

**OPINION 8**  
RESTORING SANITY IN NATIONAL NARRATIVE

**WORLD 11**  
US TAKING 'VERY CLOSE LOOK' AT VACCINE PASSPORTS

**SPORT 14**  
TOKYO HOPES OVER FOR SAINA & SRIKANTH

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY MAY 29, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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IT'S OK TO NOT FEEL OK: SAMEERA 12 VIVACITY

## Amnesty scheme for small taxpayers

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Currently, Covid vaccines attract 5 per cent GST.

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

Sitharaman said the Council decided to continue



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

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

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

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

avail the exemption," said Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj.

The Centre will borrow ₹1.58 trillion in FY22 to compensate states for loss of revenue from GST, added the Minister.

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

Continued on Page 11

## Dominican court stops Choksi's repatriation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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## Most States OK Class XII board exams after shots

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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## SC to hear on May 31 plea to cancel exams

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

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

## CAPSULE

### MSY ASKS AKHILESH FOR PATCH-UP WITH SHIVPAL

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

### KERALA HC QUASHES GOVT ORDER ON SCHOLARSHIP

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

### NCB ARRESTS SUSHANT'S FLATMATE FROM HY'BAD

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

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

PNS ■ KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 11

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

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

## Snubbed by Mamata, Centre recalls Bengal Chief Secy

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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



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

to the DoPT by 10am on May 31, 2021".

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

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

## India will be vaccinated by year end, says Govt

Health Ministry has prepared a blueprint with 216 crore doses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Javadekar drew Rahul Gandhi's attention to a Union Health Ministry "blueprint" that, he said, would ensure the vaccination of 108 crore people by December, and reminded him "India is the second-fastest in vaccinating its people" and over 20 crore doses have



been administered so far.

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

He also accused State Governments, many of which have frantically red-flagged low vaccine stocks over the past weeks, of "not taking the quota

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL CASES:	2,77,18,520 (+1,64,275)
DEATHS:	3,22,364 (+3,440)
RECOVERED:	2,51,68,616 (+2,71,470)
ACTIVE:	22,16,425
MAHA:	56,92,920 (+20,740)
K'TAKA:	25,46,821 (+22,823)
KERALA:	24,70,873 (+22,318)
UP:	16,86,138 (+2,276)
DELHI:	14,23,690 (+1,141)

for 18-44 age group given to them from May 1".

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

Continued on Page 11

## Hooch claims 13 lives in Aligarh

3 Excise officials suspended; 4 held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/ALIGARH

Thirteen people died after consuming spurious liquor in Aligarh on Thursday night prompting Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to suspend three officials of the Excise Department, including the Aligarh district excise officer, and ordered stern action against all those involved in the crime. However, villagers put the toll at 24.

This tragedy comes at the heels of a similar incident in Ayodhya and Azamgarh around a fortnight back when over two dozen persons had died in the hooch tragedy.

According to police, four people have been arrested so far



in connection with the hooch tragedy. Among those arrested included a salesman of the outlet from where the spurious liquor was sold.

As per the reports, victims had consumed illicit liquor from Government-run country-made liquor shops in the district on Thursday.

Six people are also in a critical condition and were admitted to the state-run hospital.

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## International flights to remain suspended till June 30: DGCA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday said suspension of international passenger flights will continue till June 30.

This restriction will not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by DGCA. Given the rise in Covid-19 cases during the second wave of the pandemic, several countries have banned flights from India under the air bubble pact till the situation improves.

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

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

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

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

## SC directs State Govts to adopt children orphaned by Covid-19 pandemic

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed all State Governments to take charge of children who have been orphaned in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose, while hearing a suo motu case regarding protection of children from Covid-19 in child care institutions, also directed the States to provide data of orphaned kids and relief measures taken.

Amicus Curiae Gaurav Agarwal submitted that two categories of children were in need of immediate protection. "The first category is of children who have lost their parents and guardians. The



**The Bench in its order noted that the pandemic has created an unprecedented situation and has a cascading effect on vulnerable children.**

next is children who have lost parents or guardians who were earning members," Agarwal said.

The Bench in its order noted that the pandemic has created an unprecedented situation and has a cascading effect on vulnerable children. The apex court further ordered that States should

take charge of children and address their basic needs without waiting for its official order.

"It has been brought to our notice that there are a large number of children who have become orphans due to the demise of the breadwinner or both parents. We are informed by ASG Aishwarya Bhati and

counselor NCPDR that a portal named BalSwaraj is being operated by all concerned district authorities and have been given password to access and upload information pertaining to identification of children who became orphans. District authorities are directed to upload information about children who have become orphans after March 2020 by Saturday (tomorrow) evening, 8 pm," the Order said, asking the States to act through the District administrations immediately.

State Governments have been asked to file their replies to the application, latest by Sunday evening, so that the Amicus can prepare a note by collating and submitting it to Court by Monday evening.

# Role of village heads key in fight against COVID-19: CM Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Interacting with the newly-elected village pradhans, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said their role is very important at a time when the state's fight against corona has reached a decisive stage.

"Be vigilant and make your villagers aware about Covid. It is heartening that in our survey, 68 per cent of the villages were found to have zero infection, but we still have to be cautious," the CM said here on Friday.

He asked the pradhans to keep an eye on anyone coming from outside. "Take full care. Inspire the message of 'My village corona-free village' to be the goal of every villager. For this, there should be a sense of healthy competition in the panchayats too," CM said.

"Our priority is to save both life and livelihood. The Centre and state government are making arrangements for ensuring food for all. Free ration will be given in June



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath interacting with newly-elected village pradhans on Friday

and July and will be extended till August," he said, adding that the pradhans should ensure that not a single eligible person is deprived of

ration. The CM congratulated the village heads and said that the panchayati raj system is the most important link in the democratic system. "This is

the basis of the strength of our democracy. I am happy that many village heads started working closely with the monitoring committees immedi-

ately after the results without waiting for the formalities. Recently I went to Saharanpur, where I saw that a woman village pradhan down with Covid

was providing food to people from her home. Many such inspiring works are being done all over the state," the CM noted. "As village heads, all of you are the chairman of the monitoring committees of your villages. Our monitoring committees have done a very good job so far. You all screened people and gave them medical kits as per the need, got tests and quarantine done. Monitoring committees have infrared thermometers, sanitizers. Now, under your supervision, this work will go faster," the CM said.

He asked the pradhans to make all the necessary efforts to make their villages smart villages. "There should be a competition. There should be a college, a playground, a hospital, good roads. There is no shortage of funds," the CM said.

"Construct village secretariat in every gram panchayat. There should be Internet facilities and seating arrangements for banking sakhis. Install a public address system.

If there is any need, the government will help you," Yogi said. "Make people aware so that they get tested and vaccinated. Take people to the Common Service Centres, get them registered for vaccinations," he added.

## Govt aims to vaccinate 1 cr people next month

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

Currently running a vaccination drive for 18 plus category in 23 districts, the government aims to spread the drive to all 75 districts of the state in three days. As a part of the CM's strategy, the COVID Vaccinations Centres (CVC) are being categorised in order to proceed a smooth and swift vaccination.

At least four workplace vaccination centres will be established in each district; one for the district court, two



for government offices and one for the journalist and media personnel along with employees of the Information department. In densely populated districts, one or two extra centres will be set up for bank workers, railway and transport department employees in order to boost the vaccination drive. Besides, there will be a separate centre for the 45+ category.

Focusing primarily on the rural areas, two CVCs will be established in each district intending to vaccinate over 100 villagers a day. Besides, CHCs and PHCs have completed all arrangements in this regard and surveillance committees are also going door to door, encouraging people to get vaccinated.

Two 'Guardian Special' booths will be set up in every district for the 18+ category as the government aims to vaccinate around 100 parents of children under the age group of 12 years in each booth. The comprehensive vaccination drive will substantially reduce the risk of infection and help Uttar Pradesh counter the pandemic challenges more effectively.

According to official data, Uttar Pradesh has administered around 1.73 crore jabs so far, of which over 1.39 crore were first doses. Around 35 lakh people have been fully vaccinated. In the category of 18-44 years, around 16.69 lakh people have been given the jabs so far.

According to official data, Uttar Pradesh has administered around 1.73 crore jabs so far, of which over 1.39 crore were first doses. Around 35 lakh people have been fully vaccinated. In the category of 18-44 years, around 16.69 lakh people have been given the jabs so far.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**NOTICE**

Notify that I have changed the spelling of my name from Dhruv Agarwal to Dhruv Agarwal for all purposes. Dhruv Agarwal S/o Dinesh Chandra Agarwal 304, Palace Court Apartment, 6/6 Mall Avenue Lucknow-226001

**NOTICE**

It is informed that my wife name is Kusum Lata Shakywar and her Date of Birth is 04/07/1975. It has been mentioned in Aadhar Card but inadvertently it has been mentioned in school certificate so it is deemed to be corrected as Kusum Lata Shakywar W/o Shakywar Mathura Prasad DOB-04/07/1975 for all purposes.

**NOTICE**

Notify that I have changed name spelling of my son from Kritin Agarwal to Kritini Agarwal & Father(Myself) Dhruv Agarwal to Dhruv Agarwal & Mother's Anshi Agarwal to Anshee Agarwal for all purposes. Dhruv Agarwal 304 Palace Court Apartment, 6/6 Mall Avenue Lucknow-226001

**NOTICE**

Be it known to all that my name mentioned in my son Gaurav Srivastava High School (I.C.S.C. Board) 2019 Marksheet & Certificate written as Prashant Srivastava But my correct name is Prashant Kumar Srivastava. In future I shall be known as Prashant Kumar Srivastava S/o Mr. K.K. Srivastava R/o 14/682, Indira Nagar, Lucknow.

**NOTICE**

I, DHARMENDRA KUMAR VERMA, No. JC283588M Rank NB Sub. (DMT) R/o Village Dithuma Post Dundpur Tehsil - Bighapur P.S. Bara Sagwar Dist. Unnao (U.P.) My Father's Correct Name is Lakhani Lal & Date of Birth is 15-04-1946 as Aadhar Card and My Mother's Name Rama Devi & Date of Birth 01.01.1952 as per Aadhar Card vide affidavit No. 23AE 798948 dated 24.05.2021 Before SDM Court / Notary Public Unnao.

## 'Government prepared to combat third wave of deadly infection'

Lucknow (PNS): Amidst the looming spectre of third Covid wave, the Uttar Pradesh government has made all arrangements to combat the situation for which 100-bed Paediatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs) are being set up in every medical college across the state. Scientists and experts have apprehend that in the third corona wave, children are likely to be the worst-affected and hence the focus is on upgrading the medical infrastructure with special focus on paediatric treatment.

"One PICU has been established in KGMU at Lucknow while work for another PICU is in progress, which is being reviewed on a daily basis. Along with the establishment of PICU wards, a phased training programme of paediatricians, anaesthetists, technicians and para-medical staff will be conducted from June 1 under the guidance of SGPGI, Lucknow. Besides virtual, phys-

ical training should also be arranged for more and more doctors and paramedical staff," Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said while addressing a high-level meeting in Lucknow on Friday. "The system of mini PICUs at the CHCs and PICUs at medical colleges and district hospitals was found to be useful in protecting children from encephalitis and other vector-borne diseases. In the light of the present crisis, the facility of mini PICUs should help in controlling the third Covid wave," he said.

At the meeting, the chief minister asked officials to ensure sufficient availability of medical aids required for the treatment of COVID-19 and also ensure separate ambulances for children. A committee of doctors, headed by the director of SGPGI, Lucknow, has been made to ensure quality treatment to affected children.

## Sugarcane department sanitising all regions amid pandemic

Lucknow (PNS): UP Sugarcane department has been conducting sanitisation in all sugarcane regions across the state for combating the second Covid wave and being assisted in the endeavour by sugar mills in all the regions.

Cane Commissioner Sanjay Bhoosreddy said in Lucknow on Friday that for the prevention of corona infection, continuous spraying of sanitiser was being done in cane regions and farmers were also being made aware about the preventive measures.

"This work is being done continuously in all sugar mill areas of the state so that people remained safe," he said.

"In collaboration with sugar mills, the Cane Development department has sanitised 585 villages, 128 towns and 393 public offices in Saharanpur zone; 194 villages, 18 towns, 139 public offices in Meerut zone; 224 villages, 20 towns, 358 public offices in Moradabad; 152 villages, 10



towns, 109 public offices in Bareilly; 143 villages, 41 towns, 511 public offices in Lucknow; 136 villages, 58 towns, 208 public offices in Devidipatan; 21 villages, eight towns, 36 public offices in Ayodhya; 25 villages, five towns, 66 public offices in Gorakhpur; and 135 villages, 55 towns, 168 public offices in Deoria zone," the cane commissioner said.

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

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**E-TENDER NOTICE**

No.3090/11Kam-B-Praya.Circle/2020 (Kau) Date: 18-05-2021

1. The S.E., Prayagraj Circle, P.W.D., Prayagraj on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate online bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD in 'class A, B, C, as the can be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	District	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.)	Time of Completion (Month)
1	Kaushambi	Special Repair of Newada to Ludhaur Road (Ch 0 to 500) Construction of CC Road and Drain in Abadi Portion.	44.44	4.22	2000/- 300/- stationery charge +GST-2336.00	2 Month
2	Kaushambi	New Construction of Gram Sabha Tikara Majra Dheraha me Jhagadu Mehtar ke Char se Amrita Kewat ke ghar Tik.	74.99	5.75	2000/- 300/- stationery charge +GST-2336.00	6 Month
3	Kaushambi	New Construction of Mooratganj Rajapur Km 39 to Rahavani ka Purwa Road	59.75	4.99	2000/- 300/- stationery charge +GST-2336.00	6 Month

3. Time allowed for completion of each work as mentioned in column no.7, including rainy season.  
4. Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB). Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB).  
5. Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 08-06-2021 to 14-06-2021 upto 12:00 Hours. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before 18:00 Hours on 14-06-2021 according to Govt Order No.142020/87923-7-2020-176 Dt.25-08-2020 through Prashant App <http://www.up.gov.in/Prashant>. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 15-06-2021 at 12:30 Hours.  
6. The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.

Executive Engineer Construction Division, P.W.D. Kaushambi (A.K. Dwivedi) Superintending Engineer Prayagraj Circle, U.P. P.W.D., Prayagraj For and on behalf of Governor of U.P.

UP- 163843 Date- 24.5.2021 गिारन वेवसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर पारलषा हे।

**कार्यालय आबकारी आयुक्त, मध्यप्रदेश, मोतीमहल, ग्वालियर**

Email: [ec.ecogwl@mp.nic.in](mailto:ec.ecogwl@mp.nic.in) कैम्प भोपाल, दिनांक 28.05.2021

**विज्ञापित**

सर्वसाधारण को जानकारी एवं आबकारी फुटकर ठेकेदारों को विशेष जानकारी के लिए राज्य शासन के निर्देशानुसार यह सूचना प्रकाशित की जाती है कि वर्ष 2021-22 को शेष अवधि अर्थात् दिनांक 01 जून, 2021 से 31 मार्च, 2022 तक के लिये मध्यप्रदेश के विभिन्न जिलों में नवीनीकरण, प्रथम चरण एवं द्वितीय चरण टेंडर से शेष बची देशी/विदेशी मदिरा को फुटकर मदिरा को दुकानों/एकल समूहों का निष्पादन को कार्यवाही ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से निष्पन्न आरक्षित मूल्य पर, संबंधित जिले के कलेक्टर की अध्यक्षता में गठित जिला समिति द्वारा इस कार्यालय के पत्र क्रमांक 7-तेका/2021-22/36/150 ग्वालियर दिनांक 15.05.2021 एवं वाणिज्यिक कर विभाग मध्यप्रदेश शासन के पत्र क्रमांक एफ.-जी-01-16/2021/2/पांच, भोपाल दिनांक 20.05.2021 द्वारा जारी निर्देशानुसार शर्तें एवं निबन्धनों के अधीन को जारी है।

वर्ष 2021-22 को शेष अवधि के लिये मदिरा दुकानों/एकल समूहों के निष्पादन कार्यक्रम एवं तिथियां निम्नानुसार होंगी :-

1	ई-टेंडर हेतु ऑनलाईन टेंडर प्रपत्र डाउनलोड एवं ई-टेंडर ऑफर सबमिट करने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 29 मई, 2021 को प्रातः 10 बजे से 31 मई, 2021 अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे तक।
2	ई-टेंडर हेतु ऑनलाईन टेंडर प्रपत्र खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	31 मई, 2021 अपरान्ह 03.05 बजे से
3	जिला समिति द्वारा ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से निराकरण किये जाने की तिथि एवं समय	टेंडर खोलने की प्रक्रिया पूर्ण होने पर।

वर्ष 2021-22 को शेष अवधि हेतु निष्पादित की जा रही मदिरा दुकानों/एकल समूहों के निष्पादन के लिये ई-टेंडर प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने हेतु बेस मूल्य (आधार मूल्य) की अनिवार्यता नहीं होगी। ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से निष्पादित होने वाली मदिरा दुकानों के एकल समूहों के संबंध में आवश्यक जानकारी जिलेवार ई-टेंडर सुविधा प्रदाता NIC के पोर्टल (<https://mptenders.gov.in>) पर ऑफर दे सकते हैं।

(राजीव चन्द्र दुबे) आबकारी आयुक्त मध्यप्रदेश

G-12881/21 दो गज की दूरी, मास्क हे ज़रूरी।

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No.: 144/2021**  
**Important Notice for the Rail Passengers**

It is notified for information of General Public that Extension of running period/Cancellation of following Summer Special trains will be done as under:-

**(1) Extension of running period of Trains**

Sl.	Train No.	Day & Dates of Runs
1	01329 Pune-Gorakhpur Special Train	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday Date 01-06-2021, 03-06-2021, 05-06-2021, 08-06-2021, 10-06-2021, 12-06-2021 & 15-06-2021
2	01330 Gorakhpur-Pune Special Train	Thursday, Saturday, Monday Date 03-06-2021, 05-06-2021, 07-06-2021, 10-06-2021, 12-06-2021, 14-06-2021 & 17-06-2021
3	01359 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T)-Gorakhpur Spl. Train	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday Date 02-06-2021, 04-06-2021, 06-06-2021, 07-06-2021, 09-06-2021, 11-06-2021, 13-06-2021 & 14-06-2021
4	01360 Gorakhpur-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) Spl. Train	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday, Tuesday Date 04-06-2021, 06-06-2021, 08-06-2021, 09-06-2021, 11-06-2021, 13-06-2021, 15-06-2021 & 16-06-2021
5	01365 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T)-Chhapra Spl. Train	Saturday Date 05-06-2021 & 12-06-2021
6	01366 Chhapra-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) Spl. Train	Monday Date 07-06-2021 & 14-06-2021
7	01355 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Gorakhpur Spl. Train	Tuesday Date 01-06-2021, 08-06-2021 & 15-06-2021
8	01356 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Spl. Train	Thursday Date 03-06-2021, 10-06-2021 & 17-06-2021

Additional special Trains on existing composition & Stoppage are same as earlier notified.

Please Note:- (1) These train will run with full reserved accommodation. (2) It is Mandatory for the passengers to follow the guidelines issued for prevention and safety from Covid-19.

**(2) Cancellation**

Sr. No.	Train No.	Earlier Cancelled	Further Extended Cancellation
1	02179 Lucknow Jn.-Agra Fort	15-05-2021 to 31-05-2021	01-06-2021 to 30-06-2021
2	02180 Agra Fort-Lucknow Jn.	15-05-2021 to 31-05-2021	01-06-2021 to 30-06-2021

CPRO-T-60A Chief Pass. Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

**Never travel on roof and foot boards.**

**U.P.RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD, OBRA-SONEBHADRA**  
**E-Tender Notice**

1. Tender No: TO-445/SE(MMC-II)/PD-II/OTPS/21-22 Online e-Bids are invited for "PVC plastic sheet for coal yard BTPS", Obra Thermal power Station, Obra. E-tender has been uploaded on 25.05.2021. On <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of material approximately Rs. 10,50,000/- only, E.M.D. cost Rs. 20,000/-, Tender Cost Rs. 1180/- Last date of submission 10.06.2021 up to 18.00 Hrs. MMC-II

2. Tender No: T-04/SE(HQ)/OTPS/TD/21-22 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Hiring of (i) One Tata truck LPT 909 (ii) One tata truck LPT 1518 for one year.". E-tender has been uploaded on 25.05.2021 at 18:00 hrs on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately Rs. 14.03 Lac, E.M.D. cost Rs. 28,100/-, Tender Cost Rs. 1180/- Last date of submission 10.06.2021 up to 18.00 Hrs.

3. Tender No: T-01/SE(HQ)/CEMD/21-22 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Tree chopping.". E-tender has been uploaded on 19.05.2021 at 09:00 hrs on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately Rs. 1,77,314.00, time period 01 year, E.M.D. cost Rs. 3,500.00, Tender Cost Rs. 296.00 Last date of submission 08.06.2021 up to 18.00 Hrs. SE(HQ)

4. Tender No: T-01/SE-I/2X200MW/AHD-II(08)/BTPS/21-22 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Works of segregating, cleaning ash from ESP, BHA & disposal line of AHD-II.". E-tender has been uploaded on 17.05.2021 at 09:00 hrs on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately Rs. 7,69,783.00, E.M.D. cost Rs. 15000.00 Tender Cost Rs. 590.00 Last date of submission 16.06.2021 up to 18.00 Hrs. SE-I

5. Tender No: T-03/SE-V/BTPS/CHD-I/21-22 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Annual work of disposal of stone/shale from CHP A/B TPS.". E-tender has been uploaded on 12.05.2021 on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately Rs. 5,84,000.00, time period 01 year, E.M.D. cost Rs. 12,000.00 Tender Cost Rs. 1180.00 Last date of submission 14.06.2021 up to 17.00 Hrs.

6. Tender No: T-04/SE-V/BTPS/CHD-I/21-22 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Engagement of Computer Assistant for the work of data entry in the office Of SE-V.". E-tender has been uploaded on 12.05.2021 on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately Rs. 1,73,982.00, time period 01 year, E.M.D. cost Rs. 3500.00 Tender Cost Rs. 236.00 Last date of submission 14.06.2021 up to 17.00 Hrs.

7. Tender No: T-06/SE-V/BTPS/CHD-I/21-22 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Assistance in coal movement operation at coal Handling Plant, BTPS.". E-tender has been uploaded on 13.05.2021 on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately Rs. 10,15,000.00, time period 01 year, E.M.D. cost Rs. 20,500.00 Tender Cost Rs. 1180.00 Last date of submission 14.06.2021 up to 17.00 Hrs.

8. Tender No: T-07/SE-V/BTPS/CHD-I/21-22 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Shifting of coal from ATPS coal yard to BTPS coal yard.". E-tender has been uploaded on 19.05.2021 on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately Rs. 29,37,000.00, time period 02 month, E.M.D. cost Rs. 60,000.00 Tender Cost Rs. 1180.00 Last date of submission 09.06.2021 up to 17.00 Hrs. SE-V

Total Quality of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Concerned superintending engineer has right to cancel any or all e-Bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time

पत्रांक : 27 / जो सा का / निविदा दिनांक 28.05.2021

"Save Electricity in Interest of Nation"

# Recovery rate in UP goes up to 95.7%

172 test +ve in city, 9 die

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the Covid recovery rate steadily following an upward graph, Uttar Pradesh recorded it at a remarkable 95.7 per cent, which was higher than the national average, in the last 24 hours. The casualties in the state during the corresponding time were 159. In Lucknow, 172 fresh cases and nine deaths were reported on Friday.

Under the 'test-trace-treat' (T3) campaign, 3,58,407 Covid tests were carried out in the last 24 hours, of which nearly 1.50 lakh through RT-PCR. "The state has ramped up its Covid testing capacity from 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh or more RT-PCR tests per day in just 42 days. Emerging as a leader in terms of conducting maximum tests, Uttar Pradesh has so far tested as many as 4,84,26,572 samples to tame the raging disease," Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said here on Friday.

"With merely 2,402 positive cases on Thursday, the daily test positivity rate (TPR) came down to 0.67 per cent, which has been lower than 1 per cent for three straight days



now. The weekly positivity rate stands at nearly 1.21 per cent, one of the lowest figures in the country," he said.

In contrast, the daily positivity rate is much higher in West Bengal (22 per cent) followed by Kerala (nearly 20 per cent), Rajasthan (18-19 per cent), Maharashtra (above 16 per cent) and Punjab (6 per cent). It is noteworthy that the Covid testing in these states has also been much less as compared to Uttar Pradesh.

In an encouraging sign, two UP districts reported no fresh Covid case in the last 24 hours whereas 16 districts

reported fresh cases of Covid-19 infection in single-digits in the same time.

As many as 53 UP districts of Uttar Pradesh reported fresh coronavirus cases in double digits in the last 24 hours. On the contrary, several other states including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra and West Bengal reported fresh Covid-19 cases ranging from 16K to a high of 34K. Uttar Pradesh has so far witnessed recovery of as many as 16.13 lakh people from Covid-19 infection. A total of 8,145 patients were discharged in the last 24 hours and the number of active Covid cases in the state has also dropped to 52,244.

"The special testing drive in about 97,941 revenue villages to save rural areas from COVID-19 disease with the help of more than four lakh members of 73,000 surveillance committees has played a crucial role in arresting the spread. The government is getting more than one lakh tests through 8,000 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) done in the rural areas of the state every day," Prasad said.

# Health dept to take up sero-surveillance

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

The Health department is all set to begin sero-surveillance survey in all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh next week for detecting the antibody levels in general public. A senior official from the Health department said it would help them chalk out the strategy for further interventions required in the state. The last sero-surveillance survey was carried out in September-October last year and it showed 22.7 per cent prevalence of antibodies.

"The survey which we will carry out now will show what the prevalence is at the moment. It is a state government initiative and will be carried out by collecting samples from old age, paediatric and adult population in urban as well as rural parts of the state," the official said, adding that the sero-surveillance would be

done by KGMU and Meerut Medical College.

"This exercise will help us in prioritising the allocation of resources in the districts in which we need them more," he said. The official further said that with the number of cases decreasing, they have started making preparations for the possible third wave and training would commence in all the districts from May 31.

"We are beginning the training of our medical officers, paediatricians and staff nurses. We are going to reorient them for using the different equipment and it will be a skill-based training for all the 75 districts," the official pointed out. He said it would be done with the help of the technical support unit and some renowned trainers from the Central government, Medical Education department and SGPGI. On May 31, the training will begin in Lucknow and

Meerut divisions at NOIDA.

"In the first week of June, we will start another training of paediatricians, medical officers, staff nurses in coordination with the Medical Education department. There are six institutes which have developed the training curriculum and they include SGPGI, KGMU, BHU, AIIMS (Rae Bareilly), Health department and Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences. Amongst the renowned experts, we are coordinating with the staff in Kalawati Saran Hospital and NHMC, Delhi. We are getting national-level trainers for Lucknow as well," he said.

The official pointed out that testing has been scaled up as 2.5 lakh tests were being carried out per day two weeks back as against 3.5 lakh currently. "Not just antigen tests, we are also increasing RT-PCR testing. We covered every sin-

gle village in the state, identified symptomatic patients and gave them medicine kits," he said. He pointed out that they were preparing medicine kits for children and the same would be distributed across the state. Asked about the high number of deaths despite declining Covid cases, the official said: "Deaths are coming down though not at the same rate. There were 300 deaths being reported in UP and the figures have now come down to 150." However, he added that what was important to do was not to lower the guard unlike after the first wave when a little bit of complacency might have set in among people.

Integral Hospital has been preparing to fight the third wave of COVID-19. "A 50-bed paediatrics care unit has been set up with 25 ICU beds and 25 HDU beds. A private company also conducted a skill development programme on venti-

lators operational issues," the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, in a bid to expedite the vaccination drive, the district administration is organising three mega vaccination camps from June 1. District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash, who carried out an inspection on Friday, said the camps would be organised at the Chhota Imambara, KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium and Ekana stadium.

The DM said they are moving towards 100 per cent vaccination. "We will be increasing the timing for vaccination and at some places, we will hold mega camps so that more and more people can register for inoculation," he said. He added that they would run buses free of cost from some spots so that people could reach the vaccination camps with ease. He said people from areas close by can also register for vaccination at these camps.

# Black fungus claims five lives; 8 patients admitted to KGMU

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Five patients succumbed to mucormycosis (black fungus) at KGMU on Friday. The deceased included a 57-year-old man from Kanpur, a 30-year-old man from Kanpur, a 40-year-old man from Lakhimpur Kheri, a 57-year-old woman from Mainpuri and a 40-year-old man from Manikpur, Bihar.

KGMU spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said eight more patients of black fungus were admitted to the hospital in the last 24 hours, taking the total count of such patients to 194. Singh said surgery was performed on five patients.

Meanwhile, chairman of Red Cross Society OP Pathak said they gave 200 vials to the

attendants of the patients in private hospitals. "We have been able to give injections to 28 out of the 40 patients on the list which we had received from the divisional commissioner a few days ago," he said.

Doctors have stressed time and again that mucormycosis occurs in immunocompromised individuals and those with very severe diabetes.

Prevention efforts are needed to control diabetes, judicious use of steroids while use of sterile water when patients are on oxygen support in ICU and on ventilators is also important. Frequent cleanliness of oxygen tubes and nasal cannula, humidifiers and concentrators is also required.

# Sewage monitoring important for control of pandemic: Prof Arora

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Head of Environmental Department, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Prof Naveen Arora said on Friday that it is important to carry out sewage surveillance for the control of any pandemic in the current times and prevent it from happening in future. He said that in the context of the present COVID-19 pandemic, many studies have reported the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in environmental samples like wastewater or sewage which can be used for prediction, and declaration of COVID-19 hotspots in advance.

"There has been growing evidence of gastrointestinal symptoms caused by SARS-CoV-2 infections and the presence of viral RNA not only in faeces of infected individuals but also in wastewater. Studies

also suggest survival of coronavirus in sewage for several days. Hence it becomes important to check wastewater and sewage for surveillance and for detection of genetic variants and mutants. Although not much information is available regarding the survival rate of novel coronavirus in sewage, recent research also shows that it is important to properly treat the sewage, taking into account the huge population and amount of open defecation still prevalent in our country," he noted.

"With limited clinical facilities, expensive individual testing and a major proportion of poor population, it is giving rise to new hotspots and higher mortality. The containment of the novel coronavirus solely rests on the three-tier system of testing, isolation and vaccination. However, in a densely populated country like

India, testing is a major challenge and therefore, proper surveillance and testing of environmental samples can also be important. Environmental sampling by testing wastewater has been highly efficient in controlling spread of poliovirus and lately for tracing multiple drug resistant bacteria," he added.

"Environmental surveillance could also aid in providing the actual picture of SARS-CoV-2 viral load in an area irrespective of the asymptomatic population. Despite agreeing with the potential of environmental surveillance as early warning, India still needs to do more in case of COVID-19 monitoring. Environmental surveillance of novel coronavirus, most importantly of sewage samples, can help in predicting subsequent waves and saving human lives," he added.

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

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

GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of C.I. Sluice Valves (50 to 1200mm Dia.) only from Approved vendors of GWSSB as per new vendor Selection policy as on last date of online Bid submission.

Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the Tender documents at free of cost from website.

<https://www.nprocure.com>

The last date of submission of online tender is 1-7-2021.

INF/271/21-22

**कोरोना की जंग में हर जीवन अनमोल**

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क्या आप कोविड-19 की वजह से अस्पताल जाने में असमर्थ हैं?

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- रेडियोथेरेपी
- बाल रोग
- नेत्र रोग
- दन्त रोग
- मनोचिकित्सा
- स्त्री एवं प्रसूति रोग
- कान, नाक एवं गला रोग
- पल्मोनरी रोग
- अन्य विशेषज्ञों से परामर्श

जन्मल जौ.पी.डी. | सोमवार से शनिवार | सुबह 9 से शाम 5 बजे तक

स्पेशलिस्ट जौ.पी.डी. | सोमवार से शनिवार | सुबह 9 से दोपहर 2 बजे तक

ऑनलाइन औ.पी.डी. | रियल टाइम टेलीमेडिसिन | राजकीय चिकित्सक | वीडियो परामर्श | चैट मैसेज | नि:शुल्क सेवा

राजकीय मेडिकल कालेजों में ई-संजीवनी औ.पी.डी. के संचालन हेतु नामित नोडल अधिकारी का नाम एवं दूरभाष नम्बर

• को.डी.एम.ओ. लखनऊ-डा.0 शीतल वर्मा-9936269516

• आर.एम.ओ. लखनऊ-डा.0 नववीर पररिया-8953671222

• जी.एम.ओ.एम.ओ. कानपुर-डा.0 रुचा खलिया-7985290540, 9935060778

• एस.एम.ओ.एम.ओ. आगरा-डा.0 कामना सिंह-8439433152

• एम.एम.ओ.एम.ओ. प्रयागराज-डा.0 आशा सिंह-9140600490

• सी.आर.डी.ओ. गोरखपुर-डा.0 अजय कुमार-7379620590

• एस.एम.ओ.आर.एम.ओ. मेरठ-डा.0 स्वैता शर्मा-9639282582

• एम.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. अलीगढ़-डा.0 अंशु गोयल-8303184662

• जी.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. अम्बेडकरनगर-डा.0 अमित कुमार पटेल-9792175456

• जी.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. बौदा-डा.0 राजेश गुप्ता-9837021887

• जी.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. बदायूँ-डा.0 अमित कुमार-7906851838, 9805618513

• जी.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. जालौन-डा.0 रीतेश प्रताप सिंह-9559644756

• जी.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. कन्नौज-डा.0 कैलाश चन्द सोनी-9559684860

• जी.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. आजमगढ़-डा.0 अरुण के. वर्मा-7839261937

• जी.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. सहारनपुर-डा.0 पंकज कुमार-9557860951

• ए.एम.ओ.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. फिरोजाबाद-डा.0 एल.के.ओ. मुन्ना-7017514005

• ए.एम.ओ.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. बस्ती-डा.0 मुरलीधर-9838349155, 91770422525

• ए.एम.ओ.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. बस्ती-डा.0 राजेश चौधरी-9415282254

• ए.एम.ओ.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. बखरवा-डा.0 मरुत अहमद-8707759384, 9450208224

• ए.एम.ओ.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. अयोध्या-डा.0 अदिति शिवा-9899214636

• ए.एम.ओ.एम.ओ.डी.ओ. शाहजहाँपुर-डा.0 जे.पी.ओ. सिंह-8439686550

• यू.पी.ओ.एम.ओ.एम.ओ. सी.एच.डी.ओ. अमित कान्त सिंह-9412209031, 9412543097

• शिवा डेव्ट नोएडा-डा.0 दीपिका चौधरी-9818710237

• जी.के.ओ. कैंसर कानपुर डा.0 आरुण कुमार-9654328436

• एस.एम.ओ.पी.एम.ओ.पी.ओ.टी.ओ.आई.ओ. नोएडा-डा.0 नीता खा. कुण्डन-9999041524

समस्त जानकारियों हेतु सम्पर्क करें 104

अच्छे ऐसी लहर चलाने, उचित व्यवहार से कोविड को हराएँ

सफाई भी - दवाई भी - कड़ाई भी

जब आरंभ हो

मिशन कोरोना को हराएँ

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

**स्व. चौधरी चरण सिंह जी की पुण्यतिथि पर शत्-शत् नमन**

(23 दिसम्बर, 1902 - 29 मई, 1987)

देश की खुशहाली का रास्ता खेतों और खलिहानों से होकर गुजरता है।

- चौधरी चरण सिंह

किसानों के कल्याण के लिए जीवन समर्पित करने वाले कुशल नेतृत्वकर्ता एवं पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री

**स्व. चौधरी चरण सिंह जी की पुण्यतिथि पर शत्-शत् नमन**

- योगी आदित्यनाथ मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

# MSY asks Akhilesh for patch-up with Shivpal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav has again initiated unity efforts among the family by asking his son Akhilesh Yadav to bury the hatchet with his uncle Shivpal Yadav. "Sort out the ruinous family feud or be ready to perish," Mulayam Singh is believed to have told party president Akhilesh Yadav, who was present at a meeting also attended by Shivpal Yadav earlier this week. The meeting assumes significance in view of the 2022 UP Assembly elections. The SP has suffered three back-to-back defeats at the hands of the BJP in 2014 Lok Sabha polls, 2017 UP Assembly elections and 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

SP sources said that while nothing tangible was achieved in the meeting, both sides agreed to meet again soon. Earlier this year, Akhilesh Yadav had given hints to accommodate his estranged uncle by not fielding party candidates against him from Jaswant Nagar Assembly seat in Etawah. He had also announced to give him a berth

in the cabinet if the SP government came to power in 2022. Mulayam Singh Yadav is also said to have advised his son to work for enlarging the electoral base of the party beyond the traditional Muslim-Yadav constituency. A senior SP leader, close to the Yadav family, said: "Mulayam Singh Yadav had realised the limitations of the M-Y combine during his active days in politics and had groomed leaders from non-Yadav communities in the OBCs to enlarge the base of the party."

Akhilesh's estranged uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav proved his damage potential in 2017 Assembly elections and 2019 Lok Sabha polls that cost the SP seats in the home turf of the Yadav belt Agra-Etawah region. Soon after the 2017 UP Assembly polls, Shivpal Yadav floated his own party - Pragatishel Samajwadi Party (Lohia), after his fallout with Akhilesh and fought the SP to a bitter finish.

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

more of an asset for the SP than Ramgopal," the SP leader said.

Samajwadi Party sources maintained that Akhilesh Yadav was reaching out to smaller parties wedded to caste-specific identity politics. As of now, he has cemented alliances with Rashtriya Lok Dal in west UP and Mahan Dal, which primarily represents backward castes Maurya, Shakhya, Saini and Kushwaha that are largely with the BJP since 2014.

The emergence of Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha, an alliance of eight parties, each of whom speaks for unrepresented and undocumented backward castes, lends another dimension to UP politics. It is helmed by Om Prakash Rajbhar, the leader of Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), who had tied up with the BJP in 2017 and became a cabinet minister in the Yogi government. He was later dismissed after the 2019 Lok Sabha elections for his diatribes against the BJP brass. For the last two years, Rajbhar has been in desperate search for new allies and forged an umbrella of parties such as Rashtra Uday Party (of Gadariya or shepherds), Rashtriya Upekshit Samaj Party (of Kumhar or potters) and Bharat Mata Party (of the Bind or fisher folk).

# Nagar Nigam bid to bring down air pollution

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The 15th Finance Commission meeting was held at Nagar Nigam and was presided over by Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia. Several decisions were taken to check air pollution in Lucknow.

The mayor said parks would be developed in the city with a budget of Rs 25 crore and saplings would be planted there. "As many as 900 other city parks which are underdeveloped or undeveloped will be beautified and one of the parks will be developed in such a way that it will be called a natural oxygen factory," she said. She added that approval has been given to development of green buffers on the side of the roads and small as well as narrow lanes where there is a lot of movement, and mechanical sweeping would be carried out through vehicles used in vacuum cleaning.

"An air quality station will also be established for which a sum of Rs 20 crore has been sanctioned. The nod also has been given for the purchase of 10 anti-smog guns of the latest technology which can be used to bring down pollution levels," she said.

Approval was also given for the setting up of a 100TDP C&D plant so that all waste which is collected can be fed into it and can be used for making tiles. Five towing machines will be purchased by Nagar Nigam to help improve traffic situation in the city.

# Cash, valuables stolen from trader's house

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Thieves struck at the house of a trader in Rasoolpur under Gosainganj police station area on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday and decamped with Rs 15 lakh in cash and other items worth around Rs 3 lakh. The victim was identified as Manoj Kumar. His daughter and her male friend were suspected to have planned the theft. However, no one was detained or arrested at the time of filing this report. Commissioner of Police DK Thakur said the case would be worked out soon.

The police said the trader and his wife were sleeping in

their room while their daughter, who is a college student, was in the adjacent room. When Manoj woke up around 3:30 am, he was surprised to see the locks at the main gate broken and the doors of almira open. Cash and valuables were missing from the almira when he checked.

Meanwhile, police claimed to have busted a gang involved in drug smuggling. Eight members of the gang were rounded up from Polytechnic crossing on Thursday night. They were identified as Abhishek Chakravarti (38), Mahesh Kumar (29), Ravi Shanker (47), Amit Kumar (35), Shitla Gupta (28), Harish

Chaudhary (48), Ramesh Tiwari (48) and Shyam Sunder (38).

400 grams of a psychotropic drug, Rs 10,000 in cash, two stolen motorcycles and other vehicles were also recovered. They told the police that they were involved in drug smuggling for over a decade.

Chakravarti, who was said to be the mastermind, told the police that it was for the second in 10 years that they were caught.

In another case, police claimed to have arrested two accused involved in black marketing of liquor and violating Covid-19 protocols. The police seized 44 liquor bottles worth

Rs 5,800. Those arrested were identified as Shubham Jaiswal (26) and Rishu Jaiswal (19) of Arjunganj.

# THREE KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP

Three bike-borne youths were killed after being knocked down by a speeding four-wheeler near Para crossing early Friday morning. Police said the youths were trying to overtake the vehicle from the wrong side. They were identified as Ghanshyam alias Murari (22) of Kheri district, and Suraj (20) & Ram Naresh of Para. They were rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where they succumbed.

# Minister inspects Gomti river



Lucknow (PNS): Urban Development Minister Ashutosh Tandon on Friday carried out an inspection of the Gomti river from Gomti Barrage to Peepee Wala Pul. He was accompanied by Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia and Municipal Commissioner Ajay Kumar Dwivedi.

He expressed satisfaction at the cleanliness of the river from Gomti Barrage to Hanuman Setu and gave directions for removal of the water hyacinth from the stretch between Jhulelal Park to Pucca Pul. He also carried out an inspection of the

# Govt releases 8,974 undertrials on bail

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On directions of the Supreme Court, the Uttar Pradesh government released 8,974 undertrials on interim bail besides giving special parole to 2,011 convicts to protect them from the rampaging second Covid wave amid overcrowding in the jails of the state. Additional Chief Secretary, Home and Prisons, Awanshi Kumar Awasthi said in Lucknow on Friday that under-trials and convicts held for crimes punishable by 7-years of punishment or less were released and orders were also issued to release 2,456 convicts on special parole. On the basis of the above orders, 2,011 prisoners have been released on special parole so far while the remaining will be released soon.

It may be mentioned that on the instructions of Earlier, the Supreme Court has ordered the setting up of a High Powered Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court to look into the Covid-triggered situation and the state government released the convicts and under-trials on the latter's recommendations.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
1. ASHISH MAURYA holder of Indian Passport No: 24685830 issued at DUBAI on 07/05/2018 and Permanent Resident of NEAR RAILWAY CROSSING VARANASI ROAD SADARGANJ MARIYAHU JAUNPUR UP 222161 and presently Residing at 417 AL ANDALUS BLDG ABUHAIL DUBAI UAE do hereby change my name from ASHISH MAURYA to ASHISH KUMAR (Given name) MAURYA (Surname) with immediate effect.

**UP POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED-TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders** for executing the following works in two parts (as detailed in tender specifications) are hereby invited from experienced contractors and will be opened on the same dates mentioned below at 15.30 hrs. publicly in the office of the undersigned. The tender documents can be had up to previous working day of the opening day on payment of Rs. 236.00 including GST (NON REFUNDABLE) in cash or demand draft. If e-tender document is required by post, Rs. 30.00 will be charged extra. Part-I of the tender will contain an earnest money in shape of CDR/FCR/BD/TRGS duty pledged in favour of the undersigned in official capacity and part-II will contain rates, terms and conditions and other relevant details. Without earnest money tender will not be accepted. E-Tender No.- 02/ESDS/2021-22 To be opened on dt. 24.06.2021. Tender cost Rs.236.00. Earnest Money Rs. 2000.00 1. Work for sweeping, cleaning & upkeep of control room, carrier room, battery room, sulphur room, fire hydrant room, store room and switchyard roads 400KV, 220KV S/S, microwave building under Elicity. 400KV Substation Division, Sultanpur. Executive Engineer, Elicity, 400KV Substation Division Sultanpur No. 320 Date 28.5.2021 "Save Energy in National Interest."

**उपरोक्त पार ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (1) अति अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 17-वि.पा.म.(प्र.)ल/2020-21, विद्युत पारिषद खण्ड-द्वितीय, लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. सरोजननीनगर-बहारवाँ/220 के.वी. सरोजननीनगर-गोमतीनगर सी.सी. पारिषद लाइन के टावर संख्या 22ए एवं 26ए के रिट्रोफिट सम्बंधी कार्य, हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है।** जिसे [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दिनांक 28.05.2021 को प्रकाशित किया गया है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु. 14.09 लाख का कार्य की अवधि 01 माह घरोहर धनराशि रु. 15000.00, ऑन लाइन ई-निविदा भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 07.06.2021 को 16.00 बजे तक है। (2) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 18-वि.पा.म.(प्र.)ल/2020-21, विद्युत पारिषद खण्ड-द्वितीय, लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. कुर्सी रोड-पी.जी.सी.आई.एल, लखनऊ डबल साइड पारिषद लाइन के संरक्षण टावर लोकेशन नं. 49 पर क्षतिग्रस्त OPGW को नये OPGW ओ. से बदलने हेतु सामग्री की आपूर्ति एवं कार्य, हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है जिसे [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दिनांक 28.05.2021 को प्रकाशित किया गया है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु. 1.96 लाख का कार्य की अवधि 01 माह घरोहर धनराशि रु. 20000.00, ऑन लाइन ई-निविदा भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 16.06.2021 को 16.00 बजे तक है। (3) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 19-वि.पा.म.(प्र.)ल/2020-21, विद्युत पारिषद खण्ड-द्वितीय, लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 220/132 के.वी. 160 एम.वी.ए. परिवर्तक के आयस लोकेज/सोपेज सम्बंधी कार्य, हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है जिसे [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दिनांक 28.05.2021 को प्रकाशित किया गया है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु. 0.58 लाख का कार्य की अवधि 01 माह घरोहर धनराशि रु. 10000.00, ऑन लाइन ई-निविदा भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 16.06.2021 को 16.00 बजे तक है। अतः उपरोक्त वर्णित ई-निविदाओं के कार्य की कुल मात्रा ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण व अन्य नियम एवं शर्तों [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है। अधोसंसाधकता को बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी भी ई-निविदा अथवा सभी ई-निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। निर्धारित तिथि के विस्तार तथा शुद्धि पत्र से सम्बंधित सूचना यदि कोई होगी केवल वेबसाइट पर डाली जाएगी। अतः सर्व को अपडेट रखने के लिए उपरोक्त वेबसाइट को नियमित देखते रहना चाहिए। **अधीनस्थ अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारिषद खण्ड-प्रथम, उज्जैन पार ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, कक्षा सं-111 से 114, यू-टाल, पारिषद नवन, विद्युति खण्ड-1, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ पत्रांक- 772 दिनांक - 28.05.2021** "उपरोक्तित में बिजली बचाव"

**GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD. SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR**  
**BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF C.I. AIR VALVES FOR THE YEAR 2021-22**  
GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of C.I. Air Valves (15 to 200mm Dia.) only from Approved vendors of GWSSB as per new vendor Selection policy as on last date of online Bid submission. Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the Tender documents at free of cost from website. <https://www.nprocure.com>  
The last date of submission of online tender is 1-7-2021.  
INF/272/21-22

**यू पी ओ प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपक्रम) CIN:U16209UP1978G0004285  
कार्यालय : महाप्रबन्धक जोन-7, यू.पी.ओ.प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, जवाहर नगर, लखनऊ। ई-मेल : gm.7@upprojects.org  
पत्रांक :837/ पीओसीएलओ/महाप्रोजेन-7/ई-टेंडर दिनांक : 28/05/2021

**शुद्धि-पत्र**  
वर्तमान में कोविड-19 के मरीजों में लगातार अति वृद्धि हो रही है। जिसके इलाज हेतु ऑक्सीजन की निदान आवश्यकता है। इस महामारी में मरीजों के इलाज को दृष्टिगत ऑक्सीजन सिस्टम के मरम्मत एवं उच्चीकरण का कार्य "Upgradation, of Central Medical Gas Pipe Line System for 300 Bed in Rajarshi Dashrath Autonomous state Medical College Darsan Nagar Ayodhya" के कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना-28/UPPCL/GM-7/E-TENDER/2021-22 दिनांक-13.05.2021 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है। यह निविदा वेबसाइट <http://www.etender.up.nic.in> के पोर्टल पर दिनांक -28.05.2021 तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती थी, उपरोक्त निविदा में संशोधन किया जा रहा है। यह निविदा वेबसाइट <http://www.etender.up.nic.in> के पोर्टल पर दिनांक-19.05.2021 से दिनांक-01.06.2021 तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। जिसे दिनांक-01.06.2021 को अपरान्ह 1.00 बजे तक सम्मिलित/जमा किया जा सकता है। डैमिनकल बिड उसी दिन अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे अघोहस्तकारी के उपरोक्त कार्यालय में खोली जानी प्रस्तावित है। निविदा से सम्बंधित अन्य विवरण एवं शर्तें इत्यादि कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट [www.upprojects.org](http://www.upprojects.org) पर देखी जा सकती है।  
**महाप्रबन्धक जोन-7**

**Notice Inviting Tender**  
**Office of District Magistrate / District Disaster Management Authority Haridwar**  
Email: [ddmoharidwar@gmail.com](mailto:ddmoharidwar@gmail.com) / [fvrsnodalharidwar@gmail.com](mailto:fvrsnodalharidwar@gmail.com)  
Office of District Magistrate / District Disaster Management Authority, Haridwar invites following short term tender from eligible bidders for the following work :-  
**01-Implementation of IVRS & Analytics System to Monitor and check Spread of Covid-19 in Haridwar District.**  
Tender documents can be purchased from office of "ADM(F&R)/DDMA Haridwar" between 29/05/2021 to 03/06/2021 (12:00 pm). Information in this regard with all details-detailed eligibility criteria and other terms & conditions of the tender document can be downloaded from [www.haridwar.nic.in](http://www.haridwar.nic.in). It is also to be informed that any amendment in future against the tender shall be uploaded on [www.haridwar.nic.in](http://www.haridwar.nic.in).

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

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

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**  
No.-1120212022-42 **GeM Bid Notification** Date:27.05.2021  
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway, Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites online Bid (E-tender), on GeM web portal, as detailed below:-

GeM Bid Number	Name of Work	Estimated Bid value (in Rs.)	Bid document cost (in Rs.)
GEM/2021/B/1244158	Rendering annual service of maintenance of Railgaon colony, GM dated 27.05.2021 office complex and other service building at Subedarganj, for one year.	2,00,80,761.00	10,000.00

**Date & Time of closing of GeM bid-17.06.2021 at 11:00 AM, Contract Period-01 Year Note:-** 1- Bid online can be submitted up to 11:00 hrs. on date 17.06.2021. 2- For full details and submission of bid, please see the website [www.gem.gov.in](http://www.gem.gov.in).  
605/2021 V  
North Central Railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @CPNCR

**JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004  
No.: JDA/EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-II/2021-22/D-55 Dated : 28.05.2021

**NOTICE INVITING BID**  
NIB No. : EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-II/06/2021-22  
Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given :-

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

Details are available at Procurement Portal website [www.sppp.rajabsthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajabsthan.gov.in), [www.eproc.rajabsthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajabsthan.gov.in) and [www.jda.urban.rajabsthan.gov.in](http://www.jda.urban.rajabsthan.gov.in)  
Raj. Samwadi/2021-22/1668  
**Executive Engineer & TA to Dir.Engg-II**

# VPIMS offers Covid relief services

Lucknow (PNS): Vivekananda Polyclinic and Institute of Medical Sciences and Ramakrishna Sevaashram are offering several Covid relief services. VPIMS spokesperson said it has been observed that isolating a Covid patient as far and as early as possible is the key to check the infection. "While the patients are in isolation, relief services are being provided to them either free of charge or at subsidised rates," he said.

"Regarding oxygen relief, it has been observed that most of the patients during and after the infection require oxygen support for which hospitalisation becomes necessary. The hospital is arranging oxygen supply for them free of charge through a set of oxygen concentrators. However, a caution money has to be kept as a refundable security deposit for the use of these costly equip-

ment till recovery," he added. He said free medical consultation would be provided everyday from 1 pm to 2 pm by a team of doctors. "Prescribed drugs will be communicated to the patients at their respective WhatsApp numbers. The patients may approach the consultants by calling at 9453207748. The drugs may be directly procured from local stores. However, if necessary, the drugs may also be delivered to their doorstep from the hospital at concessional rates," he said.

Samples for Covid tests as well as those for other pathological investigations may be collected after people call at 6387002969. The results will be communicated through WhatsApp or email directly from the hospital's lab within 24 hours. "Payment, if any, may be made through Paytm (9453207748)," he added.

# KMCU hosts fact-checking workshop on vaccination

Lucknow (PNS): The Journalism and Mass Communication department of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University hosted an online fact-checking training workshop on Covid vaccines on Friday. The aim was to inform practitioners, media students, public health workers, policy-makers and community organisations about the techniques of identifying misinformation, false claims and rumours related to the Covid vaccines. Vice-Chancellor Prof Anil Kumar Shukla was the chief guest on the occasion.

"People still do not have

complete information related to Covid vaccination and as a result, they get confused with misinformation. This training is very important for everyone so that they can distinguish between right and wrong information. The NSS and NCC units of the university have not only made efforts to spread awareness about immunisation in rural areas but the students have also taken rural residents to the vaccination centres and got them vaccinated," he said. Senior scientist Nimish Kapoor said it is the responsibility of the media to make health-related information accessible to people in easy language.

# SCHOOLSCAN

**ARCHITECT AWARD**  
Aryak Yadu, a student of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus I, won the prestigious 'Architect Award' at the Singapore International Science Challenge (SISC-2021). The competition was organised under the aegis of the National Junior College of Singapore. Students from many countries of the world participated and demonstrated their scientific talents and ability to find solutions to future challenges. Aryak, along with other participants from Singapore and Philippines, designed and built a sustainable and adaptive system for hypothetical districts envisioned to exist in 2040.

**शासकीय स्वशासी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर मध्यप्रदेश**  
क्रमांक/स्था/विज्ञाप/2021  
// विज्ञप्ति सूचना //

म.प्र. शासन चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग मंत्रालय क्र. एफ-2/06/2018/1-55 भोपाल दिनांक 07.04.2018 एवं संचालक चिकित्सा शिक्षा म.प्र. भोपाल के पत्र क्रमांक 681/स्था/राज/2018 भोपाल दिनांक 07.04.2018 द्वारा तथा पत्र क्र. 432-34 दिनांक 27.04.2019 के परिपालन में म.प्र. स्वशासी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय चिकित्सीय सेवा आदर्श नियम 2018 के अंतर्गत सुपर स्पेशलिटी अस्पताल गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर के अधीन सामान्य कर्तव्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी के रिक्त पदों की पूर्ति सीधी भर्ती द्वारा की जाना है। इस हेतु सीएमआई द्वारा निर्धारित अर्हताधारी योग्य अभ्यर्थियों से निर्धारित प्रश्न में आवेदन पत्र स्वशासी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर में दिनांक 03.06.2021 सायंकाल 5:30 बजे तक आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। उपरोक्त विज्ञापन की जानकारी एवं आवेदन पत्र का निर्धारित प्रारूप स्वशासी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर मध्यप्रदेश की वेबसाइट [www.grmcgwailior.org](http://www.grmcgwailior.org) पर उपलब्ध है।

आवेदन पत्र डाक द्वारा अथवा व्यक्तिगत रूप से स्वशासी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर में जमा कराये जा सकते हैं। किसी भी स्थिति में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदनों पर विचार नहीं किया जावेगा।

**मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी**  
स्वशासी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर

G-12796/21 **दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।**

**शासकीय स्वशासी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर मध्यप्रदेश**  
क्रमांक16253/स्था/विज्ञाप/2021  
// विज्ञप्ति सूचना //

मध्यप्रदेश शासन, चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग मंत्रालय भोपाल दिनांक 16.07.2018 द्वारा तथा संचालनालय चिकित्सा शिक्षा मध्यप्रदेश, संयुक्त विल के पत्र क्रमांक 3483/स्था/राज/2018 दिनांक 08.08.2018 के परिपालन में सुपर स्पेशलिटी अस्पताल चिकित्सा शिक्षा आदर्श सेवा नियम 2018 के अंतर्गत स्वशासी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर के अधीन सुपर स्पेशलिटी अस्पताल सुपर स्पेशलिटी विभागों में प्राध्यापक/सह प्राध्यापक/सहायक प्राध्यापक, के रिक्त पदों की पूर्ति सीधी भर्ती द्वारा की जाना है। इस कार्यालय की विज्ञप्ति क्रमांक 12112 दिनांक 16.03.2020 को संशोधित विज्ञप्ति क्र. 25661 दिनांक 22.06.2020 को निरस्त कर इस हेतु एमसीआई अर्हता अनुसार योग्य उम्मीदवारों से निर्धारित प्रश्न में आवेदन पत्र स्वशासी हेतु सीएमआई द्वारा निर्धारित अर्हताधारी योग्य अभ्यर्थियों से निर्धारित प्रश्न में आवेदन पत्र स्वशासी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर में दिनांक 31.05.2021 सायंकाल 5:30 बजे तक आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। उपरोक्त विज्ञापन की जानकारी एवं आवेदन पत्र का निर्धारित प्रारूप स्वशासी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर मध्यप्रदेश की वेबसाइट [www.grmcgwailior.org](http://www.grmcgwailior.org) पर उपलब्ध है।

आवेदन पत्र डाक द्वारा अथवा व्यक्तिगत रूप से स्वशासी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर में जमा कराये जा सकते हैं। किसी भी स्थिति में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदनों पर विचार नहीं किया जावेगा। साक्षात्कार का दिनांक एवं साक्षात्कार हेतु पात्र उम्मीदवारों की सूची महाविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी, तथा ई-मेल द्वारा भी सूचित किया जायेगा।

**मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी**  
स्वशासी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर

G-12853/21 **दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।**

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री, म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग, ( भ./स. ) सीधी संभाग सीधी**  
Website-[www.mppwd.gov.in/pwdmp](http://www.mppwd.gov.in/pwdmp) email-[seepwdsidhi@mp.nic.in](mailto:seepwdsidhi@mp.nic.in)  
नि सू क्र. 02/2021-22  
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना  
मध्यप्रदेश के राज्यपाल की ओर से निम्न कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा समस्त संसोधनों सहित के आधार पर, प्रश्न- 'अ' में निविदाकारों, जो केन्द्रीय पंजीयन प्रणाली के तहत लोक निर्माण विभाग में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत हों, से आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

गुण क्र.	टेण्डर आई.डी.	कार्य का नाम	टेंके की अनुमानित राशि (रु लाख में)	1. अमानत राशि 2. नि. प्रश्न का मूल्य	1. निविदा आमंत्रण क्रमांक 2. कार्यवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2021-PWDRB-143024	उपसंभाग चूहट के उपखण्ड चूहट अन्तर्गत चूहट आभिलिया मार्ग के कि.मी. 1/2 से 13/10 कुल लम्बाई 13.00 कि.मी. में बी.टी. नवीनीकरण का कार्य। लो.नि.वि., सडक एस.ओ.आर. 29.08.2017	90.28	1. 90280 2. 10000	1. 4 <sup>थी</sup> आमंत्रण 2 04 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
2	2021-PWDRB-143025	उपसंभाग सीधी के अन्तर्गत हवाई पट्टी अमरवाह (पन्वार) का उन्नीकीकरण का कार्य। लो.नि.वि., सडक एस.ओ.आर. 29.08.2017	473.41	1. 473410 2. 15000	1. 4 <sup>थी</sup> आमंत्रण 2 06 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
3	2021-PWDRB-143214	उपसंभाग सीधी, नगर पालिका सीधी अन्तर्गत शासकीय कन्या हायर सेकेंड्री स्कूल सीधी में 07 नग अतिरिक्त कक्ष का निर्माण कार्य। ग्र.या.से. भवन, एस.ओ.आर. 04.01.2019	26.43	1. 50000 2. 5000	1. 4 <sup>थी</sup> आमंत्रण 2 06 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
4	2021-PWDRB-143215	उपसंभाग सीधी, अन्तर्गत शासकीय हायर सेकेंड्री स्कूल सहरी में 07 नग अतिरिक्त कक्ष का निर्माण कार्य। ग्र.या.से. भवन, एस.ओ.आर. 04.01.2019	26.43	1. 50000 2. 5000	1. 4 <sup>थी</sup> आमंत्रण 2 06 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
5	2021-PWDRB-143216	उपसंभाग सीधी, अन्तर्गत शासकीय हायर सेकेंड्री स्कूल सेमरिया में 07 नग अतिरिक्त कक्ष का निर्माण कार्य। ग्र.या.से. भवन, एस.ओ.आर. 04.01.2019	26.43	1. 50000 2. 5000	1. 4 <sup>थी</sup> आमंत्रण 2 06 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
6	2021-PWDRB-143218	उपसंभाग सीधी, अन्तर्गत विविल लार्डे नगी स्थित शासकीय अत्याम क्र. 222 (विशेष न्यायाधीश) का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। लो.नि.वि., भवन एस.ओ.आर. 24.08.2017	4.43	1. 8860 2. 2000	1. 4 <sup>थी</sup> आमंत्रण 2 03 माह वर्षाकाल सहित

**योग :-**  
1. ऑनलाईन पोर्टल <https://mptenders.gov.in> के माध्यम से निविदा प्रश्न क्रय करने, डाउनलोड एवं निविदा डालने का समय एवं दिनांक 08.06.2021 सुबह 10.30 से 28.06.2021 शाम 5.30 तक है।  
2. अमानत राशि, केन्द्रीकृत पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. पंजीयन, शपथ पत्र, जी.एस.टी.एन. एवं अन्य अभिलेख (लिफाफा-अ), सिर्फ ऑनलाईन अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं।  
3. निविदा से संबंधित संशोधन, समय परिवर्तन आदि की सूचना केवल वेबसाइट के

# District Magistrate reviews preparations for floods

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In wake of two recent cyclones that affected the western and eastern coastal areas of the country and possibilities of the arrival of Monsoon on time, the administration has started its preparations for facing the challenges if the floods hit the district. District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma reviewed the preparations of all the relief and rescue works in case of possible floods during this year at his camp office here on Friday. The DM said that in order to speed up the relief and rescue operations, all the departments should communicate with each other by preparing a list of the mobile numbers of their officers and employees so that the persons whose duty are on the spots can be informed directly and immediate relief and rescue operations can be conducted rapidly.



DM KR Sharma reviewing preparations for floods in Varanasi on Friday

Pioneer

He directed the Irrigation department, in coordination with the Central Water Commission (CWC), should prepare a daily water level chart of water level in river Ganga from Haridwar to Varanasi and make it available to the district administration so that it can help in informing the

personnel posted at the flood relief camps to conduct relief operations on time. Sharma also instructed the officers of the Jal Nigam to check the handpumps in the vicinity of the flood relief camps operated earlier and to maintain the water tanks as well. He also directed the Chief Veterinary Officer to get all the gashalms (dairies) to be checked soon in view to ensure construction of sheds where the same are not and foundation bases at height.

He said that construction work of a crematorium for disposal of dead animals is in progress at Jalpuri and instructed CVO to supervise it.

On receiving complaints of water-logging in some of the villages, the SDMs were directed to ensure that the problem should be resolved by making arrangements of water drainage soon in rural areas with the cooperation of respective block development officers. The DM also directed the officers to

expedite the work of upgradation of all Panchayat buildings as soon as possible apart from all the community and primary health centres (CHCs/PHCs). Apart from this, he also instructed the department concerned to ensure proper arrangements of power supply and lighting systems in the relief camps. He also asked the Supply department to set up agencies at the local level to distribute relief materials to the needy people during the floods.

# Preparations intensified for third wave of Covid infection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In view of the possibility of a third wave of Covid infection, preparations have been intensified by the administration and Health department. This time apart from oxygen, there is a special emphasis on children's wards. 105 beds with ICU facilities at Swaroop Rani Nehru (SRN) and Beli Hospitals have also been prepared.

The second wave of Corona is not yet gone that the sound of the third wave is heard. Since the second phase, many people lost their lives due to lack of oxygen and beds. Therefore, there is more focus on increasing the number of beds and oxygen plants. Oxygen plants have been

approved in other hospitals including Beli and Colvin.

Apart from this, children are being told to be more vulnerable in the third wave. Therefore, special preparations are being made for the treatment of children. In this sequence, there will be a special ward of children in Swaroop Rani Hospital. It will have 85 ICU beds. DM Bhanu Chandra Goswami said that all the beds are also ready. Apart from these, there will be 40-40 beds ICU wards in Beli and Colvin. Beli Hospital has 20 beds ready. All hospitals will have oxygen supply from the pipeline.

The TB Hospital at Teliarganj will be for post Covid patients. There will be a facility to recruit 150 patients. In that sense, it is being devel-

oped. The process of setting up an oxygen plant has also been started.

Taking lessons from the second wave of Covid, medical facilities are also being increased in community (CHC) and primary health centres. Oxygen plants will also be set up in 21 CHCs of the district. For this, the survey work has also started by the Public Works Department. CHC will have facilities for treatment of more than 700 patients. The supply of oxygen will be from the pipeline.

SRN Hospital will be further strengthened in terms of medical facilities. In the coming days, the hospital will have a capacity of 1,066 beds. Non-Covid, Covid and post Covid will have separate wards for all three types of patients. It will

have 265 ICUs and 196 bed HDUs. There will be monitors with all beds. The hospital has two LMO plants of 20 MT each.

The process of setting up another 20 MT plant is in progress. Apart from this, backup of oxygen is also planned. For this, two plants of 1000 and 200 LPM will be set up. There will also be a night shelter in the hospital premises. Apart from this, a traffic plan is also being prepared for the hospital under the Smart City. The survey is started for this purpose.

Apart from this, it has also been decided to construct an exit gate towards Gobar Gali. Survey is also started for this purpose. Many other arrangements are also being made in the hospital.

# 49 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Covid report of 49 new people has come positive amidst a steadily decreasing number of corona infections in the last 24 hours. The infected included Dr Rajesh Paswan, the Accountant General of the AG Office, a psychiatrist posted at Colvin Hospital. At the same time, two infected people died. Cancer, not corona, prevailed over the life of a person living in home isolation. One patient died in a private hospital during treatment.

According to District Surveillance Officer Dr Rishi Sahai, a corona testing of 10,957 people was conducted in the district. Maximum 27



patients were identified in the RT-PCR test. Four found infected through antigen and 18 people were found to be

infected by the Truenat testing. A total of 49 new patients have tested positive.

For about a week, three or

four times more patients were getting better by beating the corona than the infected. On Thursday, this figure suddenly decreased. It became clear that the number of infected patients was less but the number of serious patients is still high in the hospitals. About 87 people recovered in 24 hours. Of these, 10 people were discharged from various Covid hospitals. 77 people completed home isolation.

According to District Surveillance Officer Dr Rishi Sahai, the AG's accountant general, psychiatrist Dr Rakesh Paswan, along with the other infected include a staff nurse from Nazareth, a railway officer, a constable of CRPF.

# Over 4.85 lakhs vaccinated in Varanasi so far

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Over 4.85 lakh beneficiaries have received Covid vaccine doses in the district so far since the process of vaccination was started from January 16 this year. Giving this information, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh said that out of them, maximum number of people (1,78,275) who were vaccinated were of 44-60 age group, followed by 1,13,161 above 60; 87,095 18-44 age group; 60,928 front line workers and 44,975 health workers.

He further informed that as many as 11,013 beneficiaries were vaccinated in 120 sessions

at various vaccination centres in the district a day ago and out of them 10,458 got their first doses while 555 second of Covid vaccines. Meanwhile, during the day despite spells of rain due to the impact of the Yaas cyclone that hit eastern coastal areas of Odisha and West Bengal, thousands were seen lined up to get their vaccine.

At most of the centres, the beneficiaries were instructed to maintain social distance while waiting for their turn. During the day, the vaccination was done at 119 centres including at 63 for above 45 and 56 for 18-44 age group beneficiaries. According to Dr Singh, on

the recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI), the Central Government has suggested for the second dose of Covishield only after 12 to 16 weeks. Apart from this, the beneficiaries taking the first dose above 45 years can come by registering on the portal or walk-in at the nearby vaccination centres for the second dose, vaccination will be done after verifying the mobile numbers and Aadhaar cards. He also said that those health and the front-line workers who had received their first dose of Covishield and Covaxine can get their second doses after 12 weeks and

28 days respectively from any of their nearby vaccination centres.

On the direction of District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, a major campaign of COVID-19 vaccination in the district is going on in a phased manner.

All the beneficiaries above 18 years of age, after registering on [cowin.gov.in](http://cowin.gov.in) app, booked the slot of their nearest centres and reached there with the identity (ID) cards as per their convenience. After booking the slot, the beneficiaries will get a four digit security code which would be confirmed at their respective allotted vaccination centres.

# Surgery performed on Black Fungus patients

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A successful surgery was performed on the fifth patient infected with Black Fungus in Sangam city on Friday. The maxilla operation took experts five-and-a-half hours. On the other hand, three suspected patients of Black Fungus have been identified in private hospitals. The infected have been advised to undergo CT scan, endoscopy along with some necessary tests. Nine Black Fungus patients are admitted in SRN Hospital of Motilal Nehru College. Of these, one Covid ward and eight other posts are being treated in Covid ward. According to Co-covid Nodal officer Dr Sujit Verma, the condition of patients suffering from Black Fungus is stable. Teams of experts are

engaged in their treatment along with injections and medicine. On Friday, a team of Assistant Professor Dr Ram Singh, under the leadership of Dr Sachin Jain, undertook operation of a patient suffering from Black Fungus at the Modular OT of SRN Hospital. According to the head of the department, Dr Sachin Jain, the patient had severe pain on the left side of the nose. After examination, maxilla surgery was performed to remove the fungus. The patient will now get rest soon. The surgery team included surgeons Dr Jagriti Rana, Jeetendra Shukla, Aman Ohri, Neurosurgeon Dr NN Gopal, Plastic Surgeon Covid Nodal Dr Mohit Jain etc.

On the other hand, three patients of Black Fungus from

different private hospitals were referred to SRN for examination and treatment. All patients are said to be free from corona infection by staying in home isolation. It will be decided after the report whether they need to be admitted or not.

**MLDA '21 WORKSHOP:** The fourth Machine Learning and Data Analytics (MLDA'21) workshop commenced through online mode on Friday at Indian Institute of Information Technology Allahabad (IIIT-A). Prof P Nagabhusan, Director of IIIT Allahabad inaugurated the event as chief guest and discussed the cycle of data analytics and the possible risks. He emphasised the importance of gaining knowledge with sharing over it to others. He also spoke on knowledge, intelligence and wisdom with 5As

(Assembling, Assimilation, Analytics, Absorption and Adoption) for fast grasping.

Prof Shekhar Verma, who chaired the workshop briefed the importance of the workshop which includes basic and advanced lecture, hands on and capstone project. Prof Pavan Chakraborty, Head of the Department, Information Technology talked about the various research labs in the department and the importance of machine learning, data analytics and security areas. Dr Manish Kumar, Coordinator, welcomed and participants and presented details relating to the MLDA series achievements. Dr S Venkatesan introduced the concept of capstone project for the first time. Dr KP Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

# Vax registration now through POs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

COVID-19 vaccination registration and booking of slots will now be done through the Post Offices (POs) also in the rural areas, informed the Post Master General (PMG), Varanasi Region, Krishna Kumar Yadav. According to him, service started in Gorain PO branch of the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency here on Friday and soon the same would be started in 300 other PO branches.

'Vaccination is very impor-

tant to prevent the outbreak of corona pandemic, but in rural areas people are still unable to register for vaccination due to lack of smart phones. In such a situation, the Postal department will now provide facility of registration and appointment for vaccination of villagers through PO branches located in rural areas, where PO common service centres will be opened. For this, the process of selection and training of postal employees has been started,' informed Yadav.

According to him, the exercise to open PO common

service centres for registration and appointment of Covid vaccination in PO branches has started. They will perform this by using the Co-Win application from the BO-CSC through mobile app, for which no fee will be charged. People have to reach the PO branches with the prescribed photo identity (ID) cards and mobile phones, where this process will be completed through OTP. He informed that vaccination registration and appointment has already been started at Gorain branch PO under Mirza Murad Sub Post Office in Sewapuri

block, being developed as a model block in PM's parliamentary constituency, where more than 25 people have made registration for vaccination.

The PMG said further that soon it would be started in 300 other PO branches of Varanasi Region.

'This includes 73 branch offices of Varanasi, 26 of Chandauli, 21 of Bhadohi, 60 of Jaunpur, 60 of Ghazipur and 60 of Ballia district and in the next phase 475 another PO branches will also be included,' he added.

# Varanasi records lowest Covid cases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a major relief, the district recorded the lowest-ever cases of COVID-19 and the figure came down below 100 marks for the first time in the second wave of the pandemic. As many as 86 positive cases were recorded on Friday evening increasing the total number to 81,561. Three deaths were recorded during the last 24 hours and with this, the death toll increased to 746. As many as 191 patients of home isolation recovered while as many as 50 have been recovered from the hospitals. The total number of patients cured in the district increased to 79,317 including 73,347 in home isolation and 5,970 in COVID-19 hospitals.

In the first report of the day, 57 positive cases were found out of 5,666 reports received and this figure increased to 86 out of 6,895 received samples as per report provided by the Health department this evening. The total active cases decreased to 1,498 from 1,656 which was a day ago. On Thursday evening, as many as 144 positive cases were recorded and the total number was 81,475, while 5 deaths were reported and the death toll was 743. Earlier,

finding hundreds of new positive cases, with 2 new hotspots, the number of active hotspots was 368, while 8 green zones had been converted into red zones by a day ago. Out of total 3,322 hotspots, 2,954 are green zones and 368 are red zones.

**PASSING OUT PARADE HELD:** A passing out parade of as many as 278 recruit police constables of 2020 batch was made in the Police Lines here on Friday. The Commissioner of Police (CP) A Satish Ganesh honoured the police constables who performed excellently during the training.

As many as 278 police constables of 2020 batch took training for six months and on the completion of their training period, a passing out parade of these recruits constables was held at the indoor auditorium in the Police Lines here. The six month training of constables after their recruitment was the first chapter of their training and next chapter will begin at the police station where they will soon be deployed, Ganesh informed adding, these recruits were apprised about their duty by the officers during the passing out parade.

The CP also honoured the recruits who showed excellent performance during the train-

ing period. The IG SK Bhagat was also present on the occasion.

**DIRECTIVE TO COMPLETE PENDING WORKS:** The District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma on Friday directed the employees of the District Panchayat office to complete all the pending works of their respective tables and submit a report regarding this by May 31. He also directed for making payment of the works already completed and withholding the salary of responsible employees unless the payment is made. Reviewing the works being done under the Zila Panchayat at his camp office, here, the DM sought the report of action done in compliance of directives given in the previous meeting and asked the employees to submit the report by completing the remaining works of their respective tables by May 31.

He directed to ensure the payment of works already completed, and cautioned of stern action if any laxity is shown in this direction. To withhold the salary of responsible employees unless the payment of completed works is done, he added. Expressing his annoyance over the laxity shown in blacklisting the contractors showing no interest in completing the

works, the DM sought the report of such works by May 31 in which the apathy is being made by the responsible employees.

Earlier, the Chief Development Officer Madhusudan Hulgi had recommended the suspension of Assistant Development Officer of Harahua development block to the government. There is charge on the ADO Gulab Singh that he failed in furnishing the detail of amount of Village Fund-6 in time and also showed laxity in discharging his work of supervision. There is also charge that there were heaps of garbage under the bridge from Harahua Satamahua to Wajidpur during the visit of the Chief Minister and he failed in returning the money of two localities.

**WEBINAR HELD:** Director, Institute of Hindi Journalism, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV), Varanasi Prof Om Prakash Singh on Friday expressed, 'Journalism needs to be relative to the society, information and thoughts'. He was putting his views in a webinar held by the social organisation Antar Rashtriya Sahyog Parishad in the memory of one of founders of news agency 'Hindustan Samachar' Baleshwar Agrawal.

# Third suspect in Rachana murder case held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Civil Lines police on Friday arrested the third suspect in the much talked about Rachana Shukla murder of 2016. Court had issued non bailable warrant against Sajid alias Lallan who has been arrested on Friday. He was one of the conspirators.

The police also seized the Fortuner SUV from Lallan's possession which had been used in the above murder.

Rachana Shukla, a 19-year-old girl had left her Venimadhav Lane house in

Daraganj on her scooter on April 16, 2016. When she did not return home, her mother lodged an FIR with the Daraganj police, but did not get any positive response from the police station. She kept on visiting the police station, but all the time she was asked to go back at one or the other pretext.

Mother Uma Shukla then contacted an advocate and moved the High Court. The court ordered STF to investigate the case, then this Special Task Force unfolded the mystery. Rachana had been kidnapped and killed by a muscle-

man of the area Salman with the help of Lucky Panda, and the body was burnt out side the city area to hide her identity. The STF had arrested Salman and Lucky earlier, but Lallan was absconding.

The arrested Salman revealed that he kidnapped Rachana and strangled her to death because she was not interested in continuing relations with him. They took her to the outer skirts of the city, poured petrol on the body and burnt her to hide identity. Lucky and Lallan had assisted him.

Though the case was worked out with the arrest of Salman and Lucky, Sajid alias Lallan was absconding, and the court had issued non bailable warrant against him.

After the arrest of Lallan, his relatives and friends reached the Civil Lines police station and pleaded that the court had already declared him as not guilty.

However, the police made this arrest on the basis of the NBW, and also recovered the vehicle used in this kidnapping and murder from Lallan's possession.

# Traders demand opening of shops

**ALLAHABAD (PNS):** On the directives of the UP government, all the shops are closed except the essential items in the Corona curfew. In such a situation, the business is being affected adversely. In such a situation, the office-bearers of Akhil Bhartiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal expressed concern about the problem of traders in this phase. They have also demanded from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to open shops. The office-bearers said that it is becoming difficult for the traders to sustain their lives due to the business coming to a standstill. In such a situation how to pay the salary of the employees, how to pay the electricity bill and shop rent. Therefore, the demand for opening of shops has been made. Rajiv Krishna Srivastava,

the central patron of the Vyapar Mandal said that it is necessary to sell at least five hours, region-wise and all the goods in the entire state including the Prayagraj. Profitability is being promoted somewhere due to non-availability of goods. Along with this, the traders of the entire class are following the government's guidelines while exercising restraint. However, they face the problem of running all kinds of expenses. Be it electricity bills, telephone expenses, trade or domestic staff salary, school fees as well as the businessmen of every class are also doing relief work in public. District president Ramesh Kesarwani said that the economic system is in the form of life living for earning livelihood. Therefore, it is very important to solve this prob-

lem. **VALLURI AUTHORS BOOK 'MAGIC OF THE MIND':** Ravi Valluri who had been Principal Chief Operations Manager North Central Railway has seven books to his credit and now he has authored eighth book 'Magic of the Mind'. Earlier, his fiction Heartbreak at coffee shop has gained wide readership and had been best seller on Amazon. Ravi Valluri is presently posted as the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Southern Railway, Chennai and is also a faculty of the Art of Living. It was December 22, 2020, when the author had tested positive for the novel Corona virus. A day later his mother too tested positive for the pestilence and succumbed to the ailment on

January 6, 2021 barely six days before her birthday. He consoled himself that his mother attained moksha or salvation as she had breathed her last in the holy city of Prayagraj. Life is full of vicissitudes. There are good times and there are misadventures. Only a person blessed with a robust mind and consciousness can grapple with the darker side with equipoise and lookout for luminosity. There are 50 articles in Magic of the Mind which seek to metamorphose the human mind. This the author opines can be achieved through diving into faith and spiritual techniques, the regular practice of yoga, pranayama, meditation and chanting. The general drift of the book is to focus on positivity to conquer the monkey mind.

# Massive response for vaccination from youth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr Nepal Singh on Friday informed that while there was a massive response for vaccination from the youth but it had been observed that the people above 45 were reluctant to take the vaccine. He said the feedback from the masses were apprehension of reaction and catching infection on coming out of the houses and standing for hours in the crowd to get vaccinated. He said the gov-

ernment focus was to ensure that each and every person was vaccinated and thus it had also been decided to reach out to the veterans and give them a job as close as possible to their houses.

He said Green Park mega camp was witnessing a huge crowd by majority it was of people between 18 and 44 years of age and despite the best effort the present of veterans at the centres was too less.

He allayed apprehensions of the veterans and said it was

rare that a reaction could surface of the dangerous kind. He said often people get mild fever which was a good indication and in some cases there was redness or pain in the place where the shot had been given. He said this was just for a couple of hours or a day or two.

**BLACK FUNGUS PATIENT NUMBER RISES:** The Principal of the GSV Medical College, Prof RB Kamal informed that till date there were 27 patients of Black

Fungus were admitted in LLR Hospital and added that out of the total 11 were suffering from COVID-19 as well and they had been admitted to the ICU.

He said the youth which was suffering from Black Fungus and who had undergone surgery was recuperating after he was administered antimicrobial injections. He said five were operated upon for sinus. He said every effort was being made to ensure safe recovery of the patients.

# Blood donation camp for thalassemia patients held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ravina Tyagi, while inaugurating the blood donation camp for thalassemia patients organised by Sankalp Sewa Samiti, said blood donation was the noblest donation and especially for the thalassemia patients it was certainly above all. It is good that the SSS had decided to make arrangements for blood of the thalassemia patients in the times of COVID-19 and appealed to other social groups to come forward to help thalassemia patients.

She said there was always transmission risk of infection through blood transfusion and thus it was essential that the

blood was procured from healthy donors and such organisations can prove to be very helpful in such times. She said reduction of donors before, during and after a

COVID-19 outbreak was a major risk for blood services. She added that blood services should be considered the sufficiency risk early to enable preparedness and response. She said blood donation numbers should be closely monitored so that measures can be taken quickly to prevent any decline in donors keeping in view the importance of blood and its components.

Tyagi said in fact it was critical for components especially with short shelf life, such as platelets, where a constant

supply was needed for patients dependent on platelet transfusions.

She said a proactive communication strategy was needed to address donor worry which often stemmed from lack of awareness, misinformation or fear of becoming infected during blood donation.

She underlined the need for effective public awareness campaigns on the importance of maintaining an adequate national blood supply, need for blood donors, and safety of the donation process should be spread continuously.

Vikas Pandey said umpteen thalassemia patients depend on blood transfusions to survive and donating blood

was one of the easiest ways to help save lives. He said each 350 ml of blood donated can save up to three lives. He said it was an inherited blood disorder in which the body was unable to make adequate haemoglobin. He said the major challenge was to arrange blood for these children for every 15 to 20 days after getting blood they had to use medicine to control the iron levels and these medicine were very costly they cannot afford.

He thus more donors need to come forward to donate blood for the thalassemia patients. He then thanked the donors and gave a certificate as well to the donors. ADCP, Basant Lal was also present on the occasion.

# Cantt Board Hosp becomes functional as Covid facility

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Cantonment General Hospital has become functional as L1 hospital. The Hospital will be run on PPP basis and a private hospital Buddeshwar Vimla Hospital, Lucknow had been given the responsibility to run it and it will offer paid services for those suffering from COVID-19. Except of the free oxygen from the Cantt Hospital the rest will be charged. The patients will have to afford the medicines on their own as well.

It may be mentioned here that the hospital was inaugurated by Brig, Dinar Dighe, a few days ago who had expressed hope that the hospital in the current times of crisis will be able to provide help in saving lives. He said umpteen hurdles were there yet instead of delaying it further it was finally decided to ensure that the hospital became operational.

The hospital had been overdelayed on account of the oxygen pipeline which was still under construction. The hospital had tried its level best to ensure that an independent oxygen plant on its campus but it could not be completed due to umpteen reasons. The hospital administration then decided that it would continue to treat COVID-19 patients and manage oxygen through cylinders. The critical patient if need oxygen they will be provided immediately through oxygen cylinders.

The Cantonment General Hospital opening was decided in the month of April and to be converted into a full-fledged COVID-hospital and it was also decided to set up an individual oxygen plant. As per Cantt Board officials they had tried their level best but on some reasons they could not set it up. The Chief Executive Engineer Arvind Dwivedi, said the hospital had made two phone numbers public and said on 731177795 on can inquire about admission, while the second number 731177796 will provide details of the patients admitted in the hospital. Others present at the inauguration were DCP Anup Singh, Amit Yadav and several others.

# Session on menstrual hygiene

KANPUR (PNS): Official figures claim that hardly 57.6 per cent of women in India use sanitary napkins and the urban share was 77.5 per cent, while 48.5 per cent was rural share. Ironically this is when concerted efforts were being made for women empowerment in India. May 28 is observed as World Menstrual Hygiene Day and the objective was to change the social stigma associated with menstruation. This year the global theme of this day was 'Menstruation is Not a Dirty Word. Let's Talk About it'.

This was stated by noted gynaecologist, Fortune Hospital, Dr Amrita Saha while addressing a virtual session on 'Menstrual Hygiene' on Friday. She said gender inequality, extreme poverty, humanitarian crises and harmful traditions can turn periods into a time of deprivation and stigma. These vulnerabilities are only increasing under the pandemic, as access to sexual and reproductive health services and information are decreasing. She said preventing COVID-19 went hand-in-hand with good menstrual hygiene. She said providing water, sanitation and hygiene services to people in slums. She said the women staying in slums were from the very poor sections and were unaware of cleanliness and menstrual hygiene. She said they faced shortage of soap and cleaning materials and all this adversely impacted both the COVID-19 response and the health and rights of women. Dr Saha said harmful menstruation traditions left people vulnerable to the pandemic and some traditions hold that menstruating women should be kept in quarantine. She said they were not allowed to touch water sources claiming that it could pollute the water source.

# NER GM congratulates rly personnel for better loading

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

General Manager, North Eastern Railway (NER), Vinay Kumar Tripathi, on Thursday held a virtual review meeting with all heads of departments and Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of Lucknow, Varanasi and Izzatnagar. The GM congratulated all railway personnel for better loading and for running of trains in a safe and protected manner even in this difficult time of Covid-19.

GM while highlighting the increase in loading of goods in NER said that 0.6250 metric tonnes (MT) of goods were loaded till May 26 in the year 2021-22 which in comparison to the same period in the year 2020-21 — was 146.26 per



GM NER Vinay Kumar Tripathi

drainage system and rain water harvesting system in all yards. He directed the Business Development Unit (BDU) to prepare a better action plan by establishing contact with rail consumers like last year. It may be pointed out here that due to the efforts of BDU last better traffic was received in the field of automobile transportation, as a result, the Nautanwa station along the Nepal border received a new identity as an automobile freight terminal. The GM gave directions for speeding up of doubling, construction of third line and power projects being carried out by the Construction Department. While emphasising on new experiment he also directed to promote innovation as well.

# Gkp-Pune special to run for seven additional trips

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Keeping in mind the convenience of the passengers the running period of the following trains will be extended. However, their rake composition and stopages will remain the same. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow all the Covid-19 prevention norms issued from time to time, (Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

**PUNE-GKP SPECIAL:** The 01329 Pune-Gorakhpur

triweekly special train will run on June 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 15 for seven additional trips. Likewise 01330 Gorakhpur-Pune triweekly special train will run on June 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14 and 17 for seven additional trips.

**CSMT-GKP SPL:** The 01359 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)-Gorakhpur special train running four days a week will run on June 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 14 for eight trips. The 01360 Gorakhpur-CSMT special train running four days a week will run on June 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 16 June for eight trips.

**CSMT - CHHAPRA WEEKLY:** The 01365 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)-Chhapra weekly special train will run on June 5 and 12 for two trips. Likewise the 01366 Chhapra-CSMT superfast weekly special train will run on June 7 and 14 for two trips.

**LIT-GKP SPL:** The 01355 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LIT)-Gorakhpur weekly special train will run on June 1, 8 and 15 for three trips. The 01356 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus weekly special train will run on June 3, 10 and 17 for three trips.

# Lko Jn-Agra Fort spl cancelled till June 30

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Due to operational reasons and lack of adequate number of passengers the reduction in frequency of the following special trains and cancellation of some others will be done by the railway administration, CPRO PK Singh said.

**KATHGODAM-DEHRADUN SPECIAL:** The 04125 Kathgodam-Dehradun triweekly special train from May 30 until further order will instead of every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday be run twice a week i.e. on

every Wednesday and Sunday. Likewise the 04126 Dehradun-Kathgodam triweekly special train will from May 29 until further order in place of every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday will run twice a week i.e. on every Tuesday and Saturday.

**TANAKPUR-SIGRAULI SPECIAL:** The 05074 Tanakpur-Sigrauli special train will remain cancelled till June 30. Likewise 05073 Sigrauli-Tanakpur special

train will remain canceled till July 1.

**TANAKPUR-SHAKTINAGAR SPL:** The 05076 Tanakpur-Shaktinagar special train will remain cancelled till June 29. The 05075 Shaktinagar-Tanakpur special train will remain cancelled till June 30.

**LKO JN-AGRA FORT-LJN SPL:** The 02179/02180 Lucknow Jn - Agra Fort - Lucknow Jn special train was earlier canceled from May 15 to 31. The cancellation of this train is being extended from June 1 to 30 again.

# Screening to detect cardiovascular damage for COVID-19 patients suggested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Many Covid recovered patients are currently undergoing cardiovascular issues and doctors have urged them to visit their nearest hospitals immediately to get their heart screening done. Dr Abhinav Gupta, Consultant-Interventional Cardiology, Regency Hospital, Kanpur, said screenings to detect cardiovascular damage should become a routine part of follow-up care for COVID-19 patients in order to avoid any further complications. The Covid survivors should cautiously monitor symptoms like increasing or extreme shortness of breath with exertion, chest pain, swelling of the ankles, heart

palpitations or an irregular heartbeat, not being able to lie flat without shortness of breath, waking up at night due to short of breath, lightheadedness or dizzy spells. It is also possible of having no such symptoms for someone who has had COVID-19 and recovered.

If there are concerns, such patients should discuss this with their physicians. In some of the cardiovascular damage, researchers are seeing could heal itself. We've seen with other viruses where there is inflammation of the heart, there are individuals for whom there is spontaneous recovery. And in some people, we can treat this effectively with medication.

The question becomes specifically with COVID-19, what is that frequency and does it differ from other viruses that infect the heart, said Dr Abhinav Gupta. As the Covid virus is mutating, every person is having different levels of COVID-19 infection mild, moderate or severe, so a lot post-Covid complications depend upon that. Even those who didn't have any pro-cardiac issues can develop heart complications post corona. It involves damage of the heart muscles. So it is not related to any pre-existence of any cardiac problem. This can be a new phenomenon. 'Since the rhythm of the heart is destroyed, there is a high risk of a heart attack. This can

happen while being infected and also after COVID-19 recovery. When patients are admitted, the lungs are first checked and the heart condition is often ignored. Post recovery when these people face breathing complications, it is the lungs which are checked. An ECG test reveals heart conditions later. One should avoid any physical exercise up to six months to avoid clotting in the heart, said Dr Abhinav Gupta and added that even Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital is conducting a study to understand the effect on the heart of those recovered. There are a lot of eco-cardiology things that can be picked up to understand if there can be complications in future.

# House burgled in Vidya Vihar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A locked house was burgled in Vidya Vihar, New Azad Nagar, under Vidhnu police station late Thursday night. Miscreants broke into the rooms of three tenants of the house and stole cash and valuables worth around Rs 4 lakh from there. At the time of incident, none of the tenants was present in the house. Bhagwati Prasad Shukla, after renting out his two-storeyed house in Vidya Vihar to three families, lives in Haryana with family members. On the ground floor of the house, purohit Shrawan Kumar Tewari, a native of Dharhara village, Vidhnu, lives with family members. Presently, he had gone to his village with family members. On the first floor, Saurabh Kumar and Brij Bhushan Singh also live with family members. Brij Bhushan Singh's wife Kavita said her husband was employed in Pune and she lives here with two children. On Thursday, Saurabh Kumar along with family members had gone to his in-laws house at Sainik Chauraha to see his ailing father-in-law while Brij Bhushan Singh's wife Kavita with her children had gone to her nearby sister-in-law Seema's house. When Kavita returned home on Friday morning, she found the locks of main gate broken. She also found the rooms of Shrawan and Saurabh burgled with ransacked household goods and immediately



Ransacked household goods in a house burgled on Thursday night. Pioneer

informed them about the incident. Shrawan immediately rushed to spot and said valuables, including cash of Rs 20,000, were stolen from his room. Saurabh was deprived of valuables worth around Rs 1.50 lakh, including Rs. 30,000 cash, while Kavita said that household goods worth around Rs 50,000 including cash of Rs 10,000 were missing. Station House Officer Vinod Kumar Singh said after lodging FIR, raids were on to nab miscreants.

**WIRE CUTTER NABBED:** Two persons were caught red-handed stealing the cable from Uttaripura solar power plant by the security guards during patrolling late Thursday night. One of their

accomplices escaped from the spot. They were identified as Laxhan and Sachin Chaurasia, residents of Bithoor. Security guards recovered 42,500 kg stolen solar cable from them and handedover to police. Inspector Anoop Kumar Nigam said after lodging FIR, both the accused would be sent to jail. He claimed to soon arrest the absconding criminal Shyamji of Bithoor.

**YOUTH KILLS FATHER:** Over a petty dispute, a physically challenged youth shot his father dead and then shot at himself in his right wrist in Majra Garhi of Naila village, under Rasoolabad police station of Kanpur Dehat late Thursday night. Police sent the injured youth to

Community Health Centre from where he was referred for Kanpur hospital. Farmer Ram Naresh (60) had dispute with his son Sanjesh (30) over some petty issue for the past several days.

On Thursday night, both again got involved in exchange of heated arguments. Suddenly, Sanjesh shot at the head of his father in anger which led to his killing on the spot. Thereafter, Sanjesh also shot at his right wrist which almost got detached from the body. He then continued to walk before his house for some time which led to prevail panic among local residents.

Hearing about the incident, Circle Officer Parashuram Singh and Station House Officer Shashi Bhushan Mishra rushed to spot and sent the injured Sanjesh to CHC from where, in view of his serious condition, doctors referred him for Kanpur hospital. Police could not recover the pistol from the spot. CO Parashuram Singh said after killing his father due to personal dispute, Sanjesh attempted to commit suicide. Sanjesh is operator in a village water tank while his brother Ranjit lives in Mati (Kanpur Dehat). Sanjesh was married about three years ago. He became upset when, after one year of his marriage, his wife committed suicide by hanging herself. After the incident, his mother Sideshwari Devi fell unconscious.

# DM reviews vaccination progress

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate (DM) Praveen Kumar Laxkar held a meeting of all medical officer incharges at Collectorate on Thursday. Reviewing the progress in Covid tests and vaccination the DM praised the performance of MOIC Chunar where 32,000 beneficiaries had been vaccinated till date. He directed the CMO to ensure availability of 10 oxygen cylinders at each primary health centre (PHC) and no complaint should come to him otherwise action would be taken against the official concerned. The DM directed the officials concerned to ensure 6000 Covid tests and 10,000 Covid vac-

ination per day. He directed the CMO to submit an updated report about the available medical facilities at all the hospitals of the district and ensure that all were available, including civic amenities. The meeting was also attended by Chief Development Officer (CDO) Shrilaxmi VS. Besides, the DM inspected the Madihan community health centre (CHC) on Thursday and expressed his discontent over the condition there and took the MOIC to task for the filth in rooms and warned to take proper care of medical equipment as well as beds.



DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar holding the meeting at Collectorate on Thursday

# Passing-out parade held

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAIUN

As many as 179 recruit trainees passed with flying colours. At an event held at Police Lines, Orai, the passing-out parade was held with Covid-19 guidelines. They were trained at Police Lines. DM Priyanka Niranjana was the chief guest on the occasion. The event started with a guard of honour to the chief guest. The DM

rewarded the meritorious trainees of the course — Nishant Kumar (best cadet of the course), Mohit Pratap Singh (best in indoor activities), Ajay Singh (best in outdoor activities) and three commanders of the parade — Akash Singh, Dheeraj Kumar and Pushpendra Singh. SP Yashveer Singh wished them a bright future and gave a message of peace and humanity by releasing pigeons along with DM.



# NTPC develops medical infrastructure

CORRESPONDENT ■ RAE BARELI

Since March last year, the world, including India, has been hit by an unprecedented wave of Covid-19 pandemic. In view of the second wave in the country a herculean fight back is underway to boost medical infrastructure besides ensuring timely and quality treatment to those who have got infected and a robust vaccination programme has been rolled out and steps have been taken to prevent the spread of virus. NTPC has been utilising all resources at its command to not only lend a helping hand but has gone an extra mile for its employees to provide more

than a healing touch. The leadership along with top management have been regularly taking stock of the situation and implementing relief measures for NTPC's employees and their families. NTPC is synonymous with 'special care' and it was displayed by the company when it planned for exceptional cases that needed advanced urgent care. It has developed medical infrastructure facilities at many of its locations for treating Covid patients. The company has arranged air ambulances for its employees giving them a new lease of life, Vijay Kumar, Manager, Corporate Communication/ NTPC

Unchahar, said. Additionally, those had died due to coronavirus, the company has implemented various measures to ensure financially sustained and dignified life for their family members. It has extended medical facilities to all dependent members, facility of retention of company residential accommodation, extension of educational facilities to schoolgoing children of deceased employees, economic rehabilitation scheme to ensure monthly income, group insurance and death relief scheme. NTPC is not only providing light to the country but also pioneered great policies for the welfare of its employees.

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

still prone to Covid-19. He said if the vaccination rate continues at the present pace, the entire population will be only inoculated by 2024.

"The Centre is lying about the death rate due to the virus. This is not the time to lie," he said even as the Government has strongly refuted a report by *New York Times* about the death figures in India. On a question about a tweet he had posted earlier

free by the Centre for people in 18 to 45 age group," he charged.

Javadekar said the Indian vaccination programme will be completed by December end with the health ministry giving detailed programme of 216 crore doses.

Another Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan remarked that Congress leaders' "mindless blabbering" was a waste of internet bandwidth.

"While the responsible citizens of India are using the precious internet bandwidth to keep the wheels of economy churning by working from their homes, the only tangible outcome of senseless, mindless and meaningless blabbering by Rahul Gandhi is the wastage of this precious resource," Pradhan tweeted.

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

this month, calling the crisis a 'Movid' pandemic, he said, "If Modi's action would have been different, then we would have had Covid only. But his action gave scope to Covid... My message was that PM of India made space for Covid through his actions, whether it was banging thaalis... the gathering in West Bengal, all gave Covid space to flourish. Modi helped Covid, that's why I called it Movid."

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

However, as she was stabilizing, five days back we detect-

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

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

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

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

# IT Min accuses Twitter of adopting double standards



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The Union Minister also accused Twitter of differential rules.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# CRPF stops summer chain transfers of staff



RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# EC defers RS bypoll from Kerala



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The poll panel said it will take any further decision in the matter at an "appropriate time in the future" after taking inputs from the state concerned and assessing the pandemic situation from mandated authorities like the national and state disaster management authorities.

# NCDC video guidance to help youth become cooperative biz leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Programme held to mark Menstrual Hygiene Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The UGC (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through

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

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

websites and various social media handles.

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

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

# Area under cultivation of summer crops goes up

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

have been unscathed during the second national wave of Covid-19 infections just as it was during the first outbreak in 2020.

The planting areas have gone up despite hundreds of farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh protesting against the farm laws from the last six months. The Met Department has also forecast that monsoon will hit Kerala on its scheduled date of May 31, a day before the official arrival of the onset date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## No child's play

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

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

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



## PICTALK



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

# Restoring sanity in national narrative

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



JS RAJPUT

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

(The author works in education and social cohesion. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TWITTER MUST ABIDE BY RULES

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

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

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

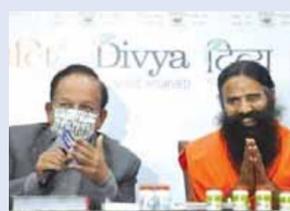
Sravana Ramachandran | Secunderabad

### RAMDEV IS FEELING THE PINCH

Sir — The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has served a defamation notice on Baba Ramdev for making disparaging remarks against allopathy and allopathic doctors, and demanded an apology from him within 15 days failing which, it said, it will demand a compensation of ₹1,000 crore from the yoga guru. Around 2,000 allopathic practitioners are part of the association. As Ramdev's comment is a criminal act under Section 499 of the IPC, the notice demanded a written apology from him. The notice has also asked Ramdev to make a video clip contradicting all his "false and defamatory" allegations and circulate it on all social media platforms where he had uploaded his earlier video clip levelling the allegations.

It has also asked the yoga guru to withdraw all misleading "advertisements" from

## Unbecoming of a doctor



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

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

last seven years is authentic. Harsh Vardhan must admit that he has never been open, transparent, sensitive or honest.

The way he attacked Rahul in his tweet, it wasn't the language of a cultured person: "Politics on corpses, INcIndia Style! Although vultures are disappearing from trees, it seems their spirit has been absorbed by vultures of the earth. @RahulGandhi trusts #NewYork more than #Delhi. One should learn to play politics on corpses from the vultures of the earth." No doubt Harsh Vardhan attacked Rahul on behalf of the Modi Government but people eagerly want to know from the Government that how would they silence people's belief, as Gujarati poetess Parul Kakkar said in her *shav vahan* poem: "Ek saath sab murde bole, 'sab kuch chhangachanga', saheb tumahre Ramraj me shav vahini Ganga (Don't worry, be happy, in one voice speak the corpses: O King, in your Ram-Rajya, we see bodies flow in the Ganges)."

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

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

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

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

### LOCKDOWN IMPACTED MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

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

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

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

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

PS Swagatika Sahoo | Jagatsinghpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Regional cooperation

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

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

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



## SOUNDBITE

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



Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal

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

Canadian Prime Minister — Justin Trudeau

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



Actor — Dia Mirza

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

Former India captain — Kapil Dev

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



Uttar Pradesh Minister — Sidharth Nath Singh



## FIRST COLUMN

## POWERING THE GROWTH IMPETUS

How India should ensure sustained economic recovery post-pandemic



HIMANSHU RAI

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## The dragon's footprint in selective spread of Covid?

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



VINAI KUMAR SAXENA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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



## Super inflation and income loss thaw India

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

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

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



SHIVAJI SARKAR

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

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

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

As most rise in prices, fares, freight are due to the CIM stated factors, the economy is slowing down, indicating a lower GDP as well. It is being further complicated by rising joblessness at 8 per cent in April amid the second covid-19 wave from 7.4 per cent in March 2021. A CMIE study - Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS) - observes weekly unemployment rate touched 14.5 percent on May 15. The CMIE says



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Govt borrows 55% more so far this fiscal

## AS LOCKDOWNS HIT REVENUE COLLECTIONS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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



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

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

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

to the primary dealers.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

After remaining

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

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

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

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

# Bank credit growth decelerates to 5.6 pc in March

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Delhi: The Government should focus on converting around 30 crore vehicles currently running on petrol and diesel to clean fuels in a bid to improve the air quality, said Indian Auto LPG Coalition, apex body of Auto LPG stakeholders. In a statement, the industry body said that with mass adoption of electric vehicles still a distant future, an absence of a near term strategy to convert existing vehicles to cleaner alternatives is a crucial policy oversight. Indian Auto LPG Coalition has said that Govt's indifference towards immediately available clean alternative fuels is proving to be a major health bane for the country. "Electric Vehicles are still in very early stages of adoption and even the most optimistic projections suggest that a mass adoption is not likely to begin at least till another decade. Meanwhile, around 300 million vehicles including two wheelers continue to produce toxic emissions," said Suyash Gupta, Director General, Indian Auto LPG Coalition. **IANS**

# DoT allocates spectrum for 5G trials to telecom operators

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecom (DoT) has allocated spectrum to telecom operators to start 5G trials in the country, sources said.

The trials will be conducted at various locations including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Gujarat, Hyderabad, among others, according to industry sources.

"Telecom operators have been allocated spectrum in 700 Mhz band, 3.3-3.6 gigahertz (Ghz) band and 24.25-28.5 Ghz band across various locations," a telecom company official said.

On May 4, DoT had approved applications from Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and MTNL for

conducting 5G trials without using technologies from Chinese companies.

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

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

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

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

# Markets maintain momentum; Nifty hits fresh record

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

Reliance Industries hogged the limelight in Friday's session, topping the

Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 5.90 per cent.

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

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

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

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

# Tata Group acquires majority stake in BigBasket

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Tata Group has acquired a majority stake in online grocery seller BigBasket for an undisclosed sum of money, pitting it against the likes of billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance and Amazon. The stake was bought by Tata Digital Ltd, a unit of Tata Sons, a joint statement by the two firms said on Friday. It neither disclosed the quantum of stake bought nor the deal size. In March, Competition Commission of India (CCI) had approved the acquisition of up to a 54.3 per cent stake in BigBasket by Tata Digital. It was previously reported that Tatas was in talks to buy close to an 80 per cent stake in the online grocery seller, that is backed by Alibaba Group, for USD 1.3-1.6 billion. **PTI**

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

IANS ■ CHENNAI

State-owned Indian Bank on Friday said it closed last fiscal with a net profit of ₹3,004.67 crore on a total income of ₹45,185.04 crore, said a top official. The bank had earned a total income of about ₹44,099 crore and a net loss of ₹4,643 crore for 2019-20. Last fiscal was the first full year of operations after the Allahabad Bank was merged with the Indian Bank. According to the Indian Bank, the figures for 2019-20 were arrived at by totaling the numbers of the two banks. Addressing reporters, Managing Director and CEO Padmaja Chundru said the bank's Board of Directors have recommended a dividend of 20 per cent for FY21. **PTI**

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Mishra was addressing a webinar organised by realtors body NAREDCO.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

He undertook an aerial survey of the cyclone affected areas in Bhubaneswar and West Bengal.

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

Modi announced a financial

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

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

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

Prime Minister assured the people of Odisha, West Bengal and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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



then we will see," said Vinod Chandran when the petitioner pleaded again and again for a stay order.

The petitioner had challenged the LDAR and the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act introduced in the island. The plea challenged the illegal interference with the social, political, and cultural realities in the island of Lakshadweep by the Administrator.

The petition avers that the same has been widely resented by the residents of the island because it gives the respondent powers to remove or usurp the small holdings of property owned by the islanders belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

Arguing that the powers vested in the Authority violates Article 21 of the Constitution and several other strict Rules, it is also contended that the inhabitant tribes' right to livelihood is affected by the new regulation.

On Thursday, activists belonging to the CPI(M) and the Congress had waved black flags at Lakshadweep Collector Asghar Ali who had come to Kochi to brief the media. Collector Ali had dismissed all charges raised by the member of Save Lakshadweep committee and said that measures like PASA and Goondas Act were needed of the hour as many crimes in the island go unreported.

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

# SSR DEATH-RELATED DRUG CASE

# Mumbai court sends Pithani to NCB custody till June 1

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

dence at his Hyderabad home. Pithani's arrest came more than two and 3a half months after the NCB filed a 11,700-page charge sheet against Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik Chakraborty and 31 others by a Special NPDS court here on March 5, 2021.

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

# 2,803 new cases in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

Meanwhile, three districts of Jammu, Shopian and Ganderbal have so far achieved the target of vaccinating 100 per cent of the population over 45 years of age with a single dose of vaccine. In Jammu district, 4,98,185 persons

above 45 years of age have been vaccinated till May 28.

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

In Jammu region eight districts Friday reported less than 100 fresh cases while Jammu district reported 320 fresh cases and Rajouri recorded 107 news cases.

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

**Kathmandu:** Embattled Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Friday urged all political parties to form an all-party Government and hold fresh elections, as he tried to justify the controversial dissolution of the House of Representatives twice by the President, saying a "functionless" Parliament turned out to be the main source of instability in the country.

"Going for an election can never be a regressive act," Oli said in a televised address to the nation, a week after the House was dissolved by President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

The president dissolved the 275-member House of Representatives on Saturday for the second time in five months and announced snap elections on November 12 and November 19 on the advice of Prime Minister Oli, who is heading a minority government.

Oli, 69, called upon the political parties to form an all-party government and hold elections, My Republica.com portal quoted him as saying.

Addressing the nation as the chief executive of the country, Oli took most of his time to criticise the moves taken by the Opposition parties and his fellow party leaders.

He blamed the Opposition parties and dissident faction of the ruling CPN-UML for the dissolution of Parliament. He blamed his party's rival group for blocking his attempts to consolidate democracy and to take the nation to the path of socio-economic transformation.

Oli said Parliament could not ensure stability in the country even after it was restored on February 23 through judicial intervention.

"Though it was reinstated through the Supreme Court's verdict, it turned out to be func-

tionless and the main source of instability in the country," said Oli.

He claimed that he tried to prevent the lower house of Parliament from being dissolved.

"I made my last ditch effort to form an alternative government as per Article 76 (5) after being assured of support from the Janata Samajbadi Party (JSP). However, Opposition parties, who played a dirty game of politics, forced the president to dismiss their claim for a new government," he said.

"Due to their erroneous claim, I was the victim and Parliament was dissolved as per the constitutional provisions," he said.

Hinting at the support extended to Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba by more than two dozen lawmakers of UML and a dozen others belonging to the JSP, he warned of not accepting party-

less character in the multiparty system adopted by Nepal.

President Bhandari dissolved the House and rejected the bids of both Prime Minister Oli and the Opposition alliance's claims to form a government, saying the "claims were insufficient."

Nepal's Opposition alliance on Monday filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court demanding restoration of the House of Representatives and appointment of Deuba as the Prime Minister. Others had also filed petitions against the dissolution of the House of Representatives. The next hearing in the case will be held on Sunday, the government-run Rising Nepal newspaper reported.

Earlier on December 20, the President had dissolved the Parliament and called snap polls on April 30 and May 10. However, two months later, the Rana-led Constitutional Bench on February 23 over-

turned the decision and reinstated the House.

Constitutional experts have criticised Oli and Bhandari for their complicity in trampling upon the Constitution. In his address Oli also discussed the government's efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic and claimed that his government made big achievements, including controlling the pandemic, during his three years tenure.

Oli expressed gratitude to China, India and other friendly countries for helping the government in its attempt to control the spread of the coronavirus by providing necessary medical supplies.

He informed that the Nepal government has received 3.2 million doses of vaccines against coronavirus in grants from friendly countries and purchased one million additional vaccines to start the drive against spread of the coronavirus. **PTI**

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

**Kathmandu:** A Constitutional Bench of Nepal's Supreme Court on Friday heard 30 writ petitions against the dissolution of the lower house of Parliament and fixed Sunday as the next date of hearing, according to media reports.

Chief Justice Cholenadra Shumsher Rana formed the bench earlier in the day with justices Deepak Kumar Karki, Dr Ananda Mohan Bhattarai, Tej Bahadur KC and Bam Kumar Shrestha alongside him, the Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

There is a provision of a five-member Bench to settle disputes over constitutional matters. Currently, there are 13 senior justices, besides chief justice, in the Supreme Court.

"The hearing took place till 3:00 pm on Friday afternoon and it will continue on coming Sunday (May 30)," Devendra Dhakal, Information Officer at the Supreme Court, was quoted as saying by the official The Rising Nepal newspaper.

As many as 30 writ petitions have been registered at the apex court against President Bidya Devi Bhandari's May 22 move to dissolve the lower house of Parliament on the advice of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, who is heading a minority government.

The initial hearing on 19 of such petitions was conducted by the CJ Rana-led bench on Thursday. The single bench, however, forwarded the writ petitions to the Constitutional

Bench for further hearing.

Some of the petitioners had demanded an interim against the dissolution and calling of the House meeting to present the national budget. Rana, however, refused.

According to the provision, the government must present the federal budget at the federal Parliament by May 29. Since there is no Parliament, the Government is planning to bring the budget through an ordinance.

President Bhandari dissolved the 275-member House of Representatives on Saturday for the second time in five months and announced snap elections on November 12 and November 19 on the advice of Prime Minister Oli. **PTI**

## Man killed after stabbing, shooting 3 French cops

**Paris:** An unidentified assailant stabbed a police officer at her station on Friday in western France then shot two other officers before being killed in a shootout with police, authorities said. The motive for the violence is unclear.

The slain suspect's identity is being verified, France's national gendarme service told The Associated Press.

The three officers were wounded but none is in life-threatening condition, the gendarmes said. After stabbing the first police officer in her station in the Nantes suburb of La Chapelle-sur-Erdre, the assailant took her gun and

fled, according to the gendarme service.

French police deployed helicopters, search dogs and more than 200 officers to find the suspect, and closed nearby schools and stores. When he was located, he fired on officers trying to arrest him, the gendarme service said.

He was gravely wounded in an ensuing shootout, and died Friday afternoon of his injuries, according to a police official. The official was not authorised to be publicly named.

Police and ambulances blocked roads in the normally quiet, residential area after the stabbing. **AP**

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

**Basra (Iraq):** Iraq is building a new oil pier off its southern coast, financed by Japan, that's expected to boost exports and imports of crude-derived products and increase revenue, officials said Friday.

The construction within the port of Khor al-Zubair — Iraq's main fuel export and import facility — is over 70 per cent complete and should be finished this year, said Farhan Fartousi, the director-general of the General Company for Ports in Iraq, a state company responsible for Iraq's southern ports.

It marks the latest project undertaken by port officials and investors to modernize the port and boost revenue in the wake of government plans announced last year to clamp down on border corruption that significantly skims off state revenue.

Iraq's two largest and key commercial ports — Umm Qasr and Khor al-Zubair — have come under scrutiny amid anti-corruption measures to tackle widespread graft.

Fartousi said Khor al-Zubair is now bringing in 10 billion Iraqi dinars a month (about USD 6.8 million), a significant jump from 8 billion Iraqi dinars a month earlier this year (approximately USD 5.4 million). **AP**

## Belarusian leader heads to Russia amid showdown with EU

**Moscow:** Belarus' authoritarian leader heads to Russia on Friday to seek assistance amid a bruising showdown with the European Union over the diversion of a flight to arrest a dissident journalist. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko is set to meet with Russia's Vladimir Putin at his Black Sea residence in Sochi for talks on closer economic ties, according to the Kremlin.

Belarus provoked the EU's outrage when Belarusian flight controllers on Sunday told the crew of a Ryanair jet flying from Greece to Lithuania there was a bomb threat and instructed it to land in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, where 26-year-old journalist Raman Pratasevich was arrested along with his Russian girlfriend.

The EU responded by barring Belarusian carriers from its airspace and airports and advising European airlines to skirt Belarus. The bloc's foreign ministers agreed Thursday to ramp up sanctions to target the country's lucrative potash industry and other sectors of the Belarusian economy that are the main cash-earners for Lukashenko's Government. **AP**

## Erdogan opens landmark mosque at Istanbul main square

**Istanbul:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was set on Friday to inaugurate a landmark mosque in Istanbul's Taksim Square, fulfilling a long-time ambition to build a Muslim house of worship at the city's main public space that has become an emblem of the modern Turkish Republic.

Erdogan was scheduled to join a group of worshippers for the first prayers at the towering 3,000-capacity mosque on Taksim â€” which was also the site of the mass anti-government protests in 2013 sparked by the government's construction plans at the adjacent Gezi Park. **AP**

The Turkish leader, who has steadily consolidated power in his 18 years in office, had long promised supporters of his Islam-oriented ruling party a mosque on Taksim, saying it is inconceivable for Istanbul's main square not to have a Muslim house of worship.

Critics, however, see the mosque's construction as being part of Erdogan's plans to transform Taksim and undermine the legacy of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who established the secular-oriented republic after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. **AP**

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

**Cairo:** The UN special envoy for Yemen said on Friday that he met with a top rebel negotiator to discuss the roadmap for the resolution of the impoverished Arab country's six-year conflict.

Yemen has been embroiled in a civil war since 2014, when rebels known as Houthis swept across much of the north and seized the capital, Sanaa, forcing the government into exile.

A Saudi-led coalition entered the war the following year on the side of the government and has been fighting the Iran-backed Houthis since. The war has spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

According to the U.N. envoy, Martin Griffiths, his meeting with the chief Houthi negotiator, Mohammed Abdul-Salam, took place in Oman's capital of Muscat on Thursday. Last week, U.S. Envoy to Yemen Tim Lenderker had criticized the Houthis for refusing to meet with Griffiths during a previous visit.

Griffiths' statement says the two discussed U.N. plans to reopen Sanaa's international airport, the lifting of restrictions on Yemen's port of Hodeida, and a cease-fire to relaunch negotiations. Griffiths urged the warring sides to "seize this opportunity and make a breakthrough towards resolving the conflict." **AP**

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

**Hong Kong:** Hong Kong media tycoon and outspoken pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai was sentenced to more jail time on Friday over his role in an anti-government protest in 2019, as authorities step up a crackdown on dissent in city.

Lai and nine others were charged with incitement to take part in an unauthorised assembly when they walked down a road with thousands of residents on Oct. 1, 2019, to protest against dwindling political freedoms in Hong Kong. All 10 pleaded guilty to organising an unauthorised assembly.

Lai, 73, was sentenced to 14 months in prison. He is currently serving a separate 14-month jail term for other convictions earlier this year also related to unauthorised rallies in 2019, when hundreds of thousands repeatedly took to

the streets in the biggest challenge to Beijing since the city was handed from British to Chinese control in 1997. Beijing promised that the territory could retain its freedoms not found on the mainland for 50 years.

With the two sentences combined, Lai will serve a total of 20 months behind bars.

The founder of The Apple Daily, a feisty pro-democracy tabloid, Lai is also being investigated under the city's sweeping national security law, imposed last year, on suspicion of colluding with foreign powers to intervene in the Hong Kong affairs.

Also receiving jail terms of 18 months each were former lawmakers Albert Ho and Leung Kwok-hung, as well as Lee Cheuk-yan, a pro-democracy activist. **AP**

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

**Islamabad:** Hindu lawmaker in Pakistan has submitted a bill in the lower house of Parliament seeking that religious minorities in the country be constitutionally referred to as "non-Muslims" to end the discrimination and establish equality and justice for every citizen.

Keeso Mal Kheela Das, a member of the National Assembly from the Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, approached the National Assembly with a private member bill under rule 118 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007.

Called as the Constitution Amendment Act, 2021, the bill aims to end discrimination against Pakistani non-Muslims who have been also referred in the constitution as minorities.

He suggested that the bill should be adopted and brought into effect immediately.

The government has not opposed the bill so far and the matter has been referred to the relevant standing committee. **PTI**

## HOCH CLAIMS 13 LIVES IN ALIGARH

Among the deceased are two truck drivers who consumed the hooch which they had brought from the Dhaba.

District Magistrate Chandrabhushan Singh said that all the dead are from different villages and police are trying to gather information about the victims. "All the deceased had purchased liquor on Thursday and consumed it in the late evening. After this, their condition started deteriorating," he said.

The authorities have sealed five shops of the country-made liquor in the affected villages while all the country-made shops of the district have been closed. Local people claimed that those who lost their lives after consuming liquor had purchased the illicit liquor from the village itself.

He directed the District Magistrate to impose National Security Act (NSA) against the culprits and to auction their properties to compensate the family members of the victims.

## AMNESTY SCHEME FOR SMALL TAXPAYERS

"On compensation, we have told the Council if we adopt the same formula as last year, the gap is about ₹ 1.58 trillion at a macro level. Unlike last year, when there was a complete lockdown, this time, the economy is not suffering as much. Even if we manage to collect ₹ 1.1 trillion per month, we will have a deficit of about ₹ 1.5 trillion. This deficit may go down to ₹ 1.25 trillion if collections improve to ₹ 1.15 trillion a month," said Bajaj.

The borrowing amount would be retained at ₹ 1.58 trillion to ensure that the states get the residual dues from last year to that extent, added Bajaj.

She also announced an amnesty scheme for those who missed out on GST payment. Late fee has been reduced for past period and also rationalised for future for small taxpayers, said FM.

"One of the biggest decisions today is reduction of compliance burden of small taxpayers and medium-sized taxpayers. Late fee, amnesty-related matters have also been decided upon. To provide relief to

small taxpayers, an amnesty scheme has been recommended for reducing late fee payable in these cases. Taxpayers can now file their pending returns and avail the benefits of this amnesty scheme with reduced late fees. Late fees have also been rationalised. The rationalised late fee and the decision to reduce the maximum amount of late fee for small taxpayers will come into effect for future tax periods. This will provide a long term relief to small taxpayers," said Sitharaman.

"Annual return filing has also been simplified. The Council has recommended amending the CGST Act to allow for self-certification of reconciliation statements, instead of getting it certified by chartered accountants. The annual return filing will continue to be optional for FY21 for small taxpayers, having a turnover less than Rs 2 crore while reconciliation statements for 2020-21 will be furnished only by those taxpayers whose turnover is ₹ 5 crore or more," added Sitharaman.

## DOMINICAN COURT STOPS CHOKSI'S REPATRIATION

"The legal team has filed a habeas corpus petition in Dominica for Mehul Choksi and have also highlighted deprivation of access to Mehul Choksi and deprivation of constitutional rights to legal assistance," Choksi's lawyer in Mumbai Vijay Aggarwal reportedly said.

According to a report in Antigua News Room, the High Court of Justice in Dominica "restrained" the authorities from "removing" Choksi till further orders.

Choksi's attorney in Dominica, Wayne Marsh, had told a radio show that in a brief interaction with his client, allowed by authorities after a lot of efforts, Choksi had told him that he was picked up at Jolly Harbour in Antigua and Barbuda by men looking like Indian and Antiguan policemen and was put in a vessel.

Marsh also claimed that he saw injury marks on the body of Choksi who had swollen eyes and feared for his life. He said Choksi is a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda and not India, hence he should be sent back.

Aggarwal called the entire episode of Choksi's mysterious disappearance and detention in Dominica "fishy".

"Lawyers for Choksi in Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica have been trying to have a legal interview with him as per his constitutional rights but they were denied access to him," Aggarwal claimed, adding, after great effort they were able to speak to Choksi for two minutes.

During this, Choksi narrated a "horrible" experience which is an eye-opener and vindicates my stand that he would not have gone from Antigua voluntarily, Aggarwal further said.

After being taken from Antigua, Choksi was kept somewhere and then on Monday he was taken to a police station. Since then, he has been there and this news to the world was broken only on Wednesday, and there were marks on his body, Aggarwal asserted.

"There is something fishy and I guess it was a strategy to take him to another country so that there are chances of sending him back to India. So I don't know what forces are operating. Only time will tell," he said.

Choksi was reportedly last seen going for dinner in his car in Antigua and Barbuda on Sunday. The police there had launched a manhunt after his family and staff there claimed he went missing.

The Dominica Government on Thursday (India time) announced Choksi has been "detained" for illegal entry into that country.

## NARADA DECISION REDUCED JUDICIARY TO A MOCKERY, RUES CALCUTTA HC JUDGE

"The mob factor may be a ground on merits for adjudication of the motion but could the first division bench have taken it up and continued to hear it as a writ petition is the first question," he wrote.

The judge also objected to the division bench passing on the case to a larger bench when the judges disagreed on whether to grant bail to the accused Trinamool leaders, and said the opinion of a third judge should have been taken instead.

He criticised the way the division bench was not available the next day and did not entrust another bench to hear the matter. "The public were presented with the situation of the High Court having

FROM PAGE 1

interfered with the liberty of their elected representatives and then it would not be available for that day to adjudicate on their liberty," the letter said.

"The two-judge division bench had a difference of opinion, with one favouring the granting of interim bail and the other not, but the procedures for such situations were not followed," he wrote.

Justice Sinha wrote in case of difference within a bench, a third judge's opinion is usually taken, which was done in this case.

## MOST STATES OK CLASS XII BOARD EXAMS AFTER SHOTS

On the other hand, of the 32 that has agreed to the exams, 29 States and UTs have either indicated a preference for CBSE's option B or agreed to support the Centre's decision on the matter.

Under option B, exams for major subjects will be conducted in the students' own schools, instead of at designated centers and each exam will be for a shorter duration of 90 minutes.

States such as Punjab, Delhi, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Daman and Diu have suggested that the examination should be held only after all students and teachers are vaccinated. While Kerala and Assam have also mentioned vaccination in their feedback, their support for holding Board examination doesn't hinge on it.

## INDIA WILL BE VACCINATED BY YEAR END, SAYS GOVT

Covaxin was approved in January but medical experts, civil society groups and Opposition leaders, including those from the Congress, questioned its safety and efficacy after it was passed without key trial data. Those results were eventually released in March and Covaxin showed 81 per cent efficacy.

Earlier in the day, Gandhi said that PM Modi "did not understand Covid at all". Meanwhile, the Union Health Ministry said that the Government has so far provided, both through the free of cost category and through direct state procurement category, more than 22.46 crore vaccine

doses (22,46,08,010) to States/UTs. "Of this, the total consumption, including wastages, is 20,48,04,853 doses (as per data available at 8 AM on Friday).

More than 1.84 crore COVID Vaccine doses (1,84,92,677) are still available with the States/UTs to be administered while 3 lakh (3,20,380) vaccine doses are in the pipeline and will be received by the States/UTs within the next three days, said the Ministry.

## SNUBBED BY MAMATA, CENTRE RECALLS BENGAL CHIEF SECY

The Chief Minister, however, later said at Digha that she had no other way but to rush in and out of Kalaikunda venue along with her Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay as she was herself in the midst of making an aerial survey of the cyclone-hit regions.

"I have been touring all the areas of North and South 24 Parganas and from there I rushed to see the Prime Minister as I came to know that he wanted me to meet him... I went quickly, submitted my report before leaving in a hurry as I had the other programmes here to attend," she said.

The Bengal Government has claimed ₹ 20,000 crore from the Centre for reconstruction of the cyclone-hit areas of Digha in East Midnapore and Sunderbans in North and South 24 Parganas, the Chief Minister on Friday said airing doubts whether New Delhi would genuinely come out with any visible help for the State.

The Prime Minister, who earlier made an aerial survey of devastated coastal districts of Odisha and Digha region in Bengal and met the Chief Minister at Kalaikunda, also held discussions with Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and Opposition Leader Subhendu Adhikari.

"I had very little time because I too was making an aerial survey... still I rushed to see the Prime Minister who wanted to see me at Kalaikunda where I met him along with my Chief Secretary and submitted to him a preliminary report," said Mamata who met Modi for a few minutes.

"The preliminary reports suggest that the State has suffered a damage of ₹ 20,000 crore due to the cyclone," said the Chief Minister, adding, "We have sought a pack-

age of ₹ 10,000 crore each for the redevelopment of Digha and the Sunderbans..." and airing doubts whether the fund would be at all reach Bengal.

"I have submitted my report though I do not have any clue about whether we will get anything or not," she said after an administrative meeting in the tourist town of Digha.

The Chief Minister was currently in a two-day trip of the devastated areas and was currently camping at Digha. She would make an aerial survey of the East Midnapore zone following which she would fly back to Kolkata.

Mamata's statement came in the backdrop of a release issued by the Prime Minister's Office saying Modi had announced a financial assistance of ₹ 1,000 crore for immediate relief activities.

"Rupees 500 crore would be immediately given to Odisha. Another ₹ 500 crore has been announced for West Bengal and Jharkhand, which will be released on the basis of the damage... The Union Government will deploy an inter-ministerial team to visit the states to assess the extent of damage, based on which further assistance will be given," it was said.

The Prime Minister said, "We have to continue the focus towards more scientific management of disasters. As the frequency and impact of cyclonic systems are increasing in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, communication systems, mitigation efforts and preparedness have to undergo a major change," the statement from the PMO said.

The Prime Minister also declared an ex-gratia of ₹ 2 lakh to the next of kin who died in the cyclone and ₹ 50,000 for those seriously injured.

Barely a year after super cyclone *Amphan* — the strongest to be seen in about 200 years — hit Bengal last May a second cyclone "Yaas" wrecked havoc in parts of Odisha and Bengal needing about 15 lakh people to be evacuated government shelters in two 24 Parganas and East Midnapore.

Meanwhile, Adhikari who too met the Prime Minister at Kalaikunda later said he too had made a case for Bengal seeking a full-fledged support to rebuild the coastal areas of Sunderbans with special emphasis on rebuilding dams.



**Bollywood**  
 "The best and worst thing about time is that nothing lasts forever."  
 —Kunal Khemu

**SHORTCIRCUITS**



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



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



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



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

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



**IMMERSIVE 15 MINUTES**

**SEARCHING FOR THE ELUSIVE**

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

**◆ Love. What exactly is it?**

Love is a many splendored thing  
 It's the April rose that only grows in the early spring  
 Love is nature's way of giving a reason to be living  
 The golden crown that makes a man a king  
 Once on a high and windy hill, in the morning mist  
 Two lovers kissed and the world stood still  
 Then your fingers touched my silent heart and taught it how to sing  
 Yes, true love's a many splendored thing...

Isn't it? Well, every single person in the world understands love and expresses it differently. When author Aastha Atray Banan found herself getting questions asked about the daily struggles of love, she decided to start a podcast, *Love Aaj Kal*, which facilitates non-judgmental and candid conversation on topics like love, sex and relationship. From ghosting, polyamory, love in the times of social media to dealing with heartbreak, infidelity and getting out of a toxic relationship, she knew what were the problems people were facing these days. So she worked up from dating to marriage, which led her to write — *The L Word: Love, Lust and Everything in Between*. The book is a guide to love, dating and relationships in the modern world.

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

Everybody seems to be obsessed with the notion of love these days. It might be because we are conditioned to believe that we



need to find another person to complete us. That's what Aastha has tried to convey in the book: Love is great but it's not 'be all and end all.' 'Build your relationship with yourself first. I think we need to start finding love in different ways and not just romance,' says the author, who has previously written *His Monsoon Bride* and *Games Girls Play*.

It's true that in a never-ending quest for 'the one,' people risk losing the one they should care about the most: Themselves. Aastha completely agrees and says, 'Yes, we do! We don't prioritise ourselves, and we spend years in toxic relationships just because we want someone. The book talks about 'self-love' as the most needed criteria. We need to never underestimate who we are, and what we stand for.'

After comprehending and exploring the idea so much, what can love stand for Aastha? Well, she tells us that she believes love is being consistent, being present, and being completely involved in another's life. She says, 'It's all about choosing to settle for someone while being aware of their pros and cons. Nobody is perfect. We have to eventually settle for someone who has flaws. And we should understand this soon. We need to only enter relationships that provide comfort and peace. But be ready to accommodate and adjust. We need to meet people halfway.'

The book has some hard truths about love. 'Some will help you become aware, some will show you the truth, some will say it's okay if you are alone, and it's okay if it didn't work out, life moves on. Love makes you grow in many ways,' she says.

Certainly, love is a many splendored thing.

**CONVERSATION 30 MINUTES**

**Behind the scenes**

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



**◆ How does it feel to be working with Guy Ritchie again?**

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

**◆ What are your memories of that shoot, which marked your debut in Hollywood and Guy's first film behind the camera?**

It was a bunch of lads running around spitting out this incredible dialogue in a crime caper that turned out to be a big smash hit in the UK. I think they were the best six weeks I have ever had.

**◆ And here you are, more than 20 years later, working on another Guy Ritchie film, *Wrath of Man*. How do you see H, the character you play?**

I see him as a complicated guy who above everything is a father. And even though I became one quite late in the game, I feel everything rotates around that in my life. So, to have it removed is an unimaginable sort of horror to deal with, which can spiral into an obsession with finding the culprit.

**◆ Is H a mysterious man?**

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

**◆ So, *Wrath of Man* is much more than just an action film, as the dramatic component to it is quite significant.**

It gets very dramatic because of the stakes at hand. H is forced to play people a certain way to figure out who they really are, but in the end someone is going to pay a hefty price.

**◆ And would you say that being a father has helped you understand this man?**

Oh yes! And then you wonder how you would have to come back from losing a son or a daughter, as it seems unimaginable. These are conversations I have shared with Guy, for my character.

**◆ What else did you do to prepare for the role?**

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

**◆ And when it comes to the action, the film also feels very real and gritty.**

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

**◆ What does it feel like to shoot a film this way?**

Like a breath of fresh air! And in



hindsight, I believe it helps create the sense of realism we are after. I think it's very hard for a director to provide that nowadays unless you are so confident that you know exactly what you want to capture through the camera lens; but Guy does.

**◆ And is there any room for humour?**

Well, we are trying to avoid it because it's quite a dark story. But Guy is so good at humour that it is almost impossible for him to not write interesting and funny dialogue. He will probably be incapable of not letting some humour into the film.

**◆ Your character reminds us of those down-to-earth antiheroes from the '70s.**

I think Guy likes to write characters like that. I remember when we were shooting our first film together and he pulled me into his room and told me to stop acting and just focus on saying my lines. He just has this real way of dealing with any bad habits that an actor could have. So, sometimes you feel you are not doing much, but it's what he wants. And it's a great thing to do when you have just come out of doing a 250 million dollar film like the one I just shot with Dwayne Johnson, where everything is so big.

**◆ Do you like mixing it up then in your career?**

Yes, because *Wrath of Man* is the complete polar opposite of that film, and I am portraying a very real, intense guy.

**◆ And what can you say of Holt McCallany, who stars opposite you as Bullet.**

I think Holt has pulled this film together better than any of us, and especially considering that sometimes he gets dialogue only a few minutes before we say it. But he is certainly more verbal than anybody else, and he never drops a line. Holt is a tremendous actor, and he is so good in this likeable character he plays. Actually, to be honest, I think Bullet is my favorite character in the story.

**◆ What should we expect from *Wrath of Man* then?**

I think you are going to get a very stylish yet tense type of film that will keep you guessing. And, whether you like it or not, I am sure it will be memorable, because Guy isn't capable of making one that isn't.

**◆ So, your mind is already made up if Guy Ritchie knocks on your door again to offer you another role, right?**

If I did for the rest of my career was work for Guy Ritchie, I would be a very happy man.

**EXPRESS 45 MINUTES**

**Speaking up for the cause**

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



In the background of his career as an actor, singer, comedian, game show host and television personality, Wayne Brady had been working on a one-man show about being a young Black man growing up in Orlando for a long time, but he could never finish the project.

That's until acclaimed actor Glenn Close asked him to participate in her spoken word jazz album.

'To be honest with you, the reason it took me a couple of years was that it was so painful. Every time I'd go to it, I would start a draft and it got a little too real. I felt myself wanting to do the thing that you can do — whether you're talking to a group of friends or whether you're on a stage — I'm going to now make this funny and I'm going to deflect. Or I'll sidetrack or I'll do something that takes away the weight because I don't want to remember this,' Brady recalled. But some things are meant to be. 'Glenn coming to me, that was the impetus of me saying, 'You're going to finish this and you're going to finish this now. You've got to talk about this. You've got to share this,' he expressed.

That's when the actor-comedian-singer crafted *A Piece by the Angriest Black Man in America (or, How I Learned to Forgive Myself for Being a Black Man in America)*. It appears on *Transformation: Personal Stories of Change, Acceptance, and Evolution*, Close's new album which was released this month.

'My heart was going a mile a minute ... It's the first time that people will be hearing this piece of Wayne, this struggle of Wayne, that some people know and some people don't,' said Brady, who recorded the track in front of a live audience at New York City's Jazz at Lincoln Center.

'What I'm trying to do is move the needle a little bit because there is someone who may sit down and know Wayne Brady from *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* or looked at *Let's Make a Deal* or I loved him on that sitcom' — they don't know this story of pain is lurking there because I don't share it. Well, I have decided to share it to let you know maybe you're skewed

mother(expletive)'

'It was just a fact. There was Black and then there was Blaiaaaaaaaack... I fit into the latter, dark as Black matter and hearing you pair Black and ugly together in that manner, made me feel like my type of Black life didn't matter,' says Brady, as heard on the spoken word track.

On the poignant, eight-minute song, the performer continues to break down his life's experiences, touching on topics like his hair and not wanting to play outside in the sun because he didn't want to get darker to being called 'one of the good ones' by white people.

Close shared that she was moved by what Brady wrote. She invited him to work on two more songs on her album, a collaborative project with Grammy-winning jazz musician and Jazz at Lincoln Center orchestra player Ted Nash.

'I had tears in my eyes,' Nash said, after reading Brady's original piece. 'I had tears in my eyes for several reasons — first of all, that he was willing to share this with us and allow us to have him participate. One of my band members, who is Black, came up to Wayne after we did one of the performances and he expressed that Wayne had spoken about things that he had been feeling for a long time,' he shared.

'Sometimes you don't realise how people interpret what's put to them, and that was a very profound moment for us,' Nash added.

Brady said he forgives Tessa Grady for the ill words she spoke as a child and he

plans to reach out to her since his song is out and widely available. He adds that he didn't write the poem to vilify her, he just wanted to use Tessa as an example of one of those self-codifying moments that play a role in who you turn out to be as a person later on in life.

'I had to deal with what that person said all my life, till I realised I needed to forgive myself — for how Black I felt I was, or how not Black that I felt I was. Those things were holding me back. Especially at a point in our country's development where race has always been on the table and it's always been a fight, but now voices are demanding to be heard. I realised I needed to add my voice to that,' he thought out loud.

Brady, 48, has won five Emmys for his roles across various TV shows, appeared on Broadway stages and even earned a Grammy nomination for his cover of Sam Cooke's *A Change Is Gonna Come*. He said he's been working on new music and wants to continue being a voice for people who look like him, making use of the platform he has.

'By the time I started getting on, around the time of *Who's Line*, I kind of fell into this narrative that was being written for me by some network people who didn't want to see race either. They wanted an amiable, shiny, Black face that could connect with their viewers, without necessarily having to talk about the Black experience. Sure, and I was complicit because in my mind I was thinking, 'I'm not going to talk about Blackness either, I'm going to kick ass and show everybody how amazing I am. And if I do that because of the talent that I have, then that will change the conversation of race,' he shared. He admits that thinking along such lines was very idealistic and somewhat naive of him because the world doesn't work like that.

'If I would have used my platform to say, 'I sit in my Blackness, that's who I am and let's get on with it,' life as I knew it could have been different,' Brady signed off on a thoughtful note.

**DEEP DIVE 45 MINUTES**

# UNSEEN PLACES, UNSCRIPTED STORIES AND UNFILTERED ADVENTURES

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

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

◆ **How did the idea of travelling with pets come about?**

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

I remember just the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**CELEB TALK 30 MINUTES**

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

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

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



## Make it big

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Having said that, while I am not

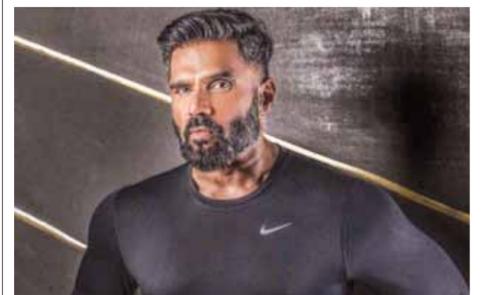
very competitive, I would be bringing everything I've got to the table with this League and I won't give up without a fight!

◆ **What's next for you?**

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

## Family man

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

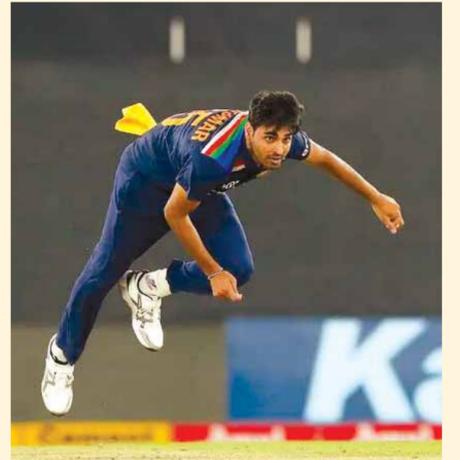
Indian seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar says he never realised the importance of adding pace to his bowling in his formative years but once he did, it helped him "maintain that swing" which keeps batsmen guessing.

"To be honest, first couple of years I didn't realise pace is something that needs to be added," he said in a video posted by his IPL team SunRisers Hyderabad on its twitter handle.

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

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

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



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

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

## Allegri In, Pirlo Out

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

"Pirlo has just begun the first steps of what will no doubt become a brilliant career as a coach," Juventus' statement read. He followed Maurizio Sarri, who was also sacked last year after the club suffered a shock defeat against French side Lyon in the Champions League round of 16.

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

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



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

He also reached two Champions League finals in 2015 (vs Barcelona) and in 2017 (vs Real Madrid) but Juve ended up losing both of them. He was fired by the club two years ago. "WELCOME BACK HOME, MAX! Massimiliano Allegri is the Juventus manager once more," Juventus said in a statement.

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

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

## Konaté joins Liverpool

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Speaking to the club's website, Konaté said: "I'm really happy to be joining such a massive club like Liverpool. "It's a really exciting moment for me and my family and I am really looking forward to meeting my new teammates, the staff and getting started on this new chapter."

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



League semi-finals in 2020.

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

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

Klopp believes Konaté's physical qualities

make him ideally suited to the Premier League.

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

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

## Tokyo hopes over for Saina & Srikanth

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

## Perera, Chameera star for Lanka

AP ■ DHAKA

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Panghal cruises into final



PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Our preparation far from being ideal: Stimac

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

Frustrated with the arrangements, Stimac continued: "I'm well aware that Qatar is future host of the World Cup, and we all know about the great facilities for football teams. "But, as a coach, personally I expected a lot more from this organisation. I know that we changed all our plans due to the pandemic. I say a big thank you to Qatar government for allowing us to come over here."



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

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

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

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

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

discuss and analyse our opponents, why we don't have a possibility of spending more time together, eating together."

"Instead of that we have one chance going out in the evenings for the training session, that's all." With India reeling under a second wave of the pandemic, most of the players, barring the ones from Bengaluru FC and FC Goa who were involved in the AFC club tournaments, have not played any match since the ISL got over earlier this year.

But Stimac is hopeful that they would make the Asian Cup. Currently placed third with three points, India still have a bright chance to make the continental showpiece even if they finish last in their group.

"I'm very confident that at the end of this journey, we will be in the AFC Cup. I know that our actual situation at the moment is far from ideal. The Qatar team is fully prepared."

"The Bangladesh side was playing in their league until recently."

They will be much better prepared. 23 out of 28 players in the Afghanistan side are playing in Europe or in the United States, so they will be in full swing.

"On the other hand, you know the situation of our team. But what I can promise to all of you we're going to give everything we have at the moment, playing these games."

"Our players will leave each atom of energy on the field, will do everything to get as many points as possible in these matches to qualify for the AFC Asian Cup. We can judge ourselves after that." Stimac said they are eyeing a third-place finish in the group to make the cut.

"We will try everything to finish third but if it's not possible, from whichever position we start further, we're going to do everything and qualify for the AFC cup."

## Mental fitness is as important as physical fitness'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian men's hockey team defender Jarmanpreet Singh on Friday stressed on the importance of mental fitness as they prepare for the Tokyo Olympic amid a raging COVID-19 pandemic.

The 24-year-old has been training at SAI centre in Bengaluru as part of the Senior Core Group ahead of the Olympics.

"I feel mental fitness is as important as physical fitness to deal with the current situations. A player needs to be mentally strong."

and for that, we have been helping each other," said Jarmanpreet in a release issued by Hockey India.

India were supposed to play their FIH Pro League away matches against Great Britain, Spain and Germany this month but the ties were postponed due to travel restrictions imposed in the wake of a surge in COVID-19 cases.

"We communicate with each other, we try to create a positive environment around so that everyone stays in a happy zone. I feel because of this, there's a very good team bonding, which has been helping us with our preparations for the Olympics," he said.

Asked how he is preparing for the Tokyo Games, Jarmanpreet said, "My focus remains only on giving my best, with the full energy, and trying to improve each and



every day at the training. "I put on a challenge to myself that, I should keep reducing my margin of error."

Jarmanpreet, who made his debut for the national team in 2018, feels he is fortunate to have the support from the senior players since the beginning of his career.

"I am very fortunate and thankful to all senior players as well as coaches because they knew my past (the two-year doping ban in 2015), they knew I was returning after a long time."

"They have always supported me since the beginning. They have guided me at each step, and have been motivating me a lot."

"Moreover, it also helps when you have a senior player as a roommate. Kothajit (Singh) paaji is my roommate here, and we share a good bond on and off the field."