OPINION 6

INDIA'S FLAMING

FORESTS PLAY HAVOC

MYANMAR COUP FOES TOUT

MINORITY-BACKED SHADOW GOVT

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

> \*Late City Vol. 31 Issue 105 \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

SAFETY OVER

# NEW DELHI, SATURDAY APRIL 17, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3 the pioneer

## www.dailypioneer.com 4L daily Covid cases by Apr end likely Covid spreads

At current rate, deaths could go up to 200/day; Whopping 19.5K cases in Delhi in 24 hrs

With the current rate of the daily surge, India's Covid-19 cases could reach anywhere between 3.5 and 4 lakh by the end of April. Going by the current death rate of around 0.5 per cent, India could see a daily fatality of around 175 to 200 per day by month-end. On Friday, India recorded over 2.33 lakh new cases and 1,338 deaths, compared to 2.17 lakh cases and 1,185 deaths the previous day.

The country's average daily Covid-19 growth during the last two weeks is around 5.2 to 6 per cent, or 12,000 to 15,000 a day. Even in the case of a highly optimistic scenario where the cases stabilise around an average of 10,000 per day, the country total should go easily past 3.5 lakh in the remaining two weeks of this month.

The most worrying part is the fact that the number of new cases is rising alarmingly in States other than Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, which bore the brunt of the onset of the second wave of the Covid-19.

On Friday, Maharashtra recorded it single-day high of 63,729 cases and 398 deaths. Delhi also recorded its single day of 19,486 cases and a

#### Haryana shuts schools till Apr 30

Chandigarh: The Haryana Government on Friday announced consolidated guidelines to contain the spread of Covid-19, ordering closure of schools, colleges and coaching institutes till April 30 and capping number of attendees at gatherings and passengers in vehicles.

### **CAPSULE**

CBI EX-DIRECTOR RANJIT SINHA DIES OF COVID-19

Sinha died on Friday morning in what is believed to be a Covid-19 related death.

'DIALOGUE CAN SOLVE INDIA-NEPAL ISSUES' Kathmandu: There is no issue

between Nepal and India that cannot be resolved through dialogue, Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali said on Friday, underlining that the two countries are "friends and not competitors"

**COLLECTION OF CHALLAN DUES IN CASH SUSPENDED** New Delhi: The Delhi Traffic Police has suspended the process to collect dues for pending challans in cash in view of a surge in Covid-19 cases here, officials said on



board train for their native place amid raise in Covid cases in New Delhi on Friday

record 141 deaths. Chhattisgarh has seen an alarming 131 per cent raise in the number of fresh cases during the last one weeks.

Continued on Page 2

BSY +ve for 2nd time in 8 months; Javadekar too **Covid** positive

Bengaluru/New Delhi: Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Friday tested positive for Covid-19 for the second time in eight months, and has been shifted to a private hospital. Union Minister

Prakash Javadekar too tested positive for coronavirus.

#### Covid-19 **IN INDIA**

**TOTAL CASES: 1,45,21,683** (+2,33,757) **DEATHS: 1,75,673** (+1,338) **RECOVERED: 1,26,66,889** (+1,22,839)

**ACTIVE: 16,73,016 MAHARASHTRA: 37,03,584 KERALA: 12,07,333** 

KARNATAKA: 11,24,509

**TAMIL NADU: 9,71,384** DELHI: 8,03,623 (+19,486)

## Sunday curfew imposed on all UP dists till May 15

₹1,000 fine for no mask; markets to be sanitised on Sundays

PNS LUCKNOW

As corona surge continues, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered "Sunday curfew" across the State and also ordered setting up of 1,000-bed Covid hospitals in Lucknow to meet the demand of shortage of

The State Government also stated that ₹1,000 fine will be charged for not wearing masks and ₹10,000 fine for second time violation. The Sunday curfew will continue till May 15.

In the review meeting, the CM ordered closure of markets, offices and other business establishments on Sunday so as to allow sanitisation of the markets across the State. 'There will be a weekly closure in all rural and urban areas of the State on Sunday. Only sanitisation and emergency services will operate during this period. Necessary awareness works



A view of the iconic building of Lucknow, Imambada. ASI protected monuments remained shut for visitors in view of the rising Covid-19 cases in the country, in

should also be done in this of the Team-11 (a core team of regard. He hinted that even public transport and commutation won't be allowed.

"A 1,000-bed Covid hospital will be established in Lucknow. The venue of the Defence Expo in Vrindavan Colony has been chosen for setting up of this makeshift hospital," the Chief Minister said during a review meeting with divisional commissioners, district magistrates, Chief Medical Officers and members

11 officers). Yogi also ordered closure of

OPDs in all Government hospitals in the State to control crowds. He also announced that it is compulsory for everyone to wear a mask. "A fine of ₹1,000 would be imposed for the first time caught without a mask. If caught without a mask a second time, a penalty of ₹10,000 would be imposed, "he added.

Continued on Page 2

# mainly via air: Lancet study

The SARS-CoV-2 virus that L causes Covid-19 is predominantly transmitted through air, according to a new assessment carried in the medical journal Lancet which said it found little to no evidence that the virus spreads easily via large droplets, which fall quickly through the air and contaminate surfaces

The study added that public health measures that fail to treat the virus as predominantly airborne leave people unprotected and allow the virus to spread. The study observation is significant for India where mass gatherings and election rallies continue unabated even as overall Covid-19 cases are breaking records daily.

A multi-research team

from the UK, the US and Canada warned that public health measures that fail to treat the virus as predominantly airborne leave people unprotected and allow the virus to spread. Silent (asymptomatic or

presymptomatic) transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from people who are not coughing or sneezing accounts for at least 40 per cent of all transmission.

This silent transmission is key way Covid-19 has spread around the world, "supporting

the assessment. By contrast, the researchers found little to no evidence that the virus spreads easily via large droplets, which fall quickly through the air and contaminate surfaces.

a predominantly airborne

mode of transmission," as per

'The evidence supporting airborne transmission is over whelming, and evidence supporting large droplet transmission is almost non-existent," said Jose-Luis Jimenez, a chemist at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) and the University of Colorado Boulder.

Continued on Page 2

### **CISCE** defers Class X, XII **Board exams** PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) on Friday deferred the board exams for Classes 10 and 12 in view of a rise in Covid-19 cases across the country.

In light of the nation surge in coronavirus cases, the Class 10 and 12 exams which were to be held from May 4 have been deferred, CISĆE's chief executive and secretary Gerry Arathoon said.

We will closely monitor the situation and review it in the first week of June to take a final decision on conduct of examination," he said. "While Class 12 exams will be conducted at a later stage, Class 10 students will get an option to either appear in offline exams later or get evaluated on basis of fair and unbiased criteria to be developed by board," Arathoon added.

Earlier this week, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had cancelled its Class 10 board exams and deferred the Class 12 board exams. Several State boards have postponed or cancelled their exams too.

Covaxin production to double by June, 7 fold by July-Aug

 $T^{\text{he current production}}_{\text{capacity of Bharat Biotech}}$ indigenously developed bled by May-June 2021 and then increased nearly 6-7 fold by July-August 2021, the Government said on Friday.

The Union Ministry of Science and Technology issued a statement in this regard, saying "the current production capacity of indigenously developed Covaxin vaccine will be doubled by May-June 2021 and then increased nearly 6-7 fold by July-August 2021 that is increasing the production from 1 crore vaccine doses in April 2021 to 6-7 crore vaccine dose by July-August. It is expected to reach nearly 10 crore doses per month by September this year".

It said the Government will provide financial support as a grant to vaccine manufacturing facilities for enhanced production capacities.

Recently, inter-ministerial teams visited the sites of two



main vaccine manufacturers in India to get their inputs on how production can be ramped up. There have been extensive reviews and feasibility studies on the plans being discussed with vaccine manufacturers.

"As a part of this augmentation plan, capacities of Bharat Biotech Limited, Hyderabad as well as other public sector manufacturers are being upgraded with required infrastructure and technology Financial support is being provided as a grant from the Government to the tune of appx ₹65 cr to Bharat Biotech's new Bangalore facility which is being repurposed to increase the capacity of vaccine pro-

duction," the statement added. Continued on Page 2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bank (PNB)

extradition.

cleared the extradition of fugi-

tive diamantaire Nirav Modi

with a case involving over ₹13,000-crore credit fraud involving Punjab National

Nirav had allegedly perpetrated the fraud in the PNB in

collusion with his uncle Mehul

Choksi. On February 25, a

Westminster Magistrates

Court allowed his extradition.

The findings of the court

**UK Home Dept** 

clears Nirav Modi's

## Ensure sufficient oxygen for emergency care: PM Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi,

#### **Modi calls for** increase in manufacturing

s the second wave of ACovid-19 variant has led to a rapid rise in positive cases across the country and brought health facilities under increasing pressure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday undertook a "comprehensive" review to ensure adequate medical grade oxygen supply in the country and called for

stepping up its production. Oxygen supply has been under pressure with the multiplication of coronavirus cases after it had largely ebbed out by the start of this year.

According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Modi took a comprehensive review to ensure adequate medical grade oxygen supply in the country.

Inputs from Ministries like health, steel, road transport, and the Department for Promotion of Industry and



Internal Trade were also shared with the PM during the review, said the statement of the PMO. The PM stressed that it is

important to ensure synergy across Ministries and State Governments, the PMO said. He also took a detailed

review of the current situation of oxygen supply and projected use in the coming 15 days across 12 high-burden States — Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh,



these States was presented to He was informed that the

Centre and States are in regular contact and estimates for projected demand has been shared with states as of April 20, April 25 and April 30, it said. The PMO said, accord-

The PMO said an overview

ingly, 4,880 MT, 5,619 MT and 6,593 MT have been allocated to these 12 States for meeting their projected demand of medical oxygen as on April 20, April 25 and April 30, respec-

Continued on Page 2

#### **Need more research to determine spread** of 'double mutant' coronavirus: Scientists

New Delhi: A global mutation tracker on Friday suggested the "double mutant" coronavirus, identified Maharashtra, has a cumulative

prevalence of 10 per cent in India, a finding that some scientists here said is based on insufficient data and needs more research.

### **EC** cuts Bengal campaign time by 3 hrs at night over Covid rise

PNS NEW DELHI

A gainst the backdrop of ris-ling Covid-19 cases and the heavy political rhetoric in Commission (EC) on Friday extended the "silence" period from 48 hours to 72 hours in each of the remaining three of the eight phases of the West Bengal polls to be held on April 22, 26, and 29.

The commission has curtailed the timing of campaigning up to 7pm from 10 pm. It has banned rallies, public meet-ings, nukkad sabha, and street play from 7 pm to 10 am beginning Friday.

"Commission curtails the timing of the campaign up to pm. The silence period has been extended from 48 hours to 72 hours in each of the remaining three phases in West Bengal. These orders have come into effect immediately. the EC said in a letter to the president, general secretary and chairman of the national and state-level political parties. Continued on Page 2

## Monsoon normal this year, predicts IMD

### Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, eastern UP. **Assam may not get** sufficient rainfall

PNS NEW DELHI

Barring Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, north-Chhattisgarh, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Assam, India will probably experience normal monsoon rainfall this year as La Nina or El Nino weather conditions, which impact rain patterns, are likely to be absent.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday predicted overall "normal" monsoon rainfall at 98 per



Average (LPA), which has a model error of plus and minus 5 per cent during the June-September period across the country. The LPA of the monsoon is 88 centimetres.

Rainfall between 96-104 per cent of the LPA is considered normal. The IMD said the probability of the 2021 mon-



Long Range Forecast for the four-month rainfall period from June to September, M Rajeevan, secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, said, quantitatively, the mon-soon seasonal rainfall is likely to be 98% of the LPA with a model error of +/-5 per cent. "It is really good news for

the country and will help India have a good agriculture output," he said. The news augurs well for

an economy battered due to the coronavirus pandemic. Large parts of the country rely on the four-month rainfall season for agriculture and also for filling Continued on Page 2

## extradition to India The Home Department of the United Kingdom has wanted in India connection

However, Westminster's were sent to the UK Home court has granted Nirav a win-Department headed by British dow of appeal in the High Home Secretary Priti which Court and has up to 14 days to cleared the extradition, make that application after the officials said, according to news agency PTI. Home Secretary cleared the

> Magistrates' Court ruled that the diamond merchant and prime accused in the PNB credit fraud case, Nirav Modi, has a case to answer before Indian courts.



The UK's Westminster

Continued on Page 2 (AQI) also deteriorated to 252

## Dust storm, drizzle cool Delhi but pollute its air

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Astrong dust storm bar-relled through the National capital on Friday, affecting visibility and air quality, while cloudy weather and light rain siigntly, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. brought the mercury down "A dust storm hit Delhi

around 4 pm under the influence of a Western Disturbance affecting the hills. The maximum wind speed was around 70 kilometres per hour," an IMD official said.

Visibility at Palam dropped from 3,000 metres to 500 at 6 pm from 238 at 4 pm. An considered "poor". metres due to the dust storm. At Safdarjung, it was reduced Very light rain has been from 2,200 metres to 1,500 metres. Delhi's air quality index



recorded a maximum temper-

AQI between 201 and 300 is

recorded in some areas of the city, bringing down mercury. On Thursday, the city had

ature of 40.5 degrees Celsius, the highest so far this season. The mercury is predicted to remain below 40 degrees Celsius for the next five to six days, the IMD said.

## Pak asks India to appoint lawyer to represent Jadhav

 $P_{\text{urged India to appoint a}}^{\text{akistan on Friday again}}$ lawyer to represent death row convict Kulbhushan Jadhav to implement the verdict of the International Court of Justice.

The Islamabad High Court, while hearing the case on Thursday, asked the Foreign Office (FO) to approach India about appointing a counsel and clarifying the issue of jurisdiction of the case.

FO spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhry, addressing a weekly briefing, said: "We once again urge India to cooperate with the Pakistani courts by inter-alia appointing a lawyer in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case

so that full effect could be given to the ICJ judgment in the case".

Jadhav, the 50-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. India approached the International Court of Justice against Pakistan for denial of consular access to Jadhav and challenging the death sentence.

The Hague-based ICJ ruled in July 2019 that Pakistan must undertake an "effective review and reconsideration" of the conviction and sentence of Jadhav and also to grant consular access to India without

The ICJ, in its 2019 verdict,

had asked Pakistan to provide a proper forum for appeal against the sentence.

Asked about backchannel contacts with India, Chaudhry said "states have ways and means to communicate with other states which remain available even during wars."

He said Pakistan never shied away from talks with India and has always underscored the need for a 'meaningful dialogue' and peaceful resolution of all outstanding disputes, including the core issue of J&K. "We believe durable peace, security and development in the region hinge on peaceful resolution of the long-standing Jammu and Kashmir dispute," he said.

The temple will remain

Detailed discussions were

allowing industrial cylinders to

### 497 new Covid cases in Gautam Buddh Nagar, death toll reaches 100

PTI ■ NOIDA (UP)

Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar on Friday recorded two more fatalities linked to Covid-19 that pushed the district's death toll to 100, official data showed.

The district adjoining Delhi in western Uttar Pradesh also recorded 497 new cases its highest single-day spike in infections so far - as its overall infection tally rose to 29,425, it showed.

The active caseload reached 2,626 from 2,334 the previous day, according to the figures released by the UP Health Department for a 24hour period.

On the brighter side, 203

Standard Operating Procedure

(SOP) for reopening of Shree

Jagannath Temple as notified on December 22, 2020, and

subsequent orders on January

11, 2021 and April 3, 2021, the

SITA chief administrator

The new SOP will come to

patients got discharged during the period taking the overall recoveries to 26,699, the fifth highest in the state, it showed.

The death toll in Gautam Buddh Nagar stands at 100 and the mortality rate is 0.33 per cent. The recovery rate of patients reached 90.73 per cent, the statistics showed.

According to the official data, now 26 of the 75 districts have a death toll of 100 or more in Uttar Pradesh. Meanwhile, the number of

active COVID-19 cases in UP reached 1,50,676 from 1,29,848 the previous day while the overall recoveries climbed to 6,33,461 and the death toll to 9,583 on Friday, the data

#### Making arrangements to ensure guidelines are followed in Modi's rallies, says BJP

New Delhi:With Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to address two poll rallies in West Bengal on Saturday, BJP sources said the party has been taking adequate measures to ensure that social distancing is maintained and people attending them wear masks. The sources said that chairs

for the rallies' participants have been placed at adequate distance in every block of the two venues so that social distancing is followed. It will be ensured that everyone entering the rally venues wears a mask, they said. "Our teams have been working to this effect," a source said. Amid a massive surge in coronavirus cases across the country, the Election Commission (EC) asked political parties on Friday to ensure "absolute" adherence to COVID-19 guidelines in

letter and sprit.

sternly dealt with and action, including criminal action, taken as per extant legal framework," it said. The EC said it will be the responsibility of the organisers of public meetings, rallies, to provide masks and sanitisers to every person attending these events at their cost "which shall be added and counted within limits of prescribed expenditure." The COVID-19 tally in

West Bengal mounted to 6,43,795 on Friday after the highest- single-day spike of 6,910 new cases was reported in the state, the health department said in a bulletin. The EC also invoked is consti-

tutional powers to put in place restrictions on campaigning by political parties. PTI

### Pokhriyal: NEP aims to make India a global knowledge superpower

**PTI** PHAGWARA

The National Education Policy is based on equity, quality and accessibility and is aimed at making India a global knowledge superpower, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said on Friday.

The policy focuses on paving the way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems to achieve this end, he added.

Pokhriyal made the remarks while addressing an international conference digitally at Lovely Professional University (LPU).

### Lord Jagannath Temple in Puri to remain closed on weekends

In view of Covid-19 spike in Odisha, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Friday said the 12th-century shrine in Puri will remain closed for devotees on Saturdays and Sundays.

Ensure...

From page 1

The PM was briefed about

He suggested increasing

It was discussed that sur-

The PM also asked offi-

From page 1
The 'normal' rainfall means

good acreage of Kharif crops (paddy, pulses, oilseeds, and

coarse cereals), and adequate

water storage in major water

bodies across the countries for

the next crop season. Better

water storage also helps (win-

ter sown) crops, bringing the

entire crop year in bumper out-

advanced and comprehensive

system to arrive at its forecast,

keeping in view demands from

different users and govern-

ment authorities for forecasts of

the spatial distribution of sea-

sonal rainfall along with the

regionally averaged rainfall

forecasts for better regional

Office of Climate Research &

Services, IMD, Pune has devel-

oped a Multi-Model Ensemble

(MME) forecasting system

Bid for Providing the Comprehe

UBN:- GAD2122SLOB00006

Name of the work

Estimated cost

Chief Enginee

(Buildings), Rural Works, Odisha,

Bhubaneswar

w.tendersorissa.gov.in

DIPR/C/4064/2021

Deputy General Manager, Rajasthan House 7, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi

SYSTEM & Round-the-Clock Operations of PBX SYSTEM ON JOB BASIS at Rajasthan House situated at 7, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi are invited from interested bidders. The bid will oper

studied at 7, Friting rouse, leave being a limited infinited sized blockers. The bown in open from 14.04.201 at 05:00 PM. till 26.04.2021 at 03:00 PM. The tender Value is Rs. 16,00,000.00 and Other Particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

Lr.No.12096 // Dt. 13.04.2021

: Rs 1254.94 lakh

Period of completion: 24 (Twenty Four) calendar months

Online

"e" Procurement Notice for bridge work in Odisha corrigendum to Online-01 (Bridge)/2021-22 dt. 05.04.2021

: Construction of bridge work (Balance work)

From

23.04.2021 at 11.00

A.M.

13.05.202

upto 5.00

P.M.

(https://sppp.rajastahan.gov.in) and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the State.

For this specific purpose,

level planning of activities.

This is the first time the

production capacity in the

country to meet the rising

oxygen production as per the

plus stocks of oxygen supply in

steel plants are being offered

for medical use, the PMO

cials to ensure seamless and

demand, it said.

capacity of each plant.

This was decided in a virtual meeting chaired by SJTA chief administrator Krishan Kumar and attended by District Collector Samarth Verma, Superintendent of Police Kanwar Vishal Singh, officials, representatives

closed for public darshan on Saturdays and Sundays as a measure to contain the spread of coronavirus and to sanitise the temple premises, Kumar

rying oxygen throughout the be used for medical oxygen The Government has

exempted all inter-State movement of oxygen tankers from registration of permits to enable easier movement, the PMO's statement said. Modi was informed that

States and transporters have been asked to ensure tankers move round the clock with drivers working in shifts to ensure faster turnaround and adequate capacity to meet the surge in demand. Cylinder filling plants will also be permitted to work for 24 hours with

based on coupled global climate models (CGCMs) from

different global climate pre-

diction and research centres including the Monsoon Mission CFS (MMCFS) being

used by IMD. According to

Rajeevan, the IMD will also

issue month-wise forecasts dur-

ing the next four months.

The La Nina and El Nino

factors major influences on

the Indian monsoon. The for-

cooling of the Pacific waters

and brings good rainfall while

the latter is linked to the heat-

ing of Pacific waters and could

lead to deficient precipitation.

"There are less chances of for-

mation of an El Nino," Rajeevan

said. He said in the recent years,

the year after La Nina has

usually seen a normal rainfall

season. The Indian Dipole is

another major influence on

the outcome of the monsoon.

A negative IOD is associated

with the heating of the Indian

Deputy General Mar

nsive Annual Maintenance Services of KAREL DS 200M PB

held on the implementation of guidelines laid down in the free movement of tankers carnecessary safeguards, the PMO said. The Government is

> after due purging, it said. Similarly, nitrogen and argon tankers will be automatically allowed to be converted to oxygen tankers to overcome the potential shortage of tankers. During the review, officials also briefed the PM about the efforts being made to import medical grade oxygen, the PMO said.

It was reported that a Covid patient in a Delhi Hospital died as a ward boy "switched off" and moved an

Ocean waters and a positive IOD is linked to the cooling of

forecast indicates that neutral

ENSO (El Nino Southern

Oscillation) conditions are like-

ly to continue over the equatorial Pacific and negative IOD

conditions are likely to develop

over the Indian Ocean during

the ensuing monsoon season,

IMD Director General M

favoured through March-May

with 80 per cent chances of a

transition to ENSO-neutral in

April-June 2021 and continuing

through the fall of 2021,

Rajeevan said, implying these

conditions are favourable for a

good rainfall season. The

IMD's forecast shows that the

2021 monsoon will be the third

consecutive year (2019-2021) of

good rainfall. India had earlier

three consecutive years of rain-

However, several experts LPA.

fall in 1996,1997 and 1998.

The latest global model

Indian Ocean waters.

oxygen cylinder to another

effect from April 19, 2021.

2,17,353 new coronavirus infections in a day taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 1,42,91,917, while active cases surpassed the 15-lakh mark, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.The West Bengal which has witnessed numerous political rallies over the last two months (with thousands of people in attendance) has crossed the national coronavirus average of 5.2 per cent by registering a Covid positive growth of 6.5 per cent.

say that 'below-normal rains in

East and North-East India are

not always harmful as the

quantum of rains in these parts

and also the daily average is

higher than other regions of the

Recently, private weather forecasting agency, Skymet had

also said that the southwest

monsoon in 2021 is likely to be

'normal' at 103 per cent of the

LPA. The Skymet Weather had

sibility of 2021 being the

'drought' year, the IMD's fore-

cast on Friday mentioned 14

percent probability of the 'defi-

cient' (drought) monsoon. If

both the two forecasts come

true, it would mean that for the

third consecutive year India

will have a normal to above-

normal rainfall during the

monsoon months. In 2020,

actual rainfall across India was

109 percent of LPA, while in

2019, it was 110 per cent of the

patient in the hospital. India added a record

'This is our responsibility Monsoon normal this year...

Yogi added continuous supply of oxygen to Covid hospitals should be maintained. The control room has been set up to monitor smooth supply of medical oxygen and should remain 24×7 active. Adequate availability of medical personnel, Covid beds, medicines, medical equipment and oxygen should always be maintained in every district. Ensure smooth

## Sunday curfew imposed on...

From page 1
The DRDO will set up two hospitals of 500 beds and 600 beds in Haj House and Blossoms Height under the direction of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, thus giving a hope to the patients and their relatives who are running helter-skelter for beds.

A Government spokesman said within next three to four days, Lucknow will have 2,100 additional beds besides King Georges' Medical University and Balrampur Hospital will be transformed into fully Covid

to take care of people who are in home isolation. Medical kits containing all types of essential medicines should be made available to such patients. There is no shortage of medicines. This work should be reviewed every day," the CM said.

operation of ambulance ser-

vices. Make the Government aware of any kind of need, he

"The Department of Food Safety and Administration should ensure adequate availability of Remdesivir. The availability should be monitored from the Chief Secretary's office. Additional Remdesivir should be purchased while assessing the situation," CM said. The CM maintained that

there is no shortage of funds for the work related to Covid management. Quarantine centres should be opened in all districts and these should have proper medical facilities as well as proper arrangements for food. With a view to keeping the spread of infection to a minimum, it is extremely important that the provisions of the containment zone be strictly implemented.

'UP has excellent experience of Covid management. Our policies have received global acclaim. Our victory in this battle is certain. Every citizen of the State has an important role to play in defeating Covid. Compliance of Covid protocol is in everyone's interest Masks, sanitisation and physical distance have to be included in our lifestyle," he

**EC cuts Bengal campaign time...** The poll body has also

directed the political parties/candidates to provide masks, sanitizers, etc, to the participants and account for the cost in expenditure limits. If Covid 19 norms are flouted at any public meetings and rallies, the district election officers and returning officers can cancel the public meetings and rallies and invoke penal actions.

"It shall be the responsibility of the organisers of public meetings, rallies, etc to provide masks and sanitisers to every person attending these meetings, rallies, etc at their cost which shall be added and counted within limits of prescribed expenditure. Organisers shall also ensure proper usage of masks, sanitisers and also be responsible for maintaining minimum social distance by everyone. District Election Officers and Returning Officers shall take strict measures to enforce Covid guidelines during the campaign. They shall cancel public meetings, rallies, etc. if any violations are observed, in addition to invoking penal sections," the EC said.

cases, the EC has reduced the maximum number of electors per booth from 1500 to 1000 and marking of six feet distance for the queue outside the polling station to maintain social distancing. Earlier, at the meeting of

the political parties, ČEO Ariz Aftab them to strictly follow the COVID-19 protocol of wearing masks and maintain physical distancing while campaigning for the remaining phases. "Wearing a mask, keeping adequate sanitizers have been made mandatory at all political rallies. Any violations of the protocol shall be sternly dealt with. Criminal action will be taken as per the legal framework," EC officials told the representatives of the political parties. The poll panel called an all-party meeting in Kolkata after the Calcutta High Court sought its response on the actions and steps taken on Covid-19 safety protocols during the poll campaign. Political parties assured their full cooperation to the Election Commission in adhering to Covid-19 proto-

#### कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, ग्वालियर

Email- grmc1946@yahoo.co.in, Phone 0751-2403400, Fax- 0751-240340 ग्वालियर, 16 अप्रैल 2021 क्रमांक 12664/क्रय(कोविड-19)/2021 प्रथम ई-निविदा सूचना

गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, ग्वालियर के माइक्रोबायलॉजी विभाग के अधीन संचालित व्ही.आर.डी.एल. लैब में कोरोना की जॉचों के लिये निम्नांकित आवश्यक प्लॉस्टिकवेयर एवं कंज्युमेबिल्स सामग्री स्थानीय क्रय के माध्यम से क्रय हेतु प्रथम बार ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है:

1. आर.टी.पी.सी.आर. मशीन मे लिये पी.सी.आर. प्लेट, पी.सी.आर. प्लेट सीलर, एप्लाईड बायोसिस्टम्स इत्यादि।

माइक्रोटिप्स विभिन्न साईज, वुडन स्वॉब स्टिक, लाईन प्रिंटर लेबल, लाईन प्रिंटर रिबन इत्यादि।

इच्छुक निविदादाता समस्त विवरण, निविदा शर्ते एवं फार्म से दिनांक 20.04.2021 को दोपहर 03.00 बजे से ऑनलाईन क्रय कर ऑनलाईन ही प्रस्तुत सकेंगे। निविदा फॉर्म का मूल्य रूपये 500/- निर्धारित है एवं ऑनलाई प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क पृथक से देय होगा जो कि निविदादाता को ही वहन करना होगा। आमंत्रित निविदा का वार्षिक अनुमानित मूल्य रूपये 50.00 लाख है।

गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, ग्वालियर

### 4L daily Covid cases...

From page 1 Maharashtra,

Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh have more than one lakh active cases each. Along with the number of cases, the death count is also rising steadily amid reports of a glaring mismatch in the number of fatalities reported by several States and figures collected from crematoriums there. The failure of the authorities on placing any curb on mahakumbh and complete violation of Covid-19 norms in election rallies are seen as the

primary reason for such a huge spike in the number of cases.For example, West Bengal has crossed the national coronavirus average of 5.2 per cent by registering a Covid positive growth of 6.5 per cent. The cases in the State have doubled over the last week. The State has seen massive crowd at election rallies and roadshows with hardly anyone wearing face masks.Coming back to the worst-hit Maharashtra, on Friday, the State breached another grim Covid-19 landmark crossing a total of 37 lakh infections.

#### Covaxin production to be double by...

From page 1

Three public sectors companies are also being supported to increase the capacity of vaccine production. These are Haffkine

Biopharmaceutical Corporation Ltd , Mumbai -a State PSE under Maharashtra Government is being provided financial support as a grant for this facility to be made ready for manufacturing.

Biopharmaceuticals Ltd had asked for around 12 months to complete this task. However, the Central Government has asked them to expedite and within 6 months. The facility will have a capacity of 20 millions doses per month, once functional," as per the state-Similarly, Immunologicals Limited (IIL),

complete the task urgently

Hyderabad - a facility under National Dairy Development and Bharat Immunologicals Biologicals Limited (BIBCOL), Bulandshahr a CPSE under Department of Biotechnology will also be supported to prepare their facility to provide 10-15 million doses per month by August - September 2021.

## Covid spreads mainly... From page 1 "It is urgent that the World whenever indoors, we whenever indoors whenever whenever indoors whenever whenever

Health Organisation and other public health agencies adapt their description of transmission to the scientific evidence so that the focus of mitigation is put on reducing airborne Further, the researchers

emphasise that while it is necessary to wash hand and clean surfaces, they should be given less emphasis than airborne

If an infectious virus is primarily airborne, someone can potentially be infected when they inhale aerosols produced when an infected person exhales, speaks, shouts, sings, or sneezes.

The airborne control measures include ventilation, air filtration, reducing crowding and the amount of time people

spend indoors, wearing masks whenever indoors (even if not within 6 feet or two metres of others), attention to mask quality and fit, and higher-grade PPE for healthcare and other staff when working in contact with potentially infectious peo-

The team reviewed published research and identified 10 lines of evidence to support the predominance of the airborne route.

Moreover, transmission rates of SARS-CoV-2 are much higher indoors than outdoors, and transmission is greatly reduced by indoor ventilation. The researchers also cited work demonstrating long-range transmission of the virus between people in adjacent rooms in hotels; people who were never in each other's presence.

### **UK Home Dept...**

From page 1

India is a designated Part 2 country under the Extradition Act 2003 and the UK's Cabinet Minister has the authority to order the requested person's extradition after considering a number of further issues. Under the Act, the

Secretary of State must consider the possibility of imposition of the death penalty, in which case extradition cannot be ordered; the rule of specialty, which prohibits a person being dealt within the requesting state for matters other than those referenced in the extradition request; and whether or not the person was in the UK following extradition from another state, in which case that state's permission must be obtained before extraditing to a third state. In the absence of these fac-

tors, the Minister is supposed to order extradition within two months of the day on which the District Judge referred the decision to the office of Secretary of State.

The Home Secretary's order rarely goes against the court's conclusions.

Nirav can also appeal to the UK Supreme Court but only after the High Court certifies that the appeal involves a point of law of general public importance and either the High Court or the Supreme Court gives leave for the appeal to be

The CBI had registered the case on January 31, 2018, against the partners of three private firms and others including then officials of PNB on a complaint from the bank.

PUBLIC NOTICE Public is hereby informed that Sh. Shiv Tyagi has claimed to be the owner of Freehold Residential Built-up Ground floor, area covered

Residential Built-up Ground floor, area covered measuring 41.5 sq yds., built-up on property bearing no.-166/1, part of bearing khasra no.-619/21. Lal Dora Abadi 1908-2009, Situated in the Village Chattarpur Tehsil and District Saket (Mehrauli), Delhi-110074., and has agreed to sell it to Mr. Anuj Kumar Thakur and Mrs. Babita, who has approached the Magma Housing Finance Limited Ltd for loan against mortgage of above said property, if any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property then intimate within 7 days to Vikas Shokeen, Advocate, AB-18, Mianwali Nagar, Delhi-110087. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be accepted.

#### Chief Engir OIPR-25123/11/0002/2122

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ (छत्तीसगढ) क्र. 117/स्वा.वि./न.पा.नि./2021 रायगढ़ दिनांक 13.04.2021 ॥ ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ॥

नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	सि.नि. क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत राशि रू.	निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि
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2	76290	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-62 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone - 2	700000.00	28-04-2021
з	76291	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-61 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone - 3	700000.00	28-04-2021
4	76292	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-63 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone - 4	7100000.00	28-04-2021
5	76293	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-56 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone - 6	6500000.00	28-04-2021
6	76294	Supply of Placement Labour (227) - High Skilled - 6, Skilled - 124, Semi Skilled - 14, Unskilled - 83 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh	27511440.00	28-04-2021

उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

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#### FIGHT AGAINST CORONA -

# Create more facilities, increase Covid beds: CM to officers

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has directed officials to create more Covid facilities and to increase the strength of oxygen beds across

The Chief Minister also directed the officials to ensure real-time availability of beds of the Delhi Corona app and that the information on the number of beds is exact.

The direction came after a meeting convened by the Chief Minister to review a meeting on Friday on the situation of coronavirus in Delhi. Several steps taken by the Delhi Government to improve the health infrastructure of Delhi were discussed, along with increasing the bed capacity and several other infrastructural requirements in

Kejriwal said that there should be multiple assistance numbers in the hospitals and nodal persons should be appointed at every helpline number so that no urgent calls should be missed or turned down. He also said that the health teams must reach out to every patient in home isolation and provide oximeters, the general public should receive every help while they are in home isolation.

Deputy chief minister and



nodal minister Manish Sisodia, Health Minister Satyendar Jain, Additional Chief Secretary, and Health Secretary were also present in the meeting along with

Kejriwal further said that the focus of the Delhi government is towards increasing the bed capacity, which will ensure adequate treatment for the people who require urgent assistance.

In the meeting, bed management was discussed in detail. CM directed the officials to create more COVID facilities and to increase the strength of oxygen beds across Delhi.

"The bed availability on the

Delhi Corona app should be updated regularly. All the hospitals must be directed to ensure an adequate flow of information on the real-time availability of beds," he said.

The chief minister told the officials to ensure that this data is updated every day and the information should be

"All the helpline numbers of the hospitals, which are also mentioned on the Delhi Corona app should remain fully functional. The hospitals must be directed to make people available 24x7 for providing assistance through the helpline numbers," he said

## Preparedness for weekend curfew reviewed by CP

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{ ext{Government's call for week-}}^{ ext{ollowing the Delhi}}$ end curfew in the city, the Delhi Police Commissioner, SN Shrivastava, on Friday held a meeting with district Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCsP) to review the preparedness and plan of action to follow on ground for strict enforcement of Coivd-19 restrictions and Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) order.

"The Delhi Police is again in the frontline as last year to arrest the surge of corona," he said, directing all field officers to maintain tightness in restrictions and prosecute if anyone is found in willful disobedience to the restriction order without a valid ground or exemption.

All Special Commissioners of Police and Joint Commissioners of Police of ranges also attended the meeting. The CP also asked district DCsP to make extensive arrangements of pickets, patrolling and police presence on the ground.



"The covid weekend restrictions will be enforced strictly by Delhi Police like the night curfew. Anyone coming out of home will be definitely checked by the police personnel and questioned. If anyone is found moving without a valid emergency or movement pass for essential services or goods, they would be stopped and a case will be registered against them and they may face arrest too. Medical services, food materials, fruits and vegetables supply needs to go on as usual for normal life," said the CP.

"It is not our purpose to create hindrance in these services. These will operate normally and our personnel will facilitate it. But no one under the garb of these activities can undertake undue movement to violate the restriction orders, Shrivastava stated, however emphasizing that the genuine needs of people such as people in medical emergencies, vegetable vendors actually moving in streets to sell vegetables will Shrivastava also directed all

DCsP to utilize the outside force and PCR for strict enforcement of curfew and take prompt legal action on the violators. "What needs to be done in

such a scenario is known to all. We urge people to follow covid appropriate behaviour and stay home unless exempted under government order. The DDMA orders need to be followed," the

DMRC observes Swachchhta Pakhwada, sanitation main focus

### 10 IAS officers appointed as nodal officers for Covid hospitals

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

In order to ensure better functioning of the city hospitals, the Delhi Government on Friday appointed 10 IAS officers as "nodal officers" for Coivd-19 hospitals run by it and asked them to work from the health care facility they have been assigned.

The officers will be overall in-charge of the Coivd-19 hospital assigned to them and will exercise general superintendence, directions and control over the functioning of the hospital," an order issued by the health department read.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who has been appointed as the "nodal minister" for COVID-19 management in Delhi, said the step will ensure better patient manage-

During the meeting, the DCsP were also asked to ensure

that policemen are careful to

observe personal safety norms

wearing appropriate masks,
 social distancing and hand

ment and quick decision making. "Each officer shall be stationed at their respective hospital and ensure a robust and effective public grievances system also," he tweeted.

The name and phone number of the nodal officer will be displayed at prominent places in the hospital. These Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers can also take assistance of staff from their original office, according to the order. The nodal officer will be

responsible for efficient and effective handling of telephone lines, call centre and complaint centre pertaining to their hospital," it said..

hygiene. "It is the responsibility of the DCsP and SHOs to take care of the well being of their personnel by following strict covid discipline," stressed Shrivastava.

### SDMC makes special arrangement to lift garbage from homes of Covid patients

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has issued helpline numbers to lift bio-medical waste from the homes of

SDMC said that the civic body has made special arrangements to lift garbage from the homes of Covid-19 positive patients. Chawla said that the number of Covid-19

Leader of House Narendra Chawla in

positive patients have been increasing day by day hence SDMC has issued helpline numbers for all four zones. "People can inform about Covid-19 waste

by calling these numbers and a team from the concerned zone will reach there for garbage

He further informed that SDMC has specially deployed 53 auto tippers for lifting bio-

medical waste in all four zones. "A system has been developed in such a manner that Covid-19 waste removal and disposal will be done in a scientific manner," he added.

All four zones have made all arrangements in this regard and auto tippers have also been reserved, he said, adding that besides this all safety precautions are being taken to contain spread of Coronavirus during garbage

Gloves, sanitization related items, PPE kits, masks etc are being made available to Safai Sainiks, 'Health Care Workers' and 'Front Line

Najafgarh Zone South Zone

West Zone

011 -40988800 011-49506548 7290041009,

Helpline number

8010863863

As part of the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' initiative of

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

the Government, the Delhi Metro observed the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' from April 1st to April 15th under which a host of cleanliness activities were organised to promote cleanliness across all vulnerable locations on its network. "Each day of the pakhwa-

da was dedicated to specific area(s) viz station premises, depots, residential colonies, site offices and construction sites etc. for carrying out these cleaning and sanitation activities etc," the DMRC said in a statement.

"The main focus this time was on "Hygiene and Sanitation" particularly keeping



in mind the ongoing pandemic and to reinforce the message of cleanliness amongst public,"

In order to make the general public aware about the significance of the Pakhwada and to sensitize about cleanliness and hygiene in and around the metro premises such as ticket vending machines, ticket counters, security frisking and baggage handling points, passengers movement areas such as entrance, concourse and platforms, toilets especially those meant for Divyang passengers; Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) gate; stairs and handrails; cleaning of lifts, escalators and metro parking

During this fortnight, drives were taken for removal of encroachment, beggars/vendors etc in and around metro premises. Moreover, removal of posters, debris, damaged items etc from metro properties, viaducts, station areas were also executed during the peri-

The DMRC has always been appreciated for the cleanliness maintained by it at its stations and inside trains. "These steps will help in further improving the travel experience for its commuters and encourage everyone to keep their premises clean and well maintained in the true spirit of the 'Swacch Bharat Mission' of the government," it added.

#### Metros to run with headway of 15 minutes

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the weekend curfew imposed by the Delhi Government, Metro services will be available with a headway of 15 min across the whole netweekend.

The two sections, where there is a bifurcation in the network i.e Noida/Vaishali section of Blue Line and Kirti Nagar/Inderlok section of Green Line, the headway will be available after every 30 minutes in these sections.

## Process to collect dues for pending challans in cash suspended

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{cases in national Capital,}}^{\text{ollowing the surge in Covid}}$ the Delhi Traffic Police has suspended the process to collect dues for pending challans in cash. A senior police officer said that the process has been suspended till further orders, following the increasing coronavirus cases. However, people still have the option of e-gateway to pay their challans, police said. Earlier this month, police had issued a circular where they

mentioned that cash counters

may be made operational in each circle every Saturday and Sunday between 10 am to 6 pm from April 10. "It has been observed that

many individuals with pending challans are not able to pay their fines through the online payment system for various reasons. "Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) has desired that the cash counter may be established in each circle on every Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm to collect the fine amount for pending challans, the circular had stated.



## Gzb manufacturers asked to halt production of industrial-use oxygen, raise medical one

**PTI** ■ GHAZIABAD

With the coronavirus surge continuing unabated, the district administration in Ghazibad on Friday asked manufacturers to halt production of industrial-use oxygen and ramp up the supply for medical purposes, officials said.

District Magistrate Ajay Shankar Pandey said the administration also asked all hospital in the city to not deny treatment to a COVID-19 patients even if they have no beds. He said such hospitals can refer the patient to a dedicated COVID-19 facility after giving them preliminary treat-

The administration Friday met oxygen manufacturers and suppliers here and issued a slew of instructions to them so that adequate supply is maintained here to meet the high demand.

Pandey told PTI that nodal officer designated for COVID-19 management R K Gupta has been instructed to coordinate with additional chief medical officers to ensure the availability of vaccines, medical equipment and ambulances to face the challenge.

Joint Commissioner,

Industries, Virendra Singh has been ordered to monitor the city's biggest oxygen manufacturing unit, the Inox oxygen plant, to ensure industrial oxygen is not produced and supplied, he said.

Officer or any responsible employee of the company must remain present at the plant to make sure the production of medical-use oxygen round the clock, he said.

Additional Chief Medical Officer Sunil Tyagi has been instructed to monitor bed availability for COVID 19 patients, the DM said.

The state government has already imposed a night curfew

in Ghaziabad to curb the rise in cases.

## 6 of Jathedi-Lawrence gang with ₹3.5L bounty on their head arrested

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has ■ arrested six wanted criminals of Kala Jathedi-Lawrence Bishnoi gang from three different States. Police said that the accused were carrying a cumulative reward of ₹3,50,000 from Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Chandigarh.

The accused have been identified as Ankit alias Ankit Lagarpur (23), Ravi alias Ravi Jagsi (29), Rajan alias Rajan Jaat (24), Sumit alias Cheetah alias Sumit Bichpadi (24), Amit alias Chhota (35), Sudhir Mann (29).

According to Manishi Chandra, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, different teams were formed and dispatched after comprehensive brief-

"The teams raided three different locations in three states and arrested the accused persons. The first team arrested three persons Rajan, Amit and Sumit from a hideout in Navi Mumbai. The second team busted the Rajasthan module and arrested Ankit and Sudhir Mann when they had come to Delhi to receive a consignment of firearms," said the

DCP.
"The third team busted the Gujarat module with the arrest of Ravi from Ahmadabad. The accused were recently involved in gruesome crimes acting on the directions of gang leaders operating from three different countries," said the DCP.

"Virender Pratap alias Kala Rana, suspected to be operating from Thailand, Satenderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar, suspected to be operating from Canada and Sandeep alias Kala Jathedi, suspected to have left India to an unknown foreign destination," said the DCP.

"With the arrests, it has been revealed that the masterminds Kala Rana addressed as 'Tiger', Kala Jathedi as 'Alpha' and Goldy Brar as 'Doctor' with-in the cartel. Tiger is the communication hub amongst all gang members, Doctor manages finances and logistics and Alpha decides the targets to be pursued," said the

"Ravi Jagsi had supplied the Scorpio car, some weapons and shooters which were used to facilitate the escape of Kuldeep alias Fajja from GTB Hospital. Kuldeep later died in a police action," the

## 3, in bid to rob, held after exchange of fire in Bhajanpura

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested three men after a brief exchange of fire during night curfew for allegedly trying to rob a person on Thursday night in northeast Delhi's Bhajanpura

The accused, Sabir (30), Ravi (32) and Zuber (22), all have previous criminal records. Police said that both Sabir and Ravi sustained bullet injuries on their leg during the exchange of fire and were shifted to a hospital for treatment.

According to Sanjay Kumar Sain, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northeast district, on Thursday night, while Bhajanpura Station House Officer (SHO), Ashok Sharma along with his team was enforcing night curfew in the area, he noticed that three persons who were on a white scooty trying to rob a person near Kavad

Mandir on 66 Foota Road.

"Sensing police presence, they escaped but were chased by Sharma. When the picket staff tried to stop them, they fired on the police team. While trying to escape, they lost balance of their vehicle and fell on the road. Thereafter, they again fired on the police team while

escaping on foot," said the DCP. "They were being chased by Head Constable Anil and Constable Joginder who retaliated in self defence using their service weapon during which accused Sabir and Ravi received bullet injury on their leg," said the DCÝ.

"A case was registered and all the three accused have been arrested. A sophisticated pistol along with six live cartridges, a country made pistol with one live round and a used cartridge was seized along with a scooty that was found to be stolen," the DCP said.

#### Inebriated man rams car into barricade outside Delhi's North Block, held

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

22-year-old man, in inebriated condition on Friday Amorning allegedly rammed his Mercedes car into a barricade near North Block in central Delhi.

A senior police official said that the accused was not in his senses at the time of the incident. It will be ascertained after the medical examination about the substance under the influence he was.

Police said preliminary investigation revealed that the accused was having a party in Dwarka. He disclosed that the car belonged to his uncle.

On Friday around 6 am, he rammed the car at a barricade near North Block. He was caught at the spot.

### Man murdered by son over monetary issue in Wazirpur

NEW DELHI: A 70-year-old man was stabbed to death by his son over monetary issue in northwest Delhi's Wazirpur area. The deceased has been identified as Mahendra Pal, a resident of JJ Colony Wazirpur. Police received information on Thursday that one

The statement of complainant Shanti Devi was recorded where she alleged that a quarrel took place between her husband and son Anil (40) on the issue of money, a senior police official said.

Mahendra Pal, having knife injury was admitted in Deepchand Bandhu Hospital by his wife Shanti Devi, said

#### Chief of Bharat Mata Vahini group, associate held for trying to stop Friday namaaz in G'gram

PARVESH SHARMA 
GURUGRAM

The Gurugram Police on Friday arrested the L chief of "Bharat Mata Vahini Group" and one of his associates for disruption of Jumma Namaz and inciting communal disharmony at a local park located in Sector 46 in Gurugram.

The complaint in this regard was filed by Abdul Habis of Gandhi colony, Sector-39 in Gurugam, the police said.

The Bharat Mata Vahini group was demanding that offering prayers in public parks and spaces should be stopped.

The complainant said that the chief of Bharat Mata Vahini, Dinesh Bharti and his associate Sudhir Kumar, had come in a Maruti Gypsy to sector 46 where Jumma Namaz was being held on

"The duo, who reached the spot had threatened those praying and incited communal disharmony and spread enmity among the 2 communities. They tried to stop the prayers and asked the Namazis to leave and vacate the place," the complainant told the police.

"The two have previously created disturbance on previous Friday prayers held at Sec-39 and Sec-40 where Namaz had to be stopped due to their objections. These repeated action are promoting feeling of enmity and ill will between the two peaceful communities. We ask you to urgently register a complaint against these two," the complainant stated to the

# Former CBI chief Ranjit Sinha dies of Covid-19



Former CBI Director Ranjit
Sinha died here on Friday
morning reportedly due to Covid-19

Sinha, 68, was confirmed positive for novel coronavirus infection on Thursday night and succumbed to the disease early on Friday, officials said.

An IPS officer of the 1974batch (Bihar cadre), Sinha took over as the Director of CBI on December 3, 2012 and retired on December 2, 2014. He was the 26th Director of CBI after its formation in 1963.

Prior to joining as Director, CBI, Sinha was Director General of ITBP. He had earlier held several important positions in CBI including the post of Joint Director and DIG. Sinha served as Superintendent of Police of Madhubani, Saharsa and Railway (Patna). He had also served as DIG, Magadh Range, Gaya. He had served in CRPF as Inspector General (Operations) at Srinagar, IG (Personnel) at Directorate General and ADG

Sinha, a Post Graduate in Science from Patna University, had an M.Phil from IIPA, New Delhi and a Diploma in HR

University, Australia. He was decorated with the Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 1991

Ensure smooth passage to vehicles carrying oxygen: Centre tells States

**Centre takes stock** of Covid status in **UP, Chhattisgarh** 

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday directed the States to ensure uninterrupted movement of medical oxygen carrying vehicles along their borders, and said they must not impose any curb on production and supply of the essential public health commodity anywhere. Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla's communication to chief secretaries of all States and Union Territories came in the wake of reports of shortage of the medical oxygen for Covid-19 patients in different parts of the country in the last

few days. The Home Secretary along with his Health counterpart Rajesh Bhushan chaired highlevel meetings to review status of Covid-19 in Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh and the public health measures taken for containment and management of Covid-19 by the State health authorities. Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI

and the President's Police

Medal for Distinguished

Praveen Sinha, in his condo-

lence message said, "Our heart-

felt condolences are with the

bereaved family in this hour of

intense grief. May his soul rest

In-charge Director, CBI,

Service in 1997

Aayog, Dr. Balram Bhargava, DG ICMR, Dr (Prof) Sunil Kumar, DGHS were also present along with Chief Secretaries, DGs of State Police and Health Secretaries of both "Chhattisgarh and Uttar

Pradesh along with Maharashtra are the only three States in the country which have more than one lakh cases. Both active Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh are reporting very high number of daily new Covid-19 cases and high deaths caused by Covid-19. Chhattisgarh has reported nearly 6.2% increase in weekly new Covid cases based on

Incidentally, it was during

The scathing remarks by

Sinha's tenure at the CBI dur-

ing which the agency earned

the sobriquet of "caged parrot"

Justice RM Lodha were a result

of Sinha's nine-page affidavit to the Supreme Court giving details of his meetings with the

from the Supreme Court.

7 day moving average. In last two weeks, the State has seen almost 131% increase in weekly new cases. 22 districts in Ćhhattisgarh have crossed their reported highest cases in the last 30 days; Raipur, Durg, Rajnandgaon and Bilaspur are the most affected districts. In contrast to the week 17th-23rd March 2021, in the week of 7th-13thApril 2021, RT-PCR tests have decreased to 28%

(from 53%). "Uttar Pradesh has reported a growth rate of 19.25% in daily new cases. 46 districts in Uttar Pradesh have crossed their reported highest cases in

then Law Minister Ashwani

Kumar and other senior offi-

cers during which changes

were made in the coal scam

probe report submitted to the

apex court.
"Whatever the Supreme

Court says is correct," was his

response to the reporters after

(from 34%) while the Antigen

Tests have increased to 62%

the last 30 days; Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi and Prayagraj are the most affected districts. In contrast to the week 17th-23rd March 2021, in the week of 7th-13th April 2021, RT-PCR tests have decreased to 46% (from 48%) while Antigen tests have increased to 53% (from 51%)," said the Home Ministry in a The Home Secretary

emphasised that medical oxy-

gen is an essential public health commodity and any impediment in its supply in the country may critically impact the management of patients suffering from COVID-19 disease in other parts of the country Therefore, you are requested to ensure that no such restriction is imposed on the movement of medical oxygen between the states and UTs, and transport authorities shall be instructed to accordingly allow free inter-state movement of oxygen carrying vehicles," the letter said.

Bhalla told the states that no curb shall be imposed on oxygen manufacturers and suppliers to limit the oxygen supplies only to the hospitals of the state in which they are located and there shall be free movement of oxygen carrying vehicles into the cities, without any restriction of timings, while also enabling inter-city supply without restriction.

Towards the fag end of his tenure, another controversy stuck him. A purported visitors diary with names of persons under the CBI scanner in coal and 2G scam surfaced in 2014. It showed that these people were allegedly frequenting his

The Supreme Court direct-

## India may witness 2,320 Covid deaths per day by June: Study

India may witness 1,750 coronavirus-related deaths per day, surging to around 2,320 daily by the first week of June while in financial terms, the country may need to expend over \$7.8 billion on testing and \$1.7 billion on healthcare usage because of infections by September 2021, according to a report of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission by India Task Force members.

The report, titled "Managing India's second COVID-19 wave: Urgent steps", underlines the key elements of the second COVID-19 wave. It also suggests measures like ramping up vaccine production, vaccination to the needy, quarantine and ban on assembly of groups of over 10 that should be taken to help mitigate the spread of infection.

As per the preliminary review of the report, "while the pandemic has spread, the geographic contours of the second wave closely mirror those of the first wave, though with a deeper penetration into tier-2 and tier-3 cities." The study also indicates that the second wave has been more geographically bundled

The tally of districts constituting the top 50% of the cases has fallen from over 40

ed the then CBI chief to recuse himself from the 2G scam probe on PIL alleging that Sinha met the accused at his

at the time of the first peak to less than 20 presently, it said pointing out that at the time of the first surge of the novel coronavirus cases during August-September 2020, the less at 0.87%. count of districts contributing to 75% of the total COVID-19 cases was 60-100, whereas it has been approx. 20-40 districts during the second wave.

ond wave The second wave is unlike the first in two significant ways. Firstly, the rate of increase in fresh coronavirus cases is substantially higher. Secondly, more coronavirus cases are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic, causing relatively low rates of hospitalisation and mortality.

It took 40 days to go from 10K-80K in COVID-19 sec-

The overall Case Fatality Ratio (CFR) since the outset of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020 has been

The Supreme Court asked

former CBI special director ML

reported to be around 1.3%. The CFR among Covid-19 patients who have contracted the infection since the beginning of 2021 is considerably

The report also recommended solutions such as vaccination including all adults, comprising those below 45, with severe comorbidities into the priority group, enhancing jab pro-duction, widening jab basket including Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson besides addressing vaccine hesitancy.

The report also doesn't propose a blanket national or state lockdown. Indicating that economic closures are most disruptive to the poorest sections of society, it proposes a middle-ground approach in India, comprising phased, localised closures or

into allegations. Taking note of Sharma's report, the CBI regis-

## Rahul takes potshots at Centre's 'Tughlagi' 'ring-a-bell' strategy

With the menace of Covid-19 getting scarier by the day, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the Centre's strategy to fight the pandemic consisted of imposing a 'Tughlaqi lockdown, ringing bells and singing praises to later, the country continues to suffer and infrastructure have crumbled while the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) continues to turn away from his responsibilities.

Congress-led Opposition has been criticising the Government over its handling of the pandemic and the vaccination drive, while the Centre has maintained that its timely steps have been instrumental in fighting Covid-19. "The Central government's Covid-19 strategy — Stage 1- Impose a Tughlaqi lockdown, Stage 2-Ring bells, Stage 3-Sing praises to the Lord," Rahul tweet-

Later, on Instagram, the Gandhi scion posted a video from his remarks to the media on this day last year when he had talked about lockdown



providing time for ramping up health infrastructure and contrasted it with a video report of how there is a masfight the pandemic currently.

"One year later, our people continue to suffer, our infrastructure continues to crumble and our Prime Minister continues to turn away from his responsibilities," he said in his post.

Congress general secre-tary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra appealed to the people to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour such as wearing masks and taking other precautions. "We have to win this battle together with caution and compassion," she said in a tweet in Hindi.

The grand old party in the past also has compared some of the government's decisions to those taken by Delhi Sultanate ruler Muhammad bin Tughlaq, to allege that they were arbitrary and not well though out.

#### Amid Covid surge, security forces witness 5-fold jump in cases in last 10 days

**AGENCIES** ■ NEW DELHI

Paramilitary forces have almost witnessed five-fold increase in active Covid-19 cases in the last 10 days. On April 5, jawans who had tested positive for the virus in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) were 522 while now the tally goes up to 2,915. Apart from this, the total infected jawans who were testalso increased more than five

Fifty seven jawans were tested positive on April 5, which now increased to 301 on the 10th day (Thursday). According to the data, Central Reserve Police Force and Border Security Force have seen the highest spike in number of COVID cases. The BSF, which had only 20 cases on April 5 has seen a massive spike and on April 15 it witnessed 117 cases in the last 24 hours. The total number of active cases in BSF stands at 1,850 which was 166 on 10 days back. Similarly, CRPF which were witnessing four to five cases per day in first week of April has

seen massive spike. On April 5, 97 jawans had been tested positive for the virus. The total active cases in CRPF has almost doubled.



PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has "activated" all its hospitals and operationalised a Covid care centre in Delhi for serving and retired personnel of the force in view of the spurt in coronavirus infections across the country.

ITBP director general S S Deswal issued a message in this regard to around 90,000 perretired and dependents of the force that was raised in 1962 after the Chinese aggression.

"All our hospitals have been activated to treat our 'Himveers' (braves of the mountains) and their families. Our doctors are highly motivated and committed to take care of you. A helpline is being started in this regard. A COVID care centre has been made functional at Chhawla (south-west Delhi) campus and it is fully equipped," a statement issued by the force quoting the DG said.

"We are always concerned and committed to take care of our veterans and their families. These facilities are available to our veterans also," it added.

Deswal said it was again "challenging times for the country in view of the second



The ITBP is primarily tasked to guard the 3,488-km-long **Line of Actual** Control (LAC) with China apart from rendering a variety of duties in the internal security domain of the country

assault by COVID-19."

"Most of you have been vaccinated as per priority given to us by the government. We are warriors, and will fight it out by following the COVID-19 safety protocols," the message said.

The ITBP chief asked the personnel not to take any "Himveers have to save

other citizens also by render-

ing all help. Be a sincere fol-lower of COVID-19 safety protocol. Protect yourself, families, and near and dear ones," the message said. The ITBP is primarily tasked to guard the 3,488-km-

long Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China apart from rendering a variety of duties in the internal security domain of the country.

As per official data pub-

lished on April 14, various central armed police forces (CAPFs) are also witnessing a jump in coronavirus infections as the country is wit nessing a surge in recent times.

## India firms up its stakes in Af

New Delhi: Two days after US President Joe Biden announced withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, India on Friday said any political settlement in the war-ravaged country must be inclusive and should preserve the socio-economic and political gains of the past 19

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it has to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and to end its military operations there.

"India remains engaged with the Afghan stakeholders and also our regional and international partners regarding next steps," spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

He said India is "deeply concerned" about the increase in violence and targeted killings in Afghanistan and that it has called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire.

"We are closely following the ongoing intra-Afghan peace process. Afghan people have seen more than four decades of war and unrest and deserve long-lasting peace and development," the spokesperson said.

Bagchi was responding to

media queries on the US announcement.

"India is of the view that an Afghan peace process should be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghancontrolled. Any political settlement must be inclusive and should preserve the socioeconomic and political gains of the past 19 years," he said.

"India supports a united, democratic and sovereign concerned about the increase in violence and targeted killings in Afghanistan. India has called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire," Bagchi added.

The MEA spokesperson said India has participated in the Doha conference, the Geneva conference and the Heart of Asia conference in Dushanbe on the Afghan peace process.

"India remains engaged with the Afghan stakeholders and also our regional and international partners regard-

ing next steps," he said.

In a major announcement, President Joe Biden on Wednesday said US troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan beginning May 1 and the process will be com-

pleted by September 11.

क्र. 294/वि.शा./2021

#### कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

--:: संसोधन पत्र ::--

भोपाल, दिनांक 16.04.2021

विद्युत शाखा द्वारा दिनांक 15.04.2021 के निविदा क्रं. 293 ⁄विद्युत शाखा ⁄2021 ( नि.क्र. 44 ⁄021 ⁄022 ) से जारी निविद भोपाल जिले में कोविड-19 की आपात परिस्थितियों के दृष्टिगत ऑक्सीजन सप्लाई निर्बाध रूप से बनाए रखने वे

लिए पं. खुशीलाल आयुर्वेदिक चिकित्सालय, भोपाल हेतु 1300 LPM के ऑक्सीजन प्लांट स्थापित एवं सप्लाई करने के लिए निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। इच्छुक निविदाकर्ता दिनांक 22.04.2021 को सायं 05.00 बजे तक अपनी निविदा/ऑफर इस कार्यालय की ई-मेल आई.डी. <u>commoffice@bmconline.gov.in</u> पर प्रेषित कर सकते हैं । निविदा 22.04.2021 को सायंकाल 05.30 बजे आई.एस.बी.टी. स्थित निगम की विद्युत शाखा में खोली जायेगी। 20 दिन में प्लांट स्थापित न होने पर निविदा शून्यवत मानी जावेगी। निविदा के विरूद्ध भुगतान प्लांट स्थापन करने के उपरांत किया जावेगा को निम्नानुसार पड़ा जावे।

No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Amount (in Rs.)	(in Rs.)	Cost (in Rs.)	Period (in months
01.	2021_UAD _140005_1	Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing & Commissioning with 5 year CMC of 1300 LPM PSA (PRESSURE SWING ADSORPTION) Oxygen Generator Plant at Pt. Khushilal Ayurvedic Hospital Bhopal	1,30,00,000/-	1,30,000/-	12,500/-	1 Month
नियम	व शर्ते :-					

1. निविदा प्रपत्र की निर्धारित राशि एवं धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे अन् समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की समयाविध दिनांक 16.04.2021 सायं 6 बजे से 24.04.2021 सायं 05.30 बजे तक है ऑनलाईन प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से दिनांक 26.04.2021 सायं 05.30 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षर कार्यालय में नियमानुसार निविदा खोली जावेगी किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा

नगर निगम, भोपाल

## SC's directive for speedy disposal of cheque bounce cases

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday came out with a slew of directions to ensure speedy disposal of cheque bounce cases and asked the Centre to amend laws to ensure clubbing of trials in cases which are lodged within one year against a person relating to the same transaction.

The apex court directed all the high courts across the country to issue guidelines for trial courts to deal with cheque bounce cases.

A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde further said that the evidence in cheque dishonour cases can now be tendered by filing affidavits and there would be no need to examine witnesses

The bench, also comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao,

B R Gavai, A S Bopanna and S Ravindra Bhat, asked the Centre to make "suitable amendments" in the Negotiable Instruments Act to ensure that trials in cheque bounce cases lodged in 12 months against a person can be clubbed together into one consolidated case.

It reiterated the earlier decision and held that trial courts have no "inherent power" to reconsider their decisions to summon persons to face trials in the cheque bounce cases.

The apex court said the issues which have not been dealt by it would be considered by a committee headed by Justice R C Chavan, former judge of the Bombay High

On March 10, the top court had constituted the committee

to submit a report in three months specifying the steps to be taken for early disposal of cheque bounce cases across the country. It said a three-judge bench

would now take up the suo motu matter on ensuring early disposal of cheque bounce cases after eight weeks.

had earlier termed the pendency of over 35 lakhs cheque bounce cases as "grotesque" and suggested to the Centre to come up with a law to create additional courts for a particular period of time to deal with such cases.

On March 5 last year, the top court had registered a suo motu case and decided to evolve a "concerted" and "coordinated" mechanism for expeditious disposal of such cases.

## SC appoints special public prosecutors for multi-crore coal scam

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has appointed former Additional Solicitor General Maninder Singh and advocate Rajesh Batra as special public prosecutors (SPPs) for trial of multi-crore coal scam cases filed by the Enforcement Directorate.

Senior advocate R S Cheema, who was appointed SPP in 2014 by the top court, has sought permission to be relieved of the responsibility citing his age and shortage of law officers assisting him.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde said that though there was no consensus on the names of individuals, the counsel appearing on all sides unanimously agreed that the apex court should appoint

impeccable integrity and a designated senior advocate to guide him and conduct the proceedings. "Taking into account the

above said criteria, we hereby appoint (i) Shri Maninder Singh, Senior Advocate and former Additional solicitor General of India; and (ii) Shri Rajesh Batra, Advocate as Special Public Prosecutors in the place of R S Cheema.
"R S Cheema, may get

relieved upon the newly appointed Prosecutors taking charge. This Court records appreciation for the services rendered by R S Cheema," said the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

## **BJP says Mamata planned riots** over firing, releases audio tape

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Even as Mamata Banerjee contin-ued to attack Prime Minister Narendra Modi for importing corona in Bengal in his bid to win elections, the BJP on Friday released an audio-tape showing a conversation between the State Chief Minister and Cooch Behar district Trinamool Congress president Pratha Pratim Roy where she was allegedly instructing him to make preparations for taking out a rally with the corpse of people killed in Sitalkuchi police firing last Saturday.

This, BJP leadership claimed was planned by the Chief Minister to stoke communal riots in order to polarise the Muslim voters. A timely banning of politicians — including the Chief Minister — by the Election Commission of India from entering Cooch Behar till last Tuesday however till foiled her "criminal designs to fan riots in order

to win elections." BJP leader Amit what would have been the situation Malavya said.

Four persons were killed when the CPF opened fired after an alleged crowd of 300-350 men tried to attack the booth number 126 during the fourth phase of polling.
In the purported audio-tape fea-

turing Banerjee and Roy who is also the TMC candidate from Sitalkuchi the Chief Minister also directed him to make arrangements for lodging an FIR against those who opened fire and implicating in that document the district SP and the local Circle Inspector, the BJP leader said adding Roy was asked get the FIR drawn by professional so as to frame not only the central forces but also the district SP and the local circle inspector.

At a time when she should have stood with the law-enforcing agencies the Chief Minister was seen standing by the law-breakers, Malavya said. "Imagine had this rally been allowed to take place

of Bengal what kind of communal disturbance it would have ignited," he

"This betrays the criminal mindset of the Chief Minister who has no problem with playing politics with the death of people ... she was try-ing to reap political dividends with dead bodies," Malavya said adding how Banerjee had been trying to instigate people saying the BJP would invoke National Population Register to victimize its opponents in the name of pushing out alleged infiltrators.

There is no plans of brining NPR now and neither there is any proposal of raising detention camps, Malavya said claiming how the Chief Minister has been spreading false stories in the election rallies to create a mass panic and reap political dividends. "This she is doing as a last resort because she knows that she is going out of power."

### Clubbing last 3 phase polls into 1 against democratic spirits: BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Opposing Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's suggestions that the 8-phase elections be effectively reduced to six phases so to say, the BJP Friday said

was against clubbing the last three phases of elections into a single-day polling saying the exercise would go against democratic spirit putting the voters and candidates into a position of disadvantage

Bengal goes to the fifth phase of polling on April 17 that is Saturday. Senior BJP leader and its candidate from Tarakeshwar seat in Hooghly Swapan Dasgupta, said after emerging from the all-party meeting called by the Election Commission of India "we have said our party will abide by all protocols put in place by the Election Commission, and urged that no steps be taken that discriminates those voting in the next phases from those who have already exercised their franchise. We have not said anything about clubbing (of phases),... we feel that the elections will be held in

### Fifth phase of polling today

onsidering the firing deaths in the fourth phase of Assembly elections in Bengal last Saturday the Election Commission of India have made massive arrangements for the fifth phase which would be held on Saturday.

More than a crore voters of 45 Assembly constituencies would exercise their franchise deciding the fate of 342 candidates on when 45 seats would go to polls in the fifth

According to sources the ECI would deploy about 853 companies of central forces to ensure free and fair voting. Voting will be held at 15,789 polling stations in 16 seats in North 24 Parganas, eight each in Bardhaman East and Nadia, seven in Jalpaiguri, five in Darjeeling and one in Kalimpong district.

### Rajya Sabha election: CPM fields John Brittas

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Tohn Brittas, the ideological consultant to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan , has been nominated as the CPI(M) representative to the Rajya Sabha from Kerala. Brittas, who is presently the managing director and chief executive officer of the CPI(M)-owned Kairali TV channel was one of the close advisors to Pinarayi Vijayan along with Raman Srivastava, the former director general of Kerala Police.

The CPI(M) has also nominated V Sivadasan, a former president of the party's student wing SFI as its second nominee. Based on the strength of the party in the current legislature, the CPI(M) can win two seats out of the three at stake. The Muslim League has nominated NRI businessman P V Abdul Wahab as its candidate for the April 30 election.

The names of Brittas and

the State Committee of the party met on Friday at the imposing AKG Centre at Thiruvananthapuram. A release issued by the party head quarters after the meeting claimed that the CPI(M)-led LDF would win 80 to 100 seats in the just concluded assembly election to Kerala. "Kerala will see for the first time the demolition of the anti-government feeing and the ruling party coming back to power with more seats," said the release.

The nomination of Brittas is being seen as the CPI(M)'s move to cobble up a grand alliance before the 2024 Lok Sabha election which the party hopes to win comfortably based on the recent farm agitation and other people movements headed by the party. "Brittas enjoys considerable clout with many opposition politicians in New Delhi, his second home turf from where he controlled Deshabhimani, the CPI(M)'s

### BMC to use 175 Jaslok Hospital beds for Covid patients, 52 for non-Covid critical patients

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Taking cognisance of the fact that as many as 30 critical patients were undergoing cancer treatment and another 22 critical patients were being treated for cardiac/nephro ailments, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Friday made some changes in its earlier decision to convert Mumbai's famed Jaslok Hospital in south Mumbai into a dedicated Covid-19 hospital.

A day after it announced its decision to convert Jaslok Hospital into a dedicated Covid-19 hospital, the BMC amended its earlier move and decided not to convert the private medical facility into a fully dedicated Covid-19 hospital, saying that it did "not want to risk the lives of these 52 critical non-COVID patients, presently admitted in Jaslok hospital".

In a revised order issued on Friday, the BMC said that it had conveyed its Thursday's decision to the Jaslok Hospital management. "However, it has been brought to the notice of MCGM by the said management that presently 30 critical patients undergoing cancer treatment and another 22 critical patients undergoing cardiac/nephro treatment are already admitted in the hospital and considering their medical condition, shifting them to other hospital at this juncture may prove fatal," Mumbai Municipal Commissioner I S Chahal said in his revised order.

"Hence, it is imperative on part of MCGM not to risk the lives of these 52 critical non-COVID patients, presently admitted in Jaslok hospital. Presently, 227 activated beds exist in Jaslok hospital," Chahal said.

Making amendments in his earlier order, Chahal said "Of the total 227 beds in Jaslok Hospital, 175 beds will function as COVID beds. Of these 175 Covid beds, 29 will be ICU beds"

Chahal said that the remaining 52 beds catering to above mentioned critical patients shall continue to be non-COVID beds. "Rest of the conditions in our earlier will remain unchanged," he said. In effect, the BMC will utilise 175 out of 227 beds to treat Covid-10

Meanwhile, the BMC has instructed the hospital management to discharge all the non-cancer and cardiac/nephro patients undergoing treatment in speciality wards, to shift all such patients requiring non-Covid tertiary care to nearby tertiary hospitals in 48 hours and to discharge all patients admitted for elective treatments by postponing their surg-

The BMC has also asked the Jaslok Hospital management to augment suspected/ holding area for suspected Covid-19 cases, if required and follow all protocols and guidelines laid down for dedicated Covid hospitals as

### NCB busts gang cultivating cannabis in Thane flat

n a major breakthrough in a sensational case involving international ramifications, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has smashed a gang engaged in the cultivation of cannabis inside a two bed room-Hall-Kitchen (BHK) flat at Dombivli in neighboring Thane district.

Announcing the busting of the cannabis growing gang that would purchase seeds from Netherland and sell the drugs in cash and crypto currencies like Bitcoins, NCB's zonal director Sameer Wankhede said here on Friday: "This is indeed a big case. We are investigating the entire network that was involved in cultivation of Cannabis by hydroponic technique".

Hydroponics is an effective method for growing plants that places the plants in a water solution that's rich in nutrients. Instead of using soil to grow the plants, the roots of the plants come into direct contact with the nutrient-rich solution.

Acting on intelligence inputs, the NCB carried out the raids at a 2 BHK flat at Dombivli's Palava City, where the investigators found Cannabis being cultivated. The NCB identified the two arrested persons as Javed

Jahangir Sheikh and Arshad Khatri. "We are trying to find out their antecedents and links," Wankhede said. "During our raids, we found that Cannabis was being cul-

tivated there through Hydroponic techniques. From the site we have recovered cultivation setup, PH regulators, plant nutrients, clay pebbles, water pumps, air circulation systems, CO2 gas cylinders, photosynthesis lighting systems," Wankhede

The cannabis cultivation was being done clandestinely in the flat owned by one Rehan Khan who is away in Saudi Arabia. Khan is suspected to be financing the illegal cannabis cultivation. While nArshad is an expert in hydroponic cultivation, Javed used to manage distribution of harvest.

"The two were procuring seeds from Amsterdam in the Netherlands through the dark web. The yield was sold to mediums size and least of March 1. ums size peddlers of Mumbai and Pune at the rate of 2,500 per gram for retail," Wankhede said.

### Aligarh cops start jail bharo movement

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Aligarh Police has started "Jail Bharo Andolan" with Operation Prahar to crack down on criminals. Along with this, two other special operations have also been conducted, in which more than one thousand criminals have been arrested within 15 days. On an average, 50 people are being interrogated every

The 'Jail Bharo Andolan' was started by the new SSP Kalanidhi Naithani. SSP took over the district on 27 March. Three days later, on March 30, Operation Awara started. It was a screw up on those who drink on the road. Under this, action has been taken against 987 people. . After this, the operation, unarmed' in the district started on April 2. It tightened up those people who are illegally possessing weapons. So far, reports have been sent to the DM to suspend the actual license of 120 people in this operation. After this, Operation Prahar was started from 10 April. Under this, the wanted and the warrants were attacked. In five days, 177 miscreants have been arrested. In the 10 days before April 10, about a hundred criminals were caught.

#### Tamil Nadu's knitwear sector hit hard amid Covid surge KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

When Europe gets cold Tamil Nadu sneezes. The adage has been proved again as countries like Germany, France and Britain announced lock down due to Covid-19 pandemic leaving nearly one thousand knitwear units in Tirupur gasping for breath. Despite the Centre's announce-

ments about various financial packages as part of the Atmanirbhar schemes for the resuscitation of the gloomy industrial sector in the State, the knitwear exporters are yet to come out of the abyss to which they have fallen since the breaking out of the pandemic all over the world. The textile materials manufactured in Tirupur stand out in the global market because of quality and craftmanship. But that has not been successful in reviving the cash liquidity faced by the European end users of Tirupur's knitwear products, according to Raja M Shanmugham, president, Tirupur Exporters' Association (TEA).

Shanmugham, a real Raja of the knitwear industry, says the fortunes of the industry could be turned for the better by a few measures which could be ordered by Nirmala Sitaraman, the country's finance minister. "The second lockdown promulgated in major countries like Germany, France and UK from November, has lead us, mainly MSMEs into a liquidity crisis. In addition to this we are facing another shock in the form of ever increasing price of yarn, our important raw material due to business dynamics. These factors have eroded the competitiveness of the knitwear industry, Shanmugham, known for his fighting spirits, told The Pioneer with uncertainty written all over his face.

He said measures like Interest Equalisation Scheme which was announced for a brief period of three months, if extended to a period of two years would help in soothing the pain being suffered by the industry. "This will help us to tide over the financial crunch we are facing due to lock down and high yarn prices and also in sustaining the global competitiveness of Brand Tirupur," said the TEA president.

The TEA in a memorandum to the minister has pointed out that the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RODTEP) announced in January 2021 to replace the ROSCTL (Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies) has not been operationalised which has put the exporters and MSMEs between deep sea and devil.

"The MSMEs are not receiving the reimbursement of the embedded taxes including electricity tax, Mandi tax, GST on petro-products. The nondisbursement of RODTEP is causing severe liquidity crisis," said the TEA

## Maha logs 63,729 new cases

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Maharashtra breached another grim Covid-19 landmark on Friday, as it recorded a staggering 63,729 infections thus crossing a total of 37 lakh infections, even as alarming 398 more people succumbed to the pandemic in various

A day after the pandemic claimed 349 lives and left 61,695 more infected in the state, the daily tally of infections rose by 2034 while the daily Covid-19 went up 49.

With 63729 fresh cases, the total infections climbed from 36,39,855 to 36,03,584. Similarly, with 398 new deaths, the total Covid-19 toll rose from 59,153 to 59,551.

As 45,335 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after fu3ll recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year went up to 39,04,391. The recovery rate in the state for the first time in several days dropped from 81.3 per cent to 81.12 per cent.

The number of "active cases" total cases in the state rose from 6,20,060 to 6,38,034.. The fatality rate in the state dropped from 1.63 per cent to 1.61 per cent.

With 53 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 12,197 to 12,250, while the infected cases went up by 8803 to trigger a jump in the infections from 5,53,404 to 5,62,207.

While Pune accounted for a maximum 1,16,665 "active cases" in the state, Mumbai stood second with 84,378 active cases, followed

welcome on his arrival here in Jammu on

along with her mother and cheerful rela-

tives amid patriotic chants hailing 'Mother

ed in a cavalcade to a famous resort where

he was accorded a red carpet welcome too.

He was warmly hugged by his family mem-

bers and close friends at the main entrance

of the resort. His mother and Wife along

with hundreds of close relatives and well

From the airport Manhas was escort-

India'.

Accompanied by social workers who

by Thane (84038), Nagpur (71539), Nashik (49,925), Aurangabad (13,630), Ahmednagar (18,049), Nanded (13,134), Bhandara (13987) Jalgaon (11,570), Latur (14033), Solapur (11051), Satara (10551), Parbhani (10,336), Beed (7922), Nandurbar (7330), Chandrapur (10,144) and

#### 3 MVA Mins indicate fresh curbs

Mumbai: With the continued surge in the Covid-19 cases in Maharashtra, three Ministers in the MVA Government on Friday indicated that the State Government would enforce more stringent restrictions to break the chain of fast spreading Talking separately to media persons, State Home

Minister Dilip Walse-Patil, public health and family welfare minister Raiesh Tope and relief and rehabilitation minister Viiav Wadettiwar said that the state government was looking at ways to make the Covid-19 protocols more stringent in view of the increasing number of infections and deaths across the state

"If people do not cooperate with the government in implementing the Covid-19 norms, we may have to strengthen the restrictions," Walse-Patil said Wadettiwar said that to save the lives of people the government might have to announce new curbs. The state may announce curbs on supply of fuel (petrol and diesel)...people are still using local trains even though they are not in essential

### 10,031 new cases in Kerala, 8,449 in TN

KOCHI/CHENNAI: Kerala, once claimed as inaccessible to the pandemic by political masters, tested 10,031 new Covid-19 patients in the 12 hours that ended at 6 PM on Friday. The State also registered 21 deaths and a Test Positivity Ratio of 14.8 which has accorded the status of Covid-19 epicenter to Kerala, according to a Department of Health physician in Érnakulam.

Situation is alarming in neighboring Tamil Nadu which diagnosed 8,449 new cases and recorded 33 deaths by Friday evening. The figures in both the States are likely to see a surge for the next few weeks, according to doctors in the Government doctors. V P Joy, chief secretary of Kerala, made it clear that the impact of the restrictions announced on Thursday would be known only after ten days.
Though

the Kerala Government had declared that more than 2.5 lakh persons would be tested on Friday and Saturday, as part of its test, track and isolate mission, the State has tested only 67,000 persons till Friday 5 pm.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	Job No.	Name of Work			
1.	01 /CLA/Law Firm/ 2020-21	RFP for Selection of Law Firm for Various items of Works for NOIDA			

Which can be uploaded by date 18.05.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 19.05.2021 **Dinesh Kumar Singh** Legal Adviser, Noida

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA** 

#### Deputy General Manager, Rajasthan House 7, Prithviraj Road, New Delh F-14/RH/NIVIDA/2021/28

Bid for Providing the Services of Garden Maintenance/Garden upkeep Manpower on Jol

Basis & Supply of Gardening Material on yearly rate Contract Basis at Rajasthan House situated at 7, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi are invited from 10.04.2021 at 12:00 Noon till 20.04.2021 at 04.00 P.M. The tender value is Rs. 24,00,000.00 and other Pa

be visited on the procurement portal (https://sppp.raiasthan.gov.in and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the State. NIB:- GAD2122A0002 UBN:- GAD2122SLOB00003

application to the Election Commission of

India, New Delhi for its registration as

Political Party under Section 29A of the

Representation of People Act, 1951

Name/address of the office-bearers of the

Convenor- Avinash Kumar, Add-R10-C51

1704, Supertech capetown, sec-74, Noid

General Secretary : Satyadev, Add-Dhanpatganj, Lohangi, Dist-Sultanpur

Secretary: Virendra Kumar, Add-Kh No

31/23,24&49/3/1, Gupta Niwas, Gali No

45, B-Block, Kaushik Enclave, Bura

Rahika, P.O.-Daiyakharwar, Anchal

Lakhnaur, Via-Jhanjharpur, Dist

Madhubani, bihar-847403. If any one has

any objection to the registration of

Navodaya Jantantrik Party they may send

their objection with reasons thereof, to the

Secretary (Political Party) Election

Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

mission of India, Nirvachan Sadar

: Sandeep Kumar, Add-vill

party are as follows

Delhi-84

Treasurer

Deputy General Manager Rajasthan House, New Delhi DIPR/C/4066/2021

Name of wo

04/Sr.DEE/G/ME

Repair of defecti

Deputy General Manager, Rajasthan House 7,

Prithviraj Road, New Delhi. Bid for Providing the Services On Job Basis of Senior Housekeeper (UDC) Catering Supervisor & Receptionist at 7, Prithviraj Road, Rajasthan House, Nev Delhi are invited from interested bidders. The bid will open from 14.04.2021 at 01:00 P.M. till 26.04.2021 at 03.00 P.M. The tender value is Rs. 19,00,000.00 and Bid for Providing the Services On Job Basis of Waiter, Jamadar & Mashalchi at 7, Prithvirai Road, Raiasthan House, New Delhi are invited from interested

be visited on the procurement portal (https://sppp.rajastahan.gov.in) and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the State. NIB:- GAD2122A0003

bidders. The bid will open from 14.04.2021 at 01:00 P.M. till 26.04.2021 at 03:00

P.M. The tender value is Rs. 36,00,000.00 and other Particulars of the bids may

UBN:- GAD2122SLOB00004/GAD2122SLOB00005 Deputy General Manager DIPR/C/4063/2021 Rajasthan House, New Delhi

Deputy General Manager, Jodhpur House 25,

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi.

Bid for Providing the Services of Housekeeping i.e. Cleaning of Guest Rooms Bathrooms, Toilets, Internal and External Public area etc. inclusive of Man Power or

Job Basis and Supply of Cleaning Material on yearly rate Contract Basis. The tender value of the bid is Rs- 20,00,000.00 and Bid for Providing the Services of Garder Maintenance/Garden upkeep Manpower on Job Basis and Supply of Gardening Material on yearly rate Contract Basis at Jodhpur House situated at 25, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi are invited from 10.04.2021 at 03:00 P.M. till 20.04.2021 at 04:00 P.M. The tender value is Rs. 18,00.000.00 and other Particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (https://sppp.rajastahan.gov.in) and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the State

URN:- GAD2122SI OR00001/GAD2122SI OR00002

Deputy General Manage

**BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi** 

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE** This is for Notice of the general public that Date: 17.04.2021 **TENDER NOTICE** a political party is proposed to be registere Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs from all bidders by the name of Navodaya Jantantril Estimated Cost of Due Date & Time Cost (₹) EMD (₹) of Submission of Opening Party. The office of the party is located a **Brief Item Description** Kh No-31/23,24&49/3/1, Gupta Niwas, Gal CMC/BY/21-22/ Providing Support Services for Call Center at BYPL ₹ 5.93 No-45, B-Block, Kaushik Enclave, Burari Delhi-84. This Party has submitted ost of Tender Document: ₹1180/-

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying Requirements, Terms & Conditions, Purchase/Submission of tende documents etc. please visit our website <a href="https://www.bsesdelhi.com">www.bsesdelhi.com</a> Tenders à BSES YAMUNA POWER LIMITED --> Open Tenders. Head (Contracts & Materials Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

(Moradabad Division)

Tender Notice			
dress of the	Earnest		
office from	Money		

ork	App. Cost of the work (In Rs.)	Address of the office from where the tender form has been issued	Earnest Money to be deposited (In Rs.)	Completion period of the work	Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Website particulars Address o office
B/2021:- ive High over ivision	1	Electrical Branch, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway,	The tenderer has to submit Bid security Declaration certificate mandatorily in place of Earnest money along with tender	03 (Three) Months	Tender will be received up to 15.00 hrs and opened at 15.00 hrs on 12.05.2021	Website www.ireps.go Divisional Railway Manager's office Northern Railw Moradabad

Tender Notice No.: 04/2021 Dated : 16.04.2021

#### **MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU of my husband". "I also thank CRPF offi-CRPF CoBRA Commando Rakeshwar ASingh Manhas, abducted and later Rakeshwar Singh in his brief interacreleased by the Maoists in Bijapur area of Chhattisgarh last week, received a hero's

Released by Maoists, CRPF commando gets heroic welcome on return

wishers garlanded him and performed speplayed a key role towards ensuring his safe release from the custody of Maoists on cial prayers before escorting him inside the April 8, Manhas landed at Jammu airport where his five year daughter received him

"I am very happy today. I hugged my father and kissed him when he took me in his arms after landing at the Jammu airport", the five year old daughter told reporters wearing a big smile on her face.

Meenu Chib, wife of Rakeshwar Singh Manhas was jubilant after meeting her husband. "I am very happy. All our prayers were answered and every one in the government at all levels played their role at the centre and state level to ensure safe release

cials and the entire media fraternity for all their support and help" she added.

tion told large gathering of reporters, "I am feeling happy in the company of my family". He said all the jawans who were part of the operation in Bijapur fought bravely before attaining martyrdom. He said, when i was in their captivity i had no clue what was happening as i had no tools of communication available with me". He once again thanked all those social activists and local media persons from Chhattisgarh who ensured his safe return

Uncle of Rakeshwar Singh Manhas, on behalf of the family made a brief statement thanking all those involved and responsible for ensuring safe return of the CRPF commando. The family also paid rich tributes in the memory of CRPF jawans martyred in the Maoist attack in Bijapur area www.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Bumpy road ahead**

To avoid having a comatose economy now, we must bear the cross of our earlier negligence

India is hunkering down again to battle the second and more virulent wave of the Coronavirus outbreak. It would have been much better for us had we sincerely stuck to the COVID-19 protocols when the numbers were down and, who knows, we might have been rid of this pesky virus by now! While the average citizen decided that it was "okay" to return to the crowded restaurants, malls, airports and bus and railway stations without masks or social distancing, our short-sighted politicos postponed the all-important Board exams but considered it imperative to hold political rallies and road shows brimming with nonchalant people ahead of the Assembly elections, because their future depended on it. The religious leaders found it exigent



for us to wash away our sins by bathing in the millions in the holy Ganga. Now, here's the result of our collective endeavours: The Coronavirus cases across the country hit a record 2,17,353 fresh infections in the last 24 hours, the eighth record daily increase in the last nine days. In the same period, 1,185 people lost their lives due to the viral disease. The numbers coming out of the Health Ministry say that India registered a steady increase in the number of active Corona cases for the 36th day in a row. Now, we are scrambling to control the damage. The Home Ministry has asked its officers up to the level of Under-Secretary to avail the WFH

option while the Deputy Secretary and above-ranking officials have been asked to attend office regularly with the option to stagger timings between 9 AM and 10 AM.

Various States, including the Capital, have also come up with local-level restrictions — ranging from shutting of malls, gyms, swimming pools and auditoriums, prohibiting dining at restaurants, besides imposing a weekend lockdown and night curfew. The Government has assured the citizenry that the "test, trace, treat" and vaccination drive will continue unabated and that the national drug controller will take just three days to process applications of the foreign-made vaccines once they've been approved for emergency use in India. One can only hope that this time around, the Government grits its teeth and stands by the Prime Minister's words that "we must learn to live with the virus". No matter how many restrictions are placed on recreation and how many weekends are spent imprisoned indoors, the nation's economy must not be shut down again. The first wave gave us many lessons on how to identify hotspots, impose local lockdowns and create containment zones in order to keep the wheels of the industry churning. We have to ensure that our march towards a self-reliant, New India continues; our ailing economy that was just beginning to revive cannot be delivered another body blow in the form of a hard lockdown. Else, we risk having a comatose economy in our hands. So, the nation would do well to gird up its loins and prepare for a bumpy road ahead, but the wheels of the economy cannot stop, no matter what.



Smoke billows from a forest fire at the Ketli area in Shimla

## **Good omen**

It's time for the CJI's wish for a woman judge to head the nation's top court to come true

hief Justice of India SA Bobde deserves nothing less than the nation's applause and compliments for recently stating unequivocally that the time has come when a woman should head the top court. Hinting that the apex court was already moving along the right path on the issue, he underscored that there was "no need



greater representation of women in the judiciary. Hearing a plea by a women lawyers' body seeking consideration of the "meritorious" lot among them for appointment as judges in the High Courts, a Bench comprising Chief Justice Bobde and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Surya Kant said: "Why only higher judiciary? We think the time has come when a woman should be the Chief Justice of India." At this juncture, it would be pertinent to mention that currently there are only 81 female judges in the 25 High Courts across the country against 1,078 male judges. Among them, the Madras High Court tops the list with 13 female judges, followed by Punjab and Haryana with

for a change of attitude" of the Collegium to ensure

11, and the Delhi and Bombay High Courts have eight women judges each. Interestingly, while the Supreme Court's emphasis on gender issues is to be lauded, it would truly have credibility and value if its own actions were consistent on this subject. Consider this: There is only one female judge among the 34 positions that currently constitute the Supreme Court. With Justice Indu Malhotra's retirement last month, the Collegium is considering a few women judges for elevation. The nation's top court has had only eight women judges since it came into existence on January 26, 1950. The first one, Fathima Beevi, made it to the elite club only as late as in October 1989. Not a single woman judge has figured in the list of 48 CJIs since its inception. It would perhaps not be out of the context here to mention that the Supreme Court had recently pointed to the delay in giving women permanent commission in the military, blaming it on the "systemic bias" within the Ministry of Defence. While there certainly seems to be some truth in what it said, it is a complicated issue, especially the impact of women in combat roles. That said, in either case, there's no denying that women are up to performing any professional job with panache while balancing with finesse their roles as mother, daughter, sister, wife and homemaker.

# India's flaming forests play havoc



### Natural causes and human intervention are to blame for the rising number of conflagrations not only in India, but the world over

he surge of forest fires in Uttarakhand once again underlines the growing incidence of the phenomenon in India. There ĥas been a series of these this year in Himachal Pradesh, the Nagaland-Manipur border, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. According to the India State of Forest Report 2019 (ISFR) — the latest in the line of such reports — released by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, over 30,000 forest fires were reported in the country in 2019. The report identified nearly 21.67 per cent (7,12,249 sq km) of the country's land area as forested. Another 2.89 per cent (95,027 sq km) was under tree cover.

The report identified 2,77,758 forest fire points across the country, and stated that about 21.40 per cent of India's forests are prone to fires. Of this, 3.89 per cent belonged to the category of extremely fire-prone, 6.01 per cent very highly fire-prone and 11.50 per cent highly fire-prone.

The forests in Assam, Mizoram and Tripura are "extremely prone" to conflagrations. According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) annual report for 2020-21, the States with large forest areas and falling under the "very highly fire-prone" category — including Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh — were turning into "extremely fire-prone" hotspots; so were regions like western Maharashtra, southern Chhattisgarh and areas of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, along with central Odisha. Areas under the "highly prone" and "moderately prone" categories make up about 26.2 per cent of the total forest cover — a staggering 1,72,374 sq km.

A State prone to forest fires is Haryana which suffered at least 540 of these from 2016 to 2020. Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are witness to the most irequent forest fires annually. According to the National Forest Inventory under the MoEFCC, the fires severely affect almost 10



about 54 per cent, which makes about two-third of India's forests vulnerable to fires. The question is: Why is it so? Lightning is the most

important natural cause. Another is the spontaneous combustion of dried-up leaves and sticks. The one that has been an increasingly potent factor, and is set to become even more so, is global warming. It dries up the leaves and shrubbery on the ground, making them highly inflammable. It also dries up the soil. Thus, the lack of soil moisture as a result of rainfall deficiency during monsoons — less than 18 per cent and 20 per cent in 2019 and 2020, respectively - has been an important factor in this year's Uttarakhand fires. In fact, it has been a cause not only in many other parts of India but the entire world the blazes bedevilling Australia, California in the US and the Amazon rainforests in Brazil are examples.

Human activity, however, is responsible for the overwhelming majority of forest fires the world over. In India, these blazes are mainly caused by the slash-and-burn method of shifting agriculture, known



**FOREST FIRES** ARE AS OLD AS FORESTS AND WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUR AS LONG AS FORESTS EXIST. ONE, HOWEVER, CAN LIMIT THEIR INCIDENCE AND ADVERSE **CONSEQUENCES BY** FIRMLY DEALING WITH THE TIMBER. BUILDER AND MINING MAFIA. AND THE POACHERS

as jhum in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Assam, where it is practised over about 15,000 sq km of forest land. The blazes are also set off to clear the ground for mining, timber felling and the construction of human settlements and industrial units, besides warding off the wild animals.

People burn dry leaves and shrubbery on forest grounds, believing that it would lead to the sprouting of new and healthier grass. Poachers light fires on three sides to corner fleeing wild animals in one area as their concentrated presence helps killing. People visiting forests are often careless and leave behind lighted butts of cigarettes or bidis, besides inflammable material.

Things are made worse by the fact that it is difficult to extinguish forest fires. The absence of roads prevents fire tenders from reaching the sites and high winds carry the sparks to new areas. Helicopters are pressed into service — as in Uttarakhand recently where two Indian Air Force helicopters, each with a 5,000-litre water tank, were deployed. There are, however, limits to the number of helicopters that can be used

and the availability of large lakes or rivers from which these can draw water.

Forest fires wreak havoc in India every year. They destroy forests, cause pollution, turn streams dry or adversely affect their water quality, damage soil nutrients and increase the risk of soil erosion. They kill wildlife and insects, including endangered species, and destroy their habitats, damage national parks and sanctuaries, driving the wild animals like tigers, leopards and elephants towards human settlements, thus aggravating the human-animal conflict. And, of course, they kill humans and destroy their property.

The question is: What is to be done? Forest fires are as old as forests and will continue to occur as long as forests exist. One, however, can limit their incidence by firmly dealing with the timber, builder and mining mafia, and the poachers, and simultaneously enlightening people not to carelessly leave incendiary material in forests. The Central and State Governments will have to launch sustained campaigns to this end. The consequences of

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

not doing so will be severe.

#### **NEGLIGENCE RESPONSIBLE FOR SITUATION**

Sir —Instead of getting stunned by the rising number of COVID cases in the country, we must admit the fact that we are not moving towards a second wave but are actually in its grip. As the demand for Remdesivir surges, the Centre has fasttracked applications from companies to manufacture the critical anti-viral drug in order to ensure its smooth availability. Night curfews and partial lockdowns are being imposed in many parts of the country as a measure to control the deadly virus. Amid the rising cases, the Centre has announced the cancellation of the CBSE Board exams for Class 10 and has deferred Class 12

On the other hand, lakhs of devotees have been taking a holy dip in the Ganga on the occasion of the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar, flouting the COVID norms. It is however ironic that while the Government has no compunction about cancelling the Board examinations, elections in the country are continuing as if nothing has happened. These fears have been magnified all the more with the dismal disregard shown by various State Governments to clamping down on mass public events and gatherings. While a proactive approach to control and manage the crowds when it comes to stonewalling the widely contagious virus, is a remedy to the problem, the complete disregard shown towards the basic safety precautions is indeed perplexing!

Pachu Menon | Goa

TROOP WITHDRAWAL WILL CREATE VACUUM Sir — The US' decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan is not good at the present moment as the situation on the ground is far from satisfactory. The Taliban is still controlling parts of Afghanistan and there is considerable influence of Pakistan and support from China, too. The chances of disintegration of Afghanistan are quite high. The withdrawal of the US troops might create a vacuum which, if acquired by the disruptive forces, will push the country into turmoil. President Joe Biden has said the US troops will be withdrawn from

## **Politicisation of vaccines**



olitics over the anti-Coronavirus vaccine started the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced free jabs to the people of Bihar in the run-up to the Assembly elections in October-November last year. The vaccine policy suffered from the play of politics and one-upmanship. Besides, appalling naiveness in assessing the demand during the second wave, differing norms for affording authorisation for use, inertia in augmenting inhouse capacity, exports as a policy and imports in fetters together impacted the availability of vaccines in the country. After the

Afghanistan beginning May 1 and the process will be completed by September 11. For his part, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said he spoke to Biden and that his country respects the US decision.

Maybe the US troops might be shifted to some other regions of the world. The US is also facing domestic problems and is ravaged by the COVID pandemic. Washington needs a war to run its economy. The weapons industry needs insecurity among the countries to sell weapons and make profits. In my opinion, the US troops will be shifted to another war. Let's wait and watch till the withdrawal in September. Sunil Pradhan | Odisha

**BAN SUPER-SPREADER EVENTS** Sir — It refers to the editorial 'Matters of faith' (April 16). At a time when the Government has done away with bridging trials for foreign-made vaccines for

#### authorisation of the Oxford-assisted Covishield and the indigenously-developed Covaxin for emergency use, the authorities soft-pedalled

on giving authorisation and import/production

licence(s) to other popular vaccine candidates

in the world. According to the Lancet,

Russia's vaccine Sputnik V had the efficacy of

91.6 per cent. While the chronic shortage was

being felt, the Government allowed the exports

to showcase India as a powerhouse of vac-

cines. To draw an analogy, the US has accu-

mulated stocks which could vaccinate its entire



In fact, the possibility of a furious second wave was overlooked. India's daily COVID count has crossed 2 lakh now. This surge must be viewed against the overloaded hospitals, shortage in oxygen supply, inadequacy in lifesaving ventilators and shortfalls in vaccines and medicines. There is an urgent need to reassess the situation carefully and honestly to mount a multipronged action to crush the climbing curve and augment treatment facilities.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

COVID-19 to facilitate acceleration in vaccination, it should seriously think about banning religious events like the Kumbh Mela which has become a super-spreader. In just five days, 1,701 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in the Kumbh Mela area. The Uttarakhand Police was unable to impose the standard operating procedures (SOPs) on the seers of akhadas and the ash-smeared ascetics crowding the Har Ki Pauri on the two shahi snans because of time constraints. Now Niraniani Akhada. one of the 13 akhadas of seers participating in the Kumbh, has decided to return from the event in the wake of the deteriorating COVID-19 situation. But it is too late as the damage has already been done.

Bal Govind | Noida Send your feedback to:

letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## if we impose night

spin-off effect. People should remain alert. We have issued an advisory. We are continuing

curfew, it will create a

to create awareness.

**Goa Chief Minister** - Pramod Sawant



lift the border restrictions, you would see these cases increase and Australians would

If we were to

have to become used to dealing with 1.000 cases or more a week

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison

I would love to sing in films that I am going to be a part of, as well as for others,



— Adarsh Gourav

He is not the MS Dhoni which he used to be probably four or five years back, where he could just come in

bowlers from the word go. Former cricketer

and start taking on the

There is no shortage

of Remdesivir drug but if anyone is trying to misuse the pandemic situation by black-marketing, then

all those will be punished severely. Karnataka Home Minister

Basavaraj Bomma

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People are acquiring slices of rent-yielding properties in a way that is comparable to investing in a firm's stocks



SONAM CHANDWANI

The pall of gloom over the real estate industry on account of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light several unconventional methods being applied to keep the dreams of property buyers alive, while developers strive to stay afloat. A growing number of Indians are acquiring slices of rent-yielding residential and commercial properties in a way that is comparable to investing in the stocks of a company. Fractional real estate, as the concept is known, allows investors to buy, say, one per cent of a vacation home for a minimum amount and use it whenever they want, while earning rental income, too. While weekend properties are neither essential nor urgent, the outbreak has changed this perception. Such a realty ownership concept has arisen predominantly from the Work-From-Home (WFH) culture and the work-vacation culture, attracting NRIs and domestic buyers alike. Such a property acts like an asset, attracting a plethora of investors, in the end becoming a potential Special Purpose Vehiclerelated investment. From the taxation standpoint, the fractional ownership of a property opens up such owners to a plethora of taxable liabilities, when comparing the yearly taxation related costs of such interests, prospective buyers or their counsel/advisors need to be sure of the usage arrangement, location, ownership size, basic amenities



A unicorn investment refers to a startup avenue/venture, occupying less than \$1 billion of the industry share. Considering the fact that this sort of timeshare arrangement is a novel arena of investment for Indians, the value of such investment could possibly render the whole idea as a potential cash cow for real estate developers adapting to such forms of investment. With the pandemic having rendered the traditional and conventional real estate an under-yielding area of investment in the markets currently, fractional ownership might just pave way for a steady boom in the real estate sector. While fractional ownership may appear to be an inexpensive mode of investment to potential investors, it has its pros and cons. Procedures involving the investment in such ventures could involve detailed due diligences and legal red-tapism. Not paying attention to such procedures could end up putting stressed properties in the hands of lesser advised

Moreover, expenses considering maintenance and management of the property and any such costs could essentially tip the scales against the owners should they not be able to actually utilise the property within their arrangements. Having said that, the benefits accruing out of part ownership of vacation properties, while not accounting monumentally in financial terms, are manifold where it comes to utilisation. Such a property allows the investors to change their workspace surroundings and choose rather inexpensive modes of vacation and even earn some money out of renting it out to other vacationers. Though fractional ownership could lead to a real estate investment boom the sector so gravely yearns for, the legal procedures involved might turn off a certain class of investors. Moreover, a relatively-new arena of investment always ends up taking a lot more time in yielding benefits, even if the time-value of money is rather unaccountable, since the property provides more leisurely than commercial benefits. Timeshare investments, while popular in the West, are considered to be a nascent area of investment, particularly while fractional ownership is considered. However, given the correct legal framework and taxation incentives, the current status of such investment could be elevated to providing the work-vacation culture the stability that the recent short-lived boom is testament to.

(The writer is Managing Partner KS Legal and Associates. The views expressed are personal.)

# Time to turn Nocebo to Placebo in India



We must widely propagate the positives of getting inoculated, underplay the negatives and whole-heartedly support the Govt's initiatives towards massive vaccination drives

¬he pandemic and its prevalence have taught us many lessons in perseverance and patience. We have raced from one decision to the next, hoping that the latest one will make everything normal again. While the scientists have been working relentlessly to understand the virus and come up with increasingly promising vaccine candidates, the virus has been playing truant and evolving in new forms to ditch human efforts and survive as more robust variants. In the wake of the ever-changing variants, efficacy statistics and reported side effects, the so-called ultimate solution to end the pandemic, the anti-Corona vaccine, doesn't appear to be so attractive anymore. People are hesitant to take the shot, confirming the 'Nocebo Effect' to the perceived solution of the pandemic that doesn't seem to be getting anywhere close to its end. The hesitancy is spread across the globe. Some think they will never get the disease while others believe the virus is on its way out. Social media has been most instrumental in spreading the hesitancy due to varied opinions of people who have wide social media presence and have contributed to turning the solution from placebo to nocebo.

Understanding and addressing vaccine hesitancy has become very important in the drive towards normalising life, avoiding deaths and allowing the economy to run to its full capacity. These were the very reasons why a COVID-19 vaccine was needed in the first place. What made the long wait for a solution turn into vaccine hesitancy needs serious thought. As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), vaccine hesitancy is the delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite their availability. Medical practitioners and scientists have been making all out efforts to discuss and address the common causes of concern. Fear and hesitancy come from the unknown, hence the awareness needs to rise. This has led to a negative mindset against the vaccine. The hesitancy has also been triggered by the side effects reported in some cases as a result of administering the vaccine. The directions to continue with the safety measures and stay with COVID-appropriate behaviour along with reporting of positive cases in some vaccinated individuals have amplified the vaccine hesitancy.

With many cases of blood clotting reported as a side effect of the AstraZeneca jab and discontinuation of the vaccine thereafter in at least a dozen European countries before resuming them again, doubts have grown more than ever. The latest news that Denmark has totally stopped the use of the AstraZeneca jab in its inoculation drive is not helping the cause and instilling confidence in people.

While Governments across the globe have rolled out the vaccine and invited people to get vaccinated at the earliest, the vaccination centres report a different story. Dealing with vaccine hesitancy has become the next big challenge, even in a country like India, which is now the second-most badly hit nation in the world after the US.

In order to build trust and confidence in the jab, a multi-pronged strategy is required with transparent communication as the key. With the second wave already in full swing and numerous variants of the original virus here, the danger is far from over. Herd immunity, as it was being perceived, is nowhere in sight as there are people who have reported a second infection. The diversity of the disease is unfath-



WHILE THE RUSSIAN VACCINE SPUTNIK V HAS BEEN GIVEN THE GO AHEAD AND WILL HIT THE MARKET SOON AFTER SHORT TRIALS HERE, THE CENTRE IS ALSO LOOKING AT FAST APPROVALS FOR VACCINES FROM OTHER NATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE WHO FOR EMERGENCY USE.
IT IS ONLY A
MATTER OF TIME AND THE SHORTAGE WILL BE A THING OF THE PAST. BUT THE BIG QUESTION IS WILL VACCINE HESITANCY, TOO, BE GONE SOON?



Attitudes towards the COVID-19 vaccines have changed overtime and varied greatly. The theory of developing antibodies on being infected has also led to a decrease in the relevance of the vaccine. Infected individuals feel they have developed antibodies and are immunised against the disease, so they do not need a shot. However, the protective abilities of antibodies in sero-surveys is unknown and their effectiveness in preventing reinfection is still to be studied. The belief that the vaccine is rushed and has not been tested properly is another setback.

That some of the scientists have been supporting this belief has also given boost to hesitancy. It is also assumed that the efficacy of the vaccine is being underplayed so that people do not become lax in observing COVID-appropriate behaviour. Another view being expressed is that the immunity after vaccination lasts for only six months, which wrongly implies that the shot is not effective. People also think that if the survival and recovery rate is 99.6 per cent, why even bother getting a jab.

All these supposed opinions and views nave stop ea peopie from getting vaccinated. Giving compensation for getting vaccinated has always backfired as people think that they are being paid because there is something to hide. The only groups that have justifiable concerns are the elderly, people with co-morbidities, pregnant women and those with high allergic reactions to vaccines. Also,

there is no vaccine to protect our children, as of now. Though getting vaccinated is a personal choice, the most successful inoculation drives have been built on knowledge exchange, accessibility and successful stories of

those getting vaccinated. Sherita Hill Golden, vice-president, chief diversity officer and a Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins Medicine talks of 12 things you need to know in the wake of the current vaccine hesitancy. The facts and insights into making a personal choice to get inoculated include the following: Getting vaccinated can protect you from getting COVID as your body will be ready to fight the Coronavirus if you are exposed to it; the people of colour are especially vulnerable to severe COVID-19 and its risk factors; getting inoculated helps others in the community, more so when people have chronic medical conditions; more vaccinations mean a chance to return to normal after having to experience closures, cancellations and postponements; though the vaccine development was fast, no steps were skipped while testing for safety and efficacy; diversity in vaccine testing helped assess safety and effectiveness; side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are sparse and temporary, mainly limited to a sore arm, mild fever or body aches; it is possible to get the shot despite allergies except if you have severe allergic reactions to vaccines; the vaccine is safe for breastfeeding mothers, though pregnant women

should discuss it with their doctors as the vaccine have not been tested in pregnant women; the jab can give you extra protection, if you already had COVID-19; waiting too long allows the virus to spread in the community, hence, time is of the essence for the vaccine; the pandemic can only be shortened if the vaccine is well-received.

Hence, people have been advised to do their own research from reliable sources and take an informed decision regarding getting vaccinated. Where the issue of the shortage of the vaccine in the country is concerned, the Government is doing all it can to ensure that the needs of the people are met at the earliest. While the Russian vaccine Sputnik V has been given the go ahead and will hit the market soon after short trials here, the Centre is also looking at fast approvals for vaccines from other nations that have been approved by the WHO for emergency use. It is only a matter of time and the shortage will be a thing of the past. But the big question is will vaccine hesitancy, too, be gone soon?

It is time to put resolve into widely propagating the positives of getting vaccinated, underplaying the sparse negatives and whole-heartedly supporting the Government's initiatives towards massive vaccination drives so that the pandemic situation can be controlled, the economic downturn can be lifted and normalcy restored. Its time we turned this nocebo to a placebo and support humanity.

The writer is Registrar, IIT Delhi. The views expressed are personal

IF CENTRAL ARMED FORCES ARE ATTACKED THEN SHOTS SHOULD BE FIRED. IT DOES NOT MATTER WHO DIES OR LIVES. —BJP LEADER **RAHUL SINHA** 





HE HAS UNMASKED THE TRUE FACE OF THE BJP. PEOPLE WILL **GIVE THEM A BEFITTING REPLY.** —TMC SPOKESPERSON **KUNAL GHOSH** 

## The Maha Kumbh of COVID and environmental risks

The Govt is not ignorant of the health costs of these events during the ongoing second wave of the outbreak but populist measures are the top priority during elections

**⊣**he Kumbh Mela was first mentioned in the accounts of Hiuen Tsang, the famous Chinese traveller who visited India in the seventh century. The grand event, with a 2,000year-old history, commenced this year in January and will continue till the end of April. Currently, at over two lakh new cases, India accounts for one in six of all new COVID infections globally. But these rather grim facts did not deter nearly 13.5 lakh devotees, including the members of the 13 Akharas from taking the holy dip or the Shahi

Snan on April 13. The consequences of the ongoing Maha Kumbh upon public health have been devastating, to say the least. In the last 24 hours, Haridwar has reported over 1,000 fresh Corona positive cases. With the Indian Railways running



KOTA SRIRAJ

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The views expressed

are personal.

25 special trains to ferry the pilgrims across the country, the Maha Kumbh is all set to become a "Maha COVID-19 super-spreader." The situation looks hopeless unless either the event is immediately terminated or social distancing norms are strictly adhered to. But nothing significant seems to have been done by the Government regarding it.

Health risks aside, the Kumbh Mela is also not something that is known for environment friendliness. The Maha Kumbh is held at four locations - Nashik, Haridwar, Prayagraj and Ujjain — on a rotational basis after an interval of 12

While the Kumbh, in general, is celebrated four times over the course of 12 years, with the site of the observance rotating between and other purposes. The

four pilgrimage places on the four sacred rivers, namely, at Haridwar on the Ganga, at Ujjain on the Shipra, at Nashik on the Godavari and at Prayagraj at the confluence of the Ganga, the Jamuna, and the mythical The Nashik Kumbh Mela

held in 2015 resulted in 25,000 tonnes of solid waste and faecal sludge that crept into the groundwater table from 33,000 hastily set-up mobile toilets without any effective waste disposal mechanism. It took an international outcry triggered by media coverage and the eventual intervention of the Bombay High Court to clean up the Nashik Kumbh Mela mess and rescue the environment. The event also caused a spike in river pollution making it unfit for bathing



permissible maximum Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) for safe bathing is 3.0 milligrams (mg) per litre but it ranged between 3.4-8.5 mg per litre during the event. Meanwhile bacterial coliform ranged between 3,300 and 39,000 Most Probable Number (MPN) per 100 ml while the permissible limit is 500 MNP per 100 ml for human tants due to the pilgrim and they seem to score over

bathing. The Maha Kumbh at bathing load and urban waste Haridwar, too, is no different either in terms of the colossal health risk it poses or the ecological collateral damage

In the run-up to the Haridwar Maha Kumbh, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has been working tirelessly to prevent ecological damage and as a part of its efforts, the NMCG nas diverted one of the biggest local sewage drains the Kassawan nullah — to a sewage treatment plant. But it should have been done a year ago. This nullah has emptied its effluents into the

Ganga for years. A recent study by the Doon University on the pollution levels in the Ganga establishes that in the stretch from Rishikesh to Haridwar the river was high on pollueffluent flow.

The study also revealed that the overall concentration of Polypropylene Copolymer (PPCP), a form of plastic pol-lutant in the Ganga was found to be up to 1,104.84 nanograms per litre. Further, the presence of chemicals was also found to be high in

the river water samples. The election season, too, symbolised by huge political rallies, coupled with unrestrained religious gatherings are in total defiance of COVID-appropriate behaviour and protocol. Surely the Government is not ignorant of the health costs of these unabated events during the ongoing second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic, but populist measures and appeasement tactics are the top priorities during elections environmental and health concerns

This is not surprising, but what is unfortunately startling is the inaction on the behalf of the judiciary which could have taken a *suo motu* initiative to shorten the duration of the Kumbh Mela, thereby, saving lives and the environment. In the absence of this, the Non-Government Organisations working in the field of environment protection and other individuals could have filed a Public Interest Litigation to this effect, but unfortunately, that also did not happen yet.

It is a classic case of who will bell the cat? Sadly, the reluctance of people to take on what is obviously a communally-sensitive issue will cost the environment and the health and economy of the country dearly. Where are the true nationalists now?

# Myanmar coup foes tout minority-backed shadow Govt



Police security forces stand by inside a police vehicle and on the sidewalk of Hledan Road in Kamayut township in Yangon,

Opponents of Myanmar's ruling junta went on the political offensive on Friday, declaring they have formed an interim national unity Government with members of Aung San Suu Kyi's ousted Cabinet and major ethnic minority groups.

The move comes on the

eve of a diplomatic initiative to solve Myanmar's crisis by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which is expected to hold a summit next week.

A violent crackdown by the junta has failed to stem Opposition to the coup, and as the Army has spread the fight to ethnic minorities in border areas, some ASEAN members believe the crisis threatens regional stability.

Opponents of the coup have been seeking an alliance with ethnic minority groups as a way of strengthening their resistance. The minorities for decades have kept up on-again, off-again armed struggles for



A woman lights a candle while others flash the three-fingered sign of resistance during a candlelight vigil to remember those who died in the military junta's violent response to anti-coup demonstrations in Yangon, Myanmar on Friday

greater autonomy in the bor- cause.

While it was not clear if the minority political organisations had formally joined an alliance, the appointment of prominent personalities from their ranks showed a commitment to a joint struggle against the military, which is certain to boost morale to the anti-coup

Security forces have killed least 726 protesters and bystanders since the Feb. 1 military takeover, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which monitors casualties and arrests. The protests and the killings have been continuing on a

Government is nominally an upgrade from what had been called the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, which was formed shortly after the coup by elected lawmakers who were barred by the army from taking their

The CRPH sought international recognition as Myanmar's sole legitimate government body, but won only popular support from those opposed to military rule.

The junta declared the CRPH an illegal organisation, and issued arrest warrants for its leading members.

A video posted Friday on social media showed veteran activist Min Ko Naing announcing the formation of the new body. He was a leader of the failed 1988 uprising against a previous military dictatorship and is one of the country's most respected political figures aside from Suu Kyi. He went quickly underground after the coup and political organizing against the junta since then.

"Please support the National Unity Government for the future of our citizens and our younger generation." he said. "The people are the decision makers and the people will fight the final battle. Victory is coming, We must win our revolution."

More details were provided in a statement on social media by Dr. Sasa, a physician and philanthropist who though in hiding has been the online public face of the CRPH.. "Today, at the end of

Thingyan on the eve of Myanmar's new year, we are proud to announce the formation of a new National Unity Government and the dawn of a new era for the people of Myanmar," said Sasa.

"For the first time in our history, Myanmar has a unity government that will reflect one of our nation's greatest strengths — the diversity of our

#### AFTER SLAPPING SANCTIONS

## **Joe Biden proposes** strategic stability dialogue with Russia

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

 $H_{\text{Russian diplomats in con-}}^{\text{ours after expelling 10}}$ nection with interference in last year's US presidential elections, President Joe Biden has proposed a strategic stability dialogue with Moscow, as officials of the two countries discussed the possibility of a summit meeting in Europe this

The US on Thursday announced the expulsion of 10 Russian diplomats and slapped sanctions on over 30 individuals and key financial institutions as it held Kremlin accountable for interference in last year's presidential elec-tion and the hacking of American federal agencies.

Hours after signing the executive order imposing sanctions on its erstwhile cold war rival, Biden told reporters at the White House that during a telephonic conversation with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, he had proposed that they meet in person this summer in Europe for a summit to



"Our teams are discussing that possibility right now. And if that summit were to occur, and I believe it will, the United States and Russia could launch a strategic stability dialogue to pursue cooperation in arms control and security," Biden

"We can address critical global challenges that require Russia and the United States to work together, including reining in nuclear threats from Iran and North Korea, ending this pandemic globally, and meeting the existential crisis of climate change," he said.

During the phone call, Biden said he expressed concern on Russia's military build

## Russia to expel 10 US diplomats in response to Washington

Moscow: Russia on Friday responded in kind to a barrage of new US sanctions, saying it would expel 10 US diplomats and take other retaliatory moves in a tense showdown with Washington.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also said Moscow will add eight US officials to its sanctions list and move to restrict and stop the activities of US nongovernment organizations from interfering in Russia's politics. He said the Kremlin sug-

gested that U.S. Ambassador John Sullivan follow the example of his Russian counterpart and head home for consultations. Russia will also move to deny the U.S. Embassy the possibility to hire personnel from Russia and third countries as support staff. The moves follow the sanc-

tions on Russia announced this week by the Biden administration. While the U.S. Wields the power to cripple the Russian economy, Moscow lacks levers to respond in kind, although it potentially could hurt American interests in many other ways around the globe.

Lavrov noted that while

interests in Russia, it wouldn't immediately move to do that. Russia has denied interfer-

ing in the 2020 U.S. Presidential election and involvement in the SolarWind hack of federal agencies — the activities punished by the latest U.S. Sanctions. The Russian Foreign Ministry warned of an "inevitable" retaliation, charging that "Washington should realize that it will have to pay a price for the degradation of

The U.S. On Thursday ordered 10 Russian diplomats expelled, targeted dozens of companies and people, and imposed new curbs on Russia's ability to borrow money. Pundits had predicted that while Moscow would respond in kind to the expulsions, it would refrain from any other significant moves to avoid a further escalation.

Russia's economic potential and its global reach are limited compared with the Soviet Union that competed with the U.S for international influence during the Cold War. Still, Russia's nuclear arsenal and its leverage in many parts of the world make it a power that

### **US says Russia** was given Trump campaign polling **data in 2016**

Washington: It was one of the more tantalizing, yet unresolved, questions of the investigation into possible connections between Russia and Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign: Why was a business associate of campaign chairman Paul Manafort given internal polling data - and what did he do with it?

A Treasury Department statement Thursday offered a potentially significant clue, asserting that Konstantin Kilimnik, a Russian and Ukrainian political consultant, had shared sensitive campaign and polling information with Russian intelligence services.

Kilimnik has long been alleged by U.S. officials to have ties to Russian intelligence. But the statement in a broader Treasury Department sanctions announcement was the first time the U.S. government had so directly drawn a con-nection from the Trump campaign to the Kremlin's intelligence services. The revelation was all the more startling because it went beyond any allegation made in either special counsel Robert Mueller's 2019 report or in an even more damning and detailed document released last year by

## Pak suspends services of social media platforms

 $P_{\text{porarily suspended the ser-}}^{\text{akistan on Friday tem-}}$ vices of social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp to stop their use to organise demonstrations following violent protests by a radical religious group that has now been banned by the Government.

The Government banned Tehreek-i-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) on Thursday following three days of violent protest by it to force the government to expel the French ambassador over a blasphemous caricature published in France last year.

The TLP had launched the country-wide protest on Monday after the arrest of its chief Saad Hussain Rizvi.

The TLP supporters clashed with the law enforcement agencies in several towns and cities earlier this week, leaving seven persons dead and over 300 policemen injured.

To stop the protests after Friday prayers, the Interior Ministry directed the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to suspend social media services for four hours from 11

The PTA said in a notifi-



Supporters of Tehreek-e-Labiak Pakistan, a radical Islamist political party, chant slogans during a sit-in protest against the arrest of their party leader Saad Rizvi and demanding to expel the French envoy from the country, in Lahore on Friday AP

cation that "complete access to social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube and Telegram) may be blocked".

The reason for the suspension of the services was not stated by the PTA but official sources said that it was feared that protesters could use social media to organise demonstra-

Suspension of internet and mobile phone services is a common practice in Pakistan

But this time only social media has been particularly targeted as the TLP was reportedly using it effectively against the government action.

On Thursday, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed warned the TLP against using YouTube to upload propaganda videos. The TLP came to prominence in November 2017 when it staged a sit-in at the Faizabad interchange near Islamabad and cut off the cap-

### US to continue to push Pak on backing diplomatic efforts to ensure peace in Af: Burns

The US will continue to push Pakistan hard on supporting the diplomatic efforts to ensure peace in Afghanistan as it has an interest over the longer term in avoiding insecurity and instability in the war-torn neighbouring country that can spill over and affect its own interest, CIA Director William Burns has said. Burns was responding to a question from Congressman Adam Schiff, who is the Chairman of the powerful House Intelligence Committee.

"Our withdrawal from Afghanistan, what impact do you think that will have on the Pakistani relationship with the Taliban, the Pakistani intelligence, ISI

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relationship with the Haqqani network or others? How do you see that changing without a US military presence there?" Schiff asked during the meeting on Thursday.

"Pakistan today is playing a constructive role in support of the diplomatic efforts, at least that the United States and other countries are making to try to bridge what is, at the moment, a pretty severe gap between the gov-ernment of Afghanistan and the Taliban," Burns responded.

The CIA Director told lawmakers

that Pakistan has an interest over the longer term in avoiding the kind of insecurity and instability in Afghanistan that can spill over and affect its own interest.

To be announced Later

Superintending Engineer

### China poses single biggest geopolitical test for US in 21st century: CIA Director

**PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

China poses the single biggest geopolitical test for the US in the 21st century, CIA Director William Burns has said, stressing that this threat is more serious than those from Russia during the Cold War.

Burns made the remarks to members of the House Select Committee on Intelligence during a Congressional hearing on worldwide threats on Thursday.

"I think China poses the single biggest geopolitical test for the United States as far out into the 21st century as I can see," Burns said

"What distinguishes that challenge from an increasingly adversarial Chinese Communist Party from, for example, the challenge we faced with the Soviet Union during the Cold War, is that this challenge unfolds across a whole range of areas from military to ideological in terms of our values, economic and especially at its core competition and technology as well," Burns said.

The US and China are at odds over a range of issues from trade to human rights in Tibet, Hong Kong and China's western Xinjiang region, as well as over Taiwan, Beijing's assertiveness in the South China Sea and the coronavirus

### **Beijing says US** 'too negative' toward China

**AP** ■ BEIJING

Atop Chinese diplomat said Friday that US policy toward China is "too negative" and that cooperation could be critically important as the Biden administration focuses on combatting Covid-19 and promoting economic

recovery.

The US appears to be highlighting confrontation and playing down cooperation, Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng said in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press.

### **Hong Kong democracy** leaders given jail terms amid crackdown

AP HONG KONG

AHong Kong court on Friday sentenced five leading pro-democracy advocates, including media tycoon Jimmy Lai, to up to 18 months in prison for organsing and participating in a massive march during 2019 anti-government protests that triggered an over-whelming crackdown from Beijing.

A total of nine advocates were given jail terms, but four of them, including 82-yearold lawyer and former lawmaker Martin Lee, had their sentences suspended after their age and accomplishments were taken into consideration.

They were found guilty earlier this month of organiz-

ing and participating in a massive protest in August 2019, where an estimated 1.7 million people marched in opposition to a bill that would have allowed suspects to be extradited to mainland China. The march was not authorized by

the police. Their convictions and sentencing are another blow to the city's flagging democracy movement, which is facing an unprecedented crackdown by Beijing and Hong Kong authorities. The sentences were swiftly met with international crit-

The court suspended the 11-month prison sentence of Lee, who is known for his advocacy for human rights and democracy, for two years because of his age.

### Office of the Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Kathgodam, Haldwani.

#### E-Tendering/Tender Notice

Le	etter No. 1197 / 613 / 88		Date: 15.04.2021
N	ame of Work :- Pipe Line & All Ot	her Work	
	Name of Scheme	Estimated cost	Period of completion of work:
1	Dhoomkhera GOV W/S Scheme	Rs. 80.96 Lakh	06 months
2	Pipaliya GOV W/S Scheme	Rs. 86.82 Lakh	06 months
3	Kumrah GOV W/S Scheme	Rs. 80.38 Lakh	06 months
H	Cey Dates-		
4	Date of Online Publication		17.04.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
5	Document Download : Start Date		18.04.2021 at 10:00 hrs.
6	Document download : End Date		01.05.2021 at 17:00 hrs
7	Pre Bid Meeting		22.04.2021 at 14:00 hrs.
8	Bid Submission : Start Date		18.04.2021 at 10:00 hrs.
9	Bid Submission : End Date		01.05.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
10	Offline Submission of Document (O document, Bid Security, Original Affic Supporting Documents in support of qu	davits & all the	02.05.2021 upto 17:00 hrs.
11	Date of Technical Bid Opening	·	03.05.2021 at 11:00 hrs

Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc. may be obtained at web site

## Iran starts enriching uranium to 60%, its highest level ever

AP DUBAI

Iran began enriching uranium Friday to its highest level ever, edging closer to weapons-grade levels to pressure talks in Vienna aimed at restoring its nuclear deal with world powers after an attack on its main atomic site.

A top official said only a few grams an hour of uranium gas would be enriched up to 60 per cent puri-ty — triple the level it once did but at a rate far slower than what Tehran could produce. International inspectors already said Iran planned to do so above-ground at its Natanz nuclear site, not deep within its underground halls hardened to with-

stand airstrikes. The move is likely to raise tensions even as Iran negotiates in Vienna over a way to allow the US



crushing economic sanctions it faces. However, its scope also provides Iran with a way to quickly de-escalate if The announcement also marks

significant escalation after the attack that damaged centrifuges at Natanz, an attack this past weekend suspected of having been carried out by Israel. While Israel has yet to claim it, it comes amid a long-running shadow war between the two

Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, Iran's parliament speaker, announced the move in a Twitter post later acknowledged by Iranian state tele-

"The young and God-believing Iranian scientists managed to achieve a 60 per cent enriched uranium product," Qalibaf said. "I congratulate the brave nation of Islamic Iran on this success. The Iranian nation's willpower is miraculous and can

defuse any conspiracy."

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, the country's civilian nuclear arm, later acknowl edged the move to 60 per cent, according to state TV. Ali Akbar Salehi said the centrifuges now produce 9 grams an hour, but that would drop to 5 grams an hour in the com

### SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is here by informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: Siddiqa Parveen D/o Md. Istiyak R/o H.No. G-140, Tagore Gali, Jagatpuri, Delhi-51, has been missing/kidnapped from her shop at A-110/1, Gali No. 9, Jagarpuri, Delhi-51 since 31.03.2021 at 04:15 PM. In this regard DD No. 109A Dated 31.03.2021 has been registered at PS. Jagatpuri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light

Her physical description is as under:-

Sex: Female, Age: 20 years, Height: 5'1" Ft., Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Injury Mark: An Old Burn Mark on Left Toe, Wearing: Black Colour Suit & Light Blue Jeans, Cream colour Juti in foot.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-

Website:http://cbi.nic.in PS Jagat Puri, Delhi E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph. No.: 011-22420362, 22420364, Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob: 7065036023 Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/428/SHD/2021

## **Residential realty get \$234 mn PE investments in Jan-March**

the pioneer

mid revival in housing Ademand, the residential segment witnessed private equity (PE) investments worth \$234 million in O1 2021 which was 64 per cent of that witnessed during the entire 2020, said a Knight Frank India

It noted that in terms of the number of deals, the investment activity touched 100 per cent of 2020 levels and 39 per cent of 2019 levels in the first three months of 2021.

titled The report 'Investments in Real Estate Trends in PE Investment (Q1 2021 update)' said that Indian real estate attracted private equity (debt and equity) investments (\$3.24 billion) across 19 deals in Q1 2021 (January March) period.

In the first quarter of 2021, the investment in the sector has grown by 16 times compared to \$199 million in Q1 2020.

The investments in Q1 2021 in value terms were 80 per

cent of that witnessed in full year 2020 and 48 per cent of full year 2019. The strong momentum in Q1 2021 was predominantly driven by two major factors, spillover of certain deals from 2020 and the rise in investor confidence due to the drop in Covid-19 infections during early parts of Q1 2021, which had created some ripples of positivity in the economy, it said.

The sustainability of this momentum in investors' sentiments will therefore depend on how soon the second wave of infection subsides and also the pace of vaccination, as per the Knight Frank India

Out of the total PE investments in real estate, the office segment attracted 71 per cent share, followed by retail at 15 per cent, residential and warehousing with 7 per cent each respectively.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India said: "The deal street market of Indian real estate witnessed an impressive

of private equity investments in the first quarter of 2021, when compared to the entire year of

He said that office assets continue to be the preferred segment attracting over 70 per cent of PE investments Q1 2021 as the segment moves towards maturity which includes sustained demand. stability in rental income and change in ownership profile over long -term. Investors are expecting demand to recuperate faster as the pace of vaccination increases

"While Q1 2021 has been an encouraging quarter for PE investments, however, the upward trajectory can be impacted by the rising second wave of Covid-19 infections in India which started in the month of April 2021. The sustainability of revival in investor sentiments will therefore depend on how soon the second wave of infection subsides and the pace of vaccination,"

## Forex reserves surge by USD BRIEFS 4.34 bn to USD 581.21 bn

A fter declining for two consecutive quarters, the country's foreign exchange (forex) reserves surged by USD 4.34 billion to USD 581.21 billion in the week ended April 9, according to the latest RBI

In the previous week ended April 2, the reserves had dipped by USD 2.42 billion to USD 576.28 billion. It had dropped by USD 2.99 billion to USD 579.28 billion in the week ended March 26, 2021.

The reserves had touched a lifetime high of USD 590.18 billion in the week ended January 29, 2021.

In the reporting week ended April 9, 2021, the increase in forex reserves was on account of a rise in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall

FCA rose USD 3.02 billion to USD 539.45 billion, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like euro, pound and ven held in the forex reserves.

The gold reserves increased by USD 1.30 billion to USD 35.32 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data showed.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rose USD 6 million to USD 1.49 billion in the reporting week.

The country's reserve position with the IMF rose USD 24 million to USD 4.95 billion in the reporting week, the data

### Jet fuel price cut by 1 pc

**T**et fuel price on Friday was cut by 1 per cent, the second reduction in rates this month following softening international crude oil prices.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was reduced by Rs 568.88 per kilolitre, or 0.9 per cent, to Rs 57,805.28 per kl in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. This is the second reduction in rates this month.

per cent on April 1.

These price cuts were the first in six months.

Meanwhile, petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged after the fourth reduction in three weeks on

Petrol price on Thursday was cut by 16 paise per litre and diesel by 14 paise. Petrol now costs Rs

90.40 per litre in Delhi, while a litre of diesel comes for Rs

### The fight against COVID-19 continues globally, and to overcome the

problem, people's adherence to preventive measures is essential. Shri Ashutosh Gangal, General Manager Northern Railway informed that to create awareness among the passengers to prevent spread of diseases: Railway Protection Force has launched awareness campaign at all major stations of Delhi area i.e.; at New Delhi, Delhi Jn., Hazrat Nizamuddin and Anand Vihar Terminal Railway station. Passengers are being informed frequently through announcements to wear masks, maintain social distancing, do not touch the things unnecessary and sanitize properly for their safety and safety of fellow

'NO MASK, NO METRO': KOLKATA METRO CAMPAIGN Kolkata: Metro Railway authorities have taken up 'No Mask, No Metro' campaign since the resumption of Metro services. In the new normal situation, regular announcements are being made and banners and posters are on display at all Metro stations in order to

make Metro commuters aware about COVID Appropriate Behavior.

**CLW CELEBRATES AMBEDKAR BIRTH ANNIVERSARY** 

Bhim Rao Ambedkar was observed in Administrative office premises

in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) on Thursday. CLW General

Ambedkar. SD Patidar, PCPO/CLW, delivered the welcome speech of

garlanded on the portrait of Dr Ambedkar, on behalf of Association.

this ceremony. SC Brahma, president of CLW SC/ST Association also

Manager Satish Kumar Kashyup garlanded the portrait of Dr

**NORTHERN RAILWAY LAUNCHES COVID AWARENESS** 

CHITTARANJAN: The 130th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr

AZAADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV: BOATING AT MANSAR

As a part of "Azaadi ka Amrut Mahotsav" celebrations marking the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence, Directorate of Tourism Jammu under the directions of Hon'ble LG J&K UT and advisor to Hon'ble LG and also under the overall supervision of secretary tourism organised boating at Mansar lake on 14th April 2021. Tourists enjoyed paddle boating in the serene waters of Mansar lake amidst picturesque nature with Indian flags in hand and chanting of slogans of "vande mataram", "Bharat Mata ki Jai"

#### CHAITRA NAVRATRA BEING CELEBRATED IN JAMMU

The Directorate of Tourism Jammu in collaboration with the District Administration Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Katra is organising the Chaitra Navratra Festival at Fountain Chowk Katra till April 21. DDC Chairman Reasi Saraf Singh Nag along with District Development Commissioner Ajay Kumar Sharma performed the first Hawan pooja at the venue on April 21. The Directorate of Tourism Jammu is organizing the Chaitra Navratra Festival for the first time in Katra and all the COVID related SOPs shall be followed as per the directions laid down by the government.

#### **DESI DESIGNER BRAND BOOSTS MAKE IN INDIA**

With a view to going "vocal for local" to augment "Make in India" campaign in fashion which is usually marked by high-priced foreign brands, Scram Kidswear launched a desi affordable designer dress brand online. "We recognised the gap in the Indian market for good quality, trendy kids' clothing, which is locally made and has a socia conscience. We wanted to meet this demand, while simultaneously supporting our indigenous talent," said Scram director Manoj Jain.

### **Benchmarks eke out** slim gains; close lower for the week

PTI MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty ticked higher for the third session on the trot on Friday but could not wipe off weekly losses amid a resurgence in Covid-19 cases. A strong recovery in the rupee, which zoomed 58 paise, and a bullish trend in global equities supported the bourses on Friday, traders said.

After a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 28.35 points or 0.06 per cent higher at 48,832.03.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 36.40 points or 0.25 per cent to 14,617.85.

Asian Paints was the top performer among the Sensex components, spurting 3.07 per cent, followed by UltraTech Cement, ONGC, M&M, Sun Pharma, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra and Nestle India.

On the other hand, ICICI Bank, L&T, Bajaj Finance, TCS, SBI, Infosys and Reliance Industries were among the losers, declining up to 1.55 per

During the holiday-truncated week, the Sensex sank 759.29 points or 1.53 per cent, while the Nifty tumbled 217 points or 1.46 per cent. A continued surge in sec-

ond wave of COVID-19 cases in the country, which already crossed 2 lakh daily cases, has certainly posed a risk to sustainability of rebound of earnings momentum, said Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities.

### Rupee spurts by 58 paise to over 1-week high on easing US yields

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Friday soared by 58 paise to end more than one-week high of 74.35 against the US dollar on easing US bond yields and positive domestic equities.

A weak dollar overseas and foreign fund inflows also supported the rupee. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 74.76 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.28 and a low of 74.76. It finally ended at 74.35 against the American currency, registering its best single-day gain of 58 paise in more than a month. On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 74.93 against the American currency.

## 'Govt should regulate cryptocurrencies, not ban them'

IANS NEW DELHI

As government plans to come up with a Cryptocurrency Bill, sector stakeholders have said that the government should regulate the cryptocurrency ecosystem, rather than banning them. Experts are of the view that

India should formulate regulations in the lines of the development countries which regulate these currencies including the US, UK, Japan, Australia among others. Nischal Shetty, Founder &

CEO, WazirX said: "India's crypto policy should be geared towards fostering innovation, and customer safety. We should be able to prevent bad activities but keep the door to innovation open by allowing everything else to be built."

Coal India

incorporates two

wholly-owned arms

New Delhi:State-owned CII

on Friday announced incor-

poration of two wholly-owned

arms. The two subsidiaries are

Navikarniya Urja Ltd, Coal

India Ltd (CIL) said in a filing

to BSE.CIL Solar PV Limited

has been incorporated for man-

ufacturing in solar value chain

(Ingot-wafer-Cell Module) and

CIL Navikarniya Urja Limited

for renewable energy, the filing

He said that so far there is no single regulator in a position to regulate the entire crypto

"It's like trying to regulate the Internet with one regulator. We can start breaking down crypto based on its classification as currency, asset, utility, security, and let regulators handle the respective crypto. Eventually, it will become necessary to have a dedicated crypto markets regulator," Shetty said.

He also recommended that the government should ensure that all crypto businesses catering to Indian customers are registered in India and follow KYC and AML policies. "There should also be guidelines for crypto businesses to ensure safety of customer funds," the WazirX CEO said.

SII CEO urges US to lift raw

material export ban to ramp

Mumbai:Serum Institute of India (SII) CEO Adar

Poonawalla on Friday said the US needs to lift

its embargo on raw material exports to help ramp

avirus vaccine Covishield, developed by

Astrazeneca and Oxford University. The vaccine

is not only being used in India, but exported to

a number of countries. Poonawalla had earlier

admitted that SII has been facing problems in

sending out required number of batches of vac-

cines due to the bureaucratic and government-

SII is currently manufacturing anti-coron-

up vaccine production

Dev Sharma, Regional Manager (Central Asia) for Paxful also said that at a foundational level, India should regulate so that all companies have to implement KYC and AML processes to protect consumers."There is nothing about cryptocurrencies that make them more appealing to 'bad actors' than fiat currencies. So, cryptocurrencies need to be regulated in similar ways," he

In addition, it would be great to see India develop measures to promote innovation in the sector for example with incubators and start-up funds.

### Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Khatima Pilibhit Road, Near Allahabad Bank, Khatima (U.S. Nagar) E-mail : eecdkhatima@gmail.com E-Tendering/Tender Notice

Letter No. 726/Nivida/38 Date : 16.04.2021

Name of Work :- Over Head Tank, Pump House with attendant Room Boundary Wall and all other Works.

Name of Scheme Estimated cost | Period of completion of work: 1 Dhumkhera GOV W/S Scheme Rs. 41.50 Lakh 06 months 2 Pipaliya GOV W/S Scheme Rs. 34.77 Lakh 06 months 3 Kumrah GOV W/S Scheme Rs. 36.22 Lakh 06 months Key Dates-

4 Date of Online Publication 17.04.2021 at 17:00 hrs. 5 Document download: Start Date 18.04.2021 at 10:00 hrs. 6 Document download: End Date 01.05.2021 at 17:00 hrs. 7 Pre Bid Meeting 22.04.2021 at 14:00 hrs. 8 Bid Submission: Start Date 18.04.2021 at 10:00 hrs. 9 Bid Submission: End Date 01.05.2021 at 17:00 hrs.

Offline submission of documents (Cost of 02.05.2021 upto 17:00 hrs bidding document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the Supporting Documents in support of qualification). 11 Date of Technical & Financial Bid Opening 03.05.2021 at 11:00 hrs.

12 Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc. may be obtained at web site:-www.uktenders.gov.in

ed Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and

**Asset Details** 

Vehicle No-DL8CAK6823, Make and Mode

FORD FIGO 1.4 EXI, Manu Yr-2015

Vehicle No-DL1ZA7554, Make and Model-

HYUNDAI XCENT BASE 1.2, Manu Yr-2010

Vehicle No-Unregister, Make and Model-

MARUTI ERTIGA, Manu Yr-2013

Vehicle No-UP16DT4118, Make and Model

CHEVROLET ENJOY, Manu Yr- 2015

Vehicle No-UP14FT6208, Make and Model-

RENAULT LODGY RXE, Manu Yr-2016

Vehicle No-UP14FT7814, Make and Model-

CHEVROLET SAIL UVA LT. Manu Yr-2016

Vehicle No-UP14DD5260. Make and Model-

MARUTI WAGON R, Manu Yr-2017

Vehicle No-UP14ET7203, Make and Model-

CHEVROLET ENJOY LT, Manu Yr-2015

Vehicle No-UP14DD2489, Make and Model-

WAGON R LXI CNG, Manu Yr-2017

WAGON R LXI CNG, Manu Yr-2016

**Asset Details** 

Vehicle No-UP14ET0642, Make and Model-

Vehicle No-HR29AM0548, Make and Mode

SALE NOTICE

"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases

**Executive Engineer** 

Reserve

180000

100000

144000

162000

54000

81000

54000

220000

120000

Reserve

Price

70000

35000

18000

10000

14400

16200

5400

8100

5400

22000

12000

**EMD** 

7000

#### NTPC to raise ₹3,996 cr via bonds next week New Delhi:State-owned power

giant NTPC will raise Rs 3,996 crore through issuance of non-Tuesday."NTPC has decided to issue unsecured non-convertible bonds in the nature of debentures of Rs 3,996 crore on 20 April, 2021, through private placement at a coupon of 6.87 per cent per annum with a door-to-door maturity of 15 years 1 day on 21 April, 2036, a BSE filing said. The proceeds will be uti-

lized for funding capital expenditure, refinancing of existing loans and other general corporate purposes, it said. PTI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that Smt. Sarla Devi has claimed to be the owner of Plot

no. K-100, Area Measuring 75 sq ydrs, Mustil No. 88, Killa No. 4, Village Hastsal Delhi Abadi Uttam Nagar, New Delhi and has agreed to sell it to Sh. Manish Bansal and Smt Swati Jindal, who has

### **IndiGo waives change fees** on domestic bookings

IANS NEW DELHI

irline major IndiGo Awaived-off change made from April 17, 2021 till April 30, 2021.

Besides, the airline announced that passengers can now do unlimited changes for new bookings made till April 30, 2021 on regular fares under this

"This offer is in line with our philosophy of providing our customers a hassle-free experience, and giving them much needed flexibility, especially in these times," said



Revenue Officer, IndiGo.

Other airlines are expected to announce similar relief measures as the resurgence of Covid and imposition of local

### Sanjay Kumar, Chief Strategy &

#### lockdowns has started to hamper air passenger traffic.

**Tender Notice** Date: 16.04.2021 Office of the Executive Engineer (Generation), Khodri Power Station Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders from interested parties

cooling Tower, pipeline, different gate valves with civil works Estimated cost: Rs. 910000/- GST extra

Date of availability of bid document on website: 16.04.2021, 17:00 hrs. Last date for submission of tender: 06.05.2021 up to 16:00 hrsFor fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender document

**AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY** 

blished in accordance with Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankrupt (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016. modification to the Form G published on March 31, 2021 in Indian Expres-lumbai, Ahmednagar, Shirdi and Nashik) and Pudhari (Mumbai Edition), Pudhai (Ahmednagar, Shirdi, Nashik, The Pioneer (English and Hindi) (Delhi NCR edition w.r.t Kopargaon Ahmednagar Tollways (Phase 1) Private Limited, it shall be note that the last date for submission of Expression of Interest has been extended from April 15, 2021 to April 22, 2021. The revised timelines are mentioned in the mod d Form-G uploaded on the website of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

The dates mentioned above are subject to grant of extension/ exclusion of from the CIRP period by the Adjudicating Authority. 2. The RP / COC shall have discretion to change the criteria for the EOI at an

3.RP / COC reserves the right to cancel or modify the process / application without assigning any reason and without any liability whatsoever.

4. Detailed invitation for expression of interest specifying criteria, ineligibility norms under section 29A of Code etc. can be requested through email or

Mr. Udavraj Patwardhan

tesolution Professional for Kopargaon Ahmednagar Tollways (Phase I) Private Limite P Registration No.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00024/2016-2017/10057 Date: Friday, April 16, 2021, Place: Mumbai Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution Address and e-mail to be used for

ame: Mr. Udayraj Patwardhan Lower Parel West, Mumbai-400013.

professional: Private Limited, 809-810, 8th Floor, B Wing Trade World, Kamala Mills Compo

# Gurdeep Singh

Proclamation is hereby made that the said (1) Narender Singh Ms Shruti Chaudhar MM, Mahila Court-East District, Court No. 14 DP/431/SHD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Gurdeep Singh S/o Gurcharn Singh, R/o B-3, Gurudwara, Raghubir Nagar, Delhi. Height 5', Shallow Complexion, Round face, Normal Built wearing blue pant, chocklate Shirt and sport shoes in feet has been missing since 07.04.2021 from

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

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334 Ph.: 011-23014046

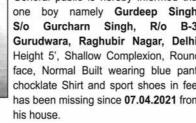
S.H.O. PS Khyala, New Delhi. Ph.: 8700684171, 9582084096

# PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person (1) Narender Singh S/o Kripal Singh (2) Ritu Singh W/o Narender Singh, Both R/o Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, Delhi and (3) Kripal Singh S/o Ram Singh H.No. A-940, 4th Floor, Baba Farid Puri, West Patel Nagar, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 543/14, u/s 498A/406/34 IPC, PS Krishna Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person (1) Narender Singh (2) Ritu Singh and (3) Kripal Singh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Narender Singh (2) Ritu Singh and (3) Kripal Singh, have absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of said warrant).

(2) Ritu Singh and (3) Kripal Singh of case FIR No. 543/14, u/s 498A/406/34 IPC, PS Krishna Nagar, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 10.06.2021.



In this regard a case DD No. 75-A Dt. 07.04.2021 has been

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and

Auction Date: 22.04.2021; from 11 am to 1 PM

Case Details

ICICI Bank Limited vs Shishir Dutt

Sharma, Case No-Suit No. 1967/17

ICICI Bank Limited vs Saniav Kuma

ICICI Bank Limited vs Kulvinder Singh,

CICI Bank Limited vs Mehkar Singh,

Case No-CM(M) 549/2020 & CM APPL

ICICI Bank Limited vs Subodh Kumar

Case No-CM(M) 602/2020 & CM APPL

Chaturvedi, Case No-CM (M) 22/2020

ICICI Bank Limited vs Mohd Asif, Case

ICICI Bank Limited vs Mohammad Arif,

ICICI Bank Limited vs Vijay Gupta, Case

Venue: Godara Yard, Khewat No:166/1

Auction Date and time: 01.05.2021; from 11 am to 2 pm.

Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17,

Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

EMD: DD/PO of EMD amount to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi.

and auction of following vehicles will be done at another yard i.e Shriram Automall, Vill-Mamurpur, Pio

ICICI Bank Limited vs Archana Raj,

Case No-CM(M) 573/2020 & CM

ICICI Bank Limited vs Jitendra

No-CM(M) 178/2021

APPL.29273/2020

Case No-CSSCJ:1871/19

Sukhrali, Gurugram-122022.

Maniyari Road Narela, New Delhi

ICICI Bank Limited vs Rahul Yadav,

Case No-CM (M) 222/2020

**Case Details** 

Venue: AN Motors, Ranukta, Agra (UP)

No-Suit No. 1088/2018

Pandit, Case No-Suit No. 933/18

Case No-FAO 213/2015

27986/2020

30659/2020

knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original DD/PO of EMD amount along with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction. Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/ demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited.

The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085. for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

approached the Magma Housing Finance Limited Ltd for loan against mortgage of above said property, if any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property then intimate within 7 days to Vikas Shokeen, Advocate, AB-18, Mianwali Nagar, Delhi - 110087. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be **WESTERN RAILWAY** CORRIGENDUM TO E-AUCTION SALE PROGRAM -Auction Sale Notification No S III/Auction Programme-1/April-202

the month of April- 2021 for all the Depots and Divisions is cancelled" Please visit Western Railway Website of material Management Department i.e www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in as well a on www.ireps.gov.in e-auction portal for

Dated 18/03/2021. "The entire E-Auction

Sale Program scheduled to be held in

#### Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly **PUBLIC NOTICE**

residential property, in our project Seven Elem

Any person having any objection on this ple may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be Vatika Lin A-002, Ground Floor Block A, Vatika INXT City Centre

Harvana, INDIA - 122012

#### further information. (No. S III/Auctio Programme-2/April-2021 Dated: 15/04/2021)

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Sikandar Lal S/o Late Sh. Shiv Lal Singh R/o 93, Anand Lok, New Delhi-110049 was having flat no 4BHK/S-013/A-501, admeasuring 2505 sq.ft which his legal heirs Sh. Samrat Yadav and Smt. Shabeen Narang requested the company to be transfer to his son namely Sh. Samrat Yada

umedhamanagement.com

## UJVN Limited H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

Brief summary of tender is given below

Tender No: 01/EE(Gen)/Khodri/2021-22: Replacement/ Repairing of AC

can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com" Executive Engineer (Generation

MODIFICATION IN FORM G INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

professional, as registered with the Board: correspondence with the r Address: Sumedha Management Solutions Private Limited, C 703, Marathon Innova, Private Limited, 809-810, 8th Floor, B Win udayraj\_patwardhan@ Lower Parel (West), Mumbai-400013 Email ID: katpl@sumedhamanagement.com



#### **SUNNY LEONE**

'I don't always post workout videos but I thought this was fun. A technique used by fighters who are hit in the head and get dizzy. I'm no fighter but was fun to try this. Thanks Arif. Oh and by the way, it's more difficult to box with a mask on! But safety over comfort at this



#### **GUL PANAG**

I think a lot of us are aware of what kind of an existential crisis the environment faces but we have other fires to fight. And even though we may be willing and maybe interested and wanting to do our best to contribute towards conserving the environment, other emergencies in life take over



SHORTCIRCUITS

I don't want to use anything as an excuse to not follow my workout routine even when on a vacation. It is just a medium to rejuvenate myself. I am very particular about my schedule especially when I am in the middle of training for an intense reality



#### **NATASHA RASTOGI**

Acting for me will always be a constant journey of learning. To talk about my recent projects, Pagglait gave me an opportunity to play a very nuanced character. But I tried to see it as a woman torn between her daughter's well-being and rigid societal norms that she must follow, given the situation

#### **AMY WALSH**

I loved Michael Praed, who played Tracy's dad Frank in Emmerdale. He's a ball of crazy energy. Once he came to the garage with me and pumped my tyres up because I was poorly. Michael is such a caring man, and I was devastated when he left the show. But we're still in touch and he's a friend for life.



# CONFLUENCE OF ART AND FILM

Art is inaccessible. It is high brow. It's for the classes. How often have we heard these words thrown around without giving a thought to everyday lived aesthetics? The film, Contemporary Art within the Visual Cultures of Italy & India, looks at chipping away many of these assertions by exploring contemporary art in both countries. The curators of the panoramic project, DAVIDE QUADRIO and MYNA MUKHERJEE, brought National Award-Winning filmmaker ONIR as the Director of Photography to ensure that it could take the viewers on a visual journey that is both layered and simplified. In a discussion with SAIMI SATTAR, the trio talk about the project, its reach and the conversations that it can ignite

alised? Myna: I had worked with Davidé on an exchange programme of ideas and art between Italy and India at the India Art Fair two years back. We enjoyed this cross-cultural exchange tremendously where there were women artists, three each, from Italy and India. What was surprising was the resonance among them. It was a universal and hybrid moment. While the contours of work were specific to the location, there was a shared universality as women artists.

From there came the germ of an idea. As the resonance was big, we wanted to share it with a wider audience. Things quickly fell in place as Davide was invited as a curator to Aartissima, Italy's most pivotal art fairs, for India. As a larger narrative formed, we got more ambitious and wanted to communicate the idea behind the curation. We wanted to share this and a film, because of a wider and diverse audience as well as those who are new to art conversation or aren't art enthusiasts but have an inclination towards it, was considered the best way to do it.

For me, talking about India and its aesthetics can't be separated from the specificity of location. Instead of explaining this to the audience, they get to peek into the aesthetics philosophies, history and ple. the contemporariness of everyday

political situation. There is poetic resonance in both countries in terms of themes, materiality, form and more. There are several intersections in the intellectual thought process, the time, the duration and the way artists work and the way nature interacts.

Davide: We were at a stage where we could truly have an exchange. There were questions, about our roles as cultural mitiga-

**Thow was the project conceptu-** tors and that of culture in the contemporary world, especially in the pandemic. Human beings aren't just consumers or survivors but are cultural beings. This isn't just a journey but also critically thinking about the role of culture and art. There's a strong idea of presenting what it means to be in a cross-cultural environment and presenting your own culture through a contemporary spectacle. The idea isn't to simplify but to make it more layered.

> How much does the ruling dispensation and their outlook affect

> Onir: For independent filmmakers, censorship has been there for years and we've negotiated different kinds of dos-don'ts. When OTT came, we thought it had more possibilities but now there are new laws. You're always being told to be sensitive about religion and more but somewhere the artiste has disappeared in the scheme of things. However, art is a compulsion that doesn't let you stay quiet as is evident from Iranian cinema. It's about finding a new narrative to tell a story.

D: I think, radicality is happening globally. This situation is conducive to art and culture not being secondary. There's a strong will to find solutions and ways to do things as well as support creativity in peo-

M: One of the most interesting ing at radicality, is the origin of the word. The etymology of radicality is roots. So you're essentially going back to the roots philosophically and symbolically.

I spent 20 years in New York and the burden of representation there was very frustrating. For example, if you were a dancer, suddenly everybody would say this is South Asian dance but we know that there are so many dances in India alone. This



means that if you're leading some-one into an exposition of culture, its multiplicity is so enormous, that unless the viewer willingly embraces its complexity, nothing can be understood about culture.

Going from Kashmir to Gujarat, there were so many surprising stories and encounters that there's no fixed way to think about them. The documentary looks into the multiin time. The wonderful thing is that it looks at both references as well as departures from these historical and material references. It hopes to glimpse at multiplicity in all its glory.

So, do you think these multiple locations add to the storytelling?

M: Yes, of course. There are similarities and differences between — University and Shanti Niketan, references and aesthetics of actual-

Bengal — the two best-known academic institutions of art. Then there are many smaller ones besides folk and craft traditions, weaving traditions or patterns or references, philosophy, spirituality... there is so much. Even when you're referring to a simple landscape, it is varied across different parts of India.

relationships is communicated by differences. This explodes into an emotional reaction rather than a historical or intellectualised analysis. Onir is extremely important in this as the world he comes from and his way of thinking is very different. It's a journey through feelings, ideas, sketches of ideas, doubts and that is actually what will make the film very appealing as it's not about a linear Gujarat's Maharaja Sayajirao idea but a complex journey through

ly connecting or disconnecting India and Italy

So you would say that multiple locations and multiple artists are adding to these voices of diversi-

M and D: Yes sure.

D: The overlapping of feelings or view and a rhetorical decision. It isn't always about absolute. It's and getting back. The idea is to bring all those images and edit them to the minimum and maximum

ossible.
M: The reason for bringing Onir is that we wanted to bring in an outsider who would also see it from the audience's perspective with fresh eyes. So if it made sense to Onir, it would make sense to the audience. He's an outsider to the process while being a part of the

□Is this an attempt to bridge the gap as art is considered highbrow and inaccessible?

O: When Myna approached me the idea to make it more "accessible" was exciting. This wasn't a technical documentary from the point of view of someone superior talking about things you don't understand but it was the journey of experiencing and understanding the long history of art and contemporary art in the context of nature, culture, tradition and everything else. For me, starting from Kashmir and going to Gujarat changed the way I started seeing form, design and will affect the way I shoot films. To make art accessible needs a small step. This journey helped me take that step and I hope that it does so for other people too.

□What were the challenges in bringing everything — the journey from Kashmir to Guiarat and the Italian as well as Indian influences to one platform?

O: For me, the beauty is in find-

ing threads that are diverse while having a commonality because that is what humanity is all about. It is like poetry, where you are using different languages to convey the same D: This is of course a point of emotion. You see nature, tradition, patterns, forms and colours of more of symbols and signs that give

> ☐ Is the focus more on contemporary artists in the documentary?

O: It is contemporary but comes with thousands of years of history. What's beautiful is that we are talking about the works of contemporary artists and showing the milieu

that brought about their art. D: What's interesting isn't the conflict between past and present but how the present is coming

from history. When you're talking about how tradition is preserved, you also see professionals who build on that tradition. We're going to alphabets of creativity and showing that art is a discourse and a practise which isn't in conflict but a natural consequence even though it might go against tradition.

M: I don't think of history as a progression in a linear way but much more as a continuum. Everything in South Asia is elliptical. What's new today is old tomorrow and what's old tomorrow is also suddenly new. Whether it is the materials, colour, the way it is constructed and used by artists on tempura and frescoes. Similarly, while references to metaphor and myths happen in ancient cultures but are also made by very young contemporary artists today.

**¬**What is the audience you are targeting and what should they be ooking at?

M: We hope that the film serves as an entry point for someone who is interested in art but never has had an exposure to different conversations or some of the different histories of art. At the same time we want artists to find a resonance with other artists either from their part of the world or other parts of the world. It isn't a historical text but Kashmir resonate in Gujarat while an entry point into aesthetics. It's a

> D: We want to have a film that goes beyond the intellectual language that contemporary art had inbuilt globally and to try to create a narrative that talks to people.

O: It provides an experience to someone navigating art but not so familiar with it but at the same time it has layers and subtexts woven in silently which will give a much more refined narrative to artists who are familiar with the discourse.

#### IMMERSIVE 30

#### A global pandemic and an impending lockdown may have yet again impacted the commercial and creative aspects of performing arts but Australian-Indian choreographer and educator Ashley Lobo believes an abiding passion for dance can open even invisible doors. The point is to persist, keep learning and find new

ways to express oneself. Drawing upon his expertise as a mentor at his dance institutions, the Danceworx Performing Arts Academy and the Navdhara India Dance Theatre, and having spent over a year balancing the virtual stage and live dance training, Ashley offers tips to aspiring dancers as to how they can navigate this time yet again with hope, courage and even success.

#### INCULCATE PASSION

"If a dancer has passion, she/he will have the discipline to persevere regardless of the challenges ahead. A pandemic can be emotionally and physically draining on a dancer who is used to synergising and performing with other dancers on stage, in studios and also soaking in the live appreciation of the audience. But passion coupled with adaptability can propel a dancer forward, says he and adds, "The one thing I learnt during the lockdown last year was that we always have enough space and energy to do what we really want. I adapted my passion for dancing to a more constricted space and developed a daily routine that I stuck to. During my online classes, I asked my students to do the same. No matter how overwhelmed you may be feeling, as a dancer when your feet start moving, your mind also moves to happier

# Dream hard, work harder'

Choreographer and educator ASHLEY LOBO says nothing can stop a dancer who is motivated, disciplined and hungry for success



#### **IDENTIFY A FAVOURITE DANCE STYLE**

When a dancer is serious about pursuing his or her passion as a vocation and a lifelong career, it is important to identify the style they want to specialise in. Ashley cites the example of many young Indian dancers

whose dedication to ballet has won them scholarships and taken them abroad to master the form. He says, "When you clarify just what creative zone you want to specialise, work or teach in, it distills your choices to the essentials and you are able to find options that are suited to you.'

#### GET THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THEORY RIGHT

According to him, to revise, repeat and imbibe the basic theories of a chosen dance form is important. He suggests, "Learn online with a teacher, join an academy remotely if you cannot learn in person and tune your body and mind. Do your own research on how great dancers built their technique, watch acclaimed performances, check what international studios are working on. All this information is out there. Be hungry and relentless. Build your foundation and never stop working on yourself and your craft."

#### FOCUS ON THE POSITIVES

It is hard to find motivation in tough times but as Ashley says, "One of my favourite quotes that I use repeatedly to inspire myself and my students is, 'My next move must be motivated by dance itself. This is what it is all about. When you let dance lead you to your next step, the future reveals itself and believe me, it will be beautiful. The world over, dance is getting the respect it deserves through performance-based shows and films. Dancers are beginning to represent India at the global level as performers, teachers and choreographers. And we are all set to make an even bigger splash in the years to come. So dream hard, work harder and you will

# Gil Green directs Divine's Rider

 $R^{\text{apper Divine has teamed up}}_{\text{with American music video}}$  and film director Gil Green for the

music video of his new track *Rider*.

The story of the song is inspired by Divine's rags-to-riches tale. It is a love saga between a deprived dreamer, played by Divine, and an affluent boss woman, played by singer Lisa

Mishra. Green has directed over 200 music videos and has collaborated with the likes of Adam Levine, John Legend, Pitbull, Chris Brown, Akon, Lil Wayne, Kanye West, Nicki Minaj, Drake, DJ Khaled, Camila Cabello, Usher, P-Diddy, J Balvin, 50 Cent, Snoop Dogg and Sean Paul.

I want to send a big shout out to Divine and the Gully Gang for collaborating with me on this video. Being a part of Divine's massive influence in India's hip hop movement is something special to me. The art form is truly universal, and Divine continues to push the hip hop boundaries with his music, lyrics, style and presence," says Green.

The video features Dubai's tourist attractions such as Dubai Opera, Burj Khalifa, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai World Trade Centre to City Walk, Burj al Arab, Madinat Jumeirah, Palm Jumeirah and features the iconic desert

Divine adds, "Rider is a song that is very close to my heart and I feel blessed to have worked with



a legend like Gil and his entire team that fulfilled the vision I had for this music video. Lisa has been an amazing and a fun collaborator to work with, easy to see that her voice and personality together in the video shines right through."

"Last summer, Divine made an Instagram post asking his fans who he should work with on his album. I thought I'd shoot my shot

in the comments and see if I got lucky. And just like that, he messaged me that he had an idea and was going to send it over. When got the scratch, his verse and the hook had been written and he left the second half empty for me. I loved the message of the song, about an independent woman who he's so comfortable with, it goes beyond just a relationship,"









#### ♦ What made you say yes to Imagine That Season 2? What's different in this installment? As you know, I started my

relationship with Disney 25 years ago and ever since then, it has been a very fulfilling experience. We have been looking at ways to collaborate with each other for the longest time. So when the channel was kind enough to offer me this show, I grabbed the opportunity. From the time they have announced our collaboration, I have been overwhelmed with the response that I have been receiving from the audience. People are extremely nos-talgic with my return and they cannot wait for the show. Besides this, the format of the show intrigued me the most. DIY (Do It Yourself) is an integral part of a lot of kids' lives. It is entertaining and encourages them to grow mentally. In this concept, I connect the audience to the show; I am the voice of the audience through which I aim to bring a lot of joy, laughter and fun and at the same time make sure that the simplest of DIYs to the biggest are amazing.

#### Now people are well-versed with the DIY culture due to easy access to the internet. What new is in it for kids?

For starters, when you normally watch a DIY, there are only said instructions on how to execute it. Whereas, in this show we have got an entire gameplay around it, which has been filled with fun, laughter, entertain-ment and of course, learning. Besides that, the kind of DIY we are choosing is focussed on the theme of 'upcycling'. We use old material from the previous DIY by upcycling them for the new ones and like that we make sure we do not waste anything. The show is centred on a lot of social relevance that will educate the children and their parents about

# I CAN DO IT

Actor and host VISHAL MALHOTRA tells Ayushi Sharma that the Season 2 of *Imagine That* will educate children and their parents about the concept of upcycling and being friendly towards the environment along with a good dose of laughter



the concept of upcycling and being friendly towards the environment along with enjoying a good dose of laughter.

#### ♦ Why do you think DIY is important? Can we merge the concept with sustainability?

DIYs are extremely important because it encourages a child to think or motivates them to build new creative things. And this is always something that we should be looking for. This show offers encouragement to the parents and their kids to come together and challenge each other's mind and creativity to build something which is actually going to be useful and is not just a showpiece. Speaking of sustainability — yes! We can merge the concept with DIY. That is exactly what the show is about. The first step to sustainability is no wastage, which is what we absolutely endorse and encourage. We do not waste a single piece of paper, a straw or even a single string. We use every bit again and again and create amazing new things without compromising on the quality of what we are producing.

♦ How challenging is it to capture the attention of the children while hosting such shows? fident that the same resonance will come back again be it with the kids or their parents after watching me on the

explained to kids?

#### Given that things are easily accessible today, how do you think the importance of DIY projects can be

Well, that is something we are striving to do but we should not undermine the intelligence of both parents and children. But yes, you are right everything is easily available and we do bring that up in the show. Certain times on the show I just say, 'Hey, listen, we got to give somebody a gift. Why don't we just order it online?' However, we teach and encourage the audience to build a DIY. Punching in your card numbers to order a gift online is incomparable to the wholesome emotion. The gratitude and the sense of achievement you feel after creating something by spending those 15-20 minutes on it. That gift is far more truly yours than any purchased kind.

(The show will premiere on Disney Channel at 9.30 am on April 18.)

No.			listrict- Udham Singh Naga elephone: 05943-253646	
	E-Tenderin	ng/Tender N	Notice .	
Le	etter No. 725/Nivida/37		Date:- 16.04.2021	
N	ame of Work :- Over Head Tank, P	ipe Line and All	other Works.	
	Name of Scheme	Estimated cost	Period of completion of work	
1	Jogither Nagla GOV W/S Scheme	Rs. 66.89 Lakh	06 months	
K	ey Dates-			
2	Date of Online Publication		17.04.2021 at 17:00 hrs.	
3	Document Download : Start Date		18.04.2021 at 10:00 hrs.	
4	Document download : End Date		01.05.2021 at 17:00 hrs	
5	Pre Bid Meeting		22.04.2021 at 13:00 hrs.	
6	Bid Submission : Start Date		18.04.2021 at 10:00 hrs.	
7	Bid Submission : End Date		01.05.2021 at 17:00 hrs.	
8	Offline Submission of Document (C document, Bid Security, Original Affi Supporting Documents in support of q	davits & all the	02.05.2021 upto 17:00 hrs.	
9	Date of Technical & Financial Bid Ope	ening	03.05.2021 at 11:00 hrs.	
10	Details of tender corrigendum or concellation etc. may be obtained at web site:			

# Ajay, Siddharth to produce Gobar

Actor-producer Ajay Devgn has announced his new production, a comic drama named Gobar along with Siddharth Roy Kapur. The film is to be directed by ad-filmmaker Sabal Shekhawat, who has also penned the script along with Sambhit Mishra. The film's story is about a veterinary doctor who discovers a tangled web of corruption in his

Ajay feels that people will love the story. "The story of Gobar is at once unique, relatable and incredibly funny as well as gripping and entertaining to the point that I'm confident it will compel people to ie ineaires,

state hospital.

the impact we want to make. We want viewers to laugh, relax, perhaps think a little bit and be entertained. The standard that Siddharth observes in content creation and filmmaking makes this collaboration very exciting for us," the

Kapur says that the film centres around the journey of a common man and comes with a simple message. "Gobar is a story that chronicles the seemingly pointless but ulti-mately heroic journey of a simple citizen who deals with corruption in a way that will bring on many laughs, much adventure and ultimately a simple message about the power of the common man," says Kapur.

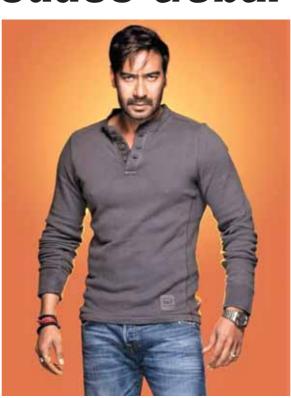
He adds, "What makes the film entertaining and unique is that it is a situational comedy that sheds light on the inner workings of power. To be collaborating with Ajay, "We are very clear about respected for his creative choices, and his team at Ajay Devgn Ffilms on bringing this film to life is very exciting."

Writer-director Shekhawat says that the film has been written keeping in mind true events.

take viewers back to the charming days of the nineties and the simple life of smalltown living. I wrote this story keeping in mind a few true events that unravelled a gamut of issues, the centre of which is a vet whose love for his cows and animals supersedes everything," says Shekhawat.

"I'm grateful and happy that two esteemed producers like Ajay and Sid showed faith in my vision and offered a sizable canvas to the storyline. Quality cinema has come from both production houses, and I'm sure that the treatment of my directorial maker, I'm absolutely thrilled!" he says

Produced under the banners Ajay Devgn Ffilms and Roy Kapur Films, the film will go on floors at the end of the year. The casting of the film



#### & CSB Bank

(New Delhi Branch located at G-36, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110 001) GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

CSB Bank Limited, New Delhi branch had granted gold loan against pledge of gold ornaments to the below mentioned borrower/s. Notice has been issued to him/them demanding repayment of the amount with interest and charges thereon. Since they have failed to repay the balance outstanding n the respective account/s, we are constrained to recover the amount by sale of gold ornaments public auction and if the auction does not fetch required amount, bank will proceed with the sale by private treaties/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction vithout assigning any reason.

SI No	Name of borrower	Gross Weight of Pledge items (in grams)	Overdue Gold Loan Account no.	Amount	Balance as on 31.03.2021
1	Arvind	45.44 grams	0205-04213245-000001	146118/-	1,54,307/-

parties may contact the Branch Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with copy of Pan Card, passport size photo, valid identity proof and address proof or the date of auction

Place: New Delhi Date: 13-04-2021

**BRANCH MANAGER** 



JOIN ARMY DENTAL CORPS AS SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONED OFFICER FOR A PROMISING & CHALLENGING CAREER: 2021

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS IS 18 MAY 2021 सेना डेंटल कोर में अल्पसेवा कमीशन के अनुदान के लिए भारतीय नागरिको प्रूष और महिला दोनों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं

योग्यताः उम्मीदवारों को ढेंटल काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया (डीसीआई) द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त कॉलेज / विश्वविद्धालय से बीडीएस / एमडीएस डिग्री घारक

आयु सीमाः उम्मीदवार की आयु 31 दिसम्बर 2021 को 45 वर्ष होनी चाहिए। Online applications are invited from Indian citizens, both male and female, for grant of Short Service Commission in the Army Dental Corps.

**QUALIFICATION:** Candidates must be BDS/MDS Degree Holder from a College/University recognized by Dental Council of India (DCI). The candidate must not have attained 45 yrs of age as

अधिक जानकारी के लिए 24 अप्रैल 2021 का Employment News/ Rozgar Samachar देखें। पात्रता का विवरण, शर्ते, अनुदेश और ऑनलाइन आवेदन 19 अप्रैल 2021 से www.joinindianarmy.nic.in

For more information, see Employment News/Rozgar Samachar issue of 24 Apr 2021. Details of Eligibility, Terms & Conditions, Instructions and Online pplications will be available on the website ww.joinindianarmy.nic.in from 19 Apr 2021 onwards nly those candidates who have ticked 'YES' for in AD Corps option while filling of NEET (MDS) 21 application from can apply.

Scan QR Cod davp 10601/11/0002/2122

#### SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a person namely Nepali Prasad, S/o Sh. Khaderan Prasad, R/o D-11, JJ Colony, Sector-24, Rohini, Age: 55 years, Height: 5'6". Complexion: Wheatish. Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Red and Black Colour Shirt, Black Colour Pant and Black Chappal in his feet has been missing from the jurisdiction of P.S. Parliament Street, New Delhi since 26.03.2021. In this regard a DD No. 67A dated 28.03.2021 has been registered at PS. Parliament Street, New 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 Ph.: 011-24368638,24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/258/NDD/2021

P.S. Parliament Street, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23361100, 8750870521

#### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of female Age: 50-55 years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Build: Medium, wearing red colour printed saree, red colour blouse, red colour peticoat and brown colour hawai chappal in feet, was found dead on 11.04.2021 in train

accident at K.M. Pole No. 6/32 UP Line North, near Shahdara Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 10-A dated 11.04.2021 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification in the mortuary of GTB Hospital, 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. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Tel. No.: 011-23961522, 8010602829

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Sh. Gorang Dixit is owner of Property/Plot No.-II-B/112, area measuring 90.12 sq. mtrs., Situated at Vaishali, Tehsil-Dadri, Distt-Ghaziabad. (U.P); the said property, by virtue of Sale deed dated 15.06.1996, Registration No. 3111, has lost / misplaced Original Sale Deed, dated 11.04.1996 executed by GDA, All persons are 11.04.1996 executed by GDA, All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the under-signed in writing on the below mentioned address within 15 days of the present

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultant 200, lind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates advocate@gmail.com

FORM NO. INC-26 [Pursuant to Rule 30 of Con (Incorporation) Rules 2014] Before the Central Governmen Northern Region Bench, Delhi In the matter of sub-section 4 of section 13 of the Companies Act 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 201

In the matter of 

Notice is hereby given to General Public that the company proposes to make the application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act 2013, seeking confirmation of alteration of Memorandum of Companies of to attended of memorandum of Companies of the company in term of special resolution passed at Extra ordinary General Meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd Day of February, 2021 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of DELHI" to "State of RAJASTHAN\*

Any person whose interest is likely to b affected by the proposed change, may deliver either on MCA portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filling investor complaint form or cause to be deliver or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the objections supported by an aminavir staring ine nature of his/her interest and ground of opposition to the Regional Director at the Address B-2 WING, 2nd FLOOR/ PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, CGO COMPLEX, NEW DELHI — 110003, within 14 (Fourteen) Days of date of publication of this notice with copy to the applicant company at its regist office at the address mentioned below:

SHREE PUSHKAR PHOSCHEM PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U24233DL2009PTC191249) B-105 FF, WELCOME APPARTMENT SECTOR-9, ROHINI, DELHI, NORTH WEST, DELHI-110085 SHREE PUSHKAR PHOSCHE

Date: 17/04/2021

AMIT MAKHARI Directo DIN: 0532797

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK

up to

02.00 P.N

Letter No.- 1329 e-Procurement NOTICE

Name of the work

 Construction of Periodical Maintenance works of Post DLP PMGSY roads in the Districuttack and Jagatsinghpur.
 B & A Class
 As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure. **Detail Projects** 

Tender Onlin

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.ir

Any TV show to the audience is extremely difficult to captivate, it is not just with the kids. I have had the for-

tune of hosting shows for kids for the

last 25 years and somehow, I have

found a very favourable response from my audience. This is because I do not

treat them as kids. I do know my audi-

ence but I do not treat them on the

basis of the intelligence I think they

possess. I, rather, treat them as my

friends. I believe this has what resonat-

ed with them in a big way. I am con-

OIPR-25097/11/0002/2122

RWC - 10/21

20-05-2021 and 21-05-2021

later on

Schola CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

#### Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005. Contact No.98184 60101/98117 47507 **PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE**

ursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of M/s Cholamandalam exestment & Finance Company Ltd under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the Physical possession, on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS', 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS' and 'WHATEVER IS THERE IS BASIS', Particulars of which are given below:-

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Immovable property	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Total Loan Outstanding
Loan Account No. X0HEELD00001715572 1.Vijay Prakash Sharma 2.Dinesh Sharma 3.Ekta Sharma 4.Shreya Impex 5.Babli Sharma All are residing at WZ-501, Shri Nagar, Shakurpur Gali, No.1, Delhi - 110 034.	22.07.2019 & Rs. 2,37,91,927.42 as on 16.07.2019	All the part of parcel of mortgaged property bearing No.W. 2-501/289 Admeasuring 150 Sq.yds. Part of Mustil No.30 Killa No.20/2 Mustil No.29 Killa No.16, 15/2 Abadi Known as Gali No.1 Sri Nagar situated in the area of Village Shakurpur Delhi.	Rs. 2,30,25,000/-	Rs. 23,02,500/-	Rs. 3,07,34,037.96 as on 16.04.2021 together with further interest, penal interest, costs & charges thereon till the date of payment.
Loan Account No. X0HEDHE00001336639 1.Mr.YOGENDER KUMAR GUPTA, 2.Ms.KAVITA GUPTA Both are residing at 21, 2nd Floor, Jyoti Bagh Aprts, Pitam Pura, Saraswati Vihar, New Delhi-110034. Also at :- 1A)Mr. YOGENDER KUMAR GUPTA Flat No.303-D, CAT-MIG, Block-QU, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110 034.	20.06.2018 & Rs. 1,32,34,930.82 as on 20.06.2018	All that part and parcel of mortgaged Property admeasuring 95 Sq.Mtrs., bearing DDA Flat No.303-D, CAT-MIG, Block-QU, Pitampura, New Delhi.	Rs.	Rs. 8,00,000/-	Rs. 2,07,89,041.54 as on 16.04.2021 together with further interest, penal interest, costs &charges thereon till the date of payment.

Date of Auction 25.05.2021 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Place of Submission Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, 4. Submission of Bids 24.05.2021 before 5.00 pm of Bids and Place of Auction New Delhi - 110 005.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING AUCTION PROCESS

Date of Inspection

A bidder may, on his own choice, avail the facility in the auction by making application in prescribed format which is available alor with the offer/tender document on the given office address mentioned hereunder. Sale is strictly subject to terms and conditions noorporated in this advertisement and the prescribed Bid / Tender Document. This notice is also to be treated as a 30 days' notice under Rule 8(5)(c) and 8 (6) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002, "(Rule 8 and 9)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION

The property is sold on 'As is where is basis' 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'.

The Bidder is obliged to exercise full due diligence in all respects, including to inspect each of the details of the propert mentioned above on the scheduled date & time.

Submission of bids to M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited would be construed a deem-

acceptance by the bidder that (i) he/she/it has exercised due diligence in all respects; (ii) Is satisfied with all details/measurements of property; (iii) Acknowledges full knowledge of terms and conditions that govern the auction and (iv) Waives all his/her/its rights to make any contrary claims against company at any future date. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Authorised officer if the borrower/guarantor pays the entire outstanding amount in fu before sale, no sale will be conducted.

The Bidder shall remit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalan Investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c, along with the bid form in a Sealed Cover addressed to The Authorized Officer, M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited up to 5.00 P.M on 24.05.2021. Pleast note that, in reference to successful bidder(s), EMD is adjustable against the sale consideration receivable by M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. Also, EMD is refundable to the unsuccessful bidder(s). The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his/her/its favour and the balance within 15 days by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance

Company Limited for the respective LoanA/c Number. In case the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on sale being knocked down in his/her/its favour and/or the balance amount, within 15 days the deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited without any prior intimation. The charges / fees payable for conveyance such as stamp duty, registration fee, maintenance charges electricity charges etc., shall be borne by the successful bidder. The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, property tax or

any other dues to the Government or local body or any other authority in respect of the property under sale.

1) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn / postpone/cancel the sale/modify any term and conditions of the sale without any prior notice or assigning any reason therefore.

10) The Sale will only be in favour of successful bidder and not his/her nominee.

1) This Notice is also to the Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general. The borrower has absolute right for the redemption of property till the confirmation of the sale Process.

M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited are not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'.

orised Officer, at the above mentioned Office address

Date: 16.04.2021

**AUTHORISED OFFICER Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited** 

**CAPTAIN'S CALL** 



# CSK BACK IN STRIDE

Deepak Chahar dismantles Punjab's top-order as Chennai win 1st game of 2021 season

PTI MUMBAI

eepak Chahar produced a superb opening spell to help Chennai Super Kings beat Punjab Kings by six wickets to register their first victory in the 14th edition of the Indian Premier League at Wankhede Stadium on Friday.

medium-pacer Chahar's four for 13 enabled CSK to restrict the Punjab team to a below-par 106 for eight, Moeen Ali (46, 31 balls, 7x4s, 1x6) put on 66 runs for the second wicket with opener Faf du Plessis (36 not out, 33 balls, 3X4s, 1X6) to secure the win for the three-time champions.

CSK finished at 107 for four in 15.4 overs with Sam Curran (5) scoring the winning runs. With the target in sight,

CSK lost the wickets of Suresh Raina (8) and Ambati Rayudu (0) to Shami (2/21) in consecutive balls in the 15th over. Ali opened up after a rather

cautious start, and played some lovely drives and also hit a big six. He was holed out to Shahrukh in the deep off leggie Murugan Ashwin (1/32) with CSK needing 17 runs for victory.

Arshdeep Singh provided the early breakthrough for Punjab, when he had a struggling Ruturaj Gaikwad (5) caught at deep mid-wicket.

Earlier, Chahar rocked the Punjab batting line-up with a superb four-over spell during which he picked up four wickets, including that of *Universe Boss* Chris Gayle.

Aiming to bounce back after being outclassed by Delhi Capitals in their opening match, CSK bowlers justified skipper MS Dhoni's decision to bowl first by reducing Punjab to 26 for four in the powerplay and then to 26 for



Chennai Super Kings pacer Deepak Chahar celebrates with teammates Faf du Plessis and Dwayne Bravo after he takes wicket of Punjab Kings opener Mayank Agarwal @IPL

five before M Shahrukh Khan (47 off 36) led a brief revival.

Chahar started the Punjab slide in the very first over by sending back Mayank Agarwal (0) with a beauty which nipped away from middle stump to hit the off stump.
Chahar kept up the pressure

and increased PBKS's woes with his consistency and conceded only two fours in his four-over

In-form Punjab skipper K L

quoteunquote

WE WANTED MOEEN TO BAT HIGH BECAUSE WE WANT TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF RESOURCES WE HAVE. HE'S A VERY GOOD TIMER OF THE BALL AND PLAYS AUTHENTIC SHOTS MS Dhoni, CSK Captain

to dismiss Gayle for 10 to give Chahar his second wicket. Nicholas Pooran bagged his second straight duck, pulling a short delivery straight into the hands of Shardul Thakur at

scramble for a single.

Rahul (5) was run-out by a bril-Deepak Hooda (10), who liant direct hit from Ravindra Jadeja, who was fielding at shortplayed a blinder in Punjab's first cover, as the batsman tried to

match against Rajasthan Royals, could not repeat his heroics, lob-Jadeja was in the act in the bing a simple catch to du Plessis fifth over again, grabbing a as the team slipped to 26 for five superb catch, diving full-length in the seventh over.

Tamil Nadu's power-hitter Shahrukh Khan was the only Punjab batsman to make an impression before falling to Sam Curran in the final over as CSK was all over their opponent.

### **SCOREBOARD**

PUNJAB KINGS KL Rahul run out (Ravindra Jadeja) Mayank Agarwal b D Chahar Chris Gayle c R Jadeja b D Chahar Deepak Hooda c du Plessis b D Chahar Nicholas Pooran c Thakur b D Chahar Shahrukh Khan c R Jadeja b Sam Curran Jhye Richardson b Moeen Murugan Ashwin c du Plessis b DJ Bravo Mohammed Shami not out Riley Meredith not out Extras (b 0, lb 0, w 4, nb 0, p 0) Total (8 wkts, 20 Overs) Did not bat: Arshdeep Singh

Fall of Wickets: 1-1 (Mayank Agarwal, 0.4), 15-2 (KL Rahul, 2.5), 19-3 (Chris Gayle, 4.2), 19-4 (Nicholas Pooran, 4.4), 26-5 (Deepak Hooda, 6.2), 57-6 (Jhye Richardson, 12.1), 87-7 (Murugan Ashwin, 16.5), 101-8 (Shahrukh Khan, 19.1)

Bowling	
Deepak Chahar	4-1-13-4
Sam Curran	3-0-12-1
Shardul Thakur	4-0-35-0
Ravindra Jadeja	4-0-19-0
Moeen Ali	3-0-17-1
Dwavne Bravo	2-0-10-1
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	
Ruturaj Gaikwad c DHooda b Arshdeep S	ingh 5
Faf du Plessis not out	36
Moeen Ali c Shahrukh Khan b M Ashwin	46
Suresh Raina c Rahul b Shami	8
Ambati Rayudu c Pooran b Shami	0
Sam Curran not out	5
Extras (b 0, lb 5, w 2, nb 0, p 0)	7
Total (4 wkts, 15.4 Overs)	107
Did not bat: MS Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja,	Dwayne
Bravo, Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar	
Fall of Wickets: 24-1 (Ruturaj Gaikwad, 4	.6), 90-2
(Moeen Ali, 12.3), 99-3 (Suresh Raina, 1-	4.2), 99-
4 (Ambati Rayudu, 14.3)	

4 (Am	ibati Kayudu, 14.3)	
Bowl	ing	
Moha	mmed Shami	4-0-21-2
Jhye I	Richardson	3-0-21-0
Arshd	leep Singh	2-0-7-1
Riley	Meredith	3.4-0-21-0
Muru	gan Ashwin	3-0-32-1

Shahrukh Khan and Jhye Richardson (15, 22 balls, 2x4s) added 31 runs for the sixth wicket, in what was the best partnership of the innings.

Murugan Ashwin (6) then added 30 runs with his Tamil Nadu teammate Khan to help Punjab's cause in an otherwise nightmare night for them.

Sam Curran (1/12), Moeen Ali (1/17), Dwayne Bravo (1/10) were the other wicket-takers for CSK.

#### **boundary**meter

242

PLAYE	R	RUI
1. Nitish	Rana (KKR)	137
	Samson (RR)	123
3. Manisl	n Pandey (SRH)	99
PLAYE	R	WK'

#### 1. Harshal Patel (RCB) 2. Andre Russell (KKR) 6 3. Avesh Khan (DC)



#### SUMMER SLAM

MOTION PICTURE



Punjab Kings batsman Mandeep Singh's wife Jagdeep Jaswal and child Rajveer Singh in stands during IPL game between Punjab Kings and Chennai Super Kings in Mumbai

#### **NORTJE OUT OF QUARANTINE**

DC pacer Anrich Nortje on Friday came out of his hard guarantine that was extended by a couple of days following a false Covid-19 positive report. The Proteas speedster had tested positive for Covid-19 while in quarantine but was retested and came out negative in three RT-PCR results. "It's nice to be out of the room and see everyone at breakfast. Excited to get to training today," Nortje said in a video posted by the franchise.

#### **KANE HOPING TO BE FIT WITHIN A WEEK** Kiwi batsman Kane Williamson, who missed SRH's first

two matches due to an elbow injury, is recovering well and is expected to attain full match-fitness "within a week". Kane suffered a small tear in his left elbow tendon and was ruled out of the home series against B'desh in March ahead of IPL. However, the NZ captain on Friday said his "recovery is going really well"

#### ISHANT SUFFERING FROM HEEL NIGGLE DC head coach Ricky Ponting has revealed that

experienced pacer Ishant Sharma, who missed his team's first two IPL matches, is suffering from a heel niggle, "Coming into the first game, Ishant Sharma obviously had a heel niggle that we have been trying to work through," Ponting said on Thursday night.

#### **STOKES OUT FOR UP TO 12 WEEKS**

England all-rounder Ben Stokes will be out of action for "up to 12 weeks" as his fractured left index finger will require surgery that will take place in Leeds on Monday. A repeat X-ray and CT scan revealed that the 29-yearold has a fracture in his left index finger. Stokes, who is currently in Mumbai will fly home on Saturday.

# SRH search right combo 'Rahul is MI's wicket-taking bowler'

"He (Rahul) is a good lis-

tener and is keen to get out

there and implement it

in the game and hope

against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

#### **KEY PLAYERS SURYAKUMAR YADAV**



### eager to make it big this time too

**RASHID KHAN** He is arguably the best T20 bowler at present and his performance will be crucial for Sunrisers success

SKY has performed well in the last

PTI ■ CHENNAI

etting the combination right would be top-Imost on Sunrisers Hyderabad's to-do list when they take on a qualitatively superior Mumbai Indians in an IPL encounter at Chepauk on Saturday, trying to arrest an early slide after back-to-back defeats.

To make matters worse, the nature of the Chennai track is not great news for the David Warner-led Orange Army that failed to chase down a total which was less than 150. Chasing has been Sunrisers' achilles' heel dur-

ing the first two matches, once again bringing under scanner, their lack of depth in the playing

XI and below-par Indian bench strength. In these circumstances, facing a formidable team like Mumbai Indians, fresh from their Houdini Act against Kolkata Knight Riders,

would be a difficult proposition. For skipper Warner, there are some serious questions about the choice of the playing XI,

which many believe hasn't been well thought out and the results also back that assessment. Using two wicketkeepers — Jonny Bairstow and Wriddhiman Saha — in the same XI hasn't

looking completely out of sorts as an opener. With a seasoned man like Kedar Jadhav in the dug-out, along with two talented youngsters Priyam Garg and Abhishek Sharma, Saha is on borrowed time as far as his place in the side is con-

served any tangible purpose with the veteran Indian

With only Warner and Rashid Khan being certainties among the overseas players, a fit Kane Williamson is a must for SRH, factoring in his

prowess against spin bowling.

The manner in which the likes of Manish Pandey and Abdul Samad played cross-batted shots against RCB left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed left Warner far from amused.

would like to put up a better account of their The other issue has been team's

### **VENUE: CHIDAMBARAM STADIUM, CHENNAI**

#### **HEAD TO HEAD**

Matches Mumbai Indians Sunrisers Hyderabad

### **LAST YEAR'S MATCHES**

Mumbai Indians beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 34 runs in Sharjah

Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Mumbai Indians by 10 wickets in Sharjah

Krunal Pandya who took 48 wickets at an average of 32.20 in 71 innings of 73 matches, needs two wickets to become the sixth bowler to complete a fifty of wickets for Mumbai Indians in IPL

David Warner who smashed 196 sixes in 144 innings of as many matches, needs four more sixes to become sixth batsman to complete a double century of sixes in IPL

bowling with T Natarajan not in the kind of form he was last season and Bhuvneshwar Kumar also on the expensive side. It is unlikely that MI will tinker with their playing XI and more so after winning a thriller against KKR. However, they

### PTI ■ CHENNAI think he is got a long way to go," Bond said ahead of the game

Mu m b a i Indians bowling coach Shane Bond on Friday praised the team's leg-spinner Rahul Chahar, saying the 21-yearhis role never changes in the starstudded team.

Chahar, who has played 3 T20Is for Îndia, returned with match-winning figures of 4/27 in a lowscoring thr against Kolkata thriller on Tuesday. "He doing extremely well, if you

look at Rahul (Chahar), he is still young, who has played a fair-bit of cricket and now some high-pressure cricket, and (in) finals and a key member of our team, so in terms of his development, I still

the next few years," said 42-year-old Bond, who played 18 Tests and 82 ÔDİs for New Zealand. According to Bond Chahar's role in the team never changes and the side wants him to bowl wickettaking deliveries. h a v e outstanding strike bowlers to oowl in the power-play, Trent Boult, Booms (Jasprit

Bumrah), and whoever compliments them, Krunal Pandya who is brilliant for us in the last game, probably slightly more defensive bowler.

"And Rahul is a wicket-taking bowler, you make him bowl those balls that are just too good.

"Example is just the powerful (balls he bowled) in the last game he bowled absolute jaffa, his role is to come and spin the ball and if some pressure, it gives him opportunity to take those wickets, so that's the role we look for him to do in the team." Against Sunrisers, Bond

stressed that it is important to get rival skipper David Warner and Jonny Bairstow out.

"Got to get those two guys (Warner and Bairstow) out. *Davey* is one of the best batsmen in the IPL, talisman for their team. We know how important they are," he

"They (Sunrisers) are very disciplined with the way they go about their work. They flogged us in the last game (we played against them) last season. They played beautifully. We plan the same for every team — how we are going to get them out, how we are going to best utilize the conditions," added

POINTS TABLE							
			Р	W	L	NRR	PTS
1		RCB	2	2	0	+0.175	4
2	10	CSK	2	1	1	+0.616	2
3	DEDIANE	MI	2	1	1	+0.225	2
4	<del></del>	DC	2	1	1	+0.195	2
5		RR	2	1	1	+0.052	2
6	•	KKR	2	1	1	+0.000	2
7	6	PBKS	2	1	1	-0.909	2
8	*	SRH	2	0	2	-0.400	0

### shortpasses

**COLEMAN'S SUSPENSION CUT** GENEVA: World 100m champion Christian Coleman's two-year ban for missing three doping tests has been reduced by six months to 18 months, the Court of Arbitration for Sport said on Friday. But the American will still miss the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics this year as his ban runs until November 14.

**TSITSIPAS IN MONTE CARLO SF** MONACO: Stefanos Tsitsipas advanced to the semi-finals of the Monte Carlo Masters on

Friday when his quarter-final opponent Alejandro Davidovich withdrew after losing the

ARUNDHATI, CHANU IN QF NEW DELHI: Khelo India Games Goldmedallist Arundhati Choudhary (69kg) and Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg) advanced to the quarterfinals, while three others — Akash Gorkha (60kg), Sumit (69kg) and Gitika (48kg) also notched up opening-round wins at the

youth world championships for men and

women in Kielce, Poland.

HARMAN RECOVERS FROM VIRUS

NEW DELHI: Indian women's T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Friday announced that she has recovered from Covid-19. She had tested positive and made it public on March 30. After more than two weeks, her RT-PCR report has come negative.

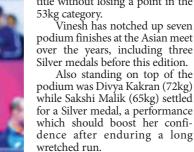
## Maiden Asian Gold for Vinesh & Anshu



**PTI ALMATY** 

bound wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Anshu Malik won their maiden comfortable triumphs in their

# Japanese rivals as she cruised to the



Dominating the proceedings in depleted field, Olympic-Asian Championship titles after respective summit clashes here on

There was no stopping Vinesh in the absence of the Chinese and

title without losing a point in the 53kg category. Vinesh has notched up seven

podium finishes at the Asian meet over the years, including three Silver medals before this edition. Also standing on top of the podium was Divya Kakran (72kg) while Sakshi Malik (65kg) settled

dence after enduring a long wretched run. India has a rich haul of seven medals from the women's event as the country won four Gold, a Silver and two Bronze medals in

this edition. Sarita Mor (59kg) had won Gold while Seema Bisla (50kg) and Pooja (76kg) settled for Bronze medals on Thursday.

Young Sonam Malik (62kg) unfortunately could not compete due to an injury. She had bagged Olympic quota along with Anshu

## Pak win T20 series

**AFP** ■ CENTURION

Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman struck a blazing half-century as they survived a scare to seal a three-wicket victory over depleted South Africa with a ball to spare and win the four-match T20I series 3-1 on Friday. South Africa, missing most of their regular players either through injury or having been released to play in the IPL, were sent in to bat but could only muster 144 all out in 19.3 overs. Fakhar then blasted 60 from 34 balls in Pakistans

> reply as he put on 91 for the second wicket with captain Babar Azam (24 from 23). The winning runs were eventually scored by Mohammad Nawaz (25 from 21) as he hooked Williams to the mid-wicket boundary for six off the penultimate ball of the match to complete a memorable