OPINION 8

INDIA'S FLAMING

FORESTS PLAY HAVOC

WORLD 11

MYANMAR COUP FOES TOUT

MINORITY-BACKED SHADOW GOVT

STOKES OUT

FOR 12 WEEKS

Established 1864

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DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA Late City Vol. 157 Issue 103

SAFETY OVER

COMFORT: SUNNY LEONE

the pioneer www.dailypioneer.com

4L daily Covid cases by Apr end likely Covid spreads

At current rate, deaths could go up to 200/day; Delhi sees record 20k cases in 24 hrs

With the current rate of the daily surge, India's Covid-19 cases could reach anywhere 19 cases could reach anywhere between 3.5 and 4 lakh by the end of April. Going by the cur-rent death rate of around 0.5 per cent, India could see a daily fatality of around 175 to 200 per day by month-end. On Friday, India recorded over 2.08 lakh new cases and 1,124 deaths, compared to 2.17 lakh deaths, compared to 2.17 lakh cases and 1,185 deaths the previous day.

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

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

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

Haryana shuts schools till Apr 30

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

CAPSULE

CBI EX-DIRECTOR RANJIT SINHA DIES FROM COVID

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

senior officials said. He was 68

'DIALOGUE CAN SOLVE INDIA-NEPAL ISSUES'

Kathmandu: There is no issue between Nepal and India that cannot be resolved through dialogue, Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali said on Friday, underlining that the two countries are "friends and

COLLECTION OF CHALLAN DUES IN CASH SUSPENDED

New Delhi: The Delhi Traffic Police has suspended the process to collect dues for pending challans in cash in view of a surge in Covid-19 cases here, officials said on



Passengers stand in a queue outside Anand Vihar Railway Station as they arrive to board train for their native place amid raise in Covid cases in New Delhi on Friday

deaths. record Chhattisgarh has seen an alarming 131 per cent raise in the number of fresh cases during the last one weeks. Continued on Page 11

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

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

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 1,44,96,651 (+2,08,725) DEATHS: 1,75,459 (+1,124)

RECOVERED: 1,26,50,298 (+1,06,248) ACTIVE: 16,63,789

MAHARASHTRA: 37,03,584 KERALA: 12,07,333

KARNATAKA: 11,24,509 **TAMIL NADU: 9,71,384**

DELHI: 8,03,623 (+19,486)

Sunday curfew in all UP dists till May 15

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY APRIL 17, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3

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

PNS LUCKNOW

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

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

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



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

during this period. Necessary awareness works should also be done in this regard. He hinted that even public transport and commutation won't be allowed.

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

members of the Team-11 (a core team of 11 officers).

Yogi also ordered closure of OPDs in all Government hospitals in the State to control crowds. He also announced that it is compulsory for everyone to wear a

"A fine of ₹1,000 would be imposed for the first time caught without a mask. If caught without a mask a second time, a penalty of ₹10,000 would be imposed, "he added.

Continued on Page 11

mainly via air: Lancet study

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

The study added that pub-

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

A multi-research team from the UK, the US and Canada warned that public health measures that fail to treat the virus as predominantly airborne leave people unprotected and allow the virus to spread.

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



This silent transmission is a key way Covid-19 has spread around the world, "supporting a predominantly airborne mode of transmission," as per the assessment.

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

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

Continued on Page 11

EC cuts Bengal

campaign time

over Covid rise

by 3 hrs at night

CICSE defers Class X, XII **Board exams**

PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Covaxin production | Ensure sufficient oxygen to double by June, 7 fold by July-Aug

L capacity of Bharat Biotech indigenously developed Covaxin vaccine will be doubled by May-June 2021 and then increased nearly 6-7 fold by July-August 2021, the Government said on Friday.

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

September this year".

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

Recently, inter-ministerial teams visited the sites of two



"As a part of this augmen-

Modi calls for

India to get their inputs on how production can be ramped up. There have been extensive reviews and feasibility studies

vided as a grant from the Government to the tune of Continued on Page 11

main vaccine manufacturers in on the plans being discussed with vaccine manufacturers.

tation plan, capacities of Bharat Biotech Limited, Hyderabad as well as other public sector manufacturers are being upgraded with required infrastructure and technology. Financial support is being proappx ₹65 cr to Bharat Biotech's new Bangalore facility which is being repurposed to increase the capacity of vaccine production," the statement added.

increase in manufacturing PNS NEW DELHI s the second wave of

As the second wave or Covid-19 variant has led to a rapid rise in positive cases across the country and brought health facilities under increasing pressure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday undertook a "comprehensive" review to ensure adequate medical grade oxygen supply in the country and called for stepping up its production.

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

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

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



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

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

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

New Delhi: A global mutation

tracker on Friday suggested the "double mutant" coronavirus,

Maharashtra, has a cumulative

identified

Need more research to determine spread

in

of 'double mutant' coronavirus: Scientists

Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. The PMO said an over

of the district-level situation in these States was presented to He was informed that the

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

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

prevalence of 10 per cent in

India, a finding that some sci-

entists here said is based on

insufficient data and needs

Continued on Page 11

PNS NEW DELHI ♠ gainst the backdrop of ris-Against the backdrop of ris-ling Covid-19 cases and the heavy political rhetoric in poll-bound areas, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday extended the "silence" period from 48 hours to 72 hours in each of the remaining three of

the eight phases of the West Bengal polls to be held on April 22, 26, and 29. The commission has curtailed the timing of campaigning up to 7pm from 10 pm. It has banned rallies, public meetings, nukkad sabha, and street play from 7 pm to 10 am beginning Friday.

"Commission curtails the timing of the campaign up to pm. The silence period has been extended from 48 hours to 72 hours in each of the remaining three phases in West Bengal. These orders have come into effect immediately," the EC said in a letter to the president, general secretary and chairman of the national and state-level political parties. Continued on Page 11

Monsoon normal this year, predicts IMD

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

PNS NEW DELHI

 $B^{\text{arring Odisha, Bihar,}}_{\text{Jharkhand, north-}}$ Chhattisgarh, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Assam, India will probably experience normal monsoon rainfall this year as La Nina or El Nino weather conditions, which impact rain patterns, are

likely to be absent. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday predicted overall "normal" monsoon rainfall at 98 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA), which has a model error of plus and minus 5 per cent during the June-



country. The LPA of the mon-

soon is 88 centimetres. Rainfall between 96-104 per cent of the LPA is considered normal. The IMD said the probability of the 2021 monsoon being "normal" was 40% while there was 21% chance of it being "above normal".

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

have a good agriculture output," he said The news augurs well for an economy battered due to the coronavirus pandemic. Large parts of the country rely on the four-month rainfall season for agriculture and also for filling

reservoirs. The 'normal' rainfall means good acreage of Kharif crops (paddy, pulses, oilseeds, and coarse cereals), and adequate water storage in major water bodies across the countries for the next crop season. Better water storage also helps (winter sown) crops, bringing the entire crop year in bumper out-

put phase.
This is the first time the IMD has adopted the most advanced and comprehensive system to arrive at its forecast,

keeping in view demands from different users and government authorities for forecasts of the spatial distribution of seasonal rainfall along with the regionally averaged rainfall forecasts for better regional level planning of activities.

For this specific purpose,
Office of Climate Research &

Services, IMD, Pune has developed a Multi-Model Ensemble (MME) forecasting system based on coupled global cli-mate models (CGCMs) from different global climate prediction and research centres including the Monsoon Mission CFS (MMCFS) being used by IMD. According to Raieevan, the IMD will also issue month-wise forecasts during the next four months.

The La Nina and El Nino factors major influences on the Indian monsoon. The former is associated with the cooling of the Pacific waters and brings good rainfall while Continued on Page 11

UK Home Dept clears Nirav Modi's extradition to India

The Home Department of the United Kingdom has cleared the extradition of fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi, wanted in India connection with a case involving over ₹13,000-crore credit fraud involving Punjab National Bank (PNB).

However, Westminster's court has granted Nirav a window of appeal in the High Court and has up to 14 days to make that application after the Home Secretary cleared the extradition.

Nirav had allegedly perpetrated the fraud in the PNB in collusion with his uncle Mehul Choksi. On February 25, a Westminster Magistrates' Court allowed his extradition. The findings of the court



agency PTI.

The UK's Westminster has a case to answer before



were sent to the UK Home Department headed by British Home Secretary Priti which cleared the extradition, officials said, according to news

Magistrates' Court ruled that the diamond merchant and prime accused in the PNB credit fraud case, Nirav Modi,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mad scramble for beds, crematoriums as cases surge

27,426 more infected in Uttar Pradesh; 6,598 test positive in capital

PNS LUCKNOW

The mad scramble for a bed in hospital, life-saving medicines and decent cremation of their kin falling prey to Covid continued in Uttar Pradesh with 27,426 cases being reported in the last 24 hours and Lucknow accounting for onefourth of the cases. The death toll in the last 24 hours stood at 103 during this period.

State capital Lucknow continued to be the hotspot, reporting 6,598 cases and 35 deaths in the last 24 hours, followed by Varanasi with 2,344 new cases, Prayagraj (1,758) and Kanpur (1,403).

The rate of infection in the second Covid wave has been spiking at an increasing rate. On April 9, UP had recorded 9,695 cases while Lucknow witnessed 2,934 cases but in the following week, the number spiralled by almost three times. Last week, 37 people had died across the state and the number has now gone up to 103.

Health department officials said that this time the infection was proving extremely fatal and most patients succumbed on the third day of infection. The new mutant virus has proved to be deadlier than before.

'This time the infection is spreading so fast that people are not getting time to get treatment. Many died before we could even get a test report," said a doctor preferring anonymity. The spread of infection and increase in fatality rate has made people nervous and jittery.

"Ram Rajya laane wali sarkar, khud Ram bharose hai," shouted BJP worker Anurag Sharma, whose father tested Covid positive on Tuesday and he pulled all strings to get his ailing father admitted to a

hospital but to no avail.

A desperate Sharma pleaded with the CMO, "My father's oxygen level has dipped. Please admit him even to a private hospital. I will pay the fees by selling my land in the village. I need to save my father's life."

Being in BJP and working on ad hoc in the party office, he was in touch with some senior leaders. "Few leaders assured me that they will help and I believe they might have called the higher officials too, but till now, I am yet to get a bed for my father," he said.

Sharma's case is not an isolated case. Santosh Singh, son of a senior BJP leader Manohar Singh, wrote to the CM as to how he had been waiting for an ambulance as his family



Fire Services department personnel carrying out sanitisation in Lucknow's Bhoothnath market on Friday

members tested positive. He said that the person taking calls at the call centre rudely snubbed by saying: 'Jaa kar mar jao".

If BJP workers and leaders are facing the wrath of administration what is happening with common persons could be anybody's guess. Rajiv Tiwari of Indira Nagar

tested Covid positive on April 11 and has been in home isolation. His oxygen level dropped to below 90 after which he has been waiting for an ambulance to shift him to a hospital for the last three days. "I am told a hospital has been allotted to me but there is no ambulance to take me there," he said.

In this dire situation, even getting medicines for patients in home isolation, has proved to be a tough task. A woman, preferring anonymity, said that she purchased Remdesivir, a crucial drug for treatment of Covid-19, at Rs 12,000 per vial against the printed price of Rs 4500. "I was told that the drug is out of stock. With no option left I was forced to extra," she said. She needs 12 vials of the injection.

A journalist's wife tested positive, is in home isolation and has been advised administration of Covifor. "However this medicine is out of stock and a chemist said he

can arrange it for Rs 4000 while its cost is less than RS 1500," he said.

Chandra Bhan, a chemist in Lucknow, said that basic medicines like Zinc tablets, Vit D and Vit C were in short supply. The demand for these medicines was high as the government has advised people to

With the people neither getting medical care nor medicines, there has been a worrying spike in the number of deaths due to Covid.

On Wednesday, UP recorded 61 deaths while it shot up to 108 on Thursday leading to a rush in cremation grounds and graveyards. In Kanpur, 35 new temporary

platforms have been set up on Bithoor-Sidhnath Ghat stretch along river Ganga to cremate bodies. A report from Allahabad said that in the last one week, almost 850

cremations and 135 burials had

GOVT OUTLAWS ASSEMBLY DURING PANCHAYAT POLLS Following the unabated surge in Covid cases across the state, the UP government has banned the assembly of more than five persons during the remaining three phases of Panchayat elections. Violators of the directives will be penalised under

preventive law NSA.

Additional Chief Secretary Awanish Awasthi said in Lucknow on Friday that candidates for the three-tier Panchayat bodies, their supporters and voters would have to comply with Corona protocol, like wearing mask and social distancing. He said that the government will deal with those attempting to disrupt the poll process by indulging in anti social activities, with a firm hand . He said that the violators would be booked under the NSA.

Awasthi said that the first phase of the elections on Thursday passed off peacefully. He said that polling was held at 51,000 booths and barring a few booths, polling was peaceful in all 18 districts.

Awasthi said that the government has issued directives for enforcement of Covid protocol like wearing of masks at public places, railway stations and inside trains.

QUARANTINE CENTRES SET UP FOR MIGRANTS

The Uttar Pradesh government has set up quarantine centres in 56 districts witnessing the influx of migrant workers. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was informed about this at a high-level meeting on

Earlier the CM had directed officials to establish sufficient number of Quarantine Centres for migrants returning to the state, as soon as possible. He had also asked concerned authorities to ensure all necessary facilities to the

Acting promptly, the authorities saw to it that these Centres with all facilities for labourers returning to their home state from different parts of the country, were set up.

In the wake of the upsurge in

Covid cases in the state, Yogi directed all district magistrates to conduct RT-PCR (reverse transcriptionpolymerase chain reaction) test of the returning migrants and provide necessary medical aid to the needy.

FIREMEN SANITISING CONTAINMENT ZONES

The Fire Service department personnel across the state have been sanitising containment zones and keeping cities clean to curb the spread of coronavirus infection. The department has started roundthe-clock operations to spray disinfectants at major sites in all districts. More than 900 fire brigade

vehicles were pressed into service across the state for spraying sodium hypochlorite and disinfecting the

Rajnath deploys DRDO team to set up temporary Covid hosps in Lucknow

¬wo days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh wrote to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath requesting him to arrange for more beds in hospitals, he ordered the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to set up two makeshift hospitals with a combined capacity of 1,100 beds combined capacity of 1,100 beds. Singh is also the MP from

Singh's public representative Diwakar Tripathi told this reporter that the DRDO team has reached Lucknow and would set up two hospitals of 500 beds and 600 beds in two corners of the city to meet the demand of beds in Lucknow, which has been ravaged by the recent Covid spread.

While one of the hospitals will come up at Haj House, the other will be at Blossom's Height.

Tripathi said that on the nstructions of the Defence minister, a (DRDO) team reached Lucknow by a special aircraft on Friday and work for the hospital would start immediately.

Singh had earlier spoken to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on rising Corona infection in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Lucknow.

On Thursday, UP Law Minister and Lucknow MLA Brajesh Pathak had announced that he would donate Rs 1 crore from his MLA ter, a (DRDO) team reached

donate Rs 1 crore from his MLA fund for the purchase of medical equipment to fight the Covid surge.

areas. In the last 24 hours, 1,883 sites were sanitised in 10 districts including Lucknow, Meerut, Prayagraj

Additional DG (Fire Services) Vijay Prakash said that Fire Service personnel were instructed to take utmost care and not sprinkle disinfectants on any individual or inside

'Sodium hypochlorite' used in sanitisation is a modified salt and as it comes in contact with any surface or water, chlorine is released and converted into sodium hydroxide. The latter is a very strong base that does not allow any bacteria or virus

CITYBRIEFS

THE DRDO TEAM HAS REACHED **LUCKNOW AND WOULD SET UP TWO HOSPITALS OF 500** BEDS AND 600 BEDS IN TWO CORNERS OF THE CITY TO MEET THE DEMAND OF BEDS IN LUCKNOW, WHICH HAS BEEN RAVAGED BY THE RECENT **COVID SPREAD**

to flourish.

Sanitisation of 35 sites in Lucknow, 78 in Prayagraj, 66 in Kanpur, 237 in Varanasi, 85 in Agra, 483 in Gautam Budhnagar, 95 in Mathura, 146 in Meerut, 201 in Ferozabad and 133 in Ghaziabad were being carried out daily.

Similarly, sanitisation of identified hotspots/potential hotspots, sensitive sites, market places, residential sites in other districts, were also under process. Railway and bus stations, areas near hospitals, government offices and court premises, vegetable markets etc. were also being sanitised daily.

Priority of CII will be employment generation: Munjal

CII Northern Region, shared the agenda and focus areas of CII in the region for the year 2021-22 and it included his view on the prevailing pandemic situ-

"Our first priority will be employment generation by focusing on industries like manufacturing, hospitality, food & agriculture, infrastructure and tourism. Our focus will be on invest-

Lucknow (PNS): Abhimanyu ment, policy advocacy and ease of doing munjal said. "CII will do advocacy with industries should encourage work from plement the vaccination drive in India the newly elected chairman of business so that we can get more companies have panies to invest in the region. The CII Northern Region has seven states and three UTs. Besides this, we will focus on environmental sustainability, competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises, promoting research & development spending, promoting technologies, startups and future businesses besides governance and digitisation, and rural-urban connect,"

key services such as digital records of land banks, health records, PDS services etc," he added. Munjal also said that in view of the prevailing Covid situation, CII has outlined a 5-point critical agenda for control of the rampant spread of infections which states that on no account should any type of meeting or gathering comprising more than 10 people be permitted for any purpose,

hygiene in industries and follow Covid protocols, all public transport including metros, trains and buses must run at one-third seating capacity and vaccination should be opened to all age groups and made available for longer time periods at the vaccination centres.

"CII has represented to the state governments that there should not be a complete lockdown and CII can com-

already organised medical camps for their employees and their families. Our member companies will have employees and their family members contributing 5-6% of the population of the country. Vaccination should be open to all age groups and be made available for longer times. Private sector has also come in support to ensure supply of oxygen to hospitals," he added.



CMS STUDENTS CRACK UPSC EXAMS

Two meritorious students of City Montessori School — Amit Gupta (Mahanagar Campus) and Divyanshu Pandey (Rajendra Nagar Campus) — have brought laurels to their alma mater by cracking the prestigious UPPCS exams. While Amit Gupta secured 35th rank and was selected for the post of SDM, Divvanshu Pandev was selected for the post of tax assessment officer. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi expressed happiness over the success of these students and said they would contribute creatively to the structure of an ideal society with best performance in their area of work.

M/s Prem Traders LLP having registered office at 4th Floor, Gopal Dass Bhawan 28 Barakhamba Road New Delhi 110001 has lost its allotment letter/agree-ment No. 0763 dated 20/11/2012 which was issued by DLF Limited for the plot No.

I Mr. Dipanshu Rastogi, son of Late Mr. Nand Kishore Rastogi, R/o C-403, Indra Prastha Estate, Faizabad Road, Opp. I.T College, New Hyderabad, Lucknow College, New Hyderabad, Lucknow 226007, have lost 8 original paymen receipts of plot no. A-170. DLF Garden Cit, Raibarell Road, Lucknow. Detail of 8 original payment receipts are GDN/CRB 00217/0513, GDN/CRB/00134/0913, GDN/CRB/00305/0913, GDN/CRB/00304/0214 GDN/CRB/00216/0514, GDN/CRB 00151/0914, GDN/CRB/0321/00004 Contact No.. 9565244313

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned for and on behalf of LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Area Office, Shahnazaf Road, Lucknow pursuant to Circular No. 422/Annexure-E of LIC HFL that the Original sale dated 05-02-2007 executed Ameer Alam Khan in favour of Smt Naushava Siddiqui The said sale deed in registered in the Office of Sub Registrar IV Lucknow in Book No. 1, Volume 3870 pages-37/386 on Serial No. 1184 dated-05.02.2007 in respect to House No.115/1 area 1800 sq.ft. Situated at Ravindra Garden, Distt-Lucknow. Present owner Asoka Sharan has been lost Original Sale deed dated-05.02.2007 Vikas Jain and Pratiksha Jain has applied for housing loan for which has proposed the said property to be mortgaged by depositing aforesaid Original e mortgaged by depositing aforesaid Original ale deed dated-05.02.2007 with LIC HFL and as such any person claiming to be the said property covered by the said document may file claim covered by the said document may file claim before me within 15 days from the date of publication of notice failing which it will be presumed that the property in question is free from any encumbrance and any claim in respect hereof against the applicant as mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15 days of publishing of the position. f publication of the notice.

No. - 6, 7/143-B, Swaroop Nagar, Kanpur.

NOTICE

I have changed my name

from Maniu Devi to Vandana

Chhabaria. In future I shall be

known as Vandana Chhabaria

Vandana Chhabaria W/o,

Suresh Kumar Chhabaria, Plot

NOTICE

I, Subhash Chandra Arya (DOB-06/03/1961) . Chokhey Lal Arya, R/o (SF-01), B-1/36, Sector-F, Kapoorthala Apartment, Aliganj, Lucknow-226024 have changed my old name from Subhash Chandra to Subhash Chandra Arya for all future purposes.

NOTICE

I, Kusum Lata Arya (DOB-09/05/1964) W/o Subhash Chandra Arya, R/o (SF-01), B-1/36, Sector-F, Kapoorthala Apartment, Aliganj, Lucknow-226024 have changed my old name from Kusum Lata to Kusum Lata Arya for All future purposes

Rs 3,870-cr investment at Noida to generate over 48,000 jobs: Mahana

PNS LUCKNOW

Dursuing the agenda of rapid industrialisation and attracting investment, major corporate groups have purchase land at Noida. The estimated investment is Rs 3,870 crore and is likely to create over 48,000 jobs. UP Industries Minister Satish

Mahana said on Friday that along with Adani Group, Dixxion Technology, around 2 lakh sq meter of land has been allotted to 13 investors in Noida, paving the way for investment of close to Rs 4,000 crore leading to creation of over 48,000 jobs.

He said Adani Group is setting up a data centre and Noida has allotted 39,146 sq meters of land to the group. He said Adani Group will invest Rs 2,500 crore for setting up the data centre. It would accelerate the process of development of Noida as a hub of data centre and an important destination for investment, the minister said. He added the data centre would create 1,160 jobs and indirect jobs for many more.

He said that Dixxion Group, a major technology firm, is in the process of setting up a mobile phone manufacturing unit at Noida. He said a plot of land measuring 21,000 sq metre has been allotted to Dixxion and the company would invest Rs 270 crore and



"Along with Adani Group, Dixxion Technology, around 2 lakh sq meter of land has been allotted to 13 investors in Noida, paving the way for investment of close to Rs 4,000 crore leading to creation of over 48,000 jobs"

likely generate 9,000 jobs.

The minister said another firm, Agarwal Associates, would invest Rs 280 crore in IT Park and a plot measuring 55,000 sq metre has been allotted to the company. This investment has the potential to generate 30,000 new jobs, he

Mahana said that industrial plots have been allotted to many other companies which would manufacture mobile phones, televisions, washing machines, laptop computers, air-conditioners, textiles, furniture, handicrafts, food processing products, paper products, cattle feed and garments.

The minister said that for different categories of industries, 66 applications were received. All the applicants were invited for interview and plots were allotted as per the criterions set by the govern-

"Besides Noida, the process of allotment of land to the investors is in process in several districts. Land allotment to 15 investors is in process and an investment of Rs 13,400 crore is likely to be made," Mahana said.

Civil Aviation Ministry clears DPR for Jewar airport

PNS LUCKNOW

The Union Civil Aviation Ministry has approved the detailed project report for Jewar international airport at Greater NOIDA. The ministry has however asked for some amendments in the report.

Earlier in November, 2019, Swedish company Zurich Airport International AG (ZAIA) bagged the contract to build and operate the airport for a period of 40 years. The company received the security clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs in May,

The state government has set up a special purpose vehicle NOIDA international airport Limited (NIAL) for executing the project.

The ninth board meeting of the NIAL, chaired by Chief Secretary R K Tewari, was held on Friday through video conferencing. Tewari said that the developer has been asked to prepare the project report as per amendments suggested by the Union Civil Aviation ministry.

In December 2020, the UP government had signed a concession agreement with representatives of Zurich Airport International for designing, building and operating the Noida International Airport at Jewar for a period of 40 years. The airport will be developed on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis and is scheduled to open in 2024. It will be located at a distance of 70 kms from Delhi, 40 kms from Noida and 130 kms from Agra.

The first phase of the airport will have the capacity to handle 1.2 crore passengers per annum and would be constructed with an initial investment of Rs 4,588 crore. The airport will open with a single runway, but once fully developed by 2040, it would have two runways and have a capacity of 7 crore passengers per annum. The airport will be developed on 1,334 hectares of land and the UP government has reserved an additional 5,000 hectares for airport expan-



यू०पी० प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपरिशन लि०

अति अल्प-कालीन ई-निविदा सचना

Tender Notice No. and Date 01/UPPCL/PM/UNIT-14/2021-22 Date 13.04.2021 BALANCE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF 200 BEDED BOYS HOSTEL (PHASE-I) IN NEW CAMPUS, LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY, DISTRICT-LUCKNOW (U.P.) 02/UPPCL/PM/UNIT-14/2021-BALANCE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF

ENGINEERING BLOCK (PHASE-II) IN SECOND CAMPUS LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY, DISTRICT-LUCKNOW (U.P.) उक्त कार्य की बिड् दिनांक 17.04.2021 से दिनांक 23.04.2021 अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन सबमिट की जा सकती है तथा उसी दिन अपरान्ह 4:00 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी वे कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना, निविदा प्रपन्न, निविद शर्ते एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा अपलोड किये जाने व डाउनलोड किये जाने की तिथि आदि

का समस्त विवरण www.<u>upprojects.org</u> एवं http://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। परियोजना प्रबन्धक, निर्माण इकाई-14

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertise. ing to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.



Lko accounts for one-fourth Nagar Nigam seeks ₹20 cr from of fresh cases across state

ucknow accounted for over _one-fourth of the total Covid cases reported in the state on Friday. It was another highest single-day tally with 6,598 people testing positive. As many as 35 deaths were reported from the district while 1,675 patients recovered. There are 40,753 active cases in the state

As per the state government directions, a 1,000-bed facility by DRDO will be established in the Defence Expo area which will increase the bed capacity in Lucknow to 5,000.

A district administration official said that the site has already been inspected and DRDO officials would be visiting the area soon.

Meanwhile, inspections are also being made at some hotels and the badminton academy in Gomtinagar for extra bed facilities for Covid patients.

Dr VK Pandey, nodal officer for Covid at Balrampur Hospital, which has been turned into a dedicated Covid facility, said the focus will remain on bringing down the number of deaths due to Covid-19. "People are afraid that the fever may lead to chest congestion and result in death. If we can save 10-25 people from death, then it will be a great personal effort from our side," he said. He added that 315 beds are already functional and efforts are on for 200 more. "We thought that the first slot of beds would take some time to fill, but it got filled within three days," he said.

'The main problem is the availability of oxygen. It has been given only on ten beds in one ward, as earlier. We are increasing the oxygen points and once this is completed, we may add 200 more beds," Dr Pandey said.

He said that the non-Covid patients would be shifted to other hospitals. However, he added that they did not get much time to function as a dedicated Covid facility, and it would take three to four days.

District

A woman being tested for Covid while others in queue look on at Indiranagar CHC on Friday

Katarniaghat DFO dies, sends emotional message to friends

Bahraich: The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary has died of COVID-19 at a hospital in Lucknow, a senior official said here on Friday. Yashwant Singh, 56, was reported positive for coronavirus on April 2, following which he was admitted to a private hospital in Lucknow where he died on Thursday, Manish Singh, Divisional Forest Officer, Bahraich, said. He was cremated in Lucknow as per the COVID protocol, he added.

Before his death, Yashwant Singh had sent a message to his friends which read, "After spending 55.5 years in the lap of Earth, I am leaving for my last journey. Don't be careless towards Covid. My blessing will remain with all."

There were 812 active cases in the city on Thursday and 79 people have died due to the infection so far, Chief Medical Officer Rajesh Mohan Shrivastava said.

hospitals should carry out the

treatment in the triage area till

the Integrated Control and

Command Centre allots them

a bed in a Covid facility. The

hospitals should also keep ded-

icated ambulance facility for fer-

rying these patients to the Covid facilities," he said.

the district have also started

reporting more Covid cases. A

Meanwhile, rural parts of

Magistrate Abhishek Prakash held an online meeting with all the non-Covid private hospitals and issued directions that 10 per cent of the beds have to be kept in the triage area with arrangements of oxygen, HNFC, BiPAP and ventilator.

"If a patient is having symptoms of Covid-19, the hospital should get him or her tested from an authorised lab. The administration said that in comparison to the first wave when there were hardly any cases in rural areas, there are several in the second wave. "The second strain is dan-

gerous and the cases are more in all areas. These areas are monitored by community health centres. Of over 5,000 cases in Lucknow, 200-300 are from rural areas of the district. On Friday, Mohanlalganj witnessed 56 cases, BKT 46, Mall 40, Itaunja 29 and Gosainganj 13," a health official pointed out.

senior official from the district

Meanwhile, a senior medical expert said Uttar Pradesh has has the fastest escalation in Covid cases in India, if not globally. He said UP has recorded over 27,000 new cases and by any calculation or parameters, this is the fastest speed of escalation in India, if not the world.

"From 121 new cases on March 10, UP has come a long way in a very short span. In five weeks, it is a rise by 227 times. It is possible that UP alone reports new cases close to one lakh in just two weeks," he added.

govt for activities in pandemic

Lucknow Nagar Nigam has Lsought financial assistance of Rs 20 crore from the state government for activities required to be carried out during the pandemic for the next three months. Over 3,000 staffers of Nagar Nigam are on

duty in the state capital.

According to Municipal
Commissioner Ajay Kumar Dwivedi, 500 employees are involved in crematorium and 1,500 in sanitisation work while others workers are collecting garbage in the containment zones wearing PPE kits.

He said they have almost spent Rs 4 crore till now in activities like sanitisation, barricading and cremation of bodies. The municipal commissioner said they will be carrying out a mega sanitisation drive covering six major containment zones (Áliganj, Chinhat, Silver Jubilee, Tudiaganj and Alambagh). Each and every house will be covered in a focused manner in the next two days — Saturday and Sunday.

He said sanitisation work is being carried out on a daily basis with the help of over 450 hand-held machines and vehicles in residential areas.

We had 30 vehicles for mechanised sanitisation and the number was increased to 80 by borrowing some from Jal Kal and other departments. In the day time, we carry out sanitisation in containment areas while in the night, we cover almost all the main markets. We also cover the airport, railway stations and religious places like temples and mosques," he pointed out.

There are 15,000 containment points which have been sealed with plastic tapes while the areas with large number of patients have been barricaded. There are two crematori-

ums — Baikunth Dham in Gomtinagar and Gulala Ghat in Chowk. "Initially, there was a surge in cases but we have streamlined the arrangements. We make arrangements for sufficient wood in the night so that there is no waiting time for the cremation," Dwivedi said.



Members of Lucknow Nagar Nigam team carrying out sanitisation in Gautampalli area on Friday

Covid and non-Covid He pointed out that currently 50-60 bodies are being areas have been separated at the crematoriums. "Covid area is brought for crematorium on a under our control and we have sufficient stock of wood for the There are 276 public next 15 days. We have opened address systems which are used our counters and the wood is in the 380 garbage disposal being made available free of vehicles for spreading awarecost for Covid bodies. The Covid area has been barricaded. Earlier, there was a designated point through which we used to send the bodies accompanied by one or two attendants, but what was happening

but with protective gear," he explained. On whether the Covid bodies can be cremated only through an electric crematorium, he said it is just a percep-

tion. "There is no such medical protocol. In places like Hardoi and Sitapur where there is no electric crematorium, the bodies are being cremated on wooden pyres. Last year because the death count was less, the electric crematorium

was being used mainly," he

pointed out.

was that people were jumping

the peripheral area coming in

between the pyres So, we bar-

ricaded the area with a tin sheet

and the cremation point is still

a point where anyone can enter

Dwivedi said the highest number of bodies on a single day last year was 28 but the electric crematorium cannot handle the burden now as the

have monitoring committees that keep a watch on those testing positive. Besides, 110 teams are there in all the wards asking people to mask up and fol-low other guidelines," he said. The municipal commis-

sioner said they are procuring five more semi-electric crematoriums and the installation has already started. Three will be installed at Baikunth Dhaam and two at Gulala Ghat. These are called green crematoriums which have a tray on which the body is kept along with the wood. Usually it takes 5-6 quintal of wood for one body to burn. The green crematoriums burn the body in one hour and wood consumption is reduced by one-sixth.

In the conventional crematoriums the space is occupied for a couple of hours and these additional crematoriums will reduce the use of manpower to a large. "It is difficult to have manpower to handle Covid bodies. We are somehow managing this too," Dwivedi said.

This is for notice of all that Mr Bhoop Narayan Singh S/o Late(Sri) Girdhari Lal (Principle Borrower) and Ms. Rama Devi Kushwaha W/o Mr Bhoop Narayan Singh (Co-borrower) who were/are residing at 3A/240 L.I. G. Avas Vikas Colony, Hanspuram, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh had availed a Housing Loan from ICICI Bank by creating an Equitable Mortgage of the property situated at Plot No 2D-323, Awas Vikas Colony, Phase – 2 Hanspuram, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh in favour of Secured Creditor ICICI Bank Ltd vide Loan Account No – LBKAN00000350639 on the basis of Allotment Letter dated 05.09.2002 and No-Objection Certificate dated 28.10.2002 in favour of ICICI Bank issued by Uttar Pradesh Awas and Vikas Parishad executed Sale Deed in favour of borrower Mr Bhoop Nayaran Singh which was registered before Sub-Registrar III on Book No 7, Volume 4973, Pages 111 to 138, Sr No 9160. Further afore-said borrower executed a Sale Deed in favour of Sri Ram Shankar Gupta (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Prakash Gupta and Smt. Rita Gupta W/o Sri Ram Shankar Gupta (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Prakash Gupta and Smt. Rita Gupta W/o Sri Ram Shankar Gupta (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Prakash Gupta and Smt. Rita Gupta W/o Sri Ram Shankar Gupta (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Prakash Gupta and Smt. Rita Gupta W/o Sri Ram Shankar Gupta (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Prakash Gupta and Smt. Rita Gupta W/o Sri Ram Shankar Gupta (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Prakash Gupta and Smt. Rita Gupta W/o Sri Ram Shankar Gupta (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Prakash Gupta and Smt. Rita Gupta W/o Sri Ram Shankar Gupta (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Prakash Gupta and Smt. Rita Gupta W/o Sri Ram Shankar Gupta (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Prakash Gupta and Smt. Rita Gupta W/o Sri Ram Shankar Gupta (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Prakash Gupta and Smt. Rita Gupta (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Shankar Gupta Mortower (Now Deceased) S/o Sri Ram Shankar Gupta

Arcil or any of its officers will not be responsible for any future claim or dis ute arising on the action take in this regard after the period mentioned in this notice

Authorized Officer,

Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. 209, 2nd floor, Shalimar Square B.N. Road, Lal Bagh Lucknow – 226001



ush of passengers returning to their home towns in view of the surge in Covid cases, at Alambagh bus station on Friday

KGMUTA condoles Dr Zubair Ali's death

tive body of KGMU Teachers' Association (KGMUTA) called an urgent online meeting on Friday. to condole the death of Dr Zubair Ali and husband of Prof Alka Singh.

"We are with their families during these tough times. May God give them eternal peace, their contribution towards the battle against this pandemic and they will always be remembered," spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said. He said a small delegation would meet and convey the bereaved families and convey the heartfelt condolences to them.

a speedy disbursement of the

state government. Today, we lost one of our brave corona warriors and beloved colleague Dr Zubair Ali to Covid-19. He joined KGMU in 2015 and since then, his smiling face in every difficulty was our biggest asset. He always spoke with patients warmly. His hard work and dedication towards work was his motto for life. His untimely demise has left us all sad and baffled. A young soul, a humble and noble doctor is no more with us. His hard work and dedication will always be remembered. Heartfelt condolences to all his "Moreover, we will ensure family members and loved ones," Dr Singh said.

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया

Zonal Office:- Om Laxmi Tower, 128/24-H, Block, Bank of India Kidwai Nagar, Near KESCO Chauraha, Kanpur-208011

Requirement of Premises on Lease Basis

Bank of India requires premises for undermentioned branches on Ground Floor. Front area of premises should have approximate 9 metre with free parking space.

SI.No.	Branch	District	Category	Place	Carpet Area	Floor of the Premises
1	Kasturba Marg	Kanpur Nagar	Urban	Birhana Road	233-260 Sq.Mtr. (2500-2800 Sq.Ft.)	Ground Floor
2	2 Ratanlal Kanpur Nagar Nagar		Urban	Ratanlal Nagar	167-176 Sq.Mtr. (1800-1900 Sq.Ft.)	Ground Floor
3	3 MPEC Kanpur Nagar		Rural	Kothi Mandhana Near MPEC College	92-102 Sq.Mtr. (1000-1100 Sq.Ft.)	Ground Floor

Premises owner has to submit his proposal by 3:00 p.m. till 07.05.2021 at Zonal Office Kanpur in 2 sealed envelopes with following details

Envelop No. 1 (Technical Details): Apply with full details of proposed premises and free parking space and available space for generator, interested parties with proposed construction may also apply with Approved Map of site by KDA and ownership documents.

Envelop No. 2 (Financial Details): Financial details of carpet area with per square metre rent (Inclusive of all liabilities) and lease period option and total period of lease details and making availability of V set / RF (Antina) / solar panel space on roof of premises . All Present and future, taxes such as house tax and other taxes of the Premises to be born by land lord only.

Both performa can be obtained from Bank of India website (bankofindia.co.in)/Zonal office/ related branches, free of charge. Bank reserves right to cancel any proposal or all proposals at any time without disclosing any reasons. Date: 16.04.2020

Zonal Manager, Kanpur Zone

Teen's body found on bank of river

PNS LUCKNOW

 $T^{\text{he body of a teenager was recovered from the bank of Gomti river near Gauriakalan}}$ under Gosainganj police station on Friday morning. The deceased was later identified by father by father Shaheed Ali as Aman (19) alias Chand, who was a resident of Gauriakalan village. Police said the teenager was scolded by his mother for not taking interest in his studies on April 14 evening. She had also told him that if he was not interested in pursuing studies, he should help his father in

Aman quietly left the house without informing any of his family members. When he did not return till late night, his mother and others started searching for him, but in vain. His father later went to Gosainganj police station and lodged a missing complaint. However, even the police failed to trace Aman's location. On Friday morning, an employee of the Irrigation department spotted a body on the bank of the river and informed the police. The police called Shaheed Ali who reached the spot and identified the deceased as his son.

Meanwhile, a youth, who was a resident of Kakori, was fatally knocked down by a speeding truck while returning home on his motorcycle near Dr Shakuntala Vidyalaya under Para police station. The deceased was identified as Munim (24). The errant driver escaped abandoning the truck on the spot. Investigating officer Rahul Tripathi said the errant driver would be nabbed soon. The deceased, who was a farmer, is survived by wife and a 6-year-old daughter.

CDRI director discusses factors moulding metabolic pathways

PNS LUCKNOW

Good environment, exercise, nutritional diet and positive attitude are important in moulding the metabolic pathway, health and capabilities of a person, CDRI director Prof TK Kundu said while speaking at the first 'Amrutotsav' lecture of Indian National Science Academy on Friday. He dwelt on the topic of 'Epigenetics- Life Beyond Your Genes: Implications in Diseases and Therapeutics'.

"Life begins with the identical cell called zygote, so they all have the same DNA sequence but it evolves into so many different types of body parts like muscle. Gene sequence is not the only determinant of gene expression. In short, the DNA is not our destiny. Identical genetic sequence doesn't fully tell what the future of the cell will be. This factor beyond DNA and genes is epigenetics. Two mice with similar DNA could be different in colour because of epigenes. This determines so many of our characteristics by carrying out so many modifications," he said.

Dr Kundu said Gregor G Mendel has had tremendous influence on the subject of genetics but he and subsequent life scientists failed to see one important thing. "That thing is what genes give to us is important but what they gain from us is also important.

Mother is the most important and valuable person in our life. Forefathers' life experience can influence the behavior of future generations because they shape the expression of genes in the brains. Experiments on mice have shown that the confidence level of the progeny will be high if the mother had cared for them," he explained.

He further said that changes that come with ageing are also responsible for epigenetic changes. "They include processes like chromosome breaking and methylation and acetylation of genes. But there is something like social epigenetics. Pollution, environmental factors, trauma like violence at home, all influence the epigenetics. They influence behavior. But epigenetic changes are reversible," he added.

Dr Kundu also talked about the molecule known as CSPTTK21 which has been demonstrated to be helpful in a number of neuro complications like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and in improving the sensorimotor functions, as learnt from experiments on mice. He said it holds tremendous promise in the health

"There will be thousands of activities in the country by scientific institutions to commemorate the entry into 75th year of independence which will culminate on August 15, 2022," he

यूनियन बैंक 🕼 Union Bank

Kanpur Regional Office: 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar Kanpur-208005 Head Office: 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES | Date of e-Auction: 18-05-2021

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the authorized officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is Where is," "As is What is," and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price & the Earnest Money Deposit or also mentioned hereunder.

Branch Name: Sadar Bazar, Jhansi • Address: 341-G, Sadar Bazar, Jhansi, Branch Head: Shri Jatin Agarwal • Mob.: 7696066205

Name of Borrower: Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh S/o Shri Veeran Singh, R/o: 31, Village Lakara-Bhojla, Distt. Jhansi. Guarantor: Shri Mokan Singh, S/o Shri Veeran Singh, R/o: 31, Village Lakara-Bhojla, Distt. Jhansi.

O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 14,64,922.61 + Intt. + Other Expenses Property: Residential Plot No. C-8, Situated at Mauza Shiv Parivar Colony, Outside Unnao Gate, Distt. Jhansi. Owner of Property: Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh S/o Shri Veeran Singh, Area: 167.17 Sq. Mtr., Bounded: North-Road 9 Mtr. Wide, South: Plot No. C-27 & C-26, East-

Plot No. C-9, West: Plot No. C-7 Date & Time of E-Auction: 18-05-2021 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm Reserve Price: Rs. 44.50 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 4.45 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in// english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx

Name of Borrower: Shri Mokam Singh S/o Shri Veeran Singh, R/o: 31, Village Lakara-Bhojla, Distt. Jhansi. Guarantor: Shri Bhanu Pratap

Singh S/o Shri Veeran Singh, R/o: 31, Village Lakara-Bhojla, Distt. Jhansi.

O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 15,46,730.00 + Intt. + Other Expenses Property: Plot No. C-7, Situated at Mauza Shiv Parivar Colony, Outside Unnao Gate, Distt. Jhansi. Owner of Property: Shri Mokam Singh S/o Shri Veeran Singh, Area : 167.17 Sq. Mtr., Bounded : North- 9 Mtr. Road, South : Plot No. C-27 & C-28, East- Plot No. C-8, West : Plot No

C-6 Date & Time of E-Auction: 18-05-2021 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm Reserve Price: Rs. 54.50 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 5.45 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in// english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx

Name of Borrower: Shri Parmender Bhittoria S/o Shri Prabhu Dayal Bhittoria and Smt. Hemlata Bhittoria W/o Shri Prabhu Dayal Bhittoria

R/o: House No. 201, Madak Khana, Tehsil & Distt. Jhansi. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 10,55,547.92 + Intt. + Other Expenses Property: Residential House situated at part of Arazi No. 254, Mauza Banke-Khailar, Tehsil & Distt. Jhansi. Owner of Property: Smt. Hemlata Bhittoria W/o Shri Prabhu Dayal Bhittoria, Area: 196.42 Sq. Mtr., Bounded: North- 20 Ft. Passage, South: Plot of Shri Tiwari, East-

Plot of Smt. Sheela, West: Plot of Shri B. L. Raman. Date & Time of E-Auction: 18-05-2021 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm Reserve Price: Rs. 25.25 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 2.53 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in// english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx

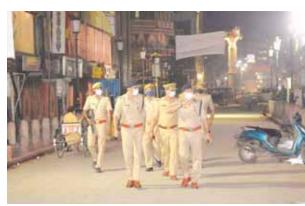
For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India Date: 17-04-2021 Place: Jhansi

2,002 more test positive in Varanasi | 12 deaths in Prayagraj Covid hospitals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district has recorded another biggest spike. As many as 2,002 more have tested positive on Friday evening increasing the total number to 38,434 crossing the 38K-mark. With six more deaths during the last 24 hours, the death toll increased to 416. During the last 24 hours, 637 patients have been recovered and all of them in home isolation. The total number of patients cured in the district is 24,898 including 21,886 in home isolation and 3.012 in COVID-19 hospitals. The number of active cases has jumped up to 13,114 crossing the 13K-mark.

In the first report of the day, 948 positive patients were found out of 2,967 reports received and this figure increased to 2,002 as per report provided by the Health department in the evening increasing the active cases to 13,114. Earlier, in view of finding hundreds of new positive cases, with 16 new hotspots, the number of active hotspots has increased to 490 with 10 green zones having been converted to ernment hospitals for the vac-



Police officers patrolling to ensure the protocol of COVID-19

red zones by a day ago. Out of total 2,900 hotspots, 2,410 are green zones and 490 are red

The Health department continued the vaccination at 66 centres including government hospitals and health centres. The vaccination was also made at the municipal corporation, medical care unit in Collectorate, head post office in Visheshwarganj and Central Jail in Shivpur. The long queues of the people particularly of old aged persons were seen at gov-

cination but at the same time, the carelessness was also seen and no physical distance was maintained between the corona positive and persons with negative report. Earlier, a total of 6,011 beneficiaries were vaccinated on Thursday. On the initiative of the DGM, SBI Vinod Kumar Sinha, the vaccination programme was held at bank's zonal office in Kutchery and as many as 250 staff were administered first dose under vaccination.

Meanwhile, the District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma

said that there is no shortage of Remdesivir injections and it is available in government hospitals free of cost while it could be purchased at the cost of ₹899 per injection from private hospitals. But reality is opposite this as this life saving injection is not available in the government hospitals and the private hospitals are making demand much higher than the actual cost. There is also a complaint that the medical shops are selling the cough syrup and other requisite medicines at a higher price than the actual price.

The police officers came on the road to ensure the implementation of guidelines of COVID-19 as the corona situation has turned into a grimmer in the district. The police have shown strictness and made a challan of numbers of persons who were found violating the guidelines of pandemic. But it is also reality that there are some people who have no care of the deadly virus and were seen without face masks on the road even in such a situation when the corona positive cases reached to around

Shops, malls, bars & liquor shops to remain closed two days in a week

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The business establishments, malls, bars and liquor shops of the district will remain closed on two days in a week on Saturday and Sunday in an effort to break the chain of coronavirus. The night curfew from 8 pm to 7 am will now remain in effect till May 3.

The senior administration officers and police held a series of meetings and talks with the trade associations and businessmen and both parties reached a consensus that all the business establishments, malls, bars and liquor shops should be closed on two days in a week on Saturday and Sunday. But on these both days, the shops of

essential commodities such as milk, vegetables, bread, fruit, etc will remain closed in the morning till 10 am.

This fresh guideline will not be applicable on the offices of central and state government, the DM Kaushal Raj Sharma informed adding, the night curfew between 8 pm and am will remain in effect till

During the night curfew, the railway passengers could travel on the basis of tickets and the restriction will also not be applicable on the vehicles carrying goods

The people could go for the testing and vaccination of corona on their vehicles but there will be restrictions on more

than four passengers in an auto rickshaw. The liquor shops will remain closed even during the night curfew but the medical shops will remain free from the restriction during

this period. The employees on night duty could join their offices during this period.

It is to be mentioned that the Kirana traders have already decided to close their shops for the six days from April 19 to 24 to cooperate with the administration to break the chain of deadly virus.

The transport office will also remain closed till April 19 because of the outbreak of corona and the deployment of the officers and employees for the duty of Panchayat polls. In the surge of pandemic, the Archeological department has decided to close archeological monuments, places and museums till May 15

The Thai Buddhist Temple situated in Sarnath has also been closed for the tourists to avoid the spread of virus.

In view of the fresh guideline of the district administration, the administration of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has decided to close all the entrance gates during night curfew from 8 pm to 7 am till the further order.

The main entrance gate of the university will also remain closed but the small gates of its both sides will remain open.

Devotees throng Kushmanda temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the fourth day of auspicious occasion of Chaitra the temples of Goddess Kushmanda and Shringar Gauri to have darshan and perform pujan on Friday.

The temple of Goddess Kushmanda is situated in Durgakund where the devotees in scores turned up and had darshan. They offered prayer to the goddess and performed pujan. As per saying, the darshan and pujan of Gauri form of Goddess Durga is made during this auspicious Navratri and thus, the devotees in large numbers reached the temple of Shringar Gauri situated Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanvapi

It is to be mentioned that the temple of Shringar Gauri is opened only one day in the year on the fourth day of Chaitra tees could have darshan here Navratri for the devotees. Thus, each and every day. Gulshan



Devotees worshipping at the temple of Goddess Kushmanda in Durgakund on the fourth day of Chaitra Navratri

the activities of Akhil Bharatiya Gyanvapi Mukti Mahaparishad led by Shiv Kumar Shukla reached the temple and offered prayer before the goddess. They said that the temple will soon be liberated and the devo-

Kapoor and others also reached the temple and performed pujan. Kapoor said that the administration should allow the devotees to worship here every day. The temple management allowed entering the temple premises for the worship to only those devotees who have

used face masks. The premises of both temples were sanitised and there was also arrangement of sanitisers for the devotees to wash hands after the worship. The police personnel were deployed to ensure the implementation of pandemic guidelines.

No candidate will be allowed to bring voters in pvt vehicles to polling booths

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The candidates and their **■** supporters could not fetch the voters from their private vehicles during the polling to vote in their favour and in case they are found indulging in such act, the registration of the vehicles will be cancelled. Meanwhile, as just one day has left in ending the electioneering, the candidates testing their luck on the various seats of Panchayat elections, are leaving no stone unturned to woo the voters. Even, the soaring temperature and surge in corona cases seemed to be failing in diminishing their enthusiasm. The polling in Varanasi is scheduled to be conducted on April 19 under the second phase of three-tier Panchayat

It is often seen that the candidate and their supporters fetch the voters from their private vehicles during the polling of any election so as to vote in their favour. But this time, the Election Commission seems to police have so far taken action Besides, 2,50,170, 2,19,550,

directed the local authority to ensure that no candidate could make so. In this order, the Transport department has asked the officers and employees on election duty to keep close vigil on the candidates and their supporters and make the list of such candidates to be found indulging in fetching the voters so as the registration of their vehicles could be can-

In the meantime, the candidates contesting the election for the gram pradhan and members of gram panchayat, kshetra panchayat & zila panchayat are making their last ditch efforts to get the support of electorate. Even, they are not caring about the scorching Sun to contact the maximum voters to ensure their victories. But at the same time, the candidates were also seen defying the corona protocol and making election campaigns without using face masks and maintaining social distancing. The

found violating the guidelines of COVID-19.

The interesting thing seen in this election is that the close relatives are contesting the election against each other. In Tewar Gram Panchayat, Shashikant Singh is in election fray against his sister in-law Shashikala and in Puwari Kalan gram panchayat, Neelam Patel is contesting against her mother in-law Sita Devi. Two brothers Chaturi Ram and Banarasi Ram are face to face in Berama gram panchayat, while Pramod Tal is contesting against his father Ram Prasad in Bansari gram panchayat. Abhishek Yadav is in an election fray against his mother Usha Yadav

in Murli gram panchayat. It may be mentioned that there are a total of 17,53,588 voters who will exercise their franchises including the maximum 2,90,650 voters in Aarajiline Development block and the minimum 1,65,187 voters in Harahua block.

be stricter on such acts. He has against 18 candidates who were 2,12,963, 2,08,750, 2,07,482 and 1,98,650 electorate will cast votes in Pindra, Cholapur, Badagaon, Sevapuri, Kashi Vidyapeeth and Chiraigaon

block respectively.
A total of 10,749 candidates are in election fray including 554 for the members of zila panchayat, 4,338 candidates of gram pradhan and 4,530 candidates for the members of kshetra panchayat. As many as 4,772 candidates have been elected unopposed as they were only candidates who submitted the nomination papers for the various seats.

The election is to be conducted for the 40 members of zila panchayat, 694 seats of gram pradhan in eight blocks and 1,007 seats of members of kshetra panchayat. 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.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ALLAHABAD

The rapid spread of corona infection is now wreaking havoc. In the 24 hours on Thursday evening, the highest ever Covid report of 2,324 people has come positive. At the same time, 12 people died during treatment. CMO Dr Prabhakar Rai has confirmed 12 deaths in Covid hospitals.

According to District Surveillance Officer Dr Rishi Sahai, on Thursday, 10,960 people were tested for COVID-19, out of which 2,223 reported positive. He informed that contact tracing is being done at a rapid pace. After Wednesday, the number of infected increased to 332 within 24 hours on Thursday. On Wednesday, the number of infected was 1,891. Meanwhile, there has been a slight difference in the number of healthy people with the increase in the number of infected. On Wednesday, 622 people beat corona, while on Thursday, 629 people were free of infec-

According to Nodal Officer Dr Rishi Sahai, 83 people who became healthy were discharged from various Covid hospitals, while 546 people had completed home isolation. The figures of corona examination released by the Health department are not yet beyond 11,000 but the number of infected people has increased rapidly. On Wednesday, 10,813 people were tested and on Thursday, 10,960 people were tested for COVID-19.

Despite the CM's directive, the Health department is negligent in the RTPCR testing to



confirm the Covid infection. The department is focused on antigen testing. On the instructions of the government, at least 60 per cent of the total samples tested should be based on RTPCR test and 40 per cent of other like antigen, Trunat.

According to the data available in Prayagraj, exactly the opposite of instructions is being done. The RTPCR testing is about 30 per cent and the antigen and other Covid tasting account for about 70 per

The infection of corona has also left its impact on Medical College's Microbiology Lab. Here 12 technicians have been infected in three days, while six other workers are ill. RTPCR testing work is being affected due to shortage of

Separate testing after pool sampling during the Covid testing has also increased work Dr Arandim Chakraborty and 10 technicians are working in three shifts with Dr Monica, head of Department of Microbiology, in a staff of 30 people in the department. Head of Department, Dr Monica said that the lab is being run at full capacity. Pendency is increasing as employees

become infected, added Dr

SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19 PROGRESSING AT ALARMING SPEED: The second wave of COVID-19 is progressing at an alarming speed in Prayagraj district and has become a cause of serious concern for health, administration and police officials.

The cases have been multiplying so fast that over 2,200 hotspots were marked in the district within a week. There were a total 3,267 hotspots in Prayagraj district on Wednesday, registering a jump of 2,275 in a week from 992 on

Moreover, as many as 2,142 Covid cases were detected on

Tuesday, the day tally going over 2,000 cases for the first time, while 12 deaths were

Health and district administration officials are monitoring all 3,267 hotspots, about 67% in urban pockets, to contain the spread. Five city localities, Chowk, Mutthiganj, Teliarganj, Bahadurganj and Allahpur have maximum hot

spots in the city.
Additional CMO and CVID-19 nodal officer Dr Rishi Sahai said that the number of hotspots is rising everyday as 8,575 Covid cases were added in the last five days from April 9 to 13. Besides, there were 41 Covid-related deaths in the past five days, including 12 on April 13, eight each on April 12 and April 11, seven on April 10 and six on April 9.

There is massive rush at testing centres also and total 53,674 samples were collected in the last five days, including 11,972 on April 13, 12,049 on April 12, 9,805 on April 11, 10,270 on April 10 and 9,578 on April 9. As per official data, Prayagraj district had 44,017 cases till Tuesday. While 30,598 patients have recovered with 7,504 being discharged from hospitals and 23,094 completing home isolation. There were 12,940 active cases on Tuesday. There have been 479 Covid deaths so far.

In the past five days, the city reported 8,575 Covid cases - 2,142 on April 13, 1,704 on April 12, 1,628 on April 11, 1,682 on April 10, and 1,419 on April 9. Officials made an appeal urging people to strictly follow Covid protocols to help check the spread.

Tough stand against shopowners violating Covid guidelines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The second wave of infection I of the coronavirus is going to make people even more upset. This pandemic is also spreading rapidly in Prayagraj. In such a situation, strict action is being taken to follow the COVID-19 guidelines. Keep in mind if you too are the owner of a shop or establishment. Corona's guideline has to be followed. If not, the police can file a case against you and even seize the shop.

The shop will not open after it being seized, untilt the establishment owners completely follow the rules. Prayagraj police is now going to take such a step, which can cause trouble to all the shopkeepers. If shopowners do not want any such action against them, they will need to make a circle outside the shop, arrange for a two yard with mask essential, arrange for a hand sanitiser and motivate

customers to apply the masks. In fact, the police have

now taken a tough stand against those who violate the Corona guidelines. Action has been taken to seize 30 shops, registering cases against 130 shopkeepers in the city on Thursday due to non-compliance of physical distancing and crowd gathering at the

Police have also intensified action against those who do not apply masks on the rising infection of corona and on the directions of the High Court. Challans of 982 people were

also imposed in the city.

Officials said that people are constantly being made aware of the infection and instruction is being given together. Despite this, all the shopkeepers are neither making a circle outside the shop nor putting a board or poster of two vards away.

However, crowds are being gathered at the shops. SP City Dinesh Kumar Singh said that action will be continued against those who violate the

One killed in cracker factory fire

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

🕇 n a tragic incident, a man was killed while three others were badly scorched when a fire broke out in Prayagraj's firecracker factory on Friday morning. The fire brigade personnel managed to control the fire after long hours of effort. The police admitted the scorched people to Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital for treatment. The condition of two is said to be critical there. Police are investigating the cause of the fire.

Police and administrative officials also reached the spot after receiving information about the accident at the firecracker factory in Dhanua village on Baswar Road under the Naini police station. Whether the firecracker factory was illegal or not is being investigated. Officials said the fire broke out most probably due to a short circuit, but it will be clear only after investigation.

There is a fireworks factory named Jai Mahabir in

Dhanua village on Baswar Road. Its owner is Laxman Prasad, a resident of Meerapur Mohalla of the Attarsuiya police station. Flames suddenly started rising from the firecracker factory at around 10 am on Friday. The workers inside the office raised an alarm. After hearing their shrieks and seeing the flames rising, the villagers reached the spot and there were four labourers scorched outside. The information was given to the police. Police and administrative officials rushed to the spot as soon as they received the news. Fire personnel also came and somehow managed to control the fire in the firecracker fac-

Those who were badly scorched by fire included Sudhir (50) son of Ataram, Raja (14) his brother Anurag (15) son of late Ashok, Vishal (14) son of late Rakesh Bhartiya were taken to Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital. There Sudhir was declared dead. The factory is said to have been operat-

ing here for about 15 years. The factory owner also has a fireworks shop in the square. The reason for the fire has not been cleared yet, but the short circuit is being said to be the reason, police added.

ABSCONDING MIS-CREANT IN LOOT CASE HAS FLED TO DELHI : An absconding miscreant involved in the loot of ₹ 2.26 lakh from the petrol pump manager in Khuldabad area of the district has reportedly fled to Delhi, police said. This came to light after questioning his close aides. However, the police of Khuldabad police station suspect that all this is being done to mislead the cops. The accused is being searched for.

BJP leader Diwakar Tripathi, who lives in the Civil Lines area, has a petrol pump at the Karbala intersection. Last month, petrol pump manager Rakesh Sharma was going to give cash to petrol pump owner at his house on a bike along with fellow employee Rahul Singh. On the way, the miscreants looted money from him by heckling near the fish market.

Police arrested Shani Yadav resident of Sheikh Sarva police station Puramfti, Nanha alias Nikhil resident of Chilla Munjfata police station, Karan Bhartiya, Neeraj Bhartiya and Mohit Bhartiya resident of Bhola Ka Purva Dhoomanganj, Jujju alias Ashish Singh resident of Chilla Munjafata village and recovered ₹ 1.5 lakh of looted money. But Shiva Bharti resident of Bhola Ka Purva managed to escape.

SHO, Virender Yadav said that Shiva is hiding in the district, he will be arrested soon. People with him repeatedly say that he is more likely to have fled out of town to Delhi or Mumbai. But his location is not being traced.. Efforts are being made to get him caught

Raids are being conducted at places to locate his whereabouts. Police team is also being sent to the close relatives of Shiva Bharti, he added.

8,000 rail tickets cancelled

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The number of corona-infected patients increasing in all the districts including Prayagraj has started to affect the rail journey as well. If we talk about Prayagraj division of North Central Railway (NCR), the number of ticket cancellations has increased continuously in the last 8 days. During this time more than 8,000 tickets from various stations were cancelled. The most cancelled tickets from Prayagraj division were the trains running from Prayagraj Junction and Kanpur Central and passing through there. Its number is

this too, most of the tickets are for trains going towards Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Delhi route.

Most people believe that the way corona is spreading its tentacles; it is safer to travel in private vehicles than in public vehicles. On the other hand, if we talk about Prayagraj Junction, 184 trains are being run at present time.

In this, some trains are also operating from one to four days a week.

Talking about Prayagraj Junction, Chheoki railway station, more than 200 people are reaching the PRS counter for cancellation of tickets here. more than five thousand. In Apart from this, many such

travellers stayed during the last eight days who got reservations for their journey but they did not travel due to the growing corona infection in Mumbai and other cities of Maharashtra.

Rajiv Singh of Allapur, who came to Prayagraj Rambagh railway station on Friday to cancel the ticket for Pune, said that his daughter is working in a multinational company in Pune. Three months ago, he got the reservation done, but now the way corona has increased in Maharashtra and now Prayagraj, there is no courage

to go there. Similarly, on Friday, Dilip

who came to cancel the ticket for Mumbai at the reservation counter of Prayagraj Junction, told that he had a reservation on April 14. If the ticket had been canceled a day earlier, the refund would have been half. For this reason, the ticket was canceled on Sunday itself. PRO Amit Singh of

Prayagraj division, said that trains coming from Mumbai-Pune route are coming full. During the last eight days, more than 8,000 tickets have been canceled from all the railway stations of divi-

DC asks pvt, govt hosp officials to ensure availability of ICU beds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar, while addressing a meeting late on Thursday apprised the private hospital and government hospital officials to work out a strategy to ensure the availability of ICU beds, oxygen supported beds and ventilators for the increasing COVID-19 patients. He said all the hospitals will have to look into their available resources and extend best possible help for the suffering humanity at this critical junc-

He expressed thanks to the Indian Medical Association and Kanpur Nursing Homes Association, for the kind support and assurance of all possible help. He said because the pandemic had raised its head more menacingly for the second round and this time the fatalaties were far far more there was a need for medical emergency. He said this can be successfully countered by working in a coordinated man-ner and sharing all what med-



bring down the fatalities of the

The IMA has extended all possible help as far as manpower and diagnostics was needed . Similarly all the prominent hospitals of the city both government and private have assured all possible help in the best possible means. The DC said the critical patients need to be given priority and advised all people to ensure they go in for vaccination in a

ical facilities the city has to big way. He said vaccination, social distancing and wearing face mask round-the-clock was the only way to save oneself of the onslaught of the disease.

Prominent hospitals which took part in the meeting were Kulwanti Hospital, Fortune Hospital, Kanpur Medical Centre, Mariampur Hospital, Madhuraj, Krishna Super Speciality, Grace Hospital, Apollo Hospital, Chandini Hospital, New Leelamani, JL Rohtagi General Hospital, Lifetron, Family Hospital, Priya Hospital, Dwivedi Hospital and Medi Health. The entire officials assured of all possible support of ICU, oxygen supported beds and HDU Beds. The DC said the finaly decision in this regard will be taken in 24 hours. Prominent officials who also took part in the meeting were Additional Director Health, Chief Medical Officer, DD Panchayat. IMA-K officials and office-bearers of

DM warns chemists to refrain from overcharging Home Isolation Kit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

 $T^{\text{he District Magistrate, City,}}_{\text{Alok Tiwari has warned the}}$ chemists and druggists to refrain from overcharging the Home Isolatiion Kit. He also with his team visited umpteen medicine shops around Hallet, Madhuraj and Swarup Nagar and directed that the price of the Home Isolation Kit cannot be sold above the government fixed price of Rs 1,100. He said the price of the kit was print-

He said all the chemists and druggists should put up flax banners where they should inform patients of the availability of the Home Isolation Kits and its price had to be prominently displayed (Rs 1,100). He said in case of any report from any patient that he or she had been overcharged for the Home Isolation Kits then strict action will be taken in more kits before the stock

coming to know that many shops claimed that they did not have the Home Isolation Kits and directed the Drug Inspector to issue notices to all the shops. He cautioned that all



District Magistrate City, Alok Tiwari, issues show cause notice to a chemist for not having Home Isolation Kit nor displaying any banner for its sale

Isolation Kits available and they should ensure they bring The DM lost temper on It may be mentioned here that some shops deny on the ground that the kit was sold off but the fact was that the kits were being sold from the back

door on double the price. the shops must have Home surprise raids on medicine

shops at Hallet hospital, mainly Popular Medical Store, Mohan Chemist and Maa against the shop and the owner ended. He said there can be no Chemist and directed the Drug the shops for their failure to keep adequate Home Isolation Kits in their shops. He said it was mandatory for the medicine shops to have Home Isolation Kits sufficiently avail-The DM then carried out able at their shops failing which strict action will be taken

against them. He said the three stores have been issue show cause notice and once they give the reply then action will be

He warned all druggists to ensure they had sufficient kits avilable in their shops and it cannot be sold above the fixed price of Rs 1100. The Additional District Magistrate and Drug officials accompa-

Fire officials felicitated by UBI Regional Head

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Regional Head of the Union Bank of India, Regional Office, Hrishikesh Mishra, on Friday felicitated the fire officials who had acted promptly when the fire broke out in the conference hall of the bank on April, 1, 2021. He said it was due to the quick efforts made by the Fazalganj Fire Fighting team that the fire could be brought successfully under control with the minimal loss. He said had it not been their quick and dedicated efforts the bank would have suffered major losses.

He then felicitated the Fire Offier, Fazalganj branch, Kailash Chandra along with his team members. He later handed over letter of commendation to the Fire Officer and his team

On the occasion the Chief Manager, Prashant Katiyar and Security Officer, Manoj Kumar

Sharma were also present.
TRUSTS ENJOYING I-T RELIEF TO FILL TWO NEW FORMS: Noted Chartered Accountant, Shivam Omar addressing a webinar on Friday informed that all the trusts which enjoy relief from Income Tax will have to fill two new forms 10A and 10AB and all the trusts will have to fill these forms must latest by June 30 to avail themselves of the benefits. He further informed that the government had included 80G in this new form.

He said all the trustees which avail themselves of the IT rebate on charitable donations on the form 80G the donors were to mention their priority for parents and they are



gross total income for any deductions. He said with effect from April, 1, 2021 the government has introduced new tax rebate and under this all the other provision like Section 12 A, 12ÅA, 10(23C) and Section 80 now will have to file form 10 A and all the old trustees will have to follow the new format.

He said unless this was done the trusts will not be able to avail themselves of the benefits and they will have to ensure they obtain it latest by June 30, 2021. He said the new forms were available and advised all the trusts to ensure they avail themselves of the

new facility without fail. **LAUNCHED:** Children's nutrition, particularly in the times of a pandemic is a top

always trying to get children to try out foods that have the goodness of wholesome ingredients. But given the fact that children are picky eaters, this is an uphill task for parents. To study the attitudes of mothers towards kids nutrition during the on-going pandemic, a Nationwide study amongst mothers of children aged between 4-12 was set up in the latter half of 2020. The overwhelming data that emerged from the study is that 79 per cent of Indian Moms feel the wholesomeness of traditional foods like Parantha, Daliya and Doodh Roti is what they would most want included in their kids diets. The survey also revealed the contrasting attitude towards the taste of traditional foods - While Mothers

love the taste of foods like Doodh roti, their children more often than not, didn't. As a response to these findings of the survey, Britannia Milk Bikis launched 100 per cent Atta product with Doodh Roti ki Shakti on Friday. Vice-President (Marketing) Vinay Subramanyam said "the biscuit has been launched in response to an increasing need for wholesome nutrition for children and the power of tradi-tional Indian foods in doing so. As the new Milk Bikis is a perfect example of upholding the goodness of traditional values and infusing in the form of a modern milk biscuit, that's why we have partnered with Pankaj Tripathi, who is a modern parent, yet is true to his roots and tradition".

cKers ties up with Altigreen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Kers Finance, an NBFC Cfocused on financing sustainability and clean energy projects in India, announced a debt financing tie-up with Altigreen, an Electric Vehicle OEM with a mission of enabling a better world through carbon-free road transporta-tion. cKers has set-up an initial line of INR Thirty Million for Altigreen. This facility will be used by Altigreen for working capital to manufacture the EV components and its cargo L5 electric three-wheeler.

Speaking about the facility, Jayant Prasad, Executive Director, cKers Finance said, Within the e-mobility sector, we are partnering with companies that are able to showcase a strong business model, proven unit level economics and track record in raising institutional equity. Our understanding and research about the developments in the EV ecosystem enable us to confidently foray into the new upcoming segments. Altigreen meets all these criteria, the founding and leadership team of the company is just as passionate as us to make carbonfree transportation not just exciting and economical, but accessible to all.'

accessible to all.'
Talking about the transition of Indian EV market,
Shalendra Gupta, Co-founder,
Altigreen Propulsion Labs said,
'We are excited to partner with
cKers to accelerate the adoption
of electric three-wheelers in of electric three-wheelers in India. Altigreen plans to enable the ecosystem for zero emission vehicles, through differentiated end-customer mobility experience. EV manufacturing requires significant investment of working capital by the OEM. Financing of vehicles for institutional buyers and smaller Ecommerce delivery fleets is also an important enabler. cKers helps Altigreen in bridging both these gaps without which the growth of EVs in India and the emerging markets would remain inadequate.

Speaking about the partnership, Deepak Gupta, Business Development Head at cKers said 'Faster adoption of EVs in India is very likely in the commercial use segment where the TCO (Total Cost of Ownership) advantage of EVs is greater due to higher number of daily kms run. The gap of indigenous OEMs developing EVs suitable for Indian commercial use case is aptly filled by Altigreen for the electric three-wheeler segment now and will help in the push towards adoption of cleaner mode of transport on Indian

Fire breaks out in plastic goods godown PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

A plastic goods godown caught fire due to electric short circuit under the Moolgani police station on Friday morning. It is situated on Meston Road, near Beechwala Mandir. Seeing the thick smoke, people living on the first floor came to know about the incident and informed the fire brigade. Fire fighting jawans from Latouche Road Fire Station reached the spot and after rescuing the residents, started extinguishing

According to reports, Uma Shanker Verma owns his house in Maida Bazar, near Beechwala Mandir, Meston Road, and lives with wife and children on its first floor. The basement was given on rent to Mehboob Ilahi for use as godown to store plastic mats and doormats. On Friday morning, the godown caught fire due to electric short circuit.

Station House Officer Anjan Kumar along with force

reached the spot. Meanwhile, FSO Surendra Chaubey also reached there with the fire tender from Latouche Road Fire Station who, after rescuing Uma Shanker Verma and his family members through the neighbour's rooftop, started extinguishing the fire in the basement. Fire tenders from Meerpur and Colonelganj Fire Stations were also summoned. FSO said residents were safe and amount of loss of goods

Bandra Terminus-Gkp summer special to run on April 18 & 25

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

 $T^{\text{he railway administration}}_{\text{will for the convenience of}}$ passengers run 09067/09068 Bandra Terminus (BDTS)-Gorakhpur - Bandra Terminus summer special train from Bandra Terminus on April 18 and 25 and from Gorakhpur on April 20 and 27 in two trips. All coaches in this train will be of coaches in this train will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) PK Singh said.

BDTS-GKP SPL: The

09067 Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur summer special train will on April 18 and 25 depart from Bandra Terminus at 19.25 hrs, from Borivali at 20.10 hrs, from Vapi at 21.55 hrs, from Surat at 23.32 hrs, from Vadodara on second day at 01.15 hrs, from Ratlam at 05.35 hrs, from Bhawani Mandi at 07.57 hrs, from Kota at 09.30 hrs, from Sawai Madhopur at 10.50 hrs, from Bayana at 13.30 hrs, from Agra Fort at 15.40 hrs, from Tundla at 16.50 hrs, from Etawah at 17.48 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 19.40 hrs, from Lucknow City at 21.42 hrs, on the third day from Barabanki at 00.10 hrs, from Basti at 03.35 hrs and reach

Gorakhpur at 06.05 hrs. **GKP-BDTS SPL:** In the return journey the 09068 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus summer special train will on

April 20 and 27 depart from Gorakhpur at 16.10 hrs, from Basti at 18.47 hrs, from Barabanki at 21.47 hrs, from Lucknow City on second day at 00.27 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 03.20 hrs, from Etawah at 04.52 hrs, from Tundla at 06.20 hrs, from Agra Fort at 07.55 hrs, from Bayana at 09.34 hrs, from Sawai Madhopur at 11.20 hrs, from Kota at 13.05 hrs, from Bhawani Mandi at 13.12 hrs, from Ratlam at 16.55 hrs, from Vadodara at 20.40 hrs, from Surat at 23.20 hrs, from Vapi on the third day at 01.28 hrs, from Borivali at 04.27 hrs and reach Bandra Terminus at 05.10 hrs. A total of 24 coaches, including 18 of sleeper class, four of ordinary second class, two of SLRD will be attached in this special train.

Pune-Lko Jn spl on Apr 21, 28

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration will run 01441/01442 Pune-Lucknow Jn- Pune superfast summer special train from Pune on April 21 and 28 and from Lucknow Jn on April 16, 23 and 30. It will also run 05191/05192 Gorakhpur-Panvel-Gorakhpur summer special train from Gorakhpur on April 16 and 20 and from Panvel on April 18 and 22 in two trips. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the

Covid-19 prevention guide-lines, CPRO PK Singh said. PUNE-LJN SPECIAL: The 01441 Pune-Lucknow Jn superfast summer special train will on April 21 and 28 depart from Pune at 21.30 hrs, from Daund Chord Line at 00.13 hrs, from Ahmednagar on second day, from Manmad at 03.15 hrs, from Bhusaval at 06.45 hrs, from Khandwa at 09.00 hrs, from Itarsi at 11.25 hrs, from Bhopal at 13.40 hrs, from Bina at 15.55 hrs, from Jhansi at 18.05 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 20.45 hrs and reach Lucknow Jn on the third day at

LJN-PUNE SUMMER SPL: In the return journey 01442 Lucknow Jn- Pune superfast summer special train will on April 16, 23 and 30 depart from Lucknow Jn from at 04.00 hrs, from Kanpur at 05.40 hrs, from Jhansi at 10.20 hrs, from Bina at 12.35 hrs, from Bhopal at 14.50 hrs.,

Itarsi at 16.05 hrs, Khandwa at 18.50 hrs, Bhusaval at 20.35 hrs, Manmad at 23.25 hrs, the second day from Ahmednagar at 02.23 hrs, from Daund Chord Line at 04.00 hrs and will reach Pune at 05.10 hrs. A total of 21 coaches, including one of sleeper class, 16 general second class, two air-conditioned third class and two of SLRD will be attached in this special train. **GKP-PANVEL SPL:** The

05191 Gorakhpur-Panvel summer special train will on April 16 and 20 depart from Gorakhpur at 19.00 hrs, from Khalilabad at 19.42 hrs, from Basti at 20.11 hrs, from Gonda at 21.45 hrs, from Aishbagh on second day at 00.50 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 02.20 hrs, from Orai at 04.16 hrs, from Jhansi at 06.40 hrs, from Bina at 09.50 hrs, from Bhopal at 11.55 hrs, from Itarsi at 13.50 hrs, from Khandwa at 17.15 hrs, from Bhusaval at 19.20 hrs, from Nashik Road at 23.20 hrs, on the third day from Kalyan at 03.15 hrs and reach Panvel at 04.20 hrs.

PANVEL-GKP SPECIAL: In the return journey the 05192 Panvel-Gorákhpur summer special train will on April 18 and 22 depart from Panvel at 11.10 hrs, from Kalyan at 11.53 hrs, from Nashik Road at 14.20 hrs, from Bhusaval at 17.50 hrs, from Khandwa at 21.05 hrs, from Itarsi at 23.35 hrs, from Bhopal on the second day at 01.15 hrs, from Bina at 03.11 hrs, from Jhansi at 05.25 hrs, from Aishbagh at 11.35 hrs. from Gonda at 14.10 hrs, from Basti at 15.30 hrs, from Khalilabad at 15.54 hrs and will arrive at Gorakhpur at 17.00 hrs. A total of 23 coaches, including 10 of sleeper class, nine of general second class, two of air-conditioned third class and two of SLRD will be

attached in this special train. LJN-PANVEL SPL: The 05189 Lucknow Jn- Panvel summer special train on April 18 and 21 depart from Lucknow Jn at 06.20 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 08.10 hrs, from Orai at 09.40 hrs, from Jhansi at 12.15 hrs, from Habibganj at 16.25 hrs, from Itarsi at 18.15 hrs, from Khandwa at 21.12 hrs, from Bhusaval at 23.15 hrs, from Nashik Road on the second day at 02.40 hrs, from Kalyan at 05.30 hrs and reach Panvel at

06.15 hrs.
PANVEL-LJN SPECIAL: In the return journey, 05190 Panvel-Lucknow Jn summer special train will on April 19 and 22 depart from Panvel at 09.15 hrs, from Kalyan at 09.45 hrs, from Nashik Road at 12.50 hrs, from Bhusaval at 16.25 hrs, from Khandwa at 17.35 hrs, from Itarsi at 20.10 hrs, from Habibganj at 21.40 hrs, Jhansi at 01.55 hrs on second day, from Orai at 04.17 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 07.10 hrs and reach Lucknow Junction at 09.10 hrs. A total of 18 coaches, including 11 of general second class, five of sleeper class from Orai at 06.51 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 10.00 hrs, attached in this special train.

Tribute paid to Ambedkar

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the presidentship of General Manager of North Eastern Railway (NER) Vinay Kumar Tripathi the 130th birth anniversary of the father of Indian Constitution, Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, was celebrated at GM's conference hall on Thursday by garlanding his portrait. On the occasion General Manager, principal heads of departments, senior railway officers, general secretary of Railway Mazdoor Union KL Gupta and general secretary of Scheduled Castes and Tribes Association Chandrashekhar along with a large number of officers and employees paid tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

General Manager Vinay Kumar Tripathi said that Babasaheb Ambedkar was a social reformer, educationist, jurist and the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. He said that Baba Saheb had advocated extensive economic and social rights for women. The GM said that Baba Saheb had given three slogans to the society — be edu-



cated, get organised and struggle. By educated society he meant building a sensible, aware and thoughtful society which can contribute to the progress of the nation. The General Manager said that all of us treading the path shown by Baba Saheb is a real tribute.

Wheat crop reduced to ashes

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Wheat crop reduced to ashes in Hameedpur village under Jamalpur police station on Thursday. According to a report, cutting of crop was in going on in the field through a harvester when a spark suddenly caused the fire. On getting information the fire brigade reached the spot and succeeded in extinguishing the blaze with the help of the locals. However, the crop of Janardan Singh, Jitendra Singh, Geeta Devi, Kishundev Singh, Shivaji Singh, Jangbahadur Patel and Radheshyam got burnt. In another case, the fire broke out in the jungle of Sikatahi under Madihan police station in the wee hours of Wednesday. A representative of an ashram located at that place informed the authorities and he himself came forward for the rescue work along with tankers.
The flames could be controlled by the fire brigade after hard

labour of hours. MEETING: District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar on Thursday held a could not be ascertained so far. | meeting at the Collectorate

with operators of private nursing homes, clinics and pathologies to get their cooperation in combating the pandemic. Addressing the meeting the DM made an appeal to cooperate for the cause of humanity. He said that increasing cases were a matter of anxiety and Mirzapur and Vindhyachal

taken if any one was found taking any additional charge. He appealed to doctors to work with safety and follow the norms. CMO Dr PD Gupta apprised the DM that corona testing facility was available at the railway stations at Chunar,



DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar holding a meeting at Collectorate on Thursday

support of private doctors was the need of the hour. In the meeting the doctors promised to do so free of cost. The DM appealed to nursing homes to keep beds for the patients of L-2 category equipped with all required facilities, including oxygen, variation etc ready. The DM made it clear that the rate of tests had been fixed by the government for private pathologies so action will be

along with district hospital and women's hospital where it was available to all. In the meeting the doctors present made available their contact numbers and assured to provide free consultation to patients. The meeting was attended by Chief Development Officer (CDO) Avinash Singh, and ADM/ Covid control room incharge Amrendra Verma.

Former CBI chief Ranjit Sinha dies of Covid-19



PNS NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{ormer CBI Director Ranjit}}_{\text{Sinha died here on Friday}}$ morning reportedly due to Covid-19. Sinha, 68, was confirmed positive for novel coronavirus infection on Thursday night and succumbed to the disease early on Friday, officials said. An IPS officer of the 1974batch (Bihar cadre), Sinha took over as the Director of CBI on December 3, 2012 and retired on December 2, 2014. He was the 26th Director of CBI after its for-

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

Sinha, a Post Graduate in Science from Patna University, had an M.Phil from IIPA, New Delhi and a Diploma in HR Management from Wollongong University, Australia. He was decorated with the Police Medal

Ensure smooth passage to vehicles carrying oxygen: Centre tells States

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

for Meritorious Service in 1991

and the President's Police Medal

for Distinguished Service in

1997. In-charge Director, CBI,

Praveen Sinha, in his condolence

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

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

7 day moving average. In last two weeks, the State has seen almost 131% increase in weekly new cases. 22 districts in Chhattisgarh have crossed their reported highest cases in the last 30 days; Raipur, Durg, Rajnandgaon and Bilaspur are the most affected districts. In

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

which changes were made in the

coal scam probe report submit-

ted to the apex court.

contrast to the week 17th-23rd

March 2021, in the week of

7th-13thApril 2021, RT-PCR

tests have decreased to 28%

(from 34%) while the Antigen

Tests have increased to 62%

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

The Home Secretary emphasised that medical oxygen is an essential public health commodity and any impediment in its supply in the country may critically impact the management of patients suffering from COVID-19 disease in other parts of the country. to ensure that no such restriction is imposed on the move-

Therefore, you are requested ment of medical oxygen between the states and UTs, and transport authorities shall be instructed to accordingly allow free inter-state movement of oxygen carrying vehicles," the letter said.

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

supply without restriction. Court says is correct," was his Justice RM Lodha were a result response to the reporters after the of Sinha's nine-page affidavit to the Supreme Court giving details controversy. Towards the fag of his meetings with the then Law end of his tenure, another con-Minister Ashwani Kumar and troversy stuck him. A purported other senior officers during visitors' diary with names of persons under the CBI scanner

in coal and 2G scam surfaced in

2014. It showed that these peo-

ple were allegedly frequenting his

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

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

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

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

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

residence. The Supreme Court directed the then CBI chief to recuse himself from the 2G scam

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

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

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

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

met the accused at his residence.

former CBI special director ML

Sharma to carry out an inquiry

The Supreme Court asked

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

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

The report also doesn't

propose a blanket national or state lockdown. Indicating that economic closures are most disruptive to the poorest sections of society, it proposes a middle-ground approach in India, comprising phased, localised closures or

into allegations. Taking note of

Sharma's report, the CBI regis-

tered an FIR against Sinha which



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

Lr.No.12096 // Dt. 13.04.2021

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

: Construction of bridge work (Balance work) Name of the work

: Rs 1254.94 lakh

- Period of completion: 24 (Twenty Four) calendar months

Procurement Officer	Bid identification	No. of bridge	Availability of tender online for bidding		
	No	works	From	To	
Chief Engineer (Buildings), Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar	Online- 01(Bridge) /2021-22	01 (One) no	23.04.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	13.05.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.	

Chief Engineer (Buildings) OIPR-25123/11/0002/2122

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

नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन

क्र .	सि.नि. क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत राशि रू.	निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि
1	76289	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-62 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone - 1	700000.00	28-04-2021
2	76290	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-62 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone - 2	700000.00	28-04-2021
3	76291	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-61 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone - 3	7000000.00	28-04-2021
4	76292	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-63 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone - 4	7100000.00	28-04-2021
5	76293	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-56 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone-6	6500000.00	28-04-2021
6	76294	Supply of Placement Labour (227) - High Skilled - 6, Skilled - 124, Semi Skilled - 14, Unskilled - 83	27511440.00	28-04-2021

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

नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)

message said, "Our heartfelt condolences are with the bereaved family in this hour of intense rief. May his soul rest in peace".

Incidentally, it was during Sinha's tenure at the CBI during which the agency earned the sobriquet of "caged parrot" from the Supreme Court.

The scathing remarks by

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, **ा** उ०प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि0 पारेषण भवन, कक्ष संख्या 212, एस0एल0डी0सी0 परिसर, निकट मंत्री आवास, विभूति खण्ड–2, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ अति अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा सूचन अनुभवी फर्मो / ठेकेदारों / अधिकृत विक्रेताओं / निर्माताओं से निम्नलिखित कार्य के सम्पाद हेतु सीलबन्द निविदायें दो भागों ई—टेण्डरिंग वेबसाइट www.etender.up. nic.in पर आमन्त्रित की जाती है। अवि अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या-01-विपाखद्वि(ल) / 2021—22 वि० पारे० खण्ड—II लखनऊ के अधीन 220 के०वी० सरोजनीनगर-बछरावाँ / सरोजनी नगर-गोमती नगर द्विपरिपथ पारेषण लाइन लोकेशन संख्या १४ए एवं १५ए (सेक्शन लोकेशन नं0 13 सी से 21 सी) का सर्वे एवं प्रोफाइल बनाने का कार्य-धरोहर राशि रू० . 1000.00 ई—निविदा भाग—1 खुलने की तिथि 22.04.2021. समय 13:30 बजे. ई—निविद भाग—2 (प्राइज पार्ट) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदोनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित किया जायेगा। ई—निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (18 प्रतिशत जी०एस०टी० सहित)। ई—निविदा का भाग प्रथम व द्वितीय-प्राइज बिड (दरें एंव शर्ते) www.etender.up.nic.in पर भरी जायेगी। भाग–1 में धरोहर धनराशि व निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य जोकि अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड–द्वितीय, लखनऊ के खाता सँख्या– 0758002100009361, IFSC code-PUNB0691100 पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, शाखा विजयन्त खण्ड, लखनऊ RTGS/NEFT के माध्यम से स्थानान्तर कर यू०टी०आर० सँख्या तथा पे–स्लिप की ਸ਼ਰਿ www.etender.up.nic.in web site पर निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ स्व प्रमाणित पैन एवम जी०एस०टी० में पंजीकरण प्रमाण-पः कार्य अनभव प्रमाण-पत्र व अर्हकारी शर्ते एवर अन्य सम्बन्धी प्रपत्र तथा निविदा के द्वितीर भाग में मूल्य / दरें www.etender.up.nic.in पर दिनॉक 22.04.2021 अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे तक ही Upload की जानी है। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग के प्रपत्र निर्धारित तिथि प 13.30 बजे अथवा उसके उपरान्त ही Down-Load किये जायेगें। निविदाओं के प्रथम भार के मल्यांकन के उपरान्त उपयक्त पायी गयी निविदाओं के ही द्वितीय भाग Down-Load खोला जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त जानकारी, नियम व अर्हकारी शर्ते निविदा प्रपत्र में अंकित है जो www.etender.up.nic.in द्वारा Down-Load या अवलोकित की ज सकती है। ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में ई—निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय तक स्वीकार की जायेगी एंव निर्धारित समय पर खोर्ल जायेगी। ई-निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये ई-निविदा / ई-निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय पत्रांक 673 दिनांक 15.04.2021

ITBP spruces up its facilities to defend personnel against Covid

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

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

Deswal issued a message in this regard to around 90,000 personnel and an estimated 20,000 retired and dependents of the force that was raised in 1962 after the Chinese aggression.

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

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

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



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

assault by COVID-19." "Most of you have been vaccinated as per priority given to us by the government.

We are warriors, and will

fight it out by following the

COVID-19 safety protocols, the message said.

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

other citizens also by rendering all help. Be a sincere follower of COVID-19 safety protocol. Protect yourself, families, and near and dear ones," the message said. The ITBP is primarily

tasked to guard the 3,488-kmlong Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China apart from rendering a variety of duties in the internal security domain of the country.

As per official data published on April 14, various central armed police forces (CAPFs) are also witnessing a jump in coronavirus infections as the country is witnessing a surge in recent times.

India firms up its stakes in Af

President Joe Biden

announced withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, India on Friday said any political settlement in the war-ravaged country must be inclusive and should preserve the socio-economic and political gains of the past 19

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

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

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

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

spokesperson said. Bagchi was responding to

New Delhi: Two days after US media queries on the US announcement.

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

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

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

"India remains engaged with the Afghan stakeholders and also our regional and international partners regarding next steps," he said. In a major announcement,

President Joe Biden on Wednesday said US troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan beginning May 1 and the process will be completed by September 11.

SC's directive for speedy disposal of cheque bounce cases

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK e mail - serw_ctc@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online RWC - 10/21

Letter No.- 1329 e-Procurement NOTICE

Class of Contractor

Date :- 15.04.2021

Construction of Periodical Maintenance road works of Post DLP PMGSY roads in the District of ck and Jagatsinghpur. As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure

राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें"

20.04.2021 04.05.2021 03.05.202 05.05.2021 erintendi Will be up to Works Circle, later on 11.00 A.M 05.00 P.M 02.00 P.M 11.00 A.M

OIPR-25097/11/0002/2122

Rural Works Circle, Cuttack

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

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

same transaction.

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

The bench, also comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao,

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

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

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

On March 10, the top court had constituted the committee

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

It said a three-judge bench would now take up the suo motu matter on ensuring early disposal of cheque bounce cases after eight weeks.

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

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

SC appoints special public prosecutors for multi-crore coal scam

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

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

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

a seasoned trial court lawyer of impeccable integrity and a designated senior advocate to guide him and conduct the proceedings. 'Taking into account the

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

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



BJP says Mamata planned riots over firing, releases audio tape

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

In the purported audio-tape fea-

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

At a time when she should have stood with the law-enforcing agencies the Chief Minister was seen standing by the law-breakers, Malavya said. "Imagine had this rally been allowed to take place what would have been the situation of Bengal what kind of communal disturbance it would have ignited," he

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

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

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

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

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

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

Fifth phase of polling today

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

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

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

Rajya Sabha election: CPM fields John Brittas

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

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

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

said in his revised order.

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

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

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

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

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

NCB busts gang cultivating cannabis in Thane flat

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

Jahangir Sheikh and Arshad Khatri. "We are trying to find out their antecedents and links," Wankhede said. "During our raids, we found that Cannabis was being cultivated there through Hydroponic techniques. From the site we have recovered cultivation setup, PH regulators, plant nutrients,

clay pebbles, water pumps, air circulation systems, CO2 gas cylinders, photosynthesis lighting systems," Wankhede The cannabis cultivation was being done clandestinely in the flat owned by one Rehan Khan who is away in Saudi Arabia. Khan is suspected to be financing the illegal cannabis cultiva-

tion. While nArshad is an expert in hydroponic cultivation, Javed

used to manage distribution of harvest.

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

Aligarh cops start jail bharo movement

PNS ALIGARH

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

day.

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

Tamil Nadu's knitwear sector hit hard amid Covid surge **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN** lead us, mainly MSMEs into a liquid-

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

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

Shanmugham, a real Raja of the knitwear industry, says the fortunes of the industry could be turned for the better by a few measures which could be ordered by Nirmala Sitaraman, the country's finance minister. "The second lockdown promulgated in major countries like Germany, France and UK from November, has

ity crisis. In addition to this we are facing another shock in the form of ever increasing price of yarn, our important raw material due to business dynamics. These factors have eroded the competitiveness of the knitwear industry," Shanmugham, known for his fighting spirits, told The Pioneer with uncertainty written all over his face.

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

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

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

Maha logs 63,729 new cases | 10,031 new

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

the state rose from 6,20,060 to 6,38,034.. The fatality rate in the state dropped from 1.63 per cent to 1.61 per cent.

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

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

by Thane (84038), Nagpur (71539), Nashik (49,925), Aurangabad (13,630), Ahmednagar (18,049), Nanded (13,134), Bhandara (13987) Jalgaon (11,570), Latur (14033), Solapur (11051), Satara (10551), Parbhani (10,336), Beed (7922) Nandurbar (7330), Chandrapur (10,144) and Gondia (7336).

3 MVA Mins indicate fresh curbs

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

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

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

cases in Kerala, 8,449 in TN

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

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

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

Be transparent, honest on Covid situation: Guj HC to Govt

Gandhinagar: The Gujarat High Court, in its order on the suo moto PIL it filed regarding the current upsurge in the Covid situation, has asked the State Government to reach to the public in an honest and transparent manner so as to tackle the crisis the state is fac-

A division bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Bhargav D. Karia, which had held a hearing on the Covid situation with Advocate General Kamal Trivedi appearing on behalf of the state government, was dissatisfied with the "rosy picture" painted by the government as the prevailing situation was opposite its claims.

The high court, in its order, ordered the state government to increase the existing RT-PCR testing facilities and ensure the reduction of time to get the reports. It also ordered that accurate reporting of the RT-PCR results to be made public.

"The state should not feel shy of publishing the correct

Regarding the public perception about remdesivir injections being a miracle drug and Trivedi's explanation that the drug was over-prescribed, the court ordered that remdesivir's administration and its dependency should be explained and communicated to the public through various print, electronic and social media, so that the deficit and misuse by black

marketeers stop.

The court also ordered the state government control the online portal providing details of availability of beds etc, and that instead of the data being updated twice a day, the data and the display of availability of beds should be made real time.

The government was also told to report to the court about the status of availability of oxygen in the state with regards to the demand.

The court order also advised the state government to make efforts to find out the actual number of Covid cases so as to remove the general perception in the public that state

provided data was not accurate. "Make necessary arrangements to be made by the responsible officer with regard to the number of positive patients, the number of deaths due to Covid, the number of deaths due to Covid with comorbidity, to restore faith and trust in the public," the court

"The state should come up publicly in a transparent and fair manner with regards to availability and modalities of the required amenities, medical and related infrastructure for treatment of the patients, who require facilities of Covid-19 hospitalisation, with oxygen, ventilators, medicines etc.

"In order to achieve the objectives of removing the

public perception and restoring the faith, the state needs to have honest and transparent dialogue with the public which should be communicated with all, through print, electronic

and social media," it added. "The state has nothing to gain by hiding the real picture and hence, suppression and concealment of accurate data would generate more serious problems, including fear, loss of trust, panic in the public. Coming out in a transparent and honest manner will also create awareness about the grave situation prevailing in the current times, to persuade the public to strictly abide by the Standard Operating Protocol regarding Covid."

The court, noting the request from the Indian Medical Association's Gujarat branch wishing to participate, said that it was free to do so as it scheduled the next hearing for April 20.

Released by Maoists, CRPF commando gets heroic welcome on return **MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

CRPF CoBRA Commando Rakeshwar A CRPF CODEA Community And Later Singh Manhas, abducted and later released by the Maoists in Bijapur area of Chhattisgarh last week, received a hero's welcome on his arrival here in Jammu on

Accompanied by social workers who played a key role towards ensuring his safe release from the custody of Maoists on April 8, Manhas landed at Jammu airport where his five year daughter received him along with her mother and cheerful relatives amid patriotic chants hailing 'Mother

From the airport Manhas was escorted in a cavalcade to a famous resort where he was accorded a red carpet welcome too. He was warmly hugged by his family members and close friends at the main entrance of the resort. His mother and Wife along with hundreds of close relatives and well



wishers garlanded him and performed special prayers before escorting him inside the

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

reporters wearing a big smile on her face.

Meenu Chib, wife of Rakeshwar Singh Manhas was jubilant after meeting her husband. "I am very happy. All our prayers were answered and every one in the government at all levels played their role at the centre and state level to ensure safe release of my husband". "I also thank CRPF officials and the entire media fraternity for all their support and help" she added.

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

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



Visitors stand outside the closed gate of Victoria Memorial, amid rise in coronavirus cases across the country, in Kolkata on Friday

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Bumpy road ahead

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

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



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

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

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



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

Good omen

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

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



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

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

India's flaming forests play havoc



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

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

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

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

Haryana which suffered at least in Brazil are examples. 540 of these from 2016 to 2020. Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are witness to the most frequent forest fires annually. According to the National Forest Inventory under the MoEFCC, the fires severely affect almost 10



area while mildly affecting about 54 per cent, which makes about two-third of India's forests vulnerable to fires.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE

NEGLIGENCE RESPONSIBLE FOR SITUATION

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

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

Pachu Menon | Goa

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

Politicisation of vaccines



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

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

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

BAN SUPER-SPREADER EVENTS

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

authorisation of the Oxford-assisted Covishield and the indigenously-developed Covaxin for emergency use, the authorities soft-pedalled on giving authorisation and import/production licence(s) to other popular vaccine candidates in the world. According to the Lancet, Russia's vaccine Sputnik V had the efficacy of 91.6 per cent. While the chronic shortage was being felt, the Government allowed the exports to showcase India as a powerhouse of vaccines. To draw an analogy, the US has accumulated stocks which could vaccinate its entire

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

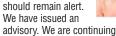
Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

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

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Being a tourist State if we impose night curfew, it will create a spin-off effect. People



to create awareness

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant



If we were to lift the border restrictions, you would see these cases increase and Australians would have to become used to dealing with

1.000 cases or more a week

Australian Prime Minister — Scott Morrison

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



- Adarsh Gourav



He is not the MS Dhoni which he used to be probably four or five years back, where he could just come in and start taking on the howlers from the word go.

> Former cricketer — Gautam Gambhi

There is no shortage of Remdesivir drug but if anyone is trying to misuse the pandemic situation by black-marketing, then

all those will be punished severely Karnataka Home Minister

- Basavaraj Bomma

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THE NEW REALTY **FOR INDIANS**

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



SONAM CHANDWANI

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



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

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

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

Time to turn Nocebo to Placebo in India



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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

All these supposed opinions and views have stopped people from getting vaccinated. Giving compensation for getting vaccinated has always backfired as people think that they are being paid because there is something to hide. The only groups that have justifiable concerns are the elderly, people with co-morbidities, pregnant women and those with high allergic reactions to vaccines. Also, there is no vaccine to protect our children, as of now. Though getting vaccinated is a personal choice, the most successful inoculation drives have been built on knowledge exchange, accessibility and successful stories of those getting vaccinated. Sherita Hill Golden, vice-presi-

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

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

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

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

NT**COUNTER**POINT

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





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

The Maha Kumbh of COVID and environmental risks

The writer is Registrar,

IIT Delhi.

The views expressed

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

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

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



KOTA SRIRAJ

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The views expressed

super-spreader." The situation looks hopeless unless either the event is immediately terminated or social distancing norms are strictly adhered to. But nothing significant seems to have been done by the Government regarding it. Health risks aside, the

pilgrims across the country, the Maha Kumbh is all set to

become a "Maha COVID-19

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

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

25 special trains to ferry the four pilgrimage places on pilgrims across the country, the four sacred rivers, namely, at Haridwar on the Ganga, at Ujjain on the Shipra, at Nashik on the Godavari and at Prayagraj at the confluence of the Ganga, the Jamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati. The Nashik Kumbh Mela

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

concerns. This is not surprising, but

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

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



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

IANS MUMBAI

Amid revival in housing demand, the residential segment witnessed private equity (PE) investments worth \$234 million in Q1 2021 which was 64 per cent of that witnessed during the entire 2020, said a Knight Frank India report.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India said: "The deal The investments in Q1 street market of Indian real

cent of that witnessed in full surge in both value and volume of private equity investments in the first quarter of 2021, when compared to the entire year of

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

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

Forex reserves surge by USD 4.34 bn to USD 581.21 bn

PTI MUMBAI

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

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

a lifetime high of USD 590.18 billion in the week ended January 29, 2021. In the reporting week

The reserves had touched

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jet fuel price cut by 1 pc

Tet fuel price on Friday was cut by 1 per cent, the second reduction in rates this month following softening

international crude oil prices. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was reduced by Rs 568.88 per kilolitre, or 0.9 per cent, to Rs 57,805.28 per kl in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. This is the second reduction in rates this month. Earlier, prices were cut by 3 per cent on April 1. These price cuts were the

first in six months. Meanwhile, petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged after the fourth reduction in three weeks on Thursday.

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

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

Benchmarks eke out slim gains; close lower for the week

PTI MIIMBAI

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

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

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

Asian Paints was the top performer among the Sensex components, spurting 3.07 per cent, followed by UltraTech

Pharma, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra and Nestle India.

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

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

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

SII CEO urges US to lift raw material export ban to ramp up vaccine production

Mumbai:Serum Institute of India (SII) CEO Adar Poonawalla on Friday said the US needs to lift its embargo on raw material exports to help ramp up vaccine production.

SII is currently manufacturing anti-coronavirus vaccine Covishield, developed by Astrazeneca and Oxford University. The vaccine is not only being used in India, but exported to a number of countries. Poonawalla had earlier admitted that SII has been facing problems in sending out required number of batches of vaccines due to the bureaucratic and government-related

122.00 123.80

1954.00 1991.35

140.65 141.00

865.35 873.85

1210.00 1212.30

487.00 504.95

5245.00 5255.00

3850.00 3945.00

2088.05 2125.00

185.90 186.05

2912.10 2928.25

861.50 882.20

2575.00 2581.70

1906.90 1913.70

420.00 426.80

1573.70 1576.00

463.00 471.85

1363.30 1389.30

6383.55 6485.00

1002.30 1007.60

130.05 134.50

211.55 212.00

1120.30 1127.00

609.45 615.90

3330.00 3405.75

157.10 160.70

7478.00 7481.20

1461.15 1494.95

268.50 271.35

2269.40 2299.90

5129.35 5245.00

175.45 178.20

897.00 936.35

74.40

598.60

858.50

825.70

506.00

194.40

419.90

360,90

730.05

372.40

201.50

275.00

583.95

87.30

73.40

588.00

850.05

790.25

501.00

188.00

419.90

359.10

720.00

366.65

198.00

272.00

579.05

24.40

24.00

287.00

98.75

242.00

96.50

242.00

121.50 121.95

1939.80 1985.95

2050.00 2103.30

138.60 139.15

2858.80 2877.10

850.00 856.00

236.90 237.55

1180.45 1195.65

487.00 494.75

5179.00 5192.10

3850.00 3934.45

2064.95 2093.65

182.00 183.10

526.10 538.15

23.70 23.80

2802.70 2815.30

550.80 552.85

861.50 871.35

2486.25 2555.05

1850.05 1872.75

412.45 416.25

1540.85 1556.90

453.00 466.20

1350.00 1351.10

6326.00 6329.85

586,60 587,60

994.40 1000.20

130.05 131.75

839.00 841.75

208.00 208.80

788.40 805.85

1099 00 1121.15

493.50 496.90

603.05 605.05

3250.05 3258.20

156.30 156.80

188.00 193.55

7330.00 7352.60

1446.95 1461.55

261.15 262.65

407.00 411.10

356.00 358.20

707.80 711.75

361.70 362.30

5123.10 5142.35

172.25 174.45

886.10 907.40

195.70 199.40

270 20 273 60

568.20 573.05

65.60 66.95

1296.65 1298.90

2253.40 2267.25

73.20

86.70

72.95

96.20

94.40

JAMNAAUTO

BALMLAWRIE

SUPREMEIND

JYOTHYLAB

MINDACORP

JKCEMENT

RITES

BBTC

CERA

BASF

KRBL

MAHLOG

VMART

JCHAC

CRISIL

JAGRAN*

VENKYS

THERMAX

EIHOTEL

BLISSGVS

AIAENG

TCIEXP

VSTIND

MASFIN

TIINDIA

GODREJAGRO

MOTILALOFS

TEAMLEASE

MAHINDCIE

SHOPERSTOP

TTKPRESTIG

SHRIRAMCIT

SUPRAIIT

WESTLIFE

COCHINSHIP

AKZOINDIA

PHOENIXLTD

KALPATPOWR

FORCEMOT

BAYERCROP

REDINGTON

GEPIL

SUNDRMFAST

DHANUKA

TIMKEN

LAXMIMACH

NBVENTURES

TATAINVEST

ARVINDFASN

CAPPL

KEC

PCJEWELLER

GODFRYPHLP

KTKBANK

BLUEDART

KEI

261.00 268.85

279.20 284.10

27.10 28.15

TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS Wiper 9.00 ISW Steed -1.85

findalco 4.16 ICICI Bank -1.76 Cipla 2.83 Bajaj Fin -1.32 Asian Paints 2.56 L&T -1.25 Ultraffech C 2.52 Tata Street -1.23

282.20 294.25

251.30 252.80

7585.10 7776.20

679.10 685.20

718.80 727.45

2582.00 2605.20

131.75 133.70

252.35 258.35

545.00 550.25

1703.00 1728.60

1944.00 1965.45

102.50 107.00

499.60 504.70

398.90 401.50

139.40 140.60

890.10 902.60

363.30 365.15

851.35 859.05

118.25 118.90

2298.00 2319.90

160.35 162.00

1506.75 1515.40

6324.10 6343.40

46.55 47.10

42.20

11.25

84.60

28.85

88.65

75.10

42.00

121.45

11.18

83.80

285.00

79.40

28.70

88.50

73.00

394.00

478.00

75.75

956.15

34.45

2539.50 2574.90

78.00

73.75

926.95

34.30

14,617.85

'Govt should regulate cryptocurrencies, not ban them' CEO, WazirX said: "India's cryp-He said that so far there is as currency, asset, utility, secu-

127.90

17.25

141.40

809.00

533.00

456.00

189.10

333.10

336.20

519.90

205.20

35.60

69.90

677.05

74.40

124.10

575.00

68.00

297.00

RUPEE vs Dollar

260.90 265.50

1818.35 1872.60

2948.95 3072.25

1040.15 1167.80

3693.20 3731.60

1160.00 1184.00

1619.95 1624.35

30590.00 30989.45

5169.85 5289.00

1342.00 1380.00

4439.00 4500.00

151.15 156.60

1826.30 1850.00

297.95 305.50

1719.00 1751.75

1135.00 1148.05

17.60

142.10

214.70

308.20

335.95

817.95

554.00

464.70

196.80

358.70

353.60

532.00

209.65

36.50

72.25

126.75

592.00

68 50

310.00

12

1328.30 1328.30

1595.70 1601.50

461.00 478.95

2795.00 2845.00

864.85 883.60

108.20

Inverted Scale

15

1313.15 1323.25

1533.65 1559.55

459.40 470.60

858.00 861.95

102.60 103.10

994.15 1014.30

2552.00 2619.15

2712.15 2723.65

202.50 203.40

143.00 145.05

75.20

2769.25 2819.00

207.60

1580.00 1586.00

5120.00 5219.30

1341.10 1353.15

326.25 338.45

323.00 344.95

513.40 515.40

203.10 203.90

151.15 152.55

1809.20 1823.35

296.50 300.95

1705.00 1719.50

677.05 687.25

122.00 122.45

35.85

318.00

69.70

74.60

589.35

65.80

305.40

35.60

69.25

73.40

571.70

64.10

296.90

BALRAMCHIN

POWERGRID

BAJAJELEC

PRESTIGE

SWSOLAR

GUIGAS

BRITANNIA

ICICIPRULI

DEEPAKNI

PFIZER

GRASIM

VAIBHAVGBI

CENTURYPLY

PHILIPCARB

DELTACORP

PIDILITIND

BANKINDIA

AMBUJACEM

ADANIGREEN

INTELLECT

IDBI

PEL

MEGH

SYNGENE

SPICEIET

BAJAJCON

(-1.05p)

ZEEL

AMARAJABAT

SIEMENS

IOB

GAIL

IANS NEW DELHI

s government plans to come Aup with a Cryptocurrency Bill, sector stakeholders have said that the government should regulate the cryptocurrency ecosystem, rather than banning

NIFTY 50

LOW

them. Experts are of the view that India should formulate regulations in the lines of the development countries which regulate these currencies including the US, UK, Japan, Australia among

Nischal Shetty, Founder &

Script

WIPRO

DMART

DLF

BHEL.

DABUR

CANBK

ESCORTS

COALINDIA

HAVELLS

APOLLOTYRE

LALPATHLAB

RELIANCE

ADANIPORTS

to policy should be geared towards fostering innovation, and customer safety. We should be able to prevent bad activities but keep the door to innovation open by allowing everything else

Low

1926.60 1934.00

437.00 469.25

742.40 755.35

300.30 309.90

339.90

1347.00 1352.55

no single regulator in a position to regulate the entire crypto sec-

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

He also recommended that the government should ensure

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

RALLIS

99.00

3073.15 3144.90

218.65 224.55

234.75 236.35

3290.00 3367.60

963.00 1000.60

382.10 386.30

497.95 501.05

219.85 220.30

291.10 292.00

1881.00 1889.65

241.00 256.40

1673.75 1687.30

422.50 423.80

1006.80 1010.35

1580.30 1601.35

115.15 116.50

106.65 112.50

563.00 582.65

8005.00 8050.70

81.50 84.40

114.40 123.55

1388.80 1402.25

4070.00 4087.40

529.55 543.50

134.95 135.40

131.00 133.70

311.30 312.50

2922.10 2927.90

200.90 209.55

2740.00 2790.45

333.00 336.75

2449.35 2484.45

460.05 479.55

225.25 226.60

840.50 848.80

72.00

147.10

515.50

73.20

23.95

48.15

23.70

46.00

41.75

103.85

41.60

102.30

728.00

42.50

107.55

114.50

609.90

85.90

138.15

137.50

24.15

48.60

318.70

233.00

149.10

73.45

865.15

8.05

893.00

531.70

167.40

152.20

70.40

72.15

72.55

ORIENTREF

TV18BRDCST

TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS
Assur Paints 3.02 ICRUBANA 1.33

IGC 2.19 BajacFin -0.94 M&M 2.10 1CS Sun Pharma 2.07 SBI

rafech C 2.43 L&T

SUMICHEM

GALAXYSURF

JMFINANCIL

FLUOROCHEM

BIRLACORPN

UNIONBANK

GARFIBRES

SPANDANA

GSPL

MRPL

LUXIND

CEATLTD

INFIBEAM

BOSCHLTD

CASTROLIND

SOBHA

JSLHISAR

GHCL

UFLEX

OIL

AAVAS

IRCON

JSL

CUB

PGHL

TAKE

EQUITAS

UJJIVANSFB

POWERINDIA

UCOBANK

IAICORPLTD

KAJARIACER

ORIENTELEC

BLUESTARCO

NH

ORIENTCEM

SWANENERGY

AIANTPHARM

JINDALSAW

BSOFT

CYIENT

261.00

285.50

27.35

-0.80 -0.73

260.00

73.75

747.00

945.00

34.90

131.95

915.00

254.75

565.00

2647.70 2710.00

1705.00 1750.00

1945.80 2006.35

1425.00 1425.00

105.50 107.75

13835.00 13889.95

522.35 525.00

42.80

423.00

140.40

11.45

83.80

923.00

294.00

372.00

865.00

120.95

29.05

89.50

74.30

396.00

160.35

46.75

9.15

41.30

489.00

1520.00 1563.85

6395.00 6467.95

282.20 295.75

690.00 697.80

2710.00 2710.00

260.00

76.60

774.95

974.00

35.20

134.90

261.50

567.00

43.50

423.00

142.60

11.62

85.95

923.00

294.00

375.90

876.30

120.95

29.40

89.65

76.50

164 60

48.60

270.30

293.90

that all crypto businesses cater-

LTP CHANGE

ocidi	OLLI	111611	LOTT	LII	CILI
NIFTY 50	14599.60	14697.70	14559.00	14617.85	36
WIPRO	441.70	473.65	436.00	469.45	38
HINDALCO	356.75	376.50	352.70	368.25	14
CIPLA	919.75	944.25	910.90	940.10	25
ASIANPAINT	2587.60	2693.50	2581.70	2654.00	66
ULTRACEMCO	6510.00	6786.45	6510.00	6704.00	164
HCLTECH	1000.00	1016.80	994.50	1016.00	24
BPCL	405.00	422.95	404.30	413.60	8
ONGC	104.60	107.85	104.20	107.20	2
SUNPHARMA	633.25	650.00	626.35	645.00	11
NESTLEIND	16969.00	17335.00	16862.80	17189.00	313
M&M	805.10	837.85	803.20	819.80	14
TATAMOTORS	302.00	315.00	300.15	308.75	5
TATACONSUM	662.80	676.55	660.30	668.95	9
TECHM	998.00	1013.50	996.00	1005.00	11
SHREECEM	30440.00	30988.80	30056.15	30612.20	306
POWERGRID	207.50	214.80	207.25	209.85	2
EICHERMOT	2415.00	2469.90	2415.00	2435.00	22
HEROMOTOCO	2838.25	2924.95	2838.25	2889.00	20
HDFC	2550.00	2589.80	2546.85	2569.00	2
NTPC	101.90	102.90	100.50	102.15	(
DRREDDY	4863.80	4940.00	4815.20	4883.00	37
BAJAJ-AUTO	3580.00	3657.50	3569.95	3625.00	27
DIVISLAB	3790.00	3845.00	3733.40	3812.00	28
BAJAJFINSV	9765.00	9880.00	9765.00	9801.00	61
ITC	208.00	209.25	206.50	208.00	1
UPL	610.00	618.80	602.00	610.80	3
SBILIFE	917.00	919.55	905.60	913.30	4
INDUSINDBK	864.10	869.95	853.05	862.10	3
TITAN	1529.80	1559.80	1529.80	1545.00	6
IOC	89.15	91.15	89.15	90.40	(
BRITANNIA	3695.50	3733.95	3676.55	3704.90	12
HDFCBANK	1434.95	1445.00	1423.50	1430.90	(
BHARTIARTL	540.05	544.15	538.00	539.00	-(
AXISBANK	668.65	675.25	662.35	667.80	-]
ADANIPORTS	750.90	794.85	743.00	749.15	-]
GRASIM	1343.00	1380.00	1341.00	1347.05	-2
MARUTI	6675.00	6784.85	6606.05	6633.00	-11
HINDUNILVR	2469.90	2478.95	2440.00	2453.95	-6
COALINDIA	128.85	129.95	127.10	127.90	-(
KOTAKBANK	1774.00	1788.15	1760.05	1763.20	-10
HDFCLIFE	694.50	701.30	689.10	690.00	-4
RELIANCE	1936.60	1949.90	1926.45	1929.00	-15
SBIN	343.00	345.50	338.65	339.55	-3
INFY	1365.00	1370.85	1346.60	1348.10	-12
TCS	3229.00	3247.00	3182.60	3186.10	-32
TATASTEEL	903.80	914.40	886.25	887.25	-10
LT	1360.50	1393.30	1355.30	1357.50	-17
	1500.50	1373.30	1555.50	1337.30	-1,

NIFTY NEXT 50

616.95

4661.00 4690.00 4590.00

BAIFINANCE

ICICIBANK

JSWSTEFI

CRIP NIFTY NEXT 50	OPEN 34385.50	HIgh 34810.75	LOW 34347.75	<u>LTP</u> 34640.70	CHANG 367.4
BICARD	915.80	981.40	915.00	966.00	60.4
ADANITRANS	960.00	991.35	954.50	991.35	47.2
CADILAHC	507.95	530.00	500.35	525.65	20.9
AUROPHARMA	916.10	959.00	910.50	951.00	35.7
PGHH	13612.00	14122.00	13580.15	14022.75	410.4
VEDL	226.20	235.25	224.15	232.00	6.6
NDUSTOWER	254.00	263.50	252.05	258.60	7.1
CICIGI	1375.00	1428.00	1375.00	1423.00	36.4
ACC	1842.10	1902.35	1840.20	1884.00	47.3
ADANIENT	1130.00	1192.00	1112.00	1156.40	26.4
APOLLOHOSP	2999.75	3073.00	2994.00	3057.00	63.5
AMBUJACEM	296.95	305.45	295.40	301.20	6.0
FORNTPHARM	2570.00	2631.00	2552.10	2613.00	48.0
BIOCON	403.00	418.55	399.35	411.80	7.2
UBLFOOD	2784.80	2840.00	2764.00	2819.95	48.6
BOSCHLTD	13700.00	13889.40	13647.60	13884.55	236.9
ALKEM	2750.00	2815.00	2738.95	2791.00	40.5
NAUKRI	4591.00	4730.00	4565.00	4647.00	66.5
MOTHERSUMI	209.45	214.80	207.00	210.90	3.0
DLF	249.40	254.85	246.45	251.50	3.5
SIEMENS	1815.55	1873.20	1806.20	1841.05	24.4
MUTHOOTFIN	1160.00	1180.00	1142.00	1166.30	13.2
BAJAJHLDNG	3281.50	3400.00	3281.50	3371.50	30.4
COLPAL	1559.95	1576.50	1555.55	1569.00	13.5
BERGEPAINT	732.00	749.90	731.80	732.90	5.4
NMDC	142.60	145.30	142.00	142.25	0.9
TI	4095.00	4175.00	4052.30	4071.55	26.3
DABUR	581.90	581.90	571.00	575.00	2.9
LUPIN	1054.00	1069.15	1043.50	1052.70	2.6
ABBOTINDIA	15004.00	15029.75	14821.25	14956.30	36.5
MRF	81410.00	81981.05	80980.50	81100.00	119.5
PEL	1716.00	1751.70	1703.85	1717.80	1.3
MARICO	426.70	427.60	422.50	423.40	0.1
YESBANK	14.55	14.80	14.45	14.55	0.0
PIDILITIND	1835.40	1848.00	1808.35	1823.80	0.0
HAVELLS	1014.55	1032.00	1007.35	1010.15	-0.0
JBL	1091.00	1109.10	1090.15	1101.55	-0.2
PNB	35.00	35.40	34.50	34.70	-0.0
CICIPRULI	455.80	465.50	446.60	452.80	-3.2
MCDOWELL-N	522.10	527.00	518.00	518.45	-3.7
HDFCAMC	2945.00	2977.00	2922.90	2928.00	-21.5
HINDPETRO	237.00	240.00	234.75	235.40	-1.7
OMART	2947.00	2980.00	2902.00	2906.95	-21.9
GODREJCP	735.10	737.90	728.00	730.40	-6.1
GAIL	140.95	142.40	139.25	139.35	-1.2
PETRONET	224.75	224.75	219.50	219.90	-2.2
ADANIGREEN	1122.70	1148.00	1099.00	1104.95	-17.7
BANDHANBNK	328.00	329.90	320.50	321.00	-5.2
	520.00	527.70	520.50	521.00	5.2

TATAMOTORS 302.40 TATASTEE! 904.00 ADANIENT

BSE 500

<u>High</u>

473.50

794.80

315.00

345.45

Open

442.00

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Myanmar coup foes tout minority-backed shadow Govt



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

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

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

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

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



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

greater autonomy in the bor-

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

Security forces have killed at least 726 protesters and bystanders since the Feb. 1 military takeover, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which monitors casualties and arrests. The protests and the killings have been continuing on a Government is nominally an upgrade from what had been called the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, which was formed shortly after the coup by elected lawmakers who were barred by the army from taking their

The CRPH sought international recognition as Myanmar's sole legitimate gov-ernment body, but won only popular support from those

opposed to military rule.

The junta declared the CRPH an illegal organisation, and issued arrest warrants for

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

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

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

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

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

AFTER SLAPPING SANCTIONS

Joe Biden proposes strategic stability dialogue with Russia

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Hours after expelling 10 Russian diplomats in connection with interference in last year's US presidential elections, President Joe Biden has proposed a strategic stability dialogue with Moscow, as officials of the two countries discussed the possibility of a summit meeting in Europe this

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

Hours after signing the executive order imposing sanctions on its erstwhile cold war rival, Biden told reporters at the White House that during a telephonic conversation with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir mate change," he said. they meet in person this sum- Biden said he expressed conmer in Europe for a summit to address a range of issues facing both the countries.



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

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

Durino cern on Russia's military build up on the Ukraine border and

Russia to expel 10 US diplomats in response to Washington

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

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

He said the Kremlin suggested that U.S. Ambassador John Sullivan follow the example of his Russian counterpart and head home for consultations. Russia will also move to deny the U.S. Embassy the possibility to hire personnel from Russia and third countries as support staff.

The moves follow the sanctions on Russia announced this week by the Biden administration. While the U.S. Wields the power to cripple the Russian economy, Moscow lacks levers to respond in kind, although it potentially could hurt American in many c around the globe.

Lavrov noted that while Russia could take "painful measures" against American business interests in Russia, it wouldn't immediately move to do that.

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

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

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

US says Russia was given Trump campaign polling data in 2016

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

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

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

Pak suspends services of social media platforms

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

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

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

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

To stop the protests after Friday prayers, the Interior Ministry directed the Pakistan (PTA) to suspend social media services for four hours from 11 am to 3 pm.

The PTA said in a notifi-



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

cation that "complete access to social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube and Telegram) may be blocked". The reason for the sus-

pension of the services was not stated by the PTA but official sources said that it was feared that protesters could use social media to organise demonstrations.

mobile phone services is a common practice in Pakistan to forestall protests and acts of

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

On Thursday, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed warned the TLP against using YouTube to upload propaganda videos. The TLP came to prominence in November 2017 Faizabad interchange near Islamabad and cut off the capital from the old international

FROM PAGE 1

4L DAILY COVID CASES BY APR END LIKELY

Now, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh have more than one lakh active cases each.

Along with the number of cases, the death count is also rising steadily amid reports of a glaring mismatch in the number of fatalities reported by several States and figures collected from crematoriums

The failure of the authorities on placing any curb on mahakumbh and complete violation of Covid-19 norms in election rallies are seen as the primary reason for such a huge spike in the number of cases.

For example, West Bengal has crossed the national coronavirus average of 5.2 per cent by registering a Covid positive growth of 6.5 per cent. The cases in the State have doubled over the last week. The State has seen massive crowd at election rallies and roadshows with hardly anyone wearing

face masks. Coming back to the worst-hit Maharashtra, on Friday, the State breached another grim Covid-19 landmark crossing a total of 37 lakh infections. A day after the pandemic claimed 349 lives and left 61,695 more infected in the State, the daily tally of infections rose by 2,034 while the

daily Covid-19 went up 49. With 63,729 fresh cases, the total infections climbed from 36,39,855 to 36,03,584. Similarly, with 398 new deaths, the total

Covid-19 toll rose from 59,153 to 59,551. As 45,335 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the State after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year went up to 39,04,391. The recovery rate in the State for the first time in several days dropped from 81.3 per cent to 81.12 per cent.

After Maharashtra, UP has emerged as the biggest hot spot in the country. The State's daily Covid-19 cases surged to a record high of 27,426 on Friday, taking the State's cumulative tally to 7,93,720, an offi-

The death toll climbed to 9,583 with 103 more fatalities, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad told reporters here. This is the third consecutive day when the State has reported a view to keeping the spread of infection

22,439 fresh Covid-19 cases were recorded on Thursday and 20,510 on Wednesday.

a record rise in Covid-19 cases. A total of

SUNDAY CURFEW IN ALL **UP DISTS TILL MAY 15**

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

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

DM tests positive

Lucknow (PNS): DM Abhishek Prakash tested positive for corona in a late night development Among other officials State Vaccination Officer Dr Ajay Ghai tested positive for corona.

Yogi added continuous supply of oxygen to Covid hospitals should be maintained. The control room has been set up to monitor smooth supply of medical oxygen and should remain 24×7 active. Adequate availability of medical personnel, Covid beds, medicines, medical equipment and oxygen should always be maintained in every district. Ensure smooth operation of ambulance services. Make the Government aware of any kind of need, he

"The Department of Food Safety and Drug Administration should ensure adequate availability of Remdesivir. The availability should be monitored from the Chief Secretary's office. Additional Remdesivir should be purchased while assessing the

situation," CM said. The CM maintained that there is no shortage of funds for the work related to Covid management. Quarantine centres should be opened in all districts and these should have proper medical facilities as well as proper arrangements for food. With

to a minimum, it is extremely important that the provisions of the containment zone be strictly implemented.

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

COVAXIN PRODUCTION TO BE DOUBLE BY JUNE

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

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

"The Haffkine Biopharmaceuticals Ltd had asked for around 12 months to complete this task. However, the Central Government has asked them to expedite and complete the task urgently within 6 months. The facility will have a capacity of 20 millions doses per month, once functional," as per the statement.

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

COVID SPREADS MAINLY VIA AIR: LANCET STUDY

"It is urgent that the World Health Organisation and other public health agencies adapt their description of transmission to the scientific evidence so that the focus of mitigation is put on reducing airborne transmission," Jimenez said.

Further, the researchers emphasise that

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

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

The airborne control measures include ventilation, air filtration, reducing crowding and the amount of time people spend indoors, wearing masks whenever indoors (even if not within 6 feet or two metres of others), attention to mask quality and fit, and higher-grade PPE for healthcare and other staff when working in contact with potentially infectious people.

The team reviewed published research

and identified 10 lines of evidence to support the predominance of the airborne

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

EC CUTS BENGAL **CAMPAIGN TIME BY 3** HRS AT NIGHT **OVER COVID RISE**

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

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

Due to spike in Covid 19 cases, the EC has reduced the maximum number of electors per booth from 1500 to 1000 and marking of six feet distance for the queue outside the polling station to maintain social distancing.

ENSURE SUFFICIENT OXYGEN FOR EMERGENCY CARE: PM

The PM was briefed about production capacity in the country to meet the rising demand, it said. He suggested increasing oxygen production as per the capacity of each plant. It was discussed that surplus stocks of oxygen supply in steel plants are being offered for medical use, the PMO

The PM also asked officials to ensure seamless and free movement of tankers carrying oxygen throughout the country.

The Government has exempted all inter-State movement of oxygen tankers from registration of permits to enable easier movement, the PMO's statement said.

Modi was informed that States and transporters have been asked to ensure tankers move round the clock with drivers working in shifts to ensure faster turnaround and adequate capacity to meet the surge in demand

Cylinder filling plants will also be permitted to work for 24 hours with necessary safeguards, the PMO said.

The Government is allowing industrial cylinders to be used for medical oxygen after due purging, it said.

Similarly, nitrogen and argon tankers will be automatically allowed to be converted to oxygen tankers to overcome the potential shortage of tankers.

During the review, officials also briefed the PM about the efforts being made to import medical grade oxygen, the PMO

It was reported that a Covid patient in Delhi Hospital died as a ward boy "switched off" and moved an oxygen cylinder to another patient in the hospi-

India added a record 2,17,353 new coronavirus infections in a day taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 1,42,91,917, while active cases surpassed the 15-lakh mark, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The West Bengal which has witnessed numerous political rallies over the last two months (with thousands of people in attendance) has crossed the national coronavirus average of 5.2 per cent by registering a Covid positive growth of 6.5 per cent. The cases in the State have doubled over the last week.

MONSOON NORMAL THIS YEAR, PREDICTS IMD

the latter is linked to the heating of Pacific waters and could lead to deficient precipitation. "There are less chances of formation of an El Nino," Rajeevan said. He said in the recent years, the year after La Nina has usually seen a normal rainfall season. The Indian Dipole is another major influence on the outcome of the monsoon. A negative IOD is associated with the heating of the Indian Ocean waters and a positive IOD is linked

the cooling of Indian Ocean waters. The latest global model forecast indicates that neutral ENSO (El Nino Southern Oscillation) conditions are likely to continue over the equatorial Pacific and negative IOD conditions are likely to develop over the Indian Ocean during the ensuing monsoon season, IMD Director General M Mohapatra said. "La-Nina is favoured through March-May with 80 per cent chances of a transition to ENSO-neutral in April-June 2021 and continuing through the fall of 2021," Rajeevan said, implying these conditions are favourable for a good rainfall season.

The IMD's forecast shows that the 2021 monsoon will be the third consecutive year (2019-2021) of good rainfall. India had earlier three consecutive years of rainfall in 1996,1997 and 1998.

However, several experts say that 'belownormal rains in East and North-East India are not always harmful as the quantum of rains in these parts and also the daily average is higher than other regions of the coun-

Bollywood 'I hope I can sing and





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



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



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



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

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



CONFLUENCE OF ART AND FILM

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

☐How was the project conceptualised?

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

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

For me, talking about India and its aesthetics can't be separated from the specificity of location. Instead of explaining this to the find solutions and ways to do things aesthetics philosophies, history and ple. the contemporariness of everyday living, landscape, crafts, arts and political situation.

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

and the way nature interacts. Davide: We were at a stage where we could truly have an exchange. There were questions, about our roles as cultural mitigators and that of culture in the contemporary world, especially in the pandemic. Human beings aren't iust consumers or survivors but are cultural beings. This isn't just a journey but also critically thinking about the role of culture and art. There's a strong idea of presenting what it means to be in a cross-cultural environment and presenting your own culture through a contemporary spectacle. The idea isn't to simplify but to make it more layered.

☐How much does the ruling dispensation and their outlook affect

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

D: I think, radicality is happening globally. This situation is conducive to art and culture not being secondary. There's a strong will to

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

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



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

fixed way to think about them. The documentary looks into the multiple truths at this particular moment in time. The wonderful thing is that it looks at both references as well as departures from these historical and material references. It hopes to glimpse at multiplicity in all its glory.

So, do you think these multiple

locations add to the storytelling? M: Yes, of course. There are similarities and differences between — Gujarat's Maharaja Sayajirao University and Shanti Niketan, references and aesthetics of actual-

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

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

ly connecting or disconnecting India and Italy.

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

M and D: Yes sure.

view and a rhetorical decision. It isn't always about absolute. It's about tentatives, absorbing things and getting back. The idea is to bring all those images and edit them to the minimum and maximum

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

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

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

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

O: For me, the beauty is in finding threads that are diverse while having a commonality because that is what humanity is all about. It is Kashmir resonate in Gujarat while being different.

□ Is the focus more on contemporary artists in the documentary?

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

D: What's interesting isn't the conflict between past and present process while being a part of the but how the present is coming familiar with the discourse.

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

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

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

M: We hope that the film serves as an entry point for someone who is interested in art but never has had an exposure to different conversations or some of the different histories of art. At the same time we want artists to find a resonance with like poetry, where you are using dif- other artists either from their part ferent languages to convey the same emotion. You see nature, tradition, world. It isn't a historical text but patterns, forms and colours of more of symbols and signs that give an entry point into aesthetics. It's a

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

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

IMMERSIVE 30 MINUTES-Gil Green directs Divine's Rider

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

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

INCULCATE PASSION

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

Dream hard, work harder' Choreographer and educator ASHLEY LOBO says nothing can stop a

dancer who is motivated, disciplined and hungry for success



IDENTIFY A FAVOURITE DANCE

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

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

GET THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THEORY RIGHT

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

FOCUS ON THE POSITIVES

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

$R^{ m apper\ Divine\ has\ teamed\ up}$ with American music video

and film director Gil Green for the music video of his new track Rider.

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

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

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

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

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



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

"Last summer, Divine made an Instagram post asking his fans who he should work with on his album. I thought I'd shoot my shot in the comments and see if I got lucky. And just like that, he messaged me that he had an idea and was going to send it over. When I got the scratch, his verse and the hook had been written and he left the second half empty for me. I loved the message of the song, about an independent woman who he's so comfortable with, it goes beyond just a relationship,"

ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Maiden gold medals for Vinesh, Anshu

PTI ALMATY

Dominating the proceedings in a depleted field, Olympic-bound wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Anshu Malik won their maiden Asian Championship titles after comfortable triumphs in their respective summit clashes here on Friday.

There was no stopping Vinesh in the absence of the Chinese and Japanese rivals as she cruised to the title without losing a point in the 53kg cat-

Vinesh has notched up seven podium finishes at the Asian meet over the years, including three silver medals before this edition.

Also standing on top of the podium was Divya Kakran (72kg) while Sakshi Malik (65kg) settled for a silver medal, a performance which should boost her confidence after

enduring a long wretched run. India has a rich haul of seven medals from the women's event as the country won four gold, a silver and two

bronze medals in this edition. Sarita Mor (59kg) had won gold while Seema Bisla (50kg)



and Pooja (76kg) settled for bronze medals on Thursday.

Young Sonam Malik (62kg) unfortunately could not compete due to an injury. She also bagged Olympic quota along with Anshu recently.

The 19-year old Anshu was yet again impressive as she underlined her progress in the senior circuit with yet another confident performance in 57kg.

She won her final 3-0 and was never really troubled by Battsetseg Mongolia's Altantsetseg, except for a double-leg attack initially in the

The Mongolian was mostly busy defending and Anshu kept her lead intact for gold.

Earlier in the day, Vinesh won by technical superiority against Mongolia's Otgonjargal

Hsuan Hsieh while an injured Hyunyoung Oh from Korea did not turn up for the semifinal. Vinesh, who had won a bronze in the Delhi edition of the Continental championship last year, moved 6-0 up in the

Ganbaatar and Taipei's Meng

style by pinning her rival in the first period itself. Ånshu won her first two bouts by technical superiority against Uzbekistan's Sevara Eshmuratova and Kyrgyzstan's Nazira Marsbek Kyzy to reach

final and finished the bout in

the semifinal. Her quick moves and tremendous energy had her rivals gasping for breath.

Up against Altantsetseg, she was leading 9-1 when the referee awarded a 'victory by caution' to the Indian. The Mongolian was cautioned

Competing much better than she was in the recent trials and competitions, the Rio Games bronze medallist Sakshi won her first two bouts by technical superiority and was leading 3-0 against Hanbit Lee when the Korean suffered a knee injury and opted out of the contest.

She began aggressively in the final against Mongolia's Bolortungalag Zorigt but was pinned on a counter move.

Also doing well was Divya, who competed in the 72kg category. She stunned reigning Asian Champion Zhamila Bakbergenova Kazakhstan 8-5 en route the

She won the final by pinning Korea's Sujin Park to be only the second Indian after Sarita Mor to win two gold medals at this meet. She had won gold in 68kg in the 2020

Sonam, Anshu included in TOPS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry has included six athletes, including Tokyo Olympicbound wrestlers Sonam Malik and Anshu Malik, besides four sailors in its Target Olympic Podium Scheme

(TOPS) core group.

The decision was taken at the 56th meeting of the Mission Olympic Cell held on April 7, when it was decided that all Olympic-qualified athletes will be supported through TOPS.

Anshu (57kg) and Sonam (62kg) were included in the TOPS core group after they secured their Olympic berths by ensuring silver medals at the Asian Olympic Qualifiers in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The 19-year old Anshu didn't stop there as she went on to win the gold medal on Friday defeating Mongolia's Battsetseg Altantsetseg 3-0 in

Both the wrestlers were group.

previously a part of the TOPS development group and are among six wrestlers to win quotas for the Tokyo Ólympics.

Joining them in TOPS programme would be four Tokyo-bound sailors, who created historic first for the country by qualifying for the Olympics.

After Nethra Kumanan became the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics in the laser radial event in the Mussanah Open Championship, Vishnu Saravanan and the pair of Ganapathy Chengappa and Varun Thakkar also made the cut for Tokyo in the Asian Qualifiers in Oman

While Vishnu qualified in the laser standard class event, the team of Ganapathy and Varun made the cut in the men's 49er class event.

Currently, there are 113 individual athletes who are supported through the TOPS scheme in the core

Arundhati, Babyrojisana Chanu in quarters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Khelo India Games gold-medallist Arundhati Choudhary (69kg) and Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg) advanced to the quarterfinals, while three others from the country also notched up opening-round wins at the youth world championships for men and women in Kielce, Poland.

However, it was curtains for Vikas (52kg) and Arshi Khanam (54kg), who lost their

that the bout had to be halted in the second round itself in her

Among the men, Akash defeated Germany's Enrico Kliesch in a unanimous 5-0 decision, while Sumit outpunched Venezuela's Rafael Antonio Perdomo in less than five minutes before the referee stepped in to stop the bout in the second round.

Next up for Akash is Mongolia's Gan-Erdene Ganbaatar in the last-16 stage,

YOUTH WORLD BOXING C'SHIP

second-round contests on Thursday.

The winners, apart from Arundhati and Chanu, were Akash Gorkha (60kg), Sumit (69kg) and Gitika (48kg).

Arundhati, a three-time gold winner at Khelo India Games, got the better of Colombia's Deyaneira Casas Jerez, winning 5-0 to set up a last-eight stage clash against Ukraine's Anna Sezko, who got

a first-round bye. Chanu, a product of the legendary M C Mary Kom's academy in Imphal, defeated Estonia's Diana Gorisnaja to make the last-eight stage. Such was the Manipuri's dominance while Sumit will square off against Slovakia's Ladislav Horvath.

Gitika, on the other hand, comprehensively defeated Russia's Diana Ermakova. She will face Kazakhstan's Arailym Marat in the second round.

However, Vikas went down Mongolia's Sukhbat Enkhzorigt in a 1-4 verdict. Arshi was also beaten by a similar margin in her clash against Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova.

India have fielded a 20member team -- 10 men and as many women -- in the competition, which features 414 boxers from 52 countries.

Seville could fill in for Bilbao to host Euro 2020 games

AP ■ BARCELONA

The Spanish soccer federa-**⊥** tion has offered Seville as an alternative host city for this year's European Championship if UEFA rules out using Bilbao as planned.

Federation president Luis Rubiales said Friday he has put forward La Cartuja Stadium in the southern Andalusia region as an alternative to San Mam s

Last week, the federation announced that the current pandemic situation in Bilbao made it impossible for fans to be allowed into matches based on the regulations established by health authorities in the northern Basque Country region.

With all my respect for what Bilbao has done, it is facing many difficulties and it would be terrible for another country to get the host city,

La Cartuja St Rubiales said.

magnificent site ... and the ment. The stadium, which has st option if Bilbao is finally discarded.

The federation told The Associated Press that it would be up to regional authorities in Andalusia to decide whether same city.

fans could potentially be allowed into games in Seville.

Currently, there are no fans allowed into league or national team matches anywhere in

A Basque Country region spokesman said Friday that the local government has not received any direct notification from UEFA of a change of If they changed their opin-

ion, and we have to see if they do, then they would inform us. And if they did, they would have to give us an explanation, regional official Bingen Zupiria Other host cities for the tournament to be held around

July 11 have given assurances to UEFA that spectators will be allowed into stadiums. A UEFA decision on Bilbao

Europe between June 11 and

La Cartuja Stadium is a publicly owned stadium run by La Cartuja would be a Andalusia's regional governa running track field, can hold 60,000 fans. Seville's biggest soccer clubs, Sevilla and Real Betis, each have their own stadiums in the

The stadium is set to host a second Copa del Rey final this month when Barcelona plays Athletic Bilbao on Saturday. It also hosted the delayed 2020 final two weeks ago, when Real Sociedad beat Athletic Bilbao. No fans have been

allowed to attend either final.

UEFA has used another stadium in Seville, Sevilla's S nchez Pizju n, as a replacement venue after the home team was eliminated from the Champions League. It hosted both legs of the Chelsea-Porto quarterfinal matchup because of travel restrictions between England and Portugal.

San Mam s Stadium in Bilbao is scheduled to host Spain's Group E games against Sweden, Poland and Slovakia as well as one match in the round

The Basque Country region around Bilbao has been one of the hardest hit by the pandemic in Spain. On Thursday, the region reported 358 cases per 100,000 inhabi-225 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in Seville's Andalusia region. Above 200 cases per 100,000 is considered high risk by authorities.

Spurs visit Everton in battle for CL qualification Leverkusen. Leipzig's faint

A look at what's happening in European soccer on Friday: ENGLAND: Everton and Tottenham are on the fringes of the race for Champions League qualification ahead of their meeting at Goodison Park in the Premier League. Tottenham is in seventh place, six points behind fourth-place Chelsea. Everton is a point and a place further back, but has a game in hand. When the two teams met at Goodison in an FA Cup fifth-round match in February, it proved to be a wild shootout that finished with Everton going through as a 5-4 winner after extra time. That match marked a shift to a more attacking approach by Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho, which in turn is helping striker Harry Kane put up some great numbers. Kane is tied with Mohamed Salah as the league's top scorer on 19 goals and also has 13 assists, two more than anyone else.

GERMANY: It's the perfect time for Julian Nagelsmann and second-place Leipzig to play Hoffenheimin Bundesliga. Winless in four games, Hoffenheim is lacking any creative spark and didn't record a single shot on target in Monday's 0-0 draw with Bayer





hopes of dethroning Bayern Munich rest on winning as many of its remaining six games as possible and hoping Bayern continues to slip up. The defending champion did just that in last week's 1-1 draw with Union Berlin. A win for Leipzig over Hoffenheim would cut the gap to Bayern to two points before Bayern visits third-place Wolfsburg on Saturday. Hoffenheim is 12th, five points clear of the relegation battle.

FRANCE: In a hard-fought French title race that has six games to go, Lille can keep the pressure on defending champion Paris Saint-Germain with a home win against Montpellier to move six points ahead. Christophe Galtier is astutely coaching Lille this season, combining a rock-solid defense with two solid midfield anchors and fleet-footed forwards down the flanks to support the powerful Burak Yilmaz through the middle. But Montpellier strikers Andy Delort and Gaetan Laborde form one of the best partnerships in the league with physique, aerial prowess and technique, allied to midfielder Teji Savanier's shrewd passing, could make it a difficult night for Lille's defense.

Argentina wins gave us right kind of boost before Olympics: Pathak

PTI ■ BUENES AIRES

One of the architects of India's superb show against Argentina, young goalkeeper Krishan Pathak said he wants to be in top form for the Tokyo Olympics and is eyeing another superlative performance against Great Britain in the FIH Pro League games next month.

The 23-year-old, who earned his 50th international cap during India's tour of Argentina, played a big role in his side registering back-toback wins against the reigning Olympic champions in the FIH Pro League this month.

"I am very happy to have completed fifty international caps. So much has happened in such a short space of time. I have had the opportunity to

play in big tournaments and learnt a lot from my seniors, said Pathak in a release issued

continue working hard and win games for India. Reaching this milestone makes me proud," he added. In the Argentina tour that

FIH Pro League away tie. Sreeiesh was brilliant when the visitors won the first match

"I got to learn a lot from the Argentina tour. I know I have to prove my worth as a

by Hockey India. 'The coaches have always believed in my talent. I want to

conclude on Wednesday, India defeated the hosts in a two-leg While fellow custodian PR

via a penalty shoot-out, Pathak was equally impressive during India's 3-0 win over the hosts in the second game.



playing," said Pathak, who had earned the Player of the Match goalkeeper every time I am award after pulling off some

great saves to maintain a clean sheet in the 2nd game. "I feel we showed a lot of

fight and character there. Over the past year, we've had good games against the top sides in the world and I feel that gives us the right kind of boost going into a tournament like the Olympics.

India will next play Great Britain in the FIH Pro League on May 8 and 9.

"We have to be focussed on the job at hand right now. Hope our good form continues against Great Britain...," Pathak

With 15 points from eight games, India climbed to the fourth place in the FIH Hockey Pro League standings following their wins over Argentina.

India, Argentina and Australia will play each other at the forthcoming Olympic Games, where they have been drawn in Pool A alongside Spain, New Zealand and home favourites Japan.

"We have to make sure we're ready for every challenge. The environment in the camp is good and we want to use this momentum going into a big summer," Pathak said.

For much of his young

career, Pathak has been Sreejesh's understudy at goal and thinks the competition for places has only made him a better goalkeeper.

"There's so much one can learn from Sreejesh bhai. He's been playing at the highest level for so many years," he said.

"I have improved as a keeper in the last four years and that is because of what I have gathered and learnt watching people like Sreejesh and others play and train on a daily basis.

Hertha Berlin's next 3 Bundesliga games postponed over virus

BERLIN: Hertha Berlin's next three Bundesliga games have been postponed after the entire team was ordered into quarantine because of a coronavirus

The German Football League said Friday that it'll soon announce new dates for the games against Mainz on Sunday, Freiburg on April 21 and Schalke on April 24.

That will mean a frantic schedule of games next month for Hertha, which is 15th in the 18-team league and trying to avoid relegation. Six rounds of games remain to be played. Fitness will be a concern with the players training on their own during the quarantine period.

"These will be six challeng-

ing games and this is an extreme situation which none of us has experienced before, said Hertha sporting director

Arne Friedrich. Berlin health officials ordered the whole team into a 14-day quarantine at home on Thursday after head coach Pal Dardai, one of his assistants and two players tested positive for the coronavirus. Goalkeeper Rune Jarstein also tested positive earlier this month.

The players and staff who tested positive "are doing well considering the circumstances." CEO Carsten Schmidt said. He added that the club was sending exercise bikes and treadmills to the players' homes so they could follow club training

Aditi Ashok cards second straight 69, lies T-35 at Lotte Championship

KAPOLEI: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok found each of the 14 fairways but missed a few greens in regulation for a second successive 69 to lie tied-35th after the second round of the Lotte Championship here. Aditi, who shot a 3-under

under 138 for 36 holes at the halfway stage. The 23-year-old had a solid front nine at the Kapolei Golf Club as she birdied the first, third, sixth and ninth but

69 in the first round, is now 6-

turn in 3-under. A bogey on 10th followed by a birdie on 14th saw her finish at 69, her second straight

dropped a shot on the fourth to

sub-70 card this year. The Indian has made the



ous starts this year.

Yuka Saso, who is playing on a sponsor's invitation, added a second successive 8-under 64 cut in three of her four previ- to get to 16-under. The 19-year-

old had nine birdies against one bogey in the second round on the front nine.

Saso, who turned pro in November, is playing only her sixth LPGA event. She had seven birdies in her first 10 holes and leads Lydia Ko (63)

Ko, the former No. 1 and two-time major champion, hasn't won since 2018 but she has been getting into good form. She shot a final-round 62 last week at the year's first major, the ANA Inspiration, to finish second.

Nelly Korda (65-68) was five shots back along with So Yeon Ryu, Hyo Joo Kim and Luna Sobron Galmes (64), who plays primarily on the Ladies European Tour.

Coleman to miss Olympics despite reduced ban

AP ■ GENEVA

 $A^{\text{merican sprinter Christian}}_{\text{Coleman will miss the}}$ Tokyo Olympics after failing Friday in an appeal to overturn his ban for missed doping

The Court of Arbitration for Sport cut the 100-meter world champion's ban from two years to 18 months, but it won't expire until November, three months after the Olympics.

The panel of three judges said 18 months "was the appropriate sanction in the circumstances" because Coleman was not entirely at fault for one of his three missed tests in a one-

year period. They said it was "reasonable for the athlete to expect" a telephone call from a sample

collection official to return to his apartment during the 60minute period he said he would be available on Dec. 9, 2019.

A call such as that is not required within the anti-doping rules, the judges acknowledged. One of the three CAS judges, German law professor Ulrich Haas, helped write the updated World Anti-Doping Code. The court also noted Coleman "should have been on 'high-alert' on that day, given the two existing 'whereabout' failures against him."

Coleman had challenged the two-year ban imposed last October by the Athletics Integrity Unit. Athletes can be banned for two years if they have three failures missed tests or contact details not updated where officials can find them each day within one year.



The 25-year-old Coleman will be clear to compete in the 2022 season, which includes the world championships in Eugene, Oregon.

Coleman won the 2019 world title in Doha, Qatar, after being cleared on a technicality to run because of missed

tests. "I'm just really blessed the situation was resolved," Coleman said in September 2019 ahead of the worlds.

"I'm just a regular guy who had talent and the wherewithal to be able to hone that into something I can make money doing."
He ran the three fastest 100

times in the world in 2019, topped by his gold medal-winning 9.76 seconds in Doha. That was the fastest 100-meter time in more than four years.

Chahar's four-for guides CSK to easy win

Deepak Chahar produced a superb opening spell to help Chennai Super Kings beat Punjab Kings by six wickets to register their first victory in the 14th edition of the Indian Premier League here on Friday.

After medium-pacer Chahar's four for 13 enabled CSK to restrict the Punjab team to a below-par 106 for eight, Moeen Ali (46, 31 balls, 7x4s, 1x6) put on 66 runs for the second wicket with opener Faf du Plessis (36 not out, 33 balls, 3X4s, 1X6) to secure the win for the three-time champions.

CSK finished at 107 for four in 15.4 overs with Sam Curran (5 not out) scoring the winning runs.

With the target in sight, CSK lost the wickets of Suresh Raina (8) and Ambati Rayudu (0) to Mohammed Shami (2/21) in consecutive balls in the 15nth over.

Ali opened up after a rather cautious start, and played some lovely drives and also hit a big six. He was holed out to Shahrukh Khan in the deep off leggie Murugan Ashwin (1/32) with CSK needing 17 runs for victory.

Arshdeep Singh provided the early breakthrough for Punjab, when he had a struggling Ruturaj Gaikwad (5) caught at deep mid-wicket.

However, the Aussie pace duo of Jhye Richardson and Riley Meredith could not make much of an impression for the second consecutive game. Earlier, Chahar rocked the Punjab

batting line-up with a superb four-over spell during which he picked up four wickets, including that of 'Universe Boss' Chris Gayle. Aiming to bounce back after being outclassed by Delhi Capitals in their opening match, CSK bowlers justified skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's decision to bowl first by reducing Punjab to 26 for four in the powerplay (first six overs) and then to 26 for five before M Shahrukh Khan (47 off 36, 4X4s, 2X6s) led a brief revival.

Chahar started the Punjab slide in the very first over by sending back Mayank Agarwal (0) with a beauty which nipped away from middle stump to hit the off stump.

Chahar kept up the pressure and increased CSK's woes with his consis-

KEY PLAYERS

SURYAKUMAR YADAV



Chennai Super Kings pacer Deepak Chahar celebrates with skipper MS Dhoni and teammate Suresh Raina after Punjab Kings captain KL Rahul's wicket

Dhoni plays 200th match for Chennai

Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Friday played his 200th match for the *Men in Yellow* when he took to the field against Punjab Kings at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Dhoni has led the franchise in all but one game (2012 Champions League T20) when he has been part of the XI. Virat Kohli has played 209 T20 matches for RCB. Dhoni has made 176 appearances

for CSK in the IPL besides having 24 outings for the side in the Champions League T20 tournament in the past. The tency and conceded only two fours in

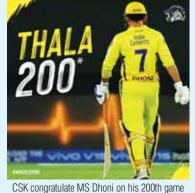
his four-over spell. In-form Punjab

skipper KL Rahul (5) was run-out by a

brilliant direct hit from Ravindra Jadeja,

who was fielding at short-cover, as the

batsman tried to scramble for a single.



Jadeja was in the act in the fifth over again, grabbing a superb catch, diving full-length to dismiss Gayle for 10 to give Chahar his second wicket.

Nicholas Pooran bagged his second straight duck, pulling a short delivery

former India captain also represented Rising Pune Supergiant in 30 IPL matches in the 2016-17 seasons.

Dhoni, who has led the Super Kings to three IPL titles, is eighth on the all-time IPL batting charts with 4,632 runs (4,058 for CSK) at an average of 40.63 and a strike rate of 136.67.

In his 24 CLT20 appearances, Dhoni has amassed 449 runs with one fifty while leading CSK to two titles, in 2010 and 2014. The 39-year-old veteran also holds the record of most sixes among Indians in the IPL with 216, while being the most successful wicketkeeper with 148 dismissals.

straight into the hands of Shardul Thakur at long-leg. Deepak Hooda (10), who played a blinder in Punjab's first match against Rajasthan Royals, could not repeat his heroics, lobbing a simple catch to du Plessis as the team

SCORFROARD

OUUILDUMID	
PUNJAB KINGS	
KL Rahul run out (Ravindra Jadeja)	5
Mayank Agarwal b D Chahar	0
Chris Gayle c R Jadeja b D Chahar	10
Deepak Hooda c du Plessis b D Chahar	10
Nicholas Pooran c Thakur b D Chahar	0
Shahrukh Khan c R Jadeja b Sam Curran	47
Jhye Richardson b Moeen	15
Murugan Ashwin c du Plessis b DJ Bravo	6
Mohammed Shami not out	9
Riley Meredith not out	0
Extras (b 0, lb 0, w 4, nb 0, p 0)	4
Total (8 wkts, 20 Overs)	106
Did not bat: Arshdeep Singh	
Fall of Wickets: 1-1 (Mayank Agarwal, 0.4), 1:	5-2 (KL
Rahul, 2.5), 19-3 (Chris Gayle, 4.2), 19-4 (Nic	cholas
Pooran, 4.4), 26-5 (Deepak Hooda, 6.2), 57-6	(Jhye

Richardson, 12.1), 87-7 (Murugan Ashwin, 16.5), 101-8 (Shahrukh Khan, 19.1)

Deepak Chahar	4-1-13-4
Sam Curran	3-0-12-1
Shardul Thakur	4-0-35-0
Ravindra Jadeja	4-0-19-0
Moeen Ali	3-0-17-1
Dwayne Bravo	2-0-10-1
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	
R Gaikwad c Hooda b Arshdeep Singh	n 5
Faf du Plessis not out	36
Moeen Ali c Shahrukh Khan b Ashwir	46
Suresh Raina c †Rahul b Md Shami	8
Ambati Rayudu c Pooran b Md Shami	
Sam Curran not out	5
Extras (lb 5, w 2)	7
TOTAL (15.4 Ov, RR: 6.82)	107/4
Did not bat: Ravindra Jadeja, Dhoni, Dw	vayne
Bravo, Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chaha	ır
Fall of wickets: 1-24 (Ruturaj Gaikwad	1, 4.6),
2-90 (Moeen Ali, 12.3), 3-99 (Suresh	Raina,
14.2\ 4.00 (Ambati Payudu 14.2\	

2 30 (14100011 MII, 12.0), 0 33 (0010311 Hailia,						
14.2), 4-99 (Ambati Rayudu, 14.3)						
Bowling						
Mohammed Shami	4-0-21-2					
Jhye Richardson	3-0-21-0					
Arshdeep Singh	2-0-07-1					
Riley Meredith	3.4-0-21-0					
Murugan Ashwin	3-0-32-1					

slipped to 26 for five in the seventh over. Tamil Nadu's power-hitter Shahrukh Khan was the only Punjab batsman to make an impression before falling to Sam Curran in the final over as CSK was all over their opponent.

boundarymeter

4s	230

PLAYER	RU	NS
1. Nitish Rana (KKR)	137	
2. Sanju Samson (RR)	123	
3. Manish Pandey (SRH)	99	

_	PLAYER	WKTS
	1. Harshal Patel (RCB)	7
	2. Andre Russell (KKR)	6
	3. Avesh Khan (DC)	5

MOST SIXES 1. Sanju Samson (RR) 2. Nitish Rana (KKR) 6

3. Deepak Hooda (PBKS)

6

MOTION PICTURE



Punjab Kings batsman Mandeep Singh's wife Jagdeep Jaswal and child Rajveer Singh in stands during IPL game between
Puniah Kings and Chennai Suner Kings in Mumbai

@IPL Punjab Kings and Chennai Super Kings in Mumbai

NORTJE OUT OF QUARANTINE

DC pacer Anrich Nortje on Friday came out of his hard quarantine that was extended by a couple of days following a false Covid-19 positive report. The Proteas speedster had tested positive for Covid-19 while in quarantine but was retested and came out negative in three RT-PCR results. "It's nice to be out of the room and see everyone at breakfast. Excited to get to training today," Nortje said in a video posted by the franchise.

KANE HOPING TO BE FIT WITHIN A WEEK

Kiwi batsman Kane Williamson, who missed SRH's first two matches due to an elbow injury, is recovering well and is expected to attain full match-fitness "within a week". Kane suffered a small tear in his left elbow tendon and was ruled out of the home series against B'desh in March ahead of IPL. However, the NZ captain

ISHANT SUFFERING FROM HEEL NIGGLE

on Friday said his "recovery is going really well".

DC head coach Ricky Ponting has revealed that experienced pacer Ishant Sharma, who missed his team's first two IPL matches, is suffering from a heel niggle, "Coming into the first game, Ishant Sharma obviously had a heel niggle that we have been trying to work through," Ponting said on Thursday night.

STOKES OUT FOR UP TO 12 WEEKS

England all-rounder Ben Stokes will be out of action for "up to 12 weeks" as his fractured left index finger will require surgery that will take place in Leeds on Monday. A repeat X-ray and CT scan revealed that the 29-yearold has a fracture in his left index finger. Stokes, who is currently in Mumbai will fly home on Saturday.

eager to make it big this time too

RASHID KHAN He is arguably the best T20 bowler at present and his performance will be crucial for Sunrisers success

SKY has performed well in the last

three seasons for MI and he'll be



Getting the combination right would be top-most on Sunrisers Hyderabad's to-do list when they take on a qualitatively superior Mumbai Indians in an IPL encounter at Chepauk on Saturday, trying to arrest an early slide after back-to-back defeats.

To make matters worse, the nature of the Chennai track is not great news for the David Warner-led Orange Army that failed to chase down a total which was less than 150. Chasing has been Sunrisers' achilles' heel dur-

ing the first two matches, once again bringing under scanner, their lack of depth in the playing XI and below-par Indian bench strength. In these circumstances, facing a formidable team like Mumbai Indians, fresh from their

Houdini Act against Kolkata Knight Riders, would be a difficult proposition.

For skipper Warner, there are some serious questions about the choice of the playing XI, which many believe hasn't been well thought out

and the results also back that assessment. Using two wicketkeepers — Jonny Bairstow and Wriddhiman Saha — in the same XI hasn't served any tangible purpose with the veteran Indian

looking completely out of sorts as an opener. With a seasoned man like Kedar Jadhav in the dug-out, along with two talented youngsters Priyam Garg and Abhishek Sharma, Saha is on borrowed time as far as his place in the side is con-

With only Warner and Rashid Khan being certainties among the overseas players, a fit Kane Williamson is a must for SRH, factoring in his

prowess against spin bowling.

The manner in which the likes of Manish Pandey and Abdul Samad played cross-batted shots against RCB left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed left Warner far from amused.



SRH search right combo 'Rahul is MI's wicket-taking bowler'

VENUE: CHIDAMBARAM STADIUM, CHENNAI Mumbai Indians bowling coach Mumbai Indians 80 Sunrisers Hyderabad

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES Mumbai Indians beat Sunrisers Îndia, returned with Hyderabad by 34 runs in

Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Mumbai Indians by 10 wickets in Sharjah

48

Krunal Pandya who took 48 wickets at an average of 32.20 in 71 innings of 73 matches, needs two wickets to become the sixth bowler to complete a fifty of wickets for Mumbai Indians in IPL

196

David Warner who smashed 196 sixes in 144 innings of as many matches, needs four more sixes to become sixth batsman to complete a double century of sixes in IPL

Faisel Features

bowling with T Natarajan not in the kind of form he was last season and Bhuvneshwar Kumar also on the expensive side. It is unlikely that MI will tinker with their playing XI and more so after winning a thriller against KKR. However, they would like to put up a better account of their



the team's leg-spinner Rahul Chahar, saying the 21-year-old is a wicket-taking bowler and his role never changes in the star-studded Chahar, who has played 3 T20Is for

match-winning figures of 4/27 in a low thriller against Kolkata on Tuesday. doing extremely well, if you look at Rahul (Chahar), he is still young, who has

played a fair-bit of cricket and now some high-pressure cricket, and (in) finals and a key member of our team. so in terms of his development, I still

think he is got a long way to go," Bond said ahead of the game against Sunrisers Hyderabad. "He (Rahul) is a good lis-

there and implement it in the game and hope that will continue over the next few years," said 42-year-old Bond, who played 18 Tests and 82 ÔDÍs for New Zealand. According to Bond, Chahar's role in the team never changes and the side wants him to bowl wicket-

tanding strike bowlers to powl in the power-play, Trent Boult, Booms (Jasprit Bumrah), and whoever compliments them, Krunal Pandya who is brilliant for us in the last game, probably slightly more defensive bowler.

"And Rahul is a wicket-taking bowler, you make him bowl those balls that are just too good. "Example is just the powerful

he bowled absolute jaffa, his role is to come and spin the ball and if the boys are around and create some pressure, it gives him opportunity to take those wickets, so that's the role we look for him to do in the team."

Against Sunrisers, Bond stressed that it is important to get rival skipper David Warner and Jonny Bairstow out.

"Got to get those two guys (Warner and Bairstow) out. Davey is one of the best batsmen in the IPL, talisman for their team. We know how important they are," he

"They (Sunrisers) are very disciplined with the way they go about their work. They flogged us in the last game (we played against them) last season. They played beautifully. We plan the same for every team — how we are going to get them out, how we are going to best utilize the conditions," added

		POI	NT	S 1	ΓΑ	BLE	
			Р	W	L	NRR	PTS
1		RCB	2	2	0	+0.175	4
2	10	CSK	2	1	1	+0.616	2
3	NOIANG	MI	2	1	1	+0.225	2
4	-	DC	2	1	1	+0.195	2
5		RR	2	1	1	-0.052	2
6	•	KKR	2	1	1	+0.000	2
7	0	PBKS	2	1	1	-0.909	2
8	VA	SRH	2	0	2	-0.400	0

Swimmer Kenisha Gupta bags gold in 50m freestyle

TASHKENT: Mumbai swimmer Kenisha Gupta clocked her personal best timing to win a gold medal in the women's 50m freestyle event at the the Uzbekistan Open Championship here

Kenisha, who is a part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) development group, clocked 26.61s to grab her third gold medal of the tour-

She had finished first in the 100m and 200m freestyle events earlier this The tournament, which is FINA

accredited Olympic qualifier, is the first international meet for almost all Indian swimmers since the coronavirus-forced lockdown in March last year. Sajan Prakash and Srihari Nataraj,

who have already achieved the Olympics 'B' mark in their respective events, were vying for the 'A' cut for the Tokyo Games in this meet.

their timings but the A mark eluded



the 'A' mark by 1.37s and Srihari (100m backstroke) missed it by 0.22s.

While a 'B' mark means the swimmer will receive an invitation to the event if the total available quota places Sajan (200m butterfly) fell short of are not filled up, an 'A' standard

ensures an automatic berth to line up at the Tokyo Olympics. Apart from Sajan and Srihari, four other Indian swimmers have achieved the B standard. No Indian has till date achieved

Pak win T20 series

AFP ■ CENTURION

Pakistan beat South Africa by three wickets in the fourth and final T20I on Friday to win four-match series 3-1. Chasing the target of 145, Mohammad Nawaz finished the game with a six on the penultimate ball of Lizaad Williams' final over of the match. He remained not out on 25 and took his side home which looked to have lost its way in the middle after Fakhar Zaman's (60) wicket in the 10th over of run chase. From 92-1 in 9.1 overs, the tourists were reduced to 129-7 in 18.2 overs, but ice cool Nawaz turned the tide in Sisanda Magala's 19th over to keep Pakistan in fray. Earlier, medium-pace bowler Faheem Ashraf sparked a South African collapse at SuperSport Park in Centurion. Faheem took three for 17 as South Africa, who were put into bat after losing the toss, were bowled out for 144 on what is usually a high-scoring ground. Rassie van der Dussen top-scored for South Africa with 52 off 36 balls.