

**OPINION 6**  
THOSE WHO LEAVE  
NO MAN BEHIND

**MONEY 9**  
A MONTH OF NATIONAL LOCKDOWN  
CAN EAT UP 1-2% OF GDP: REPORT

**SPORT 12**  
ATLETICO MADRID  
LOSE TO BILBAO

Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

\*Late City Vol. 31 Issue 115  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY APRIL 27, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

CONTENT  
IS FIRST:  
SOHUM SHAH  
10 VIVACITY



## Book EC for Covid murders: Court

Will stop counting of votes sans pandemic behaviour blueprint, warns Madras HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Madras High Court on Monday lashed out at the Election Commission of India for allowing political rallies during the Covid-19 pandemic and held the ECI "singularly" responsible for surge in the pandemic in the second wave for which its officials should "probably" be booked under murder charges.

The HC warned that it will stop counting of votes on May 2 unless a blueprint for Covid-safe behaviour is in place.

The bench also directed the ECI that the blueprint must be placed on record before it on April 30, the date posted for the next hearing in the matter. "The matter will appear on April 30 to review the situation when a complete picture as to adequate steps having been taken will be clear," the bench said in the order.

A visibly upset Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee in a terse manner told the Election Commission's counsel, "Your institution is singularly responsible for the second wave of Covid-19 and it should be booked for murder."

The Chief Justice also said that the commission had failed to enforce Covid prevention norms like wearing of face-masks, use of sanitisers and maintaining social distancing during election campaigning, despite court orders.

"Were you on another planet when the election rallies were held?" Chief Justice asked the ECI counsel.

"Public health is of paramount importance and it is distressing that constitutional authorities have to be reminded in such regard. It is only when a citizen survives that he'll be able to enjoy the rights that a democratic republic guarantees," the Chief Justice noted during the hearing.

"The situation now is of survival and protection. Everything else comes next," the Chief Justice said.



planet when the election rallies were held?" Chief Justice asked the ECI counsel.

"Public health is of paramount importance and it is distressing that constitutional authorities have to be reminded in such regard. It is only when a citizen survives that he'll be able to enjoy the rights that a democratic republic guarantees," the Chief Justice noted during the hearing.

"The situation now is of survival and protection. Everything else comes next," the Chief Justice said.

The bench, also comprising Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy, directed the Election Commission of India and the Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer to hold con-

sultations with the Health Secretary and come up with a plan on following Covid-19 protocol on the counting day. The court went to the extent of commenting orally, saying, "Your officers should be booked on murder charges probably."

When counsel for the EC told the judges that all necessary steps were underway, the bench shot back saying that by allowing the political parties to take out rallies and meetings, it (Commission) had paved the way for the resurgence of the second wave of the deadly virus.

Elections had been held in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and West Bengal and Puducherry and the counting will be taken up on May 2.

## Bengal hails order; 600 poll rallies held during pandemic

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The residents of Bengal, particularly Kolkata, have hailed the Madras High Court order reprimanding the Election Commission of India for failing to enforce corona protocols during the elections.

Even as the political outfits are trying to evade questions on the actual number of rallies they organised in the past two months, a rough estimate shows that Bengal saw more than 600 rallies featuring 10,000-plus audience.

While no party is willing to come out with the details of large rallies they conducted till the Calcutta High Court forced the ECI put a ban on mass meetings on April 21 an approximate calculation shows that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, party president JP Nadda, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani, Bollywood mega superstar Mithun Chakrabarty, State BJP president Dilip Ghosh and star



campaigner Suvendu Adhikari together shared among themselves about 250 large rallies. This is in addition to the smaller meetings addressed by lesser leaders.

Similarly, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, her nephew Abhishek Banerjee and party MP and Bengali super star Deb (Dipak Adhikari) and Samawadi MP Jaya Bachchan the four crowd-pullers for the Trinamool Congress shared more than 200 rallies and road shows among them.

Continued on Page 2

## Patients die on pavements outside cramped hospitals

Delhi to wait for 3 more days for oxygen replenishment; Covid situation still critical

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

Facing shortage of oxygen, ventilators and beds, Delhi hospitals are turning away corona-positive patients, who are dying on entrances and pavements.

Denied admission, scores of patients have succumbed to Covid-19, unattended uncared for outside the hospitals. Family members of Kriti Sahni, who is a resident of Vijay Nagar in north Delhi, tried labs for home collection of her samples

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL CASES:	1,76,25,735 (+3,19,315)
DEATHS:	1,97,880 (+2,762)
RECOVERED:	1,45,45,342 (+2,48,639)
ACTIVE:	28,75,041
MAHARASHTRA:	43,43,727
KERALA:	14,27,546
KARNATAKA:	13,68,945
UTTAR PRADESH:	11,20,176
DELHI:	10,47,916(+20,201)

after she developed symptoms of Covid-19. But she did not succeed.

Sahni visited one after another hospital after she felt breathing problems. She was turned down admission on account of oxygen shortage. Sahni tried all the helpline numbers released by the authorities but failed to connect. She finally lost hope to get help from outside and started following medication suggested by the doctors.

Despite the Delhi Government and the Centre being involved in a massive operation to stabilise oxygen supply and arrange other critical life-saving drugs, officials said it will take another 72 hours to strengthen the oxygen supply even as the city is reporting over 25,000 cases daily for the past few days.

Continued on Page 2



Relatives waits with a Covid patient outside a hospital in New Delhi  
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

**FREE VACCINE TO ALL IN DELHI**

New Delhi: Free Covid-19 vaccine will be provided to all above 18 years of age in the national Capital, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Monday, saying his Government has already approved the purchase of 1.34 crore doses.

**Himachal to supply oxygen to Delhi**

Shimla: The Himachal Pradesh Government will arrange oxygen supply to Delhi, which is facing acute shortage of the life-saving gas for patients, from the hill State, an official spokesperson said.

**NO NEED TO PANIC, INDIA HAS ENOUGH OXYGEN STOCK: MHA**

New Delhi: India has enough stock of medical oxygen, but the issue is its transportation from the producing states to high-demand areas which the government is trying to address, the Home Ministry said. Additional Secretary in Ministry of Home Affairs Piyush Goyal said the turnaround time of oxygen-carrying tankers was reduced to 1-2 hours from 4-5 days by taking the help of the IAF transport aircraft which have been ferrying empty tankers.

## Serum Institute, Bharat Biotech ordered to lower prices of jobs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following criticism from various quarters, including States and IMA, over the exorbitant prices of the Covid-19 vaccines being offered in the third vaccination drive to begin from May 1, the Centre on Monday asked the Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech to lower price of their vaccines.

While the Union Health Ministry refused to comment on the issue, sources said that the two companies are expected to come up with revised pricing for their vaccines. The issue of vaccine pricing was discussed at a meeting chaired by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, said the sources.

Bharat Biotech has fixed the price of Covaxin at ₹600 per dose for State Governments and at ₹1,200 per dose for private hospitals, while SII has offered Covishield at ₹400 per dose for State Governments and ₹600 for private hospitals.

Continued on Page 2

## India's SOS gets global response

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India, which had refused foreign aid during Kerala floods in 2018, is now seeking global help to contain the second wave of pandemic, and the world is responding. India badly needs raw materials for vaccines, oxygen, rapid testing kits, medicines, ventilators and PPE kits.

The USA, Europe, the UAE, Germany, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Russia, France, China and Pakistan have offered to help India.

In the next 48 hours, the United States will be delivering raw material for vaccines, oxygen concentrators, ventilators, PPE kits to India. Air India has brought 318 Philips oxygen concentrators to India on its New York-Delhi flight on Monday. Australia will send oxygen, ventilators and personal protective equipment to India as part of an immediate support package.

The UAE is sending a huge shipment of oxygen concentrators and Saudi Arabia large numbers of oxygen generators to India.

US President Joe Biden on Monday took to Twitter to say



that his administration is determined for India to tide over the crisis of coronavirus as the country has been witnessing more than 3,00,000 daily cases of infection for the fifth straight day.

"Just as India sent assistance to the United States as our hospitals were strained early in the pandemic, we are determined to help India in its

time of need," Biden posted from the official Twitter handle of the POTUS.

Continued on Page 2

**China's airline suspends cargo flights rushing medical supplies to India**

Beijing: China's state-run Sichuan Airlines has suspended all its cargo flights to India for 15 days, causing major disruption to private traders' efforts to procure the much-needed oxygen concentrators and other medical supplies from the country despite Beijing reiterating its readiness to help India to deal with the latest surge of Covid-19 cases.

**Modi talks to Biden**

New Delhi: Against backdrop of Washington announcing assistance to India amid the Covid crisis, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden spoke to each other on Monday.

## Government wakes up but too late

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India's Covid-19 crisis deepens with a near-collapse of the health infrastructure, and horror stories pouring in from all around the country of deaths due to lack of hospital beds, essential drugs, oxygen and so on, the Centre has frantically unveiled several belated steps that initially left the field open for the onset of the second wave of Covid-19.

While many of these steps would certainly help in the availability of essential drugs and life-saving oxygen, it's not clear whether any of these measures could fructify in a way that could help in engaging the Covid in a decisive way.

For example, the Centre has given approval for the allocation of funds from PM CARES for installation of 551 dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen generation plants inside public health facilities in the country. The Prime Minister Office (PMO) also directed that these plants should be made operational as soon as possible as they will act as a major boost to oxygen avail-

**DELAYED STEPS LEFT THE FIELD OPEN FOR CORONA**

- Approval to set up 551 dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen generation plants inside public health facilities in the country
- All PSUs, Ordnance factories to told to treat civilian Covid patients
- Armed forces to import 23 oxygen plants from Germany
- Exemption of customs duty and health cess to medical equipment and medical oxygen; Oxygen concentrator along with flow meter, regulator, connectors and tubing, vacuum pressure swing adsorption (VPSA) and pressure swing adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants, cryogenic oxygen air separation units (ASUs) producing liquid/gaseous oxygen
- Health cess exemption for import of ventilators (capable of functioning as high-flow devices) with a nasal cannula; compressors, including all accessories and tubing; humidifiers and viral filters; high flow nasal cannula device

ability at the district level.

Other steps include waiving all charges for ships carrying oxygen and related equipment, the exemption in customs duty, and the health cess for three months on import of medical oxygen and a slew of equipment related to production of the gas, exemption of health cess on vaccines to augment the essential drugs, medical oxygen, and Covid beds.

The Government was forced to initiate several of these belated measures after it

faced massive criticism for its handling of the corona crisis.

Continued on Page 2

## 5 patients die at pvt hospital in Hisar, kin allege oxygen shortage as cause

Hisar: Five Covid-19 patients, including one from Delhi, died at a private hospital here on Monday with relatives of

the deceased holding a protest alleging that they died due to grave shortage of medical oxygen at the facility.

## CAPSULE

**HAIJ HOUSES TO TURN INTO COVID CENTRES**  
New Delhi: The Minority Affairs Ministry has decided to give Haj Houses to the respective State Government for utilisation as temporary Covid care centres.

**MANZOOR AHTHESHAM DIES OF COVID-19**  
Bhopal: Noted Hindi litterateur and Padma Shri awardee Manzoor Ahthesham has died of Covid-19 in Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, family sources said.

**SOON NASAL SPRAY RYALTRIS IN EU: GLENMARK**  
Chennai: Pharma major Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd said it is concluding final, national phase of its marketing approval application process to enable launch of its innovative nasal spray Ryaltris across EU.

**RBI IMPOSES CEILING OF 70 YRS FOR MD, CEO OF BANK**  
Mumbai: The RBI fixed the tenure of MD, CEO and whole-time director in a private sector bank at 15 years and prescribed the maximum age of 70 years for such functionaries.

## As corona stormed, world stockpiled arms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

When the world was battling the deadly Covid-19 pandemic and resultant economic slowdown, the global military expenditure rose to nearly \$2 trillion last year.

The US and China lead the list of the nations spending large money in procuring or producing weapons. India along with Russia, the United Kingdom figured among the big spenders.

These findings were highlighted by the renowned Stockholm International Peace Research Foundation (SIPRI) in its latest report released on Monday. It said the increase in spending was 2.6 per cent in real terms from 2019.

The five biggest spenders in 2020, which together accounted for 62 per cent of global military expenditure, were the US, China, India, Russia and the UK. Military spending by China grew for the 26th consecutive year.

Facing two hostile neigh-

bours in the west (Pakistan) and east (China), India last year had to ramp up its operational readiness after tension with China flared up at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

As the stand-off persisted for months, India had to go in for emergency procurement to ensure that the armed forces did not lack logistical back up to meet any challenge.

Against the backdrop, India with an expenditure of 72.9 billion dollars emerged as one of the largest military spenders besides China, Japan (\$49.1 billion), South Korea (\$45.7 billion) and Australia (\$27.5 billion) in the Asia and Oceania region. All four countries increased their military spending between 2019 and 2020 and over the decade 2011-20.

Observing that military expenditure increased in the first year of the pandemic, the SIPRI report said the hike came in a year when the global gross domestic product



(GDP) shrank by 4.4 per cent (October 2020 projection by the International Monetary Fund), largely due to the economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As a result, military spending as a share of GDP — the military burden — reached a global average of 2.4 per cent in 2020, up from 2.2 per cent in 2019. This was the biggest year-on-year rise in the military burden since the

global financial and economic crisis in 2009.

Even though military spending rose globally, some countries explicitly reallocated part of their planned military spending to pandemic response, such as Chile and South Korea.

Several others, including Brazil and Russia, spent considerably less than their initial military budgets for 2020.

"We can say with some cer-

tainty that the pandemic did not have a significant impact on global military spending in 2020," said Dr Diego Lopes da Silva, Researcher with the SIPRI Arms and Military Expenditure Programme.

"It remains to be seen whether countries will maintain this level of military spending through a second year of the pandemic."

Noting that there was a strong increase in US military spending in 2020, it said military expenditure reached an estimated \$778 billion, representing an increase of 4.4 per cent over 2019.

As the world's largest military spender, the USA accounted for 39 per cent of total military expenditure in 2020. This was the third consecutive year of growth in US military spending, following seven years of continuous reductions.

The SIPRI report said China's military expenditure, the second highest in the world, is estimated to have totalled

\$252 billion in 2020. This represents an increase of 1.9 per cent over 2019 and 76 per cent over the decade 2011-20. China's spending has risen for 26 consecutive years, the longest series of uninterrupted increases by any country, it said.

Russia's military expenditure increased by 2.5 per cent in 2020 to reach \$61.7 billion. This was the second consecutive year of growth. Nevertheless, Russia's actual military spending in 2020 was 6.6 per cent lower than its initial military budget, a larger shortfall than in previous years.

With a total of \$59.2 billion, the UK became the fifth largest spender in 2020. The UK's military spending was 2.9 per cent higher than in 2019 but 4.2 per cent lower than in 2011. Germany increased its spending by 5.2 per cent to \$52.8 billion, making it the seventh-largest spender in 2020. Germany's military expenditure was 28 per cent higher than in 2011.

## Govt asks retd military doctors, medical staff to join Covid duty

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the country grapples with the second wave of coronavirus pandemic resulting in pressure on medical infrastructure, the Government has asked all the retired doctors of the armed forces to work in Covid-19 facilities near their respective homes.

Moreover, all the medical professionals now engaged in administrative duties in the armed forces will be deployed at the hospitals to enhance the capabilities of the hospitals.

These decisions were taken on Monday during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's review meeting of the Defence Ministry preparedness to fight the pandemic. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat briefed him on the current status.

Continued on Page 2

# Committed to Covid help: Biden to PM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

US President Joe Biden on Monday conveyed solidarity with India in its fight against Covid-19 and asserted that his country was determined to support its efforts by quickly deploying resources such as therapeutics, ventilators and identifying sources of raw materials to be made available for the manufacture of Covishield vaccine, according to a statement here.

Biden expressed the support of the US to India in a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during which the two leaders discussed the pandemic situation in their countries, including India's ongoing efforts to contain a second wave of Covid-19 through expedited vaccination efforts, and ensuring supply of critical medicines, therapeutics and medical equipment.

Modi also informed Biden about India's initiative at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for a relaxation in the norms of the Agreement on

TRIPS to ensure quick and affordable access to vaccines and medicines for developing countries, the statement said.

"Had a fruitful conversation with @POTUS @JoeBiden today. We discussed the evolving Covid situation in both countries in detail. I thanked President Biden for the support being provided by the United States to India.

"My discussion with @POTUS @JoeBiden also underscored the importance of smooth and efficient supply chains of vaccine raw materials and medicines. India-US healthcare partnership can address the global challenge of Covid-19," Modi tweeted.

According to the statement, Modi conveyed his heartfelt appreciation for the offer of assistance and support from the US. He mentioned India's commitment to contain the Covid-19 pandemic globally through 'Vaccine Maitri', and its participation in COVAX and the Quad Vaccine Initiatives.

Modi underscored the need to ensure smooth and open sup-

**Both leaders underlined the potential of the India-US partnership in vaccine development and supply to address the Covid-19 pandemic, and directed their respective officials to maintain close coordination and cooperation in their efforts in this domain, the statement said**

ply chains of raw materials and inputs required for manufacture of vaccines, medicines, and therapeutics related to Covid-19.

Both leaders underlined the potential of the India-US partnership in vaccine development and supply to address the Covid-19 pandemic, and directed their respective officials to maintain close coordination and cooperation in their efforts in this domain, the statement said.

The two leaders agreed to

remain in regular touch.

The US president and his Vice President Kamala Harris had earlier assured India and its people of providing all assistance, including urgently sending necessary medical life-saving supplies and equipment, to help the country combat the deadly coronavirus crisis.

"Just as India sent assistance to the United States as our hospitals were strained early in the pandemic, we are determined to help India in its time of need," Biden had said in a tweet.

The coronavirus situation remained grim in India with the daily Covid-19 infection tally and death toll touching new peaks in the past few days.

India recorded 3,52,991 cases, the highest so far, taking the infection tally to 1,73,13,163 while active cases have crossed the 28-lakh mark, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

The death toll increased to 1,95,123 with a record 2,812 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am on Monday showed.

# Sterlite Copper smelter won't be opened: Stalin

**Chennai:** DMK president MK Stalin on Monday said the Tamil Nadu Government's decision to allow operation at Vedanta Ltd's Sterlite plant in Tuticorin for production of medical oxygen is only temporary.

In a Facebook post Stalin said once the DMK comes to power, the polluting copper smelter unit Sterlite Copper of Vedanta will not be allowed to reopen on any count.

The meeting of all recognised political parties chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Monday decided to allow operation of Sterlite Copper in Tuticorin to produce oxygen for four months with the power supplied by the state utility.

The all party meeting was called in the wake of the Supreme Court asking the Tamil Nadu government on its views to permit operation of the oxygen plant at Sterlite Copper now shutdown.

Two DMK Parliamentarians - Kanimozhi and RS Bharathi - represented the party at the meeting.

The Tamil Nadu government had ordered the closure of the Vedanta's copper smelter plant in 2018 following a violent protest that led to the death of 13 persons in police firing. The people protested against the plant as it was polluting the air.

# Maha logs 48,700 new Covid cases, 524 deaths

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra witnessed a noticeable drop in the number of fatalities and infections on Monday, as the daily deaths came down by 308 and the number of new cases dropped by 17,491 during the last 24 hours.

A day after it recorded an all time high of 632 deaths and 66,191 infections, Maharashtra logged 524 deaths and 48,700 new infections, bringing considerable relief to the health authorities in the State.

The drop in the number of deaths is a welcome departure from the situation witnessed on Sunday, when the state -- with a tally of 832 deaths -- had surpassed the earlier highest Covid-19 toll of 773 recorded on Friday. With 524 new deaths, the Covid-19 toll climbed from 1,14,34, followed by 48,700 fresh infections, the total positive cases rose from 42,95,027 to 42,288,36 in the state.

As 71,736 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of

March last year went up to 36,01,796. The recovery rate in the state for the first time in several days rose from 82.19 per cent to 82.92 per cent.

The total "active cases" in the state dropped from 6,98,354 to 6,74,770. The fatality rate in the state dropped from 1.51 per cent to 1.50 per cent.

Active cases in Pune dropped below 1 lakh (from Sunday's figure of 1,07,503) to touch tally of 99,977. In terms of "active cases" in State, Nagpur stood second with 80,624, followed by Thane (76,831), Mumbai (72,230), Nashik (43,109), Ahmednagar (24,117), Chandrapur (21,292), Latur (19,219), Satara (17,014), Palghar (16,290), Aurangabad (15,176), Solapur (15,081), Raigad (14,889), Jalgaon (13,487), Beed (11,992), Nanded (11,434), Bhandara (11,311), Gondia (10,677) Parbhani (10,447), and Nandurbar (6,124). Of the 2,59,72,018 samples sent to laboratories, 42,43,727 have tested positive (16.68 per cent) for Covid until Monday. Currently, 39,78,420 people are in home quarantine while 30,398 are in institutional quarantine.

# Mizoram forest fire: PM assures CM of all help

**Aizawl:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke to Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthangs over phone about the forest fire in the northeastern State and assured all help of the Central Government, officials said.

After discussing with the Mizoram CM, Modi tweeted: "Spoke to Mizoram CM Mr. Zoramthanga and took stock of the situation arising due to forest fires in parts of the State. Assured all possible support from the Centre in overcoming this crisis. We all pray for the safety and wellbeing of the people of Mizoram."

In reply, Zoramthanga tweeted: "Thank you so much Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. I thank the Central Government for its prompt assurance and swift action. The people of Mizoram 'Kan lawm e' (we thank you)." Zoramthanga had on Sunday sought help from the Indian Air Force (IAF) as well as the locals in

dousing the forest inferno in Lunglei district and its adjoining areas, which shares borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Officials in Aizawl said that one helicopter of the IAF reached Lunglei and has done a recce with the Lunglei Deputy Commissioner onboard. "No flame reported. Only smoke was observed at two places for which Bambi bucket operation by one helicopter was conducted on Monday morning. The IAF's second helicopter is being held back at Guwahati," a district official said.

Lunglei district's Deputy Commissioner Kulothungan A. said that over 95 per cent of the fire has been doused and there is no casualty or major damages to the people's habitations due to the blaze. "However, as the flames are also reported in the adjoining Serchhip district, the IAF might press into service their helicopters to douse the fire in the district. We

are not yet able to assess the gravity and volume of the damages due to the forest fire. However, it would be done soon," the Deputy Commissioner told IANS over phone. The Assam Rifles, the Border Security Force (BSF), hundreds of volunteers, disaster management and fire and emergency services personnel have put their combined efforts to control the inferno that begun on Saturday.

An official statement said that the fire was initially concentrated in the uninhabited forest areas surrounding the Lunglei town on Saturday and on Sunday it spread to more than 10 village council areas adjoining the town.

"Dry vegetation due to drought conditions, coupled with strong winds, has made the mission extremely challenging, and the unfriendly terrain of the area also poses a very serious risk and hindrance for the firefighters," the statement said.

# Andhra reports dip in new Covid cases at 9,881

**Amaravati:** For the first time in several days, Andhra Pradesh on Monday reported a lower daily tally of 9,881 new Covid cases and 51 deaths, a day after registering its highest daily spike of 12,634 cases and 69 deaths on Sunday.

The state's health authorities said that the new infections have taken the cumulative tally from 10,33,560 to 10,43,441 in the last 24 hours ending 10 am on Monday.

With 51 persons succumbing to Covid-19 in the past 24 hours, the state's death toll reached 7,736 on Monday.

During the past 24 hours, four of the state's 13 districts recorded more than 1,000 cases each.

Nellore district reported the highest number of cases at 1,592, followed by East Godavari (1,302), Guntur (1,048) and Visakhapatnam (1,030).

Other districts which reported between 500 and 1,000 cases include Srikakulam at 906, followed by Chittoor (860), Kurnool (629), Vizianagaram (616), and Prakasam (522).

On the relatively lower side were YSR Kadapa with 483 cases, followed by Anantapur (395), Krishna (310) and West Godavari (188).

# Govt asks retd...

From page 1

With people dying in hospitals for want of oxygen and hospital beds out of the reach of even critical patients, the anger on the street was obliging.

In a statement on Sunday, the PMO said the proposed oxygen plants will be established in identified Government hospitals and the procurement will be done through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Oxygen is an important element used in the treatment of certain medical conditions which arise due to the Covid-19 infection.

While the steps would do little to provide succor to the victims of the second wave of corona, it would prepare the country to deal with the recurrence of similar situations in the future.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways' decision direct all major ports to accord the highest priority in the berthing sequence to the vessels carrying consignments of medical grade oxygen, oxygen tanks, oxygen bottles, portable oxygen generators and oxygen concentrators

is yet another welcome initiative that could have come earlier.

These charges such as vessel-related charges and storage charges, that have been waived for three months and maybe extended further, are for medical grade oxygen, oxygen tanks, oxygen bottles, portable oxygen generators, oxygen concentrators, steel pipes for manufacturing oxygen cylinders and associated equipment.

To fast-track passage of imported oxygen and coronavirus-related medicines, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has asked such importers to fill up a single-page online form giving a description of the goods and its end use, in case of difficulty faced by them in getting prompt customs clearance.

The Government has also exempted from custom duty and health cess to medical equipment and medical oxygens. Besides medical oxygen, the list of equipment on which basic customs duty and health cess has been exempted includes oxygen concentrator along with flow meter, regulator, connectors and

tubing; vacuum pressure swing absorption (VPSA) and pressure swing absorption (PSA) oxygen plants, cryogenic oxygen air separation units (ASUs) producing liquid/gaseous oxygen; oxygen canister; oxygen filling systems; oxygen storage tanks, oxygen cylinders, including cryogenic cylinders and tanks; oxygen generators; ISO containers for shipping oxygen; cryogenic road transport tanks for oxygen; parts to be used in the manufacture of equipment for production, transportation, distribution, or storage of oxygen and any other device from which oxygen can be generated.

Customs duty and health cess exemption has also been provided for import of ventilators (capable of functioning as high-flow devices) with nasal cannula; compressors, including all accessories and tubing; humidifiers and viral filters; high flow nasal cannula device with all attachments; helmets for use with non-invasive ventilation; non-invasive ventilation oronasal masks for ICU ventilators; and non-invasive ventilation nasal masks for ICU ventilators.

# Global response to...

From page 1

India has urged the US to supply the raw materials for manufacturing the Covishield vaccine. According to government sources, USA will help to treat COVID-19 patients and protect the front-line health workers in India, the US has identified supplies of therapeutics, rapid diagnostic test kits, ventilators, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that will immediately be made available for India.

The US Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is funding a substantial expansion of manufacturing capability for BioE, the vaccine manufacturer in India, enabling BioE to ramp up to produce at least 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2022. Additionally, the US is deploying an expert team of public health advisors from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to work in close collaboration with the US Embassy, India's health ministries, and India's Epidemic Intelligence Service staff.

A heavy-lift transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force was on Monday sent to Dubai to airlift seven empty cryogenic oxygen containers. Saudi Arabia is shipping 80 metric tons of liquid oxygen as well as tanks and oxygen cylinders. It is working with the

Adani Group and the Tata Group.

The first batch of medical supplies from Singapore arrived in India. 500 BiPAPs, 250 oxygen concentrators and other medical supplies were sent partnering with Temasek. "500 BiPAPs, 250 oxygen concentrators & other medical supplies from Singapore landed in Mumbai last night on @airindian flight!", tweeted civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri "Temasek is partnering with @airindiain and @AmazonNews\_IN to airlift essential medical supplies for hospitals and Covid-19 treatment centres across India to aid local communities in urgent need," tweeted Temasek.

Germany has provided 23 mobile oxygen generation plants for use in Armed Forces Medical Service hospitals with Covid patients. Each plant has a capacity to produce 40 litres of Oxygen per minute and 2,400 litres an hour.

Russia will provide oxygen concentrators and tanks. Amidst an acute shortage of drugs, Russia has also offered to supply the anti-viral drug Remdesivir.

Around 800 Oxygen Concentrators have been airlifted from Hong Kong to Delhi. 10,000 more will be dispatched in a week. Denmark based shipping firm Maersk, is transporting tanks to India.

Pakistan also has offered ventilators and other medical equipment as a "gesture of solidarity" to India.

# Patients die on...

From page 1

The fluctuation in demand and supply of oxygen has left everyone in a state of confusion. Even those hospitals that received supply during the day are not sure about the next supply. It has been a never-ending story.

Sahil's father was refused admission at three hospitals on account of unavailability of bed. His oxygen saturation level was below 80. Sahil frantically kept running across the city carrying his father on the bike, but no luck. His father's condition started deteriorating and he suffocated to death.

The record surge in Covid-19 cases has brought additional pressure on hospitals and drained available oxygen supplies. The city has been in the throes of crisis for weeks as people are struggling to find beds in hospitals, oxygen cylinders, medicines, injection and any other requisite support from the Government or any other agency.

In a similar incident, Manvi Mishra, a resident of Wazirab Village took her Covid positive mother to LNJH hospital on Saturday. She was not even allowed

entry beyond gates by security staff and her mother passed away after struggling for breath. "I felt so helpless. My mother denied entry on account of the shortage of beds. She passed away at the gate of the hospital. I have never thought to see the day," she said. The situation can be understood as crematoriums here are organising mass funeral pyres and even people are forced to perform the last rites in open as the crematoriums in Delhi have exhausted its maximum limits.

The aggrieved families questioned the "callous and negligent conduct" of the authorities in extending helping hands to work out the prevailing situation. They blamed the authorities for shirking responsibilities and accused the Government's "apathy" in handling the situation forming better coordination among various central and state agencies.

The attitude of passing the buck on one another has turned the situation very alarming as many hospitals either receive oxygen supply in a nick of time or put pressure on authorities through the media to get supply before anything tragic happens.

The state of uncertainty the hospitals are faced which is reflected by the Ganga Ram Hospital. The hospital released a SOS message on Monday morning saying it has 104 oxygen cylinders which are used for transferring extremely sick patients from Covid emergency to ICU and from wards to ICU in case of emergency. "The hospital administration sent these cylinders at different locations three days back for an emergency refill but failed to get it refilled," it said.

Currently the hospital is on borrow mode and going through an extremely critical situation. Hospital has arranged two cylinders which are also going to finish quickly. It is getting extremely difficult and risky to shift patients, the hospital said.

Later, in the evening, it said to have received 64 oxygen cylinders refilled. DS Rana, chairman of the Department of Nephrology at the hospital said tanker with 10 tonnes of oxygen was sent from Jindal Steel, Rourkela by industrialist Naveen Jindal for the hospital. "We are extremely thankful to Naveen Jindal and many other well-wishers for helping our Hospital" said Dr Rana.

# Serum Institute, Bharat Biotech...

From page 1

Both vaccines are available to the central government at a rate of ₹150 per dose.

Under the new vaccine strategy which will cover 18-44 years of age category, the vaccine manufacturers would supply 50 per cent of their monthly Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) released doses to the central government and would be free to supply the remaining 50 per cent doses to state governments and in the open market.

The government had said the manufacturers would have to make an advance declaration of the price for the 50 per cent supply that would be available to the state governments and in the open market.

Many states have objected to different prices for the vaccines, with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying this is not time for profiteering while the Congress on Sunday accused the government of allowing vaccine makers to profiteer to the tune of ₹1.11 lakh crore.

# Govt asks ret'd military doctors...

From page 1

Modi also took stock of the ongoing efforts of the IAF to ferry oxygen containers from abroad besides ensuring a seamless supply of essential medical equipment all over the country through sustained airlift. Incidentally, a C-17 transport aircraft of the IAF brought six Cryogenic oxygen containers from Dubai and offloaded them at the Panagarh airbase in West Bengal. Airlift for another six containers from Dubai is planned for Tuesday. The IAF had airlifted four such containers from Singapore two days back and offloaded them at Panagarh.

Giving details of the Prime Minister's review meeting, an official said medical personnel who have retired or have taken pre-mature retirement in the last two years are being recalled to work in COVID-19 facilities within proximity of their present place of residence.

Other medical officers who retired from the armed forces earlier than two years were requested to make their services available for consultation through medical emergency helpline, they said.

Rawat apprised the prime minister that oxygen cylinders available with armed forces in various establishments will be released for hospitals.

Modi was also informed that all medical officers on staff appointments at Command, Corps and Division Headquarters and similar setups of the Navy and Air Force will be employed at hospitals.

"The CDS informed the prime minister that nursing personnel are being employed in large numbers to complement the doctors at the hospitals," officials said. Rawat also informed the Prime Minister the armed forces are creating medical facilities in large numbers and military medical infrastructure will be made available to civilians, where ever possible.

Modi also discussed with Rawat that Kendriya and Rajya Sainik Welfare Boards and officers posted in various headquarters in veterans' cells may be instructed to coordinate the services of veterans to extend the reach to the maximum extent possible, including in remote areas.

# Bengal hails...

From page 1

These are all conservative figures in absence of any readymade data from the erring outfits or police.

Out of the mass rallies the ones addressed by Modi, Shah, Nadda and Charkrabarty --- the main crowd-pullers for the saffron outfit --- amounted to about 75-80. In fact BJP's observer for Bengal Kailash Vijaybargiya earlier told your correspondent that while the Prime Minister was scheduled conduct 20 rallies the Home Minister had about 50 large meetings in the pipeline. However, these rallies got truncated after the High Court order on April 21. But by that time the damage was already done, experts feel.

Though the Left-Congress-ISF combine relied mostly on smaller meetings they two threw caution to the wind mobilising thousands of their cadres in more than 200 rallies across the State, inside sources said. Former Chief Minister of Tripura Manik Sarkar, party politburo member Md Salim, central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty and CPI(M) star candidate from Nandigram Minakshi Mukherjee jointly addressed more than 50 rallies.

This besides the 50-plus rallies organised by the Congress and addressed by its senior leaders like Adhir Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan and others. For the records Congress president Rahul Gandhi withdrew after addressing only two rallies.

While in most of the rallies the leaders on the stage were seen masked-up those in the audience adhered to none of the corona protocols. It was only in a couple of meetings that the Chief Minister was seen asking the people to play safe during the pandemic, but none was instructed to cover their faces.

This notwithstanding the fact that political parties allocated funds for purchase of masks and sanitisers.

Apparently, the netas ignored the popular concern. In fact the low turnout of voters in South Kolkata in the seventh phase on Monday can be explained in terms of the mass apprehension among the people against the rising number of corona cases and its relation with the political rallies staged in the past eight weeks, experts say.

Take for instance the voting pattern in the seventh phase of elections. The four Assembly constituencies that went to polls on Monday voted little less than 60 per cent till 5 pm --- a good 5-10 per cent less than usual. Even in 2019 general elections

the seven Assembly segments of South Kolkata parliamentary constituency voted little more than 70 per cent.

Even as top doctors of the State opposed large rallies and road shows right from the day Bengal witnessing a steady rise in corona cases. Currently there are 15,000 cases per day which could even breach the 50,000 mark in another three weeks, Association of Health Service Doctors say.

The State has seen three candidates from Congress, Left and Trinamool falling prey to the pandemic while at least 10 others, including Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury, Union Minister Babul Supriyo and CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty retiring hurt by the dreaded virus. Such was the level of recklessness that even after High Court directive against large rallies Mithun Chakrabarty held a massive rally in Malda. The TMC however lodged an FIR in the case. During the major part of the polling process your reporter spoke to party men attending rallies at Nandigram, Arambagh, Nadia, Uluberia and Burdwan and at every place one found a majority of the people refusing to adhere to the corona protocol.

Like at Mukherjee Niamat Sheikh who

came to attend the meeting of the Chief Minister said, "The coronavirus has gone. We don't have cases for several months."

Similarly, at Nandigram Haridas Manna a staunch BJP supporter said, "We have come out to defeat TMC which is bigger menace than corona which will go away with time but this party will not go in five years ... so we will have to come --- mask or no mask."

At Ghoshpara in Nadia Bablu Ghosh a CPI(M) supporter too said, "The TMC kills us everyday ... that dread is bigger than that of corona," when asked as to why he had joined the crowd.

Reacting to the Madras High Court's order a senior doctor in Kolkata said requesting anonymity "this time round the politicians have proved that their only motto is power and not safety of the people ... otherwise you would not see the Prime Minister and Home Minister of a country and Chief Minister of a State addressing such crowds ..."

Manas Gunta, general secretary of Association of Health Service Doctors in the State, wondered "why the High Court would have to intervene every time to enforce law "why can't it be done by the political parties who are by default rulers too ... or that matter the ECI?"

# Himachal, Kerala help gasping Delhi O2 crisis persists in hospitals

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

While Delhi struggled to cope with a record number of Covid-19 cases, States such as Himachal Pradesh and Kerala on Monday extended their help to supply oxygen to the national Capital.

While talks were on with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur also assured Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with emergency oxygen supplies, according to reliable sources in the Government, the chief secretaries of both the States discussed the supply chain mechanism for Delhi deluging to cater critical Covid-19 patients.



also agreed to arrange emergency supplies of oxygen from Himachal Pradesh to New Delhi and the plan has been worked out under the leadership of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Raghav Chaddha.

Tilak Raj Sharma, Additional Secretary, Industry (Himachal Government) told The Pioneer that 500 cylinders of medical oxygen per day will



be sending to Delhi from Tuesday with refilling facility in HP. "The plan of action has been worked out and from tomorrow we are starting it," Sharma confirmed state has surplus production also helped neighbouring states - Haryana and Punjab.

In a letter written to his counterpart of New Delhi, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that the State of Himachal Pradesh was highly concerned

about the situation emerging in New Delhi and would be more than happy to extend all possible help to Delhi Government. He said that the officers of New Delhi Government may contact Additional Director of Industries for arranging the supplies of Oxygen from the State.

Chief Minister Kejriwal also expressed his gratitude towards Government of Himachal Pradesh for their generosity.

A source in the government said that V P Joy, chief secretary has informed that the state is willing to help Delhi and CM Vijayan has taken a conducive stand on this however amid the situation when Kerala is willing to provide oxy-

gen cylinders, transporting them from southern range is utmost challenge though plan of action have been discussed with Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Dev.

It is pivotal to mentioned here that after supplied to Goa with the movement of 20,000 litres of oxygen, Kerala is being recognised as surplus oxygen state produces its medical oxygen through various state and central PSUs viz. Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd, Chavara (6 tonnes per day), BPCL-Kochi (0.322 tonnes per day), Cochin Shipyard (5.45 tonnes per day), Inox Air Products, Kanjicode (149 tonnes per day) and another 44 tonnes per day by 11 ASU or air separation units.

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Lives of several critical patients on oxygen support across Delhi's Covid hospitals continued to hang in balance as supplies ran thin and management flagged fast depleting stocks, some reporting a mere two hour supply left. Lack of oxygen and life saving medicines has dented the morale of the attending doctors paramedical staff.

They are going through mental trauma as they are witness to innumerable patients breathing their last before their eyes and they aren't able to do anything except wringing their hands in sheer despair.

They are feeling extremely helpless, frustrating and emotionally drained with covid patients dying on beds due to the abject failures of government in providing them the necessary machineries for the patients. The medical professionals and staff are also scared about the possibility that they carry the killer virus home and spread it to the family.

"Doctors are feeling helpless as they are not able to provide oxygen and beds and seeing so many people dying in front of them is taking a toll on their mental health and well-being," said Dr Arti Anand, Senior Clinical Psychologist at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi.

"Some of them are engulfed in guilt, sadness and fear of themselves getting covid 19 virus. Some of the doctors have confessed that they have become numb as they have to take of the patients and their family members who are covid positive," said Dr Anand adding that as a psychologist she believe there will be an urgent need for psychotherapy and counselling for everyone

one who is going this crisis. According to Dr Vipul Rastogi, Psychiatrist at Medanta, the current situation is unprecedented and the impact on medical staff cannot be underestimated.

"Even if we put personal safety aside, which all of us do, the apathy of the system and the feeling that we can't help our patients is extremely frustrating and draining. On top of that the fear of well-being of our own family and how we would be able to help them if they get unwell is extremely distressing.

They are also unable to get any time off to recharge their own batteries and energy. Only if we are able to support our medical staff then only they will be able to support their patients to the best of their abilities," said Dr Rastogi.

Several medical professionals and staff have also tested positive for covid which has also increased workload in the hospitals. Across the country, many doctors, nurses and other medical staff have also lost their lives while treating the patients. They are also scared about the possibility that they carry the killer virus home and spread it to the family.

"Working in such a situation is a complete ballgame altogether. The covid pandemic has changed our lives so much that I have completely forgotten how a normal life feels like. Every day is a new lesson for us as a doctor but subsequently it is making me away from my family and kids, who are my lifelines and stress busters," said Dr Shuchin Bajaj, Founder and Director, Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals.

"The rising number of cases is making me on toes all the time. I really don't remember when was the last time I

gave a tight hug to my children. Every time I get close to them, there is a fear that suddenly comes to my mind that what if I am spreading the deadly virus in their bodies," said Dr Bajaj.

"Every day is a fresh challenge for us. The news of a newly-added symptom, a noble variant and healthcare givers getting affected just shake us inside out.

Like a common man, the rising cases of Covid-19 have filled us and our family members with fear and anxiety," said Katherine Jacobs, Chief Nursing Officer, Paras Hospitals

"It's been a month and half, we haven't seen our families and not hugged our children.

They are incessantly praying that we don't get infected. At times, the constant reassurance of the patient and addressing their queries take a toll on our mental health. The frequency of call bells is also more in COVID patients as they are scared and admitted alone in their rooms. The grim situation outside is just breaking our heart bit by bit. We are trying our best to provide the best care to each and every patient 24/7. We take utmost precautions and are following all the covid guidelines," said Jacobs.

"Seeing patients die in critical care wards is not uncommon for doctors but nothing can compare to the psychological stress of working in a Covid-19 ward.

There is no respite for doctors and nurses even when they are not directly involved in the fight against coronavirus.

People with other ailments are continuing to come to hospitals," said another doctor.

## AAP: MCDs not giving safety equipment to healthcare workers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak on Monday accused that the BJP ruled corporations are not showing any humanity considering the health emergency by not providing safety equipment to frontline and healthcare workers.

Pathak said that the corporations are also not providing any safety equipment to the sanitation workers and the workers associated with the fogging work to combat dengue and malaria in Delhi.

"The number of Covid-19 cases has been increasing across the country.

In Delhi as well the number of cases has been increas-

ing exponentially and the Delhi government is working relentlessly to increase the number of oxygen beds across Delhi. During a pandemic like COVID 19, it is important to understand that the Covid warriors are always dependent on the administration. Today the lives of people are getting saved because of the relentless support of the health workers," he said.

"The Corporations have become so insensitive that they are not providing any safety gear to these Covid warriors and it is really unfortunate," he added.

Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that Pathak's statement on non availability of facilities for sanitary workers etc is a total lie.

## Delhi policeman performs last rites of Covid-19 victim

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Displaying a humane face, the Delhi Police helped citizens to perform the last rites of their family members who died in the national Capital.

Police said that the Lieutenant Colonel Soumen Mondal called at the office of Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka district for urgent help regarding cremation of his father-in-law who was Covid-19 positive and no one was willing to help for cremation. Even the crematorium was not available.

"As he is posted in Leh and cannot come to the national capital in such short span of

time, we, with the help of constable Rajesh of Dwarka North police station, arranged all the required things and the cremation of deceased Biswanath Pramanik was performed," said a senior police official.

Similarly, Dwarka South police station was informed that one Jai Matnani who was COVID positive has passed away.

Police rushed to Sector-7, Dwarka. During enquiry, it came to know that the woman had come to Dwarka at her brother's house and later during treatment, she passed away.

"As there was nobody to take responsibility of cremation of the deceased, Dwarka police

## BJP demands to convert all hosps to Covid centres

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday demanded that all hospitals should be converted into Covid-19 hospitals and approve more hospitals for corona treatment by the Delhi Govt. Adesh Gupta, President, Delhi BJP has said that despite the start of Sardar Patel Covid Hospital the demand for hospital beds in Delhi has not receded which is a matter of concern.

"Experts are saying that Covid19 peak is yet a week or 10 days away in Delhi and it seems City's health infrastructure is not ready for that day and hence its important to increase the hospital beds," he said.

## 5 held for black-marketing of Remdesivir injection

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In separate incidents, the Delhi Police has arrested five people from different parts of Delhi for their alleged involvement in black-marketing of Remdesivir injection amid its heightened demand due to surging coronavirus cases.

The first set of arrests was made in south Delhi, where three people were nabbed, while two more were taken into custody in west Delhi. The three arrested in south Delhi have been identified as Likhit Gupta (30), a resident of Patparganj, Akash Verma (23), who lives in Daryaganj, and Anuj Jain (40), a resident of Geeta Colony.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police

(DCP), South district, they were arrested after police got a tip-off on Sunday that two persons were going near the India Habitat Center from Khan Market for selling Remdesivir vials at a very high price.

"Thereafter, a trap was laid near IHC, Lodhi Road, and a car was checked. On searching and frisking, four vials of Remdesivir injection were recovered from the possession of Gupta and Verma," said the DCP.

"The two told the police that they used to sell the vials at Rs 70,000 each to needy people. The third accused, Anuj Jain, used to supply them the Remdesivir injection at high rates to further sell them in the black-market," said the DCP adding that later, Jain was also

arrested with three vials of Remdesivir injection which he brought to sell to Verma.

Gupta has a medical shop at Daryaganj and Jain has one at Chandni Chowk. Verma is a jeweller by profession, police said, adding that a total of seven vials of Remdesivir injections and one car were recovered from their possession.

In another instance, police arrested two persons in west Delhi for allegedly black-marketing the drug.

On Sunday around 4 pm, the staff at Tilak Nagar police station got a tip-off and they nabbed Gurpreet Singh (29), a resident of Tilak Nagar, and Anuj Jaiswal (30), a resident of Geeta Colony, who were allegedly involved in black marketing of Remdesivir injections, police said.

## Admin makes efforts for more Covid beds in G'gram

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

With the surge in Covid cases, an acute shortage of beds for Covid patients has emerged in Gurugram.

In order to deal with this problem the Gurugram district administration has put all efforts to increase number of beds in the city to facilitate Covid patients in a better manner. For this, Deputy Commissioner Yash Garg had directed the hospitals to increase the number of beds reserved for Covid patients to at least 60 per cent under the general category and 75 per cent of the total bed capacity of ICU and ventilator beds. With this order around 1,000 more will be available for covid patients.

Also, Executive Magistrate and Nodal Officers at each hospital to strictly enforce the orders of the deputy commissioner and ensure that every hospital provides beds for the specified number of covid patients.

Additional Chief Secretary, TC Gupta has recently reviewed the preparations of the district administration via video conferencing and asked suggestions from the top officials of the district.

During the meeting, the chief executive officer of the Gurugram Metropolitan Department Authority (GMDA), Sudhir Rajpal said that there is a need for better management of available bed numbers and data analysis.

He said that the infrastructure will also be increased

as per the requirement.

Vinay Pratap Singh, Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG), said that about 100 beds have been arranged in SGT Medical College recently, 20 will be added to these with oxygen and 5 more beds with ventilator facility.

"Efforts are being made to increase the number of beds with oxygen facility in Gurugram through CSR in collaboration with various corporate companies. For this, 7 community centers have also been identified. Also, the number of beds will be increased tying up with hotels, guest houses etc," he said.

Singh assured that efforts are being made to provide 200 beds in the next 3 days, including 20 beds with ventilators.

## Lekhi seeks NOC from CM for setting up oxygen plant in her constituency

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Member of Parliament (MP) from the New Delhi constituency Meenakshi Lekhi on Monday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking No Objection Certificate (NOC) to set up oxygen plant at any Government hospital in the constituency amid surge in Covid 19 cases.

In her letter she mentioned that the condition of medical services, oxygen services is no secret to you, and the people of Delhi in this time of great distress and acute shortage of I wish to volunteer to set up oxygen plant in any government hospital under the New Delhi

constituency.

"Being an elected representative in the constituency, I am receiving numerous calls, messages and texts on the shortage of oxygen. I am unable to satisfy them with limited resources.

Such a tweet and a call made to me on Sunday Acharya Shree Bhikshu Hospital ran out of oxygen and this situation created pain and stress among patients and their relatives," Lekhi mentioned in her letter.

She further mentioned that she does not want any political confrontation at this time and thus requested for the NOC for the installation of Oxygen plant in Acharya Shree Bhikshu Hospital on urgent basis.

## Legal battle over continuation of IHBAS director

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A massive resentment has occurred in a section of the staff of IHBAS (Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Science) over the continuation of its director Nimesh G Desai even after his tenure on extension ended on April 18.

Amidst a legal battle in the Delhi High court questioning the 'arbitrary' continuation of Desai, the Delhi Government is yet to issue a formal order or any communication to IHBAS. Desai superannuated on October 18, 2020 and his previous extension of six months is sub-joined in Delhi High Court.

Thousands of patients are being treated for covid case in the hospital everyday besides the routine corona vaccination programme and the employees and medicos complained for want of a full time director. Sources said Desai has tested corona positive a day before his tenure ended and works from home for one of the largest medical facility of Delhi Government.

"The job responsibilities of Director of any medical institute require his availability round the clock and more significantly in these tough times. After the end of tenure of incumbent Director who con-

tinued on an extension, the State government is yet to take cognizance of the vacant position. Advertisement for the post was published in February this year," a senior doctor of the IHBAS confided.

When contacted about the lapses, Delhi government sources said it is normal that Desai may be given another three months extension since the entire system in engaged in battling the deadly virus. But a section of employees and medicos of IHBAS said that giving another extension is likely to be violation of central recruitment rules and as per the norms the charge of vacant position and in this case Director IHBAS can be given to a senior most Professor of the institute.

The extension of Desai was challenged by a retired professor of IHBAS, Dr TB Singh, through a PIL in December 2020 following which a notice was issued to Delhi Government.

The government in between issued an advertisement to fill the position and simultaneously informed the court that Desai's tenure was to end on April 18, 2021. While the matter could not be taken for hearing on March 23 in the PIL, the next date is scheduled for May 18, 2021.

**Youth To Stay Aware of Covid Strain  
Ensure Participation, Get Vaccination**

**Are You 18+ ?**

**Everyone above 18 years of age to get vaccinated from 1st May**

**Vaccination continues for people of 45 years of age and above**

**Both the corona vaccines are safe**

Visit the portal [www.cowin.gov.in](http://www.cowin.gov.in) to get yourself registered for vaccination  
Registration Starts from 28 April, 2021

For Information related to COVID-19  
Contact State Helpline Numbers 8558893911 (Gurugram & Faridabad) & For Other Districts 1075

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana  
www.pharyana.gov.in @Cmohry @DiprHaryana

# Wear masks inside your homes as well: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after maintaining silence on queries if Kumbh mela and election rallies in poll going States can be super spreaders as Covid-19 social norms were being violated blatantly, the Government on Sunday cautioned the public about the major spread in Covid-19 infection advising them to wear mask even when inside home even as it sought to allay people's fears, saying unnecessary panic is causing more harm than good.

It also said that India has enough stock of medical oxygen, but the issue is its transportation from the producing States to high-demand areas which the Government is trying to address.

Stressing on the need for vaccination and observing Covid-19 appropriate behaviours, the Government advised that it is time people start wearing masks inside their homes as well. "Research has shown that if no physical distancing measures are followed, one person can infect 406 people in 30 days, Joint Secretary Lav Kumar said, adding that if physical exposure is reduced by 50 per cent then one person can infect around 15 people during the period. And, if physical exposure is reduced by 75 per cent, then one person



BINDIA

can infect around 2.5 people in 30 days," said Joint Secretary at Union Health Ministry Lav Agarwal. He was speaking at a Press conference here.

Dr. VK Paul, Member (Health), Niti Aayog, said this is the time to be at home, wear a mask and not invite people. He added that people should also avoid stepping out of their home unnecessarily. Intriguingly, a few weeks ago, the Government had evaded queries if the Kumbh mela and election rallies would prove to be Covid super spreaders.

"If there is Covid-19 positive case in the family, it is very important that the person wears a mask even indoors because the virus can spread to others in the home. I would rather go on to say that the time has come that we start wearing mask at home even otherwise," Dr Paul said.

He said so far we would talk about wearing mask outdoors, but since the infection has spread, people should wear mask even at home.

"The person who is infected must wear it, but even others must do it when sitting with

other family members at home. The infected person should be isolated in a separate room," Dr Paul said.

The government also asked for immediate isolation of anyone who has symptoms related to Covid-19.

"Do not wait for the reports to come. Isolate. There is a chance that RT-PCR tests can be negative, just presume that the patient is Covid-19 positive if there are symptoms," said Dr Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS New Delhi.

The Government's internal assessment points to the direction that cases will peak by the middle of May. By April 30, Uttar Pradesh is expected to report 1.19 lakh cases and Maharashtra over 99,000 cases daily.

He also pitched for expediting the pace of the vaccination drive and asserted that women can take COVID-19 vaccine during menstruation as well.

Agarwal said many people have been found to be occupying hospital beds out of panic.

Hospital admission should only be on the advice of doctors, he stressed. Amid a shortage of medical oxygen, he said adding India has enough medical oxygen available, but the challenge is to transport it to hospitals.

# Govt extends cap on domestic flight fares till May 31

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has extended fare capping in domestic flights till May 31, 2021. The cap on airline capacity at 80 percent would also be maintained till the end of next month. The order comes days after the airlines had appealed to the Government to reduce capacity to 60 percent as bookings had fallen due to the outbreak of Covid-19. The aviation companies had, earlier in April, knocked at the doors of the Government for help, as the second wave of Covid-19 wreaks havoc on aviation just when they started recovering from the first blow.

Under the fare structure, air routes are divided into sections based on travel time. Each section has its minimum and maximum fare.

On March 19, the ministry announced that all domestic airlines will have to limit their capacity to 80 percent of the pre-Covid capacity because the number of air passengers has declined due to Covid-related restrictions.

Earlier, the ministry had approved 18,843 flights per week from 108 airports for the summer schedule, which begins on the last Sunday of



March and ends on the last Sunday of October.

Also last month, Director General of Civil Aviation in a circular said that suspension of international flights has been further extended till April 30. However, international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on case to case basis.

The civil aviation ministry had set the 80 percent limit on December 3, 2020, without specifying till what date it would remain in place.

Fare caps were put in place after domestic air operations were allowed to resume by the government in May last year following two months of grounding of flight operations to contain the covid-19 pandemic.

# Army for 'decent last' rites for its personnel succumbing to Covid



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the increasing death toll due to the corona pandemic has led to a shortage of space in the crematorium in several parts of the country, the Army has activated a cell to ensure decent last rites to its serving and retired personnel succumbing to the pandemic.

There are more than 65 military stations all over the country and the army has an Assured Decent Last Rites scheme. Every station or cantonment has funds and set up for this scheme. It comprises receiving the body from the airport, transportation from there to the fallen soldier's native place and funds for the family to conduct the last rituals.

Giving details about it, sources said here on Monday the special cell was set up recently at the Delhi Cantonment to ensure honourable and dignified last rites to personnel dying due to the pandemic.

The need for such a cell was felt after the onset of the second wave of corona and the rising death toll. It resulted in an unprecedented rush at the crematorium.

The Army cell ensures hassle-free process at its cremation centre at Brar Square in Delhi Cantonment, they said. Similar procedures will be followed at the other stations for veterans and their dependents, they said.

Moreover, the army has

deployed more personnel apart from hiring hearse vans to ensure that families are provided full support, they said.

In cases where it is not possible to move the mortal remains to Brar Square, necessary coordination is being done with the state or district administration to ensure proper last rites. Also, in case there is no family member around to handle the last rites, the Army will do so.

They also clarified that the last rites are performed with proper Covid-19 protocols as well as Army traditions. The soldiers engaged in this duty are provided with PPE kits as per the standard operating procedure. All precautions are also taken while placing wreaths, they said.

# Opp targets PM after Madras HC indictment of EC for Covid spread

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The observation of the Madras High Court on Monday, implicating the Election Commission of India (EC) singularly responsible for spreading Covid-19 and that murder charges should probably be imposed on it for its "irresponsible" behaviour, fuelled the Opposition parties to simultaneously target both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and election watchdog totally responsible for the deadly second surge.

Both Congress and Trinamool Congress were quick to react to the High Court's reaction. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is facing a bitter poll battle against the high pitched poll campaign by BJP, welcomed the Madras High Court's observations. She took the opportunity to also demand withdrawal of central forces to contain Covid spread in West Bengal in the next phase of polling. "I welcome the Madras High Court order, which clearly said the EC cannot escape its responsibility. Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and EC are responsible for the (current) situation (of Covid spreading in the state)," Banerjee alleged at a workers' meeting in Kolkata. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who is facing a bitter poll battle against the high pitched poll campaign by BJP, welcomed the Madras High Court's observations. She took the opportunity to also demand withdrawal of central forces to contain Covid spread in West Bengal in the next phase of polling. "I welcome the Madras High Court order, which clearly said the EC cannot escape its responsibility. Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and EC are responsible for the (current) situation (of Covid spreading in the state)," Banerjee alleged at a workers' meeting in Kolkata.

Congress on its part welcomed the



observation and the outrage shown by the Madras High Court, but it felt it was a little late in the day. It recalled how as Opposition the leaders used to meet the CEC with faith and belief that the commission will ensure a level playing field. "I am not surprised at the outrage shown by Lordships at Madras HC. What's shocking is the time it took to call the bluff. Look at the double standards of Election Commission that 404 Assembly seats can poll on a single day April 6, but they required eight phases polling for 294 seats in West Bengal. And it's planned in a manner that it begins from the area where BJP had done well in Lok Sabha 2019, perhaps to help build up a perception favourable to one party," said AICC Secretary Pranav Jha.

Lauding the memorable observation of the court which was need of the hour to tame public institutions and make them understand their responsibilities, Pranav questioned the distinction as how on one hand PM, Home Minister and several Union Ministers were holding rallies and road shows without following the Covid protocols and on the other the Delhi High court advised individuals driving their vehicles alone without a mask. "There are too many examples. We take pride in our

"I WELCOME THE MADRAS HIGH COURT ORDER, WHICH CLEARLY SAID THE EC CANNOT ESCAPE ITS RESPONSIBILITY. BOTH PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI AND EC ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE (CURRENT) SITUATION (OF COVID SPREADING IN THE STATE),"

leaders when former party chief Rahul Gandhi called off his election meetings in the wake of rising cases and people were in panic mode. At least then also the ruling side and other political parties did not acknowledge his call and conducted huge public rallies," said Jha who is also the AICC, Secretary, In-charge of Communication.

Criticising the ECI for not stopping political parties from violating the Covid protocols, the first bench of Madras High court Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy said, "You (ECI) are the only institution responsible for the situation that we are in today." "You have been singularly lacking any kind of exercise of authority. You have not taken measures against political parties holding rallies despite every order of this court saying 'maintain Covid protocol, maintain Covid protocol,'" the court said, asking whether the poll watchdog "was on another planet when poll rallies were held." The court further said that it would issue orders to stop counting if ECI fails to prepare a blueprint before May 2 on how Covid protocols will be maintained during the process. This needs to be done to ensure that "this state does not succumb to your idiosyncrasies any further," the HC said.

# States, UTs directed to implement intensive, localised, focused containment framework

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing the ongoing surge in Covid pandemic, Union Home Ministry on Monday directed the States and Union Territories to implement an intensive, local and focused containment framework, stressing on specific districts and areas to snap the chain of transmission.

In a communication, Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla reiterated the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's April 25 advisory on containment strategy and said the district authorities should be sensitised on the strategy for imposing restrictions and it should be widely disseminated to the public and to the field functionaries for their effective implementation.

Bhalla said that in the recent past, a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases has been observed along with high positivity rate. Considering this unprecedented spike, he said, there is an urgent need for states and UTs to consider strict COVID management and control measures, in the surge areas to bring the situation under control.

Directing to strictly adhere to the directions of Union Health Ministry, the Home Ministry told States to implement an intensive, local and focused containment framework, focused on specific districts, cities, areas, and identified based on a prescribed criterion.

"All States/ UTs have also been advised to consider a further graded response in accordance with local situation, requirements and resources. I would, therefore, urge you to issue directions to district authorities in your State/ UT, to take all necessary measures, as advised by MoHFW in their letter, for the implementation of the containment framework, so as to flatten the curve," Bhalla said.

# Punjab, Haryana farmers get direct bank transfer for sale of rabi crops

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time, farmers of Punjab and Haryana are getting direct bank transfer of payment against sale of rabi crops. The Centre has transferred around ₹8,180 crore to farmers in Punjab and ₹4,668 crore farmers in Haryana directly into their bank accounts against sale of their wheat crop this year so far. About 21.17 lakh wheat farmers have already been benefitted from the ongoing rabi marketing season procurement operations with an MSP value of about ₹ 43,912 crore, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs said.

After much persuasion, the Punjab Government has agreed to implement direct bank transfer (DBT) of payment of minimum support price (MSP) against sale of rabi (winter) crops such as wheat from April 10 onwards. In Haryana also, the MSP payment is being paid directly into the bank accounts of farmers. So far, Rs 4,668 crore has been transferred, it added. About 71.76 lakh tonne of wheat has been procured from Haryana.

Wheat procurement is going on at



a brisk pace in the procuring States and UTs of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and other States with the purchase of over 222.33 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) up to April 25, 2021 against 77.57 LMT during the corresponding period of last year, it said.

The ministry further informed that out of the total purchase of 222.33 LMT, a major contribution has been made by Punjab - 84.15 LMT (37.8 per cent), Haryana - 71.76 LMT (32.27 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh - 51.57 LMT (23.2 per cent) of total procurement up to April 25, 2021.

Procurement of wheat is being undertaken by central nodal agency Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies.

# Haj houses converted into corona centres in 16 States, says Naqvi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday decided that Haj-houses be "handed over" to respective State Governments as "temporary corona centres."

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi directed Haj-committees and their "executive officers" that they convert Haj-houses in 16 States as "temporary Corona Care

Centres" and accord all possible help to State Governments.

In view of the steep rise in corona cases across states, Naqvi reviewed the situation and the status of Haj- Buildings and decided to "temporarily" hand over them to the respective states.

He said the Haj-houses which are "located independently in isolated buildings" can be used to ease out the pandemic situation in the country.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	RFP FOR EMPANELMENT OF THIRD PARTY INSPECTING AGENCY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT AGENCY (PMA) FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE, INSPECTION AND MONITORING OF PROJECT IN UHBVN	26.04.2021 17.05.2021	1 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in	01222570431 cepdc@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 2731

# 302 MT of O2 transported by Rlys so far

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Since the first train of empty tankers left for Vizag from Mumbai region just a few days back, Indian Railways has so far transported more than 302 MT of oxygen to various States across India. Another 154 MT liquid medical oxygen is on its way.

Also to meet the demands of States for the facility of Covid Care coaches during the current raging second spell of the pandemic the Indian Railways fleet of 4000 coaches (retrofitted as isolation units) with a capacity of 64000 beds are being deployed at various locations in the country.

One Oxygen Express train carrying four tankers from Raigarh had crossed Jhansi by the time of filing this news report and was expected to reach Delhi by midnight.

For the residents of Maharashtra, a train carrying 44 MT (in 3 tankers) reached Kalamboli (near Mumbai) from Hapa (Rajkot, Gujarat). Another Oxygen express currently on the run from Bokaro (Jharkhand) to



Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) carrying 90 MT of LMO (in 5 tankers) and has been scheduled to reach Lucknow by Tuesday morning.

"Another empty rake will depart from Lucknow to Bokaro to bring one more set of Oxygen tankers. Railways is responding to all requests received from state governments and is in constant touch with the respective authorities for additional Oxygen train requirements," said a senior railway official.

In Delhi 75 Covid Care coaches with a capacity of 1200 beds have been stationed with 50 coaches at Shakurbasti and 25 coaches at Anand Vihar station. Last year 857 patients were admitted and discharged at Shakurbasti facility.

In Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), the Railway has deployed 20 Isolation Coaches with a capacity of 292 beds. 3 patients were admitted and are presently utilising the facility.

In Nandurbar (Maharashtra), 24 Isolation Coaches with a capacity of 292 beds have been deployed. This facility has registered 73 admissions till date. Of the 55 patients' admissions in the current Covid spell, 7 patients have been discharged. 4 new admissions were recorded during the day (26.4.2021). The Unit has 326 beds still available for Covid patients.

In UP, though coaches have not yet been requisitioned by State Govt, 10 coaches each are placed at Faizabad, Bhadohi, Varanasi, Bareilly & Nazibabad totalling to a capacity of 800 beds (50 coaches).

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** 60 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'6", **ID mark:** A mole on right cheek, was wearing Black Pant, Cream Shirt and Red & Yellow Blanket, was found at Ajmeri Gate side, near Minto Road, New Delhi Railway Station at 01:00 AM. In this regard a **DD No. 01A, dated 18.04.2021, has been lodged at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New 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. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi**  
**DP/121/Rly/2021 Ph.: 011-23744073, 8750871305**

## Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one lady **Name:** Unknown, **W/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 50/55 Yrs., **Height:** 5'2", **Sex:** Female, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Round, **ID Marks:** Tattoo Mark on Right Hand, **Wearing:** Red White Yellow Colour T-Shirt, Red Colour Salwar, **Place of Recovery:** Found dead on 21.04.2021 at Ajmeri Gate Side Near Prepaid both, New Delhi Railway Station.

In this regard **DD No. 17A, U/s 174 CrPC, Dated 21.04.2021** has been lodged at **Police Station, New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi.** Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

**SHO**  
**P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi**  
**DP/124/RLY/2021 Ph.: 011-23744073, 23363622**

# 74% polling in WB 7th phase

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Bengal on Monday recorded a brisk polling amid reports of some stray violence coming from five districts that went to the 7th phase of polling on Monday.

The State recorded about 74 per cent polling when reports last came in at 5 pm with nine about 80.30 and 80.21 percent voters casting their votes in Murshidabad and South Dinajpur districts. While Malda witnessed 78.86 percent polling about 70.34 percent voters exercised their franchise in West Burdwan. In South Kolkata the rate of polling was low at 59.91 percent.

While there was no major report of violence coming from any place the TMC and BJP blamed each other for jamming booths and rigging at Asansol, Raninagar and Malda. At Farakka a TMC supporter was stabbed by the BJP men, sources said.

At Jamuria Left candidate and

While there was no major report of violence coming from any place, the TMC and the BJP blamed each other for jamming booths and rigging at Asansol, Raninagar and Malda. At Farakka a TMC supporter was stabbed by the BJP men, sources said

JNU students' leader Aishe Ghosh alleged that the Left voters were being stopped by the Trinamool goons from going to the polling booth. Later the central forces escorted the voters to the booth. Reports of some disturbance came in from Suti in Murshidabad too, sources said.

Elections will take place for 34 Assembly seats across 5 districts --- of West Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, West Burdwan and Kolkata South -- across North and South Bengal. The Election Commission deployed 89,600 paramilitary personnel to ensure free and fair elections.

# Didi: Madras HC right, EC responsible for Covid surge

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday made the most of the Madras High Court order — faulting the Election Commission of India for rising corona cases in the country — to launch a frontal attack on the poll panel holding it responsible for a surge in corona cases in her own State.

Welcoming the Madras High Court observation that the ECI could not avoid blame for the spread of pandemic Banerjee demanded immediate withdrawal of central forces saying about 3 lakh of them had been posted in the State without them being properly checked for their diseases.

“The ECI has posted 3 lakh security forces in Bengal without checking whether they are corona positive or not ... this has infected the people in the State in large numbers ... we want them to be withdrawn immediately,” the Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister also alleged that “we have been repeatedly ask-

ing the ECI to shorten the phases of elections to avoid large scale infections but they would not listen to us ... when you can single-phase election in Kerala, three phase in Assam why cannot you shorten the election phases in Bengal?” Banerjee asked saying “the ECI has proved that it is working according to the directions of the BJP ... they wanted the poll panel to hold 8-phase elections and so they did it ... the EC is responsible for increasing cases in Bengal.”

On the other hand the Left said that they had already cancelled their large rallies even before the High Court order and Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury said “we had even asked the EC to postpone the elections.”

The BJP however refuted Banerjee's charges even as its leader Samik Bhattacharya said “she is using the HC order to bake her own bread ... She has first to answer why the EC has to hold 8-phase elections ... why cannot there be a single-phase polling in Bengal ... she has to ask this answer to the TMC goons who loot votes.”

# Panchayat polls held on court order: Yogi Govt

Lucknow: The Yogi Adityanath Government in Uttar Pradesh has said it did not wish to conduct panchayat elections in the State in view of coronavirus pandemic but had to do so following the Allahabad High Court's order which directed it to complete the poll process by May 10.

A Government spokesman said, “The elections were due in December last year. The pandemic led to delay in reorganisation and delimitation of panchayats. The writ petitions and subsequent decision of the high court compelled the state government to hold the election.”

“In a writ petition filed by Vinod Upadhyay against the State of Uttar Pradesh, the Allahabad high court in its order dated February 4, directed the State Election Commission to complete the election process for panchayats by April 30. In compliance, the state government initiated the process of reservation and allotment by March 15,” the spokesman said.

The state government said the panchayat polls were being conducted in keeping with Covid-19 protocols issued by the State Election Commission. The four-phase panchayat elections started on April 15 and counting of votes and declaration of result will take place on May 2.

The spokesperson said the state government was committed to ensuring the safety of voters.

For proper cleanliness, sanitization and prevention of infection in gram panchayats, special sanitation drive was undertaken in villages across 75 districts of the state. IANS

# J&K records 2,135 fresh Covid cases

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Covid-19 situation has become grimmer in Jammu and Kashmir as the region has started recording one death per hour. In the last 48 hours, 46 patients have succumbed to the virus while 4,516 coronavirus positive patients were added to the tally which crossed 20,000 active positive cases. 2,135 fresh cases of coronavirus were recorded on Monday.

On the other hand out of 87 Covid ICU beds available in Government Medical College, Jammu only 20 are left vacant. Out of 227 Covid ICU beds available across 15 Covid hospitals in Jammu division 126 are left vacant.

The Health and Medical Education department is working over time to operationalise the oxygen generation plants to meet the growing demand of oxygen across over burdened health institutions.

The twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar are emerging as ‘hot spots’ as the total number of active positive cases are increasing rapidly. Both these capital cities accounted for over 54 per cent active positive cases.

Out of 2172 deaths due to covid 19 so far, Jammu region has recorded 828 and 1344 deaths were reported in Kashmir division.

On Monday Jammu recorded 472 fresh cases taking the total number of active positive cases to 5089 while Srinagar with 632 fresh cases recorded 6180 active positive cases.

Out of 2135 fresh cases, 299 were travellers who tested positive during routine screening while 1836 locals were tested positive across the Union Territory of J&K on Monday.

# UK, S African variants of Covid detected in Kerala, 21,890 new cases reported

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Though there has been a slight fall in the number of new persons diagnosed with Covid-19 on Monday in Kerala, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said there was no space for complacency as the reduced numbers were on account of the fall in the number of tests held during the last two days.

“The State on Monday diagnosed 21,890 new cases of Covid-19. We also registered 28 deaths due to Covid-19 till Monday evening. There are more than 2.32 lakh persons undergoing treatment for Covid-19 in the State as on Monday evening,” said Vijayan.

The Chief Minister said that two deadly genetically modified variants of the Covid-19, namely British and South African variants have been detected in the State. “This is news causing concern and has made us resort to stringent measures,” said Vijayan who alerted the people of the State that the two new variants were dangerous and hazardous.

Vijayan blamed the Centre, especially the Prime Minister, for not releasing the quantity of vaccines asked by the State Government.

“We are discussing with the vaccine manufacturers directly so as to make the vaccine available to the Kerala population,”

said Vijayan in his media interaction on Monday evening.

The all party meeting convened by the Chief Minister early in the day decided unanimously to continue with the weekend lockdown. “The general feeling was that a total lockdown was not feasible at this stage because it would pose considerable hardship to the population. We will continue with the weekend lockdown,” said the Chief Minister.

Vijayan asked the people of the State to cooperate with the Government in its efforts to prevent the community spreading of the pandemic. “The number of Muslim brethren who assemble in mosques for Ramadan prayers should not exceed 50.

The faithful should use pipe water to wash their hands and face while they should avoid the water in the pools,” said the chief Minister.

All shops and business establishments have been asked to operate between 7 am and 5.30 pm. Bars, sports centres, clubs, spas, and cinema theatres have been asked to down the shutters with immediate effect.

While extending support to the Government in all its efforts to check the spread of the pandemic, Leader of Opposition, Ramesh Chennithala said the LDF Government was not prudent in the financial management of the State.

# 15,684 new corona cases in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

An all-party meeting convened by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Monday decided unanimously to open the oxygen plant of Anil Aggarwal's Sterlite Copper Plant at Thoothukudi in view of the pandemic situation prevailing in the State.

The State saw the number of new Covid-19 patients shooting up to 15,684 on a single day while 94 deaths were recorded all over the State. Chennai saw 4,250 new patients while neighbouring Chengalpattu district saw the figures going up by 1,142 on Monday.

The Copper manufacturing unit owned by Aggarwal's Vedanata Group has been shut down since May 28, 2021 following riots by activists who demanded the closure of the facility because of alleged environmental pollution.

Tamil Nadu has been facing severe shortage of oxygen in the backdrop of the increasing number of Covid-19 cases. The Sterlite unit is capable of pro-

ducing 1,000 tonnes oxygen per day.

The Tamil Nadu Government in a release said that the oxygen produced at the Sterlite plant would be used to meet the demands of the State and the surplus if any would be given to other States which are in short supply.

The Chief Minister had told the media on Sunday that the State was in need of 310 tonnes oxygen per day and thus may rise to 450 tonnes per day in coming days.

The all-party meeting was unanimous in the decision that only the oxygen production plant of the Sterlite Copper would be allowed to operate and no other facilities of the company would be re-opened or revived.

The Sterlite Ltd had filed a plea in the Supreme Court asking for court directive to the State Government to allow the Group to operate the oxygen manufacturing plant because Tamil Nadu Government does not have the capability or know-how to operate the plant.

The MDMK led by Vaiko

and NTK owned by Seaman had staged protests in Thoothukudi last week against the move to open the oxygen producing facility of Sterlite Ltd.

The Madras High Court Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee on Monday lambasted the election Commission of India and blamed it for the second wave of Covid-19 that struck the State. While considering a plea moved by AIADMK leader M R Vijaybaskar who is also the Transport Minister, to direct the Election Commission of India to put in place stringent measures during the May 2 counting of votes, the chief justice said the ECI should have put in place strict guidelines to enforce the people to fall in line and observe the safety protocols.

Meanwhile Tamil Nadu Police has issued an alert about the unusual meetings and religious ceremonies being held in certain districts of the State by Tablighi Jamaat activists since the last two months.

It was the TJ activists who played a crucial role in 2020 in spreading the pandemic across the State.

# No lockdown yet, feel sorry for 38 Covid deaths: Goa CM

Panaji: The police and the district administrations in Goa have been directed to crackdown on crowded weddings and other functions, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Monday, after a record 38 persons died within 24 hours due to Covid-19 related complications.

Sawant, however, has ruled out a lockdown in Goa, but added that if the Covid-19 footprint spreads further in the State, some ‘harsh decisions’ would be taken.

“We have not decided on lockdown. We will crackdown on the Covid protocol violators strictly now. The police have been instructed to take action to ensure that there are no crowds at functions, including weddings. People should not say we have stopped (events) then. Before going into lockdown, we will have to stop functions,” Sawant said.

The Chief Minister, however, refused to take questions related to a wedding attended by Deputy Chief Minister Manohar Ajaonkar, where guests, including the minister himself, were seen dancing at the packed event held last week. The video of the event

“We have not decided on lockdown. We will crackdown on the Covid protocol violators strictly now. The police have been instructed to take action to ensure that there are no crowds at functions, including weddings. People should not say we have stopped (events) then. Before going into lockdown, we will have to stop functions,” Sawant said

has gone viral. Sawant said that he “felt sad” over the record 38 deaths which were recorded on Monday, but added that the steep increase in Covid-19 infections over the last two days -- 2,321 persons tested positive on Monday -- was on account of clearance of a backlog of test samples.

“The Covid case count is 2000-plus today because we have cleared the backlog. The second wave is very dangerous. Those who have symptoms should get admitted as soon as possible. We are providing all the facilities. We have increased bed capacity, provided oxygen,” the Chief Minister said. IANS

# Oxygen Express arrives in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Ro-Ro service carrying three tankers loaded with 44 tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO), which had left Hapa in Gujarat on Sunday evening, arrived at Kalamboli in Navi Mumbai on Monday morning.

The Ro-Ro service carrying three tankers containing 44 tonnes of medical Oxygen supplied by Jamnagar Refinery of Reliance Industries Limited, traversed 860 km in little over eleven hours and reached Kalamboli Goods Shed at 11.25 am. It journeyed via Viramgam, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Vasai Road and Bhiwandi Road, after “following all the safety parameters en route”.

The Government has provided a green corridor for the faster movement of the Oxygen Express. The medical oxygen is being made available for treatment of COVID-19 patients across the country, through Oxygen Express trains run by Ministry of Railways.

The Railways have so far run Oxygen Express trains between Mumbai to Vizag via Nagpur to Nashik and Lucknow to Bokaro and back. A total 150 tonnes of liquid Oxygen has been transported in this train till April 25. The authorities have planned the operation of more such ‘Oxygen Express’ trains to various parts of the country.

# Tirupati converted into containment zone

Tirupati: With corona cases recorded in each and every division of the city, the authorities have designated Tirupati as a containment zone.

Tirupati Municipal Corporation Commissioner PS Girisha on Monday said that the decision was taken in the context of the central government's directives on controlling the virus' spread.

A meeting of representatives of business and commercial organisations, police officials, and public representatives, was organised at the municipal corporation, to decide ways and means to control the Covid pandemic's spread in the city which is the gateway to Tirumala - the world's richest Hindu temple.

Tirupati city corporation commissioner Girisha said that the onus of controlling the spread of corona, lies with the people themselves.

He said that along with containment measures, the administration is following up on completing the vaccination process. IANS

# OXYGEN SHORTAGE ROW

# Maha orders probe into death of 4 patients at Thane hospital

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid allegations that four patients died owing to acute shortage of medical oxygen at Thane's Vedanta Hospital, the Maharashtra Government on Monday ordered an inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of four patients at the hospital.

Within hours after four patients died at Vedanta Hospital located at Thane's Vartak Nagar locality, the family members made an issue and claimed that their near and dear ones died due to lack of Oxygen.

Before long, Opposition BJP legislator Niranjan Dhavkare visited the Vedanta hospital, made enquiries and demanded a comprehensive inquiry against the hospital authorities. Local MNS workers staged a protest outside the hospital.

Talking to media persons after the visit to the hospital, Dhavkare

said: “It is unfortunate that four patients have died at the Vedanta Hospital due to lack of medical Oxygen supplies. We demand a comprehensive inquiry into the incident. Those responsible for the deaths should be punished. It is also a must that the hospital authorities do not charge anything for the treatment undergone by the deceased patients at the hospital”.

State's Urban Development Minister Eknath Shinde, who is also the Guardian Minister for Thane district, and Housing Minister Jitendra Awhad announced a high-level inquiry into the incident.

Shinde said that the state government had appointed Bhiwandi Nizampur Municipal Corporation (BNMC) Commissioner Pankaj Ashiya to conduct an inquiry into the cause of four patients' death and submit a report to the government.

“We are making all possible efforts to overcome the shortage of

medical Oxygen by way of procuring stocks of life-saving gas from other states and oxygen-filling facilities via train and flight,” Shinde said.

Monday's was the second instance where the bereaved family members have staged protests at hospitals in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) over the death of their relatives owing to medical oxygen shortage there.

It may be recalled that amid reports that as many as Covid-19 patients had died at Vasai, a satellite town of Mumbai, following shortage of medical oxygen, the members of bereaved families had on April 13 staged a massive protest at Vinayaka Hospital in Nalasopara, where the maximum deaths have been reported. So much so that the hospital authorities requisitioned the help of the local police to calm down fried tempers of the affected relatives of Covid-19 patients.

# No shortage of oxygen in Aligarh jail hospital

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

At the time the entire country is struggling with the corona crisis, the district jail is providing complete facilities for the detainees. Separate L One (Level One) hospital have been set up here for women and male prisoners. There is a sufficient amount of oxygen cylinders here. Two doctors from the Health Department have also been appointed here. At present, a female prisoner is undergoing treatment here.

There are currently 3600 prisoner detainees in the District Prison. These include captives of Hathras. In such a situation, when the second wave of Corona came, vigilance was increased by the district prison. A corona check was arranged for the detainees. Also, more than 600 prisoners of age above 45

years were also vaccinated. However, the situation is still normal about Corona in jail. However, the prison administration, taking precaution, has made L1 hospitals for the detainees. Health services have been started here by repairing some of the damaged barracks in the premises. At present, there are also 10 cylinders of oxygen. Work has also started under the supervision of Dr. Shahrukh of the jail hospital. A doctor and a pharmacist have been appointed by the Health Department. A female prisoner is undergoing treatment.

Vipin Kumar Mishra, Senior Jail Superintendent said that the health of the prisoners is being taken full care of. L-One hospitals have been set up for the detainees in the precautionary prison complex, so that emergency situations do not arise.



A deserted view of Asia's largest tulip garden after it was closed due to Covid-19 cases in Srinagar on Monday

# Emergency Covid centres come up in Srinagar

Srinagar: As Covid designated hospitals start running out of beds for indoor patients, Srinagar district administration on Monday decided to establish an emergency Covid-19 centre at city's indoor stadium.

District magistrate Srinagar, Aijaz Asad said a Covid emergency centre has been established at Srinagar's indoor sports stadium.

Another officer at the DM's office said the centre would treat patients with mild symptoms and oxygen facility would be available at the centre.

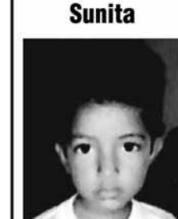
“Like last year, COVID treatment centres have also been established at Sanat Nagar marriage hall, Kashmir University's Zakura campus, NIT Srinagar and at the Haj House,” the official added. IANS

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ (छत्तीसगढ़)					
क्र. 40/स्था.वि./न.पा.नि./2021 रायगढ़ दिनांक 24.04.2021					
॥ ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण संशोधन सूचना ॥					
कोरोना वायरस (कोविड-19) संक्रमण एवं बचाव हेतु कलेक्टर महोदय, जिला रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) द्वारा दिनांक 27.04.2021 तक लोकडाउन लगाया गया है। अतएव पूर्व प्रकाशित ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित करने की अतिम तिथि में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।					
क्र.	सि.नि. क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत राशि रु.	पूर्व निर्धारित अंतिम तिथि	संशोधित अंतिम तिथि
1	76289	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-62 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone-1	7000000.00	28-04-2021	10-05-2021
2	76290	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-62 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone-2	7000000.00	28-04-2021	10-05-2021
3	76291	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-61 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone-3	7000000.00	28-04-2021	10-05-2021
4	76292	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-63 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone-4	7100000.00	28-04-2021	12-05-2021
5	76293	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-56 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone-6	6500000.00	28-04-2021	12-05-2021
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	05-05-2021

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

आयुक्त नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)

# SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN



General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Sunita W/o Raj Kumar R/o H.No. G-4, Vijay Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi Age : 30 years, Height : 5', Face : Round, Complexion : Sallow, Build : Solid, wearing blue colour suit-salwar has been missing along with her daughter namely Ananya : Age: 5 years, since 12.04.2021 from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 95-A dated 12.04.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing woman and her daughter may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Fax: 24368639, Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO : P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi Ph. : 011-27521294, 27521295



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Waiting to exhale

The Centre and Delhi Government must work in tandem to ensure regular oxygen supply to people

Scores of precious lives have been lost due to the horrific oxygen crisis in Delhi, under the very nose of the Central and State Governments, the Supreme Court, High Court and civic authorities. Still, there is no clarity on what led to such a dreadful situation. The Centre has repeatedly laid the blame on the door of the Arvind Kejriwal Government while the State administration has held supplier Inox responsible for the delay in distribution and asserted that the supply was "grossly inadequate" to meet the demand of the hospitals. The truth lies somewhere in between. Kejriwal admits that the Centre has increased Delhi's oxygen quota again from 480 metric tonnes (MT) to 490 MT but accessing it remains a big issue. Delhi's requirement is 700 MT but, according to him, only 330-335 MT is available. With the exponential rise in COVID-19 cases, the demand has also increased. The demand-supply gap has led to the current situation. However, it's not the time for a blame game but to work together to save lives and win the trust of the people who are fast losing faith in the institutions of governance. If the situation is allowed to persist, we would be headed towards an unprecedented chaos and may face an eruption of mass protests that could worsen the Corona spread in the Capital. It's time for the Centre to appoint an independent authority/regulator to take a holistic view of the situation, analyse the demand-supply gap, suggest corrective measures to remove distribution bottlenecks and ensure that no hospital is left without oxygen.

Any delay could be fatal because oxygen supplier Inox has already thrown in the towel and expressed its inability to enhance the supply, citing production constraints. Faced with such a situation, the Centre and the State have to come together and reach out to industrial houses to help Delhiites. The Chief Minister has already written to industrialists to provide a helping hand in handling the oxygen crisis. It is equally important that the State authorities set up a control room for both hospitals and patients to help them inquire about oxygen supply and the availability of oxygen beds. In the absence of such a setup, the hospitals and patients both rush to social media and TV channels to vent their grievances, leading to more panic. Both the Governments should also take urgent steps to ensure that all hospitals are equipped with oxygen plants, which require little investment and most of the big hospitals can comfortably meet this expenditure. In very few developed countries can such big health setups exist without oxygen plants, which are seen as a basic requirement. It's heartening to note that the Delhi Government has decided to set up half a dozen of its own oxygen plants to deal with the situation. We hope that the Centre and the Delhi Government understand the urgency of the situation and the growing frustration of the people, and join hands to ensure that no one gasps to death for want of oxygen.

### PICTALK



A policeman helps an autorickshaw driver wear a mask after new restrictions were announced in Peshawar

AP

## Race against time

India ought to muster all the help it can, from within and abroad, to tame the pernicious virus

The pandemic's second wave has created havoc in the country and the gravity of the situation can be gauged from the Supreme Court's assertion that it is a "national emergency-like situation". Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the country during his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat", called it a "storm" that has "shaken the nation". With the COVID-19 cases hitting new peaks each passing day, the country is faced with an acute shortage of medical oxygen, hospital beds and essential medicines. With the Centre scheduled to throw open vaccination to all adults from May 1, the Government hopes to rein in the raging pandemic but four Opposition-ruled States — Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Jharkhand — claim that they would not be able to launch the drive on May Day because they don't have enough vaccines. This unfortunate development against the planned mitigation of the spread of the virus has put a spoke in the wheels of the Union Government's protracted battle against COVID-19. Not only the availability of the vaccines but



also their pricing has become a bone of contention for the States.

The vaccines, Covishield and Covaxin, would be provided to the States and private hospitals at a much higher rate than what the Centre pays to procure these. Meanwhile, the Centre is tapping all the international cooperation it can to ameliorate the critical situation. Maybe it's time for India to reap the dividends of its unconditional help to other countries — supplying them with vaccines, medicines and other essentials — when they were in a morass of despair. The US National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, conveyed to his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval that just as India had aided the US when its hospitals were crippled by the pandemic, Washington is determined to help New Delhi in its time of need. The US, UK and the European Union have pledged to help India with vaccines, oxygen tankers and concentrators, PPE kits, ventilators and so on. According to the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, India will soon receive at least 12 ISO containers to help transport oxygen within the country. In the race against time, we need not just global cooperation but also teamwork among the States and the Centre to defeat the biggest enemy of humankind in living memory.

# Those who leave no man behind

Sadly, the age-old creed of *nemo resideo* was violated when the joint security team came under fire from Maoists in Chhattisgarh



BHOPINDER SINGH

The professional construct of a military soldier is deliberately drilled and freighted with sacred ethos, timeless values and spirited regimentation that almost defy the modern-age perspectives of practicality, individualism and personal safety. The nobility of the profession of arms is predicated, among other values, on the age-old Latin phrase "*nemo resideo*" or "leave no man/women behind". In different expressions, languages and syntax, its inherent spirit manifests in the fighting soldier's inviolable belief in his comrades-in-arms within his platoon or *paltan* (unit). Such faith within the combatants rouses them to routinely defy the situational/operational odds and do the seemingly impossible, frequently. It is often an institutional code that is insisted upon, nurtured and breathed as a given, falling short of which brings the ultimate shame on the combatant — a question mark on the individual or *paltan's* *izzat* (the uncompromising pride vested in the "*Naam-Namak-Nishan*" (the distinguishing name, hallmarks and accoutrements of the battalion/regiment)!)

The legendary story of WW1, where a soldier in a trench saw his "buddy" fall in fierce battle and urged his Lieutenant to allow him to dash into the no-man's land to bring back his comrade, was met with a what could be construed a fair query today: "You could, but don't think it would be worth it. Your friend is probably dead, and you may throw your life away." But because a noble soldier is cut from a unique cloth, the combatant made the dare amid relentless firing, hoisted his "buddy" and retrieved him to the trench. Expectedly, the Lieutenant said: "Your friend is dead and you are mortally wounded." The gallant soldier replied: "It was worth it because when I got to him, he was still alive... and I had the satisfaction of hearing him say, 'Jim... I knew you'd come.'" The moving impact of this story within that detachment, unit or even the Army is unfathomable in its psychological import.

The same spirit has been shown by the Indian Armed



Forces in countless acts of similar valour and sacrifice, most recently in Galwan where the Commanding Officer went down fighting in hand-to-hand combat along with his troops. This unique Indian quality of "leading from the front" is unmatched for any fighting force in modern history, and the Indian soldier knows that everyone in the unit has "got his back" and they will "never leave anyone behind". Unlike the commercial/civilian domain, the conscript Indian Armed Forces have magnificently upheld the self-devised concept of "unlimited liability" towards the nation and amongst itself. Even in death, the spirit of "leaving no man behind" is just as hallowed. Unbeknownst outside of the "uniformed" fraternity, it is suchlike traditions that make the Indian Armed Forces distinct from other "uniforms", be it in the police or Central Armed Police Forces that also face operational situations warranting such beliefs.

While the exact details pertaining to the horrific Maoist attack in Chhattisgarh on the joint force of 2,000 security personnel, which led to 22 jawans getting martyred, are still a matter of conjecture and speculation, certain known



THAT A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF THE JOINT FORCE ESCAPED AND LEFT BEHIND ITS WOUNDED, DEAD AND CAUGHT-ALIVE TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES IS SHOCKINGLY TELLING OF A REALITY. APPARENTLY, THE BODIES OF THE FALLEN SOLDIERS WERE RECLAIMED THE NEXT DAY

details are disturbingly suggestive. Beyond rightful concerns on Intelligence, planning, tactics and so on, the fact that during the ambush, a sizeable number of the personnel escaped to camps and left behind the wounded, dead and caught-alive to fend for themselves is shockingly telling of a reality. Apparently, the bodies of the fallen soldiers, who were subsequently stripped of their weapons and wares by the insurgents, were reclaimed the next day. Important to reiterate that the recruitment area and demographic profile of the soldiers, be it in the Armed Forces or the policing realms, are common — the difference in cultural and instinctive patterns arises subsequent to joining the respective forces, and that has to do with the leadership, lack of regimentation and political interferences, in one force versus the other. The same family that sends one son to the Infantry unit may send another to a police force; however, owing to institutional moorings and leadership, the conduct of one "uniform" versus the other could differ in combat operations — and the blame should never be apportioned on the jawan.

The sense of invaluable identity, "belonging" and pur-

pose that accrues to a South Indian officer in a Sikh Regiment is inexplicably natural in an Infantry Regiment, which then seamlessly subsumes one's personal identity towards that of the regimental identity, values and traditions. For those intangible emotions of the *paltan*/regimental pride and dignity, the Indian Army soldier repeatedly fights to "the last man standing". Troves of policing reform reports are gathering dust as the institution suffers from the lack of political will to reform, as it potentially "frees" the force from political use/misuse. It is this cultural risk and infection that stares at even the Armed Forces should they too get politicised and exposed to societal morass, passions and divisions.

The "uniform", irrespective of its denomination, military or police, must always believe that their institution will never leave anyone behind, fighting or dead. It's almost a blood promise, belief and practice that must never end, for as long as conflicts exist, the unsaid oath to each other must be sacred.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ADHERE TO COVID-APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

It is with fear, anxiety and apprehension that the citizens and the authorities look forward to May 2, the day of the five Assembly election results. What causes anxiety and an irregular pulse is not the results themselves but the revelry, hullabaloo and victory celebrations that normally mark such occasions. Especially in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, where high-voltage campaigning took place, there is no doubt that the political supporters and workers may do the same once the results are out and COVID-appropriate behaviour would be thrown out of the window. It is a known fact that the current heavy spike in COVID cases in many of these States is a result of the irresponsible, callous and come-what-may attitude of the party leaders and workers who flouted the COVID protocols and completely ignored the precautionary norms during the campaign. The leaders must act responsibly and should try to reduce crowds in their celebrations and victory rallies. Let the parties and leaders realise that the duty of a politician is not just to amass votes and grab power with vested interests in mind. It is also their duty to check and control their followers and workers, curtail heavy celebrations and strictly adhere to the COVID-appropriate behaviour during these trying times.

M Pradyu | Kannur

### HELPING HAND TO INDIA

The diplomatic consultations and a huge backlash against America for its tepid response towards the dire pandemic crisis in India and its hesitancy to revoke the Defence Production Act acted as a stumbling block to export the raw materials required for India's vaccine production, has brought a change of heart in Washington. US Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin ordered the defence department to use every resource at their disposal to support India's fight against the COVID-19 scourge. Since the pandemic started last year, India supplied hydroxychloroquine to the US and

## Change the freebie culture



It refers to the editorial 'Free speech' (April 26). The political parties promise the moon to voters during elections but seldom honour these undertakings. The promise of the free job is nothing different. The BJP's "free vaccination" promise in Bihar was a mere rhetoric and the State still has fewer vaccinations as compared to other big States. Our politicians act in such a manner which reflects they have no sense of accountability. During elections, tall promises are made to woo voters but the poor people are left at their wit's end after the elections are over. There are no restrictions or effective control over political parties and their leaders by the Election Commission (EC) or the

Europe, with the total number of recipient countries touching 150. India supplied 6.5 crore vaccine doses to 93 countries in Asia, Latin America and African countries, apart from the UK. Medical support to India from countries like the US, France, the UAE, Denmark, Israel and some EU nations has started to come as New Delhi stood firm with the democratic world in supply of much needed drugs and vaccines. President Joe Biden's tweet that the US will stand by India as the latter stood with Washington during the first wave of COVID-19 infection is an affirmation that India's "*vaccine maitri*" initiative paid off with the US medical supplies already on their way.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

### TIME TO REGAIN THE LOST GLORY

Chennai Super Kings' talismanic captain MS Dhoni knows how to get the best out of his players. And why not, he has been

doing it for more than a decade. Ravindra Jadeja's excellence in the match against Royal Challengers Bangalore is an epitome of this. After a thundering performance with the bat, the left-arm allrounder gave a jolt to the opposition with the ball, too. Dhoni was all praise for the player, who became the first CSK player and 10th player overall to score 50 plus runs and take three or more wickets in an innings in the IPL. But it was Dhoni who seemed guiding him from behind the stumps after each ball ("*Isko danda ke baahar mat rakha*" for Glenn Maxwell (as he plays switch hits very often). After having a pathetic season last year in the UAE, the Chennai Super Kings seems to have been back in form with four consecutive wins. It is imperative for the three-time IPL champions to regain their lost glory.

Sravana Ramachandran | Chennai

## SOUNDBITE

The Government is getting oxygen as per quota. Strict directions have been issued to check black marketing.

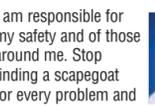


Haryana Chief Minister — Manohar Lal Khattar

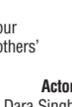


We commend all countries that have reached the target of zero malaria for proving it's possible.

United Nations Secretary-General — Antonio Guterres



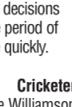
I am responsible for my safety and of those around me. Stop finding a scapegoat for every problem and start helping others. If you have taken care of your problems, try and solve others' problems.



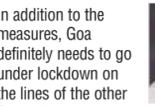
Actor — Vinu Dara Singh



We could have played most parts of our game just a little better. If you are able to do that, whether it is a couple more good decisions or a slightly more accurate period of play, the result can change quickly.



Cricketer — Kane Williamson



In addition to the measures, Goa definitely needs to go under lockdown on the lines of the other States like Maharashtra and Karnataka for a particular period.



Goa's Health Minister — Vishwajit Rane

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



## FIRST COLUMN

## EVERYONE MUST PULL TOGETHER

The Centre, States and citizens can contain the virus only if they are on the same page and cooperate



KALYANI SHANKAR

The World Health Organisation recently said that India's situation is a devastating reminder of what the Coronavirus can do, as the country suffers from a severe and more lethal second wave of the pandemic. India has overtaken the US with the highest number of infections. No doubt, the country is facing an unprecedented health emergency and the Centre and the State Governments are on their toes. When the first wave of COVID-19 hit the world last year, India was not adequately equipped — there was a shortage of beds in hospitals and medical equipment — to deal with the crisis. There were also no vaccines. However, despite all these, India managed to fight the first wave successfully but the second wave is more serious. We were not prepared to deal with it though this time we have more beds, medicines, infrastructure and vaccines to aid us in our fight. Even during the second wave, rural India is faring better with a lesser numbers of infections. Though the vaccination drive launched by the Government is going on, however, there exists a gap in the demand and supply of the vaccine owing to several reasons. Further, the Government has opened up vaccination for all those above 18 years of age starting from May 1, which



might result in more vaccine shortage. However, all efforts are being made to increase the supply of jobs.

So, what went wrong? Complacency on our part is responsible for the second wave playing havoc. The authorities were so confident that the pandemic was gone, that Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan even announced that the COVID era was over, in March. Second, the Election Commission (EC) conducted Assembly elections to four States and a Union Territory — namely West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry — amid the pandemic. Many experts opined that the election rallies were the super spreaders. Probably the EC was encouraged after seeing the successful conduct of Bihar polls last year, however, that was during the period when the cases were reducing significantly. The EC could have at least banned the election rallies. The political parties could have restrained themselves from addressing huge gatherings where people participated without masks and social distancing was thrown out of the window. Alas, by the time the EC banned the rallies, the damage had already been inflicted. The Madras High Court has said that the EC is singularly responsible for spreading COVID-19 and murder charges should probably be imposed on it for its "irresponsible" behaviour. The third mistake was that the authorities allowed millions of devotees to bathe in the Ganga in Haridwar during the Maha Kumbh Mela this month. The event was a super-spreader. Though wiser counsel prevailed on the Government which cut short the event, but by the time, it was already too late.

The fourth is the politicisation of COVID. The Centre has blamed States for not being alert while the latter claimed that the former didn't heed their requests for more oxygen and vaccine doses. No matter, who is at fault, the crisis only worsened. Last year, the States and the Centre had worked in tandem. The Prime Minister took the Chief Ministers on board and shared the burden. Finally, the public should get their share of the blame as people ignored the COVID regulations this year. Swayed by rumours, many people were also apprehensive of taking the job when the Government launched the vaccination drive in March. Now, when there is a huge demand, the supply is not adequate. The country is facing an unprecedented health emergency, the likes of which has never been witnessed. The Centre, States and the citizens must be on the same page and can contain the pandemic only if they all cooperate. What is required is micro-containment and the responsibility lies with all stakeholders. The sooner they realise it, the better.

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

## A flawed idea that the US must abandon

Imposing a global corporate minimum tax will interfere with the right of a country to determine its tax policy and impair its ability to galvanise the policy to achieve certain objectives



UTTAM GUPTA

The Joe Biden Administration is pushing for a Global Corporate Minimum Tax (GCMT) rate under the new international tax rules being coordinated by it with G20 countries. In 2017, the erstwhile Donald Trump Administration had introduced the US corporate offshore minimum tax called the Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income (GILTI). It is applied on the offshore incomes of US multinationals (MNCs) having subsidiaries in low-tax countries, at 10.5 per cent, which is half the Domestic Corporate Tax Rate (DCTR) of 21 per cent. US President Biden wants to double GILTI to 21 per cent and correspondingly increase the DCTR to 28 per cent. The US' move is prompted by a tendency among MNCs to register in low-tax countries such as Singapore, Mauritius, Ireland and show their revenue and profits in those jurisdictions, regardless of where the sales are made. This enables them to avoid paying higher taxes in the source country. The GCMT is intended to prevent this tax base erosion.

The US would want other countries to agree to a certain minimum tax, say 21 per cent, so that American companies have no incentive to register their subsidiaries in low-tax countries or so-called tax havens. This will ensure that they stay back and the tax revenue accrues to the US. Alternatively, if a firm pays lower tax than this in a particular country, then its home Government (the US) could levy tax equal to the differential (call it a "top up"), thereby eliminating the former's advantage of shifting revenue and profits to a low-tax jurisdiction. The administration will deny exemptions in respect of taxes paid, to countries that don't agree to a minimum rate. The problem arising from MNCs shifting revenue and profits to low-tax jurisdictions, also referred to as BEPS (base erosion and profit shifting), is afflicting most countries, including India.

India is affected in particular, by the actions of digital giants such as Google, Facebook and Amazon (all US-based MNCs) who have investment arms in low-tax countries such as Singapore, Mauritius, Ireland and so on. They invoice Indian customers via these offshore entities despite having significant revenue, users or paying customers in India even as their entity here is crafted more like a service company to the parent located abroad. This way, they book the bulk of their revenues in the parent firm while a very small portion of service revenue is reported in the Indian entity.

It results in a situation whereby these firms generate most of their profits from users located in India and yet don't pay taxes to the Government of India (GOI). This anomaly can be corrected by taxing profits of MNCs in the country where their customers are. This position is endorsed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which is coordinating with over 140 countries to arrive at the BEPS framework agreement for taxation of their profits.

In a draft on "taxing digital companies" released on October 9, 2019, the OECD had stated: "Profits of MNCs should be available for taxation in the country where their customers are,



A CONSENSUS SHOULD BE BUILT AROUND A CRITERIA FOR ARRIVING AT THE ANNUAL REVENUE/PROFIT FROM ALL SUCH TRANSACTIONS OF AN OFFSHORE FIRM TAKING PLACE IN THE SOURCE COUNTRY BUT RECORDED IN AN OFFSHORE, LOW-TAX JURISDICTION AND LETTING THE FORMER COLLECT THE TAX ON IT. THE SOURCE COUNTRY SHOULD HAVE THE FREEDOM TO DECIDE THE TAX RATE ON THOSE PROFITS IN SYNC WITH ITS POLICY IMPERATIVES

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



irrespective of any physical presence in that market, and that a formula should be evolved for such taxation."

Instead of taking this forward, the US is trying to foist on other countries the idea of a GCMT which it asserts, will solve all problems related to erosion of the tax base, arguing that addressing it is technically simpler and politically less contentious. The US approach is flawed.

First, imposing a corporate minimum tax will interfere with the sovereign right of a country to determine its tax policy and impair its ability to galvanise the policy to achieve certain objectives. For instance, on September 20, 2019, the GOI brought about steep reduction in the tax rate for new entities in the manufacturing sector (incorporated from October 1, 2019, and commencing production by March 31, 2023) from 25 per cent to 15 per cent.

This was done with a view to attract investment (including foreign investors), give a boost to growth and create jobs. This objective will be defeated if under the GCMT regime proposed by the US, India can't lower its corporate tax to below a certain threshold, say 21 per cent.

The purpose would be defeated even when the home country of the MNC (say the US) goes for the "top-up" option i.e. the Indian tax rate remaining at 15 per cent, the former collects six per cent tax on profits earned by the firm in India. The effective incidence of

tax being 21 per cent (15 per cent paid in India plus six per cent levied by America), US companies will be deterred from investing in India.

Second, for preventing an erosion in the tax base, the only logical way forward for the Government in the source country where the profits are generated, is to capture and tax them — as emphasised in the OECD draft. The GCMT can't be a substitute for this. Taking the Indian example, levy of tax at 21 per cent — against the prevailing low of 15 per cent (new manufacturing units) — won't result in additional tax collection to fully offset the loss resulting from profit shifting. For instance, if out of ₹100 only ₹20 is recorded in India, the extra revenue from the higher rate will be only ₹1.2 against a loss of ₹12 due to profit shifting.

Third, America's move is an attempt to garner more revenue without at the same time, undermining its own tax competitiveness globally. In other words, the Biden Administration wants US companies to stay back even while taxing them at high rates. This is like the proverbial "have your cake and eat it too."

Despite the inherent flaws, the US is overwhelmingly focused on steering a case for GCMT at 21 per cent — double the extant 10.5 per cent GILTI under its 2017 law while at the same time, maintaining a stony silence on the more important issue of "taxing digital companies" that concerns a vast

majority of developing countries, including India, and a consensus already reached among the 140 countries involved in the negotiations on the BEPS framework agreement of the OECD.

The US should refrain from pursuing something that is neither desirable nor workable. Telling sovereign Governments to go for a uniform tax at the lower end is a flawed idea. Instead, the focus should be on adopting a uniform policy for combating the unhealthy practice of shifting profits and evading tax payment in a jurisdiction (source country) where it is due. The OECD draft (2019) suggests the way forward.

In the context of taxing digital companies, a committee set up by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had mooted the concept of digital permanent establishment (DPE). As a follow up, in the Finance Act 2018, the GOI proposed that "such offshore firms should be taxed in India if they have a market presence above a threshold to be defined in terms of their customer base and revenue."

A consensus should be built around a criteria for arriving at the annual revenue/profit from all such transactions of an offshore firm taking place in the source country but recorded in an offshore, low-tax jurisdiction and letting the former collect the tax on it. The source country should have the freedom to decide the tax rate on those profits in sync with its policy imperatives.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

I DON'T WANT THIS CASE TO BE DECIDED IN THE SHADOW (OF DOUBT) THAT I WAS APPOINTED THE AMICUS CURIAE BECAUSE I KNOW THE CJI FROM SCHOOL.  
—SENIOR ADVOCATE HARISH SALVE



THERE IS NOTHING CLANDESTINE ABOUT IT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO JUSTIFY ANYTHING. IT WAS A COLLECTIVE ACT OF THE COURT.  
—FORMER CJI SA BOBDE

## Shame the biggest carbon emitters, don't glorify them

The short-term climate goals of the US must be monitored and the country should be made accountable for its huge emissions

The US-centric climate diplomacy reminds one of the world order, after the collapse of the USSR, following which America dictated the terms of international politics. However, the current situation of a unipolar world is contested with the rise of Asian superpowers.

The climate scientists were horrified when former US President Donald Trump announced withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Now, with the change in leadership, the US has taken over global climate politics again. The major reason is not just the power that the US commands, but also because it is the second-largest emitter globally. The cancellation of the UNFCCC climate summit in 2020 due to the pandemic delayed many climate goals. So the US bid to bring climate front and centre was a welcome step. But, making the



AANEHI MUNDRA

world move around its major polluter is not a favourable solution. The recently-elected Democrats have sanctioned a huge amount to reduce domestic emission. Though one believes that the Republicans didn't do much for world climate, there are doubts about what the Democrats did when they were in power, and was it sufficient? The global climate goals were relaxed, and many scientists say that the Paris Agreement was a loosely-binding document.

Before the recently-concluded Leaders Summit on Climate, John Kerry, US special presidential envoy for climate visited many countries to gain their support. In world politics as big States make strong commitments, others often follow to prove themselves. US President Joe Biden made numerous commitments and put climate change at the centre of its poli-

cies. He also promised to double the funding that was to be given to developing countries by 2024, in comparison to what the US had spent in the second half of the Obama Administration. NATO officials committed to reducing emissions from military units and the CIA has also added environment to its World Factbook.

A more aggressive plan was expected to be rolled out. Environmental groups and businesses urged Biden to set an emission reduction target of at least 50 per cent by 2030. Many scientists have accepted that it is scientifically feasible, that the US should cut emissions at least up to 65 per cent below the 2005 levels in this decade. Especially, as other developed nations like the UK have pledged to reduce emissions by 68 per cent by 2030. Democrats like congresswoman Alexandria



Ocasio-Cortez have proposed the 'Green New Deal', which would eliminate carbon emissions from most sources over a decade. There were high expectations from the US and unless highly-ambitious short-term pledges aren't achieved, it is difficult to believe that the long-term obligations will bear results. The commitments from the US will push other economies to follow suit. It is

better if the US sets an example for other States to follow. The setting of targets is a positive first step, but making adequate policy changes and rolling out money are practical indicators of change.

On the second day of the summit, the White House mentioned that it lags behind China in developing clean technologies. The US formally pledged to cut its emissions by 50 per cent-52 per cent by 2030. It also announced its determination to reach a net-zero level by 2050. It is a new Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

China reiterated that it would be carbon-neutral by 2060 and India reiterated its promise to install 450 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and also announced the 'India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership'. Japan also pledged

a new cut in emissions by 46 per cent, below the 2013 levels by the end of the decade. Israel upped its target by ending the use of coal domestically by 2025. A welcome step was taken by Brazil, as it pledged to eliminate illegal deforestation by 2030 and achieve carbon-neutral status by 2050 (a decade earlier than the previous target).

The moves by States like Brazil were viewed sceptically as earlier its President Jair Bolsonaro had threatened to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. He had also asked the Biden administration for \$1 billion for the conservation of the Amazon rainforest. Obviously, the shift towards a clean energy economy was propagated to attract other countries to pledge more.

Biden said, "The countries that take decisive actions now to tackle climate change will be the ones that reap the clean

energy benefits of the boom that's coming." However, the credibility of the US is at stake, given that its domestic politics makes major changes in international climate roles. Kerry was asked by many States, "You destroyed your credibility when you left the Paris Agreement, how can we trust you?" The US President responded to it by putting the future in the hands of the private sector, as it will turn clean energy policies into reality.

The need of the hour is to make the ones most responsible for the global loss the centre of shame rather than the centre of power. Fulfilling long-term obligations is very important, but it is comparatively easier as the global and domestic politics will change by then. The short-term goals of the US must be monitored and it should be made accountable for its huge emissions.

# China airline suspends cargo flights to India

## Hampers Covid medical supplies and oxygen

Beijing: China's state-run Sichuan Airlines has suspended all its cargo flights to India for 15 days, causing major disruption to private traders' efforts to procure the much-needed oxygen concentrators and other medical supplies from the country despite Beijing reiterating its readiness to help India to deal with the latest surge of COVID-19 cases.

"China has been following closely the epidemic situation in India. We show our sincerest sympathies to the worsening situation in India," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here on Monday while answering several questions, including the suspension of cargo flights by the Sichuan Airlines.

"We have stated that we are ready to help India fight the virus in the first opportunity available. Two sides are in communication regarding this," he said.

He, however, did not confirm a tweet by the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka stating that China began to supply oxygen concentrators to India.

"800 Oxygen Concentrators have been airlifted today from #HongKong to #Delhi; 10,000 more in a week. #China is keeping in touch with #India for urgent needs," said a tweet put out by the Chinese Embassy in Colombo.

Asked for his reaction to the tweet, Wang said, "China is willing to provide necessary support and help to India in its fight against the virus. If India raises specific demands, we will provide help and support to the best of our capability".

About Chinese manufacturers hiking prices of the medical supplies to India, he said that on "India's readiness to buy medical supplies from

China, I understand this is a commercial activity. If India raises specific demands, China is ready to provide help and support to the best of capability."

To a question that members of the Quad or Quadrilateral alliance consisting of the US, India, Australia and Japan not rushing help to India, Wang said, "on this issue, countries should work together".

# Australia to send oxygen, ventilators, PPE to India as part of immediate support package

Melbourne: Australia will send oxygen, ventilators and personal protective equipment to India as part of an immediate support package to the country which is battling with the latest surge of the COVID-19 cases, Health Minister Greg Hunt said on Monday.

The federal government was in the process of considering what it could send to help, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation news channel quoted Hunt as saying, "India is literally gasping for oxygen," the federal health minister said.

"And while we can assist with the national medical stockpile, their particular request is for assistance with regards to the physical supply of oxygen. That will be one of the things we are looking at, in particular with the

states," the minister said. The federal government also confirmed to send oxygen, ventilators and personal protective equipment to India as part of an immediate support package to be announced on Tuesday, according to the report. However, Australia would not send vaccines.

Hunt further said: "We are in a strong position on that front because we don't need them at this point in time. We will still keep a reserve, but if they can be of assistance (they will be donated)."

The National Security Committee of Cabinet is set to meet on Tuesday to discuss any assistance for India, as well as any extra steps that may need to be taken to minimise the risk of infections spreading to Australia. **PTI**

# Pak's biggest worry in Af is ultras regrouping

## After American troops pullout from Afghan: US general

Islamabad: The regrouping of terrorists like the Islamic State and Al Qaeda militants would be a biggest concern for Pakistan, a top US general has warned as the Pentagon started pulling out its troops from Afghanistan, according to a media report on Monday.

The US military has begun its complete withdrawal from Afghanistan, General Austin S Miller, the head of the US-led coalition in Afghanistan, said in Kabul on Sunday. His remarks came almost two weeks after President Joe Biden announced that all US forces would be out of the war-torn country by September 11, the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that propelled America into its long war in Afghanistan.

At a recent Pentagon briefing in Washington, General

Kenneth F McKenzie Jr, Commander US Central Command (Centcom), has warned that after the US withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, the biggest threat would be the regrouping of Al Qaeda and IS militants who "will be able to regenerate if pressure is not kept on them", the Dawn Newspaper reported.

And "that's very concerning to all the neighbouring states, biggest concern to Pakistan," he added. As head of Centcom, Gen is responsible for all US military activities in the Pak-Afghan region.

The Centcom chief also said militants regrouping was not just a threat to the US or Pakistan. "It's a concern of all the Central Asian states to the north. It is even of concern to Iran in the West... Everyone has a vested interest in a stable Afghanistan," he said.

According to a transcript the Pentagon released this weekend, General McKenzie also underlined that his command and American diplo-

mats were working with nations surrounding Afghanistan on agreements to base troops and aircraft for countering terrorists after the US pullout, the report said.

"That would be ultimately a decision made at the national level by the US if we were to seek basing rights in those countries," said the general when asked if internal politics in Pakistan and other states could prevent Washington from having military bases in the region.

During the early phases of the 18-year war in Afghanistan, the US flew drone missions out of Shamsi airfield in Balochistan, the report said.

General McKenzie said he was now figuring out how the US will be able to conduct counter-terrorism activities in the area without being in Afghanistan.

The pullout, he said, did not "mean that the US will be at the mercy of groups like IS, Al Qaeda or the Taliban if they want to create problems and threaten our interests". **PTI**

# Landmarks across UAE lit up with tricolour to support India's Covid-19 battle

Dubai: Prominent iconic buildings, including the Burj Khalifa, in the UAE were lit up with the tricolour to show solidarity with India as it grapples with a growing COVID-19 crisis.

India's total tally of COVID-19 cases has climbed to 1,73,13,163 while active cases have crossed the 28-lakh mark. The death toll increased to 1,95,123 with a record 2,812 new fatalities, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) headquarters and the world's tallest building, Burj Khalifa, in Dubai were lit up with the colours of the Indian flag in solidarity with India as it responds to a second COVID-19 wave, the official WAM news agency reported.

"As #India battles the gruesome war against #COVID19, its friend #UAE sends its best wishes. Glowing star @BurjKhalifa in #Dubai lits up in Flag of India to showcase its support," Indian Embassy in the UAE tweeted on Sunday. **PTI**

The embassy also tweeted a video of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, displaying the Indian flag and #staystrongIndia.

India is struggling with a second wave of the pandemic with more than 3,00,000 new coronavirus cases being reported in the past few days, and hospitals in several states are reeling under a shortage of medical oxygen and beds.

Pavan Kapoor, Ambassador of India to the UAE, tweeted, "India appreciates the UAE's strong support to its close friend in difficult times @MoFAICUAE @UAEembassyIndia. "The ADNOC on the facade of its headquarters displayed the message 'Stay strong, India' to highlight its support for one of the UAE's closest friends and most important trading partners, the report said. Meanwhile, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, has affirmed his confidence in India's ability to overcome the challenge of the resurgence in COVID-19 cases, the Gulf News reported. **PTI**

# Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine being reviewed for emergency listing: WHO

Geneva: Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine is being reviewed on Monday by technical experts for possible WHO emergency use listing, a World Health Organization spokesman told Reuters.

"Moderna is being reviewed at the TAG (technical advisory



group) meeting today," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier said in reply to a query. A decision on the U.S. drugmaker's

vaccine was expected in one to four days, he said. So far COVID-19 vaccines made by Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson have already received WHO approval, which is a signal to national regulatory authorities on a product's safety and efficacy.

# Hong Kong, Singapore aim to start travel bubble in May

Hong Kong and Singapore

on Monday announced plans to resurrect their scrapped coronavirus travel bubble with dedicated flights between the two cities starting on May 26.

The two business hubs had to abandon a highly anticipated quarantine-free travel corridor late last year after Hong Kong was hit with a fourth wave of infections.

From May 26, one flight per day carrying up to 200 passengers will shuttle between the two cities. Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines will share the route with two daily flights planned from June 10 onwards.

Hong Kongers heading to Singapore will have to have received two doses of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Sinovac vaccines -- an attempt to encourage inoculation in a city where take-up so far has remained a tepid 11 percent despite ample supplies.

Travellers from Singapore -- where the vaccination rate is around 20 percent -- will not be required to have been inoculated but must test negative before departure and on arrival.

Both Hong Kong and Singapore maintain strict quarantine rules for all arrivals, a measure that has kept infections comparatively low.

# Thailand's PM fined for breaking face mask rule

Bangkok: Authorities in Thailand are imposing fines of up to 20,000 baht (\$640) for people who fail to wear face masks in public in 48 provinces, as the government struggles to cope with a new wave of coronavirus cases that is straining the medical system.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha was among the first to be fined for the offence on Monday, when the rule took effect in Bangkok. A photo on his official Facebook page showed him maskless as he chaired a meeting about COVID-19 vaccinations, drawing criticism online.

The city's governor, Aswin Kwanmuang, said he, the city police chief and another officer went to collect a 6,000 baht (\$190) fine from Prayuth, since it was his his first offence under rule. The incriminating photo was deleted from the prime minister's account.

The capital, Bangkok, which has the largest number of cases, is also closing more than 30 types of businesses and services, including cinemas, parks, zoos, bars, pools and massage parlours. Gatherings of more than 20 people are banned. Shopping malls and department stores may continue operating, but with abbreviated hours.

Despite rapidly rising numbers, there currently are no nationwide lockdowns, curfews or travel bans. **AP**

# EU finalising plans to allow US tourists back this summer

Brussels: The European Union is finalising plans to allow tourists from the United States to travel to the 27-nation bloc this summer, officials said Monday.

More than a year after the EU restricted travel to the region to a bare minimum in a bid to contain the pandemic, the European Commission said it would make a recommendation to member states to allow American travellers back.

The commission didn't say when exactly tourists will be allowed back inside the bloc, and if a reciprocal approach will apply to European tourists willing to travel to the US.

European Commission spokesman Adalbert Jahnz told reporters that the EU's executive body is hoping to restore nonessential "trans-Atlantic travel as soon as it is safe to do so."

It wasn't immediately clear if only full vaccination would be accepted for entry, or whether a negative PCR test or proof of recent recovery from COVID-19 could be presented as well.

"These are among the questions we'll still need to figure out," Jahnz said. "The proposal is not yet made. For now, we have nothing more to go by than what the (European Commission) president said."

On Sunday, The New York Times published an interview with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, reporting that fully vaccinated Americans would be able to visit EU countries this summer since all coronavirus vaccines currently used in the US have also been approved by the EU's drug regulator. **AP**

# UAE urges Israel to stop Jerusalem violence in rare rebuke

Dubai: The United Arab Emirates on Monday warned that any moves to change the historic identity of Jerusalem threaten peace, and called on Israel to put an end to violence following the latest clashes between Israelis and Palestinians in the city.

The statement was a rare rebuke of Israel by the UAE, which has welcomed tens of thousands of Israeli tourists and signed a slew of deals to strengthen bilateral ties since

the administration of President Donald Trump brokered a historic and surprise deal to normalize relations between the two countries some seven months ago.

The UAE move laid the path for Bahrain and Sudan to also formalize ties with Israel.

The UAE Foreign Ministry said in a statement, carried on the Emirates' state news agency, that it was concerned over "acts of violence committed by right-wing extremist groups in the

occupied East Jerusalem."

The ministry called on Israeli authorities to "assume responsibility toward de-escalation and putting an end to all aggressions and practices that perpetuate tension and hostility."

The UAE cautioned it was necessary to preserve Jerusalem's historical identity and maintain "maximum self-restraint to avoid the region slipping into new levels of instability in a way that threatens peace."

The immediate spark for the unrest was Israel's decision to barricade a plaza outside of Jerusalem's Old City where Palestinian residents traditionally gather in the evenings during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The move deepened Palestinian concerns about Israel's control over east Jerusalem, which is home to sacred Jewish and Muslim sites.

Hundreds of young Palestinian took to the streets each evening to protest the barricades. Crowds hurled stones, firebombs and other objects at police, while officers used stun grenades and water cannons to disperse them.

The Israeli decision appeared to have been reversed late Sunday, when the barricades were suddenly removed. **AP**

# PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Raju, S/o Ram Singh, R/o H.No. A3/10 Lal Quarter, Sector-4, Rohini, Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 259/2017, U/S 380/457 IPC, P.S. South Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Raju cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Raju have absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Raju of FIR No. 259/2017, U/S 380/457 IPC, P.S. South Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before 29.07.2021.

By Order  
Sh. Vivek Beniwal,  
Metropolitan Magistrate-07 (NW),  
Room No. 208, Second Floor,  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/810/RD/2021(Court Matter)

# PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Mamta Chaudhary, W/o Sh. Arvind Chaudhary, R/o J-2/5, Budh Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 305/2014, U/S State Vs Princelors, P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Mamta Chaudhary cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Mamta Chaudhary have absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Mamta Chaudhary of FIR No. 305/2014, U/S State Vs Princelors, P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before 05.06.2021.

By Order  
Smt. Ruchika Singla,  
Additional Sessions Judge,  
FTSC (POCSO) North West,  
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/798/RD/2021(Court Matter)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor	INDIA STUFFYARN LIMITED
2. Date of Incorporation of Corporate Debtor	21.06.1985
3. Authority under which Corporate Debtor is incorporated / registered	ROC-Delhi
4. Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	L51909DL1985PLC021270
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of the Corporate Debtor	555, Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar New Delhi D110060
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of Corporate Debtor	11.03.2021 Copy of Order received by Interim Resolution Professional on 12.03.2021
7. Date of invitation of expression of interest	27.04.2021
8. Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Eligibility Norms: a) Minimum Net worth of INR 10,00,000 (Ten Lakh) as per the latest Audited Financial Statements for the FY 2019-2020 or thereafter; b) If any company's including holding company, subsidiary company or group company is having their amount as NPA in less than 12 months, the said company including holding company, subsidiary company or group company will be ineligible to submit the Resolution plan. c) There is no default on the part of the Company in the latest Audited Financial statements and / or the income tax return and / or GST Returns (if applicable) for the FY 2019-2020 or thereafter. Further detail can be sought by emailing: <a href="mailto:indiasuffyarn.crp@gmail.com">indiasuffyarn.crp@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:nazim@nknassociates.com">nazim@nknassociates.com</a>
9. Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 25A are available at:	<a href="http://ibbi.gov.in/webContent/legal_framework.php">http://ibbi.gov.in/webContent/legal_framework.php</a> (Official website of IBBI-Legal framework-Updated Code) Also details can be sought by emailing: <a href="mailto:indiasuffyarn.crp@gmail.com">indiasuffyarn.crp@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:nazim@nknassociates.com">nazim@nknassociates.com</a>
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	12-05-2021
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	22-05-2021
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	27-05-2021
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	06-06-2021
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	27-05-2021
15. Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Details can be obtained by e-mailing at <a href="mailto:indiasuffyarn.crp@gmail.com">indiasuffyarn.crp@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:nazim@nknassociates.com">nazim@nknassociates.com</a>
16. Last date for submission of resolution plans	26.06.2021
17. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	By electronic mode through email <a href="mailto:indiasuffyarn.crp@gmail.com">indiasuffyarn.crp@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:nazim@nknassociates.com">nazim@nknassociates.com</a>
18. Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	26.07.2021
19. Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Name: Mohd Nazim Khan Reg No: IBBI/RP/A-002/IP-N00076/2017-18/10207
20. Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Name: Mohd. Nazim Khan Address: MNK& Associates, Company Secretaries, G-41, Ground Floor West, Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008 Email: <a href="mailto:indiasuffyarn.crp@gmail.com">indiasuffyarn.crp@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:nazim@nknassociates.com">nazim@nknassociates.com</a>
21. Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	Address: MNK& Associates, Company Secretaries, G-41, Ground Floor West, Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008 Email: <a href="mailto:nazim@nknassociates.com">nazim@nknassociates.com</a>
22. Further Details are available at or with	Detail can be obtained by emailing at <a href="mailto:nazim@nknassociates.com">nazim@nknassociates.com</a>
23. Date of publication of Form G	27.04.2021

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

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

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

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Bamdeo Mishra (Borrower), Shradha Mishra - (Co-Borrower) LBNOD00022385629	LIG DDA Flat No. 17, 4th Floor, Sec-34, Pocket-2, Block B5, Rohini Delhi Area - 345 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 15,59,679/- as on April 21, 2021	Rs. 11,44,000/- Rs. 1,14,400/-	May 21, 2021, From 12:00 PM to 01:00 PM	May 27, 2021, From 11:30 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagees' notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **May 25, 2021 before 05:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder (s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh Delhi- 110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **May 25, 2021 before 05:00 P.M.** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder (s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh Delhi- 110005** on or before **May 25, 2021 before 05:00 PM**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at **Delhi**.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8126013708** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**

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

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/m4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/m4p4s)

Date: April 27, 2021  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Corrigendum**

**File No. CIID/SLR/Tender/2020 (Part-V) Ref:** Tender published dated 06.04.2021 and Tender opening Date: 27.04.2021.

It is to inform all concerned, that due to the prevailing Covid situation across the country and curfew imposed by Delhi Government from 19.04.2021 to 03.05.2021 till 05:00 AM, the NIT for leasing of SLR parcel space in special trains, published in various English & Hindi newspapers scheduled to be opened on 27.04.2021 through IREPS portal i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) is postponed and now same will be opened on 12.05.2021. **Other Information of NITs shall remain unchanged.**

914/21

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that one boy, **Named: Kamal, S/o: Sh. Hukum Chand, R/o: H.No. 120, Near Dhanak Chaupal, Village Nizampur, Delhi. Aged: 15 years** has been missing/ kidnapped from his home since 08.04.2021. In this regard, a **Case Vides FIR No. 178/21 u/s 363 IPC, Dated 10.04.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.** His description is as under:

**Kamal**

**Height: 5'3" feet, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Build: Weak, He is mentally unstable, Wearing: White Colour Shirt, Black Colour Lower and Blue Colour Slipper in his feet.**

If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnaped boy, then please inform P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi at email: [ciccbi@cbi.nic.in](mailto:ciccbi@cbi.nic.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Fax: No.011-23011133, Ph.: 011-23014046 (Direct), 23015229, 23015218 Extn. 210.

**S.H.O**  
**P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.**  
Ph.: 011-25951486, 8750870324

DP/802/RD/2021.

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Jawahar Lal Rajpal S/o : Roshan Lal Rajpal R/o : G-6/168, Second Floor, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing since 02.03.2021 from his house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 89A dated 06.04.2021 has been lodged at Police Station K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi. His physical description is as under-

**JAWAHAR LAL RAJPAL**

**Age: 52 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Build : Fat, Identification: Mark of "OM" on right palm and mark of stitches on his right wrist, Wearing: Black colour T-shirt and jeans and green colour shoes in feet.**

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

**SHO**  
**P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi**  
**Rohini Distt., Delhi**  
Ph. No. 011-27571162, 27571171

DP/796/RD/2021

# A month of national lockdown can eat up 1-2% of GDP: Report

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

A month-long national lockdown to arrest the spread of Covid 2.0 could shave off 100-200 bps of GDP, leading to a 300 bps risk to annual growth, a brokerage report has flagged while expressing doubts over the ability of local lockdowns to control the pandemic.

The second wave of the coronavirus infection has caught the government off-guard with the daily cases jumping over 6.5 times in the past 30 days.

With close to 3.53 lakh fresh daily infections, the country is the worst hit globally. Death toll jumped to 1,95,123 as of 8 am Monday, with a daily new peak of 2,812 deaths in the past 24 hrs, according to the government data.



"It remains to be seen if the second wave subsides without a national level lockdown. A month of nationwide lockdown costs 100-200 bps of GDP. This poses a 300 bps risk to our 9 per cent real GVA growth forecast for FY22," Bank of America Securities India economists Indranil Sen Gupta and Aastha Gudwani

said in a note Monday evening. Given this high economic cost, they expect the Centre and the states to try to contain the spread with further tightening of night curfews and localized lockdowns. They also expect the Reserve Bank to come to aid by funding government's

welfare measures like resumption of free food grains to the needy in May-June, for which it needs an additional Rs 26,000 crore or 0.1 per cent of GDP, through OMOs/G-Saps and other liquidity infusing measures to arrest the rise in yields. They expect the RBI to remain on hold in FY22 and hike rates by 100 bps in FY23. "To slow rise in yields, we expect the RBI to conduct USD 68.7 billion of OMOs/G-Saps and hike and extend banks' HTM limits by 2 per cent of their books to FY26, and continue forward forex intervention," the brokerage said. On the vaccination front, they said while 8.7 per cent of the total population has received the first dose, only 1.6 per cent have got both doses.

**Fresh wave of Covid-19 may pull down growth below double digit: Ex finance secy**

**New Delhi:** Former Finance Secretary SC Garg on Monday said the fresh Covid-19 wave and consequent local lockdowns may bring down the economic growth to less than 10 per cent in the current fiscal. Earlier this month, International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected an impressive 12.5 per cent growth rate for the country in 2021. The Economic Survey projected a growth rate of 11 per cent, while RBI retained its growth forecast at 10.5 per cent for the ongoing financial year.

## Oxford Economics lowers India's 2021 GDP growth forecast to 10.2 pc

**New Delhi:** Global forecasting firm Oxford Economics on Monday revised downwards its India GDP growth forecast for 2021 to 10.2 per cent from 11.8 per cent previously, citing the country's escalating health burden, faltering vaccination rate and lack of a convincing government strategy to contain the pandemic. Oxford Economics also said that notwithstanding the likelihood of further mobility restrictions, it expects India's targeted lockdown approach, less stringent restrictions, and resilient consumer and business behaviour to mitigate the economic impact of the second wave. "India's escalating health burden, faltering vaccination rate, and lack of a convincing government strategy to contain the pandemic have prompted us to downgrade our 2021 GDP growth forecast to 10.2 per cent from 11.8 per cent previously," it said. The global forecasting firm added it expects GDP to contract sequentially in the second quarter. "But if struggling health systems force more states to resort to stricter lockdowns like Maharashtra, we will likely lower our growth forecast further," it added. Oxford Economics said India's health system has collapsed in the worst-hit states, with even the national capital Delhi facing acute shortage of oxygen and COVID-19 hospital beds. "While the official mortality rate has edged lower, it masks a rapidly rising death count. Deaths are now doubling every ten days (as opposed to an average of 29 days in the first wave) and even this figure is likely buttressed by delayed or under-reporting of deaths," it noted. **PTI**

## RBI imposes ceiling of 70 years for MD, CEO of banks

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday fixed the tenure of MD, CEO and whole-time director (WTD) in a private sector bank at 15 years and prescribed the maximum age of 70 years for such functionaries. These directives form part of the instructions issued by the RBI with regard to the chair and meetings of the board, composition of certain committees of the board, age, tenure and remuneration of directors, and appointment of the WTDs on Monday.

The RBI said it would come out with a Master Direction on Corporate Governance in banks in due course. "Subject to the statutory approvals required from time to time, the post of the MD & CEO or WTD cannot be held by the same incumbent for

more than 15 years. "Thereafter, the individual will be eligible for re-appointment as MD & CEO or WTD in the same bank, if considered necessary and desirable by the board, after a minimum gap of three years, subject to meeting other conditions," the RBI said. It added that during this three-year cooling period, the individual shall not be appointed or associated with the bank or its group entities in any capacity, either directly or indirectly. With regard to upper age limit for MD & CEO and WTDs in the private sector banks, the RBI said that no person can continue on such positions beyond the age of 70 years. The banks' boards, however, will be free to prescribe a lower retirement age for the WTDs, including the MD & CEO. The maximum age limit

for chairman and non-executive directors has been fixed at 75 years. The total tenure of an NED, continuously or otherwise, on the board of a bank, shall not exceed eight years. After completing eight years on the board, the person may be considered for re-appointment only after a minimum gap of three years. This directive will not preclude him/her from being appointed as a director in another bank subject to meeting the requirements. The RBI directives also stipulate that the fixed remuneration for an NED, other than the chair of the board, shall not exceed Rs 20 lakh per annum. The board will be required to constitute a nomination and remuneration committee (NRC) made up of only NEDs. The NRC shall meet with a quorum of three members.

## FPIs sold healthcare and IT stocks in March

**FIANS ■ MUMBAI**

Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) sold stocks in the healthcare and IT sectors in March, showed a report by Kotak Institutional Equities. Stocks worth \$223 million were sold last month by the foreign investors in the healthcare segment, while FPIs pulled out net investments worth \$330 million in March from IT stocks, showed the "Foreign fund-flow tracker, April, 2021". The largest quantum of FPI AUC (assets under custody) came from US-based investors, followed by those from Mauritius and Singapore. Fund allocations to India by global emerging market (GEM) funds increased to 10.6 per cent in March from 10.2 per cent in February.

## Covid: Steel plants cut liquid oxygen storage to boost supply

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Steel plants have reduced their oxygen stock to just half a day from 3.5 days earlier to fulfil the shortage of the life-saving gas being used in the treatment of Covid-19 patients, an official statement said on Monday. Steel plants usually keep a minimum stock of over three days of liquid oxygen from which in an emergency situation gaseous oxygen is extracted and sent for steel making process. "The plants are normally required to keep 3.5 days of safety stock of LMO (liquid medical oxygen) in their storage tanks. Through continuous engagement with the steel producers, the stock has been reduced to 0.5 days because of which LMO supply has significantly increased," the Ministry of Steel said in the statement. The steel plants supplied 3,131.84 tonnes LMO on Sunday to various health facilities across the states for treatment of COVID-19 patients, the ministry added. At 3,131.84 tonnes, the supply was over 8 per cent higher from 2,894 tonnes dispatched by steel plants on Saturday, the statement said. According to the ministry, the production on Sunday (April 25) was 3,468.6 tonnes, while the plants had produced 3,474 tonnes LMO on April 24, 2021.

## Sensex surges 508 pts as banks, RIL zoom; Nifty tops 14,450

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Market benchmarks made a winning start to the week on Monday as investors snapped up banking, consumption and energy stocks despite a grim situation on the Covid-19 front. A rebounding rupee, which climbed 28 paise against the US dollar, added to the momentum, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex opened on the front foot and remained in the positive territory throughout the session, closing at 48,386.51 - up 508.06 points or 1.06 per cent. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 143.65

points or 1 per cent to finish at 14,485. Axis Bank was the top performer in the Sensex pack, rallying 4.40 per cent. ICICI Bank spurted 3.63 per cent after the company reported a nearly four-fold jump in March quarter consolidated profit over the weekend. UltraTech Cement, SBI, HUL, PowerGrid, Bajaj Auto and Reliance Industries were among the other prominent gainers. On the other hand, HCL Tech, HDFC Bank, Maruti, Sun Pharma, TCS, NTPC and ITC were the laggards, dropping up to 2.87 per cent.

## Rupee recovers by 28 paise on weak dollar; ends 4-day losing run

**Mumbai:** The rupee strengthened by 28 paise to close at 74.73 against the US dollar on Monday, ending its four-session losing run on the back of weakness in the greenback and positive domestic equities. A fall in crude oil prices and improved risk appetite supported the local unit even as worries over surging COVID-19 cases restricted the gains. **PTI**

## World shares mixed as pandemic worries cloud outlook

**Bangkok:** World shares were mixed on Monday as worries over the pandemic clouded the outlook for a recovery from the coronavirus crisis. Tokyo and Paris advanced, while Frankfurt and London were almost unchanged. Benchmarks fell in Hong Kong and Shanghai and US futures were mixed. Government precautions to battle surging outbreaks point to an uneven global recovery, economists say. **AP**

## SBI Card Q4 net doubles to ₹175 cr; FY'21 profit drops 21 pc

**New Delhi:** SBI Cards and Payment Services on Monday reported a 110 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 175 crore for the quarter ended March 2021. The credit card company, promoted by the country's largest lender SBI, had posted a net profit of Rs 84 crore in the corresponding January-March period of the preceding fiscal year 2019-20. The company, which operates under the brand name SBI Card, reported decline in revenue to Rs 2,309 crore during the fourth quarter as against Rs 2,433 crore in same period a year ago, it said in a regulatory filing. Total income too dropped to Rs 2,468 crore from Rs 2,510 crore in the same quarter a year ago. The total expenses were lower at Rs 2,234 crore as compared to Rs 2,398 crore earlier. **PTI**

**बिहार सरकार**

**SOUTH BIHAR POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED**  
(Registered Office: Viduyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna - 21.)  
A Govt. Of Bihar Undertaking  
(Department of Planning & Engineering)  
CIN No. - U4109BR2012SGC018890

**[Notice Inviting Tender]**

(Through e-procurement mode only - [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))

Online tenders are being invited by Chief Engineer, Planning & Engineering for Turnkey Contract for Construction of One number 2X10 MVA, 33/11 KV PSS with associated 33 KV & 11 KV lines and all associated works in Nalanda District under Electric Supply Circle, Nalanda. Details are as below:-

SL NO	NIT NO.	Name of Circle	Estimated Cost including GST (In Crores)	Cost of EMD (In Lacs)	Cost of BOQ/Tender Document (In INR)	Bid Processing Fee (In INR)
1	08/PR/SBPDC/2021	Nalanda	09.65	NIL	25000	As per actual

**The proposed Time line for the above tender is as follows:**

- \* Starting date for selling Bid Document: On 10.05.2021, 11:00 Onward.
- \* Date of Pre Bid Meeting(Online): On 21.05.21, 14:30Hrs
- \* Last Date of online sale of Bid Document: Up to 02.06.21, 15:00Hrs
- \* Last Date of online Submission of Tender: Up to 02.06.21, 17:00Hrs
- \* Date of Opening of Technical & Commercial Part (Part-I): On 03.06.21, 11:00 Hrs onwards

The details are available at the website [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in).

- \* Date of opening of price part: To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation
- \* In place of Bid Security Bid Declaration (In hard copy) & Cost of BOQ must be submitted to Chief engineer, (Planning & Engineering), SBPDCL, Viduyt Bhawan, Patna Positively up to 16:00Hrs, of 02.06.2021 falling which the tender shall be summarily rejected. For online submissions of Bid declaration, Bidder must submit details of intimation to this Office by 16:00Hrs. of 02.06.2021.

**BSEDCL (BELTRON) Processing fee & tender cost are mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e. Internet Payment gateway (credit/ debit card), net banking, NEFT/RTGS. Bids along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-payment portal [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) before the date and time specified in the NIT.**

While participating in e-tendering process, the contractor shall have to get them registered to get user ID, Passwords and digital signature. This will enable them to access the Website: [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) only.

E-tendering introduced in SBPDCL for tenders above Rs. 25 lacs. For registration login to [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) and e-Procurement Help Desk details:- Toll free number- 18005726571, or through email: [eproc2support@bihar.gov.in](mailto:eproc2support@bihar.gov.in), Working Hours: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays). While participating in e-tendering process, the contractor shall have to get them registered to get user ID, Password and digital signature. This will enable them to access the website: [eproc2support@bihar.gov.in](mailto:eproc2support@bihar.gov.in). For complains regarding corruption Vigilance Help Line No. - 9431821485, 0612-2504969 Consumer can deposit electricity bills via Sahaj Vasudha Centre or via bills, SBPDCL.in.

**Note : Subsequent information / notification/corrigendum/Extension / Cancellation will be available only on website of eproc i.e. [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in).**

PR- 000749/(Ni.Ni.) 2021-22 Chief Engineer (Planning & Engineering)

नोल कोरोना के संक्रम से बिरुद्ध जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु Toll Free No. **104** पर संपर्क कर सकसि है।

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Meenu W/o Sunny Mittal R/o J-89, Prem Nagar-II, Kirari, Delhi** has been missing since 11.04.2021 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 114A dated 12.04.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Prem Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Age:** 19 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Black, **Built:** Thin, **Identification:** Old burn mark near left eye, **Wearing:** White colour suit and green colour salwar.

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

Phone: **SHO**  
011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi  
Fax No. 011-24368639 Rohini Distt., Delhi  
Ph. No. 011-25489080, 9315164042

DP/808/RD/2021

**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Aarti, D/o Shri Ram Vilash, R/o H.No. C-411, Gali No. 6, Phase-2, Shiv Vihar Karawal Nagar, Delhi, Age 23 years, Height 5', Complexion Shallow, Face Oval, Thin Built, Wearing T-shirt, sky blue colour jeans pant and blue colour sports shoes** in feet is missing/kidnapped from Ajmeri Gate, Delhi since 15.04.21. In this regard a vide DD No. 23-A dated 16.04.21 has been lodged at PS Kamla Market, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail Id: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO**  
Tel: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS : Kamla Market, Delhi  
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-23230623, 23233743

DP/772/CD/21

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found on 16.04.2021 at Near X-Block, Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. He was under treatment and later expired during treatment on 19.04.2021 at Safdarjung Hospital.** In this regard DD No. 48A, Dt. 16/04/21 has been lodged at Police Station, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

**Name: Unknown, Age: About 45 Years, Height: 167 cm, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, ID Mark: Present Mole around the Neck & Mole on right Part of Chest, Wearing: Blue Colour Shirt and Torn Pant Grey Colour.**

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

**SHO**  
Police Station, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi  
DP/636/SW/2021 Ph.: 011-24106345, 7065036231

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Ravi Kumar, S/o: Sh. Dalchand, R/o: B-81, Rajeev Nagar, Begumpur, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped since 12.04.2021 at 07:00 pm. from the area of P.S. Begumpur, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 43A dated 15.04.2021 has been registered at P.S. Begumpur, Delhi. The description of the missing person are as under: **Age:** 59 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Hair:** Grey & black, **ID Mark:** Mentally weak & Paralysis in left side hand and leg, **Wearing:** White colour sanda, grey colour cap and black colour slipper. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO**  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Begumpur, Delhi  
Fax No. 011-24368639 P.S. Begumpur, Delhi  
DP/809/RD/2021 Ph.: 011-27579029, 8750870323

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

The general public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Pinki D/o Babulal R/o Jhuggi No. 52, Sector-26, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing since 05.04.2021 from her house. In this regard, **FIR No. 138/21, dated 05.04.2021 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS K N Katju Marg, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:

**Name:** Pinki, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 16 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue colour top, black colour pajama.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/K N Katju Marg, Delhi.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO**  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. K N Katju Marg, Delhi  
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-27571162, 27571171

DP/791/RD/2021

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

The general public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Hina D/o Raj Mohammad R/o B-4/224, Sector 20, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing since 10.04.2021 from her house. In this regard, **FIR No. 193/21, dated 10.04.2021 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS Aman Vihar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:

**Name:** Hina, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 17 years 6 months, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Fair, **Identification:** "H" mark tattoo on the left hand, **Wearing:** Black-yellow colour top, Black colour jeans and white colour shoes on her feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/Aman Vihar, Delhi.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO**  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi  
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-27581812, 27581223

DP/803/RD/2021

**SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN**

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely **Soniya Swami W/o Vishal Swami R/o D-1/D, Jain Nagar Extn., Karala, Delhi Age : 21 years, Height : 5'3", Face : Round, Complexion : Sallow, Build : Strong, wearing red colour saree and chappal in feet, has been missing since 09.04.2021 from her house.** In this regard DD No. 08-A dated 10.04.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Begumpur, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing woman may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO : P.S. Begumpur, Delhi**  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. : 011-25951431, 25951432  
Fax: 24368639 DP/801/RD/21  
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Rohit Kumar, S/o Chander Pal, R/o: H.No.274, Old Bank Wali Gali, Rithala Village, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 178/20 U/s 392/394/397/411/34 IPC**, registered at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Rohit Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rohit Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing him self to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rohit Kumar** accused of in case **FIR No. 178/20 U/s 392/394/397/411/34 IPC**, P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **03.06.2021**.

**By Order**  
Sh. Vaibhav Chaurasia  
Metropolitan Magistrate-04 (North-West),  
Room No. 112, 1st Floor  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/797/RD/2021

## OxygenWoes

Raising alarm, the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Monday said that it failed to get over 100 oxygen cylinders refilled in three days. These oxygen cylinders are used for transferring extremely sick Covid patients from Covid emergency to ICU and from Wards to ICU in case of emergency



## DOCYARD

DR SHIKHA GUPTA

Assistant Professor,  
Glaucoma Services

Dr Rajendra Prasad Centre  
for Ophthalmic Sciences  
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL  
SCIENCES



## Don't turn a blind eye to it



Health has taken a priority for most due to the current COVID pandemic situation. However, it has brought in many adaptations with respect to the lifestyle for many. From an ophthalmological point of view, children have shifted to online classes and the adults to a reckless 'work from home' regime, which has taken a brunt on our ocular health. Excessive near work on the screen can aggravate symptoms of eye strain, headache, watering, dry eye syndrome, burning sensation of eyes and exacerbating the near sightedness for many. Hence, it becomes important to share some eye care tips as a precautionary measure.

It's advisable to enable the blue light filter mode on your desktop to help ease the strain on one's eyes. Most desktop screens/laptops have a built-in filter that can be accessed, additionally there are downloadable options in case the computer doesn't have this feature available. Similarly for your smartphone, there are plenty of apps that can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or iOS App Store to activate the blue light filter.

It is also important to use the largest screen as far as possible, kept at a maximum distance. For example, tablets, laptops, or desktops with large screens instead of smart phones, should be preferred. These should be kept at a distance (medium range of 50 cm rather than at 33 cm) with the observer in proper sitting posture with head erect with proper room illumination.

Reading the font in slanting head position, non-ambient lighting environment and reading font that is small in size can adversely affect the eye health. Keeping these points in view, the next aspect to this query is how much screen time is acceptable? Though, there is no exact definition of recommended screen time, unnecessary screen time should be avoided as long as possible particularly if symptoms of headache, watering, eye strain or fatigue exist.

The second important factor is that when we are watching screens, our eyes are focused at a fixed distance for a long time. While in everyday life we are focusing at objects at near or intermediate or far distance, and our focus keeps changing, when watching a screen, everything is happening at a fixed distance for a prolonged time. This can cause eye muscle fatigue and weakness; from overwork by near muscles manifesting as eye strain. Hence 20-20-20 rule should be followed when watching screen which means that every 20 minutes we should look away from the screen for 20 seconds at an object 20 feet away. These short breaks give our eyes a chance to change focus to a faraway object, hence helping the ocular muscles to relax. If regularly followed, eye fatigue could be avoided despite spending excessive screen time.

Furthermore, while gazing screens, we forget to blink enough, particularly children, resulting in dry eyes, watering of eyes, abnormal blink patterns, forceful blinking or eye rubbing. Hence it is important to remind oneself or the children about frequent blinking while using screens. It is important to wear glasses especially if these have been prescribed by an ophthalmologist. Regular and constant use of glasses will go a long way to reduce eye strain.

Similarly, a good balanced diet is extremely important for each one of us, especially that containing vitamins and micronutrients such as vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin E, lutein, Zeaxanthin and omega fatty acids. These are naturally found in diet in carrots, beetroot, mango, papaya and citrus fruits.

## COVIDCARE

**BLACK TURMERIC:** This turmeric looks different; it resembles knobby ginger. It is a rare herb, but it contains the highest concentrations of curcumin of any plant species. It is a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory herb.

The root has been used medicinally for centuries to treat arthritis, asthma, and epilepsy. Black turmeric root is crushed and can be applied to bruises and sprains to ease discomfort or applied to the forehead to help relieve symptoms of migraines.

The turmeric can also be used in fever, joint pain, skin disorder, respiratory disorders, dyspepsia, vomiting, abdominal cramp and cough, among others.

While there are no studies to prove that black turmeric can reduce the effects of COVID-19, it has been found that eating more than one gm of black turmeric daily for five days can reduce the effects of this virus.

The root is also used in the treatment in cancer.

# CORONA CARE FOR ELDERLY

There's no stopping to the raging fury of the second wave of COVID-19. While everyone is suffering, senior citizens are facing the most challenging time. DR SHABNAM MIR tells you how can we simplify things for them



With COVID cases on the rise again, the health infrastructure of the country is suffering. The increasing demand for hospital beds across the city, shortage of medicines, scarcity of oxygen cylinders and the resulting helplessness of patients and their caregivers called attention to the gaps in our public healthcare system.

Additionally, senior citizens being the most vulnerable community are unable to step outside due to the fear of contracting the covid virus. Most of them, living away from their children are facing issues in accessing important resources and services such as medicines, nursing care, important investigations and even daily essentials like food.

With private and public organisations across the city doing their bit in helping the ones in need, it's essential for seniors and their caretakers to be prepared for what's coming next? Seniors should be kept informed of the steps they can take to prevent and cure Covid infection at home itself.

Three essential steps that can enable preparedness for seniors in fighting the second wave:

**Home delivery services:** With the possibility of movement restrictions home delivery of medical care services is becoming essential. Home care services including pathology, nursing care, medical equipment delivery and covid care services ensure safety and ease to seniors in these tough times.

**Covid nursing and attending services:** Nursing Caregivers provide bedside care for the comfort and medication management. They

will be with the patient at every step in the journey of recovery.

**Pathology services:** Home pathology and diagnostic services help to track over all health. These are focused on providing seniors with utmost convenience, reliable and advanced testing solutions through state-of-the-art and technologically advanced NABL certified lab. These include regular testing for Covid inflammatory markers e.g. D-dimer, IL 6, HS-CRP

**Medical equipment delivery:** The delivery of respiratory devices such as pulse oximeter, oxygen cylinders, spirometer, nebulizers, BiPAP/CPAP and oxygen concentrators helps aid recovery and well-being at home.

**X-Ray services at home:** Seniors can now get an X-Ray test done at the comfort of their home. They are advised to get their chest X-Ray in order to be informed about the extent of lung involvement in covid. These changes may remain hidden from the patient in case of a false Covid test result. Only a few players in the industry provide X-Ray services to seniors at home as it's an unfamiliar concept. We at Antara provide all views of X-Ray and can provide the reports the same day, without worrying about any kind of delay. They no longer need to stand in long queues or change clothes, the test which allows for a hassle-free experience along with a minimised risk of infection.

What's the process and how is safety ensured? Our portable machines can be easily taken to the patient's house, and trained and certified technicians do the X-ray imaging. For the safety of the technician, AERB has

With the possibility of movement restrictions home delivery of medical care services is becoming essential. Home care services including pathology, nursing care and medical equipment delivery ensure safety and ease to seniors in these tough times

laid down a dose limit for the technicians called ALARA — As low as reasonably achievable, which is measured by a TLD batch. A TLD batch is a radiation dose-measuring device and lets the technician know whether they are working within the dose limit or not. The technicians also use a lead apron, thyroid shield, and other protective gear to

safeguard themselves from the radiation.

For the safety of the family, we ask attendants and other family members to vacate the room when the X-Ray is being done. The patient is exposed to a nominal radiation dose which does not cause any negative health impact. Also, since exposure is done only once or twice depending on the need, the radiation exposure to the environment is also contained.

**Antibody tests** While diagnostic tests can tell if someone was infected recently, testing for antibodies reveals whether they've ever been infected. These tests are a way to identify whether one has the antibodies to fight against the virus. It's important for seniors to be informed about their immunity level at every step, to keep their health in check. This helps seniors plan their future check-ups and medicine intake better. It acts as a warning for taking the necessary next steps. Antara provides this service to seniors at home, which reduces the chances of outside exposure and hence the possibility of getting infected by the virus.

The number of queries for these services has been increasing day by day. There has been a rising demand for home care services highlighting the limited supply in hospitals and medical stores outside. Home care services help reduce pressure on hospitals and allow seniors to be prepared for Covid infection, stay up to date with their health and avail medical services without any inconvenience.

The writer is Medical Doctor, Delhi/ NCR at Antara, a company specializing in senior care

## SHED OFF THE BURDEN

It is essential to cut down those excess kilos and keep your kidneys healthy.

DR SUKHWINDER SINGH SAGGU shares tips that will help you lead a disease-free life

Is your body mass index (BMI) above 30? Then, you are obese. Obesity is a silent killer and the mother of all diseases. The number of obese people is increasing at a rapid rate all over the world. Obesity involves a large amount of body fat and puts you at the risk of many health problems ranging from diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and kidney problems. Causes of obesity can be attributed to factors like genetic, behavioral, metabolic, and hormonal influences on body weight. Eating a lot of calories, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), frequent and overeating, eating sugar-laden food items, and lack of physical activity can also be the culprits that lead to weight gain.

Nowadays, even kidney problems are on the rise in people. Those who are obese and also have hypertension and Diabetes can also suffer from kidney disease. Obesity also raises the chances of factors like diabetes and hypertension that cause chronic kidney disease (CKD). In those with obesity, the kidneys work harder above the normal level to filter blood and remove toxins, waste, and water and one may suffer from chronic kidney disease (CKD) in the long run.

Taking the steps mentioned below will ensure that you lead a healthy life and prevent obesity and kidney problems

**Exercise on a daily basis:** Want to grill that excess fat? Wish to wear clothes of your choice? Then, you will have to take up any physical activity of your choice like swimming, cycling, Parkour, Pilates, High-intensity interval training, aerobics, Mixed Martial Arts, jogging, brisk walking, strength training, and yoga to stay in shape. Exercise for five days per week to melt that excess fat and gain muscle mass. Not only this, even meditation can be helpful as it can allow you to de-stress as stress can lead to weight gain.

**Say no to processed foods:** Try to limit your intake of processed foods by substituting them with healthy ones. Eat *makhana* instead of chips. Try to substitute colas or other sugary drinks with water. Avoid overeating and binge eating. Instead, eat whole fruits, vegetables, grains, pulses, and legumes. Stick to home-cooked food.

**Set a proper sleep schedule:** Are you a night owl? Do you have insomnia? Then, you must try to stick to a good sleep routine and get a minimum of eight hours of sound sleep. Not doing so can lead to weight gain. Yes, you have heard it right! Not sleeping properly can disrupt the balance of important hormones that tend to control one's appetite. Hence, those who don't sleep properly may feel more hungry than usual.

**Limit your screen time:** It is time to cut down on your mobile usage. Avoid spending a lot of time on your computer and TV. One should opt for a digital detox and go gadget-free for a day. Sitting in one place and using electronic gadgets will make you gain weight.

The writer is Bariatric and Laparoscopic Surgeon, Apollo Spectra hospital, Karol bagh, New Delhi

## DadiKaKehna

COVID-19 wave is creating panic and stress amongst the patients and their families  
ROSHANI DEVI shares home remedies that can help reduce the effect of the virus



We all thought that 2021 would bring in a wave of positivity given that the vaccine was out and people would start getting it. Unfortunately, things have not panned out as was expected. Instead of people feeling safe, there is panic. Thousands of people have died in this second wave and lakhs are being infected each day.

Hospitals are unable to cope with the influx of patients that are coming. In such a situation, the best option, besides taking medication prescribed by the consulting doctor, one can do many home remedies to reduce the effect of COVID-19.

While this is not as easy as it sounds but put two drops of lemon juice in each nostril. Take a deep breath. One should feel the lemon in the throat. Now spit this out. Take warm water, add salt and juice of half a lemon. Do gargles with this. The nose and the throat will burn but it will also soothe the throat. Eat *anar* or better drink its juice. The fruit is supposed to inhibit COVID-19. Keep your immunity high. Eat papaya. The fruit has immunity boosting properties. Drink green tea. It helps reduce effects of the virus.

Keep your immunity high. Eat papaya. The fruit has immunity boosting properties. Drink green tea. It helps reduce effects of the virus.

# Don't ignore any symptoms

DIPAK KUMAR SINGH tells you what can be done if your RT-PCR Test throws up a false negative report

The second wave of COVID-19 has affected almost everybody. People are in panic mode and don't know what to do and where to go. With no beds in the hospitals for severe patients, let alone the mild cases, here are a few things that one can do.

**Don't ignore any symptom,** specially fever and/or sore throat. Mass awareness is essential at this point. Most of the cases turn critical only because of ignoring of early warning signs and delay in start of treatment.

**Don't wait for RT-PCR** report to start treatment if above symptoms are there.

**Start the treatment** even if you have been tested RT-PCR negative, but you have above symptoms. Those having other symptoms like loss of smell/taste should also start medication.

**Completely avoid raw, sour and cold food.** Eat only home cooked hot fresh food. A to Z

tablet is sufficient to meet your Vitamin C needs. There is no need to rush for lemon/orange for Vitamin C.

As soon as above symptoms arise, or when asymptomatic patients test positive and unless you have some special medical condition, start the following medication immediately:

- Azithral 500mg once daily x 5 days
- Doxy 100mg bd x 5 days
- Ivermectin 12mg once daily for 3 days (if weight more than 50 kg. If weight is less than 50 kg then take Ivermectin 6 mg once daily for 3 days)
- Zincovit (not be taken in the night)
- Zincovit and A to Z once daily for 30 days
- Dolopar 650 mg SoS if fever more than 100°
- D3 60K once in a week empty stomach for eight weeks
- Pantocid 40 once daily empty stomach
- Drink four-five litres of

water daily spreading over whole day. Don't take more than one-two glass at a time. The kidney patient should regulate water intake as per doctor's advice. The intake of water helps not only in managing body temperature but also in preventing blood thickening.

■ Gargle at least twice with hot water, salt preferably and a pinch of turmeric.

■ Steam inhalation at least twice with hot water and put *sendha* salt in it.

■ Do breathing exercises which increases lungs capacity and helps to maintain oxygen level. Do these exercises:

- Sit straight and inhale/exhale slowly but deeply, inhaling in 5 seconds and exhaling in 5 seconds).
- Anulom/vilom at least 25 times.
- Lie on your stomach, keep right hand under right chest, left hand under left chest, keep elbows stretched, chin on the

bed and take deep breath. Do it as many times as possible.

Take any vessel with narrow mouth, half fill it, take a straw, one end in your mouth and one end in the water and blow hard with full breath so that bubbles are created.

If fever continues for five days or more or if CRP / ESR value is high, then not later than 6th day get HRCT (THORAX)/ digital x-ray/x-ray (depending on the facility available) done, because the likelihood is that your lungs has been effected.

Most important don't panic. COVID-19 can be managed with home isolation or at a normal COVID facility, without necessarily having ICU/ventilator facility.

The writer is Principal Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bihar

(Disclaimer: The writer is not a certified doctor. This is for reference purpose only. If you have any special medical condition, consult your physician)



**Bollywood**  
 'We are living in very scary times. No one is safe until everyone is safe.'  
 —Shekhar Suman

The the 93rd Academy Awards (Oscars 2021) bring back red carpet glam in whites, reds and gold



Andra Day



Viola Davis



Reese Witherspoon



Regina King

**A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL THE WINNERS**

- BEST PICTURE:** *Nomadland*
- BEST ACTRESS:** Frances McDormand, *Nomadland*
- BEST ACTOR:** Anthony Hopkins, *The Father*
- ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY:** *Promising Young Woman*, Emerald Fennell
- ADAPTED SCREENPLAY:** Florian Zeller and Christopher Hampton, *The Father*
- INTERNATIONAL FILM:** *Another Round*, Denmark
- BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:** Daniel Kaluuya, *Judas and the Black Messiah*
- BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:** Yuh-Jung Youn, *Minari*
- BEST DIRECTOR:** Chloé Zhao, *Nomadland*
- SOUND:** *Sound of Metal*
- MAKEUP AND HAIRSTYLING:** *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*
- COSTUME DESIGN:** Ann Roth, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*
- LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM:** *Two Distant Strangers*
- ANIMATED SHORT FILM:** *If Anything Happens I Love You*
- ANIMATED FEATURE:** *Soul*
- DOCUMENTARY SHORT SUBJECT:** *Colette*
- DOCUMENTARY FEATURE:** *My Octopus Teacher*
- VISUAL EFFECTS:** *Tenet*
- PRODUCTION DESIGN:** *Mank*
- CINEMATOGRAPHY:** *Mank*
- FILM EDITING:** *Sound of Metal*
- ORIGINAL SONG:** *Fight for You* from *Judas and the Black Messiah* (Music by H.E.R. and Dernst Emile II; Lyric by H.E.R. and Tiara Thomas)

**PARADE OF FASHION**

Red carpet glam was back at the Oscars 2021 with Andra Day and Carey Mulligan shimmering in award-worthy gold and Maria Bakalova among several stars in bright white princess gowns during the pandemic era's first big parade of fashion. There was a strong showing of reds as well, along with belly-baring midriffs, the latter including Zendaya in standout yellow by Valentino and more than 183 carats of Bulgari diamonds from ears and neck to her fingers at the Los Angeles ceremony.

McQueen, baby," Davis told E!. She looked radiant in a modern and delicate pair of Forevermark cascading drop diamond earrings with complementing stacked bangle bracelets and ring. "Viola's Oscars dress stood out for its intricate open weaving and we wanted to echo that in her jewelry. I knew that Forevermark had the perfect diamond pieces that I wanted to try, and I'm thrilled with how the finished look made Viola shine her brightest for her big night. Paired with Viola's white dress, the simplicity of beautiful natural diamonds created an incredibly special moment," said stylist Elizabeth Stewart of Davis' Oscars look.

"Andra Day and Zendaya have set the tone for spring and we are showing midriff all season," said Nandi Howard, associate fashion editor for Essence. "Both ladies arrived in beautiful gowns on the carpet with cutouts and slits that were a breath of fresh air for red-carpet attire."

Bakalova, the breakout star of *Borat: Subsequent Movie Film*, also brought princess, also in white, with a bit of subdued sparkle and a plunging neckline that fell to a tulle skirt, thanks to Louis Vuitton. She snagged a pair of stunning chandelier diamond earrings for the evening.

Day dressed all the way up in a sexy look cut to the thigh on one side with a cutout at the waist. It was custom Vera Wang made of actual metal, paired with a dainty pair of drop earrings tipped with yellow diamonds from Tiffany & Co. Mulligan stunned in gold Valentino couture, a midriff look with a tiny metallic top and a huge ball skirt.

Regina King, who opened the show, went for light blue Louis Vuitton with winged shoulders and silver stripe embellishments.

With nominees scattered around the world, the red carpet was far less hectic. "Calm. If people were here they would know how absolutely groundbreaking calm is," said Viola Davis, dressed in a stunning white custom look with intricate cutouts in a snug bodice that fell to a princess skirt. The designer? "Alexander

McQueen delivered the red carpet fantasy that award season viewers have been missing when she showed up in a sculptural, custom-made masterpiece from Louis Vuitton. While the baby blue colour and the wing-like shoulders gave off an ethereal vibe, the modern neckline screamed high fashion," said Irina Grechko, senior fashion editor for the millennial-focused lifestyle site Refinery29.com.

Riz Ahmed, Leslie Odom Jr and Daniel

Kaluuya, in a Bottega Veneta tux, were among many of the guys who went without ties. Ahmed was in Prada and Odom in Brioni.

Travon Free, who co-directed the short live-action winner *Two Distant Strangers*, mixed Hollywood fantasy with real life. He wore a black-and-yellow Dolce & Gabbana tux lined with names of Black victims killed by police in the United States.

Reese Witherspoon got the red memo, in Dior, along with Angela Bassett in a red look with statement poofy shoulders and Chopard rubies and diamonds. Bassett's train gown was by Alberta Ferretti.

Presenter Laura Dern wore a look with a white feathered skirt and a black, long-sleeve mock turtleneck top, while Margo Robbie went full Hollywood in body-hugging silvery Chanel.

Chloe Zhao made history as the second woman and first woman of colour to win best director wearing Hermes and a pair of bright white sneakers, her hair in two long braids. Her ankle-length dress was a neutral tone ruched and adorned with small beads and a latticework design.

Oscar performer H.E.R. made a red

carpet appearance in cobalt blue custom Dundas. It included a hooded cape and a flared jumpsuit. Her round signature shades were by Bonnie Clyde.

Diane Warren and Odum kicked off the carpet in two trend colours: white and gold. Warren in a Valentino tuxedo white with a sequin turtleneck and Odum in a glistening gold double-breasted tux — gold shirt included. "I've never been dressed by a designer before," Warren told E!. "How cool is that?" A small Swarovski frog adorned her collar. Odum walked the carpet with spouse Nicolette Robinson. They recently welcomed a second child. "I am a lucky, lucky man," he said, while Robinson was grateful for no baby spit up.

Amanda Seyfried chose vibrant red from Armani Prive, her hair in an Old Hollywood side-swept updo. It was among a slew of classic princess cuts, here a strapless look with a plunging neckline. Halle Berry was a loner in mauve, unfurling her light-as-air train on the carpet with her hair in a short crop.

New mom Emerald Fennell, best director nominee for *Promising Young Woman*, smiled bright in a flowing spring green and lilac gown. Lately, she's been

making up personas to match her outfits. She topped off the look with sparkly lilac eye shadow. Her look included all-over sequin embroidery and ruffle details. "So tonight I am Susan your pottery teacher who has a business opportunity for you which is absolutely not a pyramid scheme," she said. This pottery teacher wore Gucci.

The 9-year-old star of *Minari*, Alan Kim, vamped on the carpet in his black shorts suit with high black socks, including one with horizontal white stripes. He just had a birthday and got the bike he was hoping for. Another *Minari* star, Yuh-Jung Youn, smiled on the carpet in a Marmar Halim midnight blue brocade gown with a velvet belt, a wide diamond Chopard bracelet on her wrist.

Glenn Close, nominated for *Hillbilly Elegy*, paired a jewel-tone blue embellished caftan from Armani Prive with dark slacks and gloves. And she, like so many others on hand, was back in heels. "I'm feeling great. My shoes are comfortable. It's not two miles long so that's lovely," she said.

Other stars chose elegant black for the pandemic-era Oscars. Some were in bright oranges and pinks.

Nominee LaKeith Stanfield chose a custom black jumpsuit with a belt and wide-lapelled button-down underneath by Saint Laurent. Another statement maker among the men: Colman Domingo of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* in a hot pink suit by Versace.

All told, Grechko said, Hollywood was due for the final and splashiest carpet of the Zoom-heavy, leisuwear-accented pandemic awards season.

"After a year of virtual red carpet shows, it's clear that celebrities were ready to bring their A-game to the red carpet, with high-on-glamour looks dominating the night. From Maria Bakalova's Grace Kelly-esque look, made with 100 meters of tulle, to Carey Mulligan's oversized, liquid gold-like skirt train, celebrities understood the assignment and brought back fashion in a big way," she said.

There were some big beauty moments, too.

Of Zendaya's look, Refinery29 Beauty Director Sara Tan said: "Zendaya looked like she emerged from the pages of a magazine. It was elegant, yet effortless, a balance that Zendaya always achieves with ease. I loved that she kept her beauty look glam, but simple — waist-grazing hair, dewy skin, full brows, a simple wash of colour on her lid, and a barely-there lip — so as not to compete with the collection of Bulgari jewels around her neck!"

Seyfried's smoky red eye "gave her old school Hollywood glam a modern twist," Tan said. Bold lips ruled the carpet, from Seyfried's deep plum pout to H.E.R.'s pinky-purple lip, she added. Tan called Berry's hair a "very edgy, Amelie-esque microbob," noting Robbie's new bangs and darker "bronde" hair colour.

—AP

**TRENDBLAZER**



**CONTENT IS ALWAYS FIRST: SOHUM SHAH**

Actor-producer **SOHUM SHAH** insists content has always been his priority over box office collections. "Content is always first. How to make a film, all that comes secondary. You write a script, select a director and then you look for others to come on board. I don't make films for profit, neither do I want to make packages to earn money. I only make films which I enjoy making," he said.

He added that box office numbers are relevant in terms of understanding how many people liked the film.

**fairtalk**  
TISCA CHOPRA



'What's Up With Me?' is a book that talks about everything around puberty from a girl's perspective. It is her guide and friend in her journey through periods, acne, developing breasts, buying bras, sanitary napkins, her changing moods, relationship with her friends, boys, parents and the emotional and physical changes that her body and psyche go through.'

**dailytalk**  
AMIT SADH



'Someone very important in my life taught me there is nothing like a flop. People will continue watching (the film) at some point in time. A film is a collective creative expression of the people involved, right from spot boy, technician, art directors, stylists, designers, actors, producers, directors, assistants and more.'

**'ACTING, TO ME, IS A PAID HOBBY'**

Actor **ANTHONY HOPKINS** said being a part of showbiz is like having a paid hobby.

"I'm not a method actor. I can't sit in the corner thinking I'm a plant or anything like that. I get a cup of tea or a cup of coffee and say, 'Good morning'. Some people want to make a big deal of it. I can't. I've got a life of my own and acting to me is a hobby, a paid hobby, but I enjoy it," Hopkins said.

He added that he has always tried to tell young actors about how distorted fame and stardom are.



**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**



General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Palvi W/o Neeraj**, R/o B-27, Gali No.1, Ramesh Enclave, Kirari, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 03.04.2021 at 8.00 AM his house from the area of PS. Aman Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 87-A dated 04.04.2021** has been lodged at PS, Aman Vihar, Delhi. The description of Missing/kidnapped lady is as under:

**Name :** Palvi, **Husband's Name :** Neeraj, **Age :** 24 years, **Height :** 5'1", **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Fair, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing :** Green & Yellow colour Suit Salwar, and Slipper in feet.  
 If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.  
**SHO**  
 Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
**P.S., Aman Vihar, Delhi**  
 e-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
 Ph : 011-24368639  
 Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641  
**Ph : 011-23014046**  
**23015218**  
 DP/793/RD/2021

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Punita D/o Hari Ram Mahto**, R/o 200/4, Vill: Naharpur Sec-7, Rohini, Delhi has been missing /kidnapped since 12.04.2021 from the area of PS. North Rohini. In this regard a **FIR No. 154/21 Dated 14.04.2021** has been lodged at PS, North Rohini, Delhi. The description of Missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

**Name :** Punita, **Father's Name :** Hari Ram Mahto, **Age :** 16 years, **Height :** 5'3", **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Whitish, **Wearing :** Black Colour Suit, and Sandal in feet. **Hair:** Black Medium  
 If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.  
**SHO**  
 Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
 e-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
 Ph : 011-24368639  
 Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641  
**P.S., North Rohini, Delhi**  
**Ph : 011-27048210, 8750870330**  
 DP/805/RD/2021

**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Charu**, D/o Shri Lalit Kumar, R/o H.No. L-1/49, Budh Vihar, Delhi, Age 18 years, Height 5'7", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Wearing Grey colour top, blue colour jeans pant and green colour juti in feet has been missing from area of PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi since 06.04.21. In this regard a **DD No. 08 dated 06.04.21** has been lodged at PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.  
**E-mail ID:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO**  
**Teles:** 011-24368638, 24368641 **PS: Vijay Vihar, Delhi**  
**Fax:** 011-24368639 **Ph: 011-28891941**  
 DP/794/RD/21

**SEARCH OF MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that one girl, Named: **Chandni**, D/o: Sh. Dharmender, R/o: H.No. 334, Karan Vihar, Part-4, Som Bazar Road, Kirari, Delhi. **Aged:** 20 years has been missing from her home since 29.03.2021 at 03:00 AM. In this regard, a **Case Vides DD No. 105A, Dated 30.03.2021**, has been lodged at **P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi**. Her description is as under:

**Height:** 5'1" feet, **Complexion:** fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Black Colour Jeans and Top and Black Colour Slippers in her feet.  
 If anyone has any information about the missing girl, then please inform P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi at email: [cic@cbi.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.nic.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Fax: No.011-23011133, Ph: 011-23014046 (Direct), 23015229, 23015218 Extn. 210.  
**S.H.O**  
**P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi**  
**Ph. No. 011-23014046, 23015218**  
 DP/790/RD/2021.

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL**

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Muskan D/o Bashir Ahmad R/o H.No. A-73, Balbir Nagar, Kirari, Suleman Nagar, Delhi Aged-17** Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 26.03.2021 at about 8 PM from her residence vide **FIR No.164/2021 U/s 363 IPC Dated 27.03.2021** registered at Police Station Aman Vihar Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Clothing:** Blue coloured suit, Pink coloured salwar & white jutti in feet.  
 Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Aman Vihar, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
**SHO**  
 Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 **Sd/-**  
 FAX No. : 011-24368639 **SHO, Aman Vihar, Delhi**  
**DP/799/RD/2021** **Tel.: 8750870321, 011-27581223**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Shilpa**, D/o Chandan Pal, R/o H.No. 118, Near Lal Chopal, Kirari, Delhi, **Age:** 20 years, **Height:** 4'10", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Sky Colour Suit -Salwar and Grey Chappal in her feet has been missing from her home since **01.04.2021 at 11.00 am**. In this regard a **DD No. 66A, dated 02.04.2021** has been registered at **P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.  
**E-mail :** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO**  
**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax : 011-24368639** **P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi**  
**DP/800/RD/2021** **Ph: 011-27581812/ 8750870321**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**



General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Rinku Devi W/o Binod**, R/o A-9, Veer Bazar, Road Rajeev Nagar, Extn Begumpur, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 15.04.2021 from the area of PS. Begumpur, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 5-A dated 16.04.2021** has been lodged at PS, Begumpur, Delhi. The description of Missing/kidnapped lady is as under:

**Name :** Rinku Devi, **Husband's Name :** Binod, **Age :** 32 years, **Height :** 4'5", **Built:** Thin, **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Shallow, **Wearing :** Violet colour Suit Salwar **Hair:** Black Long  
 If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.  
**SHO**  
 Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
 e-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **P.S., Begumpur, Delhi**  
 Ph : 011-24368639 **Ph : 011-2759029**  
 Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 **2759030**  
 DP/812/RD/2021

**SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL**



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Gajbo @ Garima @ Payal**, D/o Shri Harkesh, R/o H.No. 364, Gali No. 11, Prem Nagar-II, Delhi, Age 17 years, Height 5', Complexion Wheatish, Round Face, Thin Built, Wearing Red colour plauz suit and white colour slippers in feet has been kidnapped from her house since 06.04.21. In this regard a case FIR No. 193/21 dated 08.04.21 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Prem Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.  
**E-mail ID:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO**  
**Teles:** 011-24368638, 24368641 **PS: Prem Nagar, Delhi**  
**Fax:** 011-24368639 **Ph: 9315164042**  
 DP/806/RD/21

# GAME 2021

IT IS NEVER NICE TO BE ON THE LOSING SIDE. WE SHOULD HAVE ADAPTED BETTER. WE COULD HAVE APPLIED LOT MORE WITH THE BAT. SOME SOFT DISMISSALS COST US (PBKS) THE GAME  
— KL RAHUL

TODAY VS

LIVE FROM 7:30PM IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK



# IPL PLAYERS START PULLING OUT

boundarymeter

4s 583  
6s 256

## Ashwin decides to take break & support family as RCB's Kane Richardson & Zampa join Tye to walk out because of personal reasons

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Anxiety pierced through IPL's bio-secure bubble on Monday with leading Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and some Australian players withdrawing from the league amid the escalating Covid-19 crisis in India even as the BCCI insisted that the glitzy league will go on.

The 34-year-old Ashwin, competing for Delhi Capitals, decided to take a break saying that his family is currently "putting up a fight against Covid-19" and he wants to support them. He hopes to return to the side "if things go in the right direction".

However, Andrew Tye (Rajasthan Royals) and the duo of Kane Richardson and Adam Zampa (both Royal Challengers Bangalore) withdrew as apprehension set in after a couple of weeks went by smoothly for the league being held in front of empty stands across six venues.

While Zampa and Richardson have

not yet spoken about their "personal reasons" for leaving, Tye said he feared getting locked out of his own country owing to mounting quarantine cases from India in his hometown Perth.

"I just thought to try and get on the front foot and get home before I got locked out of the country... Think I've had 11 days at home out of the bubble since August, so for me I just wanted to get home," Tye told *SEN Radio* from Doha, the transit point before his flight to Perth.

The BCCI, on its part, insisted that the event will continue and it wouldn't come in the way of those wanting to leave.

"As of now, IPL is going ahead. Obviously, if anyone wants to leave, that's perfectly fine," a senior Board official said on conditions of anonymity.

While leg-spinner Zampa was bought for ₹1.5 crore, RCB spent ₹4 crore to buy pacer Richardson at the players' auction.

Richardson featured in one match for RCB against Rajasthan Royals in Mumbai, but Zampa couldn't make it to the playing XI this season.

The 34-year-old Tye had also not got a game with the Royals so far and his contract with the franchise was worth ₹1 crore.

Kolkata Knight Riders mentor David Hussey acknowledged that Australians in the IPL are a "bit nervous" about getting back home in the wake of the situ-

ation here. "Everyone is sort of a bit nervous about whether they can get back into Australia. I dare say there will be a few other Australians a bit nervous about getting back into Australia," Hussey, a former Australia international, told the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

However, not all Australians are willing to leave. Another pacer Nathan Coulter-Nile, who has a ₹5 crore deal with Mumbai Indians would rather be in the bio-bubble than risk a trip back home at this point.

"I feel like it's safer for me to stay in the bubble than try and get home at the moment," he told *cricket.Com.Au*.

Delhi Capitals coach Ricky Ponting said he is aware of the "grim" situation outside the IPL bio-bubble but would want the league to continue for it is a welcome escape for a few hours.

Several England and New Zealand players are also competing in the event but haven't yet spoken about their concerns.

The players from New Zealand, including stars such as Kane Williamson and Trent Boult, are expected to leave early in any case as they have a Test series against England starting June 2. They will have to head back in last week of May to be available for it because of quarantine rules.

## Cummins donates \$50K in fight vs Covid

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kolkata Knight Riders' Australian pacer Pat Cummins on Monday announced a \$50,000 donation towards PM CARES Fund for oxygen supplies in India's Covid-19 ravaged hospitals and backed the IPL to continue, saying he has been "advised" that the Indian Government views it "as few hours of joy" in a difficult time.

In a statement on his official Twitter handle, he made the announcement and urged other top players to do the same as the country battles a deadly second wave of the pandemic recording more than 2,000 daily deaths for the past few days.

"As players, we are privileged to have the platform that allows us to reach millions of people that we can use for

good. With that in mind, I have made a contribution to the PM CARES Fund, specifically to purchase oxygen supplies for India's hospitals," he stated.

He also said that he is aware of the ongoing discussion on whether the IPL should continue amid the destruction caused by the virus but has been told that the event offers some respite from the gloom.

"There has been a lot of discussion over here as to whether it is appropriate for the IPL to continue while Covid-19 infection rates remain high," he said. "I am advised that Indian Government is of the view that playing the IPL while the population is in lockdown provides few hours of joy and respite each day at an otherwise difficult time for the country," Cummins said in his statement.

The IPL final is scheduled to be held on May 30 in Ahmedabad.

Australia, it is learnt, might arrange a chartered flight for its IPL cricketers once their engagement is over.

As many as 14 Australian players now remain in the event, including stars such as Steve Smith (DC), David Warner

(SunRisers Hyderabad) and Pat Cummins (Kolkata Knight Riders), as well as coaches Ricky Ponting (DC) and Simon Katich (RCB).

Commentators Matthew Hayden, Brett Lee, Michael Slater and Lisa Sthalekar are also among the Australians involved with the league right now.

## Rajasthan seek to loan players from other teams

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Royals have approached fellow IPL teams to loan players after the departure of their four foreign players due to various reasons that include injuries, bubble fatigue and Covid-19 fear.

Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer are out of the IPL due to injuries while Liam Livingstone had gone back

home citing bubble fatigue. On Sunday, Andrew Tye left for Australia, citing fear due to surge of Covid-19 cases in India, making Royals the worst affected team from player pull-outs.

"The team is looking to loan players and has written to other franchisees but nothing is decided at this point," a source close to the team management said.

The IPL loan window started on Monday and will end with the conclusion of the league stage.

IPL rules state that a player who has played less than two matches in the season can be loaned and cannot play against his home franchise.

Royals have two wins from five games and play their next game in Delhi on Thursday.

## KKR end losing streak

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Skipper Eoin Morgan brought in a sense of calm after early jitters as Kolkata Knight Riders didn't let a brilliant bowling performance go in vain during their easy five-wicket victory over Punjab Kings on Monday.

After the bowlers put up a splendid show to restrict Punjab Kings to 123 for 9, KKR scored the runs in 16.4 overs with skipper Morgan remaining unbeaten on 47 off 40 balls.

For KKR, it was a collective bowling performance with Prasidh Krishna (3/30), Pat Cummins (2/31) and Sunil Narine (2/22) choked Punjab after the young Shivam Mavi (1/13) bowled an astounding 15 dot balls in his four over spell.

KKR has now ended their four-match losing streak and are placed fifth with four points from six games. Punjab Kings slipped a notch behind and are now at sixth place.

Chasing the paltry target on a dew-laden Motera, KKR found themselves in familiar territory as they lost top-three for 17 runs inside three overs.

But Morgan (4x4, 2x6) showed perfect intent to seize control with Rahul Tripathi in a 66-run partnership off 48 balls as KKR sealed the issue in 16.4 overs to return to winning ways.

Morgan pulled Shami over square to get off the mark with a maximum and there was no looking back.

He along with Tripathi used their feet and kept charging the Punjab bowlers as they just needed 48 runs in the final-10.

Tripathi could not finish it after an impressive 32-ball 41 as



Kolkata Knight Riders' pacer Prasidh Krishna celebrates with teammates Eoin Morgan, Sunil Narine and Dinesh Karthik after he takes wicket

there was a bit of a blip with Andre Russell departing in addition of 15 runs but Morgan and Dinesh Karthik ensured that there's no further damage to cruise home with 20 balls to spare.

Earlier, Rana got out for a golden duck in the first over, gifting his wicket to Moises Henriques, chipping a wide full toss straight to Shahrukh Khan at cover.

Then the Indian cricket's blue-eyed boy, Gill, continued his woeful run after showing some glimpses of his class, trapped by Mohammed Shami.

Ravi Bishnoi then produced a spectacular diving catch, sprinting about 30 metres to dismiss Sunil Narine for a duck.

In first innings, youngster Mavi started it all, tying things

down with the new ball, bowling 15 dot balls in his four overs on the trot, before Cummins and Prasidh tightened the noose sharing five wickets between them at the death.

The pace trio removed the top three KL Rahul (19), Chris Gayle (0) and Deepak Hooda (1) in space of 12 balls for six runs to leave PBKS in a disarray in the first 10 overs.

On a pitch, where the ball stayed low and gripped a bit, the Punjab batsmen failed to apply themselves with Sunil Narine (2/22) and Varun Chakravarthy (1/24) further denting their progress during the middle overs as well as back-end.

Prasidh had the best figures as he ended Chris Jordan's 18-ball 30 cameo which took the total past the 120-run mark.

## RCB, Delhi eye top spot

### KEY PLAYERS

**AVESH KHAN**  
Khan has impressed everyone with his performance this time and he is second in the race for Purple Cap

**MOHAMMED SIRAJ**  
Siraj looked a completely different player in 2021 and is a key component of RCB's bowling unit

VENUE: NARENDRA MODI STADIUM, AHMEDABAD

### HEAD TO HEAD

Matches	25
Delhi Capitals	11
Royal Challengers Bangalore	14

### LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

- Delhi Capitals defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by 59 runs in Dubai
- Delhi Capitals beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 6 wickets in Abu Dhabi

199

Rishabh Pant who hit 199 fours in 73 innings of as many matches, needs just one four to become only second batsman after Virender Sehwag (266 fours) to complete a double century of fours for Delhi Capitals in IPL

22

Ab de Villiers with 4978 runs at an average of 40.47 in 160 innings of 174 matches, needs 22 runs to become sixth batsman to complete 5000 runs in IPL history

Faisal Features



runs under his belt. DC boast of a strong middle-order comprising skipper Rishabh Pant (125 runs), Australians Steve Smith and Marcus Stoinis and Shimron Hetmyer, who can be highly destructive on their day.

In case the openers fail, the onus will be on Pant and Smith to steer the innings.

Delhi will miss the services of ace off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who has left the team to support his family in the fight against Covid-19.

In his absence, left-arm spinner Axar Patel and experienced leg-spinner Amit Mishra, who had wreaked havoc against Mumbai Indians, will need to shoulder greater responsibility.

## shortpasses

### RANI, 6 OTHER PLAYERS TEST +VE

**NEW DELHI:** Seven members of the Indian women's hockey team, including captain Rani Rampal, and two support staff members on Monday tested positive for Covid-19 ahead of a training camp at the SAI Centre in Bengaluru.

### INDIA QUALIFY FOR CWG 2022

**NEW DELHI:** India is among six teams which have qualified for the women's T20 competition of the 2022 CWG as cricket returns for the second time in the event.

### 12TH BARCELONA OPEN FOR RAFA

**BARCELONA:** Rafael Nadal saved a championship point to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 7-5 and claim a 12th Barcelona Open title in the ATP's longest match of 2021.

### HENRY, SHEARER IN HALL OF FAME

**LONDON:** Thierry Henry and Alan Shearer were named as the first players inducted into the official Premier League Hall of Fame in recognition of a combined 435 goals.

### CRISIS IN SA CRICKET AVERTED

**DURBAN:** SA cricket stepped back from the brink of an international crisis when officials announced that the differences between the two rival factions had been resolved.

### LILLE RETAKE TOP SPOT

**PARIS:** Burak Yilmaz scored twice and set up another as Lille staged a brilliant comeback to claim a thrilling 3-2 victory at title rivals Lyon and reclaim top spot in Ligue 1. Agencies



## Deepika-Atanu shoot triple Gold

PTI ■ GUATEMALA CITY

Indian archery's star couple Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das led the show with two individual Gold medals as the country capped its best ever performance in a World Cup, claiming three Golds and a Bronze in the tournament's first stage here.

Former world number one Deepika claimed her career's third individual World Cup Gold to add to the team's triumph, while her husband Das grabbed his first ever World Cup individual medal in style winning the men's recurve individual final.

The two are now automatically qualified for this season's most-coveted Archery World Cup Final.

"We travel together, train together, compete together and win together," Das, who got married to Deepika in June last year after a two-year courtship, said after claiming the Gold medal on Sunday.

"She knows what I like, and I know what she likes."

This was the best ever World Cup finish by India's recurve archers with two individual and one team Gold medals in their return to the top International calendar year event after almost two years.

## Atletico Madrid lose to Bilbao



**Bilbao:** Atletico Madrid's title hopes suffered a setback on Sunday as a shock 2-1 defeat at Athletic Bilbao handed Barcelona the upper hand in a thrilling race at the top of La Liga.

Real Madrid's draw with Real Betis on Saturday gave Atletico the chance to pull further clear but instead they ended the weekend with their lead reduced, a loss at San Mames the latest twist in Europe's most unpredictable domestic chase.

Barcelona now can go top of the table if they win their game in hand at home to Granada on Thursday, even if Atletico might have a way back given they are still to play at Camp Nou on May 8. AFP