

**OPINION 8**  
THE MYANMAR  
CRISIS LINGERS ON**WORLD 11**  
FLURRY OF DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS  
FUEL IRAN DEAL SPECULATION**AVENUES 12**  
TRENDS IN FINANCIAL  
MANAGEMENT

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY MAY 5, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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# HC holds Centre in contempt

Showcause notice over O<sub>2</sub>; court says 'You can put your head in the sand like an ostrich, but we will not'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Irked with the Central Government's failure in complying with the directive to supply 700MT oxygen to the national Capital, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to the Centre for contempt of court and directed the senior-most Government offices to be present in the court on Wednesday.

The unpleasant development has come as a major source of embarrassment for the Centre which is facing criticism from High Courts across the country for its shabby handling of the Covid-19 crisis.

"We direct Central Government to show cause why contempt action should not be taken for non-compliance of our order of May 1 and the Supreme Court order," said the Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli, adding, "You can put your head in the sand like an ostrich, we will not."

It added that the Supreme Court has already directed, and now the High Court is also saying the Centre will have to supply 700 MT oxygen daily to Delhi right away by whatever means.

"You are part of the city and seeing the situation yourself. No, you don't know. Are you living in ivory towers?" the bench said.

The summoned officers are Sumita Dawara, Government of India Secretary incharge of Industries, and Union Home Ministry's Additional Secretary Piyush Goyal.

Expressing displeasure, the High Court recorded that it



was a matter of fact that till date, oxygen had not been supplied to the national Capital either in terms of the Supreme Court order on 700 MT supply or its order on 490 MT supply. The Bench also observed that Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma tried to misread the Supreme Court's order on supply of 700 MT per day to Delhi by May 3 night.

"We disagree. A plain reading of the Supreme Court order shows that the Supreme Court has directed the Centre to supply by making good the deficit," noted Judges.

"We reject the submission that GNCTD (Delhi Government) is not entitled to receive 700 MT per day in light of existing infrastructure. It pains us that the aspect of supply of oxygen should be viewed in the way is done by the Central Government," added judges.

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Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL CASES:	2,06,38,281 (+3,62,649)
DEATHS:	2,25,831 (+3,445)
RECOVERED:	1,69,19,612 (+3,18,760)
ACTIVE:	34,83,997
MAHA:	48,22,902 (+51,880)
KERALA:	17,01,980 (+37,190)
K'TAKA:	16,90,934 (+44,631)
UP:	13,68,183 (+25,770)
TN:	12,49,292 (+21,228)

## Delhi sees spark of oxygen hope

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the midst of massive oxygen shortage in Delhi, the Indian Railways delivered 244 tonnes of oxygen on Tuesday and efforts were on by the Central agencies to ease the situation within the next 24 hours.

Several hospitals here continue to grapple with the shortage of medical oxygen, as coronavirus cases continued to spike every passing day. So far nearly five dozen Covid-19 patients have died painful deaths due to shortage of oxygen.

With the Delhi High Court flogging the Centre on daily basis to improve the oxygen supply, and the Supreme Court showing no leniency either, the Centre has no option but to improve the oxygen supply on urgent basis. That should redeem the situation sooner than later and save precious lives.

The Oxygen Expresses will deliver nearly 450 MT of Liquid



A Covid-19 patient receives free oxygen in Tagore Garden provided by Akal Purakh's Army organisation in New Delhi on Tuesday Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

Medical Oxygen (LMO) to Delhi alone in 24 hours, the railways said.

"Two more Oxygen Express carrying more than 244 MT cumulative of LMO are on its way from Hapa and Mundra and are expected to reach Delhi today itself. With the arrival of two more Oxygen Expresses, Delhi would see nearly 450MT of LMO in 24

hours beginning early hours to 4th May," it said.

"Of the total 382 MT of LMO being delivered today by Railways, nearly 244 MT would be meant for Delhi," it added.

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## 450 lives in danger at Army hospital as Delhi Govt cuts oxygen quota

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Army may be fully involved in the national effort to fight corona pandemic, but its own Base Hospital in Delhi Cantonment here is facing severe shortage of oxygen.

This has put the live of more than 450 patients into danger.

Sources said efforts were on through the Defence Ministry to procure more oxygen from the Delhi Government which allocates the gas. They said the quota of the base hospital was reduced leading to the present crisis.

They claimed the Delhi Government reduced the allocation of oxygen to the hospital by almost one third. While the hospital has supply for the present, but the situation is critical, sources said.

The current allotment by the Delhi Government was sufficient for 300 patients only, they said. The hospital has a total of 650 beds.

The hospital has a daily requirement of more than 3.5 MT of oxygen and the local Government was providing one MT till Monday, they said adding the supply was now reduced to 0.42 MT.

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## LOCKDOWN IN BIHAR TILL MAY 15

Patna: Lockdown was imposed in Bihar till May 15 amid a surge in Covid-19 cases with the State facing a positivity rate of around 10 per cent, officials said on Tuesday. The decision for the lockdown, which will come into effect on Wednesday, was taken at the meeting of the Crisis Management Group presided over by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, they said.

# Over 100 babus fall prey to coronavirus

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The bureaucracy has been hit hard by the coronavirus as more than 100 senior babus, including IAS, IPS IRS and railways officers, have lost their lives to Covid.

The news of the death of senior bureaucrats, like Bihar Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Singh and three of his 1985 batchmates — former CBI director Ranjit Sinha, former Secretary Department of Land Resources Ruolkhumli Buhri, and serving Director Dept of Panchayat Raj in Bihar Vijay Ranjan and many more — due to Covid during the second wave of pandemic has rattled the Indian bureaucracy.

President of Uttar Pradesh IAS Association Deepak Trivedi too lost the battle to Covid as did Bihar Additional Secretary Health RS Chowdhury and all within a week. Trivedi was posted as chairman Board of Revenue, UP Government.

"We have lost batchmates in as many days. It's a sad feeling and we are devastated yet ready to fight the pandemic with the same zeal to help our country come out of this problem," said a top IAS officer of 1985 batch. Besides Arun, Trivedi, Sanjeev Gupta of the same batch from Gujarat



cadre succumbed to Covid last week.

Bihar Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Singh is the third IAS officer who died of Covid complications in the State, after Chowdhury and Ranjan.

Apart from these three serving officers, two retired officers, Abhimanyu Singh and Dr Hriday Kant Sinha passed away last month. IAS officers of undivided Bihar cadre, AC Ranjan and MC Subarno, who retired from Jharkhand cadre, too succumbed to the Covid tsunami. Two servicing IRS officers — Rajneesh Arvind and DK Jha — succumbed to the virus on Sunday.

Padam Shri IAS AM Gokhale, who pioneered the setting up Village Development Board in Nagaland, too fell to the deadly virus.

Railway officer KK Srivastawa, an IRS of 1975 batch, Chander Shekhar and IRS Custom of 1996 batch, young railway officer of 2006 batch Abhishek Johri, ex-chief of SSB Arun Chaudhary, Dr Mahesh Nayak, DIG Armed Units, Vadodara, IPS, are others in bureaucracy who died due to complications related to Covid.

Virtual tributes meet are being organised on a regular basis at the untimely demise of officers.

Condoling the untimely demise of several officers, secretary of IAS Officers

## Scientists: Double mutant fast replacing dominant N440K variant in South India

New Delhi: The B.1.617 variant of the coronavirus, also known as the double mutant, is fast replacing the N440K variant in south India, scientists at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) said on Tuesday.

Former CCMB director Rakesh Mishra said the double mutant is now a dominant variant in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and now Telangana. After an exhaustive analysis of 5,000 variants earlier this year, the CCMB had found that N440K is spreading a lot more in the southern States compared to the other variants.

Association, Bihar, Dipak Kumar Singh announced his support to everyone in this crisis period. "Retired and serving officers may contact the association, for any support," said Singh.

According to media reports and sources, in the recent past an estimated dozen top bureaucrats in the Government of India including secretaries, additional secretaries and joint secretaries across Central Government Ministries, including the

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## CAPSULE

**KANGANA'S TWITTER AC SUSPENDED PERMANENTLY**  
Mumbai/New Delhi: Twitter on Tuesday permanently suspended Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut, saying she had repeatedly violated its rules on "hateful conduct and abusive behaviour". The 34-year-old actor's handle @KanganaTeam now displays the message: account suspended.

**POONAWALLA TO INVEST OVER \$300 MN IN UK**  
London: Vaccine maker the Serum Institute of India is set to invest in facilities in the United Kingdom and could even manufacture inoculations in the UK in future, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Monday. Johnson's Downing Street office said the 240 million Great British Pounds (\$334 million) project would include a sales office, "clinical trials, research and development and possibly manufacturing of vaccines".

**FORMER J&K GUV JAGMOHAN PASSES**  
New Delhi: Former Union Minister and Jammu & Kashmir Governor Jagmohan, whose tough measures as an administrator in various roles won him many admirers but also drew criticism from some quarters, passed away following a spell of illness. He was 93.

**LIONS IN HYDERABAD ZOO TEST COVID +VE**  
Hyderabad: In perhaps the first such reported incident, eight Asiatic lions in the zoo here have tested positive for Covid-19 after their saliva samples were thoroughly examined by CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Rakesh Mishra, advisor of the premier research institute said on Tuesday. The Union Environment Ministry said the infection was not caused by any variant of concern.

## Modi, Johnson unveil 10-year roadmap to elevate India-UK ties



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Boris Johnson during their virtual summit on Tuesday PTI

## 1 billion pound pact to strengthen defence, health ties

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/LONDON

India and the UK on Tuesday gave a boost to their trade ties by announcing a one-billion-pound pact besides firming up a ten-year roadmap for more robust strategic partnership. The two countries agreed to strengthen ties in the fields of defence, security and health care.

These were major take-aways in the virtual summit meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. They unveiled the ambitious ten-year roadmap to elevate India-UK ties.

The high-profile talks took place days after Johnson called off his visit to India last month in view of the coronavirus pandemic. In January too, Johnson's planned trip to India to participate in the Republic Day parade as the chief guest was cancelled following a surge in Covid-19 infections in the

United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, in the talks on Tuesday the two sides declared an enhanced trade partnership, termed as "another big-ticket announcement" by the Ministry of External Affairs.

According to a statement from Johnson's office, "more than 6,500 new jobs will be created around the UK thanks to the one billion pounds of new UK-India trade and investment announced by the Prime Minister today."

The package contains over 533 million pounds of new Indian investment into the UK, which is expected to create more than 6,000 jobs in vital and growing sectors such as health and technology, Downing Street said.

Giving details of the talks, the External Affairs Ministry said the summit has "opened a new chapter" in the Indo-UK ties. It said the launch of an ambitious ten-year roadmap to further broaden ties was a "big deliverable", and five area of cooperation under the roadmap were — people-to-people ties, trade, defence and security, climate and health.

Continued on Page 11

## PM speaks to Bengal Guv over post-poll violence

### Senior BJP leader moves SC for CBI probe into 'murder, arson, rapes' in State

PNS ■ KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke to West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar over post-poll violence allegedly by the Trinamool Congress workers and deteriorating law and order situation in Bengal as a senior BJP leader moved the Supreme Court for a CBI probe into the "murder, arson and rapes" in the State.

The BJP has decided to hold a nationwide dharna on May 5 against the alleged "pre-

meditated attacks "unleashed" by TMC workers on the BJP.

The Prime Minister called the State Governor even as BJP president JP Nadda flew to Bengal on a two-day visit on a solidarity mission with the BJP workers and their families who were the victims of the alleged TMC offensive.

"PM called & expressed his serious anguish & concern at alarmingly worrisome law & order situation. I share grave concerns, given that violence vandalism, arson, loot & killings continue unabated. Concerned must act in over-drive to restore order," said the Governor in his tweet.

Nadda attacked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, calling her a "symbol of intolerance" and ruthlessness.

The TMC hit back faulting the PM for "taking recourse to political stunts after having failed to handle the pandemic".

PM speaks to Bengal Guv over post-poll violence by TMC men

The ongoing statewide violence has left at least 15 people dead, rendered hundreds of people homeless and many hundreds of houses burnt and raised.

Incidentally, Banerjee had earlier asked the people of the State to remain calm and "do not fall into any provocation".

Nadda who on Tuesday visited the house of a slain BJP worker in North Kolkata said, "After having seen the mother of our dead karyakarta (worker) crying inconsolably I can only say that I have never seen

an intolerant Chief Minister like Mamata Banerjee... she is the symbol of intolerance... she does not represent the culture of Bengal."

Hitting the BJP president back senior Trinamool leader Firdad Hakim said, "Nadda has fallen in Gadda (ditch) after the BJP's defeat and so he is trying to level false allegations... we will not allow UP-type atrocities in Bengal... all those things would be uprooted from here."

Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia moved the Supreme Court seeking CBI investigation into "rampant violence" allegedly by Trinamool Congress party workers across West Bengal.

The BJP leader who is also a senior advocate moved the

## EC asks TMC to move HC for Nandigram recounting

New Delhi: Following Trinamool Congress' demand for recounting of votes in the Nandigram Assembly constituency where Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee suffered a close defeat against Suwendu Adhikari of the BJP, the Election Commission on Tuesday clarified that the "only legal remedy is to file an EP (Execution Petition) before the High Court".

Supreme Court seeking CBI investigation into alleged murders, rapes and arson allegedly by the TMC.

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## At 352, UP registers highest single-day toll; cases dip

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest-ever single-day death toll at 352 even as there was a drastic dip in the number of fresh cases in the last 24 hours. The number of recoveries once again outnumbered the new infections. During the last 24 hours, 25,858 new cases came up in the state while 38,683 patients recovered. There are still 2,72,568 active cases in the state.

Kanpur accounted for the highest number of deaths at 66, followed by Ghaziabad (24), Lucknow (22), Varanasi (19), Jhansi (15), Bhadohi (14), Chandauli (13), Gautam Buddha Nagar (11) and Prayagraj (9).

## 'NEXT TEWO WEEKS CRITICAL FOR UP'

Lucknow: The next two weeks are critical for Uttar Pradesh in terms of COVID-19 cases and deaths and will reveal for certain whether the second wave has peaked and the decline in infection will continue or whether the state will witness another spike in novel coronavirus positive cases. See Page 3

After over three weeks, the state capital's tally dipped below the 3,000-mark even though it topped the district in terms of the new infections. Lucknow reported 2,407 fresh cases even as recoveries at 5,079 were more than double the number

of infections in the last 24 hours.

As many as 1,150 cases were reported in Prayagraj, 1,150 in Kanpur, 1,761 in Gautam Buddha Nagar, 1,057 in Ghaziabad and 1,232 in Jhansi.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health, Amit Mohan Prasad said on Tuesday that 2,08,558 people were tested in the state and more than 1,18,000 were tested through RT-PCR. So far, a total of 4,18,02,223 tests have been done in the state.

Additional Chief Secretary, Information, Navneet Sehgal said that the corona cases in the state have been on a continuous decline while the number of people recovering on the rise.

## Centre defers JEE Main as Covid rages on

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday postponed the Joint Entrance Examination, Main (JEE Main) scheduled for April end due to the Covid-19 surge. The information was shared on social media by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

This is the second time that the Government had to postpone the JEE main exam. According to the National Testing Agency (NTA) notice, the registration for the May session will be announced later and the rescheduling of the April and May sessions will be done subsequently. Candidates are advised to keep visiting the official website of NTA — jeemain.nta.nic.in for updates. Continued on Page 11



# Media personnel in UP to be given priority in vaccination

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aiming to ensure the safety of media personnel, the Uttar Pradesh government announced that journalists and their family members would get priority in vaccination. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed officials to allot separate vaccination centres for media personnel and their kin above 18 years of age.

“Recognising the efforts of journalists who have put their lives and health at risk on a daily

basis while covering the Covid-19 pandemic, the chief minister took this decision. He said that if required, teams should be sent to respective workplaces to administer free vaccines to mediapeosns,” a UP government spokesman said in a statement issued in Lucknow on Monday.

In another decision, the state government declared that journalists would now get the benefit of the Centre’s welfare schemes. Even non-accredited

journalists and freelancers will be benefited under the scheme. For this, one must have the eligibility of being recognised by the Government of India or the Government of any State and Union Territory. Even if they are not recognised, they must have been associated with print, electronic or web-based services for at least five years to come under the purview of this scheme. Additional Chief Secretary, Information, Navneet Sehgal said that in the eventuality of the

death of a journalist, there is a provision of providing financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to his dependants.

“In case of permanent disability, a sum of Rs 5 lakh is given to the journalist, Rs 3 lakh in case of serious illness such as cancer, renal failure, bypass, open-heart surgery, angioplasty, brain hemorrhage and paralysis, and there is a provision of giving Rs 2 lakh to a journalist hospitalised for treatment due to a serious accident,” Sehgal said.



A woman receiving a Covid vaccine jab at Civil hospital in Lucknow on Tuesday

Pioneer

# BJP to stage protest against violence in West Bengal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As per the direction of party’s National president JP Nadda, Uttar Pradesh BJP will hold dharnas and demonstrations in every division across the state on Wednesday to register protest against the post-poll violence in West Bengal. The protest and sit-in will be organised as per Covid guidelines and number of workers present during this one-hour strike will not exceed 20 at a time.

In view of the corona curfew imposed due to Covid-19 in UP, all the party officials and public representatives will stage dharna at their respective homes against the attack on democracy and assassination of BJP workers by Trinamool Congress, party’s state president Swatantra Dev Singh said in a statement here on Tuesday. Singh himself will sit on dharna at his residence. He said that

the party workers should ensure to continue their service for the Covid victims and should not affect due to the protest. “When human society is trying to save each other in this hour of crisis, there is continuous violence against BJP workers by the Trinamool Congress workers, miscreants and goons under Mamata Banerjee’s patronage after the results of assembly elections in West Bengal,” the UP BJP president alleged. “BJP workers, their homes and establishments and party offices in West Bengal are being selectively targeted under the patronage of the Trinamool Congress. Thousands of party workers have been injured and many have been killed in the hooliganism of Trinamool Congress. This action of the Trinamool Congress workers is a blot on democracy,” he alleged.

# Setback for BJP in Kashi, Mathura, Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ahead of the crucial UP Assembly elections in February 2022, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has suffered a major setback in the recently-concluded panchayat elections in Uttar Pradesh. The counting commenced on May 2 morning and concluded on Tuesday.

The Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party scored a comprehensive victory in Varanasi and Ayodhya while Mayawati’s BSP and Ajit Singh’s RLD topped in Mathura, three districts that are important to the ruling party agenda. There has been a special focus on these three districts during the Yogi government’s four-year tenure. The results of the pan-

chayat elections have proved to be a setback for the BJP government. The BJP lost the election of the members of district panchayat, who elect the chairman of the district panchayats.

These members are also part of the electoral college that elects the members of the UP Legislative Council, the upper house of the UP Legislature. As many 36 members are elected to UP Legislative Council from the local body constituency of the upper house. The upper house has a strength of 100 members and its other members are elected from the assembly and teacher’s constituencies. Though the panchayat elections results are being projected as semifinals before the 2022 UP assembly elections, this is not corrob-

rated by the history of panchayat elections held in the last two decades.

In 2006, the Mulayam Singh Yadav-led Samajwadi party government won majority of seats of chairmen of district panchayat but in 2007 assembly polls, the party suffered a rout. In 2011, the Bahujan Samaj party led by Mayawati won majority of the chairmen of the district panchayat elections. In the 2012 assembly the tally of the BSP tally was reduced to 67 in a house of 403 seats. The same thing happened in 2017 as the tally of Samajwadi Party was reduced to 47 seats in UP Assembly even as the party had won majority of chairmen of

district panchayat in 2016.

Moreover, as per the tradition of over last two decades, the election to block pramukhs and chairman of district panchayats are won by the ruling parties. Money and muscle power besides arm-twisting tactics by the administration allegedly play an important role, forcing the voters (the elected members of district panchayat) to fall in line.

Out of the total seats of 3,050 member district panchayat in 75 districts, BJP won 768, Samajwadi Party 759, BSP 319, Congress 125, Rashtriya Lok Dal 69, and independents 1,071. Many of the independents include the rebel candidate of the BJP and Samajwadi

Party. In Varanasi, out of the total 40 seats of members of district panchayats, BJP could win only eight seats while the Samajwadi Party won 14 seats and independents one each. The BJP has now lost the panchayat polls too after the election to the Legislative Council.

In the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the saffron party managed to win only eight out of 40 seats of the district panchayat. Samajwadi Party won 14 seats, BSP five seats and Apna Dal (S) three. Aam Aadmi Party also opened its account in Varanasi district.

In other eastern UP districts like Sonbhadra, Ballia, Mau, Azamgarh, Basti, Mirzapur, Bhadohi and Chandauli, the BJP is trailing

behind the Samajwadi Party. In Ayodhya too, the BJP suffered a crushing defeat as it could win only six out of 40 seats while SP won 24 and BSP five. In Mathura, the BJP could win only eight out of 33 seats while BSP won 12 and RLD nine.

In Gorakhpur, the home town of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, out of the 68 seats of member zila panchayat, BJP won 20 seats, SP 19 and independents 21. There were over 12.89 lakh candidates in the fray for the posts of village pradhan, members of village panchayats, and members of block development committees and members of district panchayats. Over 12 crore people were eligible to vote in panchayat elections and the average turnout was close to 75 per cent.

# Siraj Mehdi blames Congress top brass for poll debacle

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Senior Congress leader and former MLC Siraj Mehdi, who was expelled from the party along with some other veteran leaders last year, held the Congress brass including general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra responsible for the poor show in recent elections to the assemblies of five states and also panchayat polls in Uttar Pradesh.

On Tuesday, Mehdi claimed that the dipping graph and popularity of the oldest political outfit of the country was a matter of worry and concern for all old warriors of the party and Priyanka Gandhi should take moral responsibility and resign from her post.

“Soon after the panchayat elections were announced in UP, Priyanka had taken over the command and was in regular contact with UPCC office bearers including state president Ajay Kumar Lallu to ensure good results which could provide the momentum

for the assembly election next year. But the results have been yet another setback for the party in UP,” asserted Mehdi.

The veteran leader also criticized UP Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu for his comment that Panchayat elections were not on the priority list of the Congress and that the party was preparing for the Assembly elections.

Mehdi demanded that the party brass should immediately serve a show cause notice to all concerned leaders engaged in selection and distribution of tickets for Panchayat elections along with those who formulated the strategy.

The former MLC also demanded Priyanka Gandhi to step down from the post of Congress general secretary and in-charge of UP, due to the fact that since she took over reins of the state unit, the performance graph of Congress has been declining in every election. He advocated that a big revamp in the Congress was the need of the hour.

# RLD buoyed by results of panchayat elections

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Buoyed by the results of the three-tier panchayat elections, Rashtriya Lok Dal national vice-president Jayant Chaudhary said that the hard work of contestants and their fighter-like approach in highlighting public issues, their all time presence among public and struggle for disposal of public problems nailed the victory.

Addressing the newly-elected public representatives, Chaudhary said that now the winners had double responsibility on their shoulders. “The first is to live up to the trust and support and second, to prepare for the 2022 UP Assembly polls. You cannot relax or celebrate, this is the time to serve and support everyone affected by the onslaught of the pandemic,” he said.

Meanwhile, RLD national spokesperson Anupam Mishra congratulated all the party-supported candidates and said that the large number of party

backed candidates of zila panchayat and hundreds of gram pradhans had registered victories so far. In hundreds of seats, the RLD-supported candidates have lost elections by meagre numbers.

“In the recent panchayat elections, people have rejected the ruling BJP. The BJP has not been able to win even a quarter of its target of 75 to 80% of seats, despite the government’s full power of MPs, MLAs and government machinery being grossly misused. The poll results indicate a major change in the politics of Uttar Pradesh,” he said. Mishra further said that the anti-farmer stand of BJP government at the Centre will be its undoing.

“There is a lot of resentment among poor laborers, farmers and youth in rural areas towards the Union and UP governments today. The way the RLD moved out of its traditional land of western UP and spread its existence in Purvanchal and Bundelkhand, has made the ruling party

very anxious. In the panchayat elections, several BJP leaders and their kin were dismissed by the people which indicates a massive change in the offing,” he said.

“This is evident from the fact that the BJP suffered major setbacks in the Prime Minister’s parliamentary constituency Varanasi and in the chief minister’s home district Gorakhpur, Mishra pointed out.

The RLD spokesman said that his part had already started preparing the road map for the 2022 assembly elections, keeping in view the trust and confidence of the people.

Welcoming the implementation of the Central government’s welfare scheme for journalists in Uttar Pradesh, Mishra termed the decision as late but the right step and said that all journalists and photographers associated should be given the status of frontline workers and they be vaccinated on a priority basis in this pandemic like physicians and health workers.

# Int’l programme in mgmt for execs at IIM-L

Lucknow (PNS): The 14th batch of International Programme in Management for Executives (IPMX) (one-year MBA) was inaugurated online at the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow on Monday.

IIM-Lucknow Director Prof Archana Shukla gave the welcome address. She said it was important to be humane and empathetic in life and as a leader. She urged the batch to prepare themselves for adversity in these trying times. Prof Arunabha Mukhopadhyay (Dean, Programmes), Prof Kaushik Bhattacharya (Dean, Noida Campus) and Prof Chandan Sharma, (IPMX Chairperson) also spoke on the occasion and gave details about the institution, various programmes and the IPMX.

The keynote speaker was Manish Gupta, senior director and general manager of Data Centre and Compute Solutions Dell Technology, who gave valuable insights on the current industry scenario and emphasised on the necessity to focus on domain knowledge and have an overall multi-disciplinary knowledge.

# Woman killed, several hurt in post-poll violence

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman was killed while several others injured in post-poll violence that rocked the state soon after the results of panchayat elections were announced.

In Bijnore, two groups clashed in Aneesa Nangli area after supporters of two candidates vying for the post of gram pradhan came face to face on Monday night. Both groups pelted each other with stones, leaving at least half-a-dozen people from both the sides injured.

As per reports, some miscreants also used sharp-edged weapons in which a woman, later identified as Raeesa, was critically injured. She was rushed to district hospital where doctors pronounced her dead upon arrival. The condition of another injured was also stated to be critical.

Bijnor SP Dharamveer said that the family members of the woman had named seven per-

sons from the opposite side and one of them had been arrested. Adequate force was deployed in the area while teams were formed to arrest the remaining accused.

Elsewhere in Rae Bareilly, the newly-elected pradhan of Shivgarh Kotwa area and her supporters were attacked by the opposite party in which several persons were injured on Tuesday morning. Assessing tension in the village, heavy police deployment was ensured by senior officers.

Newly-elected gram pradhan Lalita Yadav and her supporters offered prayers at the local Lord Hanuman temple and later distributed sweets to celebrate their victory on Tuesday morning. It was then that former pradhan Vinod Singh and his aides attacked them with sticks and rods, injuring several supporters of Lalita Yadav. The injured were rushed to a hospital where the condition of Ram Chander Yadav, Jaswinder Yadav, Ashesh

Yadav, Ram Milan and Dharmendra was stated to be serious. The police registered cases from both sides and half-a-dozen miscreants were detained by the police.

In another incident in Pratapgarh, newly-elected gram pradhan of Gauspur hamlet of Aspur Devsara Vishnu Tewari aka Sonu was going with his supporters to thank the villagers for their support on Monday evening when the entourage was attacked by the losing candidate Dinesh Mishra and his men, leaving several injured. One of the supporters, Vinay Singh (30) was rushed to district hospital in a critical state after suffering a gunshot wound and was referred to KGMU Trauma Centre for intensive care.

Pratapgarh SP Akash Tomar said that a case was registered in this connection and raids were being conducted to nab the accused but they were found absconding. Force has been also deployed in the area to avert any fresh violence.

# Bid to provide benefits of traditional, ancient health systems to people

Lucknow (PNS): In a bid to provide benefits of the ancient and traditional health systems like Ayurveda, the Ayush department has rolled out a new feature on ‘AYUSH Kavach App’ which will enable citizens to access medical treatment which is locally and easily available.

The app recommends easily and locally available medicinal treatment, keeping in mind the comfort of the people, the lockdown and social distancing norms. “For example, Eucalyptus is widely grown and is available in abundance in west UP, whereas Mahua flowers are largely grown in Bundelkhand region. The feature emphasises on educating people about the benefits and importance of natural resources available in respective regions and informing them about their use in developing a strong and healthy shield against coronavirus,” a Ayush department spokesman said.

Eucalyptus also helps in getting the mucus out of the chest. One must boil its leaves and inhale it twice a day to get the required benefits. Dr Ashok

from the department of AYUSH said that according to the geographical location of eastern UP there is abundant availability of rice molasses, which gives a lot of strength to the body. “One must consume it by boiling the rice by adding water by eight times, and adding roasted cumin and rock salt to it, as this way will help in increasing the body’s disease-resistance capacity,” he said.

“Similarly, there are immunity-boosting properties in spinach, Chaulai and black-eyed beans (lobia). One must consume them with asafetida (heeng) to get the benefits,” he said. Besides, buttermilk helps in bringing down cholesterol levels, blood pressure levels and improves bones and oral health.

Mahua flowers, which are a great source of boosting immunity and nutrition are found in abundance in villages. One must boil 20 to 30 Mahua flowers in water and milk and consume them. “Besides, ‘sattu’ also helps in increasing disease-resistance capacity and flushes toxins out of the body,” Dr Ashok said.

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Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, invites E-Tender bids (Single Packet Open Tender) from Eligible and Experienced Contractors for the following Work.  
**Name of Work:** Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of Signalling and Telecom assets in Stations/Block sections of Jaynagar- Kurtha Railway Line Section of Nepal Railway, including Interlocked LC gates, Manpower deployment and Hiring of vehicles for One Year. **E-Tender Notice No:** KR/CO/SG/Tender/01/21-22, **Dated:** 04/05/2021. **Last Date & Time for Submission of Bids:** 04/06/2021 up to 16:00 hrs. **Estimated Cost of Work:** INR 1,82,31,223/- (Excluding GST etc). For further details please contact Corporate Office: Belapur Bhavan, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai 400614. **Tel:** 022-27572015-18. **Fax:** 022-27572420 or visit: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Office of the Chief Water Analyst (W&S)-II**  
**Delhi Jal Board; Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi**  
Haiderpur Water Works, Delhi-110085.  
**Tel.:- 011-27552446 Ext. 205 Email:- cwaws2.djb@gmail.com**  
**"STOP CORONA VIRUS - WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"**  
**Short Press NIT No. 01(21-22)**  

S. No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value based on Schedule of rates/Item rates/Lump Sum (Rs. In Lakh)	Earnest Money (Refundable) In Rs.	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution.
1.	Deployment of unskilled labour for operation & maintenance of treatment section for different plant under CWA(H/P)	Item Rate	59,200/-	500/-	03-05-2021 2021_DJB_203185.1	11-05-2021 At 11:00 AM

  
Further details in this regards can be seen at <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>  
**ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)**  
**Advt. No. J.S.V. 44 (2021-22)**  

(G. P. Singh)  
CWA(W&S) HP  
9650039741

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RWS&S DIVISION, BHADRAK**  
**Tel: 06784-240979, e-mail: [rwssdivisionbhadrak@gmail.com](mailto:rwssdivisionbhadrak@gmail.com)**  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-Tendering**  
**Identification No. 02 dt. 03.05.2021**  

1. Name & Nos of work	: 04 Nos of Retrofitting Rural piped water supply Scheme
2. Estimated cost	: Rs. 98.61 lakhs to 215.27 lakhs
3. Class of Contractor	: B & A
4. Cost of Tender Paper	: Rs. Per DTCN
5. Period of Completion	: 09 Months to 11 Months
6. Mode of submission	: Tenders should be submitted only online in <a href="http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a>
7. Period of Availability of tenders online	: 10.00 hours of dt. 15.05.2021 to 17.00 hours of date 24.05.2021
8. Last date & time of Seeking clarification	: Date 21.05.2021 up-to 5.00 P.M.
9. Last date & time of bidding online	: Date 24.05.2021 up-to 5.00 P.M.
10. Date & time opening of tender bid	: Date 25.05.2021 at- 11.00 A.M.
11. Name and address of the officer inviting Tender	: Executive Engineer RWS&S Division, Bhadrak
12. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <a href="http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a> (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)	
13. Subsequent modification/ corrigendum/ Addendum if required shall appear in website only.	
14. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <a href="http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a> (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)	
15. Chargeable Head	: - JJM (Retrofitting)

  
**OIPR:25020/11/0003/2122**  
**Sd/- Executive Engineer RWS&S Division, Bhadrak**



# 2,407 more infected, 5,079 recover

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The number of people recovering from novel coronavirus infection was more than double the number of new cases in Lucknow on Tuesday. While 2,407 new COVID-19 cases were reported in the state capital during the past 24 hours, as many as 5,079 people recovered from the disease during this period.

However, 22 more people succumbed to the deadly virus during the past 24 hours taking the death toll to 1,905 on Tuesday evening.

With the fresh recoveries, as many as 1,81,215 people have defeated the coronavirus in the state capital which has 33,689 active cases that are under treatment in hospitals and in home isolation.

Meanwhile, the district magistrate carried out an inspection of the DRDO Covid facility being set up at Awadh Shilpgram and held a meeting with the officials and representatives of the army. Discussions were also held on the doctors, paramedical staff and other manpower issues.

The DRDO Covid facility will receive uninterrupted 24-hour oxygen supply from the state government. The DM asked the army officials to see that superior services were provided by the doctors, nurses and the paramedical staff at



A Covid patient being taken to KGMU on Tuesday

Pioneer

the Covid facility. He said the hospital had good arrangements for electricity, sanitisation and hygiene and there was proper arrangement for the attendants of the patients. He issued directions for completing the arrangements soon and also for establishing a Covid help desk. He also gave suggestions on providing updates about the condition of the patients to the relatives. The district magistrate then visited the Haj House facility for

COVID-19 patients and held a marathon review meeting with the officials in which he gave instruction for adding 25 more beds in the facility during the next 24 hours.

He then visited the Alambagh railway station yard to monitor the filling of tankers from the oxygen express which arrived in the city. He said that after being filled the tankers would be sent to the hospitals.

Meanwhile, Lucknow's nodal Covid officer Roshan

Jacob inspected the Integrated Covid Control and Command Centre. She found that the allocation of beds was being made on the basis of RT-PCR reports. She told the officials that chest CT scan and symptoms of a patient were enough to get the patient a bed as per the government order.

She found that when a request was made by the ICCC with a temporary ID, the hospital did not take the request. She directed the chief medical

officer to ensure that the payments for temporary referrals were made by the department so that the hospital did not refuse admission.

## SHOW-CAUSE NOTICE

The district administration on Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to the Sun Hospital Covid facility in Gomtinagar. The district administration carried out a preliminary inquiry into a notice posted by the hospital on social media that they had informed relatives of Covid patients to shift them to other hospitals because of oxygen shortage.

The SDM Sadar on inspection of the hospital found that against the 20 Covid patients which the hospital had, they also had eight jumbo oxygen cylinders, two B-type oxygen cylinders as well as concentrators and the hospital was unnecessarily creating pressure to get more oxygen supply.

From the CCTV footage, it was also found that non-Covid patients were being allowed entry into the Covid area without Covid protocols. There were also other irregularities detected after which a show-cause notice was served on the hospital under the Epidemic Diseases Act and the authorities were asked to respond within 24 hours

# CM Yogi inaugurates Covid facility at Cancer Institute



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the Cancer Institute Covid facility in Chak Ganjaria on Tuesday

Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Cancer Institute Covid facility in Chak Ganjaria on Tuesday and took stock of the arrangements for patients.

A government spokesperson said the 100-bed Covid hospital would be an additional facility for people looking for beds. The chief minister was accompanied by Medical Education Minister Suresh Khanna, minister Sandeep Singh and Chief Secretary RK Tewari.

Director of the Super Speciality Hospital and Cancer Institute Dr Shaleen Kumar said the Covid facility has started functioning and cancer services would carry on simultaneously. "We have the cancer services and Covid facilities in separate blocks and we will manage it successfully," he said.

Regarding the oxygen supply to the Covid facility, he said they have been assured that they will be getting a regular supply by the state government.

On admission of patients, he said it would likely be through the Integrate Control and Command Centre and CoWIN

portal. He said that by afternoon itself, they started the admission process as a patient reached the facility.

Dr Kumar said they have asked the state government for manpower, including mainly resident doctors, and got assurance.

Meanwhile, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Covid Hospital, set up by DRDO at Awadh Shilp Gram, will start functioning shortly. A senior official from the Directorate of Public Interface said though most of the preparations have been completed, they are still in the process of completing other works.

However, he said there is no specific date finalised for the inauguration. The official said that medical staff from the Armed Forces Medical Services will arrive at the hospital to check the system soon.

"Once they are done with checking the system, the hospital will be handed over to the Armed Forces Medical Services and it is then that the admissions will begin," he said.

The number of beds at the facility is 450 and 150 of these are ICU beds while the remain-

ing 300 beds will have oxygen supply. "The infrastructure has been set up but the medical staff and nurses have to be sensitised about the systems and functioning. It will take them at least two days because they have to be perfectly sure that they do not require any extra things which may create problems in the future," he said.

The official said they are trying to ensure that the medical supply chain is continuous.

Regarding the admission process, the official said they are working over the plan which will be decided in the next two to three days.

Meanwhile, sources said that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is unlikely to be present at the inauguration of the hospital owing to Covid protocols.

Regarding the oxygen supply, it is initially required for the dry run to check that there are no blockages in the equipment and that the state government will provide the regular supply. On whether an oxygen generation plant is being established at the hospital, sources said it would not be set up right now but it would be seen whether there was a need for oxygen concentrators or not.

## Adityanath gets death threat

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday received death threats from an unidentified person, who warned him that "he has only four days left". The threat was received on the WhatsApp emergency dial number '112' of the Uttar Pradesh Police. A complaint was filed in the Sushant Golf City police station and efforts were underway to trace the number.

According to reports, the police deployed a surveillance team to trace the accused and

another team was constituted to make the arrest. The threats were received on the evening of April 29, police officials said. This is not the first time that the UP CM has received death threats. Yogi was also threatened in September, November and December last year.

In November, a 15-year-old boy had sent a message on '112', the helpline of Uttar Pradesh Police. The police had traced the mobile number and arrested the accused from Agra. He was later sent to a juvenile home. According to

reports, the teenager was miffed over the closure of schools in the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Uttar Pradesh CM was given a category Z+ VVIP armed security cover in 2017, with 25-28 armed commandos following him wherever he goes. "The chief minister's security has been bolstered and he will now be secured by a strong team of CISF commandos every time he moves across the country. A similar commando contingent will be deployed at his official residence," an official said.

## Covid-19: Next two weeks critical for UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The next two weeks are critical for Uttar Pradesh in terms of COVID-19 cases and deaths and will reveal for certain whether the second wave has peaked and the decline in infection will continue or whether the state will witness another spike in novel coronavirus positive cases.

A senior official from the Health department said that the next two weeks were critical for the entire country and also UP.

"This is because the bigger districts have more or less stabilised but we are getting new cases from smaller districts and this is a cause of concern and also critical for the state," he said.

When asked whether the second wave had already peaked in the state, the official said that the novel coronavirus had been surprising everyone for so long that it was difficult to make a forecast.

"However, as of now, the number of new positive cases has been on the decline for the past few days and we are hopeful. We are starting a huge campaign for the rural areas from May 5 for testing and separation of influenza-like illness patients and it will also give us a clear picture," he said.

The official said that the next two weeks would show whether the cases were going down and to what extent the smaller districts were going to be affected.

"We will also reach out to the people and come to know of the new symptoms of the virus and if there are people who are not able to move then we will give them medicine kits also," he added.

The official said that if the number of new cases kept declining for the next two weeks, it could be said that the second wave had peaked in UP. "We cannot say at present that the second wave has peaked for the state because it is difficult to say to what extent the smaller districts can throw up the numbers, hence it is a wait and watch situation," he said.

President of People's Health Organisation, Dr Ishwar Gilada, while commenting on the situation in Uttar Pradesh, said the next two weeks were critical because it would show the impact of the panchayat elections on COVID-19 cases.

"The possibility of the infection spreading in interior places cannot be denied. The impact of panchayat elections on novel coronavirus infection rate is yet to be seen. UP cannot afford to lower its guard with momentary downward trend in cases and people must mask-up and vax-up to prevent COVID-19 infection," he said.

Dr Gilada said that Uttar Pradesh had some respite in the pan-India hot atmosphere of COVID-19 this week as the daily reported cases were on decline, though not really a

## Covid cess on miniature liquor bottles

**Lucknow (PNS):** The Excise department imposed Covid cess on miniature bottles of liquor (called 'bachcha' in tippers parlance) containing 90 ml of the drink. As per the government order, Rs 10 will be added to the regular category 90 ml capacity bottle, Rs 10 to premium category of liquor (90 ml capacity), Rs 20 to super premium category liquor (90 ml capacity), Rs 30 to Scotch (90 ml capacity) and Rs 40 to imported liquor (90 ml capacity). In the order, it has been stated that the move was taken to promote the glass bottle manufacturing

industry. "To promote the glass industry, the supply of UP-made liquor (UPML) in aseptic brick packs (tetra pack) and in glass bottles is allowed with the condition that liquor producers/distillers will ensure 25 per cent supply in glass bottles," the government order read.

Government sources said that the government had coined a new way to hike the price of liquor and was promoting miniature bottles of each brand of liquor available in UP.

"It seemed that some nexus of bottlers was active and they brought this idea to earn more

profit from the customers. The excise department will also gain from the decision," the sources said. Liquor Sellers' Welfare Association general secretary Kanhaiya Lal Maurya said that the state government had launched the small size bottles, known as 'bachcha' among the customers.

Meanwhile, amid reports of price hike of liquor, the Excise department clarified that the price of liquor had not been increased and a Covid-cess had been added in the price of a small size bottle (90 ml capacity).

## Train laden with oxygen tankers reaches city

**Lucknow (PNS):** Continuing its efforts to ferry oxygen containers to maintain the supply of oxygen for Covid patients battling for lives during the second corona wave, a train carrying oxygen tankers (79.13 metric tonnes) reached Lucknow on Tuesday afternoon. The oxygen will be supplied to various hospitals facing oxygen crisis.

DRM, Lucknow division of Northern Railway, Sanjay Tripathi said the train departed from Tata Nagar and covered a distance of 975 km through green corridor. "Bost wagons were used in the freight train to ferry the oxygen containers," he said.

The DRM and senior government officials were present on the occasion and supervised the arrival of the train at the railway station.

The DRM said a train laden with three containers of oxygen (38.54 metric tonnes) from Bokaro was scheduled to arrive on Tuesday night. "The railways ferried 117.67 metric tonnes of oxygen from both the trains," he said.

He said the Oxygen Express will keep ferrying the life-saving fluid in the time to come. Also, the railways has decided to set up an oxygen generator plant at the Indoor hospital in the city to meet any exigency. The Indoor hospital had been turned into a Covid hospital and the plant will be of great help for patients recuperating at the hospital and needing oxygen.

### SUMMER SPECIAL TRAIN - 2021

For the convenience of passengers, Northern Railway has decided to run the following Summer Special Train as under :-

02575/02576 Hyderabad - Gorakhpur - Hyderabad Special Train (Weekly)						08 Trips
TRAIN NO. 02575		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 02576		
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.	
---	21:05	Hyderabad		15:20	---	
01:08	01:10	Lucknow City		13:20	13:25	
06:30	---	Gorakhpur		---	08:30	

**Days of Run :** 02575 from Hyderabad on every Friday from 07.05.2021 to 28.05.2021 and 02576 from Gorakhpur on every Sunday from 09.05.2021 to 30.05.2021

**Accommodation :** AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)

**Stoppages :** Secunderabad Jn., Kazipet Jn., Manchiryal, Balharshah, Nagpur, Itarsi Jn., Bhopal Jn., Jhansi Jn., Kanpur Central, Lucknow City, Barabanki and Gonda Jn. stations.

**Note:** The above Special Train will run with full reserved Accommodation

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

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963/2021

# 'Need to monitor mutant virus to develop future vaccines'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

There is a need to constantly monitor and track the mutant coronavirus for the development of future vaccines that could be effective against the virus.

Stating this, Dean of Environmental Sciences at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Dr Naveen Arora, who has extensively studied the literature emerging on novel coronavirus and has published papers on the subject, said that it was not that the current vaccines would cover all the mutants of this coronavirus.

"It is not that simple. We have to be on our toes and keep tracking the mutants otherwise we will be in trouble since booster doses are required every year because of the mutations and hence tracking of the mutation is important in a country like India where we are thickly populated. If the mutations are not covered, how will we develop vaccines," he said.

Dr Arora pointed out that the other factor was to vaccinate people very fast otherwise the virus would mutate very fast.

"Conversely, if we do not stop the virus through vaccination, the mutation rate will be higher because this is a very unstable virus and when it gets the chance to spread in the vast population it will mutate faster," he said.

Dr Arora said that it was important to keep on tracking the change in the molecular genetics of the virus so that vaccines could be developed.

He said that in a paper they published recently, they had made recommendations for mitigating pandemics in the future although the COVID-19 pandemic was of unprecedented nature.

"A healthy ecosystem is getting tampered due to a multitude of impacts. The collective role of environmentalists, ecologists, ethnobiologists, epidemiologists and data analysts is important to learn from COVID-19 and implement the required measures for the prevention and spread of such pandemics in the future," he said.

He said that the spread or arrival of pathogens in different geographical regions could be reduced through quarantine and trade restrictions.

Prof Arora said that in their paper they had specifically stated that, "We should also take advantage of modern technology which has better use in reducing the risk of pandemics. The migratory species are hunted and their meat is sold in many of the wet markets around the globe. Meat consumption of migratory animals and birds can be particularly dangerous as the exposure to new pathogens that they carry can increase disease severity many times more in immunologically weak persons or the indigenous populations. Hence, it is important to track the routes of migratory species from time to time through suitable techniques to ensure their movement and assess the emergence of new pathogens from these species."

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# Labourers, vendors should not suffer in Covid curfew: CM to officials

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Realising that daily wage earners were at the receiving end due to the ongoing Covid curfew, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that it should be ensured that there is no shortage of food for any labourers, cart-pullers, street vendors and a community kitchen may be opened in such a situation.

“The agriculture production commissioner should make necessary efforts in this regard,” the chief minister said while chairing a high-level Covid review meeting in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Yogi also asked officials to ensure the supply of oxygen to patients under treatment in home isolation. “This system should be implemented effectively in all districts. If a patient’s family is trying for cylinder refilling, they should be helped and the entire operation will be supervised by the additional chief secretary, Home,” he said.

The chief minister was apprised that all necessary efforts were being made to improve the supply of oxygen across the state and a total of 783 metric tonnes of oxygen was supplied on Monday. The oxygen audit has also brought in required results reducing unnecessary consumption or wastage.

“Efforts are also being made to make oxygen gas

## CMOs asked to fix accountability on doctors in case of negligence

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a serious note of the negligent behaviour of some doctors in Covid hospitals in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed chief medical officers (CMOs) to ensure that senior doctors visit the hospitals regularly. He also asked them to fix responsibilities on doctors at all private and government hospitals for providing daily update of patients’ health to their family members at least once a day.

Presiding over a review meeting of the Team-9 on Tuesday, Yogi said that in this hour of crisis, the hospital officials must ensure that patients and their families are

treated with utmost sensitivity.

Calling for effective implementation of the schemes, the CM said that the sector magistrature system has been implemented in all the districts of the state with a view to strengthening Covid management.

The CM urged sector magistrates to visit areas assigned to them frequently, especially hospital areas, help people, keep a close watch on every big and small activity in their areas and provide all necessary help to every needy person in accordance with government policies. Yogi also called for implementing the discharge policy for Covid patients effectively.

Principal Secretary, Medical Education, Alok Kumar said that orders have been issued to all medical colleges, institutes and universities in this regard.

The government has issued a directive to make special sitting arrangements for the attendants of patients with other basic facilities such as drinking water at every hospital.

Kumar said that patients and their attendants should be informed about the diagnosis and severity of condition at the time of admission to the hospital itself. Hospitals have also been told to give daily updates on patients’ health to their family members between 3 pm and 5 pm.

In a specific instruction, the chief minister directed all employees and workers of Integrated Control and Command Center to talk to the relatives of patients sympathetically.

“Our cooperative attitude will be a big support for the family in these testing times. Provide proper information to the personnel providing services in the helpline,” the chief minister said.

## Couple held for planning loot

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow police on Tuesday nabbed a couple for allegedly masterminding the loot at a jeweller’s shop in Gudamba last Friday.

Those arrested were identified as Rakesh aka Gopal Kashyap and his wife Sangeeta (both of Chinhat). The police got the lead while scanning the footage of CCTV cameras installed in the area.

A close look of a scooter spotted in a footage led the police towards the main suspect, Gopal, who was apprehended. Gopal owned up his crime and disclosed that his wife Sangeeta was also involved in the plan. He said he knew a criminal called Dhanraj Lodh aka Pappu of Maurawan in Unnao. As per Gopal’s confession, Pappu visited his house on April 29 and chalked out the plan to commit loot at Anjani Jewellers in Chuiyanpur locality in Gudamba on April 30. Pappu’s aides Ajay Patel and Monu Mishra aka Pandit were also involved in the plan.

When the gang was leaving to execute their plan, Gopal was leading them while Sangeeta had smeared the registration number plate of Gopal’s scooter with ink. The police said Pappu had shot at a grocer, Piyyush Agarwal, who rushed the scene to save the jeweller Anurag Awasthi.

Awasthi was all alone at the shop in the evening on Friday when the robbers reached there and held him at the gun-point. Awasthi cried for help and Piyyush rushed to his rescue. Sensing danger, the robbers shot at Piyyush but also got nervous at the unexpected events.

They also dropped their bag at the scene and the entire incident was captured in the CCTV camera installed inside the jeweller’s shop.

## 8 held for blackmarketing of oxygen cylinders

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Cracking the whip against those involved in blackmarketing of oxygen cylinders at a time when the kin of Covid patients are waiting in long queues, the Lucknow police arrested eight accused and recovered 102 oxygen cylinders on Tuesday.

In Gudamba, a police team working under the supervision of Commissioner of Police DK Thakur was tipped off about a gang selling oxygen cylinders at high rates. The team passed on the information to the CP who instructed the Gudamba police to work on the lead. Subsequently, a joint team (crime branch and Gudamba police) raided Balaji agency in the area and nabbed two of the accused. They were identified as Vishnu of Gudamba and Vikas of Gonda. Both the accused work at the gas agency and were minting money since the outbreak of the second wave. The team also recovered over Rs 1 lakh from their possession.

In Gontinagar Extension, two accused identified as Ikram Ali of Sultanpur and Ayush Shukla of Vishwas Khand in Gontinagar were arrested. The police said that the accused used to secure fake receipts for the purchase of nitrogen and used to get oxygen gas cylinders which they used to sell at high prices. The police recovered 10 jumbo cylinders eight small empty



cylinders, a loader, a receipt, Rs 2,500 in cash and two mobile phones.

In Naka, four accused, identified as Anil Kumar Singh of Bazaarkhala, Sajid of Gontinagar, Jitendra Kumar Verma & Neeraj Rawat of Barabanki were arrested. The police recovered five oxygen cylinders, two four-wheelers and over Rs 3,000 in cash.

## SCHOOLSCAN

GREEN OLYMPIAD

Prakhar Raj Rastogi, a class XI student of City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus I, performed brilliantly at the Green Olympiad organised by the Energy and Research Institute, New Delhi, bringing laurels to the institution. Students of several noted schools of India took part in this olympiad in which Prakhar was honoured

with ‘Certificate of Distinction’ due to his knowledge and scientific acumen.

The olympiad was organised to test students’ knowledge on issues like global warming, climate change, pollution, water and groundwater conservation etc.



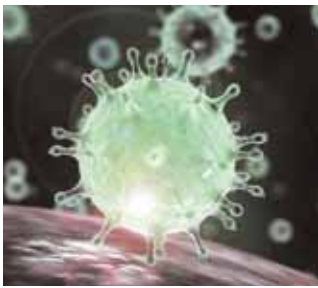
# TN declares new measures to combat Covid

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Even as operations were in full swing for the smooth transfer of power in Tamil Nadu following the landslide win of the DMK over the AIADMK in the legislative assembly election, the number of Covid-19 patients continued unabated in the State on Tuesday.

The Directorate of Health and Preventive Medicine in its release said 21,228 new Covid-19 cases afflicted with Covid-19 were diagnosed till 6 pm Tuesday. The death toll too showed a hike as 144 patients succumbed to the pandemic.

Tamil Nadu Government has declared new measures and curbs to counter the spread of the pandemic. From Thursday, the State



would be in an ‘undeclared lock-out’ mode as the working hours of markets and shops have been brought down to just six hours.

Provision and grocery shops would be allowed to function from 7 am to 1 pm. Chennai accounted for 6,228 positive cases followed by Chengalpattu (1608) and Coimbatore (1,509).

## Vijayan slams Centre for denying vaccine to State

KOCHI: Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan lambasted the Centre for denying the much needed Covid-19 vaccine to the State despite its plea many times. “Kerala is undergoing a grave situation as the number of patients

diagnosed with Covid-19 on Tuesday reached 37,190. The day also saw 57 persons succumbing to the pandemic,” said Vijayan in his daily media briefing.

The Chief Minister said that Centre should initiate steps to make Covid vaccine available free of cost to the States. “The policy being pursued by the Centre is wrong and I hope the Prime Minister would initiate steps to rectify the mistakes,” he said.

Vijayan, who is an avid reader of international medical journals like Lancet and British Medical Journal, quoted from the latest editions of these journals and said that Kerala was in for more crisis as there were strong possibilities of steep hike

in the number of Covid cases. “After May 12, figures are sure to go up and the Government would take steps to check the spread of the pandemic,” said the Chief Minister.

The Kerala Government on Tuesday issued orders restricting the number of personnel in all government offices to 25 per cent. “We want only the essential services to function in the State. People should not come out of their houses unless the situation warrants it. I am asking the people to stay indoors and start wearing masks even when they are inside the houses. All those who come out of their houses should immediately take bath when they come back,” said the chief minister.

Ernakulam with 5030 new patients continued to be the leader in the table of Covid-19 cases in the State. The State’s Test Positivity Rate in the State is 26.8 per cent, said the Chief Minister.

PNS

## CPM: Kerala to be epicentre of national secular alternative

KOCHI: A national alternative of secular, socialist and democratic forces against the fascist Government at the Centre will begin from Kerala, according to top CPI(M) leader A Vijayaraghavan. “The unprecedented victory of the Left Democratic Front led by the CPI(M) is a signal in that direction. This victory will set the stage for such a national alternative and we are sure of uprooting the present government,” said Vijayaraghavan, who is the CPI(M) acting secretary as well as the convener of the LDF.

Speaking to media at the capital city on Tuesday, Vijayaraghavan said the LDF would observe Friday as the Victory Day. “We want all the households in the State to light torches as part of the victory celebration. The people need not come out of their houses,” said the LDF convener.

Vijayaraghavan said the LDF Government would implement all promises it had mentioned in the election manifesto. “The important outcome of the recent election is that we succeeded in closing the account of the communal BJP in Kerala and this should act as a guiding spirit to the rest of the country,” he said.

The CPI(M) secretary also said that there was concerted efforts by central agencies and the BJP to sabotage the possibilities of the LDF’s return to power. The central agencies were trying to derail all development activities of the State Government. “But the people in the State stood by us and supported us,” he said. The swearing-in of the new LDF Government would happen after May 18, said the convener.

PNS

## Stalin elected DMK's legislature party leader, to meet Governor today

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

MK Stalin was unanimously elected as the leader of the DMK legislature party on Tuesday. This was announced by party general secretary Durai Murugan after a meeting of the newly elected MLAs of the DMK which met at party headquarters in Chennai.

With the election of Stalin as leader of the legislature party, stage is set for his swearing in as Chief Minister. Addressing the media, Murugan said Stalin would call on Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Wednesday morning to stake his claim to form the next government. The swearing in of Stalin and his council of ministers would be held on Friday at the Raj Bhavan, according to a DMK leader.

Meanwhile Chennai saw anti-social elements unleashing attack on Amma Restaurants across the metropolis. Video images of a group of youth destroying the boards displayed in front of Amma Restaurants selling iddli at Re 1 per piece went viral in the social media.

The women working in these restaurants, a dream project of late Chief Minister Jayalalithaa that sell idli, dosa upma and chappatis at Re one apiece were driven out of the restaurants by the youth. They destroyed the pictures of Jayalalithaa which were displayed in the eatery.

By Monday night the Public Works Department officials had removed all the pictures of Jayalalithaa that had adorned the walls of the Secretariat for the last decade.

# Maha Covid deaths rise to 891/day

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day after a noticeable drop in the number of fatalities and infections, Maharashtra on Tuesday saw the number of deaths jump to 891 and new infections go up to 51,880, in a clear indication that it might take several more days for the second wave of pandemic to recede in the state.

Twenty four hours after the Covid-19 deaths dropped further to 567 and the daily infections came down 48,621, the situation once again turned grim in the state, as the number of deaths went up by 324 and the infections rose by 3259.

With 891 new deaths, the total number of deaths in the state climbed from 70851 to 71742. Similarly, with 51880 infections, the total number of cases rose from 47,71,022 to 48,22,902.

As 65,934 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year went up to 41,07,092. The recovery rate in the state for the first time in several days rose from 84.7 per cent to 85.16

per cent.

The total “active cases” in the state dropped from 6,56,870 to 6,41,910 cases. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 1.49 per cent.

With 62 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai increased from 13,372 to 13,434, while the infected cases went up by 2554 to trigger a jump in the infections from 6,58,621 to 6,61,175.

While Pune accounted for a maximum 1,09,531 “active cases” in the state, Nagpur stood second 64,554, followed by Mumbai with 56,465, Nashik (45,605), Thane (45,516), Chandrapur (28,597), Satara (20,744), Ahmednagar (20,657), Solapur (20,448), Beed (14,030), Latur (13,459), Buldhana (13,106), Jalgaon (12,556), Aurangabad (12,207), Bhandara (9,476), Parbhani (9,298), Osmanabad (8,162), Gondia (8,529), Nanded (7,878) and Nandurbar (6,421).

Of the 2,81,05,382 samples sent to laboratories, 48,22,902 have tested positive (17.16 per cent) for COVID-19 until Tuesday.

Currently, 39,36,323 people are in home quarantine while 30,356 people are in institutional quarantine.

## Covid positivity rate dropped by 5%: Maharashtra Minister

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what came as a silver lining in the cloud amid the continued surge in coronavirus fatalities and infections, the Covid-19 positivity rate on Tuesday dropped by five per cent in Maharashtra.

Talking to media persons here, State Health Minister Rajesh Health Rajesh Tope said, “If we analyse the (Covid-19) statistics on hand, we can see the positivity rate going down from 27 per cent to 22 per cent. It is a drop of 5 per cent which is good in the difficult times that we are passing through.”

Tope said that of the 36 districts in the state, the number of infections had dropped in 15 districts and cities including Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, all in Konkan region, Nanded, Osmanabad, Latur and Aurangabad in Marathwada region, Nashik, Nandurbar and Dhule in north Maharashtra and Nagpur, Amravati, Bhandara, Gondia

and Chandrapur in Vidarbha region. Tope however expressed concern over the increasing cases in Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara in western Maharashtra.

“Already lockdown-type measures are in place. Wherever strengthening of norms is needed, the district administration takes a call,” the minister said.

Alluding to the Maharashtra government’s efforts to procure Russian vaccine Sputnik, Tope said the state administration was negotiating the price with Russia for the Sputnik vaccines “We have received a good response for our global tendering process,” he said. Contesting the reports in a section of media that the testing had come down in the state, Tope said: “If you look at the overall testing in Maharashtra, we are undertaking 2.80 lakh tests per day.”

“Our overall percentage of RT-PCR tests is 65 per cent,” the Minister added.

PTI



Buses parked at a depot after a lockdown was imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19 in Varanasi on Tuesday

PTI

# Two LeT terrorists gunned down in Sopore

Jammu: A joint team of security forces Tuesday eliminated two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, including a foreign terrorist in Nathipora area of Sopore in Baramulla district. The foreign terrorist identified as Hamas alias Asrar alias Saria was active since March 2018 in North Kashmir. The local terrorist has been identified as Wasim Ahmed Lode resident of Hatlangoo Sopore.

According to police

records, Hamas was also the mastermind of the Sopore terrorist incident along with terrorist Mudansir Pandit @Maaz dated 29/03/2021 in which two Municipal Councillors and a policeman got martyred. The operation was launched by the joint team of security forces Tuesday afternoon soon after receiving inputs about the presence of terrorists in the Nathipora area.

According to a police

spokesman, “during the search operation as the presence of terrorists got ascertained they were given an opportunity to surrender, however, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter”. In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists of LeT outfit were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

As per police records, both

the killed terrorists were part of groups involved in several terror crimes including planning and executing attacks on security establishments. Moreover, killed terrorist Hamas

“Arms and ammunition including 01 AK-47 rifle, 01 Insas rifle & other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of encounter”, police spokesman added. PNS



# Ration supply to poor becomes a big task as lockdown enters 6th day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

With the extension of lockdown by two more days, the local markets remained closed for the sixth day in succession here on Tuesday and they will also remain closed on Wednesday. With the increase of lockdown period now many poor families and daily wagers have started facing the crisis of ration. Though some of the social organisations have come forward to provide them ration kits, the district administration is still busy in ensuring distribution of medicine kits to the patients having corona-like symptoms.

During the lockdown, all the earlier relaxations and restrictions continued as usual during the lockdown and the roads, markets, ghats etc wore a deserted look. As in view of surge in Covid cases several trains were cancelled in the recent time, thin attendance of passengers was seen at Varanasi Junction (Cantt), Manduadih, Varanasi City and other stations. The passengers were also allowed their entry into the Cantt bus depot after thermal scanning and wearing of proper masks.

Meanwhile, Anaj Bank



Varanasi Junction railway station wears a deserted look during lockdown on Tuesday

Pioneer

being run by Vishal Bharat Sansthan (VBS) has started running its war room at Lamahi 24 hours to provide medicine, food and ration to Covid patients after receiving the call on its Helpline 8546065991. It has re-started its Indresh Rasoi apart from distribution of ration of one month to the poor families as the ration packet contains 15 kg flour, 10 kg rice, 2.5 kg pulse, two kg sugar, two kg gram, two kg salt, two litres oil, 250 grams turmeric, 100 gms spices and 10 kg potato. The Indresh

Rasoi was inaugurated by VBS chief Dr Rajeev Srivastava. He said that the needy people can call Tanzim for medicines on 7068246896 and Mohd Azharuddin on 7068246897, while for ration to Archana on 9473745414 and for food on 7068246896.

However, the city Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Vishnu Sharma has levelled charges on Central and state governments for adopting biased policies during these days of pandemic and trying to give everything a political

colour. He said that daily workers, rickshaw pullers, three-wheeler drivers and many others are facing starvation-like situation but the government was not paying any attention towards their grievances. He said that every such person should be given ₹ 10,000 in their bank accounts directly. He further demanded that the Jandhan account holder woman should be given ₹ 5000 instead of ₹ 500.

Earlier, District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma has instructed the concerned officers to provide medicine kits to all those who have corona-like symptoms, even though they do not get reports of their Covid tests. According to him, during the last one week 15,000 medicine kits were distributed by Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) of the Health department and 20 hired vehicles. He said that in the coming days 25,000 such kits would also be distributed to the patients through various offices including the District Supply department. ACM Dr Sanjay Rai said that apart from these free medicine kits, the same are also being available at 43 medical shops at the rate of ₹ 400-450.

# Night curfew extended till May 31

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Night curfew will now be applicable till May 31 in Prayagraj district. During this everything will be closed except essential services. Apart from this, the corona curfew will be applicable every Friday, Saturday and Monday. However, this time it has been extended for two days, which will remain in force till Thursday. The night curfew was only until May 3. District Magistrate Bhannuchandra Goswami has extended it till May 31 late on Monday.

The District Magistrate said that Night Curfew and Corona Curfew have been extended in view of the

increasing infection of Coronavirus. Daily night curfew will be in force from 8 pm to 7 am. He said that this was done to break the corona chain. Corona infection is increasing day by day. To avoid this, people should take precaution themselves and do not leave their homes as much as possible.

Due to the increase in curfew, there will also be a shortage of essential goods in the homes of many people. People will also face difficulties due to the end of food items. There are many people in the city who earn and eat every day. In such a situation, the goods were collected for the first three days after the cur-

few was imposed. At the same time, due to further increase of two days lockdown by the government, problems will arise in front of such people.

To break the corona infection chain, traders have demanded the government impose a 15-day corona curfew. In a meeting of the All India Business Trade Board affiliated to the All India Industry Business Board and the Prayag Chemist Association retail on Monday, Divisional Officer-in-Charge Manish Kumar Gupta, City Unit President Lalu Mittal said that if one has to fight the Corona pandemic, then its chain will have to be broken first. A 15-day corona curfew

should be imposed. The retail shopkeepers were appealed not to give medicines without a prescription. State Ministers Sushant Kesarwani, Nikhil Pandey, Anjani Kesarwani, Ashish Kesarwani, Musab Khan, Naman Jyot Singh, etc. were present in the meeting.

In a joint meeting of the Civil Lines Vyapar Mandal and the Prayag Vyapar Mandal, the Chief Minister was urged to impose a 15-day curfew and extend the GST return date by three months. Sushil Kharbanda, Shiv Shankar Singh, Vijay Arora, Suhail Ahmed, Rajesh Aggarwal etc. were present in the meeting.

# 863 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The first two days and now three days in a week, the effect of lockdown has started to appear. Monday also saw a decrease in the number of corona patients. A total of 863 new cases of COVID-19 have been detected in the last 24 hours. The death toll has also decreased. On Monday night, a total of 12 people have died, which is nine less than Sunday.

Coronel's Nodal Officer Dr Rishi Sahai said that on Monday, the Corona test was screened for 11,770 people. In this 599 people were found infected in the city, while 186 people are from rural areas. Antigens have been found 112 in the city and 82 in rural areas. While the RTPCR testing found 487 people in the city and 104 in rural areas have been found infected. An antigen test of 7,001 people took place on Monday. RTPCR testing of 4,249 people was conducted. In addition, 239 were tested by Trunat. Some of those found positive have also been admitted to hospitals. Whereas, except two-three per cent of the people are in home isolation due to lack of beds.

Tracing is said to be the main reason for the continuous decline in the number of infected people in the district. Dr



Line of beneficiaries for vaccination

Pioneer

Rishi Sahai said that more and more positive cases are being discovered and isolated by conducting testing of all the positive members and people living in their adjacent houses.

On Monday, 1,597 people were freed from Corona infection. Out of these 61 people were discharged from Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, Beli, Railway Hospital and Private Hospitals. After 61 people were discharged, new patients were immediately admitted in their place. But, there will be about 1,500 people who need to be admitted to hospitals, but due to the Covid hospital being full, they are forced to stay in home

isolation. People contacted the control room to the CMO office for the beds. They searched for the beds in Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, Beli and all the Covid Hospitals but could not find any support. In the end, after arranging for oxygen, stay in the house and find out that if the beds are empty then they can be admitted.

On Monday, several people have been found infected, including in charge of SRN Hospital Trauma Centre, deputy manager of IFFCO, chief operator. According to the Health department, among those who tested positive

# Keep all CHCs, PHCs open 24 hours till May 15: MLC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister's envoy and Covid In-charge AK Sharma (MLC) has instructed that all the Community/ Primary Health Centres (CHCs/PHCs) in the district should remain open 24 hours till May 15. He also directed the Health department to cancel all the leaves of employees in view to deploy them on duty shift-wise. He was reviewing the Covid situation in the district at a meeting with officers at Circuit House here on Tuesday. He expressed hope that if all the government/ private hospitals and CHCs/PHCs work with all dedication in the next 10 days, we would be in position to put

a brake on the speed of Covid cases because we have to improve the situation from good to better.

He said that undoubtedly the doctors are working under pressures but at this time of crisis they should maintain patience and provide right information to the families of patients. Accepting the demands of doctors of Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital to keep labs open round-the-clock, Sharma instructed that at all the hospitals, health related phone numbers including for getting oxygen, Remdisivir injections, body carrying vehicles, control room, ambulance etc should be displayed at their reception.

Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal said that if any big private hospital which is willing to set up liquid oxygen plants in its premises, the administration would support it. He said that the hospitals should also display the status of the hospitals, number of available beds, oxygen, ICU beds, admitted and discharged patients etc.

Commissioner of Police (CP) A Satish Ganesh wanted the lists of people who reach vaccination centres after proper registration in view to control excess rush there. The meeting was also attended by District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, Municipal Commissioner Gurang Rath, DCMO Dr Sanjay Rai, ACMO Dr NP Singh and senior doctors of various government and private hospitals.

Meanwhile, according to information the oxygen plant at Darekhu (Jagatpur, Rohania) which remained closed for the last three years would be restarted by Wednesday. At this plant 500 oxygen cylinders can be refilled daily and with this the Health department of this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) would receive a lot of relief.

Recently, the administration had acquired this closed plant of the Kamrup Industrial Gases Limited and asked Annapurna Industrial Gases to restart production there.

# Decrease in number of deaths in Varanasi

VARANASI (PNS): The district recorded a sharp decrease in the number of deaths but once again witnessed increase in the positive cases. As many as 1,328 cases of COVID-19 were recorded on Tuesday evening increasing the total number to 70,795 crossing 70K-mark. Eight more deaths were recorded during the last 24 hours and with this, the death toll increased to 607. As many as 1,219 patients of home isolation recovered, while as many as 117 have been recovered from the hospitals. The total number of patients cured in the district increased to 54,710 including 50,846 in

home isolation and 3,864 in COVID-19 hospitals. In the first report of the day, 919 positive patients were found out of 3,192 reports received and this figure increased to 1,328 out of 8,483 samples as per report provided by the Health department in the evening and the total active cases decreased to 15,478 from 15,494 which was a day ago. On Monday evening, as many as 992 positive cases were recorded and the total number was 69,467, while 17 deaths were reported and the death toll was 599. Earlier, in view of finding hundreds of new positive cases, with 4 new hotspots, the number active

was 722 with 4 green zones having been converted to red zones by a day ago. Out of total 3,241 hotspots, 2,519 are green zones and 722 were red zones. In the meantime, the district Health department continued the vaccination drive on Tuesday as many as 70 centres including SVM Hospital in Bhelupur, divisional hospital of NER in Lahartara and community & primary health centres in urban and rural areas. The long queues of beneficiaries were seen at vaccination centres particularly in the divisional government hospital in Kabirchaura. But for the beneficiaries aged above 45 years

and below 45 years, as many as 17 vaccination centres have been made including the district government women hospital in Kabirchaura and Sir Sunderlal Hospital. Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police A Satish Ganesh has constituted a nine-member team under the leadership of ACP-Law & Order Anil Kumar Singh to implement the corona protocol, ascertain the implementation of lockdown, etc. A 48-bed shelter home has also been established at Bhimnagar, in front of Varuna garden on central jail road for the proper treatment of police personnel infected with coronavirus.

# No political party gets majority in 40-member zila panchayat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

No political party got majority in 40 members zila panchayat of Varanasi but the main opposition Samajwadi Party (SP) performed better than the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which fared poor in three-tier Panchayat polls, said to be semi-final of state assembly elections scheduled to be conducted next year. Though, the formal announcement of result of all the zila panchayat members by the Returning Officer (RO) was yet to be made till the filling of this report. But, the results of gram pradhan and members of gram panchayat & kshetra panchayat were announced.

As many as 554 candidates had tested their luck for the 40 members of zila panchayat of the district and the BJP had fielded its candidates on all seats but succeeded in winning only eight seats. Contrary to this, the main SP had fielded 38 candidates and of them, 14 succeeded in registering the victory but failed in

getting the majority.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) had also fielded its candidates on all the seats but could win only five seats. The Congress Party had fielded its candidates on 32 seats and succeeded in winning five seats which is better performance than that of the previous election. The Apna Dal (S) had fielded its candidates on 30 seats and registered victory on three seats. The Aam Admi Party (AAP) had contested the election on 32 seats and succeeded winning one seat and the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) had contested on 18 seats and won one seat. Three independents also registered victories.

At present, the BJP has its chairperson of zila panchayat but the present result could dispel its expectation to retain this prestigious seat this time. As, the formal announcement of the result of zila panchayat members by the RO was yet to be made till the last news came in and thus, the BJP leaders claimed of getting majority by

winning more than 20 seats. The SP leaders have also claimed to have won more than 20 seats. Though, the result of 12 zila panchayat members had been announced after midnight on Monday.

After the marathon counting, the results of all gram pradhans, members of gram panchayat and kshetra panchayat were declared after midnight on Monday. It is mentioned that as many as 4,772 candidates including 4,751 for the member of gram panchayat and 21 for the member of kshetra panchayat have been elected unopposed.

The certificates are also given to winning candidates by the electoral officers. The SP leaders have claimed of winning more seats of gram pradhan and members of gram panchayat and kshetra panchayat than the BJP though the leaders of latter have claimed that the maximum candidates supported by the party registered the victory.

It is mentioned that a total of 10,749 candidates including

4,321 for 694 seats of gram pradhans, 4,509 for 986 members of kshetra panchayat and 554 for 40 members of zila panchayat were in election fray. There are total 8,978 members of gram panchayat. The counting also took place for 1,327 members of gram panchayat. Out of total 17,53,588 voters in eight blocks of district, a total of 1,158,260 (66.05%) electorates had cast their votes.

Meanwhile, as per the fresh schedule issued by the State Election Commission, the polling in Indrapur gram sabha of Pindra development block and Orahan gram sabha of Sevapuri development block will be conducted on May 9 from 7 am to 6 pm and the counting for these both gram sabhas will be held on May 11 from 8 am onwards. It is mentioned that the Election Commission has cancelled the election in Indrapur gram sabha and Orahan gram sabha after the death of candidates of gram pradhan Vijyendra Yadav and Sheela Devi respectively.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

This is indeed a big relief for patients infected with Coronavirus. The district will now continue to receive oxygen from Bokaro. After getting instructions from the Central Government, this arrangement has been made for the district. Three tankers have also been fixed to bring oxygen from Bokaro. The Transport department and Police department have also been directed to ensure that there is no problem in getting oxygen. In the same sequence, on Monday, 20 metric tonnes of oxygen came here and it was sent to the three oxygen plants and stored according to their capacity.

The demand for oxygen has increased since the number of corona patients in the district increased. About 40 metric tonnes of oxygen are being consumed in a day. Three oxygen plants are operating in the district, but supply is not available against demand. Considering this fact, oxygen is being supplied continuously from

Bokaro for a week already. On Sunday, 10 metric tonnes of oxygen was also received.

A consignment of 20 MT has also arrived here on Monday. Nodal officer Dr Praveen Singh, who is looking after the distribution of oxygen, said that oxygen was sent to the three plants and stored as per their capacity. Now, it is being sent to all the hospitals from where the demand is made. Dr Praveen said that 10, 15 and 17 metric tonnes of tankers have been fixed from Bokaro to bring oxygen. One tanker will start returning after the delivery of oxygen to Prayagraj, then another tanker will be sent from Bokaro. A circle of three tankers has been made. He said that now the situation has become much more balanced than before the continuous release of oxygen from Bokaro. Everyone is getting oxygen as per need. There is no notice of deficiency anywhere, he added.

**CYBER CELL KEEPING CLOSE TAB ON INTERNET MEDIA:** The cyber cell of Prayagraj police is keeping a

close tab on the internet media. Any type of objectionable post is being monitored during the Corona transition. For this, special guidelines have been given to the policemen deployed in the cyber cell. If any objectionable post is made on any other internet media platform, including Facebook, Twitter, then the official concerned have been asked to immediately inform the higher authorities, so that strict action can be taken against those posting in time.

Cases of objectionable comments against the central and state government often come up through Facebook and WhatsApp of the internet media. Just a few days ago, two youths living in Katra had made objectionable remarks against the central government. When the matter came to the notice of the outpost in-charge Katra, he checked WhatsApp of some people living in Katra, in which the case was found to be correct. After this, the two youths were arrested by filing a report

against them. In the past, many such cases have also been reported in Georgetown, Kotwali, Cantt, Dhoomanganj, Shivkuti areas. IG KP Singh also warned earlier that strict legal action will be taken against those who spread rumors in this period of crisis.

**AU TO PROMOTE STUDENTS:** Allahabad University has decided to promote all its students, including those studying in constituent colleges, without taking examinations. This decision had been taken in view of the alarming rise in Covid cases in the state and the country as well. This unanimous decision was taken at a virtual meeting of the Examination Committee of Allahabad University chaired by the Vice-Chancellor Prof Sanjeeta Srivastava on Tuesday. The Controller of Examination Prof Ramendra Kumar Singh put forward his view of promoting students without holding examinations, and the Examination Committee after discussing the issue, gave nod to the above proposal.

# Ramnaresh Tripathi's death mourned

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya among other senior journalist fraternity expressed grief over the demise of senior journalist and Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Dr Ramnaresh Tripathi.

They have expressed condolences to the bereaved families while wishing for the peace of his soul. All the office-bearers including the president of Allahabad News Reporters Club (ANRC) have paid tribute to him, State president of UP Journalists Association, Ratan Dixit said, 'His death has caused irreparable loss to the journalism world.' The journalists lost one



of their Gurus.

Senior journalist and Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Dr Ramnaresh Tripathi died due to Corona infection. He was admitted to SRN and then to Nazareth Hospital for treatment, where

he breathed his last on Monday afternoon. He was 73. According to the Covid protocol, he was cremated at Phaphamau Ghat in the late evening. Son Shashank Tripathi lighted the pyre.

Born in Pandeypur village of Chitrakoot, Ramnaresh Tripathi worked in important positions in several newspapers.

After starting with Deshdoot in 1971, he was also the Chief Reporter of the Hindi daily Dainik Jagran and then became the bureau chief of Naybharat Times. He also assumed the responsibility of editing the astrology page. In the year 2018, he was conferred with the 'Shaan-e-Allahabad Award' on behalf of Imtiaz Ahmad Ghazi, president of

the institution Guftagu.

He was also the co-founder secretary of the Allahabad News Reporters Club. Apart from journalism, he also had a good knowledge of astrology. He also wrote books on astrology, Kumbh, including journalism. He performed astrological Kumbh four times in Kumbh Mela.

He was also the State President of the UP Journalists Association, the National Vice-President of the National Union of Journalists and the State President of the Accreditation Committee. He was also Visiting Professor of American University, Regional Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan and Administrator of Bhavans Mehta College, Bharwari.





District Magistrate, Alok Tiwari raided private hospitals and interacted with the doctors and paramedical staff of ICU on Tuesday

Pioneer

## Pvt hospitals to brief kin about condition of patients every day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Alok Tiwari along with ADM (City) carried out a surprise raid on Dwivedi Hospital on Tuesday. He said it was decided that every day, the private hospitals would brief the kin about the condition of patients in ICU or in ward at a fixed time.

He said there should be no excessive at all and if there was any complaint with evidence in this regard, stern action would be taken against the hospital concerned.

The district magistrate also visited Lifetron and Medi Health Hospitals and made random calls to the kin of the patients to take feedback on the working of the hospital. He interacted with the medical and paramedical staff and took feedback from them. Tiwari then visited the record room

where he inquired about the bills, availability of oxygen and other medicines.

He said the hospitals were under the direct supervision of static magistrates and thus every care needed to be taken by them. Meanwhile, the district magistrate issued an order that during the week-end curfew all offices would run with 50 per cent staff on roster basis. He said the staff should be called in shift duties. He said from May 5, a special drive for tracing and tracking of COVID-19 patients would be launched in rural areas and the patients would be given free home isolation kits.

The district magistrate said in case any violation of the order was seen in any office, stern action would be taken against the organisation. He said staff on duty would have to mandatorily wear masks and maintain social distancing. He

said people with COVID-19 symptoms would be tested then and there.

Tiwari said the UPSRTC had been strictly directed not to send any bus outside the state. He said the buses had to be sanitised frequently and the staff would have to wear masks and use sanitisers. He said the UPSRTC had been directed to arrange for masks and sanitisers for the staff.

He said the weekly curfew had been extended till May 6, 7 am but during the curfew, chemist and druggist shops would remain open. He said all industries would also remain open. He said only the shops selling dairy products and fruits and vegetables had been exempted from the curfew while the rest would remain closed.

The district magistrate said it had been decided to spread awareness about the coron-

avirus and Covid protocol by making announcements regularly through public address systems. He said people above the age of 60, children less than 10 years of age and pregnant women should not venture out of their houses and the police would maintain a strict vigil.

He appealed to the people to refrain from going out unless it was very essential. Tiwari said the vaccination drive would continue in the district. He directed that vigilance committees be set up in rural areas and quarantine centres be set up in gram panchayat bhawans and said if the affected people did not have the facility of home isolation they should get themselves admitted to quarantine centres.

He said only dairy and essential services would be allowed in containment zones. He also stressed on sanitisation and fogging.

## Rural areas brace up for fresh spike in COVID-19 cases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The 600 pradhans elected in Kalyanpur, Sarsaul and Vidhnu development block may be jubilant over their victory but they are faced with the spike in COVID-19 cases in these rural areas. Similarly Kanpur is faced with the threat of influx of ruralites.

Chief Development Officer Dr Mahendra Kumar issued an SOS to the officials to make every effort to control the spread of COVID-19. He ordered random testing through RRT.

With the election frenzy over and the blatant violation of the Covid protocol, there has been a rampant spread of the disease in the rural areas which had been busy with panchayat elections. The fresh spurt in COVID-19 cases in rural areas is a big and potent threat to Kanpur as majority of them will turn to government hospitals for treatment.

In view of the acute crisis of medicines, oxygen and beds in hospitals, the expected exodus of the people from villages is a big threat to Kanpur city. The CDO had directed random testing by the rapid response team but the administration failed to work out any strategy on containing the influx of ruralites, who will hunt for medical help at this critical juncture.

Despite the ban on victory processions, the successful candidates took out huge victory processions and this led to a law and order problem in Kushulpur village. The open defiance of the government order and the failure of the police to take action against those who took out processions that often ended in violence, speaks of the apathy of the Kanpur district administration.

## CDO warns RRTs submitting false reports

**KANPUR (PNS):** Chief Development Officer Dr Mahendra Kumar while addressing a meeting on Tuesday said it had come to light that the rapid response teams, despite being directed to track and trace COVID-19 cases, had failed to do the work and had provided false reports in the past one week.

He directed that a detailed report be prepared against such persons who had provided wrong information.

He said it was a matter of concern that false reports of visits with fake names and mobile numbers had been submitted to the administration. He said the RRT chief had been directed to prepare detailed reports so that strict action could be taken against the persons who put up fake reports.

The CDO said there were several laboratories which had given fake reports and thus under the Epidemic Diseases Act strict action will be taken against them. He warned the labs to ensure they did not overcharge or produce fake reports.

He said a special team had been set up to keep an eye over such labs of the city, especially those in the suburban areas. He said once a person tested positive, it was the duty of the staff to take regular feedback of the condition of the patient. He said the special team should also visit the houses where people were in home isolation and take a feedback of the visit of the RRT team and if they provided the home isolation kit free of cost or not. He said the kit should contain all the mandatory equipment and medicines.

**PPE KITS DEMANDED:** Several voluntary and non-governmental organisations have appealed to the district administration and Kanpur Nagar Nigam to provide PPE kits and hand sanitisers to the municipal corporation employees handling dead bodies, especially the bodies left by the relatives at cremation grounds.

They also appealed that special cash incentives should be given to these KNN employees who were day and night handling COVID-19 dead bodies without caring for their own lives.

## Karhia oxygen plant begins production

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The management of Hindalco Renusagar Power Division has achieved a great success by getting started the oxygen plant situated at Karhia in Anpara region and along-with it assured that it will not be allowed to close at any cost.

On the initiative of the Sonbhadra district administration, the team of engineers of Hindalco Renusagar not only made the oxygen plant, which has been closed for the last six years, capable of refilling the cylinder but also claimed that it can supply to its full potential. On the initiative of the administration, president of Hindalco Renusagar Power Division, KP Yadav, while taking charge

of the said oxygen plant himself, along with a team of senior engineers of one dozen technical, electrical and instrument, for starting the plant with items like AC compressor, motor pump, main circuit breaker, cable, switch two barrel oil etc handled the

that the engineers have achieved this success by working hard day and night on the direction of the head of the management. Production also started from Sunday. Refuelling of 300 cylinders can be done daily from the said oxygen plant. Production in a plant that had been shut down for six years was no less of a challenge. With the starting of the plant there will be no shortage in the availability of oxygen cylinders needed to prevent Covid-19 infection cases and their treatment.

On the other hand, president of Hindalco Renusagar Power Division, KP Yadav, said that during this pandemic period in case of any technical defect in the said oxygen plant the Renusagar management is committed to getting it fixed and running it continuously.



## Block: Trains to be diverted

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Due to the block given by the railway administration on May 6 for the construction of limited height subway (LHS) on the manned level crossing No 235-C between Swami Narayan Chhapia-Maskanwa stations located on Gorakhpur-Gonda rail section of North Eastern Railway (NER) the following trains will be diverted and run by being controlled on NER, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj

Kumar Singh said.

### DIVERSION

The Kochuveli-Gorakhpur special train running from Kochuveli on May 4 will be diverted via Gonda-Barhni-Gorakhpur instead of being run on its scheduled route Gonda-Basti-Gorakhpur.

The 05118 Mathura Jn-Chhapra special train to run from Mathura on May 5 will be diverted via Gonda-Barhni-Gorakhpur instead of running on its scheduled route i.e. Gonda-Basti-Gorakhpur.

Besides the 05212 Amritsar-Darbhanga special train running from Amritsar on May 5 will be diverted via Gonda-Barhni-Gorakhpur instead of running on its scheduled route Gonda-Basti-Gorakhpur. On the other hand, the 02598 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) - Gorakhpur special train will be run on NER on May 6 by controlling it by 15 minutes. The 02569 Darbhanga-New Delhi clone special train will be run on NER on May 6 by controlling it by 35 minutes.

## Rly personnel, others vaccinated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Varanasi division of North Eastern Railway (NER) along with the entire Indian Railways is making various efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection. In this sequence under the direction of the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Varanasi, Vijay Kumar Panjiar, and under the leadership of Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) Dr MS Nabyal and with the support of the district administration as many as 107 railway personnel of Varanasi Division and 73 others were administered the Covid-19 vaccine at the

Divisional Hospital here on Monday. Apart from it at Siwan-Thawe, Mashrak-Chhapra Kacheri rail section and stations the vaccination of employees associated with operations and their family members is being ensured at

properly, washing their hands properly at regular intervals along with maintaining physical distancing. In addition the passengers at major railway stations through public address system are being made aware and alert for protection from coronavirus infection. Along with that through video messages and video panels at big stations effective messages are being broadcast to make people aware to protect themselves from the coronavirus infection and prevent its spread. Besides, awareness-related messages are being displayed in the station premises through posters.



their work place. During this time the employees along with their family members are being made aware of the coronavirus infection besides about wearing masks

## Three injured as ex-village head attacks newly-elected pradhan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Three members of the newly-elected gram pradhan's family were injured when the former gram pradhan and his henchmen opened fired at his house in Benda village under Ghatampur police station on Tuesday morning.

Tension prevailed in the village as the supporters of the newly-elected gram pradhan blocked the Mughal Road and staged a massive demonstration, demanding immediate action against the assailants.

When the police and administration officials tried to pacify the protesters, the irate mob indulged in brick-battling. The officials, however, managed to pacify the gram pradhan's supporters by assuring penal action against the assailants. It took around two hours for the police to restore traffic movement.

According to reports, Balwan Singh Prajapati was declared elected as gram pradhan of Benda village in

Ghatampur development block on Monday. He alleged that due to panchayat election rivalry, former gram pradhan Vikas Yadav and over half-a-dozen of his accomplices attacked his house on Tuesday morning and fired several rounds.

In the firing, Prajapati's family members Anil, Chetan and Barati Lal sustained bullet injuries.

When Prajapati called the police, the assailants disappeared from the spot.

Ghatampur Circle Officer Pawan Gautam along with force from Sajeti and Ghatampur police stations reached the spot and sent the injured to Ghatampur community health centre.

In protest against the attack, the supporters of the newly-elected gram pradhan blocked the Mughal Road throwing the traffic movement haywire as vehicles were caught in up to one kilometre long jam on both the sides of the road.

SDM Arun Kumar

recorded the empty vials in another register. It may be mentioned here that four medical personnel were caught on April 30 while selling Remdesivir injection in the black after which the crime branch arrested them. The key person behind the crime was one Vikram. However, the inquiry report is still awaited. Vikram had later admitted that he used to use only half of the drug in a vial and saved the other half for selling in black to other patients. He also admitted that he passed on the half-used Remdesivir vial to his

gang members Chetansh, Anshul and Ayush who contacted the kin of COVID-19 patients needing Remdesivir and were willing to pay the demanded amount. It had also come to light that the gang was not only involved in the black marketing of Remdesivir but also oxygen cylinders and in arranging beds for COVID-19 patients. Sources in the LLR Hospital said the gang of four was running the racket for over 20 days but nobody had evidence against them.

The victim's family filed a complaint with the police. According to reports,

When the neighbours called the police, the assailants escaped. It is alleged that Singh, apart from threatening Kumar with dire consequences, asked him to leave the village with his family.

Station House Officer Vinod Kumar Singh said on the complaint of both the parties, counter FIRs were registered and action was taken.

Dayalu Singh and Shiv Kumar Sahu were arch rivals in the election for the gram pradhan seat of Sen Purab Para village. Both of them lost the election to Ram Nareish Singh of Majra Orchhi village.

Agitated over his defeat, Dayalu Singh along with his accomplices entered the house of Shiv Kumar on Tuesday morning and beat him up, saying that he would have won the election had Kumar not contested the poll. When Kumar's wife, daughter and sons came to his rescue, Singh also beat them up with sticks.

When the neighbours called the police, the assailants escaped.

It is alleged that Singh, apart from threatening Kumar with dire consequences, asked him to leave the village with his family.

Station House Officer Vinod Kumar Singh said on the complaint of both the parties, counter FIRs were registered and action was taken.

## Admin takes steps to check black marketing of Remdesivir injection

**KANPUR (PNS):** Chief Medical Superintendent of Lala Lajpat Rai Hospital, Dr Jyoti Saxena, said in view of the black marketing of Remdesivir injection, the district administration had made it mandatory for the paramedical and medical staff to sterilise the used vial of this life-saving drug and return it to the store to be matched with the batch number and date of issue. She said the pharmacists had also been directed to maintain a special register and note down the dates of receipt and issuance of Remdesivir injection and the

records of the empty vials in another register. It may be mentioned here that four medical personnel were caught on April 30 while selling Remdesivir injection in the black after which the crime branch arrested them. The key person behind the crime was one Vikram. However, the inquiry report is still awaited. Vikram had later admitted that he used to use only half of the drug in a vial and saved the other half for selling in black to other patients. He also admitted that he passed on the half-used Remdesivir vial to his

gang members Chetansh, Anshul and Ayush who contacted the kin of COVID-19 patients needing Remdesivir and were willing to pay the demanded amount. It had also come to light that the gang was not only involved in the black marketing of Remdesivir but also oxygen cylinders and in arranging beds for COVID-19 patients. Sources in the LLR Hospital said the gang of four was running the racket for over 20 days but nobody had evidence against them.

**₹5 LAKH INSURANCE DEMANDED:** The Adhivakta Kalyan Sangharsh Samiti has demanded ₹ 5 lakh insurance cover for the lawyers and their family members. In a virtual meeting held on Tuesday, Adhivakta Kalyan Sangharsh Samiti convener Ravindra Sharma said lawyers, along with others, were badly affected by novel coronavirus infection.

He said during the pandemic, the entry of lawyers was also banned in the collectorate compound and this had affected their income.



Manager asked the railway personnel working at the station to strictly follow the protocol for protection from coronavirus while remaining alert. Along with it he directed them to ensure the compliance of this protocol among the passengers as well. On the occasion the DCM instructed all railway personnel that if anyone was having any symptoms related to Covid-19, then after isolating oneself the person concerned should immediately inform the controlling officer concerned and seek medical advice immediately.



# No legal shield hampers foreign jab makers' entry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government may have opened its doors for the vaccines manufactured by foreign companies like Moderna and J&J to arrest the Covid-19 tsunami, but sources in the Union Health Ministry here said it is not keen to toe the lines of many European countries which have kept these vaccine companies out of the legal ambit of compensation even if there are severe side effects of the shots.

The sources recalled that a few days ago, Pfizer and Moderna had shown interest in providing vaccines in Indian market, but they are having second thoughts because of legal tangle.

The sources further said the Union Health Ministry is not ready to give them any special exception as far as the compensation on adverse event cases are concerned given that the local homemade vaccines manufacturers like Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech too do not enjoy any such privilege.

SII CEO Adar Poonawalla had last year sought protection for vaccine manufacturers against all lawsuits saying "we need to have the Government indemnify manufacturers, especially vaccine manufacturers, against all lawsuits". In fact, Covax and other coun-



tries have already started talking about that. What's happening is when frivolous claims come up, they are blown out of proportion," he had said. However, the Ministry remains non-committal to his demand.

In contrast, Britain, America and other European nations have already evoked a similar law to indemnify the manufacturers during the pandemic in case any patient sue them over serious side effects after taking the jab.

According to the national committee on Adverse Event Following Injection NK Arora, the nationwide campaign does not bind any company to pay the compensation in case of legal case, but Union Health Ministry does not seem to be interested in keeping them out of the legal ambit.

After SII and Bharat

Biotech, the sources said Russia's Sputnik V vaccine might be soon launched in the market. In fact, India has already received 150,000 doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine in Hyderabad with the Government stating that "millions of doses" more will come in. Similarly, Pfizer on Monday said that it was in discussions with the Indian government seeking an "expedited approval pathway" for its vaccine.

"Unfortunately, our vaccine is not registered in India although our application was submitted months ago," CEO Albert Bourla said. The Government has also invited Johnson & Johnson (JNJ.N) and Moderna (MRNA.O) to sell their vaccines here as the third wave of the Covid-19 swept the country more lethal, everyday infecting and killing many.

# More Covid help from abroad pours in

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday received more foreign aid from several countries, including the US, Ireland, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, as hospitals in several States and Union Territories continued to reel under an exponential growth in Covid-19 cases. At least 40 countries have announced medical aid to India so far. Meanwhile, around 40 lakh items, comprising medicines, oxygen cylinders and masks, received in foreign aid have been distributed to 86 institutions and hospitals.

Emergency support continued coming into the nation from varied international locations. Seven tankers each carrying 20 metric tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) arrive at Mundra Port in Gujarat in the first such shipment of LMO to India. "Further consolidating our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. 7 ISO tankers with 20 MT Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) each arrive at Mundra Port (India). First such shipment of LMO to India. Deeply value the support from UAE. Will help augment oxygen availability," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Twitter.

A special flight from the US brought to Delhi the country's fifth consignment of medical aid comprising 545 oxygen concentrators. The second shipment of medical supplies from Ireland, included two oxygen generators, 548 oxygen



Workers load medical aid onto an Air India plane to be flown, at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, Israel, on Tuesday AP

concentrators, 365 ventilators and other medical equipment. "Deeply grateful to our EU partner Ireland for the support which will help add to our oxygen capacities," Bagchi said.

He said an Indian Air Force aircraft carrying 450 oxygen cylinders arrived in Chennai from the United Kingdom.

India also received a shipment of 282 oxygen cylinders, 60 oxygen concentrators, ventilators and other medical supplies from Kuwait. "Deepening our fraternal ties of friendship. Thank Kuwait for shipment of 282 oxygen

cylinders, 60 oxygen concentrators, ventilators and other medical supplies that arrived today," Bagchi said in another tweet.

Between April 24 and May 2, India has received 17 consignments — comprising essential medical equipment such as oxygen concentrators, cylinders of medical oxygen, ventilators and BiPAP machines, bedside monitors, anti-viral drugs, rapid kits to detect Covid-19 virus, pulse oximeters, N95 masks and personal protective equipment among others — from at least 14 countries. France and Italy

are the only two countries that have specified where some of the equipment they supplied will go — the eight French oxygen generation plants are being distributed among hospitals in Delhi, Haryana and Telangana, while the Italian plant will go to the ITBP Hospital in Greater Noida.

Himachal will also get additional 282 oxygen cylinders donated by Kuwait, as per the letter of Union ministry of health and family welfare. Haryana has also been allocated 113 Pulse oximeters which will be dispatched to All India Institute of Medical

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- India also received a shipment of 282 oxygen cylinders, 60 oxygen concentrators, ventilators and other medical supplies from Kuwait
- Between April 24 and May 2, India has received 17 consignments

Sciences (AIIMS) at Jhajjar. Besides, 95 oxygen concentrators have been allocated to Haryana. 35 of these concentrators, out of the 150 donated by Taiwan.

Punjab will get 50 out of the 150 oxygen concentrators donated by Taiwan. Taiwan also donated 500 oxygen cylinders, out of which Himachal has been allocated 185 and Uttarakhand 300.

According to the Centre, Taiwan has donated 150 oxygen concentrators of which 50 have been allocated to Punjab and 35 to Haryana.

India has been ravaged by a massive spike in coronavirus infections in the last few weeks and hospitals across the country are facing acute shortage of beds, medical oxygen and other supplies due to rising Covid-19 cases.

# Delhiites gasping for O2 to get relief from DRDO's five plants

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to the national Capital and adjoining areas now gasping for oxygen, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has started the process of setting up five O2 plants in the region.

Similarly, in its relentless operations to ferry much-needed oxygen, an IAF C-17 plane undertook a grueling 35-hour flight and landed in Chennai on Tuesday carrying 37 tons of gas cylinders from Brize Norton, United Kingdom(UK).

The aircraft took off from the Jamnagar airbase on May two evening and had only two halts, one at Norton for loading and turn around and Cairo, Egypt for refueling before returning to its base at 11.30 am on Tuesday. Another C-17 flew 14 hours non-stop to airlift four cryogenic oxygen cylinders from Germany on Monday.

Till date, the IAF has brought in 54 cryogenic containers and 900 oxygen cylinders from outside India (Singapore, Dubai, Bangkok, Frankfurt and UK), clocking over 140 hours of flying.

Giving details of the DRDO efforts, officials said here in order to tackle the surge in COVID-19 cases PM-CARES has allocated funds for the installation of 500 Medical Oxygen Plants across the country. These plants are planned to be set up within three months.

The DRDO through its industries, is setting-up five Medical Oxygen Plants(MOP) within the first week of May in and around Delhi. These are to be installed at AIIMS Trauma Centre, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (RML), Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and one at AIIMS, Jhajjar, Haryana.

As per schedule, two of these plants reached Delhi on Tuesday and are being

installed at AIIMS and RML Hospitals respectively. These have been supplied by M/s Trident Pneumatics Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore which is the technology partner of the DRDO and has been given an order of 48 plants. Order of 332 plants have been placed with M/s Tata Advanced Systems Limited and the delivery will start from mid-May. The delivery schedule is being monitored very closely to deliver before the plants time. Sites are being prepared at each hospital in parallel.

These Medical Oxygen Plants are designed for a flow rate of 1,000 litres per minute (LPM). The system can cater to 190 patients at a flow rate of 5 LPM and charge 195 cylinders per day. The Medical Oxygen Plant (MOP) technology has been developed by the DRDO based on the On-Board Oxygen Generation for Tejas light combat aircraft(LCA).

These plants will overcome the logistics issues of oxygen transportation and help the COVID-19 patients in emergency. The Council for Science and Industrial Research(CSIR)has also ordered 120 MOP plants through its industries.

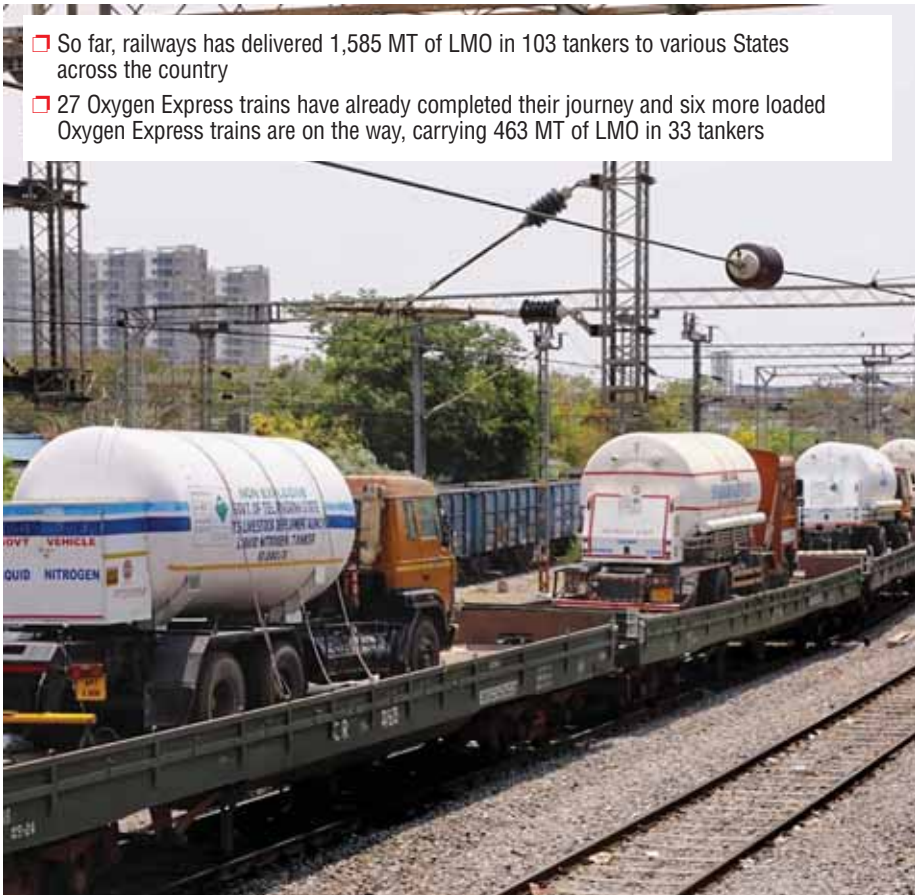
On the ongoing IAF effort, they said besides ferrying oxygen from abroad, its planes within the country have transported 180 empty cryogenic oxygen containers, apart from other relief material like oxygen cylinders, oxygen plant equipment, essential medicines and hospital equipment.

Apart from airlifting its RAMT (Rapid Action Medical Team), the IAF also airlifted medical officers and personnel of the Indian Navy. The IAF has employed eight C-17, four IL-76, 10 C-130 and 20 An-32 aircraft, as well as Mi-17V5 and Chinook helicopters who have together clocked more than 360 hours of flying till date.

of traditional medicines, which provide for holistic healing and the ministry seeks to bring in tourists for this.

He conveyed India's support to the principles for a transition to a green travel-and-tourism economy, submitted by the UNWTO as a further contribution to the policy area of "Green Transformation" for embracing sustainability in tourism.

# Railways delivers 1,585 MT O2, 6 more Oxygen Expresses on way



IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways on Tuesday said that 27 Oxygen Express trains have completed their journey, delivering more than 1,585 metric tonnes of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) in 103 tankers to various states.

A Railway Ministry official said that overcoming all hurdles and finding new solutions, the railways is continu-

ing its journey of bringing relief by delivering LMO.

"So far, railways has delivered 1,585 MT of LMO in 103 tankers to various states across the country," he said, adding that 27 Oxygen Express trains have already completed their journey and six more loaded Oxygen Express trains are on the way, carrying 463 MT of LMO in 33 tankers.

Two more Oxygen Express to Delhi carrying more than

244 MT LMO are on its way from Hapa and Mundra and are expected to reach Delhi on Tuesday itself, the official said. With this, Delhi would see nearly 450 MT of LMO provided in 24 hours beginning early hours on May 4.

According to the official, of the total 382 MT of LMO being delivered by Railways on Tuesday, nearly 244 MT was meant for Delhi, which is nearly 64 per cent of total load.

# Rahul slams Modi Govt for Covid crisis

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday once again attacked the Narendra Modi Government for its inaction as "many innocent people" continued to lose the battle against Covid and said a crime has been committed against India.

He said the only way to stop the apocalyptic march of the pandemic was an immediate complete lockdown with the protection of NYAY scheme for the vulnerable sections.

"Government of India (GOI) doesn't get it. The only way to stop the spread of Corona now is a full lockdown - with the protection of NYAY for the vulnerable sections. Government of India's inaction is killing many innocent people," he tweeted.

In another tweet, lament-

**On Tuesday, India recorded over 3.57 lakh fresh cases of Covid with 3,449 fatalities**

ing at the government he said, "I just want to make it clear that a lockdown is now the only option because of a complete lack of strategy by GOI. They allowed, rather, they actively helped the virus reach this stage where there's no other way to stop it. A crime has been committed against India."

Rahul Gandhi, who is a Lok Sabha MP from Kerala's Wayanad has been critical of the Central government over the handling of Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

On Tuesday, India recorded over 3.57 lakh fresh cases of Covid with 3,449 fatalities.

# SC strikes down Bengal Housing Regulation Act as 'unconstitutional'

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed the West Bengal Housing Industry Regulation Act, (HIRA), 2017. The top court held HIRA as unconstitutional and repugnant to RERA.

A bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said it wasn't open for the West Bengal Government to frame a parallel law when the field was already occupied by a parliamentary legislation, Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA). Directing to strike down the West Bengal law, the top court observed, "this will prevent chaos." The top court also added that it won't invalidate registration, allotment & past transactions made under HIRA.

# 8 lions Covid +ve in Hyderabad zoo; alert issued

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has issued an alert to all the tiger reserves and zoos across the country as well as lion habitat in Gir in Gujarat in the wake of reports of eight lions being found to be hit by Covid-19 in a Hyderabad Zoo. However, it said there is no cause for worry as there has been no global instance of transmission of pathogens from animals to humans.

Hyderabad's Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has confirmed the infection among the captive lions. However, not taking any chances, the Union Environment Ministry on Tuesday directed the closure of national parks and sanctuaries as a preventive measure.

Soumitra Dasgupta, assistant director-general of forest (wildlife), said it is not the new mutation that has infected the lions but the old one. "We had a video conference with CCMB officials and they confirmed the diagnosis to us. The problem is we cannot collect throat or nasal swab samples from animals. So, most probably, we will put in place a method to collect scat samples. CCMB is devising that method and guidelines."

SP Yadav, Central Zoo Authority Member Secretary added that analyses of the



samples (of lions) have revealed that the infection was not caused by any variant of concern. "The eight lions have been isolated and due care and necessary treatment have been provided. All the eight lions have responded well to the treatment and are recovering. They are behaving normally and eating well. Preventive measures are already in place for all zoo staff and the zoo has been closed to visitors to avoid minimal external contact," he added.

In Fact, Yadav who is also the head of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) said that an advisory has also been issued to all the Chief Wildlife Warden regarding containing the spread and management of Covid 19 in national park and sanctuaries on April 30th itself to prevent the spread of the virus from humans to animals.

"The officials have been advised to reduce human-wildlife interface. Field functionaries should follow Covid appropriate behavior while people movement should be restricted," said Yadav.

# Centre refutes Opposition's Covid mishandling charges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Facing allegations of lackadaisical attitude that led to a shortage of medical facilities including oxygen resulting in unprecedented casualties across the States, the Government on Tuesday sought to come clean in the matter.

It issued two clarifications in two days in a row—first stating that it issued order for the vaccine on time, and in another, it said that "it did not waste time in effective allocation and distribution of Covid pandemic relief material."

The Modi Government on Tuesday made a bid to refute media reports that while the first consignment of Covid-19 assistance arrived in India on April 25, the Centre took seven days to frame the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of distributing these life-saving medical supplies.

Calling the allegations

"totally misleading", the Union Health Ministry said that while the Standard Operating Procedure for allocations was issued by it on May 2nd, the work for receipt, allocation and distribution to the States and UTs through the Central and other Health Institutions started immediately as the global community started to support the Government efforts for fighting the global pandemic.

As the world responds to India's Covid SOS, the Government is facing a volley of questions whether foreign aid, including a vast number of oxygen machines and life-saving drugs, is reaching its destination given huge hue and cry over shortage of basic medical facilities in hospitals, resulting in deaths also. However, Government officials admit to "teething problems" in distributing foreign aid.

Similarly, on Monday, it

dismissed allegations that the last order placed with the two vaccine makers (100 million doses with SII and 200 million doses with Bharat Biotech) was in March 2021. It said, in actual, 100% advance of ₹1,732.50 cr was released to Serum Institute of India (SII) on April 28 for 11 crore doses of Covishield vaccine during May, June and July, and was received by them on 28.04.2021.As on date, against the last order of 10 crore doses for supplies of Covishield vaccine, 8.744 crore doses have been delivered till March 3.

Additionally, 100% advance of Rs. 787.50 cr was released on April 28 to Bharat Biotech India Ltd. for 05 crore Covaxin doses during May, June and July. As on date against the last order of 02 crore doses for supplies of Covaxin vaccine, 0.8813 crore doses have been delivered till March 5, it said.

# Former-J&K Guv Jagmohan dies at 94; Modi condoles death



IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday condoned the death of former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Jagmohan and described his death as a monumental loss.

"Jagmohan Ji's demise is a monumental loss for our nation. He was an exemplary administrator and a renowned scholar. He always worked towards the betterment of India. His ministerial tenure was marked by innovative policy making. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti," Modi said in a tweet.

Jagmohan passed away on Tuesday morning. He was 94.

He had served two terms as Governor in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir — from 1984 to 89, and then from January to May 1990.

When the BJP's Atal Bihari Vajpayee became Prime Minister in 1998, Jagmohan also served in his cabinet in a variety of portfolios, including communications, urban development and tourism. During the 1990s, Jagmohan had served as a nominated MP in the Rajya Sabha in 1990-96 and won a hat-trick of Lok Sabha elections from New Delhi (1996, 1998 and 1999).







FIRST COLUMN

CHARITY IS NOT A ONE-STOP SOLUTION

India can encourage philanthropy by incentivising it on a tax and individual level and offering tax deductibility



ANURADHA PRASAD

Philanthropy is not a novel concept in India as Indians most often part with wealth in the name of faith, charity or nation-building. A 2020 Charities Aid Foundation report recounts that “the most popular causes for donation remain the same as previous years: Helping the poor (54 per cent), supporting religious organisations (51 per cent) and supporting children (49 per cent),” in India. Unfortunately, charity in our nation is largely either faith-based, or is a response to a natural disaster or relief effort like the current COVID-19 pandemic. However, it remains insufficient for addressing the longstanding social issues. In this context, philanthropic capital from the private sector has become a lifeline for the development sector over the last few years. According to a 2021 Bain-Dasra Report, private-sector funding was about ₹64,000 crore in 2020, which is almost 23 per cent more than the previous year. The money primarily comes from foreign donors, corporate entities, retail (or crowdfunding), high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) and families. The report highlights that HNW contributions



account for a quarter of all funding, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) donations account for 28 per cent and retail investors or everyday charity account for another 28 per cent. The remaining 20 per cent comes from family philanthropy — the biggest source of growth — that accounts for nearly two-thirds of the increase in funding since 2019. With these numbers in place, it’s not surprising that non-profits in India have directed their energies into unlocking philanthropic capital coming from HNWIs and families. After all, the number of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) in India will grow 73 per cent in the next five years. It is estimated that the number of UHNWIs will double by 2024. While India prides itself on being home to more than 200 billionaires, the country has also been in the news for topping the world-wide income gap indices.

So, where does philanthropy feature in the larger scheme of things? The easy answer would be that the growing wealth (of a few) in India should automatically translate into more charity. Unfortunately, the reality is not so simple. India still ranks very low on philanthropic giving in comparison to other countries. As per the ‘World Giving Index 2019’, “India was the least generous of the seven South Asian countries in the index, behind its neighbours Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.”

In India, particularly, the concept of giving is an altruistic and value-driven act, rather than an obligation or economically-incentivised. Interestingly, the developed world — particularly the US, has seen a rise in demand for a progressive tax regime by the HNWIs and UHNWIs. Walt Disney and Co heiress Abigail Disney, former BlackRock Inc. managing director Morris Pearl, and Danish-Iranian entrepreneur Djaffar Shalchi are petitioning for higher taxes on the rich to help pay for the billions in new Government programmes made necessary by the pandemic. Alternatively, in India, there has been a shortfall in the overall collection of taxes by the Indian Government.

Another effective method to increase charity is by incentivising it on a tax and individual level. For larger philanthropic donations, the Government can offer tax deductibility. For instance, in the face of the COVID crisis, the US Government increased their allowance for deductible donations of any individual’s annual gross income to 100 per cent from 60 per cent the previous year. Creating a national charity platform or offering major tax breaks for donations is an effective impetus for charity. Perhaps a crucial step would be Government-supported recognition and honour for citizens, incentivised charity, changing the culture and a progressive tax regime.

(The writer is founder and director, India Leaders for Social Sector. The views expressed are personal.)

Fallout of the US troop drawdown will be big

While the Afghans will have to prepare themselves for a possible civil war, the global community must get ready for a renewed and more vigorous threat from extremist Islam



ANIL GUPTA

US President Joe Biden has announced September 11 as the final cut-off date for the complete withdrawal of the US troops from war-torn Afghanistan. Earlier, he had denounced his predecessor Donald Trump’s decision for a complete drawdown by May 1 as “impractical.” As per the new blueprint the pull out which began on May 1 must terminate by September 11 this year. Significantly, September 11, 2022 will mark the completion of two decades of invasion of Afghanistan codenamed ‘Operation Enduring Freedom’ (when the twin objective of overthrowing the ruling Taliban regime and decimating Osama bin Laden’s Al Qaeda was partially achieved) and ‘Operation Freedom’s Sentinel’ thereafter, the longest-running war in American history. At a time when the US and allies are leaving, Afghanistan is in turmoil due to the internal war for control over the country continuing between the elected Government of President Ashraf Gani and the insurgents led by the Taliban, who already control more than 40 per cent of the country.

A Pakistan-brokered peace agreement between the US and the Taliban reached in February 2020 succeeded only to the extent that the Taliban stopped attacking the foreign troops. It failed to achieve the main purpose of a negotiated settlement and permanent ceasefire with the Afghan Government. The Taliban had also agreed to ensure that its soil would not be used as a launch pad for the global jihadi terror groups, which also has been violated many times. In fact, the violence has surged in Afghanistan ever since the beginning of peace talks, with the deaths of civilians and the security forces recording an upward trend as deadly terror attacks increased.

In a nutshell, Afghanistan continues to be in a quagmire and the melting pot for global jihadi terror. The question arises, what did the US achieve even after spending over \$2 trillion and losing 2,216 precious lives? Billions in ‘aid’ are said to have gone down the drain, with the bulk invested in the Dubai property market. The cost to Afghan civilians has been equally appalling, put at between 50,000 and 1,00,000 deaths over the last two decades. Many analysts believe that the present regime in Kabul is unlikely to hold on for long after the Americans leave. It could hardly govern with American help and is unlikely to succeed without the US.

Come September, Afghanistan is likely to be back with the Taliban, a scenario dreaded not only by the Afghans, particularly the women, but India as well. Afghanistan has once again lived up to its reputation of “the graveyard of the Empires.” Yet another power is leaving Afghanistan in ruins and without ushering peace in the war-torn nation. This is straightforward abandonment. Kabul faces a threat not only from the Taliban but from the Islamic State (IS) as well, which is reported to have formed an affiliate IS in Khorasan province.

The country has witnessed a sea change with regards to infrastructure development under the ‘Reconstruction of Afghanistan programme, to which India is a major contributor. Will it have any value for the radical Islamists for whom the rule of Sharia is ultimate, even if it means a return to the Medieval Era? The Taliban have already announced themselves as the winners. “We have won the war, America has lost,” they say. That the



THE GOODWILL OF THE AFGHANS EARNED BY INDIA SHOULD ALSO BE EXPLOITED BY NEW DELHI TO SOFTEN THE TALIBAN APPROACH TO US. THE EMERGING SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN WOULD DEFINITELY TEST OUR POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC METTLE IN THE DAYS TO COME

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Taliban see themselves as a government-in-waiting, speaks volumes of their plans to overthrow the current regime after the Americans leave. They have already decided to rename the country as the ‘Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.’

“This is jihad, it is worship. We don’t do it for power but for Allah and His law. To bring Sharia to this country. Whoever stands against us we will fight against them,” says Haji Hekmat, Taliban’s shadow mayor in Balkh District. The statement reflects the mindset of the Taliban leadership. However, some elements feel that with the passing of time and change of mindset among many Muslim countries, a group of moderates has also emerged among the Taliban. How much they would be able to influence the new Government or how the new Islamic Government will accommodate them, only time will tell.

India has both, strategic and internal security issues with the American abandonment of Afghanistan. While India’s arch rival in the region, Pakistan seems to be in a win-win situation, India will have to face many challenges. Though,

New Delhi has been included, at Washington’s insistence, in the United Nations’ supervised talks for ensuring intra-Afghan peace, it is not going to make much of a difference, as any positive outcome of the talks is almost ruled out. As and when the Taliban assume power, Pakistan would emerge as a major

player.

While Pakistan will not like any Indian influence in Afghanistan, New Delhi can ill-afford to lose all the goodwill and strategic leverage it has gained through huge investments in its economic uplift. Afghanistan is as strategically important to India as it is to Pakistan.

The major threat that would emerge to India, is the likelihood of the situation as it prevailed in the 1990s and early 2000s in relation to jihadi terror. A pliant Government in Afghanistan will allow Pakistan to continue to adhere to its policy of using terror as an instrument of State policy. To avoid international pressure and the fear of watchdogs, it is likely to shift the terror infrastructure to the badlands of Afghanistan.

Jihadi terrorists who would become surplus to the internal need in Afghanistan may well be diverted across the border by Pakistan, as in the past. The security of the infrastructure built by India, including the alternate road route via the Sistan Baluchistan of Iran and, the Indian personnel deployed there, would be another major concern.

To ensure that the gains made by India are not buried along with the anticipated change in regime post-September, New Delhi needs to formulate and put in place a robust response based on a long-term strategy. Without losing time the Government must appoint a special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation with the mandate to

open communication channels and negotiations with all stakeholders, including the Taliban and the IS. Putting boots on the ground has been opposed by India till now and hopefully New Delhi will stick to its stance hereafter. A greater outreach to strengthen the Afghan forces, including training and equipping them, must continue with increased emphasis on capacity-building.

India would need to leverage its good relations with Iran and Russia to keep Pakistan and Turkey away from harming our interests. The emerging threat from radical Islamists will have to be highlighted to China, since it is very sensitive to such threats in its Xinxiang province.

The goodwill of the Afghans earned by India should also be exploited by New Delhi to soften the Taliban approach to us. The emerging situation in Afghanistan would definitely test our political and diplomatic mettle in the days to come.

While the Afghans will have to prepare themselves for a possible civil war, the global community must get ready for a renewed and more vigorous threat from extremist Islam. The epicentre of the new global ‘Great Game’ may be shifting to the Indo-Pacific or the South Caucasus, but Afghanistan will continue to be the epicentre of global jihadi terror, rejuvenated and resurrected. The US may abandon Afghanistan but it would not be able to abandon its war on terror.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

AFTER A DISCUSSION WITH THE ASSOCIATE MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT THE LOCKDOWN IN BIHAR TILL MAY 15. —BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER  
NITISH KUMAR



AT LEAST ONE ORDER HAS BEEN COMPLIED WITH. WE HAVE ALL FAILED. ALL OF US FEEL ASHAMED FOR WHAT WE HAVE DONE. —ADDITIONAL JUDGE, PATNA HIGH COURT  
JUSTICE CHAKRADHARI SHARAN SINGH

Breach of fundamental duties led to the spread of Corona

The top court has asserted that under Article 47, the State shall regard the improvement of public health as among its primary duties. Here, it seems to have failed us

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has stipulated certain public health and social measures to contain the spread of the Coronavirus after taking into account the levels of COVID-19 transmission. One of the major measures stipulated is to maintain social distancing and avoid congregations.

There is an obligation on the State to adhere to the measures stipulated by the health watchdog which has also played a vital role in eradicating small pox, polio and so on. As the world, particularly India, witnesses an unprecedented health emergency, it is vital to adhere to the COVID-protocols. Historically, the second wave of any pandemic has proven to be more intensive and dangerous than the first one and India is learning this bitter truth the hard way.

The State has an obligation



CHITTARVU RAGHU

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to protect the health of the people. In this context, the State has to regulate all social and religious events which involve congregations so as to prevent the spread of the virus. Apart from the State, every individual has an obligation to regulate his/her conduct and see to it that their behaviour does not result in any adverse impact on society. We Indians have failed in both these aspects.

Permitting road shows and massive rallies during the conduct of the Assembly elections in various States, particularly West Bengal and allowing the conduct of the Kumbh Mela at Haridwar in the middle of the Coronavirus outbreak clearly demonstrates the same. Consequently on April 15, Uttarakhand recorded its highest upsurge in COVID-19 cases. The Centre was fully conscious of the fact that such large congregations would definitely

spread the virus, but failed to prevent the same. The State ought to have realised that the “Right to Life” guaranteed under the Indian Constitution overrides the rights conferred by the Constitution in relation to a religious activity.

Article 21 of the Constitution mandates that no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. The Supreme Court has held that the “Right to Life” guaranteed under Article 21 includes within its ambit the right to health and medical care. Article 47 a directive principle of State policy stresses on the improvement of public health and so on.

The apex court had expanded the concept of “Right to Life.” It was held that it derives its life breath from the directive principles of State policy. When the constitution-



al right to manage religious affairs came up for discussion before the drafting committee, the Chairman had proposed to make the said right, subject to public order, morality and health. It was accepted without any debate. This proves the vision of the founding fathers of the Constitution. But we are failing miserably to act in a proper perspective to protect the constitutional rights being enjoyed by us. Lack of preven-

tive measures and the callousness of the general citizens reflect the same.

The State cannot remain a silent spectator when massive congregations, either political or religious, are being organised, which will result in exacerbating the health emergency that we are currently facing. In this context it’s also relevant to examine Article 26 of the Constitution. It contemplates that the freedom to manage religious affairs is subject to public order, morality and health. Therefore, it is not an absolute right. It is conditioned by Article 21 of the Constitution when it relates more particularly in relation to the aspect of public health.

We failed in adhering to the social distancing norms which is a major cause for the spread of the virus. Mahatma Gandhi had said on the aspect of a person’s duty towards society that

“the true source of right is duty.” If we all discharge our duties, rights will not be far to seek. If we neglect our duties and run after rights, they will elude us.

The Supreme Court, too, in the Minerva Mills Vs Union of India case, held that there may be a rule which imposes an obligation on an individual or authority and yet it may not be enforceable in a court of law and, therefore, not give rise to a corresponding right in another person. But it would still be a legal rule because it prescribes a norm of conduct to be followed by such an individual or authority.

The law may provide a mechanism of enforcement. A rule imposing an obligation or duty would not cease to be a rule of law because there is no regular judicial or quasi judicial machinery to enforce its command. Such a rule would exist despite any problem relating to

its enforcement. Otherwise the conventions of the Constitution and even rules of international law would no longer be liable to be regarded as rules of law.

This shows that an individual plays a vital role in a State and its welfare. Fundamental duties were introduced in part IV A by the 42nd amendment and were based on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee.

The Supreme Court in the Javed Vs State of Haryana case, held that fundamental rights are not to be read in isolation. They have to be read along with directive principles of State policy and fundamental duties enshrined in Article 51A. The top court also asserted that under Article 47, the State shall regard the improvement of public health as among its primary duties. Here, it seems to have failed us.



# Serum Institute of India leads cross-sector Indian investments into UK

PTI ■ LONDON

The Serum Institute of India will invest 240 million pounds in the UK to expand its vaccine business and set up a new sales office creating a large number of jobs, Downing Street announced as part of plans for a 1-billion pound India-UK Enhanced Trade Partnership creating around 6,500 jobs in Britain.

The announcement came ahead of a virtual summit between Prime Ministers Boris Johnson and Narendra Modi on Tuesday.

The Pune-based vaccine manufacturer headed by CEO Adar Poonawalla is among a list of nearly 20 Indian companies across sectors such as healthcare, biotech and software services to announce significant investment plans in the

UK this week. It was also revealed that the Serum Institute of India (SII) has started phase one trials in the UK of a nasal vaccine against coronavirus.

“The sales office is expected to generate new business worth over USD 1 billion, 200 million pounds of which will be invested into the UK,” Downing Street said in reference to the company’s plans for the UK market on Monday.

“Serum’s investment will support clinical trials, research & development and vaccines. This will help the UK and the world to defeat the coronavirus pandemic and other deadly diseases. Serum has already started phase one trials in the UK of a one-dose nasal vaccine for coronavirus, in partnership with Codagenix

INC,” it said.

Poonawalla, who is currently in London and had recently hinted at plans to expand vaccine production outside India, described his meetings in the UK as “excellent”.

“We shall work even harder and strengthen India’s fight against COVID-19,” he said on Twitter.

In the field of healthcare, another Indian investment highlight includes 59 million pounds by biotech firm Global Gene Corp over the next five years. It will create 110 highly skilled jobs in the UK, mostly based in the R&D centre at Wellcome Genome Campus in Cambridge, which is the site of the Human Genome Project.

“I’m very pleased that Global Gene Corp has decided to join the legions of Indian



companies investing in the UK, boosting our healthcare sector and driving economic growth,” Prime Minister Johnson said in a statement.

Sumit Jamuar, Chairman & CEO of Global Gene Corp, said the ambition with the investment is to make an “exponential leap” into the healthcare of the future through genomics –

and machine learning to achieve our vision,” he said.

“In line with Prime Minister Modi’s vision of Ayushman Bharat and National Healthcare Mission, we truly believe that the genomic revolution will have an impact on the lives of billions. Global Gene Corp will make this revolution a reality,” added Invest India CEO Deepak Bagla.

Other Indian investments announced on Monday include Q-Rich Creations at 54 million pounds, creating 667 UK jobs; Wipro at 16 million pounds, creating 500 jobs; I2 Agro at 30 million pounds, creating 465 jobs; Mastek creating 357 jobs; and Sterlite Technologies at 15 million pounds, creating 150 jobs.

Some of the others on the list of Indian investments

include SNVA Ventures at 10 million pounds, creating 200 jobs; Skillmine at 11 million pounds, creating 100 jobs; CtrlS Data Centers at 10 million pounds, creating 100 jobs; Que Processing Services at 10 million pounds, creating 100 jobs; Cron Systems at 20 million pounds, creating 100 jobs; TVS Motors-Norton creating 89 jobs; Prime Focus Technologies creating 70 jobs; Route Mobile at 20 million pounds; and Goila Butter

Chicken at 3 million pounds. Downing Street said the announcement of over 6,500 additional jobs in Britain and 1 billion pounds of new trade with India is based on company commitments and estimates from UK-India exports and investments following extensive engagement from the Department for

International Trade officials.

An Enhanced Trade Partnership between India and the UK, which will be signed off during the prime ministerial summit, also covers around 20 export deals clinched by British companies.

These include Morningside Pharmaceuticals researching, developing and licencing new pharma products; Polymateria’s biotransformation technology, which enables plastics to become fully bio-degradable, in a deal worth 75 million pounds in UK exports over the next five years; CMR surgical in a deal worth 200 million pounds creating 100 new UK jobs; Kloudpad with critical hardware and software bespoke data centres, deal worth 15 million pounds; and Vidrona drone surveying equipment and AI technology.

## Centre: 28 States/UTs started lifting grains for free distribution under PMGKAY

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said 28 States and Union territories have started lifting additional foodgrains meant for free distribution to 80 crore beneficiaries for two months under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY). PMGKAY has been reintroduced for two months -May and June - to

ameliorate the hardships faced by the poor and needy due to various disruptions caused by the resurgence of COVID-19 in the country, it said.

Under the PMGKAY, additional foodgrains are provided free of cost via ration shops to 80 crore beneficiaries registered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

In a statement, the Food Ministry said that the state-run

Food Corporation of India (FCI) has already positioned sufficient foodgrains in all states and UTs for the successful implementation of the scheme. “Till May 3, about 28 States/ UTs have started lifting from FCI depots and 5.88 lakh tonne of foodgrains have been supplied for further distribution to beneficiaries,” the ministry said. Lakshadweep has completely lifted its May-June

allocation, while Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have already lifted 100 per cent of their May month allocation, it said. The rest of the states/UTs (Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Goa, MP, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha and Puducherry) have also been sensitised to immediately start the lifting foodgrains under the PMGKAY and the same is likely to be accelerated in the coming days, it added.

## Sensex skids for third day on Covid headwinds

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmark Sensex surrendered early gains to finish in the red for the third consecutive session on Tuesday following brisk selling in front-line stocks.

The grim Covid-19 situation and continued selling by foreign funds has sapped risk appetite, traders said.

After a gap-up opening, the 30-share BSE index succumbed to profit-taking in afternoon trade to finish at 48,253.51,

down 465.01 points or 0.95 per cent.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty slumped 137.65 points or 0.94 per cent to close at 14,496.50.

Dr Reddy’s was the top loser among the Sensex constituents, retreating 2.26 per cent, followed by Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, HDFC Twins, Infosys, M&M and Bharti Airtel.

On the other hand, ONGC, Bajaj Finance, TCS, SBI, Kotak Bank and Nestle

India were among the gainers, climbing up to 1.86 per cent.

“Indices lost a percentage on Tuesday as the street punished earnings disappointment in several high-quality mid-caps. Afternoon trade witnessed profit-taking in metals and pharma names as the street exhibited nervousness on regional lockdowns which accentuated the weakness.

“In the broader market, paper stocks were sought after today on hardening pulp prices while coffee producers saw

investor appetite,” said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities, said the mounting uncertainty led by rise in second wave of COVID-19 cases weighed on investor sentiment.

While a persistent increase in daily caseload in several states is still a matter of concern, visible modest decline in new cases in many parts like Maharashtra and Delhi offers comfort, he added.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	14687.25	14723.40	14461.50	14496.50	-137.65
SRLIFE	998.00	1005.00	942.55	984.00	-25.40
BPCIL	420.90	429.45	418.50	422.55	6.55
ONGC	108.00	110.30	107.70	109.25	1.55
ADANI PORTS	779.85	782.00	760.05	768.00	6.60
BAJFINANCE	5610.00	5749.95	5560.00	5594.70	43.55
TCS	3062.80	3090.00	3035.00	3052.90	15.90
KOTAKBANK	1751.00	1764.00	1725.30	1737.00	7.55
COALINDIA	132.55	135.00	132.25	132.70	0.50
NESTLEIND	16501.05	16620.00	16380.00	16561.05	54.30
ASIANPAINT	2605.00	2617.95	2571.35	2589.80	7.65
GRASIM	1415.00	1448.90	1404.00	1418.00	3.45
TATATEEL	1074.50	1086.65	1057.55	1068.85	2.10
SBIN	355.00	362.90	350.20	351.10	0.50
TECHM	964.00	969.90	955.60	958.95	1.25
IOC	92.50	93.50	91.10	91.50	0.05
HINDUNILVR	2409.20	2418.00	2372.20	2409.00	1.00
BRITANNIA	3432.00	3462.00	3400.00	3437.70	-1.55
INDUSINDBK	930.00	934.50	926.00	912.00	-1.60
UPL	621.00	645.65	608.05	615.90	-1.90
AXISBANK	740.00	718.65	698.10	700.50	-2.25
IT	1350.00	1359.00	1331.00	1338.00	-4.50
HEROMOTOCO	2794.00	2819.75	2766.75	2783.55	-9.70
NTPC	104.30	106.05	103.50	103.85	-0.40
BAJAJ-AUTO	3877.00	3888.00	3815.05	3837.00	-14.85
HDFCLIFE	677.00	688.05	665.50	669.00	-2.90
BAJAJFINSV	11200.00	11218.85	10872.00	10993.00	-48.70
HCTECH	910.00	915.00	899.25	902.55	-4.75
ITC	201.20	202.35	199.10	199.75	-1.20
SHREECEM	28111.35	28111.50	27531.00	27800.00	-189.85
ULTRACEMCO	6390.00	6425.00	6285.00	6390.00	-50.15
ICICIBANK	966.00	968.00	960.00	959.00	-4.75
WIPRO	487.30	488.30	477.80	482.70	-4.65
EICHERMOT	2398.40	2416.85	2356.10	2372.15	-24.10
TATAMOTORS	296.35	297.50	288.05	289.95	-3.05
JSWSTEEL	727.95	737.50	711.25	715.70	-7.55
POWERGRID	221.40	221.70	216.70	218.30	-2.50
BHARTIARTL	565.95	565.95	546.70	551.45	-7.40
MARUTI	6539.05	6648.50	6482.00	6506.00	-91.85
TITAN	1434.00	1434.00	1400.05	1403.50	-20.45
M&M	759.00	762.70	731.10	741.50	-11.45
INFY	1354.00	1354.95	1324.10	1331.00	-21.05
HDFCBANK	1409.95	1423.00	1383.30	1390.60	-23.85
HDFC	2420.00	2435.00	2373.60	2377.00	-41.50
HINDALCO	322.00	324.45	319.70	363.50	-6.45
SUNPHARMA	662.00	664.90	642.00	646.00	-13.20
DIVISLAB	4098.95	4102.50	3962.05	3991.15	-82.85
RELIANCE	1950.00	1967.80	1911.00	1918.00	-41.05
DRREDDY	5211.00	5222.90	5054.35	5076.00	-109.95
CIPLA	912.90	912.90	876.00	881.75	-28.45
TATACONSUM	681.00	686.30	641.55	648.00	-29.10

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	35298.00	35334.00	34819.85	34921.45	-138.10
PNB	34.80	39.20	34.70	37.70	3.20
GAIL	138.50	145.65	137.35	144.55	7.05
MARICO	453.00	464.60	444.00	463.00	17.85
HINDPETRO	236.20	244.00	236.60	242.00	6.15
PGHL	13604.30	13899.00	13560.00	13869.80	327.65
VEDL	256.00	262.40	251.00	262.05	5.60
ALKEM	2769.50	2809.50	2768.00	2801.00	39.00
ADANITRANS	10990.00	10995.00	1053.05	1078.50	12.50
ADANI GREEN	1050.00	1063.00	1035.00	1047.35	10.85
ADANI INDIA	1285.00	1299.00	1241.85	1267.00	11.45
ABOTINDIA	15169.00	15450.00	15070.05	15300.00	130.80
BAJAJHLDNG	3438.00	3485.00	3406.25	3450.00	20.85
ICICIPRULI	555.05	565.45	546.75	555.05	3.35
MOTHERSUMI	219.00	224.95	215.75	216.80	1.10
ICICIG	1438.00	1471.95	1422.90	1442.90	7.30
PETRONET	240.00	240.85	236.60	238.50	0.80
IGL	503.80	512.00	501.15	502.50	1.65
MCDOWELL-N	525.00	531.00	521.00	526.00	1.25
COLPAL	1499.00	1515.05	1485.00	1489.60	-3.45
BANDHANBNK	32.00	326.50	314.05	318.00	-0.85
YESBANK	144.00	141.15	13.80	13.85	-0.05
APOLLOHOSP	3233.15	3243.25	3166.40	3187.00	-17.30
PIDILITINDIA	1815.00	1821.80	1791.00	1801.00	-10.10
UBL	1212.30	1227.85	1195.65	1202.95	-7.15
TORNTPHARM	2536.20	2558.00	2496.20	2510.00	-16.55
DLF	250.50	254.40	245.00	246.20	-1.65
DABUR	545.05	545.70	535.35	538.30	-3.90
MUTHOOTFIN	1164.90	1176.00	1145.75	1151.80	-8.70
NMDC	160.60	164.15	157.25	157.75	-1.25
BERGEPAINT	712.00	719.55	703.85	706.50	-5.80
HDFCAMCO	2755.00	2789.50	2724.00	2730.00	-23.95
LUPIN	1077.85	1077.85	1049.50	1060.00	-12.85
BOSCHLTD	13589.00	13677.95	13285.05	13350.00	-165.55
AUROPHARMA	973.95	980.00	950.00	956.85	-11.90
SIEMENS	1892.00	1910.00	1845.00	1860.05	-25.85
BIOCON	381.00	382.15	372.50	373.25	-5.25
GODREJCP	710.70	713.80	695.00	699.00	-10.05
DMART	2908.00	2934.75	2845.00	2855.00	-43.65
ACC	1912.00	1915.00	1860.00	1869.00	-29.00
MRF	80880.00	80880.00	78411.15	78338.00	-1269.55
CADILAHC	587.00	587.95	566.05	571.50	-9.30
HAVELIS	1012.00	1017.00	981.00	988.50	-16.20
ITI	3941.00	3943.95	3835.00	3860.00	-63.60
AMBUJACEM	315.00	315.05	306.20	306.50	-5.15
NAUKRI	4866.00	4911.00	4752.05	4782.90	-82.05
INDIGO	1685.00	1685.00	1615.70	1613.95	-34.30
PEL	1712.00	1726.65	1656.50	1665.00	-42.35
SBICARD	992.00	994.45	948.50	949.95	-27.35
INDUSTOWER	262.20	265.00	252.00	253.30	-7.45
JUBLFOOD	2897.00	2907.70	2763.45	2777.35	-111.60

RUPTEE vs Dollar

73.85 (+10p)

73.95 (+14p)

74.09 (-2p)

74.36 (+30p)

74.66 (+7p)

74.07 (+29p)

27

28

29

30

3

4

Provisional

INVERTED SCALE

MAY

BSE Sensex

48,253.51

-465.01

TOP GAINERS

TOP LOSERS

ONGC 1.30

Oil Refineries -2.10

Rajgas Fin 1.12

Refineries -2.18

HDFC 0.39

Sun Pharma -1.18

SBI 0.33

HDFC Bank -1.14

Wipro 0.33

ITC -1.73

WIPRO

NSE Nifty

14,496.50

-137.65

TOP GAINERS

TOP LOSERS

SBI Life 2.63

Tata Consumer 3.00

RPL 1.57

Cipla -3.12

ICICI 0.46

Oil Refineries -3.13

Adani Ports 0.81

Refineries -2.10

WIPRO

CONCOR

575.00

588.85

566.95

569.45

INTELLECT

710.00

730.05

691.25

696.00

RECLTD

127.35

132.40

127.35

129.25

ADANITRANS

1075.35

1098.00

1054.05

1065.40

ABCAPITAL

116.25

118.65

113.10

114.05

NESTLEIND

16564.80

16627.50

16391.50

16538.10

ACC

1914.00

1914.00

1866.90

1869.85

ITI

3930.00

3940.00

3839.05

3847.30

SPIECITE

61.45

63.25

61.10

61.60

BATAINDIA

135.05

138.00

133.65

135.80

ABFRL

187.00

185.55

175.45

176.85

JSL

93.00

95.00

87.45

88.55

TRIDENT

14.14

14.24

13.80

13.85

GREAVESCOT

152.00

153.15

145.00

142.85

GRINDSWELL

938.95

1049.95

925.00

998.65

ASTRAL

1600.50

1644.05

1563.95

1575.20

ISEC

457.50

461.00

446.15

453.35

MRPL

44.30

46.20

43.25

43.60

IBREALEST

80.50

80.65

77.10

77.50

POLYCAB

1482.00

1509.30

1443.60

1448.05

PALPAATHLAB

2965.00

2965.00

2844.30

2853.20

MUTHOOTFIN

1166.50

1176.40

1145.75

1149.25

TVSMOTOR

33.50

34.15

32.25

33.35

SVWSOLAR

308.20

319.90

305.85

310.05

DBL

545.00

546.05

527.30

537.45

MOIL

173.75

175.65

163.00

165.20

GODREJCP

710.00

712.00

695.40

698.30

DCBBANK

90.00

92.80

90.00

90.60

VENKYS

1597.65

1673.95

1565.95

1578.90

SUDARSCHEM

673.00

675.45

637.10

643.55

INDHOTEL

111.50

114.20

108.00

109.00

SIEMENS

1901.15

1909.75

1846.00

1875.95

CANFINHOME

555.60

560.00

522.70

526.15

DABUR

546.90

546.90

535.40

537.25

DNMISHIRAM

770.00

776.25

720.15

729.20

VINATRAV

1740.00

1766.95

1700.45

1715.05

DELTA CORP

154.05

155.00

146.65

151.40

GESHIP

332.00

349.75

329.20

348.50

GUGJAS

533.15

552.45

522.60

528.50

INDIGO

1675.00

1678.00

1616.80

1622.00

KTKBANK

62.15

64.45

61.40

62.75

MGL

1134.00

1165.10

1134.00

1150.40

CARBORUNIV

575.15

616.20

566.00

590.85

WELCORP

147.95

147.95

138.30

139.15

RADICO

569.95

575.40

554.50

560.50

CEATLTD

1388.35

1429.25

1373.00

1378.95

CHENNPETRO

108.25

114.40

106.40

109.05

CESC

629.70

646.40

620.10

622.60

CUMMINSIND

845.35

853.15

835.00

842.35

SHK

151.15

154.00

145.50

146.80

THYROCARE

1070.00

1070.00

1036.10

1043.40

RAMCOCEM

959.00

959.90

940.85

958.25

PERSISTENT

2216.40

2216.40

2163.90

2201.65

RALLIS

296.60

302.70

286.45

288.55

JSLSHIS

164.50

169.90

161.20

162.55

CARERATING

509.00

537.00

506.00

523.70

DHANUKA

115.00

835.00

776.80

791.45

KMFINRA

23.55

23.55

22.90

23.00

COFORGE

2944.00

2944.45

2833.45

2848.85

IGL

500.80

511.90

500.80

502.90

UFLEX

425.00

430.90

413.75

416.45

BSOFT

24.00

24.85

24.10

24.95

BIRLACORPN

94.00

96.05

90.75

91.25

PIZFER

5360.00

5370.90

5228.35

5239.00

SHREECEM

28098.55

28098.55

27528.05

27753.60

UCOBANK

11.25

11.74

11.20

11.39

MCX

1499.00

1508.00

1476.00

1485.75

TATACOMM

1119.00

1119.00

1091.00

1095.05

TRENT

791.10

795.90

772.50

775.95

PAGEIND

29849.95

29849.95

28973.65

29185.05

NHPC

24.10

25.25

24.00

24.50

FINOLEXIND

159.10

161.25

152.25

153.10

GSFC

95.00

98.25

92.55

93.15

DEEPAKFERT

265.50

270.50

258.05

259.25

COROMANDEL

735.00

735.35

720.75

724.70

KEC

40.80

40.80

38.20

39.60

TORNTPHARM

2511.15

2557.60

2497.90

2506.25

UJJIVANSFB

29.10

29.55

28.50

28.75

CROMPTON

383.80

383



# China’s UN envoy: Myanmar violence could lead to civil war

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

China’s UN ambassador on Monday urged stronger diplomatic efforts to resolve the confrontation in Myanmar since the Feb. 1 military coup, warning that further violence could lead to a chaotic situation “and even a civil war”.

Zhang Jun also warned that “any wrong handling” might lead to further tension in Myanmar.

The UN Security Council on Friday strongly backed calls by Southeast Asian nations for an immediate cessation of violence and talks as a first step toward a solution following the military coup in Myanmar that ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her party and reversed years of slow progress toward democracy.

The council again demanded the restoration of democracy and the release of

all detainees including Suu Kyi and condemned the use of violence against peaceful protesters and the deaths of hundreds of civilians.

Zhang, who described Myanmar as “a friendly neighbour”, strongly backed diplomatic efforts by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations known as ASEAN and by UN special envoy for Myanmar Christine Schraner Burgener, and expressed hope they would produce results. He said “China is not in favor of imposing sanctions.”

“We should really be creating a more favourable environment for bringing the country back to normal and finding a political solution through dialogues among the relevant political parties within the constitutional and legal framework,” he said.

Myanmar for five decades had languished under strict



Anti-coup protesters flash the three-finger salute during a rally in Yangon on Tuesday

AP

military rule that led to international isolation and sanctions. As the generals loosened their grip, culminating in Suu

Kyi’s rise to leadership in 2015 elections, the international community responded by lifting most sanctions and pour-

ing investment into the country.

The coup took place following November elections,

which Suu Kyi’s party won overwhelmingly and the military contendings was marred by fraud.

“It’s mainly an issue relating to the difference on the election,” Zhang said. “The political parties should be able to find a solution on that. So that’s why China prefers ... More diplomatic efforts.”

“That’s why China is working very closely with the relevant parties urging them really to refrain from going extreme, avoiding violence, avoiding casualties, and try to find a solution with dialogue. That’s why the council is also now giving full support to the diplomatic efforts of ASEAN,” he said.

Zhang was asked whether China was concerned that Myanmar could descend into civil war, given that its military is fighting the Kachin and Karen ethnic minorities, which

maintain their own armed forces, while also confronting pro-democracy protesters — amid reports that civilians, mainly students, are now receiving training in the use of weapons in ethnic areas.

“We do have similar concerns,” Zhang said. “We do believe that with diplomatic efforts we can avoid the further escalation of the tension.”

“With further escalation of the tension, there will be more confrontation, and with more confrontation there will be more violence, and with more violence there will be more casualties, and then we may go further down the wrong direction,” he warned. “It may also mean a chaotic situation in Myanmar and even a civil war.”

Zhang said China is also very concerned about the humanitarian impact of the crisis, citing UN envoy Schraner Burgener who pointed to more

poor people losing jobs, civil servants refusing to work to protest the junta, and a brewing crisis of families in and around the main city Yangon “pushed to the edge” for food, going into debt and trying to survive.

In her briefing to the council Friday, obtained by The Associated Press, she also cited a World Food Programme report that the combination of existing poverty, the COVID-19 pandemic and the political crisis have led to a sharp rise in “hunger and desperation,” and that within six months up to 3.4 million more people will suffer from hunger, particularly those in urban areas.

In again urging a diplomatic solution, Zhang warned that with further deterioration “definitely a humanitarian disaster or crisis will be inevitable so we do need to try our best to avoid that.”

## Flurry of diplomatic contacts fuel Iran deal speculation

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A flurry of diplomatic contacts and reports of major progress suggest that indirect talks between the US and Iran may be nearing an agreement. That’s despite efforts by US officials to play down chances of an imminent deal that would bring Washington and Tehran back into compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal.

With the negotiations in Vienna on hiatus, the US and Britain on Monday denied Iranian reports that any agreement was at hand with Iran for a swap of American and British prisoners. Such an exchange could be a confidence-building measure to revive the nuclear deal.

A US return to the deal would be the biggest and most controversial foreign policy initiative in the early months of Joe

Biden’s presidency. It would revive a deal that top Biden aides put together during their years in the Obama administration, only to see President Donald Trump pull out and try to prevent the US from ever returning. Rejoining it — and making the concessions required to do so — would enrage Republicans and likely unsettle Israel and Gulf Arab allies.

Even as Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab rejected the prisoner swap reports at a news conference Monday in London, senior American diplomats were in the Middle East meeting Gulf Arab leaders. And two of the nuclear deal’s biggest proponents in Congress — Democratic Sens. Chris Coons and Chris Murphy — were touring the region.

Those discussions follow a week of top-level meetings in Washington between Biden; his national security adviser, Jake Sullivan; Blinken; his deputy, Wendy Sherman; special Iran envoy Rob Malley; and others with the head of Israel’s spy agency and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s top national security aide.

The Israelis are adamantly opposed to any US rapprochement with Iran, which they regard as an existential threat to the Jewish state. At least three separate meetings were held with the Israelis last week, including one Friday with Mossad chief Yossi Cohen at which Biden made an appearance. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Cohen was briefed on the Vienna discussions “and the progress being made there.”

## China: US should push N Korea diplomacy, not pressure

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

China’s US ambassador expressed hope on Monday that President Joe Biden’s policy toward North Korea will give more importance to diplomacy and dialogue instead of “extreme pressure” to try to stop Pyongyang’s nuclear program and denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

Zhang Jun said China also hopes the review of US policy will give equal emphasis to both the nuclear issue and the peace and security issue.

“Without tackling the security and the peace issue properly, definitely we do not have the right environment for our efforts for the denuclearization,” he said.

The White House said last Friday that Biden plans to veer from the approaches of his two most recent predecessors as he tries to stop North Korea’s

nuclear program, rejecting both Donald Trump’s deeply personal effort to win over leader Kim Jong Un and Barack Obama’s more hands-off approach.

Press secretary Jen Psaki announced administration officials had completed the review of US policy toward North Korea but did not detail its findings.

The Biden administration appeared to signal it is trying to set the stage for incremental progress, in which denuclearization steps by the North would be met with corresponding actions, including sanctions relief, from the United States.

There was no mention of US security guarantees for North Korea or a formal end to the Korean War, both of which had been demanded by the North and considered by the Trump team as part of a larger package.

## Have ‘basic manners’: China tells top Philippines diplomat after abusive tweet over SCS claims

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday asked the Philippines to stop the “megaphone diplomacy” over its claims on a reef in the disputed South China Sea and said its officials should have “basic manners” and stop insulting remarks after Manila’s top diplomat termed Beijing an “ugly oaf”.

Reports from Manila on Tuesday said the Philippines foreign secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr has apologised for using an obscene phrase, demanding China to get out of the Whitsun Reef which Beijing claims as its own.

The Philippines news portal GMA News reported that Locsin Jr has apologised to the Chinese government for spewing profanity in a tweet blasting the presence of Chinese ships in the West Philippine

Sea.

In a separate tweet Locsin Jr, while referring to the news of his apology said, “To my friend (Chinese Foreign Minister) Wang Yi only. Nobody else”.

Locsin’s outburst came after Manila urged Beijing to recall hundreds of Chinese vessels lingering near Whitsun Reef, part of the South China Sea claimed by both the countries.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said in a statement on Monday that “China has no law enforcement rights in these areas..The unauthorised and lingering presence of these vessels is a blatant infringement of Philippine sovereignty”.

China claims most of the South China Sea. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims.

In a strict rejoinder to Locsin Jr, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin in a statement here said facts have proven time and time again that “megaphone diplomacy” can “only undermine mutual trust rather than change reality.”

“We hope that certain individuals from the Philippine side will mind basic manners and act in ways that suit his status,” Wang said.

He made the remarks in response to a query about a statement issued by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs on Monday, which protested against Chinese Coast Guard vessels’ patrols in waters off the Huangyan Island, the Chinese name for Scarborough Shoal.

Wang said the Huangyan Island is China’s territory and its adjacent waters are under China’s jurisdiction.

### FROM PAGE 1

#### HC HOLDS CENTRE IN CONTEMPT

“Contempt may be the last thing but it is there. Enough is enough. We are not going to take no for an answer... There is no way that you won’t supply 700 right away,” said judges insisting the presence of senior most Central Government offices on next hearing.

The Order went on to blame the attitude of Central Government for the pathetic situation in Delhi, “We see the grim reality everyday... the situation has come to this that hospitals have had to reduce the number of beds. On one hand, there is need to augment capacities to meet the rising numbers, while on the other, the existing infrastructure is crumbling and available bed can’t be put to use...”

The court also opined that the assurance given by the Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to the Supreme Court that the demands of Delhi would be taken care of has not been fulfilled. The order was passed after senior Advocate Rahul Mehra for the Delhi Government once pointed out that in spite of judicial orders, Delhi was not receiving oxygen as per demand.

Sharma submitted that the apex court has not directed supply of 700 MT of oxygen per day to Delhi.

The court disagreed with him and said a plain reading of the top court’s order showed that it had directed the Central Government to supply 700 MT of liquid medical oxygen by making good the deficit.

The Bench noted that the apex court’s order recorded the Delhi Government counsel’s submission that as against the demand of 700 MT of oxygen per day, manufacturers have been able to supply only 440 MT.

It said the apex court noted that the projected demand of Delhi in coming days will be 976 MT of oxygen by increasing the medical infrastructure and that the situation must be remedied forthwith.

It asked as to what does this direction of the apex court mean and what was the doubt in it.

“This itself is sufficient to show that the Supreme Court has directed that Delhi should be provided with 700 MT of oxygen per day. If there was any doubt, it could be cleared by further reading of the paragraph.”

The Bench said the top court had noted the assurance given by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the national Capital will not suffer and its demands of oxygen will be met.

However, the High Court said this assurance has not been met and it has seen how big and small hospitals have been rushing to court on SOS basis due to lack of oxygen to treat critical patients.

“It pains us that the aspect of supply of oxygen for treatment of Covid-19 patients in Delhi should be viewed in the way it has been done by the Centre,” it said.

It added that on one hand there is need to augment capacities to meet the rising numbers, while on the other hand, the existing infrastructure is crumbling and available beds cannot be put to use.

After the court dictated its order, ASG Sharma said that he has taken the order and it may be uploaded tomorrow morning only. To this, the Bench said, “No, we will upload it today

itself.”

#### OVER 100 BABUS FALL PREY TO CORONAVIRUS

Health Ministry, have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Some top officers who tested positive include Guruprasad Mahapatra, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade; R Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment; Anil Kumar Jha, Secretary, Tribal Affairs; Usha Sharma, Secretary, Youth Affairs; Bharat Lal, Additional Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation among others.

In Uttar Pradesh, 12 IAS officers reportedly tested positive early last week, prompting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to get himself into isolation.

The Delhi Government last week had appointed 10 IAS officers as nodal officers for Government-run Covid-19 hospitals in the national Capital. “The officers will be overall in charge of the Covid-19 hospital assigned to them and will exercise general superintendence, directions and control over the functioning of the hospital,” read the departmental order.

Neighbouring Haryana, the Government has deputed 12 IAS officers to review and monitor preparedness on Covid-19 management. Similarly, Odisha Government had deputed 21 senior IAS officers as observers for Covid management.

#### DELHI SEES SPARK OF OXYGEN HOPE

Earlier, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national spokesperson Raghav Chadha claimed that Delhi received only about 44 per cent (433 MT) of the total demand of 976 MT of Oxygen on Monday.

On average 393 MT oxygen is being supplied to Delhi per day during last seven days, which is 40 per cent of the total demand, he said. Considering the scenario, Chadha said even if the Delhi Government increases the beds capacity, the shortage of oxygen will remain a matter of concern.

To avert the crisis in hospitals, the Government has created “SOS reserve” from where we supply oxygen responding to various hospitals that keep sending SOS alerts to the Delhi Government, he said.

Chadha said 41 SOS calls received via social media, helpline numbers and other channels and all were addressed and provided with oxygen.

People with dipping oxygen levels were seen running around to get an oxygen bed or cylinder but returning with no hope. Delhi’s Covid graph has increased but the city is grappling with oxygen availability.

#### 450 LIVES IN DANGER AT ARMY HOSPITAL AS DELHI GOVT CUTS OXYGEN QUOTA

In order to avoid any crisis situation, the Army has scrambled to get resources. A vehicle with 100 empty oxygen cylinders has left for

Haridwar, the source said adding, some cylinders have also been procured from Palwal.

With the surge in Covid cases in the second wave, the Base Hospital was recently converted into an exclusive Covid facility of 650 beds for armed forces and veterans. At present, 450 beds are provided with oxygen.

To meet the demand for beds, a plan has also been put in place to augment the capacity of the hospital to 900 oxygenated beds by the second week of June.

#### MODI, JOHNSON UNVEIL 10-YEAR ROADMAP TO ELEVATE INDIA-UK TIES

Another big-ticket announcement was declaration of enhanced trade partnership, the ministry said.

As regards the extradition of Indian fugitives -- Vijay Mallaya and Nirav Modi, the ministry said the two leaders discussed extradition of economic offenders.

During the meeting, the Indian Prime Minister said economic offenders should be sent back to India at earliest for trial, the ministry added.

Earlier in the day, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and British Home Secretary Priti Patel signed a migration and mobility partnership agreement. Jaishankar is currently on a four-day visit to the UK to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of G7 countries.

In London, Johnson declared a new era in UK-India relations following the summit level talks with Modi. Downing Street said the two Prime Ministers have pledged to achieve a “quantum leap” in the UK-India relationship and that India has elevated the status of its relationship with the UK to a “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership” - the first European country to be granted that status.

An Enhanced Trade Partnership, which had been announced earlier, was reiterated as a starting point to negotiate a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in future, with an ambition for bilateral trade to be doubled over the next decade.

“The agreements we have made today mark the beginning of a new era in the UK-India relationship,” Johnson said. “The UK and India share many fundamental values. The UK is one of the oldest democracies, and India is the world’s largest. We are both committed members of the Commonwealth. And there is a living bridge uniting the people of our countries,” he said.

“In the last week the British people have stepped up in their thousands to support our Indian friends during this terrible time in a demonstration of the deep connection between the UK and India. This connection will only grow over the next decade as we do more together to tackle the world’s biggest problems and make life better for our people,” Johnson added.

The ‘2030 Roadmap’, to be published in full by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and agreed between the two sides, includes plans to expand the UK-India health partnership to enhance global health security and pandemic resilience. This includes firming up international supply chains to ensure critical medicines, vaccines and other medical products reach those who need

them most.

“Deepening the economic relationship between the UK and India through an Enhanced Trade Partnership and confirming our intent to negotiate a Free Trade Agreement with a view to doubling UK-India trade over the next decade,” notes an official statement from Downing Street.

#### CENTRE DEFERS JEE-MAIN AS COVID RAGES ON

“Looking at the present situation of COVID-19 and keeping students safety in mind, JEE (Main) - May 2021 session has been postponed. Students are advised to keep visiting the official website of NTA for further updates,” Pukhriyal tweeted.

Earlier, JEE- Main April session had been postponed due to the rise in Covid-19 cases across the country. The JEE Main- 2021 April Session exam which was scheduled to be held on April 27, 28, and 30, has already been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NTA sources said the JEE Advanced too can be postponed. The JEE Advanced committee is believed to have discussed the possibility of postponing IIT-entrance exams. The exam is scheduled to be held on July 3.

The government on Monday had announced the deferment of the NEET PG exams for medical students and also directed the universities and higher education institutions across the country to postpone all the offline exams until a review meeting in this regard in June early.

#### PM SPEAKS TO BENGAL GUV OVER POST-POLL VIOLENCE

In his intervention application filed he has sought a direction to the State Government to file a detailed status report about the FIRs registered, arrests made and steps taken against perpetrators of violence.

“The instant application is being preferred...to bring to the notice of this court, the brutal murders and commission of serious crimes like rape and molestation, blatant violence and the complete breakdown of law-and-order machinery in West Bengal before, during and after the recently concluded assembly elections in the state,” Bhatia said in his application.

Earlier during the day, addressing an online Press conference along with BJP Assembly candidate Anirban Ganguly, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said the party is firmly behind BJP workers and BJP president is himself in Bengal to visit the houses of those “killed, raped and burnt” in the “TMC-led-planned murderous attack”.

“Increase cooperation between British and Indian universities on crucial research in areas like health, emerging technologies and climate science. Work in lockstep to tackle threats to our shared security in all their forms. The UK’s Carrier Strike Group will visit India later this year to boost this work with our navies and air forces undertaking joint training exercises to enable future cooperation on operations in the Western Indian Ocean,” it reads.



Subway cars dangle at an angle from a collapsed elevated section of the metro, in Mexico City on Tuesday

AP

## Mexico City metro overpass collapses onto road, 23 dead

**Mexico City:** An elevated section of the Mexico City metro collapsed and sent a subway car plunging toward a busy boulevard late Monday, killing at least 23 people and injuring about 70, city officials said. Rescuers initially searched a car left dangling from the overpass for anyone who might be trapped.

Those efforts were suspended early Tuesday, however, because of safety concerns for those working near the precariously dangling car. A crane was brought in to help shore it up.

“We don’t know if they are alive,” Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said of the people possibly trapped inside the car following one of the deadliest accidents for the city’s subway system, which is among the busiest in the world.

Earlier Sheinbaum said someone had been pulled alive from a car that was trapped on the road below. She said 49 of the injured were hospitalised, and that seven were in serious condition and undergoing surgery.

## Biden quadruples Trump refugee cap after delay backlash

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden formally raised the nation’s cap on refugee admissions to 62,500 this year, weeks after facing bipartisan blowback for his delay in replacing the record-low ceiling set by former President Donald Trump.

Refugee resettlement agencies have waited for Biden to quadruple the number of refugees allowed into the United States this year since Feb. 12, when a presidential proposal was submitted to Congress saying he planned to do so.

But the presidential determination went unsigned until Monday. Biden said he first needed to expand the narrow eligibility criteria put in place by Trump that had kept out most

refugees. He did that last month in an emergency determination. But it also stated that Trump’s cap of up to 15,000 refugees this year “remains justified by humanitarian concerns and is otherwise in the national interest,” indicating Biden intended to keep it.

That brought sharp pushback for not at least taking the symbolic step of authorizing more refugees to enter the U.S. this year. The second-ranking Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, called that initial limit “unacceptable” and within hours the White House made a quick course correction. The administration vowed to increase the historically low cap by May 15 — but the White House said it probably would not hit the 62,500 Biden had previously outlined.



Technology has made sweeping changes in all aspects related to financial management.

DR RAJANI GUPTA lists trends that will rule the industry

# MANAGE YOUR FUTURE



One functional area that is sought after by several MBA students is Financial Management. In the recent past technology has made sweeping changes in all aspects related to managing money and financial management. Here are a few emerging trends in Financial Management, which can't be ignored — and B School must focus and impart knowledge in these areas in order to create an efficient workforce which is future ready.

**Fintech:** Today the influence of digital technologies on finance is palpable and digital banks, wallets, blockchain tech, and more are becoming a reality. Digital finance is the term used to describe the impact of new technologies on the financial services industry. It includes a variety of products, applications, processes and business models that have transformed the traditional way of providing banking and financial services. To remain relevant in the future understanding all aspects of fintech and knowing how it is altering the landscape of financial services can help in creating an efficient workforce.

**Financial Analytics:** Financial analytics helps in shaping up business

goals. Any organisation can improve the decision-making strategies of business by getting deeper insight about the financial status of its business and improve the profitability, cash flow and value of its business. Data Science and Financial analytics is being used in many financial institutions including insurance companies, banks to understand the consumer to reduce losses by eliminating below zero customers, to increase cross-sale and to measure the lifetime value of a customer. Financial analytics is an important area which must be studied by tomorrow's force which can deal with financial management.

**Artificial Intelligence in Finance:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a powerful tool that is already widely deployed in financial services. It has great potential for positive impact if companies deploy it with sufficient diligence and care. AI is being implemented by banks to assess risks, detect and prevent payments fraud, improve processes for anti-money laundering (AML) and perform know-your-customer (KYC) regulatory checks. Artificial intelligence is leading the front of the digital transformation strategy in finance today

**Financial analytics helps in shaping up business goals.**

**Any organisation can improve the decision-making strategies of business by getting deeper insight about the financial status of its business and improve the profitability**

and its role is going to grow bigger in the future. Adept proficiency in AI is mandatory for an efficient workforce of tomorrow.

**Financial Fraud Detection:** Modern financial institutions face the growing threat of fraud in its different and ever-changing ways. Fraud detection is a set of activities undertaken to prevent money or property from being obtained through false pretences. Fraud detection is applied to many industries such as banking or insurance. Data mining is used to classify, cluster, and segment the data and it helps in automatically finding associations and rules in the data that may signify interesting patterns, including those related to fraud. Experts use such intelligence systems to encode expertise for detecting fraud in the form of rules. This area is gaining importance and is an emerging trend in the study of finance management for creating an efficient workforce.

**Machine Learning in Financial Management:** Today machine learning algorithms are used to automate trading activities and provide financial advisory services to investors. Machine learning can analyse millions of data sets within a short time to

improve the outcomes without being explicitly programmed. Supervised learning, Un-supervised learning, Semi-supervised learning, and Reinforcement learning is an emerging trend in the study of finance management and the future workforce can be efficient if they develop expertise in this domain.

**Blockchain-based modes of transactions and financial services:** A financial system underpinned by blockchain offers many opportunities for the accountancy profession in the near future. Blockchain technology is a decentralised, distributed, and public ledger that is used to record transactions across many computers with-in a network.

In the finance industry, this underlying technology allows the transfer of currency with confidence that the transaction is secure and reliable. Block chain is for sure an emerging trend in the study of financial management and will have a tangible impact across several financial services. The future workforce must certainly be proficient and develop expertise in this domain.

The writer is Vice Chancellor — Symbiosis International University

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**Keep on going, and the chances are that you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I never heard of anyone ever stumbling on something sitting down.**  
— Charles F Kettering

## Admissions open at CVRU

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Dr CV Raman University (CVRU), which is a part of the esteemed AICTE Group of Universities (AGU) and is situated in the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh, has announced that the admission process for the 2021 academic session is now open. In the light of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the university has taken the admission process for its undergraduate, post graduate and diploma courses for the year online.

All the facilities and services related to the admission process have been made available online, including virtual campus tours on the university's YouTube channel and live chats with counselors. Students can submit the application form as well as deposit their fees online with the help of enabled websites and portals.

Interested students can gather more information regarding the admission process and the university on this link : <https://www.cvrump.ac.in/>.

The dates for the Pan-India AICTE Joint Entrance Exam (AJEE) that is required for admission to certain courses in the University will be announced soon.

## UG, PG courses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sanskriti University, Mathura is inviting online applications for Admission to Diploma, Under Graduate, and Post Graduate Programmes in Engineering, Management & Commerce, Education, Special Education, Humanities & Social Sciences, Pharmacy, Agriculture, Fashion Designing, Law and Legal Studies, Yoga and Naturopathy, Tourism & Hotel Management, Medical & Allied Sciences, Basic & Applied Sciences, Ayurveda, Unani, and Nursing courses.

**How to apply:** Applicants seeking admission are required to fill an online application form available on [www.sanskriti.edu.in](http://www.sanskriti.edu.in). The submission of the application form can be done online or in-person at the university by depositing ₹1,000.

For online submission, use the link <https://www.sanskriti.edu.in/register>. The admission prerequisites will be in accordance with the various regulatory bodies as amended from time to time.

**Admission process:** Applications for academic year 2021-22 are open to applicants who have passed or will appear for the qualifying examinations under the higher secondary (10+2) from any recognised Board of education such as AISSCE/IB/ICSE/CBSE, or equivalents.

For admission to Diploma programmes, students are required to have passed the Class X examination from any state or central board like CBSE/ICSE.

**Last date to apply:** June 30, 2021.

## Top EMT courses to go for

Healthcare is a very profound and ever growing profession that can pave the way to multiple directions. Amidst the rising fear of the pandemic, the prominence of various healthcare services has further increased manifold. In lieu of the increasing focus towards healthcare services and facilities, individuals are showing an increased inclination towards health-related courses. Out of the many, EMT —Emergency Medical Technician course is often preferred by the professionals in order to develop the necessary skills needed to be applied on the scene of an accident or injury & en-route to the hospital to promote outcome of speedy recovery.

To help the aspirants with the ongoing changes and to make them EMT experts, many institutes have introduced multiple long-term and short-term EMT courses. Here is the list of Top 5 EMT Courses in India.

**Henry Harvin:** Ideal for students of Higher Secondary and Graduates who aspire to manage health on emergency situations, India's leading Edtech Company — Henry Harvin offers the best career oriented course in the field of Paramedics and Healthcare. The course focuses on developing the necessary skills required to act in basic emergency lifesaving situations. Delivered by highly qualified healthcare professionals with over 15+ years of working experience, the course spans over 6 months and offers the experience of industry projects during the tenure of the course. The course helps students to Gain knowledge about Anatomy and Physiology and Get Acquainted with Medical Terminology & Medical Ethics, acquire Knowledge about Infection control and Biomedical Waste Management, get familiar with Patient Communication and Patient Assessment, learn comprehensively about Trauma Care Emergency and Deliver Emergency Medical Support to Patients Upon successful completion, all participants



ipants are awarded an Emergency Medical Technician Course Certification as well as become a part of the Elite Paramedical Academy of Henry Harvin\* & join the 3,00,000+ strong Alumni Network Worldwide.

**Institute of Paramedical Science & Management:** The Emergency Medical Technician course offered by IPSM gears up the students to assess the condition of the patients and determine the necessary course of action before taking them to the hospital. This diploma course spanning over a period of 12 months to 18 months also prepares the participants to respond to the emergencies arising out of casualties like criminal violence, natural disasters, fires, air and land accidents, etc. An applicant needs to have passed Class 12th to be eligible for the course. On successful completion, every participant is awarded a Diploma in emergency Medical technician.

**Indian Institute of Emergency Medical Services:** This course is designed to instruct a student to the level of Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, formerly the EMT-Ambulance, who serves as a vital link in the chain of the health care team. It is recognized that the majority of Prehospital emergency medical care will be provided by the EMT-Basic. This includes all skills necessary for the individual to provide emergency

medical care at a basic life support level with an ambulance service or other specialised service. Specifically, after successful completion of the program, the student will be capable of performing the following functions at the minimum entry level. After pursuing this course, Emergency Medical Technicians are capable of providing out of hospital emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients.

**Tech Mahindra Foundation - Smart Academy:** The EMT course is an HSSC certified course to train students in emergency lifesaving procedures & and provide pre-hospital critical care. As part of this course, students are trained to respond quickly to emergency medical situations and provide pre-hospital critical care to patients. The classroom programme supplemented with practical training, as well as on-job-training equips a student to handle all kinds of critical and emergency situations such as accidents, burns, heart failure etc. In the course duration of 12 months, the course includes classroom training, coursework, clinical training and soft-skills training. The Emergency Medical Technician course is ideal for Class XII students and graduates who wish to manage hands-on medical emergency situations.

**Vivo Healthcare:** The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course provided by Vivo Healthcare is designed to train healthcare professionals in basic emergency lifesaving procedures. After the successful completion of the course, the institute provides all the aspirants with an accredited EMT certification. This EMT Basic Level - 1 is a 2 months training programme prepares professionals to get necessary skills and training to respond in basic emergency lifesaving situations. The course covers theory and simulation training for 240 hours and offers Hospital and Ambulance Internship of 120 hours.

## CS exams postponed

Taking cognisance of the Covid-19 situation, The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, has decided to postpone its examinations for Foundation Programme, Executive Programme (old and new syllabus) and Professional Programme (old and new syllabus) scheduled to be held from June 1, 2021 to June 10, 2021.

The new schedule of the examination will be released after reviewing the situation and receiving the directive/guideline from the relevant departments of the

Government, issued from time to time.

Revised time table for the said examinations will be issued and hosted on the website of the institute [www.icsi.edu](http://www.icsi.edu) in due course of time.

Contemplating the severity of Covid-19 situation, CS Nagendra D Rao, President, the ICSI said: "ICSI has time and again considered health & safety of all its stakeholders paramount. Hence, in the interest of all, the institute has decided to postpone the June, 2021 CS Examinations."

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the present times, the unemployment rate in India is quite high despite the availability of resources and opportunities. The pandemic's occurrence last year deteriorated the already unbalanced hiring scenario as many professionals lost their jobs while the others were constantly striving to deliver more than their capabilities so as to reduce the chances of their firing. However, what is often not noticed is that from the organisational perspective, the major reason for

taking such a huge step of asking the performing employees to move on is that they do not possess the required skill set or traits to cope up with sudden events and the changing times.

This is where upskilling has stepped in and has become a blessing in disguise for the candidates who are worthy enough to stay but might have to bear the brunt of being fired owing to the gap in their skill set. Intellipaat, one of the leading online professional training courses and certification platforms, highlights the concept of upskilling being the need of the hour

and its relevance in the pandemic times via its report.

The firm via its survey also suggests that technological advancements and the awareness levels amongst the professionals have further given the required push to the concept of upskilling in post-pandemic times. Hence companies are investing their time, efforts, and finances all the more to train their employees with new skills and the employees prefer to gather new skills to improve their productivity. The survey was conducted during April 2020 to April 2021.

## Reset your career

An MBA can give your career the kick-start that you have been waiting for. Here's how

While we quickly climb the ladder as a fresher with sheer dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm to reach the middle management position, it becomes a little tricky to jump to the next level. Many professionals feel stuck as mid-level managers for years together waiting for a promotion, some are even convinced that they have touched the ceiling in their career graph.

So, what is it that brings careers to a standstill? Essentially, entry into the top management and senior positions requires a different kind of skill set, which sometimes can't be learned by just doing what a certain job profile requires. Apart from the job function, one needs to have a fair amount of knowledge about all aspects of business from strategy, leadership, and communication to operations, marketing, and management. This is where an MBA comes into picture — in fact, MBA is the key that can help acquire these skills and open the door to leadership roles.

**Improving career prospects**  
An MBA can give your career the much-required kick-start that you have been waiting for. While MBA offers many advantages to advance your career to the next level, let's take a look at some prominent ones and how they can transform your career:

■ **Developing leadership and management skills:** MBA programmes



lay a major thrust on improving one's leadership capabilities, management skills, decision making, communication and out-of-the-box thinking, all of which are critical skills for senior management positions. Equipped with these competencies, you are geared up to take on bigger responsibilities and roles that are more evolved than your existing profile. Organisations also recognise professionals with MBA degrees as valuable assets and consider moving them up the ladder.

■ **Networking:** An MBA classroom includes professionals from various functions, industries and job profiles. Not only does this huge diversity present a great opportunity for interaction and learning, but it also serves as an enormous networking platform. Making contacts with fellow students and lecturers opens up new job prospects for participants in the program.

■ **A route to career transition:**

Mid-level professionals often realise that their career goals do not match with their current job profile or their skillset matches another job profile better. An MBA degree is a great way to change your career path and take on a job that you feel best matches your strengths and liking. As an MBA programme focuses extensively on managerial and leadership skills, it also prepares professionals who want to undertake their entrepreneurial journey.

■ **Placement opportunities:** While an MBA degree helps you climb the hierarchy level in your current company and gives you the opportunity to re-negotiate your salary, it also opens up doors to new organisations. With most programmes offering placement opportunities near the end of the program, you have more options to choose from, both in terms of job profiles and salaries.

Another important aspect is the mode of MBA that you select. For example, an Executive MBA programme is a perfect option for working professionals as it offers the flexibility to continue working while preparing to move up the ladder. Reputed institutes provide flexible study options like classes over the weekend, webinars, online discussions, and assignments, etc., which can help you study as per your convenience and availability.

—By Great Learning

## Lending a helping hand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A professional has taken the onus to help migrant standalone students seeking to pay for quarantine facilities in the country's capital.

Manish Mishra, a 33-year-old who runs a small human resources management firm has committed to transfer ₹2,000 to help each of such students overcome the tough times in this corona crisis starting from May 1 to May 11. All students requiring this exigency financial can send information like Aadhar Card,

Covid report, doctor prescription etc & short note of crisis to [bharatmanishmishra@gmail.com](mailto:bharatmanishmishra@gmail.com). Till date more than 510 students have received this help on details sent.

Understanding the pain and plight of the migrant cash-starved students, who may have to shift to quarantine facilities in this pandemic, Manish Mishra, said: "I am not a large corporate house. Even if 1000 people in a population of 1.30 billion gather courage and motivation to undertake small philanthropic activity, India will come out of this crisis faster".



The raging pandemic has hit the economy in many ways. In such a situation, a company needs a leader who has the ability to execute plans and can help the organisation ride the wave, says DR RANA SINGH

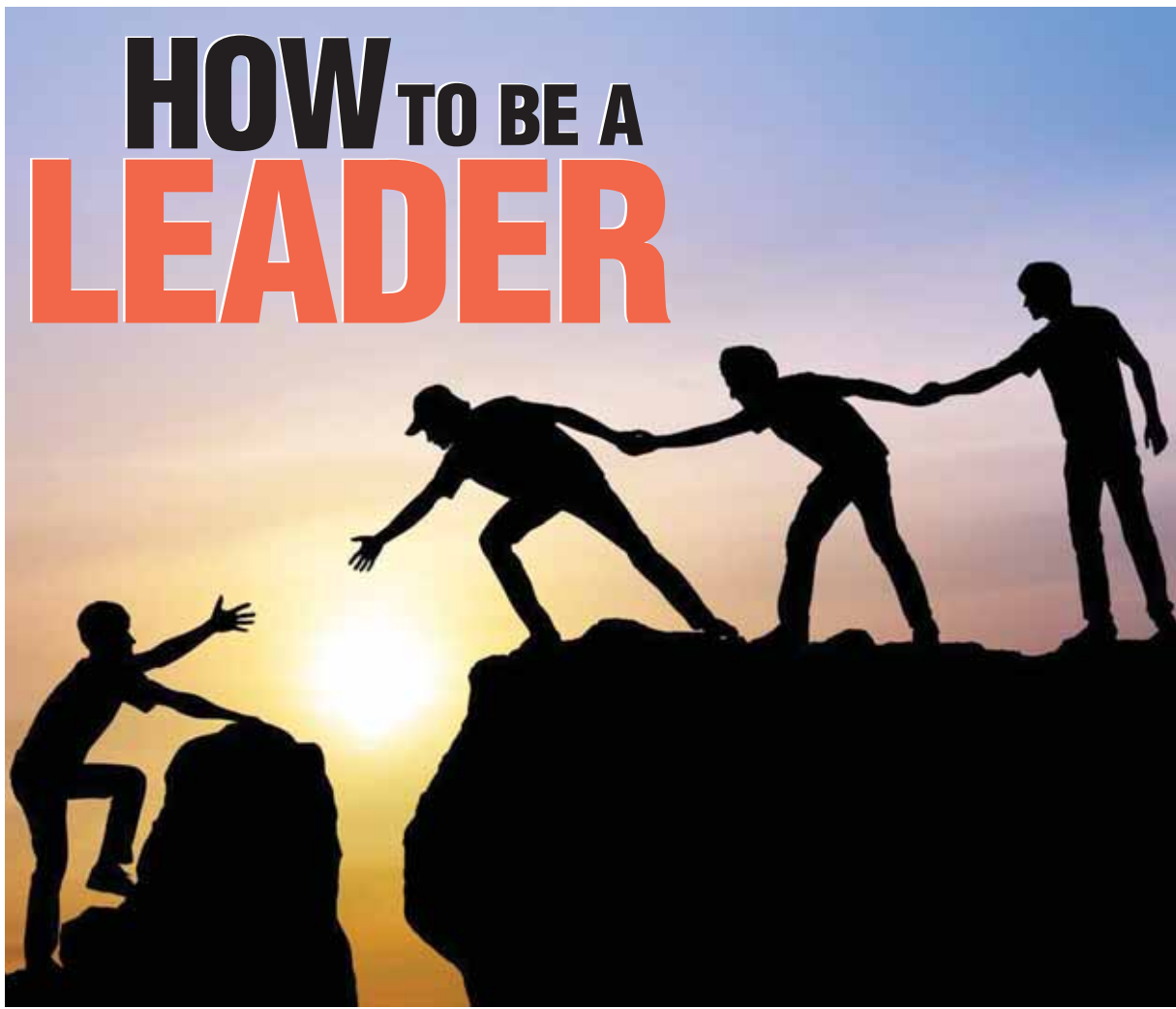
All the great leaders know how to balance between their personal and professional lives. They also focus on being well-planned in personal and professional life and are always focused on meticulous execution of their plan. The young generation of the modern era wants to achieve many things but is unable to put their efforts in the right direction. Some of them do not have the required qualities needed to become effective leaders. They need to analyse the required gaps in their personality and inculcate within them the required leadership qualities.

At the back of every successful business, there are exceptional qualities and optimal blend of human, technical and conceptual skills in the leaders who stand alone to run the business in the market and the effective leadership qualities make others support their decisions.

For becoming a great leader, you need to possess strong leadership qualities in your daily life which are as follows:

**Confidence:** For being a good leader you must possess confidence in your talk as well as work that makes others follow the steps, which will be only possible through your courage. Being a confident person, you can easily tackle the problems alone and should be willing to take the risk on your own for the achievement of the envisioned goals of the organisation.

**Execution skills:** Strategic planning and operational plans can be accomplished by the best and focused execution skills. Leaders are required to have specialised skills of executing the plans by concerted and collaborative efforts of all internal and external stakeholders. The greatest aspects of the successful person are to envision the results before executing them, based on the market trends or evaluation of the economy, industry and allied aspects. In this pandemic situation where the economy is drastically getting worse, the leader with execution qualities can manage this situation and convert the situation of problem into



an opportunity. Execution skills differentiate the leader from all others.

**Effective communication skills:** Another trait of the best leaders is to communicate effectively and persuasively if talking in front of a large number of internal or external stakeholders. The leaders who have fear of public speaking should get rid of this fear or anxiety at the earliest by consistent practice. The written and verbal communication of the leaders makes a phenomenal difference in motivating and retaining competent and skilled professionals in modern times.

Communication is developed by consistent exchange of verbal or non-verbal ideas and information among all groups of internal and external stakeholders.

**Clear vision:** Being a leader, clarity of vision must be there which is fruitful for the company's growth and future. The leaders are expected to be confident, optimistic, motivated, enthusiastic, and be an unending source of inspiration for the employees. If you are thinking of making the changes in your surrounding atmosphere, the vision, mission, goals and objectives of the organisation must be clear, along with the envisioned ultimate results to be achieved with

## HOW TO BE A LEADER

**A leader is expected to be clear about the need, choice and essential actions in life. Clarity in the vision, mission, goals and objectives will give the path to think about the future goals and actions to be taken**

the concerted efforts and why the change is required.

As we know, an empty mind is considered to be the devil's workshop; therefore the leader is expected to engage the empty minds in meaningful works and assignments with focus on creativity and innovation. A leader is expected to be clear about the need, choice, and essential actions in life. Clarity in the vision, mission, goals and objectives will give the path to think about the future goals and actions to be taken.

**Learning:** If a leader is not aware of the surroundings and is not updated with the new topics, many things may go out of control. Great leaders always know about their strength of leadership qualities, and have the ability to adapt to changing circumstances and have the optimal blend of knowledge, skills and competencies to work smartly and grasp the opportunities in changing times and circumstances. Having a desire to learn new things will always make the leader develop social and emotional intelligence which will contribute to decision-making as a leader.

The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Sanskriti University

## ‘Learning needn’t be compromised’

There are several institutes in the country offering courses in collaboration with international universities. This ensures that quality education is imparted to students, says DR JITIN CHADHA

As scientists, doctors, Governments and policy makers across the globe work to better understand the virus and tackle the consequences we are facing as a result of it, we need to ensure that education and learning does not get compromised. In the process of getting accustomed to this new normal, it has been crucial that we keep abreast with the changes and the demands these uncertain times present us with. Reworking traditional concepts of what education has meant in the past is more important than ever before as we embark on our journey forward.

Studying abroad is an avenue several students in India opt for. With the current travel restrictions, lockdown impositions and a plethora of other regulations, going abroad may not only seem like a daunting task but also appear out of reach. The unpredictability of these times may lead to a certain hesitance and apprehension regarding enrolling in an international university. Nonetheless, this should not translate into students having to alter their higher education plans and their career trajectories.

There are institutes in the country that offer courses in collaboration with leading international universities. This ensures that the quality of the education being imparted to the students is benchmarked against the best in the world. As global education is credit based, credits from these universities are accepted in any international university world over.

Following UG programme from India, students can apply to international universities for higher education having already fulfilled the credit prerequisites needed for their masters. In addition to this, due to the transferable credit structure, students can also decide to do a certain duration of the programme from India and the rest of it from the affiliated university abroad, offering a blended learning that is an amalgamation of the best features of both the worlds. By partnering with international universities, these institutes offer degrees that are recognised



Dr Jitin Chadha  
Director, Indian Institute of Art and Design

globally.

The courses are designed by faculty who are experts in their domains to ensure that students get the same kind of exposure, learning and develop similar skills that will hold them in good stead in the future.

The UG programmes normally span three to four years. Students can do their first year online from home and subsequently go on to pursue the rest of their course abroad. As an increasing number of people get vaccinated and the situation comes under control, travel restrictions will ease, visa application centres will open up and students will again have an opportunity to head outside the country to study.

International universities have also taken into consideration the situation that is afflicting people across the world and have taken several measures to accommodate students coming from countries that are heavily affected by the COVID-19. Most universities especially in Europe are still accepting international applicants. There is an increased flexibility in the way the courses are being planned and implemented.

Backed by a technology-driven transformation, the logistics sector has in recent years emerged as a leading contributor to the economy as well as a major employment generator. The sector in India is estimated to be a \$200 billion industry with a contribution of over 14 per cent to India's GDP. The post COVID economic transition has further boosted the growth of the sector while accelerating a digital transformation across the logistics chain — from warehousing to supply chain management right to the last mile delivery. As per an assessment by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) last year, logistics was among the five top employment generating sectors in the post

COVID economy in India (the others being tourism and hospitality, construction, information technology and telecom).

Interestingly, the pandemic and its aftermath have served to transform the logistics sector from a supporting service sector into an essential one. With the growth of e-commerce penetrating down to smaller towns and a large number of businesses shifting to online selling, the demand for efficient logistics services has surged over the past year. This has also given a major push for value addition, automation, resource optimisation, digitization and adoption of best practices for the logistics space.

**Surge in high skilled specialised jobs**

versity will be considered for this award.

**Application deadline:** It is November 15, 2021.



**Applications are invited for academic merit awards** at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh. Students of all nationalities are welcome to apply.

**Eligibility:** The students must be first-year applicants. The students must not be enrolled in any nursing programme.

**Supporting documents:** Submit: A letter of recommendation; High School transcripts; English Proficiency test; Bank Affidavits and Statements as evidence for financial support for the first year; Personal Essay for 250 words on questions related to SUNY.

**Admission requirements:** The students must have attained a minimum SAT score of 440 to be admitted to the university.

**Language requirement:** Submit the following English language proficiency test scores: TOEFL paper – 490 or higher; TOEFL Internet – 57 or higher; IELTS Academic – 5.5 or higher; British 'O' Level English Pass – E or higher; PTE (Pearson Test of English) – 45 or higher; Duolingo English test – 87 to 104

**How to apply:** The students must either register through the SUNY Application or the Common Application to complete the application process.

The students who are successfully accepted by the uni-

Applications are invited for Honjo International Scholarships available for foreign students to attend a graduate school at a Japanese university.

**Eligibility:** Must have been born after March 31, 1984. The student applying for the master's must have been born after March 31, 1989. Enrolled as of April 2021 or currently applying for the academic course starting from April 2021 at a graduate school in Japan. Have a strong will to serve in his home country after graduation. Have a deep understanding of international friendship and goodwill and must attend the events organised by the foundation and take part in the network as an alumni member. Must speak Japanese.

**Supporting documents:** Academic transcript (Japanese or English), Research Plan, A recommendation letter from the supervisor, Documents that prove admission.

**Admission requirements:** Have a previous degree.

**Language requirement:** Applicants from outside the home country will often need to meet specific English language/other language in order to be able to study.

**How to apply:** Submit an online application and upload the required documents.

**Application deadline:** It is October 31, 2021.

### CONTENT WRITING AT VAMOS DIGITAL

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/bbb98b](https://internshala.com/i/bbb98b)  
Deadline: May 12, 2021

### HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT SHUTTL

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/85cae3](https://internshala.com/i/85cae3)  
Application deadline: May 11, 2021

### DATA ENTRY AT GAN STUDIO

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/8ffbf10](https://internshala.com/i/8ffbf10)  
Deadline: May 12, 2021

### WEB DEV AT THEDIGITLERS

Location: Amritsar, Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Ludhiana  
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/06d463](https://internshala.com/i/06d463)  
Deadline: May 13, 2021

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT OCTANONE ORANGE TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Ranchi  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/556e4e](https://internshala.com/i/556e4e)  
Deadline: May 8, 2021

### FRESHER JOBS

#### PRODUCT ASSOCIATE - SCIENCE AT OPEN DOOR EDUCATION

Location: Remote  
Stipend: ₹3-₹4.8 lakh per annum  
Link: [internshala.com/i/15561e](https://internshala.com/i/15561e)  
Deadline: May 28, 2021  
Skill(s): MS-Office, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology

### FULL STACK DEVELOPER AT DAILYKI

Location: Delhi, Gurugram, Bengaluru  
Stipend: ₹5 lakh per annum  
Link: [internshala.com/i/f21e5c](https://internshala.com/i/f21e5c)  
Deadline: May 26, 2021  
Skill(s): Node.js, PostgreSQL, GitHub, ReactJS, Git Bash

## INBRIEF

### NEW TECHNIQUE TO DETECT NVC

Innovators at the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi have invented a method to simultaneously study the variations in nerve functions and brain blood flow associated with brain disorders like Ischemic stroke. The invented method helps in locating and classifying damaged sites (lesions) in the brain, brought about, or leading to neurological diseases.

The results of this study led by Dr Shubhajit Roy Chowdhury, Associate Professor, School of Computing & Electrical Engineering, IIT Mandi, has

been published in IEEE Journal

The team's invention is based on the fact that intricate interactions between nerve cells (neurons) and blood vessels (vasculature), called the NeuroVascular Coupling (NVC) that regulates blood flow in the brain. Timely detection of NVC is critical for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of such diseases.

“Our method uses a multi-modal brain stimulation system to differentially stimulate different components of the neurovascular unit (NVU) and observes the resultant electrical nerve signals by EEG (electroencephalography) and blood flow by near Infrared spectroscopy (NIRS),” explained Dr Chowdhury.

### ACCOLADES FOR FLAME UNIVERSITY

The FLAME University has been certified as a Great Place to Work for the year 2021-22. The certification

recognises the university for building a high trust and performance culture.

For an organisation to get certified,

70% or more of its employee respondents should rate the organisation as a great workplace by Great Place to Work Institute.

### HR CONCLAVE AT JK BUSINESS SCHOOL

The JK Business School (JKBS) organised an HR Conclave virtually this year.

An annual tradition, the B-School organises the conclave and brings top HR professionals on a single platform that deliberate insightful sessions on various aspects of the HR industry.

The theme for this year conclave was — The Future Workforce Reset-2021 and Beyond. The event gave students a chance to interact with the speakers and the esteemed audience, giving them an opportunity to experience industry trends up close and making them industry ready.

## MINDIT

While the need for optimising logistics costs and resources was always high, the post COVID environment has made it indispensable for logistics service providers to improve the predictability of the supply chain and make the entire logistics process transparent and trackable. The need for establishing automated warehouses, ushering in system upgradation in the entire supply chain and instituting enhanced navigation facilities is driving the next phase of growth of the logistics sector. The need to digitise and automate processes has

generated a growing demand for professionals with specialised skills such as digital adoption, data analysis, AI know how and automation, to name a few.

In the post COVID world, delivery providers have in many places toyed with the idea of robotic or drone deliveries of food and medicines. At the same time, as demand for same day or next day deliveries rises, the last mile delivery apparatus is being upgraded with tech-enabled solutions to optimise resources, predict order volumes and ensure route optimisation.

**Surging job opportunities in the logistics space:** Here are a few career opportunities that will find increasing resonance in the logistics space in the coming years:

**AI Professionals:** The use of Artificial Intelligence backed tools is enabling the logistics sector save time and costs by automating a series of manual tasks while helping optimise resources across the supply chain. AI Professionals are therefore in high demand to herald new algorithmic solutions, automated systems and predictive models for guiding the dynamic processes that are the need of the time.

**Data Analysts:** Like many other fields, Big Data and predictive analysis is

presenting a huge opportunity in the field of logistics, supply chain management and last mile delivery as well. Effective predictive analytical solutions helps service providers predict order volumes and analyse the behavioural patterns of customers. Similarly, predictive analysis allows logistics applications to achieve route optimization and streamline processes across the supply chain. Already, E-commerce companies are leveraging Big Data is a major way to achieve better targeting and customisation of their selling approaches. Professionals with data analysis skills are therefore likely to be a major draw in the logistics space.

The writer is Hemant Chandra, CEO, Pickkup, an enterprise-focused last mile delivery startup

### NATIONAL ADMISSION TEST

The Vidyamandir Classes (VMC) is holding the National Admission Test (NAT) online on May 9, 16 and 30, 2021 for 2021 batch. Besides holding the self-assessment test, VMC also rewards the toppers with a scholarship of up to ₹40,000. Students appearing for the exam can register latest by May 29, 2021.

This test is an online nationwide test conducted

to help students assess their current preparation level in comparison to their goal of cracking IIT/JEE & NEET 2021. The VMC treats NAT as an entrance exam conducted to grant admission to the aspirants in the institute.

To curb formation and spread of covid chain the Government has announced suspension of all offline coaching classes. Brij Mohan Gupta, Co-founder, Vidyamandir

Classes, said that the onset of the deadly second wave has compelled people to rethink of different ways to resume the new normal life. He highlighted that on the bright side, it has helped the institute in gaining perspective and enabling the future generation in honing their abilities from home.

For more information on NAT, students can visit the website [www.vidyamandir.com](http://www.vidyamandir.com).

### ADMISSION-CUM-SCHOLARSHIP TEST

The FIITJEE's CURATE — admission cum scholarship test is scheduled May 16, 2021 for Students of Class XI (JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2023 Aspirants). The test will be conducted in proctored online mode. It will help students to know their grasp on fundamentals and check conceptual knowledge.

Students can get to know their relative performance vis-à-vis their peers at the national level. The test will also provide students to get an external evaluation of their IQ specifically for JEE Main & JEE

Advanced. Students can get to know their strengths and weaknesses and areas that may require specific attention. The test will evaluate students' raw potential on the basis of which they may be selected to pursue studies at FIITJEE & get a chance to cultivate their potential to succeed in JEE Main & JEE Advanced.

The last date of registration is May 14, 2021. Students can collect the application forms either from the nearest FIITJEE centre or visit: [www.curate.fiitjee.com](http://www.curate.fiitjee.com) for online registration.

### SENSOR TO DETECT ANTI MICROBIAL POLLUTANTS

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras and the UK researchers have developed a paper-based sensor that can detect antimicrobial pollutants, which induce antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in water bodies. This sensor works on a see and tell mechanism making

it effective. Scientific community across the world are focused on AMR, which could possibly become a world-wide health crisis involving deadly pathogens. Water bodies are the major source for the dissemination and transfer of AMR. Monitoring is the

key to assess the current situation of AMR in India. The research was led by Professor S Pushpavanam, Institute Chair Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, and Dr. T Renganathan, Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering.



# IPL CALLED OFF



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Premier League was on Tuesday suspended indefinitely after multiple Covid-19 cases were reported in its bio-bubble, ending a month-long relatively smooth run for cricket's most glamorous and cash-rich event in the middle of a raging pandemic.

"The tournament has been suspended indefinitely. We will try to conduct the event in the next available window but this month is unlikely," league chairman Brijesh Patel said.

The announcement came after Sunrisers Hyderabad's wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha tested positive for Covid-19 along with Delhi Capitals' veteran spinner Amit Mishra. Hours after the postponement, CSK batting coach Michael Hussey also tested positive for the dreaded virus.

"...We will take stock if we can find a suitable window later during the year. It could be September but these are all speculations. As of now we are not conducting it any further," BCCI vice-president Rajiv Shukla said.

On Monday, Chennai Super Kings bowling coach Lakshminarayanan Balaji along with Kolkata Knight Riders bowlers Sandeep Warrier and Varun Chakravarthy had also returned positive results.

The spread of infections had led to postponement of two IPL games earlier.

The league organisers also issued a formal statement and said that safety of its players

ONE THING I WANT TO MAKE VERY CLEAR — IPL HAS NOT BEEN CANCELLED. IT HAS BEEN POSTPONED, SUSPENDED AND DEFERRED. THE REMAINING PART OF THIS IPL WILL HAPPEN. IN DUE COURSE, WHEN THE COVID SITUATION IMPROVES, A DECISION WILL BE TAKEN ABOUT IT.

— RAJEEV SHUKLA  
(BCCI VICE-PRESIDENT)

ers and staff is paramount.

"The Indian Premier League Governing Council (IPL GC) and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in an emergency meeting has unanimously decided to postpone IPL 2021 season, with immediate effect," the statement read.

"The BCCI does not want to compromise on the safety of the players, support staff and the other participants involved in organising the IPL. This decision was taken keeping the safety, health and well-being of all the stakeholders in mind," it added.

The IPL said BCCI will do all it can to ensure that players in the event get back to

their homes safely. IPL features stars from England, Australia, and New Zealand among other countries.

"These are difficult times, especially in India and while we have tried to bring in some positivity and cheer, however, it is imperative that the tournament is now suspended and everyone goes back to their families and loved ones in these trying times," the IPL stated.

"The BCCI will do everything in its powers to arrange for the secure and safe passage of all the participants in IPL 2021."

The tournament began on April 9 and ran smoothly before KKR's Covid-19 cases caused the initial jitters on Monday. The tournament final was planned for May 30.

There was cause of concern in Delhi too as a few groundsmen at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium tested positive even though DDCA chief Rohan Jaitley asserted that "none of the groundsmen on duty" were among the infected.

## REMAINING MATCHES IN SEPT?

According to Cricbuzz, an official said that the board could look at the September window after England's tour of India is complete and before the T20 World Cup scheduled in India for October-November.

"A September window is being considered. By then the England-India series would be over and the foreign players would be ready for the T20 World Cup. That small window is being explored," said a franchise official who is in know.

## We'll find way to send back foreign players: IPL chairman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IPL chairman Brijesh Patel on Tuesday said the BCCI will "find a way" to send the league's foreign recruits back to their respective countries after the event was suspended indefinitely due to a Covid-19 outbreak in its bio-bubble.

"We need to send them home and we will find a way to do that," Brijesh told PTI when asked how will the foreigners return home but did not elaborate beyond that.

The foreigners involved in the lucrative league are concerned about returning to their respective countries due to travel restrictions.

imposed in the wake of a deadly resurgence of the pandemic in India.

The BCCI had assured foreign players of a safe return earlier as well.

The IPL had 14 Australian players left, after three pullouts a few days ago, along with 10 from New Zealand and 11 Englishmen. South Africa had 11 players in the league, which also featured nine West Indians, three Afghans and two from Bangladesh.

In a joint statement, Cricket Australia and the Australian Cricketers Association said they respect their Government's decision to suspend flights operating out of India due to the Covid surge here and will not seek exemptions for its players stuck in the country ravaged by a deadly second wave of the pandemic.

"CA is in direct contact with the BCCI as they work through plans to ensure the safe accommodation and repatriation of Australian players, coaches, match officials and commentators back home to Australia."

— CRICKET AUSTRALIA

"The players are in a relatively safe environment and those within affected teams are in isolation. We'll continue to liaise with the BCCI, the ECB and New Zealand Government authorities in terms of managing their situation."

— NEW ZEALAND CRICKET

"CSA has made contact with all of the relevant franchises to ensure the expedited travel of all South African players and support staff back to our shores. Those travelling back to South Africa will undergo home quarantine in line."

— CRICKET SOUTH AFRICA

tion of Australian players, coaches, match officials and commentators back home to Australia.

"CA and the ACA respect the decision of the Australian Government to pause travel from India until at least May 15 and will not seek exemptions."

They further stated, "CA and the ACA thank the BCCI for their efforts and cooperation for the safe repatriation of all participants at the IPL."

Reacting to the big BCCI move, Cricket South Africa said it is in contact with its players who will need to home quarantine on arrival from India as per the World Health Organization recommendations. "Those travelling back to South Africa will undergo home quarantine in line with the current World Health Organization recommendations," it said in a release.

"CSA and the South African Cricketers Association (SACA) are in contact with all players and are assured of their safety and comfort in their

respective locations."

CSA said it supported the BCCI decision of suspend the league keeping in mind the current situation and thanked the Indian board for looking after its players.

"CSA supports the decision to put the health and safety interests of all involved in the tournament first and foremost and has made contact with all of the relevant franchises to ensure the expedited travel of all South African players and support staff back to our shores."

New Zealand Cricket expressed faith in BCCI's ability to handle the situation.

"The players are in a relatively safe environment and those within affected teams are in isolation," read an NZC statement posted by ESPNcricinfo. "We'll continue to liaise with the BCCI, the ECB and New Zealand government authorities in terms of managing their situation — but at this juncture it's too early to discuss potential options."

## Oz players, support staff might fly off to Maldives

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With their country shut for all those flying from India, the now suspended IPL's Australian contingent, comprising players, support staff and commentators, is expected to head to Maldives before taking a connecting flight for home.

There are 14 Australian players along with coaches and commentators who might now take a detour as the Australian Government has imposed strict sanctions for people returning from India.

"A mass exodus of Australian players, coaches and support staff to the Maldives is the expected remedy to a dilemma created by the postponement of the 2021 IPL and the current closure of the Australian border to citizens



currently in India during its rampant Covid-19 outbreak," ESPNcricinfo reported.

"There are close to 40 Australians in the IPL bubble comprising players, coaching staff and commentators," it added.

"The likes of Pat Cummins, Steven Smith, Glenn Maxwell,

Ricky Ponting, Simon Katich and company are expected to join commentator Michael Slater, who had already headed to the Maldives as a temporary post..."

Premier pacer Pat Cummins, who is contracted with KKR, called the situation unprecedented.

"Once we flew out of Australia we knew we'd signed up for 14 days quarantine coming home so you feel a bit further from getting home, but when the hard border shut no one has ever experienced that before," Pat Cummins told The Back Page on Fox Sports.

"(It has) added a bit of anxiety for the Aussies over here but we signed up to play the tournament until the start of June so hopefully it all reopens on May 15 and we can get back," Cummins added.



'Daddy, come home'

New Delhi: Australia opener David Warner shared an emotional message sent to him from his family back home after IPL 2021 was postponed indefinitely on Tuesday. Warner took to social media to share the message with his followers.

"Please daddy, come home straight away. We miss you and a lot and love you. Love from Ivy, Indi and Isla," the message in Warner's post read. PNS

## BCCI set to incur losses of over ₹2000 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI stands to lose over ₹2000 crore of the broadcast and sponsorship money earmarked for this year's Indian Premier League which was indefinitely postponed on Tuesday.

"We would be losing anything between ₹2000 to ₹2500 crore for the midway postponement of this season. I would say something in the range of ₹2200 crore will be closer to accurate estimation," a senior BCCI official told PTI.

The 52-day 60-match tournament would have concluded in Ahmedabad on May 30. However, only 24 days of cricket was possible with 29 completed games before the virus halted proceedings.

The biggest loss for BCCI is the money it gets from Star Sports for the broadcast rights of the tournament.

## Players' payment would be based on duration

In case players are available only for a part of the tournament, the salaries are paid on pro-rata basis which means "assigning an amount to one person according to their share of the whole."

However, a senior player said that pro-rata is only

applicable when a player voluntarily makes himself available for only a part of the tournament based on the matches available.

In this case, the organisers have halted the event so the franchises are likely to pay for at least half of the season.

Star has a five-year contract worth ₹16,347 crore which is ₹3269.4 crore per year. If there are 60 games in a season, the per match valuation comes to approximately ₹54.5 crore.

If Star pays per match, then the amount for 29 matches would be ₹1580 crore approximately out of what would have been ₹3270 crore for a full tournament. This

means a loss of ₹1690 crore for the Board.

Similarly, mobile manufacturers VIVO, as tournament's title sponsors, pay ₹440 crore per season and BCCI is likely to get less than half of that amount because of the postponement.

Add to it, associate sponsor companies like Unacademy, Dream11, CRed,

Upstox, and Tata Motors, who pay in the range of ₹120 crore each. Some subsidiary sponsors are also there.

"Slash all the payments by half or a bit less and you will be reaching a loss in the range of 2200 crore. The actual losses could be much more but this is a back of the hand calculation for the season," the official said.

The loss of a substantial amount of money will also reduce the central revenue pool for the season (the money that BCCI distributes among eight franchises) to nearly half.

The official, however, didn't divulge how much each franchise would lose due to the suspension of the tournament.

"It is difficult to say what kind of sponsorship and co-sponsorship money they earned this season as the economic climate has been pretty hostile," he said.

## T20 World Cup set for UAE shift

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

This year's T20 World Cup is set to be moved from India to the UAE with the BCCI acknowledging that none of the participating teams would be "comfortable" coming here because "a third wave" of Covid-19 cases is expected at the time of the event.

While a final decision will be taken in a month's time but it is understood that even the Indian cricket board is jittery about holding the 16-team tournament in October-November after the ongoing IPL had to be suspended because of multiple Covid-19 cases inside the bio-bubble.

It is learnt BCCI officials have had very recent discussions with some of the top decision-makers in the central Government and a shift to the UAE has been more or less agreed upon. The dates of the marquee competition, which was planned across nine venues, have not yet been finalised.

"The suspension of IPL within four weeks is an indicator that it's not really safe to host a global event of that magnitude at a time when the



country is fighting its worst health crisis in last 70 years," a senior BCCI source privy to development said.

"There is a chance of a third wave hitting the Indian

shores in November. So while BCCI will remain the hosts, the tournament will probably shift to the UAE," he added.

Health experts have warned of a third wave in India

in September.

The dire situation in India, where a daily addition of over 3 lakh new cases has continued for the past many days, has shaken most of the member boards and the ICC is unlikely to take a risk with safety of International cricket teams.

"You can be rest assured that most of the top nations wouldn't like to tour India within next six months unless the situation comes to normalcy. The players and their families would be very wary to travel if they are in the middle of another surge."

"So expect BCCI to agree with shift of tournament to UAE," another source also chipped in.

He said IPL's suspension after a string of positive cases has made the officialdom very jittery of taking any more risks.

"The IPL in India was a platform to prove to the world as well as participating nations that it is safe to host a tournament even when the second wave is hitting its peak."

"It was going well but the bio bubble has now become porous. What's the guarantee it won't happen again in

October-November. Nations like Australia, England and New Zealand are almost certain to have travel advisories in place," he argued.

One of the biggest reasons for conducting the tournament in the UAE is that it can be kept to three grounds — Sharjah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi — and there is no air travel.

"Look six venues for IPL was always a dangerous proposition when they successfully managed with three during the last edition," the source said.

"In UAE, all of them were in one bubble from start to finish while here each team was travelling to three bubbles. Most of the positive cases emerged after bubble travel."

"Therefore even if you reduce the number of venues from 9 to 5 in October, still there will be air travel unlike UAE. Also for players, they would not be mentally in a space to play in India unless the situation drastically improves," he added.

There is an ICC meeting in June where a final decision will be taken but retaining the tournament in India after cancellation of IPL seems far-fetched at this point.

## short passes

### HALEP KNOCKED OUT

MADRID: World No 3 Simona Halep was dumped out of the Madrid Open, losing 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 in the round of 16 to Elise Mertens.

### 4 INDIANS IN 'THE HUNDRED'

NEW DELHI: The BCCI has granted NCCs to four Indian women cricketers, including T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur, to play in the inaugural 'Hundred' tournament in the UK.

### BFI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEAD

NEW DELHI: The Boxing Federation of India's Executive Director R K Sacheti died on Tuesday after battling Covid-19. He was 56.

### INDIA'S MATCHES POSTPONED

LAUSANNE: India's upcoming FIH Hockey Pro League away fixtures against Spain & Germany later this month have been postponed due to the international travel restrictions.

### SEVILLA'S TITLE HOPES DENTED

SEVILLE: Sevilla's chances of winning La Liga could be over after they suffered a 0-1 defeat by Athletic Bilbao on Monday night.

### WEST HAM STAY IN TOP 4 HUNT

LONDON: West Ham maintained their bid for a place in next season's CL as Michail Antonio scored twice to beat Burnley 2-1.

### 26-PLAYER SQUADS FOR EUROS

LAUSANNE: UEFA said on Tuesday it would allow expanded 26-man squads at Euro 2020.

### PARMA RELEGATED

TURIN: Parma were relegated from Serie A on Monday after a 1-0 defeat at Torino. Agencies



## Mourinho takes Roma job

Rome: Jose Mourinho is back.

The Portuguese manager, who was sacked by Tottenham Hotspur in late April, will return to the touchline next season after being introduced as the new manager of AS Roma, the Serie A club announced on Tuesday.

Mourinho agreed to a three-year contract and will officially take charge ahead of the 2021-22 campaign.

"After meetings with the ownership and Tiago Pinto, I immediately understood the full extent of their ambitions for AS Roma," Mourinho said.

"It is the same ambition and drive that has always motivated me and together we want to build a winning project over the upcoming years. "The incredible passion of the Roma fans convinced me to accept the job and I cannot wait to start next season."

Mourinho will replace Paulo Fonseca, who will leave at the end of the season after two years in charge.

AP