

**OPINION 8**  
 NEPAL STARING AT  
 POLITICAL DISQUIET

**WORLD 11**  
 IRAN BLAMES ISRAEL  
 FOR NATANZ INCIDENT

**HEALTH 12**  
 VACCINE STILL  
 BEST BET

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY APRIL 13, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

## EC slaps 24-hour ban on Mamata

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 11

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Meanwhile, on the second day of countrywide Tika Utsav (vaccination festival), India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage went past the 10.50 crore mark on Monday. Eight States account for 60.13 per cent of the total doses given so far in the country, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The first day of Tika Utsav on Sunday saw the administration of 30 lakh vaccination doses at 63,800 Covid Vaccination Centres across the country.

Continued on Page 11

### Sputnik V gets DCGI approval

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Sources in the Government said that the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the DCGI on Monday took up the application of Dr Reddy's Laboratories seeking emergency use authorisation for Sputnik V.

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

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

Continued on Page 11

## CM Yogi rules out lockdown in state

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Asking officials to be on their toes to control the exponential spread of COVID-19 across the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday that neither his government will impose a lockdown nor let the people die in misery.

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

Praising his government's efforts to control the spread of the novel coronavirus last year, the chief minister said, "Like the last year, we will have to fight this war with great strength. For the same, we will have to increase the beds in Level-2 (with oxygen facility) and Level-3 (with ventilators) Covid hospitals in sufficient quantity."

Yogi Adityanath also instructed the officials to dedicate half of the 108 ambulance service fleet for COVID-19 patients and the remaining half for non-Covid cases. He set the response time for these ambulances at 15 minutes. He laid emphasis on making the Integrated Command and Control Centre the focal point of the entire fight and monitoring its activity one by one.

Later, addressing reporters, Continued on Page 11

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



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

At the same time, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) contracted 3.6 per cent for February 2021 and was 5.91 per cent in the same month last year (March 2020).

Continued on Page 11

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Varsha said keeping in mind the schedule of entrance exams for professional courses, Class 12 exams will be held by end of May, while Class 10 exams will be in June.

"We're closely monitoring the health situation. Fresh dates for these exams will be announced accordingly," she said.

Continued on Page 11

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

### To minimise risk of Covid infection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

However, there are no restrictions on serving meals on international flights as of now.

Airlines are permitted to serve only pre-packed snacks, meals, and pre-packed beverages on flights that have duration of more than two hours.

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

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

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

Continued on Page 11

## Historian Yogesh Praveen dead

Lucknow: Noted historian Yogesh Praveen died on Monday after a brief illness, according to his family.

He was 82.

"He had mild fever this morning after which he took medicines. At about 2 pm, he suddenly became unconscious after which we took him to a hospital where he was declared dead," Yogesh Praveen's brother Kaamlesh Shrivastava told PTI. He will be cremated on Tuesday morning, Shrivastava said.

Praveen, a bachelor, wrote more than 30 books on Awadh culture and Lucknow and contributed several articles in newspapers and magazines, and was given the Padma Shri award.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the demise of the historian. In a condolence message, he said that Yogesh Praveen had a deep knowledge of the culture and history of Awadh, especially Lucknow. Through his books and articles, he enabled the public to know about the rich heritage and culture of Awadh, he said. Praying for peace to the departed soul, the chief minister also conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family.

## CAPSULE

### HOLD POLLS FOR 3 RS SEATS IN KERALA: HC

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Monday directed the Election Commission to hold the biennial election to the three Rajya Sabha seats from Kerala from the present State Assembly.

### SUSHIL CHANDRA APPOINTED CEC

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

### CBI CALLS DESHMUKH FOR QUESTIONING TOMORROW

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

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

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

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Due to implementation of the Covid standard operating procedures (SOPs), the number of devotees was less compared to past Kumbhs where such occasions would attract around 1 crore devotees.

# CM Yogi inaugurates Lalji Tandon multipurpose hall in Chowk Stadium

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath dedicated to people the newly-constructed Lalji Tandon Multipurpose Hall in Chowk Stadium on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the former minister and former Governor of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, Lalji Tandon.

On this occasion, he named the road from Dubgga to Chowk intersection as Lalji Tandon Road and the Chowk intersection as Lalji Tandon intersection.

"Lucknow and Lalji Tandon are synonymous with each other. Probably today this is the first programme in which Tandonji is not present physically, but his ideology is still working for us as a guide," Yogi said in his address.

He said that people of all parties of the state respected Lalji Tandon. "His specialty was that for a lifetime he adhered to the same ideology, values and principles," he said.

The chief minister said that Lalji Tandon was a repository of knowledge about Lucknow. "He had a holistic view



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath virtually inaugurating the multi-purpose hall in Chowk Stadium on Monday

of business, politics, development and social philosophy of Lucknow. He has contributed significantly to the development of Lucknow," he added.

Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dr Dinesh Sharma, Urban Development Minister Ashutosh

Tandon, Medical Education Minister Suresh Khanna and Member of Legislative Council Swatnara Dev Singh also expressed their views on the occasion. Mayor of Lucknow, Samyukta Bhateria, thanked everyone.

The multipurpose hall at Chowk

Stadium has been constructed by the Sports Department at a cost of about Rs 12 crore. This multipurpose hall has a seating capacity of 1,000 spectators. This is the first such multipurpose hall in the state where facilities for all indoor games, including boxing, are available.

## Cops suspended for destroying evidence of negligence & graft

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To cover up their negligence and charges of corruption which led to an old man committing suicide, the cops of Bareilly police reportedly wrote the 'suicide' note left by the victim to get the men in uniform punished.

Agitated over the cops' conduct, the local villagers brutally thrashed them before senior officers reached the spot with more police force and rescued them.

Taking a serious note of the cops' role, the senior superintendent of police in Bareilly eloped with a local youth. The resident contacted the policemen at Ramnagar outpost and alleged that his daughter was kidnapped by the youth and pleaded with the cops to get her freed from the clutches of the accused.

The cops, however, refused to act and allegedly demanded Rs 1 lakh from the man, saying that he had to spend some money if he wanted to get his daughter back.

An upset father later ran

from pillar to post to seek justice but after he failed to get any help, he mentioned his ordeal in a plain paper, holding the cops of the Ramnagar police outpost responsible for his death, and committed suicide on Sunday.

When the local policemen learnt about the incident, they reached the spot and after recovering the suicide note in which the man held them responsible for his death, tore the paper. On learning that the cops had destroyed the suicide

note, the local residents became agitated and they attacked the police team with sticks and rods, injuring two policemen seriously.

Later, senior officers who went to rescue the police team made preliminary inquiry and on finding the cops guilty, placed them under suspension.

Further probe is on in the matter and efforts are being made to recover the girl and get her statement record before a magistrate.

## Honey trap gang busted; 2 women among 5 held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): A joint team of Hazratganj police and a surveillance team claimed to have busted a honey trap gang with the arrest of three men and two women. The men were identified as Azizul Hasan of Para, Pankaj Gupta and Atul Saxena (both of Alambagh). One of the women is aged 36 years while the other aged 40 years.

The police said that the women would honey trap gullible people by calling them at odd hours. They would ask them to reach a place and then taken to some hotel room or flat. The women would seduce them and make them indulge in some obscene act. At that moment, the male members of the gang would barge into the room in police uniform. They would then blackmail the victims for extortion.

The arrests were made after a man reached the police station with a complaint that he was being blackmailed by two women and three men. He said the gang had obtained his semi-nude pictures and taken a huge sum from him.

The police worked on the case and it surfaced that the accused had asked the complainant to meet them at Scooters India crossing to give them more money. A team in civvies escorted the complainant to the place where he was supposed to meet the accused.

The police asked the complainant to call the accused and later nabbed them. The police said the accused misused the police uniform and duped several people.

## 1 lakh MT wheat procured from 17,440 farmers

**Despite the fresh surge in novel coronavirus cases, foolproof arrangements have been made at the wheat purchase centres with all aspects of Covid protocol being followed strictly, officials said here on Monday**

various other purchase centres in the state soon.

In the Rabi marketing year 2021-22, procurement of wheat directly from farmers under the minimum support price scheme commenced on April 1, 2021. The government has increased the MSP of wheat from Rs 1,925 in 2020-21 to Rs 1,975 per quintal in 2021-22.

Besides, the number of procurement centres has increased from 5,000 last year to 6,000 this time.

For the first time in the country, the Yogi Adityanath government has decided to involve Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) in the procurement of wheat. As many as 150 FPOs have been roped in the state to start with.

It may be noted that during the past four years, the state government had made a record payment of Rs 29,017.45 crore to more than 33 lakh wheat farmers.

The Yogi government has made a record of highest ever payment to the paddy and wheat farmers of the state in four years.

## Trains to remain cancelled, diverted

Lucknow (PNS): Those planning to travel to South India will have to reschedule their journey plan as some of the trains going to different destinations via Lucknow will remain canceled or diverted for some time as it has been decided to implement a mega block at Khandrawali-Balharsh railway route. According to a spokesman, the third railway line between Coonoor-

Potkapalli stations will be laid and so a pre non-interlock work will be carried out between April 11 and 16 and a non-interlock work will be done between April 17 and 24.

Gorakhpur-Kotuchwelli Rapti-Sagar will remain cancelled on April 11, 15, 16, 18, 22 and 23, Barauni-Ernakulam Express on April 12 & 19, Gorakhpur-Yeshwantpur Special on April 10, 17 & 24, and Yeshwantpur-Gorakhpur Express on April 16 & 23, Gorakhpur

## Akhilesh apologises to seers for lathi-charge in 2015

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Adopting a stance of soft Hindutva, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav tendered his apologies to Shankaracharya Swami Avinuktshwaranand and several other religious leaders were injured. Swami Avinuktshwaranand was also arrested and sent to jail.

He met the religious leaders at Hardwar on Sunday and sought their blessings.

"I admit my mistake and I have apologised to the Shankaracharya and his disciples for the lathi-charge in Varanasi," Akhilesh Yadav said in Hardwar on Sunday after meeting the seer.

Akhilesh Yadav, after meeting the Shankaracharya at Kankhal Ashram in Hardwar, said, "I have come to meet Shankaracharya and seek his blessings as he inspired (me) in his recent statement in Mathura that farmers are in distress."

He said the Kumbh Mela was an ancient Indian tradition and religious leaders and the disciples were promoting the

ancient tradition.

In 2015, police in Varanasi had lathi-charged protesters demanding the immersion of idols of Lord Ganesh in Ganga. In the lathi-charge, Swami Avinuktshwaranand and several other religious leaders were injured.

Yadav reiterated that for the 2022 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Samajwadi Party would not enter into alliance with any big political party.

He slammed UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the poor handling of the second wave of novel coronavirus and said, "The common people are suffering while the chief minister is busy in political tourism and campaigning for West Bengal assembly elections."

He said the Kumbh Mela was an ancient Indian tradition and religious leaders and the disciples were promoting the

## Govt meeting on Covid an eyewash, say Left leaders

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): The Communist Party of India and Communist Party of India (Marxists) termed the all-party meeting on COVID-19 called by the UP government on Sunday as an eyewash and said it was just a formality to reach a consensus on the novel coronavirus crisis. In a joint statement, the leaders of both the parties, Girish and Heera Lal Yadav, said coronavirus was now beyond control due to the carelessness of the Central and UP governments.

"The number of novel coronavirus infected people and the COVID-19 deaths is increasing day by day. In UP the active cases are touching the figure of 90,000. Every 24 hour, about 15,000 persons are testing positive. The number of deaths is above 1,000. The remdesivir which cost Rs 12,000 is being sold at Rs 40,000-42,000 in the black market and one can get it with much difficulty," the leaders said.

They said the Covid vaccines had fallen short at various vaccination centres.

"At the centres where the vaccines are available, there is a huge rush and blatant disregard of the Covid protocol. The family members of the deceased COVID-19 patients have to wait for hours for final rituals," the leaders said. They said at the time when coordinated efforts should be made to fight coronavirus, the government was indulging in politics. "The meeting called by the UP governor and the UP chief minister on Sunday was merely a formality. Only one or two opposition party leaders were invited to the meeting. The Left parties were not even contacted," the leaders said.

At the centres where the vaccines are available, there is a huge rush and blatant disregard of the Covid protocol. The family members of the deceased COVID-19 patients have to wait for hours for final rituals," the leaders said. They said at the time when coordinated efforts should be made to fight coronavirus, the government was indulging in politics. "The meeting called by the UP governor and the UP chief minister on Sunday was merely a formality. Only one or two opposition party leaders were invited to the meeting. The Left parties were not even contacted," the leaders said.

## Meet deadline set for Atal residential colleges: Maurya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya has directed officials to ensure timely completion of eight Atal residential colleges, the construction of which is in full swing.

He also asked the officials to maintain a high standard of work besides strict compliance with Covid protocol for safety of officials and workers. Work on this project is in progress under the supervision of Public Works Department (PWD) officials.

An official communiqué released on Monday evening said that Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, who holds the PWD portfolio, reviewed the construction of eight Atal residential colleges being built at a cost of Rs 521.23 crore under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode.

The first eight Atal residential colleges are under construction in Basti, Kanpur Nagar, Banda, Lalitpur, Gonda, Prayagraj, Sonbhadra and Muzaffarnagar.

Maurya asked the officers to expedite the work and complete it within the set deadline so that the construction of the remaining Atal residential colleges could be taken up.



The release claimed that the government had sanctioned construction of 18 Atal residential colleges in Uttar Pradesh out of which work on only eight was taken up by the PWD.

The first eight Atal residential colleges are under construction in Basti, Kanpur Nagar, Banda, Lalitpur, Gonda, Prayagraj, Sonbhadra and Muzaffarnagar.

Maurya asked the officers to expedite the work and complete it within the set deadline so that the construction of the remaining Atal residential colleges could be taken up.

## राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम

पुष्टालय अध्यक्ष

निगम द्वारा निम कार्य हेतु ई-गोली के माध्यम से नियारित प्रत्र में आंन लाइन चौलिया आमनीर की जाती है। गोली से संबंधित विवर विवरण वेबसाइट [www.rsrtc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.rsrtc.rajasthan.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

नियारित प्रत्र में ई-गोली गोली की जाती है। गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

गोली गोली की जाती है।

# Active Covid cases climb to 23,090

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With 3892 fresh infections reported in Lucknow on Monday, the active cases in the district climbed to 23,090. As many as 21 patients succumbed to Covid-19 while 958 recovered. Across the state, 13,685 people tested positive while 72 patients died. The fresh cases included 1,417 from Varanasi, 1,295 from Prayagraj, 716 from Kanpur, 474 from Gorakhpur and 336 from Meerut, catapulting the case tally to 7,05,619.

There were increased requests for referral to hospitals. Nodal officer for Covid, Lok Bandhu Hospital, Dr Arun Tewari said the picture was grim and all the hospitals were full to capacity.

"We have 157 beds which have been occupied, and our ICUs and HDUs are also full. When we get patients in the triage area, we assess their condition before hospitalisation. If their condition is serious, they are referred to other hospitals. But there are no beds available in the level-3 hospitals, with KGMU and SGPGI being full. We try to manage these patients with whatever facilities which we have," he said. He added that the death rate was also serious. "Four patients died at the hospital on Sunday night," he pointed out.

Dr Vishal Singh from Vivekananda Polyclinic said they were under tremendous pressure with requests pouring



People queued up at medicine counters in Lucknow's Civil hospital on Monday

Pioneer

in from all sides. "All 71 beds that we have are occupied," he said. A senior doctor from a Covid facility said he sat outside pulling the stretchers through last night as several staff members have tested positive.

Meanwhile, officials monitoring contact tracing said there were challenges galore. A senior official said that a high number of travellers are testing positive, especially those coming from South India.

He said most of them were rushing back to their home towns in the hope to return after the second wave. He said they could not carry out 100 per cent tracing even though they work from 7 am to 11 pm.

"SGPGI's lab is closed as several staff members have tested positive. Similar is the case with Balrampur Hospital lab. The samples are now being diverted to RMLIMS and other labs. The load is tremendous and now we have to keep two

members of our teams in the labs to trace the addresses," he said.

Meanwhile, there were continuous requests to the district administration officials for help to patients turning serious. A resident of Rajajipuram said that one of her friends was making extensive efforts to get a bed for her father tested positive during dialysis.

"His oxygen saturation level had fallen below 45, but they were unable to secure a

beds," she said. District Magistrate Abhishek on Monday visited the JTRI containment zone to take stock of the arrangements there. He inquired about the sanitisation work and was informed that all the houses and buildings were being sanitised and coded, and the micro-containment zones sealed.

The DM said that police deployment should be increased so that night curfew could be enforced. He said that containment rules should be strictly followed and food supply to people affected.

The DM said that there is no paucity of oxygen as 4,750 oxygen cylinders are being supplied to hospitals on a daily basis even as the demand has increased by 20 per cent. He said the ambulance strength has been increased to 56.

Meanwhile, SGPGI spokesperson said that in view of unprecedented increase in Covid cases in the state, all OPD services in the new OPD block, PMSSY block and general hospital have been closed with immediate effect till April 30.

Cases of pregnancy, antenatal diagnosis, neonatology, cancer patients planned for chemotherapy and radiotherapy, cancer surgery, haemophilia, thalassemia and dialysis services will remain functional with Covid protocols. All OPD services will remain functional on working days," he said.

# Govt working for effective Covid management: Guv

PNS ■ LUCKNOW



**"Our power is 25 crore people of Uttar Pradesh. We are working to help all the coronavirus affected people. This is our devotion too"**

should follow the Covid guidelines and should not allow gatherings. The chief minister said that coronavirus was spreading more in urban areas therefore the local councilors, monitoring committees as well as civil defence, NCC, NCS would have to play an active role in its containment.

Yogi said that all people should pay special attention to the use of masks and personal hygiene. "With this, we will be able to effectively deal with dengue, malaria and other viral diseases in the coming rainy season," he said.

The chief minister said that the state government was moving ahead with the target of immunisation of three to four lakh people every day and this number would further increase. He spoke of furthering the vaccination programme along with the registration process so that the wastage of vaccine was minimised. "Everyone has to ensure their contribution in this mahayajna of vaccination," he said.

Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh was efficiently discharging its role in the country's fight against novel coronavirus. The chief minister said that it was a fight to save humanity therefore all people should play an active role and make an effective contribution to it.

Yogi Adityanath said that Chaitra Navratri and Ramzan were starting so under all circumstances all the people

## 7,343 Covid tests on one mobile number!

PNS ■ LUCKNOW



A health worker collecting nasal swab of a man at Charbagh railway station in Lucknow on Monday

This is straight from the Ripley's Believe it or not. In the ongoing Covid tests, one mobile phone number was used for registration of 7,343 tests and all of them tested negative. This happened in Bareilly from January to March 31. This fraud speaks volumes about how some paramedics are ramping up the test numbers to be on the good books of the officials. The government claims that over two lakh Covid tests are carried out daily. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that half of these tests should be RT-PCR.

The fraud came to light when the mobile phone number 70197xxx31 was accidentally keyed in on the Covid portal during random checking. The officers were shocked to see 7,343 tests carried out on this number. Majority of these were antigen tests while a few were RT-PCR tests too. The reports of all these tests were negative. An official said that

there was pressure on the medical staff to carry out an allotted number of Covid tests every day.

"Some of the paramedics found a better way to meet the target by using one mobile phone number for registration and showed the result as negative," the official said and added that the paramedics who carried out the test was intelligent enough to give a

negative report because a positive report meant that patient had to be hospitalised and this would have exposed him.

The paramedic involved in this fraud has been identified.

This is not the first time such an incident has been reported. Earlier, a health worker was caught on camera collecting the swab of a doctor multiple times to boost the test numbers.

DAYS OF RUN: 01155 from Lokmanya Tilak on 13.04.2021 (Tuesday). ACCOMMODATION: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

### SPECIAL TRAIN

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run following Additional fully reserved Special Train as per schedule given below:-

01155 Lokmanya Tilak - Gorakhpur Special Express   1 trip		Train No.: 01155
↓ STATIONS	ARR. DEP.	
LOKMANYA TILAK	---- 01:00	
THANE	01:20 01:23	
KALYAN JN	01:50 01:53	
NASIK ROAD	04:45 04:48	
BHUSAVAL JN	08:35 08:40	
ITARSI JN	13:35 13:45	
JABALPUR	17:30 17:40	
PRAYAGRAJ CHHEOKI	00:05 00:10	
VARANASI JN	04:15 04:25	
MAU JN	05:55 06:00	
BHATNI JN	07:00 07:10	
GORAHPUR	09:00 ----	

DAYS OF RUN: 01155 from Lokmanya Tilak on 13.04.2021 (Tuesday).

ACCOMMODATION: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., must be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any other information passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 • Visit RailMadad website: [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in) & download Railmadad app.

Please join us on NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at: [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### MORE SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run following Additional unreserved Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

04181/04182 Subedarganj - Kanpur Central - Subedarganj Mail/Express Special MEMU (Daily) - Unreserved		Train No.: 04181	Train No.: 04182
↓ STATIONS	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
SUBEDARGANJ	06:10 20:45	20:45	---
KANPUR CENTRAL	11:30 ---	---	14:50

DAYS OF RUN: 04181 from Subedarganj & 04182 from Kanpur Central Daily from 13.04.2021 to 30.06.2021.

STOPPAGE: Bamrauli, Manauri, Sayid Sarawan, Manoharganj, Bharwari, Bidanpur, Shujatpur, Sirathu, Athsarai, Kanwar, Katoghan, Khaga, Sath Naraini, Rasulabad, Faizullapur, Ramva, Fatehpur, Kurasti Kalan, Malwan, Kanspur Gugauli, Bindki Road, Aung, Karbigwan, Permpur, Sirsau, Rooma, Chakeri & Chandari Station.

ACCOMMODATION: Un-Reserved

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., must be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute, the passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 • Visit RailMadad website: [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in) & download Railmadad app.

Please join us on NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at: [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

राष्ट्र हित में विजली बचायें।

दिनांक 12.04.2021

### MADHYANCHAL VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

(A Govt. of UP Undertaking)

4A, GOKHLE MARG, LUCKNOW

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 64 of the Electricity Act 2003, the State Government owned Distribution Company Madhyanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. submitted True-up for FY 2019-20, APR for FY 2020-21 and ARR petition for FY 2021-22 on 22.02.2021. The Hon'ble Commission admitted the above petition by its order dated 08.04.2021. In compliance to the said order, the stakeholders, electricity consumers and general public at large are hereby informed about the salient features of the Petition as under:-

Sr. No.	Particulars	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
		True-up	APR	ARR
1	Energy Delivered to Discom (MU)	20,891.42	22,388.04	22,791.83
2	Sale of Power (MU)	18,426.23	18,212.67	18,894.43
3	Approved Distribution Loss (%)	11.80%	11.51%	11.04%
4	Actual / Project Distribution Loss (%)	19.37%	18.65%	17.10%
	Intra-State Transmission Loss (%)	3.43%	3.40%	3.33%
5	Power Purchase Expenses including PGCIL charges	11,591.17	11,139.26	12,332.41
6	Transmission Charges (UPPTCL)	675.57	532.84	542.45
7	Total O & M Expenses (net of capitalisation)	2,291.58	1,669.42	1,956.07
8	Interest & Finance Charges (net of capitalisation)	615.76	577.17	605.99
9	Depreciation	176.79	316.71	453.07
10	Bad and Doubtful Debts	134.22	264.73	290.45
11	Gross Expenditure	15,485.09	14,500.12	16,180.44
12	Return on Equity	301.47	420.88	550.11
13	Less : Non-Tariff Income including DPS	158.25	34.73	34.73
14	Less : revenue from open access consumers	-	-	-
15	Annual Revenue Requirement	15,628.30	14,886.27	16,695.82
16	Revenue from Tariff	11,905.54	11,155.70	12,441.64
17	GoUP Subsidy	1,886.38	1,473.	

# Yogi asks mins to review progress of depts

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Exhorting his ministers to use technology in holding departmental meetings, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked them to regularly take stock of the progress in their respective departments.

The chief minister had a virtual dialogue with members of the state cabinet at his official residence on Monday.

Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna, Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh, Legislative Council member Swatantra

Dev Singh and Chief Secretary RK Tiwari were present on the occasion. Other members of the cabinet were took part in the meeting via video-conferencing. While giving a presentation, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad apprised the CM of Covid management and action taken so far.

The CM said he expected all the members of the cabinet to take all possible steps to protect the public and themselves from coronavirus infection.

"All the ministers should work actively in their respective districts and assembly con-

stituencies. As far as possible, departmental operations should be carried out through virtual medium. The ministers should also review their departmental functions and offices," he said.

"Action should be taken regarding Covid control by communicating with the district administration. Monitoring of the functioning of monitoring committees and Integrated Command and Control Centre should also be ensured. It should also be ensured that all the personnel working for Covid control and rescue measures in the field

have necessary equipment," the CM said.

He said extensive campaign for cleanliness, sanitisation and fogging should be carried out and availability of beds in hospitals be ensured.

The CM said action should be taken according to the circumstances in each district.

He pointed out that testing and treatment in all government hospitals is free. The work of contact training and testing should be done as much as possible, he added. Cooperation of CSR and other public representatives should be obtained for Covid control,

he said.

The chief minister said that a large-scale vaccination campaign is being conducted in the state and under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 'Tika Utsav' is being organised from April 11 to 14. On April 11, over 3 lakh people were vaccinated at 6,000 centres. The number of vaccination centers is being increased to 8,000, he added.

He expressed confidence that the government would once again win the battle against Covid with the help of public, lawmakers and ministers.

## 'Unplanned urbanisation, deforestation lead to diseases like Covid-19'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Unplanned urbanisation, deforestation and man-animal conflict have led to diseases like Covid-19. This is the finding of Prof Naveen Kumar Arora, dean of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and head of the department of Environmental Science (BBAU), who conducted a research on how a pandemic like the current one has originated and how it is spreading at such a fast pace across the globe.

Referring to Covid-19, he said that the pandemic of an unprecedented magnitude has rocked mankind. "As per the reports and research, the sight of origin of the outbreak of this pneumonia-like disease has been identified as Wuhan, Hubei province of China. The respiratory illness was found to be associated with a novel coronavirus which was later specifically named acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) by World Health Organisation (WHO).

Arora pointed out that these types of pandemics have happened before and will appear in future also if we do not mend our ways and conserve environment.

"Due to human-induced activities, the environment is being harmed, resulting in manifold increase in natural and biological disasters. Every country has been battered by Covid-19. However, looking at the magni-

tude of the situation, so far no concrete scientific opinion is available to explain the original route of the transfer of coronavirus to humans. There have been such epidemics in the past, however, this one has proved to be the most dangerous for the generations living at present," he said.

He added that data and research clearly shows that unplanned urbanisation is also one of the major factors and reasons of Covid-19.

"The population of big cities is increasing although there are inadequate facilities, unhygienic conditions, unavailability of proper food and drinking water. Due to high population, air pollution and unhealthy conditions, Covid-19 is majorly impacting mega cities across the globe. Problems such as air and water pollution are far more prevalent in big cities and cause more diseases. Covid-19 has exposed medical and other facilities even in the most developed countries and urban centres across the world. A re-look into the unplanned urbanisation has become very important now," he stated.

He said if we do not protect natural habitats, such diseases would continue to increase in future. "A human pathogen like coronavirus is not fully understood till date and there can be several other strains of this virus (with many other viruses and bacteria) in nature or their reservoir hosts of wild animals which can be a matter of global health security in future as well.

Initial reports said some commuters spotted the car which was abandoned on the roadside. They later called police and a team reached the scene. The police recovered blood-stained bodies. The man had firearm injuries in the temple while the woman in the stomach. A pistol was found stuck in the man's hand. The police suspected that the man shot the woman probably after some difference and later shot himself. Both died due to excessive blood loss. The police found details of the car on the basis of its registration number. The police said they were also looking for some eyewitness who would have seen or heard anything unusual.

## Man, women found dead in abandoned car

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man and a woman were found dead inside an abandoned car in Baniya Mohal locality in Cantonment police station area on Monday night. A police team, led by senior officers, reached the scene and the car was found parked near NCC mess in the locality.

Commissioner of Police DK Thakur also reached the scene to oversee the investigation. Thakur said prima facie, it seemed that the man shot his partner and later killed himself inside the car. He said forensic teams had been summoned to the spot and the police were making further investigation. The man was identified as Sanjay Nigam who had a hotel in Cantt.

Dr Agarwal said that the operation is bypass grafting of the diseased arteries in diabetics in which a good calibre vein is used to restore the blood flow across the diseased arterial

## New surgical operations at SGPGI for diabetic foot

**Lucknow (PNS):** A new surgical operation has been performed in SGPGI over the last several months for treating patients who have poor blood supply to the feet, either due to diabetes or other medical conditions. These patients develop gangrene of the toes and legs and need an operation which can restore blood supply to that area of the wound. In the last six months, more than 10 such operations have been conducted by Dr Rajiv Agarwal from the Plastic Surgery department and his team.

The operation is complex and sophisticated and requires high level of competence, equipment and infrastructural support. This operation takes 5-8 hours and after completion of the operation, the limb has a completely new flow channel of fresh blood which helps in rapid healing of the wound and prevention of further gangrene to some extent," he explained.

He said that the operation costs Rs 1-2 lakh only in SGPGI. "The most important aspect which makes it different from other operations is that it provides extra blood to the feet," he added.

Dr Agarwal said that the operation is bypass grafting of the diseased arteries in diabetics in which a good calibre vein is used to restore the blood flow across the diseased arterial

segment by connecting the vein below and above the level of obstruction, using microvascular surgery.

"The operation is complex and sophisticated and requires high level of competence, equipment and infrastructural support. This operation takes 5-8 hours and after completion of the operation, the limb has a completely new flow channel of fresh blood which helps in rapid healing of the wound and prevention of further gangrene to some extent," he explained.

He said that the operation costs Rs 1-2 lakh only in SGPGI. "The most important aspect which makes it different from other operations is that it provides extra blood to the feet," he added.

Dr Prachi Srivastava from the department said that the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is a novel human-infecting strain of beta coronavirus. "Rapid advances and declining costs of high throughput sequencing technologies have allowed the virus to be sequenced globally in many individuals affected. While the next-generation sequencing technology offers a robust means of identifying

possible pathogens from clinical specimens, easy and user-friendly bioinformatics pipelines are required to achieve a full viral genome sequence and with utmost accuracy. Towards this effort, we have written a detailed pipeline for analysing and decoding coronavirus sequencing data utilising open source utilities," she said.

Dr Prachi Srivastava from the department said that the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is a novel human-infecting strain of beta coronavirus. "Rapid advances and declining costs of high throughput sequencing technologies have allowed the virus to be sequenced globally in many individuals affected. While the next-generation sequencing technology offers a robust means of identifying

possible pathogens from clinical specimens, easy and user-friendly bioinformatics pipelines are required to achieve a full viral genome sequence and with utmost accuracy. Towards this effort, we have written a detailed pipeline for analysing and decoding coronavirus sequencing data utilising open source utilities," she said.

As in the current times viral mutations are becoming very problematic, it was an idea generated in the mind of our group to develop any software-based pipelines through which these viral genomic analysis would become comparatively easier," she said.

This pipeline is developed by the concept of SARS COV viral genomic data analysis.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

As in the current times viral mutations are becoming very problematic, it was an idea generated in the mind of our group to develop any software-based pipelines through which these viral genomic analysis would become comparatively easier," she said.

This pipeline is developed by the concept of SARS COV viral genomic data analysis.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

She said that both the miscreants left the scene and she checked the ornaments. "I was shocked to see that my gold bangles and rings were not inside the sachet," she added.

# Varanasi records yet another big spike, 1,347 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district has recorded yet another big spike as the total number of cases has crossed 31k-mark on Monday evening. As many as 1,347 more have tested positive, increasing the total number to 31,088. The day also saw three more deaths, increasing the toll to 402. During the last 24 hours, 303 patients have been recovered and all of them in home isolation. The total number of patients cured in the district is 22,920 including 19,911 in home isolation and 3,009 in COVID-19 hospitals. The number of active cases has jumped up to 7,766 crossing the 7K mark.

In the first report of the day, 783 positive patients were found out of 2,733 reports received and this figure increased to 1,347 as per report provided by the Health department in the evening increasing the active cases to 7,766. Earlier, in view of finding hundreds of new positive cases, the number of active hotspots has increased to 384 with 15 green zones having been converted to red zones by a day ago. Out of total 2,845 hotspots, 2,451 are green zones.

Meanwhile, the vaccination drive continued at 40 centres and through three mobile teams in the district and the persons aged above 45 years reached the vaccination centres to get vaccines in large numbers.



A woman being vaccinated

Pioneer

bers and long queues of such people were seen particularly at government hospitals. The senior citizens were also seen in queues waiting for their numbers to get vaccination. The vaccination and testing were made at the same time in the government hospitals and health centres. Under the Tika Mahotsav, the vaccination is being made for 24 hours at Cantt railway station, from 9 am to 4 pm at bus station in Cantt and from 7 am to 10 pm at airport in Babatpur, the DM informed adding, the vaccination was made from 9 am to 3 pm at ESIC Hospital, SSH, BHU and Swami Vivekanand Hospital in Belupur. The mobile teams also vaccinated from 9 am to 3 pm.

The DM Kaushal Raj Sharma informed that the nine

private hospitals including four government hospitals have been attached to COVID-19 and the 10 private hospitals are in the process regarding this. A total of 649 beds and 140 beds in ICU have been reserved for the admission and treatment of corona patients in four government hospitals and out of them, as many as 283 and 366 beds have been reserved for L-2 and L-3 level respectively. A total of 459 beds and 115 beds in ICU have been reserved for the admission and treatment in nine private hospitals including 375 and 84 beds of L-2 and L-3 respectively. The DM said that there are sufficient beds and related resources and hence, there is no need to be panic to anyone.

As many as 104 police teams have been constituted

apart from the appointment of zonal and sector magistrates in 26 police stations of the district, the DM informed adding, the responsibility of implementing the COVID-19 guidelines has been given to 26 zonal magistrates, 104 sector magistrates and 312 police personnel.

**CURBS IMPOSED ON ENTRY AT GHATS, PARKS AND STADIUMS:** In a fresh guideline, the district administration has imposed restriction on the entry at ghats, parks and stadiums from 4 pm to 6 am. The restriction will not be applicable on those going for the cremation.

In view of sharp increase in the corona cases in the district, the District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Mishra has issued fresh guideline imposing restriction on the entry of people at ghats, parks and stadiums from 4 pm to 6 am and it means, none could go to ghats in the evening. Though, the priests who perform Ganga Aarti at ghats, organisers, boatmen and people residing at ghats have been kept free from the restriction. Besides, not more than 100 persons could gather in the open field for the religious, cultural, educational, sports and entertainment programmes under the restriction and similarly, not more than 50 persons could gather in the closed hall. Earlier, this number was 200 and 100. The timing of restriction will remain as earlier from 9 pm to 6 am.

# 1,628 fresh cases of Covid found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Coronavirus continues to wreak havoc. On Sunday night, DPRO, RPF officers, managers of many banks, teachers, lawyers were hit by the infection.

According to CMO Dr Prabhakar Rai, 9,805 people have been examined on Sunday. Of them, 1,628 people were found infected with COVID-19. However, this number is 54 less than reported on Saturday. This has given some relief to health officers. Apart from this, 224 infections have also been discharged. While eight people have also died.

Dr. Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer for Corona, said that 25 of those who have become infection-free have been discharged from the hospital when they came negative. Of this, 18 have been discharged from SRN, while seven have been discharged from private hospital.

In addition, home isolation of 199 people has been completed. He said that till now home isolation of 22,463 people has been completed.

Assistant Manager of Dena Bank, Bai Ka Bagh, Assistant Professor of UPRTOU,



Assistant Revenue Officer of Dhanupur, teacher of Kundhiyara Vidyalaya, three Medical Officers of Kaundhiyara CHC, SI of RPF, staff nurse of CHC Saidabad, LT, Meja Located NTPC's JE, supervisor, High Court staff, Khulababad State Bank cashier, DPRO, Police Lines SI, Parilla Mahadev based SBI Manager, Union Bank Manager, High Court review officer, Lalgarh Ganji based Bank of Baroda Manager, AirPort Authority, senior superintendent of the AG office, senior accountant of the AG office and senior audit officer has been found to be infected.

TRAINS COMING

FROM MAHARASHTRA ARE PACKED TO ITS CAPACITY

: Trains coming from Maharashtra are packed to its capacity these days. Passengers travelling in these trains said that due to the increasing outbreak of corona, they have become quite jobless there. In such a situation there was no benefit of living there. They will return to their village and do some work to eke out their living. After this, when the situation becomes normal, they will think of going back to the metros in relation to employment.

From March itself, the outbreak of corona started increasing in Maharashtra. To control

this, the government there imposed all restrictions. As a result of this, the functioning started getting affected. In March 2021, as many passengers went to Maharashtra to earn their livelihood. But they are coming back in double the number. From Prayagraj Junction, 16,000 passengers traveled to different cities of Maharashtra from March 1 to March 30, while 24,000 passengers had returned. Similarly, 8,500 passengers travelled from Prayagraj Chhoki station to Maharashtra, while 15,000 people returned.

Lat Bahadur, a resident of Samadhganj in Jaunpur, said that the work was stalled for four days. In such a situation, returning home was considered appropriate. Immediate reservation was also not available. He had walked to the railway station with the family and travelled by paying a penalty.

Chandresh Saroj, a resident of Shikara in Jaunpur, said that he was facing problems due to lack of work. At present, there was no possibility of getting work till April 30. In such a situation, he caught a train and came back to his destination. A fine is being charged from ₹ 620 to 1000 from such passengers, he added.

# BLW accelerates vaccination

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In view of the continuously increasing in the cases of COVID-19, the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) has accelerated the vaccination and corona test as well and the vaccines were administered to many on Monday too besides conducting the antigen and RT-PCR tests of many. According to the Public Relation Officer (PRO) Rajesh Kumar, the BLW continued the vaccination drive and also conducting the antigen and RT-PCR test and in this order, a team of doctors of its hospital administered the vaccines to its employees and others at the Club. The teams of doctors also conducted the antigen and RT-PCR tests of the employees and others at

hospital and workshop.

A total of 8,663 employees including 5,483 railway and 3,180 non-railway employees have so far been administered the first dose of corona vaccine, while the second dose of the vaccine has been administered to 1,938 including 921 railway and 1,017 non-railway staff. The antigen test of a total of 7,500 persons has so far been conducted besides the RT-PCR test of 3,100 persons in BLW.

Dividing the entire Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) campus into five parts, the railway employees and their family members suffering from corona positive cases are being provided necessary medicines and daily essential materials. In this regard, the PRO said that corona positive employees

should first contact their supervisors or staff council members over the telephone if they needed the necessary daily use items and after which the concerned teams would coordinate with the employee's home ensuring the supply of essential goods outside. This kind of cooperation will be done only once a day or as per requirement and it will also be ensured that at least 5 to 6 days of goods are asked for at a time.

The entire BLW is thus divided into five regions. The first area is east of the East Colony Cinema Hall. Signal Story Type I, II, III, IV, east of Kakkarmatta Colony St. John's School, while second area includes all type III from west of BLW Stadium to north of Surya Sarovar, Rangshala and

Jalalipatti Market, third zone is Jalalipatti Colony (All the houses on the east side of Inter College), fourth Zone Jalalipatti Colony (All the houses on the west side of Inter College to Kandwa Road) and fifth is Kanchanpur Colony. Six members are nominated in each support team. Concerned supervisor in-charge, member of Staff Council, two Staff Welfare inspectors, one member of Civil Defence Organisation, one member of St John's Ambulance Brigade, one member of Bharat Scouts and Guides.

Every activity is being closely monitored by General Manager (GM) Anjali Goel, who also issued required directives to the officers regarding this.

Earlier, the nomination papers will exercise their franchises in the district including the maximum 2,90,650 voters in Aarajiline Development Block and the minimum 1,65,187 voters in Harahua Block. Besides, 2,50,170, 2,19,550, 2,12,963, 2,08,750, 2,07,482 and 1,98,650 electorates will use their votes in Pindra, Cholapur, Badagaon, Sevapuri, Kashi Vidyapeeth and Chiraigaon block respectively. After the withdrawal of nomination papers, the picture has become clear on each and every seat and thus, the candidates have geared up their electioneering to get the favour of voters following the guidelines of COVID-19.

The election in the district is scheduled on April 19 under the second phase of three-tier Panchayat polls. The voting will take place from 7 am to 6 pm, while the counting will be held on May 2 from 8 am onwards. The District Electoral Officer Kaushal Raj Sharma has declared a public holiday on the polling day. INDRAPUR GRAM

Durga is made. The management of both temples has made all the preparations so as the devotees could have darshan smoothly.

But at the same time, the temple management has decided to allow the entry of only five devotees at one time in the temple in view of the corona spike and no devotee will be allowed the entry without using face mask. The temple management is also preparing to measure the tem-

perature of devotees from thermal scanning before allowing the entry in the temple as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of virus. The barricading was made at Shailputri Temple so as the devotees could face no inconvenience in reaching to the temple.

The management of both temples has also decided to sanitise the entire temple premises before the devotees are allowed to enter.

# 10,749 candidates in election fray

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After the withdrawal of nomination papers, a total of 10,749 candidates are now in election fray in Varanasi for the members of zila panchayat, members of gram panchayat, gram pradhan and members of kshetra panchayat. At same time, the unopposed election of a total of 4,772 is certain as they are only candidates for the various seats. The election in the district is scheduled to be conducted on April 19 under the second phase of three-tier Panchayat polls. The counting will be held on May 2.

A total of 1,623 candidates withdrew nomination papers including as many as 78 candidates from the members of zila panchayat, 163 candidates from the members of gram panchayat, 1036 from the gram pradhan and 346 candidates from the members of kshetra panchayat. At the same time, the unopposed election of a total of 4,772 candidates is certain including 4,751 for the member of gram panchayat and 21 for the member of kshetra panchayat.

All the preparations have been made to ensure the smooth darshan at the temple of Shailputri in Alaipora and Mukh Nirmalika Gauri in Raj Ghat on the first day of auspicious occasion of the Basantik Navratri beginning from Tuesday.

On the eve of the auspicious occasion of Basantik Navratri on Monday, the devotees made purchasing of

Sevapuri and Aarajiline respectively.

A total of 17,53,588 voters will exercise their franchises in the district including the maximum 2,90,650 voters in Aarajiline Development Block and the minimum 1,65,187 voters in Harahua Block. Besides, 2,50,170, 2,19,550, 2,12,963, 2,08,750, 2,07,482 and 1,98,650 electorates will use their votes in Pindra, Cholapur, Badagaon, Sevapuri, Kashi Vidyapeeth and Chiraigaon block respectively. After the withdrawal of nomination papers, the picture has become clear on each and every seat and thus, the candidates have geared up their electioneering to get the favour of voters following the guidelines of COVID-19.

The election in the district is scheduled on April 19 under the second phase of three-tier Panchayat polls. The voting will take place from 7 am to 6 pm, while the counting will be held on May 2 from 8 am onwards. The District Electoral Officer Kaushal Raj Sharma has declared a public holiday on the polling day. INDRAPUR GRAM

Durga is made. The management of both temples has made all the preparations so as the devotees could have darshan smoothly.

But at the same time, the temple management has decided to allow the entry of only five devotees at one time in the temple in view of the corona spike and no devotee will be allowed the entry without using face mask. The temple management is also preparing to measure the tem-

perature of devotees from thermal scanning before allowing the entry in the temple as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of virus. The barricading was made at Shailputri Temple so as the devotees could face no inconvenience in reaching to the temple.

The management of both temples has also decided to sanitise the entire temple premises before the devotees are allowed to enter.

# All preparations complete for Navratri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

All the preparations have been made to ensure the smooth darshan at the temple of Shailputri in Alaipora and Mukh Nirmalika Gauri in Raj Ghat on the first day of auspicious occasion of the Basantik Navratri beginning from Tuesday.

On the eve of the auspicious occasion of Basantik Navratri on Monday, the devotees made purchasing of

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

K keeping in view the alarming situation of COVID-19 pandemic, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Allahabad bench, including its circuit bench at Nainital, will remain closed and its building here will remain sealed till April 18.

Passing the above directive, head of the department (HoD) of CAT, Allahabad Bench, Justice Vijay Lakshmi said that after this period, the situation would be reviewed and further decisions would be taken accordingly, after consultation with office-bearers of CAT Bar Association.

While taking this unprecedented decision, the HoD further said, 'All of us are aware that the cases of COVID-19 are rising day by day and have already reached an alarming situation. Several lawyers have passed away in the last few days only due to Covid. More so, some employees of CAT have also been tested positive recently.'

Earlier, at one stage, the CAT Bar Association, Allahabad, after an emergency

meeting, under the presidency of its president Anil Kumar Singh, had sent a proposal on Friday to close the CAT, at least for one week.

To effectively take on COVID-19 outbreak, vaccination was started at 61 PHCs of the district in March. However, on Wednesday, vaccinations at these centres were stopped till further notice and only 20 CHCs were administering the vaccine.

On Saturday, the vaccination process commenced at five centres of the city and all these centres witnessed heavy rush of denizens which had turned up at the centres to get themselves vaccinated.

The nodal officer of the vaccination said, 'We have done all the micro level preparations for starting the vaccination festival from Sunday and it would be our efforts to see to it that more and more eligible people are vaccinated in these four days.'

COVID-19 vaccination festival: The Health department of Prayagraj district would be celebrating 'COVID-19 vaccination festival' for the next four days at all the 97 vaccination centres of the district from Sunday to Wednesday (April 11 to April 14). This has become possible after the district received a fresh stock of

Ganga Vichar Manch's province convenor Anamika Chaudhary also expressed concern over the growing corona infection. She said that the only way to deal with this calamity is to adopt all measures of its prevention. Be sure to apply a mask, keep the hands washed too, she added saying that never go into the crowd and keep physical distance. Wherever resides, cleanliness is considered the basic

mantra, she added. During this, masks were also distributed to the people.

The province convenor of Ganga Vichar Manch urged everyone to keep water kiosks nearby as well. So that people do not have to wander for water. Shyam Bahadur, Dev Narayan, Suman Bal, Somnath Mishra, Dada, Ann, Washu Yadav, Arun Bhattacharya etc. were present on this occasion.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Make the BJP government in villages along with the Centre and the state. For this, every worker needs to be organised. It should also be noted that those who are involved in anti-party activity should be identified. This instruction was given by BJP state president Swatantryadev Singh. The state president of the BJP held talks with the office-bearers in Prayagraj. He also held a meeting with office-bearers of the Election Steering Committee. Each ward, village was reviewed according to the voter list. An attempt was made to understand how the caste equation is there in the villages, what is the current political ground there. Local people can be connected to the party. Do not confine anyone to the vote bank. Rather, tell them their rights and values so that every person can contribute to the development of the country.

The state president said that this is the preparation for the assembly elections. When we succeed in the panchayat, we will be able to repeat the performance even further.

In such a situation, people are with the Modi government. All the office-bearers of the organisation should get organised. Try to form BJP government in every village he added. If we can do this, then the path of BJP will be easy in the future elections, he stated.

The state president said that this is the preparation for the assembly elections. When we succeed in the panchayat, we will be able to repeat the performance even further.

Regarding Navratri, other arrangements are being made including cleanliness around the temple premises. It may be pointed out here that the Meja Tehsil of Maa Shitala Temple is very important in the surrounding areas. This is the reason that every Monday of Sawan, including Navratri, attracts a large crowd in the temple premises. Temple priest Umashankar said that all preparations have been completed regarding Navratri. Also, work is being done on cleaning and other arrangements. This time due to corona, the rules of

month of Navratri at Maa Shitala Dham, Ramnagar located in Meja, in the district. From the very first day of Navratri, devotees from far-flung areas along with local devotees reach the temple premises and offer prayers to goddess Shitala Mata. Regarding Navratri, other arrangements are being made including cleanliness around



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar inspecting the vaccination centre.

## All coaching institutes to remain shut till April 30

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari on Monday said that in view of the sharp rise in COVID-19 cases, all the coaching institutes would remain closed till April 30. He said all schools up to class XII had already been shut by the UP government.

He said gathering of students on school premises was also not allowed even on the pretext of practical or internal exam and the schools need to adjust the dates of practicals. He directed the officials concerned to ensure that the orders were strictly followed.

The district magistrate expressed happiness over the Covid vaccination carried out at CSJM University, Kanpur where on the first day, 170 people were vaccinated against the official target of 130. He said the turnout of people at the vaccination centre on Monday was also encouraging and the drive was continuing at a rapid pace.

Tiwari praised head of department of University Institute of Health Sciences, Dr Pravin Katiyar, for perfect planning and smooth working at the vaccination centre.

On Monday, the prominent officials who took active part in the vaccination drive included CSJM Registrar Dr AK Yadav, SL Pal, Gyanendra Shukla and Saras Kapoor.

**I-Fix dental implant economical, far more effective:**  
Surgeon

**KANPUR (PNS):** Noted dental surgeon, Dr Manish Vishnoi, while addressing a webinar on indigenous I-Fix dental implant organised by IIT-Delhi and Maulana Azad Dental University, said the dental implants were too costly and thus the new technology would be economical and far more effective. He said the i-Fix implant was conceptualised, designed and developed to prove its safety and efficacy, the Indian FDA approval and ISO 13485 Quality Certification was first obtained.

Earlier, Prof Pathak was extended a rousing welcome by the teachers of various degree colleges after he assumed the charge of vice-chancellor. Dean Academic Prof Sanjay Swarnkar, Dr Vivek Sachan and Registrar Dr Anil Kumar Yadav were present at the press conference.

Meanwhile, office-bearers of the Aided Degree College Self-Finance Teachers Association led by its general secretary (organisation) Dr Vishal Saxena met the vice chancellor and congratulated him for heading the CSJM University. They felicitated him with an idol of Lord Ganeshas.

Association's President Dr Arunesh Awasthi, General Secretary Dr Hina Afshan, Dr Arun Srivastava, Dr Amitabh Tewari, Dr Sandhya Pandey and Dr Mohan Mishra were present.

He said there were two different types of dental implants endosteal and subperiosteal. He said the former referred to an implant that was 'in the bone' while subperiosteal referred to an implant that rested on top of the jawbone under the gum tissue. He said subperiosteal implants were no longer in use today because of their poor long-term results in comparison to endosteal dental implants. He said the primary function of dental implants was for teeth replacement. He said there were areas in which implants could assist in other dental procedures.

Dr Vishnoi said due to their stability, dental implants could be used to support a removable denture and provide a more secure and comfortable fit. He said in addition, for orthodontics procedures, dental mini-implants could act as temporary anchorage devices (TAD) to help move teeth to a desired position. He said these mini-implants were small and temporarily fixed to bone while assisting in anchorage for teeth movement. He said they were subsequently removed after their function was served.

He said for patients who had lost all their teeth due to decay or gum disease of the upper or lower arch, an option was available to provide a very stable and comfortable prosthesis using a minimal number of implants.

He said the new technology implants were strategically placed in areas of good strong bone, and a thin denture prosthesis was screwed into place.

## Gkp-Bandra Terminus spl to run today

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration will for the convenience of the people will run 05181/05182 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur and 05183/05184 Gorakhpur-Surat-Gorakhpur special trains. Besides, it will run 01105/01106 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Gorakhpur - Lokmanya Tilak Terminus superfast special train. All coaches in them will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said.

**GKP-BANDRA TERMINUS SPL:** The 05181 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus special train will depart from Gorakhpur on April 13 at 13.30 hrs, from Khalilabad at 14.16 hrs, from Basti at 14.43 hrs, from Gonda at 16.35 hrs, from Aishbagh at 20.00 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 21.40 hrs, on the second day from Tundla at 01.35 hrs, from Agra Fort at 02.40 hrs, from Bayana at 05.02 hrs, from Gangapur City at 06.05 hrs, from Sawai Madhopur at 07.05 hrs, from Kota at 08.40 hrs, from Nagda at 12.47 hrs, from Ratlam at 13.40 hrs, from Godhra at 16.32 hrs, from Vadodara at 17.50 hrs, from Surat at 20.40 hrs and reach Bandra Terminus on the third day at 01.30 hrs.

**BANDRA TERMINUS GKP SPL:** In the return journey, the 05182 Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur special train will depart from Bandra Terminus on April 15 at 04.30 hrs.

**SURAT-GKP SPECIAL:** In the return journey the 05184

hrs, from Surat at 09.25 hrs, from Vadodara at 11.15 hrs, from Godhra at 12.35 hrs, from Ratlam at 15.35 hrs, from Nagda at 16.30 hrs, from Kota at 20.15 hrs, from Sawai Madhopur at 21.50 hrs, from Gangapur City at 23.00 hrs, from Bayana on second day at 00.20 hrs, from Agra Fort at 02.55 hrs, from Tundla at 03.15 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 07.25 hrs, from Aishbagh at 09.10 hrs, from Gonda at 11.50 hrs, from Basti at 13.15 hrs, from Khalilabad at 13.47 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 14.30 hrs. A total of 21 coaches, including two of generator-cum-luggage van, four of general second class, seven of sleeper class, six of AC third class and two of AC second class will be attached in this special train.

**GKP-SURAT SPECIAL:** The 05183 Gorakhpur-Surat special train will on April 14 depart from Gorakhpur at 13.30 hrs, from Khalilabad at 14.16 hrs, from Basti at 14.43 hrs, from Gonda at 16.35 hrs, from Aishbagh at 20.00 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 21.40 hrs, from Tundla on second day at 01.35 hrs, from Agra Fort at 02.40 hrs, from Bayana at 05.02 hrs, from Gangapur City at 06.05 hrs, from Sawai Madhopur at 07.05 hrs, from Kota at 08.40 hrs, from Nagda at 12.47 hrs, from Ratlam at 13.40 hrs, from Godhra at 16.32 hrs, from Vadodara at 17.50 hrs and reach Surat at 20.40 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 05.35 hrs.

A total of 20 coaches, including two coaches of SLRD, 12 general second class and six of sleeper class will be attached in this special train.

**LTT-GKP SF SPL:** The 01105 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Gorakhpur superfast special will depart from Lokmanya Tilak Terminus on April 13, 20 and 27 at 00.45 hrs and after stopping at Thane, Kalyan, Nashik Road, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Prayagraj Chhatri, Varanasi on the second day, Mau, Bhatnai and reach Gorakhpur at 06.25 pm.

In the return journey, 01106 Gorakhpur-LTT superfast special will on April 14, 21 and 28 depart from Gorakhpur at 11.00 hrs and after stopping at Bhatnai, Mau, Varanasi Jn, Prayagraj Chhatri, Jabalpur, Itarsi, Bhusaval, Nashik Road, Kalyan, Thane and reach Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 16.15 hrs. A total of 21 coaches will be attached in this special train.

## DC asks officials to motivate rural people for vaccination

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

**K**anpur Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar, on Monday, expressed concern over the lukewarm response in rural areas to the vaccination drive under Tika Utsav.

He advised the nodal officers to focus on rural areas also and motivate the ruralities to go in for vaccination. He said in an effort to ensure that the vaccination drive at various centres was carried out in a proper and systematic manner, all senior district officials had been made nodal officers and they would be answerable to any problem or any crisis of vaccine at the

centres. The divisional commissioner said it had come to the notice of the district administration that in sharp contrast to the eagerness for vaccination in urban areas, the response was dull in the rural areas and so the officials would have to pool in more resources to give further momentum to the drive in rural and semi-urban areas in the next three days. He cautioned the officials that there need to be substantial increase in vaccination in the remaining three days.

He said all the officials, including the nodal officers, should keep visiting the centres frequently. He said the nodal

officers need to mobilise support of the people to create awareness towards vaccination. He directed them to strictly monitor the vaccination percentage so that it could be timely attended to.

The divisional commissioner visited two vaccination centres. He first went to Nawabganj primary health centre (PHC) where the performance was the best as it had achieved 101 per cent of the given target. World Health Organisation Nodal Officer Dr Nagendra said the given target was 266 but the centre vaccinated 269 persons in one day.

The divisional commissioner then visited the Gwaltoli

Urban PHC where the response was equally encouraging. It was given a target of 260 but managed to vaccinate 270 people the same day and achieved 104 per cent target.

Dr Shekhar said the turnout at both the centres was very encouraging and said the best part of it was that there was zero wastage of the vaccine, which showed the efficiency of the health officials who were actively working as per the guidelines.

He said more efforts need to be put in to ensure that further momentum was given to the rural areas. He said the strategy for the next three days should be better and effective.

## Prof Pathak assumes charge as new V-C of CSJMU

Assures transparency in exams, affiliation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

**T**he new Vice-Chancellor of CSJM University, Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak, assumed charge on Monday.

Talking to media persons, Prof Pathak said all efforts would be made to bring transparency in conducting examinations and the college affiliation process. He said all the problems relating to the university would be resolved by using the latest methods and the problems of students would be attended to and resolved through Telegram and WhatsApp within the prescribed time limit.

He said the standard of education being imparted in colleges affiliated to the university would be improved and the grievances of teachers would be resolved through interaction.

The vice-chancellor said that streamlining all the works of the university would be his priority.

When Prof Pathak's atten-



New Vice-Chancellor, CSJM University, Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak addressing mediapersons on Monday.

tion was drawn to the delay in announcement of results and errors in mark sheets, he directed Registrar Dr Amil Kumar Yadav to take up the issue seriously and get it resolved. He said disciplinary action be initiated against those responsible for this. He also issued a directive to activate the

grievance cell and said he would personally monitor the cell.

To promote social participation, the vice chancellor stressed on adopting some Anganwadi units to work in remote villages. He also lauded the role of NSS and NCC units of the university and col-

leges in making the Tika Utsav a grand success.

Prof Pathak said the major challenge before him was to get the university accredited with NAAC A+ grade.

Earlier, Prof Pathak was extended a rousing welcome by the teachers of various degree colleges after he assumed the charge of vice-chancellor. Dean Academic Prof Sanjay Swarnkar, Dr Vivek Sachan and Registrar Dr Anil Kumar Yadav were present at the press conference.

Meanwhile, office-bearers of the Aided Degree College Self-Finance Teachers Association led by its general secretary (organisation) Dr Vishal Saxena met the vice chancellor and congratulated him for heading the CSJM University. They felicitated him with an idol of Lord Ganeshas.

Association's President Dr Arunesh Awasthi, General Secretary Dr Hina Afshan, Dr Arun Srivastava, Dr Amitabh Tewari, Dr Sandhya Pandey and Dr Mohan Mishra were present.

## Drive to improve health, nutrition of pregnant women and infants

**KANPUR (PNS):** The Uttar Pradesh government is observing National Safe Motherhood Week from April 11 to 17 with special focus on rural areas so as to raise awareness about adequate access to care during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal services.

It has been dedicated to the fond memory of Kasturba Gandhi.

Under the week-long campaign, a special drive under 'Ananya' will be launched to give further boost to improve health and nutrition of pregnant women and infants. The campaign will include paramedics and ASHA workers and staff of community and primary health centres to raise awareness about adequate access to care during pregnancy, child birth and postnatal

services along with a focus on reducing anaemia, which has the highest figure in Uttar Pradesh.

Deputy Director Maternal Health Dr Prabha Rani while addressing the meeting at Vikas Bhawan said it was the right of every woman to take good quality nutrition, proper healthcare services during and after pregnancy and child birth.

She said as per WHO, around 830 women died every day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and child birth, although global maternal mortality had dropped by about 44 per cent.

She said between 50 per cent and 98 per cent of maternal deaths were caused by direct obstetric causes – haemorrhage, infection, hypertensive disorders, ruptured uterus, hepatitis, and anaemia. She said

for three days during normal delivery and seven days for C-section.

Dr Rani said the foundation stone for a child's growth and development was also critical for a woman's health and well-being across life stages but especially pregnancy. She said the poor quality of health infrastructure, antenatal care, maternal health, and postnatal care jeopardised the lives of children. She said infant deaths were more a symptom of deeper social problems such as malnutrition, sanitation, and immunisation, rather than just medical aspects.

She said studies had shown that states with high infant mortality of 30-40 per 1,000 births had preventable causes of deaths such as diarrhoea and sepsis.

She said the new technology implants were strategically placed in areas of good strong bone, and a thin denture prosthesis was screwed into place.

## One killed in road accident

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

**O**ne person died in a road accident which took place in an area under Madihān police station on Saturday night. According to a report received here, Bagan (21), son of Ramji Kanaujan and Sanoj (28), residents of Rajapur village, Bharatganj under Manda police station in Prayagraj were on the way on a motorcycle when they fell down near Kakrad turn. Due to serious injuries while Bagan died on the spot, Sanoj sustained serious injuries. On getting information, the police reached the spot, took the body of the deceased into custody for completing legal formalities and sent the injured to a hospital, last reports received here said.

**CHAUPAL HELD:** Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Kumar Singh held a chaupal at Dehat Kotwali police station regarding the panchayat polls on Sunday. Addressing the meeting of the reputed persons of the police station area the SP highlighted the main points of the model code of conduct for panchayat elections and said its violation was punishable. The SP directed the cops to ensure that no one tried to allure the voters or threatened them. He said no candidate or political party was allowed to hold

secret, he added. Regarding the election campaign the SP said no vehicle was allowed without the permission of the appropriate authority. He made it clear that in such cases not only action will be taken against the candidate but the owner of the vehicle too. The meeting was attended by the former people's representatives along with prospective candidates and reputed people of the area. The SP held a meeting at Madihān police station too and asked the cops to keep an eye on the Naxal-affected area for ensuring free and fair elections.

## Eight couples reunite

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

**E**ight couples reunited under 'Project Milan' on Sunday. The couples were living separately due to different reasons and misunderstanding grew to such an extent that the matter reached to the police. Under the Project Milan programme the matters were brought to the family counselling centre run by the police with the cooperation of people in which matters get settled through counseling. After proper counselling the eight couples were made to agree to live together and they went to their own houses happily in the presence of their family members. The counselling was held in the presence of the in-charge of the centre Akhilash Pathak, head constable Shashibala Yadav, women constables Sarita, Kavita and Namrata along with coun-

sellers. **CATTLE RESCUED:** The Madihān police rescued 35 head of cattle from the smugglers on Sunday. The police team during routine patrolling on Saturday night was informed about the movement of some people along with the cattle. The police cordoned the area and launched a search. During it the police team found the 35 cattle roaming near Daanti village along Baluahya river bank. Taking advantage of darkness the smugglers managed to flee. Madihān SHO Raj Kumar Singh said after registering a case under relevant sections of law investigation in the matter was on and cattle were being sent to cow shelter home. He said police was making efforts to nab the smugglers.

## CBI summons ex-Maha Home Minister over graft charges



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

On Sunday, the agency had grilled two Personal Assistants—Sanjeev Palande and Kundan—in connection with the ongoing PE for over eight hours. Two drivers of Waze were grilled on Sunday.

Waze, an Assistant Police Inspector, also an accused in the NIA case relating to investigation of parking of an explosive-laden SUV outside industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence in Mumbai.

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



Palande and Kundan, sources said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The top brass will review operational readiness to meet any threat from China in the backdrop of the continuing friction points at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Given the always present threat of a two-front war simultaneously with China and Pakistan, the IAF commanders are likely to draw their future strategies in the three-day meet.

It will be first bi-annual conclave of the IAF brass this year and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate it.

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

This strategic partnership project is worth over ten billion dollars and several top aerospace giants are vying for the contract. The IAF desperately needs more modern aircraft as its squadron strength is fast depleting.

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

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

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Under its influence, isolated rainfall with thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) is very likely over Madhya Pradesh and adjoining plains during April 15-17.

Isolated hailstorms are also likely over Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad and Himachal Pradesh on April 14-16.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The tribunal had noted the submission that the proposed demolition on August 18, 2020, could not be held due to the non-availability of the police force despite informing them well in advance to depose sufficient police on the date of demolition. "While it is true that removing such encroachment is a challenge but if the Rule of Law is not to be enforced, we will have a lawless society. Forest laws cannot be defeated by allowing encroachments and thereafter pleading helpless in enforcing the law," the bench had said.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

## Now, Ahaar Kranti in India for balanced diet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The United Nations has also declared 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, which vibes very well with Ahaar Kranti. Fruits and vegetables make a



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

The movement proposes

## Vice President calls for ending gender discrimination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

### PURVANCHAL VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

(A Govt. of UP Undertaking)

(Purvanchal Vidyut Vitan Nigam Limited, DLW Bhikharipur, Varanasi)

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 64 of the Electricity Act 2003, the State Government owned Distribution Company Purvanchal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. submitted True-up for FY 2019-20, APR for FY 2020-21 and ARR petition for FY 2021-22 on 22.02.2021.

The Hon'ble Commission admitted the above petition by its order dated 08.04.2021. In compliance to the said order, the stakeholders, electricity consumers and general public at large are hereby informed about the salient features of the Petition as under:-

Sr. No.	Particulars	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
		True-up	APR	ARR
1	Energy Delivered to Discom (MU)	24,188.23	26,584.16	28,705.56
2	Sale of Power (MU)	21,237.26	21,480.00	23,538.56
3	Approved Distribution Loss (%)	12.20%	11.83%	11.36%
4	Actual/ Projected Distribution Loss (%)	20.32%	19.20%	18.00%
5	Intra-State Transmission Loss (%)	3.43%	3.40%	3.33%
6	<b>Expenditure (Rs Crore)</b>			
7	Power Purchase Expenses including PGCIL charges	13,444.13	12,968.38	15,279.81
8	Transmission Charges (UPPTCL)	804.03	632.70	683.19
9	Total O&M Expenses (net of capitalisation)	2,090.15	2156.39	2529.03
10	Interest & Finance Charges (net of capitalisation)	737.76	650.23	668.08
11	Depreciation	243.17	383.35	460.63
12	Bad and Doubtful Debts	164.61	313.41	356.87
13	Gross Expenditure	17,483.83	17,404.47	19,977.60
14	Return on Equity	476.32	588.65	673.82
15	Less: Non-Tariff Income including DPS	284.31	12.57	12.57
16	Less: revenue from open access consumers	0.57	0.57	0.57
17	Annual Revenue Requirement	17,675.27	17,679.97	20,638.28
18	Revenue (Gap)/Surplus	(2,744.77)	(2,979.95)	(2,340.77)
19	Power Purchase Cost at Ex-Bus (Rs./Unit)	4.25	4.37	4.60
20	Average Power Purchase Rate (BST) (Rs/Unit)	4.89	4.99	5.41
21	DBST Rate (Rs/Unit)		4.88	5.32
22	ABR (Excluding Subsidy) Rs /Unit	5.48	5.75	6.17
23	Average Cost of Supply (Rs /Unit)	8.32	8.23	8.77
24	Wheeling Charges (Rs/Unit)			1.32

Licensee has requested Hon'ble Commission to approve appropriate adjustment against earlier disallowances while approving the True-up for FY 2019-20 and ARR for FY 2021-22 on the basis of GoUP letter No. 445/24-1-21/731(वर्जन)/2020 dated 05.03.2021. Hon'ble Commission has been requested to determine the tariff as per rationalized consumer categories/sub-categories/slabs proposal without government subsidy and mention separately the subsidy rates as may be communicated by Govt. of U.P. for various categories/sub-categories/slabs. As proposal for rate schedule without government subsidy requires the cross subsidy amongst various consumer categories and the roadmap for cross subsidy reduction has not yet been approved, hence the Commission may determine the tariff without Govt. subsidy, as per approved roadmap of cross subsidy.



LUCKNOW | TUESDAY | APRIL 13, 2021

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

## No golden rule

Armed Forces personnel react differently to different life-threatening situations

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

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

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

## PIC TALK



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

## Tikait flexes muscles

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

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

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



# Nepal staring at political disquiet

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



RISHI GUPTA



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On the foreign policy front, Nepal, with its vast hydropower potential, can use India's expertise in generating power. A mutually beneficial plan could have paved the way for Nepal's economic growth. However, far from new agreements, Nepal seems to have no plan to revitalise treaties like the Mahakali, signed in 1996 with India, which can generate cooperation between them.

Meanwhile, false promises under the BRI and dreams of a trans-Himalayan railway with China have garnered Oli enough political capital.

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

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

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

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TIME TO REDEFINE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

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

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

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

### MAMATA BANERJEE IS LIKE LAKSHMI BAI

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

### CAPFs inept in handling law & order



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

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

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

### NEED TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON COVID

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

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

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

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

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

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

P Senthil | Mumbai

## SOUND BITE

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



Delhi CM

— Arvind Kejriwal

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

Israeli Prime Minister

— Benjamin Netanyahu

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



Actor

— Govind Namdev

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

Cricketter

— Shikhar Dhawan

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



Telangana's Cabinet Minister

— KT Rama Rao

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



LUCKNOW | TUESDAY | APRIL 13, 2021

www.dailypioneer.com

## FIRST COLUMN

## REMEMBERING THE 'GREATEST INDIAN'

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



RATTAN LAL KATARIA

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



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

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

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

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

# Nix sovereign guarantee clause for the NaBFID

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The GOI, in turn, raises resources — albeit for providing budgetary support — by imposing cesses, fees and other levies such as the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), the Permanent Bridge Fees Fund (PBFF) and monetisation of the National Highways Fund (NHF).

For instance, during 2020-21, out of the ₹42,500 crore allocated to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for executing roads and highways projects, the contribution of the above-mentioned funds was 49 per cent, 27 per cent and 24 per cent respectively.

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

To begin with, the NaBFID will



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

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

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

However, problems begin to creep when we look at this: "The Act empowers the GOI to extend sovereign guarantee in case of a default."

The guarantees cover a wide range like any liabilities of its own subsidiaries, joint ventures, branches and other similar arrangements; letters of comfort, or letters of credit for loans or bonds and debentures issued by any DFI funding infrastructure projects in India; and guarantee of the NaBFID's bonds, debentures, loans and borrowings from multilateral institutions, sovereign wealth funds (SWFs), and other foreign institutions. To bail out an entity majority-owned and controlled by private parties using the taxpayers' funds is a drain on the exchequer just as the erstwhile IDBI.

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

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

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

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

—UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH

THIS IS GENOCIDE. I HAVE SEEN THE PICTURES. THE CENTRAL FORCES HAD SIMPLY SPRAYED THE BULLETS INSTEAD OF AIMING AT THE LEGS.  
—WEST BENGAL CM MAMATA BANERJEE



# Playing politics over vaccines will not help the cause

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

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

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

The pandemic helped the Governments focus on the



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, this is not the

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT



—KALYANI SHANKAR

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

—UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH

## analysis

09

[facebook.com/dailypioneer](http://facebook.com/dailypioneer) | [@TheDailyPioneer](http://@TheDailyPioneer) | [instagram.com/dailypioneer/](http://instagram.com/dailypioneer/)


UTTAM GUPTA

# Remain watchful of evolving situation: RBI Guv to banks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Das touched upon the

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

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

Among other matters,

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

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

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

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

# Industrial production contracts 3.6% in Feb

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The index had grown by 5.2 per cent in February 2020. The industrial production had plunged 18.7 per cent in March last year following the COVID-19 outbreak and remained in the negative zone till August 2020.

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

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

# Sebi norms on reporting formats for mutual funds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

In a circular, Sebi said the compliance certificate to be provided during each quarter till the last payout for such schemes on a bi-monthly basis and half-yearly basis would be discontinued.

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

With regard to quarterly report on activities of mutual

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

For schemes which have been wound up, Sebi said details of payout should be provided during each quarter till the last payout for such schemes. Details of close-ended and half-yearly basis would be discontinued.

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

With regard to quarterly report on activities of mutual

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With demand for housing loans picking up during the last two quarters of fiscal 2020-21, housing finance companies (HFCs) are likely to witness a growth rate of 6-8 per cent during the year and 8-10 per cent in FY2021-22, says a report. The on-book portfolio growth moderated for HFCs in the first nine months of FY2021 (compared to March 2020) to 4.3 per cent (excluding the portfolio of one large

player, which had sizeable write-offs) from portfolio growth of 6 per cent (Y-o-Y) in FY2020. Icra Ratings in a report said with revival in demand for housing credit in the industry in the last two quarters, most of the HFCs have already reached near pre-Covid level disbursements and are targeting to achieve further higher disbursements in Q4 FY2021.

"This is expected to push up the growth rate for FY2021 to 6-8 per cent. Thereafter, we

estimate the growth of 8-10 per cent for on-book portfolio of HFCs in FY2022," the agency said.

According to Icra's vice president and sector head Sachin Sachdeva, given the cash flow stress faced by the borrowers, the overdues of HFCs have increased in the first nine months of FY2021 as reflected by proforma GNPs of around 2.7 per cent as on December 31, 2020 as compared to reported GNPA of 2.4 per cent as on March 31, 2020. The asset quality indicators

could be further impacted in Q4 FY2021, he said.

He sees GNPs of HFCs for FY2021 to be higher by 50-100 basis points, compared to FY2020, and the same to remain elevated in FY2022 as well. Notwithstanding the improvement in business in the last two quarters of FY2021, relatively lower business growth than the earlier years, and asset quality pressures would moderate the profitability for the HFCs in FY2021, Sachdeva said.

# China opens 5G signal station near Tibet border

PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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

At the end of last year, the People's Liberation Army started to coordinate with civilian enterprises to launch 5G base station construction in Ganbala to solve the difficulty of network access for the border defence troops, the website said.

# Dr Reddy's shares jump 5 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

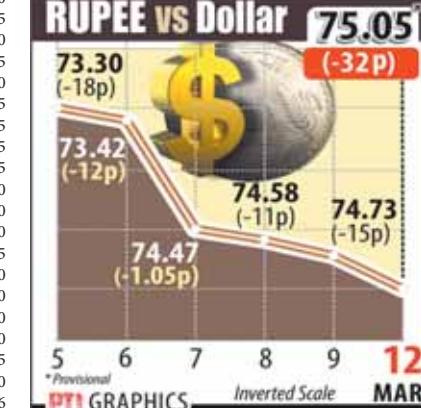
Shares of Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Monday jumped 5 per cent after an expert panel approved emergency use of Russia's Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V in India, with certain conditions.

In September last year, the company had partnered with the Russian

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

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

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



## NIFTY 50

SCRIPT	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	14646.55	14652.50	14284.70	14310.80	-52.05
DRREDDY	4775.00	5120.00	4695.00	5098.00	337.00
CPLA	890.00	940.00	879.15	907.00	33.95
DIVILAB	376.00	389.00	367.20	379.50	42.65
BRITANNIA	377.75	385.00	375.00	381.00	16.30
HINDUNILVR	2441.50	2488.25	2427.60	2460.00	-16.00
INFY	1474.00	1477.55	1415.00	1431.50	-9.55
NESTLEIND	1737.51	1762.00	1734.10	1745.20	-138.20
HDPC LIFE	685.00	690.00	679.60	689.00	-5.40
ASIANPAINT	257.80	261.00	255.00	262.35	-28.45
TECHM	1051.00	1059.00	1016.80	1039.85	-13.15
TCS	3322.50	3338.10	3213.20	3250.00	-7.25
SUNPHARMA	639.00	645.85	615.20	622.45	-14.30
JSWSTEEL	609.00	621.75	597.40	605.00	-16.00
BAJAJ-AUTO	357.95	359.00	348.05	354.60	-12.80
HCLTECH	1042.95	1042.95	1001.20	1012.95	-32.45
POWERGRID	206.65	206.65	198.50	201.50	-6.80
HDIFCBANK	1393.00	1399.00	1353.00	1375.20	-46.55
COALINDIA	128.00	128.30	123.60	125.25	-4.25
KOTAKBANK	175.72	176.80	172.30	174.00	-59.25
RELIANCE	1959.00	1961.40	1900.25	1915.65	-66.40
WIPL	450.00	450.10	429.40	435.00	-15.10
NTPC	101.50	101.50	98.05	99.35	-3.45
TATA CONSUM	670.50	675.60	650.00	656.50	-22.90
ITC	2450.80	2454.50	2405.20	2426.80	-79.70
EICHERMOT	2490.00	2510.00	2395.15	2432.95	-88.65
LT	139.95	139.95	132.00	134.00	-50.10
BHARTIARTL	53.55	53.88	51.90	52.35	-21.75
BHARTIARTL	48.00	49.80	44.30	45.05	-1.55
HDFC	2434.80	2455.55	2400.50	2426.05	-55.00
HDIFCBANK	1399.65	1399.65	1353.10	1366.60	-41.55
IULBHSF	185.00	187.05	167.05	168.60	-2.65
TATACHEM	800.00	800.00	745.00	750.50	-49.50
DIXON	3621.00	3641.50	3500.00	3553.40	-21.50
ASHOKLEY	110.00	111.25	110.00	112.25	-1.25
TCS	3330.00	3343.90	3217.75	3241.45	-1.75
AIRTEL	22.75	22.75	22.20	22.25	-0.45
AXISBANK	648.10	654.00	624.60	635.35	-5.25
RBL BANK	203.40	205.00	183.00	188.60	-2.60
BANKBARODA	67.85	71.75	64.80	66.05	-1.25
SAIL	92.00	92.00	83.60	84.75	-1.75
SRF	615.50	619.80	590.10	615.25	-4.30
BHARTIARTL	53.50	53.95	51.80	52.35	-2.85
TOP GAINERS	1410.00	1411.85	1294.00	1303.65	-1.75
TOP LOSERS	1410.00	1411.85	1294.00	1303.65	-1.75
Dr Reddy's	4.83	4.83	4.60	4.80	-0.20
Indiabulls	8.40	8.40	8.10	8.40	-0.30
Reliance	6.40	6.40	6.20	6.40	-0.20
Axis Bank	6.40	6.40	6.20	6.40	-0.20
PNB	7.90	7.90	7.55	7.90	-0.35
ADANIPORTS	308.90	309.00	275.00	275.00	-7.30
TATAMOTORS	307.85	307.85	282.90	287.50	-30.70

## NIFTY NEXT 50

# Iran blames Israel for Natanz incident

AP ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

engage with Iran in its nuclear programme.

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

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

## Lebanon extends area claimed in border dispute with Israel

AP ■ BEIRUT (LEBANON)

gas

deals on both sides.

In late October, the

Lebanese delegation to the talks — a mix of army generals and professionals — offered a new map that pushes for an additional 1,430 square kilometers (550 square miles).

This area is to be included in Lebanese territory on top of the already disputed 860 square kilometer- (330 square mile)- area of the Mediterranean Sea that each side claims is within their own exclusive economic zones.

Najjar said, however, that the decree still required the signatures of the defense minister, prime minister and president to go into effect.

The announcement came as US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale was expected in Lebanon later this week to meet Lebanese officials.

Lebanon is passing through its worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history and had plans to start drilling in search for oil and gas in the disputed area this year.

Israel has already developed offshore natural gas rigs, producing enough for domestic consumption and export abroad. Lebanon hopes that its own oil and gas discoveries will help alleviate its long-running economic troubles.

AP

gas

deals on both sides.

In late October, the

Lebanese delegation to the talks — a mix of army generals and professionals — offered a new map that pushes for an additional 1,430 square kilometers (550 square miles).

This area is to be included in Lebanese territory on top of the already disputed 860 square kilometer- (330 square mile)- area of the Mediterranean Sea that each side claims is within their own exclusive economic zones.

Najjar said, however, that the decree still required the signatures of the defense minister, prime minister and president to go into effect.

The announcement came as US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale was expected in Lebanon later this week to meet Lebanese officials.

Lebanon is passing through its worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history and had plans to start drilling in search for oil and gas in the disputed area this year.

Israel has already developed offshore natural gas rigs, producing enough for domestic consumption and export abroad. Lebanon hopes that its own oil and gas discoveries will help alleviate its long-running economic troubles.

AP

## White House issuing reports on states' infra needs

AP ■ WASHINGTON

gas

deals on both sides.

In late October, the

Lebanese delegation to the talks — a mix of army generals and professionals — offered a new map that pushes for an additional 1,430 square kilometers (550 square miles).

This area is to be included in Lebanese territory on top of the already disputed 860 square kilometer- (330 square mile)- area of the Mediterranean Sea that each side claims is within their own exclusive economic zones.

Najjar said, however, that the decree still required the signatures of the defense minister, prime minister and president to go into effect.

The announcement came as US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale was expected in Lebanon later this week to meet Lebanese officials.

gas

deals on both sides.

In late October, the

Lebanese delegation to the talks — a mix of army generals and professionals — offered a new map that pushes for an additional 1,430 square kilometers (550 square miles).

This area is to be included in Lebanese territory on top of the already disputed 860 square kilometer- (330 square mile)- area of the Mediterranean Sea that each side claims is within their own exclusive economic zones.

Najjar said, however, that the decree still required the signatures of the defense minister, prime minister and president to go into effect.

The announcement came as US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale was expected in Lebanon later this week to meet Lebanese officials.

Lebanon is passing through its worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history and had plans to start drilling in search for oil and gas in the disputed area this year.

Israel has already developed offshore natural gas rigs, producing enough for domestic consumption and export abroad. Lebanon hopes that its own oil and gas discoveries will help alleviate its long-running economic troubles.

AP

gas

deals on both sides.

In late October, the

Lebanese delegation to the talks — a mix of army generals and professionals — offered a new map that pushes for an additional 1,430 square kilometers (550 square miles).

This area is to be included in Lebanese territory on top of the already disputed 860 square kilometer- (330 square mile)- area of the Mediterranean Sea that each side claims is within their own exclusive economic zones.

Najjar said, however, that the decree still required the signatures of the defense minister, prime minister and president to go into effect.

The announcement came as US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale was expected in Lebanon later this week to meet Lebanese officials.

Lebanon is passing through its worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history and had plans to start drilling in search for oil and gas in the disputed area this year.

gas

deals on both sides.

In late October, the

Lebanese delegation to the talks — a mix of army generals and professionals — offered a new map that pushes for an additional 1,430 square kilometers (550 square miles).

This area is to be included in Lebanese territory on top of the already disputed 860 square kilometer- (330 square mile)- area of the Mediterranean Sea that each side claims is within their own exclusive economic zones.

Najjar said, however, that the decree still required the signatures of the defense minister, prime minister and president to go into effect.

The announcement came as US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale was expected in Lebanon later this week to meet Lebanese officials.

Lebanon is passing through its worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history and had plans to start drilling in search for oil and gas in the disputed area this year.

Israel has already developed offshore natural gas rigs, producing enough for domestic consumption and export abroad. Lebanon hopes that its own oil and gas discoveries will help alleviate its long-running economic troubles.

AP

## COVID LOCKDOWN EASES IN ENGLAND

# 'Behave responsibly', urges Boris

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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



Customers sit outside a restaurant in Liverpool on Monday AP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AP ■ LONDON

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

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

Monday brought the easing of restrictions that have

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Muslims navigate restrictions in the 2nd pandemic Ramadan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AP

## Daunte Wright death in Minnesota traffic stop sparks unrest

AP ■ BROOKLYN CENTER, MINN.

A

Black

man

died

after

being

shot

by

police

in

a

Minneapolis

suburb

during

a

traffic

stop

and

crash

ing

his

car

while

it

was

on

its

way

to

work

AP

A

man

stands

atop

a

police

car

after

throwing

a

brick

at

the

windshield



pioneer

# HEALTH

## DOCYARD

DR PARESH DOSHI

Director of  
NeurosurgeryJASLOK HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH  
CENTRE, MUMBAI

## Look out for tremors



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

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

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

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

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

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

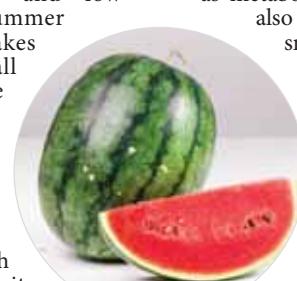
The third symptom that James Parkinson's described was stooped posture. Usually, this is also attributed to old age, if it occurs in elderly. The change in the posture comes little later. Some of the subtle symptoms of Parkinson disease that can get unnoticed are unexplained constipation, sleep disorders,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

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

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

## SUMMER COOLERS

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



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

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

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

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

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



## VACCINE STILL BEST BET

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## DadiKaKehna

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

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

Drink coconut water a couple of times in a day.

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

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

Wear loose fitting clothes.

Eat healthy. Yogurt is a great cooling food and easy to digest.

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

The juice of coriander

## BOND FOR LIFE

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

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

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

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

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



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

pregnancy could be as simple as a daily walk for 30-40 minutes.

Stretching exercises and yoga exercises which are safe in pregnancy and approved by your doctor may be done under supervision. Exercise helps alleviate minor aches and pains of pregnancy and increases your chances of having a natural birth.

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

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

## IN BRIEF

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

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

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

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

THE PIONEER 12

LUCKNOW | TUESDAY | APRIL 13, 2021

## Antioxidants Help

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



## YOUNG ONES STAY INDOORS

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

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

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

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

There is a silver lining though. Most of the vaccines which are already being approved for the adults could be used in children but the phase II, III, IV trials are lagging for them. "Many vaccines have already completed trials in adolescents (above 12 years) and have generated safety and efficacy profile of the vaccine, similar to over 18 years' age group. However, the trials in special populations including younger age group is on its way. Pregnancy and lactation are other categories for which data regarding vaccine use is lagging. The solution to this situation bears no shortcuts," Moni tells you.

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

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

The solution is simple. First, keep the kids indoors at all times. "Second, when an adult in the house tests positive keep them away. The young people under 45 need to be extremely careful since the vaccine doesn't include them. One has to behave like responsible citizens. The fact that so many doctors have also tested positive goes to show there is need to tread with caution.

Third, wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, not go out and when adults do so, maintain COVID-19 SOP and keep away from social gathering can go a long way in keeping the children as well as the adults safe," Sharma says.

# Mourinho moans at Solskjaer as Spurs' season unravels

AP ■ LONDON

A season that provided the flickers of a title challenge is now turning into the worst of Jose Mourinho's managerial career.

Of all the managers to inflict Tottenham's 10th loss of the Premier League season, it was Ole Gunnar Solskjaer who replaced Mourinho at Manchester United.

Maybe that explains why Mourinho was so irritated with Solskjaer after a 3-1 home loss to United saw Tottenham fall six points from fourth place. That spot is occupied by West Ham again after the east London club beat Leicester 3-2 on Sunday.

The post-match focus at Tottenham was less on Edinson Cavani's diving header that put second-place United 2-1 in front and more on the circumstances that denied the forward the game's opening goal.

Cavani had slotted through Hugo Lloris' legs after the ball was rolled into his path by Paul Pogba. But then the goal was ruled out after a lengthy VAR review penalized Scott McTominay for a push on Son Heung-min who went tumbling to the ground.

"The game has gone ... if that's a clear and obvious error," Solskjaer said.

"We shouldn't be conned but I

have to say, if my son stays down like this for three minutes ... and he needs his 10 mates to help him up, we won't get any food."

Mourinho bristled at Solskjaer's criticism of Son, who did go on to break the deadlock in the 40th minute.

"Sonny is very lucky that his father is better person than Ole because I think a father you always have to feed their kids, it doesn't matter what they do," Mourinho said.

"If you steal to feed your kids, you steal. I am very, very disappointed. Like we say in Portuguese, 'Bread is bread, cheese is cheese.' I told Ole what I think about his comments."

After discovering what Solskjaer had said in a TV interview and quickly challenging him on it, Mourinho was disappointed not to be asked for his reaction in the news conference.

"It's really sad that you don't ask me about it," Mourinho said.

"It's really sad you don't have the moral honesty to treat me the way you treat others."

Never before in a career that has seen Mourinho win domestic titles with Porto, Chelsea, Inter Milan and Real Madrid has the Portuguese lost as many as 10 league matches in a season.

While David Moyes another

former United manager could be

leading West Ham into the

Champions League for the first

time, Mourinho is set to miss out at

a second attempt at qualification with the 2019 beaten finalists.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

United's comeback began in the 57th when Fred teed up Cavani for a shot that was parried by Hugo Lloris and the Brazilian followed up with his first Premier League goal since 2018.

Having denied Bruno Fernandes, Lloris was beaten again in the 79th when the Portugal midfielder's nutmeg helped to set up Mason Greenwood for a cross that Cavani got on the end of with a header.

And Greenwood put further gloss on the win in the sixth minute of stoppage time by scoring after Pogba and Cavani combined to set up the English forward for a shot that Lloris got a touch to but couldn't keep out.

"I'm not going home upset with my players," Mourinho said. "They gave what they can."

Mourinho had enjoyed a 6-1 win at United in October and Tottenham had been top of the standings in December.

But Tottenham has fallen to seventh place, while Solskjaer is still on course to deliver the team's highest finish since being runners-up three years ago at Mourinho.

The Premier League trophy seems out of reach for United with Manchester City 11 points ahead. While United is still in contention for the Europa League, Mourinho has a League Cup final meeting with

Manchester City in two weeks.

## LINGARD DOUBLE

Jesse Lingard took his goal tally to eight in nine appearances since joining West Ham on loan from Manchester United. The win allowed West Ham to dislodge Chelsea and move back into fourth place.

Lingard volleyed in the opener and tapped in a second before halftime after being set up by Jarrod Bowen, who added the third three minutes into the second half. Kelechi Iheanacho scored twice for Leicester but the third-place team couldn't produce an equalizer.

"I'm not going home upset with my players," Mourinho said. "They gave what they can."

Mourinho had enjoyed a 6-1 win at United in October and Tottenham had been top of the standings in December.

But Tottenham has fallen to seventh place, while Solskjaer is still on course to deliver the team's highest finish since being runners-up three years ago at Mourinho.

Allan Saint-Maximin came off the bench to set up Jacob Murphy's equalizer for Newcastle at Burnley and then scored himself to seal a 2-1 win. It moved Newcastle six points clear of the relegation zone.

Tottenham forward Son Heung-min became the latest Premier League player to be targeted with racist abuse on social media following a match.

The South Korean international was involved in an incident which saw a goal from Edinson Cavani ruled out in the first half as Tottenham lost 3-1 to Manchester United.

Scott McTominay was adjudged to have fouled Son in the buildup to what would have been the opening goal of the game.

Son, who scored Tottenham's goal, was targeted with racist insults both in replies to a tweet from Tottenham's official account and in the comments section on his most recent Instagram post.

"Another matchday and more abhorrent racial abuse suffered by one of our players," Tottenham said in a statement.

"This has again been reported to the platforms and we shall now undertake a full review alongside the Premier League to determine the most effective action moving forward. We stand with you, Sonny."

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The



Tottenham's Son Heung-min, left, is challenged by Manchester United's Aaron Wan-Bissaka during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London on Sunday.

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

Twitter and Facebook-owned Instagram have declined interview requests recently from The

Associated Press to discuss how they are working to eradicate racist abuse sent to footballers.

# Punjab survive Sanju scare

KL (91), Hooda (64 off 28) shine for Punjab Kings

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Sanju Samson's sensational hundred on his captaincy debut went in vain as young pacer Arshdeep Singh held his nerve in the final over to help Punjab Kings pull off a thrilling four-run win over Rajasthan Royals in a high-scoring IPL game here on Monday.

KL Rahul (91 off 50) and Deepak Hooda (64 off 28) powered Punjab Kings to an imposing 221 for six after being put in to bat on a batting beauty.

Samson almost took Royals home with a breathtaking 119 off 63 balls but was caught off the game's final ball with left-arm pacer Arshdeep defending 13 runs in the last over.

Samson, who effortlessly struck seven sixes and 12 fours, was so confident of taking his team home that he refused a single to Chris Morris on penultimate ball of the game when Royals needed five runs off two balls. In the end, it was not to be for Royals as Punjab scraped through.

Chasing 222, Rajasthan lost opener Ben Stokes (0) early. Arshdeep then removed Manan Vohra (12) as he lobbed a regulation return catch, leaving Royals in trouble at 25 for two.

Samson and Jos Buttler (25), who struck four successive boundaries off Riley Meredith, tried to take the game deep with a 45-run stand. Pacer Jhye Richardson pegged Rajasthan back by cleaning up Buttler.

Samson, who was dropped twice, completed his fifty with a boundary and kept playing his shots to keep his team in the game despite losing partners at the other end.

Royals fetched 26 runs from the 14th and 15th over and then Murugan Ashwin conceded three sixes in the 16th over, as Royals amassed 20 runs, to bring down the equation to 48 runs from the last four. Samson hammered Richardson for two boundaries and a six in the 18th over, in which Royals got 19 runs and took his team on the cusp of a fine win



(Left) Sanju Samson plays a shot, (Right) KL Rahul congratulates teammate Deepak Hooda after he scores fifty against Rajasthan Royals during IPL match in Mumbai



PLAYER	RUNS
1. Sanju Samson (RR)	119
2. KL Rahul (PBKS)	91
3. Shikhar Dhawan (DC)	85
PLAYER	WKT
1. Harshal Patel (RCB)	5
2. Chetan Sakariya (RR)	3
3. Arshdeep Singh (RR)	3
MOST SIXES	
1. Sanju Samson (RR)	7
2. Deepak Hooda (PBKS)	6
3. KL Rahul (PBKS)	5

## MOTION PICTURE



Jos Buttler's wife Louise Buttler and daughter Georgia Rose in stands during IPL match between Rajasthan Royals and Punjab Kings at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai  
IPLT20.com

before falling short.

Despite the win, Punjab will be worried that their expensive fast bowling recruits from Australia, Jhye Richardson and Riley Meredith, leaked 55 and 49 runs respectively in their four overs.

Earlier, Rahul smashed seven fours and five sixes while Hooda, playing his first game since the last IPL, plundered six maximums and four boundaries to fire Punjab past 200.

They lost opener Mayank Agarwal (14) early, who edged it back to Samson for IPL debutant Chetan Sakariya's first wicket.

He ended being the pick of the

bowlers, conceding only five runs in the 20th over. Rahul, who got his first four with a glance to the fine-leg fence, and Chris Gayle (40 off 28) gave the team a good start with their 67-run stand.

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

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

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

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

Rahul then changed gears and got to his fifty with a six over Shivam Dube's (0/20) head in the 13th over. Hooda then smashed two maximums in the same over and then struck three sixes off Shreyas Gopal (0/40) in the next as Punjab went ballistic.

It was Rahul and Hooda's show at the Wankhede that made the difference to their total as the duo tore into the opposition attack on way to their 105-run stand.

Courtesy their monstrous hitting,

Punjab added 111 runs in the final eight overs. Hooda, who had made a 62 against CSK in his last competitive game in November, had stormed out of the Baroda camp ahead of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy after claiming that Krunal Pandya misbehaved with him. Hooda was subsequently suspended.

### BRIEF SCORES:

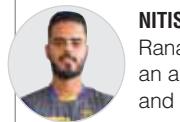
**Punjab Kings:** 221/6 in 20 overs (K L Rahul 91, Deepak Hooda 64; Chetan Sakariya 3/31).

**RR:** 217 for 7 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 119; Arshdeep Singh 3/35, Mohammed Shami 2/33).

## MI for Knight Riders

## Women's T20 Challenge likely to remain three-team affair

### KEY PLAYERS



**NITISH RANA**

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



**KRUNAL PANDYA**

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

### VENUE: CHIDAMBARAM STADIUM, CHENNAI

### HEAD TO HEAD

Matches	27
Kolkata Knight Riders	06
Mumbai Indians	21

### LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

Mumbai Indians defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by 49 runs at Abu Dhabi
Mumbai Indians beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 8 wickets at Abu Dhabi

954

Shubman Gill who scored 954 runs at an average of 32.89 in 39 innings of 42 matches, needs 44 runs to become 11th batsman to score over 1000 runs for Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL

47

Krunal Pandya who took 47 wickets at an average of 32.61 in 70 innings of 72 matches, needs three wickets to become the sixth bowler to complete a fifty of wickets for Mumbai Indians in IPL

Faisal Features

interesting to see the young opener's approach against the finest in the business. In his debut match for MI, Chris Lynn was their top-scorer, albeit with some stroke of luck as he survived some edges and mishits.

But now with Quinton de Kock available for selection, MI may go back to their preferred left-right opening combination of Rohit and de Kock.

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

Gill's struggle to bat at T20 pace has been a concern for KKR and it will be

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI is likely to stick to three teams for the Women's T20 Challenge tournament, usually held during the IPL play-offs.

The Board had planned to increase the exhibition event to four teams last year but it will continue to be a three-team affair due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since the delayed IPL was held in the September-November window last year, the Women's Challenge clashed with the WBBL, making the Australian players unavailable.

"As of now the plan is to have three teams. A final decision will be taken shortly. There is a good chance that it will be held in Delhi. Talks are on with the leading Australian and England players," a BCCI official said on Monday.

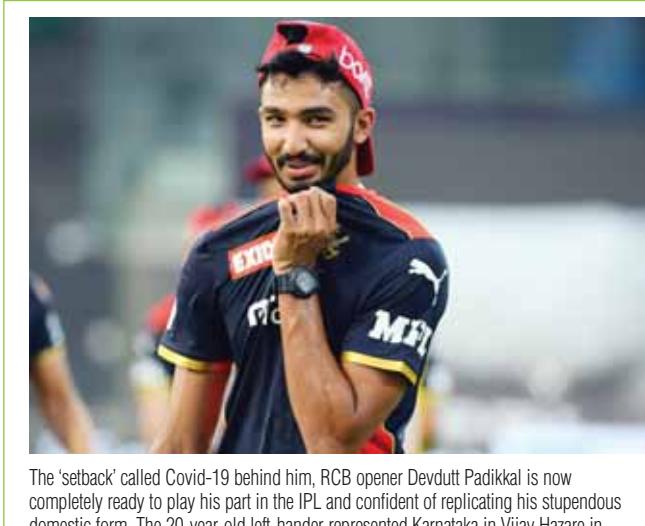
The last edition, comprising four games, was held in Sharjah as the IPL play-offs took place in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The decision on the event could be taken during BCCI's

Apex Council meeting on April 16, when the appointment of Indian women's team support staff and its Future Tours Programme will also be discussed.

The Indian players have been

badly short on match practice amid the pandemic. India played their first series in a year last month when they lost both the ODI and T20 series to the visiting South African team.



The 'setback' called Covid-19 behind him, RCB opener Devdutt Padikkal is now completely ready to play his part in the IPL and confident of replicating his stupendous domestic form. The 20-year-old left-hander represented Karnataka in Vijay Hazare in March and was the second highest run-getter (737 runs) in the tourney

### POINTS TABLE

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

## Linde leads SA to series-levelling win



AFP ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa levelled their four-match T20 International series against Pakistan with a comfortable six-wicket win in the second match at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Monday.

Left-arm spinner George Linde and fast bowler Lizaad Williams took three wickets each as Pakistan were restricted to 140 for nine in their 20 overs.

Captain Babar Azam made 50 for Pakistan.

Aiden Markram led an aggressive South African reply, hitting 54 off 30 balls, and the hosts romped to victory with six overs to spare.

Stand-in captain Heinrich Klaasen made 36 not out from 21 balls and added 49 runs for fifth wicket with George Linde (20 off 10 balls, 2 sixes).

The third game of the four-game series is on Wednesday.

Despite peppered the PSG goal with 31 shots, 12 on target,

## Bayern can beat PSG: Kimmich

AFP ■ MUNICH



Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich is convinced the holders can beat Paris Saint-Germain at the Parc des Princes on Tuesday in their Champions League quarter-final second leg to reach the last four.

"I believe that we will progress, because we're the better team," Kimmich told the club's website.

Bayern need to overturn a 3-2 defeat from last week's first leg in Munich.

"We were the better team in the first leg, but unfortunately the result didn't correspond to the performance," added Kimmich.

"Nevertheless, I'm confident that we can still turn it around in the second leg."

"Overall, our attack had more possession and more chances. Now we have to take these chances."

"In the first leg, they threatened three times and scored three times," said Kimmich.

"Apart from that, I don't remember Paris having that many chances."

"Overall, our attack had more possession and more chances. Now we have to take these chances."