frag-ments of mortar shells. Most protests in cities and town around the country are carried out by nonviolent ty for the offense is up to three years' imprisonment. Arrests of those on the list have been highly publicised in state media.

Iran's Natanz nuclear site

Dubai: Iran's underground Natanz nuclear facility lost power Sunday just hours after starting up new advanced centrifuges capable of enriching uranium faster, the latest incident to strike the site amid negotiations over the tattered atomic accord with world powers.

the tattered atoms. Account world powers.

As Iranian officials investigated the outage, many Israeli media outlets offered the similar assessment that a cyberattack darkened Natanz, and damaged a facility that is home to sensitive centrifuges. While the reports offered no sourcing for the evaluation, Israeli media maintains a close relationship with the country's military and intelligence agencies.

intelligence agencies.

If Israel caused the blackout, it further heightens the tensions between the two nations already engaged in a shadow conflict across the wider Middle East.

wider Middle East.
It also complicates efforts
by the US, Israel's main security partner, to re-enter the
atomic accord aimed at limiting Tehran's programme so it
couldn't pursue a nuclear

This satellite photo from Planet Labs

on if it chose. As news of weapon if it chose. As news of the blackout emerged, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin landed in Israel on Sunday for talks with Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz. Power at Natanz had been cut across the facility comprised of above-ground workshops and underround workshops and underground enrichment halls, civilian

nuclear program spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi told Iranian state television. "We still do not know the

"We still do not know the reason for this electricity outage and have to look into it further," Kamalvandi said. "Fortunately, knere was no casualty or damage and there is no particular contamination or problem."

Asked by the state TV correspondent if it was a "technical defect or sabotage," Kamalvandi declined to comment. Malek Shariati Niasar, a Tehran-based lawmaker who serves as spokesman for the Iranian parliament's energy committee, wrote on Twitter that the incident was "very suspicious," raising concerns about possible "sabotage and infiltration," the said lawmakers were pursuing details of the incident as well. AP

Iran calls blackout 'nuclear terrorism'

Iran on Sunday described a blackout at its underground Natanz atomic facility an act of "nuclear terrorism," raising regional tensions.

Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, stopped short of directly blaming anyone for the incident. Details remained few about what happened early Sunday morning at the facility, which initially was described as a blackout caused by the electrical grid feeding the site.

Many Israeli media outlets offered the same assessment that a cyberattack darkened Natanz and damaged a facility that is home to sensitive centrifuges. While the reports offered no sourcing for the evaluation, Israeli media maintains a close relationship with tains a close relationship with tains a close relationship with

tains a close relationship with

the country's military and intelligence agencies.

If Israel caused the black-out, it further heightens ten-sions between the two nations,

nuclear technology on the one hand and to lift oppressive sanctions on the other hand," Salehi said, according state TV.

He added: "While con-He added: "While con-demning this desperate move, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasises the need for a confrontation by the interna-tional bodies and the (International Atomic Energy Agency) against this nuclear terrorism." Sunday's developments

Agency) against unis inclear terrorism. Sunday's developments also complicate efforts by the U.S., Israel's main security partner, to re-enter the atom-ic accord aimed at limiting Tehran's programme so it can't pursue a nuclear weapon. As news of the blackout emerged, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin landed Sunday in Israel for talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

Gantz.

Power at Natanz was cut across the facility, which is comprised of above-ground workshops and underground enrichment halls, civilian

onai tensions. Ali Akbar Salehi, the head

sions between the two nations, already engaged in a shadow conflict across the wider Middle East. "To thwart the goals of this terrorist movement, the Islamic Republic of Iran will

nuclear programme spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi earlier told Iranian state TV.

Trump: The key to Republican success is more Trumpism

AP MP ALM BEACH

Staking his claim to the Republican Party, former President Donald Trump is casting his populist policies and attack-dog politics as the key to future GOP success.

In a closed-door speech SMar-a-Lago resort, Trump also reinforced his commitment to the party, according to prepared remarks obtained by The Associated Press.

His appearance came as Republican officials are trying to play down an internal feud over Trump's role in the party, his commitment to GOP fundraising and his plans for 2024.

While Trump's advisers

2024.
While Trump's advisers report he will emphasize party unity, he rarely sticks to script.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II has described the death of her husband of 73 years, Prince Philip, as having left a "huge void in her life", their son Prince Andrew said on Sunday.

Prince Andrew said on Sunday.
As he left at memorial service for his late father, the
Duke of Edinburgh, who
passed away aged 99 on Friday,
Prince Andrew said his passing
was a "terrible loss" and the
family was grateful for all the
messages of support and condolence.

messages of support and con-dolence.
"It's a great loss. We've lost almost the grandfather of the nation," Prince Andrew, also the Duke of York, told

reporters.

"I feel very sorry and supportive of my mother, who's feeling it more than every-body else. The Queen, as you would expect, is an incredibly stoic person and she described his nessing as a mirade and

"The key to this tri-umphant future will be to build on the gains our amazing movement has made over the past four years," Trump told hundreds of leading Republican donors, according to the prepared remarks.

according to the prepared remarks.
"Under our leadership, we welcomed millions upon mil-lions of new voters into the Republican coalition. We trans-formed the Republican Party into a party that truly fights for all Americans"

all Americans."

It was the final address of the Republican National Committee's weekend donor summit in Palm Beach. Most of the RNC's invitation-only gathering was held at a luxury hotel a few miles away; attendees were bused to Trump's club for his remarks.

Prince's death a 'huge void' for Queen: Andrew

Britain's Prince Edward, Sophie Countess of Wessex and their daughter Lady Louise Windsor, attend the Sunday service at the Royal Chapel of All Saints at Royal Lodge, Windsor, in England on Sunday

Jordanian prince makes first public appearance since arrest

Jordan's Prince Hamzah on Sunday made his first public appearance since he was placed under house arrest last week, under house arrest last week, attending a ceremony with King Abdullah II in what appeared to be an attempted show of unity on a major Jordanian holiday. But it remained unclear

Assistance Association

for Political Prisoners. which issues daily

arrests from the

crackdown in the

coun that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi

Jordanian holiday.

But it remained unclear whether the king and his popular half brother had put aside the differences that escalated last week into the most serious public rift in the ruling family methods. Hamzah joined members of the Jordanian royal family marking the centerary. family marking the centenary of the establishment of the Emirate of Transjordan, a British protectorate that pre-

British protectorate that pre-ceded the kingdom.

The royal palace released a photo and video with Abdullah, Hamzah, Crown Prince Hussein and other dig-nitaries at the grave of King Talal in Amman, Jordan's cap-

ital. It was the first time that ital. It was the first time that Hamzah was seen in public since he was placed under a form of house arrest on April 3 following accusations that he was involved in a "malicious plot" to destabilise the kingdom.

In statements leaked to the media, Hamzah denied the accusations and accused the country's government of cor-

Religious leaders

spiritual curiosity

recall Philip's

AP ■ LONDON

This photo from the Royal Court twitter account, shows Jordan's King Abdullah II, centre, Prince Hamzah bin Al Hussein, second left, and others during a visit to the tomb of the late King Hussein, in Amman Jordan on Sunday

ruption and incompetence.
Abdullah subsequently said
authorities had thwarted an
attempt at sedition involving
his half brother and some 18
suspects, while saying he was
angry and in shock. Abdullah
also suggested there was continued control over Hamzahi's
movements, saying the prince
was "with his family at his
palace, under my care."

Chadians vote as Deby seeks to extend 3-decade presidency

AP WOJAMENA

Chadian President Idriss
Deby Itno was widely
expected to win re-election
Sunday, extending his threedecade-long rule in this central
African nation after three top
opposition politicians chose
not to take part in the vote.
Some polling stations
opened later than expected in
the capital of N Djamena,
where streets are lined wit
giant portraits of Deby.
A constitutional referendum approved several years ago

A constitutional referen-dum approved several years ago means he can now serve two more terms, potentially stay in power until 2033. "I invite all Chadians to go

AP ILONDON

Churches Britain held services Sunday to remember Prince Philip as people of many religions reflected on a man whose gruff exterior hid a strong personal faith and deep curiosity about others' beliefs. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby led a service of remembrance at Canterbury Cathedral in southeast England for the husband of Queen Elizabeth II, who died Friday at the age of 99.

Welby, who is set to preside at Philips funeral on Saturday at Windsor Castle, led prayers for Philip, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, and contemplated "a very long life, remarkably led." to the polls to choose the can-didate of their choice," the longtime president said after casting his ballot Sunday alongside his wife. "I have seen since yesterday that the boycott order has not been resp so people must go out to per form their civic duties."

form their civic duties."
While running for a sixth time in this oil-producing country. Deby has campaigned on promises of building schools, paving roads and improving living conditions in this country that remains one of the least developed in the world. The top opposition candidate remaining in the race is Albert Pahimi Padacke, a one-time Deby ally who served as prime minister

Padacke, a one-time Deby ally who served as prime minister from 2016 to 2018. Five other lesser known candidates are also taking part, including one that has publicly accused Deby's party — the Patriotic Salvation Movement, or MPS, of using state resources to campaign.

concerns over China's ships

US-Philippines

officials discuss

AP ■ ABOARD A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on Saturday discussed with his Philippine counterpart China's recent positioning of "militia vessels" near the Philippines in the South China Sea.

Austin spoke by phone with Philippine Secretary of National Defence Delfin Lorenzana while Austin was flying from Washington to Israel to begin an international trip.

al trip. Per

al trip.
Pentagon press secretary
John Kirby said Austin and
Lorenzana discussed the situation in the South China Sea
and the recent massing of
Chinese vessels at Whitsun
Reef, which has drawn criticism from Manila.

Correa, while Peruvians have 18 options to pick from in the first IRAN REPORTS HIGHEST DAILY DEATH TOLL OF 2021 its highest single-day death toll from Covid-19 this year, bringing

the country's total deaths in the pandemic to nearly 64,500, state TV reported. The report said 258 new deaths were recorded in 24 new deaths were recorded in 24 hours. Iran's deadliest day of the pandemic was in mid-Nov, when over 480 deaths were tallied.

Kathmandu: Twenty people have sustained injuries after a chariot fell and clashes erupted during a religious festival in Nepal's Bhaktapur. 'Bisket jatra', a chariot-pulling festival, started in Bhaktapur municipality, 16 km east of Kathmandu, on Saturday

UK: Shops. pubs gear up for easing of lockdown

London: Non-essential retail shops, including shopping malls, pubs and restaurants and hairdressers are among the businesses gearing up to reopen their doors to customers from Monday, when England enters its next stage of Covid-19 lock-down restrictions being eased. Indoor gyms, swimming pools, libraries, zoos and nail

pools, libraries, zoos and nail salons are also among the establishments now allowed to reopen, with pubs and restaurants required to strictly follow outdoor dinning rules.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson had declared that he would be among the first people to order a pint of beer in a beer garden when the rules are relaxed.

Chinese vaccines effectiveness low, says official

Beijing: In a rare admission of the weakness of Chinese coro-navirus vaccines, the country's top disease control official says their effectiveness is low and the government is considering mix-ing them to get a boost. Chinese vaccines "dont"

Chinese vaccines "don't have very high protection rates," said the director of the China Centers for Disease Control, Gao Fu, at a conference on Saturday, Beijing has distributed hundreds of millions of doses

hundreds of millions of doses abroad while trying to promote doubt about the effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine made using the previously experimental messenger RNA, or mRNA, process.

"It's now under formal consideration whether we should use different vaccines from different technical lines for the immunization process," Gao said.

AP

to speed up vaccination

described it as having left a huge void in her life. We as a family are rallying around to support her," he said, on being asked about his mother's emo-

Islamabad: Pakistani authori-Islambad: Pakistani authorities have scrambled to speed up vaccination and firm up non-pharmaceutical interventions to contain the spread of the coronavirus, amid a surge in the number of cases.

The country on Sunday recorded 5,050 new Covid-19 cases, taking the national infection tally to 721,018. The death toll jumped to 15,443 in the last 24 hours.

The National Command The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the national apex body to combat the coronavirus, in a meeting on Saturday decided to extend the existing non-pharmaceuti-cal inte-reventions (NPIs) such as markets closure and restrictions on transport till Monday, Dawn newspaper reported.

Pak scrambles | OVER 2.000 YEARS ON ≡ Sanskrit remains popular in China: Chinese Professor

Sanskrit studies are flourishing in China Sanskrit studies are flourishing in China, over 2,000 years after the ancient Indian language was brought to this country along with Buddhism, making a profound impact on Chinese monarchs and scholars over the centuries, according to a distinguished professor here.

Wang Ranguagi - "

About his late father, he added: "He was a remarkable man. I loved him as a father. He was always somebody you could go to and he would always listen."

ing to a distinguished professor here.

Wang Bangwei, a well-known Chinese scholar in Sanskrit and Director of Sino-Indian Buddhist Studies, Institute of Oriental and Indian Studies at the Peking University, said Sanskrit which is the root of Indian culture continues to remain popular in China, contrary to its modest progress in modern India.

Wang said the Peking University is one of the oldest in China and this year marks

the completion of 100 years of teaching Sanskrit at the leading varsity. Wang credited the Century AD Indian scholar Kumarajiva for spreading Sanskrit in China. Kumarajiva was instru-mental in translating Buddhist sutras into Chinese langued uring his stay in China over 2,000 warsa 20,000 ruing the

during his stay in China over 2,000 years ago, earning the royal title of "National Teacher of China". He was the first among numerous scholars who laid a firm foundation for civil-isational links between the two

isational links between the two countries.

Kumarajiva, hailing from a Kashmiri Brahmin family from the then Kucha Kingdom, spent about 23 years in China in the 4th century AD both as a prisoner and as a most revered scholar.

Sanskrit, its associated culture and its development was

kept alive by numerous Chinese scholars, like Fa Xian and Xuan Zang and others, who visited India, Wang said, while launching the Sanskrit learning application "Little Guru" of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, (ICCR) at the Indian Embassy here on

Gutru of the indana Council of Cultural Relations, (ICCR) at the Indian Embassy here on Friday, along with Indian Ambassador, Vikram Misri. Sanskrit teaching pro-gramme started at the Peking University a century ago but Sanskrit research and teaching in China has a history of over 2,000 years, Wang said. When Buddhism came to China from India, Chinese. "From that moment, Sanskrit study and research started. China has a long his-tory of Sanskrit tradition, till that time outside of India,

China has the longest and strongest scholarship in the world," he said. Over 100 Chinese scholars studied in Nalanda University until it began to decline in 11th Century, Wang said.

"Sanskrit is a major language of indian culture More and more people in China are interested in Indian culture and Sanskrit is a good way to learn more about Indian culture," he said.

He said Sanskrit was the most important language

He said Sanskrit was the most important language through which Chinese learned about Hinduism, Buddhism, ancient Indian medicine, astronomy and mathematics. "While Buddhism declined

"While Buddhism declined in India, it became very strong in China and has become part of Chinese culture," he told *PTI*. Once the language became strong in China, the need to go to India

to learn it declined, he said.

"China gradually became centre of Buddhism in Asia. In India, Buddhism has declined and in China it grew," he said, adding that thanks to numerous scholars who visited India over the centuries, China has come true Sankrit scriptures.

ous scnoars who visited india over the centuries, China has some rare Sanskrit scriptures brought by them, which may not be available in India. Y.E. Shaoyong, Associate Prof of Sanskrit in Peking University, said the Sanskrit studies in China are booming. His department now has 10 scholars specialising in the language while 200 others studied as part of the subject for their graduate programme. The job prospects of the Sanskrit learning students are also good as most of them pursue academic career in Buddhist studies, specially its history, he said.

SBI collects ₹300 cr from |Some industrialists zero balance a/cs: Study

Several banks, including State Bank of India (SBI), have been imposing excessive charges on certain services provided to poor persons have

provided to poor persons having zero-balance or Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDA), a study by the IIT-Bombay has revealed.

The study observed that the SBI's decision to levy a charge of ₹17.70 for every charge of ₹17.70 for every their transaction beyond four by the BSBDA account holders cannot be considered as "reasonable."

sonable."

It highlighted that the imposition of service charges resulted in undue collections to the tune of over ₹300 crore from among nearly 12 crore Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) holders of SBI during the period 2015-20. India's second-largest public sector lender Punjab National Bank, which has 3.9 crore BSBD accounts, collected ₹9.9 crore during the same period.

ed 49.9 crore during the same period.

"There had been systematic breach in the RBI regulations on BSBDAs by few banks, most notably by the SBI that hosts the maximum number of BSBDAs, when it charged @ Rs 17.70 for every debit transac-

ly 12 crore BSBDA holders on SBI during the period 2015-0, of which the period 2018-19 alone saw a collection of ₹72 crore and the period 2019-20, Rs 158 crore," the study by IIT Bombay professor Ashish Das

stated. Levying of charges on BSBDA is guided by September 2013 RBI guidelines. As per the direction these accounts hold-ers are 'allowed more than four withdrawals' in a month, at the bank's discretion pro-vided the bank does not charge for the same.

"While defining the features of a BSBDA, the reg-

features of a BSBDA, the reg-ulatory requirements made it amply clear that in addition to mandatory free banking ser-vices (that included four with-drawals per month), as long as the savings deposit account is a BSBDA, banks cannot impose any charge even for value-added banking services that a bank may like to offer at their discretion, the study said.

The RBI considers a with-

The RBI considers a with-drawal, beyond four a month

tion (even via digital means)
beyond four a month.

"This imposition of service charges resulted in undue collections to the tune of over \$2300 crore from among near by 12 crore BSBDA holders of \$1000 crown among near by 12 crore BSBDA holders of \$1000 crown among near by 12 crore BSBDA holders of \$1000 crown among near by 12 crore BSBDA holders of \$1000 crown among near by 12 crore BSBDA holders of \$1000 crown among near by 12 crow a value-added service, it said.

"We assess the dereliction
in SBI's duty towards the
PMJDY when the BSDDA users
were unduly (and against the
extant regulations) forced to
part with such high charges for
their day-to-day (noncash) digital debit transactions that the
bank allowed in a BSBDA, "it
said.

said.

SBI, in breach of RBI regulations set forth as early as
2013, had been charging the
BSBDA holders for every debri
transaction beyond four a
month, it said, adding, the
charges were as high as
R 17.70 even for digital
transactions like NEFT, IMPS,
UPI, BHIM-UPI and debri
cards for merchant payments.

cards for merchant payments.
"On the one hand, the
country strongly promoted
digital means of payments,
while on the other hand, SBI while on the other hand, SBI discouraged these very people, to transact digitally for their day-to-day expenditures, by charging an exploitative Rs 17.70 per digital transaction. This dwarfed the spirit of financial inclusion, it said. The RBI's nonchalant attitude to supervise its own regulations encouraged other banks to become unreasonable towards charges beyond four debits a month, it said.

fear another exodus of migrant workers



PTI ■ COIMBATORE

With the second wave of Covid-19 sweeping across various parts of Tamil Nadu, some of the industrial-Nadu, some of the industrial-ists in the State are apprehen-sive of migrant workers leaving for their hometowns consider-ing the health conditions. The industries recovered from the jolt of the first wave

from the jolt of the first wave of coronavirus when over one lakh migrant workers from both Coimbatore and Tirupur industries rushed back to their home towns in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha by special trains.

trains.

Even as the business started picking up, the 30 per cent increase in the raw materials has affected the industries, sources from different industrial associations said.

A few workers reportedly left for their natives early last week as they feared the avail-ability of transport like trains to

However, there was no major exodus from the industries as the workers working on weekly payment basis had taken their wages Saturday last, the sources said. Coimbatore and Tirupur reported increased infection cases and a correct picture of workers returning would emerge only after another week, they said.

No worker left the city till Saturday from nearby Tirupur, a major hub of knitwear garments where 80 per cent of over three lakth workers hailed from the North, said sources in the Tirupur Exporters Association.

CAIT urges PM for staggered working time for different sectors to control Covid-19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic traders' body CAIT on Sunday urged Pine Minister Narendra Modi not to impose night curriew or lockdown amid rising Covid-19 in the country and instead adopt staggered working time for different sectors. In a communication to the prime minister, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said it would be more appropriate if alternate measures may be adopted at district levels all over the country.

try. "Instead of night curfew or lockdown which have not proved a worthy step so far to combat escalation of COVID19, it would be more appropriate if alternate easy measures

may be adopted at district lev

may be adopted at district levels and staggered working time for different sectors," it said. CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said that a closer analysis of the COVID-19 statistics over the last one week have made it ample clear that night curfew and lockdown in different states have not brought the desired results of bringing down the cases.

It suggested that working hours of different verticals of trade and commerce should be revised.

"We suggest that govern-ment offices, private offices and other all kinds of offices may work from 8 am to 2 pm whereas the markets and shops



'E-commerce growth in tier-2, 3 cities outpace tier-1 Indian cities'

IANS III MUMBAI

The growth of e-commerce volumes in tier 2 and 3 cities in India is outpacing that in tier-1 cities, according to a recent report. "Smaller Indian cities are now accounting for a bigger volume of e-commerce growth in tier 2 and tier 3 cities in India is outpacing that of tier 1 cities," said an ICICI Securities report. Volume share of these smaller cities in India so compared that of tier 1 cities, said an ICICI per cent in Q4C/Y20 from 32 per cent YoX, Also, online spending per customer in tier 2 and tier 3 cities has also improved as these cities held a 43 per cent share of the e-commerce sales value last quarter, up from 26 per cent YoX. This has raised hopes of a sustainable last mile delivery economics emerging for the industry -yet hyperiocal last mile mall parcel deliveries remain economically as challenging as ever," it said.

"We continue to see emergence of end-to-end logistics contracts with Baiaj Electricals and Flipkart with Mahindra Logistics," it said, adding that the trend, while accreting value to the service provider, also gains currency as emergence of end ultiple channels is increasing supply chain challenge and risks.

Rise in Covid cases to delay demand recovery in global oil market



IANS III MUMBAI

Fresh surge in Covid-19 Cases, eventual lockdowns is likely to delay the demand recovery in the global oil mar-ket, said an ICICI Securities

ket, said an ICICI Securities report.

It however, noted that with 'OPEC+' capping supply to ensure supply deficit, impact on ilprices is likely to be muted. "Fresh surge in Covid cases, consequent lockdowns and slow rollout of vaccines, especially in Europe, are likely to delay demand recovery to pre-Covid levels," the report said. However, delay in demand recovery may delay gross marrecovery may delay gross mar-gin recovery for refineries.

The ICICI Securities report also noted that vaccine-driven

recovery in global oil demand and permanent closure of refineries is estimated to boost global refinery utilisation to 77.8 per cent in CY21E from 37-year low of 72.5 per cent in CY20E.

"We estimate global refin-ery utilisation to gradually rise

"We estimate global refinery utilisation to gradually rise from 79.1 per cent in CY2E to 80 per cent in CY2E. It 80.0 per cent in CyaE. It 80.0 per

ing capacity was added global-ly, but 8 million b/d was shut implying net capacity addi-tion of just 8.5 million b/d.

Nobel laureate trashes theory of limited Govt intervention to uplift poor

PTI = MIIMBAI

Renowned economist and Nobel laureate Abjijit Vinayak Banerjee has trashed the ideology that calls for less-er or limited government inter-ventions towards uplifting the poor arguing that such freebies make the poor lazy, saying there is no evidence whatsoever provine so.

there is no evidence whatsoever proving so.

He said his own research on the subject across diverse economies in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the past decade and more does not support this ideology, rather it proves that those who have benefited from public and non-governmental interventions wherein they were given free assets did in fact became more productive and creative.

sasets did in fact became more productive and creative. Addressing the 20th foundation day of Bandhan Bank, the non-profit-turned-MFI-turned-small finance bank, on Sunday, Banerjee said there is no data and no empirical evidence anywhere to establish the ideology that getting freebies or getting free assets make the poor people lazy. This ideology has been pushing successive governments to give less to the poor so that they don't become lazy. But we have seen no evidence



to this effect anywhere, not even in India, instead we have seen everywhere improve-ments, he said.

ments, he said.

The economist also part-ly blamed those people hawking this ideology for the large number of the poor here and elsewhere as this had successive governments leaving poverty reduction and other socioeconomic impactful measures to non-profits and private sector till about the middle of the first decade of the new millennium when Manmohan Singh-led government unveiled the rural jobs guarantee scheme.

government unveiled the rural jobs guarantee scheme. This and many other affir-mative actions has lifed early tens of millions out of poverty in five years after the imple-mentation.

He said an analysis of a decadal data from Bandhan when it was an NGO, clearly established the impact of its

work on the poor who have seen on average 25 per cent income growth helping them consume 18 per cent more. This is a great data-driven lesson, gained from his ran-domised control trials, in fighting poverty over a long period, Banerjee

poverty over a long period, Banerjee said, adding the first lesson in this is that when the poor become better off, they become more creative in generating more wealth and leading better lives including by sending heir kids to better schools far away from their villages.

Data from my randomised control trials clearly showed that they're those people who benefited from public/non-government help have seen income increasing by 25 per cent leading to an 18 per cent jump in consumption he said. While calling for more globalisation and free trade, he however admitted that fight against poverty has become

however admitted that fight against poverty has become more complicated in a glob-alised world as globalisation has created new forms of risks-the now raging pandemic is one of the best examples of such new risks-- especially for the poor as they suffered the most from the lockdowns across the world.

Fuel prices unchanged for 12th straight day

IANS III NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies (OMC) kept petrol and diesel prices unchanged for the 12th straight day across the four metro clites on Sunday.

In the national capital, petrol was sold for 790.56 per litre.

Prices of the fuel in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata

Prices of the fuel in Mumbai, Chennan and Kolkata were at 796.98, 792.58 and 790.77 per litre respectively, same as the previous levels. Petrol and diesel prices fell by 22 paise and 23 paise per litre, respectively, on March 30 in wake the global softening of oil prices. The OMCs have decided to pause price revision as they want to watch the crude price movement that

decided to pause price revision as they want to watch the crude price movement that has now dropped below the \$63-per-barrel mark.

In tandem with petrol prices, diesel was sold at unchanged levels of \$80.87, Rs \$7.96, \$85.88 and \$83.75 per litre, in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, respectively.

tively.

After petrol stayed at record levels for a considerable record levels for a considerable period and were steady for past 24 days, OMCs went on price cut for the first time this year on two consecutive days March 24 and 25.



It again reduced the price on March 30

March 30. petrol and diesel prices Thereafter, fuel prices have increased 26 times in 2021.

SBFC SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.
(Extended Small Business Financial India Pvs. Ltd.)

SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.

nts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction witho

Amazon India launches mentor programme for startups

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A mazon India on Sunday announced the launch of its 'Mentor Connect' programme, which is aimed at accelerating the growth of startups and emerging brand owners enrolled under its Amazon Launchpad initiative.

Through the programme, startups and emerging brands will gain access to guidance from venture capital firms, industry veterans and Amazon leaders through expert knowledge sharing sessions, networking events and I:I mentorship sessions, a statement and statements are statements and statements

said.

Mentors from educational institutions and VC firms like Fireside Ventures, DSG Consumer Partners, Elevation

Capital, Tomorrow Capital have already signed up for the programme to contribute to the Indian startup growth story, it

indian startup grown story, it added.

Startups and emerging brands enrolled in the Amazon Launchpad programme can access guidance from these mentors through various ways. This includes one-to-one mentorship with chosen mentors over a three-month period, ongoing networking opportunities with a wider pool of industry experts, or knowledge sharing sessions between these experts and other these experts and other Launchpad brands," the state-

ment said.

This offers entrepreneurs a platform to engage, learn and showcase their startups to the industry's leading subject mat-

gic and function...
it added.
"The Amazon Mentor Connect programme is not limited to startups and emerging brand owners enrolled in the Amazon Launchpad programme, but will also be extended to the winners of the Amazon Smbhav Entrepreneurship challenge in the upcoming Amazon Smbhav summit," the state-ment said.

be the first cohort of be the first cohort of startups to receive the benefits associated with the Amazon Mentor Connect programme, it added.Amazon Launchpad currently showcases over 2 lakh products offered by more than 800 emerg-ing brands across 30 different

product categories. Popular sectors catered to by these brands include health and per-sonal care, beauty and groom-ing, grocery and home prod-nets.

ing, grocery and home products.

The second edition of 'Amazon Smbhav' will be hosted from April 15-18, 2021.

"India has a large startup ecosystem that is key to disruptive innovation and accelerating India's progress towards an Aatmanirbhar Bharat Most of these startups are led by first time entrepreneurs who have the passion to drive a change, but don't have the experience to deal with the breadth of challenges they face along the way, 'Amazon India Director (MSME and Selling Partner Experience) Pranav Bhasin said.

BRIEFS

INVESTORS OF FRANKLIN TEMPLETON'S SHUT SCHEMES week. This would be the second tranche of disbursement to the investors after the distribution of \$9.122 crore across five schemes in February. We are pleased to inform you that SBI MF would be distribution; the next tranche of \$2.982 crore to unitholders across all 6 schemes. The payment to all investors whose accounts are KYC compliant with all details available will be made during the week of 12 April 2021; 'said a company spotesperson. The distributable amount as a percentage of the asset under management (AUM) would be 28.42 per cent in Franklin Ultra Short Bond Fund, 14.18 per cent in Franklin India Low Duration Fund, 13.37% in Short Term Income Fund, 6.67% in Income Opportunities Fund, 11.22% in Credit Risk Fund and 11.23% in Dynamic Accrual Fund.

TATA COMMS, BIX EXTEND PARTNERSHIP FOR HIGH-SPEED INTERNET IN BAHRAIN
Mumbai: Tata Communications and Bahrain Internet Exchange (BIX)
have extended their partnership to offer high speed internet
connectivity with very low latency for a superior quality and seamless
verying, gaming and download experience for customers in Bahrain.
Equipped with OTU-4, a next-generation optical technology, TGN-Gulf
cable system will enable customers with a robust, consistent, and
manageable data transport infrastructure with the capability to scale up
beyond 100 Gbps, said a company statement. With this, Tata
Communications and BIX bring the power of high-speed connectivity
and digital transformation to the Middle East region, it said.

Do I likely to issue guidelines for telecom PLI within week

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is likely to issue guidelines on implementation of production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for manufacturers in the sector and start inviting applications for the same in about a week, according to government officials.

Telecom gear makers firms such as Ericsson and Nokia are keen to expand their operations in India, and global companies like Samsung, Cisco, Ciena and Foxconn have 'shown interest' to set up manufacturing bases in the country for telecom and networking products for domestic and export markets.

"Telecom PLI has already been "Telecom PLI has already been"



approved by the government. The DoT is ready with guidelines to implement it, application format, incentive allocation, etc. It should be published on the DoT website within a week," the official, who did not wish to be named, told PTI. The DoT notified the PLI scheme for

telecom and networking products on February 24, 2021, with a financial outlay February 24, 2021, with a financial outlay of Rs 12,195 crore, over five years. The scheme for telecom gear manufacturing in India which is expected to encourage production of equipment worth Rs 2.44 lakh crore and create direct and indirect employment for about 40,000 people.

ple.

The investor can earn incentive for incremental sales up to 20 times the committed investment enabling them to reach global scales and utilise their unused capacity and same up argustic.

ramp up production.

The scheme is expected to bring an investment of over Rs 3,000 crore and generate tax revenue of about Rs 17,000 crore.

S KOREAN MOBILE CARRIERS TIPPED FOR ROBUST Q1 EARNINGS

Q1 EARNINGS
Seoul: South Korean wireless carriers are estimated to have logged robust earnings in the first quarter on the back of sharp growth in 5G users and their non-telecom businesses, a poll showed on Sunday. The combined operating profits of the country's three major mobile carriers — SK Telecom Co., KT Corp. and LG Uplus Corp. — are expected to have reached 96.6 billion won (S863.3 million) in the January-March period, up 6.8 per cent from the previous year, according to the poll on six Local brokerage houses by Yonhap Informax, the financial arm of Yonhap News Agency, SK Telecom, the biggest of the three in terms of mobile users, is estimated to have posted an operating profit of 339.5 billion won for the first quarter, up 12.42 percent on-year while its prevenue profits of 16 Uplus is estimated to have logged 386.3 billion won in operating profit, up 0.84 percent on-year, while the operating profit of LG Uplus is estimated to have risen 9.51 percent to 240.7 billion won.

A GLIMMER OF

Advanced AI-driven surveillance systems, when used efficiently, have the potential to bring safety back into society, says ABHISHEK KUMAR

A secure city is arguably the sign of an attractive and prosperous place, where all residents and visitors live, work and trave in peace, knowing that they are safe. Though this concept seems dream-like, it is steadily evolving, thanks to the futuristic vision of some state-of-the-art surveillance players. These players are working towards creating real-time, dynamic and proactive Al-based wideo surveillance systems. It brings us closer to the dream of walking down the street feeling secure while being productive. There are a lot of ways that these systems can make a difference in our lives but the following are some major areas where surveillance systems can truly be a gamechanger, especially in India.

Safety of residents

Changer, especially in India.

Safety of residents
Until recent times, whenever we
thought of security, our mind would
go to a person standing guard at a
police post or the entrance of a building. In this regard, it's not impossible
for human errors, omissions and
negligence to seep in sometimes.
This scenario leaves a chink in the
armour, doesn't it? We have faith in
our compatriots, but being solely
dependent on them can be unwise. We
need technological interventions for
their support. Hence, an automated
surveillance system comes into play.
The right surveillance system can
monitor visitors in a residential area
so that there is a clear record of anyone entering and leaving. It can keep
a sharp eye on people to ensure
they're safe, and it can also detect
other major incidents like break-ins,
thefts and violence. Such systems raise
an alert with the security personnel in
real-time, thereby leading to quick
response.

To ensure personal liberty of under-trials We are aware that a person is pre-

sumed innocent until p So, in order to set a good precedent, we must begin with digitising our



police stations and courthouses to the extent possible. The highly-publicised double murder of a father and son by police personnel at a Tuttorin police station highlights the need for these surveillance systems. NCRB data states that there were over 1,700 custodial deaths between 2001 and 2018. There were 452 custodial deaths between 2014 and 2018, in which no police officers were held responsible. Surveillance systems are everywhere across India and deploying them across our courthouses and police stations will bring greater confidence of people in our institutions. Also, ideally, the video footage should not be stored locally and will be streamed directly to the police headquarters so that tampering is averted.

Women security
Women's security should be more than just a priority. Going back to a ment have grown to a whole new level

gut-wrenching incident back in 2017, where a 25-year-old woman at the where a 25-year-old woman at me Pune Infosys campus was raped and strangled to death in her office by a

strangled to death in her office by a security guard — demonstrates the torrendous threat that women face daily. In this case, the culprit was caught but what about the others that get away with their crimes? Should we not prevent such dreadful incidences from repeating over and over again? Bengaluru City has announced that it will be setting up 16,000 CCTV cameras for women's safety but workplaces also need to follow suit. They need to step up security measures for women in the workplace so that they can follow their dreams without the constant fear looming over them.

due to the latest surveillance technology. Commuters can now monitor the news to get the latest traffic reports before heading out to work. CCTV cameras have been installed on busy roads, atop traffic signals and at busy intersections. Cameras are used for monitoring traffic, recording the pattern data, overall observing traffic and to issue challans. However, this infrastructure is largely restricted to the metropolitan cities. India has the highest accident mortality and theft rate. Deploying traffic cameras across smaller cities would urge drivers to exercise caution and discourage violations. Transport authorities can also use them to monitor vehicle flow in case of road closures or accidents. They do so justing automated tickets or moving violations by simply picking up the offender's number plate information.

To stop terrorism
Sadly, India is no stranger to terrorism. There have been numerous
attacks in our country in the past and
we've recently honored the 12th
anniversary of the infamous Mumbai
attacks in 2008, where 171 people lost
their lives and 239 were injured.
These horrific instances have demous
strated to us the need for high-tech
surveillance. With the latest technology, modern surveillance systems are surveillance. With the latest technology, modern surveillance systems are equipped with features such as facial recognition. It can be linked to government and police records to identify known criminals and suspicious individuals. When installed at various junctures around cities, it could identify and inform authorities of a wanted individual or threat well in advance without stirring up mass panic.

wanted individual or threat well advance without stirring up mass panic.

After going through the aforementioned points, it becomes plain to see that surveillance is no longer a choice but a need in today's worlds. So that our children could play safely outside, women could walk freely or sit in their office alone, and the only people approaching them are the ones who want to offer help. Advanced Al-driven surveillance systems give us a glimmer of hope. And when used efficiently, they have the potential to bring safely back into society.

(The writer is the regional director of Oncam.)

W EBBED



THE DISCIPLE

Self-doubt, sacrifice and struggle converge into an exis-tential crisis for a devoted classical vocalist as the mas-tery he strives for remains elusive. Starring Aditya Modak, Arun Dravid and Sumitra Bhave, it releases on Netflix on April 30.



SEXIFY
To build an inne To build an innovative sex app and win a tech competition, a sexually inexperienced student and her friends must explore the daunting world of intimacy. Starring Aleksandra Skraba, Maria Sobocinska and Sandra Drzymalska, it releases on Netflix on April 28.



THINGS HEARD AND SEEN

A young woman discovers that both her husband and their new home harbour sinister secrets after they leave Manhattan for small-town life. Starring Amanda Seyfried, James Norton and Natalia Dyer, it releases on Netflix on April 29.



har Khan launches The Park Holidays nal Mobile App in Delhi. Photo: Pankaj Kumar

A cause for concern

Prior to National Safe Motherhood Day, public health expert Poonam Muttreja says that the focus needs to be widened to include morbidity as an important aspect of maternal health



methods to couples are a simple, low-cost intervention that can reduce maternal and child mortality by preventing early pregnancies and unwanted pregnancies at a later age," says Poonam.

"At Population Foundation of India, we have engaged with policymakers, donors, NGOs and communities to consistently raise the discourse on the need for informed decision making on women's health. We promote effective and gendersensitive health and development strategies and policies. We have constantly emphasised the importance of planned families, birth spacing and delayed marriage as strategies to improve maternal health," she adds.

Gender inequality, gender-based vio-

health," she adds. Gender inequality, gender-based vio-lence and lack of agency continue to

impact women's ability to access mater-nal and antenatal health services. In India, regressive gender norms continue to result in a preference for sons, leading to frequent pregnancies. Further social norms around child and early marriages also impact maternal and child health. While the full impact of the pandem-ic on the public health system will not be clear for some time, COVID-19 has underscored that stronger maternal and child care systems are a critical require-ment of health system strengthening going forward.

ment of neath system strengtnening going forward.

The foundation has been working at the national, state and community level to change perceptions around gender family planning, adolescent sexuality and reproductive health.

No competition between actors: Pratik Gandhi

He became a pan-India sensation almost overnight, with his portrayal of Harshad Mehta in last year's popular series Seam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story, and has now planted his feet in Bollywood. With the spotlight firmly on him, actor Pratik Gandhi says he does not believe in competition among contemporaries.

rank candinasys in does not believe in competition among contemporaries.

"There can't be competition between actors. Had it been products, there would have been competition. If I was a biscuit or a soap, there would be competition, 'Pratik sail.'

How can two people, looking so different and having distinct types of acting, be compared? I don't take the pressure that your next thing has to be bigger than the previous one.

Gujarati actor Pratik first mane was included in Limca Book Of Records for a monloque the performed in three languages, in the play Mohan No Masalo. He would tell you the Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story success has been a progression of his

1992: The Harshad Mehta Story success has been a progression of his steady rise as an actor, and it has opened up opportunities.

"I would convert this as excitement where people are giving me different opportunities now. They are open to work with me in different subjects — which is very exciting for me as an actor, and I am just looking forward to playing another character. So yeah, I don't think that much. My theat the background is helping me here." atre background is helping me here," Pratik said.

Pratik said.

He insists fame and success are peripheral products. "I don't think about all these things (fame and success) because they are peripheral byproducts. I am getting much love from the audience all across, and across all age groups. I don't think



about it much. It is the character that worked for them," he said, about his Scam 1992 success.

Before starring in the OTT show, Pratik was also seen in the Hindi film Loveyatri, but he admits Hansal Mehtais web series was a game changer for him.

"It is an absolute gamechanger. It changed a lot of things for me personally and professionally. More so, it has changed the way people look at me now, he said.

He finds all the love coming his way satisfying and describes it as very overwhelmig feeling.

"It has something that I have been waiting for, over the last 16 years," he concluded.

TREND BLAZER

TAAPSEE'S MANTRA: SUIT UP. SMILE UP. SHOW UP

Actor TAAPSEE PANNU shared a mantra in life that she follows.

"Suit up... smile up.... show up," she wrote as caption on Instagram, with a

picture where she is dressed in burnt orange pants paired with a white shirt and a

The actor is currently busy shooting for Shabaash Mithu, based on the life of Indian women's ODI cricket team captain Mithali Doral Raj.

She also has Loop Lapage, Haseen Olishes and Book Depter Applied

Dilruba and Rashmi Rocket coming up.



cent. National Safe Motherhood Day is cel-

'I know as an actress, I have the power to influence people, and I want to do it in the right direction. Films can have an enormous impact on society, especially young minds. So, I never want to be associated with a project that will showcase women in a poor light. It's important and a high time to have conversations around women's rights and safety.'

dailytalk



'Since I am just a beginner in the field of acting, as a person I am curious how it is going to pan out when I do different things. For me, every film I choose, I do a different character because. for me, I wouldn't want to watch myself do the same content twice. I like to keep surprising myself — 'ar really doing this?' I am craving to do better wor in any language.'

SCARY TO HAVE A BABY IN PANDEMIC: JONES

Actor FELICITY JONES said that it was an intense experience giving birth to a baby during the pandemic.

"I made banana bread three times and burnt it each time. I had a baby in the first burnt it each unite. That a dady in the Inst one. It seems ages ago now in the really scary lockdown when we were all advised to wash our groceries and we didn't know what was going to happen. It was pretty intense, but having kids is intense anyway. The pan-demic just added a little extra, "she said.

She added: "To have a baby in an apocalyptic moment is pretty scary.







EDUCATION: A POWERFUL WEAPON

While there are schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao that aim to educate girls but continuous awareness and persistent effort are needed to enable them to benefit at the ground level, says RAMA SHARMA

There are several powerful women, who have shat-tered the patriarchal norms and have shown the rest of the world what women can do of the world what women can do
if they have equal rights, Chhavi
Rajawat is one such name that
has done exactly that and more.
India's first woman sarpanch
with an MBA degree, Chhavi
was the sarpanch of her village
Soda in Malpura block, Tonk
district in Rajasthan. She had left
her lucrative corporate job to
serve as a sarpanch. Her ardour
to work for the community has not just touched lives but has led the way for several --!

to work for the community has not just touched lives but has led the way for several girls and women who have set their hearts on serving the community. One such life that Chhavi has inspired is that of 25-year-old Radha Rajawat. A resident of Lalwari village in Niwal block of Tonk district in Rajasthan, Radha has not only educated herself but made a huge difference in the lives of girls in and around her village by fighting for their rights to education. Her journey, however, has been a tough one. She had to put up a fight against her parents first and then, against the entire Rajput community of her village to reach where she is today.

"Initially, we were against

reach where she is today."
"Initially, we were against her idea of pursuing education after Class 8th as that would have meant sending her outside the village," shared her parents who had to eventually give up in front of their daughter's perseverance. Their support was faced by the opposition not just from verance. Their support was faced by the opposition not just from their extended families but from the Raiput community as well. The pressure forced Radha's parents to withdraw their support, but Radha was adamant. She put up a brave fight against everyone, worked as a laborer, and managed to complete Class 12 with a good score of 70 per cent.

cent.

Radha's journey had started while she was still in Class 8th.
Under the Sakshar Bharat Mission — a centrally sponsored nationwide literacy scheme of



the Indian Department for School Education and Literacy School Education and Literacy (DSEL), Radha was selected as a child reporter. This provided her a platform to raise issues concerning her village and panchayat through newspapers. Slowly, she started mobilising the villagers.

In 2013, she led the girls and women from the panchayat to address the issue of corruption. "Led by Radha, the group submitted a memorandum not only to the District Collector but also the Chief Minister requesting

to the Chief Minister requesting solution the challenge of negligence and corruption at the panchayat level," informed Poonam Rajawat, a member of Kishori Manch — an adolescent

Poonam Rajawat, a member of Kishori Manch— an adolescent group run by a local non-profit organisation in the region. One of the most important transformations that Radha brought to this panchayat was setting up a school till Class 12. Her persistent efforts to address the concerns of thousands of girls who had to give up education due to lack of a higher secondary school in their village led to this impact. The girls of the village, now, do not have to compromise on their dreams of completing school education. Not just for girls, she soon started working towards the

education of the entire village.
"In 2014, as a panchayat motivator, she took the initiative to ductaet 1,800 illiterate people of the village and encouraged them to sit for the examinations," said Panchayat Assistant, Hemraj Singh.
Shashi Kanwar, who was tutored by Radha, shared that there wasn't a single educated woman in the village. "It is a result of her hard work and efforts of the other adolescent girls associated with her that today, nearly 70 per cent of women in the village are literate." As far as the education of adolescent girls is concerned,

prior to 2013, only 30 per cent of girls in Lalwari panchayat were educated, while today, more than 80 per cent are linked with mainstream educa-tion. Not only this, 30 to 40 per cent of the girls are stepping out of the village boundary to pur-sue their dream of higher edu-cation.

sue their dream of nigher edu-cation.

"Overwhelmed by Radha's zeal to work for the better future of her community, she was requested by the girls, women and other responsible people of the village to contest the panchayat elections," said Maina Rana, a colleague of Radha's. She obliged their

request and contested the election but couldn't win. She, however, continued to support the winner, Devalal Gurjar, who is also her colleague, to serve the community with sincerity.

Babulal Sharma, a local teacher, said. "Radha has tried to raise social issues, problems and challenges not only at the panchayat level but also at the district and state level from time to time. It is the result of her dedication towards the society that she had the opportunity to meet the former Vice eight and the comment of the district and state level from the total content of the district and state level from the total content of the district and state level from the total content of the district and state level from the district and state level from the district and the district and the state of the district and the sta

geous, they should have equal right and opportunities to edu-cate themselves.

—Charkha Features



LEARN AND UNLEARN

One should give up self-conceit and accept changes if one wants to do better in life, says Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunj Ji

Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunu Ji

There is hardly any human being in the world who is not inclined to improve himself/herself. Of course, some aspire for improvement in their relationship with whom they have to live and work, whereas others some want to improve or enhance their peroutibility. Some want to improve or enhance their about their spiritual progress. In amy case, the will some their spiritual progress in any case, the will to make some pageress in basic to all normal beings and the efforts to improve are a sign of life. And, the volition, under-lying all efforts of man to bring about the progress. In amy case, the will some the man of the progress of the proportion of the proport



know. It is difficult to ofter correction to such a man, for he assumes air in such a manner that people would stutter in his presence; he loses temper no sooner than anyone would start informing him on any subject. So, if one wants to improve and, for that purpose, is inclined to accept some changes, one should give up self-conceit because it precludes the possibility of learning good things of life and unlearning wrone things.

purpose, is inclined to accept some changes, onshould give up-self-conceit because it precludes the
possibility of learning good things of life and unlearning wrong things.

Another major hurdle in man's path to progress
is his attachment to worldly objects, his lust for sensual pleasures, his sense of deep involvement, and
his attachment to his body. Little does man realise
that, at this fag-end of iron age, when a man has lost
his morals, the worldly things are devoid of their
original essence. One who wants spiritual improvement should know that the present unrighteous
world has no substance. Is the bark of a sugar cane
worth anything when the juice has been squeezed
out of it? So has the world lost all its sap and truth
because it has become debased. This body of ours
is assailed by several different diseases and is made
of debased matter. So one who aspires for selfimprovement should push out attachment to
objects of senses or thirst for these, with only one
determined effort, as, otherwise, it would mean that
one has lost or is losing one's precious life over a
mere trifle.

Knowing all this, one should get rid of body con-

one has both in some office processing over a mere trifle.

Knowing all this, one should get rid of body con-sciousness. The first step for this is to withdraw one's attachment from 'religions' of the body, which rob one's life of its essence, and to devote one's mind and body and possessions towards the welfare of the world. This will bring in man qualities such as ser-vice, dedication, sacrifice, meekness, fellow-feeling, loterance, and hundred-and-one other noble traits of high character. It will quicken his efforts for self-improvement.

Keep your body, mind active

Whether working from home or office, toiling away for long hours without breaks and physical activity can begin to damage your body, vitality and even without tell-tale Working long hours can damage your vitality even without tell-tale signs

activity can begin to damage your body, vitality and even without tell-tale signs.

This important to achieve a healthy work-life balance in order to live a fulfilled life. But there are moments in life when you have to finish certain deadlines and cannot avoid spending a lot of time on your desk,'s asys Beenu Raipoot, noted filmmaker and a Fit India Champion.

The fitness expert has these suggestions for those busy hours that will not only nourish your body and mind, but also increase overall productivity:

Between emails, meetings and calls, try to take a stroll even for a few minutes to reset your body and brain. A little bit of movement during those long sitting hours will go a long way to ensure that your body and joints do not become too stiff by sitting.

Check your breath during intervals. Take a few long breaths engaging your abdominals to ensure that your body and joints do not become too stiff by sitting.

Check your breath during intervals. Take a few long breaths engaging your abdominals to ensure that your body si getting enough oxygen. Learn some Pranayama techniques to recreate yourself quickly so that you can maintain a constant energy level throughout the long span of desk sitting.

Remember to do a few neck and tell-tale signs

to be considered are — shape of the chair, its height, height of the table, lumbar support in the chair, among others. Ensure that your chair has some kind of lumbar support. Lumbar support will protect your lumbar spiport of the chair so that from pressures of excessive flexion during long sitting hours. It is also important to choose a chair where you can adjust its height visa-vis your table. It will be good for your mid-upper back and shoulders. Often people who ignore this advice can develope health conditions like scoliosis and rounded shoulders.

Keep drinking water during a long shift. It's quite common that people under pressure keep suppressing their intrist subconsciously that makes them dehydrated. Remember to keep sipport he water every hour or so to keep your body rich in fluids that will improve the current of the chair so the control of the chair so the chair so the control of the chair so the chair so

throughout the long span or usess on ting.

Remember to do a few neck and shoulder stretches while on your desk to avoid neck pain or back pain later. It will also help in keeping your posture upright. Add useful stretches from your yoga class to these intervals. Choose the appropriate ergonomic chair and table in order to maintain a good posture while sitting for long hours. Some of the important factors

Decorate your space nicely and keep it clean, organised and minimal. Avoid too much clutter around in your space. Too much physical clutter affects



the states of your mind, too. Practice the the states of your mind, too. Practice tre yogic principle of Aparigraha or minimalism to keep your space, physical as well as mental, free.

Ensure that you are getting some sum during the day. It will not only enrich your Vitamin D levels but also give a big

34

boost to your immune system. It is very boost to your immune system. It is very common among the big cities in India that people don't get enough Vitamin D as they are not exposed to the sunlight often. Lack of exposure to the sunlight leads to Vitamin D deficiency that is often linked to other health issues. Gives your eyes some rest in between after every half an hour or so by doing a simple yoga technique of palming. Rub your palms together and just cover your eyes with your warm palms. Your eyes will feel energised immediately.

"

Invest in your dreams. Grind now. Shine later. -Unknown

TREATING SLEEP APNEA MAY REDUCE DEMENTIA | CHILDHOOD DIET LINKED TO LESS ANXIETY LATER

Older adults who received positive airway pressure therapy prescribed for obstructive sleep apnea may be less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease and other kinds of dementia,

to develop retremens usease and other which of dementa men research suggests.

Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is a condition in which the upper airway collapses repeatedly throughout the night, preventing normal breathing during

sleep. OSA is conditions, and

many older adults are at high risk for OSA. "We found a significant association between posit airway pressure use and lower risk of Alzheimer's and types of dementia over three years, suggesting that po

sypes of deniental over times years, suggesting that positive airway pressure may be protective against dementia risk in people with OSA," said lead author Galit Levi Dunietz, Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan.

Exercise and a healthy diet in childhood leads to adults with bigger brains and lower levels of anxiety, a new study suggests.

The mouse-model

study determined that

study determined that surly-life vercise generally reduced anxious behaviors in adults. It also led to an increase in adult muscle and brain mass. "During the COVID-19 lockdowns, particularly in the early months, kids got very little exercise. For many without access to a park or a backyard, school was their only source physical activity," said researcher Marcell Cadney from the University of California - Riverside. "It is important we find solutions for these kids, possibly including extra attention as they grow into adults," Cadney added. The researchers determined that early-life exercise generally reduced anxious behaviours in adults. It also led to an increase in adult muscle and harin mass. When led "Western" style diets high in fat and sugar, the mice not only became father, but also grew into adults that preferred unhealthy foods.

OBESITY LINKED TO HEAVY PERIODS

adies, here is one more reason to reduce your body weight.

Lobestly is linked to greater menstrual blood loss, which may result from increased inflammation in the womb linking, delaying its repair, according to a study conducted both on women and mice.

The study, led by

The study, led by researchers from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, UK, found a weak but statistically significant association between increasing body between increasing bo mass index (BMI) and

women.

In the mouse study, the team found that after shedding their womb lining, the mice on a high-fat diet showed delayed repair of the remaining womb lining in comparison to mice on a normal diet.

a nurmal diet.

Further examination of womb tissue from the mice indicated that inflammatory factors were also higher in mice with greater body weight. The findings are detailed in the Journal of Endocrinology.

'JUMPING' GENES CAN PREVENT BLOOD CANCER | NEW DRUG CAN STOP TUMOURS FROM GROWING

Us scientists have found that transposons, also known as jumping genes, can protect against certain blood cancers and help develop new therapeutic

ets.
Transposons are DNA

Transposons are DNA sequences that can move, or jump, from one location in the genome to another when activated. These "jumping" genes are a source of genetic mutations responsible for a number of human diseases. The lindings, published in the journal Nature Genetics, can help predict how patients will respond to cancer therapies and find new therapeutic targets for acute myeloid leukemia (AML) — the deadliest type of blood cancer in adults and children. "Our nitial finding was a surprise because it's been long thought that activated transposons promote cancer development by a nearesting negation."

development by generating genetic mutations. We found it was the opposite for blood cancers, and that decreased L1 activity was associated with worse clinical outcomes and therapy resistance in patients," said Jian Xu, Associate Professor in the CRI.

NEW DRUG CAN STOP TUMOURS FROM GROWING
Usersearchers have found that an oral drug can be effective in stopping tumours from growing. The team from the University of Colorado Cancer Center found that slowing down NLRP3 can reduce inflammation and curb tumour growth and progression.

"NLRP3 is a member of a larger family that is involved in sensing danger signals," said Carlo Marchetti, from the varsity's School of Medicine.

It is a receptor that surveils the intercellular compartment of a cell, looking for danger molecules or pathogens.

"When
NLRP3 recognises

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or pathogens.
"When
NLRP3 recognises
these signals, it
leads to the

Rana, Tripathi power KKR to 187







Prouded the breakthrough when he deceived Gill with a wrong'un to find the stumps.

Rana though kept going strong, completing his half-century with a six off Vijay Shankar after surviving an LBW appeal off Rashid, He got the decision overturned, taking the DRS call. Rana's six-hitting continued after getting his fifty as he punished Natarajan and Sandeep again.

PTI CHENNAI

pener Nitish Rana (80) and Rahul Tripathi (53) hit fluent half-centuries to propel Kolkata Knight Riders to a challenging 187 for six against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their Indian Premier League match, here on Sunday. SRH's Rashid Khan (2/24)

SRH's Rashid Khan (2/24) was yet again at his best, asking tough questions to the batsmen but most of his bowling colleagues proved ineffective on a batting-friendly wicket. Dinesh Karthik (22 not out off 9 balls) provided a late flourish to KKR innings but they could gather only 42 runs in the last five overs.

overs.

Left-handed opener Rana struck the ball hard and clean to provide his side a confident start after they were asked to take first strike. His strokes on the off-side —

SIX INNINGS IN IPL

Runs	Balls	Opposition team
0	1	RR
81	53	DC
0	1	KXIP
87	61	CSK
0	1	RCB
80	56	SRH

80 56 SRH
the drives and cuts - were of highest quality and a treat to the eye.
Neither Bhuvneshwar Kumar
nor T Natarajan could stop Rana
from hitting boundaries even as
subhman Gill was quiet initially.
Sandeep Sharma was hit for three
boundaries in a row by him.
Gill opened up his arms to hit
a massive straight six off Natarajan
o make it even better for KKR.
However, the run-flow was
affected when ever-reliable Rashid
got the ball in his hands. He also

his fifty as he punished Natarajan and Sandeep again.

His colleague at the other end Rahul Tripathi also stroked confidently and fluently. He smashed amassive six off Bhurneshwar and then followed it up with a cheeky four in the third-man region.

He completed his fifty with another boundary off Bhurneshwar but was dismissed by Natarajan soon after when he top-edged a ball. Rashid too sent back dangerous Andre Russell (5) back.

back.
Mohammed Nabi (2/32) got
rid of Rana and Eoin Morgan (2)
off successive balls in the 18th

1. Shikhar Dhawan (DC) 2. Nitish Rana (KKR) 80 72 PLAYER **WKTS**



3. Chris Woakes (DC)

4



UMMFR CIAM

MOTION DICTURE



Chennai Super Kings' Suresh Raina spends time in kitcher **3chennallPL**



DHONI FINED FOR SLOW OVER RATE

DHOM FINED FOR SLOW OVER RATE Chennal Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been fined 17.2 lakh for maintaining a slow over rate during his side's IPL opener against DC here. "Chennal Super Kings captain MS Dhoni has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate Wanthed Stadium, Mumbai on April 10," the IPL said in a media statement." As I was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relation to minimum over-rate offences. Mr

LOSING HAZELEWOOD A BLOW

LOSING HAZELEWOOD A BLOW
Chennal Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming
said losing Josh Hazelwood was a big blow ahead of
the new season's star as it left the team without the
overseas pace bowling options with his replacement
Jason Behrendorff and South African Lungi Ngidi still
not available for team's next game said. Australia
pacer Hazelwood had withfrawn at the last moment
to keep himself fit for upcoming international
assignments. Behrendorff was named his
replacement last Friday and is yet to arrive, while
Ngidi is serving his quarantine after returning midway
from South Africa's ODI series against Pakistan.

RR, Punjab Kings aim for winning start to IPL campaign

KEY PLAYERS

BEN STOKES

English all-rounder will have an extra responsibility with the ball this time in absence of Archer.



CHRIS GAYLE

He will be the X-factor in Kings line-up. Gayle's power hitting can take PBKS to big total.

A nother battle of big-hitters is on the cards when KL Rahul's Punjab Kings take on the Sanju Samson-led Rajasthan Royals, two line-ups dotted with expansive stroke-makers and in pursuit of a winning start to their IPL campaigns

pursuit of a winning start to their IPL ca here on Monday.

Rajasthan will be banking heavily on their swashbuckling all-rounder Ben Stokes. Stokes will be keen to get some runs under his belt and so will be the likes of Englishman Ios of Englishman Jos Buttler and newly-appointed skipper Samson, who is a mine-field of tal-

ent.
The Royals
could opt to open
with the highlyrated Yashasvi
Jaiswal and Jaiswal and
Buttler. While
Samson, who would
be itching to proove a point, and
Stokes would then form strong
middle-order.
If the four fire on all
cylinders, they can pum-

cylinders, they can pum-mel any attack into sub-mission and Punjab would be no exception on the Wankhede track, which is usually bat-ting-friendly. Royals also have an

koyais also nave an several other options at their disposal, including all-rounders Shivam Dube, Shreyas Gopal, Rahul Tewatia, Riyan Parag and Liam Livingstone.

stone. opal, Tewatia and Parag, all Gopal, Iewaua and I (100)...bowl leg-spin, so it would be interesting to see whether the Royals opt to go in with two leg-spinners.

Tewatia and Dube have the abil-

HEAD TO HEAD

Matches Rajasthan Royals Punjab Kings

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

Raiasthan Rovals defeated Punjab Kings by 4 wickets at Sharjah



1922

Puniab Kings Skipper Lokesh Rahul who scored 1922 runs at an average of 54.91 in 42 innings of as many matches ,needs 78 runs to become only second batsman after Shaun Marsh (2477 runs) to score over 2000 runs for Punjab Kings in IPL

ity to whack the ball outside the park and look to be certainties in the playing XI.

ity to whack the ball outside the park and look to be certainties in the playing XI. With star pacer Joffa Archer missing due to injury, the pace attack will have to be led by Rajasthan's newest recruit — South African all-rounder Chris Morris, who will be eager to justify his huge price tag of 88 16.25 crore. RR will have to get their combination right as only four foreigners can make the playing XI. So, it will be interesting to see whether Royals opt for left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman or go in with either Jaydev Unadkat, Kartik Tyagi or Chetan Sakariya. Unadkat, with his experience, might get the nod.

get the nod.

On the other hand, Punjab boast of some hard-hitters like Rahul (670 runs in 2020 season), Mayank Agarwal (424 runs) and laris Gayle.

Rahul and Agarwal formed a lethal open-ing combination in 2020 and would continue to

ppen.
They also have the likes of Englishman
Dawid Malan, one of the finest T20 batsmen
currently, hard-hitting Tamil Nadu batsman M
Shahrukh Khan, and West Indian Nicholos

For them too, it would be all about getting

the combination right.
Shahrukh could get the nod ahead of others like Deepak Hooda and Sarfaraz Khan, and could play the role of a finisher.

Big-hitters galore Dhawan impressed by Pant's calmness on captaincy debut

Delhi Capitals experienced opener Shikhar Dhawan was mighty impressed with Rishabh Pant's leadership qualities, saying the youngster led the team in a calm and composed manner in his first match as captain and will only ge better with time.

Pant was thrust into captaincy after regular skipper Shreyas lyer sustained a shoulder injury during the recent ODI series against England and was ruled out of the tournament.

tournament.
The 23-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman made a memorable start to his captaincy stint as he led DC to a convincing seven-wicket win over three-time champions Chennai Super Kings in their opening match of the IPL 2021 here on Saturday.

"Saturday.
"He (Rishabh Pant) did quite



ond. He kept his calm and kept on motivating the boys," Dhawan said during the post-match press con-

stage on fire.

Apart from Unadkat, they have his left-arm back-up

ference.
"He made good changes as well. It was his first match (as cap-

started and with experience, I am sure, he is only going to get better.

"The best thing about Rishabh Pant is that he stays calm. His presence of right of the start he stays calm. His presence of right of the stay that he stay very you."

Asked if he gives his advice to Pant as a senior player, Dhawan said: ".Of course, I give my advice to him. The youngsters, whenever they come to me to ask for batting tips or mindset things. I always share my knowledge with them."

Dhawan smashed a 54-ball 85 studded with 10 fours and two maximums and along with Prithvi Shaw (72) shared a 138-run opening stand as Delhi chased down 189 with eight balls to spare.

Asked about his sweep shots against the pacers, Dhawan said: "I started practising it at the nets and then introduced it in the game. We have to play according to the field set. I knew Chennai keeps square leg and fine leg inside the 30-yard circle and keep covers behind for me.

Missing Jofra is big blow: Sangakkara

Star pacer Jofra Archer's Ctar pacer Jofra Archer's
absence because of injury is
a "big blow" to Rajasthan Royals
but their new Director of Cricket
Kumar Sangakkara is confident
that the team's young Indian fast
bowlers will rise to the challenge
in this year's Indian Premier
League.
Archer, who played with a
hand injury during the India
series, is currently recuperating
from a surgery and the duration
of his availability during the later
part is still not clear.

of his availability during the later part is still not clear.
"Sanju and I will both agree that it's a big blow for us. Jofra is a very vital part of our make-up and not to have him is unfortunately the reality of it. We unfortunately the reality of it. We have to work around it and plan contingencies," Sangakkara told PII during a virtual press conference on Sunday ahead of the clash against Punjab Kings here on Monday.

The former Sri Lankan captain is, however, hopeful that Archer will be available at some point and "play his part in the IPL."

over the years, has been their Indian pace attack where the most experienced name Jaydev Unadkat hasn't exactly set the

terday (Delhi Capitals vs Chennai Super Kings) as well," said Sangakkara, who has played a number of seasons in the IPL. "Most of the wickets are good for batting, So, you have to be quite skilful. We have Kartik Tyagi, who did pretty well last season in patches and this year we have new additions (pacer) Kuldeep Yadav (Ir) and Chetan Sakariya," he stated. For Sangakkara, it is imper-ative that these youngsters are prepared to understand match situations and bowl according-

situations and bowl according

"It's about keeping them focussed on what their job is and get them trained and prepared to execute different deliveries,

to execute different deliveries scenarios and match plans for the opposition but at the same time, giving them confidence about their own strengths."

The Royals skipper Sanju Samson has gone slightly off the radar as far as the national team is concerned after having failed og rale even a single opportunity. However, Sangakkara believes that both the captain and Rahul Tewatia, who recently was in

India squad for the T20 series against England, could be national team regulars if they can trust their abilities a bit

can trust their abilities a bit more.

"Pressure is always there. Whether it is Sanju or Rahul, reality is they will tell you that expectations and pressures will always be there. Everyone has various coping mechanism to deal with it, focus is to stay in the moment, he said.

"It is very important to have those grand ambitions of playing regular international crick-t, and both Sanju and Rahul are very capable of not just being regulars but great, outstanding performers at the international stage."

The eloquent former gloves

The eloquent former gloves-man wants each of his 11 play-ers to be "problem solvers", who can think on their feet and help the skipper.

"...That really helps the skip-per Sanju a lot on the field when people are thinking themselves as to what's going on (match sit-uation), and it also builds a lot of trust within the unit," he added.