

## OPINION 6

A SALAD COALITION  
CAN LEAD ISRAEL?

## WORLD 8

MYANMAR JUNTA TO START COURT  
CASE AGAINST SUU KYI NEXT WEEK

## AVENUES 10

ROAD AHEAD FOR  
CLASS XII STUDENTS

DEHRADUN, WEDNESDAY JUNE 9, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹2



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ZIDANSEK IN  
FRENCH OPEN  
LAST FOUR  
12 SPORT

# Govt orders 44 cr doses of Covaxin, Covishield

216 cr dosages will be made available between August and Dec, Govt had said earlier

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After claiming that 216 crore dosages will be made available for vaccination between August and December, the Government on Tuesday said it has placed orders for 44 crore doses of Covishield and Covaxin to be delivered during that period.

In total, 127.6 crore vaccines will be supplied to the Centre, including the previous orders, said Dr VK Paul, member (Health) Niti Aayog, at a Press conference here.

Additionally, 30 per cent of advance for procurement of both the vaccines has been released to Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech, a move aimed to fast track the availability of the jabs.

Dr Paul said a few days ago, an advance order to purchase 30 crore doses was placed with Biological E's vaccine, which will be available by September. "By July, we hope to get 53.6 crore doses of vaccines," said Dr VK Paul.

On May 14, Dr Paul at the Press conference said at least 216 crore doses are likely to be produced between August and

December, including 75 crore doses of Covishield and 55 crore doses of Covaxin. Presently, only these two vaccines are being provided under the national vaccination programme that was launched on January 16. Dr Paul had also said Russian anti-Covid vaccine Sputnik V will be made available by May 22, but it is yet to make its entry in the market.

On Tuesday, Dr Paul maintained, "In immediate follow-up of the Prime Minister's announcement of these changes in the guidelines of national Covid vaccination programme yesterday, the Centre has placed an order with Serum Institute of India for 25 crore doses of Covishield and with Bharat Biotech for 19 crore doses of Covaxin. Additionally, 30 per



cent of the advance for procurement of both the Covid vaccines has been released to the two manufacturers."

More orders could be placed with both the companies as the 18-44 age group has been also added under the Centre's

responsibility, Dr Paul said as he pointed out "the Centre has been supporting the efforts of States and Union Territories for an effective vaccination drive under the 'whole of Government approach' since January 16 this year."

## Centre needs ₹1.5 lakh cr more for free food grains, Covid jabs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi Government needs an additional amount of around ₹1.45 lakh crore to ₹1.50 lakh crore to provide free food grains and free inoculation against Covid to all adults.

According to officials, the free Covid-19 jabs to all is expected to cost between ₹45,000 crore and ₹50,000 crore while providing free

ration to 90 crore people till November will cost around ₹90,000 crore to ₹1.10 lakh crore till November. "Taken together, the additional spending could be up to ₹1.45 lakh crore to ₹1.50 lakh crore," officials said.

According to officials, the Budget for Covid-19 is earmarked ₹35,000 crore. To vaccinate them India needs 170-180 crore doses. 23.61 crore

doses have been administered so far till Tuesday. Presently, India's total population is 168 crore.

Multiplying 168 crore doses with ₹150 per dose (as the Government is buying ₹150 per dose and it is not clear whether taxes are applicable or waived) it takes us to ₹25,000 crore to ₹27,000 crore and two doses will cost over ₹50,000 crore to ₹52,000 crore.

# Vaccine prices capped

Pvt hospitals can charge maximum ₹780 for Covishield, ₹1,410 for Covaxin, ₹1,145 for Sputnik

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday fixed the maximum price that private hospitals can charge for a Covid vaccine dose.

Amid allegations that private hospitals are engaged in brazen profiteering in the midst of such humanitarian crisis, the Government has fixed the price of Covishield at ₹780, Covaxin at ₹1,410 and Russian vaccine Sputnik V at ₹1,145 a dose. This includes taxes as well as a ₹150 service charge.

The Centre has asked the States not to allow private hospitals to levy more than ₹150



as service charge.

Earlier, Member (health) NITI Aayog Dr VK Paul said on Tuesday that the price of Covid-19 vaccines to be acquired by private sectors (hospitals) will be decided by vaccine manufacturers.

"The price of vaccines to private sectors (hospitals) will be decided by vaccine manufacturers. States will aggregate demand of the private sector, which means they will oversee how much network of facilities it has, and how many doses it

requires," Dr Paul said.

Till now, the Central Government had been offering free vaccines at the Government centres, but private hospitals or community centres, neighbourhoods, etc, have been charging as much as ₹1,500-2,000 for one dose of Covaxin and between ₹1,000-1,200 for one dose of

Covishield.

Covishield developed by SII, and Covaxin by Bharat Biotech sell their vaccine to the Centre at ₹150 while the States pay ₹300 and ₹600 for these doses respectively.

Private hospitals, on the other hand, can procure a dose of Covishield at ₹600 and Covaxin at ₹1,200.

People from Delhi-NCR travel to Agra, Meerut for second dose

New Delhi: Struggling to book slots for Covid-19 vaccination in their cities, many people in the 18-44 age group from Delhi-NCR are travelling long distances to Agra and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh to get their second dose of vaccine.

The shortest distance between Agra and Delhi is 224 km while Meerut is 232 km from Agra. Moolchand Medcity, Agra started vaccinating people in the 18-44 age group four days ago. Of the 450 people inoculated so far, 40 per cent of the beneficiaries came from places like Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Meerut, Etawah and Mathura. **PTI**

## 3rd wave won't affect children more: Guleria

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as various States are gearing up to ramp up medical facilities for children in anticipation that health threat to them will be severe in the third wave, Dr Randeep Guleria, Director of AIIMS, Delhi, on Monday allayed the fear saying there is no data anywhere in the world to corroborate these claims.

"It is a piece of misinformation that subsequent waves of the Covid-19 pandemic are going to cause severe illness in children. There is no evidence to show that the third wave of Covid-19 infections will affect children more than others," Dr Guleria said while addressing the Health Ministry's Press conference on Tuesday.

"If we look at all data, including Indian data from the first and second wave or even global data, there is nothing to show that either the old or new variants led to more infection among children," Dr Guleria said.

He added, "According to the second wave data, out of all the children admitted to hospitals with Covid-19, 60-70 per cent had co-morbidities or low immunity, some were on chemotherapy. Most healthy children who were infected recovered without the need for hospitalisation."

"We see waves of infection in the case of respiratory viruses because the virus mutates and human behaviour changes during a pandemic," he said.

## Covid-curfew: Markets to open from 8 am to 5 pm on three days

On June 12 and 13 the urban local bodies will sanitise all public places, markets, bus station, railway station and crowded places

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Providing further relaxations in the ongoing Covid-curfew, the State Government has allowed the markets to open today and on June 11 and 14 from 8 am to 5 pm.

However, all cinema halls, shopping malls, gymnasiums, sports institutes, stadia, sports grounds, swimming pools, entertainment parks and bars will remain closed till further orders.

On June 12 and 13

(Saturday and Sunday) the urban local bodies will sanitise all public places, residential areas, markets, bus station, railway station and crowded places.

In addition to this, the inter-state movement of public transport shall continue to operate with 100 per cent occupancy subject to SOPs issued by the state transport department. The other restrictions and relaxations ordered earlier will remain unchanged.

It is pertinent to mention here that chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat reviewed the Covid situation in Uttarakhand after returning from Delhi on Tuesday.

The decision to open the markets from 8 AM to 5 PM on three days during the Covid-curfew was taken in the review meeting after which the chief secretary Om Prakash issued the fresh SOPs.

## CJI has OK'd elevation of SC lawyers as HC judges: SCBA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana "has agreed" to a request made by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) to consider elevating Supreme Court lawyers as High Court judges.

SCBA president senior advocate Vikas Singh informed SCBA members that on May 31, Singh and the Executive committee submitted this proposal to CJI Ramana.

"The undersigned is pleased to inform you that the Honorable CJI has agreed to the request made by SCBA and has requested the Chief Justices of the High Courts to consider lawyers practicing in the Supreme Court for elevation to their High Courts," said the communication by SCBA Executive Committee to its members.

After the CJI's green signal, the Executive Committee of



However, there is no official word from the CJI office

SCBA has constituted a "search committee" comprising vice-president and senior member Mahalakshmi Pavani and four eminent members of the bar — Rakesh Dwivedi, Shekhar Naphade, Vijay Hansaria and V Giri — to facilitate the process of elevation by identifying deserving and meritorious Supreme Court practitioners.

Vikas Singh had earlier written to the CJI reiterating

the request for considering lawyers practising in the SC for elevation as High Court judges. He said that lawyers practising in the Supreme Court have vast experience and best exposure in dealing with all kinds of issues relating to civil, criminal, constitutional, commercial law, etc, but are rarely considered by the High Court Collegium as they do not regularly practise in the High Courts.

## Huge net outage hits sites, services globally

HBO Max, Guardian, Financial Times, CNN, NYT, BBC among all went off grid

IAN S ■ SAN FRANCISCO/NEW DELHI



said in an update.

"We identified a service configuration that triggered disruptions across our POPs (points of presence) globally and have disabled that configuration. Our global network is coming back online," a Fastly spokesperson was quoted as saying in media reports.

A CDN refers to a geographically distributed group of servers that work together to provide fast delivery of internet content.

Several popular websites were down, including Reddit, Spotify, Twitch, GitHub, Hulu, HBO Max, CNN, the Guardian, the New York Times, BBC, Financial Times and many more.

## CAPSULE

**BLAST INSIDE MADRASSA IN BIHAR KILLS IMAM OF ADJOINING MOSQUE**

Banka (Bihar): A powerful blast tore down the building of a madrasa here on Tuesday, killing the Imam of the adjacent mosque who was apparently the sole occupant of the premises locked from outside, a senior police officer said. Residents of the Nautola locality in Town police station area were rattled by the loud explosion that took place around 8 am, said Banka Superintendent of Police Arvind Kumar Gupta.

MARKETS	
SENSEX	52,275.57 (-52.94)
NIFTY	15,740.10 (-11.55)
GOLD	49,156.00 (+13.00)
SILVER	71,519.00 (-298.00)
WEATHER	
MAX 37.0°C MIN 25.0°C Mainly Clear Sky	
POWERED BY UNIGATE GENERAL MEDIA (P) LTD	
<a href="https://pioneeredge.in">https://pioneeredge.in</a>	

Kerala Class V girl writes to CJI, lauds SC for saving lives in fight with Covid-19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid debate whether the Centre's decision to provide free Covid-19 vaccine to all above 18 years was triggered by the Supreme Court's recent remarks on the jab policy, a Class 5 student of Kerala has written to the Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana, lauding the top court for its effective intervention and saving lives in the fight against raging pandemic.

The 10-year-old Lidwina Joseph got lucky as the Chief Justice of India responded to her "beautiful letter" and "heart-warming illustration of a judge at work" in her drawing along with it and gifted her a signed copy of the Indian Constitution.

# Regional parties gain Twitter ground

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP were darlings of the social media when the NDA came to power at the Centre in 2014. Seven years down the line, the PM's popularity remains unmatched and the BJP remains way ahead of its political rivals at the national level, but the saffron outfit is now trailing its rivals in several key States such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, etc, on microblogging site, Twitter.

Together these States make up for more than half of the seats in Parliament. Of course, there is no correlation between social media following and winnability in the Indian elections. But yet, platforms like Twitter have now become a powerful tool in influencing the public opinion with more and more Indians getting hooked to them.

The BJP has 16.2 million fol-

In key States like UP, Bihar, Maharashtra, Bengal, MP, BJP lags behind regional political parties

SN	Twitter Account	Followers (In Mn)	Followings	Total Tweets
1.	Narendra Modi	68,548,362 (68.55 M)	2,344	29,865
2.	Amitabh Bachchan	45,768,157 (45.77 M)	1,803	67,887
3.	Salman Khan	42,519,620 (42.52 M)	23	42,977
4.	PMO India	42,471,441 (42.47 M)	488	29,117
5.	Virat Kohli	42,311,320 (42.31 M)	64	2,399
6.	Shah Rukh Khan	41,852,881 (41.85 M)	77	58,202
7.	Akshay Kumar	41,541,803 (41.54 M)	27	40,822
8.	Sachin Tendulkar	35,615,151 (35.62 M)	80	3,904
9.	Hrithik Roshan	30,549,547 (30.55 M)	92	5,910
10.	Deepika Padukone	27,811,610 (27.81 M)	67	688
11.	Priyanka Chopra	27,238,673 (27.24 M)	537	22,166

lowers at the national level while the Congress has just around 8 million. But at the State-level, things have started changing.

"We see nothing unusual in these figures," said Animesh Pandey, founder of P-Marq, a political Research and advisory start-up.

"Most of the BJP supporters follow the national twitter account of the party. As such, the State handle is bound to have a less following."

His partner Abeen Theepura feels that the growing acceptance of regional parties on social media shows that things are changing at the

ground level. While he did not think that the social media numbers could play any major role in deciding the poll outcome, he feels that regional parties could use twitter or Facebook as major tools for political outreach.

The head of another political research firm, who did not want to be identified, said the regional players can never match BJP in resources, but they can rely on their growing acceptance of social media to bridge the gap. "If regional parties focus on exploiting the resources of social media, they can give then BJP a run for the money," he said.

The growing acceptance of regional parties on Twitters shows the upward mobility of their support base, he pointed out, saying, "This is primarily because of access to education and mobile phones — both bring greater political awareness."

Madhya Pradesh is the latest State where the BJP has fallen

behind the Congress on twitter following. On Tuesday, the MP Congress twitter handle boasted of 905.01 k followers, whereas the BJP was way behind with 774 k followers on its twitter handle BJP Madhya Pradesh.

In Uttar Pradesh, where Chief minister Yogi Adityanath has always been in the news with frequent publicity blitz, the Samajwadi Party is ahead of the BJP in Twitter following.

The SP has 2.4 million followers on its twitter handle, where the UP BJP has 2.3 million followers.

This is surprising because the SP has been traditionally seen as a caste-based outfit whose followers are not so enamored of social media as the BJP.





# Hry to set up Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority: CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday announced setting up of Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority (PMDA) for ensuring timely and swift execution of the integrated development plan made for Panchkula.

"PMDA would ensure sustained and balanced growth of Panchkula. The Authority would work on the similar lines of Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority (FMDA)," said Khattar while talking to the mediapersons in Panchkula.

He said that the Authority while working amicably with other departments namely HSPV, HSIIDC and Municipal Corporation would ensure the availability of infrastructure and other key facilities to the people.

He said that in a bid to ensure that the people of the state along with Panchkula residents should be aware of the development which has been planned for the city, extensive Information Education Communication (IEC) campaigning of Panchkula's integrated development plan would be done.

"A map identifying every corner of Panchkula would be prepared and later hoardings displaying the information about completed projects and the projects in progress would be installed across the city, so that people can have a clear idea about the projects," said Khattar.

The Chief Minister said that after Panchkula, a similar Integrated Development plan would be chalked out for Karnal, Hisar and other districts of the state.

While hinting towards the State Government's futuristic plans for making Panchkula a major hub for industrial

investment, medical, tourism and paragliding, Khattar said that in the coming days, the government is geared up to take up several other initiatives to create a conducive environment for investment in residential as well as commercial properties in Panchkula along with ensuring other holistic development which will be ecological and eco-friendly.

He said that the decision to bring down External Development Charges (EDC) and Infrastructure Development Charges (IDC) at par with Mohali and Zirakpur will ensure the overall development of Panchkula and the ongoing development targets set by the State Government would also play a pivotal role in the execution of the Government's plan to develop Panchkula as a smart city, tourist destination, education and medical hub.

The Chief Minister informed that in a bid to



develop Panchkula as a medical, two big hospitals with modern health infrastructure will be opened in Sector-32 and Sector-5C. The state's first joint food and drug testing lab is being opened in Panchkula's Sector-3 at a cost of Rs 22 crore, he informed.

A Wellness Centre and Panchakarma Centre are also

being set up at Thapli. Besides this, a nursing college is being established in Panchkula. Apart from this, dedicated efforts are being made to set up an education city in Panchkula and for this, a site has been identified in Chandi Mandir, he added.

About the development of the pharmaceutical indus-

try, Khattar said that the State Government is in regular touch with industrialists to attract investors from the pharmaceutical industry in Panchkula and Barwala. For this, a meeting has been held with the Baddi Industrial Association and further plans have been prepared, he said.

## PARAGLIDING TO BE STARTED IN MORNI

On developing Morni as a new adventure destination for paragliders, he said, "We have developed paragliding facilities at Morni to develop Panchkula as a tourism hub. Paragliding will be started there on the occasion of International Yoga Day on June 20."

He said that to promote mountaineering, trekking routes will be made in such a way that youth can easily reach the destination by evening. A policy has been formulated for Home Stay or Farm Stay and will be implemented soon.

Tourism circuit routes for mountains, mountain trails and paths for mountain biking have been identified. However, these routes will be opened once normalcy prevails, he added.

The Chief Minister said, "Development works in Panchkula at Nada Sahib Gurdwara and Mata Mansa Devi Temple costing Rs 54.52 crore are in progress. Further, a state-of-the-art archaeological museum is being established in Sector-5 of Panchkula to make the citizens of the state aware of the glorious history of Haryana."

Khattar said that the development of Pinjore is one of the key parts of the Panchkula's integrated development plan and for this, a comprehensive plan for setting up a film city to be built there is being chalked out.

## ROAD CONNECTIVITY TO BE STRENGTHENED

Talking about the issue of strengthening road connectivity, Khattar said that the work of connecting Chandigarh Airport to Panchkula is in progress. For this, work regarding construction of a bridge at Ghaggar River is also going on. Similarly, the construction work of Pinjore airstrip is in progress. Soon after its completion, people will be able to take advantage of air taxi service, which will be started for tourist places like Hindon, Shimla, Dharamshala, Kullu-Manali, he added.

The Chief Minister said that roads are being widened for ensuring smooth traffic to tourist places like Morni and Tikkartal. The roads connecting Panchkula-Mandhna-Morni-Tikkartal-Raipur Rani are also being widened for hassle-free movement of tourists, while, the construction of new road to connect Ramgarh to Himachal Pradesh will be started soon, he added.

## Haryana CM dismisses CMIE data on high unemployment rate in State

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday debunked the data related to the state's unemployment rate at 29.10 percent and claimed that the CMIE report is factually wrong.

The Chief Minister was responding to the latest data of the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE) for the month of May which has put the rate of unemployment in Haryana at 29.10 percent. Citing the report, Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala has accused the BJP-JJP led State Government of pushing the future of the state's youth into darkness.

Khattar, while talking to the mediapersons in Panchkula said that the CMIE report claiming that Haryana has a very high unemployment rate is not true.

Some people from opposi-

tion parties are associated with CMIE and they had published such reports to defame some states, he alleged.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government has the data from Parivar Pechchan Patra (family ID cards) in which people who say they are unemployed have given self-declaration. As per the data, about 5-6 lakh are those who call themselves unemployed.

Out of these 5-6 lakh too, 2 to 2.5 percent are those who remain unemployed for a brief period, eg. while changing jobs or for a few months after completion of their graduation, he said.

On unemployment rate in the state, Khattar further said that five to six per cent unemployment rate overall can be there in the state and that too includes factors impacted by COVID situation.

Unemployment figures like 30 percent, 35 percent or 40 percent, which means more than

one-third are unemployed, are not correct. We don't have such big numbers of unemployed people in Haryana, he claimed.

He further said the State Government has been constantly making efforts to create job opportunities for the youth through various initiatives like skill development and training.

Everyone cannot get government jobs. Out of our total population in the state, 3 to 4 lakh are associated with the government sector, he added.

Reacting to the Chief Minister's statement, Congress leader Randeep Surjewala on Tuesday said that the Chief Minister does not want to accept the reality and failure of his government.

He said that the high unemployment rate in Haryana is the result of the inefficiency, incompetence and the negative policies adopted by the BJP-JJP led Government.

## SAD demands tax waivers for businesses in State

### And fixed power charges on trade and industry for a year

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Spresident Sukhbir Singh Badal on Tuesday demanded the Congress Government waive off property tax and fixed charges on electricity bills for the industrial sector as well as shops, hotels, and restaurants for one period of one year to compensate them for the losses suffered by them due to repeated lockdowns.

He said that the high unemployment rate in Haryana is the result of the inefficiency, incompetence and the negative policies adopted by the BJP-JJP led Government.

He said that the Government went back on this commitment and did not implement the waiver.

"Besides the industrial sector, the trade and hospitality sectors have gone into red. It is absolutely essential to give them a breather by waiving off fixed charges for these sectors for one year starting from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022," he said adding that similarly, one year property tax waiver should also be implemented for the trade and industry sectors to help them tide over the current COVID-19 induced crisis.

At the same time, Sukhbir announced that in case the Congress Government remained insensitive to the suffering of the trade and industry and refused to extend any relief to these sectors, the SAD would implement these waivers once it assumed power in the State in 2022.

He said that the

Government should come out with a financial package to compensate all sections of society which had suffered losses during the last more than one year due to lockdowns and restrictions. "It is shocking that no relief has been extended to any section of society till now...A compensation of Rs two lakh should be extended to all COVID victim families besides giving a cash assistance of Rs 6,000 per month to all BPL families for a period of six months," he added.

SAD chief said that road tax of taxi and auto-rickshaws should be waived off for one year and the Government should step in and pay interest on loans taken by the operators to purchase their vehicles for a period of one year. "Rickshaw pullers and other tradesmen like cobblers should also be extended financial assistance to help them tide through this difficult phase," he added.

## Punjab to ensure 4% reservation quota for PwDs in Govt jobs

### Punjab Govt has already enhanced social security pensions for all sections including PwDs from ₹750 to ₹1,500

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government will ensure that the state's Divyangians (Person with Disabilities) population gets its four percent reservation quota in the government jobs. In 2,000 posts, out of 50,000 vacancies announced by the Punjab Government to be filled in various departments this year, PwDs would be appointed, said the state Social Security, Women and Child

Development Minister Aruna Chaudhary on Tuesday.

Chaudhary, presiding over a meeting of the State Advisory Board (PwDs), said that fulfilling its commitment, Punjab Government has already enhanced social security pensions for all sections including PwDs from Rs 750 to Rs 1,500, which will be available for them from July 1 onwards.

She categorically asked the authorities to send cases of those children and the families, who have lost their breadwinners to the COVID-19 for timely providing them financial assistance and benefits of various government schemes. Besides, she also directed the departments to expedite the digitization process of various cards for the disabled such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Card and Job Card.

## Chandigarh allows bars, restaurants, gyms to open

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

As the union territory continues to report a decline in Covid-19 cases after a devastating second wave of infections, the Chandigarh administration on Tuesday ordered extension of Covid-19 restrictions with major relaxations, including allowing functioning of bars, restaurants, gyms and spas with 50 per cent capacity for the first time after over a month of closure. Sukhna Lake will remain open to visitors from 5 am to 8 pm, but there will be no boating. The lake will be closed for the public on Sunday.

At the high-level Covid review meeting chaired by Chandigarh Administrator VP Singh Badnore, it was decided to continue with a total weekend closure on every Sunday. Only the essential

shops will be allowed to open but the movement of vehicles will be restricted.

All shops and malls could stay open between 10 am and 6 pm. Food courts and eating establishments in malls could stay open until 8 pm.

Theatres and cinema halls however continue to remain closed. Restaurants, bars, and eating establishments could remain open at 50 per cent capacity between 10 am and 9 pm. Covid protocol must be strictly adhered to, the order said.

The gyms, wellness centres, clubs and spas will be allowed to open with 50 per cent capacity. But the cinema halls and theatres will remain closed.

The museums and libraries will remain open. The gathering for marriage and cremation will be restrict-

ed to the maximum of 30 persons, it stated.

### 5 DEATHS, 71 CASES IN CHANDIGARH

There was no respite in the number of fatalities in Chandigarh on Tuesday as five more people lost their lives to the contagion. The union territory on Tuesday reported 71 fresh cases of Covid-19 while 121 patients recovered from the virus in the last 24 hours, according to the Chandigarh medical bulletin.

The total number of cases in Chandigarh has reached 60,778, of which 685 are active cases. As many as 59,314 people have recovered from the infection so far while 779 people have succumbed to the virus. So far, 528,002 samples have been taken for testing.



CM Tirath Singh Rawat and Cabinet Minister Arvind Pandey flag off a vehicle carrying ration and other items provided for the needy by a social organisation on Tuesday.....  
Pioneer photo

## AAP writes to Punjab Lokpal, demands probe in 'scam' in acquiring 'Fateh Kits'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Demanding an immediate and prompt cognizance with investigation in the alleged massive scam orchestrated by the Punjab Congress Government in acquiring the 'Covid Fateh Kits', the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Punjab affairs co-in-charge Raghav

Chadha on Tuesday wrote a letter to Punjab Lokpal stating that the decision aimed at siphoning off the public money during the testing times of the deadly pandemic. He stated that it was not hidden from anyone that currently, Punjab was reeling under the disastrous and deadly stroke of COVID-19 second wave and

the mortality rate was among the highest in the country.

"To cause further assault to this grave injury, an alleged massive scam is nefariously executed in the procedure of inviting, acquiring, and executing the bids for COVID-19 medical consumables and essential medical equipment kit under the name and

scheme of 'Covid Fateh Kit', as purportedly there have been numerous over-priced bids accepted by the government with a view to extract undue monetary gains from the said process leading to humungous losses to the state exchequer especially during these testing times of COVID-19 pandemic," he wrote.

## Hry announces ₹20 lakh for employees who died of Covid

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Government on Tuesday notified a scheme to provide special compassionate financial assistance of upto Rs 20 lakh to the families of Corona warriors and employees who died due to COVID-19. "The State Government has decided to grant special compassionate financial assistance to the eligible family member of an employee on regular basis, or adhoc, temporary, work charged, daily wages, honorarium based, guest teacher, engaged under government's outsourcing policy part I and part II, who died while on active COVID duty especially related to management of COVID or maintenance of essential services or died due to COVID disease," stated the notification issued by Vijai Vardhan, state's Chief Secretary.

"In case of death of an employee eligible under the scheme, while on active COVID duty, the eligible family member(s) shall be paid special compassionate financial assistance of Rs 20 lakh posthumously," the notification stated. It further stated, "In case of death of a government employee working on regular basis in any Department of Haryana by contracting the COVID disease, his or her family shall be paid a special compassionate financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh, posthumously. In case of death of a person while working on ad hoc, temporary, work charged, daily wages, honorarium based, guest teacher, engaged under outsourcing policy part I and II, occurs due to COVID disease, his/her family shall be paid special financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh, in place of Rs 3 lakh.

**IDFC FIRST Bank Limited**  
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**AUTHORIZED OFFICER – MR. Akshay Sobti, CONTACT NUMBER – +91-8077681967**

**APPENDIX- IV-A**  
**[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]**  
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
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 Capital First Limited now IDFC FIRST Bank Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 26.06.2021, for recovery of INR 2013664.7/- as on 28.08.2019 due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited)/from PANKAJ DIDAN, SHANTI CHUNNILAL, ANKUR TILAK RAJ/Borrower-Co-borrower(s).  
The Reserve Price will be INR 22,77,000/- and the Earnest Money Deposit will be INR 2277000.-

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
All that Land bearing Khata No. 1322 (1399 to 1404 Fasil) Khasra No. 1195 Min., Area 230 sq. metres, situated in Village Arkedia Grant, Pargana Pacchwaadon, District Dehradun.  
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link i.e. <https://idfcfirstbank.auctiontiger.net/EPROC>  
**Disclaimer:** Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.  
**Authorised Officer**  
**IDFC First Bank Limited**  
**(Formerly known as Capital First Home Finance Limited)**

Date: 09.06.2021  
Place: Dehradun

**ट्राईफेड**  
**TRIBAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF INDIA LTD (TRIFED)**  
(Under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India)  
**REGIONAL OFFICE : DEHRADUN**  
Ground Floor, Silk Park, Prem Nagar, Dehradun-248007 (UK)  
Ph: 0135-2771144, 2770024  
Email: trifeddehradun@tribesindia.com, trifeddehradun@gmail.com  
No. TFD/RO/UP-U'khand/Tender/e-com/2021-22 08 June 2021

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PH: 0135-2771144, 2770024  
EMAIL: trifeddehradun@tribesindia.com, trifeddehradun@gmail.com  
NO: TFD/RO/DDN/TENDER-PACK/2021-22 08 June 2021

**CORRIGENDUM**  
Reference is drawn to the Tender Notice dated 03 June 2021 issued for hiring of e-com agencies for TRIFED Regional Office Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, it is informed that due to unavoidable circumstances, the said Tender Notice is withdrawn. The fresh date/mode of Tender shall be circulated soon.  
Regional Manager  
**TRIFED**  
Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh

**ट्राईफेड**  
**TRIBAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF INDIA LTD (TRIFED)**  
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NO: TFD/RO/DDN/TENDER-PACK/2021-22 08 June 2021

**CORRIGENDUM**  
Reference is drawn to the Tender Notice dated 03/06/2021 issued for hiring of Packaging Agencies for TRIFED Regional Office Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, it is informed that due to unavoidable circumstances, the said Tender Notice is withdrawn. The fresh date/mode of Tender shall be circulated soon.  
Regional Manager  
**TRIFED**  
Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh



# Covid-19: U'khand reports 546 new cases



## 53 unreported deaths added to death toll on Tuesday

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The state health department reported 546 new cases of Covid-19 and 13 deaths from the disease in Uttarakhand on Tuesday. The authorities also reported 2,717 recoveries from the disease on the day. The state now has 3,34,965 (cumulative) patients with the disease while a total of 6,797 patients have succumbed to the disease so far. A total of 2,717 patients have so far recovered from the disease and the recovery percentage has climbed to 92.63 per cent. The samples of 25,474 suspected patients were sent for testing on Tuesday and the sample positivity rate is at 6.69 per cent. The recovery percentage from the

disease in the state is 92.63 per cent.

Out of the 13 deaths reported on Tuesday, six occurred at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh. Similarly death of two patients each occurred at Mahant Indresh hospital Dehradun and HNB base hospital Srinagar, Pauri Garhwal.

The authorities also added 53 deaths in the toll which had occurred in the past but were not reported earlier. Incidentally 40 of these deaths were reported from Dehradun district alone. The AIIMS Rishikesh reported 25 deaths which had occurred in the past on Tuesday.

The provisional state capital Dehradun reported 136, Pithoragarh 88, Haridwar 69, Nainital 56, Almora 43, Udham Singh Nagar 41, Tehri 33, Chamoli 23, Rudrapur 16, Bageshwar and Champawat 13 each, Uttarkashi eight and Pauri

seven new cases of the disease on Tuesday.

The state now has 11,885 active patients of the disease. Haridwar is the top position in the list of active cases with 1,998 cases. Pauri has 1,650, Nainital 1,258, Bageshwar 1,004, Tehri 928, Almora 879, Dehradun 855, Pithoragarh 843, Chamoli 781, Champawat 546, Udham Singh Nagar 421, Uttarkashi 388 and Rudrapur 334 active cases of the disease.

The state has so far reported 332 patients of Mucormycosis (Black fungus) and out of them 50 have died while 18 have recovered from the disease.

In the ongoing vaccination drive 38,993 people were vaccinated in 438 sessions in different parts of the state on Tuesday. A total of 6,89,421 people have been fully vaccinated while 24,22,461 have received the first dose of the vaccine in the state.

# ₹700 crore approved for 2-lane tunnel in Mussoorie



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Union minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari announced that Rs 700 crore has been approved for constructing a two-lane tunnel in Mussoorie between the Mall Road and the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration. After Gadkari tweeted about the approval, the chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat thanked the union minister for the decision which will help improve traffic regulation and make commuting more convenient in Mussoorie. This tunnel will be 2.74 kilometres

in length.

Gadkari had tweeted that on the national highway 707 A, approval has been granted for Rs 700 crore in order to construct a 2.74 kilometre long tunnel from the Mall Road to LBSNAA in Mussoorie. Responding to this, the chief minister also tweeted and thanked the union minister. Rawat said that the construction of the tunnel will improve the traffic in Mussoorie city and make travelling more convenient.

He said that the construction of this two-lane tunnel along with the widening and strengthening of the roads nearby will not only enhance

public convenience but also prove helpful in the execution of rescue and relief efforts at the time of disasters.

The chief minister further said that these developments will also help in further improving the connectivity to the Jaunsar Bawar region and opening avenues for developmental activities in the region. The construction of the tunnel along with widening and strengthening of nearby roads will help bring the region into the mainstream of development.

This will also help lend a new identity to the region from the tourism point of view, added the Chief Minister.

# Kumbh behind Char Dham Yatra suspension, says Kedarnath MLA

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Congress party MLA from Kedarnath assembly constituency Manoj Rawat has blamed the Uttarakhand government's decision of holding Kumbh for the problem faced by the people associated with Char Dham Yatra. He said that lakhs of people are suffering due to suspension of Char Dham Yatra for the second consecutive year. Talking to The Pioneer, Rawat said that the Uttarakhand government allowed Kumbh in Haridwar when the second wave of the pandemic of the Covid -19 had already hit many parts of the country.

"In such a situation the Uttarakhand government ignored the experts who advocated a curtailed Kumbh for safety of people and went ahead with its stand of holding the mega event which created a

spike in the contagion in Uttarakhand. The government has now suspended the Char Dham Yatra which is the backbone of the economy of the state," he said.

The MLA added that lakhs of people are directly and indirectly involved in the Char Dham Yatra and with its suspension they are in dire straits. He demanded that the Uttarakhand government should come out with a generous package for such people without any further delay.

He said that the interest on the loans for the period of pandemic should be waived off and they should be given time to pay the instalments. Rawat said that the taxi operators should be given relief from the tax and a lump sum monetary benefit should be given to all those whose livelihood is linked with the Char Dham Yatra.

# USSSC to resume taking exams from July

## In view of the pandemic of Covid 19 the commission had postponed all its exams

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Subordinate Services Selection Commission (USSSC) would resume its pending examinations from the month of July. In view of the second wave of the pandemic of Covid 19 the com-

mission had postponed all its competitive examinations. The secretary of the commission Santosh Badoni said that the examinations of forest guard, ranger, assistant accountant, and assistant teacher LT could be held in July and August. He said that a final decision on the examination would be held after assessing the situation of pandemic and the availability of the examination centres. In the hope of getting jobs lakhs of applicants have applied to the posts in various categories of examinations of USSC and are anxiously waiting for these examinations.

# Cong grapples with leadership issue in U'khand

## The State In-charge Devendra Yadav meets Harish Rawat, Pritam Singh & Indira Hridayesh in Delhi. The party wants the warring factions to bury the hatchet before the crucial Assembly elections

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A close door meeting of the top leader of Uttarakhand Congress convened by the in-charge of the Uttarakhand Congress Devendra Yadav on Monday has again brought to the fore the leadership issue in the state Congress. The meeting was attended by the former chief minister and general secretary of Uttarakhand Congress Harish Rawat, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Pritam Singh and the



leader of opposition in state assembly Indira Hridayesh.

It is learnt that the party high command has directed the top leaders of Uttarakhand Congress to bury the hatchet and work in unison to ensure that the party is able to come back to power in the Himalayan state where the assembly elections are slated in early part of next year. To iron out the differences between these leaders and to strategise

the plans of the party these leaders are expected to meet again on Saturday.

However in between these two meetings, the former CM Harish Rawat would meet Congress President Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi. Rawat is in-charge of the party in Punjab and is part of a three member team constituted by the party to defuse the crisis in Punjab. In the meeting, apart from discussing Punjab, Rawat

is expected to discuss the situation of Uttarakhand with Gandhi. It is learnt that Rawat wants the party to relieve him from the responsibility of Punjab so that he is able to concentrate his energies in Uttarakhand. The assembly elections in both Uttarakhand and Punjab would be held at the same time early next year.

When contacted by The Pioneer, the in-charge of Uttarakhand Congress



Congress party is clearly divided into camps led by Harish Rawat, a combined group of leaders owing allegiance to PCC president Pritam Singh and Indira Hridayesh. There is a third faction though small, is of the former PCC president Kishore Upadhyaya. The leaders of these three factions are commonly

seen charting their own course. However Harish Rawat remains the tallest leader of the party in the state. In recent times Rawat has consistently expressed his desire that the party should project someone from the senior leaders of the party as chief ministerial candidate. This wish of his has found no favour with the party leadership so far and is said to be in favour of collective leadership.

In Uttarakhand the

# Disaster preparedness discussed with Army & paramilitary

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Disaster Management secretary SA Murugesan held a meeting with officials of the army, paramilitary and telecommunications department regarding preparations for the coming monsoon season.

He said that during a disaster, the control room is like a war room so coordination should be established in advance. He said that at times when smaller disasters occur in the districts, an hour is like the golden hour so the procedure for seeking help should be

made simpler to enable swifter response.

Officials of the state telecommunications department said that the common alert protocol facility is a successful method for disseminating emergency messages among the public.

Officials of the army and paramilitary suggested that a mock exercise involving the jawans of the forces should be held at least once a year to prepare better for emergency situations. The officials said that they are ready to provide training to search and rescue volunteers.

# GDMC to resume OPD services from today



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In view of the decrease in the number of cases of Covid-19, the Out Patient Department (OPD) services at the Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital here would restart from Wednesday. The hospital is functioning as the dedicated Covid hospital and is also treating the patients of Mucormycosis (Black Fungus).

After the number of cases of Covid 19 during the second

wave the OPD services of the hospital were suspended.

The Principal of GDMC, Dr Ashutosh Sayana told The Pioneer that the patients can get their registration done between 8 am to 10 for OPD services.

He said that the OPD would continue till 12 am and in every OPD 25 patients each would be examined in a day. The Principal added that the Radiology and pathology services for non Covid patients are available at the new OPD block

of the hospital. He said that the facilities for non Covid patients would be gradually increased after review next week. Dr Sayana said that the hospital has been divided into separate blocks for Covid-19 patients, Mucormycosis patients and general patients. The GDMC also caters to the Covid centre located in the Raipur stadium.

It is worth mentioning here that the GDMC hospital was converted into a dedicated Covid hospital in March 2020.

# Devasthanam Board: Teerth Purohits protest at Gangotri & Yamunotri

PNS ■ NEW TEHRI ■ DEHRADUN

Objecting to a statement made by the Tourism and Culture minister Satpal Maharaaz, the Teerth Purohits in Gangotri and Yamunotri protested demanding the dissolution of the Char Dham Devasthanam Management Board. The protesters also burnt effigies of the minister. Meanwhile, the minister has clarified that he had not made any statement regarding the government not reconsidering the continuation of the Devasthanam Board. He said that his statement had been twisted to present a false impression.

Gangotri Temple Committee secretaries Deepak Semwal, Purohit Rakesh Semwal, Ganesh and Rajesh Semwal said that the chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat had announced that the government would reconsider the continuation of the Devasthanam Board but now the Tourism and Culture minister had said that it will not be reconsidered.

They questioned the intentions of the minister and warned that they will be forced to launch a massive agitation if the board is not dissolved soon. At the Yamunotri shrine also, Teerth Purohits burnt the minister's effigy. Rawal Kriteswar Uniyal of Panch Panda Samiti Yamunotri shrine questioned the statement of the minister.



Meanwhile, Maharaaz has rejected the statement being attributed to him about not reconsidering the Devasthanam Board issue. He averred that he had not made any such statement which is being distorted and presented to make it appear as if he had said that the government will

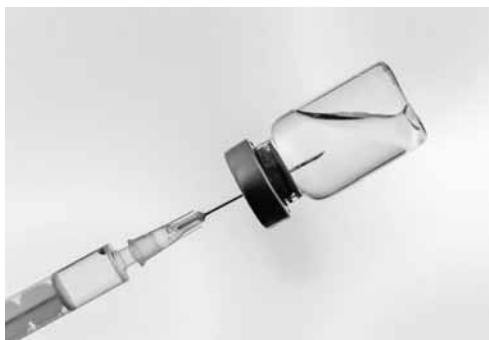
not reconsider the board. He clarified especially to the Teerth Purohits and Pandas that he had been asked by a news channel as to whether the government was considering bringing other temples under the ambit of Devasthanam Board apart from the four main shrines.

To this question, the minister had replied that the government is not considering bringing more temples under the ambit of the board apart from the 51 shrines situated in the compounds of the four main shrines. He stressed that he had not made any objectionable statement regarding

the Devasthanam Board. Reiterating that he had not made any statement regarding the board which could spark off a dispute, the minister said that his statement had been intentionally presented after editing in a manner which would incite anger in society.



# Jab wastage major issue, to hit allocation negatively: Centre



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wastage of vaccine will affect the allocation negatively, the Government cautioned States on Tuesday in the "Revised Guidelines for implementation of National Covid Vaccination Programme," issued by the Union Health Ministry. Further, in a move aimed to ensure that vaccines are distributed as per the need and are not wasted, the Centre said the doses provided free of cost will be allocated to States based on criteria such as population, disease burden and their vaccination progress.

Vaccine wastage has been a major issue in the vaccination programme, with some States reporting much higher wastage than the national average. The Health Ministry and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have repeatedly called for reducing vaccine wastage.

As announced by the Prime Minister on Monday, the revised guidelines stated that the Government of India will procure 75 per cent of the vaccines being produced by manufacturers in the country.

"The vaccines procured will continue to be provided free of cost to states and UTs as has been the case from the commencement of the national vaccination programme. These doses will be administered by the states/UTs free of

cost to all citizens as per priority through government vaccination centres.

"Within the population group of citizens more than 18 years of age, states/UTs may decide their own prioritisation factoring in the vaccine supply schedule," the revised guidelines stated.

In order to incentivise production by vaccine manufacturers and encourage new vaccines, domestic vaccine manufacturers are also given the option to provide vaccines directly to private hospitals. This would be restricted to 25 per cent of their monthly production, it stated.

The states/UTs will aggregate the demand of private hospitals keeping in view equitable distribution of vaccines between large and small private hospitals and regional balance.

"Based on this aggregated demand, the Union government will facilitate supply of these vaccines to private hospitals and their payment through the National Health Authority's electronic platform. This would enable the smaller and remote private hospitals to obtain timely supply of vaccines, and further equitable access and regional balance," the ministry said.

All citizens irrespective of their income status are entitled to free vaccination. Those who have the ability to pay are

## Announce jab roadmap in Houses, demands Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the universal Covid vaccination programme, the Congress on Tuesday demanded the Centre to share the policy and roadmap on the floor of Parliament. The party also sought transparency in the allocation of vaccines to the States and a Parliament session for discussing the policy and approval to fresh Budgets required for vaccinating all.

Former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh alleged that the Government was driven by headlines and not deadlines and asked why people still have to pay for the jabs at private hospitals.

Addressing a Press conference, Jairam Ramesh said all Indians should get free vaccination for COVID-19 and there should be no mandatory registration on the CoWIN app as there are many who do not have digital access.

Ramesh said there should be no discrimination in vaccine distribution and the government should follow the principle of cooperative federalism.

"This government is headline-driven and not deadline-driven," Ramesh said at the virtual Press conference, asking the government to come forth with its policy and roadmap towards increasing inoculations and achieving the objective of providing vaccines to all by December 2021.

encouraged to use private hospitals' vaccination centres, the guidelines said.

States may also optimally

## 'State Govts will monitor only ₹150 service charge levied on vax by private hospitals'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The price of Covid-19 vaccines to private sectors (hospitals) will be decided by vaccine manufacturers, Member (health) NITI Aayog Dr VK Paul said on Tuesday here, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the system of 25 per cent vaccines being pro-

cured directly by the private hospitals will continue. State Governments will monitor that only 150 rupees service charge is levied by the private hospitals over the decided price of the vaccines, he said adding that the states will aggregate demand of the private sector, which means they will oversee how much network of facilities it has, and how many doses it requires.

Training his guns on the prime minister, Jairam who is a Rajya Sabha member, alleged, "The PM was sleeping and woke up from "kumbhakaran ki neend" (deep slumber) after the Supreme Court intervened and reprimanded the government."

"It is a collective crisis brought about by the failures and ego of only one person and the entire country is suffering because of that," Ramesh alleged.

He said 30 lakh doses of vaccine were administered every day in April 2021, but in May only 16 lakh doses per day were given.

Expressing satisfaction that in June, 30 lakh doses per day were administered, he, however, added that "if we

utilise the common service centres and call centres to facilitate prior booking by citizens. The revised program pro-

vides states/UTs with additional central government support across funding, procurement and logistics.

## Centre must withdraw 25% quota of vaccine allotted to pvt hospitals: Left

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Left parties, CPI(M) and CPI, on Tuesday, demanded that the Centre must withdraw the 25 per cent quota of vaccine allotted to private hospitals and should go for a free universal vaccination drive.

Both parties said in Monday's telecast, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tried to portray failures of States in vaccination to hush up the criticism the Centre got from the Supreme Court. The CPI (M) polit bureau said that allowing private sector in the Covid-19 vaccination is a license to loot

and should not be allowed as the country is facing acute vaccine shortage now.

"However, the failed vaccine policy has not been fully reversed. The Government has, chosen to continue the dual pricing policy. As much as 25 per cent of vaccine production is still reserved for the private sector. This is nothing but a license for loot by private manufacturers to make super profits. Further, at a time of acute vaccine shortage, the continuation of such a policy will dilute and weaken the need for universal vaccination essential to prevent a third wave of the Coronavirus.

Only the rich can afford the exorbitant pricing of vaccines for the private hospitals permitted by the Government," said CPI (M) in a statement.

CPI national secretariat said making free vaccines available to all citizens of the country is the responsibility of the Central Government and not at all an act of charity. "The party feels that there is no logic in allowing private hospitals to provide 25 per cent of vaccines and vaccination with a charge of Rs.150. The party emphasises that the entire vaccination must be free and be the responsibility of the central government," the CPI said.

## e-vouchers to help poor get vaccine at pvt centres

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Use of non-transferable electronic vouchers approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will be encouraged to enable people to financially support Covid-19 inoculation of economically weaker sections at private centres, according to the revised guidelines issued by the Centre on Tuesday.

"A person can issue a non-

transferable electronic voucher, which will be RBI-approved. It can be used only for the person to whom it has been issued. It will be an electronic voucher, which can be downloaded on the mobile phone; it will be scanned at the vaccination site and the amount will be credited.

This will also be captured on Co-win," as per the 'Revised Guidelines for implementation of National COVID

Vaccination Program.'

While the Co-WIN platform provides every citizen the facility of conveniently pre-booking vaccination appointments, all Government and private vaccination centers will also provide onsite registration facility, available both for individuals as well as groups of individuals, for which detailed procedure is to be finalised and published by states/UTs, said the guidelines.

The Covid vaccination in the country commenced with vaccination to all healthcare workers.

The program was expanded with time to include vaccination of frontline workers,

citizens more than 60 years of age, those more than 45 years of age and eventually those more than 18 years of age.

Under the National COVID Vaccination Program, from January 16 to April 30, 100 per

cent of vaccine doses were procured by the Government and provided free of cost to state governments. State governments were in turn to administer vaccination free of cost to defined priority groups.

## 'Jab hesitancy' impeding vaccine drive in rural areas



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vaccine hesitancy "is impeding smooth vaccination in rural areas but there is 'no fatwa' due to the awareness created by trained volunteers and the 'fear' among minorities is largely mitigated.

The misgivings created around vaccines had developed apprehensions among sections of minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but sustained efforts and awareness created by self-help groups have ensured that there is "no fatwa" this time round, according to sources.

They pointed out the "wide-spread misgivings" among minorities about polio drops in the past. "Around three lakh members of women self-help groups under Nai Roshni programme have helped removing apprehensions about coronavirus vaccines in rural regions," they said.

Minorities Affairs Ministry had under the 'Nai Roshni' programme trained 12th pass youths as general duty and medical assistants, radiologists and 'pachkarma' who came handy in creating right awareness on vaccination process during the second wave of Covid-19 they said.

"Mewat region in Haryana and parts of Rajasthan villagers are still running away from vaccination," they said adding all the Madrasas have been asked to educate people how important it is to get vaccination to save their lives.

Vaccine hesitancy in villages cuts across religion, region or castes. In Palghar in Maharashtra bordering Gujarat many believe that those "going out and working hard don't need vaccine".

## Covaxin maker gets CISF cover



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has sanctioned CISF security cover to the Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech, the sole indigenous maker of Covid-19 jab under the brand name Covaxin.

The move comes amid threat assessment to the firm flagged by the security agencies and a subsequent security audit by the CISF, the designated paramilitary for securing vital installations in the industrial and space sectors, sources said.

The registered office and manufacturing plant of the company located at Genome Valley in the Shameerpet area of Hyderabad will be secured

by a team of 64 armed commandos of the CISF from June 14. Officials said vaccine against Covid-19 is sought after at home as well as across the globe and inputs suggested inimical forces could pose a threat to the facility amid the mega immunization drive underway across the country.

Earlier, the government had provided 'Y' category security cover to CEO of Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla due to potential threats.

The Centre had accorded the cover to Poonawalla to be provided by the CRPF commandos. SII is the manufacturer of Covishield vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca.

## Maha CM discusses Maratha quota with PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had a one-on-one meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and discussed a range of issues, including Maratha reservation that has been stayed by the Supreme Court, vaccination, Metro shed project and GST compensation to the State.

Deputy Chief Minister and senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar, and Minister and Congress leader Ashok Chavan accompanied Thackeray.

Thackeray also met Modi separately for 30 minutes during his visit to the national Capital after about one year. When asked why did he meet Modi separately in person, Thackeray said, "Main koi Nawaz Sharif se nahi milne gaya tha" (I didn't go to meet former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif). So if I meet him (PM) separately in person, there is nothing wrong with it."

"We may not be politically together but that doesn't mean our relationship has broken," he emphasised.

The NCP said the one-on-one separate meeting of the Chief Minister with the PM is



nothing unusual. "There is nothing to be afraid of about a separate meeting that took place between chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There is no threat to the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra," said NCP leader Jayant Patil. Shiv Sena was the oldest ally of the BJP before it broke off on the issue of government formation in Maharashtra and joined hands with the Congress and the NCP.

The PM-CM meet discussed the impasse over the

Maratha reservation in educational institutions and public employment which was stayed by the Supreme Court on May 5 as also the apex court's decision to scrap 27 per cent OBC reservation in Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis in Maharashtra.

The Chief Minister said the Prime Minister maintained he would look into the listed issues. Thackeray also said the state government wants to move the car shed to Kanjur. The state and the Centre both claim the land as theirs.

On vaccinating the people

of the state, the Chief Minister said, "We'd require 12 crore doses to inoculate 6 crore people twice, in 18-44 years group. We tried but couldn't do it as there wasn't an adequate and steady supply. Thankful to PM for centralising vaccine procurement. I hope everyone in India is vaccinated soon."

Pawar, who is also the Finance Minister of Maharashtra, said issues pertaining to GST compensation were also discussed in the meeting. Thackeray said the issue of giving Marathi the status of classical language is also pending with the Centre.

## CEC seeks fast electoral reforms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra has written to the Ministry of Law and Justice on pending electoral reform proposals and requested an expedited action on it. The pending poll reform proposals include Aadhaar linking to clean up voters' list and a longer jail term for candidates giving wrong info in affidavits among others.

"I have written to the law minister to expedite these proposals and hopefully they will be taken up early by the ministry," Chandra told a news agency. The letter was sent by the CEC last month.

Enhancing the imprisonment period for those furnish-

ing incorrect details in poll affidavits from existing six months to two years is a key electoral reform proposal of the Election Commission. A two-year jail term could bar the candidate from contesting elections for six years. "The present six-month imprisonment does not lead to disqualification," lamented Chandra.

The EC has also proposed making paid news an electoral offence under the Representation of the People Act to provide a strong deterrent against the malpractice.

The poll panel, reminded the CEC, has also proposed a ban on political advertisements in newspapers during the "silence period" between the end of campaign and the day of

polling so that the electorate is not influenced and can exercise the franchise with a free mind. The move will require changes in the Representation of the People Act.

A committee, tasked with proposing changes in electoral laws dealing with campaigning in the 48 hours prior to polling, had recommended a ban on advertisements in newspapers on the day of polling.

As of now, only the electronic media is barred from showing election publicity material during the 48 hours before conclusion of polling. But the committee recommended bringing the print media under the ambit of Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

## Rajnath invites Swedish industry to invest in Defence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday invited the Swedish industry to invest in defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and cited how investor-friendly policies have led to a rapid transformation of the Indian defence manufacturing sector.

Highlighting the salient features of the defence policies in the last few years, he said the Swedish firms can benefit from the incentives offered by the two state governments and availability of highly skilled work force.

Addressing a webinar on India-Sweden Defence Industry Cooperation, with the theme 'Capitalizing Opportunities for Growth and



Security', Rajnath listed out several progressive policy and procedural reforms. Defence Minister of Sweden Peter Hultqvist, Ambassador of India to Sweden Tanmaya Lal and Ambassador of Sweden to India Klas Molin were among the participants in the webinar. In his inaugural address,

Rajnath said the motto of 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' is 'Make in India' and 'Make for the World'. He said the campaign envisages the defence sector to play a major role in India's economic growth and focuses on manufacturing cost-effective quality products for India and for the world.

## 39 out of 60 who switched parties lose poll

IN BENGAL, 25 CANDIDATES HAD LEFT THEIR PARTIES

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Switching parties right before the elections don't guarantee a win. As many as 39 of the 60 candidates who switched sides to the rival camp before the recently-concluded Assembly polls learnt just that as they lost in the hustling. Of the 60 candidates who changed their parties before the Assembly elections in Puducherry, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, eight were from Congress, followed by AIADMK, AIUDF and BJP which lost five candidates each to their rivals.

According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), it was in West Bengal that the highest number of 19 turncoats lost. In all, 25 candidates had left their parties in the State. In Kerala, 7 candidates left their parties and 6 of them lost. Similarly in Tamil Nadu, 13 left and 8 of them lost. In Assam, 13 candidates left their parties but only 5 lost. In Puducherry, one of two defector candidates lost.

As far as welcoming turncoats is concerned, the BJP inducted 20 of them. This was followed by Trinamool Congress which welcomed 8, and the Congress inducted 5.

As far as MLAs who switched the parties are concerned, the ADR report said that 20 (39.22 per cent) out of 51 recontesting MLAs who switched political parties joined the BJP followed by 17 (33.33 per cent) MLAs who joined ATC and 7 (13.73 per cent) MLAs who joined Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazagam. Pointing out the most plausible reasons behind such defections, the political experts say that the absence of value-based politics, non-existence of laws on functioning of political parties have led to "skewing of fundamental principles of Indian democracy".

# K Sudhakaran new Kerala Cong Committee chief

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Congress High Command sprang a surprise on Monday by appointing K Sudhakaran, MP, senior party leader, as president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee.

The decision of the Congress High Command in appointing Sudhakaran as chief of the Kerala unit is being seen as an open snub to leaders of various factions in the party. It has been reported that former Chief Minister Oommen Chandi and former Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala had informed the party's national leadership that they were against the appointment of Sudhakaran.

Kannur born Sudhakaran is known as Kerala Simham (Malayalam for Lion) for his oratorical and organizational skills. "Rahul Gandhi rang me up and asked me to take over the post of president. My brief is to bring the party back to life

and power. I will take into confidence all factional leaders and work for bringing the Congress back to its golden days in Kerala," K Sudhakaran told reporters immediately after the announcement was made by the Congress High Command in New Delhi.

Thiruvanchur Radhakrishnan MLA and former minister, said the appointment of Sudhakaran marked a transitional change in the Congress. "We will extend all help and cooperation to the new president," said Radhakrishnan during his interaction with the reporters.

As on date there are two prominent factions in the Congress in Kerala which are led by Oommen Chandi and Chennithala respectively. Chennithala had raised a rebellion against the High Command for overlooking him and appointing V D Sathishan as Leader of the Opposition, but had to fall in line when he real-

ized that the new generation of party workers wanted a fresh face.

Though Sudhakaran is 70, he is liked by party workers cutting across factions because of his bold and frank approach to all issues. The immediate task of Sudhakaran is to make the party ready for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The Congress is yet to recover from the shock debacle it faced in the hands of the CPI(M)-led LDF in the recent assembly election and the party's popularity has sunk to its lowest ebb.

Senior leaders like P J Kurian, K V Thomas, V M Sudheeran and M M Hassan have welcomed the appointment of Sudhakaran and assured him of all cooperation. The immediate task before Sudhakaran would be the balancing of the communal equations in the Congress as the party chief and Leader of the Opposition are from the Hindu community.

# Bengal needs more than Prez rule: Suwendu

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

BJP's Leader of Opposition in Bengal Suwendu Adhikari on Tuesday termed the political situation in the State worse than the one that should demand implementation of Article 356.

Soon after emerging from a meeting with Union Minister Amit Shah in Delhi the senior BJP leader said "though I should not air my personal opinion and though our national leadership will take a decision in this regards ... I can only say that the situation in Bengal is worse than the one that demands imposition of Article 356."

Saying that the Mamata Banerjee Government had been using the entire State machinery including IAS and IPS officers "to perpetrate State terror" the Opposition Leader said "the situation is unprecedented ... Bengal had not witnessed similar situation before where the people are being persecuted just for being in the opposition camp."

He however warned the "people who are perpetrating this terror raj in Bengal must watch out ... as nothing shall go unpunished ... everything is being noted ... just wait and see (what happens next)."

Reminding that "Bengal is not an independent country" and that it is "just a part of the Indian union," he said "like the entire country and like all other

States Bengal too is run as per the provisions of the Constitution of India."

The saffron leader's comments assume importance if seen in the context of a letter written by the Bengal BJP MPs to the President of India seeking his intervention.

Earlier the BJP MPs attacked the Trinamool Congress for persecuting the opposition workers, particularly the BJP. Recalling how thousands of people have been rendered homeless and how dozens of people have been killed and how thousands have been forced to flee their homes they sent a letter to the President complaining how 40 saffron supporters have been killed in the post poll violence and how "at least 60,000 houses have been looted and destroyed." About a lakh of people have been displaced in the violence they complained.

Alleging how the Trinamool Congress was forcing the opposition leaders to join their ranks by using the administration against them Adhikari said "false cases are being lodged against the BJP leaders as a pressure tactic ... they even stopped to the level of leveling theft charges against me."

Adhikari a powerful TMC satrap and close confidant of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had left that party just before the elections to join the BJP. He subsequently defeated the Chief Minister in a tri-cornered contest from

Nandigram seat.

Alleging how he had been falsely framed in a tarpaulin theft case Adhikari said "now they have stooped to this level as to bring charges of petty theft against me ... has my condition deteriorated to that level," reminding how there were multiple FIRs lodged against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"She runs eight cases against her name in Assam but the Government there has not taken any action against her ... political fight here has been brought down to the level of personal vendetta," he said.

The State administration had earlier filed a police complaint against Adhikari alleging tarpaulins — stored to be distributed amongst the victims of cyclone Yaas — had been looted away from a municipal godown at the behest of Adhikari.

Called by the national leadership earlier on Monday evening the BJP leader is likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

Hitting back at the BJP leader TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that "Suwendu Adhikari has gone to Delhi to save his skin in the Narada and other cases ... He is meeting the BJP ministers to save him ... and in order to appease them he is saying what that would please his present political bosses."

# Ex-BJP ally SBSP to support SP, Cong in UP polls

**Lucknow:** Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party, a former ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party, said it would support the strong candidates of the Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and the Congress in the 2022 UP Assembly elections.

SBSP president Om Prakash Rajbhar, a former minister in the Yogi Adityanath cabinet, said his party would extend support to the strong candidates of the three parties on the seats that his party would not contest.

Rajbhar has already announced to form Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha with All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) of Asaduddin Owaisi and other small political parties. He said the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha was keeping all its options and was willing to enter into electoral tie-ups with SP and BSP.

He said his party would contest the election of chairman of zila panchayat only in those districts where the party candidate would be in a strong position. Claiming that dislodging the BJP from power in 2022 was his top priority, Rajbhar said, "The Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha has been set up to consolidate the anti-BJP votes and we will contest the election with the sole objective of defeating the BJP"

PNS

# Mysterious fire at Vaishno Devi complex

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A mysterious fire broke out in the accounting room located close to the reception in the Kalika bhawan of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine complex late Tuesday afternoon.

The pilgrim movement in the bhawan area was not stopped during the fire incident. Due to lockdown restrictions the cave shrine is witnessing an average footfall of 2000-3000 pilgrims on daily basis.

According to preliminary reports, the fire incident was reported at around 4.10 p.m. No loss of life and property was reported, official sources said.

The fire was brought under control by the timely action of the local policemen, staff of the shrine board and fire



fighting department stationed at the shrine.

The room, which went up in flames, is used by the shrine board authorities and Bank officials at the time of counting the donations made by the pilgrims.

CEO Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Ramesh Kumar said, "the fire incident was reported around 4.10 p.m. on Tuesday". The local police teams, along with staff of the Shrine board assisted the fire fighting team and brought the fire under control". The CEO said, no loss of life was reported in the fire incident.

It appears a short circuit may be the reason but a detailed inquiry can only ascertain the exact cause of fire at a later stage, CEO said.

# No corona curfew across UP from today

Markets to open from 7 am to 7 pm; weekend lockdown to stay

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After weekend curfew since April last week to complete lockdown from May 1, markets will now open in all 75 districts across the State from 7 am to 7 pm starting Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the last three remaining districts, including Lucknow, reported less than 600 active Covid cases, following which the Government announced relaxation in corona curfew.

The active cases in Lucknow were 592 on Tuesday.

However, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that night curfew and weekend curfew would continue in all the districts

"This arrangement will continue for a week and further decisions will be taken after reviewing the Covid situation. The rate of infection has come down significantly but it is not over. To prevent the spread of the viral infection, complete adherence to Covid protocols must be ensured. Extensive patrolling should be done by the police in all districts and it should be ensured

that crowds did not gather anywhere, especially in the markets. Compulsory use of masks by both buyers and sellers in the markets should be ensured. For this, public address systems should be widely used to continuously make the public aware about prevention of the infection," he said.

On Tuesday, 797 fresh Covid 19 cases were reported across the State, while 2,226 patients recovered. As on date, the total active Covid cases have now come down to 14,067 in the State.

# 22 die after O2 supply turned off in Agra hospital 'mock drill'

Govt orders probe

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh ordered a probe into allegations that a private hospital in Agra turned off oxygen supply during an alleged "mock drill", which resulted in the death of 22 patients. He said that the hospital in question has been mired in controversy in the past as well and if found guilty in the probe, stern action would be taken against the authorities concerned. When asked if such mock drills were a part of the medical system, the Minister said these exercises are held only to check the efficiency of the fire-fighting system and not patient care. UP Government spokesperson and Cabinet Minister Sidharth Nath Singh termed the incident 'a heinous crime' and maintained that the government would not spare anyone found guilty.

Meanwhile, denying 22 corona-related deaths at Paras Hospital on April 26-27, the Agra district administration ordered a probe into a viral video in which the hospital owner was purportedly heard talking about an 'experiment' in which oxygen supply to 96 Covid



patients admitted in the hospital was turned off for five minutes and 22 critical patients were identified whose oxygen could be fully shut off. The state was said to be reeling under a crippling

Covid wave and patients were faced with massive medical oxygen shortage. The probe will be carried out by ADM (City) and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Agra.

# Rahul, Priyanka slam UP Govt

**Lucknow:** Top Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra slammed the Uttar Pradesh Government on Tuesday over reports that a private hospital in Agra allegedly cut off oxygen supply for five minutes in a mock drill leading to 22 deaths in the last week of April. Priyanka also tweeted the video in which owner of Paras Hospital (Agra) Dr Arinjay Jain was heard saying that the oxygen supply was cut off for five minutes and 22 people died during that period.

"There is a severe shortage of both oxygen and humanity under the BJP rule. Action should be taken immediately

against all those responsible for this dangerous crime," Rahul Gandhi tweeted. "My condolences to the families of the deceased in this hour of grief," he added.

On Tuesday, Priyanka tweeted in Hindi, "PM: I made sure there was no shortage of oxygen. CM: There's no shortage of oxygen. The property of those spreading rumours about shortage will be confiscated. Minister: Give just enough oxygen patients need. Don't give too much oxygen. Agra hospital: There was no oxygen. Mock drill was conducted by turning off oxygen for 22 patients. Whos responsible?"

# After dad gets jab, Akhilesh to follow suit

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after after SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav got vaccinated, his son and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, in a complete U-turn, said on Tuesday that he would take the Covid vaccine and also appeal to those who could not get the jabs due to vaccine shortage to get vaccinated.

Akhilesh also took a dig at the Centre and PM Narendra Modi's latest announcement regarding change in the national vaccine policy and said that the step was taken due to public anger. He added that he would also take part in the vaccination drive now.

In a tweet on Tuesday, Akhilesh wrote, "Looking at the public outrage, the government has finally announced that it would take control of vaccination instead of politicising it. We were against the BJP's vaccine, but welcome the vaccine of the Government of India. We will also get vaccinated and would appeal to all those who could not get it due to a lack of vaccine doses."

Earlier, Akhilesh had said on January 2 that he would not get vaccinated as BJP could not be trusted.

# 10,891 new cases in Maha



TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Covid-19 infections remained at a relatively low tally of 10,891 for the second consecutive day in Maharashtra on Tuesday, even as the number of daily deaths jumped to 702 in the State.

A day after the state logged 10,219 fresh cases and 340 deaths, the daily infections rose marginally to 10,891, while the deaths climbed to 702. The deaths recorded on Tuesday comprised: 295 current ones and 407 old and unaccounted deaths.

With 702 reported deaths, the total number of deaths rose from 1,00,470 to 1,01,172. Similarly, with 10,891 fresh infections, the total number of cases went up from 58,42,000 to 58,52,891.

As 16,577 patients were

discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year increased from 55,64,348 to 55,80,925. The recovery rate in the State rose from 95.25 per cent to 95.35 per cent. The total "active cases" in the state dropped 1,74,320 to 1,67,927. The fatality rate in the state rose from 1.72 per cent to 1.73 per cent.

Mumbai logged seven deaths and 682 infections. Apart from the daily deaths plunging to a single digit, the infections remained below 1000 level in the country's commercial capital for the 10th consecutive day.

With fresh deaths and infections, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai increased from 14,999 to 15,006, while the infected

cases went up from 7,11,373. To 7,12,055.

Pune with 20,747 cases continued to be remain first in the state in terms of maximum number of "active cases" in the state, while Kolhapur with 18,551 "active cases" stood second, followed by Mumbai (17,642), Thane (15,724), Satara (12,461), Sangli (9913), Nagpur (7203), Ahmednagar (5937), Ratnagiri (6190), Sindhudurg (6149), Nashik (5369), Solapur (4625) and Raigad (4715).

Of the 3,69,07,181 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 58,52,891 have tested positive (15.86 per cent) for Covid-19 until Tuesday.

Currently, 11,53,147 people are in home quarantine while 6225 people are in institutional quarantine.

# Covid situation remains critical in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Number of persons diagnosed with Covid-19 and fatalities remained high in Kerala despite stringent measures like lock down and wide-spread testing. On Tuesday, 15,567 new persons were diagnosed with the pandemic after testing 1.1 lakh samples. The day also saw 124 lives being claimed by Covid-19 in the last 24 hours taking the total fatalities registered in the State to 10,281.

Test Positivity Rate too remained high with 14.15 per cent. Malappuram which tested 2121 new cases on Tuesday topped the table of 14 districts while Ernakulam came second with 1,868 new cases.

Kerala's TPR is quite high compared to the national average of 5 per cent. The State has a total of 1.43 lakh Covid patients under treatment as on Tuesday evening. Though the situation is alarming, the State Government has decided to resume the long distance KSRTC bus services. It is understood that the Health Secretary has asked the Transport Secretary to reconsider the decision to resume the long distance services in the State at this critical juncture.

# Bombay HC cancels caste certificate of MP Navneet Kaur, imposes ₹2L fine

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a development that will in likelihood lead to her disqualification as a Lok Sabha member, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court on Tuesday quashed the caste certificate used by "former actress-turned-sitting Independent MP from Amravati constituency Navneet Kaur Rana making a "fraudulent claim" that she was from "Mochi" Scheduled Caste (SC) to contest 2019 LS polls.

In its ruling on an election petition filed by former MP and Shiv Sena leader Anand Rao Adsul challenging Navneet Rana's election to the Lok Sabha, a HC division bench ordered the "cancellation and confiscation" of her "fraudulently obtained caste certificate", ordered her to surrender the certificate and a pay a fine of ₹2 lakh to the Maharashtra Legal Services Authority within a fortnight.

Though the judgement

remained silent on the disqualification of Navneet Rana as an MP, a HC bench of Justices R. D. Dhanuka and V. G. Bisht indicated as much when it ruled: "It is declared that all consequences in law, which may occur on cancellation and confiscation of the fraudulently obtained caste certificate by the respondent no.3 (Navneet Rana) would follow".

Navneet Rana is the wife of independent MLA from Badnera Ravi Rana, who is the founder of Yuva Swabhimani Party (YSP). She is a relative of the yoga guru Ramdev Baba. Contesting the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from Amravati (SC-reserved) constituency, she had defeated veteran Shiv Sena leader and former Union Minister Anand Rao Adsul.

"In our view the caste claim made by the respondent no.3 (Navneet Rana) for obtaining a caste certificate as schedule caste itself was fraudulent and was made with intention to

obtain various benefits available to a candidate from such schedule caste category knowingly well that she does not belong to that caste. The application thus itself was made intentionally to make a fraudulent claim to enable the respondent no.3 to contest an election for Member of Parliament on the seat reserved for a scheduled caste candidate," the judges observed.

Quashing the order passed by the District Caste Scrutiny Committee on November 3 2017 validating Navneet Rana's claim that she was from "Mochi" community, the HC bench noted: "The said caste certificate obtained by the respondent no.3 from the competent authority was obtained fraudulently and thus it was the mandatory duty of the Caste Scrutiny Committee to cancel the said fraudulently obtained caste certificate and ought to have been confiscated".

It may be recalled that the caste certificate was issued to

Navneet Rana by the Deputy Collector of Mumbai in Aug. 2013 and validated by the District Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee (DCCSC), Mumbai Suburban, on November 3, 2017, which was challenged by Adsul and a social worker Raju S. Mankar of Amravati.

Adsul contended that Navneet Kaur hails from Punjab and belongs to the Labana Caste, which does not fall in the SC category in Maharashtra.

Passing strictures against the District Caste Scrutiny Committee that validated Navneet Rana's caste claim, the HC bench noted: "We would also like to remind the Caste Scrutiny Committee that since it is endowed with the power of validating or otherwise of the Caste Certificate, a solemn duty is cast on it to be more cautious and careful and must considerate all attending circumstances so as to enable it to validate or otherwise the Caste Certificate

by all judicial means."

"In the present case we do not find any such judicious approach on its part to say the least and rather seems to be swayed away by extenuating circumstances, keeping aside the application of judicious mind," the judges observed, as they hoped that the scrutiny committee would henceforth "take all caution and guarded approach before validating the Caste Certificate".

Quoting an SC judgement in the State of Tamil Nadu and others v/s. A. Gurusamy, AIR 1997 case in which the apex court held that the courts would not lend assistance to perpetrate fraud on the Constitution, the Nagpur HC division bench noted: "Fraudulent acts are not encouraged by the Courts. The constitution does not postulate conferment of any special benefit on those who do not belong to the category of SC/ST people for whom the provision was made".



National bird peacock spotted during the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, in Coimbatore on Tuesday

PTI









## FIRST COLUMN

## COP 26: WILL CDM REGAIN FOCUS?

CDM is an effective tool to facilitate low-carbon transition and helps in technology transfer



RIA SINHA

The 2021 UN Climate Change Conference, better known as COP 26, will be hosted by UK in Glasgow in November. On-going discussions emphasize on re-strategizing climate policies in this new normal scenario. While a trade-off of pertinent issues is imperative, establishing an international carbon market is exigent, considering its economic significance to drive sustainable growth. Under Article 6 of Paris Agreement, countries agreed to set up an international carbon market to help countries decarbonize their economies at lower costs. But COP 25, held in 2019, failed to address this owing to disagreements concerning non-inclusion of unsold credits under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

The CDM is a flexible mechanism in the Kyoto Protocol (KP) that allows a developed country with an emission-reduction commitment to implement projects in developing countries where the cost of mitigation is lower. However, under the Paris Agreement implementation rules are yet to be framed. CDM has been the biggest issuer of carbon credits measured in certified emission reductions (CER), with almost 50 per cent issuances from projects in renewable energy, industrial gases and fugitive emissions. Several developing economies have



already accumulated huge credits. However, post 2012 the number of registered projects under CDM have rapidly dwindled. A credit that used to be traded at \$25 per CER now trades at 25 cents, hardly covering the transaction cost. The decline in CER prices is attributed to myriad economic factors, the prominent ones being policy uncertainty regarding the international carbon market, lack of robustness of monitoring and verification mechanisms, lack of environmental integrity, and economic slowdown. Roughly, around 4 billion credits remain unsold globally, of which India holds 750 million worth of CERs.

Contrarily, with dwindling prices of CERs, voluntary markets have gained prominence post 2015. Voluntary markets are known to offer some advantages over the CDM owing to lower transaction costs, shorter time frame for project approvals, and increased emphasis on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The prominent crediting mechanisms under this include Verified Carbon Standard, Gold Standard, Climate Action Reserve, and American Carbon Registry. India has registered 526 projects (earning 89 million credits) through the voluntary market. Interestingly, VCS has issued more credits globally in 2019 than the CDM. However, a large volume of these Verified Emission Reductions (VERs) remain unsold. It is unclear whether unsold CERs will be included in case CDM is renewed and if included will it dilute the value of new CERs to be issued under new regime. In case a new CDM-like mechanism comes up, it needs to address the fundamental flaws of the older system taking into account first, strict selection of projects based on 'additionality' requirement to account for real emission reduction; second, inclusion of the aviation sector; third, take measures to register projects especially from Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and African countries; fourth, devise accounting standards for verification and monitoring of CERs; fifth, ensure avoidance of double counting; and sixth, consider transitional credits up to 2023 till the global stocktaking takes place under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement. The demand for credits is likely to rise given the efforts undertaken to decarbonise economies.

(The author is a Fellow at TERI working on various sustainability issues. The views expressed are personal.)

# Person in control: New entity in charge

SEBI wants to shift focus from promoters to controlling shareholders or the so-called 'person in control' (PIC), but is the new breed willing to take charge?



UTTAM GUPTA

Having the way for a major change in the way the promoters and over 4,700 listed corporates function in the country, in a consultation paper, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed doing away with the concept of promoters and moving to 'person in control' (a three-year transition is recommended for the switch over). It has also suggested doing away with the current definition of promoter group with a view to rationalize the disclosure burden. The other proposals include (i) reducing the minimum lock-in period (the time period an investor can hold on to the shares) post an initial public offer (IPO) for promoters' share of minimum 20 per cent from existing three years to one year (locked-in for holding in excess of 20 per cent is proposed to be reduced from existing one year to six months); (ii) reducing lock-in for pre-IPO shareholders (those shareholders who invest in the company even before it goes for public issue) from existing one year to six months.

The concept of promoter is legacy from the past when a corporate entity or a group of entities (say, an industrial house viz. Tata, Birla and so on) would set up a business enterprise; for instance, a power or steel or fertilizer plant, committing some capital of its own and funding the balance of the project cost by borrowings from banks and financial institutions besides raising funds from the capital market. This entity would remain associated with the enterprise - almost all through the life cycle of the project - having an intrinsic interest in ensuring its sustained profitability and growth and steadfastly work for realizing this goal thereby acquiring the status of what one may describe as 'once a promoter, always a promoter'.

As per Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements (ICDR) Regulations (2018), the SEBI defines promoter as a person who has been named as such in the offer document as promoters or in the annual return of the issuer or a person who has control over the issuer (directly or indirectly) or in whose advice, directions or instructions the board of directors (BoD) of the issuer is accustomed to act. A person or group of persons should have a minimum of 20 per cent equity share capital to be classified as 'promoter group'.

During the last over a decade or so, investor landscape in India has undergone a drastic change whereby a new breed of shareholders such as private equity funds (PEF), alternate investment funds (AIFs), mutual funds etc have emerged as dominant investors even as the shareholding of the promoter has been reduced to minority (aggregate promoters' holdings in top 500 listed firms by market value, is on a downward trajectory since 2009 when it peaked at 58 per cent).

In new-age and tech companies, the new breed of shareholders invest in firms (albeit unlisted) through what is termed as 'control deals' even before these go for an IPO and continue to hold shares post-listing, many times being the largest public shareholders, having special rights, such as the right to nominate directors.

Even though the de facto 'ownership' and 'controlling rights' of a company have shifted to PEF/AIFs et al, de jure, the entity that launched the business enterprise continues to hold sway (despite its shareholding having been reduced



IRONICALLY, THE REGULATOR DOES NOT EVEN WANT THE PUBLIC TO KNOW THE IDENTITY OF INVESTORS BEHIND THE ISSUER. UNDER THE LIBERALISED DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS, THE ISSUER NEED NOT GIVE FINANCIALS OF GROUP COMPANIES LINKED TO THE ONE BEING LISTED; IT NEED NOT NAME FINANCIAL INVESTORS AS PROMOTERS IN IPOs AND IT NEED NOT MENTION SPECIFIC CORPORATE BODIES WHICH ARE PART OF THE PROMOTER GROUP

The author is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.



to minority) as the extant law classifies it as a promoter. The market regulator wants to correct this anomaly by shifting focus from promoters to controlling shareholders or the so called 'person in control' (PIC). But, it also needs to ask whether the new breed is really willing to take charge?

These institutions represent a conglomeration of tens of thousands of investors (in case of mutual funds, these run into lakhs). They collect money from individual investors - many of them high net-worth individuals - and invest in companies with the sole objective of generating good returns. In a fundamental sense, they are financial investors, would remain invested in a firm as long as the objective is served otherwise, leave; whereas the role of a PIC requires that they remain invested over the long-term.

Does SEBI really intend them to be in this role (read: PIC)? From its proposals on minimum lock-in, it does not appear to be so. Post an IPO, it permits promoter to shed its share of minimum 20 per cent within one year against the existing three years (holding in excess of 20 per cent can be shed in 6 months down from one year). It is even contemplating to completely dispense with the requirement of minimum shareholding for a person to qualify as promoter. If, an entity say, PEF, can sell its shareholding acquired before IPO

(albeit large enough to give it the status of a promoter) within one year of the public issue or the requirement of minimum shareholding itself is waived, how can it be expected to do justice to the role of a 'person in control'?

Ironically, the regulator does not even want the public to know the identity of investors behind the issuer. Under the liberalized disclosure requirements, the issuer need not give financials of group companies linked to the one being listed; it need not name financial investors as promoters in IPOs and it need not mention specific corporate bodies which are part of the promoter group. How can an entity whose source of funding is shrouded in secrecy instill confidence?

Most listed companies today are professionally managed and much of the activity is centered around the Board of Directors (it includes a number of independent directors) and the CEO assisted by various committees including audit committee and remuneration committee etc for transparent functioning. Could the PIC role be assigned to the CEO/BoD? The answer to this is in the negative.

The CEO and other members of the Board are professionals. They are appointed and derive their authority from the shareholders - albeit by majority vote or any other mechanism agreed to by them. If the majority shareholders

leave, then it is unlikely that the existing CEO/BoD will continue. Moreover, if the former exit within a short period (very likely under the new rules mooted by the regulator), then the case for CEO/BoD for acting as PIC is weakened further.

To conclude, when the person who started the company (read: promoter) is reduced to a minority and the new breed of shareholders who have majority stake are unwilling to slip into the former's shoes, it will tantamount to pushing the listed firm literally into the status of 'a ship without a commander'. This is totally unacceptable.

What then is the way forward? SEBI needs to take a re-look at its proposals keeping two cardinal principles in mind (i) 'the voting/controlling power of an investor has to be proportional to his investment or the shares held by him'; (ii) stability of the management. In the current scenario, where largest/majority shareholding is vested in PEF/AIFs et al, they should be made to take on the role of PIC and stay invested in the company over a reasonably long period. The regulator must not reduce the lock-in period. It should also not do away with requirement of minimum shareholding for an entity to be remain in control of the firm and insist on full transparency on funding sources.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHENEVER THERE IS ANY CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY, OUR PRIME MINISTER MODI // HAS LED FROM THE FRONT.  
— BJP PRESIDENT JP NADDA



ONE SIMPLE QUESTION: IF VACCINES ARE FREE FOR ALL, WHY SHOULD PRIVATE HOSPITALS CHARGE FOR THEM?  
— CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

# Time is running out for the Congress in Punjab

Captain Amarinder Singh, the Chief Minister, hardly has any option but to take the dissidents along and run a united ship

The Congress leadership is engaged in damage control in Punjab with the political crisis threatening to go out of control. The high command is looking for a formula to calm down the tempers of the dissidents against Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh. The Assembly elections are scheduled early next year. Punjab is one of the few Congress-ruled states and it would like to retain it. It is a sensitive border state which has seen violence in the past.

While the chief minister is considered close to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, his baiters draw their strength from Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. The brother and sister see main critic and former cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu as



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

a leader with appeal among Punjab's youth. However, after all the drama played out in Delhi last week when 25 legislators and other senior leaders as also the Chief Minister met a three-member panel led by leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, all we know is that the committee, set up by Sonia, after talking to the dissidents, is against a leadership change. But at the same time it wants the dissidents to be accommodated in the party and the government in a reshuffle. Though the Captain sought votes in 2017 on his plea for a last chance to rule, he has now changed his stand and will seek another term.

Congress is having a leadership crisis even at the national level. Rahul Gandhi, though

not occupying any position, is said to be taking most of the decisions. Even in the case of Punjab, both Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi talked to the Captain in a virtual meeting last week.

This is not the first time the chief minister has faced dissension in party ranks. With the support of Sonia Gandhi, the Captain survived a rebellion in 2005 but a similar crisis has engulfed him in his second term, with cabinet members and party legislators openly defying his writ.

Sidhu the cricketer-turned-politician is leading the attack. The ambitious Sidhu may not command much influence over Congress MLAs or the cadre, but his rebellion against the Captain has galvanised the dis-



sidents. Though the dissidents have complained against him, they do not agree on his replacement. The recent outburst of animosity came as the Punjab and Haryana High Court quashed an SIT report into the Kotkapura firing incident of 2015. Sidhu accused the Chief Minister of evading responsibility. The dissidents

also claim that the chief minister is soft with the Badals. The drug menace which was one of the election issues in 2017 also needs to be addressed more robustly.

Sidhu started dreaming of becoming chief minister after he gained access to Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. Senior leaders who are in the queue to succeed the Captain are dismayed with this. Sidhu also wants to become the PCC president though he does not have the capacity to take every-one along.

Among the solutions being considered by Congress high command are a cabinet reshuffle, representation to more castes, and a bureaucratic reshuffle to give a free hand to elected representatives. There is

a proposal to form a new campaign committee. The dissidents will sought to be accommodated with these changes.

Factionalism is not new to the Congress party. But a weak leadership cannot continue to treat the states or encourage dissidents as it did earlier because the party needs unity. There are not many options left for the leadership.

The first thing is to broker peace between the Chief Minister and the dissidents. Second, the Chief Minister must be persuaded to take everyone along. Third, to implement all campaign promises. Fourth, concentrate on COVID relief works as unless the people perceive the government is doing a good job there will be trouble ahead. The fifth

is to strengthen the Chief Minister when there is no alternative. The sixth is to activate the party workers to make them poll-ready.

The Punjab assembly election will be one of the hottest political battles in early February, 2022. The other parties like the Akali Dal and the BJP too are trying to set their house in order. While the Akali Dal has severed its connection with its long-time ally the BJP last year on the farm bills issue, the two parties have declared that they would go it alone in the upcoming polls. Therefore, Punjab is likely to face a multi-cornered fight. The BJP's expansion plans are aggressive. The Captain and a united party seem to be the best bet for Congress.

# Myanmar junta to start court case against Suu Kyi next week

**Naypyitaw (Myanmar):** Myanmar's military junta will begin presenting its case against deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi in court next Monday, her lawyers said.

The military arrested Suu Kyi in February when it overthrew her elected government. Public resistance to the coup

remains strong and in recent months has taken the form of a low-level armed insurrection.

Government prosecutors will have until June 28 to finish their presentation in the court in Naypyitaw, the capital, where she is being tried on five charges, after which Suu Kyi's defense team will have until

July 26 to present its case, said Khin Maung Zaw, the team's senior member.

Court sessions are to be held on Monday and Tuesday each week.

Khin Maung Zaw spoke to journalists after a procedural hearing on Monday for Suu Kyi and two fellow defendants,

ousted President Win Myint and former Naypyitaw Mayor Myo Aung.

Suu Kyi's supporters say the charges against her are politically motivated and are meant to discredit her and legitimize the military's takeover. If convicted of any of the offenses, she could be banned from

running in an election promised by the junta within one or two years of its takeover.

She and her two co-defendants are charged with spreading information that could cause public alarm or unrest.

Suu Kyi also faces two counts of violating the Natural Disaster Management Law for

allegedly breaking Covid-19 pandemic restrictions during the 2020 election campaign; illegally importing walkie-talkies that were for her bodyguards' use; and unlicensed use of the radios.

A sixth charge that Suu Kyi faces is the most serious one: breaching the colonial-era

Official Secrets Act, which carries a penalty of up to 14 years' imprisonment. It has been handled separately from the other charges and was filed in a court in Yangon, the country's biggest city. It was recently transferred to the Union Supreme Court in Naypyitaw, said San Mar La Nyunt, another

of her lawyers. Another of her lawyers, Min Min Soe, said that when they met with her, she asked them if they could help pay for her food expenses because her cash resources were low and she did not want to rely on being fed by her captors. **AP**

## Global hosting outage crashes UK Govt site

**London:** Several major websites across the world, including the UK government's Gov.Uk website, crashed for some time on Tuesday due to an outage at global website hosting service Fastly.

The affected sites, which included media organisations 'Financial Times' and 'Guardian' among others, displayed a message saying "503 Service Unavailable".

San Francisco-based Fastly, a global online content delivery network (CDN), reported an

outage across its network affecting the sites which use its platform.

The firm said there were issues with its global content delivery network (CDN) and was implementing a fix.

In a statement, Fastly said: "We identified a service configuration that triggered disruption across our POPs (points of presence) globally and have disabled that configuration. "Our global network is coming back online." Fastly runs what is known as an

"edge cloud", which is designed to speed up loading times for websites, as well as protect them from denial-of-service attacks and help them when traffic is peaking.

According to the BBC, the outage related problems seem localised, affecting specific locations across Europe and the US. Media websites like CNN and the New York Times were also hit.

Fastly supports news sites and apps like CNN, the Guardian, the New York Times and many others. **PTI**

## US SC to hear Muslim surveillance post 9/11

**Islamabad/Washington:** A top court in the US has agreed to hear a case seeking to block a civil rights lawsuit filed by three Muslim men, accusing the FBI for conducting surveillance on them after the 9/11 attacks.

US Supreme Court will hear the appeal filed by the FBI against a lower court's 2019 ruling, which led to various claims made by the three Muslim men, taking the case into litigation. As per details, the 2011 lawsuit accuses the FBI of infiltrating mainstream mosques in Southern California and targeting Muslim Americans for surveillance.

The lawsuit accused the agency of engaging in religious discrimination in violation of the US Constitution's First Amendment by targeting Muslims, as well as violating the Fourth Amendment prohibition on unreasonable searches and seizures. The petitioners of the lawsuit include Yasser Fazaga, an imam at the Orange County Islamic Foundation in Mission Viejo, Ali Uddin Malik, who attended the Islamic Centre of Irvine, and Yasser Abdel Rahim, a permanent resident of the US from Egypt. **PTI**

## Bapu's great-granddaughter sentenced to 7 yrs in jail in S Africa

**Johannesburg:** Ashish Lata Ramgobin, the 56-year-old great-granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa, has been sentenced to seven years in jail by a Durban court in a six-million rand (USD 442,000) fraud and forgery case.

Ramgobin is the daughter of renowned human rights activist Ela Gandhi and late Mewa Ramgobind, who have both played instrumental roles in reviving the Phoenix Settlement established by Gandhi during his tenure in

South Africa.

A self-employed mother of two, Ramgobin was found to have defrauded businessman S R Maharaj after he advanced rand 6.2 million to her after she promised a share of large profits, allegedly to clear import and customs duties for a non-existent consignment from India. Ramgobin was also refused leave to appeal both the conviction and sentence by the Durban Specialised Commercial Crime Court on Monday.

When the case against Ramgobin started in 2015,

Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi of the National Prosecuting Authority said she allegedly provided forged invoices and documents to convince potential investors that three containers of linen were being shipped in from India.

At that time, Ramgobin was released on bail of rand 50,000 (USD 3,683).

On Monday, the court heard that in August 2015, Ramgobin met Maharaj, director of New Africa Alliance Footwear Distributors, which imports, manufactures and

sells clothing, linen and footwear. Maharaj's company also provides financing to other companies on a profit-share basis. Ramgobin had told Maharaj that she had imported three containers of linen for the major South African hospital group NetCare.

"She said she was experiencing financial difficulties to pay for import costs and customs and she needed the money to clear the goods at the harbour," NPA spokesperson Natasha Kara said on Monday. **PTI**

## Global sting: FBI-run messaging app tricks organised crime

**The Hague:** Criminal gangs divulged plans for moving drug shipments and carrying out killings on a messaging app secretly run by the FBI, law enforcement agencies said on Tuesday, as they unveiled a global sting operation they said dealt an "unprecedented blow" to organised crime in countries around the world.

The operation known as Trojan Shield led to police raids in 16 nations. More than 800 suspects were arrested and more than 32 tons of

drugs — including cocaine, cannabis, amphetamines and methamphetamines — were seized along with 250 firearms, 55 luxury cars and more than USD 148 million in cash and cryptocurrencies.

The seeds of the sting were sown when law enforcement agencies earlier took down two encrypted platforms, EncroChat and Sky ECC, that had been used by criminal gangs to organize drug trafficking and underworld hits. **AP**

## 'Death toll rises to 65 in Pak's train mishap'

**Karachi:** The death toll in Monday's train collision in Pakistan's Sindh rose to 65 on Tuesday, according to an official, even as the Opposition parties demanded an immediate probe into the reasons for one of the country's worst train accidents. At least 65 people were killed and over 100 others injured in the twin accidents between Reti and Daharki railway stations where eight carriages of Millat Express derailed just before Sir Syed Express rammed into them near Dhark. **PTI**

## US identifies 3,900 children separated at border under Trump

**San Diego:** The Biden administration said on Tuesday that it has identified more than 3,900 children separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border under former President Donald Trump's "zero-tolerance" policy on illegal crossings, providing one of the more

detailed accounts of a chapter in U.S. immigration history that drew widespread condemnation.

The Biden administration's Family Reunification Task Force count of 3,913 children separated from July 1, 2017, to the end of Trump's presidency

is well below the more than 5,500 children identified by the American Civil Liberties Union in court filings, based on government information. The task force said it identified "nearly all" children who were separated under the zero-tolerance policy but will review another 1,723 cases since July 2017, which would bring total cases

examined to 5,636, close to the ACLU tally.

The discrepancy appears to stem largely from a federal court ruling in San Diego that excluded 1,723 children who were separated for reasons other than Trump's zero-tolerance policy, such as risk of child endangerment or questions about parentage. **AP**

## UNSC recommends Antonio Guterres for second term as UN chief

**United Nations:** The UN Security Council on Tuesday recommended Secretary General Antonio Guterres for a second five-year term as chief of the world organisation beginning January 1, 2022.

The 15-nation Council held a closed meeting where it unanimously adopted a resolution recommending Guterres' name to the 193-member General Assembly for a second term as Secretary General.

"India welcomes the adoption of @UN #SecurityCouncil resolution recommending a second term to #UnitedNations Secretary-General @antonioguterres," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti tweeted. Last month, India had conveyed its support to Guterres for his candidature as chief of the world body for a second term beginning January 2022. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had met Guterres at the United Nations headquarters and expressed New Delhi's support to him for his second term as the world's top diplomat. **PTI**

## WTO panel considers easing protections on Covid-19 vaccines

**Geneva:** Envoys from World Trade Organization member nations are taking up a proposal to ease patents and other intellectual property protections for Covid-19 vaccines to help developing countries fight the pandemic, an idea backed by the Biden administration but opposed in other wealthy countries with strong pharmaceutical industries.

On the table for a two-day meeting of a WTO panel opening Tuesday is a revised proposal presented by India and South Africa for a temporary IP waiver on coronavirus vaccines. The idea has drawn support from more than 60 countries, which now include the United States and China.

Some European Union

member states oppose the idea, and the EU on Friday offered an alternative proposal that relies on existing World Trade Organization rules.

The 27-nation bloc said those rules currently allow governments to grant production licenses — such as for Covid-19 vaccines or therapies — to manufacturers in their countries without the consent of the patent holders in times of emergency.

At stake in the meeting is whether the various sides can move toward drawing up a unified text, a key procedural step that could unlock accelerated negotiations. Inside observers cautioned, however, that a major breakthrough was not expected. **AP**

## China to offer Covid vaccine to children as young as three

**Beijing, China:** China has approved the emergency use of a Covid-19 vaccine for those as young as three, the drugmaker confirmed on Tuesday, making it the first country to offer jabs to young children.

Since the coronavirus first emerged in central China, Beijing has mostly managed to bring the country's outbreak under control, and has administered over 777 million vaccine doses after a sluggish start.

A spokesperson for Sinovac told AFP its vaccine had been approved for use on children. "In recent days, the Sinovac vaccine was approved for emergency use in three- to 17-year-olds," the spokesperson said. **AFP**

## Singapore sequencing reveals delta variant crowding out others

**Singapore:** Covid-19 sequencing in Singapore has revealed the emergence of the delta variant as the country's major local virus strain, underscoring the highly infectious nature of the mutation that has proliferated globally since its first detection in India.

Of these cases as of May 31, 449 have been found to be caused by variants of concern, among which 428 were infections of the delta strain, said the country's health ministry. The next largest group was nine cases linked to the beta muta-

tion that first emerged in South Africa. The "current understanding" is that some variants, including the delta mutation, "are more transmissible," a spokesperson for Singapore's health ministry said on Tuesday in a response to questions from Bloomberg News. "Studies are ongoing to get a more complete understanding of these variants and we will adjust our strategies as more information is made available."

Singapore is one of the only places in the world to sequence all its Covid-19 cases and its

data provides the most thorough glimpse yet of how the delta variant, also known as B.1.617.2, spreads more rapidly. The strain has been identified in more than 60 countries over the past six months since its discovery in India, and concerns are growing that it may extend the pandemic in some places. A spike in infections in the U.K., fueled by the variant, has prompted Britain to reconsider plans for a total reopening later this month, despite a large vaccine uptake among its population. **Agency**

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CIN: L70100DL2003PLC118413 Website: www.svphousing.com  
Email Id: info@svphousing.com Phone: 011-41070148

### POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE

Members of the Company are hereby informed that pursuant to Section 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 22 of Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended, the Company has sent an e-mail on 09.06.2021 through National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) along with the details of User Ids and password to the members who have registered their e-mails Ids with depositories or the Company and has completed the dispatch of Postal Ballot Notices on 09.06.2021 along with the Postal Ballot form and postage pre-paid self addressed Business Reply Envelope to the members who have not registered their email Ids.

The Company is seeking the consent of the members by way of resolutions for the matters as set out in the Notice through Postal Ballot and electronic means. Postal Ballot Notice is displayed on the website of the Company i.e. [www.svphousing.com](http://www.svphousing.com).

The Company is pleased to offer e-voting facility to all those persons who are members of the Company as on 04.06.2021 (Cut-off date) to enable them to cast their vote by electronic means and a person who is not a member as on the cut-off date should treat this Notice for information purpose only.

Ankit Singhal & Associates, Company Secretaries, New Delhi has been appointed by the Board of Directors of the Company as the scrutinizer for conducting the postal ballot in a fair and transparent manner. The voting process through electronic means/postal ballot shall commence on 10th June 2021 at 09:00 a.m. and end on 9th July, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. Members are requested that Postal Ballot Form duly filled and completed by them should reach to the Scrutinizer at Ankit Singhal & Associates, Company Secretaries, A-25/A, LGF Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi- 110024, not later than 5:00 P.M on 9th July, 2021.

The e-voting facility provided by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) is available to the members at the link <https://evoting.nsdl.com> which would enable them to cast their votes electronically, instead of dispatching Postal Ballot Form.

If any member cast vote by electronic means or if any Postal Ballot Form is received after 09.07.2021, then that vote (by Post or electronic means) will not be considered as a valid vote and will be treated as if reply from such members has not been received. Members, who have not received Postal Ballot forms may apply to the Company and can obtain a duplicate thereof.

The result of the Postal Ballot will be declared on or before 5 P.M on 12th July, 2021 at the registered office of the Company. The aforesaid result along with Scrutinizer's report and shall be intimated to the Stock Exchange where the shares of the Company are listed, and will be displayed on the Company's website viz [www.svphousing.com](http://www.svphousing.com).

Any query or grievance connected with the E-voting can be addressed to Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, Assistant Manager, NSDL, 4th Floor "A" wing, Trade World, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013. E-mail: [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in), toll Free No. 1800222990.

Any query or grievance connected with the voting by Postal Ballot, other than e-voting may be addressed to the Company Secretary at SVP Housing Limited, A-3, NDSE, Part-1, New Delhi-110049. Email: [info@svphousing.com](mailto:info@svphousing.com)

For SVP Housing Limited  
Sd/-  
(Ritika Jain)  
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

**GOVT DOON MEDICAL COLLEGE**  
DEHRAKHAAS, PATEL NAGAR, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND  
TEL: 0135-2726021, Fax No.: 0135-2726020  
Email: [doonmedicalcollege@gmail.com](mailto:doonmedicalcollege@gmail.com), Website: [www.doonmedical.com](http://www.doonmedical.com)

### E-TENDER NOTICE

Online Bids are invited through E-tendering system by Principal, Govt. Doon Medical College, DehraKhas, Patel Nagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. For procurement of Surgical Implants under Rate contract for the financial year 2021-22. Detailed Information, Specifications & Tender/bid Documents are available on website: [uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in) from 09.06.2021 at 01:00 PM onwards.

Ref No.: GDMC/Advt./2021-22/5237 Principal,  
Date: 08.06.2021 Govt. Doon Medical College, Dehradun

### SEARCH FOR MISSING



Sharmin

General public is hereby informed that a female namely Sharmin, D/o: Shakeel Ahamad, R/o: H.No. C-347, Gali No. 15, Mulla Colony, Ghadauli Ext., Delhi has been missing since 23.04.2021 from her Home. In this regard DD No. 56A dated 23.04.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Gazipur, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

**Name:** Sharmin, **Age:** 21 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White Pant, Long Badami Gown and Grey Burka.

If anyone has any information about this missing/kidnapped lady please inform P.S. Gazipur, Delhi

**Web:** <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Ph.:** 011-24368638/24368641, **Fax:** 011-24368639

**SHO**  
**Police Station, Gazipur, Delhi**  
**Ph:** 011-22610068, 8750870625

DP/498/ED/2021

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a lady Supriya, W/o Dilip Kumar R/o Gali No. 7, Khode Colony, Badarpur, New Delhi has been missing from New Delhi Railway Station. In this regard, DD No. 15-A dated 02.06.2021 has been registered at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing lady is as under:

**Name:** Supriya, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 21 years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Green colour suit, black colour leggings and sandals on her feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing lady, kindly inform SHO/ New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

**E-mail:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Ph.:** 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**  
**Fax:** 011-24368639 **P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.**  
**Ph. No.** 011-23744073  
**DP/156/RLY/2021**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



Aksa

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Aksa D/o Aslam R/o B-50, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi. Age 20 year, Height 5'4", Complexion wheatish, Face oval, Built thin, wearing Black colour suit-salwar & dupatta and chappal in feet is missing since 06.05.2021 from the jurisdiction of PS New Ashok Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl, but no clue has come to light so far.

In this regard a DD No. 20-A dated 08.05.2021 has been lodged at PS New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

**Website:** <http://cbi.nic.in>  
**Email:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Fax:** 011-23011334

**Ph:** 011-23014046, 23015218 **SHO**  
**PS New Ashok Nagar, Delhi**  
**Ph. 011-22610839, 22610954**

DP/524/ED/2021

### Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 35-40 Yrs, **Height:** 165 cm, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Parpale Shirt and Gray Colour Lower He was found at in footpath near Subhash Nagar Crossing Near Mandir Subhash Nagar, New Delhi on 30.05.2021 at 11:23AM.

In this regard, a DD No. 37-A, Dt 30.05.2021 has been lodged at PS Rajouri Garden, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in the mortuary of DDU Hospital, New 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., Rajouri Garden, Delhi**  
**Ph. : 011-25453990, 8750871127**  
**DP/446/WD/2021**

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
TENDER NOTICE				
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system				
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-				
S.N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1	08195399A	PVC INSULATED, RAILWAY SIGNALING CABLE 6 CORE	1989 K.M.	05.07.2021
2	08205175	PVC INSULATED, RAILWAY SIGNALING CABLE 2 CORE	1819 K.M.	05.07.2021
3	07211133	WEARING PIECE FOR SIDE BEARER	3845 NOS	07.07.2021
4	02212512	DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE STARTER LEAD ACID BATTERY 8V/450AH	351 NOS	09.07.2021
5	19210626	SET OF MAIN GEAR BEARING L 558548 / L 558510	51 SET	09.07.2021
6	19210646	SET OF LABYRINTH RING FOR NOSE SUSPEND DRIVE	84 SET	09.07.2021
7	19210622	1) SET OF CYLINDRICAL ROLLER BEARING	168 SET	12.07.2021
8	08201521	1. SINGLE SECTION DIGITAL AXLE COUNTER	178 NOS	12.07.2021
		2. HIGH AVAILABILITY SINGLE SECTION DIGITAL	02 SET	
9	08215087	PVC INSULATED, RAILWAY SIGNALING CABLE 12 CORE	5521 K.M.	15.07.2021

**NOTE-1.** Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.  
**Tender Notice No. 17/2021-2022 Dated: 08.06.2021** 1248/21

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**RO No. 421** **Tender Notice** **Dated: 08.06.2021**

Office of Executive Engineer (E&M-I), Lakhwar Project, Dakpathar, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:  
Tender No: 01/EE(E&M-I)/LP/2021-22  
Name of the Work: Annual maintenance of 33 KV, 11 KV & LT lines of Lakhwar-Vyasi project.  
Estimated Cost: Rs. 15,82,368.00 (taxes extra)  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 09/06/2021  
Last Date for submission of tender: 30/06/2021 up to 16:00 hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)  
**Executive Engineer (E&M-I)**

**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**



# World Bank projects India to grow at 8.3% in 2021

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The World Bank on Tuesday projected India's economy to grow at 8.3 per cent in 2021 and 7.5 per cent in 2022, even as its recovery is being hampered by an unprecedented second wave of the Covid-19, the largest outbreak in the world since the beginning of the deadly pandemic.

The Washington-based global lender, in its latest issue of Global Economic Prospects released here, noted that in India, an enormous second Covid-19 wave is undermining the sharper-than-expected rebound in activity seen during the second half of Fiscal Year 2020/21, especially in services.

"India's recovery is being hampered by the largest outbreak of any country since the beginning of the pandemic," the World Bank said.

In 2020, India's economy is estimated to have contracted by 7.3 per cent while in 2019, it registered a growth rate of four per cent, the World Bank said, adding that in 2023, India is expected to grow at 6.5 per cent.

In its report, the Bank said that the global economy is set to expand by 5.6 per cent in 2021 - its strongest post-recession pace in 80 years.

"For India, GDP in fiscal year 2021/22 starting from April 2021 is expected to expand 8.3 per cent," it said.

Activity will benefit from policy support, including higher spending on infrastructure, rural development, and health, and a stronger-than expected recovery in services and manufacturing, it said.

Although the forecast has been revised up by 2.9 percentage points, it marks significant expected economic damage from an enormous second COVID-19 wave and localised mobility restrictions since March 2021, the report said.

Activity is expected to follow the same, yet less pronounced, collapse and recovery seen during the first wave, it said.

"The pandemic will undermine consumption and investment as confidence remains depressed and balance sheets damaged. Growth in FY 2022/23 is expected to slow to 7.5 per cent, reflecting lingering impacts of COVID-19 on household, corporate and bank balance sheets; possibly low levels of consumer confidence; and heightened uncertainty on job and income prospects," it said.

According to the World Bank, in India, the FY 2021/22 budget marked a significant policy shift.

The government announced that the health-related spending would more than double and set out a revised medium-term fiscal path intended to address the economic legacy of the pandemic.

Following deteriorating pandemic-related developments, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced further measures to support liquidity provision to micro, small and medium firms, and loosened regulatory requirements on the provisioning for non-performing loans.

"In India, fiscal policy shifted in the FY 2021/22 budget toward higher expenditure targeted at healthcare and infrastructure to boost the post-pandemic recovery. The renewed outbreak, however, may require further targeted policy support to address the health and economic costs," it added.

On March 31, the World Bank said India's economy has bounced back amazingly from the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown over the last one year, but it is not out of the woods yet.

# Global economy expected to expand 5.6% in 2021, says World Bank

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The global economy is expected to expand 5.6 per cent in 2021, the fastest post-recession pace in 80 years, largely on strong rebounds from a few major economies, the World Bank said on Tuesday, noting that despite the recovery, global output will be about two per cent below pre-pandemic projections by the end of this year.

In its latest edition of Global Economic Prospects, the World Bank said that at the same time many emerging markets and developing economies continue to struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

"While there are welcome signs of global recovery, the pandemic continues to inflict poverty and inequality on people in developing countries around the world," said World Bank Group President David Malpass.

"Globally coordinated efforts are essential to accelerate vaccine distribution and debt relief, particularly for low-income countries. As the health crisis eases, policymakers will need to address the pandemic's lasting effects and take steps to spur green, resilient, and inclusive growth while safeguarding macroeconomic stability,"

Malpass said.

The report also noted that per capita income losses will not be unwound by 2022 for about two-thirds of emerging market and developing economies. Among low-income economies, where vaccination has lagged, the effects of the pandemic have reversed poverty reduction gains and aggravated insecurity and other long-standing challenges.

Among major economies, US growth is projected to reach 6.8 per cent this year, reflecting large-scale fiscal support and the easing of pandemic restrictions. Growth in other advanced economies is also firming, but to a lesser extent.

Among emerging markets and developing economies, China is anticipated to rebound to 8.5 per cent this year, reflecting the release of pent-up demand, the Bank said in its report.

Emerging market and developing economies as a group are forecast to expand 6 per cent this year, supported by higher demand and elevated commodity prices.

However, the recovery in many countries is being held back by a resurgence of COVID-19 cases and lagging vaccination progress, as well as the withdrawal of policy support in some instances, said the report.

"Excluding China, the rebound in this group of countries is anticipated to be a more modest 4.4 per cent. The recovery among emerging market and developing economies is forecast to moderate to 4.7 per cent in 2022. Even so, gains in this group of economies are not sufficient to recoup losses experienced during the 2020 recession, and output in 2022 is expected to be 4.1 per cent below pre-pandemic projections," it said.

Per capita income in many emerging market and developing economies is also expected to remain below pre-pandemic levels, and losses are anticipated to worsen deprivations associated with health, education and living standards.

The Bank said growth in low-income economies this year is anticipated to be the slowest in the past 20 years other than 2020, partly reflecting the very slow pace of vaccination.

Low-income economies are forecast to expand by 2.9 per cent in 2021 before picking up to 4.7 per cent in 2022.

The group's output level in 2022 is projected to be 4.9 per cent lower than pre-pandemic projections.

# RBI asks banks not to destroy CCTV recordings of demonetisation period

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI on Tuesday asked banks to preserve the CCTV recordings of their branches and currency chests from November 8, 2016, to December 30, 2016, till further orders with a view to assisting the enforcement agencies to take actions against persons involved in illegal activities during the demonetisation period.

The Government had demonetised the then in circulation high value currency notes of ₹ 500 and ₹1,000 on November 8, 2016, with an aim to check blackmoney and curb terror funding. As part of the exercise, the Government gave the opportunity to the people to exchange junked currency notes (referred as Specified Bank Notes) or deposit them in their bank accounts.

New currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 denominations were also issued after withdrawal of SBNs. Huge crowds were witnessed at bank branches across the country for exchanging or depositing the demonetised currency.

On the basis of various

inputs, the investigative agencies also started probing matters relating to illegal accumulation of new currency notes.

In order to facilitate such investigations, the RBI has asked the banks not to destroy the CCTV recordings of the period of demonetisation till further orders.

"...Keeping in view the investigations pending with law enforcement agencies, proceedings pending at various courts, you are advised to preserve the CCTV recordings of operations at bank branches and currency chests for the period from November 08, 2016 to December 30, 2016 in a proper way, till further orders," the RBI said in a circular to banks.

The present order is a continuation of an earlier advisory issued to the lenders in December 2016 to preserve the CCTV footage of operations at bank branches and currency chests.

Of the Rs 15.41 lakh crore worth Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes in circulation on November 8, 2016, when the note ban was announced, notes worth Rs 15.31 lakh crore have been returned.

# EU, India trade agreement to benefit domestic exporters: TPCI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The proposed free trade agreement between India and the European Union would benefit domestic exporters as EU is one of the biggest traditional markets for the country, TPCI said on Tuesday.

Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) organised a panel discussion on India-EU trade relations, where experts discussed the proposed pact.

"Industry is upbeat with hope and optimism over India - EU ensuing trade pact," it said in a statement, adding that for most Indian products, EU is one of the biggest traditional markets where exporters see a big turnaround post the agreement. Quoting experts, the council said issues like movement of professionals, duty cut on goods such as alcoholic beverages, automobiles and dairy products may see tough negotiations.

Experts stated that the decision to resume talks for the agreement between India and the EU was a positive development as it will benefit both the sides. Arpita Mukherjee, professor at ICRIER, proposed innovative ways of tariff liberalisation and stated that dairy is a complex issue since both the EU and India are large dairy markets with steady rise in production.

"India needs to deeply study EU-Vietnam and EU-MERCOSUR agreements to see what these partners gave to the EU and got in return. They are India's competitors in the EU today, and much better placed there due to their agreements," Mukherjee was quoted as saying. Rupa Chandra, RBI Chair Professor in Economics, said India retains its unique advantages for trade partners as its large market and human resource base, role in pharmaceutical production, manufacturing and emerging startup ecosystem are quite unparalleled.

# New income tax e-filing website launched

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The new e-filing website of the Income Tax Department was launched on Monday with a host of new features for taxpayers.

The new URL <http://incometax.gov.in> replaced the long-existing <http://incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in>, and it went live at 8:45 pm, the tax department said in a tweet.

While some users complained on social media that certain features were taking longer than usual to load in the new portal, others praised the new facilities.

Users and taxpayers will be able to use all the features smoothly very soon, a senior department officer said.

"We proudly present to our valued taxpayers, the new e-filing portal. Designed with your convenience in mind, the portal offers features to make your e-filing experience smoother, simpler & smarter. You Come First, Always," the department said in a message posted on Twitter.

It also thanked users for "being patient with us during our transition to the new e-filing portal".

"The e-filing 2.0 went live at 8:45pm today and represents an important milestone in our constant endeavour to make the compliance experience more taxpayer friendly," the tax department said.

The home page of the new website said the "e-filing 2.0" is an "all new portal with features that make e-filing easier for you!"

"The portal has been developed as a mission mode project under the national e-governance plan. The objective of this portal is to provide a single window to the income tax related services for taxpayers and other stakeholders," it said.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which frames policies for the tax department, had on Saturday said while the new website will be launched on Monday, features like the online tax payment system and a mobile app will be activated only on June 18.

The new portal is integrated with immediate processing of Income Tax Returns (ITRs) to issue quick refunds to taxpayers, and all interactions and uploads or pending actions will be displayed on a single dashboard for follow-up action by the taxpayer, the CBDT had said about the latest website.

# EU says it will act 'firmly' if UK doesn't honour Brexit deal

AP ■ LONDON

The European Union's chief Brexit negotiator says the bloc is ready to act "firmly and resolutely" if the UK fails to honour its commitments under the divorce deal that was supposed to keep trade flowing after Britain left the EU.

Maros Sefcovic's comments, published Tuesday in the Daily Telegraph newspaper, came a day before he holds talks with his U.K. counterpart on implementing the deal.

The relationship between the two sides has grown tense amid concerns over the so-called Northern Ireland protocol, which was designed to protect the peace process in Northern Ireland while preserving economic links with the Republic of Ireland, an EU member state.

The protocol has sparked anger in Northern Ireland because it creates a customs border between the region and the rest of the UK, but the EU says the provisions are needed to protect the bloc's single market.

The UK angered Brussels earlier this year when it unilaterally extended a grace period delaying the inspection of many supermarket items shipped to Northern Ireland from England, Scotland and Wales. The Telegraph reported that the UK may extend this action to include chilled meats such as sausages and ground beef.

Sefcovic cautioned against such action, saying negotiators should strive to achieve "mutually agreed compliance paths."

"If this does not happen, and if the UK takes further unilateral action over the coming weeks, the EU will not be shy in reacting swiftly, firmly and resolutely to ensure that the UK abides by its international law obligations."

While Sefcovic didn't specify what those actions might be, the Times of London quoted an unidentified EU official as saying the bloc was ready to impose trade sanctions and retaliatory tariffs.

# Only ₹10k cr more needed for vaccines; fiscal impact just 40 bps more: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Government's move to freely supply coronavirus vaccines to the States for universal inoculation and extend free rations to help the poor tide over the pandemic will only add an additional 40 bps of GDP to fiscal deficit, says a report, which also called for more transparent vaccine distribution plan for efficient vaccine allocation to the states.

The increased allocation of free vaccines to all above 18 years coupled with extending free food and grain supplies through rations will add only 40 bps to the overall fiscal deficit in FY22, which poses upside risks to the estimated 6.8 per cent of GDP, Tanvee Gupta-Jain, the economist at UBS Securities India said in a note on Tuesday.

Assuming an average price of Rs 150/dose, with a similar amount incurred on logistics and supply charges, we estimate the total fiscal cost to the Centre will be Rs 40,000-45,000 crore or 0.2 per cent of GDP and of this Rs 35,000 crore have

already been provided in the budget, which means that the Centre will have to allocate a maximum of Rs 10,000 crore for this.

The much-delayed move announced on Monday, which came days after the Supreme Court said the vaccine procurement policy of the Centre was arbitrary and sought all file notings on the issue, she said it will ensure that vaccine distribution is now predicated on need, rather than the purchasing power of the states.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that M/s Kapani Constructions through its proprietor Sumet Kapani, owner of the First floor of the property bearing No. 6/13, at Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi-110016, has entered into a receipt cum agreement to sell with my client namely Mohit Kumar So Munish Kumar, A-341, Chattaur Enclave, New Delhi 110074 in respect of the above said First floor and has also handed over vacant physical possession of the same. This is to notify that in case anyone deals with the above said First floor and/or part thereof in any manner, he shall be doing so at his own risk and peril in all respects.

Syed Hasan Isfahani  
Advocate

## ENGAGEMENT OF PHYSIOTHERAPIST & NUTRITIONIST in CRPF ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

Training Directorate CRPF, R.K.Puram, New Delhi has invited applications of willing/eligible candidates for engagement of 05 Physiotherapist and 01 Nutritionist with Central Sports Teams concentrated in various GCs/Units i.e. New Delhi, Gurugram, Jalandhar, Chandigarh, Sonapat

**Education Qualification:**

- i) Physiotherapist : MPT (Sports)
- i) Nutritionist : M.Sc Course in Nutrition/PG Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics.

**Remuneration : Rs. 50,000-60000/- Per Month.**

Last date of submission application : 25/06/2021

**Note:-** Visit CRPF web site - [crpf.gov.in](http://crpf.gov.in) to see complete Terms & Condition of subject engagement.

**Sd/- 04/06/2021**  
(Sandeep Datta)  
DIG(Trg)Dte,CRPF

davp/19140/11/0028/2122

# 60% companies looking to hire talent for new positions this year: Survey

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Even as job cuts and a rising unemployment rate were recorded in 2020, a report said that this year looks promising on the hiring front as nearly 60 per cent of the companies surveyed are looking to hire talent for new positions.

Recruitment managers are optimistic about returning to pre-pandemic hiring levels in 2021, and this outlook gains more credibility as nearly 60 per cent of companies surveyed said they were looking to hire talent for new positions, according to the report by Mercer Mettl.

Merger Mettl CEO Siddhartha Gupta said, "The hiring trends have witnessed a sea change in the past 14 months of the pandemic. This report will encourage industry leaders to consider innovative approaches to hiring in 2021 and beyond."

The report, titled "The State of Talent Acquisition Report 2021", is based on a survey among C-suite executives and HR leaders of 500 companies across sectors, including education services, financial and business services, health and hospitality, IT, electrical, and electronics.

The survey was carried out between mid-March and mid-May.

The report's findings indicated that virtual hiring is the future of recruitment as nearly half of those surveyed said they took the digital route during the pandemic.

Around 81 per cent of participating companies chose virtual platforms in some form to hire talent during the pandemic, it noted.

This switch from offline to online has benefitted companies as virtual hiring is a quick and cost-effective means of attracting the best talent globally, the report said.

The report further showed that companies are creating multiple new roles while reviving some dominant ones in this new environment.

About 53 per cent of industry leaders are looking to hire candidates for product and technology-related roles, followed by operations (39.42 per cent) and sales roles (39 per cent), it said.

Data also suggested that equal employment opportunities are moving to the forefront in 2021, as companies shift towards a future-looking approach, which is essential to hiring a resilient workforce.

**Govt. of Bihar**

**Urban Development and Housing Department**

1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna - 800 015

(Tel: 0612- 2215580); Fax: 2217059

Email: [urbansec-bih@nic.in](mailto:urbansec-bih@nic.in) / [udhd.bih@gmail.com](mailto:udhd.bih@gmail.com)

**Cancellation notice of the tender**

**"Selection of Agency for Maintaining Books of Accounts of Bihar Urban Development Agency on Double Entry Accounting System"**

It is hereby notified that the tenders invited for **Selection of Agency for Maintaining Books of Accounts of Bihar Urban Development Agency on Double Entry Accounting System** published through PR No. 000643 (Urban) 2021-22 dated 17/04/2021 has been cancelled due to administrative reasons.

**Director- BUDA**

PR. No. 002085 (URBAN) 2021-22      **Urban Development & Housing Department**

नौकर कोटेशन के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहायता हेतु Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

**Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Rural Engineering Services (RES)  
Bastar Division, Jagdalpur, District Bastar, Chhattisgarh**

**EOI NOTICE**

135216/2021/\_\_\_\_ EE, RES, Jagdalpur, Bastar, DATED 05/06/2021

EOI for "Empanelment of Professional Architecture/ Design/ Consultancy firms for District Administration Bastar and its allied Agencies at Bastar District".

Name of work	EOI Document Fee
EOI for "Empanelment of Professional Architecture/ Design/ Consultancy firms for District Administration Bastar and its allied Agencies at Bastar District".	INR 2,000/-

- EOI documents can be seen on the website <http://www.cg.nic.in/resworks> (From Date 09-06-2021) and downloaded from the said website.
- The EOI can be postponed or cancelled at any time due to administrative reasons and no claim shall be entertained on this account.
- Modifications/Amendments/Corrigendum, if any shall not be advertised in the newspaper but shall be published in the departmental website/Notice Board only. The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms and conditions, select/reject any application without assigning any reason thereof.
- The eligible bidder may submit their bid with the EOI document along with documents fees in form of Demand Draft in or via Registered Post/Speed Post on address below to reach by date 30 June 2021, by 5:00 PM.

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer,  
Rural Engineering Services (RES)  
Bastar Division, Jagdalpur, District Bastar,  
Chhattisgarh**

R.O. No. : 61086/2  
R.O. Date : 07/06/2021

## INCREASE IN THE FREQUENCY OF RAJDHANI SUPERFAST SPECIAL TRAIN

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to increase the frequency of Train No. 01221/01222 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja Terminus - Hazrat Nizamuddin - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja Terminus Rajdhani Superfast Special Train as per the detail given below:-

Train No.	From	To	Existing Frequency/ Days	Revised Frequency	Revised Frequency w.e.f
01221	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus	Hazrat Nizamuddin	2 days in a week (Tue & Sat)	Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat	11.06.2021 to till further Advice
01222	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus	2 days in a week (Wed & Sun)	Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun	12.06.2021 to till further Advice

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

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

**RailMadad Helpline No. 139**

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# UNPREDICTABLE FUTURE?

The cancellation of Class XII Boards has received mixed reactions. MUSBA HASHMI speaks to experts and students about what the decision means and its implications

The cancellation of Class XII Boards have brought relief to many students, while anxiety to some. With one confusion being cleared, several others have popped up. What happens to my college admission? Can I still go abroad to study? These are some of the questions that must have popped up in every student's mind at least once.

Dr Glen Besterfield, Dean of Admissions, University of South Florida tells you that the cancellation is of special significance to students who have applied to foreign universities as they may otherwise have had to put their plans on hold as they would have ended up missing important deadlines and mandatory enrolment requirements.

"In the context of American universities where

the Fall semester begins in August, by now students would have already got admission offers from them. Some may be conditional pending their Class XII results, but several universities, including ours, have already admitted students from India — and awarded many of them scholarships — for the Undergraduate programme starting in Fall 2021, based on Class X Board exams and marks through Class XI," he says.

He adds that their university need the Class XII transcripts and a high school completion certificate to finalise this admission and confirm their enrolment. So, if the exams or the results had been delayed, they would not have been able to enroll and would have missed their scholarship too as it is not transferable to

the next semester (Spring – January). This gives you an idea of how much this decision means for students going abroad for further studies.

While, for foreign universities the decision has brought in clarity, but for Indian colleges and universities, it has opened a plethora of confusion. Rohit Jain, CEO and Co-Founder DUX Education, says that now we need a ready plan for how the university admissions will happen. "This has to be done quickly. Students are still hanging mid-air since they have zero clarity on what is to happen next. At DUX we do our bit by organising a one-hour session every day where our experts speak to the students and parents on what they should be doing now," Jain tells you.

Prof Dr Deependra Kumar

Jha, Vice Chancellor at Adamas University, says: "Given the current uncertainty, the decision to cancel the Class XII Board exams is perhaps an appropriate one. I hope the board results will be calculated in an objective and comprehensive manner as far as possible. This decision will help streamline the academic calendar to some extent and reduce anxiety among students, parents, and teachers."

He adds that the admission process will gain momentum as the focus of students and parents will shift from Board exams to choice of college or university. It serves as a ray of hope in these times of helplessness.

Shishir Dixit, Founder & Director, Centurion Defence Academy, tells you that students should not be disap-

pointed and should view this situation as an experience.

"The situation is that we should not be disappointed or negatively affected by it and that we should instead view it as a great experience. Students with potential can still have a bright career path ahead. They can put their talents and expertise to good use because they were already studying for board exams. Because they have theoretical knowledge, they can brush up on their skills for competitive tests. They can pursue a variety of job options," he opines.

Krishna Thakur, a student of SLS DAV Public School, feels that every decision needs proper planning and questions if this one falls in the list.

"The cancellation was inevitable, but the negative effects of this move could have

been avoided if the boards and Government could have done their jobs planning back-up options beforehand. The solutions discussed within CBSE either includes internal assessment or cumulative markings of previous three years, but the issue with both is we didn't know that a school test held two years ago will play a major role in your chances of getting your favourite college," he says.

Thakur adds that every school conducted the online examinations differently last year. "Some kept open the scope of cheating, while others were strict enough to eliminate even the slightest chance of the use of any unfair means. With this level of non-uniformity in schools and miscommunication, it will be not less than a crime with students," he opines.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism**

**— David M Burns**

## University Day celebrations

VIT-AP University celebrated its fourth University day on a colourful note virtually on June 6, 2021. Adityanath Das, Chief Secretary to Govt, Govt of Andhra Pradesh was present as the Chief Guest. Addressing the event he said: "VIT stands for its quality teaching and innovative techniques to make future generation knowledgeable and competent enough to face global competition. Happy to know that in spite of the ongoing pandemic, unhindered education has been imparted to the extent that the first graduating batch of students achieved a total of 527 placements offers with 219 super dream and dream offers."

Dr G Viswanathan, Founder & Chancellor, VIT said that students are the future of the country and expressed his happiness that in the short span VIT-AP has provided world class infrastructure for the 4728 students from 28 States and six countries along with 65 clubs and chapters to keep students thoughtful and resourceful in attaining the practical knowledge and creating holistic education both online and offline.

Sekar Viswanathan, Vice president, VIT-AP University emphasised on the fact that skilled youth with ethics and values is important for the development and the progress of nation.

Students, researchers, professors and staff were awarded for their performances. As many as 71 Academic awards, 13 Student Achievement awards, 17 awards to faculty, six awards to Staff and appreciation certificates were given.

Dr SV Kota Reddy, Vice-chancellor, VIT-AP University said that during the last four years the university has been able to expand connections through 20 MoUs with foreign university and Industry tie-ups along with best in class infrastructure. These collaborations from all the schools with various partners help us understand the need of the industry and also give students the required exposure to subjects that are the need of the present and immediate future.

## Free JEE and NEET coaching

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Motion Education Private Ltd, India's fastest growing education start-up and a leading coaching institute in Kota for Medical, Engineering, and other prestigious competitive examinations NEET, has announced that it would provide free coaching facilities to students who lost parents to COVID. The institute has already initiated the process of setting up a selection mechanism to decide the beneficiaries for the free programme.

Announcing social initiatives Nitin Vijay, Managing Director, Motion Education said: "The second wave of COVID-19 has affected human lives in several ways. There are hundreds of children who lost their parents or earning member of the family. To provide some high-quality coaching and relief, we are offering free JEE and NEET coaching to those students who lost their parents and aspire to become an engineer or doctor. If they come to our main Centre at Kota, we will be offering them free coaching and other facilities."

## Secrets of war-room

A centralised war-room or command centre has proven to be crucial at the time of any crisis, says ASHVINI DANIGOND

The importance of data-driven insights in strategic and operational decision-making remains crucial in mounting the fight against the novel coronavirus. A centralised war-room or command centre has proven to be crucial at the time of any crisis as it helps to streamline the capacity and efficiency of the response team while providing real-time data visualisation of key performance metrics across the healthcare network. This includes data pertaining to availability of beds, drugs, and consumables, supply of medical oxygen, and infection spread-related statistics in a particular area for both Government and private hospitals.

As India grapples with the second wave of Covid-19, several districts and cities have set up war-rooms, which are addressing the various concerns of the citizens related to the pandemic. A war-room generally features large dashboards, geographic information system (GIS)-mapped data for facilities connected and patients and monitors, which help healthcare administrators to review the performance of cities or districts at the central level and it remains a single point of all data, IT, and coordination for a city or district-level overview.

Also, the capability of a war-room solution needs to have predictability and forecasting models. In fact, predictive analytics has a crucial role to play in making informed decisions in a war room. It needs to have connected facilities with real-time data across the healthcare network. It also involves integration with other disaster management processes like ambulance movement, traffic, and weather, to list a few. There is also a need for the dissemination of real-time data flowing into a war-room while patients being moved or trans-



ferred to a healthcare facility.

Also, in the case of India, while the country had developed the Aarogya Setu App in order to help with the contact tracing of individuals suffering from Covid-19, it leaves scope for improvement for technical details like identifying something like a Covid-19 hotspot for that matter.

**Need for strong early alert frameworks**

In fighting the spread of the novel coronavirus, data and science form the most critical elements of decision-making. However, the void of reliable real-time information has been a global challenge during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many of the health crises have been identified and mitigated with the adoption of preventative measures, including airport and port of entry screening, temperature checks, and convincing the public to wear masks. Building a system for defence against the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in the case of new strains or mutants of viruses, requires an outermost perimeter that serves the purpose of an early alert system. Deploying an early alert system would also require cooperation from an empowered task force (ETF) comprising virologists, scientists, and epidemiologists.

**Enabling effective contact tracing**

Contact tracing relates to a process by which every newly discovered infected case or individual is mapped on to all the persons that might have been potentially infected by him or her.

The ministry of health in Singapore considers data from multiple formats and sources to track the movement of a possibly infected individual and determine their contagion footprint. Such real-time data feeds, including multimedia data streams, are then combined with a tracking mechanism developed by a technical agency of the government. A contact-tracing smartphone app also helps to identify individuals that have been within

two metres of a patient for at least 30 minutes for follow-up action by contact tracers. Such highly developed digital capabilities of the nation given a shot in the arm to the capabilities of the administration.

**Adoption of privacy-preserving technologies**

While several technological tools could be deployed to help control a public health crisis, those tools are only beneficial provided the technologies could both be trusted and readily deployable. A major concern has been that there has been a general lack of reliable, real-time threat information sharing, contact tracing, and community prevalence data during this pandemic has meant people and public health authorities have been mostly relying on backward-looking reporting of confirmed cases, which has hampered the fight against Covid-19 severely.

It is also a known fact that a large-scale deployment of an information network would carry the risks of cyber-attacks. These risks could be akin to those faced by financial systems, public transportation systems, or the power grid. Robust protections are required, both for the physical security of the information processing network as well as the privacy of individuals from overreach by commercial entities and administrators. These information networks can be made considerably less vulnerable by building resiliency and redundancy and highly distributed processing capabilities.

Also, it needs to be kept in mind that any epidemic preparedness starts years before an outbreak. A densely-populated nation like India needs to remain prepared to effectively ward off a health crisis considering that this is not going to be a one-off situation.

The writer is Executive Director & CEO, Manorama Infosolutions Pvt Ltd

## Top defence institutes to go for

When you ask a Class XII student concerning their future goals, you're over seemingly to urge a confusing answer. It's not as a result of their unambitiousness or not having any plan concerning what to do in the future; it instead is a result of not grasping the correct steps or academic qualifications through which they can pursue their dream.

Since, a student have an alternative of certification, certificate, and degree courses; it is often confusing, overwhelming or limitless. The most effective recommendation in such cases is to know and pursue the course that interests and evokes you to realise your best. If the scholar's knowledge requires the advantage of the many directions and ways that an area unit is hospitable to them — they'll fly where they want.

Students may choose a career within the Air Force, Navy and armed forces in technical and non-technical classes. Students who will currently choose engineering careers within the Army or Navy through the Technical Entry theme, that permits them to become associate degree engineer at Army expenses before obtaining commissioned as an official. Numerous choices are obtainable in defence for Class XII students starting from 16 to 19 years age groups.

But all the exams and entries have totally different eligibility and age limits. To assist you clear the exams and interviews, here are the names of the four leading Defence institutes in India through which you'll be able to be part of the Indian Armed forces.

**CENTURION DEFENCE ACADEMY**  
It is one among the Oldest Academy



for Defence preparation set in Lucknow. They provide written communication Preparation for NDA, CDS, AFCAT, Air force cluster X Y, CAPE, INET, MNS entries and other Defence exams. It's standard as Best NDA coaching due to its highest selections in defence forces. Extremely experienced school members and Ex-Officers of the Indian military who give steering to candidates. The candidates get a similar environment to that of the actual SSB.

**EDGE ACADEMY**  
Situating in Kota, Rajasthan, this academy provides categories for SSB Preparation, ex-officers of SSB Board are a part of this academy. The academy has given output within the style of recommendation of many candidates. The academy

is rising as a brand new hub for aspirants.

**OLIVE GREENS**  
Olive Green academy is placed in Chandigarh and possesses the most effective school for defence preparation. It grows the candidates in a good and favourable setting. The institute provides coaching for written examination and SSB. The candidate gets an environment similar to that of an actual SSB.

**COL SINHS COACHING JOB ACADEMY**  
This academy is located in Bihar. They provide an honest and friendly setting to the candidates. The instructors are well qualified where the unit is completely devoted and dedicated. They provide a systematic, organised and sensible approach towards the SSB coaching job.

## New programmes at IP varsity

The IP University has started online admission process for more than 40,000 seats available in around 150 different programmes ranging from under graduate to research level here on June 8, 2021.

The university is going to offer following five new programmes at the newly created East Delhi campus, Surajmal Vihar from this academic session 2021- 22.

- BTech in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science
- BTech in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- BTech in Industrial Internet of Things
- BTech in Automation & Robotics
- Bachelor of Design

The university also going to introduce MArch (Urban Planning) and MPlan (Urban Regional Planning) under the existing school of University School of Architecture and Planning (USAP) and MSc in Packaging Technology under University School of Basis and Applied Sciences (USBAS) at Dwarka campus.

The university is also going to start PhD in Economics and Architecture from the current academic session, informed Prof Mahesh Verma, Vice Chancellor of the University at the online releasing function of three admission brochures — General Brochure, Brochure for M Phil & PhD Admissions & Admission Brochure for

Foreign Students.

Like last year, this year too, admissions in BTech, MBA, Law, Medical, MCA, BArch, etc will be given on the basis of National Level Tests. The admission in BSc Nursing will be given on the basis NEET UG this year. The university is going to introduce Bachelor of Design at the East Delhi campus. The admission to the programme will be given on the basis of Nation Level Test — UCED/NID.

The university will conduct computer-based Common Entrance Tests (CETs) maintaining all SOPs in August and September. Visit [www.ipu.ac.in](http://www.ipu.ac.in) to apply online and for more details.





# Go digital

There are plethora of opportunities in digital marketing if one plays the cards right. Keep the learning spirit active and aim high, says **SANJEEV RAWAT**

While surfing the Internet, you come across various things like unfunny memes, sometimes useful sometimes irritating ads, some viral videos, amazingly written blogs and mobile apps. Did you ever wish of creating any of these? If your answer is yes then you have made a career choice in Digital Marketing.

Before going into the ways to forward, let's first understand the concept — what is digital marketing?

Just like traditional marketing, in digital marketing, a company has a product which they wish to sell and hence, they try to engage customers, introduce the product and try to close a sale. Since companies are trying to engage customers by using the immense power of the internet, they have to employ several people in different roles and with specific skill-sets to help with this purpose. Digital marketing is quite versatile and creative in nature.

The world is going digital and by the year 2021, all the companies around the world including India will have online presence and thus creating a lot of career opportunities. It is a progressive field. With technology developing every day, you have to continuously develop your digital marketing skills so that your career keeps growing. According to this research, the digital economy is growing 10 times faster than the traditional economy and firms that engage in online trading are twice as likely to be creating jobs as firms that aren't. If you love coding, you can go for web designing or if

you are a born writer, go for content marketing and so on.

According to this research, the digital economy is growing 10 times faster than the traditional economy and firms that engage in online trading are twice as likely to be creating jobs as firms that aren't. It provides you with various career options. If you love coding, you can go for web designing or if you are a born writer, go for content marketing.

## OPPORTUNITIES

The world of online marketing is huge. Therefore, there is a huge scope of employment in it. India's online marketing market is expected to reach around \$76 billion in 2021. In 2020, this market has crossed the limit of about \$32 billion. At the same time, about 14 lakh jobs are expected to be created in this sector.

For example, e-Business Advisor, Database Administrator, Supply Chain Manager, Business Analyst, Project Manager, Customer Relationship Manager, Web Developer, Advisor, Team Leader, there is also the option of a good entrepreneur. Due to online trading, new job opportunities are being created in the field of Marketing, Finance, Logistics, Warehouse, Graphics.

There are many other roles or designations in Digital Marketing that depend upon the company and their requirements. Some of them are: Analytics Manager, CRM Manager, Email Marketing Manager, E-



**The world is going digital including India thus creating a lot of opportunities. With technology developing daily, one has to enhance digital marketing skills so that the career keeps growing**

Commerce Manager and Digital Agency Account Director

## REMUNERATION

The salary majorly depends on the type of organisation and your role. Salary depends on which course you have taken. Where graduate students earn ₹25,000 to ₹35,000 per month. At the same time, post-graduates like MBA, the students are getting a monthly salary of ₹30,000 to ₹50,000. It also depends on you how much salary you are offered during campus placement. The number of skilled people is limited due to the lack of courses focused on this area at the institute, college and university level.

## SKILLS

It's clear that digital marketing is taking the world by storm. Most companies are moving towards digital marketing and since marketing is an integral part of any company, the demand for digital marketers is quite high. Let's turn our attention to a few statistics to get an overview of this demand. It has been estimated that about 93 per cent of all online activity begins with a search engine.

A career in digital marketing is highly lucrative if you play your cards right. You need to keep your learning spirit active and you should always aim high. Never be complacent when you are opting for a career in digital marketing - you will always have room to improve.

The writer is Director, Webbrains Digital Marketing Institute

# 'Take advantage, study in France'

There are great prospects for students looking to make a bright future by choosing France for higher education, says **ASHLEY FERNANDES**

A reputed and affordable higher education system is a strong reason for you to consider France for increasing your lifelong employability value. This is precisely the reason why 3,58,000 international students are at present studying in France which ranks fifth globally.

In recent years, France has made a great effort to attract and recruit international students. The French government has simplified the visa application process and for example France was the first country to reopen its visa section to facilitate the entry of Indian students after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The country has a twofold structure for higher education: Universities and Grandes Ecoles (elite private schools); For medical and law studies, there are no Grandes Ecoles, but universities have a separate selection. More than 3,500 public universities and elite private schools offer a wide range of study options for students (most graduate engineering and business studies are in English). Whereas universities in general offer a more relaxed entrance process, the private have strong selection entrance exams. The private system is primarily focused on scientific and business studies.

On top and above the subsidised higher studies, the French administration, as well as universities, and private schools offer numerous scholarships to international students to help them study in France. There are numerous public and private scholarships available for Indian students. Scholarships range from being fully funded, partially funded to tuition support. Some scholarships available for Indian students are: French Ministry Scholarships; Charpak Scholarship; Erasmus+; Merit Scholarships-Eiffel Excellence Program; UGAM Legrand Scholarships.

Most students living in provincial cities will experience reasonable costs of living, lower than most European capitals. The French Government often provides students, as well as international students, with some form of financial aid for accommodation; for students entitled to this allowance



**Ashley Fernandes**  
Country Head Emlyon Business School, France

this could amount to as much as one third of their accommodation cost.

By studying in France, the student can either stay back and request a Temporary Resident Permit (APS) to look for work or start a company at the end of your studies or come back and take advantage of the InFra relationship!

During the period when you request for an APS, you are entitled to look for a job without restriction or prepare for the creation of a company in a field corresponding to your training. Until a work contract has been signed, for a fixed CDD or indefinite CD) period of time, foreign graduates with an APS are authorised to work under the same conditions as if they were students. Students from a country that concluded a bilateral agreement with France (regarding professional migrations) benefit from more favorable issuance conditions. Good news, India is one of such countries.

One can also come home and look forward to with the improved bilateral relationship between the two countries in the past few years.

A survey conducted by Leverage Edu has revealed that 94 per cent Indian students were more keen to travel and study abroad this year compared to last year. The survey was conducted amongst users that registered on the Leverage Edu platform in the last five months.

"Primarily, this is a result of Governments in the UK, the US and other developed countries, opening up their higher education and immigration policies, and communicating in far more welcoming manner than ever before. The pandemic has changed how countries think about economic growth, and one that is inclusive is top of charts now. Access to early vaccinations, as well as basics like

healthcare infrastructure, quality of air we breathe, previously little-understood points, have gained a lot of relevance post the second wave in India, said Akshay Chaturvedi, Founder & CEO, Leverage Edu.

Here are the other top points from the study:

■ 75% students chose the UK as their preferred study destination. Canada & US were chosen by 13% and 9% students respectively.

■ 71% students chose Better Healthcare Infrastructure as one of their key reasons to study & look at opportunities abroad.

■ 60% students were looking to fund their studies through an Education Loan.

# MINDIT

■ 58% students said they had made their plans within the last 3 months, while 36% said they had plans for much longer and are now continuing them.

■ 59% students chose not to change their study destination this year while 28% students changed their destination choice from another country to the UK (note from Leverage Edu: this is largely because of their pace of vaccination, the NHS's policies which are in the favour of the global student, and the constant communication that Universities in the UK have maintained).

■ Out of the students who opted for the UK as their preferred study destination, 2/3rd students said that the UK's Plan to vaccinate all international students will benefit incoming students.

■ Management/business courses remained the top choice of discipline for students gathering 35% votes with Engineering at second place with 18% votes. Data Science/Analytics also made its mark with 9% students going for the course this year.

■ 60% students surveyed agreed that

constant communication amidst the pandemic by foreign universities has been useful and the information provided has been useful while making a decision.

Some students chose the UK this year as they could fly there and the university is even paying for my quarantine accommodation. Students are excited to fly out as soon as possible and commence their studies on campus.

Everything has been leading into these trends for a while now, and the last few months have definitely accelerated that. The UK, the US and Canada have come up with numerous pro-student policies in the last year, and are hence getting rewarded. Healthcare has become a living room

conversation now. Universities have supported International students by providing waivers and relaxation on various requirements.

In fact as per the latest reports — Indian students are being added to US' travel exemption list; the UK and India have come together to sign a Migration and Mobility Partnership and Canada has launched additional 90k PR's early this month. This is the perfect cocktail in some ways. There were concerns over visa appointments for a while, given top metro cities were in lockdown, but they have largely eased off as well over the last eight-10 days. The next two-three academic intakes are going to be quite the rebound.



The UPES has announced scholarships for the children of COVID frontline force, teachers and those who have unfortunately lost their parent due to COVID-19. The We Care initiative is applicable to both existing and new students. A 20 per cent scholarship on the tuition fee will be offered to the wards of COVID frontline warriors (doctors, nurses, employees of municipal bodies, military, para-military, police etc) and a 100 per cent scholarship on all-inclusive fee will be provided to the students who have lost a parent to COVID-19. To extend gratitude to teachers and their relentless effort in making sure learning never stops, a 20 per cent scholarship on one year tuition fee has been announced for wards of teachers for both existing and new students.

For the new students, the scholarship applies for the first-year tuition fee while for the existing students it applies for one year which they are currently at.

For more information visit: <https://www.upes.ac.in/corona-warriors-scholarship-scheme>.

The Strathclyde Business School applications for its MBA Deans Excellence Scholarships for September 2021. Candidates for the full

Time MBA programme in Glasgow will automatically be considered for these scholarships so no separate application is necessary.

Scholarships will be awarded on a rolling basis throughout the course of the year.

The awards will be awarded to candidates who demonstrate in their MBA programme application and interview; exceptional professional/managerial/leadership experience and career development, excellence academic performance and who will contribute to the overall academic, cultural and experiential profile of the programme.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must hold an offer of a place on the full-time MBA. All applicants for September 2021 programme will be considered automatically; who can demonstrate through their ideas outlined in their application and interview how they would contribute to bring the class together through teamwork to create community, from the outset, in order to achieve the ultimate learning experience for the group as a whole.

For further information - <https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-with-us/scholarships/strathclyde-business-schools-scholarships/mba-internationaldivisions-scholarships/sbsfulltimemba-deans-excellence-awards-september-2021/> write to: [sbs.admissions@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sbs.admissions@strath.ac.uk) Application deadline: It is August 31, 2021.

## WEB DEVELOPMENT AT LITTLE PRODUCTS

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹20,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/0b490b](https://internshala.com/i/0b490b)  
Deadline: June 17, 2021

## BUSINESS ANALYSIS AT HIRING PARTNERS

Location: Delhi, Greater Noida, Noida  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹15,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/1652d5](https://internshala.com/i/1652d5)  
Deadline: June 17, 2021

## ZOHO CRM DEV AT SRG DIGI WORLD

Location: Chandigarh  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/923c3b](https://internshala.com/i/923c3b)  
Deadline: June 17, 2021

## WEB DEV AT THE UNIQUE CULTURE

Location: Bhubaneswar  
Stipend: ₹12,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/cbe377](https://internshala.com/i/cbe377)  
Deadline: June 15, 2021

## OPS AT FOODAL FOOD DELIVERY

Location: Lucknow  
Stipend: ₹3,000-₹6,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/a5bc3a](https://internshala.com/i/a5bc3a)  
Deadline: June 17, 2021

## FRESHER JOBS

## INTERNAL AUDIT ASSOCIATE AT TRANSPENINSULA

Location: Remote  
Stipend: ₹4.8-₹6 lakh per annum  
Link: [internshala.com/i/0c1e6e](https://internshala.com/i/0c1e6e)  
Deadline: July 3, 2021  
Skill(s): Accounting, MS-Excel

## BUSINESS MARKETING MGR AT MENTORBOX

Location: Delhi, Pune, Mumbai  
Stipend: ₹4-₹8.5 lakh per annum  
Link: [internshala.com/i/545997](https://internshala.com/i/545997)  
Deadline: July 3, 2021  
Skill(s): Social Media Marketing, English (Spoken and written), Digital Marketing

## INBRIEF

### DREAM ICON EXPERIENCE INITIATIVE

The Internshala has launched the initiative — The Dream Icon Experience — to bring opportunities for students wherein they'll get to interact with and learn from their icons. The interested students can apply for the opportunities from June 9, 2021 to June 11, 2021. Students from any level of education, be it school, under-graduation, or post

graduation and any educational background are eligible to apply to the opportunities under this initiative. There will be three kinds of opportunities in the initiative

consisting of one-two hours long interactive sessions with the icons, one-two hours long workshops, and short term internships. All the opportunities in the initiative will be work-from-home in nature. Sarvesh Agrawal, founder-CEO, Internshala said: "Taking this mission a step ahead, we are constantly striving to bring out-of-the-box opportunities for them. This initiative is one such attempt to connect the students with once in a lifetime opportunities to interact, get inspiration, and learn about the hard work which goes behind in becoming an icon from accomplished personalities." For more information or to apply for the opportunities, visit: <http://bit.ly/DreamIcon>.

### UPSKILL 1 LAKH WOMEN UNDER WISDOM

The upGrad for Business is in talks with corporates to train over one lakh women in Data Science, Technology

and Management roles as part of their Women in Science, Data, Organisational behaviour and Management (WISDOM) initiative.

This will enable organisations to enhance gender diversity in these fields which are typically seen as male dominated.

### MBA PROGRAMME FOR WORKING EXECUTIVES

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Amritsar has introduced new two-year executive MBA programme in a non-residential hybrid mode with an intake of 40 working professionals.

Professor Nagarajan Ramamoorthy, Director, IIM Amritsar, said: "The institution

will ensure that business leaders as well as accomplished alumni endow the executives with expertise that would substantively benefit their current organisations."

All programmes are focused on learner-centric pedagogy to groom socially conscious leaders of tomorrow.

## Lectures on education after COVID

The 10th edition of the University Distinguished Lecture (UDL) Series, organised by SRM University-AP, expounded on a pertinent problem of the current time, "Higher Education in India in the Post-COVID-19". Prof Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), delivered the Distinguished Lecture, and Satish Chandra, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh, gave a special address.

In his welcome address, Prof D Narayana Rao, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of SRM University-AP, set the context of the event, emphasising on how the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis has resulted in the temporary closure of about 1000 universities and about 40,000 colleges in the country, severely disrupting the teaching and learning process and research activities.

The transition to Learn From Anywhere happened overnight and people had to get used to it. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognises the importance of leveraging the advantages of technology while acknowledging its potential risks and dangers.

Online education calls for carefully designing and appropriately scaled studies to determine how the benefits of online/digital education can be reaped while addressing or mitigating the downsides. There is a need to establish a "Digital and Online Wing" in the Departments of Education in different States.

Prof Sahasrabudhe in his Distinguished Lecture, delineated that the use of technology in the education environment has been initiated in the pre-COVID days. Platforms such as Swayam, National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) came into existence to digi-

tally bring quality education to everyone. Digital education carries a boon that no one can ignore, i.e. making physical distance irrelevant in education. Digital education has the ability to reach students anywhere and everywhere provided they are equipped with gadgets and internet connectivity. Thus, the Government has undertaken a nationwide project under, Bharat Net, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan to connect every corner of India through the internet.

Prof Sahasrabudhe accepted that all subjects cannot be taught online, especially lab-based practical courses that will have the need to attend physical classes. Moreover, a digital class can never replace the bonding humans tend to develop while working in close proximity. However, it cannot be debated that the education system has changed. The future of education comes with a blended environment.

Fortunately, NEP 2020 envisioned the change long ago and introduced a relevant policy to ensure the educational growth of the country. Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU), Academic Bank of Credits, National Academic Depository are some of the revolutionary changes that are going to benefit the next generations in the post COVID days.

The Government has already established National Research Foundations to support mega research projects, which may need several crores of rupees.

Prof Sahasrabudhe emphasised that studying in one's native language is an essential requirement that NEP looks into. He asserted that proper administration, governance and autonomy are some of the deciding factors for the education sector in the coming days.



► **shortpasses**

**GREEN IN OZ PRELIMINARY SQUAD**  
**SYDNEY:** Australia all-rounder Cameron Green has been added to the preliminary 23-member list of Australia players for the tour of West Indies after being ignored initially, a statement from Cricket Australia (CA) confirmed on Tuesday. Australia's selectors on Tuesday added Ben McDermott, Dan Christian, Ashton Turner, Wes Agar and Nathan Ellis besides Green to take the list of players to 29.

**7 INDIAN PLAYERS AT ONE TIME**  
**MUMBAI:** The Indian Super League's 2021-22 season will witness an increase in local players' on-field participation thanks to a new set of guidelines that mandates clubs to field a minimum of seven footballers at one time from the previous six. A rise in the number of Indian players means one spot less for foreign stars which will now be capped at four.

**BESS BACK IN ENGLAND SQUAD**  
**BIRMINGHAM:** England have added spinner Dom Bess to their squad for the second Test against New Zealand that begins here on June 10. The 23-year-old off-spinner, who last played a Test in March, against India in Ahmedabad, has been called up as cover for left-arm spinner Jack Leach.

**1 MORE PLAYER UNDER SCANNER**  
**LONDON:** One more current England player is being investigated by the country's cricket board for his allegedly racist remarks on Twitter as a teenager after Ollie Robinson was suspended for similar conduct. The old tweets of the player in question were unearthed by *wisden.com*, which did not reveal the identity of the cricketer since he had not reached the age of 16 at that time.

**RAHIM IN RACE FOR ICC AWARD**  
**DUBAI:** Pakistan pacer Hasan Ali, SL spinner Praveen Jayawickrama and Bangladesh wicket-keeper batsman Mushfiqur Rahim were on Tuesday nominated for the ICC men's Player of the Month award for May. Besides, the ICC also nominated Kathryn Bryce of Scotland and Irish duo of Gaby Lewis and Leah Paul for Women's Player of the Month honours.

**KULUSEVSKI TO MISS SPAIN GAME**  
**STOCKHOLM:** One of the stars of Sweden's national squad, Dejan Kulusevski, has tested positive for Covid-19 and will miss the team's Euro 2020 opener against Spain next week, coach Janne Andersson said Tuesday.

**HALEP TO MAKE INJURY RETURN**  
**BUCHAREST:** Recovering from a calf injury Simona Halep said on Tuesday she will return to action at this month's Bad Homburg open. The maiden edition of the grass court tournament in central German takes place between June 20-26.

Agencies

# ZIDANSEK, ANASTASIA CREATE HISTORY

**Tamara becomes first Slovenian woman to reach Grand Slam semis; Pavlyuchenkova also end poor quarterfinals record**

AP ■ PARIS

Before the French Open, Tamara Zidansek had never advanced past the second round at any Grand Slam.

The former snowboarder has now become the first woman from Slovenia to reach the semifinals at a major tournament.

Spurred on by the vocal support of her coaching team on Court Philippe Chatrier, the 85th-ranked Zidansek defeated Spanish rival Paula Badosa 7-5, 4-6, 8-6 Tuesday at the clay-court tournament.

"It feels overwhelming," she said.

The French Open is the only remaining Grand Slam where tiebreakers are not played in the last set. Wimbledon recently installed tiebreakers at 12-12 in the final set.

After splitting the first two sets, Badosa violently threw her racket in anger at the changeover after Zidansek held for a 6-5 lead in the third. She regained her composure but Zidansek then saved three break points to take a 7-6 lead and converted her second match point with a big forehand in the next game.

Zidansek, a three-time national junior snowboarding champion in Slovenia, will now face Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova for a spot in the final at Roland Garros.

In perfect weather conditions, both players pulled off some spectacular winners but also hit a lot of unforced errors. Badosa, who was among the six women in the quarterfinals at a major for the first time, said she was too nervous.

"I didn't feel myself in the whole match," she said. "I'm a little bit sad about



that, because I think I played maybe the worst match of the tournament and of the clay season, but sometimes it's like that."

Badosa applied pressure from the start with a flurry of deep groundstrokes from the baseline. The strategy worked as Zidansek dropped her first service game and then trailed 3-0. But an error-strewn game from Badosa gave her rival a break and a boost.

Zidansek started to return better and went for her shots, linking attacks with bold moves at the net to even the score at 3-3. Badosa saved a set point in the 12th game

with a forehand attack but could not fend off the second as her poor drop shot ended up in the net.

Badosa trailed 4-2 in the second set after a series of unforced errors but Zidansek could not build on the momentum and struggled with her serve, too.

The Spaniard rallied, made the decisive break in the ninth game at love and sealed the set with a big forehand.

The 23-year-old Zidansek opened this year's tournament by upsetting seventh-seeded Bianca Andreescu in the first round for her first career win over a top-

French Open (Day 11)  
Live from 3:30pm IST  
STAR SPORTS NETWORK



10 player. In that match, she was two points from defeat in both the second and third sets.

Zidansek reached a career-high ranking of No 56 in June 2019.

Later, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova has also reached the first Grand Slam semifinal of her career by coming back to beat doubles partner Elena Rybakina 6-7 (2), 6-2, 9-7.

The 31st-seeded Pavlyuchenkova entered the day with an 0-6 record in previous singles quarterfinals at all major tournaments.

That included a loss at that stage in 2011 at Roland Garros.

But the 29-year-old Pavlyuchenkova came out on top at Court Philippe Chatrier in a match that lasted more than 2 1/2 hours and ended on a double-fault by Rybakina.

The 21st-seeded Rybakina eliminated 23-time Grand Slam singles champion Serena Williams in straight sets in the fourth round.

Pavlyuchenkova and Rybakina are scheduled to be on the same side of the court as a team in the doubles quarterfinals on Wednesday.

On Monday night, defending champion Iga Swiatek reached the quarter-finals with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Ukrainian teenager Marta Kostyuk.

The eighth seed from Poland has won 22 straight sets at Roland Garros and will take on Greek world number 18 Maria Sakkari for a place in the last four.

Sakkari knocked out last year's French Open runner-up Sofia Kenin earlier in the day, leaving Swiatek as the highest-seeded player remaining in the draw.

Swiatek, 20, is aiming to become the first woman to defend the title in Paris since Justine Henin won the tournament three times in a row from 2005 to 2007.

She extended her winning streak to 10 matches, having captured the Italian Open title in Rome last month.

The 18-year-old Kostyuk, ranked 81, was making her first appearance in the last 16 of a major.

## Indian players to get 3-week break between WTC final & Eng series

PTI ■ LONDON

The Indian team management has decided to give a three-week break to its players after the World Test Championship final in a bid to address the mental fatigue that might be triggered by lengthy spells in a bio-bubble.

The WTC final against New Zealand will be held from June 18-22 at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton and the members of the Indian squad will disperse for close to three weeks (20 days) before regrouping on July 14 to prepare for the five-match series against England starting in Nottingham from August 4.

"As skipper Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri had told the media at the pre-departure press conference, there will be a break. There is



a six-week gap between WTC final and opening Test against England, so we had to address the issue of players' well-being. Within UK, they can disperse off, go for a holiday, meet friends and family," a senior BCCI official said.

Obviously, there could be some team get-togethers also but players would be free to choose how they want to spend their time.

"Most of them have come to UK for multiple times and have friends and acquaintances around the country. It's only fair that they can switch off," said the source.

In fact, skipper Kohli on June 2, during the pre-departure, had said that the 42-day

gap between the two assignments would be a welcome break for the team.

"I feel like after you are done with WTC, I think it's a great opportunity to refresh and restructure. Hopefully, if things are okay, out in England, we would have finished our quarantine period and just for the guys to be normal for a few periods of time just disconnect again," Kohli had said back then.

### Illingworth, Gough to officiate WTC final

**Dubai:** England's Richard Illingworth and Michael Gough will be the on-field umpires for the WTC final between India and New Zealand, starting June 18 in Southampton.

Former England opener Chris Broad will be the ICC

match referee for the marquee game. Richard Kettleborough, also a member of the elite panel, will be the TV umpire, and Alex Wharf of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Umpires the fourth official, the ICC said in a statement. **PNS**

### Lanka cricketers agree to tour Eng without contracts

**Colombo:** The Sri Lankan cricketers have agreed to compete against England on a tour-specific contract but would not sign the annual contracts unless governing body SLC explains the evaluation process.

Sri Lanka are scheduled to tour England for three T20s and as many ODIs between between June 18 and July 4.

Following a stormy round of talks, the players were told by the management that they would either call off the England tour or send a third string side.

The players told the management they would sign a tour-specific contract but need more time to sign the annual contracts.

The players had defied a June 3 deadline to sign the contracts, citing lack of transparency in the process.

While defying the deadline the players said they were willing to play for the country even if the administration decided not to pay salaries due to their refusing to enter contracts. **PTI**

## Robinson has full support of English team: Anderson

PTI ■ LONDON

Veteran England pacer James Anderson says the team has unanimously accepted Ollie Robinson's apology for posting racist and sexist tweets as a teenager nine years ago and the suspended pacer has full support of the side.

Robinson, who made an impressive Test debut with a match-haul of 7 wickets against New Zealand at Lords, has been suspended by the country's apex cricket body for some of his offensive tweets dating back to 2012-13, for which he has already tendered an unconditional public apology.

Anderson threw his weight behind Robinson during an interaction with the British media. Asked whether Robinson's apology has been



accepted by the team or are some players still uneasy about it, he said, "No, I think it's been accepted."

"He stood up in front of the group and apologised and you could see how sincere he was and upset he was, and I think as a group we appreciate that he is a different person now. He's done a lot of maturing and growing since then, and he's got the full support of the team."

The UK's political class also weighed in on the issue urging the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to reconsider its decision of suspending the fast bowler for something he has done years ago as a teenager.

Anderson was also asked about the impact of the player's suspension on the team.

"Well yeah, I think it's a... You know it is a difficult time. I think as players we're trying to learn from this really."

"We realise that it's important to try and get educated around these issues, which we're continuing to do with the ECB and the PCA we've already been doing workshops before this series to try and help improve ourselves as people basically, to try and make sure that this sort of thing doesn't happen."

## Deepak pulls out of Poland Open due to elbow injury



PTI ■ WARSAW

Olympic-bound Indian wrestler Deepak Punia on Tuesday pulled out of the Poland Open to avoid aggravating his left-elbow injury that he carried into the last Ranking Series event before the Tokyo Games.

Punia was to take mat for the 86kg event but forfeited his quarterfinal against American Zahid Valencia.

"It's a minor injury, there is nothing to worry about. He sustained it while practising in India. We just did not want to aggravate the injury. The Federation was kept in loop. He is still practising, so there is nothing worrisome," national coach Jagminder Singh said.

Singh also dismissed suggestion that it was a made-up injury to get a specific draw at the Olympics. "Nothing like that. We are not looking that much ahead," he said.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) confirmed the sequence of events.

"Yes we had given him a choice. We do not want to put pressure on wrestlers, Olympics are near, so no point in taking risks," said WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar.

Punia will remain with the team till July 5 for the training camp that has been organised by the Polish Federation.

The WFI is also trying to negotiate with Turkey, Romania and Russia to organise training camps for India's Olympic-bound wrestlers.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac says his 36-year-old goal-machine Sunil Chhetri plays and scores like a 25-year-old, evidence of which was his stunning twin strike in a joint 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup qualifier in Doha on Monday.

With his twin strikes, the captain led from the front to power India to a 2-0 win over Bangladesh, the latest effort helping him surpass Argentina's global superstar Lionel Messi to become the second-highest active International goal-scorer with 74 strikes.

"Many people keep on asking as to when Sunil is going to retire. He works so hard on the pitch, and in every training session, he is by far the best," Stimac said after the match.

"He is in such good shape and is working with such professionalism. He is working as if he is 25, playing as if he is 25, and scoring goals like he is 25," Stimac said.

"Many people were asking last year or so, 'when is Sunil going to retire?' (If Chhetri retires) what are we going to do then? By far, in every training, he is our best player," Stimac said.

## Chhetri's energy & poaching skills resembles a 25-year-old: Stimac



Chhetri scored two goals in a span of 13 minutes to help India seal their first win in a World Cup qualifier away from home since 2001.

Chhetri leads Barcelona superstar Messi by two goals and sits a place above Ali Mabkhout of the UAE, who is third on the list with 73 strikes to his name.

Messi scored his 72nd International goal in a World Cup qualifier against Chile last Thursday, while Mabkhout added to his tally against Malaysia, also last week.

Centre back Sandesh Jhingant felt that Chhetri's name

will be remembered even after 100 years.

"Some 100 or 200 years down the line, people will still talk about Sunil Chhetri. As long as there is Indian football, people will remember his name. It's for everyone to see what he does on the field."

"Hence, I would rather like to mention that off the field he is the perfect example for all to follow."

Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu expressed, "I will keep on mentioning that there's one guy floating in between Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi — and that's my teammate, my captain Sunil Chhetri."

"It shows his commitment and how consistent he has been scoring goals — one after the other. It's simply remarkable," he added.

The win has helped India climb to third place in the group with six points after seven games. Already out of World Cup contention, the result against Bangladesh is a boost to their chances of earn-

ing a direct spot in the third round of the Asian Cup qualifiers.

"We presented football as it should be. That's the way we always want to play. Of course, it's not always possible but when we are favourites against a lower-ranked team, it's something that we will like to present," Stimac said.

"The players did everything they could to get the win. So all the credit to them for executing the game plan perfectly," added the 53-year-old.

Chhetri broke the deadlock in the 79th minute when he headed in Ashique Kuruniyan's cross from the left, and then sealed the victory with a swerving shot from top of the box in added time.

Stimac added, "The best defence against lower-ranked teams is attacking — keeping them away from the ball. Just to explain, if we didn't keep doing what we were doing right throughout the game, we wouldn't have scored the second and allowed Bangladesh to come at us."



## Germany thrash Latvia

AFP ■ DUESSELDORF

Thomas Muller scored his first International goal for three years on Monday as Germany crushed minnows Latvia 7-1 in their final warm-up friendly before the Euro 2020 finals.

Latvia, ranked 138th in the world, rarely got out of their half as Germany tuned up for their opening game of the European Championship against world champions France in eight days time in Munich.

After a two-year exile from International football, 2014 World Cup winner Muller got on the scoresheet while Premier League stars Ilkay Gundogan and Timo Werner also found the net in the rout.

Germany captain Manuel Neuer was applauded onto the pitch by his team-mates before kick-off as he became the first goalkeeper to make 100 appearances for the national team.

The 35-year-old veteran had one of the quietest nights of his career in Duesseldorf.