

**OPINION 6**  
NEPAL STARING AT  
POLITICAL DISQUIET

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

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

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## EC slaps 24-hour ban on Mamata

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Condemning Mamata's statements made during poll rallies on April 7 and 8, the EC



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

advised her to desist from using such statements in public while model code of conduct is in force.

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

The EC said, "In fact, it is a matter of deep regret that a media narrative was sought to be weaved hour after hour to misguide the biggest stakeholder which is the voters by a candidate who also happens to be the CM of the State. At least this should have been appreciated that the sideshow was fraught with immense potential to have adverse impact on

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

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

Meanwhile, Modi launched a fierce broadside against Mamata. "Didi has been instigating her workers against the Central forces. Do not do this. Didi o didi, if you want to take out your anger, abuse me. But don't insult Bengal's dignity and tradition," he said.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Meanwhile, on the second day of countrywide Tika Utsav (vaccination festival), India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage went past the 10.50 crore mark on Monday. Eight States account for 60.13 per cent of the total doses given so far in the country, according to the Union Health Ministry data. The first day of Tika Utsav on Sunday saw the administration of 30 lakh vaccination doses at 63,800 Covid Vaccination Centres across the country.

### Covid-19 IN INDIA

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

### 14 hospitals in Delhi turned into Covid facilities

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

## Sputnik V gets DCGI expert panel approval

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



Agency use authorisation for Sputnik V.

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

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

### Night curfew imposed in Haryana

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

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

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

## SC rejects plea of Shia Waqf ex-chief on Quran's verses, imposes ₹50K fine

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday termed as "absolutely frivolous" a petition filed by former UP Shia Waqf Board chairman Waseem Rizvi seeking the removal of 26 verses from the holy Quran and dismissed it with a cost of ₹50,000.

A Bench of Justices RF Nariman BR Gavai and Hrishikesh Roy rejected the petition in which Rizvi alleged that these 26 verses of Quran promoted terrorism.

In his plea, Rizvi has stated that Islam is based on the concepts of equity, equality, forgiveness and tolerance but due to extreme interpretations of the said verses of the holy book, the religion has been drifting away from the basic tenets.

The plea of Rizvi has drawn massive backlash with several Muslim outfits and Islamic clerics.

Last month, an FIR was registered in Bareilly against Rizvi for allegedly hurting religious sentiments of Muslims with his petition in the top court.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation was 5.03 per cent in the previous month (February 2021) and was 5.91 per cent in the same month last year (March 2020).



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

At the same time, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) contracted 3.6 per cent for February 2021, showed data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

## Health is priority! Maha postpones Class X, XII State board exams

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Close on the heels of it promoting all the State board students from Classes I to 8 to the next without any examination, the Maharashtra Government on Monday postponed the board examinations of Classes 10 and 12 in view of the worsening Covid-19 situation in the State.

Announcing this, Maharashtra Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad tweeted, "Given the current Covid-19 situation in Maharashtra, we've postponed State board exams for Class 10 & 12. The present circumstances are not conducive for holding exams. Your health is our priority."

Varsha said keeping in mind the schedule of entrance exams for professional courses, Class 12 exams will be held by end of May, while Class 10 exams will be in June. "We're closely monitoring the health situation. Fresh dates for these exams will be announced accordingly," she said.

## No meals in less than 2 hours flight: Aviation Ministry

To minimise risk of Covid infection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on Monday banned meal services on flights with less than two hours of travel duration to minimise the risk of Covid-19 infection. The norm will come into effect from April 15.

However, there are no restrictions on serving meals on international flights as of now. Airlines are permitted to serve only pre-packed snacks, meals, and pre-packed beverages on flights that have duration of more than two hours.

"The airline operating flights on domestic sectors may provide meal services onboard, wherein the flight duration is two hours or more," MoCA's Joint Secretary Usha Padhee said in an office memorandum on Monday,



which marked the Directorate of Civil Aviation. "Crew shall wear a fresh set of gloves for each meal/beverage service," it added.

The decision was taken amid fears that passengers taking off masks to eat may lead to the spread of the virus. While in-flight meals can't be avoided on medium or long hauls, the restriction has been imposed on domestic flights of up to two hours duration for now.

## Nizamuddin Markaz mosque can be made operational during Ramzan: Govt to HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre told the Delhi High Court on Monday that the Nizamuddin Markaz mosque can be made operational for devotees to offer prayers during the month of Ramzan which is expected to begin from April 14.

The submission was made before Justice Mukta Gupta by the Central Government during the hearing of a plea by the Waqf Board seeking opening of the Nizamuddin Markaz where the Tablighi Jamaat congregation was held amid the Covid-19 pandemic and was locked since March 31 last year.

On March 24, the Centre had said 50 persons chosen by the Waqf board can be allowed to pray at the mosque during the "shab-e-barat" holiday. Advocate Rajat Nair, appearing for the Centre, told the court on Monday that offering of prayers at the mosque during Ramzan should be subject to the guidelines issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority with regard to social distancing and other Covid precautions.

## CAPSULE

**HOLD POLLS FOR 3 RS SEATS IN KERALA: HC**  
Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Monday Directed the Election Commission to hold the biennial election to the three Rajya Sabha seats from Kerala from the present State Assembly.

**MARKETS**  
SENSEX 47883.38 (-1707.94)  
NIFTY 14,310.80 (-524.10)  
GOLD 46,676.00 (+83.00)  
SILVER 67,009.00 (+26.00)

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## Amid Covid fear, Kumbh Shahi Snan retains its charm

### At 31 lakh taking holy dip, number falls by two-thirds for such occasion

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

More than 31 lakh devotees from different parts of the country reached Haridwar on Monday to take a holy dip in the river Ganga at various ghats in the city on the occasion of Somvati Amavasya.

It is the second Shahi Snan of Maha Kumbh which is being organised here after 12 years.

While Har ki Pauri, considered the holiest of the ghats, was reserved exclusively for the Akhadas from 7 am onwards, common people also took the holy dip on the other ghats of the Ganga, revered by millions as a goddess.

The seers of different Akhadas, led by their Mahamandaleshwars, took

out grand Shobha Yatras through the main thoroughfare of the pilgrimage city to gather at Brahma Kund.

As per the sequence set by the Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad (ABAP), Sadhus of the Niranjani Akhada reached Har Ki Pauri first for the holy dip. They were also accompanied by members of the Anand Akhada.

The last king of Nepal, Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah too took a holy dip along with Sadhus of the Niranjani Akhada. This was followed by the Juna Akhada along with Sadhus of the Agni and Ahwahan Akhadas who were also accompanied by members of the Kinnar Akhada. This was followed by the Juna Akhada along with Sadhus of the Agni and Ahwahan Akhadas who were also accompanied by members of the Kinnar Akhada.

The procession of the Akhadas was directed via the highway to Har Ki Pauri amidst tight security. Being Covid positive, the ABAP head Narendra Giri was unable to attend the Shahi Snan. Due to implementation of the Covid standard operating proce-

dures (SOPs), the number of devotees was less compared to past Kumbhs where such occasions would attract around 1 crore devotees.

Marching barefoot to their destination with many of them not wearing masks or observing social distancing, the seers took a dip in the river as they were showered with flower petals from helicopters flying above on behalf of the Uttarakhand Government.

Meanwhile, the authorities had directed the vehicles to various parkings from where 262 shuttle buses were operated.

At the ghats, the police acted on the principle of 'Teen Dubki-Ek Snan' (three dips- one bath) in order to manage the crowds of devotees. At the same time, challans were issued to about 83 people for not following the Covid guidelines in the Mela area.

Till 3 pm the authorities had conducted 9,678 Covid tests on arriving devotees at the Haridwar border with 26 of these coming out positive. At the same time, 2,758 people and 357 vehicles were turned back in absence of Covid test reports.



Devotees take a holy dip in the Ganga during Kumbh Mela in Haridwar on Monday

# Bhopal Under 'Corona Curfew' from April 12 to 19

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

While several cities, including Indore, Ujjain, Chhindwara and several others are already under absolute lockdown, the administration announced the same for Bhopal on Monday.

District collector Avinash Lavaniya issued an order on Monday evening saying that the State capital will be under corona curfew a term coined by MP Government for lockdown, from April 12, 9pm to April 19 at 6am.

Health Commissioner Dr Pramod Goyal has been removed and is replaced with IAS officer Akash Tripathi. Though it would not be an absolute prohibition as essential services will remain intact. Daily chores could be completed but public can't venture

out unnecessarily, Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang said.

He claimed that various social, political and religious organisations had requested the administration to evoke stringent measures in the city. He claimed that despite several measures, the situation remains grim in the State capital, said the Minister.

Besides Bhopal municipal area, Berasia municipality will also remain under prohibitive condition which require closure of all public establishments and prevention of common traffic movement.

Covid-19 vaccination, exams, IT/BPO services, health services, travellers going to airport, bus stops and railway stations, crop procurement and several other services have been spared from the prohibi-

tions. Navdurga festival also starts on Tuesday.

Including 824 fresh Coronavirus cases in last 24 hours, Bhopal has reported over 58,000 positive cases since March last year and there are 52,247 active cases in the State capital presently.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has also said that the crisis of Remdesivir injection will be over in the next two-three days.

There is an adequate arrangement of oxygen in the State, it is being reviewed every day. With this, instructions have been given to purchase oxygen concentrators, soon two thousand concentrators will be arranged.

The CM was holding discussions with media representatives after planting saplings in the smart park.

# Conference held on air-pollution in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday held a digital round table conference with experts focussed upon formulating measures to reduce the air pollution in Delhi.

The roundtable meeting is for two days and the theme is "Measures to be taken to reduce air pollution in Delhi before winter 2021". During the conference, Rai said that the Delhi government does not wish to wait till September when the air pollution increases in Delhi; with the help of the experts, we want to create a long-term action plan to combat air pollution throughout the year.

He said that based on the suggestions received from experts and organizations, the Delhi government will formulate a long-term action plan to tackle pollution.

He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister

Shri Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi government has taken several steps to combat air pollution wherein various reports have found significant improvement in Delhi's air quality, but the government does not want to be satisfied with this much, and wants more improvement.

Rai said, "The Delhi government has taken up many initiatives to curb air pollution in the state, particularly dust pollution and continues to try and come up with new schemes for the same. Since last October the government has been undertaking regular campaigns. The government has undertaken many schemes to control vehicular pollution in the state including the electrical vehicles policy, increasing the number of public transport facilities particularly buses, campaigns like the red light on car off, bio-decomposer experiment to curb pollution coming from outside, banning energy-producing centres in

Delhi that emitted pollution, and those that used harmful fuels have been asked to shift to natural gas, tree transplantation policy has been followed to increase green cover in the city, transplanting foreign kikiar with indigenous plant species has also been undertaken and a committee has been formed to monitor the same."

He said, "We now want your assistance in this process that has been initiated, because talking about environmental pollution during the winter months, starting from October when the AQI is severe, is not a solution. We need to initiate action throughout the year. We are, in the next few days, going to come up with an action plan to further better the AQI of Delhi. We want the concern of the AQI and solutions to it to take the shape of a mass movement where the people of Delhi are involved. No one knows when the pandemic

will continue to rage, therefore it isn't feasible for us to wait for so long."

Rai said, "We will have to parallelly run environmental programmes to ensure that the AQI does not deteriorate any further. We want your suggestions, your feedback to create a positive, effective and popular environment plan for the city. We will continue this discussion tomorrow as well and move ahead in our agenda to create a sustainable and effective action plan."

He said, "I am very thankful to all for making the suggestions and presenting the ideas at this round table conference. I would request you all to submit these presentations to us so that we can study these matters thoroughly and formulate a long-term action plan to combat the air pollution of Delhi."

Anumita Roy Chowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, Centre for sci-

ence and environment, Dr Mukesh Sharma of IIT Kanpur, Gufran Beig of Indian Institute Of Tropical Meteorology, Deepak Agarwal of IL and FS, Partha Basu of the environmental defence fund, Siddharth Virmani of energy policy Institute at the University of Chicago, Brijesh Singh of Clean Your Collective and Akshima Ghare from Rocky Mountain Institute participated in the conference.

# Drunk son stabs father to death in South Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 61-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by his inebriated son when the father refused to give him money in south Delhi's Fatehpur Beri area. Police said that they have arrested the accused.

The victim has been identified as Manohar Lal who was stabbed multiple times by his 29-year-old son Balwan.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police

(DCP), South district, the incident took place on Sunday near Bheem Basti, Junapur after a quarrel broke out between the father-son duo over some money following which Balwan attacked Lal with a sharp object.

"The injured man sustained multiple stab wounds on his abdomen and he was taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre where he died during treatment. The exact number of stab wounds will be ascertained in the post-mortem report which is awaited," said the DCP.

"During inquiry, it was revealed that a quarrel broke out between Lal and his son, Balwan, who was demanding money from him. When Lal refused, his son who was under the influence of alcohol then stabbed his father with a knife multiple times," said the DCP.

"A case of murder was registered and the accused was arrested," he said. The deceased's wife had died earlier and he was living with his son, who worked as a labourer, police said, adding that an investigation is underway.

# SDMC Vaccination Centres mark 1L vaccination Till Monday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Cumulative vaccinations at South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) 'Covid Vaccination Centres' have crossed 1,03 lakh mark till Monday afternoon.

A senior SDMC official said that the civic agency has been observing 'Tika Utsav' from April 11 to April 14 during which awareness drive is being conducted to encourage more and more eligible people for Covid-19 vaccination.

The officials said that out of total vaccination, 24,729



people vaccinated in the last five days (from April 7 to April 11) at these centers set up by the civic body.

"Till April 12 (afternoon), a total of 37,518 people above the age of 60 years have got the vaccine and a total 36,363 peo-

ple above the age between 45 and 60 years have got the vaccine. At least 23,513 front line workers and 6,210 health care workers have been vaccinated till the same period," he added.

A total of 2,343 people have got shot at PSMS Hospital

Kalkaji during the five days period while 1,307 people vaccinated at MCW Janakpuri during the same period. 1,030 people have been vaccinated at MCW Badarpur in the last five days and 1,011 people have been vaccinated at Tilak Nagar Colony Hospital in the last five days, according to data shared by SDMC. Meanwhile, in order to ensure proper sanitization of houses where cases of Covid-19 are being reported, SDMC has decided to sanitize such houses.

All the district health officers have been directed to sanitize the houses of Covid positive cases for effective control of Covid spread, it said.

# CBI launches 'Immune India Deposit Scheme' to promote vaccination

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In order to encourage Vaccination under COVID 19 Central Bank of India as a part of their social commitment to a Healthy Society has brought out a Special Deposit Product "Immune India Deposit Scheme" for 1111 days at an attractive extra interest rate of 25 basis points above the applicable card rate for the Citizens who got Vaccinated. Central Bank of India requests the citizens to Vaccinate (COVID 19) and avail the attractive offer which is for a limited period. Senior Citizens are eligible for extra interest as applicable.

Public health response to COVID 19 Campaign as notified by Ministry of Finance (DFS) GOI, emphasizes the need to Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing and Maintain Hand Hygiene.

# BJP begins reach out 8-day programme in Haryana

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

Amid growing resentment among the farming community against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party over the

three contentious farm laws, the saffron party in Haryana has embarked on its eight-day programme to reach out to the

masses and make its presence felt across the state.

The state BJP unit has chalked out a plan to hold 22 programmes covering all districts to celebrate Dr Ambedkar Jayanti (April 14) during its eight-day contact exercise. The Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, his Cabinet Colleagues, BJP MPs, MLAs, former Ministers and senior party leaders would participate in these programmes.

The decision to hold district level programmes have been taken at a time when the BJP leaders are facing the wrath of farmers, who have called for the social boycott of the leaders over the issue of central agr laws.

The Chief Minister while holding a meeting of party district presidents recently had directed to hold a series of programmes to celebrate Ambedkar Jayanti across the state to sustain party's pro-Dalit pitch and to gauge the public mood.

The party has decided to involve prominent leaders at district level functions to establish a direct communication with people despite the ongoing farmers'

protest. On the other hand, the farmers' union have announced to hold protests against the leaders of BJP and its ally JJP during the scheduled programmes.

The Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar is himself scheduled to preside over a programme in Barauli village in Sonapat district while party state president OP Dhankar would participate at functions in Rohtak and Bhiwani districts on April 14. Deputy Chief Minister and JJP leader Dushyant Chautala is also scheduled to attend a programme in Rewari on Ambedkar Jayanti. Around eight district level programmes are planned to be held on April 14 while others would be held on April 15, 18 and 25. The programmes had begun on April 11 in the state.

Even as the saffron party has planned its ambitious contact programme amid COVID-19 pandemic to connect with the general public, the ongoing farmers' movement acquiring new political dynamics would pose a major challenge for the party.

# Delhi Govt urges Centre to scale up Covid beds

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has written to the centre to again scale up Covid beds in its hospitals run by it in the national capital amid surge in coronavirus cases.

"We have requested the Centre to increase COVID beds in Central government hospitals. Currently, 1,090 COVID beds are available at Central Government hospitals, which were more than 4,000 in November 2020," Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain asserted.

Jain while responding to a question about the availability of beds in temporary COVID care centres said "There are 5,525 beds in Delhi government's COVID care centre, wherein 190 beds are occupied.

This accounts for only two per cent of the total beds while rests are still available."

While talking about the COVID bed increment, Jain said, "We are consistently expanding the number of COVID beds. We have added nearly 5,000 beds in the last week and 50 per cent beds are still available. The numbers of COVID beds are being further increased."

The health minister further said that 1,14,288 COVID-19 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours. He appealed to people to stay at home and move out only when needed. The Minister reiterated that it was absolutely necessary to wear a mask when stepping out of the house, which would help fight COVID.

Jain further said that the government had increased near-

ly 5,000 beds in the last week and 50 per cent beds are available with the numbers being further escalated. He added that around two per cent of beds in Delhi Government's COVID-19 care centres are occupied while the rest are vacant.

On the issue of rising COVID-19 cases in Delhi, Jain said, "Delhi recorded 10,774 positive cases with a positivity rate of 9.43 per cent. In the last 24 hours, we have conducted 1,14,288 COVID-19 tests. As per reports, COVID cases have increased exponentially both in India as well as in Delhi."

Talking about the number of ventilators in hospitals, Jain said, "There are only two types of beds -- ICU beds and normal ward beds. A year ago, the issue of the number of ventilators was huge.

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**APPENDIX IV (rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)**

Whereas The Authorized Officer of the Assignor mentioned herein, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act), 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with (Rule 3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as mentioned below calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Thereafter, Assignor mentioned herein, has assigned the financial assets to Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited also as its own/acting in its capacity as trustee of various trusts mentioned hereunder (hereinafter referred as "EARC"). Pursuant to the assignment agreements, under Sec.5 of SARFAESI Act, 2002, EARC has stepped into the shoes of the Assignor and all the rights, title and interests of Assignor with respect to the financial assets along with underlying security interests, guarantees, pledges have vested in EARC in respect of the financial assistance availed by the Borrower and EARC exercises all its rights as the secured creditor.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the mentioned against each property. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Assignor	Name of Trust	Loan Account Number	Borrower Name & Co-Borrower's Name	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
Dewan Housing Finance Limited., (DHFL)	EARC Trust SC-371	1428216 (286-000 01019)	Subham Kumar (Borrower) / Babita (Co-Borrower)	Rs.15,61,959.85/- (Rupees Fifteen Lac Sixty One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Nine and Eighty Five Paise) 20.10.2020	06.04.2021	Symbolic Possession
Dewan Housing Finance Limited., (DHFL)	EARC Trust SC-371	1147752 (970-0053717)	Sardool (Borrower) / Rakhi (Co-Borrower)	Rs.9,53,540.94/- (Rupees Nine Lac Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty and Ninety Four Paise) 20.10.2020	06.04.2021	Symbolic Possession
Dewan Housing Finance Limited., (DHFL)	EARC Trust SC-371	1231002 (286-0000171)	Ishwar Chand (Borrower) / Deepa (Co-Borrower)	Rs.13,33,456.38/- (Rs. Thirteen Lac Thirty Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Six and Thirty Eight Paise) 20.10.2020	06.04.2021	Symbolic Possession
Dewan Housing Finance Limited., (DHFL)	EARC Trust SC-371	1302958 (286-0000258)	Sandeep Kumar Bhadula (Borrower) / Murlidhar (Co-Borrower)	Rs.20,84,509.99/- (Rupees Twenty Lac Eighty Four Thousand Five Hundred Nine and Ninety Nine Paise) 20.10.2020	06.04.2021	Symbolic Possession
Dewan Housing Finance Limited., (DHFL)	EARC Trust SC-371	901501 (970-0001703)	Anuj Kumar (Borrower) / Sonam Saini (Co-Borrower)	Rs.23,09,103.33/- (Rs. Twenty Three Lac Nine Thousand One Hundred Thirty and Three Paise) 20.10.2020	06.04.2021	Symbolic Possession
Dewan Housing Finance Limited., (DHFL)	EARC Trust SC-371	1533693 (286-0000171)	Vijay Kumar (Borrower) / Sunita Devi (Co-Borrower)	Rs.25,44,710.15/- (Rs. Twenty Five Lac Forty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Ten and Fifteen Paise) 20.10.2020	06.04.2021	Symbolic Possession
Dewan Housing Finance Limited., (DHFL)	EARC Trust SC-371	0004333 & 1227747 (286-0004366)	Mr. Sonu Shah (Borrower) / Prem Shah (Co-Borrower)	Rs.12,01,547.02/- (Rs. Twelve Lac One Thousand Five Hundred Forty Seven and Two Paise) & Rs.14,68,451.47/- (Rs. Fourteen Lac Sixty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Fifty One and Forty Seven Paise) 20.10.2020	06.04.2021	Symbolic Possession
Dewan Housing Finance Limited., (DHFL)	EARC Trust SC-371	1363395 (286-0000437)	Mr. Yasin Y (Borrower) / Mohashani (Co-Borrower)	Rs.12,62,793.08/- (Rs. Twelve Lac Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Three and Eight Paise) 20.10.2020	06.04.2021	Symbolic Possession

Place : Delhi  
Date : 11.04.2021  
Authorised Officer Limited Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company

**कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून**  
पत्रांक- 04(VA) दिनांक- 12.04.2021

**अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना**

वित्तीय वर्ष 2021-22 हेतु नगर निगम, देहरादून के कांजीहाउस व शंकरपुर स्थित गौसदन पर शरण प्राप्त बीमार पशुओं के उपचार के लिए औषधियों के क्रय हेतु अनुबंध की शर्तों के अनुसार इच्छुक फर्म/व्यक्तियों/कम्पनियों को निविदा हेतु आमंत्रित किया जाता है। निविदा फर्म नगर निगम, देहरादून के वरिष्ठ पशुचिकित्सा अधिकारी कार्यालय से दिनांक 19.04.2021 तक प्रातः 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक प्रातः कर सायं 4:00 बजे तक जमा करनी होगी, जो दिनांक 20.04.2021 को सायं 4:00 बजे अथवा उसके बाद खोली जाएगी। निर्धारित अवधि के उपरांत किसी भी आवेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।

**नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून।**

**कार्यालय अधिष्ठात्री अतिरिक्त, निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून**  
पत्रांक: 1169/निविदा/66 दिनांक: 09.04.2021

**निविदा सूचना**

प्रतिष्ठान, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून की ओर से अधीकारी अधिनियम, निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून द्वारा निम्नानुसार शौच कर्म मजदूर नियुक्ति हेतु निविदा खोली जा रही है। निविदा दिनांक 23.04.2021 को सायं 3:00 बजे तक इस कार्यालय में अमंत्रित की जा रही है, जो कि उरी दिन 3:30 बजे उचित निविदादाताओं/प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष आवेदनस्थली अथवा निर्भर प्रतिनिधि द्वारा खोली जाएगी। निविदा दिनांक 22.04.2021 तक किसी भी कार्य दिवस एवं कार्यालय समय में कार्यालय से क्रय की जा सकती है। केवल कार्य के सम्पन्न अधिकारी के द्वारा उपचार के दिनांक को ही निर्धारित किया जायेगा।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम, संक्षिप्त विवरण और कार्य का नाम सहित	प्रस्तावित दर (रु. में)	कार्य पूरा करने की तिथि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु. में)
01	गामल जालापुर पेयजल के अन्तर्गत उच्च जलाशय (लम्बा 100 कि०मी०, 16 मी० स्टेडिंग) एवं लम्बाई कार्य। (एल जीवन विमान कार्यक्रम, पिन्डो-चहचपुवा)	48,100.00	09 मा	1500.00+ जीएसटी
02	मसूदावाला पेयजल के अन्तर्गत उच्च जलाशय (लम्बा 100 कि०मी०, 12 मी० स्टेडिंग) एवं लम्बाई कार्य। (एल जीवन विमान कार्यक्रम, पिन्डो-चहचपुवा)	38,000.00	09 मा	1500.00+ जीएसटी

नियम एवं शर्तें साक्षात् कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्यालय दिवस एवं समय में अवलोकित की जा सकती है।  
अधिष्ठात्री अतिरिक्त

"जल संचयन-जीवन संचयन" "सूचना बल श्रोतों को प्रदूषित होने से बचाव" "वैचारिक चेतना-जल श्रोतों को प्रदूषित करना स्थानीय अपराध है।"

# BJP HQ under undeclared lockdown in Bhopal

After 3 staffs tested positive for Covid-19

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bharatiya Janata party state headquarters in Bhopal has been placed under undeclared lockdown on Monday after three staff members were tested positive for Covid-19.

Soon after on Monday, office secretary Raghvendra Singh ordered to lock down

both the gates of the office and banned outsiders' entry for the next ten days.

Singh has asked the party workers to contact party office-bearers on phone and only visit office when in emergency. During the last Covid-19 wave large numbers of BJP leaders and party office employees had fallen prey to Covid-19.

However, amid the fresh wave, the party organisation was practicing caution and number of participants were limited to avoid Covid-19 infections. For around a fortnight,

no party meeting has been organised in the office and no further event or press briefing is scheduled there for ten days, a senior leader said.

Sources said that the party office was locked, as most of the staff living in Kolar area, which is under complete lockdown, could not turn up. However, those coming from other localities reached there. Since, there was no work, they too left for home.

With 919 fresh cases in Indore and 824 cases in Bhopal, state has recorded total 6489 cases in last 24 hours.

# ABVHU launches campaign against Covid-19, distributes masks, sanitiser

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Prof. Ramdev Bhardwaj said distributions of masks and sanitisers were made in sukhi

Sevenia, Bagh Mughalia by a 14-member task force formed in Hindi University.

The Vice Chancellor of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi University,

## CM thankful for successful Shahi Snan under Covid norms

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat has expressed gratitude at the successful conclusion of the second Shahi Snan of the Kumbh Mela with observance of the Covid guidelines. Addressing media persons virtually on Monday evening, the CM said that considerable enthusiasm was seen among the devotees for the second Shahi Snan of the Kumbh Mela. It is being estimated that nearly 35 lakh devotees would have bathed in the Ganga by the end of the Shahi Snan, he said. Rawat said, "There are various challenges in organising the Kumbh amidst the conditions created by Covid-19. However, our government has accepted this challenge and is holding the



Kumbh in a divine, grand and safe manner. Care is being taken to ensure all facilities for members of the religious fraternity while officials have also been directed to ensure that the devotees do not face any problems."

Regarding the 'Tika Utsav' for Covid vaccination in the

state, Rawat said that all arrangements are complete. Officials have been directed to facilitate vaccination from the district to block and Nyay Panchayat levels. Compared to other states, Uttarakhand is a considerably better position regarding vaccination, he added.

## Covid-19 wave continues in U'khand Seven deaths, 1,334 new cases reported on Monday

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The second wave of the contagion of novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) is getting intensified in Uttarakhand. The state health department reported 1334 new cases of the disease while seven patients were reported dead on Monday. The state now has 110146 (cumulative) cases of the disease and the death toll from the disease now stands at 1767. In the last three days 3900 patients of the disease have been reported from the state.

The authorities discharged 605 patients from different hospitals of the state following their recovery from the disease on Monday. A total of 98492 patients have recovered from the disease in the state and the recovery percentage is now at 89.42 and the sample positivity rate is 3.57 percent.

The provisional state capital Dehradun reported 554 on

Monday. The authorities also reported 408 patients from Haridwar, 114 from Nainital, 89 from Udham Singh Nagar, 70 from Pauri, 56 from Tehri, nine from Rudrapur, seven each from Almora, Chamoli, Champawat and Uttarkashi and three from Pithoragarh on Monday.

The health department reported the death of three patients each at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh and Mahant Indresh hospital Dehradun on Monday. One patient was reported dead at Max hospital Dehradun on the day.

The state now has 7846 active patients of the disease. Dehradun continues to be at the top of the table of active cases of the disease with 3240 patients, Haridwar has 2663, Nainital 823, Udham Singh Nagar 356, Tehri 279, Almora 95, Pithoragarh 79, Bageshwar 76, Rudrapur 68, Champawat 50, Chamoli 42

and Uttarkashi 29 active cases of Covid-19 each.

In the vaccination drive 49242 people were vaccinated in different parts of the state on Monday. In the state 186746 people have been fully vaccinated so far as they have received both the first and second dose of the vaccine.

The Chief Operations Officer (COO) of state Covid-19 control room, Dr Abhishek Tripathi said that 581 vaccine sessions were organised in different parts of the state on Monday. In Dehradun 121 vaccine sessions were organised in which 3088 persons above 45 years of age, 54 healthcare workers and 13 front line workers were vaccinated on Monday.

In Haridwar 101 sessions were organised on the day in which 8439 persons above 45 years of age, 33 health care workers and 372 front line workers were vaccinated.

## Covid-19 casts shadow on U'khand secretariat

Many officers and employees suffering from the disease

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The spurt in the number of the cases of Covid-19 is also taking its toll on the functioning of many departments of state government. Many employees including senior officers of the state secretariat are reported to be suffering from the disease. On Monday the samples of principal secretary Anand Bardhan and secretary Dilip Jawalkar were reported positive for Covid-19. Jawalkar informed about his illness on social media and appealed to those who came

into his contact recently to get themselves tested. The additional chief secretary Manisha Panwar and additional secretary S S Waldia too are suffering from the disease.

Meanwhile the Uttarakhand Secretariat Association has demanded that the rule of 50 per cent attendance should be implemented in the office.

The association has also said that a ban on entry of the outsiders in the secretariat should be reinforced. The President of the association Deepak Joshi said that the PRO and personal secretary (PS) of the chief minister were approached by the association on Monday for an official meeting with the CM. Apart from imposing restrictions in view of Covid-19, the association wants to raise issues like discrepancies in the golden card scheme and revoking the order of freezing the Dearness Allowance (DA).

## Skill India pavilion launched in Haridwar Kumbh

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Union minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, MN Pandey, Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, RK Singh along with chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat and Uttarakhand's Skill Development and Entrepreneurship minister Harak Singh Rawat digitally launched the government of India's Skill India pavilion at the ongoing Kumbh Mela in Haridwar. Pandey and the CM also interacted with youths participating in the Skill India event, asking them to motivate others too for skill development.

Speaking on the occasion, Pandey said that the Kumbh Mela is an integral part of the nation's culture. He said that skill development schemes are being prepared for Uttarakhand according to the state's needs. The centre will fully cooperate with Uttarakhand for skill development in adventure, organic



farming, tourism and other sectors, he added.

The CM stressed on the need for special focus on skill development of women self help groups and linking the skill development programme with Atmanirbhar Bharat and vocal for local campaign. He appreciated the Skill India mission being undertaken under the leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and expressed confidence that the event in Haridwar will help spread the message further to facilitate skill development. He said that focus can be laid on agriculture, horticulture, food processing, tourism- especially adventure tourism and the IT sector under the mission. Skill development programmes should be conducted for these

sectors with focus on their monitoring also, he added.

Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' appreciated the skill development pavilion as a commendable effort to spread awareness on the subject. The Haridwar MLA and BJP state president Madan Kaushik along with officials concerned were also present on the occasion.

## Committee formed in MCD to probe alleged scam

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A committee has been formed with the directions of the Dehradun mayor in order to probe the allegations against the officials of the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) involved in the alleged scam of the procurement of sanitiser spray. Last month, some media reports had alleged that some officials of the corporation bought disinfectant at higher prices during the lockdown. Though the mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' and the senior officials refuted the claims, Congress councillors under the leadership of the leader of opposition in the corporation, Bijendra Pal Singh and some Congress party members staged a protest in the MCD premises and demanded a probe. Stating that the opposition would not be satisfied if the corporation would conduct the investigation itself, the mayor had asked Pal to form a committee with the choice of



his members to conduct the investigation. On Monday, Pal informed that he received a letter from the corporation to conduct the investigation with the four other members of the committee. He said that the mayor had asked him to provide the names of members to be included in the committee. Pal said that there are five members in the committee that include four councillors and an official from the corporation. As per the officials, Pal would be heading the com-

mittee while the three other councillors including Hari Prasad Bhatt, Ravi Gusain and Ramesh Kala and a senior finance officer of the corporation, Virendra Rawat would be the members. According to Pal, he would hold a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the matter with the committee members. He said that the committee would attempt to investigate the allegations and submit their report to the mayor within seven to 10 working days.

## Covid-19 surge: Mahant Indresh Hosp reserves beds

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In view of the second wave of Covid-19 the management of the Mahant Indresh hospital here has reserved 188 general and 33 ICU beds for the treatment of Covid-19 patients. The Medical Superintendent (MS) of the hospital Dr Anil Kumar Dhawan reviewed the facilities and preparation of the hospital for the disease on Monday. He also held talks with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Dehradun and discussed an action plan. He said that the hospital is working in coordination with the district administration, health department and government for providing best treatment to the patients of Covid-19.

Dr Dhawan said that during the first wave of the disease in the state, Mahant Indresh hospital was the biggest hospital in the private sector to treat patients of the disease. He said that 1090 Covid-19 patients were admitted and treated in the hospital.

## Salt by-election to have bearing on 2022 general election: Pritam

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Pritam Singh has said that the by election of the Salt assembly would have a bearing on the assembly elections of the state slated in the year 2022. He made this observation while addressing a public meeting at Salt on Monday.

He said in the election of 2017, the people of Salt had voted for the BJP candidate whose unfortunate death resulted in the By election.

He said that everything in the Salt is clear as crystal and the Congress candidate Ganga Pancholi is winning the seat comfortably. The PCC president said that in the run up for the assembly election of 2017,

the BJP leaders and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised that the youth of the state would get employment if the BJP government is formed in the state. He said that the people of Uttarakhand gave a landslide victory and a big mandate to the BJP but the promise of employment has remained unfulfilled. Singh said that the unemployed youth are on a path of agitation in the state.

The PCC president held a series of meetings in different parts of Salt on the day and appealed to people to ensure the victory of the Congress candidate Pancholi. In the election campaign the deputy leader of Congress in state assembly Karan Mahra, former MP Mahendra Singh Pal, Jaspur

MLA Adesh Chauhan, Vice President Aryendra Sharma, general secretary organisation Vijay Saraswat, Hari Krishna Bhatt, Member AICC Sumit Hridayesh and others accompanied the PCC president.

The by election for the Salt assembly constituency would be held on April 17. The counting of the votes would be on May 2 and the results are expected on the day. The by-election is necessitated due to the death of the BJP MLA Surendra Singh Jeena. The Congress party has fielded Ganga Pancholi from the seat who had given a tough fight to Jeena in the election of 2017. The BJP on the other hand has fielded Mahesh Jeena who is the elder brother of Late

## Atal Utkirshat Vidyalayas

## Edu Minister discusses points with officials

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The education minister Arvind Pandey has said that the education department should spread awareness about the Atal Utkirshat Vidyalayas (AUV).

He gave these orders while undertaking a meeting of the officers of the department at his office in Vidhan Sabha on Monday.

In the meeting he said that these schools would be developed on the lines of the Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV) and for appointment of teachers on vacant posts in these schools,

a process similar to the KVs should be followed.

In the KVs the Principals are authorized to appoint teachers on the vacant posts for one academic year.

The minister also discussed other modalities for launching of these schools. AUV is a dream project of the BJP government of Uttarakhand and the department is planning to start these schools from the upcoming academic session.

Dedicated to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the AUVs are modelled on the lines of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV) and Navodaya

Vidyalayas. In an attempt to give competition to the private schools and provide quality education to the poor students residing in all parts of the state the state government has planned to open these schools.

In the meeting the minister also discussed the plan of one campus one school for the government schools of the state. He said that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 should be implemented in the state. Pandey also directed that the vacant posts of principals in the schools should be filled.

## Six men caught with live pangolin



PNS ■ HALDWANI

Six persons were detained while trying to smuggle a live pangolin near Gaurpadav area in Terai central forest division on Monday. The Terai central divisional forest officer Abhilasha Singh informed that the department received a tip off about some persons trying to smuggle a protected species wild animal.

During checks undertaken on Monday morning, a white

car was stopped and checked. The police found a jute bag in the back seat which was found to contain a live pangolin. The forest department booked the persons under the Wildlife Act 1972 and will present them in court. It is pertinent to mention here that the pangolin is listed in schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act. It is poached for its meat and scales which are smuggled to countries including China and Vietnam for use in traditional medicines.

## U'khand should be among top 5 States on sports map: CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat directed officials to ensure that the development of infrastructural facilities for the proposed 38th national games is completed in a time bound manner. Implementing the sports policy effectively, the target should be to establish Uttarakhand among the top five states on the sports map. Stating that budget should not be a concern, he directed the officials to identify the good talent in the state and develop them. The chief minister said this while chairing a review meeting of the sports department here on Monday evening.

The CM said that state government is committed to ensuring all possible facilities for the development of sports and sportspersons. He laid stress on the need for focusing on development of infrastructural facilities for successful implementation of sports



schemes. Efforts should continue to develop sports facilities in a planned manner and for providing a better environment for sportspersons in the state, stressed the CM.

Sports secretary Brijesh Kumar Sant informed that the Uttarakhand state cricket association was recognised by the BCCI in June 2018. Uttarakhand participated in the Vijay Hazare trophy for the first time and reached the quarter finals. He further said that 12 international cricket matches were organised by the ICC as part of two international series in Dehradun. In the youth Olympics, Lakshya Sen in badminton and Suraj Panwar in athletics had won silver medals and brought fame to the state at the international level.

The Sports minister Arvind Pandey, additional chief secretary Radha Raturi and other department officials concerned were also present in the meeting.

## People keen to observe Kanya Pujan this year though some remain cautious

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Though several devotees refrained from observing the Kanya Pujan ritual of Chaitra Navratri last year due to Covid-19 in Uttarakhand, many are looking forward this year to celebrate this ritual. Most of them opined that the Covid-19 pandemic was new at that time and people did not know much about the disease but this time, it is different as they are aware of how to tackle the disease this time. The Kanya Pujan ritual is observed on the eighth or ninth day of Navratri called Ashtami and Navmi respectively by the devotees who observe fast during this period. In this ritual, the devotees worship the young girls as goddesses and offer them Prasad that mainly include Poori, Chana and Halwa. Last year, many parents also refrained from sending their young daughters for

Kanya Pujan. However, most of the parents are not against it this time which evidently shows that the scare of Covid-19 is comparatively less among people here this year.

"Everything is functional from malls and marketplaces to tourist spots and restaurants where hundreds of people arrive and interact with each other. If people can go there amid the pandemic, what is wrong with observing a ritual that hardly takes 30 minutes? My family did not do Kanya Pujan last year but we would do it this time," said Dipti Rana, a resident of Roorkee. A Dehradun resident, Deepa Khansali said that there is no harm in conducting Kanya Pujan at home while observing all the precautions like people must observe at every other place during the pandemic. "I will make sure that I don't invite any sick child for Kanya Pujan but there is no harm in cele-

brating Navratri while taking all the precautionary measures. When the government can conduct Kumbh Mela amid the pandemic, then I think people can take care of nine children for a few hours," said Khansali. However, some opined that people should not observe the Kanya Pujan ritual at such critical times when the Covid-19 cases are rising in the State. "The cases are increasing consistently across the State. Even those people who are following proper guidelines are getting afflicted by Covid-19. How can people risk children's health for the sake of a ritual? We need to be practical and take every possible measure to restrict the contagion," said a school teacher from Haldwani, Deepa Bisht. She added that even if somebody is inviting young girls to Kanya Pujan, their parents should not send them considering the risk of contagion in the present times.

# CBI summons ex-Maha Home Minister over graft charges



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

On Sunday, the agency had grilled two Personal Assistants—Sanjeev Palande and Kundan—in connection with the ongoing PE for over eight hours. Two drivers of Waze were grilled on Sunday. Waze, an Assistant Police Inspector, is also an accused in the NIA case relating to investigation of parking of an explosive-laden SUV outside industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence in Mumbai.

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



Palande and Kundan, sources said.

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

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

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

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

alleged that Deshmukh had asked Waze to allegedly extort over ₹100 crore a month from nearly 1,700 bars and restaurants in Mumbai.

The High Court's order came in response to a petition from Singh seeking a CBI probe in the matter.

The CBI team of officers from the agency's headquarters here was sent to Mumbai to conduct the preliminary inquiry.

Till now, the agency has questioned Waze, Singh, Palande, Kundan, two drivers of Waze as also other officers of the Mumbai Police as of the inquiry.

According to the High Court directives, the CBI can take further action like registering a Regular Case (FIR) after the PE suggests prima facie substance in the corruption allegations in the matter.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

This strategic partnership project is worth over ten billion

dollars and several top aerospace giants are vying for the contract. The IAF desperately needs more modern aircraft as its squadron strength is fast depleting.

Against the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons (one squadron has 18-20 jets), the IAF now has only 30-odd squadrons. Moreover, some of the fighter jets are in the final stages of their operational life and will have to be replaced quickly to sustain operational readiness.

Officials said the conference of apex level leadership is aimed at addressing the issues of IAF's operational capabilities in the times to come. A series of discussions would be conducted over a period of three days to address strategies and policies related to capabilities that would give IAF a significant edge over its adversaries. Various welfare and Human Resource measures to improve HR and administrative efficiency will also be discussed.

The Commanders' Conference is a bi-annual conference held at Subroto Hall, Air Headquarters, Vayu Bhawan. The Conference provides a forum to the senior leadership of the IAF to discuss critical issues pertaining to Operations, Maintenance and Administration.

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

According to the National Weather Forecasting Centre of the IMD, under the influence of trough and cyclonic circulations over the south peninsula, scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with a thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kilometres per hour are very likely over southwest peninsula India in the next five days.

The IMD said isolated heavy rainfall is also likely over

south and ghat areas of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Mahe, coastal and south interior Karnataka during April 14-16. Another cyclonic circulation lies over southwest Madhya Pradesh and neighbouring areas.

Under its influence, isolated rainfall with thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) is very likely over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha during next 4-5 days and over Jharkhand during next 24 hours.

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

plains during April 15-17. It is very likely to cause scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with a thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) during April 14-17 over the western Himalayan region, and light, isolated to scattered rainfall with a thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) over adjoining plains during April 15-17.

Isolated hailstorms are also likely over Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad and Himachal Pradesh on April 14-16. Thunderstorm/dust storms at isolated places are also likely over west Rajasthan on April 14 and 15, it added.

# Now, Aahaar Kranti in India for balanced diet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Now, to spread the mes-

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



sage of the need for a nutritionally balanced diet and to help make people understand the importance of access to all local fruits and vegetables, Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan will launch a mission called 'Aahaar Kranti'.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kranti more meaningful. Diet and well-being are inseparable partners," said the statement.

India has the unique advantage of having the knowledge of Ayurveda. It is time to also apply this rich knowledge of Ayurveda-based nutrition to practice. The movement will work on this too.

The movement proposes to address the current situation of hunger in abundance by working to rouse the people to the values of India's traditional diet, to the healing powers of local fruits and vegetables, and to the miracles of a balanced diet. It will renew the focus on nutritionally balanced diets replete in locally sourced fruits and vegetables.

The programme will focus on training teachers, who, in turn, will pass on the message to the multitudes of students, and through them to their families and finally the society at large, said the statement.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a massive surge in the Covid-19 cases in the country once again, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighting certain issues and suggested some points to take into consideration to curb the spread of virus.

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

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

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

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

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

Reddy's. All who are advocating approval to Pfizer without bridge studies in India as part of a lobby should understand that Indian lives also matter and you cannot bully the Narendra Modi Government."

Sonia in her letter to PM also sought expansion of vaccination based on need and exposure rather than age and GST exemption for life-saving drugs and equipment.

"The numbers allocated to a state has to be based on the prevalence and projection of infection in that particular state. All instruments, medicines and infrastructure required to deal with COVID 19 should be made completely exempt from GST. Even ventilators, oximeters and oxygen cylinders presently attract GST as do key life-saving drugs like Remdesivir and Dexamethazone," the Congress chief mentioned said.

Sonia also battled for a minimum income guarantee scheme saying as states imposed curfews, economic activity would be hit hard impacting the poor and daily wagers the most.

"I appeal to you to put into place the much-needed scheme of minimum monthly guaranteed income in place and transfer an amount of Rs 6,000 in every eligible citizen's account," she said.

Earlier in the day former party chief Rahul Gandhi led the party's "Speak up for vaccines" social media campaign asking the PM to "stop events, stop exports of vaccines and give vaccines to everyone in need." He also said the PM had said COVID would be controlled in 18 days. "It has been 385 days," he said.

# Vice President calls for ending gender discrimination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Releasing a Commemorative Postage Stamp in memory of the former chief of the Brahma Kumaris, Rajyogini Dadi Janki, Naidu praised the Brahma Kumaris for being a women led organisation. He said that this worldwide movement has been an exemplary champion of empowerment and independence of women, demonstrating the fact that spiritual attainments transcend gender-based distinction.

Referring to Gargi and Maitreyi - two renowned women scholars of Vedic times,

Naidu said that India has a rich history of women leaders in every field. Mentioning that the divine feminine was worshipped in the form of 'Shakti' in ancient India, he called for reversing the decline in the values as reflected in widespread discrimination against women in society.

Stressing that spirituality is the basis of all religions, Naidu said that only spiritual knowledge can ensure true peace, unity and harmony in the world. Observing that today's individualistic lifestyle has increased the possibility of conflict with one's social or natural environment, the Vice President said that spirituality unites an individual with his social and natural environment. When such harmony exists, one can contribute positively to society and the world, he said.

# Assistant sanitary inspector in CBI net for bribery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Monday arrested an Assistant Sanitary Inspector and a temporary staff of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in a bribery case and recovered ₹38 lakh cash from another Sanitary Inspector during searches.

A case was registered against an Assistant Sanitary Inspector, MCD, Kishanganj, City SP Zone, New Delhi, Om Pal and was arrested in the case. The complainant working as temporary staff of MCD since 1998 has alleged that the MCD officials used to take the ATM cards of temporary staff and pay only part of their salary to them, officials said.

It was further alleged that the complainant's ATM card was with him and he did not

want to give it to MCD officials. The complainant has also alleged that he was, therefore, neither deployed for duty for the last six months nor paid any salary, the agency said.

The Assistant Sanitary Inspector was allegedly demanding a bribe of ₹8,000 from deploying him on duty. Accordingly, the first instalment of a bribe of ₹4,000 was allegedly negotiated, it said.

The CBI laid a trap and caught the Assistant Sanitary Inspector and a temporary staff of MCD, Delhi while demanding and accepting the said bribe amount from the complainant. During the search at the office of the accused, several incriminating documents including blank signed cheques and ATM cards were recovered.

# India must withdraw from Quad alliance: CPM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing the recent trespass of US Navy ships into Lakshadweep region, CPI on Monday said that India must withdraw from Quad alliance. The Communist party also blamed Modi Government for weak stand on US' arrogance.

"Communist Party of India expresses its

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

"Moreover, the arrogant statement of the Seventh Fleet exposes its

intentions not to respect the long-standing India's maritime claims.

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

joining the Quad alliance," CPI National Secretariat in a statement.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Research (CSIR) said on Monday.

The technologies were exhibited in the 'Conclave and Techno-Fair on Transforming Meghalaya State through Science and Technology Interventions' organised by the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR), an

autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), on April 9-10.

"The technologies exhibited by CSIR-CMERI at the conclave are the ginger-turmeric processing technologies, municipal solid waste management, solar tree and artifacts, complete water

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

purification technologies (arsenic-iron-fluoride) and solutions, effluent treatment plant, hybrid mini-grid among others," the CSIR said.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

that Wahab would be the Front's nominee.

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

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

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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On April 4, police received a complaint that the Nandi idol belonging to Vandana Malleswara Swamy temple, located in the Koundyana forest area near the Scheduled Tribes (ST) colony in Devalampeta locality of Jagamarla village in Palamaneru mandalam was stolen. Acting on temple priest S. Narasimulu's complaint, police registered a case under IPC Section 379 and started investigation.

Around 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, police received a tipoff that five people were moving suspiciously in

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

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

"General MM Naravane #COAS attended the #ClosingCeremony of Multinational Exercise #ShantirOgroseena2021 and addressed the participants of the exercise," the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) tweeted. During the Shantir Ogrosena 2021 (Frontrunners of Peace) exercise, he also interacted with the members of the Indian Army contingent and lauded them for their high standards of training and professionalism, according to another tweet. There were 30 personnel in the Indian Army contingent. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was the Chief Guest of the ceremony,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IANIS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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

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

# SUV PLANTING-HIRAN MURDER CASES

# Mumbai Police suspends Vaze's former colleague API Kazi

TN RAGHUNATHAN ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sources said that Kazi was

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

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

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

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

take over the investigations into the murder of Hiran.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

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

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

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# 6K Remdesivir vials arrive in Pune: Official

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IANIS ■ PATNA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PAPER WITH PASSION

## No golden rule

Armed Forces personnel react differently to different life-threatening situations

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



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

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

### PICTALK



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

PTI

## Tikait flexes muscles

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

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



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

# Nepal staring at political disquiet

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



RISHI GUPTA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### TIME TO REDEFINE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

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

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

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

#### MAMATA BANERJEE IS LIKE LAKSHMI BAI

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

#### CAPFs inept in handling law & order



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

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

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

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

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

#### NEED TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON COVID

Sir — It is unfortunate to note that the scourge of COVID-19 is still continuing worldwide. Right now, there has been unnecessary panic among the people despite all the serious efforts to fight the virus. As a result, my family members

### SOUNDBITE

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



Delhi CM — Arvind Kejriwal

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

Israeli Prime Minister — Benjamin Netanyahu

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

Actor — Govind Namdev

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

Cricketer — Shikhar Dhawan

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



Telangana's Cabinet Minister — KT Rama Rao

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

## REMEMBERING THE 'GREATEST INDIAN'

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



RATTAN LAL KATARIA

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



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

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

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

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

## Nix sovereign guarantee clause for the NaBFID

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



UTTAM GUPTA

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

The GOI, in turn, raises resources — albeit for providing budgetary support — by imposing cesses, fees and other levies such as the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), the Permanent Bridge Fees Fund (PBFF) and monetisation of the National Highways Fund (NHF). For instance, during 2020-21, out of the ₹22,500 crore allocated to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for executing roads and highways projects, the contribution of the above-mentioned funds was 49 per cent, 27 per cent and 24 per cent respectively.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## POINT-COUNTERPOINT

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

—WEST BENGAL CM

MAMATA BANERJEE



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

—UNION HOME MINISTER

AMIT SHAH

## Playing politics over vaccines will not help the cause

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

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

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

The pandemic helped the Governments focus on the



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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

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

Now, after one year, with the pandemic running into its

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

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

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



ment. The fact is that all the political parties have realised that COVID-19 has become a long-term game and they cannot simply sit and not play politics over it. So, everything, right from the approval of the vaccines to allocation to the States, is being politicised.

Former CM of Uttar Pradesh Akhilesh Yadav has declared that he would not take the "BJP vaccine". Others have questioned the efficacy of the vaccines and rightful-

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, this is not the

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

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

# Iran blames Israel for Natanz incident

AP ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

engage with Iran in its nuclear programme.

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

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

## COVID LOCKDOWN EASES IN ENGLAND

# 'Behave responsibly', urges Boris

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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



Customers sit outside a restaurant in Liverpool on Monday

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

"I urge everyone to continue to behave responsibly and remember 'hands, face, space and fresh air' to suppress

Covid as we push on with our vaccination programme," he said. According to some media reports, the UK PM will be among some of the first in line to get his haircut ahead of a special House of Commons

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

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

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

The Metropolitan Police

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the country has vaccinated 62 per cent of its 800,000 people. The rapid rollout of the vaccine puts the tiny nation just behind Seychelles, which has given jobs to 66 per cent of its population of nearly 100,000 people. Its small population helped Bhutan move fast, but its success has also been attributed to its dedicated citizen volunteers, known as "desuups," and established cold chain storage used during earlier vaccination drives.

Bhutan received its first 150,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine from neighbouring India in January, but the shots were distributed beginning in late March to coincide with auspicious dates in Buddhist astrology. AP

## Germany aims to unify restrictions

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

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

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

AP ■ LONDON

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

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

Monday brought the easing of restrictions that have

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

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

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

## Lebanon extends area claimed in border dispute with Israel

AP ■ BEIRUT (LEBANON)

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

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

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

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

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

## White House issuing reports on states' infra needs

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

## Muslims navigate restrictions in the 2nd pandemic Ramadan

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

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

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

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

another." Still, "It's a whole other feeling, and the spirituality in Ramadan is like nothing else."

Egypt has since allowed most mosques to reopen for Friday communal prayers and for this Ramadan it will let them hold taraweeh, also with precautions, including shortening its duration.

Ramadan, which begins this week, comes as much of the world has been hit by an intense new coronavirus wave. For many Muslims navigating restrictions, that means hopes of a better Ramadan than last year have been dashed with the surge in infection rates though regulations vary in different countries. AP

## Daunte Wright death in Minnesota traffic stop sparks unrest

AP ■ BROOKLYN CENTER, MINN.

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

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



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

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

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

**निदेशालय**  
महिला सशक्तिकरण एवं बाल विकास विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड  
मिकट नन्दा की चौकी, सुन्दरवाला विकासखण्ड रोड, देहरादून  
दूरभाष नं० 0135-2775813-2775814, ईमेल-[dir.icsds.uda@gmail.com](mailto:dir.icsds.uda@gmail.com)  
पत्र संचालक C-76/ महालक्ष्मी विड/2021-22 दिनांक 12 जून, 2021

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of ON Load Changeover Switch in Power Cars of Delhi Division.
Tender No.	30-Elect-1T-Chg-2021-22
Approx. cost of the works in (Rs.)	Rs. 47,91,080/-
Cost of tender form	Rs. 0.00
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 0.00
Period of completion of work	05 Months
Last date & time of submission of tender	03.05.2021 up to 15.00 Hrs.
And Opening of tender	03.05.2021 at 15.01 Hrs.
Website & notice board	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI
830/21	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please note that Marketing agencies, M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited, 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC, have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

Date: April 13, 2021  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE HARYANA, PANCHKULA	SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE (SERC), HARYANA 112	03.04.2021 17.04.2021	EMD 2 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	7988639705 haryana100.pol@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR BY PROVIDING AND LAYING WIDENING & STG. ON BABA JAGAN NATH MANDIR TO MATA MASSANI AT VILLAGE LOHARI JATTU FROM KM 0.00 TO 2.10 IN BHIWANI DISTT. (ROAD ID NO. 9980)	09.04.2021 03.05.2021	89.10 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01664242436 pwd-eeepd-bhiwani@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR SPECIFICATION, REQUIREMENT FOR PROVIDING CATERING SERVICES FOR PWD B&R REST HOUSE, SECTOR 1, PANCHKULA.	10.04.2021 29.04.2021		<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	pwd-eeepd-panchkula@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, FATEHABAD	SPECIAL REPAIR OF NEHLA TO KHERI ROAD KM 0 TO 5.70 (ROAD ID 5527) IN FATEHABAD DISTT. AND 09 OTHER WORKS	08.04.2021 03.05.2021	570.88 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01667220120 pwd-eeepd-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF SUB HEALTH CENTRE AT VILLAGE BAJEKAN IN SIRSA DISTRICT. + 1 NO. OTHER WORK.	15.04.2021 29.04.2021	75.86 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01666220530 pwd-eeepd1-sirsa@hry.nic.in
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, SIRSA	REPLACEMENT OF PUMPING MACHINERY, REPAIR OF WATER WORKS STRUCTURES, FHT CONNECTION AT VILLAGE BHOONA, DISTT. SIRSA * CONSTRUCTION & REPLACEMENT OF PUMPING MACHINERY, REPAIR OF EXISTING WATER WORKS STRUCTURES, PROVIDING FHT CONNECTION AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO AT WATER WORKS BHOONA*	09.04.2021 16.04.2021	10.45 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01666-221925 ee2sirsa@phedharyana.gov.in
7	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, SIWANI	UP GRADATION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) OF 4.00 MLD CAPACITY BASED ON MOVING BED BIO REACTOR (MBBR) TECHNOLOGY LOCATED AT TOSHAN ROAD, SIWANI TOWNSHIP	09.04.2021 15.04.2021	EMD 4 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	eesiwani@phedharyana.gov.in
8	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING KURUSHETRA	PROJECT REPORT B00 & COST ESTIMATE PREPARED BY EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION KURUSHETRA FOR UPGRADEATION & COMMISSIONING AFTER CONVERSION OF EXISTING & MLD CAPACITY SEWAGE TREATMENT BASED ON MOVING BED BIOLOGICAL	08.04.2021 28.04.2021	EMD 8 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2583005 eecorrd@phedharyana.gov.in
9	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, NARNAUL	RAW WATER ARRANGEMENT FOR PROPOSED MULTIMODEL LOGISTIC HUB AT NARNAUL, DISTRICT MOHINDERGARH, BY PROVIDING & LAYING 600MM DI PIPE LINE, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF RAW WATER BALANCING RESERVOIR, PUMP CHAMBER, PANEL ROOM, PUMPING MACHINERY, (ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL COMPONENTS) AT BOOSTING STATION NEAR ND-II AND ALL OTHER ALLIED WORKS.	CLOSING DATE 26.04.2021	1412.19 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xen-wsmr1.rrr@gov.in
10	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER COURSE OF Q/L RD 11260-R OF LOHGARH IST. DISTY. FOR A LENGTH OF 1600 FEET ( EXTENSION), +04 OTHER	CLOSING DATE 20.04.2021	4.78 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xenroris@rediffmail.com
11	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, KURUSHETRA	REPAIR OF 57L CANA DOWNSTREAM GATES AT BUDHERA COMPLEX, + 2 OTHER WORKS	09.04.2021 22.04.2021	29.13 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xenwsvmkra@gmail.com
12	PANCHAYATI RAJ, REWARI	CONSTT. OF 5 NOS OF AYURVEDIC DISPENSARY AT DISTT. REWARI	13.04.2021 26.04.2021	65.01 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	prexeeng.rwr@hry.gov.in
13	PANCHAYATI RAJ, JHAJJAR	CONST. OF 7 NOS. ANGANWARI CENTRE AND 1 NO. COMMUNITY CENTRE, DISTRICT JHAJJAR.	09.04.2021 22.04.2021	77.68 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	prexeeng.jjr@hry.nic.in
14	PANCHAYATI RAJ, JHAJJAR	CONST. OF BIOGAS PLANT AT VILLAGE MATANHAIL, BLOCK MATANHAIL, DISTRICT JHAJJAR.	09.04.2021 22.04.2021	72.72 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	prexeeng.jjr@hry.nic.in
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SIRSA	CONST. OF GOBAR GAS PLANT AT VILLAGE TEJA KHERA (RE-TENDER) BLOCK DABWALI DISTRICT SIRSA	10.04.2021 16.04.2021	83.65 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01666247479 prexeeng.srs@hry.nic.in
16	CIVIL SURGEON HEALTH DEPARTMENT HISAR	RC FOR PROCUREMENT OF TYRES & TUBES FOR AMBULANCE UNDER RTS 108 OFFICE OF CIVIL SURGEON HISAR	13.04.2021 22.04.2021	EMD-10000/-	<a href="http://www.nrhmharyana.gov.in">www.nrhmharyana.gov.in</a>	7015994459 dhs.cshsr@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

RO NO. 2561

# Remain watchful of evolving situation: RBI Gov to banks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Das touched upon the

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

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

Among other matters,

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

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

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

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

# Industrial production contracts 3.6% in Feb

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

However, power generation grew marginally by 0.1 per cent in the month under review.

The index had grown by 5.2 per cent in February 2020.

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

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

# Sebi norms on reporting formats for mutual funds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets watchdog Sebi on Monday came out with fresh guidelines on reporting formats for mutual funds.

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

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

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

With regard to quarterly report on activities of mutual

funds, Sebi said such report must contain details of number of live schemes as on last day of the quarter-end, schemes launched during the period including schemes which were launched but could not be constituted, details of existing schemes matured or wound up as well as schemes merged during the quarter.

For schemes which have been wound up, Sebi said details of payout should be provided during each quarter till the last payout for such schemes. Details of closed-ended schemes rolled-over, schemes that underwent fundamental attribute change, clearance received from Sebi to launch new schemes and details of Assets Under Management (AUM) need to be provided in the quarterly report.

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

# DoT extends network gear purchase restriction to satellite services

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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

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

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

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

# Online appointment must to visit DDA

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

Link and steps for booking of online appointment is available on DDA website under Online Public Service section. URL for the online appointment system: <https://citizenservices.dda.org.in/>

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Icra Ratings in a report said with revival in demand for

housing credit in the industry in the last two quarters, most of the HFCs have already reached near pre-Covid level disbursements and are targeting to achieve further higher disbursements in Q4 FY2021.

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

According to Icra's vice president and sector head Sachin Sachdeva, given the cash flow stress faced by the borrowers, the overdues of HFCs have increased in the first nine months of FY2021 as reflected by proforma GNPA

of around 2.7 per cent as on December 31, 2020 as compared to reported GNPA of 2.4 per cent as on March 31, 2020.

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

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

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

# Dr Reddy's shares jump 5 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

In September last year, the company had partnered with

the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) to conduct clinical trials of Sputnik V and for its distribution rights in India.

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

On the National Stock

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

It was the biggest gainer on both the indices.

The company's market valuation gained Rs 3,817.36 crore to Rs 82,966.36 crore on the BSE. An expert panel of India's central drug authority has recommended granting approval to Russian COVID-19 vaccine

Sputnik V for emergency use in the country with certain conditions, sources said. The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) on Monday took up the application of Dr Reddy's Laboratories seeking emergency use authorisation for Sputnik V.

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

MG George Muthoot (1949-2021), Group Chairman of The Muthoot Group of Companies spent all his life relentlessly striving to ensure that millions of marginalised people across the length and breadth of our country benefitted from

Financial Inclusion. His unparalleled philanthropic and CSR initiatives coupled with huge popular and affordable products & services provided countless Indians with the benefits of a formal financial system, transforming their dreams into productive reality.

**राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम**  
सूचनालय जयपुर

**ई-बोली सूचना**

निगम द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-बोली के माध्यम से निम्नलिखित प्रक्रिया में ऑन लाइन बोलिया आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली से सम्बन्धित विस्तार विवरण वेबसाइट [www.rsrctc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.rsrctc.rajasthan.gov.in) एवं <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है-

क्र. संख्या	ई-बोली सूचना संख्या	कार्य	यूबीएन नम्बर
1	01/2021-22	निगम द्वारा सरकार से मान्यता प्राप्त पंजीकृत संस्था/मृत्युपूर्व सेनिकों की सहायकी समिति से 800 बालकों की सेवा अनुबंध पर लेने हेतु निम्नलिखित प्रक्रिया में ई-बोली प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑन लाइन बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है।	RT2C2122SLOB00020

राज.संवाद/सी/21/535 दिनांक 13/03/2021-22 उच्च महा प्रबन्धक (प्रशासन)

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 32 UBL 2021 Dated: 09.04.2021

The undersigned, on behalf of President of India invites E-tenders (IREPS) for the following works.

Sr.	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1.	Annual maintenance contract for 34 IPS systems of M/s. Station Power Control Systems Pvt. Ltd, Make installed over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 66,14,087.04/-
2.	Minichinal Station : Proposed modification of Electronic Interlocking System at Minichinal Station in view of closure of LC No: 92 at km 209/790 between Minichinal - Nimbal stations in Gadag - Hotgi section over Hubballi Division in lieu of LHS work.	Rs. 11,93,076.55/-

3. Hubballi Section : Rs. 58,08,158/-  
Sub Work I: Providing track machine siding at Vyasa Colony Yard in Senior Divisional Engineer / East Jurisdiction. (PID No. 14.02.31.19.6.00.003) Sub Work II: (TVR/ECW) - 193.124 km (184 SEJ). (PID No. 14.02.31.20.1.51.009) Sub Work III : TTR (P) on bridge and approaches 7.11 km in patches (PID No. 14.02.31.2.0.1.51.001) Sub Work IV : TTR (P) with 60 km rails from km 208/3-211/200 between Hosapete - Ballari (up Line) section for a length of 2.90 km (PID No.14.02.31.19.6.51.004) Sub work V: Chikjajur - Hubballi Section : TFR without TBR between Gudageri - Saunshi station from km 431.900-438.300 for a length of 6.4 km (Gudageri Station) (PID No. 14.03.31.18.6.52.023) Sub work VI : Chikjajur - Hubballi Section : TFR without TBR between Kundgol - Hubballi South station from km 453.6-458.3 for a length of 4.7 km (Kundgol Station) (PID No. -14.03.31.18.6.52.031) Sub work VII : Chikjajur - Hubballi Section : TFR without TBR between Gudageri - Kundgol station from km 444.200-448.900 for a length of 4.7 km. (Saunshi Station) (PID No. -14.03.31.18.6.52.027) Sub work VIII: Chikjajur - Hubballi Section : TFR without TBR between Yalvigi - Gudageri station from km 422.300-427.100 for a length of 4.8 km (Yalvigi Station) (PID No.14.03.31.18.06.52.020) Sub work IX : Hubballi - Miraj - CTR (P) for a length of 31.3 km in patches. Total length of 31.3 km (PID No.14.02.31.20.01.51.003)

Last date of submission of bids: Up to 11:00 hrs of 07.05.2021

For details log on: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Divisional Railway Manager  
Signal & Telecommunication, Hubballi

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Ravishankar, S/o Late Sh. Kishan, R/o H. No. 403/3, Chand Nagar, Subash, Nagar, Delhi, Age: 62 years, Height : 5'4", Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Red Coat Pant, Cream Colour Shirt and Red Shoes** in his feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar, West Delhi since 15.03.2021. In this regard a DD No. 34A dated 03.03.2021 has been registered at PS Paschim Vihar, West Delhi.

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

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in) SHO  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641 PS Paschim Vihar, West Delhi  
Fax : 011-24368639  
DP/786/OD/2021 Ph. : 011-25268394, 25280980

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

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

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

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

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

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

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

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

S.H.O  
P.S. Narela, Delhi  
Ph. : 011-27280435, 27282350

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

पत्र संख्या: 278 दिनांक: 12/04/2021

**Date Extension**

Due to unavoidable reason dates in Tender No. 25/EE(Maint)/Khodri/2020-21 - Under water inspection of draft tube tubes and associated structure of Khodri power station shall be read as below, all other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.

Last date for submission of bid: 21-04-2021 (upto 16:00 Hrs)  
Date of opening of bid: 22-04-2021 (11:00 Hrs.)

For downloading tender documents and other details, Kindly visit our portal "<https://www.ujvn.com/>"

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

**निदेशालय**  
महिला सशक्तिकरण एवं लक्ष्य विकास विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड  
निकट नया की चौकी, सुबेद्योला विकासखण्ड, देहरादून  
दूरभाष नं० 0135-2775813-2775814, ईमेल-[dir.icds.ujv@gmail.com](mailto:dir.icds.ujv@gmail.com)

पत्र संख्या C-69/अनुपूरक पोषाहार-8723/2021-22 दिनांक 12 अप्रैल, 2021

**ई-निविदा संशोधन सूचना**

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

उप निदेशक

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

[See proviso to rule 8(B)]  
Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited, 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC, have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4ps](http://www.icicibank.com/n4ps)

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

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

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

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

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Naraina, New Delhi at E-mail [icic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:icic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Naraina, New Delhi  
Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-25891181, 25892010, DP/397/WD/2021 8750871122, 9718838396

**Appeal for Identification**

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: **Alam, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 40 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Sex: Male, Face: Round, Built: Medium, ID Mark: Old scar mark between both eyebrow. Wearing : Purple colour shirt, coca cola colour pant, yellow and red colour linerad towel bare foot was found at opposite shop no 3018, Gali No. 1, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, dt.**

09.04.2021 Delhi. In this regard, a DD No. 38, dated 09.04.2021 has been lodged at PS Pahar Ganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at LHMC Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any, person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform the following.

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



**Antioxidants Help**

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



**DOCYARD**  
DR PARESH DOSHI

Director of Neurosurgery

JASLOK HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE, MUMBAI



Look out for tremors



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

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

The third common symptom again associated with tremors and slowness is the change in handwriting. It is not surprising for many patients to be diagnosed with Parkinson's disease following change in handwriting. The typical change in handwriting is that when they start to write, the letters are legible and of proper height but as the sentence progresses, they continue to decrease in the height, and they become illegible. In medical terminology we call this micrographia.

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

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

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

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

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

**SUMMERCoolERS**

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



getting the vaccination done, one must follow all the safety precautions that are laid out by the Government. Becoming complacent is one of the major reasons of people catching the infection even after getting the jab," Dr Verma tells you.

Dr Satish Kaul, HOD and Director, Internal medicine, Narayana Hospital, Gurugram, says that vaccines are surely safe if doses are taken within prescribed time that too with all required precautions.

"We need to understand that vaccine basically provides protection from the severity of the disease; it saves us from getting chronically sick. It potentially saves us practically from ICU, ventilators and oxygen support, it helps to weaken the mechanism of disease in human body. Hence, vaccine beneficiaries are supposed to continue wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and COVID appropriate behaviour even after getting vaccinated," he suggests.

Also after taking second dose be extra cautious for at least two weeks, follow all precautionary measures. "Experts believe that one has to not get infected for at least two weeks after getting the second dose in order for the vaccine to be effective. Hence, these two weeks are the most crucial," Kaul adds.

**YOUNG ONES STAY INDOORS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**DadiKaKehna**

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



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

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

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

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

Drink coconut water a couple of times in a day.

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

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

Wear loose fitting clothes. Eat a healthy. Yogurt is a great cooling food and

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

The juice of coriander



**BOND FOR LIFE**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



**INBRIEF**

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

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

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

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



**Bollywood**  
 'Let's not forget that the 'mask'erade is not over yet.'  
 —Vidya Balan

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/>

## TRENDBLAZER

### GAUAHAR TALKS ABOUT LIFE AFTER MARRIAGE



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

### fairtalk



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

### dailytalk



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

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



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



## LET IT ALL OUT

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

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

teachers and schools will now play will be in providing parents with the correct guidance, advice and support in helping students manage their stress.  
 Here are the three main things parents should keep in mind while helping their children:  
 □ **Talk to them about the current situation**  
 The pandemic has been around long enough, and its effects will continue to be there, both good and bad. Avoiding difficult conversations will only make matters more confusing and stressful for children. Parents should calmly explain the current scenario to children, and work with them through their feelings. By doing so, parents will be better preparing them for uncertain situations and how they can cope with it in future.

Remember to be truthful in situations where you may not have the answer. Children will appreciate the honesty and learn that it is ok that we don't always know everything. Do not pretend like nothing is wrong. Kids are more intuitive than we think and they can pick up when things are not right. It's important to acknowledge and validate their feelings of fear, and let them know that it is ok to have those feelings.  
 Balance out the conversations by ensuring to share some good news as well, let them know that it's not all bad out there. And most importantly, make sure conversation is continuous. Encourage them to talk to you, communicate with you and make sure to check on their feelings at frequent intervals.  
 □ **Helping them deal with big and difficult feelings**

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



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

giving kids a hug to make them feel safe or deep breathing, slow body movements to help them slow down their mind and emotions. Once they have coped with their big overwhelming feelings, now is the time to solve the problem. Teach them that once they have reached a calmer stage, their minds will be in a better place to think of the best solution and not the fastest solution to the problem. So now, you can both revisit the problem together and assess what possible solutions you can come up to tackle the problem at hand.  
 □ **Proactive tools to make your family feel safe**  
 Proactive tools or strategies are those which help us take charge of our own decision making and problem-solving. These help us

plan for specific issues or scenarios that may arise and be prepared for them. Being prepared and ready will only help children feel more confident and secure when the situation arises as they won't be lost or confused with how to react. The important proactive tools to equip children with is helping them schedule their day, and to follow a routine. If they know how the day is going to be, it helps them be more prepared both emotionally and mentally.  
 Other important tools for children are adequate exercise, sleep, food and water. Many studies prove that children need up to one full hour of exercise in a day which helps with their mental and physical health.  
 Last but not least, it's important for students to stay connected with

people, be it family that doesn't live with them or their friends who they would otherwise play with at school. Staying connected with their friends is critical to their happiness, as it gives them companionship and helps maintain good mental health. Make sure to celebrate all the birthdays, anniversaries, holidays like you would otherwise, follow patterns that you would otherwise do. By staying connected with the world around them will help students to have a sense of normality through these tough times.  
 By keeping the above advice in mind parents, teachers and schools for that matter can keep an open line of communication with the children, allowing them to address their feelings and rationally work through them without getting overwhelmed or stressed out about it. Balancing the socio-emotional development of children, and helping them appropriately navigate through this time gives students the skills which they carry with them into adulthood and learn how to stop, analyse, and problem solve whenever they come upon a difficult situation.  
 (The writer is the MD of The Green Acres Academy.)



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

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

### Toofaan a dream project for Mrunal

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



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

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

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 Phone- 0612-2675933, 2675935, Fax-2675934

**NOTICE INVITING SHORT RE-TENDER No.- 07/TEN/IDA/21**  
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निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए समुचित श्रेणी में केन्द्रीय सरकार/राज्य सरकार/ उपक्रम/ बोर्ड/ निगम में नियमित अथवा ख्याती प्राप्त राष्ट्रीय/अन्तरराष्ट्रीय स्तर के Agency से प्रतिशत / मद्दवार निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।  
 कार्य का विवरण :

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

**निविदा समय सारणी (Tender Schedule)**

क्र.सं.	नतिविधि	स्थान, तिथि एवं समय
1	विज्ञापनदाता का नाम	आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पूरव, पटना-800004
2	निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि	दिनांक 07.04.2021
3	निविदा डाउनलोड तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 15.04.2021 से 24.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे तक (on <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
4	प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	दिनांक 19.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पूरव, पटना-4
5	निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 26.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे तक (on <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
6	अग्रचन राशि एवं सभी शपथ पत्र की मूल प्रति जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	दिनांक 27.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे तक पी0डी00 शाखा, आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पूरव, पटना-800004
7	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 27.04.2021 को 15:30 बजे (on <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
8	वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के पश्चात। (on <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
9	निविदा वैधता की अवधि	120 दिन

निविदा की विस्तृत शर्तों एवं आवश्यक सूचना आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार एवं कार्यपालक अभियंता (पी.डी.ई.) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है एवं कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट एवं वेबसाइट [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) / [www.idabihar.com](http://www.idabihar.com) पर देखा जा सकता है।  
 PR- 000362 (Ni.Ni.) 2021-22 **कार्यपालक अभियंता (पी0डी00)**  
 किसी भी तरह आपदा की जानकारी अथवा सूचना हेतु आपदा प्रबंधन के हेल्पलाइन नं. 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

# CAPTAIN PUNJAB

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

KL Rahul and Deepak Hooda pummelled the Rajasthan Royals bowlers into submission with their sensational stroke play, propelling Punjab Kings to an imposing 221 for six in the IPL here on Monday.

While Rahul smashed seven fours and five sixes in his 50-ball 91, Hooda, playing his first game since the last IPL, plundered six maximums and four boundaries as he blazed his way to 64 off just 28 balls.

Put into bat, Punjab lost opener Mayank Agarwal (14) early, who edged it back to Royals captain and wicket-keeper Sanju Samson for IPL debutant Chetan Sakariya's first wicket.

He ended being the pick of the bowlers, conceding only five runs in the 20th over.

Rahul, who got his first four with a glance to the fine-leg fence, and Chris Gayle (40 off 28) gave the team a good start with their 67-run stand.

Rahul got a 'life' after Ben Stokes dropped him at the fence in the seventh over even as Gayle, looked in his elements.

The duo then took on Stokes, as Gayle hit his 350th IPL six, a pull over deep square in the 8th over with Punjab racing to 70 for one.

Gayle was dropped by leggie Rahul Tewatia (0/25) off his own bowling and the very next ball, the left-hander smashed a six.

However, in the 10th over, Riyan Parag (1/7) removed Gayle, who was holed out to Stokes in the deep.

Rahul then changed gears and got to his fifty with a six over Shivam Dube's (0/20) head in the 13th over.

Hooda then smashed two maximums in the same over and then struck three sixes off Shreyas Gopal (0/40) in the next as Punjab went ballistic.

It was Rahul and Hooda's show at



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

### GAYLE'S FIRST INNINGS OF A SEASON FOR PUNJAB

RUNS	BALLS	OPPOSITION	VENUE	YEAR
63	33	Chennai Super Kings	Mohali	2018
79	47	Rajasthan Royals	Jaipur	2019
53	45	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Sharjah	2020
40	28	Rajasthan Royals	Mumbai	2021

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

—DEEPAK HOODA

the Wankhede that made the difference to their total as the duo tore into the opposition attack on way to their 105-run stand.

Courtesy their monstrous hitting, Punjab added 111 runs in the final eight overs.

Hooda, who had made a 62 against CSK in his last competitive game in November, had stormed out of the Baroda camp ahead of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy after claiming that Krunal Pandya misbehaved with him. Hooda was subsequently suspended.

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

  

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

  

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

## SUMMER SLAM



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

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

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

**AVESH TAKES HIS DREAM WICKET**  
DC pacer Avesh Khan said he fulfilled a long-cherished dream when he got former India skipper MS Dhoni's prized wicket. "Three years ago, I had a chance to take Mahi bhai's wicket, but somebody had dropped the catch. But now my dream of taking Mahi bhai's wicket is fulfilled, so I am very happy about it," Avesh said."

**SHAW MADE COMEBACK LIKE CHAMPION**  
DC opener Shikhar Dhawan heaped praise on his batting partner Prithvi Shaw, who made 72 off 38 balls against CSK. "It was lovely to watch Prithvi bat so effortlessly and timing the ball so nicely. He went through a bad patch earlier and has come back as a champion. I am so happy to see him perform that well."

### POINTS TABLE

	P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1 DC	1	1	0	+0.779	2
2 KKR	1	1	0	+0.500	2
3 RCB	1	1	0	+0.050	2
4 PBKS	0	0	0	+0.000	0
5 RR	0	0	0	+0.000	0
6 MI	1	0	1	-0.050	0
7 SRH	1	0	1	-0.500	0
8 CSK	1	0	1	-0.779	0

## MI for Knight Riders

### KEY PLAYERS

**NITISH RANA**  
Rana adds value to KKR with an ability to stabilise the innings and accelerate when required

**KRUNAL PANDYA**  
The Sr Pandya is never out of the game be it with the ball in hand or with the bat

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Fresh from their clinical display against Sunrisers Hyderabad, two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to set the record straight against nemesis Mumbai Indians in their second match here on Tuesday.

They have won just once in their last 12 games against MI, and have an overall lopsided 6-21 head-to-head record.

Having missed the last two playoffs, KKR looked a completely different unit, in the manner in which they defeated SRH on Sunday.

Be it the aggression shown by the top-order or the explosive finish by Dinesh Karthik, KKR's displayed a fearless approach under skipper Eoin Morgan.

The left-right opening combination of Nitish Rana and Shubman Gill started to attack right from the first ball, clearly indicating that the new approach had Morgan's success mantra written all over it.

But on Tuesday it will all boil down to battle of wits between Morgan and Rohit Sharma, under whose captaincy MI has won a record fifth IPL title last season in UAE.

MI will pose real challenge for KKR as the title holders would be desperate to secure their first win of the season after their two-wicket loss to Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL opener.

KRR found it easy against SRH bowlers, which lacked fire-power but in Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult, MI attack will be a completely different proposition.

Gill's struggle to bat at T20 pace has been a concern for KKR and it will be interesting to see the young opener's approach against the finest in the business. In his debut match for MI, Chris Lynn was their top-scorer, albeit with some stroke of luck as he survived some edges and mishits.



VENUE: CHIDAMBARAM STADIUM, CHENNAI

### HEAD TO HEAD

Matches	27
Kolkata Knight Riders	06
Mumbai Indians	21

### LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

- Mumbai Indians defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by 49 runs at Abu Dhabi
- Mumbai Indians beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 8 wickets at Abu Dhabi

954

Shubman Gill who scored 954 runs at an average of 32.89 in 39 innings of 42 matches, needs 44 runs to become 11th batsman to score over 1000 runs for Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL

47

Krunal Pandya who took 47 wickets at an average of 32.61 in 70 innings of 42 matches, needs three wickets to become the sixth bowler to complete a fifty of wickets for Mumbai Indians in IPL

Faisal Features

## Women's T20 Challenge likely to remain three-team affair

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI is likely to stick to three teams for the Women's T20 Challenge tournament, usually held during the IPL play-offs.

The Board had planned to increase the exhibition event to four teams last year but it will continue to be a three-team affair due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since the delayed IPL was held in the September-November window last year, the Women's Challenge clashed with the WBBL, making the Australian players unavailable.

"As of now the plan is to have three teams. A final decision will be taken shortly. There is a good chance that it will be held in Delhi. Talks are on with the leading Australian and England players," a BCCI official said on Monday.

The last edition, comprising four games, was held in Sharjah as the IPL play-offs took place in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The decision on the event could be taken during BCCI's

Apex Council meeting on April 16, when the appointment of Indian women's team support staff and its Future Tours Programme will also be discussed.

The Indian players have been badly short on match practice amid the pandemic. India played their first series in a year last month when they lost both the ODI and T20 series to the visiting South African team.



The 'setback' called Covid-19 behind him, RCB opener Devdutt Padikkal is now completely ready to play his part in the IPL, and confident of replicating his stupendous domestic form. The 20-year-old left-hander represented Karnataka in Vijay Hazare in March and was the second highest run-getter (737 runs) in the tourney

## Bayern can beat PSG: Kimmich

MUNICH: Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich is convinced the holders can beat Paris Saint-Germain at the Parc des Princes on Tuesday in their Champions League quarter-final second leg to reach the last four. "I believe that we will progress, because we're the better team," Kimmich told the club's website. Bayern need to overturn a 3-2 defeat from last week's first leg in Munich. "We were the better team in the first leg, but unfortunately the result didn't correspond to the performance," added Kimmich. "Nevertheless, I'm confident that we can still turn it around in the second leg." Despite peppering the PSG goal with 31 shots, 12 on target, Bayern lost the first leg at home after Kylian Mbappe converted, twice, and Marquinhos scored as PSG had just four shots on target.

स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2021

स्वच्छता को रुड़की की पहचान बनाना मेरी जिम्मेदारी है... हम सबकी जिम्मेदारी है

हिन्दू विक्रमी संवत् 2078 पर शहर की जनता से अपील है कि स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के तहत घर-घर से कड़ा पृथक्कीकरण कर मगर निगम रुड़की को सहयोग प्रदान करें!

कम्प्यूटर्ड स्वच्छता को ठीक क्या करें-

1. मिट्टी का चढ़ा नें और उसको सहाय्य कर दें।
2. खाद बनाने वाले बर्तन में सबसे पहले पीछे पेट्टों की मुकी चर्चियों का उपयोग किया जाये।
3. रसोई में निकालने वाले पीले कचरे को हार रोज जलमें डालने हैं।
4. गूना करने के 3-4 दिन उपरान्त विपरीत रूप से चार निचले ड्रग्स उपरान्त कचरे को पीले कचरे का गूना/गोला/टोपी को 50-100 मि.मी. पीले में धोनाकर डालें।
5. 45-50 दिनों में आपका घर को गणना और पीछे की गिरे गीले कचरे का निकास हो जायेगी।

आपको ड्रग छोटे प्रयासों से आश्चर्यजनक बदलाव आयेगा!

रुड़की को आदर्श शहर बनाने में आप सभी का सहयोग अपेक्षित है।

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रुड़की

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महानगर स्वच्छता अधिकारी  
रुड़की

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