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

Late City Vol. 18 Issue 145
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

BHOPAL, SATURDAY MAY 29, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹1.50

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

IT'S OK TO NOT FEEL OK: SAMEERA 10 VIVACITY



Amnesty scheme for small taxpayers

GST Council also exempts IGST on black fungus drug, Covid materials meant for donation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 43rd GST Council on Friday took several important decisions, including an amnesty scheme for small and medium taxpayers to reduce late fee burden on them.

The GST Council, which is headed by the Union Finance Minister and comprises representatives of all States and Union Territories, exempted levy of IGST on import of Amphotericin-B, which is used for the treatment of black fungus. However, the GST Council left taxes on Covid-19 vaccines and medical supplies unchanged.

Currently, Covid vaccines attract 5 per cent GST.

A group of Ministers will deliberate on tax structure on the vaccine and Covid-related medical supplies, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters after the meeting of the GST Council.

Sitharaman said the



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 43rd GST Council meeting in New Delhi

Council decided to continue with the waiver of IGST on free Covid-19 related supplies imported from abroad.

"The Council has decided to exempt the import of relief items even if they are purchased if they are meant for donations to State Governments. This exemption has been extended till August 31. So far, the IGST exemption was available only when you were importing free of cost," said FM.

"The ad hoc exemption has been extended till August 31. While that applied to imports received for free for donation, the decision is that if somebody wants to purchase these things from abroad and donate them

in the country, they can also avail the exemption," said Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj. The Centre will borrow ₹1.58 trillion in FY22 to compensate states for loss of revenue from GST, added the Minister.

A special session of the Council will be held soon to consider extending the five-year GST shortfall compensation period to states beyond 2022, she said. "We are on the last of the five years of GST compensation to states. I have assured the members that there will be a special session only to discuss that one agenda on how long the compensation cess will be collected beyond July 2022," said the FM.

Dominican court stops Choksi's repatriation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A top Dominica court has restrained repatriation of fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi from the Caribbean island nation to India to face legal proceedings in the over ₹13,500 crore PNB credit fraud scam.

According to media reports in the island country, the order came on a petition filed by the lawyers of Choksi, who was detained in Dominica for "illegal entry". Choksi had fled from the neighbouring Antigua and Barbuda where he was reported missing since Sunday.

Meanwhile, reports here said India's High Commissioner to Port of Spain, Arun Kumar Sahu, is likely to travel to Dominica next week to initiate a dialogue with the island country and explore Choksi's repatriation here.

Choksi is wanted here for trial before respective courts in a criminal as well as a money laundering case by the CBI and ED respectively.

Earlier on Thursday, Dominica Government had officially contacted High Commissioner Sahu to inform him about the arrest of Choksi by the CID.

Most States OK Class XII board exams after shots

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A majority of the States and AUTs — barring Delhi, Maharashtra, Goa, and Andaman & Nicobar — have supported the CBSE's proposal to go ahead with the Class 12 Board examinations. They have reportedly opposed the offline mode examinations but suggested that the students and teachers should be vaccinated before the conduct of the examinations.

Education Ministry sources said of the total 36 States and UTs, 32 have agreed to hold the board examinations either as per the Centre-issued guidelines or the common understanding between the Centre, State and CBSE.

The same is likely to be adopted with regard to another national board, ICSE.

Several States like Kerala, Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Meghalaya have urged the Centre to vaccinate teachers and students on priority to ensure their safety during their time at the test centres.

The Education Ministry after a meeting on Sunday chaired by Union Minister Rajnath Singh had asked all the States and Union Territories to send their suggestions on Class 12 Board examinations by May 25. The meeting was also attended by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal



Nishank, along with two of his predecessor Smriti Irani and Prakash Javadekar besides the Chief Ministers and State Education Ministers and Education Secretaries.

The CBSE has proposed two options to the Education Ministry for evaluation of Class 12 students — first, conducting exams in the existing format only for around 20 major subjects, and second conducting a one-and-half-hour objective type exam of major subjects for students in their own schools.

Sources in the Education Ministry said Rajasthan, Tripura and Telangana have backed the first option of the existing format. Under option A, exams for the 19 major subjects will be held in the "existing format" at designated examination centres, while marks for minor subjects are to be calculated based on perfor-

mance in major subjects. The three States that opted for this format are learned to have justified their choice on the ground that students may not be comfortable with last-minute changes in the examination format.

SC to hear on May 31 plea to cancel exams

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said it would hear on Monday a plea seeking directions to cancel Class 12 examinations in the wake of the surge in Covid-19 cases across the country.

Around 300 Class 12 students have also petitioned the Chief Justice of India urging him to quash the CBSE decision to conduct physical examination amid the pandemic.

CAPSULE

MSY ASKS AKHILESH FOR PATCH-UP WITH SHIVPAL

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav has again initiated unity efforts among the family by asking his son Akhilesh Yadav to bury the hatchet with his uncle Shivpal Yadav. "Sort out the ruinous family feud or be ready to perish," Mulayam Singh is believed to have told party president Akhilesh Yadav, who was present at a meeting also attended by Shivpal Yadav earlier this week. The meeting assumes significance in view of the 2022 UP Assembly elections.

KERALA HC QUASHES GOVT ORDER ON SCHOLARSHIP

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Friday quashed State Government Orders, subclassifying the minorities by providing merit-cum-means scholarship at 80 per cent to Muslim community and 20 per cent to Latin Catholic Christians and Converted Christians, saying it cannot be legally sustained.

NCB ARRESTS SUSHANT'S FLATMATE FROM HY'BAD

Mumbai: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested Siddhartha Pithani, a flatmate of Sushant Singh Rajput, in a drug case linked to the Bollywood actor's death last year, an official said on Friday. Pithani was arrested from Hyderabad and produced in a special court in Mumbai which sent him in the NCB custody till June 1. Pithani was Rajput's friend and was staying with him at the actor's apartment in suburban Bandra.

Narada decision reduced judiciary to a mockery, rues Calcutta HC judge

PNS ■ KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

A Calcutta High Court judge has stunned the judiciary by slamming the handling of the Narada bribery case by the court saying CBI's e-mail asking for the Narada case to be transferred out of Bengal was wrongly listed by the before a division bench of two instead of a single judge.

"We have been reduced to a mockery," Justice Arindam Sinha wrote in an explosive letter dated May 24 to acting High Court Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and other judges.

"The High Court must get its act together. Our conduct is unbecoming of the majesty the High Court commands," Justice Sinha wrote in his

The CBI sent an e-mail to the High Court on May 17 after arresting four political leaders, including two Bengal Ministers. A division bench headed by Chief Justice Bindal heard the CBI's request the same day and put on hold bail granted to the Trinamool lead-

ers. The CBI sought transfer of the case out of State citing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's sit-in protest at the agency's office and the ruckus created by Trinamool supporters outside the building.

In his letter, Justice Sinha has contended that the CBI's transfer plea should have been heard by a single judge and it should not have been treated as a "writ petition" in the absence of any substantial question of law related to the constitution.

HC grants bail to 2 Bengal Ministers, TMC MLA, ex-mayor

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Friday granted interim bail to two West Bengal ministers, a Trinamool Congress MLA and a former mayor of the city, arrested by the CBI in the Narada sting tapes case.

Snubbed by Mamata, Centre recalls Bengal Chief Secy

BJP blasts Didi for not taking part in cyclone meet with PM

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as Bengal Chief Minister made a hurricane visit to Kalaikunda airbase where she met Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a few minutes to place a claim of ₹20,000 crore for reconstruction of cyclone hit areas of coastal Bengal, Central Government sources termed the her absence from the main review meeting with the Prime Minister as "calous", "arrogant" and "unmindful" of the welfare of the people of Bengal.

Expressing shock at the conduct of the State Government, the Centre on Friday recalled West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay and asked the West Bengal Government to relieve him with immediate



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee takes stock of damage due to Cyclone Yaas in Digsha on Friday

effect and direct him to "report to the DoPT by 10am on May 31, 2021".

Central officials alleged the Chief Minister's "arrogance" prevented her from allowing senior officials like Chief Secretary or Home Secretary to make a presentation.

"The entire presentation was loaded on the screen. However, her pettiness prevented officers from presenting it to the PM," it was said. The day for Bengal was, however, saved by Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and

India will be vaccinated by year end, says Govt

Health Ministry has prepared a blueprint with 216 crore doses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as various States are reporting acute shortage of Covid-19 vaccines, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Friday declared that India will be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 by the end of 2021.

The Minister's statement came hours after Congress MP Rahul Gandhi took a swipe at the Modi Government pointing out that less than three per cent of the country's 130 crore people had received both doses of a vaccine.

Javadekar drew Rahul Gandhi's attention to a Union Health Ministry "blueprint" that, he said, would ensure the vaccination of 108 crore people by December, and reminded him "India is the second-fastest in vaccinating its people"



and over 20 crore doses have been administered so far.

"India's vaccination will be completed before 2021. The Health Ministry has given a blueprint. 108 crore people — with 216 crore doses — will be vaccinated by December. Rahulji... if you're concerned about vaccination then pay attention to Congress-ruled states... there is a mess. They are not taking the quota given to them for 18-44 year old beneficiaries from May 1," Javadekar said.

He also accused State Governments, many of which have frantically red-flagged low vaccine stocks over the past

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 2,77,18,520 (+1,64,275)

DEATHS: 3,22,364 (+3,440)

RECOVERED: 2,51,68,616 (+2,71,470)

ACTIVE: 22,16,425

MAHA: 56,92,920 (+20,740)

K'TAKA: 25,46,821 (+22,823)

KERALA: 24,70,873 (+22,318)

UP: 16,86,138 (+2,276)

DELHI: 14,23,690 (+1,141)

weeks, of "not taking the quota for 18-44 age group given to them from May 1".

The Union Minister also criticised Rahul Gandhi and his party colleagues for questioning Covaxin — the vaccine developed and manufactured by Bharat Biotech — efficacy against Covid-19.

International flights to remain suspended till June 30: DGCA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday said suspension of international passenger flights will continue till June 30. This restriction will not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by DGCA. Given the rise in Covid-19 cases during the second wave of the pandemic, several countries have banned flights from India under the air bubble pact till the situation improves.

"In a partial modification of circular dated 26-06-2020, the competent authority has further extended the validity of circular issued on the subject

cited above regarding scheduled international commercial passenger services to/from India till 2359 IST of 30th June 2021," the DGCA order reads.

The suspension of scheduled international passenger flights was last extended till May 31 amid the coronavirus pandemic. However, special international flights have been operating under the Centre's Vande Bharat Mission since May 2020 and under bilateral "air bubble" arrangements with selected countries since July last year.

All scheduled international flights were restricted on March 23 last year in wake of the coronavirus pandemic and continue to be banned.

Partially eaten body of 25-yr-old man found near Amarnath colony

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Body of a 25-year-old man was found on ground near Amarnath Colony in the early morning hours. The body was partly eaten by stray dogs and damaged badly. Three persons have been detained and further investigation has been started by Kolar Police.

Panic prevailed in the area after a body which was eaten by stray dogs was found by locals who informed police. On the receipt, a police team rushed to the spot and started investigation.

The deceased was identified as Mohan Maran of Damkheda Sector A. Police said that injury marks have been found over the body, he

was attacked by hammer and wooden stick and his body was dumped in the ground.

During the investigation police have found that the deceased was heavily addicted to liquor and due to his addiction his wife left him few years ago. The accused had dispute with his sister-in-law in the past and after her complaint accused was jailed for over 6 months around two years ago.

Police have registered a case under section 302 of the IPC and have started investigation.

Body was badly damaged and which made it difficult to determine the injuries and reason behind the death and could be revealed after the post mortem report is received.

Covid situation under control in State: CM Chouhan says unlock to begin phase-wise from June 1, stresses caution

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the situation of corona infection is under full control in the State. This has been made possible through the coordinated efforts of public representatives, Government servants and common citizens. The positivity rate in the State is constantly on the decline.

Even a slight negligence in the constantly declining corona infection can adversely affect all efforts, so caution and vigilance are necessary.

Chouhan said that the State Government will provide every possible help to the family of every single victim. Chouhan was reviewing the status and arrangements of Covid in the District Panchayat auditorium in Sehore district.

Chouhan said that unlock



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and BJP MP Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur chair a crisis management committee in Sehore, Madhya Pradesh on Friday

will begin from June 1 in a phased manner. For this, members of the Crisis Management Committee at the district, Janpad, village and ward levels will decide what to open and to what extent the exemption should be granted.

He said that the corona

curfew should be strictly followed in the entire district. Crowded events like wedding ceremonies etc. should be avoided. Shri Chouhan expressed satisfaction over the efforts made by the administration to control Covid infection.

The Chief Minister said that the coordinated efforts of the public representatives and the administration has helped in effectively controlling Corona infection in the district.

He congratulated all the public representatives, officers-employees, social organizations and field staff for their active role. Suggestions of unlocking were also given by MP Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, Dewas MP Mahendra Singh Solanki and other MLAs and public representatives during the meeting.

Continued on Page 3

COVID IN MADHYA PRADESH

Dists	Total Cases	Fresh Cases
Bhopal	120039	389
Indore	148448	526
Gwalior	52680	68

Covid-19 Anukampa Niyukti Yojana implemented in State

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

As per the announcement of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the State Government has implemented Mukhya Mantri Covid-19 Anukampa Niyukti Yojana for all the regular/permanent workers/work-charged and contingent-paid/daily salaried/ad-hoc/contract/collector rate/outsourced/honorarium government employees/servants employed by it.

On the death of the personnel from Covid infection, an eligible member of their family will be given compassionate appointment in the same type of employment in which the deceased was employed as per the provisions laid down in the scheme.

All regular/permanent workers/work-charged and contingent-paid/daily wage earners/ad-hoc/contract/personnel of the state working on collector rate whose salary/honorarium/remuneration is payable from the State's Consolidated Fund. Employees working on outsourced services taken by the departments



under the sanction and prescribed procedure, whose remuneration/honorarium etc. are payable from the State's Consolidated Fund. Employees serving in the commissions, such institutions established by law, whose cent percent establishment expenditure is comparable to the regular establishment item of the State or establishment grant is given for it, will be eligible.

The deceased employees was found to be Covid-19 positive in a valid medical test (RAT / RTPCR) and died during treatment or died of any disease within sixty days of being found positive after recovery. On the date of death, he should be working in the Government employment/ Government job of. The

deceased should be employed full-time in Government service.

The eligibility of a family member for compassionate appointment in the scheme will be determined according to the General Administration Department's Circular 2 of September 29, 2014. There will be no age restriction in giving compassionate appointment to the eligible dependents of the deceased government servant / employee. If any member of the family of the deceased government servant / employee is already employed in the government service or regular service in corporation, board, council, commission etc., he will be ineligible for compassionate appointment. If the death of a government servant / employee occurs during the retirement, reappointment / contractual appointment after completing the superannuation age, then dependents will be ineligible for appointment. Families who are eligible to receive Rs 50 lakh under the Chief Minister Corona Warrior Scheme will not be given the benefit of this scheme.

RTU holds national webinar on 'Social Development and Panchayat Raj'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A two day national webinar on Social Development and Panchayat Raj was held at Rabinranath Tagore University. It concluded on Friday. Virpal Singh, Professor, Panchayat Administration and Nyaya Panchayat, National Law Institute University, Bhopal was the keynote speaker of the webinar.

During the webinar, he said that in 1993, 46 years after independence, the country, villages and urban areas got the constitution of democratic units of local self-government through the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments. Panchayat raj is an important step as a decentralized form of social development.

According to Mahatma Gandhi, "True democracy will

be established in India only when millions of villages in India get the right to run their own system." In view of the present scenario, it is very important to provide more strength to the Panchayat Raj system for real social development, he added.

The webinar was organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Liberal Arts, Rabinranath Tagore University, Bhopal on the topic "Social Development and Panchayati Raj".

In this two-day webinar Virpal Singh described the powers, rights, duties, responsibilities and responsibilities of the 11th Schedule of the Panchayats through a very detailed presentation on various aspects of Panchayat Raj. Provided important information about 29 works.

Virpal Singh said that the

people associated with the Panchayat Raj at the village level have a very important role in dealing with it and making people aware during the crisis of corona epidemic. Even after the corona crisis passes, the Panchayati Raj will have to play a larger role.

On this occasion, Usha Vaidya, Head of Department, Faculty of Humanities and Liberal Arts conducted the webinar successfully. Giving a welcome address, Shri Sanjay Singh Rathore gave a detailed introduction to Virpal Singh.

The webinar was coordinated by Akhilesh Tripathi and Ms. Vandana Namdev. Sangeeta Johri, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Liberal Arts expressed her gratitude. A large number of faculty members, students participated in the webinar.

RSA Studio organises online workshop on 'Art of Mandala'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

An online art workshop on 'Art of Mandala' is being held for the art lovers of the city.

The Art of Mandala workshop is being organised by Riddhi Siddhi Art Studio. Notably, the workshop is being held for the beginners and aspiring artists. It is noteworthy that the students from class 5 and above participate in the workshop.

In the workshop, the participants will be taught the step by step techniques of making Mandala. Notably the art studio will complete its one year in online training in June.

Notably, a mandala is a geometric configuration of symbols. In various spiritual traditions, mandalas may be employed for focusing attention of practitioners and adepts, as a spiritual guidance tool, for establishing a sacred space and as an aid to meditation and trance induction. In the Eastern religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Shintoism it is used as a map representing deities, or specially in the case of Shintoism, paradises, kami or actual shrines.

In New Age, the mandala is a diagram, chart or geometric pattern that represents the cosmos metaphysically or symbolically; a time-microcosm

of the universe, but it originally meant to represent wholeness and a model for the organizational structure of life itself, a cosmic diagram that shows the relation to the infinite and the world that extends beyond and within minds and bodies.

The participants need to be ready with the materials including Compass, plates and circular shapes, Prisma colour pencils or artist quality felt pens, White and lead pencils, ruler, sharpener, rubber, Acrylic paints, brushes or sharpie pens, Folk art decorations, rhinestones, gold leaf and glitter glue, Black or white artist's paper or Visual dairies of different sizes.



A view of a traffic jam during coronavirus-induced curfew imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19, in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

Poet Mani Mohan Mehta shares experiences on online talk show 'Bhor Ke Samvad'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

It is not important that a writer will only produce creative work when he is sad," says the renowned poet and writer Mani Mohan Mehta.

He was interacting with Nishant Upadhyay in the latest episode of Bhor Ke Samvad. The latest episode was streamed live on Instagram.

Bhor ke Samvad is one such show by Kalaa Kabab aur Kisee, where host talked with writers who were once amateur writers and now have established themselves in the field of writing. The host talks about their writing style and the ideas behind their writings.

The show is hosted by a famous poet Nishant

Upadhyay, who also has a keen interest in theater and dance. He has many recognitions for his poems and he was also the winner of GIFLIF - Poetry on Cruise (Bhopal Chapter).

While interacting with Nishant, Mani Mohan Mehta not only recalled his olden times, but also shared some stories when he developed the love for writing. He shared his thoughts that a writer can produce good work even when he is happy and contented with life. "People have a mentality that only pain can give you inspiration to be a good artist. I think that if a writer is contented and happy, he or she inspires others to have a good read time," shared Mani Mohan.

He also shared some stories of his life when he developed the passion for writing.

A writer by passion and profession, Mani Mohan Mehta has made a name for himself as a Poet, Editor and English Professor. English, Hindi, Urdu and Sanskrit literature are his active sites of engagement. His work Kasbe Ka Kavi evam Anyay Kavitaen was published in 2003. Since then many of his writing works have been published. He has also translated many books of regional languages one of them is Ek Sidhi Akaash.

IN BRIEF

ESSAY WRITING, QUIZ HELD ON INT'L MUSEUM DAY

Bhopal: On the occasion of International Museum Day, a week long online essay writing competition and quiz competition was organized by the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Bhopal from 10:00 am on May 18, 2021 to 6:00 pm on May 24, 2021. The essay competition was titled "The Future of Museums: Recover and Recreate". Essay competition has received essays from a total of 45 participants. The quiz competition was titled "Unity in Diversity: Characterization of Indian Culture" (Unity in Diversity: A Characteristic of Indian Culture). A total of 313 participants have participated in this competition. Results will be announced very soon after evaluation of both the competitions and the winners will also be notified separately.

CM PAYS TRIBUTE TO VEER SAVARKAR

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan garlanded the portrait of brave freedom fighter, Veer Savarkar at his residence today. Veer Savarkar was a great revolutionary, thinker, writer, poet, visionary politician and nationalist. He wrote a book on the Indian freedom struggle. During the freedom movement, Veer Savarkar was punished and sentenced for 'Kala Pani'. Chouhan saluted the great freedom fighter and vigorous nationalist Veer Savarkar on his birth anniversary.

CM PLANTS MANGO ON RESIDENCE PREMISES

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a mango sapling in the Chief Minister's residence today. Chief Minister Chouhan plants a sapling every day under his pledge.

Remote working made safer using Access Gateway

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced many organizations to adapt to a new reality where much of the staff have to work from home. This poses significant challenges because the existing VPNs the companies had in place were not designed to handle a sudden explosion of remote workers.

With infrastructure becoming expensive it's a good opportunity to have remote access with zero trust architecture to provide a safe and secure remote working environment for employees. Many organizations that had been reluctant in moving towards remote access were found to be completely unprepared to tackle the sudden lockdown, which negatively impacted their businesses.

To overcome situations like these, different business units, project groups, partners, contractors and guests require secure and different levels of remote access and often require a user experience tailored to employees unique requirements and devices.

Remote access in combination with zero trust is the perfect solution to counter such threats

Shibu Paul, Vice President - International Sales at Array Networks, said, "The increasing global reliance in the number of phishing emails from last few months is not new to anyone. These have been indicating a serious and targeted attempt to exploit the anxiety related to the pandemic.

Remote access in combination with zero trust is the perfect solution to counter such threats. With Array's Network ADC, SSL VPN and WAF solutions, organizations will be at an advantage.

This combined with zero trust - a security concept centered on the belief that organizations should not automatically trust anything inside or outside its perimeters and instead must verify anything and everything trying to connect before granting access gives organizations an edge like never before.

Covid vaccination centre inaugurated at MP varsity

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A Covid-19 Vaccination Centre was inaugurated at Madhyanchal Professional University here on Friday. The Covid-19 Vaccination Centre started at Madhyanchal Professional University and Patel Group of Institutions. It was inaugurated by MLA Rameshwar Sharma, Preeti Patel, Chancellor - MPU and Deputy Vice Chancellor Ajit Singh Patel.

It is to be noted that the Madhya Pradesh Government has authorized Patel College of Nursing and Patel College and Hospital for free vaccination for persons above 18 years of age. Preeti Patel informed that on Friday, around 400 people have got vaccinated here.

On this occasion, Preeti Patel said that Patel College and Madhyanchal Professor University are always ready to fight this pandemic. She appreciated the tireless efforts of his staff. She also encouraged the students of our nursing college who are playing an important role in it.

Vice Chancellor Ajit Singh Patel said that we are taking all possible steps to protect the people. He further explained that our children are making people aware of the corona through social activities.

Dr. Rajesh Rai, Director General, Dr. Sandeep Gangarade, Prof. Chancellor and Prof. Lalit Awasthi, Registrar congratulated everyone.



Young beneficiaries react after receiving a dose of Covid-19 vaccine during an inoculation drive to curb coronavirus infections in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

Miscreant held for killing 60-yr-old man

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Gandhi Nagar police has arrested a 34-year-old man who killed a 60-year-old man near Shikha hotel in the afternoon on Thursday at an under construction house.

The arrested accused were identified as Ram Singh who attacked Banne Thakur with a wooden stick resulting in his death. Police said that the accused got irritated after Banne abused him when he got while accused was filling water for construction work at under construction house which spilled over Banned near Shikha hotel.

The deceased used to work as security guard while the accused and others were working as labourer at the site. In the afternoon when accused was filling water which spilled over Banne who was at the ground and annoyed over the water he switched off the water pump and started to abuse accused labourers who also replied in the same manner.

The labourers came down and have a heated exchange of words and Ram got engaged in scuffle which turned violent after he attacked Banne with wooden stick. Police were informed and a police team reached the spot and after preliminary investigation, the body was sent for the post-mortem. The police registered a case under section 302 of the IPC and arrested the accused.

West Central Rail conducts record 180km/hr high speed oscillation trial

PNS ■ JABALPUR

West Central Rail created history by conducting 180 km per hour high speed oscillation trial and proved leaders in High Speed Oscillation Trial in West Central Rail zone.

High speed oscillation trials are conducted on various sections by the Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) of the Indian Railways. In these tests, by increasing the speed of the train the oscillations of the coaches and the track is checked.

High speed oscillation trials have been conducted at Kota and Bhopal divisions. It is



a remarkable achievement that 65 trial runs were successfully conducted at high speed in the 130 to 180 kmph speed band at Bhopal and Kota divisions. In the year 2020-21, a total of 8900 km of oscillation trials were conducted at WCR.

It is worth mentioning that high speed trials have been done at a speed of 180 kilometers per hour for the Three Tier Economy Coach (LWACCNE) which will be very beneficial to

start the journey of Indian Railways in the near future.

WDAP-5 is a dual traction high power locomotive that operates on both diesel and AC and High Speed Oscillation Trial for this locomotive has been done by increasing the speed of 150 km per hour in the Kota-Nagda section of Kota division.

The Kota-Nagda and Kota-Mathura section of Kota board and Itarsi-Bhopal and Bhopal-Bina section of Bhopal division are included for the Oscillation trial selected by RDSO.

Apart from this, the two trunk routes of Delhi-Chennai (Itarsi-Bina) and Delhi-Mumbai (Mathura-Nagda) were increased to 130 kmph.

Compounder booked for molesting girl in hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Ashoka Garden police has booked a compounder of a private hospital who molested Sehore based 18-year-old girl while she was staying with her mother during treatment; case was registered after victim complaint with CM helpline.

According to the police, the victim's mother was tested positive for Corona last month in Sehore and was admitted to Asha Super Speciality hospital in Ashoka Garden.

In the night on April 28 accused identified as Sunil molested victim which she opposed and raised alert which forced him escape but on the next day morning he again abused the victim and molest-

ed her. The victim after discharge of her mother returned Sehore and lodged a complaint with the CM helpline and taking the matter with seriousness Ashoka Garden police were instructed about the matter.

The police contacted the victim after which she came and recorded her statement and based on the complaint police have registered case of abuse and molestation.

After the complaint was lodged, the accused who went absconding and further investigation has been started.

Meanwhile Hanumanganj police has booked three miscreants for molesting a 25-year-old married woman on Thursday when she was returning her house in the evening.

Pharmacy operator held for black marketing of injections used in black fungus treatment

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Pharmacy store operator was nabbed by Ujjain police who was involved in black marketing of injections used in treatment of Black fungus and seized 16 injections which was sold at ₹36000 having a price of ₹7500.

Ujjain SP Satyendra Shukla said that information was received that the injections used in black fungus are being received at Manas Enterprises in Mussadipur.

On the receipt of the information Ujjain CSP Pallavi Shukla reached Manas Enterprises posing as customer where medical operator Jugal Kishore told the injection price of ₹36000 thousand, which is



worth ₹7500. Injections used in black fungus disease are currently being allocated through the collector. Despite this, Jugal Kishore was openly bargaining for these injections.

The team was sent as a customer, the accused provided four times the price of the three different injections amphotericin b, liposomal amphotericin b and caspofungin injection.

In this, CSP Shukla seized 10 injections of amphotericin b, liposomal amphotericin b 3 injection and also 3 injections of caspofungin injection and arrested the accused Jugal Kishore as soon as the deal for three injections was fixed for more than ₹1 lakh.

The police also came to know that the injection of 10 mg was sold for ₹ 5000 which is of MRP ₹1500.

During the investigation accused also revealed that he could also facilitate more injections from Civil Hospital in Ujjain.

The police have registered a case against the accused in sections 420 of the IPC and were also booked for black marketing.

Delhi Cong demands ₹10K relief package for every household

Says prolonged lockdown has affected all in national capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress demanded the Delhi Government a monthly financial relief of ₹10,000 be given to every family in the Capital besides a special package be given to small shopkeepers as the deadly sweep of the mutated strain of the Corona virus has spared none. Former Union Minister and ex-MP Krishna Tirath said that the prolonged lockdown has caused irreparable damage to the economy and lives of the people of Delhi as the national Capital has virtually hit the bottom in every index with small businesses, traders and shopkeepers, and those who

depend on them for their livelihood, suffering a terrible battering. Addressing the media, Tirath said that when the present lockdown was announced on May 19 this year after the situation in the national capital turned grimmer with latest wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that it will be a short lockdown but he kept on revising his plans and even he has not yet made up his mind to unlock the Capital and thinks of taking "expert opinion" before considering lifting of the lockdown in a "phased manner".

She said that it was surprising that the Delhi Government plans to allow resumption of construction and industrial activity without specifying what steps are being taken to ensure that the workers engaged in the construction and industrial activities.

Farmers protest against Govt's handling of Covid-19 in Patiala

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/PATIALA

Not paying any heed to Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's plea, the farmers, under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) Ugrahan, on Friday started a three-day protest in his home town, Patiala, alleging that the Central and State Governments failed to act against the spread of COVID-19. BKU Ekta-Ugrahan, the biggest farmers' outfit in

Punjab, installed tents and started its protest that would continue for next three days and nights while following all COVID-19 guidelines including masks, physical distance, and time-to-time sanitization of the area.

More than 1,500 in numbers, the farmers maintained discipline by sitting in straight lines ensuring proper distancing, wearing face masks, carrying sanitizers, and water bottles. Besides, it has also been decid-

ed that only a few protesters will stay at the venue through the night while the rest will join them again the next morning.

"We are conducting this protest in Chief Minister's city by following all the COVID protocols. The Central Government is blaming the farmers for the COVID spread, but in reality it has done nothing to control the pandemic. In fact, Punjab Government, too, has done negligible work," said BKU Ekta

Ugrahan general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokrikalan.

Kokrikalan said that both the Governments have failed to take or initiate steps which were required. "Despite WHO warning regarding the peak in August last year, nothing was done while people were left to die... they just talk about what they will do but did nothing," he added. BKU leaders claimed that all COVID-related protocols were being followed during the protest. "Due care is being taken to ensure that everyone wore a mask and sanitize their hands at the machines provided at the protest venue," they said. Another leader of the outfit

said that the Government had failed to tackle the situation brought about by the pandemic. "The people are bearing the brunt because of the Government's failure on various fronts. Doctors are not available in several villages. Government hospitals have ventilators, but lack technical staff to run them. Private hospitals are fleeing the patients," he alleged.

He further alleged that the Centre had also failed to deal with the COVID-19 situation and some BJP leaders were now trying to shift blame on farmers to defame their agitation by accusing them of spreading coronavirus infection.

Notably, Capt Amarinder Singh had on Sunday urged the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) not to hold their planned sit-in saying that their three-day protest may turn into a super-spreader event.

Rejecting the allegation that his Government failed to tackle the pandemic, the CM had earlier said that they fought hard to prevent Punjab going the way of some other States such as Delhi, Maharashtra and even Uttar Pradesh. The Chief Minister had urged also the farmers not to act "irresponsibly" and endanger their own lives as their protest may negate the gains made by the State Government in the fight against the pandemic.



BMC employees with an anti fogger machine spray disinfectant to sanitise public places during corona-induced curfew to curb the spread of Covid-19 infection in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

Gurugram caps rates of Covishield at ₹900, Covaxin at ₹1,200 per dose

Gurugram: Acting on the direction of the Haryana government, the Gurugram district administration on Friday ordered all the private hospitals to cap the Covid vaccine price of each dose.

Deputy Civil Surgeon M.P. Singh has directed all the private facilities to fix the rate of Covishield at Rs 900 and Covaxin at Rs 1,200, per shot.

"All private hospitals have been informed for fixing covid vaccine rates. As per the instructions issued by the government if the private hospitals set up vaccination camp out of their premises, then they can charge an additional Rs 250 for

adminstrating the vaccine dose," Singh told IANS.

That means that if the hospital set up a camp anywhere outside its premises, then it can charge Rs 1,150 for Covishield and Rs 1,450 for Covaxin. But inside their premises they can charge Rs 900 and Rs 1,200 for Covishield and Covaxin, respectively.

Besides, the Gurugram district administration has also issued helpline number for the orphan children.

"There are some families where the children have become orphaned after their parents died due to this virus. For such children, the District

Administration has released helpline numbers 0124-2328288, 9717846669 and 8700454307," Deputy Commissioner Yash Garg said.

Garg informed that the District Child Welfare Officer has been appointed as a nodal officer for this helpline service.

Simultaneously, they have been instructed to make full arrangements and staff management time.

District Child Welfare Officer Virender Yadav, said that after getting information about the orphaned children, such children will be kept in Child House at Chandan Nagar, in Sector -15. IANS

Cut in power tariff to give relief to people, says Punjab CM

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday said the cut, ranging from 50 paise to Re 1 per unit, in domestic power tariff will provide major relief to domestic consumers, especially the poor, who are already reeling under financial problems due to the Covid pandemic.

This is the second year in a row that the power tariff for domestic consumption in the state has been reduced. Domestic power rates had been cut down by 50 paise per unit by the regulator in 2020 too.

Noting that the decision of the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) to reduce the domes-

tic tariff would bring relief to the tune of Rs 682 crore for 69 lakh domestic consumers in the state, the Chief Minister also hailed the decision of the regulator not to increase tariff for commercial consumers as well as small and medium industry amid the Covid pandemic.

Even the hike in tariff for industrial users was quite marginal, he pointed out, adding that this would also come as a relief to industry, which had also been severely impacted by the lockdowns and demand crisis as a result of the unprecedented contagion outbreak.

The industry has been getting power subsidy from the

state government since 2017, when the tariff was reduced to Rs 5 per unit as variable cost.

Soon after coming to power, the Amarinder Singh government, in line with its poll promise, had announced its decision to subsidise power for the industry.

The government has given a total industrial power subsidy of Rs 4,911 crore during 2017-21, with the same being availed by around 42,000 medium and large industrial consumers, along with 104,000 small industrial consumers. The subsidy provide to industry by the state government for FY2021-22 will be to the tune of Rs 1,900 crore. IANS

Four PSA oxygen plants installed in Gurugram

Gurugram: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday virtually inaugurated four Pressure Swing Absorption (PSA) oxygen plants here.

These plants have been built under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme in collaboration with Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL).

According to the administration spokesperson, two plants have been set up at General Hospital in sector-10 while one plant each has been set up in ESIC hospital sector-

9 and ESIC Hospital at Sector-3 in Manesar. The capacity of the medical oxygen plants in sector-10 is 1 and 0.5 tonne per day, while the capacity of the oxygen plants in sector-9 ESIC hospital and ESIC hospital sector-3 in Manesar is one tonne each per day.

"The health facilities in the district have also been increased after the installation of these four plants. The Covid care hospitals in Gurugram will now get oxygen supply without disruption," Yash Garg, Deputy Commissioner Gurugram, told IANS. IANS

Med college nurse ends life in G'gram; kin allege harassment

Gurugram: A 24-year-old nurse working at SGT medical college here died a month after allegedly consuming poison at her home, police said on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Preeti, a resident of Jhajjar district in Haryana.

According to the police, Preeti was undergoing treatment after she had allegedly consumed the toxic substance on April 26. After a month she succumbed on Wednesday.

The deceased's family, however, alleged that she took the extreme step after being continuously harassed by her male colleague in the medical college. Preeti's father Satveer told police that she was a staff nurse at the STG medical college, where a man named Manish also worked with his daughter.

"Manish was pressuring Preeti to marry him but she had refused his proposal following which he started harassing her that compelled her to take such a step," Satveer said.

"The body has been handed over to the family after an autopsy on Friday. Action will be initiated only after the collection of the viscera report," said investigating officer Brahm Prakash. IANS

OVERCHARGING BY PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Haryana Govt directs DCs to enquire into complaints

Form district level committees to take necessary action at earliest

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

Flooded with complaints pertaining to overcharging and exorbitant medical bills issued by private hospitals for COVID-19 treatment, Haryana Government on Friday directed all Deputy Commissioners to constitute district level committees to monitor such complaints and take necessary action at the earliest.

A letter in this regard was issued to all DCs by Rajeev Arora, Additional Chief Secretary, Health.

The government's move came at a time when not only opposition parties but also BJP leaders are demanding strict action against private hospitals fleeing COVID-19 patients.

The district level committees will inquire into the complaints received at COVID-19 helplines, control room and complaints forwarded to DCs and other officials.

"A committee comprising of representatives of Deputy Commissioner, Civil Surgeon and local Indian Medical Association member shall be constituted and notified in each district to look into the complaints of overcharging by private hospitals and resolving the issues," the letter issued by ACS Health to the DCs stated.

"The committee will ensure that no private hospital charges over and above the amount fixed by the State Government for the treatment, testing and various investigations for COVID patients," it further stated.

The Deputy Commissioners have also been directed to randomly check the bills of private COVID hospitals.

As the complaints related to overcharging by private hospitals continued to surface across the state, the former Chief Minister and Leader of opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda and state Congress chief Kumari Selja have demanded strict action against the defaulters.

On Friday, Haryana Assembly Speaker and Panchkula MLA Gian Chand Gupta also expressed concern

over the issue and met Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar demanding strict action against two private hospitals for issuing inflated bills for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

During his meeting, Gupta demanded that an FIR should be registered against Paras Hospital and Alchemist Hospital in Panchkula for fleeing the COVID patients and violating government's directions. Their license should also be cancelled by the government, he said.

Haryana Speaker told the mediapersons that an inquiry committee constituted in Panchkula district has found that Paras Hospital and Alchemist Hospital overcharged the COVID patients.

Earlier, the Speaker had also given a written complaint to the Home-cum-Health Minister Anil Vij demanding action against Paras Hospital for overcharging at least three patients.

Notably, Haryana Government has capped prices for treatment and various tests for COVID-19. The State Government had on June 25 last year fixed per day rates in hospitals accredited by the

National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare providers (NABH) at Rs 10,000 for isolation bed, including supportive care and oxygen; Rs 15,000 for Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed without ventilator and Rs 18,000 for ICU bed with ventilator.

Likewise, the rates in non-NABH accredited hospitals are Rs 8000, Rs 13,000 and Rs 15,000, respectively for the same services.

However, in another order issued on September 18, the standardised per-day charges for COVID-19 treatment in private hospitals (Rs 8000-18,000) fixed by the State Government was made applicable only to 'Haryana residents'.

On May 4 this year, another order was issued withdrawing the condition of capping treatment charges for 'Haryana residents' only.

The government has also fixed the rate for private labs for conducting the COVID-19 test, under which Rs 450 have been fixed for RT-PCR, Rs 500 for rapid antigen and Rs 250 for ELISA test. Apart from this, the price of HRCT scan and tests such as IL-6, D-Dimer, LDH, CRP, Procalcitonin, Ferritin have also been fixed.

INOX Air scales up production to meet O2 demands in 6 States



Shimla: With the region witnessing a record surge in daily COVID-19 cases and a lot of patients requiring oxygen, manufacturer of industrial and medical gases INOX Air Products has scaled by its production in one of its 44 plants in Himachal Pradesh.

Despite having Covid cases in their families, 45 INOX employees from its Barotiwala plant have been engaged in the 24x7 production of liquid medical oxygen and its supply to six states and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

The hero to tackle oxygen emergency when patients in hospitals were gasping for breath is the company's 31 tanker drivers who have not met their families for days together and doing the job with a smile on their faces, a company spokesperson told IANS on Friday.

"Whether it is the production and operations team, or the maintenance team, or the team involved in planning the logistics, every person at the INOX plant is working round the clock to ensure that no life is lost due to the oxygen shortage," he said.

The Barotiwala plant in

Solan district has ramped up its monthly supplies of medical oxygen from 900 metric tons (MT) in March 2020 in the pre-COVID times to 3,873 MT in April 2021 to cater to the increasing demand with the surge in COVID cases.

From a pre-COVID daily medical oxygen supply average of 30 tons per day, the plant has been supplying four times more oxygen at an average of 120 tons per day.

With the increased number of cases, every hospital has increased the number of beds and ventilators, while the infrastructure to handle medical oxygen remained limited.

Due to the storage constraints, the frequency of filling of storage tanks at hospitals increased from once in four days to once in eight hours, said the spokesperson.

"The sudden increase in demand has put an unprecedented stress on the entire manufacturing and distribution team," he said.

The Barotiwala plant operates 29 cryogenic transport tankers, out of which 19 tankers are deployed for medical oxygen supplies. IANS

School summer vacation extended till June 15 in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Government on Friday decided to extend summer vacation in schools till June 15, in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

The students will remain on holiday till June 15, while teachers and other non-academic staff will have to come to school in 50 per cent ratio from June 1 onwards, said Haryana Education Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar.

He said that a roster will be made by the head of the schools to ensure 50 per cent attendance of teachers and other non-academic staff. During this time, the school hours will be from 9 am to 12 pm.

The head and in-charge of all schools will ensure attendance according to the roster of teachers and other non-academic staff in the schools falling under their jurisdiction, the Minister said.

The school staff will have to follow the instructions issued on April 30 with regard to Covid-19, he added.

Earlier on April 22, all government and private schools in the state had announced summer holidays till May 31. Following this, Haryana board class X exam was cancelled while class XII exam was deferred.

A day before, the Education Minister had said that the state is ready to hold Class XII CBSE exams as and when the Centre decides. "We are ready to hold the state board exams for Class XII from June 20 as the number of Covid cases are expected to decline by then. Similarly, we can hold the CBSE class XII exams too, he had said

Covid situation under control in State...

From Page 1

The Chief Minister ordered to conduct maximum tests. Mobile testing should also be conducted by making sector-wise action plan. He asked to continue with more than 1700 tests in Sehore district. Chouhan said that every effort should be made to save the lives of every single patient. Each patient on ventilators and oxygen beds should be monitored intensively.

Chouhan said that after identifying the persons-who come in contact with corona positive patients- through contact tracing, they should be

tested for corona. This can prevent infection. He said that micro containment zones should be created in rural and urban areas with high infection rate. In such areas, the administration should identify the patients of cold, cough and fever and provide them medical kits immediately and treat them. Crisis Management Committees should play an active role in this work. Home isolation arrangements for infected persons should be perfect. In case there is not enough space at home, these patients can be admitted to the Covid Care Center.

Over 4K test +ve for Covid in rural Punjab

246 pregnant women fall prey

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A total of 4654 persons, including 246 pregnant, have been tested positive in Punjab's rural areas in just eight days. As many as 1,37,281 individuals have been tested for COVID-19 under the screening drive as a part of the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's initiative Mission Fateh 2.0, out of which 4,654 have been tested positive of which 559 are admitted in Level II and Level III facilities.

"Corona Fateh kits have been provided to all the 4,095 patients in home isolation, whereas 559 patients have been referred to L2 or L3 facility," said the state Health and Family

Welfare Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu on Friday.

He said that under the initiative, a total of 51.6 lakh households have been surveyed by the ASHA covering a population of 1.95 crores.

"The people have reposed their faith in the Health Department and are coming forward for testing for getting treatment at early stage of COVID-19," he added.

"During the screening, 246 pregnant women have also been reported as corona positive in rural areas of the State. Daily monitoring of these pregnant women is being done from the State headquarters," he said.

A special helpline number has been launched today for COVID positive pregnant women (0172-2744041, 2744040) which is operational

from 9 am to 5 pm seven days a week, he added.

PUNJAB'S POSITIVITY RATE DIPS FURTHER TO 5.12%

Giving details about the COVID cases, the Minister said that as of today, 3,724 positive cases reported in Punjab at the positivity rate of 5.12 percent, while 6,797 new patients were discharged with the state registering 148 deaths of COVID patients.

With the fall in daily case-load and positivity rate, the number of active cases has also come down to 44,964, of which 5,302 patients are on oxygen support, 920 patients at critical care Level-III facilities, and 369 critical patients are on ventilator support.

The state's COVID-19 tally

now stood at 5,59,795, and death toll at 14,180.

Highest 20 of the Friday's deaths were reported from Ludhiana, followed by 19 from Amritsar, 13 from Sangrur, 10 Jalandhar, among others.

Among the districts, Jalandhar reported maximum fresh cases on Friday, while Ferozepur recorded the highest positivity rate in the state at 10.04 percent.

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR HOME ISOLATION OF MILD OR ASYMPTOMATIC CASES ISSUED

Punjab Government on Friday issued the revised guidelines for Home Isolation of mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 cases, saying that no testing is required after the 10-day home isolation period is over.

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन
मध्य प्रदेश

एन.एच.एम. भवन लिंक रोड नं. 3, पत्रकार कालोनी भोपाल (462003)

क्र./एन.एच.एम./एच.आर./सेल-1/2021/8751 भोपाल, दिनांक 25.05.2021

शुद्धिपत्र (Corrigendum)

समाचार-पत्रों में प्रकाशित विज्ञापित क्र.-जी-16758/20 के तहत मध्य प्रदेश राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन द्वारा सविदा स्टॉफ नर्स के रिक्त पदों की पूर्ति हेतु सेम्य लिमिटेड के माध्यम से आवेदन आमंत्रित कर नियम पुस्तिका (2020-2021) का प्रकाशन किया गया था जिसमें आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि को विज्ञापित क्र.-जी-20629/20 के द्वारा दिनांक 20.03.2021 निर्धारित की गई थी।

उपरोक्त प्रकाशित सविदा स्टॉफ नर्स के विज्ञापन में निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है:-

1. जिलों की स्वास्थ्य संस्थाओं में कोविड-19 अंतर्गत लगातार न्यूनतम 89 दिवस कार्य करने वाले स्टॉफ नर्स को उपरोक्त भर्ती प्रक्रिया में 10 प्रतिशत अतिभार अंक (Weightage) दिया जायेगा।
2. इस हेतु आवेदन को मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी द्वारा जारी अनुभव प्रमाण-पत्र की प्रति सेम्य लिमिटेड की वेबसाइट (www.sams.in) पर उपलोड करनी होगी जिसके लिए आवेदक को इस शुद्धिपत्र के प्रकाशन उपरान्त दिनांक 01.06.2021 से 22.06.2021 तक का समय दिया जायेगा।
3. उपरोक्त सविदा सेवा 31 मार्च, 2022 तक के लिए होगी, जिसे आगामी वर्षों की वार्षिक कार्ययोजना में स्वीकृति अनुसार बढ़ाया जा सकेगा।
4. नियम-पुस्तिका (2020-2021) को शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

(अपर मुख्य सचिव स्वास्थ्य द्वारा अनुमोदित)

संचालक
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन
मध्य प्रदेश

G-12844/21 दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।

PM's nautanki is behind Covid 2nd wave: Rahul



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In one of his sharpest direct attacks on Narendra Modi, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the Prime Minister's "nautanki" (drama) is the reason behind the second wave of Covid-19 in India. "He did not understand Covid-19," Rahul charged.

Rahul warned that given the way the Modi Government handled the second wave of pandemic crisis, India will witness a third, fourth and fifth wave of the disease if the Government did not change its vaccine strategy.

He said he had "directly" told the PM that India will witness multiple waves as the virus will mutate and adapt. "I, along with several other people warned the Centre over the Covid-19 pandemic multiple times. The Centre made fun of us. The Prime Minister declared victory against Covid-19. The problem here is neither the Prime Minister nor the Centre has understood the viral disease till now," Rahul said addressing a virtual press conference.

"You're creating a liability for the whole planet. Why?" Rahul questioned the Centre and Modi.

"There are three to four ways to stop Covid-19. Of these, the permanent solution is vaccination. Lockdown is a weapon but people suffer and hence it is a temporary solution. Social distancing and wearing of masks are also temporary solutions against Covid-19," he added.

He targeted the Centre over its vaccine strategy and the decision to export doses to other countries by saying that only 3 per cent of India's population is vaccinated and the remaining 97 per cent is

Mins term Rahul's remark against Modi 'mindless blabbering'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The vaccination slowdown jibe by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday invited a determined counter from the Centre with two Union Ministers describing his "mindless blabbering" as waste of bandwidth and a confirmation that the tool-kit was a brainchild of the Congress.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said, "The Prime Minister is fighting Covid with the people of the country. And he uses words like nautanki, which is an insult to the nation and the people. The people have long put an end to their nautanki," he asserted.

"It has been confirmed, and there is no need for any evidence. It is clear that the toolkit was produced by you. The kind of language you used and the way you tried to stoke confusion and fear among people is part of that politics," Javadekar said.

If Rahul was worried about vaccines he should focus on the Congress-ruled States which are "not using 25 per cent of free vaccines given

free by the Centre for people in 18 to 45 age group", he charged. Javadekar said the Indian vaccination programme will be completed by December end with the health ministry giving detailed programme of 216 crore doses.

Another Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan remarked that Congress leaders' "mindless blabbering" was a waste of internet bandwidth. "While the responsible citizens of India are using the precious internet bandwidth to keep the wheels of economy churning by working from their homes, the only tangible outcome of senseless, mindless and meaningless blabbering by Rahul Gandhi is the wastage of this precious resource," Pradhan tweeted.

Pradhan slammed Rahul saying at a time when all the countries in the world are fighting the menace of Covid-19 in unison, there has been no visible signs of sense of responsibility from Opposition parties, majority of which are nothing but family enterprises indulged in securing the future of their princes.

In first, black fungus invades skin of Covid recovered 3-yr-old kid



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 may be causing immunosuppression resulting in black fungus even in kids, as small as three-year-old. Probably, in a first of such case, a mucormycosis or black fungus associated with skin was detected by a team of doctors from Fortis Memorial Research Hospital in Gurugram in a three-year-old Covid recovered girl child.

Hailing from Iraq, the kid was admitted a few weeks ago at the hospital at Gurugram for Bone Marrow Transplant for treatment of her thalassaemic condition, a blood disorder. "As per our protocol, we conducted RT-PCR tests on the child after her parents were found to be Covid-19 positive.

The baby was found to be an asymptomatic carrier, i.e. suffering with Coronavirus but showing no sign of infection. She was quarantined as per the medical guidelines and then BMT was successfully conducted on her ten days back," shared Dr Vikas Dua, Director, Hematology, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram. However, as she was stabilizing, five days back we detected

huge black patch on the skin of her back near abdomen. After investigation it was found to be cutaneous mucormycosis, called as black fungus of skin. "We had been detecting black fungus in many paediatric cancer and blood disorder cases. But this is for the first time that a case of Covid with skin fungus (cutaneous mucormycosis) has been found," he added.

The doctors are now investigating the cause for the trigger of such fungus. Dr Dua added that it is yet to be known from where the girl acquired the fungus.

At present we are not sure whether it is Covid-induced fungus infection or she got it during transplantation, though massive immunosuppression is usually seen in high-end transplantation. "This is something new which we have seen for the first time as skin fungus is very rare. Skin mucor is not common even among the full match transplant.

No steroid was given as the kid is very small. After the transplant the patient got mucor. She was not given any major drugs during quarantine," Dr Dua pointed out.

IT Min accuses Twitter of adopting double standards



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reiterating that microblogging site Twitter cannot "dictate laws" in India, Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday accused it of adopting "double standards" and claimed that the new IT rules were to protect people.

The Union Minister also accused Twitter of differential rules.

Prasad said people would continue to use Whatsapp and government is only concerned about messages relating to national security, terrorism and those concerning well-being of children and women.

He said twitter cannot dictate laws to India and accused it of adopting double standards- blocking accounts during Capitol Hill protests in the USA but bracketing farmers' agitation protest as "freedom of expression."

Speaking to a news channel, Prasad said that "these foreign companies cannot come to our country and dictate their terms".

He said while the Government was committed to "individual freedom", the social media intermediaries "will have to follow the new norms".

Alluding to freedom available in India, he said "during the Coronavirus period six crore messages" were sent on social media.

The Union Minister informed that the data protection law, which is currently with the select committee, would be brought in the next session of the Parliament.

CRPF stops summer chain transfers of staff



RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has stopped the summer chain transfers of all its personnel owing to the disruptions caused by the ravaging impact of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"As desired by competent authority, transfer list of summer chain transfer of all personnel (ministerial/hospital staff/Signal personnel) may be released after August 2021 due to present situation of 2nd wave of Covid-19 in the country, direction in this regard will follow," reads an order sent to all the formations across the country.

The order will apply to operational as well as medical and signal or communications personnel, officials said.

The move follows continuing lockdowns in different States to check the spread of the coronavirus that has significantly impacted the CRPF.

As on Friday, 23,588 CRPF personnel have so far contracted the viral disease. Of them, 21,649 patients recovered while 121 personnel lost their lives. A total of 1,818 patients continue to suffer from the coronavirus infection.

From May 17 till now, the CRPF has recorded a surge in the tally of infected personnel from 22,216 to 23,588 and the spike in the death toll from 114 to 121 during the period in which the number of active cases has recorded a downward spiral from 2,867 to just 1,818, a decline of over 1,000 cases in the 12-day period.

The combined tally of infected personnel in the Central paramilitary forces-- CRPF, BSF, CISF, SSB, ITBP, NDRF and NSG as on Friday is 79,861 out of which 73,928 personnel have recovered from the disease and 5,973 personnel continue to be actively infected.

The combined toll of the paramilitary forces is 314 of which the CRPF has recorded the most number of deaths at 121. The forces recorded 283 new cases of infection during the last 24 hours.

While the number of infected personnel across the paramilitary forces has surged from 75,918 cases on May 17 to 79,861 as on Friday, the number of cured patients also jumped from 66,239 to 73,928 in the 12-day period. The number of active cases also dropped from 9,381 on May 17 to 5,973 as on date.

EC defers RS bypoll from Kerala



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Election Commission on Friday decided to defer a proposed Rajya Sabha bypoll for a seat from Kerala. The Commission said that Kerala Congress (M) leader Jose K Mani had resigned as a Rajya Sabha member from Kerala on January 11 this year. His term in the upper house was till July, 2024. The biennial elections to legislative councils of three seats in Andhra Pradesh and six in Telangana were also deferred by the Commission in a separate order.

"As per the provisions of Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the vacancy is required to be filled, through bye election within six months from date of occurrence of vacancy, provided that remainder of the term in relation to the vacancy is one year or more," it observed in the order related to Rajya Sabha seat from Kerala. The EC had not yet announced any date for the proposed bypoll.

The Commission said it reviewed the matter on Friday and decided that due to the outbreak of the second wave of COVID-19 in the country, "it would not be appropriate to hold the said by election till the pandemic situation significantly improves" and conditions become conducive to hold the byelection.

NCDC video guidance to help youth become cooperative biz leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With its career guidance videos gaining popularity among the youth and farmers, encouraging them to venture into the profitable business of cooperatives, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has now launched another initiative to reach out to the youth of Andhra Pradesh, in Telugu language.

All the guidance videos in nineteen regional and Hindi languages are now uploaded on NCDC's YouTube channel, 'Sahakar Cooptube NCDC India' available in public domain for those having interest in cooperative sector.

Dr K Rajeswara Rao, Special Secretary, NITI Aayog, launched the guidance video at an online event here and said that such initiatives will go a long way in strengthening the cooperatives as well as helping the youth and potential cooperators to boost their income, thus contributing to the country's economy.

He also emphasised on making the videos popular among the potential cooperators in the rural and tribal areas.

These videos also aim to strengthen and deepen the major measures taken by the Government to promote and form 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the country.

Last year, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, had launched the 'Sahakar Cooptube NCDC India', to encourage farmers and the youth to take the benefit of cooperatives. He had also rolled out guidance videos made by NCDC on 'Formation and Registration of a Cooperative' in 18 different States in regional languages including Odia, Bengali, Gujarati, Tamil, Punjabi and Mizo to name a few, besides Hindi.

Col (Dr.) Baljit Singh, Chief Director, LINAC-NCDC, hoped that the guidance video would go a long way in promotion and development of cooperatives while SK Tucker, teaching faculty at LINAC-NCDC, who guides the initiatives, said that the guidance videos aim to reach out to youth, women and all those who could be potential cooperative business entrepreneurs.

Programme held to mark Menstrual Hygiene Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To mark the 'Menstrual Hygiene Day', an outreach activity for adolescent girls was organised by Sulabh Sanitation Club at the resettlement locality in Delhi with an aim to create awareness among students about menstrual hygiene during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The basic idea was to underscore the importance of having open conversations about periods and offer educational guidance to facilitate discussions that help eradicate period stigma, said Rupak Roychoudhary of Sulabh WASH.

Further, there is a rumour circulating on social media that is triggering a lot many women into believing that the Covid-19 vaccine taken during their menstrual periods isn't fully safe for them. The Sulabh Sanitation Club team said that women do not need to schedule their Covid-19 vaccine around their menstrual cycle.

Jack Sim, Founder, World Toilet Organisation, Singapore, Indian Ambassador to Cambodia, Dr. Devyani Khobragarde, Additional Chief Secretary of Sikkim GP Upadhaya and other experts also addressed a webinar.

CPI(M) asks Centre to refrain from implementing new IT rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) polit bureau on Friday asked the Central Government to refrain from implementing the new IT Rules and condemned the BJP Government for using Delhi Police to trample the social media companies by raiding offices.

"Facebook/WhatsApp has pointed out that this means breaking the security of the existing messaging protocol, and therefore of all those who use WhatsApp. This has been

endorsed by technical experts. Weakening security protocols violate user privacy and increase vulnerability to hacking for criminal purposes as well.

"The Government of India is using the Delhi Police to intimidate Twitter for flagging various BJP leaders Tweets as manipulated media. The CPI(M) condemns the BJP government's partisan use of the IT Ministry and the police raids on Twitter's offices as acts of blatant intimidation," the CPI(M) said in a statement.

Dowry deaths case: SC concerned with 'casual approach' of trial courts

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed concern on the "casual" and "cursory" attitude adopted by trial courts while recording the statements of accused under Section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in dowry death cases.

A bench of Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justice Aniruddha Bose said, "It is a matter of grave concern that, often, trial courts

record the statement under Section 313, CrPC in a very casual and cursory manner, without specifically questioning the accused as to his defence."

Undoubtedly, the menace of dowry death is increasing day by day, it said, but also observed that sometimes, family members of the husband were roped in, even though they have no active role in commission of the offence and are residing at distant places.

Air Chief reviews operation readiness of force in Leh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IAF chief R K S Bhaduria on Friday reviewed the operational readiness of his force during a daylong visit to Leh. He was briefed about the present situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh where situation is yet to return to normal after nearly a year-long stand-off between the Indian and Chinese armies.

Incidentally, his visit also took place a time when the Chinese are holding their annual military exercise in the Tibetan plateau on their side of the LAC facing Eastern Ladakh. The exercises are on at least 100 km from the border.

However, the Indian forces are keeping a close watch on the Chinese activities and Army Chief General M M Naravane recently said India will not be taken by surprise this time. He made this assertion as the Chinese last year diverted some of their troops from the annual exercise to Eastern Ladakh in a bid to intrude at several points.

It led to stand-offs and a bloody brawl leaving 20 Indian army personnel including the commanding dead last June.

More than 40 Chinese soldiers also died in the fracas but Beijing has so far not made any official statement in this regard.

Naravane also said the Indian forces are deployed in adequate numbers with proper back up to meet any challenge. Moreover, more than 90 per cent of the Indian troops have got their two doses of corona vaccine he said adding the troops deployed at the LAC and the Line of Control (LOC) were cleared only after all tests.

As regards the IAF chief's visit, sources said here he was also apprised about air maintenance operations in support of the Indian Army and the paramilitary troops there, they said.

At present, more than one lakh troops are facing each other on the friction points at the LAC.

The Corps Commanders of the two armies have held 11 rounds of talks since May last year to defuse tension at the border by quick disengagement.

Following the deadly brawl last year in June, the IAF moved most of its front-line fighter aircraft to airbases close to the LAC and remains on heightened alert since then.

UGC issues list of 83 UG, 40 PG courses via SWAYAM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Friday issued a list of 83 undergraduate (UG) and 40 postgraduate (PG) courses that can be offered through the SWAYAM platform for the July 2021 semester. The courses offered on the education ministry's e-learning platform are all non-engineering ones.

The UGC (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through

Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) Regulations, 2021 allowed institutions to offer up to 40 per cent of the total courses in a particular programme in a semester through the SWAYAM platform.

In the current scenario of the second wave of the Covid-19, the UGC has urged universities and colleges to make optimum use of the SWAYAM online platform and popularise SWAYAM courses amongst students and faculty through

websites and various social media handles.

"The list of 83 UG & 40 PG MOOCs courses are ready to be offered on the SWAYAM platform in July-October Semester 2021," reads the UGC letter.

"SWAYAM Courses may be approved and adopted on the recommendation of Dean Academics/Heads of Department for credit transfer and ratified by the Academic Council," said the UGC to Universities.

Area under cultivation of summer crops goes up

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The area under cultivation of summer crops like pulses, paddy, oil seeds, coarse cereals have gone up to 80.46 lakh hectare till May 28, an increase of 21.10 per cent over the last year's 66.44 lakh hectare. The rise is primarily due to sharp increase in pulses area, which has gone up by almost 67.48 per cent to 17.82 lakh hectares over previous year's 10.64 lakh hectare, raising hopes of a good harvest and extra income for farmers.

The higher acreage at the initial stage growth during summer crops sowing, seems to

have been unscathed during the second national wave of Covid-19 infections just as it was during the first outbreak in 2020. The planting areas have gone up despite hundreds of farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh protesting against the farm laws from the last six months. The Met Department has also forecast that monsoon will hit Kerala on its scheduled date of May 31, a day before the official arrival of the onset date.

Although the main kharif or summer-sown season will start in June, with the arrival of the monsoon, the data of the Ministry of Agriculture showed that summer crops sown up to 80.46 lakh hectare till May 28,

an increase of 21.10 percent over the last year's 66.44 lakh hectare.

Throughout the peak pandemic months, the farm sector was the only bright spot in the Indian economy.

The farm and allied sector is expected to grow at 3.4% in real term in 2021, remaining the brightest spot in an otherwise gloomy year, as overall gross value added in the economy is projected to shrink by 7.2%.

The country's real GDP is estimated to contract by as much as 7.7% in 2021, thanks to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The share of agriculture and allied sectors in GVA of the country plays a key role and at current prices was 17.8%

during 2019-20, according to May 2020 estimates of national income released by Central Statistical Office.

With the procurement of 400.45 lakh metric tons, all time high as against previous high of 389.92 lakh metric tons, in the ongoing rabi crop season is continuing smoothly in the procuring States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir at MSP.

About 42.36 Lakh farmers have already been benefitted from the ongoing RMS procurement operations with MSP value of Rs. 79,088.77 Crore.

MSY asks Akhilesh to patch-up with Shivpal

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav has again initiated unity efforts among the family by asking his son Akhilesh Yadav to bury the hatchet with his uncle Shivpal Yadav.

"Sort out the ruinous family feud or be ready to perish," Mulayam Singh is believed to have told party president Akhilesh Yadav, who was present at a meeting also attended by Shivpal Yadav earlier this

week. The meeting assumes significance in view of the 2022 UP Assembly elections. The SP has suffered three back-to-back defeats at the hands of the BJP in 2014 Lok Sabha polls, 2017 UP Assembly elections and 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

SP sources said that while nothing tangible was achieved in the meeting, both sides agreed to meet again soon. Earlier this year, Akhilesh Yadav had given hints to accommodate his estranged uncle by not fielding party



candidates against him from Jaswant Nagar Assembly seat in Etawah. He had also announced to give him a berth in the Cabinet if the SP Government came to power in 2022.

Mulayam Singh Yadav is

also said to have advised his son to work for enlarging the electoral base of the party beyond the traditional Muslim-Yadav constituency. A senior SP leader, close to the Yadav family, said: "Mulayam Singh Yadav had realised the limita-

tions of the M-Y combine during his active days in politics and had groomed leaders from non-Yadav communities in the OBCs to enlarge the base of the party."

Akhilesh's estranged uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav proved his damage potential in 2017 Assembly elections and 2019 Lok Sabha polls that cost the SP seats in the home turf of the Yadav belt Agra-Etawah region. Soon after the 2017 UP Assembly polls, Shivpal Yadav floated his own party - Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party

(Lohia), after his fallout with Akhilesh and fought the SP to a bitter finish.

"If Akhilesh doesn't make up with Shivpal, it can adversely impact the SP's prospects again on home ground. Unlike Akhilesh's other uncle and Rajya Sabha MP, Ramgopal Yadav, who spent the better part of his political career in Delhi, Shivpal rose through the ranks and created a niche for himself. To that extent, he's more of an asset for the SP than Ramgopal," the SP leader said.



A woman carries buckets filled with marigold flowers in a field, near the international border at Suchatgarh on the outskirts of Jammu on Friday

Cyclone Yaas: PM visits Odisha, Bengal, announces financial aid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday visited Odisha and West Bengal to review the situation arising out of Cyclone 'Yaas' and announced a financial assistance of ₹1,000 crore for immediate relief activities.

He undertook an aerial survey of the cyclone affected areas in Bhadrak and Baleswar districts of Odisha, and Purba Medinipur in West Bengal.

In Bhubaneswar, the Prime Minister chaired a meeting to review the relief and rehabilitation measures being undertaken, said a statement from the Prime Minister's Office. Modi announced a financial

assistance of ₹1,000 crore for immediate relief activities. ₹500 crore would be immediately given to Odisha. Another ₹500 crore has been announced for West Bengal and Jharkhand, which will be released on the basis of the damage.

The Union Government will deploy an Inter-Ministerial Team to visit the States to assess the extent of damage, based on which further assistance will be given.

The Prime Minister was briefed that maximum damage due to Cyclone 'Yaas' happened in Odisha, and some parts of West Bengal and Jharkhand have also been affected.

Prime Minister assured the people of Odisha, West Bengal and

Jharkhand that the Union Government would closely work with the State Governments at this difficult time, extend all possible assistance for restoration and rebuilding of the infrastructure in the affected areas.

Prime Minister expressed his complete solidarity with all those who suffered due to the cyclone and expressed deep sorrow to the families who have lost their kin during the calamity. He also announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 to the seriously injured in the cyclone.

Prime Minister said that all have to continue the focus towards more scientific management of disasters.

As the frequency and impact of cyclonic systems are increasing in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, communication systems, mitigation efforts and preparedness have to undergo a major change.

Modi appreciated the preparedness and disaster management activities by the Government of Odisha which has resulted in minimal loss of lives. He also noted that the state has embarked on long term mitigation efforts for dealing with such natural disasters.

He informed that Disaster Mitigation has been given emphasis by the Finance Commission to buy provisioning for mitigation funds to the tune of ₹30,000 crore.

Bombay HC directs Maha to shift Stan Swamy to private hospital for 15 days

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday directed the Maharashtra Government to shift ailing octogenarian priest and accused in the Elgar Parishad-Koregaon-Bhima case moved from JJ Hospital to a private hospital for 15 days in view of his deteriorating health.

Hearing an application for temporary bail on medical grounds, a HC division bench comprising Justice S. S. Shinde and Justice N. R. Borkar ordered that Fr. Swamy was transferred from the State Government-run JJ Hospital to

Holy Family Hospital at Andheri in north-west Mumbai, as it was not feasible for the current hospital to give him proper attention owing to the influx of the Covid-19 patients.

The HC bench directed the State Government to shift Fr Swamy to Holy Family Hospital to itself for a 15-day stay there. Fr. Swamy - as per the undertaking given to the court by his senior counsel Mihir Desai, would bear all his medical treatment expenses. The court directed the hospital to provide an attendant to Fr Swamy in view of his advanced age, besides a policeman for his security.

The HC bench passed the orders to transfer Fr Swamy while hearing a temporary medical bail plea filed by Fr. Swamy challenging two earlier orders rejecting his bail application by a Special NIA Court.

When the high court heard the matter last week, Dr Swamy had steadfastly refused to get admitted to any hospital and requested for release on interim bail.

Mihir Desai, representing Swamy, had asked the Court to grant him some time to confer with Swamy before taking a decision on proceeding with the hearing on interim bail.



Agricultural labourers work at the Boro paddy field, damaged by heavy rains and strong wind triggered by the Cyclone 'Yaas' in Birbhum district, on Friday

UP Govt aims to vaccinate 1 crore people next month

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In what could be touted as the biggest vaccination drive in the world, the Uttar Pradesh Government will initiate an extensive vaccination campaign to cover around one crore people of the state in a month beginning June 1. The ambitious programme will be conducted in all 75 districts of the State to prepare them to combat the raging wave of coronavirus and focus on beneficiaries of both 18+ and 45+ age groups.

At a high-level meeting in Lucknow on Friday, the Chief Minister stressed, "Our goal is to administer one crore doses in the month of June for which a detailed plan has been chalked out. We have an adequate amount of vaccines available relative to the target in the state. Health officials must keep in constant touch with the Union Government and vaccine manufacturing companies."

Currently running a vaccination drive for 18 plus category in 23 districts, the government aims to spread the drive to all 75 districts of the State in three days.

2,803 new cases in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Friday reported 56 deaths due to Covid-19, 30 from Jammu and 26 from Kashmir division, while 3,637 patients were discharged and 2,803 were tested positive recording an overall positivity rate of 6.25 percent in the region.

Meanwhile, three districts of Jammu, Shopian and Ganderbal have so far achieved the target of vaccinating 100 percent of the population over 45 years of age with a single dose of vaccine.

In Jammu district, 4,98,185 persons above 45 years of age have been vaccinated till May 28.

On May 19, when 4,53,856 persons were vaccinated the district administration claimed to have achieved 100 percent vaccination above 45 years of age. In the last 10 days more than 44,000 people have received the first jab while the drive for the age group of 18-44 has been intensified by first covering the targeted groups.

In Jammu region eight districts Friday reported less than 100 fresh cases while Jammu district reported 320 fresh cases and Rajouri recorded 107 new cases. In Kashmir division, Srinagar district on Friday reported 382 new cases while four districts of Baramulla, Budgam, Kupwara and Anantnag reported more than 200 fresh cases.

According to the media bulletin, "2,803 new positive cases of novel Coronavirus (Covid-19), 1,009 from Jammu division and 1,794 from Kashmir division were reported. The Active positive cases across J&K stood at little over 41,000 while 3,795 patients have died; 1,838 in Jammu division and 1,957 in Kashmir division.

More over, 3637 more Covid-19 patients were discharged from various hospitals including 1,741 from Jammu Division and 1,896 from Kashmir Division.



A medic gives a dose of a Covid-19 vaccine at a camp for differently-abled, at the SMRV School vaccination centre, in Kanyakumari on Friday

SSR DEATH-RELATED DRUG CASE

Mumbai court sends Pithani to NCB custody till June 1

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Two days after he was arrested in Hyderabad, a Mumbai court on Friday remanded late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's friend and accused Siddharth Pithani in the custody of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) till June 1 in connection with a drug case linked to the actor's death.

After obtaining a transit remand from a Hyderabad Court, the NCB brought Pithani to Mumbai and produced before the Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate at Esplanade Court which sent him to NCB custody for five days. The court sent Pithani to NCB custody till June 1, after its lawyer told the court that the investigating agency wanted to probe his role and nexus with others accused in illicit drug trafficking case linked to the Sushant Singh Rajput's death and his alleged links with contraband dealers to bring out the full truth in the case.

Official sources said that the investigators had found documents and electronic evi-

dence at his Hyderabad home.

Pithani's arrest came more than two and a half months after the NCB filed a 11,700-page charge sheet against Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik Chakraborty and 31 others by a Special NPDS court here on March 5, 2021.

During the interrogation, other accused in the case Samuel Miranda and Dipesh Sawant had had spoken Pithani in their statements, alleging that the latter was in direct touch with Suishant, Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik Chakraborty.

Swamy urges TN Guv to take action against attacks on Brahmin priests by DMK, DK, LTTE activists

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The increasing number of physical and verbal attacks on 'poor and hapless Brahmin priests' by activists of the ruling DMK and its ally DK has forced Subramanian Swamy MP to write to Governor Banwarilal Purohit asking him to put the M K Stalin-led Government on notice.

Dr Swamy's letter to the Governor comes within days of the Dravidian political parties launching a diatribe against two popular educational institutions in the State for alleged misconduct by some teachers towards girl students. A teacher by name Rajagopal from one of the school network has been arrested by State Police over complaints by students who alleged that he was behaving in an improper manner with them.

Interestingly, the arrested teacher is a close relative of a senior parliament member of the DMK. Neither the MP nor the DMK have responded to the reports. The Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Sekhar Babu

warned the members of the Rajasthan community in Tamil Nadu for not voting for the DMK in successive elections. He reportedly told the community members that the DMK knows well for whom they are voting because of the EVM has the facility to find out who voted for whom.

"The targeting of Brahmins in the State and verbal terrorizing of this hapless disorganized community is today much like as happened during the early period of the Nazi Government led by Adolf Hitler in Germany. I am getting reports from persons living in the State of Tamil Nadu, that Pujaris and Teachers are specially targeted because they are Brahmins," Dr Swamy said in his letter. He further stated in the letter that a pall of fear of terror has descended in Tamil Nadu let loose by the DK, rogue elements of the DMK and rump elements of the LTTE.

The MP said that it was too early for him to suggest the application of Article 356 since these were the early days of the Stalin Government that was sworn in the first week of May.

Kerala HC declines to stay Lakshadweep Regulation 2021, issues notice to Administrator

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday declined to stay the Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation 2021 (LDAR) as desired in a public interest litigation filed by a local Congress activist.

The draft regulation issued by the Lakshadweep Development Authority proposes to modernise the islands and transform it into a global tourism hub. But all political parties in Kerala, barring the BJP, has come out against the LDAR 2021 alleging that the draft proposals would destroy the culture, tradition and lifestyle of the island's predominantly Muslim population. The last few days have been witnessing unprecedented protests and rallies in mainland Kerala against the move by Praful Patel, the administrator of the Union Territory, to bring in reforms and modernisation in the atolls.

A Division Bench of Justices K Vinod Chandran and MR Anita issued notice to the Lakshadweep Administration and asked it to respond to the PIL in two weeks. "Nothing doing...it's a

Local Body authorities resort to fudging to cover up Covid cases

KOCHI: Health professionals, police and bureaucracy were bowled over by a strategy formulated by Malappuram politicians in the district to "beat" the Covid-19 pandemic. The district has been put under Triple Lockdown since the last fortnight because of high Test Positivity Rate that crossed the 45 per cent mark. Despite strict orders from revenue and police officials asking the population to stay indoors, residents violate the laws, come out and crowd around vantage points all over the district.

The department of health has succeeded in bringing down the TPR to 30 per cent but that is not sufficient to lift the Triple

Lock down enforced in this district. A telephonic talk between a local body member and volunteers of the task force in the ward to artificially bring down the TPR to normal level has gone viral, shocking everyone. Ayisha, ward member of Vazhakkadu Panchayath, was heard asking the task force members to bring down the TPR. "If the Triple Lock Down has to be lifted here, we should bring down the TPR to 20 per cent. Hence please send only those without any symptoms to the camps to make sure that the number of people with COVID-19 symptoms are kept at minimum level," Ayisha is heard saying in the message. PNS

1 terrorist killed in Shopian

Jammu: Two back to back encounters erupted in the South and North Kashmir districts of Shopian and Baramulla on Friday in which one unidentified terrorist was neutralized by the joint team of security forces in Ganapora area while gunfight was going on till the time of filing the report in the Sopore town.

According to a spokesman of Jammu and Kashmir police, "The first firefight broke out this afternoon after police and security forces cordoned the area following specific inputs about the presence of terrorists in the Ganapora area of Shopian". In the ensuing gunfight, "an unidentified terrorist had been killed while searches were going on in the area".

Treat all minorities equally, Kerala High Court tells State Govt

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday quashed a Kerala Government order issued in 2015 announcing scholarships to Muslim students and Latin Catholic/Converted Christians in the ratio 80:20 and asked the Government to treat the minorities equally.

This order has been the reason for heart-burning among the Christian community in the State which said that the scholarships should be apportioned as per the population of the communities.

"The order by the Government of Kerala in this regard is not legally sustainable.

The State should provide merit-cum-means scholarships to members of notified minority communities equally," said a Division Bench consisting of Chief Justice S Manikumar and Justice Shaji P Chali while disposing a petition filed by Justine Pallivathukkal, a lawyer who complained that the Kerala Government was giving undue preference to the Muslim community over members of other minority communities in the State.

'Govt is sensitive to the needs of weaker sections of society'

New Delhi: Union Minister of State of Social Justice and Empowerment, Rattan Lal Kataria welcomes the latest directions issued by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for provisioning "near to home" vaccination centers for Senior citizens and Divyangians. The move is expected to benefit around 10.40 Crore Senior citizens and around 2.2 Crore Divyangians across the Nation.

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD.
SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR

BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF C.I.J. JOINTS WITH EPDM RUBBER RING FOR THE YEAR 2021-22

GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of C.I.D. Joints with EPDM Rubber ring (80 to 700mm Dia.) with IS1 Mark/Confirming to Relevant IS from Indian Manufacturer only. Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the Tender documents at free of cost from website. <https://www.nprocure.com>
The last date of submission of online tender is 1-7-2021.
INF/270/21-22

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-II/2021-22/D-55 Dated: 28.05.2021

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-II/06/2021-22

Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given :-

Sr. No.	Zone	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	A&F	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	EE-08	UBN : JDA2122WLOB00074	944.32	04/2021-22	Remaining Development Work	18.06.2021

Details are available at Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in
Raj. Samwadi/2021-22/1668
Executive Engineer & TA to Dir.Engg-II



Clouds hover over Kanpur Central Railway Station due to the weather changes induced by the Cyclone 'Yaas', in Kanpur on Friday

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PAPER WITH PASSION

No child's play

India, like the world, is gearing up to protect its children from the next wave of COVID-19

Children are the last human frontier COVID-19 threatens to engulf. The second surge has seen quite a number of children infected. Even deaths have been reported, including one of a day-old infant in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Most of these patients were asymptomatic or with mild symptoms; they recovered within a week. A small percentage of cases needed hospitalisation and intensive medical care. India, like the rest of the world, is now gearing up to prepare to save children in the next surge, whenever that is. Lessons from the first two surges have chastened the Government and steps are already afoot to provide separate neonatal and paediatric wards in hospitals. Contingency measures are on for oxygen, monitoring equipment, ventilators and medicine. Medical and paramedical staff are undergoing re-orientation to handle young patients. Bharat Biotech of Covaxin fame is also ahead of the curve in coming up with a vaccine for the two to 18 age group. In fact, it has got approval for stage 2 and 3 human trials already. With 40 per cent of the population in this age group, vaccination becomes imperative. But tackling child COVID-19 is a matter not merely of logistics. It will be fought largely in the arena of the mind; a seesaw between the panic of parents and patience of doctors.



For instance, the question is: Are the hospital wards children-friendly? If a discernible part of the scarcity of beds and oxygen in the second surge was owing to panic among adults, imagine what parents can go through if their children become infected. Rationality will become scarce. The social media will press a panic button of its own, mostly of the illegal variety. Should the location and names of the infected children be revealed on social media posts for help? Should pictures be circulated? How will these violations of privacy be checked? There are many NGOs handling awareness campaigns to keep children safe. Apart from safety measures, there is the need for a healthy diet, mental agility and physical exercise, particularly when schools are closed and they are stuck at home. But what about the rural areas? Nearly half of the population below 18 lives in the countryside. There are issues with hygiene, availability of potable water and nutritious diet. Malaria, dengue and pneumonia are rampant. A large section of the rural parents is aware of their responsibilities, but hands of most would be tied by their economic situation. As yet, no data shows that the third surge will affect children, but it is equally important they be immunised. It is more important to inoculate their parents first. Both medical workers and parents need to realise that most children may not be able to recognise COVID-19 symptoms; how then to diagnose at the earliest? A beginning has been made, but it has to be seen to be real. The UNICEF web advisory on child protection, for example, is begging updation since September 2020.

PICTALK



Cyclists during the 19th stage of the Giro d'Italia race, from Abbiadegrasso to Alpe di Mera, Italy

PTI

Regional cooperation

The pandemic is an opportunity for the member nations to revive the SAARC spirit

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), after 35 years of its existence, has almost become a relic of the past. An organisation that was launched for regional cooperation has been dying a slow death ever since its inception on December 8, 1985. It was to bring together the 21 per cent of the world's population living in South Asia. The idea was to help the region by economic cooperation. It, however, did not go beyond declarations that were never implemented by the member nations. South Asia remains one of the most impoverished regions in the world. The interaction among SAARC nations, which share a common heritage and history, is dismally low. The grouping was mooted on the lines of ASEAN, which would provide a common economic zone that would help trade and make people prosperous. It was supposed to increase people-to-people contact. To build a framework for economic cooperation, it contemplated the South Asian Economic Union (SAEU) to promote Free Trade Area, Customs Union, a Common Market and a Common Economic and Monetary Union.

The idea was indeed very promising, yet it never took off as it was defeated by regional politics. Pakistan's obsession with Kashmir made it impossible to make it a workable entity. The result was that no SAARC leaders' meeting took place after Kathmandu in 2014 till 2020. The 2016 meeting was, though, boycotted by India due to the Uri attack. A ray of hope for regional cooperation came in the form of the Corona pandemic. Just like elsewhere, the pandemic affected the people of this region as well. This was the time when regional cooperation could have helped the member countries in terms of medicine, medical facilities and other necessary equipment. Though some positive trends emerged but they had limited scope. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the initiative on March 15, 2020, as India led from the front. It hosted a virtual meeting of the SAARC leaders; India pledged \$10 million to a fund to fight Corona and other nations followed suit. India also donated vaccines to the member nations. This meeting was indeed path-breaking. At the ground level, the SAARC Disaster Management Centre has set up a website (<http://www.covid19-sdmc.org/>) for SAARC countries. A special cell in the Ministry of External Affairs is coordinating and monitoring with SAARC countries. Hope this revives SAARC and regional cooperation gets a new lease of life.

Restoring sanity in national narrative

Despite the Corona setback, the motivation to overcome hardships shall emerge simply from the spirit of serving fellow human beings



JS RAJPUT

The true character of a people and nation reveals itself only in the toughest of times. India is going through such a phase and, sadly enough, instead of presenting a picture of national unity and socio-religious cohesion, the political class that had tasted power in the past and has been unseated by the electorate, is using the Corona crisis as an opportunity to reverse its fortunes. Those in power are, obviously, busy managing this crisis of unprecedented measure and magnitude; all they are getting from their political opponents is ridicule, allegations and accusations. The political scenario is indeed depressing for the common people who are suffering on so many counts due to the epidemic and its impact on practically every sector of human activity.

This has attracted international attention and painted Indian democracy in poor light. The Corona crisis, particularly in April-May 2021, weighed very heavily on India and its people. The inadequacies of the health infrastructure, as also the systems of public service and governance, have revealed distressing deficiencies. There were heart-wrenching reports of people dying in ambulances and even outside hospital gates. In the 21st century, should even a single life be lost simply because of non-availability of medical oxygen? It certainly was serious mismanagement, lethargy and lack of commitment.

But the extra efforts put in at every level to tide over the crisis also deserve to be noticed. We have the ingenuity to produce medicines and vaccines, distribute better and ensure adequate availability. If the mishap was an outcome of systemic complacency and unconcern, these shall have to be wiped out completely from the work culture in future. The Corona crisis shall certainly transform human approach to life, the nature of human interactions and re-establish the criticality of man-nature relationship. The economic, social and cultural implications of the pandemic are being assessed all around.

The motivation and the will to overcome the impediments shall emerge from numerous instances, initiatives, acts and actions that



were ignited simply by the spirit of serving fellow human beings, in the realisation of the "essential unity of all human beings". As one looks around, one finds great examples of courage, dedication and commitment to the cause of helping the needy. Working in conditions of severe deficiencies, they are great examples of human empathy and compassion. Think doctors, paramedics, police personnel, railways, teachers and other public servants, they all rose to the occasion, at the cost of grave personal risk, and hundreds of them sacrificed their lives.

Democracy depends on the dexterity-imbued dialogue. Unfortunately, all this unequivocally emphasises the need for continuous, productive dialogue among the political parties, among those in powers, and out of it. There ought to be no hesitation in mid-course correction. The absence leads to instances of political immaturity, which are injurious to the polity. One of the former Chief Ministers, a fairly well-educated young person, thundered he would not get vaccinated since it was a party vaccine! Now, he is among those demanding free vaccine to all. Apparently having realised his folly, he could



THERE WERE HEART-WRENCHING REPORTS OF PEOPLE DYING IN AMBULANCES AND EVEN OUTSIDE HOSPITAL GATES. IN THE 21ST CENTURY, SHOULD EVEN A SINGLE LIFE BE LOST SIMPLY BECAUSE OF NON-AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL OXYGEN? IT CERTAINLY WAS SERIOUS MISMANAGEMENT, LETHARGY AND LACK OF COMMITMENT

have been advised by someone that consistency is not a value that must be adhered to, even if the fallacy becomes obvious.

On April 29, 1933, MK Gandhi in an article in the *Harijan* stated: "I am not at all concerned with appearing to be consistent. In my search for truth, I have discarded many ideas and learnt many new things...when anybody finds any inconsistency between any two writings of mine, if he has still faith in my sanity, he would do well to choose the later of the two on the same subject." He said so as he had "not ceased to grow inwardly". This instance has great relevance not only for the particular person indicated, but also to all other ambitious young persons in politics.

Indian politicians must realise that elections are important, but this alone is not democracy. Most important is the public acceptance of its credibility. This they could comprehend if they practice *aparigraha* and, for that, the guiding light could come from Gandhi: "All humanity is one undivided and indivisible family, and each one of us is responsible for the misdeeds of all of the others." A person becomes a

personality only when he moves out of his own self and starts internalising his obligations to others. It was beautifully articulated by Einstein: "A person starts to live when he can live outside himself".

Corona has clearly established before every human being and every nation that, for it, every human being is just one more target. And therefore, it could be confronted only through coordinated global efforts; no nation, no race, no religion can do it in isolation. It is so succinctly articulated in the words of HH Dalai Lama: "In human societies, there will always be differences of views and interests. But the reality today is that we are all interdependent and have to coexist on this small planet. Therefore, the only sensible and intelligent way of resolving differences and clashes of interest, whether between individuals or nations, is through dialogue. The promotion of a culture of dialogue and non-violence for the future of mankind is thus an important task for the international community." Hope our politicians are the author! (The author works in education and social cohesion. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TWITTER MUST ABIDE BY RULES

Sir — The freedom of expression has its own limitations. It can neither be overstepped nor does it act as a threat to the security of any nation. The standoff between the Twitter management and the Government is unwanted. As Twitter is a foreign entity, it has the obligation to abide by the rules and regulations of India if it wants to play here.

A part of Ladakh was shown as part of China by Twitter not too long ago. This is absolute mockery of the laws of the land and it is a shame on the nation, which needs to be condemned. It acted similarly in the aftermath of the Delhi violence though a social platform should not be instrumental in creating hatred, chaos or violence. Vaccine hesitancy too was professed, which was totally uncalled for. So the Government's move in this direction is absolutely right and necessary. Even in many European nations, there are watertight rules for social media.

The freedom of speech and working against national interests are two different issues. Twitter must obey the laws of the land, not join hands with the Opposition and the so-called liberalists whose only aim is to dislodge the democratically elected Modi Government.

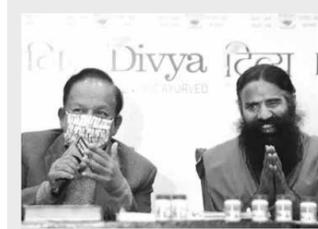
Sravana Ramachandran | Secunderabad

RAMDEV IS FEELING THE PINCH

Sir — The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has served a defamation notice on Baba Ramdev for making disparaging remarks against allopathy and allopathic doctors, and demanded an apology from him within 15 days failing which, it said, it will demand a compensation of ₹1,000 crore from the yoga guru. Around 2,000 allopathic practitioners are part of the association.

As Ramdev's comment is a criminal act under Section 499 of the IPC, the notice demanded a written apology from him. The notice has also asked Ramdev to make a video clip contradicting all his "false and defamatory" allegations and circulate it on all social media platforms where he had uploaded his earlier video clip levelling the allegations. It has also asked the yoga guru to withdraw all misleading "advertisements" from

Unbecoming of a doctor



Instead of being India's Health Minister, Harsh Vardhan should have been the brand ambassador for Patanjali. Otherwise, as the son of a doctor, let me tell Harsh Vardhan that giving the "vultures" metaphor to foreign media is highly unprofessional and unbecoming of a doctor. It smacks of fascist and totalitarian tendencies.

We know that it is problematic for Harsh Vardhan and the BJP's top brass to read Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's tweets or speeches, but that does not also mean that the *aam aadmi* would start believing his facts and figures over the COVID-19 death count. Because hardly any statistics put out in the public domain by the Modi Government in the

last seven years is authentic. Harsh Vardhan must admit that he has never been open, transparent, sensitive or honest. The way he attacked Rahul in his tweet, it wasn't the language of a cultured person: "Politics on corpses, INIndia Style! Although vultures are disappearing from trees, it seems their spirit has been absorbed by vultures of the earth.@RahulGandhi ji trusts #NewYork more than #Delhi. One should learn to play politics on corpses from the vultures of the earth." No doubt Harsh Vardhan attacked Rahul on behalf of the Modi Government but people eagerly want to know from the Government that how would they silence people's belief, as Gujarat poetess Parul Kakkar said in her *shav vahan* poem: "Ek saath sab murde bole, 'sab kuch chhangachanga', saheb tumahre Ramraj me shav vahini Ganga (Don't worry, be happy, in one voice speak the corpses; O King, in your Ram-Rajya, we see bodies flow in the Ganges)."

Had Harsh Vardhan worked harder for India, he would not have been in this pitiable condition.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

all platforms endorsing the Coronil kit, a product of his firm, as an effective medicine against COVID-19, failing which an FIR and a criminal case would be lodged against him by the IMA. Ramdev, therefore, is in a soup and feeling the pinch.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

LOCKDOWN IMPACTED MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

Sir — Periods don't stop just because there are lockdowns, cyclones or any other form of a calamity or the pandemic. However, the manufacturing units that are in the business of making affordable sanitary pads are facing disruption as the successive lockdowns have slowed down, almost halted in fact, the process of importing raw materials.

The sorry development has led to the shortage of availability of affordable sanitary

napkins across the country. This has caused millions of menstruating women to suffer, especially those belonging to the rural areas of India, as they could not access sanitary pads during the lockdowns.

It is forcing many women to adopt unhygienic methods of managing their monthly periods, which may give rise to other diseases. Therefore, both the Centre and the State Governments should act swiftly to restore normalcy in the production of affordable sanitary pads. Otherwise, the gains made over the last decade in improving menstrual hygiene and empowering women in this field may be reversed.

PS Swagatika Sahoo | Jagatsinghpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

From Monday, two activities will be open — construction and factories. We will take further decisions considering the COVID situation in Delhi.

Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal

To the men and women who were taken to prisoner of war camps or jail without charge, people who are no longer with us to hear this apology...we are sorry.

Canadian Prime Minister — Justin Trudeau

Our hearts go out to thousands of people who have suffered the impacts of #CycloneYaas. So many lives and homes affected.

Actor — Dia Mirza

India look a superior batting side. How they tackle the conditions is important. To me, India's batting will hold the key.

Former India captain — Kapil Dev

Such five-star politicians (Akhilesh Yadav) are responsible for the fall in level of politics because of their senseless comments. They should have actually been serving people of the State in such troubled times

Uttar Pradesh Minister — Sidharth Nath Singh



FIRST COLUMN

POWERING THE GROWTH IMPETUS

How India should ensure sustained economic recovery post-pandemic



HIMANSHU RAI

The global economic slowdown caused due to the pandemic has been an eye-opener for various economies chasing growth. They have realized the importance of sustainable growth and contingency planning to cushion deep shocks. Although the scale of the spread of the pandemic was not foreseeable, a resilient and robust underlying policy framework has enabled many nations to get on their feet again. Notwithstanding the unique challenges that countries faced, let us attempt a comparative analysis of economic metrics to understand the hits and misses in terms of economic policies and practices and eventually help policymakers to replicate the successful ones. Australia and New Zealand got the basics right



early and concentrated efforts on health infrastructure to minimize the impact of supply shock and subsequent demand shock due to lockdowns. Spending on goods and services grew by 7.9 per cent in Australia for Q3 2020. In New Zealand, industrial production decreased by two per cent in Q4 2020 while the unemployment rate was 4.9 per cent. The GDP growth rate has been projected within the range of 4 - 5 per cent for 2021, while the IMF projects a GDP growth of three per cent % for 2021 for Australia.

Industrial production decreased by 1.9 per cent in January, 2021 in Europe. New job postings reduced by around 40 per cent in food and beverages sector, indicating challenges of employment. A report by McKinsey estimated that around 59 million jobs may be at risk. The GDP growth rate of the US economy for 2021 was projected earlier to be around 3.08 per cent. The recovery is slow but steady. The industrial production index decreased by 4.2 per cent in the last year, but the increasing market confidence due to ongoing vaccination drives is raising hopes for normalcy. Joblessness is still a major concern with a February, 2021 McKinsey report saying only 60 per cent of job losses have been recovered.

India has been on the path of recovery since Q4 2020, when the GDP increased by 0.4 per cent and GVA by one per cent. The GST collection and eWay bills generation have reached a high, signifying a boost in domestic spending. The share market also recorded significant growth. Indian Forex reserves have become the fourth largest in the world, surpassing Russia.

Though the economy is projected to contract in 2021, there is a 12.6 per cent projected economic growth by OECD for 2022. The Index of Industrial Production shrank by 12 per cent in the period April, 2020-January, 2021. The contraction in January, 2021 has been around 1.6 per cent, indicating slow-paced recovery. The unemployment rate increased from 6.53 per cent in January, 2021 to 6.9 per cent the next month and the major contribution to unemployment has been from the rural areas.

Thus, India needs to focus on the rural sector and boost employment opportunities and stimulate rural markets to develop a solid base for recovery. An important element in this would be the communication to remove skepticism and fear over vaccines, and chart out a robust vaccine-coverage strategy. Sustenance and empowerment of rural and local economies and strengthening the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative will go a long way in helping us recover and reinvigorate.

The author is Director, IIM-Indore. The views expressed are personal.

The dragon's footprint in selective spread of Covid?

Surprisingly, the virus affects only the countries that may have a capacity to control China's hegemonist ambitions and not those securing aid and assistance from it



VINAI KUMAR SAXENA

It is widely suspected that the COVID-19 virus was manufactured in a laboratory in China and was let loose on the world. It is China which is thus claimed to be largely responsible for the loss of more than 3.3 million lives and causing untold suffering to a far greater number of people.

If we look at the list of death by countries, we will see that over half a million died in USA, the biggest trade and military rival of China. Brazil and India, which are the two major members of the BRIC countries that together could make a formidable power of challenge to China have collectively recorded over another half a million deaths. Western European countries, which are allies of US and are power partners in the UN and NATO and dominate the world of commerce and military under the patronage and partnership of US, have collectively seen another half a million deaths.

Actually, a laboratory manufactured agent of death has allegedly been unleashed into countries that are the major threat and hurdle in China's marathon 100-year run to finish as the world's largest super power. In about a year, not just death, the health and hygiene framework and the economic fabric of these countries have been damaged to such an extent that the recovery could take years. On top of that, these nations, mostly democratic, are now facing people's ire due to unquantifiable suffering, and very stable political governance systems have been shaken to the core. This kind of warfare has never been witnessed before in human history.

From the same list of countries, one may observe that countries in the neighbourhood of these strategic nations have not been so much affected by the Chinese virus at all.

Is it a coincidence or a conspiracy that nations like Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, most of which have societies that are closely linked to India's in trade, cultural exchange, familial relations and interactive through our perforated borders do not have the viral infection anywhere near to the proportion in India? Is it a coincidence or conspiracy that a similar disparity in the viral spread happens across Europe and only NATO countries get severely affected and not the eastern nations on that continent? Why and how is that the Chinese virus affects only countries that may have a capacity to successfully control the hegemonist ambitions and not the countries that secure aid and assistance from China and remain subservient to the growing power of the dragon?

This is only possible with the help of a laboratory generated virus and not through an organism spun out of organic evolution. For this very reason, India should never accept the vaccine, medicines or any material of mass consumption originating from China, because we could just become sitting ducks for a conspiracy that is deep and wide and is brought out through a careful fusion of science, technology and hegemonist strategy.

We are living in times when completely unthinkable and what we thought as impossible have begun to happen. This month, a rocket launched by China fell back into sea and space agencies have wondered what might have fallen from it into the Indian Ocean. We all remember not many years ago, across the world, unsolicited packets of seeds arrived at people's doors from China and agriculture experts warned people not to sow them, for they might be seeds that will destroy the native species and obliterate our food



IS IT A COINCIDENCE OR A CONSPIRACY THAT NATIONS LIKE PAKISTAN, MYANMAR, BANGLADESH, SRI LANKA AND BHUTAN, MOST OF WHICH HAVE SOCIETIES THAT ARE CLOSELY LINKED TO INDIA'S IN TRADE, CULTURAL EXCHANGE, FAMILIAL RELATIONS AND INTERACTIVE THROUGH OUR PERFORATED BORDERS DO NOT HAVE THE VIRAL INFECTION ANYWHERE NEAR TO THE PROPORTION IN INDIA?

The author is Chairman, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.



security. Australia is in the eye of the storm of the dragon because of its developmental position in south east and scientists wonder if there is any Chinese connection to the devastating wildfire of last year that burned for weeks on end. For scientists, the devastating glacier burst in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, which lies in proximity to China, is also an unusual and rare occurrence in the peak winter months when the Himalayan glaciers remain in deep frozen state.

Technology companies in the Silicon Valley are increasingly being established and led by people of Chinese origin, which might help in China in global surveillance and information collection. Zoom, the leading Video Conferencing facility has been blamed on that count and nations have suspected that information from secretive and strategic video conferences may have already reached Chinese information archives.

A recent publication of NITI Aayog has elaborately traced the character of India's rural economy and put into perspective the importance of rural sustainability of the nation. Although India is in a transitional state of economic resurgence, 68.8 per cent of the nation's population and 72.4 per cent of nation's workforce are from rural areas. Nearly half of India's National Domestic Product (NDP) is still rural. While 96 per cent of agricultural employment is rural, 48.6 per cent of non-agricultural employment too is rural. Because of this, sustain-

able development of India depends predominantly on rural industriousness, productivity, dynamics and livelihood quality. The efforts of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) are intricately linked to this horizon of rural sustainable development of India through nearly 100 different kinds of rural industrial entrepreneurship and handholding activities. KVIC has been sustaining a major part of village industries in India through over 40 offices spread across the nation, around 5,000 aligned institutions, 23 departmental sales outlets and around 8035 Khadi sales outlets /Khadi Bhavans run by Khadi Institutions. The direct beneficiaries organized through this mechanism exceed 15 million people, while indirect beneficiaries run into several additional millions. If you put together the direct, indirect associated and familial beneficiaries of this carefully hand raised and sustained sector, it could well over be a billion people in the lifeline of village industries sustainable development programmes. China understands the socio-economic and socio-political power of this community and its influence on the mainstream life of our nation. And it engages itself in a calculated and consistent manner in which this delicate balance could be obliterated, so that the nation can be hollowed from within.

In taking some examples of this phenomenon, the 'agarbatti' (Incense stick) industry stands out. Out of the half-a-million-metric-ton 'agarbatti' requirement and production in

India annually, over 80 per cent raw material come from China and Vietnam.

Even the national flag of India that is only made with Khadi cotton or silk fabric was not spared by Chinese invasion. Counterfeit national flags made of plastic and other artificial material from China flooded Indian markets forcing the current government to place the National Flag under prohibited category of import in October, 2019.

Similarly, the traditional Indian Silk Industry, the heritage art of clay pottery, handmade paper and leather industry were driven to the verge of extinction. Imagine, the idols of Indian deities were made in China and worshipped in Indian households. Toys, honey, minerals, and dozens of other natural-resources-based village industries have been rendered unproductive due to Chinese economic aggression of pushing through our market a subsidized and quality-compromised product till recently, until the present government made corrections by imposing higher import duty and import restrictions on such Chinese products. It will, however, take years for the Indian village industries to recuperate from the Chinese intrusion and be self-reliant in all respects.

One can imagine the invasion of the dragon. The fire is not in the borders that guard the nation. The fire is burning the nation to its core and is devouring the integrity, national character and our very ways of existence. And we have unconsciously allowed that.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THIS IS THE FOURTH DAY; NO VACCINATION FOR YOUTH BETWEEN 18 AND 44 IN ANY OF THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF DELHI IS DONE. — AAP LEADER ATISHI



THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO PLAY POLITICS. BUYING VACCINES INTERNATIONALLY IS NOT SIMILAR TO BUYING OFF-THE-SHELF ITEMS. — NITI AAYOG MEMBER VK PAUL

Super inflation and income loss thaw India

The crisis is national and the country has to take prudent steps, prune expenses and not do politicking on issues of benevolence

Multiple Taxes, unemployment, high 10.49 percent wholesale price index (WPI) rise and severe income losses are thawing the nation amid high Covid-19 deaths.

The six-month high WPI figures in April would be straining the economy. Actual price rise at the retail level would be a minimum of 10.49 per cent plus 4.29 per cent CPI inflation, not less than 14.78 per cent. The super inflation in 1974 was at 28.66 per cent, and 16.94 per cent in 1973. Those days purchasing power of the people had collapsed and protests marked the national scenario. It may not look serious but if income losses of 84 per cent of the people are added it appears grim. As per a study of the Azim Premji University study, the pandemic has led to worsening in quality of employment, with a



SHIVAJI SARKAR

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

number of salaried employees joining the ranks of precariously self-employed.

"The annual rate of inflation in April 2021, is high primarily because of rise in prices of crude petroleum, petrol, diesel and manufactured products as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry (CIM) said.

As most rise in prices, fares, freight are due to the CIM stated factors, the economy is slowing down, indicating a lower GDP as well. It is being further complicated by rising joblessness at 8 per cent in April amid the second covid19 wave from 7.4 per cent in March 2021. A CMIE study - Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS) - observes weekly unemployment rate touched 14.5 per cent on May 15. The CMIE says



that 84 per cent households have suffered a decrease in monthly income and that more than one-fourth of the country's working-age population is unemployed.

World Bank warns 70 per cent of employment and about a third of GDP comes from the 'informal' workers. They are likely to lose their jobs or suffer severe income losses during Covid-19 lockdowns and

they tend to be largely excluded from social safety nets. Informality has made eight lakh migrant workers move out of Delhi, according to the state government. No nation, World Bank says, could have actual recovery unless these 'informal' people, particularly women, are taken care of.

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das says that manufacturing and services PMI along with

inflation would continue the price pressure. It may aggravate because global prices continue to rise.

Amid such scenario it looks strange that RBI, itself in crisis, approves a dividend payout bonanza of Rs 99,122 crore for July, 2020-March, 2021. It is 73 per cent higher than the entire previous year's Rs 57,126 crore. It is time for austerity not only in the debilitated public sector units but also in its expenses on many real estate and cosmetic projects.

The country is avoiding discussing such criticality that leads to impasses. The recent farmers' stir against the three draconian laws is the result of the 'partyocracy'. The nation does not want to discuss the irrationality of multiple taxes and the woes of the people. They are paying taxes on taxes - on old cars, multiple taxes on

petrol, bank deposits, vaccine, coffin, Rs 25 per km road toll and also a GST on that, junking their own cars and even on oxygen -that thankfully was undone by Delhi high court, and irrational atrocities and penalties on masks and Covid-19-related issues. A senior political observer and journalist, Ajai Setia, comments that even in government "ministers don't know what is going on in their ministries".

The discriminations are not being discussed. The Serum Institute of India is stated to have made profits of Rs 59,000 crore (\$8.2 billion) in 2020 and Rs 85,000 crore (\$12.7 billion) in 2021. Similarly, some select corporates are making tons as edible oil, fruit and gas prices are soaring apart from their international and national business. The concern of rising monopolies that are checked in

the US through anti-trust laws remains missing. The PSUs that are sustaining the nation are designed to become junk.

The second wave or spurt in cases of Covid-19 since April has not only caused loss of lives but has cast its shadows on growth prospects. A third wave has been warned. Downward revision of tax revenue and GDP projections are realities. The central government's gross tax revenue in Budget 2020-21 estimates was reduced by more than 20 per cent in 2021-22 Budget.

The governance method has to change with the participation even the opposition. The crisis is national and to surpass Bangladesh, the country has to take prudent drastic steps, prune expenses and not do politicking on issues of benevolence. One step would go through long chain of changes.

Oli calls upon parties to form all-party Govt and hold elections

Kathmandu: Embattled Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Friday urged all political parties to form an all-party government and hold elections, My Republica.com portal quoted him as saying. Addressing the nation as the chief executive of the country, Oli took most of his time to criticise the moves taken by the Opposition parties and his fellow party leaders. He blamed the Opposition parties and dissident faction of the ruling CPN-UML for the dissolution of Parliament. He blamed his party's rival group for blocking his attempts to consolidate democracy and to take the nation to the path of socio-economic transformation. Oli said Parliament could not ensure stability in the country even after it was restored on February 23 through judicial intervention. "Though it was reinstated through the Supreme Court's verdict, it turned out to be func-

tionless and the main source of instability in the country," said Oli. He claimed that he tried to prevent the lower house of Parliament from being dissolved. "I made my last ditch effort to form an alternative government as per Article 76 (5) after being assured of support from the Janata Samajbadi Party (JSP). However, Opposition parties, who played a dirty game of politics, forced the president to dismiss their claim for a new government," he said. "Due to their erroneous claim, I was the victim and Parliament was dissolved as per the constitutional provisions," he said. Hinting at the support extended to Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba by more than two dozen lawmakers of UML and a dozen others belonging to the JSP, he warned of not accepting party-

less character in the multiparty system adopted by Nepal. President Bhandari dissolved the House and rejected the bids of both Prime Minister Oli and the Opposition alliance's claims to form a government, saying the "claims were insufficient." Nepal's Opposition alliance on Monday filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court demanding restoration of the House of Representatives and appointment of Deuba as the Prime Minister. Others had also filed petitions against the dissolution of the House of Representatives. The next hearing in the case will be held on Sunday, the government-run Rising Nepal newspaper reported. Earlier on December 20, the President had dissolved the Parliament and called snap polls on April 30 and May 10. However, two months later, the Rana-led Constitutional Bench on February 23 over-

turned the decision and reinstated the House. Constitutional experts have criticised Oli and Bhandari for their complicity in trampling upon the Constitution. In his address Oli also discussed the government's efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic and claimed that his government made big achievements, including controlling the pandemic, during his three years tenure. Oli expressed gratitude to China, India and other friendly countries for helping the government in its attempt to control the spread of the coronavirus by providing necessary medical supplies. He informed that the Nepal government has received 3.2 million doses of vaccines against coronavirus in grants from friendly countries and purchased one million additional vaccines to start the drive against spread of the coronavirus. **PTI**

Nepal's Supreme Court starts hearing 30 writ petitions against House dissolution

Kathmandu: A Constitutional Bench of Nepal's Supreme Court on Friday heard 30 writ petitions against the dissolution of the lower house of Parliament and fixed Sunday as the next date of hearing, according to media reports. Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana formed the bench earlier in the day with justices Deepak Kumar Karki, Dr Ananda Mohan Bhattarai, Tej Bahadur KC and Bam Kumar Shrestha alongside him, the Kathmandu Post newspaper reported. There is a provision of a five-member Bench to settle disputes over constitutional matters. Currently, there are 13 senior justices, besides chief justice, in the Supreme Court.

"The hearing took place till 3:00 pm on Friday afternoon and it will continue on coming Sunday (May 30)," Devendra Dhakal, Information Officer at the Supreme Court, was quoted as saying by the official The Rising Nepal newspaper. As many as 30 writ petitions have been registered at the apex court against President Bidya Devi Bhandari's May 22 move to dissolve the lower house of Parliament on the advice of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, who is heading a minority Government. The initial hearing on 19 of such petitions was conducted by the CJ Rana-led bench on Thursday. The single bench, however, forwarded the writ petitions to the Constitutional Bench for further hearing. Some of the petitioners had demanded an interim against the dissolution and calling of the House meeting to present the national budget. Rana, however, refused. According to the provision, the government must present the federal budget at the federal Parliament by May 29. Since there is no Parliament, the Government is planning to bring the budget through an ordinance. President Bhandari dissolved the 275-member House of Representatives on Saturday for the second time in five months and announced snap elections on November 12 and November 19 on the advice of Prime Minister Oli, who is heading a minority government.

Man killed after stabbing, shooting 3 French cops

Paris: An unidentified assailant stabbed a police officer at her station on Friday in western France then shot two other officers before being killed in a shootout with police, authorities said. The motive for the violence is unclear. The slain suspect's identity is being verified, France's national gendarme service told The Associated Press. The three officers were wounded but none is in life-threatening condition, the gendarmes said. After stabbing the first police officer in her station in the Nantes suburb of La Chapelle-sur-Erdre, the assailant took her gun and fled, according to the gendarme service. French police deployed helicopters, search dogs and more than 200 officers to find the suspect, and closed nearby schools and stores. When he was located, he fired on officers trying to arrest him, the gendarme service said. He was gravely wounded in an ensuing shootout, and died Friday afternoon of his injuries, according to a police official. The official was not authorised to be publicly named. Police and ambulances blocked roads in the normally quiet, residential area after the stabbing. **AP**

Iraq looks to new pier to boost oil product imports, exports

Basra (Iraq): Iraq is building a new oil pier off its southern coast, financed by Japan, that's expected to boost exports and imports of crude-derived products and increase revenue, officials said Friday. The construction within the port of Khor al-Zubair — Iraq's main fuel export and import facility — is over 70 per cent complete and should be finished this year, said Farhan Fartousi, the director-general of the General Company for Ports in Iraq, a state company responsible for Iraq's southern ports. It marks the latest project undertaken by port officials and investors to modernize the port and boost revenue in the wake of government plans announced last year to clamp down on border corruption that significantly skims off state revenue. Iraq's two largest and key commercial ports — Umm Qasr and Khor al-Zubair — have come under scrutiny amid anti-corruption measures to tackle widespread graft. Fartousi said Khor al-Zubair is now bringing in 10 billion Iraqi dinars a month (about USD 6.8 million), a significant jump from 8 billion Iraqi dinars a month earlier this year (approximately USD 5.4 million). **AP**

Belarusian leader heads to Russia amid showdown with EU

Moscow: Belarus' authoritarian leader heads to Russia on Friday to seek assistance amid a bruising showdown with the European Union over the diversion of a flight to arrest a dissident journalist. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko is set to meet with Russia's Vladimir Putin at his Black Sea residence in Sochi for talks on closer economic ties, according to the Kremlin. Belarus provoked the EU's outrage when Belarusian flight controllers on Sunday told the crew of a Ryanair jet flying from Greece to Lithuania there was a bomb threat and instructed it to land in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, where 26-year-old journalist Raman Pratasevich was arrested along with his Russian girlfriend. The EU responded by barring Belarusian carriers from its airspace and airports and advising European airlines to skirt Belarus. The bloc's foreign ministers agreed Thursday to ramp up sanctions to target the country's lucrative potash industry and other sectors of the Belarusian economy that are the main cash-earners for Lukashenko's Government. **AP**

Erdogan opens landmark mosque at Istanbul main square

Istanbul: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was set on Friday to inaugurate a landmark mosque in Istanbul's Taksim Square, fulfilling a long-time ambition to build a Muslim house of worship at the city's main public space that has become an emblem of the modern Turkish Republic. Erdogan was scheduled to join a group of worshippers for the first prayers at the towering 3,000-capacity mosque on "Taksim Meydanı" which was also the site of the mass anti-government protests in 2013 sparked by the government's construction plans at the adjacent Gezi Park. The Turkish leader, who has steadily consolidated power in his 18 years in office, had long promised supporters of his Islam-oriented ruling party a mosque on Taksim, saying it is inconceivable for Istanbul's main square not to have a Muslim house of worship. Critics, however, see the mosque's construction as being part of Erdogan's plans to transform Taksim and undermine the legacy of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk who established the secular-oriented republic after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. **AP**

UN envoy says he held talks with Yemen's rebel negotiator

Cairo: The UN special envoy for Yemen said on Friday that he met with a top rebel negotiator to discuss the roadmap for the resolution of the impoverished Arab country's six-year conflict. Yemen has been embroiled in a civil war since 2014, when rebels known as Houthis swept across much of the north and seized the capital, Sanaa, forcing the government into exile. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war the following year on the side of the government and has been fighting the Iran-backed Houthis since. The war has spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis. According to the U.N. envoy, Martin Griffiths, his meeting with the Houthi negotiator, Mohammed Abdul-Salam, took place in Oman's capital of Muscat on Thursday. Last week, U.S. Envoy to Yemen Tim Lenderking had criticized the Houthis for refusing to meet with Griffiths during a previous visit. Griffiths' statement says the two discussed U.N. plans to reopen Sanaa's international airport, the lifting of restrictions on Yemen's port of Hodeida, and a cease-fire to relaunch negotiations. Griffiths urged the warring sides to "seize this opportunity and make a breakthrough towards resolving the conflict." **AP**

Hong Kong tycoon gets 14-month jail term over 2019 protest

Hong Kong: Hong Kong media tycoon and outspoken pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai was sentenced to more jail time on Friday over his role in an anti-government protest in 2019, as authorities step up a crackdown on dissent in city. Lai and nine others were charged with incitement to take part in an unauthorised assembly when they walked down a road with thousands of residents on Oct. 1, 2019, to protest against dwindling political freedoms in Hong Kong. All 10 pleaded guilty to organising an unauthorised assembly. Lai, 73, was sentenced to 14 months in prison. He is currently serving a separate 14-month jail term for other convictions earlier this year also related to unauthorised rallies in 2019, when hundreds of thousands repeatedly took to the streets in the biggest challenge to Beijing since the city was handed from British to Chinese control in 1997. Beijing promised that the territory could retain its freedoms not found on the mainland for 50 years. With the two sentences combined, Lai will serve a total of 20 months behind bars. The founder of The Apple Daily, a feisty pro-democracy tabloid, Lai is also being investigated under the city's sweeping national security law, imposed last year, on suspicion of colluding with foreign powers to intervene in the Hong Kong affairs. Also receiving jail terms of 18 months each were former lawmakers Albert Ho and Leung Kwok-hung, as well as Lee Cheuk-yan, a pro-democracy activist. **AP**

US taking 'very close look' at vaccine passports

Washington: Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas says the Government is taking a very close look at the possibility of vaccine passports for travel into and out of the United States. As head of the Department of Homeland Security, Mayorkas oversees the Transportation Security Administration, which safeguards the nation's transportation systems. Mayorkas told ABC on Friday that one of his guiding principles throughout the coronavirus pandemic has been the value of diversity, equity and inclusion and making sure that any passport that we provide for vaccinations is accessible to all and that no one is disenfranchised. The European Union, some Asian governments and the airline industry are scrambling to develop COVID-19 vaccine passports to help kickstart international travel. They're working on systems that would allow travellers to use mobile phone apps to prove they've been vaccinated, helping them avoid quarantine requirements at their destinations. Mayorkas says the underlying point is: Everyone should get vaccinated. **AP**

'China has no allies, US has many around world'

Washington: China, which is currently and will remain America's pacing challenge going forward, has no allies, while the United States has many allies around the world, which gives it greater capacity and greater capability, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told lawmakers on Thursday. "China is currently and will remain our pacing challenge going forward," Austin told the members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense during a hearing on the fiscal 2022 Budget Request for the Defense Department. The Biden administration, he said, has established the China task force that is about to complete its work and will inform about its efforts going forward and help them create synergies, eliminate duplication and more efficiently focus on the China challenge, he said. "China has no allies. We have many allies around the world. And we certainly have some strong allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region. And that gives us greater capacity and greater capability," Austin said responding to questions from the lawmakers. **PTI**

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead by train accident at Platform No. 3, Pillar No. 26, Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi dated 26.05.2021. In this regard a DD No. 25A, dated 26.05.2021 has been registered at P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the person is given as under Name: Unknown, S/O: Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: About 27 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Upper body naked and Grey Colour Pant and bare footed. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned. SHO P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-22145601, 22145602, 8750871314, 9311350017 DP/147/RLY/2021

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 29.05.2021

Sealed tenders under Two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following job from all bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/21-22/RS/MS/928	SURVEY, DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING & INTEGRATION WITH SCADA OF FAULT PASSAGE INDICATORS AT SUBSTATIONS IN BRPL, NEW DELHI (INDIA)	4.20 Crores	8.40 Lacs	21/06/2021 15:30 HRS	21/06/2021 16:00 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
For any query call on 011-4920 7235 or e-mail on brpl.eauction@relianceada.com
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc, please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No.: +91 11 4920 7235 | E-mail: brpl.eauction@relianceada.com | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

Pak Hindu lawmaker submits bill seeking religious minorities be referred to as 'non-Muslims'

Islamabad: Hindu lawmaker in Pakistan has submitted a bill in the lower house of Parliament seeking that religious minorities in the country be constitutionally referred to as "non-Muslims" to end the discrimination and establish equality and justice for every citizen. Keeso Mal Kheal Das, a member of the National Assembly from the Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, approached the National Assembly with a private member bill under rule 118 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007. Called as the Constitution Amendment Act, 2021, the bill aims to end discrimination against Pakistani non-Muslims who have been also referred in the constitution as minorities. He suggested that the bill should be adopted and brought into effect immediately. The government has not opposed the bill so far and the matter has been referred to the relevant standing committee. **PTI**

Information

We (Vinayak Hospital, Noida) are going to discard our in-patient file record from VH-0013327 to VH-0032105 as per the protocols. If anyone required their related records then you can collect records from the medical record department with 15 days i.e., till 13 June, 2021.

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD.
SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR

BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF C.I. SLUICE VALVES FOR THE YEAR 2021-22

GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of C.I. Sluice Valves (50 to 1200mm Dia.) only from Approved vendors of GWSSB as per new vendor Selection policy as on last date of online Bid submission. Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the tender documents at free of cost from website. <https://www.nprocure.com>
The last date of submission of online tender is 1-7-2021. INF/271/21-22

KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
CIN : L92199DL2000PLC104779
Registered Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi - 110091
Corporate Office: Block C, Sector 45, Gurgaon-122003, Tel. No (Regd office) : (+91-11) 49482870 • Fax : (+91-11) 49482900
Email : info@kamaholdings.com; website : www.kamaholdings.com

AUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31TH MARCH 2021 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31-Mar-21	31-Mar-20	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-20	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-20	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-20
1	Total Income from Operations	5709.40	2103.43	7212.09	4206.86	262310.10	186935.14	846755.24	726947.44
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (including discontinued operations)	5643.64	2048.87	6994.87	4031.79	50997.90	20615.99	161153.79	107381.31
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (including discontinued operations)	5807.15	2055.03	6986.38	4037.65	38025.08	18282.25	119631.27	101657.93
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	5807.35	2054.98	6986.05	4037.33	40185.89	3971.21	138274.91	88026.74
5	Paid up Equity Share Capital	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26
6	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -								
	(a) Basic :	90.00	31.85	108.27	62.57	298.38	145.95	939.10	821.74
	(b) Diluted:	90.00	31.85	108.27	62.57	298.38	145.95	939.10	821.74

Section 115BAA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 was introduced by the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019. The group had re-measured its deferred tax balances. Consequently, tax credit of Rs. 13,610.53 Lakhs (net of MAT adjustment) was recorded in the Statement of Profit and Loss during the year ended March 31, 2020. **Note:** The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financials Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.kamaholdings.com).

Place : Gurugram, Haryana
Date : 28th May 2021

For and on behalf of the Board
Ekta Maheshwari
Whole Time Director, CFO & Company Secretary
(DIN: 02071432)

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 29.05.2021

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Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
For any query call on 011-4920 7235 or e-mail on brpl.eauction@relianceada.com
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc, please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No.: +91 11 4920 7235 | E-mail: brpl.eauction@relianceada.com | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice to be known to all that I Surinder Mohan Chowdhry S/o Late Sh. Sat Dev Chowdhry along with my wife Shashi Chowdhry both R/o 96 Paschim Vihar Extension, New Delhi-110063, are the owners of shop no. 7 DDA Market Paschim Vihar Extn in record CSC 7 Paschim Puri DDA Mkt., New Delhi-110063. Has applied for conversion of aforesaid property from lease hold to freehold in DDA The Original 1. Allotment Cum Demand Letter 2. Original Possession Slip 3. Original Site Possession Slip 4. Original Paid up DDA Challans 5. NOC of Water and Electricity Issued by DDA of the above shop has been lost in FIR/NCR to this effect has been lodged in CR BR P Station New Delhi Vide FIR /NCR No LR 360419/2021 Dated 27th May 2021. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9899994315 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CE), A Block, Second Floor, or Director (CE), Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

Govt borrows 55% more so far this fiscal

AS LOCKDOWNS HIT REVENUE COLLECTIONS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indicating a massive revenue crunch due to the second wave of the pandemic that has forced many states to declare full lockdowns for almost two months now, the Centre has borrowed ₹2.1 lakh crore so far this fiscal - a whopping 55 per cent more than what it was a year ago.

But thanks to the debt yield management by the central bank, the only saving grace has been the low cost of the money raised so as despite the steeply higher drawdowns, the average cost of the money for the government has been under check and at the Friday's auction, it is paying only 6.08 per cent, much lower than last year and the same as last week, chief economist of Care Ratings Madan Sabnavis said on Friday.

The market borrowing of



₹2.1 lakh crore is 17.5 per cent of the budgeted debt creation of ₹12.05 lakh crore for the full year and 30 per cent of the first half borrowings calendar of ₹7.24 lakh crore, he said.

He further said total borrowings by the Centre so far this fiscal is a whopping 55 per cent more than the same period last year and attributed it to the lockdowns in most states and the resultant impact on revenue collections.

At the latest borrowing on Friday, the govt borrowed only ₹26,550 crore of the ₹32,000 crore notified. Of the total bids worth ₹19,114 crore were accepted by the RBI while bids for ₹7,437 crore were devolved

to the primary dealers.

However, the total borrowing for the week is ₹550 crore more than the notified amount but is 30 per cent lower than the previous week. Total market borrowings are in May climbed to ₹1.1 lakh crore, ₹6,545 crore more than in April. The amount exercised under the green shoe option so far this year rose to ₹23,398 crore while total amount devolved to the primary dealer is ₹18,363 crore.

The weighted average yields in this auction remained unchanged at 6.08 per cent, same as last weeks.

Of the total borrowing this fiscal, 24 per cent is via 14-year GSecs, 17 per cent via five-year bonds and around 15 per cent via the 10-year bonds. For the 2-year bonds maturing in 2023, there was an over-subscription of ₹550 crore.

Forex reserves hit lifetime high, rise \$ 2.8 bn to \$ 592.894 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 2.865 billion to a record high of USD 592.894 billion for the week ended May 21, boosted by gold and currency assets, RBI data showed on Friday.

The previous all-time high for the forex kitty was USD 590.185 billion for the week ended January 29, 2021.

For the previous week ended May 14, the reserves had increased by USD 563 million to reach USD 590.028 billion.

Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, swelled by USD 1.649 billion to USD 548.519 billion for the reporting week, the RBI said.

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

After remaining

For the previous week ended May 14, the reserves had increased by USD 563 million to reach USD 590.028 billion

unchanged in the previous week, gold reserves rose by USD 1.187 billion to USD 36.841 billion, the apex bank said.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased by USD 7 million to USD 1.513 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF too increased by USD 22 million to USD 5.021 billion in the reporting week, as per the data.

Bank credit growth decelerates to 5.6 pc in March

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bank credit growth decelerated to 5.6 per cent in March 2021 from 6.4 per cent a year ago, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

On the other hand, aggregate deposits growth accelerated to 12.3 per cent in March 2021 from 9.5 per cent in the same month of the previous year.

Lower growth in credit vis-a-vis deposits led to decline in the all-India credit-deposit (C-D) ratio to 71.5 per cent in March 2021 from 76 per cent a year ago.

Combined credit by bank branches in top six centres (Greater Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata) declined marginally during 2020-21. These six centres together accounted for over 46 per cent of total bank credit.

"Bank branches in urban, semi-urban and rural areas, on the other hand, recorded 9.4 per cent, 14.3 per cent and 14.5

per cent credit growth, respectively, during the year," the RBI said while releasing the 'Quarterly Statistics on Deposits and Credit of SCBs: March 2021'. Public sector and private sector banks recorded 3.6 per cent and 9.1 per cent credit growth, respectively, whereas lending by foreign banks declined during 2020-21.

The central bank further said aggregate deposits growth accelerated to 12.3 per cent in March 2021 from 9.5 per cent a year ago. Metropolitan branches, which account for over half of total deposits, recorded nearly 15 per cent growth during 2020-21.

The share of current account and savings account (CASA) deposits in total deposits increased to 44.1 per cent in March 2021 from 42.1 per cent a year ago.

"The share of private sector banks in total deposits and credit by SCBs (Scheduled Commercial Banks) increased during 2020-21 at the cost of public sector banks," it said.

'Govt should focus on converting 30 cr on-road vehicles to clean fuels'

New Delhi: The Government

should focus on converting around 30 crore vehicles currently running on petrol and diesel to clean fuels in a bid to improve the air quality, said Indian Auto LPG Coalition, apex body of Auto LPG stakeholders. In a statement, the industry body said that with mass adoption of electric vehicles still a distant future, an absence of a near term strategy to convert existing vehicles to cleaner alternatives is a crucial policy oversight.

Indian Auto LPG Coalition has said that Govt's indifference towards immediately available clean alternative fuels is proving to be a major health bane for the country. "Electric Vehicles are still in very early stages of adoption and even the most optimistic projections suggest that a mass adoption is not likely to begin at least till another decade. Meanwhile, around 300 million vehicles including two wheelers continue to produce toxic emissions," said Suyash Gupta, Director General, Indian Auto LPG Coalition.

IANS

DoT allocates spectrum for 5G trials to telecom operators

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



DoT had approved trials of 5G with Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung and C-DOT. In addition, Reliance Jio Infocomm will be conducting trials using its own indigenous technology.

According to DoT, 5G technology is expected to deliver ten times better download speed than that of 4G and up to three times greater spectrum efficiency.

During the trials, application of 5G in Indian settings will get tested.

This includes tele-medicine, tele-education and drone-based agriculture monitoring etc. Telecom operators will be able to test various 5G devices on their network.

The duration of the trials, at present, is for a period of 6 months. This includes a time period of 2 months for procurement and setting up of the equipment.

Markets maintain momentum; Nifty hits fresh record as RIL zooms

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rising for the sixth session on the trot, the NSE Nifty closed at a fresh lifetime high on Friday, powered by a robust rally in index heavyweight Reliance Industries.

The rupee's rising streak and daily Covid-19 cases falling below the 2-lakh mark also spurred bullish sentiment, traders said.

The Nifty surged 97.80 points or 0.64 per cent to finish at 15,435.65, closing at a record high for the second straight day.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 307.66 points or 0.60 per cent higher at 51,422.88.

Reliance Industries hogged the limelight in Friday's session, topping the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 5.90 per cent.

M&M spurted 2.13 per cent after the homegrown auto major swung into black in the March quarter with a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 163 crore.

HDFC twins, Kotak Bank, IndusInd Bank, ITC and Bharti Airtel were among the other gainers, climbing as much as 1.47 per cent.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv, Nestle India, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Dr Reddy's were among the laggards, tumbling up to 4.30 per cent.

During the week, the Sensex rallied 882.40 points or 1.74 per cent, while the broader Nifty surged 260.35 points or 1.71 per cent.

Tata Group acquires majority stake in BigBasket

New Delhi: Tata Group has

acquired a majority stake in online grocery seller BigBasket for an undisclosed sum of money, pitting it against the likes of billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance and Amazon. The stake was bought by Tata Digital Ltd, a unit of Tata Sons, a joint statement by the two firms said on Friday.

It neither disclosed the quantum of stake bought nor the deal size. In March, Competition Commission of India (CCI) had approved the acquisition of up to a 54.3 per cent stake in BigBasket by Tata Digital. It was previously reported that Tatas was in talks to buy close to an 80 per cent stake in the online grocery seller, that is backed by Alibab Group, for USD 1.3-1.6 billion.

PTI

Indian Bank posts ₹3,005 crore net profit for FY21

IANS ■ CHENNAI

State-owned Indian Bank on Friday said it closed last fiscal with a net profit of ₹3,004.67 crore on a total income of ₹45,185.04 crore, said a top official. The bank had earned a total income of about ₹44,099 crore and a net loss of ₹4,643 crore for 2019-20. Last fiscal was the first full year of operations after the Allahabad Bank was merged with the Indian Bank. According to the Indian Bank, the figures for 2019-20 were arrived at by totaling the numbers of the two banks.

Addressing reporters, Managing Director and CEO Padmaja Chundru said the bank's Board of Directors have recommended a dividend of 20 per cent for FY21.

Govt to look into builders' demand to boost realty sector amid Covid-19 pandemic: Housing secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra on Friday said the government will look into various demand of the real estate industry, including an extension of timeline for completion of projects by 6-9 months.

He highlighted various initiatives taken by the government in the past seven years such as development of 1.12 crore houses under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana (PMAY), launch of the Affordable Rental Housing Complex scheme for migrant workers, 'infrastructure' status to affordable housing, and 100 smart cities.

Mishra was addressing a webinar organised by realtors body NAREDDCO.

NAREDDCO's representatives made several demands before the secretary to revive

both demand and supply in the sector that has been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The association sought extension of timeline for completion of projects by 6-9 months under the realty law RERA, extension of all building permissions till March 2023, rationalisation of government taxes on real estate, and control of rising prices of cement and steel. It also sought reintroduction of interest subvention scheme, grant of input credit tax on GST paid in leased commercial real estate, suspension of insolvency law for some more period, and an online environment clearance system. Responding to the demand of extension of timeline for project completion, Mishra assured that he will "go in detail" to understand the matter.

BRIEFS

VIRTUAL VENDORS MEET ORGANISED BY CLW

Chittaranjan: A virtual Vendors Meet was organized online by Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 28th May 2021 with participation of over 200 vendors. The objective of the meet is for development of new vendors especially for imported items as well as enhancing the existing vendor base. The meet was started with introductory welcome remarks by the CII team. The meet had a full fledged discussion touching various points such as eligibility criteria & conditions; supplier on boarding process overview; product & service requirements; procurement policies & procedures; delivery/ payment terms; documentation required etc.



67 TH MEETING OF STF HELD

The 67 th meeting of STF was held on 28.05.2021 wherein officers from all the local bodies and other concerned agencies were present. The progress of the complaints received up to 15 th May was reviewed. In total 83566 complaints have been received in STF till 15th May 2021 and action on 79821 complaints has been initiated. 3258 ATR were received during the period from 01.04.2021 to 15.05.2021. Since the constitution of STF in 2018, 3621 unauthorised constructions have been demolished and more than 2423 properties have been sealed. Chairman, STF directed the ULBs to take the matter seriously and expedite the action on the pending cases.

DEFENCE SECY AJAY KUMAR LAUNCHES NCC TRAINING APP VERSION 2.0

Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar launched the Directorate General National Cadet Corps Mobile Training App Version 2.0 here today. The App will assist in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets during the pandemic conditions. In view of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 in March 2020, a need was felt that training to NCC cadets should be imparted utilising the digital medium. In order to assist online cadet training, a DGNCC Mobile App Version 1.0 for training was developed and launched by the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri on 27 Aug 2020.



IAMAI announces setting up of Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) on Friday announced the formation of the Digital Publishers Content Grievances Council (DPCGC).

Over the past two years, the IAMAI has worked collectively with its members towards establishing a self-regulatory and grievance redressal framework for Online Curated Content (OCC) Publishers, it said.

In light of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, the IAMAI is establishing the DPCGC as the level-II self-regulatory body for publishers of OCC as required under Rule 12, with the intent to empower consumers to make informed viewing choices.

The DPCGC will have an OCCP Council composed of publishers of OCC as members and an independent Grievance Redressal Board (GRB) -- consisting of a chairperson and six members.

₹ rises for 3rd day in a row, up 15 paise at 72.45 against \$

Mumbai: The Indian rupee

closed its third straight session of gains on Friday, firming up by another 15 paise to end the session at 72.45 against the US dollar amidst improved risk-on sentiments. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 72.46 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 72.31 and a low of 72.49 during the session. It finally ended at 72.45 against the American currency, registering a rise of 15 paise over its previous close.

PTI

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, Age: 45-50 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'6", was wearing Yellow colour T-Shirt, White & Blue colour Half NIKKAR and Blue colour Chappal in feet, was found dead between KM Pole No. 2/12 to 2/13, near Nathu Colony Railway Line, between Shahdara Railway Station to Loni Railway Station. In this regard a DD No. 5A, dated 28.05.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. ODRS, Delhi Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302 9868377475

DPI/150/Rly/2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of rail passengers that the East Coast Railway has decided to cancel/reduce the frequency of the following Rajdhani Special Trains due to low occupancy as per the following details:-

CANCELLATION/REDUCTION IN FREQUENCY OF SPECIAL TRAINS				
Train No. & Name	Existing Frequency	Revised Frequency	Dates of Cancellation	Days of Cancellation
02823 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri	Tuesday	03, 04, 07, & 10.06.2021	Mon, Thu, Fri
02824 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Special	Tue, Wed, Thu & Sat	Wednesday	03, 05, 08, & 10.06.2021	Tue, Thu, Sat
02825 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	Wednesday & Sunday	Sunday	02.06.2021 & 09.06.2021	Wednesday
02826 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Special	Monday & Friday	Monday	04.06.2021 & 11.06.2021	Friday
02855 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	Saturday	---	05.06.2021	Saturday
02856 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Special	Sunday	---	06.06.2021	Sunday

These Special Trains will be having Fully Reserved Service.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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

Visit RailMadad website:- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad app.
RailMadad Helpline No.: 139
Please join us on

NORTHERN RAILWAY
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Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S.No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount (Rs.)
(1)	06/SPE/PE (PH-01)/2021-22	Supply of Labour and Machinery for Cleaning & Desilting of drain of Various Location in PH-1 Area, Zone-III, Noida.	6579368.64

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **07.06.2021 upto 5.00 PM**. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated **08.06.2021 at 11.00 AM**.
Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health) Noida
Office Sector- 39

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Notice Inviting Tender
Office of District Magistrate / District Disaster Management Authority Haridwar
Email: ddmoharidwar@gmail.com / ivrsnodalharidwar@gmail.com

Office of District Magistrate / District Disaster Management Authority, Haridwar invites following short term tender from eligible bidders for the following work :-

01-Implementation of IVRS & Analytics System to Monitor and check Spread of Covid-19 in Haridwar District.
Tender documents can be purchased from office of "ADM(F&R)/DDMA Haridwar" between **29/05/2021 to 03/06/2021 (12:00 pm)**. Information in this regard with all details-detailed eligibility criteria and other terms & conditions of the tender document can be downloaded from www.haridwar.nic.in. It is also to be informed that any amendment in future against the tender shall be uploaded on www.haridwar.nic.in.

Document Purchase Start Date	29.05.2021 at 10:00 AM
Proposal Due Date	03.06.2021 at 12:00 PM
Opening of Technical Bids	03.06.2021 at 01:00 PM
Tender Document Price	Rs 2000 (GST Extra)

No.10765/DDM/IVRS/2021-22 Dt.28.05.21 **ADM (F/R), Haridwar**

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD.
SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR

BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF C.I. AIR VALVES FOR THE YEAR 2021-22

GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of C.I. Air Valves (15 to 200mm Dia.) only from **Approved vendors of GWSSB as per vendor Selection policy as on last date of online Bid submission**. Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the Tender documents at free of cost from website. <https://www.nprocure.com>
The last date of submission of online tender is 1-7-2021.
INF/272/21-22



SHORTCIRCUITS



SONAKSHI SINHA
 We end up in the environment we create for ourselves, and we must make sure that it's beautiful. The current situation around us is making us think hard about climate change, and the kind of effect it has on our planet. As responsible individuals, if we make small sustainable changes, we can create a healthier environment.



SAMEERA REDDY
 We've all been shamed at some point in our lives. Sometimes by society and at other times we do it to our own self. Loving your flaws and imperfections is your ticket to move towards a happy you. It's ok not to feel ok all the time. We are all imperfectly perfect.



ILEANA D'CRUZ
 It (the film industry) is brutal, of course, but it comes down to the audience. If people like you, that is all you need. You just want them to like watching you. The minute you are not liked, you sort of lose the mark.



SUNNY HINDUJA
 We should never let success and fame overwhelm us so much that we lose touch with our roots. When I say roots, I mean staying connected with people you have grown up with, who stood by you when you were starting out because they do not judge you.

SIMON COWELL
 After I lost my parents, I genuinely felt I would never feel that kind of love for anyone ever again. I thought that was it, until I saw the scan of my son for the first time. Now I just cannot imagine my life without him. He's the most amazing thing that ever happened to me. I adore him.



IMMERSIVE 15 MINUTES

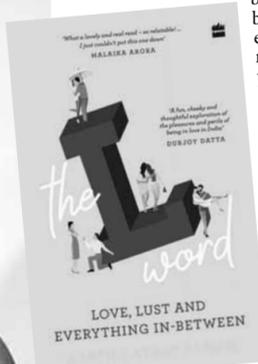
SEARCHING FOR THE ELUSIVE

Love can be many things – sometimes intimidating, frustrating, and often exhilarating. From ghosting, polyamory, love in the times of social media to dealing with heartbreak, infidelity and getting out of a toxic relationship, author AASTHA ATRAY BANAN's latest book, *The L Word: Love, Lust and Everything in Between*, is a guide. By AYUSHI SHARMA

♦**Love. What exactly is it?**
*Love is a many splendored thing
 It's the April rose that only grows in the early spring
 Love is nature's way of giving a reason to be living
 The golden crown that makes a man a king
 Once on a high and windy hill, in the morning mist
 Two lovers kissed and the world stood still
 Then your fingers touched my silent heart and taught it how to sing
 Yes, true love's a many splendored thing...
 Isn't it? Well, every single person in the world understands love and expresses it differently. When author Aastha Atray Banan found herself getting questions asked about the daily struggles of love, she decided to start a podcast, *Love Aaj Kal*, which facilitates non-judgmental and candid conversation on topics like love, sex and relationship. From ghosting, polyamory, love in the times of social media to dealing with heartbreak, infidelity and getting out of a toxic relationship, she knew what were the problems people were facing these days. So she worked up from dating to marriage, which led her to write — *The L Word: Love, Lust and Everything in Between*. The book is a guide to love, dating and relationships in the modern world.*



It wouldn't be wrong to say that technology has superseded human interaction today, and has elevated the desire for quick hookups. However, ask Aastha, 'what does she think about modern relationships?' 'Are they fundamentally the same as they were in prior generations?' She tells us that modern relationships are 'transient.' 'They are not about commitment but the illusion of choice. People think the next best thing is always waiting somewhere around the corner and don't want to put in any work. People move on too quickly and everything is based on shallow interactions. It's all about how you look and come across. Nobody wants to actually commit or even adjust. They just feel like moving on, instead of meeting the other person halfway,' she says.
 Everybody seems to be obsessed with the notion of love these days. It might be because we are conditioned to believe that we



need to find another person to complete us. That's what Aastha has tried to convey in the book: Love is great but it's not 'be all and end all'. 'Build your relationship with yourself first. I think we need to start finding love in different ways and not just romance,' says the author, who has previously written *His Monsoon Bride* and *Games Girls Play*.
 It's true that in a never-ending quest for 'the one', people risk losing the one they should care about the most: Themselves. Aastha completely agrees and says, 'Yes, we do! We don't prioritise ourselves, and we spend years in toxic relationships just because we want someone. The book talks about 'self-love' as the most needed criteria. We need to never underestimate who we are, and what we stand for.'
 After comprehending and exploring the idea so much, what can love stand for Aastha? Well, she tells us that she believes love is being consistent, being present, and being completely involved in another's life. She says, 'It's all about choosing to settle for someone while being aware of their pros and cons. Nobody is perfect. We have to eventually settle for someone who has flaws. And we should understand this soon. We need to only enter relationships that provide comfort and peace. But be ready to accommodate and adjust. We need to meet people halfway.'
 The book has some hard truths about love. 'Some will help you become aware, some will show you the truth, some will say it's okay if you are alone, and it's okay if it didn't work out, life moves on. Love makes you grow in many ways,' she says.
 Certainly, love is a many splendored thing.

CONVERSATION 30 MINUTES

Behind the scenes

Sharing memories of the shoot from the film *Wrath of Man*, actor JASON STATHAM says that it is always a challenge to bring a sense of spontaneous realism to the sets but director Guy Ritchie, the director, is an ace at it



♦**How does it feel to be working with Guy Ritchie again?**
 It's the greatest thing in the world. We have both come a long way since we started working together over 20 years ago. And what you really want to do in a situation like this is see whether anything has changed, but the truth is that nothing has. I fell in love with this profession, thanks to a lottery ticket that Guy handed me called *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*.



♦**What are your memories of that shoot, which marked your debut in Hollywood and Guy's first film behind the camera?**
 It was a bunch of lads running around spitting out this incredible dialogue in a crime caper that turned out to be a big smash hit in the UK. I think they were the best six weeks I have ever had.

♦**And here you are, more than 20 years later, working on another Guy Ritchie film, *Wrath of Man*. How do you see H, the character you play?**
 I see him as a complicated guy who above everything is a father. And even though I became one quite late in the game, I feel everything rotates around that in my life. So, to have it removed is an unimaginable sort of horror to deal with, which can spiral into an obsession with finding the culprit.

♦**Is H a mysterious man?**
 Yes, and I think that is necessary for the interest of the story. So, it's better not to know too much about him (and wait) for the plot to unfold. That aspect about him makes the role very internal, and especially when he goes for a job in the cash truck business. My character has to keep his cards very close to not let anyone know who he really is or what he is capable of doing. And I do quite like playing such mysterious characters.

♦**So, *Wrath of Man* is much more than just an action film, as the dramatic component to it is quite significant.**
 It gets very dramatic because of the stakes at hand. H is forced to play people a certain way to figure out who they really are, but in the end someone is going to pay a hefty price.

♦**And would you say that being a father has helped you understand this man?**
 Oh yes! And then you wonder how you would have to come back from losing a son or a daughter, as it seems unimaginable. These are conversations I have shared with Guy, for my character.

♦**What else did you do to prepare for the role?**
 When I work with Guy I try not to get too ahead of him, which would be impossible anyway, because he has the whole film in his mind. So I didn't meet people who worked at cash truck companies or anything like that precisely because my character is not too proficient at his job.

♦**And when it comes to the action, the film also feels very real and gritty.**
 Yes, Guy wanted to keep this very real and not have me do cool, slick movements. And his way of achieving that is with an on-the-day type of organic approach, where you kind of get into the space and figure out what the character is going to do in the specific situation he is in...as the tension builds.

♦**What does it feel like to shoot a film this way?**
 Like a breath of fresh air! And in

EXPRESS 45 MINUTES

Speaking up for the cause

Actor WAYNE BRADY collaborates with GLENN CLOSE for her spoken word jazz album to release a life's worth of thoughts and feelings in *A Piece by the Angriest Black Man in America (or, How I Learned to Forgive Myself for Being a Black Man in America)*



In the background of his career as an actor, singer, comedian, game show host and television personality, Wayne Brady had been working on a one-man show about being a young Black man growing up in Orlando for a long time, but he could never finish the project.
 That's until acclaimed actor Glenn Close asked him to participate in her spoken word jazz album.
 'To be honest with you, the reason it took me a couple of years was that it was so painful. Every time I'd go to it, I would start a draft and it got a little too real. I felt myself wanting to do the thing that you can do — whether you're talking to a group of friends or whether you're on a stage — I'm going to now make this funny and I'm going to deflect. Or I'll sidetrack or I'll do something that takes away the weight because I don't want to remember this,' Brady recalled. But some things are meant to be. 'Glenn coming to me, that was the impetus of me saying, 'You're going to finish this and you're going to finish this now. You've got to talk about this. You've got to share this,' he expressed.
 That's when the actor-comedian-singer crafted *A Piece by the Angriest Black Man in America (or, How I Learned to Forgive Myself for Being a Black Man in America)*. It appears on *Transformation: Personal Stories of Change, Acceptance, and Evolution*. Close's new album which was released this month.
 'My heart was going a mile a minute ... It's the first time that people will be hearing this piece of Wayne, this struggle of Wayne, that some people know and some people don't,' said Brady, who recorded the track in front of a live audience at New York City's Jazz at Lincoln Center.
 'What I'm trying to do is move the needle a little bit because there is someone who may sit down and know Wayne Brady from *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* or looked at *Let's Make a Deal* or 'I loved him on that sitcom' — they don't know this story of pain is lurking there because I, don't share it. Well, I have decided to share it to let you know maybe you're skewed

mother(expletive).'
 'It was just a fact. There was Black and then there was Blaааааааack... I fit into the latter, dark as Black matter and hearing you pair Black and ugly together in that manner, made me feel like my type of Black life didn't matter,' says Brady, as heard on the spoken word track.
 On the poignant, eight-minute song, the performer continues to break down his life's experiences, touching on topics like his hair and not wanting to play outside in the sun because he didn't want to get darker to being called 'one of the good ones' by white people.
 Close shared that she was moved by what Brady wrote. She invited him to work on two more songs on her album, a collaborative project with Grammy-winning jazz musician and Jazz at Lincoln Center orchestra player Ted Nash.
 'I had tears in my eyes,' Nash said, after reading Brady's original piece. 'I had tears in my eyes for several reasons — first of all, that he was willing to share this with us and allow us to have him participate. One of my band members, who is Black, came up to Wayne after we did one of the performances and he expressed that Wayne had spoken about things that he had been feeling for a long time,' he shared.
 'Sometimes you don't realise how people interpret what's put to them, and that was a very profound moment for us,' Nash added.
 Brady said he forgives Tessa Grady for the ill words she spoke as a child and he

plans to reach out to her since his song is out and widely available. He adds that he didn't write the poem to vilify her, he just wanted to use Tessa as an example of one of those self-codifying moments that play a role in who you turn out to be as a person later on in life.
 'I had to deal with what that person said all my life, till I realised I needed to forgive myself — for how Black I felt I was, or how not Black that I felt I was. Those things were holding me back. Especially at a point in our country's development where race has always been on the table and it's always been a fight, but now voices are demanding to be heard. I realised I needed to add my voice to that,' he thought out loud.
 Brady, 48, has won five Emmys for his roles across various TV shows, appeared on Broadway stages and even earned a Grammy nomination for his cover of Sam Cooke's *A Change Is Gonna Come*. He said he's been working on new music and wants to continue being a voice for people who look like him, making use of the platform he has.
 'By the time I started getting on, around the time of *Who's Line*, I kind of fell into this narrative that was being written for me by some network people who didn't want to see race either. They wanted an amiable, shiny, Black face that could connect with their viewers, without necessarily having to talk about the Black experience. Sure, and I was complicit because in my mind I was thinking, 'I'm not going to talk about Blackness either, I'm going to kick ass and show everybody how amazing I am. And if I do that because of the talent that I have, then that will change the conversation of race,' he shared. He admits that thinking along such lines was very idealistic and somewhat naive of him because the world doesn't work like that.
 'If I would have used my platform to say, 'I sit in my Blackness, that's who I am and let's get on with it,' life as I knew it could have been different,' Brady signed off on a thoughtful note.

DEEP DIVE 45 MINUTES

UNSEEN PLACES, UNSCRIPTED STORIES AND UNFILTERED ADVENTURES

Travel enthusiasts, dog parents and hosts, **TANVEER TAJ** and **PRIYANKA JENA** set out on an epic escapade of a lifetime in the show — *Life Off The Leash*. By **AYUSHI SHARMA**

Travelling to 20 states across the periphery of India in 120 days, adventure junkies and dog parents, Tanveer Taj and Priyanka Jena set out on an epic escapade of a lifetime — with Frodo, a Golden Retriever and Cruise, a Labrador — in the forthcoming show *Life Off The Leash*. They cover the epic four month-long trip in a self-shot travel journal. Excerpts:

How did the idea of travelling with pets come about?

Tanveer: I'm from Muscat. I came to India in 2009. After which I started working here in an advertising agency. I've always wanted a dog as a kid, so I finally got one after coming to India. Also around the same time, my interest in travelling and motorcycling was gradually increasing. So after becoming a parent of a dog, I realised that I have a huge responsibility towards him. I started taking Frodo (my dog) along with me to nearby places and realised it's not as difficult as it may seem.

Later, I moved to Mumbai and met Priyanka, she was into travelling and adventure space as well. Both of us have been travelling for quite some time now, and apart from that, both of us are animal lovers. A few months after we met, she also got a dog (Cruise), after which there was no looking back. We started taking trips together. Both Cruise and Frodo were keeping up and started having great fun outdoors. We started documenting and posting our adventures on our personal social media handles. After which both Frodo and Cruise became quite popular in our circle. A lot of questions started flooding about how we were travelling with dogs.



This gave us an idea that we should give ourselves an identity online. Everything just kept happening organically from there. We realised that we were breaking our own limits in terms of how far we can go with them. We started with a trip around Maharashtra, it became a trip to Goa and then we headed to Karnataka. We kept expanding our reach. I can still recall it was in 2018 when both of us made a bucket list of travelling to all the places in the country with our dogs. It has been an amazing journey since then.

What kind of planning and research went behind planning 120 days of adventure?

Priyanka: If we talk about our personalities, I am more of an organised traveller, whereas Tanveer is very spontaneous. Well, I can expect him to be that because he's a rider. He approaches every day with a fearless attitude. He is super quick with his decision of where and how he wants to travel. However, I am just the opposite of that. I really love planning everything from the start.

But we both knew that this trip was going to require a lot of preparations, especially because it was not just us, human beings, travelling. We knew that not all places on such a long trip would be pet-friendly and it might be difficult for us in some States. As we started

planning this journey, it took us about a year and a half, as there were a lot of different factors we had to look into. In terms of our work, we had to adjust our business, such as finish the projects that we were working on and be free for four months straight. We also had to arrange the finances and do budgeting, so we worked backward in terms of how much dog food we will need, cost of petrol, equipment, stay and much more. Also, there were not many references for such travels in India because we were basically the first. If we talk about the locations, we had a wish list in place but we had to map our route according to the pet-friendly areas.

Finding places to stay along our route took us a lot of time. So when we left for the trip, we had planned until Odisha, which was about two and a half months of planning. We had booked with tentative dates till then. Thankfully, all the places that we had booked knew that we were on this crazy escapade and were very excited to host us. Another major thing was packing because we basically had to have a mini house in the car, including medical kits for everyone, all kinds of clothes for different terrains and equipment. So it took a long time, but finally, I am proud that we did it. I would say 90 per cent of the trip was planned.

I remember just the

day before we left, I said, "This preparation part seems to be never-ending. When are we going to get into the car and leave?" And it happened. Planning really helped. I would say that being prepared is better than running into something that you don't know how to deal with.

If you had to narrow it down to the top five places to visit with pets, which would those be?

Priyanka: Top five places would be — Cherrapunji in Meghalaya, Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, Palakkad in Kerala, Manali in Himachal Pradesh and Goa. They all are pretty pet-friendly.

How would you describe the experience for the dogs? Has any adventure gone bad?

Tanveer: It was one hell of a holiday for them. They just had to get into the car, enjoy the ride. They were getting fed, were experiencing new terrains, meeting new people, seeing new places every day.

As the journey went ahead, they became quite strong in terms of travelling. Whenever you put a bag down for more than 10-15 minutes, they knew that this was home for the night. They were adjusting to the lifestyle really well. However, Cruise got really unwell in Cherrapunji. He hurt himself while getting down the stairs in the mountains. That was a bit of a scare; we had to rush him to a vet. So that almost put us 10 days behind our schedule. Also, in the mountains, we had to make sure that we get the dogs on the leash to keep them safe from the mountain dogs, which are extremely territorial and huge in size. In Mussoorie, Dehradun, we faced some trouble with one of the mountain dogs. He attacked Frodo and it was quite a messy scene. Other than that, it was smooth sailing.

What were some of the major obstacles while travelling with dogs?

Tanveer: Yes, as Priyanka mentioned, it was a bit difficult to find pet-friendly places in cities such as Lucknow and Chennai.

So while crossing these locations, it was a nightmare to figure out a place, which is perfect for all four of us. At times, we almost thought that we would have to sleep in the car overnight... But thanks to social media, we asked online what to do and quite a few times people opened their doors, allowing us to stay with them. That was quite heart-warming to see. Apart from that, we had an amazing time.

Can you share basic tips that one should follow, but tend to forget while travelling with pets?

Priyanka: It's really important to have a good medical kit. You should have medicines and equipment for everything; from cuts and bruises to an upset tummy. Keep it all handy because it's not easy to find a good vet everywhere. So it's best to be prepared. Take basic training from your own veterinarian so that you know what to do in a situation of distress. Apart from that, always pack extra leashes and bowls, they tend to always get lost somewhere, somehow. Another thing, I would say that keep your dogs in your sight at all times, if you're leaving them off-leash. They are just like kids. Also, always do a quick scan when you reach a new place, whether the place is safe to leave your pet or not.

There have been many travel shows. How do you think this one is different?

Tanveer: I think the charm of the entire show is that it's four individuals on an adventure across India. It's completely self-shot. It's raw and candid. There was not any production team travelling with us. It's not scripted at any level. All the drama that you will see in this series is real. Also, this is the only travel show in India that features dogs in it. It is the first of its kind.

Priyanka: I would say that we have captured India in all its quirkiness. We have covered different cultures and folks, from cities to rural villages, to even the indigenous tribes of India.

We have tried to capture the country in all its glory.

Did you at any point feel like giving up and returning home?

Priyanka: No, not really. What kept us going was the joy of every day being different. There were no two days that were the same. It was very addictive; you wake up in a new place, what you experience, whether it is good, bad, boring or exciting, it's different every day. We were very sad that the trip was coming to an end. We did not want to go back. However, we had already extended our trip by 20 days. Initially, we were supposed to finish it in 100 days but we took 120 days. Even though we wanted to extend it badly, we were running out of funds and had to get back to our work commitments.

What change would you like to see in India to make things better for people travelling with pets?

Tanveer: I think the change has already started happening. A lot more people are going out with their pets and experiencing extremes. Many people have opened pet-friendly resorts and homestays are, of course, a great idea. However, if we had to change one thing, I would ask people to be more comfortable with pets being around. The more people travel with their pets, the more businesses and the hospitality industry will accommodate us. I am not boasting but a lot of people have been inspired by our journey and a lot of people keep updating us on a daily basis that they've started travelling with their pets, especially dogs. Slowly and steadily, we will make India a pet-friendly country.

(The show will premiere on May 31 on Sony BBC Earth at 10 pm.)



CELEB TALK 30 MINUTES

Playback singer **SHALMALI KHOLGADE'S** foray into independent English music has proven fruitful so far. Her song with **SUNIDHI CHAUHAN**, *Here is Beautiful*, was nominated to the Vh1 Summer League 2021 and is in the fray to be declared 2021's Summer Anthem by Vh1. **TEAM VIVA** caught up with Shalmali for a quick chat

Make it big



What got you into music?

There is so much I could say, but I will try to keep this short. I love being on stage and I love singing. That feeling when I get on stage, in front of people, that's the reason why I'm a singer. I like being on the stage more than I like being in a studio. I knew I had to be in the performing arts, since when I was little, but it was in college that I realised I'm going to be a musician.

Which song has been the most challenging one for you and why?

I would say *Here is Beautiful* has been the most challenging one for me, yet. It was challenging in terms of the arrangement of the song since it's not just something that I sing. I composed and wrote it independently. There was a certain maturity that came with this experience since I didn't approach it as I would usually do, as a playback singer. *Here is Beautiful* had a very different sonic soundscape. When I composed it, it was

just on the piano, now it has a totally different avatar from when I first envisioned it.

Tell us about your song — Here is Beautiful? How was it working with Sunidhi Chauhan on this?

My love for my partner was what inspired the song. I wrote it as a gift for him, on a special occasion. I thought having Sunidhi sing it with me would really be the cherry on the cake. She was kind enough to agree and that's how we got down to doing the track, with no intention of releasing it. We had no idea that it would turn out to be so big and that it would be on the Times Square Billboard one day! No, we didn't have any such aspirations in mind, but working with Sunidhi to do something as organic and honest as *Here is Beautiful* made me really happy. Nothing comes close to the experience of working

with your idol. The kind of energy she brings into a room is unparalleled. It is well known how crazy she is about music, she simply can't see anything beyond it. Words fall short in describing the experience of working with her but it's been like a dream come true.

What were your feelings when Here is Beautiful appeared on the Times Square Billboard?

The first time I came across those pictures, I thought for a moment that these were photoshopped; it almost seemed like someone was playing a massive prank on me. When my team called me and said that it was true, that it was actually happening, I was taken aback. I hadn't even dreamt of being on the Times Square Billboard. Not so early into my stint in the independent English music scene, at least.



How do you feel about the song competing with Olivia Rodrigo's Driver's License at Vh1 Summer League 2021?

I'm not a competitive person at all, to begin with. That is why I haven't been on any reality shows or competitions, except for the competitions I signed up for when I was in college. I think this is the first time I'm part of a serious competition and it is making me feel very funny inside. For me, it's a big win just to be on the same page as these incredible artists and I have immense respect for every one of them. To hear my song being talked about in the same vein as Olivia's, I still can't get over this giddy feeling. To be a part of Vh1 Summer League, a platform graced by superstars such Ariana Grande, The Weeknd and Bruno Mars, in itself is a big win for me.

Having said that, while I am not

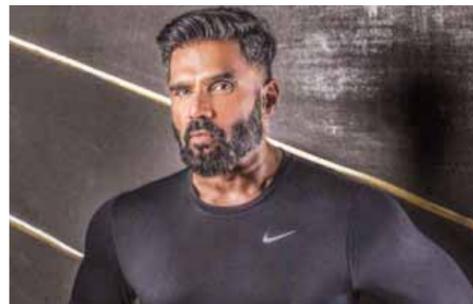
very competitive, I would be bringing everything I've got to the table with this League and I won't give up without a fight!

What's next for you?

Here is Beautiful is a single from my album *2X Side A*. Currently, I am working on my next album *2X Side B*, which will be released later this year. A couple of years back, I composed music for a Marathi film and it is releasing this year. Apart from that, I am really excited that I have several album releases lined up for this year. I'm not satisfied with releasing just one song and talking about that song incessantly. I want to give people an album to listen to because that's how I grew up, listening to albums. I love listening to the entire discography or the complete album that an artiste puts out. I want to be that artiste for others like me.

Family man

Actor **SUNIEL SHETTY** says that it is tough to take out time for your loved ones when you are part of showbiz. However, it isn't impossible



Suniel Shetty was treated to a performance depicting his relationship with his wife Mana Shetty by contestant Amit Kumar and super guru Amardeep during the dance-reality show *Super Dancer: Chapter 4*.

Looking back at his relationship with Mana, Suniel said, "This brings back so many memories. We have been together for nearly 40 years, nine years of seeing each other and 30 years of marriage. Being in this industry, balancing your family life and work is quite difficult and it's not possible unless you have a partner who is strong and believes in you 100 per cent. Hats off to her."

Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra, who is a judge on the show, shared that she has known Suniel for many years

and has always been impressed with the relationship he shares with his wife.

"I have known Suniel for many years. I had attended his wedding as well, in an attempt to see the famous actor but he wasn't aware of me back then. This was in 1991, before I made my debut. He was a new actor and I felt proud because he belonged to our community and he was the first man from the bunt community to become an actor. That was really inspiring for me. Today also when I see Mana and Suniel, it is very inspiring because they still behave like friends. Mana is an incredible person, and I truly believe that they both are soulmates. She truly is the strength behind him," Shilpa shared on the show.

IND, NZ TO SHARE TROPHY IF WTC FINAL ENDS IN DRAW

PTI ■ DUBAI

India and New Zealand will be adjudged joint winners of the inaugural World Test Championship if their final clash in Southampton ends in a draw or tie, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Friday.

According to the playing conditions unveiled by the global body, "a draw or a tie will see both teams crowned as joint winners..." The ICC has also allocated a Reserve Day to make up for any lost-time during the regular days of the Final, scheduled to be played from 18 to 22 June, with 23 June set aside as the Reserve Day.

"Both of these decisions were made in June 2018, prior to the commencement of the ICC World Test Championship."

The Reserve Day has been scheduled to ensure five full days of play, and it will only be used if lost playing time cannot be recovered through the normal provisions for each day.

"There will be no additional day's play if a positive result is not achieved after five full days of play and the match will be declared a draw in such a scenario," the ICC stated.



In the event of time being lost during the match, the ICC match referee will regularly update the teams and media about the way in which the Reserve Day may be used.

There will be no additional day's play if a positive result is not achieved after five full days of play and the match will be declared a draw in such a scenario

The final decision on whether the Reserve Day needs to be used will be announced at the scheduled start of the last hour on the fifth day.

While India play at home with SG Test and New Zealand use Kookaburra at home, the final will be played with Grade 1 Dukes balls.

The final will also feature the implementation of three changes to international playing conditions, which were brought into effect with the ongoing World Cup Super League series between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka:

Short Runs — The Third Umpire will automatically review any call of a 'short run' by the on-field umpire and communicate the decision prior to the next ball being bowled.

Player Reviews — The fielding captain or the dismissed batsman will be able to confirm with the umpire whether a genuine attempt has been made to play the ball prior to deciding whether to initiate a review for LBW.

DRS Reviews — For LBW reviews, the height margin of the wicket zone has been lifted to the top of the stumps to ensure the same Umpire's Call margin around the stumps for both height and width.

'I didn't realise importance of adding pace to my bowling'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar says he never realised the importance of adding pace to his bowling in his formative years but once he did, it helped him "maintain that swing" which keeps batsmen guessing.

"To be honest, first couple of years I didn't realise pace is

something that needs to be added," he said in a video posted by his IPL team SunRisers Hyderabad on its twitter handle.

"As I kept playing, I realised with swing I need to improve my pace because bowling in late 120kph or just 130kph, batsmen were adjusting to the swing. So, I wanted to increase the pace, but I didn't know how to do it..."

The 31-year-old has so far taken 63 wickets in 21 Tests, 138 and 45 scalps in 117 ODIs and 48 T20Is.

"Fortunately, I was able to improve the pace and that



really helped me in the later stages. So yes, when you have pace, not the express 140-plus, but bowling in the mid-130kph helps maintaining that swing and keep the batsman guessing," he said. Bhuvneshwar has been

troubled by injuries and was not considered for the upcoming World Test Championship final against New Zealand in Southampton and the five-match Test series against England.

Allegri In, Pirlo Out

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

Serie A giants Juventus on Friday reappointed former manager Massimiliano Allegri as new head coach hours after parting ways with Andrea Pirlo.

The former AC Milan and Juventus midfielder Pirlo was sacked as *Bianconeri* failed to retain the *Scudetto* and finished fourth in the Serie A table.

Even though he won Coppa Italia and Supercoppa Italiana in his first job as a manager, a failed bid to win 10th consecutive Serie A title and another disappointing exit from the Champions League (R16 loss against FC Porto) led to his dismissal.

The club released a statement headlined "Good Luck, Andrea Pirlo".

"Pirlo has just begun the first steps of what will no doubt become a brilliant career as a coach," Juventus' statement read.

He followed Maurizio Sarri, who was also sacked last year after the club suffered a shock defeat against French side Lyon in the Champions League round of 16.

"My first season as a manager has ended," Pirlo said on *Instagram*. "It has been an intense, complicated but in any case wonderful year."

After Pirlo's departure, Juve turned back to serial winner Allegri, who won five straight



Serie A titles between 2014 and 2019 with The Old Lady, including four Serie A and Coppa Italia doubles (2014-2018).

He also reached two Champions League finals in 2015 (vs Barcelona) and in 2017 (vs Real Madrid) but Juve ended up losing both of them. He was fired by the club two years ago.

"WELCOME BACK HOME, MAX! Massimiliano Allegri is the Juventus manager once more," Juventus said in a statement.

"Allegri finds a bench that he knows very well, a club that he loves and that loves him back, as today a new journey begins together, towards new goals."

The 53-year-old has reportedly signed a three-year deal with the club.

Konaté joins Liverpool

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

Premier League club Liverpool FC on Friday completed the first summer signing after they snapped up young French centre-back Ibrahim Konaté from Bundesliga side RB Leipzig.

The Reds triggered the reported £36 million (\$50 million) release clause in his Leipzig contract.

The France Under-21 international has signed a five-year deal with boss Jürgen Klopp believing him to be the ideal long-term defensive partner for Virgil van Dijk.

Speaking to the club's website, Konaté said: "I'm really happy to be joining such a massive club like Liverpool."

"It's a really exciting moment for me and my family and I am really looking forward to meeting my new teammates, the staff and getting started on this new chapter."

The centre-back, who can also play right-back joined Leipzig in 2017 and made 95 appearances for the club. He was an integral part of the side which reached the Champions



League semi-finals in 2020.

"I'm really pleased we've been able to add a player of Ibrahim's quality to our squad and he is someone I've admired for a long time, ever since I first became aware of his potential," Klopp told the club website.

"After the problems we had with injuries in the centre-half position last season, there's no doubt it was clear it was an area of the team we needed to strengthen."

Klopp believes Konaté's physical qualities

make him ideally suited to the Premier League.

"In Ibrahim we are signing a player who will add to the quality we already have here. His physical attributes are very impressive; he is quick, he is very strong and he is dominant in the air."

The 2019-20 Premier League champions had suffered last season due to season ending injuries to Van Dijk, Joe Gomez and Joël Matip and Konaté's addition is part of a new long term project for the Merseyside club.

Tokyo hopes over for Saina & Srikanth

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

2012 London Olympic Bronze medalist Saina Nehwal and former world number one Kidambi Srikanth hopes of qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics ended on Friday after Badminton World Federation (BWF) announced there will be no change in the current ranking list and no further tournaments will be played inside the Olympic qualification period.

"The Badminton World Federation (BWF) can confirm no further tournaments will be played inside the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games qualifying window," the sport body said in a statement.

"As such, while the qualification period officially closes 15 June 2021 as per the Revised Tokyo 2020 Qualification System, the current Race To Tokyo rankings list will not change."

Because of the ongoing health crisis, BWF on February 19 had decided to extend the qualification period to June 15 after postponing Malaysia Open Super 750 and Singapore Open Super 500 tournaments to a later date.

But with no improvement in the situation after a brief period too, the tournaments were



shelved, which dashed Saina and Srikanth hopes to earn a chance for qualification.

"The Olympic qualification process is in effect closed as there are no additional opportunities for players to earn points," BWF secretary general Thomas Lund said.

According to the qualification rules, the top 16 players — a maximum of two players each in men's and women's singles from a country — as on June 15 will gain direct entries.

Perera, Chameera star for Lanka

AP ■ DHAKA

Sri Lanka avoided being swept by Bangladesh in their one-day international series when it won the third match by 97 runs with a Kusal Perera century and Dushmantha Chameera's maiden five-for on Friday.

Perera struck a 122-ball 120, including 11 fours and one six, to lead Sri Lanka to a respectable 286-6. The fast bowler Chameera then took 5-16 to undermine the reply by Bangladesh, which was all out for 189 in 42.3 overs.

The victory marked Sri Lanka's first in the ODI Super League.

Perera and Danushka Gunathilaka opened with an 82-run stand after they won the toss. Bangladesh fast bowler Taskin Ahmed, who claimed 4-46, brought the home side back in contention with a double strike, dismissing Gunathilaka for 39 and Pathum Nissanka for 0.

Perera drove Taskin to sweep-er cover for a single in a bullet-proof 50 off 44 balls, but the skipper needed luck three times to reach his sixth ODI century.

He was dropped on 66 by Mustafizur Rahman at short third man, dropped on 79 by Afif Hossain at long on off left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan, and dropped on 99 by Mahmudullah at mid on off fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman.

Panghal cruises into final



PTI ■ DUBAI

The defending champion Amit Panghal punched his way into the men's 52kg final at the 2021 ASBC Asian Boxing Championships after outpunching Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov in the last-4 clash in Dubai on Friday.

During an intense battle between World Championships Silver medalist Panghal and Bronze medalist Bibossinov, the Indian made a cautious start and tried to keep a distance from the opponent. He looked more aggressive later in the second round and hit some clean punches to put pressure on Bibossinov.

Panghal carried on the momentum throughout the match and stamped his authority over Kazakh boxer to secure a commanding 5-0 win. Aiming to win second successive gold, the Indian boxer will take on Rio

Olympic champion Zoirov Shakhobidin of Uzbekistan in the gold medal match on Monday.

India is now assured of at least five Silver medals with four women already making their way into the finals earlier on Thursday at the prestigious event which is jointly hosted by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) and UAE Boxing Federation. With 15 medals confirmed, Indian contingent also achieved their highest medal haul, surpassing the previous best of 13 (2 gold, 4 silver and 7 Bronze) from the 2019 edition in Bangkok.

On Thursday six-time World Champion Mary Kom (51kg) alongside three more Indian women pugilists-Pooja Rani (75kg), Anupama (+81kg) and Lalbatsahi (64kg)-progressed into the finals. The defending champion Pooja received a walk-over against Mongolia's Munkhbat.

Our preparation far from being ideal: Stimac

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Livid with the strict quarantine arrangements in Qatar, Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac on Friday said their preparation is "far from being ideal" for the upcoming World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Already out of contention for a World Cup berth, India will face Asian champions Qatar on June 3 before taking on Bangladesh (June 7) and Afghanistan (June 15) in their remaining group E matches, with an aim to qualify for the 2023 Asian Cup in China.

The Sunil Chhetri-led Blue Tigers, who were originally slated to reach Qatar on May 30, advanced their arrival to May 19. As per the strict quarantine, they are not allowed to train in gym, use the meeting hall or even eat together.

"If I knew that everything will be like it is today, I would never accept to be honest. We could organise such games in such way in India also. At the end we lost possibility of playing two home games," Stimac told reporters during a virtual interaction.

"Here we are now, not in great conditions. This is far away from a proper preparation for the World Cup qualifiers, but it is what it is. This is not a proper football work which needs to be obtained before the World Cup qualifiers."

Frustrated with the arrangements, Stimac continued: "I'm well aware that Qatar is future host of the World Cup, and we all know about the great facilities for football teams."



Under the current circumstances, the Indian players are forced to practice on the corridor, in front of their respective rooms, the 53-year-old Croatian World Cupper said.

"I didn't expect this. I expected as a coach that we're going to have a possibility of using the gym."

"We are doing our morning sessions in the hall in front of our rooms, and our players are eating delivery food, which is left in front of our rooms."

"That's not proper preparation for a football players, I'm quite sure that the Qatari team is not in the same position." Stimac said they are forced to go through all this despite being tested COVID-19 negative three times.

"We were tested three times already, all the tests are negative. Why we don't have a proper meeting hall, so we can

discuss and analyse our opponents, why we don't have a possibility of spending more time together, eating together."

"Instead of that we have one chance going out in the evenings for the training session, that's all." With India reeling under a second wave of the pandemic, most of the players, barring the ones from Bengaluru FC and FC Goa who were involved in the AFC club tournaments, have not played any match since the ISL got over earlier this year.

But Stimac is hopeful that they would make the Asian Cup. Currently placed third with three points, India still have a bright chance to make the continental showpiece even if they finish last in their group.

"I'm very confident that at the end of this journey, we will be in the AFC Cup. I know that our actual situation at the moment is far from ideal. The Qatar team is fully prepared."

"The Bangladesh side was playing in their league until recently. They will be much better prepared. 23 out of 28 players in the Afghanistan side are playing in Europe or in the United States, so they will be in full swing."

"On the other hand, you know the situation of our team. But what I can promise to all of you we're going to give everything we have at the moment, playing these games."

"Our players will leave each atom of energy on the field, will do everything to get as many points as possible in these matches to qualify for the AFC Asian Cup. We can judge ourselves after that." Stimac said they are eyeing a third-place finish in the group to make the cut.

"We will try everything to finish third but if it's not possible, from whichever position we start further, we're going to do everything and qualify for the AFC cup."

Mental fitness is as important as physical fitness'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian men's hockey team defender Jarmanpreet Singh on Friday stressed on the importance of mental fitness as they prepare for the Tokyo Olympic amid a raging COVID-19 pandemic.

The 24-year-old has been training at SAI centre in Bengaluru as part of the Senior Core Group ahead of the Olympics.

"I feel mental fitness is as important as physical fitness to deal with the current situations. A player needs to be mentally strong,

and for that, we have been helping each other," said Jarmanpreet in a release issued by Hockey India.

India were supposed to play their FIH Pro League away matches against Great Britain, Spain and Germany this month but the ties were postponed due to travel restrictions imposed in the wake of a surge in COVID-19 cases.

"We communicate with each other, we try to create a positive environment around so that everyone stays in a happy zone. I feel because of this, there's a very good team bonding, which has been helping us with our preparations for the Olympics," he said.

Asked how he is preparing for the Tokyo Games, Jarmanpreet said, "My focus remains only on giving my best, with the full energy, and trying to improve each and



every day at the training. "I put on a challenge to myself that, I should keep reducing my margin of error."

Jarmanpreet, who made his debut for the national team in 2018, feels he is fortunate to have the support from the senior players since the beginning of his career.

"I am very fortunate and thankful to all senior players as well as coaches because they knew my past (the two-year doping ban in 2015), they knew I was returning after a long time."

"They have always supported me since the beginning. They have guided me at each step, and have been motivating me a lot."

"Moreover, it also helps when you have a senior player as a roommate. Kothajit (Singh) paaji is my roommate here, and we share a good bond on and off the field."