



Emerging
Jharkhand
COME | EXPLORE | ENGAGE



झारखण्ड के इतिहास में



मनरेगा में 11 करोड़ मानव दिवस सृजित,
₹225 हुई मजदूरी दर



सभी जिलों में खेल पदाधिकारियों की नियुक्ति के साथ खिलाड़ियों की सीधी नियुक्ति



1951 के बाद JPSC की नियमावली बनी, परीक्षा प्रक्रिया शुरू



निजी क्षेत्र में स्थानीय के लिए 75% आरक्षण



बेकार पड़ी उद्योग की जमीन रैयतों को मिली वापस



4,500 सरकारी स्कूलों को बनाया जा रहा मॉडल स्कूल



झारखण्डी युवाओं को सरकारी खर्च पर विदेश में शिक्षा



सरना आदिवासी धर्म कोड का प्रस्ताव केंद्र को भेजा

पहली बार

More beds for corona positive patients in Dhanbad
DHANBAD: With 485 active corona cases in Dhanbad district administration has made arrangement of 910 beds in different parts of district to ensure all positive got admitted to covid care centres for treatment. Deputy commissioner US Singh in a statement said, "Besides these 82 ICU beds are available critical patients here". Singh, who was on an inspection drive of both government and private hospitals said, the administration and health authorities are fully prepared to meet the challenges posed by the sudden spike in positive cases here.

Jamshedpur turns into a hotbed of Covid cases

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Despite all efforts, the city remains a Corona hot bed with corona positive cases going northwards. Off late, everyday more than 300 positive cases are being reported. The active cases in the district are around 1600. The district administration has launched steps on a war-footing to control virus spread which threatens to destroy the city. In his latest action, the District administration has asked private hospitals to ramp up bed facilities for the coronavirus patients. It has opted 3-T formulas — 'Test', 'Tracing' and 'Treatment'.



"We have focused on increasing vaccination but at the same time we are also conducting tests. With a large number of tests at different locations in the districts positive persons would be traced out very fast and after isolation, they will get the proper treatment. It will help in a long way to curtail the spread of the virus," said an official. The Deputy Commissioner Suraj Kumar has directed to

increase the number of beds. "We want to increase the number of beds. Tata Steel is supporting us with converting some important institutions for COVID asymptomatic patients. Even Tata Motors is also helping us in this endeavour. We want to be prepared for at least 1200 beds considering the number of patients rising every day," said an official. In the wake of rising bed occupancy due to the second wave of Covid-19, leading health

hub Tata Main Hospital (TMH) has decided to increase the number of Covid beds from currently 175 to 478 beds by the end of this week. The hospital authorities informed that currently 169 Covid patients are being treated at its premises out of which 32 are on ventilators. Steps are being taken to ensure early recovery of the patients. District administration has plans to take the number of dedicated beds for corona patients to

1200 by April 30. The administration plans to have 300 beds at TMH, while at MGM there are 110 beds. The administration plans to have 1200 isolation beds. It is working to convert local health and rural centres into isolation beds.

Tata Steel is stepping up its efforts to reach out to more people impacted by COVID-19. With the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in East Singhbhum district in Jharkhand, TMH Jamshedpur is all geared up to enhance its testing facilities.

Meanwhile, Jamshedpur police has also warned violators that FIRs under the Disaster Management Act and other sections of the IPC will be filed.

An official informed that if anyone found roaming without a mask will be booked under section 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of IPC.

Quick response helps female passenger recover her bag

PNS ■ DHANBAD

Quick response by Railway authorities helped a female passenger recover her bag lifted by co-passengers. The story was tweeted by Dhanbad divisional railway manager Ashish Bansal that helped Deepika Gupta travelling on Kalka Mail to recover her bag full with gold ornaments and cash.

It all happened due to coordinated effort of Howrah RPF and Koderma RPF that acted on a distress message by Deeping on helpline no 139.

Giving details DRM BANSAL in his tweet made clear that Deepika travelling in coach no S-10 said that someone has stolen her bag. She also hinted at passenger Umesh Kumar Das travelling from Howrah to Koderma. Deepika had boarded the train from Asansol for Panipat.

Umesh was apprehended by Koderma RPF with three bags. The Howrah RPF while going through CCTV footage made clear that he had boarded train with just two bags but had alighted at Koderma station with three including one of Deepika.

The Koderma RPF cross checked the recovery with Depika via video call and got details of items in the bag that contained gold ornaments and cash besides other items. After being satisfied with the Deepika's claim the bag was handed over to her and the alleged bag lifter to police. DRM Bansal has hailed the quick action taken by RPF personnel both at Koderma and Howrah stations.

Govt. of Jharkhand
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Field Survey Division, Advance Planning,
Road Construction Department,
Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk,
Doranda, Ranchi-834002 e-mail— eercdapfsdran-jhr@nic.in

e-Procurement Short Notice
e-Tender Reference No. -RCD/FSD /AP/ RAN/08/21-22
Dated 10.04.2021

1-	Name Of Work	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Construction of 09 H.L. bridges in 05 (five) roads in Dhanbad District in the state of Jharkhand from Consultants empanelled in Category-II with the Road Construction Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no -686 dated 29-01-2019
2-	Tentative Length of Work	24m, 12m, 31m, 12m, 60m, 14m, 90m, 28m, 18m
3-	Work completion time	90 Days
4-	Date and Time of Publishing of Tender on official website	13.04.2021, 05.00 PM
5-	Last date and Time of submission of Tender (With Tender Fee and EMD)	28.04.2021, 12.30 PM
6-	Date and Timing of Bid opening	29.04.2021, 12.30 PM
7-	Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer, Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, RCD, Ranchi, Nirupan Bhawan, 56 set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002, Mobile No-9431591027
8-	Bid Submission Address	Chief Engineer (Communication), Road Construction Department, 1st Floor, Engineer Hostel No-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
9-	Mode of Bid Submission	e-Tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)

For further information please go through the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer
Field Survey Division, A.P
Road Construction Department, Ranchi
PR 245491 Road(21-22).D

Govt. of Jharkhand
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Field Survey Division, Advance Planning,
Road Construction Department,
Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk, Doranda,
Ranchi-834002 e-mail— eercdapfsdran-jhr@nic.in

e-Procurement Short Notice
e-Tender Reference No. -RCD/FSD /AP/ RAN/09/21-22
Dated 10.04.2021

1-	Name Of Work	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Construction of 07 H.L. bridges in 01 (one) road in Latehar and 03 (three) roads in Chatra District from Consultants empanelled in Category-II with the Road Construction Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no -686 dated 29-01-2019
2-	Tentative Length of Work	60m, 150m, 28m, 18m, 20m, 36m, 36m,
3-	Work completion time	90 Days
4-	Date and Time of Publishing of Tender on official website	13.04.2021, 05.00 PM
5-	Last date and Time of submission of Tender (With Tender Fee and EMD)	28.04.2021, 12.30 PM
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Executive Engineer
Field Survey Division, A.P
Road Construction Department, Ranchi
PR 245489 Road(21-22).D

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa,
Ranchi-834004,
Telephone : -0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799
<https://www.jbvnl.co.in> Email- cecr2018@gmail.com

e-procurement Notice
NIT No. - 09/PR/JBVNL/2021-22

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited, Hq. Office at Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004, Jharkhand invites E-tender for bid from eligible Bidders for Empanelment/ Selection of agencies for supply, installation and commissioning of 25 MWp Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power project (Gross Metering) on residential buildings through RESCO mode under the MNRE Phase-II Scheme.

Sl.No.	Details of Work
1	Development of 25 MWp rooftop solar power projects in premises of residential consumers of JBVN through RESCO mode & procurement of power by JBVN on long term basis by bidding process through tariff based competitive bidding meeting
Calendar of Events :	
i.	Date of Publication of NIT on website
ii.	Start Date & Time for Downloading the Tender Documents
iii.	Last date for sending pre-bid queries along with request for online participation through video conference at Email- cecr2018@gmail.com
iv.	Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time
v.	Last Date & Time of Receipt of Bid Documents (Online)
vi.	Last Date of Physical submission of Tender fee & EMD
vii.	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid

The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
Note:- In View of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, JBVN has decided that pre-bid meeting shall be conducted through online. Bidders shall be required to submit their pre-bid queries through email only.

Sd/-
General Manager
(Coml.)
PR245539 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)21-22'D

Hardcore naxal Yadav held

GIRIDIH: Giridih police arrested a hardcore Naxalite Kolha Yadav from Charakpathar area on Sunday. He is accused of involvement in the killing of 20 people, including the son of former Chief Minister Babul Marandi. The police had been looking for him for a long time.

Kolha Yadav is accused of the Chilkhari massacre under Bhelwaghati police station case no. 167/07. It is being told that Kolha Yadav is a resident of Charkapathar police station area.

Prashant Kumar, the station In-Charge of Bhelwaghati said that the arrested naxalite is being interrogated. On 26 October 2007, the CPI Maoists committed a major incident on the Jharkhand-Bihar border.

The incident of genocide was carried out during a cultural programme organized by Maoists in the Maidan in Chilkhariodih. A total of 20 people, including Anoop Marandi, son of former Chief Minister Babul Marandi, the first Chief Minister of Jharkhand, were killed in it.

According to the information, Kulha Yadav has also been active with Jamui in Bhelwaghati police station area of Giridih.

At present, it was kept in the organization to carry weapons. Kulha Yadav was a headache for both the districts due to countless Naxalite incidents. Therefore, the police of both the districts are considering its arrest as a major achievement. PNS

Epic story of Ramayana to be telecast online

Bokaro: The epic story of Ramayana is going to be telecast online in Hindi from 13 to 21 April from 7.15 pm to 8.00 pm.

Under the aegis of Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, this programme will be telecast to over 350 mission centers across the world by Chinmaya Mission on the auspicious occasion of Chaitra Navratri, informed Acharya Swamini Samayanand Saraswati.

The talk will be delivered by Swami Swaroopnandana jee, the Head of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide. This will also be available on Social media on YouTube and Chinmaya Channel, she said. "The story of Ramayana is based on the idols of spiritualism and moral values," added Acharya Swamini.

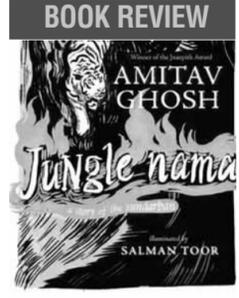
In the present scenario, which is full of stress and pain, the story directly connects us with our day-to-day life. Lord Rama, the divine character of Ramayana, was well known for his ethics and ideals. Not only Lord Rama, but the other characters also, like Goddess Sita, Bharat and Hanuman too played an immense role in their own way, she said. PNS

Jungle Nama: A Story of the Sundarban



BY AMITAV GHOSH
FOURTH ESTATE, 2021

BY AJAY KUMAR SINGH



The Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, has been an abiding theme in Amitav Ghosh's oeuvre. The Hungry Tide, his 2004 novel, was set here, as was his more recent Gun Island (2019). "The Sundarbans is a very powerful landscape. It just works its way into your head, so that you can't escape it even when you want to," Ghosh says. "When I started writing Gun Island, initially, I didn't intend to start it in the Sundarbans. But somehow, it just happened. The Sundarbans itself pulled me back into the landscape, so that I had to engage with it. Clearly, it just keeps pulling you back," he further elaborates.

In Jungle Nama, Ghosh introduces the reader to the legend of Bon Bibi as described in 'Bon Bibi Jhuranaama' (The Narrative Of Bon Bibi's Glory), composed separately, but with same title, by two poets namely Munshi Mohammad Khatir and Abdur Rahim Sahib in the

19th century. Both the versions were epic poems written in Bengali verse meter called the 'dipodi poyar', meaning the 'two-footed line'. Both of them recount the triumph of Bon Bibi, the goddess of the forest, over Dokkhin Rai, an evil spirit, who assumes the form of a tiger to feast on any human who enters the delta terrain. The Bibi is the protector of all those who depend on the forests for their livelihood irrespective of religion, caste and community.

The Bon Bibi legend is charmingly retold by Amitav Ghosh using 'dipodi poyar' in deceptively simple verse. The book tells the tale of poor Dukhey and how he is coaxed to go with his wealthy uncle Dhona into the mangrove jungles, looking for legendary treasure.

This deep forest though is the domain of the fearsome demon king Dokkhin Rai. The

devious uncle cuts a deal with Dokkhin Rai, promising him Dukhey in return for the treasure. All seems lost for the forlorn Dukhey but, of course, it isn't really.

His mother has advised him to beseech Bon Bibi when in danger, and he does so accordingly. The Bibi comes to his rescue with her warrior brother Shah Jongli, and all gets well at the end. Dukhey returns to his mother with enough riches to ensure a lifetime of comfort.

"With Bon Bibi's blessings, Dukhey was no longer sad; he lived life in contentment, not downcast but glad, grateful forever to his teacher, Bon Bibi; who'd taught him the secret of how to be happy: All you need do, is be content with what you've got; to be always craving more, is a demon's lot. A world of endless appetite is a world possessed, is what your munshi's learned, by way of this quest"

The vocabulary of the book is uniquely hybrid, similar to the two Bon Bibi Juharanama, combining Islamic, Hindu and folk elements. In an Afterword to the book, Amitav Ghosh writes: "The Bon Bibi legend is a marvel of hybridity, for the central tenets of the narrative - the ideas of limiting greed, and of preserving a balance between the needs of humans and those of other beings - do not belong to anyone tradition. These are essential values for

this era of planetary crisis". In Jungle Nama Ghosh has collaborated with the Lahore-born and New York-based artist Salman Toor whose stunning artwork - though not really pretty - turning the book into "an illuminated edition of a fabulous folk tale".

The author says, "In the Before Times, stories like this one would have been considered child-like, and thus far for children. But today, it's increasingly clear that such stories are founded on a better understanding of the human predicament than many narratives that are considered serious and adult.

Stories with images were also considered children's fare in Before Times. But rather than being 'illustrated', with images subordinated to words, this book is 'illuminated' - as was the case with most beautiful pre-modern books - throwing their own light upon the text".

Jungle Nama is truly a marvelous achievement. The book has been reinvented by a contemporary master, India's only Jnanpith awardee in English language, in the archaic verse meter in which it was originally composed in the 19th century.

The writer is a Joint Secretary rank Officer in the Government of Jharkhand. Singh is a bibliophile having a voracious appetite for reading.

JHARKHAND POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LIMITED
(Jharkhand Govt. Undertaking)
LINE TANK ROAD, RANCHI - 834001
(CIN : U45200JH2002SGC012154), Contact Tel. No. 0651-2214712, Fax : 0651-2202400

Recruitment Notice
Applications are invited for the post of 1 (one) Assistant Engineer (Computer Programmer) in BC-1 category on contract basis at Jharkhand Police Housing Corporation Ltd., Line Tank Road, Old Police Line, Ranchi.
Interested candidates meeting above requirements may submit their application in prescribed format with self attested photocopies of relevant testimonials and recent passport size photographs to the "Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Jharkhand Police Housing Corporation Limited, Line Tank Road, Old Police Line, Ranchi-834001" latest by date 05.05.2021 by registered/speed post. The detailed information as to qualification, experience etc. can be viewed on official website www.jpchl.jhpolice.gov.in at career portal. Sd/- Manager (Personnel)

कार्यालय नगर परिषद, गोड्डा

अतिअल्पकालीन कोटेशन/दर/निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- UDD/NPG/01/2021-22

गोड्डा नगर परिषद कार्यालय में निम्नलिखित सामग्रियों की आपूर्ति हेतु मुहुरबंद लिफाफे (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय अलग-2) मावपत्र/कोटेशन/निविदा/दर आमंत्रित की जाती है। इच्छुक निर्माण/प्राधिकृत विक्रेता/आपूर्तिकर्ता दिनांक-19.04.2021 को अपराह्न 01:00 बजे तक अपना निविदा/मावपत्र/दर नगर परिषद कार्यालय में जमा कर सकते हैं। प्राप्त प्रस्ताव उसी दिन दिनांक- 19.04.2021 को अपराह्न 03:00 बजे खोला जाएगा। माव पत्र खोलते समय निविदादाता या प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि उपस्थित रह सकते हैं।

क्रमांक	सामग्री का नाम	संख्या	अवयव
1.	Light Repairing Hydraulic Ladder Machine for Street Light Maintenance (Bolero Mahindra/Tata etc.), Working Height - 9 Mtr. Cage Capacity - 09 Meters Outriggers (operated hydraulically) - 2 no. Leveling of cage - Positive Hydraulic Pump Drive through chassis P.T.O Cage insulation 11 kv. etc.	01 (एक) अदद	25,000-00
2.	Truck Mounted Dumper Placer (Tata/Mahindra/Eiser) • Fully Built Tipper Body of 2.5 cum Capacity with metallic Folding cover arrangement. • Ladder Type Frame with riveted/bolted cross members • Hydraulic double acting telescopic type at front and rear • Body Capacity - 2.5 cum. • Min. turning circle dia. 10.2 meters • Engine- Tata/Bharat Stage-ii or Equivalent	01 (एक) अदद	25,000-00
3.	2.5 Cum with Dry-Wet Waste Bins • OEM Load body Floor wouls be used • Frame - Heavy Duty Steel Tube Structure with Reinforced Beams fabricated from 4.5mm thick sq. Tubes of ISMC 75*40mm Flor- 2mm sides - 2 mm(Base plates- 3mm thick) • Weight - 380 Kg. • Tipping Angle- Munimum 60 Degree • MIG Welding Joint	01 (एक) अदद	15,000-00
4.	1. Water Cooler (40/80 Ltr Capacity) 2. Water Filter (Good Quality)	01 (एक) अदद	10,000-00

नोट - निविदा से संबंधित नियम एवं शर्तें कार्यालय के सूचना पट पर कार्यालय अदधि में अवलोकन किया जा सकता है।
कार्यालय पदाधिकारी
नगर परिषद, गोड्डा
PR 245515 (District)21-22#D

'Roots of success lie in the foundations of the school'



PNS ■ BOKARO

Abhishek Kumar Garg, DPS Bokaro alumnus (2013 batch) Avised his Alma mater on Monday. An IAS Officer of 2019 batch, Abhishek of Himachal Pradesh Cadre is to join his first posting as Assistant Commissioner in Shimla this year.

Abhishek who hails from Bokaro, Jharkhand completed his XIIth from DPS Bokaro and later joined VIT to pursue his B. Tech with specialisation in Mechanical Engineering. His father Dinanath Pandey is a SAIL employee and mother Poonam Devi is a housewife.

Sharing his experiences on the role of the school, Garg said, "DPS Bokaro ensures a peaceful environment for the study that helps the students to achieve their goals. The 'Home Room' periods were of immense help wherein our Class Teacher would motivate us for various career options including the Civil Services. I thank the school for the great ambience. The teachers taught us discipline and being in a peer group of the sharpest ones taught us healthy competition." "Roots of success lie in the foundations of the school," stated Garg. He also added that he will forever cherish the values learned in the school and live up to the school motto 'Service before Self'.

While addressing the students of Class 12 on the virtual platform during the 'Guest Interaction Programme', he reiterated that the goal of chasing UPSC should not be based on reasons like fame or power; rather it needs to be layered by a strong conviction towards selfless service to humanity.

A. S. Gangwar, Principal DPS Bokaro congratulated Garg and said "It is through sheer determination, that one can write the success story. I am confident Abhishek will serve the society and become one of the trendsetters."

Renewed Conference Hall of ED inaugurated



PNS ■ BOKARO

The Director-in-charge of BSL, Amarendu Prakash, inaugurated the refurbished Executive Director Conference hall in the ED office building located in the plant premises. On this occasion, Executive Director (Works) Atanu Bhowmik, Executive Director (Medical and Health Services) Dr. AK Singh, ED (Projects) and Additional Charge (P & A) R Kushwaha, Executive Director (Materials Management) VK Pandey, Executive Director (Finance & Accounts) DK Saha and Chief General Manager of various departments of the plant were present.

Also renovation work of the lift of Blast Furnace No-4 of Bokaro Steel Plant was inaugurated by Chief General Manager (Mechanical) PK Baisakhia and Chief General Manager (Blast Furnace) MP Singh. The old lift in Blast Furnace 4 was in continuous use for more than 20 years, due to which problems were started in its operation and work was also being affected. During the renovation, many new and latest technology based facilities will be added to the lift. The renovation work has been entrusted to M / s Vision Elevators Private Limited, Gujarat.

OPINION 6
NEPAL STARING AT
POLITICAL DISQUIET

WORLD 8
IRAN BLAMES ISRAEL
FOR NATANZ INCIDENT

SPORT 12
BAYERN CAN BEAT
PSG: KIMMICH

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11 VIVACITY

EC slaps 24-hour ban on Mamata

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Condemning Mamata's statements made during poll rallies on April 7 and 8, the EC



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

advised her to desist from using such statements in public while model code of conduct is in force.

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

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

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

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

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

India's daily rise outnumbers US-Brazil total

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

However, on Monday the cases dipped mainly due to lower testing on Sunday. Maharashtra reported a major decline, reporting around 51,751 cases, nearly 11,000 less than the previous day's tally.

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

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

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



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

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

Meanwhile, on the second day of countrywide Tika Utsav (vaccination festival), India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage went past the 10.50 crore mark on Monday. Eight States account for 60.13 per cent of the total doses given so far in the country, according to the Union Health Ministry data. The first day of Tika Utsav on Sunday saw the administration of 30 lakh vaccination doses at 63,800 Covid Vaccination Centres across the country.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES:	1,36,71,851 (+1,46,472)
DEATHS:	1,70,956 (+747)
RECOVERED:	1,21,45,432 (+91,719)
ACTIVE:	12,49,835
MAHARASHTRA:	35,58,996
KERALA:	11,72,883
KARNATAKA:	10,74,869
TAMIL NADU:	9,40,145
DELHI:	7,36,688 (+11,491)

14 hospitals in Delhi turned into Covid facilities

New Delhi: 14 hospitals in the national Capital will be converted in Covid-19 facilities. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday had directed officials to convert some Government and private hospitals into dedicated Covid-19 facilities to cope with the alarming rise in the Covid cases.

Sputnik V gets DCGI expert panel approval

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Sources in the Government said that the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the DCGI on Monday took up the application of Dr Reddy's Laboratories seeking emer-



gency use authorisation for Sputnik V.

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

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

Night curfew imposed in Haryana

Chandigarh: The Haryana Government on Monday imposed night curfew in the State amid a surge in coronavirus cases. "Night curfew between 9 pm and 5 am will be imposed from tonight and will remain in force till further orders," Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij said.

Yogi: Won't impose lockdown nor let people die in misery

Lucknow: UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to be on their toes to control the exponential spread of Covid-19 across the State. The CM made it clear that neither his Government will impose another lockdown nor let the people die in misery.

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

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday termed as "absolutely frivolous" a petition filed by former UP Shia Waqf Board chairman Waseem Rizvi seeking the removal of 26 verses from the holy Quran and dismissed it with a cost of ₹50,000. A Bench of Justices RF Nariman BR Gavai and Hrishikesh Roy rejected the petition in which Rizvi alleged that these 26 verses of Quran promoted terrorism.

In his plea, Rizvi has stated that Islam is based on the concepts of equity, equality, forgiveness and tolerance but due to extreme interpretations of the said verses of the holy book, the religion has been drifting away from the basic tenets. The plea of Rizvi has drawn massive backlash with several Muslim outfits and Islamic clerics. Last month, an FIR was registered in Bareilly against Rizvi for allegedly hurting religious sentiments of Muslims with his petition in the top court.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Spooked by the grim Covid-19 scenario and slashing down of India's growth outlook by multiple rating agencies, investors on Monday went for heavy selling of equity in banking, finance, and auto counters, triggering a huge collapse which saw Sensex crashing by over 1,707 points.

In more bad news on the economic front, India's retail inflation rose to a four-month high of 5.52 per cent in March as food prices soared, according to the Government data released on Monday.

The consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation was 5.03 per cent in the previous month (February 2021) and was 5.91



per cent in the same month last year (March 2020).

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

cent in February.

At the same time, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) contracted 3.6 per cent for February 2021, showed data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Varsha said keeping in mind the schedule of entrance exams for professional courses, Class 12 exams will be held by end of May, while Class 10 exams will be in June. "We're closely monitoring the health situation. Fresh dates for these exams will be announced accordingly," she said.

No meals in less than 2 hours flight: Aviation Ministry

To minimise risk of Covid infection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

However, there are no restrictions on serving meals on international flights as of now. Airlines are permitted to serve only pre-packed snacks, meals, and pre-packed beverages on flights that have duration of more than two hours.

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



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

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

Nizamuddin Markaz mosque can be made operational during Ramzan: Govt to HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre told the Delhi High Court on Monday that the Nizamuddin Markaz mosque can be made operational for devotees to offer prayers during the month of Ramzan which is expected to begin from April 14.

The submission was made before Justice Mukta Gupta by the Central Government during the hearing of a plea by the Waqf Board seeking opening of the Nizamuddin Markaz where the Tablighi Jamaat congregation was held amid the Covid-19 pandemic and was locked since March 31 last year.

On March 24, the Centre had said 50 persons chosen by the Waqf board can be allowed to pray at the mosque during the "shab-e-barat" holiday. Advocate Rajat Nair, appearing for the Centre, told the court on Monday that offering of prayers at the mosque during Ramzan should be subject to the guidelines issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority with regard to social distancing and other Covid precautions.

Govt asks pvt hospitals to reserve 50% beds for Covid patients

19 more die in 24 hrs, 2,366 found infected

PNS ■ RANCHI

The State health department on Monday directed all private hospitals in Jharkhand to reserve at least 50 per cent of beds for Covid-19 patients amid an alarming rise in Covid cases and an acute shortage of dedicated beds in the State capital.

Last week, the Government had asked private hospitals to reserve 25 per cent of beds for Covid patients, but the crisis of beds continued to haunt patients and their family in many parts of the State. The fresh direction was given to private hospitals following a meeting of top health officials chaired by Health Minister Banna Gupta in Ranchi on Monday.

Jharkhand reported 19 Covid casualties and 2,366 fresh cases from Sunday 10pm to Monday 10 pm, figures compiled by the National Health Mission (NHM) highlighted. Monday's findings took the active caseload in the state to 15,343 and the Covid toll up



A medic collects swab samples from a woman for Covid-19 test at a test centre in Ranchi on Monday

at 1,232, a bulletin released by the NHM stated.

Ranchi alone accounted for eight Covid casualties and 787 cases of infection on the day, revealed NHM data. The active caseload in the district reached 6,981 on Monday, the highest among the 24 districts in Jharkhand. The Covid toll reached 317 by Monday night.

Dhanbad also reported eight Covid casualties on Monday, which took the toll in the district to 135. The district,

however, did not report a major spike in cases. At least 64 cases against 42 recoveries took the active caseload there to 513.

The active caseload in East Singhbhum, the second worst-hit district, reached 1,805 on Monday as the district reported 370 fresh cases of infection. With two more deaths reported on Monday, the Covid toll in East Singhbhum also jumped to 373, Government data highlighted.

Meanwhile, the State health

secretary KK Soan wrote to the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare requesting her to provide at least 1,500 ventilators to Jharkhand for treating patients suffering from severe symptoms of Covid-19. In the letter, Soan wrote that Jharkhand has around 500 functional ventilators and may require more ventilators if cases continue to rise at the same pace.

The State also received 1,500 vials of Remdesivir injections for treatment of Covid patients. Jharkhand has run out of the anti-viral injection, which affected treatment of Covid patients across the State.

Health Minister Banna Gupta had on Sunday requested Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan to provide additional Remdesivir injections and other medicines to Jharkhand for treatment of Covid patients. The State on Monday administered the first dose of the vaccine against Covid-19 to over 53,000 people, while the second dose was administered to 5,701 beneficiaries, stated an NHM report.



Chief Minister Hemant Soren addresses a gathering during an election campaign rally at Tilaiya More Maidan Madhupur in support of party candidate Hafizul Hasan on Monday

Growing positivity rate exposes lax in Covid crisis management

No beds available, hospitals run out of medicines

PNS ■ RANCHI

As Capital City's Covid positivity rate turns as bad as Mumbai and Delhi, the infrastructure to battle Covid-19 crisis in this tier-2 city has started to crumble with several Covid-infected bodies awaiting cremation for hours and shortage of life-saving drugs haunting patients and their kin even if they manage to find berths in hospitals amid the acute shortage of beds.

has been higher than 18 per cent. On Saturday, as many as 5442 swab samples were tested in Ranchi and 904 of them, around 16.6 per cent, were found infected. On Sunday, the positivity rate further increased to over 20 per cent in the district as 1076 of the 5174 samples tested were found to be Covid-infected.

As per figures with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the positivity rate in Delhi during the past 48 hours has been around 10 per cent, while the positivity rate in Mumbai was around 20 per cent during the same period. The positivity rate in Ranchi was higher than that in Delhi and a shade lower than what Mumbai reported.



Even though the population and Covid tally in Ranchi is much lower than that in Mumbai and Delhi, two of the worst-affected cities in India, the high positivity rate here, has brought to light the lack of readiness to tackle a possible Covid explosion in future, say experts.

The state coordinator of Indian Medical Association (IMA), Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh warned that the virus was spreading more rapidly during the second wave in Jharkhand cities, and a lack of caution may prove to be disastrous.

Many Covid patients, including some with comorbid conditions, had to run from pillar to post to get a bed in a hospital during the past two days. As per government data, there are 2383 dedicated Covid beds in Ranchi for 6,701 patients, as reported on Sunday night.

Vikas Kumar, a resident of Upper Bazar, could not find a bed in a private hospital for his Covid-infected father despite contacting all the renowned healthcare facilities in the city

on Sunday. "There are no beds available in hospitals. Doctors have prescribed some life-saving injections, but those are also not available anywhere in Ranchi," said Kumar, five of whose family members are battling the viral infection.

The crisis of Remdesivir, an anti-viral injection administered to symptomatic Covid patients to prevent replication of the virus, is posing to be a major challenge in treatment of Covid patients here. Health Minister Banna Gupta recently spoke to Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan over video conferencing and sought more Remdesivir injections citing an acute crisis across the state.

"I have requested the Centre to provide injections and other drugs used for Covid treatment in sufficient quantity. We have received 1500 Remdesivir injections today (Monday)," Gupta said.

The second wave of Covid-19 has not only hit testing labs and hospitals in the city, but also affected cremation of Covid victims.

The electric incinerator at Mukti Dham in Harmu, used only for cremation of Covid-infected bodies, broke down due to alleged overburden on Sunday. Around a dozen Covid-infected bodies laid in ambulances outside the crematorium for the entire day and were eventually moved to some other location.

RMC arranges cremation of corona infected bodies

PNS ■ RANCHI

After witnessing the grim situation of people facing difficulties in cremation of Corona infected bodies in the State Capital, the Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) has come forward to help people by arranging required things to cremate the bodies.

The deaths due to Corona infection have broken all records in Ranchi. In the last 10 days, there has been a huge increase in the number of bodies in the crematorium and cemetery of Ranchi. A record 60 bodies were cremated on Sunday.

On the instructions of Municipal Commissioner, Mukesh Kumar, a team of Ranchi Municipal Corporation ensured the cremation of 21 dead bodies at Swarnarekha Ghat in Ghagra after people waited for the whole day at the electric crematorium in Harmu, which went kaput. Proper amount of woods and necessary items, which are needed at the time burning the body, was also done on Sunday night.

The RMC has been working continuously keeping in mind all the standards for prevention of Covid-19 till date of finding the first Covid patient in Ranchi. Kumar also instructed to repair the electric body burning machine at Harmu Muktidham which is not working since Saturday due to which people had to wait for long.

Apart from 21 Corona infected bodies, 35 bodies were burnt at five crematoriums and 13 were buried at Ratu Road and Kantatoli cemetery. The cremation of the dead bodies took place at Harmu Mukti Dham.

Now people are waiting long to cremate their relatives due to a long ambulance line



Defunct Electric crematorium at Harmu MuktiDham in Ranchi

with the dead body of Corona patients is witnessed outside the crematorium of Harmu Mukti Dham in the State Capital due to glitches in the machine. The condition of ambulance drivers is also getting worse. At the same time, the condition of dead bodies lying in ambulances due to heat is also expected to worsen.

After getting the information of this, the District Administration has given the necessary information in this regard to the Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC). Also, it is being asked to repair it immediately, so that the cremation of the dead bodies can be done.

It may be mentioned here that the incinerator at Muktidham is operated by the RMC and it is being used to burn the dead bodies as per the Covid protocol. But due to the defect in the machine, more time is being spent in burning the dead bodies.

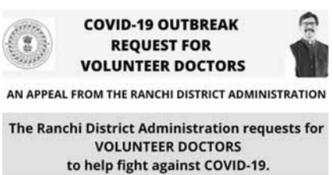
Dist admin looks for pvt, retired docs to fight pandemic

Dist admn increases more testing centre

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Ranchi district administration is looking for volunteer doctors to fight the coronavirus outbreak which has infected more than 41,000 people in Ranchi and has taken more than 295 lives. The Ranchi district administration on Monday issued an appeal to medical practitioners serving in the private and public sector and retired doctors and health workers to come forward for voluntary service during the corona pandemic. The district administration through a notice which is viral in social media and other platforms states that physicians and other medical practitioners desirous of voluntary service can contact on mobile number 96 93 29 2889.

The Ranchi district administration has made the appeal as the infection progresses; there is a huge shortage of health workers and physicians. The district administration appeal reveals the picture at private and government hospitals, as there is no one to see the patients in the hospitals. The family members of the patients themselves are doing the work from giving medicines to offering oxygen. At many places, health services have not started despite facilities being available in hospitals.



We appeal to practising and retired doctors, both from public and private sectors, and paramedics to come forward at this hour of need

Contact :- +919693292889

#StayHomeStaySafe #CoronaFreeIndia @DC_Ranchi

Also at many places there is arrangement of ventilator machines, but in absence of skilled health workers the patients are not provided the services of ventilators. A digital poster has been designed in this regard by the Ranchi District Administration. Medical expert, health workers wishing to provide service can provide information on DC Ranchi's Twitter handle @dc_ranchi.

Meanwhile, Indian Medical Association (IMA) has welcomed the Ranchi district administration's appeal to doctors for voluntary service. IMA state general secretary, Dr Pradeep Singh said, "We appreciate the district administration's appeal for private and retired doctors to render their services. IMA is with the state government as last year too IMA walked hand in hand with the state government." However, he said that as cases

of corona are increasing day by day it is not with the state government or IMA to control the pandemic unless and until people cooperate. He said, "The situation will become alarming if government protocol on Covid such as use of sanitizers, wearing of masks, and social distancing is not followed."

Meanwhile, Corona continues to wreak havoc in Jharkhand, with the State recording 21 corona deaths on Sunday, while 2296 fresh cases were recovered. Out of this 1076 infected people have been found from Ranchi which is the highest ever.

Also, the health department has decided to increase the number of corona test centers. Department Secretary KK Saon has also issued a directive in this regard.

As per the directive, from Monday nine additional test teams will conduct sample collections in various areas of the capital. At present, 7000 samples are being collected daily from 19 Government Testing Centers in Ranchi district. Apart from this, testing is being done by setting up special camps in the areas of infection. From Sunday, testing of Covid-19 started in Ranchi Zila School Ranchi and Sainik Market Ranchi also. With the start of nine additional test centers, their number of test centres increases to 28.

Four murders shock steel city

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

In a shocking incident, four persons, including two minor girls were found murdered inside a residential quarter on Tista Road under Kadma police station area on Monday evening.

A 42-year-old man Deepak Kumar who is father of the two minors is suspected to have committed the gruesome killings sometime in the afternoon.

The other two murder victims were Vina Kumari (35) who was Deepak's wife and Rinku Ghosh (22), who was tuition teacher of the two minors, Diya Kumari (15) and Sanvi Kumari (11).

Rinku Ghosh who was a resident of Ramjanam Nagar in Kadma was a tuition teacher. She had come to teach the two minors at about 11am today.

But as she did not return home at her usual time till 1 pm, her family members came to Deepak's residence.

Sensing something seriously wrong, the family members broke open the lock on the door. And having entered the residence, they found four mutilated bodies including that of Rinku lying on the floor near the kitchen.

City SP, Subhash Chandra Jat arrived at the scene after Kadma OC, Manoj Kumar Thakur had started inspecting the spot.

From the initial probe it was found that all the four persons were killed with a dumb-bell made of iron.

OC, Kadma thana, Manoj Kumar Thakur said from the condition of the bodies, it appears that the killings must have taken place between noon and 2 pm.

State Cong joins chorus to get vaccination for all

PNS ■ RANCHI

Following the instruction of All India Congress Committee (AICC) National President, Sonia Gandhi on Monday a nationwide campaign was run on social media on the theme of 'Speak upon Vaccine for All' to demand of making Corona vaccine available to all.

Under the leadership of Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) Chief, Dr Rameshwar Oraon, the party's Ministers in the State Government, MLAs, MPs, Senior Congress Leaders, Office bearers, District Congress Presidents uploaded their videos on social media to ensure vaccines for all Indians immediately. Through the social media campaign the party conveyed its message to the Prime Minister that the Central Government should immediately ban on the export of the vaccine so that it could be available for all people of the Country. Congress leaders have



A health worker administering the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine to State Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon in Ranchi on Monday Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

uploaded their voice and videos on social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and Instagram.

Apart from JPCC Chief, Oraon, Congress Legislature Party Leader, Alamgir Alam, Agriculture Minister Badal, Health Minister, Banna Gupta, JPCC Executive president, Keshav Mahato Kamlesh, JPCC Spokesperson Alok Kumar Dubey, Lal Kishore Nath Shahdev and Rajesh Gupta also made their video Uploaded so that the Prime Minister and his Government could listen their

voice. Through the video Oraon said that the second wave of Corona is going on in the Country, Corona infected cases are increasing continuously in the Country which is a matter of concern, in such a situation vaccination should be ensured for every age of group.

JPCC Spokesperson Alok Kumar Dubey and Lal Kishore Nath Shahdeo said that the entire Country is plagued by Corona epidemic, in such a time of crisis, the Central Government is busy in making

propaganda, the people of the Country want the Government to vaccinate every single person.

The campaign programme was successfully conducted under the leadership of JPCC Social Media coordinator, Gajendra Kumar Singh.

Meanwhile, JPCC decided that it will celebrate birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Late, Baba Bhim Rao Ambedkar as 'Samta Diwas' on April 14. According to the instructions of JPCC Chief Oraon, the meeting of the Celebrations Committee was held at the Congress Bhavan under the chairmanship of the senior Congress leader Niranjan Paswan.

During the meeting, Kamlesh said that Bharat Ratna Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar has spent 65 years of his life in various fields including social, economic, political, educational, religious, historical, cultural, literary, industrial, constitutional and contributed significantly in the Nation building by doing countless tasks.



RMC workers during sanitization work at MG Marg in Ranchi on Monday Ratan Lal | Pioneer

JMM accuses BJP for fielding turncoat candidate in Madhupur

BJP, JMM carry out door to door campaign

PNS ■ RANCHI

With multi-colour placards and artistically designed leaflets, campaigning is in full swing now in Madhupur. Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who is camping at Madhupur addressed several public meetings on Monday. At Telaiya More Maidan the public meeting was attended by JMM candidate Hafizul Hassan, Jamtara MLA Irfan Ansari, Congress Poreyahat MLA Pradeep Yadav among others.

Appealing to the people to vote in favour of JMM candidate Hafizul, the Chief Minister said that the definition of elections nowadays has changed. People have understood politics as busi-

ness rather than a social service. Our main rival BJP is a party that calls itself the largest party in the world, but has no grass-roots candidate to contest election. Soren taking a dig at BJP said, "BJP is such a big party that it does not even have its own candidate. The BJP is a party which is full with leaders from different parties having different ideologies." He said that people should be aware and careful with such dirty politics of BJP. He said, "We have made Hafizul Hassan a minister in my Cabinet as JMM candidate from Madhupur and it is an effort of the party to pay tribute to the late Haji Saheb, the Jharkhand agitator who worked for people."

The Chief Minister was referring to BJP candidate Ganga Narayan Singh, who switched sides to BJP from AJSU last month. In the last Assembly election, BJP and AJSU fought separately. AJSU Ganga Narayan

Singh received around 45,000 votes. Apart from public meetings, leaders from both the camps are focusing on door to door campaigns. In this connection, JMM candidate and minority affairs minister Hafizul Hassan Ansari on Monday visited various areas interacting with voters and mak-



Chief Minister Hemant Soren alongwith Mahagathbandhan candidate Hafizul Hasan, at Telaiya More Maidan in Madhupur on Monday Pioneer photo

ing an appeal to vote for JMM candidate. The JMM candidate is being supported by Congress and RJD too.

Congress state spokesperson Lal Kishore Nath Shahdeo said, "Due to the corona pandemic

"During the campaign the JMM candidate is highlighting the work carried out by Hemant Soren government during this corona pandemic times such as providing ration cards to 15 lakh beneficiaries, lungi dhoti and saree at affordable rate among others." Apart from holding small meetings,

Meanwhile, BJP Sarath MLA Randhir Singh and BJP candidate Ganga Narayan Singh took out door to door campaign visiting villages such as Bhalgada, Belkiari, Lakarchara, Pratappur, Dindakoli, Salatar, Gauripur and urging the people to vote for BJP.

The BJP leaders during the campaign targeted the Grand Alliance government's failure to meet people's expectations. BJP senior leader Babul Marandi, State BJP president Deepak Prakash and former Chief Minister Raghubar Das too are camping in Madhupur.

EC fixes April 30 to elect 3 RS members from Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Consequent to the direction by the Kerala High Court's directive on Monday to hold the biennial election to the Rajya Sabha from the Kerala Legislative Assembly before May 2, the Election Commission of India (ECI) fixed April 30 as the date of polling to elect the three members to the Upper House from the State.

The ECI had announced earlier that the election to the three Rajya Sabha seats falling vacant from the State would be held on April 12 but deferred the election citing the legislative Assembly poll scheduled for April 6.

Justice PV Asha while disposing of the petition filed by Secretary of the Kerala Legislative

Assembly and S Sarma, a CPI(M) leader, challenging the ECI decision to defer the polls to Rajya Sabha said it was for the present House to elect the three members in lieu of the vacancies to be caused by the April 21 retirement of three members.

"It is up to the ECI to fix the schedule of election. But that does not mean that the Commission could fix any date," said Asha.

On April 21, three MPs, Abdul Wahab of Muslim League, Vayalar Ravi of the Congress and KK Ragesh, the CPI(M)'s intellectual face in New Delhi are completing their tenure and retiring from the Upper House.

If only the election is held before May 2, 2021, the CPI(M) could send two of its nominees to Rajya Sabha. The Congress-led UDFFF has already announced

that Wahab would be the Front's nominee.

The petitioners asserted that Section 12 of the RPA 1951 envisaged completion of the entire process of election before the actual retirement so as to fill up the seats as soon as the seats became vacant, particularly since Article 83 provided that the council of States is a continuing body.

Judge Asha said that the intention was not to keep the seat unfilled but to complete the process of election before the retirement of the members so as to have the full strength of the members of the Upper House represent the State. A different view is warranted only when there is any law and order situation or any practical impossibility, the judge said.

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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"General MM Naravane #ClosingCeremony of Multinational Exercise #ShantirOgroena2021 and addressed the participants of

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

ADG PI said.

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

Andhra Police arrests 10 treasure hunters for hammering Nandi idol

IANIS ■ JAGAMARLA (ANDHRA PRADESH)

Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor Police arrested 10 persons for stealing and destroying a Nandi idol from a temple in a Dalit colony in Jagamarla village, believing that diamonds were embedded inside it.

Police arrested M. Venkata Chalapati (43), K. Srinivasulu (34), K. Hari (34), B. Sridhar (27), G. Venkatesh (24), P. Dasaradaiah (40), G. Narasimhulu (60), K. Ranga Babu (40), D. Prakash (34) and B. Munnendra (29).

On April 4, police received a complaint that the Nandi idol belonging to Vandana Malleswara Swamy temple, Srinivasulu dispatched Hari, who along with Chalapati, Sridhar, Venkatesh and Ranga Babu stole the idol and hid it in a pond at Ganasagaram village belonging to one Munnindra.

The treasure hunters planned to break open the idol on March 27 but one of the thieves, Ranga Babu, came with Prakash Naidu, Narasimhulu, Dasaradhaya and Gopi to steal it again from the place where it was hidden.

Jagamarla forest area, prompting the cops to round them up and question.

"On questioning, they admitted that they decamped with the Nandi idol, believing that it had diamonds inside it. Another five more persons have been arrested as part of the probe," said a police official.

Chittoor superintendent of police (SP) S. Senthil Kumar said that Srinivasulu, also known as Ashwathama, belonging to Nagarkurnool district in Telangana and his local friend Hari from Kandada together went to check the idol on March 21, which they would eventually decamp with.

Kumar said on March 26, Srinivasulu dispatched Hari, who along with Chalapati, Sridhar, Venkatesh and Ranga Babu stole the idol and hid it in a pond at Ganasagaram village belonging to one Munnindra.

The treasure hunters planned to break open the idol on March 27 but one of the thieves, Ranga Babu, came with Prakash Naidu, Narasimhulu, Dasaradhaya and Gopi to steal it again from the place where it was hidden.

In the second theft of the idol, Ranga Babu and his accomplices stole it away to Poyya village in Thottembedu mandalam and buried it.

On April 2, they dug out the idol and hammered it into pieces to find no diamonds in it. Since abandoning the idol pieces will raise suspicion, they threw the Nandi pieces in Swarnamukhi river.

"Gopi, who broke the idol into pieces died in a road accident three days ago while the remaining 10 accused have been arrested, along with the confiscation of an auto rickshaw, one Tata Ace, three two-wheelers and the idol pieces," he said. This incident comes in light of several alleged temple attacks which already rocked the southern state.

Under the TDP government, 163 temple offences were reported in 2015, 139 in 2017, 123 in 2018 and 177 in 2019, when the government transitioned to the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

In 2020, a year which saw an uproar following the chariot burning at the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Antarvedi, there were 143 alleged temple offences.

Will neither impose lockdown, nor let people die in misery, says Yogi

Lucknow: Asking officials to be on their toes to control the exponential spread of Covid-19 disease across the State, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath clarified that neither his Government will impose a lockdown nor let the people die of misery.

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

Expressing anger over private hospitals and labs fleeing people by charging more than the prescribed rate, he directed officials to take action against them. He said that nobody will be allowed to take advantage of the helplessness of the people.

"Stop it strictly. Incorrect information will result in harsh action against the guilty," he said and directed officials to takeover such hospitals. "Investigation report should not be delayed and this should be communicated to the labs," he said.

He emphasized on the expansion of lab and testing capabilities. Instructions have been given to increase the test capacity of RTPCR to 70 per cent.

He said: "Our priority is to implement an effective strategy to stop the spread of Covid-19. We will have to fight the pandemic vigorously with full preparation as there is no scope for any sort of negligence in this fight." **PNS**

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

IANIS ■ JAMMU

At least eight passengers were killed and four seriously injured on Monday in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district.

Police sources said a mini bus travelling on the Thathri-Gandola road went out of the driver's control and dropped into Kalnai river 42 Kms from Doda town.

"Eight passengers were killed and 4 seriously injured in this accident. A rescue operation has already started," police said.

The ill-fated mini bus was on its way from Doda to Chilli village.

Meanwhile, an IAF helicopter from Jammu city was pressed into action for the rescue of critically injured passengers, a defence ministry spokesman said.

Authorities are ascertaining the exact number of passengers who were travelling in the mini bus when the accident happened.

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

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

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

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

SUV PLANTING-HIRAN MURDER CASES

Mumbai Police suspends Vaze's former colleague API Kazi

TN RAGHUNATHAN ■ MUMBAI

A day after he was arrested by the NIA in connection with the twin explosive laden SUV planting and alleged Mansukh Hiran murder cases, the Mumbai police on Monday suspended Assistant Police Inspector (API) Riyazuddin Kazi, a close associate and colleague of incarcerated police officer Sachin Vaze.

Kazi is the second serving officer from the Mumbai police to have been suspended in the twin sensational cases. API Vaze, who had been arrested on March 13, was later suspended from the Mumbai police force on March 15.

Kazi, who was on Sunday remanded by a holiday court in NIA custody till April 16, was directly working under Vaze, an API heading the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) of the

Crime Branch-CID of Mumbai Police. Kazi was shunted out of the CIU last month.

The NIA is looking into Kazi's role in the planning of a Gelatin sticks' laden Scorpio and a threatening letter inside the vehicle, in the vicinity of Mukesh Ambani's 27-storey residence "Antilia" on Carmichael Road in south Mumbai on February 25 and the subsequent alleged murder of Thane businessman Mansukh Hiran.

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

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

Sources said that Kazi was

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

Kazi is the fourth accused to be arrested in the SUV planting and the alleged Mansukh Hiran murder cases. Vaze was the first accused to have been arrested by the NIA which registered an FIR in the explosive-laden SUV recovery case on March 8. Vaze, who was arrested on March 13 in connection with the gelatin sticks laden Scorpio recovery case, was earlier booked under sections 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy) 286 (negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance), 465 (forgery) 473

(making or possessing counterfeit seal) and 506 -2 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 4 (a)(b)(i) of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908. He was subsequently booked under sections 16 (Punishment for Terror act) and 18 (Punishment for conspiracy etc) of the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

Subsequently, Maharashtra's Anti Terrorism -- which initially investigated the circumstances leading to the alleged murder of Hiran -- on March 21 arrested convicted Mumbai Police constable Vinayak B. Shinde (51) and a cricket bookie Naresh R. Gaur (31) in connection with Hiran's alleged murder. The arrest of Shinde and Gaur came a day after the Union Home Ministry asking the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to

take over the investigations into the murder of Hiran.

Shinde and Gaur are said to be accomplices of Vaze. Shinde is a dismissed policeman, who has been convicted in the case involving the fake encounter of Ramnarayan Gupta alias Lakhna Bhaiya.mn Shinde has been on parole.

The investigations by the ATs have revealed that Shinde was in regular touch with Vaze and helped the latter in his activities.

During the investigations that followed, the NIA seized from Shinde and Gaur two mobile, one iPhone, 7 SIM cards, a blank cover of SIM card, a note with 14 mobile numbers mentioned including 5 in the name of arrested-suspected cop and prime accused Sachin Vaze with 'Ok' written (for activation) beside them.

Make Remdesivir available to every patients, HC to Guj Govt

Gandhinagar: The Gujarat High Court on Monday pulled up the State Government for having such a system that put entire control of remdesivir injections under one agency, asking why was the crucial anti-Covid medicine not made available for everybody.

It also suggested that the government set up accountability at every booth level to keep a check on the outbreak.

In wake of the rising number of coronavirus cases in the state and the worsening situation in healthcare facilities, the high court had taken a suo moto cognizance of the issue and filed a PIL, titled 'Uncontrolled upsurge and serious management issues in Covid control', with the Central and state governments made respondents.

The bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Bhargav D Karia, set up to hear the matter, heard Advocate General, Kamal Trivedi, on behalf of the state government and posed a salvo of questions on various fronts due to which the present uncontrolled situation arose.

"Initially, when the pandemic struck last year, people were advised to home quarantine and also get treated at home. Now why have you changed it and insist on hospitalisation? Why are you insisting that remdesivir should only be available at hospitals and not for home patients quarantined who require the injections? Why is it not being available at all the hospitals? Why is it not available for anyone who needs it?"

Controlling these injections by supply from one outsourced agency is not at all in public interest," it said.

Accusing hospitals of exploiting the situation, the court said: "We have come to know that hospitals have refused to admit patients despite having beds available."

The court also noted that "right now it takes 5 to 7 days for a common man to get himself RT-PCR tested. By the time he or she gets results, has infected a lot many others."

"Why is it taking so long? We advise ramping up the testing facilities and centres," it said.

As the court asked the government what steps were taken to ensure the reduction of staff in various offices, the Advocate General said that only the paan shop owners association had come forward and voluntarily had decided to shut down for the weekends.

"Then they are acting with more wisdom and responsibility," the court observed.

The court also stressed that fighting this pandemic was impossible without the cooperation of people, but "the people had lost trust in administration".

"We are not happy with many of the policies of the government and there are some things which need to be corrected. At least people should feel that government is doing something. At present there is a total deficit in trust of people in the administration. That trust should be restored," it maintained. **IANIS**

Bihar reports 7,225 new Covid cases in last 48 hours

IANIS ■ PATNA

In Bihar, 7,225 people tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 48 hours and 12 lost their lives, according to the State health department officials on Monday.

An official said since the pandemic began last year the overall tally in the State has reached 2,83,229, including 1,610 persons who lost their lives.

He said that 1,053 persons recovered from Covid-19 in the last 24 hours.

The state capital, Patna, is the most affected city in Bihar where infection is hitting the frontline corona warriors.

On Sunday, two doctors and seven medical staff of Patna Medical College and hospital tested Covid positive. On Saturday, two doctors of AIIMS Patna and nine doctors of the PMCH were put in isolation after their Covid-19 reports came positive.

A total of 1,382 infected persons were reported from Patna on Sunday. On Saturday, the health department detected 1,431 patients.

There are 157 patients infected with corona who are admitted in PMCH.

Raj Kumar Bhagat, a resident of Purnea district, who was admitted in the PMCH, died due to the corona infection on Sunday. Besides, a 90-year-old person of Jahanabad named Shiv Yadav also died due to Covid.

Girl who was assumed dead by family, found in jail

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

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

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

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

Christian leader's call for Hindu nation jolts Kerala politics

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The CASA leader said that though the community representatives have been alerting the unprecedented increase in the number of Christian girls ending up as victims to the evil designs of Love Jihad, no action has been taken by either of the fronts. "It was not CASA or P C George who alerted the nation about Love Jihad.

Muslim outfits welcome SC's decision to dismiss plea seeking removal of 26 verses from Quran

Lucknow: Muslim clerics and organisations on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision of rejecting a plea seeking removal of 26 verses from the Quran, saying this proves that religious books are treated with honour in the country.

The apex court termed as "absolutely frivolous" the petition filed by former Uttar Pradesh Waqf Board chairman Waseem Rizvi and dismissed it with a cost of ₹50,000.

"We welcome the decision of the Supreme Court. This proves that religious books are being treated with honour in the country. It will increase the confidence of Muslims in the Constitution and in the judiciary," All India Muslim Personal Law Board member Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali told PTI. He also demanded that the government take strict action against Rizvi so that "no one can raise questions on religious books in the future".

All India Shia Personal Law Board spokesperson Maulana Yasoob Abbas said that they congratulate Muslims of the country on this verdict. "We trust our judiciary and it will continue to give justice in the future too so that no one can raise a finger on Islam or any other religion," he said. **PTI**

6K Remdesivir vials arrive in Pune: Official

Pune: Amid a rise in coronavirus cases and clamour for Remdesivir, a key medicine in the treatment of the infection, a batch of 6,000 vials of the drug arrived in Pune on Monday for distribution in hospitals, said district collector Rajesh Deshmukh.

All hospitals have been instructed to strictly follow directives issued by the state health department on prescribing Remdesivir to patients, Deshmukh added.

The batch of 6,000 vials has been distributed in hospitals in proportion to the number of patients each facility has," he said, adding that flying squads have been formed to visit hospitals and pharmacy shops to check any irregularity in the drug's distribution. **PTI**

3 killed after being run over by truck in UP's Etawah

Etawah (Uttar Pradesh): Three persons were killed and eight others injured when a truck ran over them on the national highway in Etawah on Monday morning.

According to Medical Superintendent, Dr. Piyush, the deceased persons were on their way to Jhansi from New Delhi by car for participating in the Panchayat polls.

The passengers of the car were sitting on the side of the road after their car tyre was punctured near a roadside eatery.

Suddenly a truck came at high speed and ran over them. The driver apparently lost control over the vehicle. The doctor said the injured have been admitted to the hospital where their treatment is underway. There are two children among the injured persons who have been referred to Sefai, the doctor added. **IANIS**

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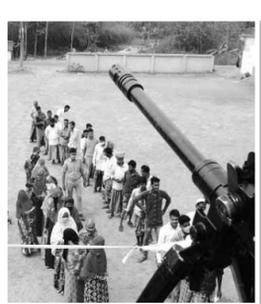
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PAPER WITH PASSION

No golden rule

Armed Forces personnel react differently to different life-threatening situations

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



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

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

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PICTALK



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

PTI

Tikait flexes muscles

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

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

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

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

MAMATA BANERJEE IS LIKE LAKSHMI BAI

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

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

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

NEED TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON COVID

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TIME TO REDEFINE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

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

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

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FIRST COLUMN

REMEMBERING THE 'GREATEST INDIAN'

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



RATTAN LAL KATARIA

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



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

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

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

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

Nix sovereign guarantee clause for the NaBFID

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

The GOI, in turn, raises resources — albeit for providing budgetary support — by imposing cesses, fees and other levies such as the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), the Permanent Bridge Fees Fund (PBFF) and monetisation of the National Highways Fund (NHF). For instance, during 2020-21, out of the ₹42,500 crore allocated to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for executing roads and highways projects, the contribution of the above-mentioned funds was 49 per cent, 27 per cent and 24 per cent respectively.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THIS IS GENOCIDE. I HAVE SEEN THE PICTURES. THE CENTRAL FORCES HAD SIMPLY SPRAYED THE BULLETS INSTEAD OF AIMING AT THE LEGS.

—WEST BENGAL CM
MAMATA BANERJEE



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

—UNION HOME MINISTER
AMIT SHAH

Playing politics over vaccines will not help the cause

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

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

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



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, this is not the

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

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

Iran blames Israel for Natanz incident

AP ■ DUBAI

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



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

While the nature of the attack and the extent of the damage at Natanz remains unclear, a former Iranian official said the assault set off a fire while a spokesman mentioned a "possible minor explosion." The attack also further strains relations between the U.S., which under President Joe Biden is now negotiating in Vienna to re-enter the nuclear accord, and Israel, whose Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to stop the deal at all costs.

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

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

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

engage with Iran in its nuclear programme.

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

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

Lebanon extends area claimed in border dispute with Israel

AP ■ BEIRUT (LEBANON)

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

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

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

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

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

White House issuing reports on states' infra needs

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

COVID LOCKDOWN EASES IN ENGLAND

'Behave responsibly', urges Boris

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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



Customers sit outside a restaurant in Liverpool on Monday

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

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

Covid as we push on with our vaccination programme," he said. According to some media reports, the UK PM will be among some of the first in line to get his haircut ahead of a special House of Commons session for tributes to the late Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, who passed away on Friday.

Under this stage of the lockdown easing roadmap laid out by the government, public buildings such as libraries and community centres can reopen. Most outdoor attractions including zoos, theme parks, and socially-distanced drive-in performances can reopen.

Some smaller outdoor events such as fetes, literary fairs, and fairgrounds can take place; weddings, civil partnership ceremonies, wakes and other commemorative events can take place for up to 15 people. People are not allowed to visit each other's homes and socialising indoors remains prohibited outside of households and support bubbles.

The Metropolitan Police

also urged people to exercise caution as it prepared to enhance patrols in busy areas of London.

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

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

Small but quick: Bhutan vaccinates 93% of adults

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

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

The tiny Himalayan kingdom wedged between India and China has vaccinated nearly 93 per cent of its adult population since March 27. Overall,

the country has vaccinated 62 per cent of its 800,000 people. The rapid rollout of the vaccine puts the tiny nation just behind Seychelles, which has given jabs to 66 per cent of its population of nearly 100,000 people. Its small population helped Bhutan move fast, but its success has also been attributed to its dedicated citizen volunteers, known as "desuups," and established cold chain storage used during earlier vaccination drives.

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

Germany aims to unify restrictions

Berlin: The German government aims to agree on a bill Tuesday that would shift more powers from state to federal authorities to set pandemic restrictions.

The country's decentralised political system has resulted in an often confusing patchwork of rules and regulations to reduce coronavirus infections in Germany's 16 states. Government spokesperson Steffen Seibert told reporters on Monday that the goal of the bill is to have a single nationwide rule for all areas where there are more than 100 new weekly cases per 100,000 inhabitants. AP

Chilly weather doesn't dampen UK joy at lockdown easing

AP ■ LONDON

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

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

Monday brought the easing of restrictions that have

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

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

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

Muslims navigate restrictions in the 2nd pandemic Ramadan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Daunte Wright death in Minnesota traffic stop sparks unrest

AP ■ BROOKLYN CENTER, MINN.

A Black man died after being shot by police in a Minneapolis suburb during a traffic stop and crashing his car several blocks away, sparking violent protests that lasted into the early hours Monday as officers in riot gear clashed with demonstrators and the man's mother called for calm.

The man was identified by family as 20-year-old Daunte Wright, and he died Sunday in a metropolitan area already on edge and midway through the trial of the first of four police officers charged in George Floyd's death. Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz tweeted he was praying for Wright's family "as our state mourns another life of a Black man taken by law enforce-



A man stands atop a police car after throwing a brick at the windshield near the site of a shooting involving a police officer on Sunday

ment." Speaking before the confrontation in Brooklyn Center between protesters and law enforcement, Daunte's mother, Katie Wright, attempted to curb any unrest.

"All the violence, if it keeps going it's only going to be about the violence. We need it to be about why my son got shot for no reason," she said to a crowd near the shooting scene.

निदेशालय
महिला सशक्तिकरण एवं बाल विकास विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड
लिकट नन्दा की चौकी, सुन्दरवाला विकासखण्ड रोड, देहरादून
दूरभाष नं० 0135-2775813-2775814, ई-मेल-ndir.lcds.ua@gmail.com
पत्र संख्या CG-76/महालक्ष्मी फिट/2021-22 दिनांक 12 अप्रैल, 2021

ई-निविदा विषयवस्तु
निदेशालय, महिला सशक्तिकरण एवं बाल विकास विभाग, नन्दा की चौकी सुन्दरवाला देहरादून उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा मुख्यमंत्री महालक्ष्मी योजना के अंतर्गत आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों एवं मिनी केंद्रों हेतु महालक्ष्मी फिट की आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा दिनांक 17 अप्रैल 2021 सायं 4:00 बजे से वेबसाइट <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध होगी। उक्त निविदा से संबंधित कोई भी संशोधन/परिवर्तन की सूचना वेबसाइट <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध होगी।

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of ON Load Changeover Switch in Power Cars of Delhi Division.
Tender No.	30-Elect-1T-Chg-2021-22
Approx. cost of the works in (Rs.)	Rs. 47,91,080/-
Cost of tender form	Rs. 0.00
Address of the office	Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 0.00
Period of completion of work	05 Months
Last date & time of submission of tender	03.05.2021 up to 15.00 Hrs.
And Opening of tender	03.05.2021 at 15.01 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI

830/21

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

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

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

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposahub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgages/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till May 04, 2021 before 05:00 P.M else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

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

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited . 2. Augoo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC, have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: April 13, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE HARYANA, PANCHKULA	SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE (SERC), HARYANA 112	03.04.2021 17.04.2021	EMD 2 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7988639705 haryana100.pol@hry.in
2	PWD B&R, BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR BY PROVIDING AND LAYING WIDENING & STG. ON BABA JAGAN NATH MANDIR TO MATA MASSANI AT VILLAGE LOHARI JATTU FROM KM 0.00 TO 2.10 IN BHIWANI DISTT. (ROAD ID NO. 9980)	09.04.2021 03.05.2021	89.10 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664242436 pwd-eeep-bhiwani@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, PANCHKULA.	TENDER FOR SPECIFICATION, REQUIREMENT FOR PROVIDING CATERING SERVICES FOR PWD B&R REST HOUSE, SECTOR 1, PANCHKULA.	10.04.2021 29.04.2021		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	pwd-eeep-panchkula@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, FATEHABAD	SPECIAL REPAIR OF NEHLA TO KHERI ROAD KM 0 TO 5.70 (ROAD ID 5527) IN FATEHABAD DISTT. AND 09 OTHER WORKS	08.04.2021 03.05.2021	570.88 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01667220120 pwd-eeep-fatehabad@hry.nic.in 01666220530 pwd-eeep1-sirsa@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R,SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF SUB HEALTH CENTRE AT VILLAGE BAJEKAN IN SIRSA DISTRICT. + 1 NO. OTHER WORK.	15.04.2021 29.04.2021	75.86 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, SIRSA	REPLACEMENT OF PUMPING MACHINERY, REPAIR OF WATER WORKS STRUCTURES, FHT CONNECTION AT VILLAGE BHOONA, DISTT. SIRSA CONSTRUCTION & REPLACEMENT OF PUMPING MACHINERY, REPAIR OF EXISTING WATER WORKS STRUCTURES, PROVIDING FHT CONNECTION AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO AT WATER WORKS BHOONA"	09.04.2021 16.04.2021	10.45 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666221925 ee2sirsa@phedharyana.gov.in
7	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, SIWANI	UP GRADATION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) OF 4.00 MLD CAPACITY BASED ON MOVING BED BIO REACTOR (MBBR) TECHNOLOGY LOCATED AT TOSHAM ROAD- SIWANI TOWN	09.04.2021 15.04.2021	EMD 4 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	eesiwani@phedharyana.gov.in
8	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING KURUSHETRA	PROJECT REPORT BOQ & COST ESTIMATE PREPARED BY EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HWATH ENGINEERING DIVISION KURUKSHETRA FOR UPGRADATION & COMMISSIONING AFTER CONVERSION OF EXISTING & MLD CAPACITY SEWAGE TREATMENT BASED ON MOVING BED BIOLOGICAL	08.04.2021 28.04.2021	EMD 8 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2583005 eecoord@phedharyana.gov.in
9	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,NARNAUL	RAW WATER ARRANGEMENT FOR PROPOSED MULTIMODEL LOGISTIC HUB AT NARNAUL, DISTRICT MOHINDERGARH, BY PROVIDING & LAYING 600MM DI PIPE LINE, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF RAW WATER BALANCING RESERVOIR, PUMP CHAMBER, PANEL ROOM, PUMPING MACHINERY,(ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL COMPONENTS) AT BOOSTING STATION NEAR ND-II AND ALL OTHER ALLIED WORKS.	CLOSING DATE 26.04.2021	1412.19 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xen-wsmnr1.irr@gov.in
10	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER COURSE OF Q/L RD 11260-R OF LOHGARH 1ST. DISTY. FOR A LENGTH OF 1600 FEET (EXTENSION),+04 OTHER	CLOSING DATE 20.04.2021	4.78 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenrorris@rediffmail.com
11	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,KURUKSHETRA	REPAIR OF SYL CANA DOWNSTREAM GATES AT BUDHERA COMPLEX,+ 2 OTHER WORKS	09.04.2021 22.04.2021	29.13 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenwsvnikkra@gmail.com
12	PANCHAYATI RAJ, REWARI	CONSTIT. OF 5 NOS OF AYURVEDIC DISPENSARY AT DISTT. REWARI	13.04.2021 26.04.2021	65.01 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	prexeeng.rwr@hry.gov.in
13	PANCHAYATI RAJ,JHAJJAR	CONST. OF 7 NOS. ANGANWARI CENTRE AND 1 NO. COMMUNITY CENTRE, DISTRICT JHAJJAR.	09.04.2021 22.04.2021	77.68 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	prexeeng.jjr@hry.nic.in
14	PANCHAYATI RAJ,JHAJJAR	CONST. OF BIOGAS PLANT AT VILLAGE MATANHAIL, BLOCK MATANHAIL, DISTRICT JHAJJAR.	09.04.2021 22.04.2021	72.72 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	prexeeng.jjr@hry.nic.in
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ,SIRSA	CONST. OF GOBAR GAS PLANT AT VILLAGE TEJA KHERA (RE-TENDER) BLOCK DABWALI DISTRICT SIRSA	10.04.2021 16.04.2021	83.65 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666247479 prexeeng.srs@hry.nic.in
16	CIVIL SURGEON HEALTH DEPARTMENT HISAR	RC FOR PROCUREMENT OF TYRES & TUBES FOR AMBULANCE UNDER RTS 108 OFFICE OF CIVIL SURGEON HISAR	13.04.2021 22.04.2021	EMD-10000/-	www.nrhmharyana.gov.in	7015994459 dhs.cshsr@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

RO NO. 2561

Remain watchful of evolving situation: RBI Govt to banks

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

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

Das touched upon the

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

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

Among other matters,

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

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

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

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

Industrial production contracts 3.6% in Feb

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Showing sluggishness in the economy amid the pandemic, industrial production contracted for the second straight month by 3.6 per cent in February due to poor performance of manufacturing and mining sectors, official data showed on Monday.

The manufacturing sector -- which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index of industrial production (IIP) -- declined by 3.7 per cent in February 2021, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

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

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

The index had grown by 5.2 per cent in February 2020.

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

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

Sebi norms on reporting formats for mutual funds

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

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

In a circular, Sebi said the compliance certificate to be submitted by an AMC to the trustees on a bi-monthly basis and half-yearly basis would be discontinued.

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

With regard to quarterly report on activities of mutual

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

For schemes which have been wound up, Sebi said details of payout should be provided during each quarter till the last payout for such schemes. Details of close-ended schemes rolled-over, schemes that underwent fundamental attribute change, clearance received from Sebi to launch new schemes and details of Assets Under Management (AUM) need to be provided in the quarterly report.

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

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

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

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

DoT extends network gear purchase restriction to satellite services

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Companies providing satellite connectivity services through gateway set-up in India will have to install network equipment as recommended by the Government, according to new norms issued by the Department of Telecom (DoT). At present, only BSNL has installed a satellite gateway through which it provides satellite-based communication services to authorised agencies like security forces, oil companies etc.

As per the new norms, National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) will be the designated authority that can impose conditions for the procurement of telecom equipment on the grounds of "Defence of India" or matters directly related to national security.

DoT had already announced similar restrictions on telecom operators as well as internet service providers last

month. "In pursuance of condition 5.1, chapter 1 the licensor hereby amends the provision and operation of satellite based services using gateway installed in India under 'sui-generis' licence agreement..." DoT said in the amendment to the licence agreement for procurement of telecom equipment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Online appointment must to visit DDA

PTI ■ MUMBAI
It has been decided that general public can visit DDA Vikas Sadan only through prior online appointment from Directors of all departments and Dy. Directors of Land Disposal and Housing Departments during public hearing hours. (Monday & Thursday; 2:30PM to 4:30PM). For ease of general public Online appointment system has been developed and made operational.

Link and steps for booking of online appointment is available on DDA website under Online Public Service section.

URL for the online appointment system: <https://citizenservices.dda.org.in/>

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI
With demand for housing loans picking up during the last two quarters of fiscal 2020-21, housing finance companies (HFCs) are likely to witness a growth rate of 6-8 per cent during the year and 8-10 per cent in FY2021-22, says a report.

The on-book portfolio growth moderated for HFCs in the first nine months of FY2021 (compared to March 2020) to 4.3 per cent (excluding the portfolio of one large player, which had sizeable write-offs) from portfolio growth of 6 per cent (Y-o-Y) in FY2020.

Icra Ratings in a report said with revival in demand for

housing credit in the industry in the last two quarters, most of the HFCs have already reached near pre-Covid level disbursements and are targeting to achieve further higher disbursements in Q4 FY2021.

"This is expected to push up the growth rate for FY2021 to 6-8 per cent. Thereafter, we estimate the growth of 8-10 per cent for on-book portfolio of HFCs in FY2022," the agency said.

According to Icra's vice president and sector head Sachin Sachdeva, given the cash flow stress faced by the borrowers, the overdue of HFCs have increased in the first nine months of FY2021 as reflected by proforma GNPA

of around 2.7 per cent as of December 31, 2020 as compared to reported GNPA of 2.4 per cent as on March 31, 2020.

The asset quality indicators could be further impacted in Q4 FY2021, he said.

He sees GNPA of HFCs for FY2021 to be higher by 50-100 basis points, compared to FY2020, and the same to remain elevated in FY2022 as well.

Notwithstanding the improvement in business in the last two quarters of FY2021, relatively lower business growth than the earlier years, and asset quality pressures would moderate the profitability for the HFCs in FY2021, Sachdeva said.

Dr Reddy's shares jump 5 per cent

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

In September last year, the company had partnered with

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

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

On the National Stock

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

It was the biggest gainer on both the indices.

The company's market valuation gained Rs 3,817.36 crore to Rs 82,966.36 crore on the BSE. An expert panel of India's central drug authority has recommended granting approval to Russian COVID-19 vaccine

Sputnik V for emergency use in the country with certain conditions, sources said. The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) on Monday took up the application of Dr Reddy's Laboratories seeking emergency use authorisation for Sputnik V.

MG George Muthoot Cancer Centre in Kerala comes forward for Cancer treatment of lesser privileged

PTI ■ KERALA
MG George Muthoot (1949-2021), Group Chairman of The Muthoot Group of Companies spent all his life relentlessly striving to ensure that millions of marginalised people across the length and breadth of our country benefitted from

Financial Inclusion. His unparalleled philanthropic and CSR initiatives coupled with huge popular and affordable products & services provided countless Indians with the benefits of a formal financial system, transforming their dreams into productive reality.

राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम
मुख्यालय जयपुर
ई-बोली सूचना
निगम द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-बोली के माध्यम से निम्नलिखित प्रपत्र में ऑन लाइन बोलियां आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट www.rsrhc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> व स्टेट पोर्टल (SPPP) पर देखा जा सकता है:-

क्र. संख्या	ई-बोली सूचना सं.	कार्य	सूचीएन नम्बर
1	01/2021-22	निगम द्वारा सरकार से मान्यता प्राप्त पंजीकृत संस्था/यूनिवर्सिटी/सैनिकों की सहकारी समिति से 800 घालको की सेवा अनुबंध पर लेने हेतु निम्नलिखित प्रपत्र में ई-बोली प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑन लाइन बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है।	RTC2122SLO300020

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

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

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in SHO
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS Paschim Vihar, West Delhi
Fax : 011-24368639 DP/786/OD/2021 Ph: 011-252268394, 25280980

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Neha, W/o Avinash, R/o RZE-146, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi, Age: 26 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: Unknown** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar since 06.03.2021. In this regard a Vide DD No. 183A dated 06.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in SHO
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Fax : 011-24368639 DP/767/OD/2021 Ph: 011-25946700, 25946710

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that one male was found from Gali No. 9, Pradhan Colony, Singhu Border Road, Narela Delhi due to falling from balcony on 25.03.2021 and admitted in Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. During treatment doctor declare him dead on 27.03.2021. In this regard a DD No. 10A, Dated 27.03.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Narela, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:
Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 35-40 years, Height: 5'5" Wearing: Yellow and Maroon Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour undergarments and barefooted. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O
P.S. Narela, Delhi
Ph: 011-27280435, 27282350
DP/964/ON/2021

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

Sr	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1.	Annual maintenance contract for 34 IPS systems of M/s. Statkon Power Control Systems Pvt. Ltd. Make installed over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 66,14,087.04/-
2.	Minichinal Station : Proposed modification of Electronic Interlocking System at Minichinal Station in view of closure of LC No: 92 at km 209/790 between Minichinal - Nimbāl stations in Gadag-Hotgi section over Hubballi Division in lieu of LHS work.	Rs. 11,93,076.55/-
3.	Hubballi Section : Provision track machine siding at Vyasa Colony Yard in Senior Divisional Engineer / East Jurisdiction. (PID No. 14.02.31.19.6.00.003) Sub Work I : TWR(ECW) - 193.124 km (184 SEJ). (PID No. 14.02.31.20.1.51.009) Sub Work III : TTR (P) on bridge and approaches 7.11 km in patches (PID No. 14.02.31.2.0.1.51.001) Sub Work IV : TTR (P) with 60 km rails from km 208/3-211/200 between Hosapete-Ballari (up Line) section for a length of 2.90 km (PID No. 14.02.31.19.6.51.004) Sub Work V : Chikjajur - Hubballi Section : TFR without TBR between Gudageri - Saunshi station from km 444.200 - 448.900 for a length of 4.7 km. (Saunshi Station) (PID No. 14.03.31.18.6.52.027) Sub work VIII: Chikjajur - Hubballi Section : TFR without TBR between Yalvigi Gudageri station from km 422.300-427.100 for a length of 4.8 km (Yalvigi Station) (PID No. 14.03.31.18.06.52.020) Sub work IX : Hubballi - Miral - CTR (P) for a length of 31.3 km in patches. Total length of 31.3 km (PID No. 14.02.31.20.01.51.003)	Rs. 58,08,158/-

Last date of submission of bids: Up to 11:00 hrs of 07.05.2021
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager
Signal & Telecommunication, Hubballi
PUB/11A5P/IRPB/SWR/2021-21

UJVN Limited
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax- 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

दिनांक: 12/04/2021

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), Namely: **NB. SUB. SHASHI BHUSHAN VERMA S/o Shri Raj Gir Singh R/o 505, Army Base Workshop, C/o 56 APO, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi** has been missing from 505, Army Base Workshop, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi since 31.03.2021. In this regard a GD No. 45A dated 02.04.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Naraina, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-
Age: 41 years, Height: 5'9", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black colour Army dress and black colour shoes in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Naraina, New Delhi at E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
P.S. Naraina, New Delhi
West Distt., Delhi
Ph. No. 011-25891181, 25892010, 25892011
011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/397/WD/2021
8750871122, 9718838396

निदेशालय
महिला सशक्तिकरण एवं बाल विकास विभाग, उत्तरखण्ड
निकट नन्दा की चौकी, सुन्दरवाला विकासखण्ड रोड, देहरादून
दूरभाष नं० 0135-2775813-2775814, ईमेल-dir.icds.ua@gmail.com

दिनांक: 12 अप्रैल, 2021

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

उप निदेशक

Appeal for Identification
General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: **Alam, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 40 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Sex: Male, Face: Round, Built: Medium, ID Mark: Old scar mark between both eyebrow. Wearing : Purple colour shirt, coca cola colour pant, yellow and red colour liner towel bare foot** was found at opposite shop no 3018, Gali No.1, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, dt. 09.04.2021 Delhi. In this regard, a DD No. 38, dated 09.04.2021 has been lodged at PS Pahar Ganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at LHMC Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Pahar Ganj, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23524746
23520787
DP/758/CD/2021

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price with Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Saket Satyam (Borrower), Sushil Kumar Shrivastava (Co-Borrower), Kumar Abhishek Verma (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002376035	Flat No 32, LIG Block B18 Pkt 5 Sec-35, 2nd Floor Rohini, Delhi, 110085 Area 285 sq. ft..	Rs. 15,47,391.5 (as on 6th Apr 2021)	Rs. 11,10,000/- Rs. 1,11,000/-	May 10, 2021 From 12 Noon To 1:00 PM	May 28, 2021 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://disposal.hub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till May 27, 2021 before 05:00 P.M else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh Delhi-110005 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website online or before May 27, 2021 before 05:00 P.M along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh Delhi-110005 on or before May 27, 2021 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933
Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.
The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: April 13, 2021
Place: Delhi/NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

HEALTH

Antioxidants Help

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



YOUNG ONES STAY INDOORS

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

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

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

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

There is a silver lining though. Most of the vaccines which are already being approved for the adults could be used in children but the phase II, III, IV trials are lagging for them.

"Many vaccines have already completed trials in adolescents (above 12 years) and have generated safety and efficacy profile of the vaccine, similar to over 18 years' age group. However, the trials in special populations including younger age group is on its way. Pregnancy and lactation are other categories for which data regarding vaccine use is lagging. The solution to this situation bears no shortcuts," Moni tells you.

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

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

The solution is simple. First, keep the kids indoors at all times. "Second, when an adult in the house tests positive keep them away. The young, people under 45 need to be extremely careful since the vaccine doesn't include them. One has to behave like responsible citizens. The fact that so many doctors have also tested positive goes to show there is need to tread with caution. Third, wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, not go out and when adults do so, maintain COVID-19 SOP and keep away from social gathering can go a long way in keeping the children as well as the adults safe," Sharma says.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



getting the vaccination done, one must follow all the safety precautions that are laid out by the Government. Becoming complacent is one of the major reasons of people catching the infection even after the getting the jab," Dr Verma tells you.

Dr Satish Kaul, HOD and Director, Internal medicine, Narayana Hospital, Gurugram, says that vaccines are surely safe if doses are taken within prescribed time that too with all required precautions.

"We need to understand that vaccine basically provides protection from the severity of the disease; it saves us from getting chronically sick. It potentially saves us practically from ICU, ventilators and oxygen support, it helps to weaken the mechanism of disease in human body. Hence, vaccine beneficiaries are supposed to continue wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and COVID appropriate behaviour even after getting vaccinated," he suggests.

Also after taking second dose be extra cautious for at least two weeks, follow all precautionary measures. "Experts believe that one has to not get infected for at least two weeks after getting the second dose in order for the vaccine to be effective. Hence, these two weeks are the most crucial," Kaul adds.

DOCYARD

DR PARESH DOSHI

Director of Neurosurgery
JASLOK HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE, MUMBAI



Look out for tremors



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUMMER COOLERS

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

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

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

body produces free radicals during natural processes, such as metabolism. They can also develop through smoking, air pollution, stress, and other environmental pressures. The high water content in watermelon and the other nutrients help promote a healthy gut by preventing constipation and promoting regularity of bowel movements.

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

DadiKaKehna

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



Remaining hydrated at times is the key to prevent a heat stroke. Drinking plenty of water is the golden rule here. If the nature of your work keeps you outdoors, which one should avoid at all costs keeping in mind the rising COVID cases, carry a bottle of water with you.

Peak sun hours are from 10 am to 4 pm. Try and avoid going out during this time.

Onions are great to prevent a heatstroke. Eat them in any form, though raw would be best.

The juice of coriander

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

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

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

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

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

BOND FOR LIFE

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

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

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

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

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



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

pregnancy could be as simple as a daily walk for 30-40 minutes. Stretching exercises and yoga exercises which are safe in pregnancy and approved by your doctor may be done under supervision. Exercise helps alleviate minor aches and pains of pregnancy and increases your chances of having a natural birth.

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

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

INBRIEF

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

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

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

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





TRENDBLAZER

GAUAHAR TALKS ABOUT LIFE AFTER MARRIAGE



Actor GAUAHAR KHAN took to social media to share an appreciation post for her husband Zaid Darbar. "So we have not had a so called honeymoon yet. Life has been absolutely crazy ever since we got married. Shoots, Zaid's studio launch, my dad not doing well and us losing him... but what I've had is the best gift of life that Allah could give me — my Zaid. Always by side as my strength. We make even the smallest work trip into a great time to make it feel like a holiday," she wrote.

fairtalk



'There are a few directors and filmmakers in India as well as in the West I really want to work with and I hope that it happens someday. *The White Tiger* has definitely helped me get in touch with some of them. I have been auditioning for a lot of parts and I hope to convert some of them and begin working on something exciting really soon.'

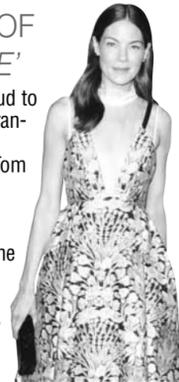
dailytalk



'Company was a dream debut for me. At that time, it was the most unconventional debut and I cherished the opportunity RGV gave me and dived into the character. I rented a *kholi* and lived in a slum for three weeks to prepare and transform into Chandu Nagare. Nineteen years today and I wouldn't change a thing.'

'PROUD TO BE PART OF MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE'

Actor MICHELLE MONAGHAN is proud to be part of the *Mission: Impossible* franchise. She played Julia Meade, wife of Tom Cruise's super spy protagonist Ethan Hunt, in three films of the series. "That was such an extraordinary experience from beginning to end. One of my first days was the opening scene with (late) Philip Seymour Hoffman. He was such a tremendous actor and such a talent, we were fortunate to be graced with," she said.



LET IT ALL OUT

ROHAN PARIKH shares how schools can help students as well as parents to manage stress in such adverse times



'Remember to be truthful in situations where you may not have the answer. Kids are more intuitive than we think and they can pick up when things are not right. It's important to acknowledge and validate their feelings of fear, and let them know that it is ok to have them'

people, be it family that doesn't live with them or their friends who they would otherwise play with at school. Staying connected with their friends is critical to their happiness, as it gives them companionship and helps maintain good mental health. Make sure to celebrate all the birthdays, anniversaries, holidays like you would otherwise, follow patterns that you would outside of this pandemic. By staying connected with the world around them will help students to have a sense of normality through these tough times. By keeping the above advice in mind parents, teachers and schools for that matter can keep an open line of communication with the children, allowing them to address their feelings and rationally work through them without getting overwhelmed or stressed out about it. Balancing the socio-emotional development of children, and helping them appropriately navigate through this time gives students the skills which they carry with them into adulthood and learn how to stop, analyse, and problem solve whenever they come upon a difficult situation. (The writer is the MD of The Green Acres Academy.)

We are currently facing a situation unlike any other. As we watch the world slowly emerge from the pandemic, it's only natural to have feelings of anxiousness and stress about what the future holds. If we, as adults, feel this way, then it's only logical that our children will feel it as well, and they may not possess the same ability to rationalise the current state of the world. In such a situation, the mechanisms provided by socio-emotional learning proves crucial for students and parents. It equips students to rationalise, analyse and navigate through difficult and stressful times, something they will carry with them into the workforce and as adults. So now you can see the importance schools must place on the socio-emotional development of students and how they come into play. The vital role that

teachers and schools will now play will be in providing parents with the correct guidance, advice and support in helping students manage their stress. Here are the three main things parents should keep in mind while helping their children: **Talk to them about the current situation** The pandemic has been around long enough, and its effects will continue to be there, both good and bad. Avoiding difficult conversations will only make matters more confusing and stressful for children. Parents should calmly explain the current scenario to children, and work with them through their feelings. By doing so, parents will be better preparing them for uncertain situations and how they can cope with it in future.

Remember to be truthful in situations where you may not have the answer. Children will appreciate the honesty and learn that it is ok that we don't always know everything. Do not pretend like nothing is wrong. Kids are more intuitive than we think and they can pick up when things are not right. It's important to acknowledge and validate their feelings of fear, and let them know that it is ok to have those feelings. Balance out the conversations by ensuring to share some good news as well, let them know that it's not all bad out there. And most importantly, make sure conversation is continuous. Encourage them to talk to you, communicate with you and make sure to check on their feelings at frequent intervals. **Helping them deal with big and difficult feelings**

We are all going through a whole host of emotions, sometimes it's almost like a rollercoaster. While it's completely ok to experience this range of feelings, it's not good to remain distressed. Staying in a state of distress prevents one from thinking clearly and can also affect one's learning. This is because the brain goes into a state of 'Fight or Flight' and the brain is looking for the fastest response but not the best response. To help students work through this, we have to teach them how to first identify their feelings. Teach your children what being in distress means or feels like, and what are the different emotions that could cause it; is it anger, frustration, disappointment etc. Once they have identified the emotions, the next step is to teach them how to cope with it. Give children a few tools to help them manage the emotions, like

giving kids a hug to make them feel safe or deep breathing, slow body movements to help them slow down their mind and emotions. Once they have coped with their big overwhelming feelings, now is the time to solve the problem. Teach them that once they have reached a calmer stage, their minds will be in a better place to think of the best solution and not the fastest solution to the problem. So now, you can both revisit the problem together and assess what possible solutions you can come up to tackle the problem at hand. **Proactive tools to make your family feel safe** Proactive tools or strategies are those which help us take charge of our own decision making and problem-solving. These help us

plan for specific issues or scenarios that may arise and be prepared for them. Being prepared and ready will only help children feel more confident and secure when the situation arises as they won't be lost or confused with how to react. The important proactive tools to equip children with is helping them schedule their day, and to follow a routine. If they know how the day is going to be, it helps them be more prepared both emotionally and mentally. Other important tools for children are adequate exercise, sleep, food and water. Many studies prove that children need up to one full hour of exercise in a day which helps with their mental and physical health. Last but not least, it's important for students to stay connected with



Want to do my bit to portray women better: Parineeti

Actor Parineeti Chopra says she has always tried to change the narrative of how women should be portrayed on screen right from her debut. Parineeti with her superlative performances in *Ladies Vs Ricky Bahl*, *Ishaqzaade*, *Shuddh Desi Romance*, *Hasee Toh Phasee*, among others had established herself as an effective, unconventional counterpoint to the Bollywood norm that heroines should play a certain type of roles and look a certain way. Parineeti says, "I strongly feel that actresses have to change the narrative of how women are portrayed on screen. Right from my debut, I have tried to do this. I have always taken it on myself to do something out of the ordinary, not portray the quintessential heroine that Bollywood has tried to depict for ages." Pari, through her last three releases *The Girl On The Train* (TGOTT), *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar* (SAPF) and *Saina*, has shown her intent to play diverse roles that brought to screen confident, unconventional heroines who are in control of their own destiny. She says, "My last three films - TGOTT, SAPF and Saina were also an attempt by me to give varied, bold, confident, ambitious heroines to the audience. My forthcoming film choices will resonate this thought process too because I definitely want to do my bit to portray women better." Pari wishes that all the actresses in Bollywood should be conscious about how they represent women on screen. She says, "If all of us are able to change the way women are presented on screen, it will go a long way in changing the perception of girls in our society. Cinema can impact the minds of the audience and so, let us use this medium to affect positive changes in our society."

Toofaan a dream project for Mrunal

Dreams truly have come true for Mrunal Thakur, who someday hoped to star in a Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra film after watching *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*. The actor is now part of the ensemble starcast of Mehra's sports drama *Toofaan* in association with Excel Entertainment and ROMP Pictures. With *Toofaan*, Mrunal, who has worked with some of the leading names in the industry early in her career, now got the opportunity to work with both Farhan Akhtar and Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, both of whom she's had deep admiration for. Says Mrunal Thakur, "I kind of manifested it, I believe. I remember watching *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag* alone in a theatre during my college days and I wrote a huge note just assuming that Rakeysh sir would one day read my message. At that time I didn't even know I would be an actor. Working with Excel is like a dream, especially when you have a combination of Farhan and Rakeysh sir. We were completely pampered and the treatment on set was so amazing." The actor is also excited that *Toofaan* is releasing on the OTT platform, making the film accessible to a global audience. She adds, "The fact that the film is releasing in 240 countries and territories on the OTT platform is a blessing in dis-



guise because there are no geographical barriers here. I'm glad that the film is on Amazon since I love their content. A film like *Toofaan*, which is inspirational, is most needed at a time like this to motivate people during a pandemic." The film, the inspirational sports drama produced by Ritesh Sidhwani, Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra and Farhan Akhtar will premiere on Amazon Prime Video on May 21.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(A GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR UNDERTAKING)
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E-mail: md@idabihar.com, Website-www.idabihar.com,
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NOTICE INVITING SHORT RE-TENDER No.- 07/TEN/IDA/21
(केवल ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए समुचित श्रेणी में केन्द्रीय सरकार/राज्य सरकार/ उपक्रम/ बोर्ड/ निगम में निबंधित अथवा ख्याती प्राप्त राष्ट्रीय/अन्तरराष्ट्रीय स्तर के Agency से प्रतिशत / मदवार निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
कार्य का विवरण :

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	कुल प्राक्कलित राशि (₹00)	अग्रघन की राशि (₹00)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (₹00) (online payment)	ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया शुल्क (₹00) (online payment)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	Construction of Integrated Unit for Irradiation-cum-Pack House (Common Facility Centre) at Bihta, Patna, Bihar.	23,87,98,500.00	47,76,000.00	10,000.00	As appeared on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in website	12 Months

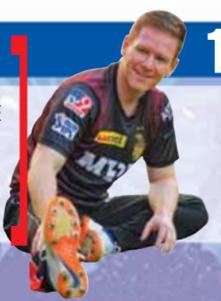
निविदा समय सारणी (Tender Schedule)

क्र.सं.	गतिविधि	स्थान, तिथि एवं समय
1	विज्ञापनदाता का नाम	आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पूरब, पटना-800004
2	निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि	दिनांक 07.04.2021
3	निविदा डाउनलोड तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 15.04.2021 से 24.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
4	प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	दिनांक 19.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पूरब, पटना-4
5	निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 26.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
6	अग्रघन राशि एवं सभी शपथ पत्र की मूल प्रति जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	दि 27.04.2021 को 15:00 बजे तक आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पूरब, पटना-800004
7	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 27.04.2021 को 15:30 बजे (on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
8	वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के पश्चात। (on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
9	निविदा बेटाता की अवधि	120 दिन

निविदा की विस्तृत शर्तों एवं आवश्यक सूचना आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार एवं कार्यपालक अभियंता (पी.डी.ए.) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है एवं कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट एवं वेबसाइट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar / www.idabihar.com पर देखा जा सकता है।
PR- 000362 (N.I.) 2021-22 कार्यपालक अभियंता (पी0डी0ए0)
किसी भी तरह आपदा की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु आपदा प्रबंधन के हेल्पलाइन नं. 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

GAME PLAN 2021

ONE OF THE MANY STRENGTHS WE (KKR) HAVE WITHIN OUR SQUAD IS TWO OF THE MOST TALENTED GUYS (RANA AND GILL) IN THE COUNTRY OPENING THE BATTING FOR US
— EINO MORGAN



TODAY



VS



LIVE FROM 7:30PM IST

STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

CAPTAIN PUNJAB

KL (91), Hooda (64 off 28) take Punjab Kings to 221

PLAYER	RUNS
1. KL Rahul (PBKS)	91
2. Shikhar Dhawan (DC)	85
3. Nitish Rana (KKR)	80

PLAYER	WKTS
1. Harshal Patel (RCB)	5
2. Avesh Khan (DC)	2
3. Rashid Khan (SRH)	2

MOST SIXES	COUNT
1. Deepak Hooda (PBKS)	6
2. KL Rahul (PBKS)	5
3. Nitish Rana (KKR)	4

GAYLE'S FIRST INNINGS OF A SEASON FOR PUNJAB

RUNS	BALLS	OPPOSITION	VENUE	YEAR
63	33	Chennai Super Kings	Mohali	2018
79	47	Rajasthan Royals	Jaipur	2019
53	45	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Sharjah	2020
40	28	Rajasthan Royals	Mumbai	2021



Punjab Kings skipper KL Rahul congratulates teammate Deepak Hooda after he scores fifty against Rajasthan Royals during IPL match in Mumbai

I WAS JUST REACTING TO THE BALL AND SHOWING AGGRESSIVE INTENT IN MY BATTING. I GOT THIS ROLE AT NO 4 AND I AM HAPPY TO GET THIS ROLE, AS I BAT AT THIS POSITION IN DOMESTIC CRICKET. THERE WAS NO DEW, THE BALL IS HOLDING UP ON THE WICKET FOR A BIT. THE SCORE IS QUITE GOOD AND WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND IT

—DEEPAK HOODA

the Wankhede that made the difference to their total as the duo tore into the opposition attack on way to their 105-run stand.

Courtesy their monstrous hitting, Punjab added 111 runs in the final eight overs.

Hooda, who had made a 62 against CSK in his last competitive game in November, had stormed out of the Baroda camp ahead of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy after claiming that Krunal Pandya misbehaved with him. Hooda was subsequently suspended.

SUMMER SLAM

MOTION PICTURE



Jos Buttler's wife Louise Buttler and daughter Georgia Rose in stands during IPL match between Rajasthan Royals and Punjab Kings at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai

HARDIK WILL BOWL SOON: ZAEHER
Hardik Pandya did not bowl against RCB due to a shoulder concern but he will soon contribute in team's cause with ball in his hand, MI's Director of Cricket Operations Zaheer Khan said. "Hardik, as a whole package is always of great value. It was a workload related thing in the previous game. There was a little bit of a shoulder concern but I don't think it is worrisome. You will see him bowl very soon. We are very confident that he will be chipping in with the ball in his hand as well," added Zaheer.

WILLIAMSON NEEDS EXTRA TIME
SRH head coach Trevor Bayliss said Kane Williamson was left out against KKR as he needs more time to be match fit. "We just felt that Kane needed a little bit of extra time to get match fit and a little bit more time in the nets," Bayliss said. "He would have played in place of Bairstow if that had occurred. But we aren't too perturbed about that, Jonny has been in form recently. Kane will obviously come into calculations as the tournament unfolds."

AVESH TAKES HIS DREAM WICKET
DC pacer Avesh Khan said he fulfilled a long-cherished dream when he got former India skipper MS Dhoni's prized wicket. "Three years ago, I had a chance to take Mahi bhai's wicket, but somebody had dropped the catch. But now my dream of taking Mahi bhai's wicket is fulfilled, so I am very happy about it," Avesh said."

SHAW MADE COMEBACK LIKE CHAMPION
DC opener Shikhar Dhawan heaped praise on his batting partner Prithvi Shaw, who made 72 off 38 balls against CSK. "It was lovely to watch Prithvi bat so effortlessly and timing the ball so nicely. He went through a bad patch earlier and has come back as a champion. I am so happy to see him perform that well."

POINTS TABLE

	P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1 DC	1	1	0	+0.779	2
2 KKR	1	1	0	+0.500	2
3 RCB	1	1	0	+0.050	2
4 PBKS	0	0	0	+0.000	0
5 RR	0	0	0	+0.000	0
6 MI	1	0	1	-0.050	0
7 SRH	1	0	1	-0.500	0
8 CSK	1	0	1	-0.779	0

PTI ■ MUMBAI

KL Rahul and Deepak Hooda pummeled the Rajasthan Royals bowlers into submission with their sensational stroke play, propelling Punjab Kings to an imposing 221 for six in the IPL here on Monday.

While Rahul smashed seven fours and five sixes in his 50-ball 91, Hooda, playing his first game since the last IPL, plundered six maximums and four boundaries as he blazed his way to 64 off just 28 balls.

Put into bat, Punjab lost opener Mayank Agarwal (14) early, who edged it back to Royals captain and wicket-keeper Sanju Samson for IPL debutant Chetan Sakariya's first wicket.

He ended being the pick of the bowlers, conceding only five runs in the 20th over.

Rahul, who got his first four with a glance to the fine-leg fence, and Chris Gayle (40 off 28) gave the team a good start with their 67-run stand.

Rahul got a 'life' after Ben Stokes dropped him at the fence in the seventh over even as Gayle, looked in his elements.

The duo then took on Stokes, as Gayle hit his 350th IPL six, a pull over deep square in the 8th over with Punjab racing to 70 for one.

Gayle was dropped by leggie Rahul Tewatia (0/25) off his own bowling and the very next ball, the left-hander smashed a six.

However, in the 10th over, Riyan Parag (1/7) removed Gayle, who was holed out to Stokes in the deep.

Rahul then changed gears and got to his fifty with a six over Shivam Dube's (0/20) head in the 13th over.

Hooda then smashed two maximums in the same over and then struck three sixes off Shreyas Gopal (0/40) in the next as Punjab went ballistic.

It was Rahul and Hooda's show at

MI for Knight Riders

Women's T20 Challenge likely to remain three-team affair

KEY PLAYERS

NITISH RANA
Rana adds value to KKR with an ability to stabilise the innings and accelerate when required

KRUNAL PANDYA
The Sr Pandya is never out of the game be it with the ball in hand or with the bat

VENUE: CHIDAMBARAM STADIUM, CHENNAI

HEAD TO HEAD

Matches	27
Kolkata Knight Riders	06
Mumbai Indians	21

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

- Mumbai Indians defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by 49 runs at Abu Dhabi
- Mumbai Indians beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 8 wickets at Abu Dhabi

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Fresh from their clinical display against Sunrisers Hyderabad, two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to set the record straight against nemesis Mumbai Indians in their second match here on Tuesday.

They have won just once in their last 12 games against MI, and have an overall lopsided 6-21 head-to-head record.

Having missed the last two playoffs, KKR looked a completely different unit, in the manner in which they defeated SRH on Sunday.

Be it the aggression shown by the top-order or the explosive finish by Dinesh Karthik, KKR's displayed a fearless approach under skipper Eoin Morgan.

The left-right opening combination of Nitish Rana and Shubman Gill started to attack right from the first ball, clearly indicating that the new approach had Morgan's success mantra written all over it.

But on Tuesday it will all boil down to battle of wits between Morgan and Rohit Sharma, under whose captaincy MI has won a record fifth IPL title last season in UAE.

MI will pose real challenge for KKR as the title holders would be desperate to secure their first win of the season after their two-wicket loss to Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL opener.

KRR found it easy against SRH bowlers, which lacked fire-power but in Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult, MI attack will be a completely different proposition.

Gill's struggle to bat at T20 pace has been a concern for KKR and it will be

954

Shubman Gill who scored 954 runs at an average of 32.89 in 39 innings of 42 matches, needs 44 runs to become 11th batsman to score over 1000 runs for Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL

47

Krunal Pandya who took 47 wickets at an average of 32.61 in 70 innings of 72 matches, needs three wickets to become the sixth bowler to complete a fifty of wickets for Mumbai Indians in IPL

Faisal Features

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI is likely to stick to three teams for the Women's T20 Challenge tournament, usually held during the IPL play-offs.

The Board had planned to increase the exhibition event to four teams last year but it will continue to be a three-team affair due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since the delayed IPL was held in the September-November window last year, the Women's Challenge clashed with the WBBL, making the Australian players unavailable.

"As of now the plan is to have three teams. A final decision will be taken shortly. There is a good chance that it will be held in Delhi. Talks are on with the leading Australian and England players," a BCCI official said on Monday.

The last edition, comprising four games, was held in Sharjah as the IPL play-offs took place in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The decision on the event could be taken during BCCI's

Apex Council meeting on April 16, when the appointment of Indian women's team support staff and its Future Tours Programme will also be discussed.

The Indian players have been

badly short on match practice amid the pandemic. India played their first series in a year last month when they lost both the ODI and T20 series to the visiting South African team.



The 'setback' called Covid-19 behind him, RCB opener Devdutt Padikkal is now completely ready to play his part in the IPL and confident of replicating his stupendous domestic form. The 20-year-old left-hander represented Karnataka in Vijay Hazare in March and was the second highest run-getter (737 runs) in the tourney

Linde leads SA to series-levelling win



AFF ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa levelled their four-match T20 International series against Pakistan with a comfortable six-wicket win in the second match at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Monday.

Left-arm spinner George Linde and fast bowler Lizaad Williams took three wickets each as Pakistan were restricted to 140 for nine in their 20 overs.

Captain Babar Azam made 50 for Pakistan.

Aiden Markram led an aggressive South African reply, hitting 54 off 30 balls, and the hosts romped to victory with six overs to spare.

Stand-in captain Heinrich Klaasen made 36 not out from 21 balls and added 49 runs for fifth wicket with George Linde (20 off 10 balls, 2 sixes).

The third game of the four-game series is on Wednesday.

Bayern can beat PSG: Kimmich

AFF ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich is convinced the holders can beat Paris Saint-Germain at the Parc des Princes on Tuesday in their Champions League quarter-final second leg to reach the last four.

"I believe that we will progress, because we're the better team," Kimmich told the club's website.

Bayern need to overturn a 3-2 defeat from last week's first leg in Munich.

"We were the better team in the first leg, but unfortunately the result didn't correspond to the performance," added Kimmich.

"Nevertheless, I'm confident that we can still turn it around in the second leg."

Despite peppering the PSG goal with 31 shots, 12 on target,



Bayern lost the first leg at home after Kylian Mbappe converted, twice, and Marquinhos scored as PSG had just four shots on target.

"In the first leg, they threatened three times and scored three times," said Kimmich.

"Apart from that, I don't remember Paris having that many chances.

"Overall, our attack had more possession and more chances. Now we have to take these chances."