WORLD 6

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DRILL EYEING CHINA PRESENCE

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Delhi's death rate 4th in world; Maha follows suit

UP too has high Covid fatality rate NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

When it comes to death, Delhi has emerged as one of the most favorite hunting grounds for coronavirus across the globe. With a case fatality rate (CFR) of more than 5 per cent, the national Capital is now only behind Poland, Mexico, and Romania on the daily casualty chart.



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Written to Dr Reddy's for supply of 67L doses of Sputnik V: Kejriwal

New Delhi: Amid vaccine shortage faced by Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said his Government has written to Dr Reddy's Laboratories for supply of around 67 lakh doses of Russian Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V.

Cairn eyes Al assets to recover \$1.7 bn award due from Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

UK's Cairn Energy Plc has brought a lawsuit in a US court that potentially can lead to seizing of Air Indias overseas assets such as airplanes to recover USD 1.72 billion from the Indian Government which

an international arbitration tribunal had awarded after overturning levy of retrospective taxes.

Cairn on May 14 filed a lawsuit in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York seeking declaration of Air India as the "alter ego of Indian Government" by virtue

of control and as a state-owned company it "legally indistinct from the State itself," according to a copy of petition reviewed by PTI.

national average of 1.2 pc.

While the caseload continued to show a downward trajectory across the country, the rise in CFA is worrisome. On Saturday, Maharashtra's too recorded a high CFA of 2.6 per cent. The daily Covid-19 infections dropped further to 34,848 in Maharashtra, while the number of daily deaths surged

to 910 in the State.
Delhi's neighbour Uttar
Pradesh also recorded a relatively high case fatality ratio of around 2 per cent. The State logged in a caseload of 12,513 and a death tally of 281 during the last 24 hours.

On Saturday, the national Capital recorded 6,430 new Covid-19 cases and 337 fatalities. This translates into a fatal ity rate of 5.22 per cent, which is only behind Poland. Romania and Mexico in the global arena and way above the other States in the country.

On Friday, Romania recorded 105 deaths as against 835 fresh Covid-19 cases for a case fatality rate of a whopping 13 per cent. Romania is followed by Poland which has a case fatality rate of 8.76 per cent. The country recorded 3,289 cases and 289 deaths on Friday. Poland is closely followed by Mexico which has a CFR of 8.56 pc (311 deaths and



Delhi Govt to set up 11 oxygen banks; home delivery in 2 hours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government is setting up oxygen concentrator banks for patients in home isolation. At least 200 oxygen concentrators will be set up in each of the 11 districts and oxygen will be delivered in two hours to patients in need, said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday.

"Patients who are not enrolled under the home isolation protocol of the Delhi Government may call 1031 and avail the oxygen concentrator facility," he said.

Kejriwal said, "If patients in home isolation require oxygen,

of criminal proceedings,

Tax Administration opened its

own investigation into this

case, which targets several indi-

viduals. The following month,

the Geneva tax authorities

declared two receiverships,

amounting to 154 million

ipal taxes, and 3 million for fed-

eral taxes" reported Le Temps Hinduja Group controls Ashok Leyland, IndusInd Bank

and Gulf Lubricants. The

francs for cantonal and munic-

Industrialist Prakash Hinduja

fined ₹1,270 crore for tax

violations by Geneva court

J GOPIKRISHNAN ■ NEW DELHI tax authorities, in the context

Acourt in Geneva has fined according to a judgment of the Federal Court rendered on

Prakash Hinduja 157 million April 21 (5A_1042/2020).

our team will ensure the oxygen concentrator reaches their home within two hours. A technician will also accompany the team who will explain to the family members how to use the oxygen concentrator. However, our team of doctors will first ensure whether the person needs oxygen."



(+2,99,484)DEATHS: 2,70,124 (+3,880)

RECOVERED: 2,07,68,937 (+3,42,266)

ACTIVE: 36,22,713

MAHA: 53,44,063 (+34,848) K'TAKA: 21,71,931 (+41,664)

KERALA: 21,18,264 (+32,680)

UP: 16,09,140 (+12,513) DELHI: 13,87,411 (+6,430)

From Kerala to Bengal, impact of elections on Covid-19 surge

in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry The impact of aggressive campaign and massive mobilisation by political parties in the run-up to the Assembly polls are seen as the principal reasons for massive spread of

corona in these States and Union Territory.

The judiciary, World Health Organization, and health experts have unequivorelated mobilisation paved the way for a later day Covid-19 surge.

Here is a reality check:

3% positivity rate before Bengal campaign, 34% after elections **Total cases:** 10,94,802

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

With corona cases spiraling up by the day, Bengal health data experts have started questioning whether March-May electoral extravaganza played the main villain in pushing up cases in the

According to State Government reports, while in the second week of March when election campaigns had just started the rate of corona infections was just about 3-4 per cent of the total RT-PCR tests done, the figure leaped up to 31 per cent in the first week of May when the election

TN contained virus,

Total cases:

Total Deaths:

Case fatality ratio: 1.19

Recovery ratio: 86.1%

Avg Growth rae: 2.1%

15,31,377

17.056

succeeded in controlling the transmission

of the pandemic in the initial days when

delegates of Tablighi Jamaat congregation

held at New Delhi returned to Tamil Nadu

in the first week of March 2020. Though

the pandemic peaked by mid-2020 the

total lockdown, had helped the authorities

in bringing down the number of newly

diagnosed cases from 40,000 in mid-2020

to below the 500 marks by February 2021

polls unleashed it

PNS CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu has seen both the

extremes of the

pandemic Covid-

19 during the last

year. The State

Total Deaths: 12,993 Case fatality ratio: 1.2% Recovery rate: Avg growth rate: 2% process ended.

"You do not need rocket science to prove that election rallies with thousands of people made a perfect recipe for disaster and the disaster is in front of you to see ...Bengal had a pretty controlled affair till the month of March and the cases started jumping up with each electoral phase...," said Dr Kajalkrisna Dey.

60 TIMES JUMP

Case Fatality

Recovery ratio: 77.1%

Avg growth rate: 2.4%

ratio: 1.4%

the Union Territory of Puducherry record-

ed just 29 Covid-19 cases and zero death

The total caseload stood 39,669 and the

the UT has seen 60 times jump in coro-

na cases. The UT is recording at an aver-

age of 1,800 new cases and 25 deaths every

Ten and a half weeks down the line,

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On February 26, when the

Election

Commission of

India announced

the schedule of

Assembly polls,

death figure at 667.

day during the last week

Recuperating Kerala relapsed KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

On February 26, 2021, while then Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora addressed a nationally televised Press meet to announce the poll schedule for the Assembly election to be held in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and also the Union Territory of Puducherry, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was in a relaxed mood.

Kerala had almost recovered from the Covid-19 cases which shot up during the Onam and Christmas festivals. Minutes before he left for a public meeting at the Capital city to launch the State-wide election campaign of the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Total case: 4,41,191 Total death: 743

Case fatality Ratio: 0.3%

Recovery ratio: 78.5%

Avg growth rate: 1.9% Front, Minister for health KK Shylaja mailed him the details of the day's Covid figures.

It read that the State had diagnosed 3,671 new cases while 14 deaths were recorded from across Kerala

The positive rate was 5.41 per cent. The figures, new cases or fatalities, were comparatively lower than the national average and the scenario on that Friday did not

Total cases: 3,19,630

Total death: 2,060

warrant any apprehension, member of the task force had **PUDUCHERRY SEES** Poll fever changed it all

PNS GUWAHATI

in Assam

Assam lived with little trace Case fatality ratio: 0.6% Recovery ratio: 85.8% of cronavirus till Avg growth rate: 1.7% the electioneering picked up and lead-

ers descended on the State from all parts of the country amid massive mobilisation of people and resources on the ground.

When the poll schedule was announced on February 26, the State recorded just 34 cases and one death in a 24-hour period. People lived without any fear of Covid, which was just beginning to show an uptick in other parts of the country in the early second week of February. But that was it. The poll fever changed

Plasma therapy no silver bullets: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pouring water on the hopes of people on plasma therapy for Covid-19 treatment, a study has found that it's no silver bullet and its usage is not effective on virus patients. In other words, it has no effect on disease severity or mortality. Plasma therapy is basically

Indian origin conglomerate using blood plasma from recov ered patients and infusing it into having business across the world was started by late PD newly infected patients. Doctors have been divided over its effi-Hinduja in early 1940s. The Hinduja Group's comcacy with several of them from panies are controlled by holdacross India have been recoming companies situated in tax mending the therapy, asking the patients to arrange for plasma. They believe that it helps to havens like Mauritius and



ered patients to new patients. It is said to boost the immune response of a new patient.

However, a team of doctors conducting Randomised Evaluation of

Covid-19 Therapy [recovery] trial, said in the "In recovery, the largest clinical trial of convaescent plasma for any infectious indication, we did not find evidence that high-titre convalescent plasma improved survival

or other pre-specified clinical outcomes in patients hospitalised with Covid-19.

Whether convalescent plasma would benefit other patient groups is unknown and would need to be evaluated in other, adequately powered, ran-domised clinical trials," the study published in The Lancet

The trial is underway at 177 NHS hospitals from across the UK. Earlier, other studies including India's ICMR-PLACID Trial, as well as Argentina's PlasmAr Trial have also shown that plasma thera-py has no benefit on hospi-talised Covid patients.

MOVING TOWARDS GUJ Mumbai: Cyclonic storm Tauktae has intensified and is heading towards the coast of Gujarat and

the Union Territory of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, though it could bring gusty winds and showers to Mumbai, the IMD said.

TOP JAMAAT LEADER HELD IN B'DESH Dhaka: Top Jamaat-e-Islami

leader and listed 1971 war criminal Shahjahan Chowdhury has been arrested by the police for allegedly instigating the violence unleashed by radical outfit Hefazat-e-Islam on March 26 during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh.

Israeli airstrike destroys Gaza tower housing AP, other media

violations.

in Geneva.

According to Swiss news-

paper Gotham City and Le

Temps, the Geneva Court

imposed the fine on Hinduja

for claiming tax exceptions by

showing his Monaco residen-

cy, while he was actually living

ties suspect the billionaire of Indian origin Prakash Hinduja

of staying in his villa in Cologny (GE) until April 2018,

when he had officially settled in Monaco in 2007," reported

Gotham City.
"In July 2018, the Geneva

public prosecutor sought to collect information on Prakash

Hinduja and members of his

family on behalf of the cantonal

The Geneva tax authori-



airstrike on Saturday in Gaza City

AP GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

n Israeli airstrike on ASaturday targeted and destroyed a high-rise building in Gaza City that housed offices of The Associated Press and other media outlets. Hours later, Israel bombed the home of Khalil al-Hayeh, a top leader of Gaza's ruling militant Hamas

group.
The Israeli military said Al-Hayeh's home served as part of what it said was the militant group's "terrorist infrastruc-

Al-Hayeh is a senior figure in the Hamas political leadership in Gaza, and the attack marked a further escalation, signaling that Israel is going hour.

after Hamas' top leadership, and not just military commanders. His fate after the strike was not immediately

Earlier, AP staffers and other tenants safely evacuated the building after the military telephoned a warning that the strike was imminent within an

Modi orders audit as many ventilators lying unutilised

PM stresses on curbing spread in rural areas PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Drime Minister Narendra

Modi on Saturday took serious view of reports about ventilators lying unutilised in storage in some States and directed that an immediate audit of installation and operation of ventilators provided by the Central Government should be carried out. Chairing a high-level meet-

ing to take stock of the Covid-19 situation in the country, the Prime Minister asked for a distribution plan for ensuring oxygen supply in rural areas where, he said the spread of virus must be prevented.

The Prime Minister asked States to be "transparent" while



numbers does not mean that they have not done enough to contain the virus."
He said localised contain-

ment strategies are the need of the hour and instructed that testing needs to be scaled up further, with use of both RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen tests, especially in areas with high test positivity rates.

Modi asked for augmenta-

tion of healthcare resources in rural areas to focus on "door to door testing and surveillance."

India's corona situation 'hugely concerning', says WHO chief

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India's Covid-19 situation remains hugely concerning, with several States continuing to see a worrying number of cases, hospitalisations and deaths, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Friday, warning that the pandemic's second year will be "far more deadly" than the first for the world.

Ghebreyesus added that the WHO is responding to the Covid-19 surge in India and has shipped thousands of oxygen concentrators, tents for mobile field hospitals, masks and other medical supplies. "India remains hugely con-

cerning, with several states continuing to see a worrying number of cases, hospitalisations and deaths," he said at the daily media briefing.
"And we thank all the

practices at hospitals," he said, indicating that during Covidstakeholders who are supporting India," said the WHO Director-General Tedros 19, patients prescribed heavy and prolonged steroid doses Adhanom Ghebreyesus. can have weakened immune

Steroid misuse sets off black fungus attacks post Covid: Guleria

Misuse of steroids is a major cause behind rising cases of black fungus, also known as mucormycosis infection, among vulnerable Covid-19 patients, including those suffering from diabetes, AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria on Saturday said, asking the doctors to follow Government protocol while dealing with such drugs.
He said that patients who

are diabetic or Covid-19 positive and are taking steroids have an increased chance of contracting the fungal infection as it could lead to weakened immune systems. "It is thus all the more important to properly follow protocols of infection control

systems.

Mucormycosis spores are

found in soil, air, and even in food, said the AIIMS chief while addressing a press conference here on Saturday. He said that the black fungus can affect the face, infecting the nose, orbit of the eye, or brain, which can even cause vision loss.

He added that it can also spread to the lung. In a new advisory over

black fungus infection, the Centre has asked people to be extra careful regarding infection protocols since the fungus enters the body through a cut, scrape, burn, or other types of skin trauma when the skin comes in contact with fungal spores in the environment.
Dr Guleria also said that

the mucormycosis fungal spores are of low virulence and usually do not cause working with kids' LAVINA TANDON, who plays Jhanjharika in Nikki Aur Jadui Bubble, a fantasy show on Dangal TV, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her role, the challenges faced and fun that

about?

she is having shooting with the kids

It is a kids' fantasy show where there is the real world and the magical one which merge together. Sometimes our characters are in the real one sometimes in the magical. It is about a girl, Nikki; it's her story. Her father is a great magician and passes on his talent and world to his father without him realising

■ What's your character here?

I play the grey shade here -Jhanjharika. I am also a magician and a powerful one at that amongst the women in the world of magic. She was not always evil but then a competition took place and she lost. She wanted the coveted bubble which has immense power and the bubble went to Nikki's father played by Himmanshoo Malhotra. From here on, my character becomes negative and I become the evil witch and my job is to

project?

I was shooting for another project as an assistant intern. But I keep getting scripts since I have done other shows. I have worked for Dheeraj Kumar earlier as well and my experience was good and saw no reason to say no. I went and gave the audition. After three weeks I got a confirmation call. But I was shooting in Goa for a web series and told the team that once I am done, I will be on board. ■ It is a kid's fantasy show, are you having lots of fun?

We had lots of fun. There are no adults in the scenes with me. There are adults but we are never in the same frame. The good is that there is gossip, the atmosphere is stress-free. There is a negativity like there might be in other

■ What is Nikki Aur Jadui Bubble adult shows — she got this costume, I didn't; she got this jewellery, I didn't. There is no such thing here. Kids are natural, they have no pretense. They come, shoot and go back to their studies. We spent a lot of time together and chatted and generally had fun. I learnt a lot from them as well. They are so full

'I'm having loads of fun

■ Were there any challenges since you are working with kids?

There were no challenges working with the kids like I said the kids in the show are extremely intelligent. I psyched myself saying that it is a kids' show so I need to have patience working with them. But they are quick learners. The challenge came in the form of getting into the look. I have two -one the normal and the other the evil witch. Switching and change in costume was time consuming.

■ How did you get into acting?

trouble everyone.

I never had plans to get into acting.

How did you come on board the

Acting chose me. I was 12 when my mother's friend was coordinating for a show — Tum Bin Iaaoon Kahaan on Zee TV — that had a requirement for a girl with curly hair. It was a show by Aruna Irani Production House. I went for the audition and got selected. The minute I stood in front of the camera they chose me since I fit their character to a T. I shot 70-80 episodes. But then my Class VII finals came and I had to leave the show. But I kept getting work sometimes back-to-back ■ Hero Bhakti Hi Shakti Hai was a role

you did and grabbed eyeballs. What made the show popular?

It was one of the few superhero shows. Back then, there was just Shaktiman. Hero Bhakti... became

popular because the story was and interesting attracted the kids. Also, every week there was a new character that kept the interest. Kids back then watched TV. Today, they are glued to their mobiles, video games and social media. ■ Is there a role that you hated doing? No, not really. I never put myself in a

position where I ended up hating doing something. Acting is my profession. If I don't love I can't do justice to the characters I have ■ What

At present, I am not willing to work on anything due to the pandemic. I was even scared to go out to buy groceries let alone step out to shoot. But I am committed to Nikki Aur... so I will shoot for it but no new projects for the time being.



ASIM RIAZ TURNS RAPPER

he heartthrob of the young generation, Asim Riaz has a huge surprise in store for us. The livewire who has amassed the love of people as an actor and featuring artist has yet another talent that he stages for the world on Eid. Riaz debuts with a fiery rap titled Back To Start released under India's leading record label, Sony Music India.

The teaser of the rap that dropped not long ago got the Asim Riaz squad excited scaling up the anticipation around it as it releases today. Making this year's Eid special, Asim opens about his struggle and hustle in his debut as a

rapper through the song. Back To Start has been penned and performed by Asim.

Asim says: "We take a look around us and we see that everything is changing and so much of the good change is being embraced. I had Back To Start with me since 2015 and I wanted to polish it till I was ready to put it out there for the listeners. I'm very pumped that it's releasing. My wish for everybody this Eid is to have the strength to embrace changes and hustle their way forward.

Released by Sony Music India, Back To Start is now available on all streaming platforms.

CINDERELLA TO LAUNCH WORLDWIDE IN SEPTEMBER

ay Cannon's Cinderella featuring an allstar cast including Grammy nominated Asinger/songwriter Camila Cabello, Idina Menzel and Billy Porter, will launch exclusively around the world in over 240 countries and territories on Prime Video this September. The highly anticipated musical incorporates pop songs from contemporary global artists and original songs by Camila Cabello and Idina

"Cinderella is a classic we all know and love, but this time with a modern unique twist and starring the sensational Camila Cabello and an all-star cast. Producer James Corden and the filmmaking team have taken this beloved fairytale and revamped it with a fresh, empowering perspective that will resonate with audiences and families around the world. We couldn't be more

excited for our global customers to sing and dance along to director Kay Cannon's reimagination of this classic story," said Jennifer Salke, Head of Amazon Studios

Cinderella is a musically-driven bold new take on the traditional story you grew up with. Our heroine (Cabello) is an ambitious young woman, whose dreams are bigger than the world will allow, but with the help of her Fab G (Billy Porter), she is able to persevere and make her dreams come true.

Written for the screen and directed by Kay Cannon with covers of songs written by some of the top-selling musical artists of all time, Cinderella has an all-star cast that includes Idina Menzel, Minnie Driver, Nicholas Galitzine, with Billy Porter and Pierce Brosnan. Producers are Leo Pearlman, James Corden, Jonathan Kadin and Shannon McIntosh.

RASHMI AGDEKAR BECOMES CAUSE AMBASSADOR

fter many Bollywood celebrities being tested positive for Covid-19 and understanding the hard times actress. Rashmi Agdekar opens up about duty towards fighting the disease and helping the country by being a cause ambassador

Addekar has blown the audience's mind with her brilliant performance. The young and talented actress started her acting career in 2017, in the web series Dev DD. Since then she has played various critically acclaimed roles in several web series and movies.

Celebrities like Varun Dhawan and Kartik Aryan have also joined initiatives as cause ambassadors are contributing during these tough times by sharing verified information with their followers, Rashmi Agdekar herself being a Covid survivor understands the need to support people at this hour and has

therefore become the cause ambassador for the campaign Find a Bed. The actor says: "In these tough times, many volunteers, NGOs, students, entrepreneurs etc are doing a lot of groundwork and helping people in need. If all these people are doing the actual hard work, the least I can do is amplify it. As a responsible citizen, it is my duty to spread awareness as much as I can in my capacity during this second wave. Being a Covid survivor myself, I know how much it takes a toll mentally and physically. Anyone in need of beds in their area or nearby can use this website (www.findabed.in) to search. This will hopefully reduce the stress of running from one hospital to another in an

On the work front, Rashmi Agdekar played the lead role in the MX player web series I'mMature which was critically acclaimed. The young and talented actor made her big-screen debut in Bollywood with Andhadhun.

TELLY TALE-

Colors' Dance Deewane is a show that never stops to surprise, impress and entertain the viewers. In the upcoming episode, special quest dancers who garnered a lot of fame with their deewangi for dance like Yogesh Shaw, Alok Shaw, Siza, Kishen Bilagali Rupesh Bane, Teias Varma, Sagar, Javshree, Mukul, Akash and Vaishnavi will perform in pairs with the Dance surely will be filled with entertainment, passion, and a whole lot of swag.

The most highlighted dance performances of the evening were by Alok and Aman who impressed Madhuri. Even Gunjan's performance with Sagar



Bora on the Mirchi song was spellbinding. After Gunjan's performance, Dharmesh Yelande couldn't hold back his praises and was in complete awe of her. He said: "I'm speechless. The stage is different every time and the level at which you dance is very high. I would like to thank Sagar too as he is so good and catches the audience's attention. When he performs in his group, we only look at him. Today I could feel that my one eye was on Gunjan and the other on Sagar because

this jodi is just amazing. Pallavi and Siza sent Madhuri Dixit on a nostalgia trip when they performed a medley of her songs choreographed by her *guru* Saroj Khan. Madhuri was extremely touched and gave them ₹101 as token of appreciation. The chocolate boy of Dance Deewane season 1 Kishen Bilagali danced on an extremely scintillating performance with Arundhati, the dance raised the temperature of the

'I HAVE NEVER DONE A SCREEN TEST' Over the past few years, Raima Sen has performed a host of impactful roles in movies and OTT series and has dazzled audiences with her beauty and stellar acting skills. For those eagerly awaiting her next project, Raima will be seen next in Amazon Prime Video's upcoming series The Last Hour. Raima shared her experience of getting auditioned and her selection for Nyima's

Talking about Nvima's character and about her experience of giving a screen test for the first time and shared her thoughts on it. Giving it her best shot with the help of a stellar director Amit Kumar by her side, it sure seems that Raima had a blast on set with the cast and packed a punch on the show that is all set to keep us on the edge of our

On auditioning for the role and her character, Raima shares: "In all these years in the industry, I have never done a screen test. When I learnt that Amit wanted to do a screen test for my character in Calcutta, I first avoided it, as I have always had a phobia of auditions. Later, I gathered my strength and somehow decided to do it. I first thought I am never going to get this part but surprisingly. I got a confirmation call from him in a couple of days. I am very happy and excited to be a part of this series. With all my work. I've always tried to understand the vision of the director and then added my own individuality to it which helps me stay focused on my character. My director Amit told me what he expected from the character, but at the same, asked me to keep it real and feel it. His guidance and my vision helped me get the best out of me. It was such a great experience shooting for the series."

The Last Hour stars Sanjay Kapoor Shahana Goswami, Karma Takapa, Robin Tamang, and Shaylee Krishen along with Raima Sen. It will exclusively stream on Amazon Prime Video from the May 14, 2021 in more than 240 countries and

HIBA'S FAVOURITE SEHRI DELICACY

Hiba Nawab aka CP in Sony SAB's Jijaji Chhat Parr Koii Hai was in Bareilly with her family and friends during Ramazan.

Get up close and personal with Hiba as she gets candid about her favourite Ramazan memory, the food she loves. and how is she spending her Ramazan in her hometown this year.

Talking about the holy month of Ramazan, she said: "I believe the most



vital part about this sacred month is fasting and praying, which means ibadat, by keeping rozas and by reading the Quran. We celebrate this month by cherishing each and every moment and by worshipping. I think it is essential to help people in need and do charity. My fondest memory for the holy month of Ramazan dates back to the days I observed my first roza. I was eight years old and was super excited about it. We eat some delicious dishes this month, and this year I am in Bareilly with my family and friends after so long to celebrate the month of Ramazan and Eid. I avoid eating fried food across the year. but I grab a bite of spicy and fried food to my heart's content during this time of the year. My favourite *sehri* delicacy is khajla. I love to eat sweet dishes as I have a sweet tooth. My resolution for Ramazan is to do more of *ibadat*."

ATHARVA ASKS A TRICKY QUESTION



Navi Peedhi Nave Kissev continues to keep the audience glued to the show with exciting and relatable day to day. In the upcoming episodes, we see how Atharva gets frustrated with his parents as they keep calling him a 'kid' in certain situations but 'old enough' as per their convenience otherwise.

Atharva feels his parents' behaviour is unfair towards him as they change their stance about his age and which irritates him. As a protest, the innocent Atharva decides to go on a hunger strike. Rajesh and Vandana try to calm him down and request him to not go on a hunger strike so instead Atharva puts a condition, that for the next three days if anyone refers to him as 'old enough', the person will have perform an act of punishment as

The question is, will the Wagles' come to a common conclusion for this problem or will Atharva's frustration increase? What is the punishment

Atharva has in mind? Pariva Pranati, essaying the role of Vandana, said: "As artists, we always endeavour to bring a smile on the faces of our fans and I feel so lucky and blessed that with the role of Vandana. I am able to do it. The upcoming track is very interesting not only for the kids who love the show but also for the parents as well. We have all faced this situation growing up, parents wanting us to behave maturely in certain situations and enjoy like a kid in certain other. The challenge put by my son, Atharva would be interesting to watch and the climax of that challenge would be very intriguing in a way that would reveal a different facet of Atharva. We all are working very hard and putting our heart and soul into the episodes. I would like to request the audience to keep watching the episodes from the

comfort of their homes!" Sheehan Kapahi, essaying the role of Atharva, said: "Baccha ya Bada? This is a confusing question, and the upcoming track will address this dilemma brilliantly. Throughout our show's journey, we have always tried to bring highly relatable topics, which I feel has struck the right chord with our viewers. For kids of my age, this is the biggest question in our minds, and for our parents, they are probably facing similar questions too. How will my parents react to this question? The upcoming episodes will unravel the mystery.

Plan Your Stay At Home Sunday

Give your Sundays a perfect start by cooking some delicious meals. How about Fluffy Banana Walnut Pancakes or Almond Cinnamon Tart for breakfast? Here are the recipes.

FLUFFY BANANA WALNUT PANCAKES

Ingredients

Maple Walnut Cream: ■1/2 cup California walnuts

■1/4 cup water ■1 tablespoon pure maple

■1/4 teaspoon cinnamon Pancakes:

■1 medium-size very ripe

■3/4 cup milk ■2 tablespoons melted butter, plus additional tablespoon

for skillet ■1/3 cup liquid egg whites ■1 cup flour

■2 tablespoons sugar ■1 1/2 teaspoons baking

powder

■1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

■1/4 teaspoon salt ■1/3 cup chopped California

walnuts Preparation:

■To prepare maple walnut cream, place all ingredients in a



small food processor and process until light and fluffy

■Mash banana with a fork in a large bowl and stir in milk and melted butter. Stir together dry

ingredients in a medium bowl and stir into banana mixture, being careful to not overmix. (A few small lumps are ok)

— California Walnuts

ALMOND CINNAMON TART

Ingredients

■1 cup almond flake

■150 gm monaco biscuit ■2 gm cinnamon powder ■200 gm fine sugar

■200 ml fresh cream ■60 am unsalted butter

Method: ■Roast the almond flake in preheated oven at 180 degree celsius for 4 minutes or till golden in colour.

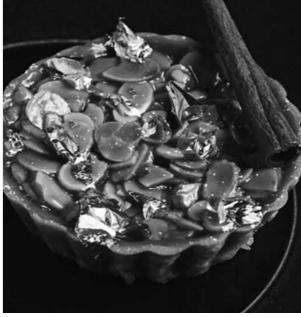
For toffee sauce. caramelise sugar, add 40 gms of butter followed by cream and thoroughly mix it ■For monaco crumble,

crush biscuits and mix 20 am of butter with it, spread this mixture in 6inch mould and bake at 160 degree celsius for 10 min. ■In a bowl mix, roasted

almond slivers and toffee sauce and pour this mix over biscuit crumble in the mould. ■Bake the mix set in mould

in a preheated oven at 180

degree celsius for 15 min.



■Serve once done and demould the tart, serve with

vanilla bean ice-cream. Almond Board of California

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Deadly spell of Covid-19 continues in U'khand

Record 197 deaths reported on Saturday, 5,654 new Covid cases reported

PNS DEHRADUN

The deadly sting in the second wave of Covid 19 cases in Uttarakhand is continuing to hit the people of the state. The state health department reported a record 197 deaths in a single day on Saturday which broke the record of deaths (180) created on May 9. The death toll from the disease has now climbed to 4,623 in the state. The department also reported 5,654 new cases of the Covid on the day which increased the cumulative count of patients to 2,83,239 in the

The department discharged 4,806 patients from different hospitals after their recovery on the day. A total of 1,93,496 patients have so far recovered from the disease. The recovery percentage is now at 68.32 while the sample positivity rate is 6.70.

Out of the record 197 deaths reported on Saturday, 30 deaths occurred Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital, 27 at Sushila Tiwari government hospital Haldwani, 25 at District hospital Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar, 16 from SDH Roorkee, 12 at Rajiv Gandhi cricket stadium, 10 at All India Institute of Medical



Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh and eight each at Military Hospital (MH) Dehradun and Base hospital Kotdwar. Similarly seven deaths each occurred at HNB base hospital Srinagar and Base hospital Almora and six at Himalayan hospital Dehradun on the day. Five patients each died at Mahant Indiresh hospital Dehradun and SPS govern-ment hospital Rishikesh while three patients were reported dead at Arogyadham, Kanishka hospital and Sanjeevni hospi-

tal Kashipur. The provisional state capital Dehradun reported 1423 new cases of the disease on Saturday. Nainital reported 1037, Pauri 482, Haridwar 464, Uttarkashi 428, Tehri 405, Udham Singh Nagar 384, Almora 339, Pithoragarh 246, Chamoli 215, Bageshwar 138, Rudraprayag 51 and Champawat 42 new cases of

the disease on Saturday. The state now has 80,000 active patients of the disease. Dehradun continues remains at the top of the table of active cases of the disease with 27,667 patients; Haridwar has 14,240, Nainital 7,264, Pauri 6,090, Udham Singh Nagar 5,812, Tehri 5,119, Chamoli 2,452, Almora 2428, Uttarkashi 2,288, Rudraprayag 2,221, Pithoragarh 1,874, Champawat 1400, and Bageshwar 1,145 active cases of the disease.

To contain the contagion of Covid-19, the state administration has set up 471 containment zones in different parts of the state. In the ongoing vaccination drive 33,090 people were vaccinated in 483 sessions in different parts of the state on Saturday. A total of 6,79,782 people have so far been fully vaccinated in the state while 19,22,142 have been partially

U'khand to appoint medical counsellors for Covid patients in home isolation

The step would help in monitoring the patients in home isolation in a better wav

PNS DEHRADUN

 $T^{\text{he patients of Covid 19 in}}_{\text{home isolation would now get the services of a medical}}$ counsellor who would be in regular touch with the patients during their quarantine period. Apart from closely monitoring the health of the patients these counsellors would ensure that the medical kit is delivered at their residences.

In case of deterioration in health of the patients in home isolation, these counsellors would inform the Covid control centres (CCC) in the districts and the village level Covid monitoring committees. The CCC would arrange the medicines as per the medical opinion and arrange for ambulances for transporting the patient to a Covid Care centre or dedicated Covid hospital.

In an order to the all district magistrates (DM), the secretary health Amit Singh Negi said that the DMs would allot one medical counsellor to every Covid patient in home isolation. These counsellors would be selected from among allopathic doctors, pharmacists, nursing staff, Ayush practitioners, dentists, PG students of Allopathic and Ayush medical colleges and the staff of the medical colleges capable of

doing the job. A list of people capable of being counsellors would be prepared by the nodal officers for Human Resource Management of the districts. Negi said that for providing guidance to these counsellors' one nodal officer would be appointed in every district. These counsellors would also be provided online training. A committee comprising of Vice Chancellor (VC) of Medical University, Principal Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) and Head of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) Dr Pankaj Singh would be responsible for online training of counsel

In the order, Negi said that the counsellors would make a phone or video call to the patient on a daily basis and would keep a record of his/her condition. They would also submit reports of the monitoring of the patients done by

One counsellor should not be provided for more than 50 patients and they would be provided with Rs 1000 per month as reimbursement for telephone bill payment and upkeep of the documents.

The decision to provide medical counsellors to every Covid patient assumes significance amid increase in the fatality of contagion in the state. The experts are of the view that unmonitored home isolation is one of the reasons for higher death rate in the state. The issue was highlighted in detail by The Pioneer in its edition of May 2, 2021.

also preparing for third wave: CM

Manage current situation while

PNS DEHRADUN

The senior officials and dis-I trict magistrates are responsible for ensuring full logistical support to the frontline workers working to treat and save Covid patients.

Stating this while chairing a video conference to review the Covid-19 situation in the state on Saturday, Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat said that the availability of medicine kit at all levels must be ensured along with all necessary treatment for Covid patients. Referring to experts pointing at the possibility of the third wave of Covid, Rawat said that the current situation has to be faced even while concrete preparations must be made for a possible third wave. Arrangements to face the third wave of Covid should be foolproof, he stressed.

He said that in the coming times, there should be CT scan machines in every district hospital along with trained personnel to operate the machines. Rawat also stressed on the need to increase testing, adding that adequate availability of vaccines should be ensured for vaccination. Covid appropriate behaviour should also be ensured at all the vaccination centres.

He stressed that there should be real time entry of Covid related data, warning against any carelessness in this regard. If an ICU is not functional anywhere it should be made operational and trained personnel should be appointed if needed. Stating that oxygen should be utilised properlv. Rawat said that oxygen use should also be regularly audited. Preparations should be made assessing the probable oxygen requirement in the coming months. He also directed officials to look into the availability of medicines for treatment of black fungus.

Reiterating that strict action should be taken against those involved in black mar-

keting and over-charging, the CM also stressed on the need for hoarding of oxygen cylinders. He also directed the officials to take necessary steps to prevent Covid from spreading in the mountainous regions.

Chief secretary Om Prakash said that the Civil Aviation department should arrange for one helicopter each Chinyalisaud and Pithoragarh from June 15 to September 30 so that serious patients, oxygen cylinders and other items can be airlifted in case the roads are blocked during the rains. Oxygen con-centrators should be provided on a priority basis in remote

Officials informed in the meeting that the process of global tendering for importing vaccines had been started. Additional chief secretary Manisha Panwar, director general of police Ashok Kumar and other officials concerned

O2 plants being set up in all districts, says CM

Rawat visits Covid centres, inspects arrangements in three districts

PNS ■ DEHRADUN ■ RUDRAPRAYAG

Stating that there was no shortage of oxygen in the past or present in the state, chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat said that to prevent any shortage, oxygen plants are being set up in every district. The chief minister said this while visiting Gopeshwar in Chamoli district during his daylong tour of three districts on Saturday.

at the district hospital in Gopeshwar, the CM directed that installation of the oxygen plant here be completed in the next two days. He also inspected the vaccination of people in the 18-44 years age group at the government PG college.

Rawat said that vaccination is the top priority of the government which is working to ensure that no individual is left without being vaccinated against Covid. He said that work is alo being undertaken to import vaccines from abroad,



adding that all will be vaccinated in Uttarakhand soon. The CM said that adequate oxygen beds, ventilators, PPE kits and other resources are available in the state. Further, 500-bed Covid hospitals are being set up at Rishikesh and Haldwani with the assistance of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). He also appealed to the people to wear masks in public, wash hands frequently and observe all the Covid guidelines properly.

From Chamoli, the CM reached Rudraprayag district where he inspected the Madhavashram Covid care centre at Koteshwar and the district hospital. Interacting

with the doctors, Rawat directed them to ensure constant monitoring of the patients. Speaking about raising public awareness on Covid from time to time, he said that Covid kits are being delivered to the homes where needed through Asha and Anganwadi workers to enable timely treatment of patients at home and preventing the need for them to get admitted in the hospital. He said that the number of Covid tests is being increased consistently across the state.

Later, the CM reached Srinagar in Pauri district where he checked the Covid related works in the district. After inspecting the vaccination of 18-44 years age group, the CM held a meeting with officials concerned in the medical college hall.

He directed the officials to ensure that people do not face any inconvenience in getting vaccinated. Rawat also checked the condition of patients in all the Covid wards via CCTV

Seeking information from room about daily calls received, he said that the data of Covid patients should be kept secure and work in the control room should be undertaken 24 hours

He also enquired about the health workers, police and SDRF personnel on duty, asking them to observe all necessary precautions for protection from Covid while discharging their duties. State minister for Disaster Management, Dhan Singh Rawat also accompanied the CM on his visits.

Edited clip of CM's slip of tongue debunked

A slip of tongue by the chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat was presented in an incomplete video clip which spread swiftly on the social media. While interacting with mediaperons during his visit to Gopeshwar in Chamoli district on Saturday, the chief minister said, "We are administering the Covid vaccine swiftly. the 18-44 years age group has also been started," he said, before correcting himself in the next sentence replacing the word 'oxygen' with 'vaccine'.

However, the incomplete video clip of his media interaction which ended with the slip of tongue was soon spread on social media eliciting questions, criticism and ridicule from social media users. As the edited clip of the chief minister's statement spread on the social media, the state government issued a clarification in



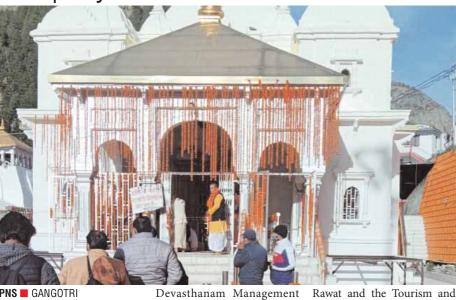
the evening along with the complete video clip. In the complete video clip the CM also exhorted the public to get vaccinated without fail as it is essential to defeat Covid-19. According to the state government, only a portion of the video clip was spread on social media with questionable intentions while editing the part in which the CM corrects his slip

of tongue. The general public was appealed to not use and forward the edited video. It is pertinent to men-

tion here that though the chief minister has elicited questions with statements in attempts were evidently made

to project a minor slip of the tongue into something major by spreading the edited video clip on Saturday. However, while some supporters of rival politicians, critics and other social media users were seen trying to exploit the opportunity, there were some including rival politicians who shared the complete video clip to clear the picture.

Gangotri reopened for summer, first prayer offered on behalf of PM



PNS GANGOTRI

 $T^{
m he}$ portals of the Gangotri shrine in Uttarkashi district were ritually reopened for the summer at 7:31 AM on Saturday. With the reopening of Yamunotri on Friday and Gangotri on Saturday, the first prayers were offered on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister had sent Rs 1,100 for the prayers through the Char Dham The Teerth Purohits offered

the prayers while observing Covid guidelines and prayed for relief from the pandemic and happiness of the people. Special offerings were made to the deity on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Due to the Covid restrictions, there were only a few people at Gangotri on the occasion

Chief Minister Tirath Singh

Rawat and the Tourism and Culture minister Satpal Maharaaz greeted the people on the occasion. Referring to the Char Dham Yatra being suspended due to the Covid surge, the chief minister said that the pilgrimage would be started after the situation normalises. Meanwhile, the portals of Kedarnath shrine are slated to be reopened on May 17 while the portals of Badrinath shrine are slated to be reopened on

JOY provides resources to the needy in Dehradun

mid the second wave of the Amid the second wave of the Covid crisis many people are going through various difficulties but some organisations are doing whatever they can to minimise the problems of the

Just Open Yourself (JOY) is a youth-driven non-profit organisation in Dehradun which is helping people overcome the critical situation in Dehradun due to second wave of Covid-19. They are distributing free oxygen cylinders to Covid-19 patients amidst this pandemic. The organisation is focusing on tackling the problem of shortage of oxygen cylinders and also providing other Covid related items sanitisers and masks to those in need. Till date, they have circulated oxygen cylinders among 150 people and are working to help more people. The services are being provided free of cost, no refill charges and free delivery 24 hours. The volunteers are providing resources to the ones facing financial crisis amid Covid and are also providing medicines in some mountainous

areas of the state. Founder president of JOY, Jai Sharma said, "Little did we know that this pandemic will providing two oxygen cylin-



force us to see its lethal side in ders and within one week this manner. Looking around to see people losing their lives cylinders." due to the scarcity of oxygen cylinders in the city made us

take this step. We started by

managed to get 70 oxygen

our donors who have contributed and helped us. We are He added, "We thank our thankful to noted personality oung volunteers who have Raghav Juyal who helped us been working selflessly day and provided us with two oxyand night to serve the people.

We are also very grateful to all

Listen grievance of MNREGS workers: Pritam to Govt

PNS DEHRADUN

The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Pritam Singh has said that the state government should take the initiative to break the deadlock created by the agitation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) employees. These workers are on a path of agitation for the last 61 days. He said that the Government Order (GO) released by the additional chief secretary Manisha Panwar is deplorable in which it is mentioned that the MNREGS workers would be employed through an outsourcing agency.

The PCC chief said that the

development works in the rural areas have been hampered by the agitation of these workers. He said that the MNREGS is an employment generation scheme and due to the prevailing situation of pandemic the return of migrants have started and these workers can play an important role in providing employment to the returnees. Singh said that due to the strike of 1300 workers all development works have ceased and immediate steps to break the deadlock should be

500-bed hosps each in Panipat, Hisar to open today

To augment arrangements to L control COVID-19 pandemic, Haryana Government has set-up 500-bed temporary COVID hospitals each in Panipat and Hisar which will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar today

Apart from these, two more hospitals (100 bed Field Hospital and 300 Bed Covid Care Centre) have also been constructed in Gurugram

which too will be inaugurated.
The temporary COVID
Hospital established in village Bal Jatan near the refinery in Panipat has been named Guru Tegh Bahadur Sanjivani COVID Hospital. Únion Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij will also be present at the inauguration of the hospital. 25 doctors and 150 para-medical staff have been appointed for the functioning of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sanjivani Hospital.

A statement said that since the hospital built near the refinery in Panipat is far away from the city, a police outpost has been set up near it. Roads have been built to connect the hospital blocks. Apart from the ambulance of the Health Department in the hospital, five

With the rolling out of Punjab's first Oxygen

Express towards Bokaro on

Saturday morning, the State

will soon be in a position to lift

its full 80 MT O2 quota, need-

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09565 Okha-Dehradun Uttaranchal Express Special

04678 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Hapa Express Special

04680 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Jamnagar Exp. Special

04677 Hapa-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express Special

04679 Jamnagar-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Exp. Special



Punjab's first O2 express on way to Bokaro to lift 40 mt LMO

and of agencies to carry the O2 roped in the services of MARK-

Haryana Roadways and two ambulances from the refinery will also support the movement of patients to the COVID Hospital. Five ambulances from the Police Department will give their support for this hospital as well. The hospital in Hisar is named after former Deputy Prime Minister, Chaudhary Devi Lal Sanjivani Hospital. The supply of oxygen in this hospital will be as per the flow of 7.1 liters per bed per minute, which will be supplied from the oxygen plant of Jindal Steel Industries, the statement said. A supply of 8 MT of oxygen has been arranged per day. Hisar's COVID Hospital, set up at Jindal Modern School, is divided into four blocks. Oxygen points have been added to all beds. Apart from the doctors, paramedical staff

ed to further boost up its stock of life-saving medical ingredi-ent. Senior IAS officer super-

vising the Oxygen Control

Room, Rahul Tiwari said that

the department has overcome

the difficulty of tanker heights

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It is notified for the information of rail passengers that the

Railways have decided to cancel the following Special Trains

keeping in view the cyclone warning in Coastal Gujarat Region,

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

also been hired here. Five ambulances have been

deployed in the hospital. The 100-bed COVID Field Hospital at Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Gurugram has been set up by Vedanta. It has 20 ICUs and 80 oxygen beds. Vedanta will provide all the necessary medical equipment for the treatment of COVID patients. Apart from this, a 300-bed COVID Care Centre has been set up in Sector 67 of Gurugram in joint collaboration of M3M, ĆII Air Force and Doctors for You NGO.

Meanwhile, CM Khattar said that in this global pandemic of Covid-19, the Central and State Governments are strenuously working towards controlling the on ground sit-uation and delivering their best in this hour of pandemic

supplies vital in the state's fight

against the deadly virus. We

have been able to procure and

put in use two ISO containers

that fit in the HBL requirements

of the railways and regards

bringing in an agency we have

Date of Cancellation

16.05.2021 & 17.05.2021

17.05.2021

16.05.2021

15.05.2021

16.05.2021

16.05.2021

17.05.2021

18.05.2021

18.05.2021

21.05.2021

19.05.2021

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Addressing a virtual program, Khattar called upon social organizations as well as political parties and said that Corona is a very huge disaster and we have to fight against it together. He said that the farmers' organizations can do the agitation for their demands even after the situation gets

He said that in the first wave of Covid, a maximum of 3,000 cases came up daily but this time around 16,000 cases

are coming on a daily basis. Due to this, the health system initially faced a massive pressure. Along with doctors, beds, there was also a crisis of oxygen. But the situation was soon brought under control. At present, the state is getting 282 tonnes of oxygen. Oxygen is being supplied to the homes of needy patients in collaboration with about 350 organizations. Essential items like beds, concentrators and ventilators are being contributed by social

Haryana declares black fungus as notified disease

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij on Saturday said that black fungus has been declared a notified disease in the State. Now, if any cases of this disease are found, the doctors will have to report them to the concerned chief medical officer (CMO), Vij said. the black fungus infection, also known as mucormycosis, is caused by a fungus called mucor. Now, if a patient is diagnosed with black fungus in any government or private hospital of the state, it will have

FED, our time tested organisa-

tion of Punjab, to fasten up and streamline the O2 procure-

ment process to ensure there is

no shortage of oxygen any-

been planning aggressively to

foresee its need of oxygen in

coming days and the govern-

ment has also been pushing the

central government to increase

its quota of tankers to lift all

allofted Oxygen in a smooth

and timely manner. The rail

express left through Dapper on

its way to Bokaro, the Chief

Secretary Vini Mahajan also

tweeted about it lauding the

incessant efforts of Oxygen

Control Room Officers and

JAB'S COVID DEATHS IN

Around 40 per cent of the total Covid-19-related fatalities

in Punjab took place in the last forty-four days, indicating the

severity of the second wave of

the Coronavirus pandemic,

data revealed. Punjab had

reported a total of 6,868 deaths

due to the infection as on

March 31. The death toll rose

to 11,477 as on May 14, show-

cumbing to the disease since

April 1 this year, the state

Health Department's data

revealed. The health officials

had earlier pointed out that the

delay in approaching hospitals

for treatment by patients with

severe symptoms and comor-

bidities were the main reasons

behind fatalities. Punjab wit-

nessed a record 217 deaths

because of the contagion in a

single day on May 11.

LAST 44 DAYS

40 PERCENT OF PUN-

Tiwari said the state has

where in the state.

to be reported to the CMO of the district concerned so that appropriate steps can be taken to prevent the disease, he said.

Senior doctors of PGIMS, Rohtak will conduct meetings through videoconferencing with all the doctors who are treating coronavirus patients in the state and inform them about the treatment of black fungus. Recently, several states have flagged cases of COVIDtriggered mucormycosis, especially among patients who are

Curfew extended in Himachal Pradesh till May 26

The Himachal Government on Saturday decided to extend the coronavirusinduced curfew in the State till May 26. The decision to extend the curfew was taken in a State Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. The Cabinet reviewed the

COVID-19 situation in the State and expressed concern over the sharp surge in the number of COVID-19 cases in the State. To break the virus chain, the Cabinet decided to extend the Corona Curfew in the State till 6 am on May 26, an official statement said.

It was decided that to check the exodus of labourers and workers, all shops dealing with construction materials would also remain open on Tuesday and Friday in a week for three hours. The Cabinet also decided to allow hiring dead body vans to all the Medical Colleges and Zonal and Regional Hospitals and hospitals with bed capacity of 200 and above. It also decided that the forest department would provide free wood for cremation of corona deceased where forest rights are enforced and forest corporations would provide fuel wood in other areas. All the MCs would be allowed to hire dead body vans. The Cabinet also decided

that no marriages would be allowed to hire marriage palaces, community halls and tent houses and outside catering and DJ/Band. Marriage would be only held in houses or Courts with the restriction of 20 persons. There will also be no procession of Barat. It also gave its nod to procure CT Scan 128 slice and MRI 1.5 Tesla Machines worth Rs. 20 crore in Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Government Medical College, Chamba to facilitate the people. It accorded its approval to ex post-facto permission to the executing agency of Makeshift Covid-19 Hospital at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College, Ner Chowk Mandi to include construction of one labour room and one operation theatre etc

Doon varsity organises virtual international symposium

The event was organised virtually and was attended by more than 100 participants belonging to various national and international

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

An international symposium titled 'History of Ideas: Latin America and India in 20th Century' was organised by the Department of Spanish Studies, School of Languages, Doon University on Saturday. The event was organised virtually and was attended by moré than 100 participants belonging to various national and international institutions from all over the world.

Delivering the welcome address, the vice chancellor of Doon University, Surekha Dangwal elaborated on the need to look at such connections that may not be connected geographically but perhaps intellectually, especially in times of a surging pandemic to draw inspirations from each

The director of the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, Ash Narain Roy delivered a lecture on Latin American experience in 20th Century with regard to internationalism, pink tide and indigenous epistemologies like the idea of Buen Vivir. The second speaker, Professor Minni Sawhney from GRS, University of Delhi elaborated on Octavio Paz's work on India and drew connections with his studies on Claude Levi Strauss and Nagarjuna's Madhyamika phi-

660 fresh cases, 8 more deaths in Chandigarh

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

handigarh on Saturday reported eight COVID-19 deaths in the past 24 hours, takng the toll to 625. City's Covid tally shot up to 54,703 as it recorded 660 new cases. As many as 963 people were discharged from various facilities of

The total number of samples tested in the last 24 hours number of tests conducted was 458,231. While cases were reported from all sectors, Manimajra reported 77 new cases while Mauli Jagran reported 18 cases. A total of 4447 more people were vaccinated, taking the total count to 273,475. Meanwhile, UT Adviser Manoj Parida said that Centre has allotted 20 additional ventilators for Chandigarh and it will help the city in treating critical patients and save lives effectively. Parida said that a total of 67 patients are being treated in mini-Covid-19 care centres set up by charitable organisations in Chandigarh which had eased pressure on government hospitals.

Punjab to demand more oxygen tankers from Centre, says Chief Secy present, which were being dis-

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To bridge the gap between the rising demand and supply of the medical oxygen in the State, Punjab Government would demand additional oxygen tankers from the Centre to speed up the supply chain of the life-saving gas in the state from far and near, chief secretary Vini Mahajan said Saturday.

Besides, Punjab has also expedited the process of procuring on its own more oxygen tankers from different parts of the country and abroad.

Mahajan was chairing a high-level meeting to review the availability, need and distribution of the medical oxygen in the state besides taking stock of the ongoing initiatives to check the further spread of devastating

second Covid wave in the state. Briefing the present status of the supply chain of oxygen to Punjab from different parts of the country, Principal Secretary Transport K Siva Prasad said the efforts have also been intensified to bring oxy-

ply of oxygen tankers from Australia and Belgium will reach Punjab soon," he added.

Rahul Tiwari, who is supervising the Oxygen Control Room, said Punjab's first oxygen express train left for Bokaro in Jharkhand on Saturday morning to pick up its 80 metric tonne (MT) quota of oxygen, which would further strengthen the stock of life-saving medical supplies in the state. He said the services of Markfed were being used to further speed up the process of oxygen procure-ment and ensure that there was no shortage of the life-saving gas in the state.

Principal Secretary, Water upply and Sanitation, Jaspreet Talwar, while sharing the district-wise information of Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants, said a total of 44 PSA plants would be set up in Punjab at a cost of Rs 4.71 crore for which several NGOs and big companies have come forward to help the Punjab

Government in this endeavour. Regarding the status of oxygen concentrators in the state, the Chief Secretary was Australia. "Hopefully, the sup- around 1,060 concentrators at to normal.

the requirement, while more concentrators would be available soon and would be sent to the districts as per the need. The Chief Secretary direct-

tributed in the districts as per

ed the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) to ensure uninterrupted power supply to all the hospitals in which Covid patients were being treated.

She ordered PSPCL to also ensure uninterrupted power supply to the new hospitals, which have been set up or were being set up by the NGOs. Directions were also issued to the Public Works Department (PWD) to provide more basic facilities to the three government colleges-cum-hospitals in the state and the Mohali hospital, which has been turned into an exclusive Covid care facility

While hoping that the Covid situation would improve soon and the state would emerge victorious in its sustained fight against the deadly virus, the Chief Secretary urged all the officers to serve dili-

Capt Amarinder lashes at Adityanath for tweet on Malerkotla district

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday slammed Yogi Adityanath over his "inflammatory" tweet on the declaration of Malerkotla as the 23rd district of Punjab, terming it an attempt to incite communal hatred in the peaceful state as part of the BJP's divisive policies.

Contrasting the communal harmony in Punjab with the divisiveness being promoted by the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, Capt Amarinder asked the former to stay out of his state's affairs, which are in much better shape than those in UP under the "divisive and destructive" BJP government, which has been actively promoting communal discord in the state for the past over four years. "What does he (Yogi

Adityanath) know of Punjab's ethos or the history of Malerkotla, whose relationship with Sikhism and its Gurus was known to every Punjabi? And

what does he understand of the Indian Constitution, which is being brazenly trampled every day by his own government in UP?" asked the Chief Minister, in a strong reaction to his UP counterpart's tweet, describing Malerkotla's new status as a 'sign of the divisive policies of the Congress."

Mocking the UP chief minister's comment, Capt Amarinder said that given Yogi Adityanath government's and BJP's track record of spreading communal hate, such a remark was utterly ridiculous, apart from being totally unwarranted and uncalled for. The whole world knows of the communally divisive policies of the BJP, and particularly the Yogi Adityanath government in UP, said the Chief Minister. Pointing to the spate of changes in names of various UP cities , including Mughal Sarai to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar, Allahabad as Prayagraj and Faizabad as Ayodhya, he which the peace-loving people of India will never condone.

Citing media reports, Capt Amarinder recalled that UP was the first state in the country to approve 'love jihad' laws, and Yogi Adiyanath's open hatred for Taj Mahal (which he sees as a legacy of the Mughals) has been the subject matter of criticism in international press.

In fact, the UP chief minister is reportedly the founder of Hindu Yuva Vahini, an organisation that was responsible for starting cow vigilantism, which led to lynching of Muslims in his own state, the Puniab Chief Minister further pointed out. It was obvious that the tweet of the UP government head on Malerkotla was nothing but a provocative gesture aimed at creating conflict among the communities living in perfect harmony in Punjab, said the Chief Minister. He termed it a conspiracy on the part of the BJP to spread disharmony in Punjab ahead of the Assembly elections, which are just months away.

6-time MP, ex-Guv, Union Min Raghunandan Lal Bhatia passes away at 100

dubbed it an attempt by the Yogi

government to rewrite history,

Senior Congress leader and six-time MP from Amritsar Raghunandan Lal Bhatia passed away after a brief illness at a private hospital in Amritsar. He was

He was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1972 from the Amritsar parliamentary constituency, and again re-elected from the same seat in the

1980, 1985, 1992, 1996 and 1999 elections as a member of the Congress. Bhatia had also served as the Governor of Kerala from 2004 to 2008 and the governor of Bihar from 2008 to 2009. He had also served as the minister of state for external affairs in 1992. Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh expressed grief over the death of Raghunandan Bhatia. "Saddened to lose former

Governor & Senior Congress Leader & six-time MP, Raghunandan Lal Bhatia Ii. My thoughts and prayers are with his family members in their hour of grief. May his soul rest in peace," the chief minis-ter tweeted. Punjab Congress leader and MLA Raj Kumar Verka condoled the demise of Raghunandan Bhatia, describing him as "Bhishma Pitamah" of the Indian poli-

Haryana records 144 Covid-19 fatalities, 9,676 new cases PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana on Saturday reported 144 Covid-19 related deaths, taking the toll to 6,546, while 9,676 fresh infections pushed the case count to

According to the health department's daily bulletin, the latest deaths included 18 from Gurugram, 16 from Hisar, 13 from Jind and 10 from Rohtak, nine from Faridabad, eight from Bhiwani and seven each from Karnal, Rewari and Yamunanagar. Among the districts which continued to report a big spike in cases included Gurugram (1691) and Faridabad (867), Hisar (773), Sonepat (739) and Bhiwani (566). The total number of active cases in the state dropped to 95946. The total recoveries so far were 5,82, 820, the bulletin stated. The cumulative positivity rate was 8.36 percent, it said. The recovery rate was 85.04 percent, it added.

Union Bank

Union Bank Building, 5th Floor, 66/80, Mumbai Samachar Marg, Fort, Mumbai - 400 023 Tel: 022 - 22629451 / 52 / 54, 22632807 Mobile: 08928211305 Email: arb.msm@unionbankofindia.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (UNDER SARFAESI

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISON TO RULE 8 (6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s), that the below described immovable property mortgaged charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" AND "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 18.06.2021 in between 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM, for recovery of respective amounts, due to the Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) from the respective Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned below. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit will be as mentioned below, For details terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) website i.e. www.unionbankofindia.co.in. Bidder may also visit the website https://www.ibapi.in The under mentioned properties will be sold by Online E- Auction through website: www.mstcecommerce.com on 18.06.2021 for recovery of respective amounts plus interest and

Online E- Auction through website : www.ibapi.in Date & Time of Auction: 18th June, 2021 at 10.00 A.M. to 03.00 P.M

	a) Name Of The Borrower/ b) Name Of The Branch c) Description Of Property d) Name Of The Owner/S	a) Reserve Price In Rupees b) Earnest Money Deposit (Emd) (In Rupees)	Debt Due Contact Person and Mobile No. Inspection Date / Time	Encumbrance Possession Symbolic/ Physical				
1	a) M/s Boltmaster India Pvt. Ltd.	a) 4,70,00,000.00	Rs.35,86,56,165.77 (Thrity Five Crore Eighty six lakhs	Not known to A.O.				
1	b) Asset Recovery Management Branch	b) 47,00,000.00	Fiftysix Thousand One Hundred Sixty Five and Paisa Seventy					
1	c) Factory Land & Building at plot No. 14,15, & 16 sector-6,		Seven Only) as on 31.03.2021 plus further interest thereon	Physical Possession				
1	Rudrapur, Uttaranchal. Total Land Area of the Property -7742		w.e.f 01.04.2021 at applicable rate of interest, cost and					
	sq ft or 7200 sq mt.		charges till date.					
	d) M/s Boltmaster India Pvt. Ltd		Mr.Aklesh Meena-Mobile No.7018573938					
2	a) M/s Boltmaster India Pvt. Ltd.	a) 45,00,000.00	Mr. Bodhan Biswas - Mobile No. 8928211305					
	b) Asset Recovery Management Branch	b) 4,50,000.00	01.06.2021/3.00 PM to 5.00PM					
	c) Plant & Machinery at plot No. 14,15, & 16 sector-6,	' ' '						
П	Rudrapur, Uttaranchal.							
	d) M/s Boltmaster India Pvt. Ltd							
Ridd	Ridders are requested to visit the Bank's website www.unionbankofindia.co.in for detailed terms & conditions of F-Auction and other details before submitting							

their Bids for taking part in the E-Auction. Bidder may also visit the website www.ibapi.in. of Service Provider Indian Banks Auction Properties Information The intending bidders must have valid e-mail id to participate in on-line Auction. The terms and conditions of sale shall be strictly as per the provisions of The

Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) / RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 This may also be treated as notice under Rule 8(6) / Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the linkprovided i.e www.unionbankofindia.co.in or https://www.ihani.in www.mstcecommerce.com

Date: 16.05.2021

Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

Govt's bad jab policy will Tauktae ravages Kerala's coastal areas ensure 3rd wave: Rahul



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{ormer\,Congress\,chief\,Rahul}_{Gandhi\,\,on\,\,Saturday\,\,called}$ for a national vaccine strategy and claimed that the Government's "disastrous" inoculation policy will "ensure a devastating third wave" in the

He also accused the prime minister of making "mother Ganga cry" after bodies of suspected coronavirus victims were found floating in the

"The Government of India's (GOI's) disastrous vaccine strategy will ensure a devastating third wave. It can't be repeated enough - India needs a proper vaccine strategy," he said on Twitter.

Tagging media reports claiming that over 2,000 bodies have been found in 1140 km area along the Ganga, he alleged, "One who used to sav 'Ganga' has called him has

made Mother Ganga cry." Rahul and the Congress have been attacking the prime minister and his government over its vaccine strategy and handling of the pandemic.

Senior Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram too slammed the government over the issuance of 1.23 lakh death certificates between March 1 to May 10 this year in Gujarat and



said that government, in conjunction with some state governments, is suppressing the actual numbers of new infections and Covid-related deaths.

'The increase was an alarming number of about 65,000 death certificates. This increase cannot be explained as a natural annual increase in the number of deaths. It can only be attributed to a pandemic or any other natural disaster," the Congress leader said.

Hitting out at the government, Chidambaram said that the party's suspicion on the actual death toll were confirmed by the fact that hundreds of unidentified bodies have been found floating on the river Ganga and nearly 2,000 unidentified bodies have been found buried on the sands along the river

Ganga.
"We have a strong suspicion that the Government of India, in conjunction with some State Governments, is suppressing the true numbers of new infections and 18 Covid-related deaths," he

He said, "If our suspicions are true, this is a grave misdeed Twitter.

shame and a national tragedy." Chidambaram said that Central government and the Gujarat government owe an explanation to the people of India. "We demand answers and an explanation," he

apart from being a national

Chidambaram also said that the National Human Rights Commission should collect the true numbers from every state about the death certificate issued last year and this

In a separate tweet, Rahul Gandhi appealed to people to stay safe after cyclone Tauktae warning was issued by the government in many states. He also appealed to Congress workers to provide all assistance to those in need.

"May 15 Cyclone Alert has been issued in Kerala, Maharashtra, Goa, Tamil Nadu. Guiarat and Karnataka. Cyclone Tauktae is already causing heavy rains in many

areas.
"I appeal to Congress workers to provide all possible assistance to those in need. Please stay safe," he said on

astronomical tide is likely to The IMD said the

As torrential rain and fierce winds influenced by cyclonic storm 'Tauktae' (pronounced as Tau'Te) in the Arabian Sea have left a trail of destruction in Kerala's coastal areas on Saturday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the cyclone 'Tauktae' has intensified and likely to intensify into a 'very severe cyclonic storm' in the next 12 to 15 hours with a wind speed of 120 to 130 kmph gusting to 145 kmph. It is also expected to move north northwestwards and cross the Gujarat coast between Porbandar and Naliya as a very severe cyclonic storm around May 18 afternoon or evening. The IMD has placed a 'cyclone watch' for south Gujarat and Diu coasts.

This is the first cyclonic storm this year as India fights a deadly second wave of Covid, which has led to a frightening surge in the country's caseload over the last two months. Many flights have been cancelled for Kerala, Mumbai, and Ahmedabad due to bad weather on Saturday. Officials said that Tauktae intensified very rapidly from a depression to a cyclone on Friday. "There were two more cyclones in the past with similar tracks. One in 1933 between May 13 to 19 and another in 1975 between May 20 and 21," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reviewed the preparedness of states, central ministries and agencies concerned to deal with the situation arising out of cyclone Tauktae and asked them to take every possible measure to ensure that people are safely evacuated. He also called for

cyclonic storm will be a very severe cyclonic storm from May 16-18 and cross the Gujarat coast on May 18

ensuring maintenance of all essential services such as power, telecommunications, health and drinking and their immediate restoration in the event of damages caused to them, a statement said.

The IMD said the cyclonic storm will be a very severe cyclonic storm from May 16-18 and cross the Gujarat coast on May 18. Along with Gujarat, coastal areas of Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been put on alert after the IMD said the impact of the cyclone will be felt in the southeast, east-central and northeast Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep islands, Maldives area, triggering heavy rainfall in coastal and adjoining districts of all states.

"Very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall "causing flash floods and landslides" over the coastal districts of Kerala, Karnataka and Goa till Sunday and Saurashtra, Kutch in Gujarat on Tuesday and Wednesday is expected, the IMD has said. Fishermen have been asked to avoid heading to Arabian Sea till Tuesday, tourism activities have been restricted and necessary precautions have been advised for naval operations in anticipation of rough sea. Tidal wave of about 2-3 m above

Morbi, Kutch, Devbhoomi Dwarka and Jamnagar districts and 1-2 meters along Porbandar, Junagarh, Gir Somnath, Amreli, Bhavnagar and 0.5 to 1m over the remaining coastal districts of Gujarat, IMD has warned. The cyclone is likely to cause rain - of varying intensity -in parts of Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan too.

Due to the bad weather. Air carriers like Vistara and IndiGo have already issued a travel advisory to passengers travelling to and from Chennai,

Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Goa, and Ahmedabad. As per the advisory issued by Vistara on Saturday, flights to and Chennai, Thiruvanathapuram, Kochi,

Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Goa and Ahmedabad might be impacted till May 17 due to the adverse weather conditions expected over the Arabian Sea triggered by cyclone Tauktae.Due to the adverse weather conditions expected over the Arabian Sea, flights to and from Chennai, Thiruvanathapuram, Kochi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Goa and Ahmedabad are likely to be impacted till May 17,

2021," it said. IndiGo also issued a travel advisory stating that flights to and from Kerala's Kannur.The airline tweeted, Travel Advisory: Due to Cyclone Tauktae, flights to/from Kannur are impacted. You may visit Plan B to opt for alternate options or get a

According to the IMD, over Devbhoomi Dwarka, Kutch, Porbandar, Junagarh, Gir Somnath and Jamnagar damage is expected on May 18. There could be total destruction of thatched houses or extensive damage to kutcha houses; some damage to pucca houses; threat from flying objects; bending/ uprooting of power and communication poles; major damage to kutcha and pucca roads; flooding of escape routes; minor disruption of railways; overhead power lines and signalling systems; widespread damage to salt pans and standing crops

and Morbi districts. Visuals showed that from Thiruvananthapuram in the south to Kasaragod in the north, hundreds of families living close to the sea have had to abandon their homes and rush to relief camps set up by the state government in the face of massive sea-incursions. Several houses close to the sea in districts like Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Thrissur, Ernakulam and Alappuzha have been partially or completely damaged by the impact of the cyclone.

etc. Similar damage is also

expected in Amreli, Rajkot

In cities like Kochi, Kozhikode Thiruvananthapuram, there are widespread reports of waterlogging due to overflowing drains and canals. Rupturing of trees and electric posts have resulted in power outages and damage to vehicles,

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has took stock of the preparedness of western coastal airports in. Southern Region and Western Region airports through a Video Conference and directed the concerned airports to take all precautions and plan preparedness.

Experts for action as WhatsApp privacy policy comes into effect

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

With the controversial WhatsApp privacy policy coming into effect from Saturday for its over 2 billion users, including more than 400 million in India, industry experts emphasised that the Government must implement stricter data privacy rules and restrain the Facebook-owned app as was done while banning Chinese apps to protect the sovereignty of the country.

Giving an interim solace for those who do not accept the new policy, WhatsApp has said that its users will not immediately lose their accounts or face curtailed functionalities on the platform on May 15, but they will have to eventually go through limited functions if they fail to accept the new norms in the due course of

On Thursday, a senior Ministry of Electronics and IT official said during an Assocham event that the Government is pro-actively looking at a best possible action over the new WhatsApp pri-

vacy policy.

MeitY Special Secretary and Financial Advisor Jyoti Arora stated that the ministry is aware about the fact that Germany has banned the privacy policy of WhatsApp.

"There is no judicial order in favour of WhatsApp. In view of the unlawful nature of this privacy policy, the government should restrain WhatsApp as was done while banning Chinese apps to protect sovereignty of India," said Advocate Virag Gupta, who is arguing K.N. Govindacharya's matter before the Delhi High Court for disclosure of details of designated officers of social

India will have 51.6 crore vaccine doses by end of July: Vardhan

IANS NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Saturday said India will have 51.6 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses by July end including the 18 crore doses already administered.

Vardhan reviewed the public health response to Covid-19 and progress of vaccination with Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and

These states are depicting number of daily cases, rise in positivity, high mortality and saturation of healthcare capac-

The Minister highlighted the critical challenges faced by the states.

Vardhan expressed a strong view that the present plateauing of Covid cases should not be taken as a sign for complacency but as a breathing space to expand, revamp and improve Health Infrastructure.

State health administrators were advised to increase ICU

Plea in SC seeks using

oxygen plants, vaccines

PM Cares Fund for



oxygenated take oxygen audits, take stock of availability of medicines in the state and strengthen their medical workforce.

A common point of consensus among the state health Ministers was that vaccines had resulted in milder forms of Covid thereby preventing loss of precious lives.

Taking note of the fact that all the states require more vaccines to expand their vaccine coverage, Vardhan said, "Production is being steadily ramped up to cater to

cines that are being produced now continue to be equitably apportioned and swiftly sent to

> Detailing the ramping up of vaccine production, he said, 'We will have 51.6 crore vaccine doses by the end of July including the 18 crore doses already administered. Sputnik has been approved.

> This along with the slated approval of the new vaccine of Żydus Cadila, Serum Institute of India- Novavax vaccine, Bharat Biotech's nasal vaccine

and the Genova mRNA vaccine will push the availability of Covid vaccines to 216 crore doses in the August-December

Union Minister of State for Health, Ashwini Kumar Choubey assured his colleagues in states that the Union government will listen to all their requirements and try to fulfill them as per capacity.

States were advised to ensure complete utilization of available vaccination slots for 45+ age-group, health care workers, frontline workers with awareness campaigns for conveying the importance of completing the second dose of

It was reiterated that States need to focus on reduction of vaccine wastage as that will be factored in subsequent allocations to that state.

stitute a 2/3-member team at State level on the lines of the dedicated team at Union Health Ministry to regularly coordinate with manufacturers for timely supplies of vaccine through 'other than government of India channel and also to coordinate with private hospitals for their procure-

The Union Health Ministry has already shared the list of private hospitals along with doses contracted and supplied with state/UTs.

CRPF directs med wing to brace up for 3rd Covid wave

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

mid estimates of prediction And estillates of precional Aof a third wave of Covid-19, the CRPF headquarters has directed its medical directorate to prepare for this and keep the infrastructure created during the first wave of the pandemic as also the equipment fully operational to face the eventu-

The whole nation is hit by the second wave of Covid and the CRPF has also not been left untouched by this. During the course of the pandemic, the paramilitary has put in all the efforts to strengthen structure which was developed during the first wave and has succeeded to some extent,

officials said. "Factoring in the prediction of the third wave, the Competent Authority has desired that top priority must be given to maintenance of infrastructure/equipment developed so far and they should be kept functional and in working order, and regularly reviewed and audited in a compact manner, a senior



The headquarters has also directed all the sectors, medical directorates and composite hospitals to take requisite action and submit a report of action taken for perusal of the Director General Kuldiep Singh, they said.

In a record of sorts, the 3.25 lakh-strong force has completed the vaccination against Covid-19 with both the doses barring about 8,500 personnel who could not be administered the doses due to temporary postings or comorbidities. Those left from vaccination are being sought to be inoculated in top priority after stabilising their comor-

bidities fixing posting issues. The CRPF is the lead agency for counter-insurgency, anti-terror operations and law and order duties. It has a strong deployment in Jammu and Kashmir, Naxalhit States and the Northeast.

Govt suppressing actual number of Covid-related deaths, alleges Chidambaram IANS ■ NEW DELHI

enior Congress leader and Oformer Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram on Saturday slammed the Central Government over the issuance of 1.23 lakh death certificates between March 1 to May 10 this year in Gujarat and said that the with some State Governments, is suppressing the actual numbers of new infections and Covid-related deaths.

Addressing a press conference here virtually, Chidambaram said, "On May 14, Divya Bhaskar, a Gujarati language newspaper, published a news story that sent shock waves throughout Gujarat and the country."

He said that the thrust of the story was that during the period March 1 to May 10 of this year (2021), Gujarat issued about 1,23,000 death certificates as against about 58,000 death certificates issued during the same period last year

"The increase was an alarming number of about 65,000 death certificates. This increase cannot be explained as a natural annual increase in the number of deaths. It can only be attributed to a pandemic or any other natural disaster," the

Congress leader said. He said that the Congress had independently verified the two numbers referred to for the period of 71 days.

'We have collected the numbers from 33 districts (including the cities), the sum of the number of the death certificates nearly tallies with the numbers published by Divya Bhaskar -- 1,23,873 in 2021 versus 58,068 in 2020.

"During the period March 1, 2021 to May 10, 2021, the government of Gujarat has

Covid situation in country stabilising, says Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With 11 States reporting over one lakh active Covid-19 cases while eight have active cases between 50,000 and one lakh and 17 have less than 50,000 cases, India is presenting a mixed trend of Covid-19 situation in the country even as the Government on Saturday asserted that overall, the situation is stabilising.

India in a day recorded 3,26,098 Covid-19 cases that took the tally to 2,43,72,907, while 3,890 new fatalities pushed the death toll to 2,66,207.

The Central Government officials at a press conference here also took a dig at the Delhi Government for reporting Single-dose vaccination coverage among healthcare workers below the national average of 89 per cent.

Single dose vaccination coverage is 95 per cent in Rajasthan, 96 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and 99 per cent in Chhattisgarh. In Delhi, it stands at 78 pe cent, which is 11 per cent below the national average. It should be taken to above 95 per cent," Dr VK Paul,

Similarly, he said, overall single-dose vaccination coverage among frontline workers stands at 82 per cent in the country. It is 93 per cent in Gujarat, 91 per cent in Rajasthan, and 90 per cent in Madhya Pradesh -- well above the national average. He said, it stands at 80 per cent in Delhi which has been complaining of shortage of vaccines for its cit-

Talking about the overall Covid-19 situation in the country, he said it is stabilizing and the government will work towards ensuring further stabilization.

'Some states have shown a clear pattern, in some states there are concerns and in some others there is a trend towards an increase. It is a mixed picture. But overall, the situation is stabilising and we hope and we will work towards ensuring further stabilisation and rapid decline of this pandemic.

He said that ten states account for 85 per cent of the total coronavirus cases in the

COVID-19 cases, 17 have less than 50,000 cases while eight have active cases between 50,000 and one lakh.

Uttar Maharashtra, Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh, which are recording a high number of novel coronavirus cases, are also reporting decline in the number

COVID-19 positivity rate of more than 15 per cent while Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Daman and Diu, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have reported a major drop in case positivity, he said. The active cases have

Lav

Secretary, Ministry of Health, said a total of 18.04 crore vac-

110 medical cadets commissioned as officers join battle against Covid-19

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The medical cadets of the armed forces commissioned as Medical Officers on Saturday have joined the battle against Covid-19. They will be leaving immediately to join as interns in 31 Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) hospitals across the country, which are also designated for Covid

The Defence Ministry said 110 medical cadets, including 21 female cadets, of the 55th batch of the Armed Forces Medical College were commissioned as Medical Officers into the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) on Saturday. The cadets were commissioned by Commandant, AFMC Lt Gen Nardeep Naithani in a brief ceremony. Ninety four cadets were commissioned into the Indian Army, 10 in the Indian Air Force and six in the Navy. The Passing Out Parade had to be called off for the first time since 1982, keeping in

In his commissioning

mind the Covid-19 restric-

address, Lt Gen Naithani congratulated the newly commissioned officers for joining AFMS which is the finest integrated medical organisation in the country. He complimented the parents of the students for the success of their children. He added that it has the unique distinction of having the entire batch that entered AFMC in 2016 graduating together with 100 percent success, which by itself is the best tribute to the teachers at AFMC. Commandant The

reminded the graduating batch that they were joining the medical profession at a time when the country was passing through a difficult phase. He exhorted them to use their knowledge and skills acquired at AFMC to provide the best possible care to their patients as they join the nation's battle against Covid-19.

Lt Gen Naithani expressed confidence that given their academic rigour and training, the newly commissioned Medical Officers would always measure up to the highest standards expected from military doctors.

officially admitted to only 4,218 Covid-related deaths," he said. 'The difference between the increase in the number of death certificates (65,805) and the official Covid-related deaths (4,218) must be explained. It cannot be

explained as 'natural annual increase' or 'due to other causes'. We have a strong suspicion that the bulk of the increased number of deaths is due to Covid and the state government is suppressing the true number of 18 Covid-related deaths," Chidambaram said.

IANS ■ NEW DELHI A plea has been moved in the Supreme Court seeking

directions to utilise PM Cares Fund for the purpose of installation of oxygen plants, pro-curement of Covid-19 vaccines and other essential equipment at 738 district hospitals across the country.

The plea added that it was already announced on April 25 that PM Cares Fund would allocate money to set up 551 oxygen plants using pressure swing adsorption at public health facilities. The plea has been filed by advocate Viplava Sharma also

urged the top court to issue

directions to the states/UTs to ensure that all the private/charitable hospitals within their jurisdiction to procure, installed and commissioned the subject beyond their respective capacmedical plant with essential ities and may soon get nonfunctional", added the plea. backups and thereby, have become self-sufficient in having The plea also asked the top

more than adequate inhouse basic and essential life support service of medical oxygen within the shortest possible time. The petitioner also sought

a stay on April 24 notification issued by the Centre to the extent it capped the exemption from import duty granted to medical equipment, for a period of three months. The plea said: "Three-

month time period is too short

a period from the standpoint of

logistics involved in importing these highly sophisticated medical equipment in India by over 300 concerned notable hospitals throughout the country." "Pass appropriate urgent directions to the respondents to ensure forthwith setting up of electric and all other kinds of

crematoriums in all cities within their respective administration and also they also forthundertake maintain/improve the existing electric crematoriums all of which have been used much

court to direct states to set up electric and other crematoriums in all cities and additionally, maintain and improve the condition of existing facilities.

Niti Aayog (Health) member

The official said 11 states have over one lakh active of active cases. Twenty-four states have a

reduced to 36,73,802 and comprise 15.07 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has improved to 83.83 per cent, he Agarwal, Joint

cine doses have been administered so far in the country. This includes 12.74 crore people above the age of 45 years, 1.62 crore healthcare workers, 2.25 crore frontline workers and 42.59 lakh people between the age of 18-44 years who have received their first dose.

Israeli airstrike on Gaza home kills 10

n Israeli air raid in Gaza ACity killed at least 10 Palestinians, mostly children, early on Saturday in the deadliest single strike since the battle with Gaza's militant Hamas rulers erupted earlier this week. Both sides pressed for an

advantage as cease-fire efforts gathered strength.

The latest outburst of vio-lence began in Jerusalem and has spread across the region, with Jewish-Arab clashes and rioting in mixed cities of Israel. There were also widespread Palestinian protests Friday in the occupied West Bank, where Israeli forces shot and killed 11

people.

The spiralling violence has raised fears of a new Palestinian "intifada," or uprising at a time when there have been no peace talks in years. Palestinians were to mark Nakba (Catastrophe) Day on Saturday, when they commemorate the estimated 7,00,000 people who fled or were driven from their homes in what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its creation. That raised the possibility of even more unrest.

US diplomat Hady Amr arrived on Friday as part of Washington's efforts to deescalate the conflict, and the UN Security Council was set to meet Sunday. But Israel turned down an Egyptian proposal for a one-year truce that Hamas

Egyptian official said Friday on condition of anonymity to discuss the negotiations.

Since Monday night, Hamas has fired hundreds of rockets into Israel, which has pounded the Gaza Strip with strikes. In Gaza, at least 126 people have been killed, including 31 children and 20 women; Israel, people have been killed, including a 6-year-old boy and a sol-

Rocket fire from Gaza and Israel's bombardment of the

blockaded Palestinian territory continued into early Saturday, when an airstrike on a three-story house in a refugee camp in Gaza City killed eight children and two women from extended family. Mohammed Abu Hatab

told reporters his wife and five children had gone to celebrate the Eid al-Fitr holiday with relatives. She and three of the children, aged 6 to 14, were killed, while an 11-year-old is missing. Only his 5-month-old son Omar is known to have sur-

Children's toys and a Monopoly board game could be seen among the rubble, as well as plates of uneaten food from the holiday gather-

'There was no warning," said Jamal Al-Naji, a neighbour living in the same building. "You filmed people eating and then you bombed them?" he

tensions with China are rising

The drills come as Japan

around the island of Taiwan.

looks to bolster its military

capabilities amid a deepening

territorial row with China in

regional seas. Japan is increas-

ingly concerned about Chinese

activity in and around

Japanese-claimed waters sur-

rounding the Japanese-con-trolled Senkaku islands, which

Beijing also claims and calls

Diaoyu. Since the end of World

War II, Japan's constitution

has limited the use of force to

self defense. Japan in recent

years has continued to expand

its military role, capability and

Minister Yasuhide Nakayama,

who observed the exercise,

stressed the significance of

French participation in the

between Japan and the U.S.,

tunity for the Japanese Self-

Defense Force to maintain and

strengthen its strategic capa-

bility necessary to defend our

remote islands," Nakayama

"It was a valuable oppor-

and often with Australia.

Japan''s Vice Defense



An Israeli airstrike hits the high-rise building housing *The Associated Press'* offices in Gaza City on Saturday

said, addressing Israel. "Why are you confronting us? Go and confront the strong people!"

Shortly afterward, Hamas said it fired a salvo of rockets at southern Israel in response to the airstrike.

A furious Israeli barrage early Friday killed a family of six in their house and sent thousands fleeing to UN-run shelters. The military said the operation involved 160 warplanes dropping some 80 tons of explosives over the course of 40 minutes and succeeded in destroying a vast tunnel network used by Hamas.

Palestinian march in Paris defies ban, is met by tear gas

Paris: French riot police fired tear gas and used water cannons Saturday in Paris as protesters supporting Palestinians in the Gaza Strip defied a ban on marching in the French capital. Hundreds of people marched peacefully in other cities in France and elsewhere in Europe.

In Paris, protesters scattered and played cat-andmouse with security forces in

the city's northern neighborhoods after their starting point for a planned march was

Paris police chief Didier Lallement had ordered 4,200 security forces into the streets and closed shops around the kick-off point for the march in a working-class neighborhood after an administrative court confirmed the ban due to fears of violence

Iran's hard-line judiciary chief registers for presidential run

Tran's judiciary chief, a hard-Lline cleric linked to mass executions in 1988, registered on Saturday to run in the Islamic Republic's presidential election next month, a vote that comes as negotiators struggle to resuscitate Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

The cleric, Ebrahim Raisi, is among the more prominent hopefuls — he garnered nearly 16 million votes in the 2017 election. He lost that race to Iran's relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani, whose administration struck the atomic accord.

Raisi's close ties to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his popularity - due partly to his televised anti-corruption campaign — could make him a favorite in the election. Analysts already believe that hard-liners enjoy an edge as Rouhani is term limited from running again.

The public has widely grown disenchanted with Rouhani's administration after 2018, when then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear deal.

Raisi, wearing a black turban that identifies him in Shiite tradition as a direct descendant of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, offered fiery remarks to jour-

the Interior Ministry in Tehran, Iran on Saturday nalists at the Interior Ministry possible successor to Iran's 82as he registered. He vowed year-old supreme leader, leadthat if he wins the June 18 vote, ing some to suggest he wouldn't run in the race. His entry "Those who founded and immediately saw some hardpartnered with the current sitliners announce they would uation can't claim they can withdraw, raising Raisi's promi-

nence further among the can-

Ebrahim Raisi, head of Iran's judiciary leaves a news conference after registering

his candidacy for the June 18 presidential elections at the elections headquarters of

A February telephone survey conducted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the Toronto-based organization IranPoll found Raisi with an approval rating of 27 per cent, the highest among likely candidates. The survey found 35 per cent undecided; the poll interviewed 1,006 Iranians and had a margin of error of 3.09

GLOBE

Japan, US, France hold military drill eyeing China presence

AP ■ KIRISHIMA TRAINING AREA (JAPAN)

Dozens of Japanese, American and French troops landed amid pouring rain from a CH-47 transport helicopter onto a grassy field at a training area in southern Japan, part of Saturday's joint scenario of defending a remote island from an enemy invasion.

The three nations" first joint drills on Japanese soil — dubbed "ARC21" and which began Tuesday - come as they seek step up military ties amid growing Chinese assertiveness in the region.

Japanese soldiers and their counterparts from the French army and the U.S. Marine Corps also conducted an urban warfare drill using a concrete building elsewhere at the Kirishima Training Area in the southern Miyazaki prefecture. Around 200 troops took part in Saturday"s exercises.

On Saturday, the three countries were also joined by Australia in an expanded naval exercise involving 11 warships in the East China Sea, where

Kid reporter who

Obama at White

House dies at 23

West Palm Beach (US): The

student reporter who gained

national acclaim when he inter-

viewed President Barack

Ohama at the White House in

2009 has died of natural caus-

es, his family says. Damon

Weaver was 23 when he died

May 1, his sister, Candace

Hardy, told the Palm Beach

Post. Further details were not

released. He had been studying communications at Albany

interviewed Obama for 10

minutes in the Diplomatic

Room on Aug. 13, 2009, asking questions that focused pri-

marily on education. He cov-

ered school lunches, bullying,

conflict resolution and how to

to be his "homeboy," saying

then-Vice President Joe Biden

had already accepted.

Weaver then asked Obama

succeed.

Weaver was 11 when he

State University in Georgia.

interviewed

UN chief: Foreign fighters in Libya are violating cease-fire

United Nations: The UN chief said foreign fighters and mercenaries remain in Libya in violation of last October"s ceasefire agreement and called for their withdrawal and an end to violations of the UN arms embargo, saying these are "critical elements" for lasting peace in the north African country and the region.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a report to the UN Security Council obtained Friday by The Associated Press that the smooth transfer of power to a new interim government, which took power in March, "brings renewed hope for the reunification of the country and its institutions and for a lasting peace."

But he said progress must continue on the political, economic and security tracks to enable elections to go ahead on December 24. Libya has been wracked by chaos since a NATO-backed uprising top-Moammar Gadhafi in 2011, and split the oil-rich North African country between a U.N.-supported government in the capital, Tripoli, and rival authorities based in the country"s east, each backed by armed groups and foreign gov-

Saudis to host meeting of Muslim nations' FMs

Dubai: Saudi Arabia has called for foreign ministers of the world's largest body of Muslim nations to hold a meeting Sunday. The gathering is to discuss Israeli acts of violence against Palestinians and the Israeli police's use of force against protesters at Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

The kingdom will host the virtual summit, gathering ministers of the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation "to discuss the Israeli aggression in the Palestinian territory," particu-larly acts of violence in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the body said Saturday.

The Saudi-headquartered OIC includes countries Iran, Turkey, Indonesia and a range

The sanctity of Al-Aqsa mosque, one of Islam's holiest sites, is a sensitive and emotive issue for Muslims around the world. The OIC was formed 51 years ago in response to a Jewish extremist arson attack on the Al-Aqsa Mosque in east Jerusalem.

tender is given below:

"http://uktenders.gov.in"

Place: Panipat Date: 15/05/2021

Tender No.-01/UJVNL/EE(Test)/GV/2021-22

Estimated cost: 78 40 698 00 + GST

Indian-American policy expert Neera Tanden appointed WH senior adviser

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Indian-American policy expert Neera Tanden has been appointed as a senior adviser to US President Joe Biden, two months after she withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators.

Tanden has been entrusted with two tasks — launch a review of the US Digital Service, and plan contingencies that could result from the Supreme Court's consideration of Republican lawsuits seeking to strike down the Affordable Care Act. Tanden, 50, is currently the

president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP). She expected to join the White House team on Monday. "Neera's intellect, tenacity,

asset to the Biden administration," CAP founder and director John Podesta said.

He said the White House has made remarkable progress combating numerous once-ina-generation challenges from vaccinating millions of Americans to delivering real

Executive Engineer (Test)

hones: 0135- 2763808, Fax- 0135- 2763508

e-Tender Notice Office of the (Executive Engineer (Test), Ganga Valley, UJVNL

Haridwar), invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of

Name of work- Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of Fixed

Type On Line DC Insulation Monitoring System for Chilla Power House

Date of availability of bid document on website: 17.05.2021 (11:00 Hrs)

Last date for submission of bids on website: 17.06.2021 up to 17:00 Hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

INDO COTSPIN LIMITED



economic relief from the coronavirus pandemic, and from strengthening the Affordable Care Act to tackling climate

Many of these bold policy solutions, which have bipartisan support from voters across the country, were developed and led by Neera at CAP over many years. The administration's efforts will be magnified with Neera Tanden on the team," Podesta added.

In March, she faced a tough time for the confirma-Director of the White House campaign manager and issues Office of Management and Budget (OMB) over her past Senate campaign.

several lawmakers, including those from her own Democratic Party. She became the Biden administration's only Cabinet nominee rebuffed by Tanden previously served

social media outbursts against

corruption will be "dried up."

change it," Raisi said. "People

are complaining about the cur-

rent situation. They are upset.

Their disappointment is on the

rise. This should be stopped."

strike a populist note, urging the public to donate to his cam-

paign and "turn their homes

into election headquarters" as

he wasn't wealthy.
"We need individuals who

Raisi had been named as a

believe in change," he said.

The 60-year-old sought to

as a senior adviser for health reforms at the US Department of Health and Human Services. She worked with Congress and stakeholders on particular provisions of former President Barack Obama's signature legislative achievement, the Affordable Care Act.

Before that, Tanden was the director of domestic policy for the Obama-Biden presidential campaign, where she managed all domestic policy proposals. Tanden also served as policy director for Hillary Clinton's first presidential campaign. Before the 2008 presidential campaign, Tanden served as legislative director in director for Clinton's 2000

12 KILLED IN TORNADO STRIKES IN CHINA

Beijing: Twelve people were killed and over 300 injured when two powerful tornadoes walloped Chinese cities of

Wuhan and Suzhou on Friday night, leaving a trail of destruction of houses. PAK: 11 DEAD AS VEHICLE

PLUNGES INTO CANAL Lahore: Eleven people, including

seven children, of the same family were drowned after their vehicle plunged into a canal in Pakistan's Punjab province, rescue authorities said. The accident happened on Friday in Sheikhupura district, some 50 kms from Lahore, when the vehicle heading towards Khanqah Dogran from Qila Didar Singh skidded off the road and plunged into the canal.

ETHIOPIA AGAIN DELAYS NATIONAL ELECTION

Nairobi: Ethiopia has again delayed its national election after some opposition parties said conflict in the country's Tigray region means no vote is being

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, बलौदाबाजार (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आयटम दर पर अनुबंध हेतू नीचे उल्लेखित कार्य के लिये छत्तीसगढ के राज्यपाल की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था में सभी श्रेणी के पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:

क .	निविदा सूचना क्र./दिनांक	सिस्टम क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रू. लाख में)
1.	02 / 07.05.2021	76700	EMPANELMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT AGENCIES (ISAs DWSM) FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF JAL JEEVAN MISSION IN THE DISTRICT BALODABAZAR-BHATAPARA OF CHHATTISGARH	623.48

1. बिड प्रारंभ तिथि

2. बिड सबिमशन की अंतिम तिथि

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, घरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल https:eproc.cgstate.gov.in में देखे जा सकते हैं।

R.O. No:- 60572/12 R.O. Date:- 13/05/2021

कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड बलौदाबाजार–भटापारा (छ.ग.)

REGD. OFFICE: 78 K.M. DELHI MILE STONE, NH-1, G.T. ROAD, VILLAGE JATTIPUR, POST BOX NO. 3, POST OFFICE SAMALKHA, PANIPAT -132103 (Haryana) CIN:- LI111HR1995PLC032541 Website:www.indocotspin.com

		YEAR TO DATE	CORRESSPONDING
PARTICULARS	3 MONTHS ENDED	FIGURES FOR	3 MONTHS
		CURRENT	ENDED IN THE
		PERIOD ENDED	PREVIOUS
			YEAR
	31.03.2021	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
	Audited	Audited	Audited
]		
otal Income from operations (net)	313.72	816.08	997.37
let Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary	17.25	4.77	10.64
activities after Tax			
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period	17.25	4.77	10.64
after tax (after Extraordinary Items)			
Paid Up Equity Share Capital	420.05	420.05	420.05
Reserves (excluding Revaluation	17.25	219.15	214.38
Reserve as shown in the Balance			
Sheet of Previous Year)			
Earnings Per Share (before	0.41	0.07	0.25
Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/-	0.11	0.07	0.20
each):Basic and Diluted			
in Rupees)			
arnings Per Share (after	0.41	0.07	0.25
Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/-			
each):Basic and Diluted			
in Rupees)			

NOTE: (i) There is no qualification on the audit report for the quarter/ year ended 31st March, 2021 (ii) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Year Finance Nation, 2021 (ii) The above is an extraction the detailed on that or advertery rear matrice. Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly/Year Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com

Bal Krishan Aggarwa DIN NO. :00456219

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL **HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR** Telefax :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

(Short-term)

GIST of E -NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/20/e-tendering Dated:-12-05-2021 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/ reputed/experienced firms with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work:- SITC of Open-well Submersible Pumping Units along with allied

Mechanical works for water supply at Govt. Chest Disease Hospital, Srinagar. Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs):- 1.45

Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees):-200 Time of completion (in Days):-05

AA Accorded Vide No: - 08-MCS of 2021, Dt: 27-04-2021 TS. NO:-MHCHD/TS15 of 05/2021 1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria,

details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 12-05-2021 (18.00 hrs). 2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 13-05-2021 (10.00 hrs). to 19-05-2021 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.

specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other

3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 19-05-2021 (16.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar. Sd/- Executive Engineer,

No. DIPK-1587/21 Dated:- 15.05.2021 MHCHD, Srinagar

genuine, very intelligent," Hardy said. "Very outspoken,

"Absolutely," a smiling Obama said, shaking the boy's hand. He used that meeting to later interview Oprah Winfrey and athletes like Dwyane Wade. "He was just a nice person,

outgoing. He never said no to anybody." Weaver got his start in fifth grade when he volunteered for the school newscastat K.E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary in a farm community on the shores of Lake Okeechobee.

China successfully lands its rover on Mars



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, members at the Beijing Aerospace Control Centre celebrate after China's Tianwen-1 probe successfully landed on Mars, at the centre in Beijing, Saturday

PTI BEIJING

hina on Saturday success-Ufully landed a spacecraft on Mars after surviving "nine minutes of terror", becoming the second country in history to have a rover on the red planet. The rover, Zhurong,

named after a god of fire in Chinese mythology, successfully landed at the pre-selected area in Utopia Planitia on Mars, the official Xinhua news agency reported on the Communist giant's latest achievement in its ambitious goals in space.

The six-wheel solar-powered Zhurong rover weighs about 240 kilogrammes and carries six scientific instruments. It will be later deployed from the lander for a threemonth mission in search of life on Mars' surface.

Tianwen-1, consisting of an orbiter, a lander and a rover, was launched on July 23, 2020. It was the first step in China's planetary exploration of the solar system, with the aim of completing orbiting, landing and roving on the red planet in one mission.

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) said in a statement that its rover has successfully landed on Mars on Saturday after "nine minutes of terror". The lander, carrying a

Mars rover, touched down at its pre-selected landing area in the southern part of Utopia Planitia, a vast plain on the northern hemisphere of Mars, at 7:18 a.M. (Beijing Time), the CNSA said

GST Council to meet on May 28

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a growing chorus over the GST Council meeting not being convened for over seven months, the Union Finance Ministry on Saturday announced that the next meeting of the panel that decides on taxes on goods and services will be held on May 28.

After over a dozen central and state levies such as excise duty, service tax and VAT were subsumed in a nationwide Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, the Council, headed by Union Finance Minister and including representatives of all states and union territories, was mandated to meet every quarter to deliberate on issues at

The GST Council last met on October 5, 2020 to finalise contours of borrowings by states to meet shortfall in tax revenues. The meeting

got extended and ended on October 12.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will chair the 43rd meeting of the GST Council on May 28, her office tweeted.

"Smt @nsitharaman will chair the 43rd GST Council meeting via video conferencing at 11 AM in New Delhi on 28th May 2021. The meeting will be attended by MOS Shri @ianuragthakur besides Finance Ministers of States &

UTs and Senior officers from

Union Government & States,

it said Opposition party-ruled states have been complaining about not holding the GST Council meeting in recent weeks. West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra earlier this week wrote to Sitharaman seeking urgent convening of the meeting to discuss the issue of compensation shortfall to states

"You are kindly aware that the GST Council was mandated to meet once in every quarter. Unfortunately, this solemn mandate has been violated twice over, by not calling a meeting of the Council for two consecutive quarters - not even virtually.

'This has undermined a federal institution, where all states are represented irrespective of political parties, regions or size of population along with the Government of India. I fear that not holding meetings regularly also lead to a trust deficit," Mitra wrote. When GST was imple-

mented, states were promised that they will be compensated for any shortfall in tax revenues arising out of their taxes being subsumed in a national GST for the first five years. This was to be done by levy

of a cess, on top of the GST rate, on certain luxury and sin

Power consumption grows nearly 19 pc in 1st fortnight of May

Power consumption in the country grew by around 19 per cent in the first fortnight of May to 51.67 billion units (BU) over the same period last year, showing recovery in industrial and commercial demand of electricity, according to the power ministry

Power consumption in the first fortnight of May 2020 was 43.55 BU. The power consumption in the entire month of May last year was 102.08 BU.

During the first fortnight of May this year (from May 1 to 14), peak power demand met or the highest supply in a day touched the highest level of 168.78 GW (on May 6, 2021) and recorded growth of over 15 per cent over 146.54 GW (peak met) recorded in the same period in 2020 (on



The power consumption in April grew nearly 40 per

cent to 118.08 BU. Power consumption in April 2020 had dropped to 84.55 BU from 110.11 BU in the same month in 2019, mainly because of fewer economic activities following the imposition of lockdown by the government in the last week of March 2020 to contain the spread of deadly COVID-19.

The power consumption also fell in May 2020 to 102.08 BU from 120.02 BU in May

Similarly, peak power demand met or the highest power supply in a day also slumped to 132.73 GW in April last year from 176.81

GW in the same month in 2019, showing the impact of lockdown on economic

Power engineers body demands mass vaccination

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

ll India Power Engineers A Federation (AIPEF) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Power Minister R.K. Singh requesting that all the states be directed to hold mass vaccination camps to cover electricity personnel on top priority basis and be treated as frontline

Shailendra Dubey , Chairman AIPEF said as many as 1,000 power sector employees and engineers have succumbed to Covid-19 and more than 15,000 have been infected from the virus.

In Maharashtra, a total of more than 7,100 power employees are Covid positive and about 210 have died. While, in Uttar Pradesh, more than 4,000 power sector employees are suffering from coronavirus and there have been 140 casualties.

Covid pushes India's Pharma industry growth to 59% in April



WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/18/2021 Date 12.05.2021

The fresh wave of Covid-19 in the country has pushed up sales of medicines and resulted in exponential growth for the pharmaceutical sector.

According to total sales audit data from world's largest pharmaceutical market research firm IMS Health, the Indian Pharma Market (IPM) grew 59 per cent yoy in April, 2021 vs 16 per cent yoy in March, 2021 due to the low base effect in April, 2020 and sharp surge in Covid-19-relat-

374 Bearing Piece Assly. for Uncoupling Gear

377 Pin for FIAT IR Bogie

380 Hand Brake Cable assembly

384 | Solid MIG/MAG Copper Coated

385 Indexable Inserts to Sandvill

389 Foot Step Arrangement

391 Secondary Lateral Dampe

392 Primary Vertical Damper

393 Foot Rest Complete

398 Brake Beam Complete

403 Automatic Twist locks

404 Flexible PVC flooring sheet

407 "7/8" DIA. Lock Bolt & Collar

405 Supension Clamp Body

394 Security Plate

395 | Security plate

396 Brake Cylinder

399

381 Azithromycin 500mg Tab

382 Meropenem 1g Ini

388 Branch Pipe

390 Yaw Damper

375 Led Signal Lighting Unit route, Shunt, Calling on

Packing 37mm thick for Height Adjustment

383 Piperacillin 4g and Tazobactam 500mg In

387 Secondary Spring Outer for Chair Car

397 Yoke for Upgraded High Tensile CBC

Slack Adjuster Type (ITEM 44)

401 Pin/Cotters For BMBS Casnub Bogie

402 Modified Flap Door Arrangement

406 415 V ac 3 phase tower AC system

408 Pin/Cotters For BMBS Casnub Bogie

412 3 Phase induction Condenser motor

415 | Pin/Cotters For BMBS Casnub Bogie

417 Brake Head Pin Assembly For BMBS

Intermediate Longitudinal Beam

425 Axle Box Helical Spring for Milk VAN

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender condition

please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

424 Air Spring Assly 180 KN Capacity

Pin/Cotters For BMBS Casnub Bogie

410 Suction Machine with Foot Pedal

414 Needle Roller Bearing Assly

419 Load Sensing Device

420 PU Paint -Gentian Blue

422 Rubber Buffer Spring

426 POH Kit

421 193 sq mm Catenary Wire

427 Isolating Cock without Vent

Bolster Bottom Gusset, without 168 Dia. Hole

411 Hermetically Sealed Compressor Copeland

400 Non Asbestos K Type Composition Brake Block

18W (4Feet Length) LED Tubular Lamps

On the MAT (moving annual turnover) basis, IPM grew 9.6 per cent, primarily driven by pricing growth of 4.3 per cent and new product launch growth of 4.6 per cent. Volume growth was muted at 0.8 per cent.

According to a report from Emkay Global Financial Services, all major therapies posted high double-digit growth in April 21.

Within Chronic therapies, Cardiac therapy grew 22 per

1145 Nos

1145 Nos.

11840 Nos.

22994 Nos.

18500 Nos.

100 Nos.

30 Nos

43 Sets

575 Nos.

2200 Nos.

82 Nos.

2600 Nos.

339 Nos.

1093 Nos.

400 Nos.

53608 Nos.

600 Nos.

1000 Nos.

21854 Nos.

4 Nos.

253 Nos.

271 Nos.

240 Nos.

506 Nos.

22600 Nos

14 Nos.

594 Nos.

For Principal Chief Materials Manage

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NTPC augments Covid care facilities across India, adds over 500 oxygen beds

tate-owned NTPC has aug-Smented COVID care facili-ties across the country and added more than 500 oxygen supported beds besides 1,100 isolation beds at its plants in different states. The company has set up

COVID care centres with facilities of 200 oxygen supported beds and 140 isolation beds in Badarpur, Noida and Dadri, it said in a statement.

It has also set up a 500-bed COVID health centre at Sundargarh in Odisha where 20 ventilators have been provided. "NTPC Ltd has added more than 500 beds with oxygen support and more than 1,100 isolation beds across plants in various states to provide support to the critical COVID care," the statement said. Besides the COVID care centres that are operational in Dadri, Korba, Kaniha, Ramagundam, Vindhyachal, Barh & Badarpur, NTPC will

be setting up additional facilities at North Karanpura, Bongaigaon and Solapur as well. Other hospitals are on their way to increase the number of beds with oxygen facilities, it said. Meanwhile, NTPC has inoculated over 70,000 employees and associates across its operations. The massive vaccination drive continues across plant locations.

NTPC has also started vaccinating those who are in the age bracket of 18-44 at many of its plant locations. Vaccination drives have been undertaken across NTPC stations in coordination with respective state administrations. The company is running 24X7 control rooms across plants for better coordination for patients across sites which is coordinated by a special task force.

The task force also helps in coordination for hospital beds and other treatment facilities across various empanpitals. The control rooms also coordinate for procurement of medicines, hospital equipment

Approx. Value: Rs. 52,22,384.00, S.N.

Description of Works: Zone No.16

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Desh Deep Chawla & Mr. Sumit Chawla were joint owners of Property No. 154, area measuring 112:50 sq. mtrs, in Block-A, Sector-48, Noida, "the said property" by virtue of Transfer deed dated 15.10.2011, Further Mr. Sumit Chawla became the owner of ½ share of his late father Mr. Desh Deep Chawla vide a mutation letter dated 21.02.2019, in the record of Noida Authority, All persons including other legal heirs of late Mr. Desh Deep Chawla are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said ronnerty to someone who is saking

to sell the said property for someone who is Taking Loan for purchase the said property from ICIC Bank Ltd., if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mr. SumI Chawla in respect of the said property its sale Mortgage, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, Ind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mott Nagar, N Delhi-15 Pr. 0114-11127-28 kumarassociates advocate/samali.com

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY FGR (Inc.) to KLJ (Ex.) up to Km.132/0. E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 19/2021

visional Railway Manager (Engg.) N.E. Railways Izatnagar For and behalf of president of India invites "OPEN" ender through on Line (E-tendering) for of Works: Zone No.1, MOP to LC No. 250 A (Both In.) Chaupla colony, Bareilly city colony, station front colony at Bareilly city. **Approx. Value**: Rs. 52,25,017.00, S.N.: 2, Description f Works: Zone No-IZN/2 L.C.No. 250 A (Ex)) to L.C No.244 B (in) Station Colony, Loco sheds Station Bareilly City. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 34,85,772.00, S.N.: 3, Description of Works: Zone No. 3. L.C. No. 244B to BPR (Both ex.) Loco Colony, station colony, S.E./ works P. way/Sig., ADEN/Line office/IZN, SMG Line, station colony, CBJ Line plant & colony / IZN. Approx. Value: Rs. 57,40,561.00, S.N.: 4, Description of Works: Zone No. 4. Divisional Hospital and medical colony (north of IVRI road) Izatnagar. Approx. Value: Rs. 49,28,974.00, S.N.: 5, Description of Works: Zone No. 5 Divisional office, BRI office etc. including office colony Izatnagar. Approx. Value: Rs. 43,26,021.00, S.N.: 6, Description of Works: Zone No. 6. Mech. Workshop, Including workshop ministrative building and store Depot, Izatnagar, Approx. Value: Rs. 70,94,625.00, S.N.: 7, Description of Works: Zone No.7. Officers colony oad no.1 to 7 (Kaliwari) all inclusive at zatnagar. Approx. Value: Rs. Works: Zone No. 8. Kaliwari (Ex.) to ew modal colony & DSL shed at zatnagar. Approx. Value: Rs. 70,84,063.00, S.N.: 9, Description of Works: Zone No. 9. Bhojipura (Inc.) to Lalkuan (Ex.). Approx. Value: Rs. 59,22,550.00, S.N.: 10, Description of Works: Zone No. 10. Makrandpur (Ex) Jjhayani (Inc). Approx. Value: Rs. 48,05,742.00, S.N.: 11,Description of Works: Zone No. 11. Ujhayani to kasganj (Ex.Both). Approx. Value: Rs. 45,68,883.00, S.N.: 12, Description of Works: Zone No. 12. Kasganj (In.) to MHA (Ex.) up to cm.253/0, KSJ(In)up to km.417/0 and Km.2930, RSJ(III)UB to Km.4170 and Jafari colony, Mal godam colony at Kasganj. Approx. Value: Rs. 63,53,674.00, S.N.: 13, Description of Works: Zone No.13. (asganj L.xing no. 310 to PTI. (Inc.) upto km. 204/0. Approx. Value: Rs. 38,90,700.00, S.N.: 14, Description of Works: Zone No. 14.

Approx. Value: Rs. 74.90.845.00. S.N. Description of Works: Zone No 17. CPA (EX.) up to km. 2/2 and BRT line to ARL(Inc.) Km.65/0 Approx. Value: Rs. 79.37.728.00. S.N. 18, **Description of Works:** Zone No 18. MHA (Inc.) Km.253/0 to MSN (Ex.) Approx. Value: Rs. 49,67,482.00, S.N. 19, Description of Works: Zone No. 19.MSN (Inc.) to MRT up to L.xing no.357 (Inc). Approx. Value: Rs. 70,67,353.00, **S.N.:** 20, **Description of Works:** Zone No. 20. MRT up to L. xing no.357(Ex) to MTJ (Ex) including R.E. colony & Delhi Lajpat nagar officer's rest house. Approx Value: Rs. 53,55,664.00, S.N.: 21 Description of Works: Zone No.21 Pilibhit station yard and all Pilibhit colony. **Approx. Value** Rs. 1,15,44,000.00, **S.N.**: 22 Description of Works: Zone No. 22. Bhojipura (EX.) to Mailani (EX.) & Pilibhit (EX.). Approx. Value: Rs 43,03,000.00, S.N.: 23, Description of Works: Zone No. 23 PBE (Ex.) to TPU (Inc.). Approx. Value: Rs. 54,29,950.00, S.N.: 24, Description of Works: Zone No. 24. PBE (ex.) to SZP (INC.). Approx. Value: Rs. 26,28,800.00, **S.N.**: 25, **Description of Works**: Zone No. 25. MB (Ex.) to RMR (Inc.). Approx. Value Rs. 88,76,100.00, S.N.: 26, Description of Works: Zone No. 26. LKU (Inc.) to KGM (inc). Approx. Value: Rs. 99,12,335.00, S.N.: 27, Description of Works: Zone No. 27. Holy day home at NNT & RKT & other rail establishme of hill area under SE/works/NNT Approx. Value: Rs. 43,18,057.00, S.N. 28, Description of Works: Zone No. 28. LKU (Ex.) to RMU (Ex.). **Approx Value:** Rs. 80,32,273.00, **S.N.**: 29 Description of Works: Zone No. 29. Lalkuan (Ex.) to Kashipur (Ex.) Approx. Value: Rs. 65,14,800.00, Note:- E.M.D. Money of S. No. 1 to 29: Rs. NIL, Cost of Tender Forms of S. No. 1 to 29: Rs. NIL, Completion time/period letter of S. No. 1 to 29: 30.06.2022.

 Online e-tender can be submitted ut to 15.00 hrs of dated 10.06.2021 **2.** For full details and submission bid please see the Indian Railways IREPS website

www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) CPRO/W=28 PTI. (Ex.) to FGR (Ex.). Approx. Value: About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955 Rs. 69.20.305.00. S.N.: 15

NO NEGATIVE RT-PCR REPORT

4 pilots spends 21hrs in aircraft the crew had not undergone

Four pilots as well as cabin crew members of SpiceJet's Delhi-Zagreb flight had to reportedly spend 21 hours, almost a day onboard the aircraft they operated from Delhi to Croatian capital Zagreb this Tuesday before flying the Boeing 737 back home as there was a sudden change in rules making negative RT-PCR test results mandatory for anyone coming from India.

The crew were not allowed to come out of the plane and they conducted the return flight to Delhi -- after the 21hour rest period -- without passengers or cargo. The two commanders and as many first officers had to spend their layover inside the aircraft in Zagreb airport before flying the plane back to Delhi without any passengers or cargo.
"Prior to departure from



India, email confirmation was received from Croatian authorities that RTPCR is not required for crew," the airline's spokesperson said. SpiceJet says the crew was on board for 21 hours. On arrival in Zagreb on

Tuesday, the crew, including four pilots, as well as cabin crew members, was told that the

orders have changed. "Due to sudden and massive increase in COVID cases in India, they were then instructed that RTPCR test is required. This came as a surprise," the airline's spokesperson said. SpiceJet had operated flight

SG-9035 on May 11 on Delhi-Tbilisi-Zagreb with two sets of pilots, meaning four pilots. As the mandatory RT-PCR test, Croatian authorities did not allow them to alight from the aircraft, said people in the

Since the crew could not fly back immediately due the FDTL (flight duty time limitation) restrictions, bedding, food and water was provided in the aircraft, according to the spokesperson.

"Āircraft was cleaned DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) permission was obtained. Crew rested in the aircraft for 21 hours (as mandated by regulation).

The unfolding Covid catastrophe in India has seen some countries suddenly change their rules for crew and passengers from the country. Sometimes these changes hapway from India to those coun-

pen when aircraft are on their

India to become major production hub for **ACC** batteries: ICEA

IANS IN NEW DELHI

■ Electronics Association (ICEA) has welcomed the Rs 18,100 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme that has been approved for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery storage in the country.

In a statement, ICEA that represents mobile and component manufacturers such as Apple, Motorola, Nokia, Foxconn, Wistron, Flextronics, Lava, Vivo and others, said that it would promote newer and niche cell technologies in the

'We at ICEA believes that the PLI scheme would give thrust to 'Make in India' initiative and will attract huge investments of Rs 45,000 crore plus in the coming years. With this push for ACC batteries, the sector would witness robust growth in the coming years," said Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman, IĆEA.

ACC batteries are the new generation of advanced storage tric energy as electrochemical and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.

electronics, mobiles, electric vehicles, advanced electricity grids, solar rooftop etc.

core technologies specially lithium and cobalt. "Our import burden of Rs 20,000 crore will also turn into

The ACC battery storage manufacturers will be selected through a transparent com-

The manufacturing faciliwould have to be commissioned within two years. The

The ACC covers major sectors, which are consumer

Mohindroo said that we need to work on securing the raw material supplies for these

a big opportunity and would make the country a major hub in producing clean energy," he

petitive bidding process.

incentive will be disbursed thereafter over five years.

Airtel rolls out Covid support initiatives for customers on its digital platform



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $B^{\text{harti Airtel has rolled out a}}_{\text{range of Covid support ini-}}$ tiatives for customers by leveraging its digital platform.

With this, the telco joins a growing list of companies that have introduced digital tools to help people amid the deadly second wave of the pandemic. Airtel has integrated easi-

ly accessible bouquet of Covid support resources and related information in the Airtel Thanks app's Explore section, the company said in a state-

ment.
"Covid SOS aggregates verified and updated contacts

for important supplies such as medicines, oxygen, plasma donors, ambulance, hospital beds, and testing centres. With a few clicks, the platform connects users to these service providers/resources and tries to ensure that users do not have to waste precious time to access

this data," the statement said. The information available on 'Covid SOS' is verified by their teams,

it said and added the plat-form is powered by Airtel IQ.

"Airtel Thanks users can also book a vaccination slot for themselves and their loved ones through the app," the statement said.

Covid Care: Boeing plans to set up field hospitals in India

well as medicines will be pro-

The state governments will

The first such facility is

provide the infrastructure and

utilities while 'Doctors for You'

will provide the medical infra-

IANS ■ NEW DELHI erospace major Boeing has

Atied-up with state governments along with NGOs to set up field hospitals in India to treat Covid patients. Accordingly, the aerospace

major has been in talks with five state governments to provide such facilities in their jurisdictions. In the last few days, Boeing India has reached out to UP,

Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu state governments. The initiative as part of Boeing's India Covid relief

commitment envisages setting up of such facilities in each of five states which are facing the pandemic resurgence. As part of the programme, the funding, land and utilities,

expected to come as soon as possible. "We are in conversations

'Care USA'.

structure and staff.

with local and international relief organisations to deploy Boeing's \$10-million emergency assistance package to support India's Covid-19 response," said Salil Gupte, president, Boeing India.

"As part of that effort, we're

working with medical, gov facility, equipment, doctors as ernment and public health experts across India to provide vided through a partnership model by the joint effort of relief, including medical supplies and emergency health Boeing, the concerned state government and NGO partcare to communities most impacted." ners, 'Doctors for You' and Last month, Boeing announced a \$10 million emer-

gency assistance package to support India's Covid-19 response. At present, Boeing has

3,000 employees in India. The company develops

manufactures and services commercial airplanes, defence products for customers in domestic civil and military sectors.Lately, India has been heavily battered by record new daily increases in coronavirus infections, prompting lockdowns and restrictive mea-

Jet Airways' annual general meeting on **June 8**

New Delhi: The annual general meeting of Jet Airways, which suspended operations more than two years ago, will be held on June 8, according to a regulatory filing. The affairs of the full ser-

vice carrier, which is currently undergoing an insolvency resolution process, is being managed by resolution professional Ashish Chhawchharia. The meeting, scheduled to

be held on June 8, will consider and adopt the company's audited standalone financial statements for the financial year ended March 31, 2020 together with the reports of

Raman alleges smear campaign against him

Sacked as women's cricket team coach, WV Raman has alleged that a "smear campaign" against him has gained unwarranted traction and urged the BCCI president Sourav Ganguly to stop it.

In a mail that has also been marked to National Cricket Academy head Rahul Dravid, Raman wrote it will be "extremely disconcerting" if his candidature was rejected due to reasons other than "my incompetency as a coach".

In a surprising move, Raman was not retained as the head coach of the senior women's team by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) which picked Ramesh Powar for the top job.

It was under Raman that Indian team cherished a runnerup finish at the women's T20 World Cup last year.

"I presume you might have been told different views about my style of functioning and work ethic. Whether those views conveyed to the officials of the BCCI had any impact on my candidature is of no consequence now," Raman wrote in the letter.

"What is important is that the smear campaign seems to have gained some unwarranted traction with some BCCI officials which needs to be halted permanently. I am prepared to give an explanation should you or any of the office bearers

He said he was not used to "moaning and whining" but was bringing up the issues in case the BCCI president wishes to do a course correction.

"If I were to be rejected due to my incompetency as a coach, there is no argument on a judgment call at all. But what will be extremely disconcerting is if my candidature was rejected due to any other reasons," said the former India opener who played



"Especially if it was due to allegations from people who were more focussed on achieving their personal objectives at the expense of the overall hygiene and welfare of the Indian women's team and the pride of the country."

The stylish former lefthanded batsman's letter to the two former captains is sure to ruffle a few feathers given that it has always been the coaches who have either stepped aside or sacked following fallouts with players, most notably ODI captain Mithali Raj.

While Raman's letter didn't name anyone, it is understood that he was writing about the star culture that prevails in the team, which he said is probably doing more harm than good.

If some people in the sys-

Sthalekar slams BCCI over Veda's treatment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{ormer\ Australian\ captain}_{Lisa\ Sthalekar\ has\ claimed}$ that the BCCI neither checked on Veda Krishnamurthy after the twin tragedies in her family nor communicated to the bereaved India cricketer its decision to not consider her for the upcoming tour of England.

Earlier this month, the flamboyant middle-order India batter lost her elder sister Vatsala Shivakumar to Covid-19, two weeks after her mother succumbed to the



On expected lines, she was not included in the Indian Test and ODI team for next month's tour of the United Kingdom, but ICC Hall of Famer Sthalekar was disappointed." not convinced with the BCCI's handling of the whole

"Whilst not selecting Veda for the upcoming series may be justified from their point of view, what angers me the most is that as a contracted player she has not received any communication from BCCI, just to even check how she is coping," Sthalekar said in a note on her Twitter

She added, "A true association should deeply care about the players that play the game... Not focus solely on just the game at any cost. So

Bengal's wicketkeeperbatsman Shreevats Goswami, who has also had stints in the IPL besides representing the country in the U-19 level, backed Sthalekar.

"In a coaching career span-

The time has come for you

'I have some suggestions

Goswami said state cricket associations in India don't care about their players.

"I don't think cricket Associations caring about their players are even thought by the management in India, Mental health & communicating with players on drawing a future guide for their players doesn't even cross their mind, I can say this for domestic cricket," Goswami tweeted.

Shafali gets maiden ODI, Test call-ups

Rookie wicketkeeper-batter Indrani Roy from Jharkhand was rewarded with maiden Test and ODI call-up for India's tour of England next month but senior left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad missed out as she is recovering from Covid-19.

29-year-old Gayakwad is also nursing an

The Neetu David led selection panel made a course correction with teen batting sensation Shafali Verma and seasoned pacer Shikha Pandey making it to all three squads after their South Africa home series snubs.

"This time Neetu and her colleagues didn't go for any outrageous experiments. Shafali and Shikha were two of the earliest names listed in all three squads. There was one Swetha Verma of UP whose name was discussed but it was found that she hasn't even scored 200 runs in a season, a source close to developments said. Sneh Rana and Indrani

were two stellar performers in the National One Day competition and thus got their

The 🐠 controversial picks of the last time like Monica Patel, C Prathyusha have been dropped from the squad altogether in the team selection meeting which was keenly followed by

Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah.

Indrani was rewarded for her string of scores which included 103 against Chattisgarh, 86 against Karnataka and 49 against Railways in the final.

Rana on her part was the Player of the Final for her allround show while representing Indian Railways.

As expected Mithali Raj will lead the team for the one-off Test and three ODIs while Harmanpreet Kaur will take over the reins during the three T20 Internationals.

Test & ODI: Mithali Raj (C), Smriti Mandhana, Harmanpreet Kaur, Punam Raut, Priya Punia, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Sneh Rana, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Indrani Roy (wk), Jhulan Goswami, Shikha Pandey, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Radha Yaday.

T20I: Harmanpreet Kaur (C) Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues,

Shafali Verma, Richa Ghosh Harleen Deol, Sneh Rana, Taniya Bhatia Indrani Shikha Pandey, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy,

Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Radha Yadav, Simaran Dil

shortpasses **LIFTERS TO LEAVE ON MAY 18**

NEW DELHI: A two-member Indian team, including Youth Olympics Gold medallist

weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga, will leave on Tuesday to take part in the World Junior Championship in Tashkent from May 23 to 31. SURINDER EYE IR SELECTOR'S IOB

NEW DELHI: Former India batsman Surinder

Amarnath has applied for the post of national junior cricket selector, and is banking on his early 2000s to get the job. JEJE PATROLLING RIVER

NEW DELHI: Away from the football field,

India striker Jeje Lalpekhlua has been patrolling a long stretch of Tuichang river in Mizoram to prevent "overfishing" and help sustain the livelihood of local fishermen.

INDIA OFF TO QATAR ON MAY 19

NEW DELHI: The Indian football team will leave for Qatar on May 19 after the gulf country, in a big relief, accepted AIFF request to allow its players to train there ahead of the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers next month.

HOLDER TO MISS INITIAL WI CAMF

ANITGUA: All-rounder Jason Holder, who was part of the postponed IPL with SunRisers Hyderabad, has been rested for the first part of West Indies' three-week high-performance camp that begins on Sunday in St Lucia.

MCKEOWN MISSES SMITH'S WR

SYDNEY: Australian teenager Kaylee McKeown fired a warning shot on Saturday ahead of the Tokyo Olympics, swimming the second fastest women's 100 metre backstroke ever to narrowly miss Regan Smith's world record

MARY'S QUARANTINE OVER

NEW DELHI: Olympic Games-bound MC Marykom has completed her seven days quarantine period at the national boxing camp in Pune, but will still train in isolation to stay safe, says a coach associated with the camp.

WFI CANCEL SONEPAT CAMP

NEW DELHI: The planned camp for eight Olympic-bound Indian wrestlers in Sonepat has been cancelled due to hard quarantine and they will instead train in multiple European cities, with the national federation allowing each of them a sparring partner of their choice.

IPL BEST IN WORLD: RIAZ

LAHORE: Pakistan pace bowler Wahab Riaz has called IPL incomparable and the No 1 T20 franchise league in the world, but added that bowling standard of the PSL is the best.

OMAR BANNED FROM OLYMPICS GENEVA: American triple jumper Omar Craddock was banned for 20 months over

missed doping tests and will miss the Tokyo Olympics and 2022 world c'ships in Oregon.

AUSSIES MAY LAND IN SYDNEY

MALE: The Australian contingent that was part of the IPL will return home within a day or two and quarantine in Sydney with BCCI likely to foot the bill for travel & quarantine.

Silverwood will skip Pak, SL series Eng IPL stars likely

Thorpe, Collingwood to take reins during busy summer

PTI ■ LONDON

England head coach Chris his team's two Tests against New Zealand, handing over the reins of the ODI side to his assistants for the home series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan, starting late June.

Having been part of England's tours of Sri Lanka and India earlier this year, Silverwood said he will take a break to refresh himself before returning at the helm for the marquee Test series against visiting Indians, starting in August.

In Silverwood's absence, his assistants Paul Collingwood and Graham Thorpe will take charge of the ODI team for one series each in the home



matches against Sri Lanka and Pakistan from late June to mid-July. "I'll be passing the reins on for the

ODI series. It's not fair on the players if I am operating at less than 100% and it is not fair on myself either," Silverwood was quoted as saying by

"Thorpey will do one and Colly will do the other and I'll use it as my break to refresh and get ready for what is ahead of us," he added.

After the two-match home Test series against New Zealand, starting on June 2, England will play 12 white-ball Internationals at home. Their limited overs home series against Sri Lanka three T20Is, followed by three ODIs.

Then, Pakistan's tour of three ODIs and as many T20Is begins on July 16. This will be followed by a fivematch home Test series against India beginning August 4, when Silverwood will return at the helm of affairs.

After hosting seven Tests as well as the 12 white-ball Internationals, England is scheduled to tour Pakistan and Bangladesh ahead of the T20 World Cup scheduled for October.

Joe Root's Test team then travels to Australia for the Ashes series, followed by a tour of the Caribbean at the start of next year.

to miss NZ Tests

PTI ■ LONDON

England are unlikely to rush their Indian Premier League players straight from quarantine to the Test squad against New Zealand as they would be lack-

This will mean that the likes of Jos Buttler, Jonny Bairstow, Chris Woakes, Sam Curran and Moeen Ali, who are serving a mandatory 10-day quarantine after returning from the currently-suspended IPL, are likely to miss the two Tests against NZ, starting on June 2.

Their isolation period expires at the weekend, leaving little more than two weeks before the first Test at Lord's.

"The timeline is considered too tight for the (IPL) returning players, meaning calls up are expected for the likes of Ollie Robinson, Craig Overton and James Bracey," according to a report in *BBC Sport*.

"While fitness levels could

be managed, the lack of red-ball particularly with other options having spent several weeks competing in the County Championship," said another report in *The Independent*. Head coach Chris

Silverwood on Tuesday will convene his first selection meeting since taking full control of the process from Ed Smith. England men's cricket man-

aging director Ashley Giles had earlier hinted that players who returned from the suspended IPL are unlikely to feature in the Test series against New Zealand.

MOTION PICTURE



The New Zealand men's cricket team departed for England on Saturday night to play a two-Test series, followed by the ICC World Test Championship final against the Virat Kohlicaptained India. NZC posted pictures of the departing team on Twitter and Instagram

Bowlers were aware of ball tampering: Bancroft

ameron Bancroft, one of the three central figures in the infamous ball-tampering scandal, says it is "self explanatory" that apart from Steven Smith, David Warner and himself, Australian bowlers were also aware of the illegal tactics during the Newlands Test.

Bancroft was caught on camera using sandpaper on the ball in the third Test against South Africa in 2018, a scandal that had rocked Australian and world cricket.

In an interview with The Guardian, asked if some of the bowlers knew what he was doing, Bancroft replied: "Yeah, look, all I wanted to do was to be responsible and accountable for my own actions and part.

'Ýeah, obviously what I did benefits bowlers and the awareness around that, probably, is self-explanatory," he added.

The Australian bowling attack in the Newlands Test had comprised pacers Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Marsh and spinner Nathan Lyon. Bancroft, who is currently

playing for Durham in the

County Championship, said he

wanted to be "liked" by his team-



of his values.

"I invested too much to the point where I lost control of my values. What had become important to me was being liked, being well valued, feeling really important to my teammates, like I was contributing something by using sandpaper on a cricket ball.

"That's something I don't think I even understood until that mistake happened. But it's part of the journey and a hard lesson I needed to learn."

The 28-year-old rued that he was not able to make a better decision at that time. "I guess one thing I learnt

through the journey and being responsible is that's where the buck stops (with Bancroft himself). Had I had better awareness I would have mad a much better decision," said Bancroft.

Conway warms up for India with kitty litter on pitch

Auckland: New Zealand batsman Devon Conway is sprinkling kitty litter on practice wickets to simulate spin bowling on the rough, hoping this will help him counter the likes of Ravichandran Ashwin during the World Test Championship final against India next month.

The 29-year-old has been named in the 20-member visiting NZ squad for the two-match Test series against England. The squad will then be trimmed to 15 for the WTC Final in Southampton starting on June 18.

Conway, who impressed in his first International season for his adopted home country last summer in ODIs and T20s, says he has been sprinkling kitty litter on practice wickets to simulate spin bowling pitching in the rough created by bowlers' footmarks.

'Basically the idea is to get the ball to sort of spit out of the rough," Conway, who has featured in three ODIs and 14 T20Is for New Zealand, told Spark Sport. Kitty litter is granulated clay which

absorbs waste products of pets like cat or dogs. "It's a bit harder to play, but good practice. It's about finding a gameplan to combat that and just practice how you're going to play in the game," said the left-handed

"When it does roughen up and the ball does spit and turn a lot, it's all about being posi-

batsman.

Conway said he didn't want to rely on just defending against spinners. "If you're going to look to just defend throughout, at some point there might be a ball that's going to have your num-

Batra in favour of conducting Olympics despite virus fears

pposition to the Olympic Games will be there amidst a raging Covid-19 pandemic but conducting the biggest sporting spectacle in Tokyo will send out a strong message that the world is moving beyond the catastrophic situation, IOA President Narinder Batra said on Saturday.

The Tokyo Olympics, which was scheduled to be held last year, was postponed because of the pandemic.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President, who is also an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member, is hoping that the Games will be held as scheduled, from July 23.

"Life has to move on and conducting the Covid-19 pandemic," Batra said.

there but it is now up to the

organising committee of Japan

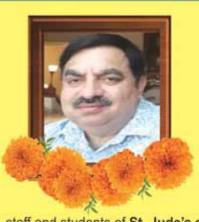
and IOC to decide.

Olympics will give a strong message that we have moved beyond the "Opposition to the Games will always be

letes are concerned we are taking all necessary precautions and have been preparing to the

our best-ever performance in the Olympics," the IOA chief

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



Principal, staff and students of St. Jude's school Majra and St. Thomas' College, Dehradun mourn the untimely and unfortunate demise of Adv. M. K. Kohli, a lawyer par excellence and an unmatched human being who served tirelessly for 32 years both the institutions. His passion and loyalty will forever be missed.

The pioneer Contraction of the pioneer Contracti

You are only as beautiful as the many beautiful things you do for others without expectation

Janelle Monae

The potency of sound

A mantra is an instrument of the mind that helps us to concentrate, intensify and spiritualise our consciousness

The tale of Ganapati

Be it an animal or a human existence, their dynamic existence is rooted in a common factor — the consciousness element

The impact of the pandemic on the youth is disruptive. While they are actively helping others, they are also simultaneously dealing with immense emotional turmoil of their own, writes Dr CHANDNI TUGNAIT, as she suggests ways to move beyond it to create a life outside of it

THE FIGHT FOR SANITARIAN

he present scenario, with the rise in Covid-19 cases and deaths, is nothing short of a nightmare. Most people are experiencing mixed emotions and a lingering feeling of, "I don't feel like doing anything". This is not only because of the news and information overload on social media, but also the fact that people are losing their near and dear ones without as much of a hint.

The pain, overwhelm, fears, anger, social isolation and uncertainty are not only impacting the youth but even the kids. The years 2020 and 2021 have changed not just how we live or work but also how our children study and play. While the working youth seem to be grappling with the situation, whether it is loss of a job, business, medical facility, or life, the kids are a witness to it all. The impact is much more than what meets the eye. The confused feelings, unprocessed emotions, unclear thoughts and panicky actions are leaving a deep impact on our mental and emotional health as well.

The immediate and the long-term mental health impacts of the pandemic on the kids is difficult to estimate. However, the cases of anxiety, stress and depression amongst children between the age group of 5-16 years has seen a huge spike in the last one year. While initially they felt relieved with the online classes, the severity of the pandemic and the impact of the changes in their lives (and that of their parents) soon began to dawn upon them. The common complaints that I get from parents these days is lack of focus, lack of physical exercise, over-eating, irritability, anxiety, bouts of anger, fears and sadness in kids.

Ironically, all this is being experienced by the parents as well. No matter how we conduct ourselves in front of our children, they know exactly what is happening around us. The TV, news, social media, conversations on phone and with each other, the quarantine of a family member, life-threatening situations, the panic on our faces — they can sense it all.

The schools are rushing with the syllabus online because the education of the child is important but are we considerate towards their mental health? How are the current experiences and unprocessed emotions going to impact these children as adults?

Our mental health impacts how we respond, feel, think and act. Our behaviour, decision-making and physical health is all linked to our mental health. Hence, it is essential to give love and assurance and impart coping skills to not only the adults but also to the children.

The pandemic has reshaped the world beyond imagination. The suffering in India has gone to the level of basic requirements of food, shelter, medical facility and transport not being met for a large part of the population. The situation is grim with high levels of insecurity and chaos.

of late, there is propensity for blame towards the authorities. It's never easy to lose a loved one, never. The fear, anger, blame, guilt — the whole gamut of emotions is all justified. But what is also important is to pause for a moment and accept all these emotions and begin to process them. Situation is grim for everyone (in some way or the other). What we need in today's times is prayer, compassion, love and gratitude.

The impact of the pandemic on the youth is disruptive. While they are actively helping others, they are also simultaneously dealing

with immense emotional turmoil of their own.

The fact is that as a country we do not

have a strong medical infrastructure vis-à-vis

our population. We all know this (we knew it all along). But what we didn't know is the severity of the virus and how it could take away our loved ones away from us, forever, in a matter of hours. We are all guilty at some level. We all have to take the ownership for the present situation in order to change it. Despite knowing the safety protocol, a large part of the population didn't follow it. Do we always need a lockdown to exhibit appropriate behaviour? Do we know someone who doesn't wear masks, someone who went for the Diwali party at a friend's house with 20 others, someone who couldn't wait to travel to Joa, Kerala, Maldives, someone who refuted

Now is not the time to find faults with self or others but to change the focus to what good is happening around us and how can we make it better. The brain is extremely powerful in amplifying whatever we focus upon. Till we keep complaining about our present circumstances, our mind will focus on it. The more we talk about it, write about it or feel negative about it, the more we reinforce the same neural pathways in our brain that keep adding to the misery. To change this, let's focus on the good around us.

the existence of covid all together?

Look around, there are many people trying to help with oxygen cylinders, connections in hospitals for beds, arranging plasma, food, support, counselling, therapies and more. Not everyone is trying to bribe, blackmail or take advantage of the situation. It is commendable how the youth is also coming forward to offer assistance, structure communities and make a difference.

Research shows that over 70% of the youth is deeply traumatised with the uncertainty the pandemic has created whether it is with respect to life, relationships, social interactions, forms of expression, health and lives of their loved ones or the disruption in future prospects for education and employment for the youth.

In addition to the grief and loss, there is an impending feeling of doom as over 43% of youth are uncertain about their future career prospects. Many even contemplate suicide. This darkness remains unnoticed as we are fighting to survive this situation.

Despite all odds, the youth is stepping up, raising their voice, offering support, structuring communities, enabling groups and volunteering in ways more than one to fight the situation.

While we should offer them social and psychological support to deal with all this, we should also come up with measures to protect this generation from being permanently scarred by this crisis — physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, financially and behaviourally. Initiatives by the government as well as private sector organisations will help in the long run though immediate support in the form of counselling, therapy, and open communication can go a long way.

The future of our nation lies with our youth and it's of grave importance that we do not take this lightly by letting their life be in a quandary.

There are many people bracing and surviving the virus amidst all the deaths, there



RESEARCH SHOWS THAT OVER 70% OF THE YOUTH IS **DEEPLY TRAUMATISED** WITH THE UNCERTAINTY THE PANDEMIC HAS CREATED WHETHER IT IS WITH RESPECT TO LIFE, RELATIONSHIPS, SOCIAL INTERACTIONS, FORMS OF EXPRESSION, HEALTH AND LIVES OF THEIR LOVED ONES OR THE DISRUPTION IN FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR **EDUCATION AND** EMPLOYMENT FOR THE Y0UTH



are many who are offering relentless care and prayers for humanity at large There is help and compassion in many places, if not all. Hold onto that and allow yourself to be a conduit for more compassion, gratitude and assistance in any way possible instead of fear and the contract of the compassion.

Coronavirus is probably going to be here for a long time. But we have to move beyond it to create a life outside of it, responsibly.

Some points to take into consideration are:

- Process emotions, don't vent nor bottle them up: Allow open communication to address the stressors. Listen and express deeply without judgments and in case of chronic stress or anxiety, seek support from
- Respond, don't react: There is already a lot going on in everyone's lives. Don't snap at people at home or even on other people's social media feed. We can share our views without attacking others.
- Operate from love and compassion and not fears and anger: Say a kind word, offer support, just hold the space for others to be themselves and accept the situation but do not cause panic with minute-by-minute update of statistics.
- Be responsible, not reckless: Follow the safety protocol. Even if you have recovered from Covid, do not act as if all is well. Our actions inspire many others and by being responsible we save not just ourselves but many people around us. The parties, social gatherings, important meetings, can all wait or be done online. Life is precious.
- Help in any way possible, don't panic: When someone you know is in a crisis, get valid connects, check the sources, be mindful, take precaution, help in every way possible and pray for the best. This is all we can do

currently. Also, limit the news and social media intake to up to 15-30 minutes a day to be well apprised of the situation and not be engulfed by it.

- Do your bit, refrain from judging self and others: Judgment only takes us away from action thereby delaying results. Be proactive and sensitive to the battles everyone is going through.
- Take care of yourself: You can't pour from an empty cup. So, take care of yourself eating habits, sleep, exercise, breathing and mindfulness practices, get vaccinated and be in the attitude of gratitude.
- Ask: "What can I do today to make a difference?" instead of complaining.

It's imperative we come together from the space of love, compassion and gratitude to fight the pandemic. There's no other way.

No act is small. No prayer is negligible. No support is trivial. Looking around and complaining and blaming will only cause more pressure on our emotional, mental and physical well-being.

Operate from awareness and take care of

self and others. We are undeniably in a crisis and there are faults at every level — from the root to the top. However, this is not the time to find faults and indulge in blame-game. It's time to focus on "what can I do to

make a difference today?" and then purely from a space of compassion, ACT; without worrying about the results.

Will we able to save the world? I don't

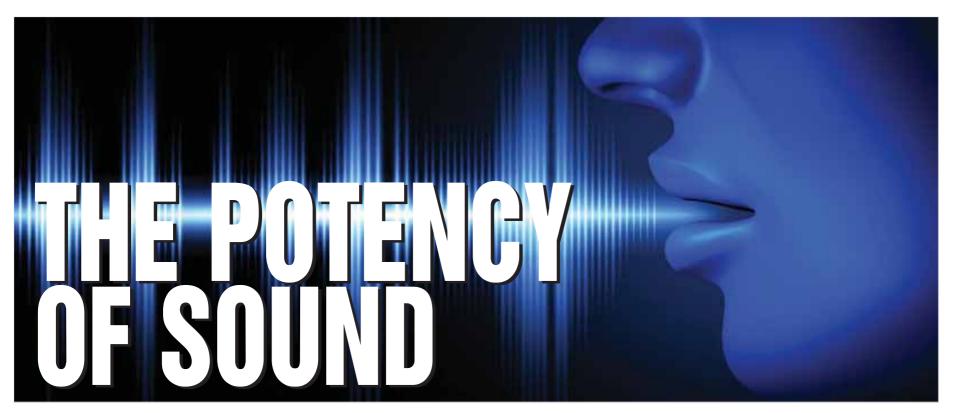
Will we able to save the world? I don't know. But what I do know is that with that one act a day, and thirty acts a month, we all can create ripples of change. It all matters. Choose change over complaints. We always have a choice.

The writer is a renowned Psychotherapist & the founder of Gateway of Healing and Life Artistry





May 16, 2021



A mantra is an instrument of the mind that helps us to concentrate, intensify and spiritualise our consciousness, writes HINGORI

THE MULTIPLICITY OF

MANTRA RECITATION

RELEVANT POWER AT

THE MACROCOSMIC

LEVEL AND AWAKEN

OF THAT POWER IN

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antra is a sound, a certain utterance or a syllable. Today, modern science sees the whole existence as reverberations of energy, different levels of vibrations. Where ever there is a vibration, there is bound to be a sound. That means, the whole existence is a kind of sound, or a complex amalgamation of sounds — the whole existence is an amalgamation of multiple mantras. The yogic scriptures often compare mantras to a boat or a bridge that an aspirant can use to cross the sea of delusion created by the external world, which we call Maya, and to reach the centre of consciousness within. Yogis say that a *mantra* is like an eternal friend who accompanies the meditator even after death, lighting the path in the realm where the light of the sun and the moon cannot penetrate.

În understanding what a mantra is and how a Mantra works, it is helpful to look at its translation. The word mantra is derived from two Sanskrit words, the first part is *man*, which means mind; and the second part is tra, which is the root of the Sanskrit word meaning tool or instrument. A mantra is therefore literally, an instrument or tool of the mind that helps us to concentrate, intensify and spiritualise our consciousness.

MANTRA VIDYA AND AURA

Chanting silently in the mind in a meditative pose helps increase the At gurukuls, students were taught

higher-order mantras that were specif-Mantras generate sound vibrations that add to the aura or energy levels of those who recite them. The mantras

of the Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Jain and other faiths, also fall into this category. However, mantras can be used positively as well as negatively. Positively, they can be used to heal, defend against spiritual attacks and strengthen one's aura. They also form a telepathic connection between the seeker and the collective power of the deity or concept to which they are attributed. If the mantra is attributed to planets, it will connect to their rays as well. For example, the guru mantra will connect to the power and concept of guru, including the rays of Jupiter. If the mantras are attributed to a deceased saint, they will home in to his energy field, which exists in an ethereal dimension.

Mantras would be used in specific circumstances and were to be recited while sitting in a specific asana or seat. For example, the Gayatri Mantra was best recited while seated on a kusha grass mat or deerskin. The more advanced version of the mantra, known as the Mahagayatri Mantra, was to be recited while immersed in water. Several such permutations and combinations are usable in mantra vidya (the science of mantras). The intent of such technicalities is to ensure that the energy vibrations of the mantras are optimally absorbed by the human body and little is dissipated into the atmosphere. A part of the dissipation adds to the aura or energy of the location. Some of it would be absorbed by the asana or seat. It is for this reason that asanas are bad conductors of electricity, that neither absorb nor discharge it quickly. As it is not possible to perform all we use blankets, pure cotton sheets or cotton mattresses, instead.



A Japanese scientist, Dr. Masaru Emoto, conducted an interesting experiment on the effect that sound vibrations had on water. Emoto observed that when water was exposed to music from Bach and Mozart, beautiful crystals formed in it. But when negative intentions were directed its way, the water formed malformed crystals. He concluded that sound is vibration; and positive sounds have healing energy. His research also showed that thoughts emit vibrations at frequencies we are yet to determine, and they too have the power to heal. The question that begs an answer is: 'How do mantras

MANTRAS AND THE DIVINITY OF

The knowledge of sound affecting matter is not new. Chanting *mantras* has been a part of Indian spiritual practices for thousands of years. The ancient *rishis* (sages) of India had a deep awareness of the potency of sound.

According to Quantum Physicists, whether audible or not, everything has a sound, a distinct and unique vibration. This sound is called resonance, the particular frequency at which an object naturally vibrates. In his book 'Silent Pulse', George Burr Leonard writes, "At the heart of each of us, whatever our important of the state of imperfections, there exists a silent pulse of perfect rhythm, made up of wave forms and resonances, which is absolutely individual and unique, and yet which connects us to everything in the universe.'

Sanskrit, the language in which posed, is described as a vibrational language. The ancient Indian spiritual masters devised mantras to vibrate

at particular frequencies. Each *mantra* is composed to have a distinct effect. When you chant a mantra, you send vibrations into the universe which creates a powerful ripple effect. *Mantra* recitation also helps you tune in to the universal sound that began creation and is still vibrating — the Anahat. Scientific research suggests, chanting mantras causes the left and right hemispheres of the brain to synchronise. It also helps oxygenate the brain, reduce our heart rate, blood pressure and assist in creating calm brainwave

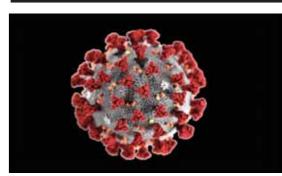
Mantras can rearrange your molecular structure and adjust your experience through the subtle vibrations the chanting causes in your being. This re-alignment allows you to experience the benefits of the vibration. The more focused you are in chanting a mantra, the greater will be its impact on your consciousness. When you think negatively, you create a subtle vibration with the negative thought. The longer you think negatively, the more damaging it is for your mind and body.

With every passing day, there is more scientific data to corroborate what the ancient rishis had a deep understanding of — sound has power. Words and thoughts, spoken and unspoken, are potent tools. Being aware of this will allow you to pay close attention to the things you say and think of yourself, and how these words and thoughts, especially the negative ones, impact you. This awareness may serve as a trigger to change the negative patterns into positive ones. It may also help you to let go of growth.

The writer is the author of Hingori Sutras



HIDDENSOULS PRAMOD PATHAK



Time to be honest

handle the pandemic as effectively as we should have ⊿and perhaps could have. While citing reasons may produce long list of responses that were found missing, if we try to get to the roots, we may come to just one conclusion. More than anything else it was a failure of character. Character of those responsible for policy making that is the political class. But the bureaucratic machinery was also equally responsible for not applying their mind, the job they are supposed to do. It was also the failure of character of the common people who acted irresponsible enough to let Corona flourish the second time. What an irony. We knew what was required. Yet, we did what was not required. The point is that this is not the first time a pandemic like this has dealt a bloody blow. When are we going to learn? Maybe not as long as we are not honest to admit our mistakes, learn from them and let those who know the job do it. This is a typical Indian scenario. We always find the wrong man for the right place. You need nothing else to invite a disaster. And so, it was. Saying that the common man erred may pass on some portion of the blame to the scapegoat but that does not absolve the political class of their sin. Governance was more important than forming governments but people preferred the latter. It took a higher judiciary to point out how callous some institutions have become. If people are honest to admit mistakes and learn from them things could improve in the future. But hoping this is a tall order. The chaos that has set in reminds of an old Gandhian quote — When wealth is lost nothing is lost, when health is lost something is lost, but when character is lost everything is lost. The point he wanted to emphasise was that character is the all-important attribute. Character can help regain health and wealth even if we lose these. But the present times have no room for character, as wealth and health occupy the front seat. The results are there to see. We still can make up for the lost ground if we pick up the moral courage to own our mistakes. But for that there is need to shed the ego, the king size ego that always tells us that we are infallible. As the political class continues to pat its own back, situation is going from bad to worse. Time for some soul searching. Gandhiji had talked about seven social sins in his weekly newspaper Young India on October 22, 1925. It would be worthwhile recollecting them, which were — Wealth without work, Pleasure without conscience, Knowledge without character, Commerce without morality, Science without humanity, Worship without sacrifice and Politics without principles. While all those sins are responsible for the present-day situation, it may be prudent to identify the deadliest of the sins talked by Gandhi 95 years ago. It is politics without principles that has become the biggest curse of the present times. It is politics that is at the helm of everything. Though many definitions of politics are there power is Central to all of them. It is obsession with power that is the root cause of all evil. only that can lead us out of the morass we are in.

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KRISHNA'S CONSORTS

Param Purusha Krishna's multiple wives are symbolically viewed as the different forms of Prakriti, writes DR. ASHA GOSWAMI

he sources of Krishna saga contain varied accounts that speak of his multiple marriages. It is said Krishna was married to 16,100 damsels. Most of these marriages were a consequence of his military expeditions in the far-east of India, the modern Assam. Krishna's eight other marriages are referred to in the *Puranas*. While most sources are silent over Krishna's other marriages, his marriage to Rukmini, his chief queen, is cited in almost all the sources of Krishna-saga — an argument cited by many scholars to bracket him with the popular monogamists of the age like Shri Rama, Nala, Satyavan and the others.

These scholars, to prove their view, quote a verse from the Mahabharata, which equates Shri Krishna with the famous monogamists of the age. It is said, Krishna carried away Rukmini moved by her deep love and desire to marry him. Later, they duly wed at Dwarka. Next, during the syamantak-gem episode Krishna is cited to have married Jambhavati and Satyabhama. Thereafter, it is said Krishna married Kalandi, River Yamuna-incarnate. His marriage to four maidens - Shrutakeerti, Bhadra, Madri and Hemavati is mentioned

The river goddess, Kalindi, had begged to marry Krishna, which reflects his influence and power during the Dvapara-age. Philosophically interpreting Krishna's personae, it may be stated that Lord Krishna with this bounteous grace undertook the role of a husband to all women, who looked upon him to be their guardian and saviour. At the same time, he is perceived to be the father to all the men of the world [the second role makes the first role of the

Lord inevitable] According to the Yoga system, there are sixteen thousand one hundred nerves which get united at a prime-place near the Sushmna nerve, and a Yogi has to hold full



out some specific Yogic sadhanas. Shri Krishna being an excellent Yogi used to inculcate such austere sadhanas by exercising full control over his body with all these nerves. He was styled as the Lord or the Swami [husband] and master of these nerves, which probably was taken to imply

In the symbolic context, his so many wives also imply his immumerable Vibhutis in this world, reference to which is made in the Vibhuti — Yoga of Gita (when Krishna tells to Arjuna about this " na asti anto me divyam vibhutanam"). Likewise, his eight chief queens including Rukmani are symbolically treated as implying three qualities of Sattva, Rajas, Tamas (in human body); the river Ganges, presiding goddess of the Himalayas, Samaveda-mantras personified, soul and the personified [Krishna] patients virtue in itself.

Mythological, the multiple wives of

Krishna represent the Apsaras of Heaven in their former lives with as well as the multiple incarnation of goddess Lakshmi. The *Apsaras* assumed their next birth on earth to attain Lord Krishna as their sole husband. Besides, Param Purusha Krishna's multiple wives are also symbolically viewed as the different forms of Prakriti. In this context, the relation between Param Purusha and Prakriti corresponds to that between husband and wife. So, Krishna, the god has sixteen thousand one hundred eight forms of Prakriti as his wives. Likewise, his eight chief queens are symbolically represent major energies of *Prakriti* known as *Mula* (primary) *Prakriti*, namely – Tattva, Mahat, Ahamkara, Akasha,

Vayu, Tejas, Apas and Prithvi. The writer, a noted Indologist and authority on Krishnaite Studies, was a regular contributor to Agenda, The Pioneer. We recently lost her to the pandemic. Her presence in the form of writings will be missed

Thank God, there's God!

God is there to discipline any soul, that does not toe the line. We should be grateful for his protection, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

magine a world without God. Everyone is on their own. There is Ino *karmaphala* principle. Everything is happening by chance, because with no God, who will enforce the cause and effect rule which is also known as the karmaphala principle. Some people get together like in a dictatorship and

control the masses by terrorising them. You might say that this is happening in several countries, as in the past. But you must remember that the fiercest of the dictators eventually bit the dust. So what does one make of that? Simple, there is someone far superior than any dictator howsoever powerful he/she may be. That is God. We are blessed to have God oversee everything.

Regarding their life span, no dictator could survive for long. However, there are souls who live much beyond hundred years. Some of these special souls live even beyond that. To my knowledge there is a saint who is said to be five hundred years plus old. He comes to attend the 'Kumbha Mela' every twelve years. That is how they have estimated his age. He lives in the Himalayas. He is one example, I know of. But, there must be others who have lived for longer years. How does it happen? Because God allows them this privilege. They may wish not to be liberated just yet, having qualified for such a privilege. God can allow them; and only God can, because such souls benefit the mankind by their presence.

To understand this phenomenon, we must get the hang of the cosmic design. There is God, who is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. He is the basis of everything. Everything revolves around Him. He is the one who creates, sets rules ('maryadas'), which everyone is expect-



ed to follow. Those who do are reward-

ed and those who do not, get punished. These rewards and punishments are not instantaneous. The Lord Himself sets the example of following all maryadas. Then, there are all of us, souls, all equal. Yes, our material or otherwise bodies differ as also where we are placed in the hierarchy which is based upon our 'karmas', good or bad. Our smallness is intrinsic, but this does not prevent us from achieving very big tasks like some scientists do or enlightened saints do. Our smallness also does not prevent some of us from becoming despots, for which we are punished in due course. As the arrangement is eternal, there is no rush for anything. All divine actions are well thought out and

absolutely fair. Back to some souls turning rogue and causing mayhem with assistance of some other willing souls, their smallness comes in the way and they are helplessly punished. Therefore, there is no scope of any soul becoming big at any time;

God is the only big soul, and will eternally remain so. This uniform smallness of all souls also excludes giving unfair advantage to any particular soul based on different sizes of their bodies, they being temporary.

God is there to discipline any soul, that does not toe the line, and we should be grateful for the protection granted by the all-powerful God. The system is not complicated. You have done pious deeds and earned privileges. You are expected to make good use of them to make progress in the eternal journey. If these are misused, punishment is on the way once the good deeds have run out. We shouldn't get fooled by some years of someone's reign of terror; punishment is coming but in a logical way — the karmaphala way.

In conclusion, we can state that there is the omnipotent God to both protect us and reward us, some rogue souls notwithstanding.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

sunday, magazine the pioneer

Hawks cash in on Israel-Hamas war

Gaza has once again grabbed the headlines. In East Jerusalem, blood-stained streets and smoldering tyres are telltale signs of a gory fight between the Israeli security forces and the Hamas. The region is witnessing the worst violence since the 50-day war that took place in 2014. Today, the bitter truth for Israel is that Hamas, an Islamic militant group, controls the sensitive Gaza region.

Palestinians live under Israeli settler colonialism. Their fear is based on experience of torture, daily bout of humiliations, constant denial of basic freedoms, absence of dignity of life, living and labour, imprisonment and finally maiming and killing. So it is very natural that every Palestinian born there will have the basic instinct to fight against the Israeli occupation. The hatred is growing towards Israel and its security forces. And if it goes like this for any longer, war-like situation will be a daily affair.

The moot point is what Israel wants? Israel wants total control over East Jerusalem. The current conflict has emerged because of the forced expulsion of Palestinian families from the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. Some sources say the lands occupied by these families were originally under Jewish ownership. But the Palestinians see this as an extension of an Israeli policy to displace as many Palestinians as possible from Jerusalem. The final aim is to reclaim and retain a majority Jewish identity in the city.

Will Palestine ever get the desired independent land? No, at least for the foreseeable future. It must be said here that the struggle and jehad for Palestine will continue. The Islamic resistance movements like the Hamas, meaning strength, will keep challenging the very identity of the Israeli state. In fact, the Hamas Covenant which consists of 36 articles clearly highlights how the group will take the Islamic movement further. Article 15 of the Covenant says that the jehad for the liberation of Palestine is an individual duty.

It says, "The day that enemies usurp part of Muslim land, jehad becomes the individual duty of every Muslim. In face of the Jews usurpation of Palestine, it is compulsory that the banner of jehad be raised. To do this requires the diffusion of Islamic consciousness among the masses,



Smoke rises following Israeli airstrikes on a building in Gaza City on Friday

both on the regional, Arab and Islamic ummah levels. It is necessary to instill the spirit of jehad in the heart of the nation so that they would confront the enemies and join the ranks of the fighters."

Palestinians have resisted Israeli occupation and colonisation for decades now. Anger on the Palestinian street has grown. People are raising the banner of protest against Israel. They claim that Israel is making concerted efforts to erase the Palestinian identity from the

For now, Tel Aviv has rebuffed any discussion for ceasefire. It vows to continue the offensive. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, is in favour of stepping up its Gaza strikes. He said, "At the conclusion of a situational assessment, it was decided that both the might of the attacks and the frequency of the attacks will be increased."

He also commented that "Hamas and Islamic jehad paid... and will pay a very heavy price for their belligerence... their blood is forfeit". This indicates that Israel will continue its offensive. There is a possibility that this will add fuel to the fire over the decade's long crisis in West Asian region.

The spokesman for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he is saddened by the increasingly large number of casualties, including children, from Israeli air strike in Gaza and of Israeli fatalities from rockets launched from Gaza. He called for maximum restraint by the Israeli security forces. The UN has warned that the planned expulsion of the Palestinian families from East Jerusalem by Israel could amount to war crimes. But it also lashed out at the Hamas for the indiscriminate launch of rockets and mortars towards Israeli population

Meanwhile, the US postponed a UN Security Council meeting on the ongoing flare-up between Israel and the Hamas for the next week. The discussion was supposed to take place this week, but the US is trying to make room for diplomacy so as to avert the worst situation in the contested Gaza territory. The US, a key ally of Israel, has confirmed on multiple occasions that the latter has the full right to defend itself as the terrorist groups from Gaza have launched about 1,750 rockets into its territory. However, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has brushed aside all speculation that Washington of tensions". Arab League chief

is trying to torpedo the crucial talks altogether. President Joe Biden said, "One of the things that I have seen thus far is that there has not been a significant overreaction."

Around the same time, Israel has been pummeling Gaza with air strikes, levelling buildings leading to killing of dozens of people. Biden has already touted Israel's right to selfdefense amid rocket attacks from the Hamas that have killed dozens of people. Thus the White House clarified that Jerusalem must be a place of co-existence.

The European Union, a group of 27 nations, foo has criticised the Hamas for the war, by saying that Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel were totally unacceptable. And the EU called on all sides to aim for deescalation and to prevent more civilian casualties. At the same time, EU foreign policy chief Joseph Borrell condemned eviction of Palestinian families in East Jerusalem. He also called the evictions illegal, saying it

only serves to fuel tensions. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson aired his view that "the UK is deeply concerned by the growing violence and civilian casualties and we want to see urgent de-escalation

Ahmed Aboul Gheit called the Israeli air strikes indiscriminate and irresponsible.

However, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a known bete noire of the Israel state, said "Zionists understand nothing but the language of force, so the Palestinians must increase their power and resistance to force the criminals to surrender and stop their brutal acts." Meanwhile the 57member group of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation voiced its concern over the deteriorating security scenario in East Jerusalem.

Now, as international call for restraint has been raised, both the Hamas and Israel must understand that they are simply killing innocent civilians. War is not the solution to the land problem. The current crisis is only offering the radical elements on both sides a chance to advance their agenda.

The massive deployment of ground troops by the Netanyahu Government on the border signals a broader offensive in the coming days. Moving armed forces near Gaza raises the possibility of an invasion and a bloody war. The Israeli Defence Forces ($\dot{\text{IDF}}$) is preparing for all kinds of eventualities and an esca-

lation at the moment. Such deployment of forces took place only in

As the war continues, global media reports that most of the rockets fired by the Hamas are being blocked by Israel's Iron Dome Defence System. However, some of the rockets that got through the superior defence circuit killed only a few people on the side of Israel. On the other hand, the attacks launched by Israel through its air force over Gaza have been more deadly, with a reported death toll over 90 so far. The Iron Dome is designed to selectively deal with rocket attacks. And also this system intercepts those enemy rockets that head for populated areas. The IDF claims that the Iron Dome is around 90 per cent effective. However, the sources say even a high probability intercept rate can make the Hamas efforts to destroy populated areas purely ineffective. It is to be noted here that the Iron Dome system was made with American finance.

The constant struggle for Palestine to establish its sovereign identity has become a permanent irritant for Israel. On the other hand, Israeli attempt to maintain its status quo and further expand and also to evict illegal Palestinian occupants (according to Tel Aviv) from East Jerusalem foment an ever greater war in the region. The Hamas wants the Jews dead and the state of Israel eliminated. For them, it is not about Israel, but this is ultimately about the Jews.

Today, situation in East Jerusalem is terribly unnerving. It is time for the Israeli garrison state to talk peace. The Hamas, only by working as a proxy, will find it really difficult to bring a solution to the Palestinians. Only result would be death of civilians. And the hawks will be happy. When the deadly, Covid-19 is killing millions across the globe, Tel Aviv and the Hamas must not venture out to take more lives anymore.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute across the country after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)

Tel Aviv's concerted efforts to evict 'illegal' **Palestinian** settlers from **East Jerusalem** and Hamas' ceaseless attempts to destroy Israel and Jews are the biggest hurdles in arriving at a peaceful solution. The ongoing war offers the hawks from both sides the much soughtafter opportunity as they have some political axe to grind



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Systemic flaws in Indian health sector exposed The biggest problem, more relevant to India, $T_{19\,has\ exposed\ our\ lack\ of}^{he\ second\ wave\ of\ Covid-}$ preparedness for any medical emergency as India has not been able to meet any basic medical requirements that do not need complicated technology or high investment i.e. medicines, oxygen, ventilators, PPE kits, vaccine, etc. Had we faced any other medical emergency related to a virus deadlier than SARS-Cov or some other deadly radiation (as faced by Japan after nuclear attack), probably Indian population would have halved by now. Covid-19 has provided the nation an opportunity to intro-

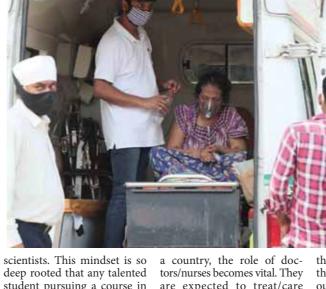
spect problems in our healthcare system to effectively deal with the ongoing pandemic (which doesn't seem to get over before 2022), and any potential health emergency in crucial to understand the future. Rather than squarethe properties and ly blaming any past or present government at the Centre or origin of the new virus State, the purpose of this colto develop medicines umn is to shake our policy makers to realise the systemic and vaccines flaws and bottlenecks in the way of development of robust and inclusive health infrastructure in India.

First, we need to recognise that the human health is interconnected with his surrounding environment, including living species i.e. various animals, birds, etc. Rudolf Virchow, a famous German physicist and pathologist, also known as Father of Modern Pathology, coined a term called Zoonosis to refer to any infectious disease which is transmitted from animals to humans. A zoonotic disease is caused by virus, bacteria, fungus, etc, and travels from animals to human. He asserted that there are no dividing lines, nor should there be between animal and human medicine.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization's report "World Livestock 2013" states an important fact that 60 per cent of all new infectious diseases that emerged in last three decades are zoonotic diseases. Viral outbreaks in recent years like nipahvirus, ebola virus, swine flu (H1N1) virus, avian influenza (H5N1) virus, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS CoV) are all zoonotic viruses. According to World Health Organization (WHO), zoonotic pathogens represent a clear threat to global health. The entire world is at higher risk of future pandemics, primarily of animal origin and combating it would require good co-ordination among medical science, veterinary science, environmental science and other biological

Realising the importance of this coordination, William Osler, the father of modern medicine and founder of the discipline of veterinary pathology, and Calvin Schwabe (chairperson of a new Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the University of California) advocated "one medicine" for

The second systemic flaw is more relevant to India. It is the presence of an extremely high educational hierarchy, which places MBBS course at the top while degrading all other health professionals and



student pursuing a course in virology, immunology, nursing, physiotherapy or non-allopathic medical courses, etc, is considered inferior because of his/her inability to secure admission to an MBBS course. On the one hand, this hierarchy demoralises other allied fields, and on the other, it paves the way for undue interference by MBBS doctors in the other fields. This leads to a barrier in the development of these fields. Moreover, Indian doctors despite their huge potential, rarely take up medical research as it is less remunerating compared to consultancy, which is highly paid.

A lot of services that can be taken care of by these professionals cannot be performed by MBBS doctors. When a new and unknown disease first hits

are expected to treat/care patients with the existing medications/knowledge. When it becomes difficult to treat patients with the existing framework, then the role of virologist, geneticist, veterinary doctor, microbiologist, pharmacologist and immunologist becomes crucial to understand the properties and origin of the new virus to develop medicines and vaccines. After developing vaccines, nurses play an important role in vaccinating the people. Depending on the kind of disease, if it causes complications relating to mobility, muscular contractures, etc, among patients, then the role of physiotherapist becomes important; and if complications make the patient physically disabled or orthopedically handicapped

then begins the role of prosthetist and orthotist to figure out devices to help them.

The risk of zoonosis has increased due to the present human activities such as demographic alterations, increased movement across various continents, disturbing natural phenomenon and over exploitation of the environment. It brings the environmentalist into the picture. Thus, it is clear that an integrated approach toward a public health emergency is an effective way to deal with the unknown disease. Creating a hierarchy between the professions of the same sector can weaken our fight against any

Moreover, these professionals (virologists, immunologists, orthotics & prosthetics, physiotherapist, occupational therapist) could have played a very crucial role during the ongoing pandemic to meet the ments from health infrastrucshortage of health workers, by being given a very short training. It is worth mentioning here that the educational courses studied by these professionals have a lot of syllabi common MBBS Unfortunately, we have failed to utilise their huge potential.

Thirdly, India has a huge shortage of doctors which is reflected by the indicator of population served by a doctor, which is one of the highest in the world. Despite availability of huge talent, this artificial shortage is due to unnecessary stringent rules to establish a medical college and limited medical seats. Devi Prasad Shetty, one of the leading cardiologists in India, suggested that the Government can build around 300 new medical colleges without any cost which can offer 30,000 new seats. He argued that medical education can be provided to the students even in a single building and for practical training they can be taken to hospitals. According to him most governments refrain from creating new medical colleges since it requires an investment of around ₹450 crore and a time span of around 5 years. Further, the annual maintenance cost of a medical college is also around ₹150 crore. Educating medical students in a simple building without health infrastructure and training them practically in hospitals is the simplest and most cost-effective way of

meeting the current demand for doctors. Lastly, gradual withdrawal of most successive governture has resulted in the shortages of hospital beds, oxygen, ventilators, etc. We can clearly notice an obsession of all governments with health insurance schemes especially for the last two decades, rather than expanding existing public health infrastructure. It is worth mentioning here that health insurance generate additional burden on the existing health infrastructure rather than creating any new health infrastructure. If the same amount that has been spent on health insurances by all governments in last two decades had been used to expand health infrastructure, it would have expanded our medical facilities by around 10 per cent, which would have not only provided a lot of jobs but also saved the lives of lakhs of people. Moreover, we can find numerous reports of misuse of insurance schemes by private hospitals by inflating bills through unnecessary medical testing. This has depleted most of the insurance coverage. It is high time when all

Governments in India (Centre or State) should come together to prepare a roadmap to abolish all systemic flaws in our health system. Let us learn from this pandemic and prepare ourselves better for any other such threat to human life in the future.

(The writer is currently pursuing masters in prosthetics and orthotics from Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities, New Delhi)

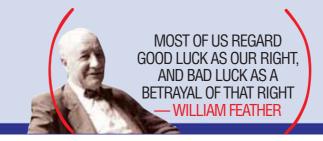


health professionals and scientists. However, when it becomes difficult for qualified doctors to treat patients with the existing knowledge, the role of virologist, geneticist, veterinary doctor, microbiologist, pharmacologist and immunologist becomes



May 16, 2021



























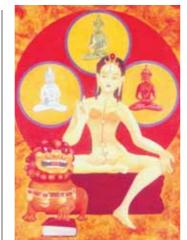




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week keep your stress level under check to stay in good health. Deal with any problems that come up physically, don't try to avoid them. Be sure to get enough rest. If you need healing, ask for it. Sensitive people need caring, nurturing, massage, and hugs from friends to stay healthy. On the career front, other people may oppose your new ideas or proposals, but if you know that you're right to go ahead. You are enthusiastic, full of energy and want to put your best, but others are not taking it positively. Leave your simplicity behind, be smart and a little articulate. On the personal front, your relationship will move into a lighter, easier, and more balanced phase when you are sure of vourself.

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Tension and depression might take a toll leaving you an exhausted and under-confident. Reading, meditation and light exercises will bring relief, and good sleep will help to improve your state of mind. Uncertainties and confusion in life will melt away if you have a positive and creative mind. On the work front, you need to make quick decisions. Use your intelligence and logic for good cause, do not waste your time in disputes. The solution to the problem is already there or will come soon. On the personal front, work with cool mind than the raging heart. If in a relationship, this can be a make-or-break period. This is the time to be clear about what you want out of your relationships, and then take steps accordingly.

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

On the health front, you decide to self-validate and believe in yourself as well as your talents. Your motto for a disease-free happy family will keep you busy. It is time to imagine how totally different and wonderful things can be. Professionally, you are positive and try to bring love and compassion to your work. You are highly intuitive too. People are amazed to see this side to you. Focus on your goals and targets. Be firm and determined. Those in business need to be tough in the money transactions. On the personal front, mind, heart, and emotions are going in different ways. This is a highly emotional time in love relationships. Things can quickly become heated. Treat your lover like a friend. Don't be in a hurry to end or to begin a relationship.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Sunday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week is a good time to enjoy your health and add extra charm to your persona. You are cheerful, hopeful, and full of life. You take good care of yourself, and the people you are concerned with. Compromising on health issues is not advisable. Balancing your work and relations is important. On the career front, be cautious if you are in a job, follow the discipline and set rules for the organisation you are working with, else be ready to face displeasure of your seniors. Businessmen should be careful in money transaction. There appear to be conflicts and confrontations which may make you lose your calm. On the personal front, you may get involved in a great relationship. Romance is in the air.

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour White Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You will be positive, creative, and happy go lucky this week. This is an excellent time to flaunt your charm and enjoy the path of personal development. The completeness, sense of vitality and peace of mind will make you a very efficient person. On the career front, you are confident and ready to face any challenges. You will win and attain accolades for your performance this week. You will be in your senior's good books. Do not let this success get into your head. On the relationship front, be careful as there are chances of counterfeit love. Investigate before you take any final decision. Existing relations should clear the doubts and confusions if any to avoid misunderstanding in future.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Mustard Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You are likely to change your mind radically about something that you think is wrong with you physically. Do not ignore everything your doctor has told you, rather give it deep thought. Those suffering from serious ailments need to be under the constant observation of doctors. On the work front, getting confused about whether to leave the present job, starting a business, or some undesirable circumstances is likely to take place. Changing subjects or field often gets you nowhere. Find out your interest and potentials. This is the time to be firm in your decisions and keep your eyes and ears open. On the personal front, there are hope and happiness on an emotional level, along with a new sense of security, protection and recovery.

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you need a break from normal life. There is a need to slow down the hectic work pace and relax. Do not push yourself when you are tired, it may cause illness and injury. On the career front, you have the benefits of your communication, both verbal or written, and will get a good news regarding your career. Businessmen could acquire a secure position monetarily. Those in service will get the support of their seniors and boss, which is likely to prove a stepping stone in their career. Be cautious, stay focused on what you want to achieve. On the personal front, a new beginning and higher expectations are on the cards. This is the time when you need not put extra efforts into the relationship area.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Grev Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, work on balancing your *chakras* or your body, mind, and spirit. Pay adequate attention to all three. Meditation and Pranayam will work wonderfully. The benefits are far greater than any effort you can put out. Professionally, connections with new people, especially people from other lands, will be beneficial. This is the time for making new business deals, signing new projects and assignments. Crack your potential. Stars are favouring you. Creativity, change, and development are the themes of the week. On the personal front, new ideas and plans will certainly help you to revitalise your relations with loved ones. Love is in the air and you are in full mood to express your feelings. This is a good time to make relations.

Lucky number 7 Lucky colour Green **Lucky day** Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week take some time out for yourself. Healthwise, you are on the right track. Keep doing what you are doing. Learn more about rituals from the past. They will deepen your spiritual understanding and practice and help you to bring balance. On the career front, lots of activity, getting things accomplished are on the cards. You may make your peers look bad. You don't feel tired; being a workaholic is your passion. Keep your behaviour in check, there are chances of using harsh words that create a hostile situation around you. Maintain your cool and equilibrium whatever the situation, that quality will add a feather to your career. On the relationship front, if you are currently committed, it may well rise to new and better heights soon.

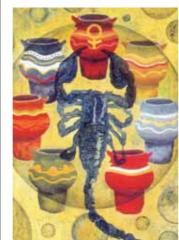
Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Black Lucky day Saturday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Listen to your body with great care and attention. You are either overeating or starving yourself to lose weight. Both situations are bad for health. Bringing balance in food habits not only helps you to maintain your weight but it gives you a confident mindset. You are otherwise hale & hearty, enjoy the week. On the work front, investment done in the past is coming to fruition this week. This can be literal such as a bank account returning money to you. You will be reaping what you have sown. You are in the good book of your senior and soon there will be rewards. On the personal front, love and emotions are taking a back seat, you prefer isolation. Those committed must stay connected with their time to keep the spark alive.

Lucky number 4 Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You need to balance your health efforts with your personal and professional responsibilities. Be sure that you are taking time for rest and healing. If you put yourself last on the list of things, your health will suffer. Make sure you are taking adequate sleep too. On the professional front, if you are looking for a job, you have the ability and the skill to find it. If you are already employed, you will find a better position. If there's no room for a promotion at your current job, give serious thought to finding something where there is a possibility. On the relationship front, if you are committed, don't hesitate to speak your mind to your beloved. You stand with pride and express your feelings. This will only improve your relationship.

The tale of Ganapati

Lucky number 16 Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Thursday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you are likely to feel stressed out. You may be suppressing your emotions, and this will impact your body negatively. Be careful how, when, and where you vent your emotional reactions. Anything that reduces your stress level will be helpful. Think positive Stay calm and connected. Anger is a silent killer. On the career front, tension is indicated. Be positive, this is a temporary phase. Those looking for a job change, this is the right time. Execute plans with sincerity. You have the potential to achieve the desired position. On the personal front, the time is right for soul-searching and discovery of the inner realms. It is a very positive time for you and an excellent opportunity to strengthen relationships of all kinds.

Lucky number 22 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Friday

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¬he Ganapati imagery and the story line running around makes out an

interesting reading. He is perceived

as having the head of an elephant with a

single tusk. He has a small mouse as his

mount. Animal forms have been exten-

sively used in Indian tradition to enlight-

en us on one or the other virtue, vital to

qualitative existence, evident in the par-

ticular animal's behavioural pattern. The

Let us first have a brief run into the

Shiva's consort, made a beautiful clay idol

The story suggests that our gross

When the fundamental element of con-

form-body, it becomes alive. It implies

that left to itself, the gross body made of

earthly matter would remain a dead mat-

ter. The paradox, however, is that most of

us just identify oneself with the gross

dynamism is actually rooted to the con-

body, seldom realising that our

fact that animal behaviour is in public

knowledge, it provides easy ground to

legend pertaining to his origin. It is

believed that Goddess Parvati, Lord

in human form. She then infused life

bodies are made of earthly matters.

sciousness becomes available to the

into it. He was named Ganesa.

make an analogy.

ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

sciousness element. This eternal truth needs to be understood and acknowledged, is what comes out of this story.

In the above context, it is worth mentioning here once again that as per ancient India's perception, Lord Shiva symbolises the transcendent consciousness — the seed-potential to create life. His consort Parvati, by Herself no different from Lord Shiva, serves as His kinetic side, the immanent consciousness, the power by which She makes life flow. The above legend needs to be understood in

this background. The legend further states that once Ganesa stood guard with the instruction that he should ensure that no body disturbs Parvati while bathing in her private chamber. Meanwhile, Lord Shiva comes to join His consort. Ignorant of the fact that Lord Shiva is his mother's spouse, Ganesa did not allow Him access and rather stood firm in His path. When all persuasions failed, a battle followed in which, enraged Lord Shiva chopped off Ganesa's head. When Parvati learnt of Ganesa's death, her ire got aroused. In a fit of anger, having lost her sensibility, She could have destroyed the whole Universe. Everybody got alarmed.



To pacify Parvati, Narada was sent to her as a messenger. Parvati agreed to relent on two conditions: (a) that Ganesa had to be brought back to life and (b) he should be granted Godly status with all divine rights. In deference to Her wishes, first Ganesa's headless body was bathed and cleaned. Meanwhile, the head was lost in the din of battle. Shiva then sent out his companions with the instruction to kill and bring the head of the first living being in sight. That happened to be an elephant with one tusk. The elephant's head was transplanted on Ganesa's body. Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, the God trinity personified, respectively assigned with the functions of creation, sustenance and recycling life, joined hands and brought back the dead Ganesa to life. Shiva accepted Ganesa as His son. He also made Him the lord of His companions (the *ganas*), and so is also called

Here, how true is the story, is not the point of deliberation. It is actually suggestive of the fact that be it an animal or a human existence, their dynamic existence is rooted in a common factor the consciousness element. Second, it is only when all constituents of a form-

Ganapati (the lord of gana-s).

body are in place that the consciousness element would be manifest. But for a form-existence in place, the conscious-

ness element would not be in reckoning. Let us now look at the educative import inlaid with this particular symbolism. Elephant is one animal which has sensibilities and emotions akin to a human being. It lives in herd where the order of their leader is strictly obeyed. They remain as possessive of their mates as human beings. They can be seen weeping following death of their fellow being. They are even believed to dig ground and bury their dead. They get enraged if ever their privacy is ever encroached upon. And since they have longest memory, the elephant hits upon the person who encroached his privacy, if ever noticed much later. The elephant exactly remembers the track it followed in the past in search of food or water and will try that option when faced with scarcity. Thus, goes the proverb: "elephantine memory" to mean infallible

memory The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

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