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NEW DELHI, TUESDAY APRIL 13, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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# EC slaps 24-hour ban on Mamata

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# India's daily rise outnumbers US-Brazil total

## India records over 1.6 lakh new cases; total count increases 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 over 1.6 lakh, going past the US and Brazil combined. India now has the second-highest number of cases in the world with the total crossing 1.36 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.

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## Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 1,36,86,073 (+1,60,694)

DEATHS: 1,71,089 (+880)

RECOVERED: 1,22,50,440 (+96,727)

ACTIVE: 12,58,906

MAHARASHTRA: 34,58,996

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-



gency 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 Covid19 vaccines — Covaxin of Bharat Biotech and Covishield of Oxford-AstraZeneca manufactured by Serum Institute of India in Pune.

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## Night curfew imposed on Haryana

Chandigarh: The Haryana Government on Monday imposed night curfew on 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).

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

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

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## 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.

Continued on Page 2

# 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 to 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

### SUSHIL CHANDRA APPOINTED CEC

New Delhi: Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra was on Monday appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner, the Law Ministry said. Chandra will assume charge on April 13.

### CBI CALLS DESHMUKH FOR QUESTIONING TOMORROW

New Delhi: The CBI has called former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh for questioning on Wednesday in connection with allegations of corruption levelled against him by former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh and suspended officer Sachin Waze, officials said.

# Despite Covid fear, Kumbh Shahi Snan retains its charm

## At 31 lakh taking holy dip, number falls by two-thirds on 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



# COVID-19 VP, PM to interact with Guv tomorrow

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with Governors of various states on April 14 on the COVID-19 situation, sources said on Monday.

It would be the first meeting of this kind during the pandemic and has been convened amid the Centre looking to push for stronger adherence to the pandemic protocols among citizens across the country.

The development comes days after Modi in a virtual

meeting with chief ministers had called for the involvement of governors in handling the pandemic and also of personalities from different fields to push compliance with COVID-appropriate behaviour and pandemic management guidelines, including for providing vaccination to eligible people.

The meeting comes amid a surge in COVID-10 cases across the country. India hit a new coronavirus infection record with 1,68,912 cases, taking the total tally of cases to 1,35,27,717, according to the health ministry data updated on Monday.

## Judge who gave Babri case verdict appointed ‘Up-lokayukta’

**Lucknow:** Retired judge Surendra Kumar Yadav, who gave the verdict in the high-profile Babri mosque demolition case, took oath as an ‘up-lokayukta in Uttar Pradesh on Monday.

"Yadav was appointed as third 'up-lokayukta' by the Governor on April 6. On Monday, Yadav was administered oath by Lokayukta Sanjay Mishra in the presence of other senior officers," an official statement said here.

The anti-corruption watchdog comprises the Lokayukta and three 'up-lokayuktas'.

As a judge of special CBI court, Yadav gave the verdict in the Babri mosque demolition case on Sep 30, 2020, acquitting all the accused including BJP veterans LK Advani, MM Joshi, Uma Bharti and Kalyan Singh.

The Lokayukta is from a non-political background and functions as a statutory authority probing into cases primarily related to corruption, government mismanagement, or abuse of power by public servants or ministers. **PTI**

## 2 children run away from home, traced in 12 hours

**Erode (TN):**Two children, who ran away from their house here as they were not allowed by their grandfather to step out for fear of contracting coronavirus, were traced within 12 hours, police said on Monday.

The boy (7) and his sister (12) - children of working parents packed their clothes and left home on Saturday afternoon. They ran away while the father and mother were at work, the police said.

The two said they were orphans in search of jobs in petty shops and tea stalls, they said.

After walking three-and-a-half kilometres, they went to an old woman's house and asked her food.

She gave them food and the two remained there and slept, the police said.

Meanwhile, the parents of the two, after returning from work, found them missing and sought police help.

With the help of CCTV footage and enquiry, the police traced the children to the aged woman's house on Sunday and handed over the boy and girl to their parents. **PTI**

## No meals...

**From page 1**

"Airlines are permitted to serve only pre-packed snacks, meals and pre-packed beverages on flights that have a duration of more than two hours, subject to the conditions include that in all classes, tray set up, plates and cutlery will be completely disposable with no re-use, or cleaned and disinfected rotatable will be used; Used disposable trays/crockery's/cutlery shall not be used; In all classes, tea/coffee/alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage services will be in disposable cans/containers/bottles glasses and there will be no pouring service. The servicing of in-flight meals must be staggered among the adjacent seats as far as possible," it added. The Ministry asked airlines to inform passengers before the start of catering services by way of passenger announcements.

The Ministry noted that currently three strains of the

SARS-CoV-2, which causes the coronavirus disease, currently in circulation in India have been detected in various countries. "All three variants of the UK, South Africa and Brazil have demonstrated increased transmissibility, as reported by the World Health Organization. Meanwhile in India, the number of Covid-19 cases are increasing," it said.

India has overtaken Brazil to become the second-most affected country globally in terms of Covid cases, after the USA. India's overall tally reached 1.35 crore, surpassing Brazil's 1.34 crore cases.

When scheduled domestic flights were resumed on May 25 after coronavirus lockdown last year, the Ministry had allowed the airlines to serve in-flight meals under certain conditions. Meanwhile, the surge in cases has prompted Air India to opt for 100 per cent pre-flight testing for crew operating nonstops to US, UK, Canada and Australia. Air India has also started post-flight testing for crew on flights from UAE, UK and Europe.

## Maha Covid cases drop by 11,500, records 51,751 cases, deaths fall from 349 to 258

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

In some relief to the health authorities in the worst pandemic-hit state of Maharashtra, the number of Covid-19 infections dropped by more than 11,500 cases on Monday, while the daily Coronavirus deaths also came down by 91.

A day after the state logged an all-time high of 63,294 infections and 349 deaths, the number of new cases came down to 51,751, while the daily deaths dropped to 258. The drop in the number of infections is being seen as a fallout of the effective implementation of Covid-19 restrictions across the state.

With 51,751 fresh cases, the total infections climbed from 3,40,7245 to 3,45,8996 Similarly, with 258 new deaths, the total Covid-19 toll rose from 57,987 to 58,245. As 52,312 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year went up to 28,34,473. The recovery rate in the state for the first time in several days increased from 81.65 per cent to 8.94 per cent.

Similarly, the number of "active cases" total cases in the state dropped from 5,65,587 to 5,64,746 cases. The fatality rate in the state dropped from 1.70 per cent to 1.68 per cent.

With 43 fresh deaths, the

Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 12,023 to 12066, while the infected cases went up by 6893 to trigger a jump in the infections from 5,20,498 to 5,27,391.

While Pune accounted for a maximum 11,000 "active cases" in the state, Mumbai stood second with 89,125 active cases, followed by Thane (75,683), Nagpur (59,756), Nashik (37,760), Aurangabad (15542), Ahmednagar (13,107), Nanded (11,427), Bhandara (11362), Jalgaon (10694), Latur (10,456) Buldhana (8193), Parbhani (7824), Beed (7472), Nandurbar (7181), Chandrapur (6331) and Gondia (5263).

## SC notice to Centre, others on plea raising issue of discrimination against transgenders

**New Delhi:**The Supreme Court Monday asked the Centre and others to reply to a plea seeking directions to establish a welfare board for transgenders and to appoint a committee to promptly probe reports of their alleged gross abuse by the police.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde agreed to hear the plea filed by a Mumbai-based organisation which has said that transgenders should be treated with the same dignity and respect as others while claiming that they have suffered discrimination for ages and are deprived of social and cultural participation.

"We are issuing notice," said the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, advocate C R Jaya Sukin, who appeared for the petitioner, said that it is a sensitive matter and the welfare board for transgenders was needed to address their social welfare issues. **PTI**

## MP HC grants bail to woman to look after her hospitalised son

**Indore:**The Madhya Pradesh High Court's Indore Bench on Monday ordered the release of a 23-year-old woman, arrested in connection with an illicit liquor case, on bail to enable her to take care of her eight-month-old son who is currently hospitalised.

The High Court especially sat on a holiday to hear the bail plea of the woman.

While hearing the case, Justice Sujoy Paul of the Indore bench directed to release Khushi Yadav immediately from a local jail on the bail of Rs 30,000 and a surety of the equal amount.

"Considering the fact that applicant has a small child, who is already hospitalised, without expressing any conclusive opinion on the merits of the case, I deem it proper to enlarge the applicant on bail. Accordingly, the bail application is allowed," Justice Paul noted.

## India's...

**From page 1**

As on Monday cumulatively, 10,45,28,565 vaccine doses have been administered through 15,56,361 sessions, as per the provisional report till 7 AM. These include 90,13,289 healthcare workers (HCWs) who have taken the 1st dose and 55,24,344 HCWs who have taken the 2nd dose, 99,96,879 frontline workers (FLWs) (1stdose), 47,95,756 FLWs (2nddose), 4,05,30,321 1st dose beneficiaries and 19,42,705 2nd dose beneficiaries more than 60 years old and 3,20,46,911 (1st dose) and 6,78,360 (2nd dose) beneficiaries aged 45 to 60.

## Health is priority! Maha...

**From page 1**

The Minister said the decision to postpone the Classes 10 and 12 board examinations was taken after consultations with various stakeholders — students, teachers, parents, elected representatives from across parties, academicians & tech giants — in the wake of rising coronavirus cases. "I also thank @cmomaharashtra for his guidance & approval," she tweeted. "During the consultations, various alternative assessment options were evaluated keeping the health, well-being and future of our students in mind. Postponing exams seemed to be the most pragmatic solution," the Minister said. Varsha said the State Government would be writing to the CBSE, ICSE, IB, Cambridge boards, requesting them to reconsider their exams dates. It may be recalled that on April 3, the Maharashtra Government had — as a consequence of the severe Covid-19 that the State is reeling under — announced that all State board students from Class 1 and 8 would be promoted to the next without any examination. "In view of the ongoing situation due to #Covid 19, all State board students across Maharashtra State from Class 1 to Class 8 will be promoted to the next class without any examinations," she had tweeted.

## EC slaps 24-hour ban...

**From page 1**

"Bengal won't tolerate your arrogance, tolabaaaz, cut money syndicate because people want 'asol poribartan' (real change)," he said adding "Didi has been talking about Khela Hobey but the truth is Khela for her is Shesh (ended)... on May 2 Didi Jacchhe (going)," said the PM.

Lapping up a proverbial "full toss" delivery during election times proffered by one of Mamata Banerjee's lieutenants Sujata Mondal Khan who reportedly equated the State's dalits with beggars, the Prime Minister said "Didi's nominees abuse Bengal's dalit people calling them beggars... Nobody thought that such words would be said in Bengal and by someone so close to the Chief

Minister," wondering why Banerjee would not apologise for the statement given by one of her lieutenants.

The Prime Minister on Monday held rallies in Nadia and North 24 Parganas districts both of which have overwhelming SC population. In an interview, Sujata Mondal had alleged attacked the SC community saying that, "the SCs here (in Bengal) are beggars by nature. Even after getting so much of service from Mamata Banerjee, they are selling their votes to the BJP". Incidentally the speaker herself is come from the same community. Once again using the "Didi-o-Didi" dig that has been objected to by the TMC leaders as base he asked "is calling anyone Didi o Didi wrong or humiliating ... it is giving honour to someone ... I have seen in the WhatsApp how little children are using the same Didi o Didi

lines these days..."

Saying that the Chief Minister had been "bowled out" from the day elections started from Nandigram, the Prime Minister said the Chief Minister had betrayed the people of Bengal after she came to power with the slogan Maa-Maati Manush (motherly mother land and human beings).He said the voters of Bengal had hit so many fours and sixes that BJP had already completed a century (of seats) in the first 4 phases of Assembly polls. "They have wiped out the Trinamool in half the match (aadhe mein pooraa saaf)," he said.

"She ruled Bengal in the name of Maa Maati Manush for 10 years ... and she has done such a mess that now instead of listing her success she is only using the name of Modi, Modi, Modi," he said.

## 28% candidates contesting Bengal's phase-6 polls have declared criminal cases, says ADR report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Of the 306 candidates contesting in the sixth phase of the West Bengal Assembly polls, 28 per cent have declared criminal cases against themselves, according to a report by poll rights group Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The West Bengal Election Watch and the ADR have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of all the 306 candidates in 43 constituencies, who are contesting in the sixth phase of the West Bengal polls to be held on April 22.

"Of the 306 candidates, 87 (28 per cent) have declared criminal cases and 71 (23 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves," the ADR said.

Among the major parties, 14 of the 23 (61 per cent) candidates from the Communist Party of India (Marxist), 25 of the 43 (58 per cent) candidates from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), 24 of the 43 (56 per cent) candidates from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and five of the 12 (42 per cent) Congress

candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

Twelve of the 23 (52 per cent) CPI(M) candidates, 20 of the 43 (47 per cent) BJP candidates, 20 of the 43 (47 per cent) TMC candidates and four of the 12 (33 per cent) Congress candidates analysed have declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

The report further said 19 candidates have declared cases related to crime against women.

"Of the 19, one has declared cases related to rape (IPC section 376)," it said.

The report further said five candidates have declared cases related to murder (IPC section 302) and 22 have declared cases related to attempt to murder (IPC section 307) against themselves.

Twelve of the 43 constituencies that will go to polls in the sixth phase are "red-alert" constituencies.

"Red-alert" constituencies are those where three or more candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves.

Of the 306 candidates, 66

(22 per cent) are crorepatitis, the report said.

Twenty-eight of the 43 (65 per cent) TMC candidates, 19 of the 43 (44 per cent) BJP candidates, two of the 12 (25 per cent) Congress candidates and four of the 23 (17 per cent) CPI(M) candidates analysed have declared assets valued at more than Rs one crore.

The report also said 129 (42 per cent) candidates have declared their educational qualification to be between the 5th and 12th standards, while 165 (54 per cent) have declared an educational qualification of graduate or above. Four candidates are diploma holders, seven are just literate while one is illiterate.

Eighty-five (28 per cent) candidates have declared their age to be between 25 and 40 years, while 162 (53 per cent) have declared their age to be between 41 and 60 years. There are 59 (19 per cent) candidates who have declared their age to be between 61 and 80 years.

The report said 27 (nine per cent) female candidates are contesting in the sixth phase of the West Bengal Assembly polls.

## Sputnik V...

**From page 1**

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

Sputnik V uses two different disarmed strains of the adenovirus, a virus that causes the common cold, as vectors to deliver the vaccine dose. It is 91.6% effective against symp-

tomatic Covid-19 in the interim analysis of phase 3 clinical trial, which included data on 19,866 volunteers in Russia.

Following record increase in Covid cases and in view of the shortage of two vaccines-Covishield and Covaxin which are being administered presently under the nationwide vaccination programme, health experts had been asking the Government to give approval to other shots as well to meet the vaccine need in the country.

## Nizamuddin Markaz...

**From page 1**

Nair also told the court that the names of the office-bearers and other staff who will be running, managing and dealing with the day-to-day operational issues of the mosque be given to the Station House Officer (SHO) concerned and these persons would be permitted to be present there throughout the day during the holy month.

Senior advocate Ramesh Gupta and Nair also told the court that a joint inspection would be carried out on Monday itself by the SHO of police station Hazrat Nizamuddin and the office bearers of the mosque.

They said the inspection would be carried out in the presence of advocate Wajeeh

Shafiq, the lawyer for the Waqf board, and a member of the Board — Himlal Akhtar.

"The exercise of measuring the area of the mosque where the devotees can offer namaz five times in the day, will be carried out today itself and as per the guidelines issued by the DDMA, keeping the distances required to be maintained, blocks will be made at the place where the prayer mats can be put for the devotees to offer namaz," they told the court.

They also said CCTV cameras would be installed on Tuesday to ensure safety and security of the premises and the persons coming there to offer prayers.

Taking note of these submissions, the court listed the matter for further hearing on Tuesday.

The board, in its plea, has

contended that even after unlock-1 guidelines permitted religious places outside containment zones to be opened, the markaz — comprising the Masjid Bangley Wali, Madarsa Kashif-ul-uloom and attached hostel -- continues to be locked up.

It has further contended that even if the premises was part of any criminal investigation or trial, keeping it "under lock as an out of bound area" was a "primitive method" of enquiry process.

An FIR has been registered under the Epidemic Diseases Act, the Disaster Management Act, Foreigners Act and various provisions of the penal code in connection with the Tablighi Jamaat event held at the markaz and the subsequent stay of foreigners there during the Covid-19 lockdown.







# 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 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 kmph) over 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) 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.

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

# 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-



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'.

"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.

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

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

The United Nations has also declared 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, which 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

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.

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.

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

# Vice President calls for ending gender discrimination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Releasing a Commemorative Postage Stamp in memory of the former chief of the Brahma Kumaris, Rajyogini Dadi Janki, Naidu praised the Brahma Kumaris for being a women led organisation. He said that this worldwide movement has been an exemplary champion of empowerment and independence of women, demonstrating the fact that 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 L a k s h a d w e e p 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.

UNIVERSAL SOMPO GENERAL INSURANCE CO. LTD.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHIFTING OF GURGAON ZONAL & BRANCH OFFICE

All our Customers, Constituents and Members of Public are hereby informed that our Gurgaon Zonal & Branch office will be shifted on 15/06/2021

from Block A & B, Ground Floor, Plot No 52, Sector 44, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122003

To new premises at: Plot No 149, 4th Floor, Sector -44, Gurgaon -122003

Head Administration

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI

4th Floor, Jagan Tea Building, Naraina Street, New Delhi-110001

OA No. 585/19 Date 24-02-2021

Union Bank of India .....Applicant

Versus

Smt. Praveen Khan & Ors. ....Respondent

1. Smt. Praveen Khan W/o Sh. Aslam Khan

2. Sh. Aslam Khan S/o Sh. Peer Bakas

Both at: R/o B-1/15, Nand Nagri, Delhi-93

Also at: Flat No. GF-2, Ground Floor, LIG Built on The Property No. 124, Vikram Enclave, Pasosda Loni, Ghaziabad.

3. Sh. Gul Mohammad Mansuri S/o Sh. Ismail Khan R/o B-1/34, S-2, DLF Colony, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, UP

Whereas the above named applicant(s) have/has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 18,00,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Three Thousand Nine Hundred & Eight only) against you & whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 30-04-2021 At 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before the mentioned, the case will be heard & determined in your absence.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL

For Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE 06TH JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS, ULHASNAGAR AT ULHASNAGAR

Dist: Thane Maharashtra State

Badliapur (west) Police Station.

D.V. No. 370 Of 2019

(arising Out Of An Application U/s. 12 Of The Protection Of Women From Domestic Violence Act, 2005 R/w. The Protection Of Women From Domestic Violence Rules 2006 (as Amended Up To Date, R/w The Code Of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (as Amended Up To Date) Which Falls Within The Jurisdiction Of Cops Attached To Badliapur (west) And Mangolpuri Police Station, New Delhi

MS. SHALKI D/O. BRIJVEER SINGH @ MRS. SHALKI W/O. GULSHAN KUMAR

Aged About: 26 years old, Occ: Housewife, Address:1: House No. 38, Shubh Enclave, Opp. KIIT World School, Pitampura, Northwest, Delhi - 110 034

Address-2: R/o Clo. Mr. Brijveer Singh, B-503, Mohan Valley, Near Bharat College, Hendrapada, Badliapur (West), Dist. Thane - 421 503, Maharashtra State

Cell: +919594289699 E-mail: shalkisingsh1309@gmail.com.....Applicant

VS

1.MR. GULSHAN S/O. AZAD KUMAR

Aged about 30 years old, Occ: Service, R/o: House No. 38, Shubh Enclave, Opp. KIIT World School, Pitampura, Northwest Delhi - 110 034 Cell: +918375074007

2.MR. AZAD SINGH CHAUHAN

Aged about 60 years old, Occ: Retired, R/o: House No. 38, Shubh Enclave, Opp. KIIT World School, Pitampura, Northwest Delhi - 110 034

3.MRS. ANITA AZAD SINGH CHAUHAN

Aged about: 57 years old, Occ: Housewife, R/o: House No. 38, Shubh Enclave, Opp. KIIT World School, Pitampura, Northwest Delhi - 110 034.

4.MRS. SAMTA W/O. MADHU KUMAR TANWAR

Aged about: 32 years old, Occ: Housewife, R/o Village Tigrana, Dist. Bhiwani, Haryana - 127 031

5.MR. MADHUKUMAR S/O. BEER SINGH TANWAR

Aged about: 35 years old, Occ: Service, R/o: Village Tigrana, Dist. Bhiwani, Haryana - 127 031

6.MS. RAJNI TANWAR W/O. CAP. PRATAP SINGH CHAUHAN

Aged about: 38 years old, Occ: Housewife, R/o: Flat No. 504, 'C' Wing, Gayatri Sankul CHS Ltd., Sector-20, Plot No. 38, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai - 410 210.

.....Respondents

Applicant has filed an application under u/s. 12 of the protection of women from domestic violence act, 2005, therefore to answer the said application you may remain present on 30/04/2021 at 0230 p.m. without fail, the copies of the application are with the office of the Hon'ble Court that you may take, if you failed to remain present the application will be decided ex parte that you may please note

BY ORDER

Assistant Superintendent Judicial Magistrate Court Ulhasnagar, Dist. Thane, Maharashtra State

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby stated that the original conveyance deed dated 23-01-2003 registered vide registration no. 13026 in favour of Gillette India Limited, in respect of the following property, which was subsequently sold to Texmaco Infrastructure & Holdings Ltd., have been lost / misplaced somewhere and are not traceable:

Entire five floors from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> floors in Tower A of Global Business Park, having a super built up area of 6178.350 square meters (or 66,479.05 sq. feet), constructed on a plot of land area measuring 4.337 acres contained in Kharsa No.384 (Part), 390, 391, 392 & 393/1 situated at Mehrauli-Gurgaon road in village Sikanderpur Ghosi, Tehsil and District Gurgaon, in the state of Haryana.

The ownership of the above said property vest absolutely with Texmaco Infrastructure & Holdings Ltd. Notice is hereby given to the public at large that no person / entity should deal with, use or transact in any manner, on the basis of the conveyance deed dated 23-01-2003, with respect to the above mentioned property, and any person / entity in custody of the aforesaid document of the above mentioned property or having any knowledge thereof is hereby called upon to contact the undersigned. Any person/entity/public dealing/ transacting with the above said property on the basis of the said document shall be null and void and at their own risks, costs and consequences.

Ranjan Sharma

Legal Department

Texmaco Infrastructure & Holdings Ltd.

Birla Mill Complex,

Near Amba Cinema, GT Road,

Kamla Nagar, Delhi-110007

Contact no. 011-30140314

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kapil Mann/ Preeti Gahlot	Flat No-1, Lig, Ground Floor, Sec-34, Pocket-4, Block C10, Rohini, Delhi 9th April 2021	August 18, 2020/ Rs.13,03,949/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : April 13, 2021

Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer

ICICI Bank Limited

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Complexion:** Blonde, **Height:** 5'5", **Age:** 25-30 years, **Face:** Long, **Build:** Medium, was wearing Blue colour Jeans and Black T-Shirt, was found dead near Sai Nath Apartment, Sector-28, in the area of P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 57A, dated 05.04.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO

P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi

DP/961/ON/2021 Ph. No.: 011-27822207, 27821047



# 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 UDFF 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.

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

IAN S ■ 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.

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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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














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

“General MM Naravane #COAS attended the #ClosingCeremony of Multinational Exercise #ShantirOgrosena2021 and addressed the participants of

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

ADG PI said.

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

Govt, of NCT of Delhi Department of Social Welfare GLNS Complex, Delhi Gate, New Delhi-110002		
SI. No	Description	Photo
1.	Name- Smt. Joshuman Fatima W/o Lt. Sh. Maksudan, Age- 60 years, Height- 5 ft.. Face- Flat. Colour* Black, Body-Medium, She was admitted in the Institution on the direction of the Hon'ble Karkardooma Court.	 FATIMA
2.	Name- Smt. Gaya Bai W/o Sh. Roop Singh, Age- 61 years, Height- 5 ft., Colour - Fair, Face- Long. She tells about her sons named 1) Harishankar, 2) Yashpal, 3) Narel, 4) Kirath. She tells her address Faridpur Basodaganj. She was admitted in the Institution by the Mangolpuri Police Station.	
3.	Name- Smt. Unknown alias Anita, Age-65 years. Height- 5 ft. 2 inch, Colour -Black, Face- Long. She tells her district- Murshidabad and Police station- Baharpur. She was admitted in the Institution on the direction of Delhi Women Commission.	
4.	Name- Smt. Unknown alias Divya W/o Sh. Sanjay, Age- 60 years, Height- 5 ft. 7 inch, Colour - Fair, Face- Long. She tells about her sons named 1) Vijay, 2) Ravi. She tells her address Barodra. She was admitted in the Institution on the direction of the Hon'ble Saket Court.	
5.	Name- Smt. Unknown alias Subhangi W/o Sh. Ram Harsh, Age- 70 years, Height- 4 It. 7 inch, Colour - Fair, Face- Long, Body- Thin. She tells her District- Devariya and Post office- Pathardeva. She was admitted in the Institution by the Jaffarpur Kalan Police Station.	
6.	Name- Smt. Kanta, Height- 5 ft. Colour - Fair, Face- Round. She tells her father's name Sh. Mohan Singh. Age-64 years. She tells her address Kota, Bundi, Rajasthan. She was admitted in the Institution by the Punjabi Bagh Police Station.	
7.	Name- Smt. Rampyari, Height- 5 ft., Colour - Fair, I Face- Long. Body-Medium. She is unable to tell her 1 address and her age is 63 years. She was admitted in the Institution on the direction of the Hon'ble Tis Hazari Court.	
8.	Name- Smt. Unknown alias Sheela, Height- 4 ft. 6 inch, Age- 83 years, Colour - Fair, Face- Round. She is unable to tell her address. She was admitted in the Institution by the Kapashera Police Station.	
9.	Name- Smt. Shanti W/o Sh. Ram Pal, Age- 72 years, Colour - Fair, Face- Long, Body-Thin. She is mentally weak and unable to tell her address. She was admitted in the Institution by the Baba Haridas Nagar Police Station.	
10.	Name- Smt. Naresh Kumari, Age- 61 years, Colour - Fair, Height- 5 ft., Face - Flat. She tells her father's name- Sh. Kishan Chand Aggarwal and Mother's name- Krishna Vati and Brother's name- Darshan Kumar. She tells her address- H.No. 626, Gali No.- 05 & 06, Block-9, Devnagar, Delhi. She was admitted in the Institution by the Rajendra Nagar Police Station.	
11.	Name- Smt. Musmat Tara W/o Sh. Girja Thaker, Age- 78 years, Height- 4 ft. 8 inch, Colour - Black, Face- Round. She tells about her son named Anant.She tells her address Khojkalan, Patna. She was admitted in the Institution by the Vijay Vihar Police Station.	
12.	Name- Sh. Sita Ram, Age- 73 years, Height- 5 t. 11 inch, Colour - Fair, Face- Round. He tells iis Father's name Late Sh. Sardare Nath and Mother's name Smt. Krishna. He tells his address District- Ambala, Haryana, Brara. He was admitted in the Institution by the Uttam Nagai Police Station.	
13.	Marne- Sh. Unknown alias Amar, Age-60, Coloui o Black, Face- Long, Height- 5 ft 6 inch. He tells iis address Village-Shayam Nagar, Police Station krishnaganj, District- Nadiya, West Bangol. He wai admitted in the Institution by the Tilak Nagar Polic Station.	 AMAR

In respect of above Women and Men relatives may contact to Superintendent of Old Age Home, Pocket-4, Bindapur, Near Shiv Mandir, New Delhi-110059, Ph. No. 011-25639463.

**DIP/Shabdarth/0017/2021-22** **Director Social Welfare**

## 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**

### 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 Huran.

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

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

Sources said that Kazi was

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

Kazi is the fourth accused to be arrested in the SUV planting and the alleged Manshukh 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 gelatine sticks laden Scorpion 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).

S u b s e q u e n t l y , 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.

### 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**

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

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

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

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

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The CASA leader said that though the community representatives have been alerting the unprecedented increase in the number of Christian girls ending up as victims to the evil designs of Love Jihadis, 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.





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

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

# Nepal staring at political disquiet

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



RISHI GUPTA

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

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

The verdict is being seen as an extrajudicial effort to save the country from plunging into political instability. Considering Oli's influence over the President's office, the Council of Ministers, Security Council, extraconstitutional bodies and the Press, it was believed that the court would favour Oli and acknowledge his 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 archival 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 OLİ

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TIME TO REDEFINE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

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

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

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

### MAMATA BANERJEE IS LIKE LAKSHMI BAI

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

## CAPFs inept in handling law & order



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

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

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

bats to Mamata Banerjee depends on which part of the political spectrum one is positioned. Bigotry threatens to disturb communal harmony in the State and change its cherished culture. Like waters from a breached glacial lake, money flows into the State unchecked. The Enforcement Directorate follows every Trinamool leader closely to jump upon him tooth and claw. And the platoons have their fingers on the trigger always to "ruthlessly" enforce "law and order" in West Bengal.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

### 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

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

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

P Senthil | Mumbai

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

## 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



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



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



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

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

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

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

# 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



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

# 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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



crucial recommendation remained unattended. In the absence of sustainable arrangements for channelling 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 ₹42,500 crore allocated to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for executing roads and highways projects, the contribution of the above-mentioned funds was 49 per cent, 27 per cent and 24 per cent respectively.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

second wave, politics seems to have taken over. When things go wrong, it is politics that comes to the fore. Now, there are vaccine shortages and there was an obvious miscalculation on the part of the authorities. If something goes wrong, the Centre blames the States while the States blame the Centre for not delivering the required doses of vaccines. The demand pertaining to the shots has also gone up. The initial response from the public was one of “wait and watch”, but now there is a clamour for vaccines as India became the second worst-hit nation in the world. While the BJP touts Modi as the saviour of the people and lauds his efforts in handling the pandemic, the CMs of the non-BJP ruled States are now alleging that they are getting a stepmotherly treat-



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

ly the promise of vaccine availability made to the people in poll-bound States by the ruling party. It is a time of reckoning for the State Governments and all political parties. Recently, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, while addressing the CMs of Congress-led States, asked them to prioritise COVID-19 containment. She also accused the Modi Government of “mismanaging the pandemic situation by allowing the export of vaccines resulting in vaccine shortage” in India. She said: “As the principal Opposition party, it is our responsibility to raise issues and push the Government to move away from PR tactics and act in the interest of the people.” The current wave of infections will test the country’s health infrastructure and

improvements in it since last year. Maharashtra was the worst-hit State during both the significant surges of COVID-19 cases. As of April 8, almost 24 million doses were in stock and another 19 million were in the pipeline. Some 3-3.5 million doses have been administered on an everyday basis, according to data made available by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The second wave came when people started celebrating the success with respect to effectively tackling the first wave. The period also coincided with the Assembly elections in five States and mega religious events like the Kumbh Mela. On March 7, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan even declared that “we are in the endgame of the COVID-19 pandemic.” However, this is not the

appropriate time to question “who” and “why” with respect to the mishandling of the crisis. The real question is what the Centre and State Governments have done during the pandemic and what they can do to contain the second wave. The Opposition must understand that it should be more vigilant, active, public-spirited and courageous. The Opposition parties should play their role as an institutional watchdog and develop credible policy alternatives instead of blaming the Government. The Modi Government should be transparent in distributing the vaccines and in addressing the concerns of the CMs of the Opposition-ruled States. All the sides should realise that this is an unprecedented crisis, and playing politics will not help.



# Iran blames Israel for Natanz incident

AP ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

engage with Iran in its nuclear programme.

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

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

## Lebanon extends area claimed in border dispute with Israel

AP ■ BEIRUT (LEBANON)

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

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

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

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

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

## White House issuing reports on states' infra needs

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

## COVID LOCKDOWN EASES IN ENGLAND

# ‘Behave responsibly’, urges Boris

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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



Customers sit outside a restaurant in Liverpool on Monday

AP

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

## 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 jabs 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**

## 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

AP

Sparking 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  
निकट नन्दा की चौकी, सुन्दरवाला विकासखण्ड रोड, देहरादून  
दूरभाष नं० 0135-2775813-2775814, ईमेल-dlr.icds.ua@gmail.com  
पत्र संख्या C-76/महालक्ष्मी कित/2021-22 दिनांक 12 अप्रैल, 2021

**ई-निविदा विषयवि**  
निदेशालय, महिला सशक्तिकरण एवं बाल विकास विभाग, नन्दा की चौकी सुन्दरवाला देहरादून उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा मुख्यमंत्री महालक्ष्मी योजना के अंतर्गत आंगनबाड़ी केंद्रों एवं मिनी केंद्रों हेतु महालक्ष्मी कित 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	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

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

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

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

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

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

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

The online auction will be conducted on website ([URL Link-https://disposalhub.com](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 04, 2021 before 05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

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

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/ 98100229926/ 01244233933**

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited** . 2. **Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC**, have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

**Date: April 13, 2021**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE HARYANA, PANCHKULA	SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE (SERC), HARYANA 112	03.04.2021 17.04.2021	EMD 2 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	7988639705 haryana100.pol@hry.in
2	PWD B&R, BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR BY PROVIDING AND LAYING WIDENING & STG. ON BABA JAGAN NATH MANDIR TO MATTA MASSANI AT VILLAGE LOHARI JATTU FROM KM 0.00 TO 2.10 IN BHIWANI DISTT. (ROAD ID NO. 9980)	09.04.2021 03.05.2021	89.10 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01664242436 pwd-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 01666220530 pwd-eeepd1-sirsa@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>	
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 TOSHAM ROAD- SIWANI TOWN	09.04.2021 15.04.2021	EMD 4 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	eesiwani@phedharyana.gov.in
8	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING KURUSHETRA	PROJECT REPORT BOQ & COST ESTIMATE PREPARED BY EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HWALH ENGINEERING DIVISION KURUKSHETRA FOR UPGRADATION & COMMISSIONING AFTER CONVERSION OF EXISTING & MLD CAPACITY SEWAGE TREATMENT BASED ON MOVING BED BIOLOGICAL	08.04.2021 28.04.2021	EMD 8 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2583005 eecoord@phedharyana.gov.in
9	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,NARNAUL	RAW WATER ARRANGEMENT FOR PROPOSED MULTIMODEL LOGISTIC HUB AT NARNAUL, DISTRICT MOHINDERGARH, BY PROVIDING & LAYING 600MM DI PIPE LINE, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF RAW WATER BALANCING RESERVOIR, PUMP CHAMBER, PANEL ROOM, PUMPING MACHINERY,(ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL COMPONENTS) AT BOOSTING STATION NEAR ND-II AND ALL OTHER ALLIED WORKS.	CLOSING DATE 26.04.2021	1412.19 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xen-wsmnr1.irr@gov.in
10	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER COURSE OF Q/L RD 11260-R OF LONGGARH 1ST. DISTY. FOR A LENGTH OF 1600 FEET ( EXTENSION), +04 OTHER	CLOSING DATE 20.04.2021	4.78 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xenrorisrs@rediffmail.com
11	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,KURUKSHETRA	REPAIR OF SYL CANA DOWNSTREAM GATES AT BUDHERA COMPLEX.+ 2 OTHER WORKS	09.04.2021 22.04.2021	29.13 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xenwsdvinkkra@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,HAJJAR	CONST. OF 7 NOS. ANGANWARI CENTRE AND 1 NO. COMMUNITY CENTRE, DISTRICT HAJJAR.	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,HAJJAR	CONST. OF BIOGAS PLANT AT VILLAGE MATANHAIL, BLOCK MATANHAIL, DISTRICT HAJJAR.	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 : <a href="http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a> or <a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>						RO NO. 2561



# Remain watchful of evolving situation: RBI Govt to banks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Das touched upon the

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

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

Among other matters,

progress in the implementation of COVID Resolution Framework, outlook on stress-ess 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 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 close-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 'sui-generis' licence agreement..." DoT said in the amendment to the licence agreement for procurement of telecom equipment.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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

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

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

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

# Online appointment must to visit DDA

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.

**राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम**  
मुख्यालय जयपुर

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

क्र. संख्या	ई-बोली सूचना सं.	कार्य	सूचीएन नम्बर
1	01 / 2021-22	निगम द्वारा सरकार से मान्यता प्राप्त पंजीकृत संस्था / भूतपूर्व सैनिकों की सहकारी समिति से 800 घालको की सेवा अनुबंध पर लेने हेतु निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-बोली प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑन लाइन बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है।	RTC2122SLO800020

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

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE

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

Sl	Name of Work	Approx. Value
1.	Annual maintenance contract for 34 IPS systems of M/s. Statcon Power Control Systems Pvt. Ltd, Make installed over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 66,14,087.04/-
2.	Minichal Station : Proposed modification of Electronic Interlocking System at Minichal Station in view of closure of LC No: 92 at km 209/790 between Minichal - Nimbal stations in Gadag- Hotgi section over Hubballi Division in lieu of LHS work.	Rs. 11,93,076.55/-
3.	Hubballi Division: 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 : TWR(ECW) - 193.124 km (184 SEB). (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 kV 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 433.6- 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 - Miral - CTR (P) for a length of 31.3 km in patches. Total length of 31.3 km (PID No.14.02.31.20.01.51.003)	

Last date of submission of bids: Up to 11:00 hrs of 07.05.2021  
For details log on: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Divisional Railway Manager  
Signal & Telecommunication, Hubballi  
PUB/11AAS/PRB/SWR/2020-21

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that my client, SMT. VINAY KUMARI W/o LATE SH. R. P. SINGH R/O FLAT NO.29, SECOND FLOOR, KALUSH KUNJI, GREATER KALUSH, NEW DELHI-110048, IS THE OWNER OF DDA SFS FLAT NO.29, ON SECOND FLOOR, SITUATED AT KALUSH KUNJI, GREATER KALUSH, NEW DELHI-110048. Vide DDA File No.F21(SR262SFSGKI), and my client have applied for Conversion of leasehold to freehold in respect of said flat. The original document i.e. ALLIEMENT/CON DEMAND LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, SITE POSSESSION SLIP AND NOC FOR WATER ELECTRICITY CONNECTION of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable in spite of his best efforts. An F.I./R.NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi (I.R No.S108720201) dated 12.04.2021. Any person(s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/ contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. 9998920913 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director LAB (Housing) or Director (Housing), Vikas Sadan, New Delhi. Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate) Ch.No. M-7, Near SBI, Western Wing, 1's Pazarri Court, Delhi-54

**Ravishankar**

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

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

**E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in)**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax : 011-24368639**  
**DP/786/OD/2021**

**SHO PS Paschim Vihar, West Delhi**  
**Ph. : 011-25268394, 25280980**

**Neha**

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)**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax : 011-24368639**  
**DP/767/OD/2021**

**SHO P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**  
**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 "UJJWAL", 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: 278दिनांक : 12 / 04 / 2021

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

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


**NB. SUB. SHASHI BHUSHAN VERMA**

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** NB. SUB. Shashi Bhushan Verma S/o Shri Raj Gir Singh R/o 505, Army Base Workshop, C/o 56 APO, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi has been missing from 505, Army Base Workshop, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi since 31.03.2021. In this regard a GD No. 45A dated 02.04.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Naraina, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-  
**Age:** 41 Years, **Height:** 5'9", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Black colour Army dress and black colour shoes in feet.

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

**SHO P.S. Naraina, New Delhi**  
**West Distt., Delhi**  
**Ph. No. 011-25891181, 25892010,**  
**8750871122, 9718838396**

**Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639**  
**DP/397/WD/2021**

**निदेशालय**  
महिला सशक्तिकरण एवं बाल विकास विभाग, उत्तरखण्ड  
निकट नन्दा की चौकी, सुन्दरवाला विकासनगर रोड, देहरादून  
सूचना संख्या 0135-2775813-2775814, ईमेल-[dir.icds.ua@gmail.com](mailto:dir.icds.ua@gmail.com)  
पत्र संख्या C-69 / अनुसूचक पोषाहार-5723 / 2021-22दिनांक 12 अप्रैल, 2021

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

**उप निदेशक**

**Appeal for Identification**

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

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

**SHO P.S., Pahar Ganj, Delhi**  
**Ph. : 011-23524746**  
**23520787**

**DP/758/CD/2021**

**ICICI Bank**

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


**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Saket Satyam (Borrower), Sushil Kumar Shrivastava (Co-Borrower), Kumar Abhishek Verma (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002376035	Flat No 32, LIG Block B18 Pkt 5 Sec-35, 2nd Floor Rohini, Delhi, 110085 Area 285 sq. ft..	Rs. 15,47,391.5 (as on 6th Apr 2021)	Rs. 11,10,000/- To 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://disposallhub.com>) of our auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **May 27, 2021 before 05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.  
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh Delhi-110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website online or before **May 27, 2021 before 05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, 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** on or before **May 27, 2021 before 05:00 PM**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at **Delhi**.  
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**  
Please note that Marketing agencies 1. **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC.** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)  
**Date: April 13, 2021**  
**Place: Delhi/NCR**  
**Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited**




**DOCYARD**  
DR PARESH DOSHI



Director of Neurosurgery

**JASLOK HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE, MUMBAI**

## Look out for tremors



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

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

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

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

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

Some patients present with alteration in the gait. This is a more common feature in Parkinson Disease affecting patients above 60 years of age. 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.

## SUMMER COOLERS

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

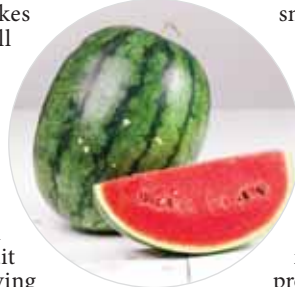
It is made up of around 90 per cent water, which makes the fruit useful for staying hydrated. It can also satisfy a sweet tooth with its natural sugars.

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

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

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

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



# VACCINE

## STILL BEST BET

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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 the 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.

The juice of coriander

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

Drink coconut water a couple of times in a day. Wear light fabrics that allow your body to breathe can keep you cool. Cotton is the best options.

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

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

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



## BOND FOR LIFE

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

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

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

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

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



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

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.







POINTS TABLE							
			P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1		DC	1	1	0	+0.779	2
2		KKR	1	1	0	+0.500	2
3		PBKS	1	1	0	+0.200	2
4		RCB	1	1	0	+0.050	2
5		MI	1	0	1	-0.050	0
6		RR	1	0	1	-0.200	0
7		SRH	1	0	1	-0.500	0
8		CSK	1	0	1	-0.779	0