



**DON'T LOSE HEART, WE SHALL WIN THIS FIGHT: MODI**

## Need to do our best to avert lockdown, states should use it only as last resort: PM to nation



**Covaxin capacity to be boosted to 700 mn annual doses; J&J applies for bridging trial**

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA & KAUNAIN SHERIFF M**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

CALLING THE second Covid wave a "toofan" (storm) that has swept the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in an address to the nation Tuesday evening, called on citizens not to lose heart in this adversity and underlined that all steps need to be taken to avoid a lockdown.

In his seventh such address since the first Covid outbreak early last year, and the first after the second wave that has escalated to unprecedented levels both in daily case and death counts, Modi said that the "right decisions in the right direction" would help secure victory against the virus.

Saying that the situation today was different from the first time around -- there are vaccines, more medical insight into the virus and better infrastructure -- the Prime Minister said that along with saving lives, the Government's effort is to save economic activity and ensure that there is only a minimum impact on the livelihood of people. The Government is working with "speed and sensitivity" to meet the increasing demand of oxygen in various parts of the country, he said.

He prefaced his 19-minute address saying he felt the pain of those who had lost their loved ones and was grateful to the doctors, nurses, frontline Corona



(Left) Prime Minister Modi addressing the nation; (above) a queue for vaccination at a hospital in Thane on Tuesday. PTI/Deepak Joshi

**BENGAL, KERALA CMs WRITE TO PM**

## Don't wash hands of vaccine, what about the poor: Opp states to Centre

**MANOJ CG & PRABHA RAGHAVAN**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

A DAY after the Centre opened up Covid vaccination to all above 18 from May 1, Opposition Chief Ministers and some experts raised questions on stocks and pricing given that 50% has been earmarked for the "open market." Arguing that no other country had done this so far, they said this places a financial burden on the states.

While BJP state governments of Uttar Pradesh and Assam both announced free vaccines for all, other states said the Centre was washing its hands of the responsibility.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee reminded the Prime Minister that she had, in a letter to him in February, requested his intervention to allow West Bengal to purchase vac-



Migrants crowd buses at a Ludhiana station. Gurmeet Singh

cines directly with state resources and give free vaccination to people of the state.

"No response was received from your end. Now when the number of cases in the second wave is spiralling like anything, the Centre has chosen to tactically indulge in empty rhetoric and shy away from its responsibility for making available

**INSIDE**

**UP, ASSAM WILL VACCINATE ALL ABOVE 18 FOR FREE**

**MORE STATES ANNOUNCE CURBS, CURFEWS**  
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## Before ramp-up, vaccine planning on the fly with only 2 options in basket



**PRABHA RAGHAVAN & ANIL SASI**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE BIG-BANG -- and much-awaited -- announcement Monday to expand vaccinations to those above 18 gives the already strained machinery, fighting the rising Covid wave, all of 10 days to gear up for the logistical challenge. Of course, the 600 million now eligible are expected to be staggered by states depending on profile and stocks, but the short lead time is reflec-

tive of most milestones in the Centre's vaccine policy.

Beginning with January 11 this year, when it placed its first set of orders for vaccines, just five days before the campaign was rolled out.

This is in sharp contrast to other countries which stockpiled their vaccines before launching the inoculation blitz. As early as May 2020, countries like the US began stockpiling through "at risk" investments in multiple manufacturers. Throughout last year, the UK ended up taking such at-risk options in all seven vaccines developed across the world. With an order for 400 million vaccine doses, it has evidently been "one of the world's highest per-capita buyers" of vaccines. It is now on track to have more than 100 million surplus doses in due course. Israel followed another model:

## Hero shuts plants amid surge, first such action by big firm

**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

AMID A spurt in Covid cases, the country's leading two-wheeler manufacturer, Hero MotoCorp, on Tuesday announced a halt to its operations at all its manufacturing facilities for four days, in a staggered manner between April 22 and May 1, 2021.

The company is the first major manufacturer to announce a temporary suspension of production as a precautionary measure, even as the government has maintained that there won't be a nationwide lockdown.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the company said, "In keeping with its commitment to the safety and welfare of its people, Hero MotoCorp has decided to proactively halt operations temporarily at all of its manufacturing facilities across the

## Young kin gets vaccine, Fadnavis says 'distant' link, must follow rules

**VIVEK DESHPANDE**  
NAGPUR, APRIL 20

FORMER MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is caught at the centre of a controversy after a photograph of his nephew, Tanmay Fadnavis, in his early 20s, taking his second Covid-19 vaccine shot, was widely circulated on social media on Monday.

Fadnavis, in a statement, identified Tanmay as a "distant relative". A close family source said Tanmay is the grandson of former MLA Shobhatai Fadnavis, who is the ex-chief minister's aunt.

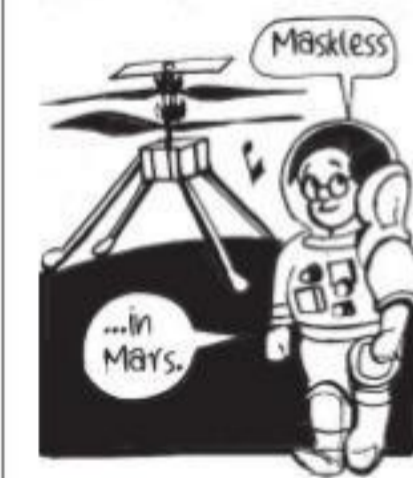
The photograph, which surfaced on Monday, was shared by Tanmay on Instagram, and showed him getting vaccinated at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Nagpur. He has since deleted the post.



A file photo of Devendra Fadnavis, Tanmay. Instagram

NCI Director Shailesh Joglekar confirmed that the youth had received the vaccine. "Tanmay Fadnavis took his second dose at the NCI. He had taken his first dose at the Seven Hills Hospital in Mumbai; under which provision he got his first dose is not known to us. He showed us the certificate of the

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By UNNY



**WORLD**



**PAK GOVT YIELDS TO PRESSURE, NOTICE IN HOUSE TO EXPEL FRENCH ENVOY**  
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## SC stays HC lockdown call as UP says infringes domain, will trigger fear

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday put on hold the Allahabad High Court order imposing "almost complete lockdown/curfew in five major cities of Uttar Pradesh".

Issuing notice on an urgent plea by the state, a Bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde said that "until further orders, there shall be an ad interim stay of the impugned order passed by the High Court".

On Monday, saying that the rising Covid cases had "virtually incapacitated" the medical infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh, the Allahabad High Court Monday ordered a weekend lockdown in Prayagraj, Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur Nagar and Gorakhpur districts, till April 26.

The state government, how-



A line to fill oxygen cylinders in Lucknow Tuesday. PTI

ever, had said a complete lockdown in the five districts was not an option, with Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sahgal saying the government would impose further restrictions, but that, apart from saving lives, it had to also think of livelihoods.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court Bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, however,



## 'Crisis in HCs', SC sets timeline for Govt to clear judges' names

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

EMPHASISING THE need to "facilitate timely appointment" of judges to resolve the "crisis situation" in High Courts, the Supreme Court on Tuesday laid down a timeline for the Centre to clear names recommended by the High Court Collegiums.

The Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, also said that if the Supreme Court Collegium reiterates a recommendation sent back by the government, the "appointment should be made within 3 to 4 weeks".

According to the timeline fixed by the Bench, which included Justices S K Kaul and Surya Kant:

■ "The Intelligence Bureau (IB) should submit its report/inputs within 4 to 6 weeks from the date of recommendation of the High Court Collegium, to the Central Government."

■ "It would be desirable that the Central Government forward the file(s)/ recommendations to the



Bench led by CJI wants 18-week limit for action on names

**EXPLAINED**

**Change in MoP**

IN SETTING a fixed timeline, the Supreme Court has essentially altered the Memorandum of Procedure through a judicial order. The ruling comes in the backdrop of the SC repeatedly underlining that several names are pending with the government.

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Supreme Court within 8 to 12 weeks from the date of receipt of

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Bus had more than 100 people, bound for Tikamgarh. PTI

## Overcrowded bus with migrants from Delhi turns over in MP, three killed

**IRAM SIDDIQUE**  
BHOPAL, APRIL 20

THREE MIGRANT workers were killed and at least seven injured in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district after the heavily overcrowded bus they were travelling in overturned on an accident-prone stretch at Jourasi Ghati around 8.30 am Tuesday.

Local police said the bus was carrying around 100 migrant workers who were returning to their homes in villages across Tikamgarh from Delhi where the government had imposed a weeklong lockdown the previ-

ous day. A passenger told reporters that the bus was carrying around 350 people.

Police said they are ascertaining the allegation levelled by several passengers that the driver was under the influence of alcohol, and that the bus had hit a truck earlier. The driver is absconding, they said.

The dead have been identified as Mukesh Dimer (26), Matadin Ahirwar (37) and Jitendra Ahirwar (22). Officials said the injured were rushed to J A Hospital in Gwalior, and that two buses were arranged for passengers stranded at the spot

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Pyres till 2 am at Bengaluru crematoriums, token for queues

**JOHNSON TA**  
BENGALURU, APRIL 20

LATE MONDAY evening, as a prison ambulance with a body inside rolled up ahead of a line of six waiting ambulances, at the Hosapalya crematorium in south Bengaluru, a group of waiting drivers heckled the prison ambulance driver for jumping the queue.

The crematorium had already carried out 14 cremations by its scheduled closing time of 5.30 pm on Monday and there were still six bodies waiting in

ambulances lined up at the entrance of the crematorium.

"We are following a first-come-first-serve system for use of the two incinerators. Yesterday there were 31 bodies that had to be cremated. The crematorium was working till 2 am this morning and reopened again at 5 am. Since October 2020, one or two Covid bodies were being brought in for cremation every day, but now the numbers are in two digits," said Chandra Kumar, a worker at the crematorium.

A Covid-19 surge in Bengaluru is starting to exert

pressure on healthcare and allied systems like it did at the peak of the first wave in August-September 2020.

While Bengaluru reported 261 deaths per million population in September 2020 at the peak of the first wave of the coronavirus, it is now reporting 521 deaths per million population, compared to 188 per million for the state.

On Monday, 97 deaths were reported in Bengaluru, the highest since the second wave began around March 23 this year; until then, daily deaths were in the range of 10 to 20.



Family members and relatives wait for the funeral of a Covid victim at a crematorium in Bengaluru on April 16. PTI

However, the case fatality rate (CFR or deaths as percentage of confirmed cases) in the city is down from the peak of 2 per cent last year to 1 per cent as on April 19.

The Hosapalya electric crematorium of the Bengaluru city corporation is among seven in the city that the state government has set aside exclusively for free-of-cost Covid-19 cremations.

"We have to wait seven to eight hours before the bodies that we bring in are cremated," said Rudresh S, an ambulance driver waiting in line at the Hosapalya crematorium.

With the rise in demand, crematoriums have begun using a token system to ensure that bodies are cremated in the order of their arrival.

Hospitals in Bengaluru are also reporting intense pressure due to a steep rise in Covid-19 cases since late March. As on April 19, Bengaluru had 1,03,178 active cases, around 72 per cent of the 1,42,084 active cases in the state.

"We opened a new wing to accommodate Covid-19 patients this week. Within two hours, all 100 beds were taken. Today we decided to stop taking

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

### KARNATAKA'S HELI TOURISM PROJECT FACES OPPOSITION

The Karnataka tourism department's plan to launch helicopter tourism in parts of the state, beginning with Mysuru, has run into a controversy after environment activists and the royal family of Mysuru objected to the proposal to cut trees near a hotel for the project

RESEARCH

### THE THIRD WAVE OF AUTOCRATISATION

In 2020, the third wave of autocratisation has accelerated: Report

EXPLAINED

### RESTRICTING TRAVEL TO AND FROM INDIA

Why countries are restricting travel to and from India

EXPRESS AUDIO

## How India missed red flags about the second COVID-19 wave

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Today on the 3 Things podcast, we talk about why the second wave shouldn't have come as a surprise to anyone, the reasons it did, and the key red flags that India missed

FROM PAGE ONE

‘Crisis in HCs’

views from the State Government and the report/ input from the IB”. ■ “It would be for the Government to thereafter proceed to make the appointment immediately on the aforesaid consideration and undoubtedly, if Government has any reservations on suitability or in public interest, within the same period of time it may be sent back to the Supreme Court Collegium with the specific reasons for reservation recorded.” ■ “If the Supreme Court Collegium, after consideration of the aforesaid inputs, still reiterates the recommendation(s) unanimously..., such appointment should be processed and appointment should be made within 3 to 4 weeks.”

The Bench noted that “High Courts are in a crisis situation” and “there are almost 40% vacancies in the High Courts, with many of the larger High Courts working under 50% of their sanctioned strength”. The Bench rejected the contention that laying down a timeline “would be contrary to” certain “observations made in the Third Judges case”, saying the “observations” referred to “deal with the judicial review of a particular appointment and not such aspects of the appointment process like delay”.

The issue of vacancies came up when the court was hearing a petition seeking transfer of a case from the Orissa High Court due to the lawyers’ strike there. During the hearing, Attorney General K K Venugopal told the Bench that against the sanctioned strength of 1,080 High Court Judges, 664 have been appointed but 416 vacancies remain. He said the government had only received 196 recommendations for the vacancies so far.

Expressing concern, the Supreme Court said: “We cannot but note the importance of the Chief Justices of the High Courts making recommendations in time. The vacancies are known and the norms permit making recommendations up to six months in advance. However, even recommendations for 220 existing vacancies appear not to have been made, much less for vacancies which are going to arise in the next six months”.

Emphasising “the requirement and desirability of the Chief Justices of the High Courts” to “make endeavour to recommend vacancies as early as possible even if they are not made at one go”, the Bench said that in its earlier orders, it had noted the “apparent hesitation of some High Courts to recommend names when the earlier list(s) is in the pipeline”.

“We have opined that there is no such impediment to initiate a new process without waiting for the result of the earlier recommendations,” the Bench said. “There are two stages at which the matter rests with the Government – the first when the

Ministry processes the names; and the second post the Collegium of the Supreme Court taking a call in recommending such of the names as are approved by the Collegium,” it said.

The Bench said that according to the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of judges, as finalised by the Supreme Court Collegium on March 10, 2017, the “states may take not more than six weeks to send their views” and the “Central Government can presume no objection of the state government, if their views are not received within six weeks”. It said there was “no timeline prescribed for the Central Government to forward recommendations”.

Citing the MoP, the Bench said the Chief Justice of India must “send recommendations/ advice to the Law Minister within four weeks” and the Law Minister must “put up the proposal to the Prime Minister within three weeks for advice of the President”.

Vaccine planning

striking a deal with Pfizer to share medical data of inoculated people in exchange for the continued flow of Pfizer’s vaccine. India, in contrast, has been largely reliant on a real-time supply of vaccines from essentially a duopoly of suppliers. The first official sense came October 4 when Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said around 200-250 million people could expect jobs by July 2021. And by November, the government was confident of being able to vaccinate 300 million people by August 2021 – this would require around 600 million doses of a two-dose vaccine.

Yet, starting from March 2021, the government’s immunization programme had begun to stall. Amid a pinch in supply, on March 17, the CEO of Serum Institute of India, which is manufacturing Covishield, Adar Poonawalla said the government had “changed its view and mind” about how many doses it wanted to consume. This meant the Pune firm had to dedicate “a lot” of its capacity that was “not originally planned” for India as a result, he told Bloomberg.

Despite this, by the first week of April, states began reporting a shortage of vaccine supplies. On April 7, Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said the state had vaccines to last just three days. Rajasthan, too, flagged it was running out of vaccination supplies on April 15. On April 18, Telangana Health Minister Etela Rajender said the state had decided to temporarily halt its vaccinations due to a shortage in supplies from the Centre.

At the same time, the capacity of Covaxin, the only other vaccine being used in the country’s immunization programme, was slow to pick up. Experts said this underlines how the government, despite having time to plan ahead, did not ensure a sufficient stockpile of Covid-19 vaccines in advance to streamline the push.

Need to do our best to avoid a lockdown: PM

warriors, ambulance drivers, police and all those who had, once again, risked their lives to fight the pandemic.

But the strongest message was against a lockdown. “Aaj ki sthiti mein hamein desh ko lockdown se bachana hai. Main raajyon se bhi anurodh karunga ki vah lockdown ko antim vikalp ke roop mein hi istemaal karen. Lockdown se bachane ki bharpur koshish karni hai. Micro-containment zone par hi dhyan kendrit karna hai,” he said.

“In today’s circumstances, we have to save the country from a lockdown. I would also request the states to use lockdown only as the last resort. We have to do our best to avoid a lockdown. We have to focus on only micro-containment zones only.”

“Hum apni arthavyavastha ki sehat bhi sudhaareng aur deshvasiyon ke sehat ka bhi dhyan rakheng (We will improve the health of our economy and take care of the health of our country-

men also),” he said.

The PM’s address came a day after the Government said it was opening up the Covid vaccination drive from May 1 to include all above the age of 18 – and soon after he had told vaccine manufacturers during a meeting Tuesday to “continuously scale up the production capacity to vaccinate our people in the shortest possible time”.

Earlier, Covaxin maker Bharat Biotech said it was expanding its manufacturing capacity to around 700 mn doses annually. US pharma major Johnson & Johnson said it has “submitted an application to the Drugs Controller General of India requesting approval to conduct a bridging clinical study” of its single-dose vaccine candidate.

Reaching out to migrant workers, the PM said: “I urge the state administration to boost the confidence of workers and convince them to stay wherever they are.”

Modi’s appeal comes amid a fresh exodus of migrants after Delhi imposed a weeklong lockdown and Maharashtra enforced curfew-like conditions across the state.

The Prime Minister also invoked Ramnavami and Ramzan to urge people to follow “maryada” (proper behaviour) and “anushasan” (discipline).

While announcing the lockdown in an address to the nation last year, the Prime Minister had justified the curbs with the slogan: “Jaan hai to jahan hai.” In another address to the nation on April 14, 2020, Modi had said: “The country has benefited immensely from social distancing and lockdown. If you look at it only from the economic point of view, it seems expensive, a huge price has to be paid, but there can be no comparison with the lives of Indians.”

Earlier Tuesday, Modi assured vaccine makers of “all possible help and logistics support”

from the Government and said the “process of vaccine approval is speedy and scientific”.

The meeting was attended by Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII); Dr Krishna Ella, chairman of Bharat Biotech; Dr Satish Reddy, chairman of Dr Reddy’s Lab; Sanjay Singh, CEO, Gennova Biopharma; Pankaj Patel, chairman, Zyds Cadila; and, Dr Mahima Datla, MD, Biological E.

The meeting came after the Finance Ministry relaxed rules to effectively enable the Health Ministry to make advance payments of Rs 3,000 crore to SII, which manufactures Covishield, and Rs 1,500 crore to Bharat Biotech for procuring vaccines.

On Tuesday, Poonawalla thanked the Prime Minister and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the “decisive policy changes and swift financial aid which will help vaccine production and distribution in India”.

Don’t wash hands of vaccine: Opp states to Centre

vaccines to the people of the country,” Banerjee wrote.

“It is apprehended that the announced policy might lead to unscrupulous mechanisms in the market, including pricing of vaccines as it appears to be based on market prices which may put the common people under huge financial burden,” he said.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to the PM welcoming the move to expand the beneficiaries but underlined that given the ongoing economic distress, “the additional burden of purchasing Covid vaccines will place considerable strain on state finances.”

Urging the Centre to rethink, Vijayan said: “State governments... do need an assured quota of vaccine which has to be provided free in the situation. It is imperative that vaccines are provided to the States as a public good, free of cost.”

“Instead of having a Government of India channel, we need to have a Government channel which will include the State governments through

whom the vaccine will be distributed,” he said. Vijayan said open market distributors may be permitted to have a specified quota of vaccine for which affordable price has to be fixed so that “unscrupulous players” do not exploit the public.

Although the policy states that the Centre will provide vaccine free of cost to state governments from its 50% quota based on criteria, Vijayan said the state needs a reassurance that they will not be left to compete with open-market players.

Echoing this Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot told The Indian Express: “This new policy is wrong. The Centre should not burden state governments. What they should have done is that they should give vaccines free of cost to all age groups in government hospitals and allow 25% supply of vaccines to private nursing homes and hospitals where those who can afford can get themselves vaccinated.”

Chhattisgarh Health Minister TS Singh Deo said the decentral-

isation of purchase was “wrong and short-sighted” and demanded a rollback.

The Maharashtra Government urged the Centre to allow it to import vaccines from the international market. The state would ask the Centre for permission to import its choice of vaccines like AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Sputnik, state minister Jitendra Awhad said.

The Congress criticised some aspects of the policy. “In a country where the median age is 28 years, to leave those who are below the age of 45 years out of a public-funded programme is, to say the least, callous,” Congress leader P Chidambaram said.

“...The Union Government is running away from taking responsibility, overburdens the states, encourages vaccine manufacturers to profiteer, and will worsen the inequality between states as well between poor and rich Indians. Nowhere in the world has any government left its vaccination programme to be determined by the vagaries of

market forces, and for good reason,” he said.

“No other country is doing this (putting vaccines in the open market) as yet, because all these vaccines are still under restricted or emergency use permissions and have not yet been fully licensed in their countries of origin, except perhaps in Russia,” said vaccine expert and Christian Medical College professor Gagandeep Kang.

“As more vaccines are permitted entry into India or are produced in India, the supply chain will expand. This may happen by the end of June,” said Public Health Foundation of India President K Srinath Reddy.

“Since the Centre will provide free vaccinations only to persons above 45, state governments must provide free vaccinations to all younger adults from low income families. Migrant workers and their families should receive free vaccinations in whichever state they are located, without domicile requirements,” he added.

“All indications are that the government failed to place advanced purchase orders from vaccine manufacturers, and the initial supplies of these companies got locked into contracts that they had already signed with other countries like the US and UK,” said R Ramakumar, a professor at Tata Institute of Social Science’s Centre for Study of Developing Economies.

With supplies short of projected demand, the government plan was focused on vaccinating priority groups in a phased manner – healthcare workers first, followed by frontline workers like police and armed forces. In pursuance of this goal, the government had increased its total order of vaccines to 41 million doses by February 12, as per a response by Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey in the Lok Sabha response.

Vaccinations were opened up on March 1 for senior citizens and those above 45 years of age who had specific comorbidities. By March 17, a total of 70.62 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines had been supplied by the Centre, of which 37.10 million doses had been administered across the country.

By the time vaccinations were opened up for those above the age of 45, experts and industry executives said, there was a switch in the government’s supply-driven push to get people vaccinated. “Starting April 1, there was a higher rush in those above 45 wanting to get vaccinated, so there

was a demand-driven pull for more vaccines,” said the official of an industry body on condition of anonymity.

At the same time, the country was banking on limited supply from just two vaccines – SII’s Covishield, and Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin. Some experts feel this could have been avoided if the country had not potentially been focused on pushing a narrative of being able to fulfil its demand through a “Made in India” shot.

India’s support to especially indigenous vaccines during the pandemic was mostly limited to the development and testing of these jobs. At the same time, unlike other countries, India neither funded at-risk production nor placed advance orders for the Covid-19 vaccines being developed here.

Some vaccine vial and syringe manufacturers told The Indian Express that as late as December, they were still in the dark on whether and how much of their capacities they had to earmark for vaccine-makers, especially since vaccine companies themselves had not received clarity on how many doses would be required.

This lack of at-risk funding or risk-sharing was pointed out by some industry executives towards the end of last year as a potential hurdle to investing in stockpiling doses. With supplies running short, the government did a rethink.

On December 4, Pfizer India was the first company to approach the Central Drugs Standard

Control Organization (CDSCO) for restricted emergency permission to supply the Covid-19 vaccine it developed with German firm BioNTech. The day after, SII rushed to CDSCO with its emergency use request for Covishield. On its heels was Bharat Biotech, seeking similar permission to supply Covaxin despite not having completed Phase 3 trials.

On January 3, the country’s top drug regulator cleared Covishield and Covaxin for restricted emergency use in India. Pfizer, which had received an EUA in the UK for its vaccine, in January told Reuters that it wanted India to place orders for its vaccine despite constrained global supplies.

However, the vaccine maker’s request was rejected in February as it had not conducted local trials of the jab in India – a decision India has now effectively reversed in the hopes of attracting more applications for foreign Covid-19 vaccines, including Pfizer’s, which the company withdrew after its rejection in February.

Over the months, SII had reportedly been supplying most of its production capacity towards India’s vaccination programme, despite global commitments.

As of early April, The Indian Express had learnt that Bharat Biotech’s annual capacity for making Covaxin stood at 200 million – nearly 17 million doses a month.

Work to bring an additional Bio Safety Level 3 (BSL 3) facility online in Bengaluru has been underway with the country’s regulator having cleared the company

to make test batches of Covaxin there. Sources said these batches are expected by the end of April, but even after an approval is given to the site, it is expected to take around 60 days for production to start.

The company had reportedly sought around Rs 75 crore from the government to help speed up its work at this facility. The government Friday announced that it was providing the company around Rs 65 crore in funding to help it repurpose this facility, which was originally intended to produce animal vaccines.

Hero shuts plants

country, including its Global Parts Center (GPC), in view of the ongoing escalation in the spread of Covid-19 across the country.”

One of the biggest two-wheeler manufacturers in the world, Hero MotoCorp has six manufacturing plants with a total manufacturing capacity of 11.6 million units. Its plants are located in Haridwar, Dharuhera, Gurgaon, Neemrana, Vadodara and Chittoor.

Stating that each of its plants and GPC will remain shut for four days in a staggered manner between April 22 and May 1, 2021, it said the shutdown will not impact the company’s ability to meet the demand and that the production loss will be compensated during the remainder of the quarter.

The company also said it would utilise the shutdown to carry out necessary maintenance work in its manufacturing plants.

Some medium-scale companies too have shut down their plants fearing the spread of Covid.

Anil Bhardwaj, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises, said some companies associated with his association have also announced a shutdown on a voluntary basis to break the chain. “While there is no nationwide lockdown, it is important for companies to take a call on shutdown based on the Covid situation locally,” said Bhardwaj.

Kanohar Electricals, a leading power transformer manufacturer in Meerut, announced that its plant would be shut for three days beginning Monday. “We have closed the plant and will review the situation on Wednesday. A four-day shutdown will help break the chain and give us clarity on the situation of employees and workers,” said Dinesh Singhal, MD, Kanohar Electricals, adding that he plans to rotate the employees and postpone the work that is not critical.

UP lockdown call

asked the state government to “report to the High Court about the steps it has taken and proposes to take in the immediate future within a period of one week.”

Appearing for the state, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the court that the UP government “has issued several directions to contain the spread of Corona Virus”. He added that “the directions issued by the High Court vide the impugned order are as rigorous as a lockdown though the High Court has observed that they are nowhere close to a complete lockdown”.

The bench appointed Senior Advocate P S Narasimha as amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter.

Hearing a PIL on the “inhuman” condition at quarantine centres and the state of Covid treatment, a division bench of the HC had said that while ordering a lockdown was the government’s prerogative, it was disappointed by the measures taken since its last order, calling them an “eyewash”.

In its appeal before the SC, the state said that “though the intention behind the...order...is both laudable and salutary”, the HC “has effectively encroached upon the executive domain and has passed a mandamus which is incapable of being executed at the present stage, and if executed, is capable of creating panic, fear and law and order situation in the State”.

MP bus mishap

to proceed on the journey.

Dimer’s wife Abhilasha, who was returning with him, was among the injured. Based on her complaint, the police have registered a case against the bus driver under IPC sections related to rash driving and endangering lives.

Dimer’s father, Asharam Raikwar, told The Indian Express that his son and wife worked as labourers in Delhi earning Rs 300 a day and decided to return to their village to avoid the problems they had faced during the national lockdown last year.

“He had called me yesterday and said they were leaving as they were again putting a lockdown. During the lockdown last time, they had to walk for five days to reach home and so I asked him to come soon,” Asharam, 65, said. Dimer and Abhilasha have two sons, one aged five and the other just three.

Officials and passengers said the bus had set out from Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi and was carrying migrant workers bound for Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur and other adjoining regions. Several of them were sitting on top of the bus.

Speaking to reporters, Ganpatlal Ahirwar, a mason who was travelling on the bus, said: “There were 350 people in the bus

and we were made to pay Rs 700 per person. The driver had stopped the bus near Dholpur and both he and conductor were drunk. He had hit a truck earlier. The truck driver took the key of the bus and we somehow managed to retrieve it from him.”

Speaking to The Indian Express, Anil Singh Bhardoria, Station House Officer from the local Bhilow police station, said: “The accident occurred at a steep turn in Jhousi Ghati, making it difficult for drivers. There have been at least 15 accidents there.”

On May 8, 2020, 16 migrant workers – part of a group of 20 headed towards villages in MP – were run over by a goods train in Maharashtra’s Aurangabad.

Eight days later, around 2.30 am on May 16, a least 24 migrant workers were killed and 37 injured when a truck coming from Delhi hit a parked tractor trolley from Rajasthan in Uttar Pradesh’s Auraiya district.

Fadnavis nephew

first dose, so we gave him the second dose at our centre,” he told The Indian Express.

When contacted, Dr Balakrishna Adsul, Dean, Seven Hills Hospital, said the hospital had vaccinated 1.30 lakh people so far, and it was impossible to verify each person’s credentials.

“It is possible he registered on CoWIN as a healthcare or frontline worker. We are immunising those who are pre-registered. It is not possible to verify each person as there are 3,500 vaccinations a day,” he said, adding that he did not know Tanmay personally.

In his statement on Monday, Fadnavis said: “Tanmay Fadnavis is my distant relative. I have no idea under which criteria he received his Covid dose. If it has been taken as per the guidelines, then there should be no objection to it. But if it is in violation of guidelines, it is completely improper. My wife and daughter have also not received vaccination because they don’t qualify for it yet, under the existing criteria. I am of the firm opinion that everybody must follow the rules.”

Tanmay’s father, Abhijit Fadnavis, and grandmother, Shobhatai Fadnavis, did not respond to calls or text messages.

While Tanmay has since deleted the photograph of him taking the vaccine, his Instagram account has multiple photographs with the former CM.

“Tanmay is about 22 years and has just completed his engineering degree from Nagpur. He has also done a course in acting,” said a family source.

Targeting the former Chief Minister, Maharashtra PCC chief Nana Patole questioned how the youth had got the vaccine.

“It is blatant misuse of power and position. When the vaccine is for specific categories, how could he get it, especially when it is in short supply,” said NCP minister Nawab Malik.

Defending Fadnavis, BJP spokesperson Keshav Upadhyay said: “If he had to misuse power, he would have facilitated the vaccine for his wife and daughter... Some distant relative has taken the vaccine and it’s being blamed on Fadnavis, which is very unfair.”

— WITHEMS, MUMBAI

Bengaluru pyres

non-Covid patients. There are no beds available in the ICU,” said a senior professor at a private medical college hospital in south Bengaluru.

“The government needs to lockdown for a few days and open up its own facilities such as Victoria Hospital and Jayadeva Hospital. That way, we will get at least 300 more ICU beds. The situation in Bengaluru is going to get worse than Delhi and Mumbai, where there is more bed capacity. We need to reduce cases by 50 per cent soon,” the professor said.

FULL REPORTS ON  
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# MORE BEDS SET UP Sisodia: Don't panic or rush to hospitals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

DELHI'S DEPUTY Chief Minister Manish Sisodia appealed to people not to panic and follow all rules of the lockdown to slow the spread of Covid. "Patients should not rush to the hospital out of fear and should adopt home isolation as an effective model. Home isolation is the most effective way to fight Covid. During home isolation, doctors regularly keep in touch with people over the phone. If you have high fever or severe symptoms, only then should you go to hospitals," he said.

Delhi is reeling under a shortage of oxygen and hospital beds. Out of 19,537 beds for Covid patients, only 2,682 are available, most of them in government hospitals. The shortage of ICU beds is more severe -- out of 4,585, only 30 are vacant. CM Arvind Kejriwal had appealed to people earlier not to get admitted if they have only moderate symptoms as someone sicker than them could need a bed.

Sisodia said Tuesday if a patient requires a bed, they should check the Delhi Corona app before going to the hospital as it will save time. "If a hospital is showing false information on the app or refusing people despite having beds, action will be taken," he said.

"Delhi government is working on war footing and 2,700 new beds will be added in hospitals within the next 4-5 days. The number of Covid-19 beds went



'Home isolation an effective model'

up from 6,071 to over 19,100 within two weeks," Sisodia said.

He also visited Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar hospital in Rohini with Health Minister Satyendar Jain. Flagging the shortage of Remdesivir, Jain appealed to the Centre to allow all companies to manufacture the drug. "There is shortage in the entire country. We probably have 12-14 companies in the country for this. If the central government allows all these to manufacture it, then its shortage will end. Strict action will be taken against whoever indulges in black marketing of these drugs," he said.

On the Delhi government's plan to ramp up vaccinations when those above 18 are eligible to get a shot, Jain said: "There are already over 500 vaccination centres in Delhi and these will be increased further. We had also asked the Centre to give permissions to open more vaccination centres and said these be allowed to open in schools and community centres. If this permission is granted, we will be able to vaccinate very quickly."



The facility at CWG Village, Praveen Khanna

# Police chief asks senior cops to check migrant exodus

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

TO PREVENT an exodus during the lockdown, Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava has directed all 15 DCPs and SHOs to stop movement of migrants and drop them back home if they are found outside during the lockdown without authorisation.

The direction came a day after hundreds of migrant workers gathered at the Anand Vihar Bus Terminal to board buses and head to their states. "A video conference was called by the police chief with all DCPs, ACPs and SHOs to discuss safety measures taken for Covid and how to implement the lockdown tactfully," a senior police officer said.

Shrivastava told them while they have implemented 85% of the lockdown, they should work towards implementing it a 100%. "To avoid an exodus situation, he directed all SHOs to stop unauthorised movement of migrant labourers and drop them in a bus provided to all police stations. He also asked to allow only those with tickets and check all vehicles properly at pickets," an officer said.

Delhi Police spokesperson Chinmoy Biswal said, "Delhi Police chief has directed that unnecessary movement of vehicles and people on roads be curbed. He asked officers to be polite, but firm, and also asked field officers to announce in colonies and densely populated areas that people should obey the curfew, besides strict picket checks."

"Shrivastava told them that anyone coming out of home will

# Kejriwal quarantines himself at residence after wife tests positive for coronavirus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal tested positive for Covid Tuesday. She is under home isolation and the CM has also quarantined himself, attending meetings through video conferencing.

Over the past year, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Health Minister Satyendar Jain and Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot have tested positive for the virus. While Sisodia and Jain had to be hospitalised, Gahlot is under home isolation.

Several AAP MLAs, including Raghav Chadha and Atishi, had also tested positive earlier

Kejriwal lives with his parents, wife, and two children.

Covid cases in Delhi have been surging for close to a month, and touched an all-time high of 25,500 last week.

Kejriwal announced a lockdown in the city on Monday, wherein only emergency services, those attending weddings and funerals, and a few other

services such as grocery stores, restaurants (for delivery), and delivery personnel are being allowed to travel.

The lockdown is in place till 5 am on Monday and was an extension of a weekend lockdown that the CM said was necessitated by the rise in cases and the immense pressure on healthcare infrastructure in the city.

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# INDIA'S QUEST FOR ECONOMIC POWER

Thursday 22 April | 4:45-8.30 pm India, 12:15-4.00 pm GMT+1

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Government of India

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Position	No. of Positions	Eligibility
<b>Lead - Investments &amp; Acquisitions</b>	01	Graduate with minimum 15 years of experience in investment management preferably in Roads or Infrastructure sector.
<b>MIS Lead - Traffic &amp; Toll Revenue</b>	01	B.E./B.Tech. with 10-12 years of experience Traffic & Toll Revenue.
<b>General Manager - Traffic, Road Safety &amp; Management</b>	01	B.E./B.Tech. with 15 years of experience in Traffic, Road Safety & Management.
<b>MIS Lead - Operations &amp; Maintenance</b>	01	B.E./B.Tech. with 10-12 years of experience in Operations & Maintenance of Roads projects.
<b>Manager - F&amp;A (Banking &amp; Treasury)</b>	01	Degree in Commerce / CA Inter / ICWA Inter with 8 yrs. Or CA / ICWA with 4 yrs. years of experience in finance & accounts in Infrastructure company preferably in Roads sector.
<b>Manager - HR (Payroll / HR Ops. / TA / Corp. HR)</b>	01	MBA with 10-12 years of experience in handling HR Ops, payroll, recruitment, HR Business Partnering in infrastructure industry.
<b>Head - SPV</b>	01	B.E./B.Tech. with 20 years of experience in Roads projects.
<b>Manager - Traffic &amp; Toll Revenue (SPV)</b>	01	B.E./B.Tech. with 10-12 years of experience Traffic & Toll Revenue.
<b>Manager - Finance &amp; Accounts (SPV)</b>	01	CA with 8 years Or Degree in Commerce / CA Inter / ICWA Inter with 12 years of experience in finance & accounts in Infrastructure company. Candidates having working exposure at project site in Roads sector shall be preferred.
<b>Manager - IR &amp; HR (SPV)</b>	01	MBA with 10-12 years of experience in handling Industrial Relations related activities at project sites in infrastructure industry.
<b>Project Manager</b>	04	B.E./B.Tech. with 15 years of experience in construction, infrastructure development, toll management and operating and managing operational roads projects.
<b>Toll Manager</b>	08	B.E./B.Tech. with 10 years or Diploma with 15 years of experience in toll management.

Kindly send your updated resume to [hr.nhiimpl@nhai.org](mailto:hr.nhiimpl@nhai.org) with a subject line "Application for "Name of the position"". We shall be accepting the applications for all the above positions until 30th April 2021.

**Sh. Manohar Lal**  
Chief Minister, Haryana

# Don't Panic Adopt Safety Norms to prevent Corona

## Cleanliness

**Frequently wash hands with soap and water or use sanitizer**

## Vaccination

**COVID vaccine is safe, must get vaccination**

**Adopt Healthy Lifestyle & Ayurveda to Boost Immunity**

## Strictness

**Strict adherence to social distancing and use of masks**

**Challan for not wearing mask as well as free mask distribution**

**Comprehensive arrangement in Covid Testing Centre under the supervision of District Administration**

## Follow the rule of SMS

S

Sanitization

M

Mask

S

Social Distancing

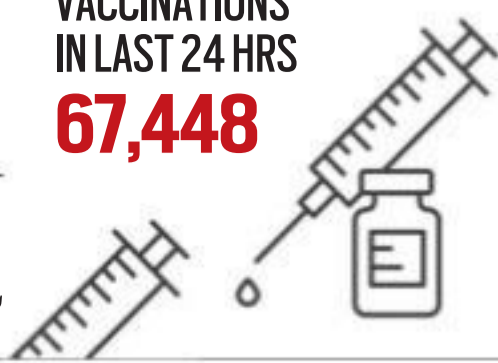
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VACCINATIONS  
IN LAST 24 HRS  
**67,448**



TOTAL CASES	HOSPITAL BEDS		Total	Vacant
	ICU BEDS		<b>19,608</b>	<b>2,629</b>
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Apr 19	23,686	21,500	240	90,696
Apr 20	28,395	19,430	277	86,526
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,575*</b>	<b>8,07,328</b>	<b>1,26,328</b>	<b>1,64,05,232</b>

\*Total active cases

# Delhi govt SOS: Oxygen running out at hospitals

**ASTHA SAXENA & SOFIAHSAN**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

ALARM BELLS are ringing at several hospitals in Delhi over the shortage of oxygen supply, amid the rising number of cases and increased patient load. The issue was once again raised by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday as hospitals struggled to meet the required oxygen demand. The Delhi High Court too called the situation “alarming”.

Calling it a “serious oxygen crisis”, the CM urged the Centre to immediately provide oxygen to the city. “Serious oxygen crisis persists in Delhi. I again urge the Centre to urgently provide oxygen to Delhi. Some hospitals are left with just a few hours of oxy-

gen,” he tweeted.

Delhi reported 28,395 cases and 277 deaths on Tuesday, the highest till date. The positivity rate also climbed to almost 33% — meaning one in every three people tested had Covid.

Dr D S Rana, chairman of board at Sir Ganga Ram hospital, told *The Indian Express* “We have 500 Covid patients in the hospital out of which 128 are in the ICU. The oxygen requirement for the patients in the ICU is relatively higher than those admitted in the general wards. If we continue with the current situation, the existing oxygen supply will last for only seven-eight hours. Normally, we require 3,000 cubic meters of oxygen in a day and currently, the demand has gone up to approximately 10,000 cubic meters. I have been

working with the hospital for the last 40 years and this is the first time that we have seen such a crisis.”

Data shared by deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia shows that in most of the hospitals — state-run and private — the oxygen supply is available for 8-10 hours. “In most hospitals in Delhi, oxygen is available for the next 8 to 12 hours only. We have been demanding for one week to increase the oxygen supply quota to Delhi, which the central government has to do. If oxygen does not reach the hospitals in sufficient quantity by tomorrow morning, there will be an outcry,” tweeted Sisodia.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain also shared a message sent to him by the Principal at UCMS, which is affil-

## OXYGEN STOCK STATUS

(On April 20 at 6 pm, as per Delhi govt)

### MAJOR GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

■ DDU Hospital	<b>12 Hrs</b>	■ Burari Hospital	<b>8 Hrs</b>
■ Ambedkar Hospital	<b>24 Hrs</b>	■ Sanjay Gandhi Hospital	<b>12 Hrs</b>
■ Acharya Bikshu Hospital	<b>10-12 Hrs</b>	■ Lok Nayak Hospital	<b>12 Hrs</b>
■ Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital	<b>8 Hrs</b>	■ Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital	<b>8-10 Hrs</b>

### MAJOR PRIVATE HOSPITALS

■ B L Kapoor	<b>8-10 Hrs</b>	■ Holy Family	<b>24 Hrs</b>
■ Batra	<b>8-9 Hrs</b>	■ Max, Patparganj	<b>8-10 Hrs</b>
■ Venkateshwar	<b>4 Hrs</b>	■ Balaji	<b>48 Hrs</b>
■ Stephen's	<b>12-15 Hrs</b>	■ Shree Agrasen	<b>48 Hrs</b>
■ Gangaram	<b>16-18 Hrs</b>	■ Maharaja Agrasen	<b>5 Hrs</b>



iated to GTB Hospital, a Covid-only facility. The message from Dr Anil Jain said the hospital was facing difficulty in getting supply of liquid medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders from the vendor and if the supply remained constrained, it could lead to a “catastrophe” as the hospital has more than 500 “critically sick patients” and oxygen will run out by 2 am (Tuesday night).

The Delhi High Court directed the central government to review the allocation of oxygen on a dynamic basis so that its utilisation is achieved in the most efficient manner. “The situation on this front is rather alarming. We have been informed that the availability of oxygen, as we pass this order, has dropped dramatically even in hospitals like Sir Ganga Ram

hospital, which is 100 percent Covid facility and is one of the leading hospitals of Delhi. The situation is such that the oxygen pressure had to be reduced for it to last longer, with a result that serious patients who are in need of oxygen have suffered drastic fall in oxygen levels which is turning out to be one of major causes of fatality of Covid patients,” said the court.

Senior advocate Rahul Mehra, representing the Delhi government, told the court that there is a great dearth of medical oxygen in the hospitals and the daily requirement is 700 MTs. Centre told the court that 378 MTs is being supplied at present and disputed the demand of the Delhi government. Mehra also told the court that despite a court order on Monday, INOX, which

has contracts with Delhi government for supply of oxygen to the hospitals in the national capital, has not restored the 140 MTs oxygen supply to its hospitals owing to the fear of law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh where its unit is located. While issuing a contempt notice to INOX, the division bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli asked the owner of the company to remain present during the hearing on Thursday and also issued a notice to the UP government.

As per sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), all possible efforts are being made to smoothen supply lines: “Things should improve in a few hours. Oxygen has to be brought from UP and vehicles have been sent. Delhi will not run out of oxygen.”

# At Lok Nayak, an unprecedented crisis

Desperation outside, perseverance inside — *The Indian Express* spends two days at the hospital which has been at the forefront of the capital’s fight against Covid

**ASHNA BUTANI, JIGNASA SINHA & ASTHA SAXENA**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

FOR THE first time since the pandemic struck the national capital, Lok Nayak hospital — Delhi government’s largest Covid-only facility — is running at full capacity. And the strain is beginning to show — both on healthcare workers inside and desperate families outside. *The Indian Express* spent two days outside the hospital, which has been at the forefront of the national capital’s fight against Covid.

On Tuesday, a board inside the hospital made it clear: No beds were available at the time. The total number of beds in the hospital is 1,500. This includes 400 for ICU patients and 200 for those on a ventilator.

But that didn’t stop ambulances from queuing up outside — as one was told to turn around, another took its place. At the gates were distraught family members trying to get patients admitted, and security guards tasked with explaining the situation to them.

At 4:15 pm, an ambulance with a patient in his 50s reached, but was stopped at the gate. A security guard said, “We are not letting ambulances in because they get stuck inside. So a family member goes in and completes the formalities. If a bed is available, we open the doors for the vehicle.”

As the patient’s breathing became laboured and he started gasping for help, his family decided to try to get him admitted elsewhere. Around 5 pm, they headed to RML hospital.

An ambulance driver outside said he had never seen such a “grim situation” before — “not even last year”. “It is only when a patient dies or recovers that a new patient can be admitted,” he said.

He said that many families keep calling ambulance drivers in the hope of getting a patient on oxygen inside the vehicle till a bed is available. “We all have small cylinders in our ambulances. Since oxygen is in short supply, we end up filling the cylinders at Rs 500 when the actual cost is Rs 250. These last for approximately an hour. Sometimes, when there



Prem Nath Pandey

is absolutely no oxygen available anywhere, we have to pick up the patient without it... We have seen people die inside our ambulances,” he said.

Also at the hospital on Tuesday was Ashish Pawar (27), who said he was transferring his mother to a private hospital. “She has been here for almost a week. Her oxygen levels are very low. We even arranged plasma for her. We have decided to take her elsewhere since she is not recovering,” he said.

### Shattered, say doctors

Dr Ritu Saxena, who has been coordinating with the Covid patients for over a year now, said the last three days have been “the toughest”. “The surge has left us shattered and in shock. All healthcare workers are mentally exhausted; it can’t be expressed in words. We have admitted around 70 patients in an hour and the crowd at the hospital’s emergency area is difficult to manage. Between all this, several healthcare workers are also testing pos-



Outside Lok Nayak hospital, which has 1,500 beds for Covid patients, all of which are full. Praveen Khanna

itive and those who are left are disheartened and demotivated,” she told *The Indian Express* on Monday.

Dr Suresh Kumar, the hospi-

tal’s medical superintendent who has been actively involved in the treatment of patients as well, said: “Many patients in the hospital are from NCR areas. About a

third of the patients admitted here are from Noida, Ghaziabad, Haryana, Sonapat, etc. Since the number of admissions have gone up significantly over the last few

days and there is a shortage of oxygen supply across the country, we have put around 200 patients on oxygen concentrators. These patients are in need of low

oxygen supply and we are trying to use the high oxygen flow for critical patients in need. This is the first time that we are facing this crisis.”

### From far and wide

Among those who had come from outside the capital was Anjali Nigam (45), who left her kids aged 15 and 11 at home in Agra and came to Delhi to get her husband Dhiren Kumar (50) admitted on Sunday. She said that while several relatives had called to check on Dhiren, none offered to give her refuge while she was in Delhi.

“Dhiren complained of breathlessness and fever two days ago. We got him tested but before we could get the results, his condition deteriorated. His blood pressure and oxygen saturation level dropped to 80. I was scared and called our relatives but nobody came to help us. A helper at Dhiren’s office took us to at least five hospitals in Agra but doctors didn’t admit him,” she said.

As per sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), all possible efforts are being made to smoothen supply lines: “Things should improve in a few hours. Oxygen has to be brought from UP and vehicles have been sent. Delhi will not run out of oxygen.”

“Doctors at GB Pant referred him to Lok Nayak and we got a bed. We thought he would recover soon but I received a call from the doctors 10 minutes ago. They said he died due to Covid. What do I do now?” said Alam.

While the crowd on Sunday was less than on weekdays, families of patients waited in line outside to send food and essentials to their loved ones. A few also requested authorities to facilitate a video call with the patient.

Bali Singh, 75, a resident of Shalimar Bagh, sat alone in a corner.

“My daughter Nisha and her husband both tested positive on Saturday. Her husband is under home isolation in Nanakpura. She called me late at night and told me to take her to a hospital. I managed to get a cab and took her to Lok Nayak but there was no bed here. Today, we got a bed. I am hoping she recovers soon.”

# Capital’s migrant exodus continues: ‘Every time I see an election poster, I feel cheated... Nobody has helped us’

**JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

ON TUESDAY morning, Pinki (26) and her husband left their home in Delhi’s Jhilmil Colony, filled with anxiety. The couple worked at a printing press near their home but were told by their employer that they won’t be paid during the lockdown and should consider leaving the city and returning when work resumes. With no savings, they borrowed money from their neighbours and left with their three children in search of a bus that could take them to Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh.

Standing with her children at Anand Vihar ISBT while her husband looked for a bus, Pinki said: “We are afraid we won’t get a bus



At Anand Vihar ISBT on Tuesday. Praveen Khanna

today. My husband and I don’t have any savings left because our landlord forced us to pay the rent this month and our employers haven’t paid us anything in the

last 20 days. How will we survive here if there’s a longer lockdown? The printing press produces school books and election posters but our employers didn’t

pay us now because books aren’t being printed these days. Every time I see an election poster, I feel cheated. Nobody has helped us.”

“It’s been more than three hours now, I am tired but there are no buses. We can’t afford a private AC bus. Not that I want to stay in Sitapur because we won’t get a permanent job there. I wish schools reopen soon so I can print books again,” she said.

Hundreds of migrants, some of whom could not get a bus or train on Monday, when a week-long lockdown came into effect in Delhi, gathered at Anand Vihar to try again on Tuesday.

Geeta (38), a labourer, lost her job last week and was planning to go home with her son and her husband but the crowd “scared” her.

“We left our home after we watched the CM’s announcement on television. We get Rs 400 per day but our employers said the factory won’t open for at least a month. When we came here yesterday, I almost lost my son in the crowd. We missed our bus and got so scared that we went back home. Today, we are ready to leave but there are no buses. I packed parathas for the children. We will now work in Hamirpur, UP. I don’t want to come here again,” said Geeta.

The family shifted to Delhi last year but had to leave during the first lockdown. In December, they came back and got jobs, only to be met with another setback.

Though the terminal was lined with government buses, many seats were full because

passengers booked tickets online. In private AC buses, passengers claimed conductors were charging as much as Rs 1,500-Rs 2,000 for a seat.

Bhim Singh (50), who works at a cloth factory, said he and his wife were initially going to attend a friend’s wedding in Bihar’s Arrah, but have now decided not to return.

“The factory is shut, my children have already left and are staying with their grandparents. We will do farming. Last week, during the night curfew, I asked my neighbour to book my tickets. It’s scary here, people are pushing each other and nobody is wearing a mask. My children call me every hour. We just want to go back and stay in Bihar now,” he said.

# In Gurgaon, 1 ventilator and 4 ICU beds vacant

**SAKSHI DAYAL**  
GURGAON, APRIL 20

AS THE number of ICU beds available for Covid patients in Gurgaon fell to below five on Tuesday, and only one ventilator bed remained vacant, district officials said work had begun to increase the number of beds at government facilities from 200 to 800.

On Monday, T C Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary of the Haryana government had met with officials in Gurgaon to assess the Covid situation in the district.

This came amid a crunch in ICU and ventilator beds for Covid patients. On Tuesday, their numbers reduced further, with the number of vacant ICU beds falling from nine on Monday to four as of 5 pm on Tuesday. The number

of vacant ventilator beds fell to just one, from three vacant beds a day earlier.

District officials said the government has tied up with three facilities to increase the number of beds available to Covid patients: SGT Medical College in Chandu Budhera, Medeor hospital in Manesar, and World College of Medical Sciences Research and Hospital in Jhajjar. “The beds will be increased in a phased manner. We have started work on three facilities, and are sure that within the next three-four days, we can upscale the bed availability. We are planning to raise it to 500 beds within a week at SGT alone, in addition to a 150-bed facility at Jhajjar college, and a 125-bed facility at Medeor,” said Deputy Commissioner Yash Garg.

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# CIVIL SERVICES DAY

## UPSC NEWS

**Civil Services Interview postponed, new dates to be announced**

THE UNION Public Service Commission, UPSC, has postponed the Civil Services Examination, 2020 Personality Tests (Interviews) amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic in the country. The commission has also postponed the personality test for Indian Economic Service/Indian Statistical Service Examination, 2020.

Earlier, the UPSC Civil Services Exam 2020 interview was scheduled to begin from April 26. Also, the Competent Authority had also decided to reimburse the lowest 'to' and 'fro' airfare for traveling by Air India or any other private Airlines to the outstation candidates for attending interviews/ PT boards.

"Due to the prevailing conditions caused by the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19), as a precautionary measure, the

Union Public Service Commission has deferred the Personality Tests (Interviews) of the candidates of the Civil Services Examination, 2020 scheduled from 26th April, 2021 to 18th June, 2021 till further orders," read the official notice released by UPSC.

"New dates for the Personality Tests (Interviews) will be informed to the candidates in due course of time," read the official notice released by UPSC.

## Celebrating public service

*Civil Services Day is here and it is a matter of pride and celebrations for me as well because even I have been indirectly connected with it for more than three decades.*

AT THE outset, I will reiterate that The Government of India celebrates April 21 every year as 'Civil Services Day' as an occasion for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work.

This date is chosen to commemorate the day when the first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi, he referred to civil servants as the 'Steel frame of India'.

My bonding with Civil Servants started with my association with Pratiyogita Darpan. In the year 1989, I started interviewing IAS toppers and my endeavour began with iconic names like Shalini Chhabra and Shashi Prakash Goyal. Ever since, it has been a routine to understand the changing dynamics and how the Indian youth relate to top government jobs.

India is one of the most diverse countries on Earth, and the biggest democracy by far. As a development success story, India stands out with strong social and economic reforms; from the land of snake charmers to transforming itself into one of the world's fast-growing economies, we have come a long way.

The moment we touch upon the growth aspect, the civil servants have been its integral part at every step taken by the government in service delivery to the masses.

The civil servants have been the author of good governance. Whether it is e-governance, m-governance, or present day's maxim: "Minimum Government - Maximum Governance", socio-economic policies or other path-breaking decisions which have



benefited the masses at the grassroots level and have touched our lives on day-to-day basis, the role of civil servants is inseparable.

When I look at the fascination among youth – even in this changing economic environment, where private sector and new-age jobs offer excellent remunerations; career in civil services is still at the top-of-mind. I have seen many youngsters chucking their high paid job and taking a plunge into the preparation of Civil Services Exam and even succeeding with top ranks.

We can easily spot one big change in the mindset of the youth. No more, they talk about power or prestige; they look at the career in Civil Services as a great opportunity to connect with the common masses, serve the poor and underprivileged and im-

prove their plight.

Almost every day there is something or other that appears in news or on social media, we find stories of agile, innovative and cooperative civil servants being a part of pro-active government machinery for an effective service delivery, who are quick, responsive and efficient.

In the previous one year, we have been witnessing the influence of bureaucracy in handling Covid-19 pandemic and how effectively delivery of services, policies programs, maintaining law and order, ensuring proper procedures are followed and these professionally driven civil servants ensure that the services are delivered effectively, impartially and courteously.

Governance is a dynamic phenomenon that has always attracted the attention of the engineers, medicos, law graduates and even other specialist professionals. The government's lateral entry scheme is a testimony to

the above fact.

In the end, I think on 'Civil Services Day', when Awards for Excellence in Public Administration are presented to Districts/Implementing Units for implementation of priority program and innovation categories each civil servant should think of at least one innovative idea to ameliorate the system of governance as means to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizen.

I feel even the aspiring youth should also look at these shining moments as an opportunity to align themselves and their thought-process and vision with the future of India. It will certainly make things easier when they face the fierce Civil Services Examination to convert their dreams into reality.

**Atul Kapoor**  
Vice President  
Pratiyogita Darpan;  
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## Civil Services and its preparation in changing times

**VISION IAS** is India's premier research and training institute for civil services examination. It is driven by core values of innovation and excellence and this has led to its spectacular rise in popularity among aspirants within a short span of time. It has bagged 9 in the top 10 ranks and 7 in the top 10 in UPSC CSE 2018 and 19 respectively from various courses like Test Series Programs, Classroom Programs, Distance Learning Programs etc.

On this Civil Services Day, we will try to analyze the role of the civil services as well as how to prepare for the civil services entrance exams in changing times. This is an excerpt from an interview with the VISION IAS team.

**What is the role of civil services? How is it changing and evolving in the recent times?**

The Civil Services form the permanent executive arm of the government. Its chief role is to assist and advice the ministers in their functions and to implement the policies of the government. They perform both administrative as well as developmental functions. Sardar Patel described the services as the 'steel-frame' of India's government machinery.

The civil services must keep pace with the changing times in order to meet the aspirations of the people. Rapid economic growth, for example, brings with it the challenges of inequality, environmental destruction etc. These are the new issues which have to be dealt with at the policy as well as implementation level by the civil servants.

**Could you enlighten us with some examples of the outstanding work done by the civil servants?**

Anonymity is an important value in the civil services - Civil servants primarily work 'behind the scenes'. Despite this, many leave a distinct imprint on society through their works. They mainly work as agents of change.

For example, Shri OP Choudhary (IAS, 2005 batch) started the programme 'Choo Lo Asman' in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh. Under this, students were given post classroom special tutorials for entrance examinations like the IIT-JEE. Today, the Dantewada Education City has an engineering college, an Industrial Training Institute, a tribal girls' school, as well as residential schools for children who have lost their parents in the Naxal related violence. He was therefore a recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for excellence in Public Administration in 2011-12.

Another example is of Shri Armstrong Pame (IAS, 2009 batch), who crowd sourced funds to build a road to connect Tameliong district in Manipur to rest of the country.

**The pattern of the exam is changing. How must one prepare in this context?**

First and foremost, the aspirants must go through the previous years' question papers to get a thorough understanding of the demands of the examination. Since 2013, Questions asked are more analytical in nature and thus rote learning is not helpful. One needs to analyse topics in the syllabus from multiple aspects and relate them with current affairs. Answer-writing practice has therefore become an important component of preparation. It is therefore advisable to attempt the previous years' questions repeatedly along with a good test series to hone these skills.

Also, in the current scenario, aspirants must pay proper attention to Paper IV in General studies i.e. the ethics paper due to its high scoring nature. Aspirants must adequately practice case studies in order to be able to score well in this paper.

Further, the removal of one optional has meant that even working professionals and students have a good chance at clearing this exam and online classes and content can come handy for this.

**As Prelims is soon approaching, what should be the strategy of aspirants at this crucial stage?**

Aspirants must focus more on revising and practicing test series. This will enable them to effectively revise and test their knowledge. It will also help them to know their strong and weak areas, which would aid in more effective and efficient revisions.

At the same time, the aspirants must not ignore the current affairs, and must keep revising the important government schemes, latest initiatives of the government and the news of the past one year at the least.

**Many aspirants are awaiting the Personality Test (Interview Stage). What should be their approach?**

The candidates selected for the personality test round must prepare for it with utmost confidence, calm and composure. They must prepare each entry of their Detailed Application Forms in as much depth possible. Also, taking Mock Interviews and obtaining feedback would significantly help in gaining confidence as well as improving their personality traits.

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# 6 THE SECOND SURGE

## IN BRIEF

### Singapore curbs for India travellers

*Singapore:* Singapore on Tuesday announced that travellers from India will have to serve an additional seven-day 'Stay-at-Home Notice', apart from the usual mandatory 14-day quarantine at a dedicated facility due to the steep rise in the coronavirus cases and the emergence of new virus strain in the country. The announcement by the Ministry of Health came as the entry approvals for non-Singapore citizens and non-permanent residents are being reduced with immediate effect, in response to the worsening Covid-19 situation in India. **PTI**

### 2 held for forged Covid reports

*Mumbai:* Mumbai Police on Monday arrested two persons, including one who used to work with a laboratory chain, for allegedly providing forged negative reports of Covid-19 to people in exchange of Rs 1,000 per person. The crime branch (unit X) said they had given forged negative certificates to at least 100 people. DCP (crime) Akbar Pathan said officers received a tip-off that the duo were operating from a chawl at Jogeshwari. A police team raided their room on Monday and caught them red-handed when they were allegedly making forged certificates on their laptop. **ENS**

### Nurse assaulted at care centre

*Mumbai:* A 45-year-old man has been booked by the police for allegedly brutally assaulting a nurse working in a Covid-19 care centre in Malabar Hill. The Malabar Hill police said the incident took place last Friday, when the person, believing that he was not receiving proper treatment, accused the hospital of infecting him and attacked nurse Dipika Vasave with a knife before fleeing from the hospital. The police said that Vasave has sustained injuries on her face, back and hands. **ENS**

### BJP leader booked over birthday party

*Ahmedabad:* Former Anand Nagarpalika president Vijay Patel was booked Monday after videos of the BJP leader purportedly celebrating his birthday at a public event without wearing a mask or abiding by social distancing norms emerged on social media, police said. "An FIR has been lodged against him and further action will be taken as per procedure," a statement issued by the Anand Police said Tuesday. **ENS**

### Unclaimed bodies in Goa mortuary

*Panaji:* Leader of Opposition in Goa Assembly Digambar Kamat on Tuesday wrote to the South Goa Collector and urged her to issue orders for disposal of unclaimed bodies lying in the mortuary in Margao. Kamat wrote that he was informed that at least 15 to 20 unclaimed bodies, some Covid-infected, were lying in the mortuary "as the government had not made any arrangements for disposal" of the bodies. **ENS**

### More beds, docs in Sassoon hospital

*Pune:* Sassoon General Hospital will step up its bed strength for Covid-19 patients to 700 in another week's time. A total of 66 doctors will also be recruited on an urgent basis, Director of Medical Education and Research Dr T P Lahane says. With 525 beds occupied in the super-specialty building, Sassoon Hospital authorities said an additional 175 beds will be made ready in two different buildings on the premises. Considering the increasing number of Covid patients, Dr Lahane said they had agreed to recruit 66 doctors on an urgent basis. **ENS**

## YOUTHS SEEM MORE VULNERABLE IN SECOND WAVE: ADITYANATH

# UP, Assam govts announce free vaccination to all aged above 18

**AVANEESH MISHRA & ABHISHEK SAHA**  
LUCKNOW, GUWAHATI, APRIL 20

SHORTLY AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the nation spoke of the world's largest vaccination drive underway in India, two BJP-ruled states – Uttar Pradesh and Assam – announced that they would provide free Covid vaccination to those aged above 18 from May 1.

"We have decided to vaccinate all above 18 years free of cost. The state government will take forward the vaccination programme with its own resources," Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said in a statement after a Cabinet meeting Tuesday evening.

Expressing gratitude to the central government for bringing down the age bar for vaccination to 18, he said it was a "great relief" as it will provide a safety shield to every adult, thus giving a major boost to the war against the pandemic.



A relative of a Covid patient waits outside a hospital in Prayagraj on Tuesday. *Ritesh Shukla*

"In the second wave of this pandemic, it is the youths who seem to be more vulnerable as the numbers indicate. It was essential to provide them protection as people under 45 years of age have to stay outdoors in order to take care of their parents or children," Adityanath said.

He urged that youths must not take the pandemic lightly

and strictly follow the Covid-19 protocol.

"The new wave is a result of carelessness as people stopped using masks and did not maintain social distancing," he said. "I would like to express my gratitude to PM Modi and the Central government for making two indigenous Covid vaccines available to all countrymen above 18 in time

and also to the scientists who worked tirelessly to develop the same."

Making a similar announcement, Assam Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted: "Assam will give FREE vaccines to everyone from 18-45 years. GOI is giving free vaccines for 45 +."

Funds collected in Assam Arogya Nidhi last year shall be

utilised for procurement of the vaccines, Sarma said. "Today itself, we've placed orders for 1 cr doses with Bharat Biotech."

Sarma posted a letter written on Tuesday to Bharat Biotech by Samir Sinha, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Assam. Sinha wrote that the Assam government plans that a "maximum number of eligible people in the below 45 years age category in the state are able to get the benefits of vaccination in the shortest possible time".

The letter said the government of Assam proposes to procure one crore doses of Covaxin at the rate to be fixed by the Government of India. "For this purpose, the terms and conditions of delivery and payment along with schedule of supplies may please be intimated at the earliest," the letter said.

While Uttar Pradesh, which is currently the second worst-affected state currently, recorded 29,754 covid positive cases in the past 24 hours, Assam recorded 1,651 fresh cases.

## Bihar frontline staff crunch as 700 health workers, cops infected

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, APRIL 20

WITH BIHAR'S health infrastructure reeling under a rising number of Covid cases, its capacity to treat patients has been further hit as about 500 doctors, nurses, lab technicians and other staff have been infected by the coronavirus over the last two weeks. Besides, over 200 policemen have also tested positive in the state.

Director of AIIMS, Patna, Dr PK Singh on Monday informed the High Court that 248 staffers of the hospital are infected with the virus. The court ordered that a two-member team, including the AIIMS director, be formed and asked it to submit a report on

## Work on war footing to provide oxygen, beds: Rajnath to DPSUs, DRDO

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Tuesday asked the armed forces and other defence ministry officials to work closely in assisting the state governments in the fight against the pandemic and gave emergency powers of procurement to meet critical needs. He urged defence public sector undertakings, DRDO and Ordnance Factory Board to work on a war footing to provide oxygen cylinders and extra beds to state governments at the earliest.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Defence Ministry said that besides the recently-launched DRDO facility in Delhi, similar

### TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

<b>414</b> DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN	<b>NEW CASES: 2,86,580</b>
<b>DAILY DEATHS 2,031</b>	<b>ACTIVE CASES: 21,52,494</b>
<b>TOTAL DEATHS 1,82,561</b>	<b>TOTAL VACCINATION: 12,71,29,113</b>
<b>WEEKLY CFR 1.61%</b>	<b>OVERALL CFR 1.43%</b>



**TESTS TODAY: 15,59,464** **TOTAL TESTS: 27,09,73,499**  
**WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 16.74%** **OVERALL POSITIVITY: 5.76%**

#### STATES REPORTING Most CASES

STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Maharashtra	62,097	6,83,856	24.76%	1,26,50,266
■ Uttar Pradesh	29,574	2,23,544	12.44%	1,09,09,765
■ Delhi	28,395	85,575	27.47%	2,68,21,655
■ Karnataka	21,794	1,59,177	12.29%	75,43,325
■ Kerala	19,577	1,18,949	15.81%	60,26,805

#### STATES REPORTING Most DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL DEATHS	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Maharashtra	537	63,039	0.87%	2.02%
■ Delhi	277	12,638	4.92%	1.84%
■ Chhattisgarh	191	6,274	2.61%	1.62%
■ Uttar Pradesh	162	10,159	3.55%	1.59%
■ Karnataka	149	13,646	1.86%	1.33%

Note: Data as on Apr 20; vaccination numbers as of Apr 19. Deaths include those caused by comorbidities.

the working conditions and health status of doctors and other staffers.

Dr Vinay Kumar, president of Resident Doctors' Association at AIIMS, said, "At least 120 doctors from our hospital have been infected... We had already raised the concern and demanded for rotational quarantine of doctors but nothing has been done."

AIIMS, Patna, increased its number of Covid beds from 130 to 210 till last week.

Nearly 70 staffers are also infected at the Nalanda Medical College and Hospital (NMCH), the only dedicated Covid hospital in the state capital. However, the hospital has increased its bed capacity from 160 to 500 beds.

Patna Medical College and

Hospital (PMCH), another premier hospital treating Covid patients, also has about 130 staffers suffering from Covid.

Bihar has nearly 50,000 active Covid cases and recorded about 150 deaths over the last 15 days. The state has been testing over 1 lakh samples daily.

Amid complaints of oxygen shortage, Health Minister Mangal Pandey said, "We have received a fresh stock of oxygen cylinders to replenish the stock of hospitals."

Former Deputy CM and Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Kumar Modi said he had also spoken to Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya to replenish the stock of Remdesivir at Bihar's hospitals.

## Centre asks UTs to increase testing, curbs

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE CENTRE on Tuesday asked Union Territories to ramp up RT-PCR testing and hospital infrastructure, notify islands as large Containment Zones, strictly enforce Covid-appropriate behaviour, and restrict public movement in light of the rising cases in these regions.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, along with Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, held a meeting with administrations of several UTs to review the Covid situation.

"After a detailed discussion of various issues of Covid management, the Union Home Secretary urged constant vigilance regarding the evolving situation in the UTs. Strict enforcement of Covid appropriate behaviour was stressed along with stricter enforcement of movement restrictions and prohibition of large gatherings, regulated timings for markets etc. He advised UTs to increase RT-PCR testing, along with use of RAT for screening in clusters. Urgent review of clinical management was strongly recommended along with ramping up testing and hospital infrastructure," a statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said.

Dr VK Paul, Member (Health) NITI Aayog, who was also part of the virtual meeting, expressed concern over the "worrying scenario" in UTs. According to MHA, Paul underlined the criticality of next three weeks for Covid response measures.

"The UT administrators were advised to plan in advance for three weeks. A survey to promptly identify Covid positive people should be taken up, he stated. He stressed on planning the minutest details. For UT of Ladakh, he recommended regulation of incoming labourers and supervised containment. Islands can be made large containment zones, he suggested," the MHA statement said.

A queue at a school in Kottayam, Kerala, for Covid-19 vaccine on Tuesday, amid a shortage of doses in the state. *Express*

## In Kerala, panic over vaccine stock

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, APRIL 20

COVID-19 VACCINATION centres

in Kerala are facing heavy crowds amid a shrinking stock of vaccines in the state, where cases have started spiking once again, suddenly triggering increased demand.

Vaccination in several mega centres, government primary health centres and private hospitals has been suspended either for want of stock or after daily supplies ran out early.

According to sources in the health department, the existing vaccine stock stood at 4.72 lakh doses on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

"We hope fresh supply from the Centre would reach Kerala to-

day (Tuesday) or tomorrow (Wednesday) to meet the requirements in the coming days. Kerala had last week demanded 50 lakh doses," sources said.

The growing demand and dwindling delivery is evident from figures. On April 15, the state had achieved 60 percent of its daily vaccination target through 1,378 vaccination centres, including 1,038 government-run facilities. On April 19, the state could achieve only 40 per cent of the daily target through 804 centres, including 639 in the government sector.

On April 19, the state had administered 1.51 lakh doses, taking the total doses of vaccine given in Kerala to 60,19,866.

Sources said the shrinking vaccine stock and growing panic were adding to the present crisis.

"Till last week, many vaccination centres had to wait until even 10 people turned up at the facility to open a vaccine vial. In mega vaccination camps, we had to wait for people. In such camps held early this month, we could not achieve even half of the daily target. But the situation has changed with cases suddenly going up in the last one week. There were media reports about a vaccination shortage that also made people flock to vaccination centres in large numbers," said Health Department officials.

In some districts, the administration on Tuesday re-introduced mandatory prior registration for vaccination to control the crowd and considering the shortage in vaccine supply and stock.

On Tuesday, Kerala reported 19,577 cases from 1,12,221 sam-

ples tested in the last 24 hours, taking the daily test positivity rate to 17.45 per cent. In some districts and local bodies, where infection is widespread, the test positivity rate has gone beyond 20 per cent.

As part of a fresh set of curbs, the government is introducing night curfew from 9 pm to 5 pm from Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, an expert committee appointed by the Kerala government has projected that the state would require 103.51 metric tons of medical oxygen by April 30.

"The daily production capacity of four plants in Kerala is 199 metric tons and they have a storage capacity of 1,325 MT of liquid oxygen," said Dr R Venugopal, Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives at the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation.



Migrants at a railway station to board trains for their homes, fearing another lockdown, in Hyderabad last week. *PTI*

ture out of the mill compound. We are providing free lunch at the mill so that they do not go out in the afternoon and we have set up additional sheds for their accommodation. We have also provided sanitisers and masks.

In the coming days, if necessary we will provide dry rations too," he said.

President of Telangana Rice Millers Association, Gampa Nagender, said, "As the Covid-19 situation worsens, they are wor-

ried if they would be able to go back to their families, and their discussions are all about Maharashtra and night curfews."

The Telangana government has imposed 9 pm to 5 am night curfew from April 20 to May 1. This has added to the anxiety among the migrant workers, who believe this could be a prelude to total lockdown. Telangana Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, however, has assured there won't be a total lockdown and appealed to the workers not to panic.

Nagendar said the workers have been assured of food and accommodation even if the mill is temporarily closed. "Also, we are getting RT-PCR tests done if anyone has symptoms. If someone tests positive we get them treated," he said. "But if one batch from any rice mill decides to go back, all of them will follow and we won't be able to stop



## WISHES FROM ABROAD

FORMER PRIME Minister Manmohan Singh, who has been diagnosed with Covid-19, is getting wishes from overseas. While Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa — who had interacted with Singh as Lankan President — wished him quick recovery, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan wished him the same Tuesday evening. “Wishing ex Indian PM Manmohan Singh a speedy recovery from Covid 19,” Khan tweeted. Singh is widely regarded in Pakistan for making efforts towards normalising the relationship, and yet drawing the red lines without jingoism.

## POINT, COUNTERPOINTS

THIS WEEK the Trinamool Congress demanded that the Election Commission club the remaining election phases into one. This triggered speculation over whether the poll body will tweak the poll dates. However, the Commission till date has denied giving this idea any thought. Apparently, this is for two reasons. First, the EC has already notified all phases of elections in West Bengal. Any clubbing of remaining phases would mean that the existing notifications would have to be scrapped and a fresh one has to be issued. This means nominations may have to be filed afresh. Second, the EC officials have argued that the caseload in West Bengal is not as alarming as, say, Maharashtra and Delhi and with adequate precautions campaigning is possible.

## VIRUS BLOW

BUREAUCRACY IN the national capital has taken a hit during the second wave of the pandemic. Several senior civil service officers across ministries have tested positive for the virus this month. Tribal Affairs Secretary Anil Kumar Jha, Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary R Subrahmanyam, Joint Secretary Vikram Sahay, who is currently posted in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, and Chandra Bhushan Kumar, who is serving as Deputy Election Commissioner at the Election Commission, among others, have been infected and are now recovering.

## ICSE cancels Class X Boards, withdraws option for students to appear later

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE ICSE Class X Board exams have been cancelled due to the “worsening situation of the Covid-19 pandemic”, the Board announced on Tuesday.

The Board had earlier given students the option of sitting for the exam at a later date, and those who chose not to appear for the papers would have been evaluated on a “fair and unbiased” criterion, the Board had said on Friday. That decision now stands withdrawn.

The CBSE has already cancelled Class X Boards, and its Class XII exams stand postponed.

“Given the present worsening situation of the pandemic...CISCE has decided to cancel the ICSE (class X) 2021 examination,” the Board stated in a notification.

“The options given earlier...now stand withdrawn. The safety and well-being of our students and teaching faculty is our topmost priority and of paramount interest,” the statement added.

It said all CISCE-affiliated schools with ISC section “are hereby advised to begin the admission process for class XI, if not already started. In addition, schools should prepare a schedule to begin online classes for class XI at the earliest. The syllabus to be followed is ISC 2023 syllabus.”

It also stated that Class XII Boards, earlier scheduled from May 4, will be held at a later date.

The notification said a fair and unbiased criterion to declare Class X results will be announced later, along with the date of result declaration.

“We are committed to devise a fair and unbiased criterion for declaring class 10 results. The criterion as well as the date of declaration for results will be announced later,” said Arathoon, Secretary and Chief Executive of the CISCE.

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# SC timeline for judges’ appointments a shift from Memorandum of Procedure

**APURVA VISHWANATH**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

INSETTING a fixed timeline for the government for the process of appointment of judges, the Supreme Court, in its ruling on Tuesday, has altered the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) through a judicial order. It said the government must act on names recommended for appointment within four months. The MoP does not prescribe a timeline for the Centre to forward the recommendations. “This is another area of some

## Maharashtra to immunise 8.5 cr people, needs 17 cr doses

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

WITH 67 PER CENT of its population aged over 18 years, Maharashtra has a target to immunise 8.5 crore people in the third phase of the vaccination drive, beginning May 1, and requires 17 crore doses.

Also, the involvement of the private sector is set to increase with the state government planning to allow camps in corporate offices to vaccinate their staffers.

On Tuesday, the state Cabinet decided to request the Union government to allow Maharashtra import Covid-19 vaccines available in the international market.

With a population of around 12.8 crore, Maharashtra has till Tuesday vaccinated 14.09 lakh people with both doses and 1.12 crore with the first dose. This means, till now, only 1.6 per cent of the targeted adult population has been fully immunised, and 13 per cent has received the first dose. It leaves over 8 crore people to get either second or both doses.

At the current rate of vaccinating 3 lakh to 3.5 lakh people per day, the state will need eight to nine months to cover its entire adult population.

“We will begin talks with SII and Bharat Biotech to understand the rates fixed. Till now, there is no communication from the government regarding price capping,” a government official said.

NCP minister Jitendra Awhad said that given the limited vaccine production, the state would ask the Centre for permission to import vaccines. Haffkine Biopharma, which had received approval to make Covaxin, will only be able to deliver the first batch of doses by early 2022.

# Gujarat to HC: Covid situation grim, daily oxygen need 1,050 MT

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
AHMEDABAD, APRIL 20

THE GUJARAT government has informed the high court that the Covid-19 situation in the state was “undeniably grim” and the demand for medical oxygen stood at 1,050 MT as of Monday morning. The oxygen demand was approximately 980 MT, as of April 16.

Government pleader Manisha Shah, however, assured the court, hearing a suo motu PIL on the pandemic, that the “state had sufficient oxygen”. The state’s production is 1,100 MT per day.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Vikram Nath directed the state government to incorporate in its affidavit a status report on the detailed break-up of testing requests and number of tests being conducted, by the next hearing on April 27.

The chief justice also highlighted that “RT-PCR tests are also not giving correct or accurate report of the infection and ultimately a CT scan report verifies that a patient is Covid-positive or not... still, RT-PCR is better than antigen tests”.

The state counsel clarified that for admission of a patient, the state is relying on symptoms and not necessarily a diagnostic test and “no patient is being turned away” on the basis of absence of test reports.

In an affidavit on April 19,

concern as there have been many cases which have remained pending for long periods of time — though in view of certain queries posed in these judicial proceedings, the situation has now improved. We may only say that in normal circumstances, the total time period before names are forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium should not exceed four months after recommendations are made by the Collegium of High Court,” said the Bench comprising CJI S A Bobde and Justices SK Kaul and Surya Kant.

The MoP, the playbook agreed

upon by the government and the judiciary on appointment of judges, is a crucial document, as the Collegium system of appointing judges is a judicial innovation that is not mandated through legislation or text of the Constitution.

The MoP has evolved as the standard based on three SC decisions — the First Judges Case (1981), Second Judges Case (1993) and the Third Judges Case (1998) form the basis of a peer selection process for appointment of judges. However, in 2016, the MoP was re-negotiated, following the Supreme Court’s decision to strike

down constitutional amendment that brought in the National Judicial Appointments Commission that sought to change the system of appointments and give the government a foot in the door.

However, a judicial order upends the negotiations as an order of the SC is the law of the land binding the government. Last week, during another hearing on appointment of judges, Attorney General KK Venugopal told the court that the MoP will be followed for appointment process but that it does not fix a timeline for the Prime Minister or the

President, adding that they will act within a “reasonable period”.

As per MoP, the HC Collegium headed by the Chief Justice of the HC initiates the process of appointment of other judges. Once the recommendation is made, the opinion of state governments and the input from the Intelligence Bureau are sought. The recommendations are then processed by the Centre in all manners, before they are sent to the Supreme Court Collegium.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## SEALING OF DISTRICT BORDERS BEING CONSIDERED

# Ministers seek full lockdown, Uddhav may announce today



**IN OTHER STATES:** Migrants coming from New Delhi rush to catch a bus to their hometowns from the UPSRTC bus stand in Lucknow on Tuesday. *Express*

Here is a look at the curbs in other states:

**UTTAR PRADESH:** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday announced a weekend curfew in districts with over 2,000 active Covid cases. The nearly 60-hour-long weekend curfew will be in place from Friday 8 pm to Monday 7 am. At least 26 of the 75 districts in the state have over 2,000 active cases.

**JHARKHAND:** The state government announced a week-long lockdown starting April 22 with certain relaxations. The decision was taken after a high level meeting convened in Chief Minister Hemant Soren’s residence to review the surge in Covid-19 cases and deaths. During the lockdown only essential services will be allowed to operate.

## Maharashtra FDA Commissioner transferred amid Remdesivir procurement row

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

AMID THE controversy over procurement of Remdesivir from a Daman-based company, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday shunted out Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Commissioner Abhimanyu Kale, who signed off on the April 17 permission to the company to supply the drug in Maharashtra. Parimal Singh, a 2004-batch officer, will replace him.

Sources said the action against Kale came hours after the matter was discussed in the state cabinet. Some ministers raised the issue and the delay in action against a BJP leader who allegedly distributed the Remdesivir in Nandurbar, sources said.

Since Saturday, the ruling MVA and BJP have been engaged in a war of words over the procurement of Remdesivir, with the government alleging that the Centre has pressured the manufacturers to not supply it to Maharashtra.

On Saturday, Mumbai Police had summoned a director of Bruck Pharma, a Daman-based pharmaceutical company that manufactures Remdesivir, for questioning. Former CM Devendra Fadnis and BJP leader, Praveen Darekar had rushed to the police station and asked the police why they had called him for questioning.

**MIZORAM:** The government has imposed “restrictions” in Aizawl and ten other district headquarters for seven days till April 26. During the period, no resident is allowed to step out of their homes.

**ASSAM:** All establishments, including markets, shops and restaurants, will be closed by 6pm in Assam, the state government said implementing a slew of restrictive measures. The order said that events in open spaces will be allowed with the permission of the District Authority subject to strict adherence to Covid-appropriate behavior at 50 percent of venue’s capacity or 400 persons, whichever is lower.

**KARNATAKA:** The government said it will soon be announcing a

set of strict guidelines, aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19 in the state, amid speculation that it may go in for lockdown like restrictions in Bengaluru and a few other places.

**UTTARAKHAND:** All shops, shopping malls except those offering essential services in urban areas will close at 2pm, according to a state government order. All educational institutions, gyms, spas will remain closed. A curfew will be imposed in the state on Sundays, according to the government.

**JAMMU & KASHMIR:** The UT administration extended the night curfew to all urban areas across J&K.

**ENSANDPTI**

# HC pulls up Centre on ‘criminal wastage’ of Covid-19 vaccines

## Seeks ban on industrial use of oxygen

**SOFI AHSAN**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE DELHI High Court on Tuesday pulled up the Centre for “criminal wastage” of vaccines, and said “whomsoever you can vaccinate” should be vaccinated, regardless of age, to ensure “all doses are fully utilised”.

The Division Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Pall also said that the ban on industrial use of oxygen should be implemented immediately, instead of waiting till April 22, as “economic interest cannot override human lives”. On reports of unfair distribution of Remdesivir to states, it asked the Centre to review the process on the basis of need.

Referring to media reports on vaccine wastage, the HC said it was caused by “bad planning” and the “restrictions with regard to age or categories of people who are entitled to take the vaccine”.

“You (Centre) should be able to evolve a better, more efficient system. We are a country which produces the best IT minds. We cannot make an app to deal with this situation? We are wasting 44 lakh vaccines out of 10 crore we have given to states. This is only bad planning. What else is it? Why should you not have this covered? You should have known that there would be a situation

that people may not turn up, because if a person turns up and you have to open a new vial, you will not tell him to come tomorrow... You have to foresee this situation. This is not rocket science,” said the court.

The court was hearing a case related to the Covid-19 situation in Delhi. “Once a vial is opened, it has to be either fully consumed or the remainder goes waste. It should be possible for governments to devise ways and means so as to register volunteers who may be below the age of 45 and above the age of 18 years, who could be called to take the vaccine in case there are doses left unutilised after say 5 pm on each day. That would ensure all the doses are fully utilised,” it said.

“Doctors and experts have been saying vaccinate yesterday; not today, not tomorrow... Whomsoever you can vaccinate, please vaccinate... All need vaccination...” said the court.

It said the government should make necessary modifications to the CoWIN app in this regard, and observed that flexibility in vaccination eligibility was available in other countries like the US. “In our view, the wastage of even a single vaccine, when the same is proving to be life-saving, is a criminal waste,” it said.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## SC paves way for appointing ad-hoc judges in HCs to clear case backlog

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday cleared the way for appointment of retired judges as ad-hoc judges in High Courts under Article 224A of the Constitution to deal with mounting backlog of cases.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde said, “We have taken the first step with the hope and aspiration that all concerned would cooperate and retiring/reired judges would come forth and offer their services in the larger interest of the judiciary.”

Deciding a plea by NGO Lok Prahari seeking appointment of ad-hoc judges to clear the case backlog, the court said, “It is trite to say that we have a docket explosion in our country and that it is difficult for adjudication to take place within a reasonable period of time. This crisis situation must be tackled. Some innovation is always the rule of the game. In the present context, maybe a slightly different view has to be taken in respect of the avowed purpose of Article 224A providing for ad-hoc judges. We say so as we are faced with the ground reality of almost 40% vacancies remaining in the regular appointments [both permanent and additional judges] over the last two years. A number of vacancies arising every year are barely filled in by fresh appointments. Thus, it remains an unfulfilled challenge to bring the appointment process to such numbers as would be able to cover the vacancies existing and arising.”

The court ruled that the Chief Justice of a High Court may initiate the process of recommending a name if the number of judges’ vacancies is more than 20 per cent of the sanctioned strength, cases in a particular category are pending for over five years, more than 10 per cent of pending cases are over five years old, or percentage of the rate of disposal is lower than the institution of the cases either in a particular subject matter or generally in the court.

The Chief Justice, it said, should prepare a panel of judges after personal interaction with the concerned judge to take their consent.

The court said the appointments can follow the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of judges. Since the nominees have been judges before, the need to refer the matter to the IB or other agencies would not arise, shortening the time period, it said.

On the timeline for appointment, the court said “a period of about three months should be sufficient to process a recommendation and, thus, ideally a Chief Justice should start the process three months in advance”.

Their tenure may vary on the basis of the need but “generally... should be...between two and three years”.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Rahul Gandhi Covid-positive

*New Delhi:* Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said he has tested positive for Covid-19 and has mild symptoms. “After experiencing mild symptoms, I’ve just tested positive for Covid,” he posted on Twitter.

“All those who’ve been in contact with me recently, please follow all safety protocols and stay safe,” he wrote.

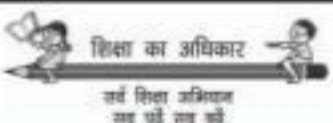
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior Congress leaders wished him a speedy recovery.

## Nepal ex-king, queen positive

*Kathmandu:* Nepal’s former King Gyanendra Shah and former Queen Komal Shah have tested positive for Covid-19 on their return from India after participating in the Maha Kumbh at Haridwar, according to a media report on Tuesday.

Their samples for the PCR test were confirmed positive, *The Himalayan Times* reported. According to the report, hundreds of people had gathered at the airport in Kathmandu to welcome the duo during their arrival back home.

**PTI**



**NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

GCSE invites Bid through e-tendering route for implementation of Gyankunj in 15,000 classrooms of Government Elementary & Secondary Schools within the State of Gujarat including Supply of Hardware, Operating Software and Maintenance of the Systems on behalf of Gujarat Council of School Education (GCSE), Education Department, Government of Gujarat (Bid No. GEM/2021/B/1162215 dated 15.04.2021).

Interested parties may visit <http://www.gil.gujarat.gov.in> or <https://gem.gov.in/> for eligibility criteria & more details about the bids.

State Project Director  
Samagra Shiksha, Gujarat

INF/86/21-22

# EXPRESS NETWORK

## Development activities will have to be enhanced in border areas for reverse migration: CDS

**Dehradun:** Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat Tuesday said that migration from international borders was not good for national security and development activities need to be increased in border areas for reverse migration. Addressing Uttarakhand police officers on the sub-

ject of "Role of Uttarakhand in Tackling National Security Challenges", General Rawat said that road, health and education facilities will have to be enhanced in border areas for reverse migration.

Uttarakhand shares a 350-km border with China and a

275-km boundary with Nepal. The CDS said there is a favourable atmosphere in the state for tourism and industrial activities. DGP Ashok Kumar assured General Rawat of cooperation on reverse migration, international border security and other issues.

## Kerala HC dismisses ex-minister Jaleel's plea

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
KOCHI, APRIL 20

IN A setback to former state Higher Education Minister K T Jaleel, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition filed by him seeking to stay the Lokayukta finding that he had 'abused' his position as a public servant to obtain a favour for a relative.

A division bench of Justices P B Suresh Kumar and K Babu dismissed in limine the plea, observing that there were no procedural lapses from the Lokayukta as alleged by the petitioner.

It said the Lokayukta report was furnished after examining all the files and documents in connection with the appointment of his kin as general manager in a state financial institution.

Jaleel had resigned as the minister from the LDF government on April 13 after the Lokayukta held that he violated oath of office by appointing his relative to the post of general manager of Kerala State Minority Development Finance Corporation.

Jaleel had argued that the Lokayukta did not have powers to consider the matter since it concerns prescription of qualification and appointment to a Minority Development Finance Corporation, which is specifically excluded from the purview of the probe under the Kerala Lokayukta Act.

In his plea, Jaleel had alleged that the report was prepared without conducting any preliminary inquiry or regular investigation.

## Goa Speaker rejects plea to disqualify 12 MLAs

**Panaji:** The Goa Assembly Speaker on Tuesday dismissed the disqualification petitions filed against 12 MLAs – 10 from the Congress and two from the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) – who defected to the BJP in 2019.

The Speaker's decision comes a year and a half after a preliminary hearing was held in the petition filed by Congress leader Girish Chodankar in October, 2019. Chodankar and MGP leader Ramkrishna alias Sudin Dhavalikar had moved the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Speaker to decide the disqualification petition pending for several months.

"The biggest hurdle was to get a decision from the Speaker. This decision is not in consonance with the Constitution. We are going to test this order. We will wait to see what happens in the Supreme Court on April 22," said lawyer Abhijit Gosawi, who argued on behalf of Chodankar, President of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee. "We could not have expected anything else from a biased Speaker... We can either challenge this in the High Court or we can mention it in the Supreme Court," said Chodankar. **ENS**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD / CORP. / AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP. / AUTH	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	HAFED	E-TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF APPROX. 20,000 MT MUSTARD SEED FOR HAFED OIL MILLS, REWARI & NARNAUL. THE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE ON <a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">HTTPS://ETENDERS.HRY.NIC.IN</a> AND <a href="http://WWW.HAFED.GOV.IN">WWW.HAFED.GOV.IN</a>	CLOSING DATE 28.04.2021 17.05.2021	EMD Rs.500/- per MT 49.59 LACS	<a href="http://www.hafed.gov.in">www.hafed.gov.in</a>	0172258912 hafed@hry.nic.in
2	MAHARANA PARTAP HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY	CONSTRUCTION OF IMPLEMENTS SHED AND FARM STORE AT REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE, RAIYA (JHAJARI) AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERE TO UNDER THE CONTROL OF MHU (RE-TENDER 2ND TIME) (RS. 49.59 LAC)	26.04.2021 17.05.2021	49.59 LACS	<a href="http://www.mhu.ac.in">www.mhu.ac.in</a>	70159-98919
3	MAHARANA PARTAP HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY	SITC OF MUSHROOM CLIMATE CONTROL ALL IN ONE MACHINE, G.I. RACKS, PUFF PANELING ETC. AT REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE (RMRIC), MURTHAL (SONIPAT) AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERE TO UNDER THE CONTROL OF MHU (RS. 31.75 LAC) (RECALLED 1ST TIME)	21.04.2021 11.05.2021	31.75 LACS	<a href="http://www.mhu.ac.in">www.mhu.ac.in</a>	70159-98919
4	HSSIDC	CONSTRUCTION OF PERIPHERAL BOUNDARY WALL OF 1128 ACRE LAND, IMT MANESAR, DISTT. GURUGRAM.	22.04.2021 06.05.2021	606.75 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9815330033 manojpal.singh@hssidc.org.in
5	HAFED	E-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ALL-IN-ONE COMPUTERS, SERVERS & LAPTOPS FOR HAFED, PANCHKULA	20.04.2021 30.04.2021	@2% OF THE ESTIMATED QUOTED PRICE	<a href="http://hafed.gov.in">hafed.gov.in</a>	01722590520 hafed@hry.nic.in
6	HSSIDC	PROVIDING & LAYING INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES ON TURNKEY BASIS IN SECTOR-19, 19A, R&R POCKETS & SECTOR-ROADS AT IMT SOHNA, (HARYANA).	22.04.2021 20.05.2021	230.38 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9810581395 ia.sohna@hssidc.org.in
7	HSSIDC	CONSTRUCTION OF RAIN WATER HARVESTING SYSTEMS ONE AT HSSIDC APARTMENT, SECTOR-14 AND ONE AT HSSIDC CORPORATION OFFICE BUILDING, SECTOR-6, PANCHKULA.	22.04.2021 06.05.2021	16.53 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	8558629289
8	HSPV PANCHKULA	AUGMENTATION OF PROVIDING LED LIGHTS INSTEAD OF SODIUM FITTING ON EXISTING HIGH MAST IN ATAL PARK SEC-8 & 9 U/E KARNAL. (INCLUDING THREE YEARS REPLACEMENT WARRANTY, ON OFF OPERATION OF SYSTEM AND THREE YEARS FREE MTC/ DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD FREE OF COST).	CLOSING DATE 29.04.2021	12.20 LACS	<a href="http://www.hspvhry.org.in">www.hspvhry.org.in</a>	918427999660
9	HSPV PANCHKULA	PROVIDING HT LINE & 200 KVA TRANSFORMER AND REPLACEMENT OF HSPV SODIUM FITTING WITH LED STREET LIGHT FITTING ON EXISTING OCTAGONAL POLE AND PGD. NEW LED STREET LIGHT FITTING 25 WATT ON EXISTING PCC POLE IN SEC-18 U/E KATHAL. (INCLUDING THREE YEARS REPLACEMENT WARRANTY FREE MTC/ DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD FREE OF COST FOR LED LIGHTS AND ONE YEAR FOR OTHER ITEMS FREE OF COST).	CLOSING DATE 06.05.2021	50.20 LACS	<a href="http://www.hspvhry.org.in">www.hspvhry.org.in</a>	918427999660
10	MDU ROHTAK	PROVIDING AND LAYING PAVER BLOCKS IN TYPE-1A (36 NOS. FLATS) UNDER CONSTRUCTION + 1 OTHER WORK.	16.04.2021 06.05.2021	22.12 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xen.civil@mdurohtak.ac.in
11	GMDA GURUGRAM	"CONSTRUCTION OF 25 MLD CAPACITY OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) AND MAIN PUMPING STATION (MPS) BASED ON SEQUENTIAL BATCH REACTOR (SBR) TECHNOLOGY ALONGWITH OPERATION & MAINTENANCE FOR 06 YEARS INCLUDING 01YEAR DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD AFTER STABILIZATION PERIOD OF 03 MONTHS ON TURNKEY BASIS COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECT AT MANESAR, HARYANA"	20.04.2021 10.05.2021	63.52 LACS	<a href="https://www.gmda.gov.in">https://www.gmda.gov.in</a>	xen@nra2.gmda@gov.in

2667/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, KARNAL	2021 WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING WITH WBM + PCCN TARIKOT SAGGATO VILLAGE SAGGA (ROAD ID 7457) LENGTH KM. 0.68 IN KARNAL DISTRICT	20.04.2021 10.05.2021	17.41 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0104-2251029 pwd-eeep-karnal@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	RE-CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL IN GOVERNMENT ITI AT GURUGRAM.	CLOSING DATE 06.05.2021	109.71 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01240891101 pwd-eeep1-gurgan@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, PALWAL	S/RBY PROVIDING RELAYING CCB FROM RD 0.24 TO 0.34 KM & NEW CCB FROM RD 0.34 TO 0.51 KM ON CHANDI HAT TO GURWAR (ID 3515) IN PALWAL DISTT.	CLOSING DATE 07.05.2021	25.80 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01275-252006 pwd-eeep-palwal@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, NARNALL	SPECIAL REPAIR OF PHC (HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTRE) BUILDING AT VILLAGE DHANUDDAIN MOHENDERGAH DISTRICT.	19.04.2021 10.05.2021	6.42 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01202251267 pwd-eeep-darnaul@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, CHARKHI DADRI	WDG. & STG. OF 03 NO. RODS OF BADHAHRA CONSTITUENCY IN PROVINCIAL DIVISION PWD B&R BR., CH DADRI IN DADRI DISTT. (1) BHANDWARYA NAGAR TO KHERRA ROAD (ROAD ID 2410) (2) KANHA GORUKL PANCHGACH (ROAD ID 2494) (3) KALALI APP. ROAD (ROAD ID 2363) + 2 OTHER WORKS	16.04.2021 10.05.2021	801.1 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	pwd-eeep-dadri@hry.nic.in
6	PANCHAYATI RAI, REWARI	CONST. OF 4 NOS. GRAM SACHIVALAYA & ONE NOS. WORK PAVEMENT OF RASTAWITH JPB.	26.04.2021 03.05.2021	124.8 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	prexeeng.rwr@hry.gov.in
7	PANCHAYATI RAI, ROHTAK	RE-TENDER CONSTRUCTION OF GOWARGAS PLANT AT VILLAGE KHAWANAR, BLOCK SAMPLA, DISTT. ROHTAK.	22.04.2021 29.04.2021	52.61 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9467725150 prexeeng.roh@hry.nic.in
8	PANCHAYATI RAI, KATHAL	CONST. OF MANAGEMENT OF GREY WATER PROJECT WITH 5 YEAR MAINTENANCE AFTER COMPLETION AT VARIOUS VILLAGE OF DISTT. KATHAL.	20.04.2021 03.05.2021	290.91 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	07146234740 prexeeng.k@hry.nic.in
9	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, KURUKSHETRA	REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTION, SLUSH, GARBAGE AND VEGETATION ETC FROM INTERNAL SECTION OF SARAWATI RIVER AND RAKSHI NADI IN DIFFERENT REACHES.	20.04.2021 27.04.2021	43.66 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xensarasvatidnr@gmail.com
10	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, HANSI	KINNER PROMIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION (PHASE II) UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION IN VILLAGE KINNER DISTT. HISAR + 7 NOS. OTHER WORKS	13.04.2021 23.04.2021	40.37 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01663-256145 eehans@gmail.com
11	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, AMBALA	REPAIR OF PARPET WALL FROM ARD 5 TO 5.225 KM OF PANCHKARA MINOR + 8 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 27.04.2021	73.94 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01712973270 xensylambala@gmail.com
12	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, KURUKSHETRA	INSTALLATION OF 02 NOS. 10 CS. VT PUMP AND 01 NO. 05 CS. VT PUMP AT RD 5290/R OF SERSABHNOT TO PROTECT THE ARAID AND AGRICULTURE LAND OF VILLAGE BATHLA, KAWAIAHENDPUR, SIDHUPUR AND ANANTHALL ETC. IN W.S. MECH. KURUKSHETRA	20.04.2021 29.04.2021	49.67 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01744-239164 xemvcdn@hry.nic.in
13	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, ROHTAK	PREPARATION OF DRAWING, DESIGN & ESTIMATE FOR RE-CONSTRUCTION OF V.BRIDGE AT RD 7609, KAWANPUR SUB BRANCH	CLOSING DATE 27.04.2021		<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9896410404 xemvcdn@hry.nic.in
14	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF 70 NOS. OFFICEMETERS WITH PLATFORM AND OTHER CIVIL WORKS IN HARYANA UNDER NHP FOR GROUNDWATER MONITORING	20.04.2021 05.05.2021	EMD 4.50 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2560080 xen.nhp@gmail.com
15	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, JAGADRI	REGARDING WORK OF CARRYING OUT N/SIZE DRILLING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SOMB SARAWATI BARRAGE ON SOMB RIVER AT VILLAGE KATHGACH IN DISTT. YAMUNANAGAR	22.04.2021 28.04.2021	EMD 8008\$/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xenjdr1@gmail.com
16	GOVT POLYTECHNIC, LOHARU (BHWANI)	OUTSOURCING MANPOWER FOR UNSKILLED/SKILLED WORK	23.04.2021 17.05.2021	EMD 1 LACS	<a href="http://www.gpklharu.ac.in">www.gpklharu.ac.in</a>	01252258746 gploharu@hry.nic.in

2668/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD / CORP. / AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP. / AUTH	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	THE AMBALA DISTT. COOP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD	E TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF PADDY RICE HUSK	24.04.2021 05.05.2021	1 LAKH	<a href="http://www.vitaIndia.org.in">www.vitaIndia.org.in</a>	0171-2540614 milkplant@vitaambala.com
2	HPGCL	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF COAL MILL REJECT HANDLING SYSTEM FOR UNIT-1&II AT RGTPP, KHEDAR, HISAR FOR TWO YEARS.	CLOSING DATE 29.04.2021	4.82 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9354516229 xenbmd1.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
3	MC ROHTAK	PROVIDING AND LAYING WATER LINE KRISHAN PURI WALA + 3 OTHER WORK	19.04.2021 29.04.2021	117.49 LACS	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xenmcrohtak@gmail.com
4	HVPNL	PROVIDING 1 X 7.2 MVAR CAPACITOR BANK ALONGWITH ALLIED EQUIPMENTS & STEEL STR AT 132 KV SUB-STATION MUDLANA, PROVIDING LIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS ALONG WITH BOUNDARY WALL OF YARD AT 132 KV SUB-STATION SECTOR-3 ROHTAK AND AUGMENTATION OF 132 KV SUB-STATION BADLI FROM 2X20/25 MVA, 132/33 KV TO (1X40/50 + 1X20/25) MVA 132/33 KV T/JF (NIT NO. 04/2021-22/XEN/TS/RTK DATED.16.04.2021)	16.04.2021 22.04.2021	7.42 LACS	<a href="http://www.hvpn.org.in">www.hvpn.org.in</a>	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
5	HLRDC LTD	INVITING OFFER FOR THE RATES OF VARIOUS PESTICIDES, FERTILIZERS, MICRONUTRIENTS, BIO-PESTICIDES, ORGANIC FERTILIZERS, BIO-FERTILIZERS AND SPRAY PUMPS ON CONSIGNMENT AND F.O.R BASIS FOR THE YEAR 2021-22.	21.04.2021 07.05.2021	8.70 LACS	LTD	cto@hlrdc@gmail.com
6	UHBVN	HIRING OF 02 NOS. VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE OF XEN CONST.DIVN. UHBVN, SONIPAT AND SDO CONST. S/DIVN UHBVN ROHTAK	CLOSING DATE 03.05.2021	6000/-	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	9354726000
7	UHBVN	HIRING OF ONE NO. PRIVATE VEHICLE THROUGH OUT SOURCING POLICY FOR USE OF SDO (OP) SUB DIVISION, MODEL TOWN, UHBVN, YAMUNA NAGAR	CLOSING DATE 28.04.2021	6000/-	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	01732229713 xenopynr@uhbvn.org.in
8	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE HAILY MANDI	CONST. OF ROAD FROM H/O RAKARAN TO ROAD OF BABA HARDEVA MANDIR IN W.NO. 11 HAILY MANDI	19.04.2021 26.04.2021	80000/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9996678131 secy.mc.hailymandi@gmail.com
9	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FATEHABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM GALI NO. 2 & 3 MATU RAM COLONY WARD NO. 16 + 2 OTHER WORK	16.04.2021 29.04.2021	79.25 LACS	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9466731655 MUNICIPALCOUNCILFATEHABAD@GMAIL.COM
10	THE AMBALA DISTT. COOP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD	HIRING OF ROUTE VEHICLE TATA ACE + 1 OTHER WORK	22.04.2021 30.04.2021	40000/-	<a href="http://www.vitaIndia.org.in">www.vitaIndia.org.in</a>	9729875323 milkplant@vitaambala.com
11	THE ROHTAK CO-OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD, A UNIT OF HDCC LTD	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF AUTOMATIC MILK / LASSI POURCH FILLING MACHINE MAKE SAMARPAH/ NICHROME/VIDAPACK RMC	22.04.2021 03.05.2021	25000/-	<a href="http://www.vitaIndia.org.in">www.vitaIndia.org.in</a>	01262-277364 vitarohatak@gmail.com
12	UHBVN	FOR PROVIDING TWO NO. MAHINDRA BOLERO JEEP & BOLERO CAMPER OR EQUIVALENT VEHICLE.	CLOSING DATE 27.04.2021	EMD 6000/-	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	9354726568 xenopuhbvnsu2rohtak@gmail.com
13	HVPNL	STRENGTHENING OF VARIOUS TOWER FOUNDATIONS / STUB REPAIRING OF 132KV S/C MASUDPUR-HANSI LINE (I.E FROM LILO POINT TO HANSI SECTION ONLY) UNDER TS DIVISION, HVPNL, HISAR	20.04.2021 03.05.2021	6.88 LACS	<a href="http://www.hvpn.org.in">www.hvpn.org.in</a>	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
14	HVPNL	STRENGTHENING OF VARIOUS TOWER FOUNDATIONS / STUB REPAIRING OF 132KV S/C MASUDPUR-NARNAUD LINE UNDER TS DIVISION, HVPNL, HISAR	20.04.2021 03.05.2021	6.24 LACS	<a href="http://www.hvpn.org.in">www.hvpn.org.in</a>	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
15	HVPNL	1. WHITE WASHING OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING POWER COLONY AT 66KV S/STN. SEC-3, PANCHKULA. 2. WHITE WASHING OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 66KV S/STN. SEC-3, PANCHKULA.	19.04.2021 27.04.2021	2.93 LACS	<a href="http://www.hvpn.org.in">www.hvpn.org.in</a>	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
16	HVPNL	PAINTING OF 220 KV TOWER STRUCTURE, BEAMS AND EQUIPMENTS SUPPORTING STRUCTURES AT 220 KV S/STN., HVPNL, NISSING.	19.04.2021 27.04.2021	2.03 LACS	<a href="http://www.hvpn.org.in">www.hvpn.org.in</a>	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
17	HVPNL	MUFFING OF 160 LGTS OF 40 NOS. TOWER OF 132 KV D/C MUND-ASSANDH-JALMANA LINE	19.04.2021 27.04.2021	3.41 LACS	<a href="http://www.hvpn.org.in">www.hvpn.org.in</a>	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
18	THE HISAR JIND CO-OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD., MILK PLANT, JIND	TO PROVIDE MANPOWER UNSKILLED, SEMI-SKILLED, SKILLED AND HIGHLY SKILLED FOR MISCELLANEOUS JOB IN VARIOUS SECTION AT MILK PLANT, JIND, MCC HISAR & MCC BHUNA + 3 OTHER WORK	23.04.2021 16.05.2021	13 LACS	<a href="http://vitaIndia.org.in">vitaIndia.org.in</a>	9896476401 vitajind@gmail.com
19	MC SOHNA	RETENDER FOR CONST OF NALA FROM MAIN SIROL DHANI MOD TO DALVINDER WARD NO 1 + 11 OTHER WORK	19.04.2021 26.04.2021	58 LACS	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9891981947

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## WESTERN RAILWAY-RAJKOT DIVISION NEW WORKS AND ALL ORDINARY REPAIRS

**E-Tender Notice No. 01 of 2021-22 date 15/04/2021; Office Address:** Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot, Gujarat - 360 001; Website: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Sr. No	e-Tender No	Name of Work	Approximate NIT Cost	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
01	DRM-RJT -21-E-01	New Works and all ordinary repairs up to ₹ 5 Lakhs for Zone No. 1/2021-22	₹ 86,88,303.40	17/05/2021, 15:00 Hrs
i.e. (1) Viramgam (excluding) to Wankaner (excluding), (2) Surendranagar (including) to Dhrangadhra (excluding) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer - Surendranagar.				
02	DRM-RJT -21-E-02	New Works and all ordinary repairs up to ₹ 5 Lakhs for Zone No. 2/2021-22	₹ 87,87,309.20	17/05/2021, 15:00 Hrs
i.e. in jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer - Rajkot excluding the work of Bhaktinagar to Rajkot.				
03	DRM-RJT -21-E-03	New Works and all ordinary repairs up to ₹ 5 Lakhs for Zone No. 3/2021-22	₹ 74,45,152.65	17/05/2021, 15:00 Hrs
i.e. Kothi Compound Colony, Divisional Hospital, Divisional Office, Bhatiya Boarding Colony, Rukhadiya Colony and Rajkot Station under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer (Works) Rajkot.				
04	DRM-RJT -21-E-04	New Works and all ordinary repairs up to ₹ 5 Lakhs for Zone No. 3B/2021-22	₹ 52,32,602.45	17/05/2021, 15:00 Hrs
i.e. Loco Colony and Bhaktinagar Station under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer (Works) Rajkot.				
05	DRM-RJT -21-E-05	New Works and all ordinary repairs up to ₹ 5 Lakhs for Zone No. 4 of 2021-22	₹ 75,88,303.40	17/05/2021, 15:00 Hrs
i.e. Rajkot (excluding) to Hapa (including) station and Hapa Colony under jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer (East) Jamnagar.				
06	DRM-RJT -21-E-06	New Works and all ordinary repairs up to ₹ 5 Lakhs for Zone No. 5 of 2021-22	₹ 57,07,309.20	17/05/2021, 15:00 Hrs
i.e. (1) Hapa (excluding) to Kanalus (including), (2) Jamnagar (including) to Wind Mill (including), (3) Kanalus (including) to Sikka (including) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer (East) Jamnagar.				
07	DRM-RJT -21-E-07	New Works and all ordinary repairs up to ₹ 5 Lakhs for Zone No. 6 of 2021-22	₹ 50,62,713.68	17/05/2021, 15:00 Hrs
i.e. Kanalus (excluding) to Dwarka (excluding) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer (West) Jamnagar.				
08	DRM-RJT -21-E-08	New Works and all ordinary repairs up to ₹ 5 Lakhs for Zone No. 7 of 2021-22	₹ 64,88,302.40	17/05/2021, 15:00 Hrs
i.e. Dwarka (including) to Okha (including) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer (West) Jamnagar.				

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## SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS

**For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run following Summer Special fully reserved Trains (Single Side Trips) as per schedule given**

# Can't sweep border issues under the carpet, says India's envoy to China

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

AT A time that the border stand-off between India and China remains unresolved almost a year later, Indian Ambassador to China Vikram Misri has said that sweeping the matter under the carpet and characterising it as a "minor issue" is tantamount to running away from the problem.

Speaking at the opening session of a dialogue between Indian and Chinese think-tanks on April 15, Misri said, "We have also seen a tendency in some quarters to sweep this situation under the carpet and characterise it as just a minor issue and a matter of perspective. This too is inadvisable as it can only take us further away from a sustained solution to present difficulties and deeper into an unfulfilling stalemate. In fact, it would be tantamount to running away from the problem and in a direction opposite to that where the promise of our closer development partnership lies."

His comments come at a time when Chinese officials in Delhi and Beijing have sought to downplay the border stand-off and insisted on looking at the big picture of India-China ties.

"It is tempting today to remember this period (between 1988 and 2019) with a touch of

nostalgia, and to argue that we should shelve our differences and things should immediately go back to the way they used to be. But we must acknowledge that these enabling structures and the fundamental premise of the closer developmental partnership have been placed under considerable strain by the serious incidents and the resultant violation of peace and tranquility at the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh in April 2020 and thereafter."

Misri added, "The impact on public opinion has been particularly strong. In this context, it has often been pointed out by friends in China that we should stick to the consensus between our leaders... I agree wholeheartedly. At the same time, I should point out that equally significant consensus has been reached between our leaders in the past as well, for instance the consensus that I just referred to on the importance of maintaining peace and tranquility, and it is important to stick to that consensus as well."

On the sustainable solution to these present difficulties in the relationship, he cited External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's statement that it must be "based on mutual sensitivity and respect and pave the way for maximising our mutual interests".

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## 142 on press freedom index, India among countries 'bad' for journalism

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

WHILE INDIA has not slipped further on the World Press Freedom Index-2021, published by the international journalism not-for-profit body Reporters Without Borders (RSF), it continues to be counted among countries classified "bad" for journalism, and is termed as one of the most dangerous countries for journalists trying to do their jobs properly.

The latest index released on Tuesday ranks 180 countries, topped yet again by Norway, followed by Finland and Denmark. Eritrea is at the bottom. China is ranked 177, and is only above North Korea at 179 and Turkmenistan at 178.

India is ranked 142, same as last year, after it had consistently slid down from 133 in 2016. In South Asia, Nepal is at 106, Sri Lanka at 127, Myanmar (before the coup) at 140, Pakistan at 145 and Bangladesh at 152.

The report stated that India shares the "bad" classification with Brazil, Mexico and Russia.

For India, this report has blamed an environment of intimidation created by supporters of the ruling party and the government for any critical journalist, who, the report said, is marked as "anti-state" or "anti-national". Journalists are "exposed to every kind of attack, including police violence against reporters, ambushes by political activists, and reprisals instigated by criminal groups or corrupt local officials" it said. And, ever since BJP won the 2019 General Election overwhelmingly, "pressure has increased on the media to toe the Hindu nationalist government's line", the report said.

It also stated that the 2021 report "shows that journalism, the main vaccine against disinformation, is completely or partly blocked in 73% of the 180 countries ranked by the organisation," and, the "2021 Edelman Trust barometer reveals a disturbing level of public mistrust of journalists, with 59% of respondents in 28 countries saying that journalists deliberately try to mislead the public by reporting information they know to be false". The report noted that "only 12 of the Index's 180 countries (7%) can claim to offer a favourable environment for journalism".

The government has been concerned about its low rankings in such international indices, and had last year started studying them to understand how to improve. Soon after the index was released last year, I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar had tweeted: "Media in India enjoy absolute freedom. We will expose, sooner than later, those surveys that tend to portray bad picture about 'Freedom of Press' in India."

## Cabinet okays subsidy for urea from coal gasification

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved a scheme for providing subsidy for production of urea through coal gasification by Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL) worth over Rs 13,000 crore.

The project, the government said in a statement, will "assist in reducing urea imports to the tune of 12.7 LMT per annum leading to savings in foreign exchange".

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**HARYANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**BAYS NO. 1-10, BLOCK-B, SECTOR-4, PANCHKULA**  
In continuation of the earlier Announcement dated 26.03.2021 published on 28.03.2021 in various newspapers, it is for the general information of the candidates that the Recruitment Tests for the Post of District Attorney (Group-A), Assistant Professor in the subject of Zoology/ Physical Education/ Punjabi/ Sanskrit/ Chemistry/ Scientist-B (Group-B) & Election Tehsildar scheduled to be held on 23.04.2021, 24.04.2021, 25.04.2021 & 02.05.2021 are hereby postponed due to administrative reasons, till further notice.  
**Dated: 20.04.2021**  
**Sd/-**  
**Deputy Secretary,**  
**Haryana Public Service Commission,**  
**Panchkula**  
2665/HRY

**ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ Punjab National Bank**  
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**CIRCLE OFFICE, PATNA(SOUTH), Chandrapura Palace, Bank Road, Patna -01**  
**NOTICE**  
General public and customers of our PNB Branch Dhanarua (D. No. 152500), Patna in particular are hereby informed that the business of our Branch Office is being shifted to new premises w.e.f **31.05.2021** which is just 600m south from the existing premises.  
After shifting of our Branch premises, all the business facilities shall be available from new location at PNB, P.O. - Dhanarua (Near police station). For any other information please contact to Branch Head, BO:- Dhanarua, Mob No. 9771464853.  
**Dy. Circle Head**

**SML ISUZU LIMITED**  
Regd. Office : Village Axron, Distt. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Nawanshahr) 144 533.  
Phone: (91)-1881- 270255, Fax: (91)1881-270223. CIN : L50101PB1983PLC005516.  
Website address: www.smlisuzu.com Email : investors@smlisuzu.com  
**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that share certificate Nos. as per detail given below has been reported lost or misplaced.  

Folio no.	Name of shareholder	Share Certificate no.	Distinctive nos.	No. of shares
00032863	PRAFUL MANILAL SHAH CHANDRIKA PRAFUL SHAH	54720-21	8508056 - 8508155	100
00019750	SHAHIN SHAHU	32595	74011821 - 74011870	50

Any person who has a claim or interest in the above shares and having any objection to the issue of duplicate share certificate in lieu of the above is required to notify the same to the company at its registered office within 15 days from the date of this notice indicating the nature of the claim or lien or interest of his objection to the said issue of duplicate share certificate through an affidavit duly attested. Else the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate without entertaining any claim/ damage whatsoever it may be.

For SML ISUZU LIMITED (PARVESH MADAN) Company Secretary  
Place: Chandigarh  
Date: 20.04.2021

**All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur**  
No. Admin/Rec./Regular/Nursing/2021/AIIMS.RPR/210 Dated: 19.04.2021  
**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**  
Director, AIIMS Raipur invites online applications from Indian nationals for the following positions on direct recruitment basis in AIIMS Raipur:  

Post	Group	Pay Scale	Upper Age Limit	No. of vacancies
Professor cum Principal in Nursing College	A	Level-13 (Rs. 123100- Rs. 215900)	55 Years	01 (UR-01)
Lecturer in Nursing	A	Level-11(Rs. 67700- Rs. 208700)	50 Years	05 (UR-03, OBC-01, SC-01)

The online registration of applications will be available on the website, [www.aiimsraipur.edu.in](http://www.aiimsraipur.edu.in) from **20.04.2021 (11:00 AM) to 20.05.2021 (5:00 PM)**. Detailed advertisement, all the notifications, amendments, corrigendum etc. related to this advertisement, if any, will be published only on the website.  
**Director**

**विज्ञापन**  

लड़की का नाम	जन्म तिथि	योग्यता	शारीरिक अवस्था	अन्य
पूजा	21/8/2002	8th	विकलांग	पूर्णतः अनाथ
नीलम	5/5/2005	8th	स्वस्थ	पूर्णतः अनाथ

दो अनाथ लड़कियाँ हेतु स्वस्थ, सुंदर, नौकरी या व्यवसाय वाले पढ़े-लिखे लड़के चाहिए। आवेदन में अपना पूरा पता, मोबाइल नंबर, पढ़ाई, नौकरी या व्यवसाय की जानकारी, परिवार की पूर्ण जानकारी अवश्य लिखें जो कि कार्यालय द्वारा सत्यापित करवाया जाएगा। आवेदन विज्ञापन के प्रकाशित होने उपरांत 15 दिन के अन्दर-2 निम्नहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में जमा करें। चयनित आवेदक को साक्षात्कार की तिथि व्यक्तिगत तौर पर बता दी जाएगी। साक्षात्कार के समय चयनित आवेदक उपरोक्त सभी दस्तावेज की मूल प्रति के साथ निर्धारित समय व स्थान पर उपस्थित हो।

आवेदन हेतु सम्पर्क सूत्र:  
जिला बाल संरक्षण ईकाई कार्यालय  
नजदीक लघु सचिवालय  
गुरुग्राम रोड, झज्जर 124103  
फोन: 01251-252757

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, GOVT. DOON MEDICAL COLLEGE, PATEL NAGAR, DEHRADUN-248001 UTTARAKHAND.**  
TEL: 0135-2726020, 2726021  
E-mail: [doonmedicalcollege@gmail.com](mailto:doonmedicalcollege@gmail.com), Website: [www.gdmcuk.com](http://www.gdmcuk.com)  
Letter No.: GDMC/Adv/L/2021/3980 Dated: 20/04/2021  
**WALK IN INTERVIEW**  
A walk in interview will be held on 01.05.2021 at 10:00 am onwards in Govt. Doon Medical College Campus, Patel Nagar, Dehradun for various faculty positions (broad and super specialties) of Government Doon Medical College, Dehradun. The appointments will be made on contractual basis for three years only for till regular appointments are made, whichever is earlier. The detail about the vacancies in various department are uploaded in the website of Govt. Doon Medical College [www.gdmcuk.com](http://www.gdmcuk.com), [www.doonmedical.org](http://www.doonmedical.org)  
**Principal**  
Govt. Doon Medical College, Dehradun

**Department of Women and Child Development**  
**Govt. Of NCT of Delhi**  
**5th floor, ISBT building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006**  
**MISSING CHILDREN**  

S. no	Description of the child	Photo
1	Name: Dipti (Name given by CWC), (female), age approx. 1 month, Complexion: wheatish. Child was found abandoned near Nangloi railway track by PS. Raj Park on 14.12.2020. The child has been kept at Hope Foundation Asharan for care and protection by the order of the Child Welfare Committee. A FIR no. 883 dtd 14.12.2020 has been registered with PS Raj Park in this case.	
2	Name: Alisha (Name given by CWC), (female), age 0, Complexion: wheatish. New born child was found abandoned at Ganda Nala opposite Sonia Camp Paschim Vihar, Delhi on 20.12.2020. The child has been kept at Hope Foundation Asharan for care and protection by the order of the Child Welfare Committee. A FIR no. 0723 dtd 21.12.2020 has been registered with PS Paschim Vihar East in this case.	

**Note:** Parents/Guardians/Relatives in case of above mentioned children may contact at address/phone numbers given below:-  
1. Incharge: Hope Foundation Asharan, A-46, New Multan Nagar Surya Enclave Dlehi-56, Contact No: 011-25291672  
2. DCPO, District Child Protection Unit-V, Sewa Kutir Complex Kingsway Camp, Delhi-09, Contact No: 011-27655034

Sign.  
**Director**  
**Women & Child Development**  
DIP/Shabdarth/0029/21-22  
Please give information to CHILD LINE 1098 about children who need care & protection

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank**  
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Govt. of India Undertaking  
**सिंडिकेट Syndicate**  
**Recovery & Legal Section, Circle Office,**  
**4th Floor, Luv-Kush Tower, Exhibition Road, Patna - 800001**  
**Ph. : 0612-2320180, Email : npacopat@canarabank.com**  
**PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION**  
**E-AUCTION Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / hypothecated/ Pledged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** on **28.05.2021**.  
Details are as under :-

Sl. No.	Name / Address Contact No. of the Branch	Name and Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor (s)	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.)/ EMD/Bid Multiplier Amt./Ac No./ IFSC Code
1.	<b>Patliputra Colony Branch, House No. - 18A, Patliputra Colony, Patna - 800013 Ph. : 0612-2270270</b>	M/s Maa Enterprises Prop. Mr. Randhir Kumar, S/o Late Suresh Thakur, Krishchan Colony, Makhdumpur, Digha, Patna - 800011 and (Guarantee) Smt. Shila Devi W/o Late Suresh Thakur, At- Musallahpur Chai Tola, Nathu Gope Lane, Near Kishan Cold Storage, Mahendru, Patna - 800006	<b>Rs. 22,15,129/-</b> as on 16.12.2016 + interest & Other Cost thereon	<b>Mortgagor</b> - Name and Address Mrs Sheela Devi W/o Late Suresh Thakur, Land & Building situated at thana No. 02, Ward No. - 13/48, Circle No. - 36, Sheet No. - 93, M. S Plot No. - 1361, Holding No. - 68/41/220/264/333, Mauza Musallahpur, PS - Kadamkuan, Dist. - Patna, Area:0.32 Kari (Original) & 18/1/2 Dhur (Presently) <b>Boundary - North</b> - Gali then Mr. Kashi Gope, <b>South</b> - Gali then Mr. Bharat Sonar, <b>East</b> - P.M.C Road Then Kisan Cold Storage, <b>West</b> - Gali Then Mr. Ram Das Mahto. <b>Location</b> : Mauza - Musallahpur, PS - Kadamkuan, Dist. - Patna	<b>Rs. 57,96,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 5,79,600/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>2518295000001</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>CNRB0002518</b>
2.	<b>FATWAH BRANCH, Fatwah Patna Mob. : 8210998315</b>	(1) M/s Anjali Enterprises, Proprietor Sri Mukesh Kumar S/o Sri Baleshwar Prasad, Village -Aahiyatpur, P.O. - Bhojpur, P.S. - Nagarnausa, District - Nalanda, Pin - 801305, Bihar (ii) Sri Mukesh Kumar S/o Sri Baleshwar Prasad, Village Khirodhpur, Fatwah, Pin - 803202, Patna Bihar.	<b>Rs. 7,59,064.34</b> as on 30.11.2020 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All Part & Parcel of land in the name of Mortgagor Smt. Ritu Kumari W/o Sri Mukesh Kumar bearing deed No. 12494 dt. 08.04.2013, K. S. Plot No. - 1509 (Part) Thana No. - 30, Khata No. - 226, Tazui No. - Bihar Sarkar, P.S. - Fatwah, Circle - Fatwah, Sub Registry - Patna City, District Registry Patna Sadar, Patna Measuring - 15 Dhur. <b>Location</b> - Mauza - Sonaru <b>Boundary - North</b> - 06 feet wide Rasta, <b>South</b> - Sri Ashok Yadav, <b>East</b> - 05 feet wide Rasta, <b>West</b> - Hal Khariid Sri Mukesh Kumar.	<b>Rs. 4,88,700/-</b> <b>Rs. 48,870/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>209272431</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>CNRB0000286</b>
3.	<b>BELA BRANCH Vill - Bela, Phaser Rd, Near Kali Asthan Aurangabad Mob. : 8210998530</b>	<b>Sri Ganesh Kumar, S/o Sri Ram Nath Prasad, Vill - Baghoi Khurd, PS - Phaser, Sub District - Aurangabad, Dist. - Aurangabad, Bihar - 824101 Property in the name of Sri Ganesh Kumar S/o Sri Ramnath Prasad.</b>	<b>Rs. 8,23,581/-</b> as on 31.03.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon	EMT of land and building in the name of Sri Ganesh Kumar S/o Sri Ram Nath Prasad, Khasra No. - 16, Plot No. - 218, Thana - 514, Pargana - Dosama, Mauza - Baghoi Khurd, PS - Phaser, Sub District - Aurangabad, Dist. - Aurangabad - 824101, Total Area - 3 Dismal <b>Boundary - North</b> - Arjun Singh, <b>South</b> - Rasta, <b>East</b> - Nij Vikreta, <b>West</b> - Patna Vikreta.	<b>Rs. 9,80,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 98,000/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>209272431</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>CNRB0003874</b>
4.	<b>BALIHAR BRANCH PO - Suryapura, Dist - Rahtas, Bihar - 802221 Mob. : 8102915093</b>	Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh, S/o Late Awadesh Kumar Singh, Vill + Post - Jamorhi, PS - Piro, Dist. Bhojpur - 802207 <b>Guarantor</b> - Mr. Chitrnanj Mishra S/o Surindra Mishra, vill-Indra Nagar, Bikaram Ganj, PO + PS - Bikramganj, Rohtas, Bihar - 802212	<b>Rs. 18,08,668.15</b> as on 01.04.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon	EMT of land and building in the name of Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh, S/o Late Awadesh Kumar Singh, Khata No. - 46, Plot No. - 37, Thana No. - 499, Mauza - Silautia, PO + PS - Bikramganj, Dist. - Rohtas, Total Area - 1.5 Kattha (As per Sale Deed No. - 7982, Dated - 03.11.2014) <b>Boundary - North</b> - 8 ft wide Rasta, <b>South</b> - Sabita Devi, <b>East</b> - Binod Singh, <b>West</b> - Devanti Devi.	<b>Rs. 17,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 1,70,000/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>170100500</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>CNRB0017582</b>
5.	<b>ARRAH BRANCH Arrah Mob. : 8210998301</b>	Nand Kumar Rai Vill. + PO - Gundi Krishnagarh, Arrah, Bhojpur - 802301	<b>Rs. 42,72,000/-</b> as on 17.04.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All the part & parcel of the property in the name of Sri Ram Niwas Rai S/o late Chandra Deep Rai consisting of Plot No. - 3172 (Old) 2234 (New), Khata No. - 245 (Old) / 2751 (New) Thana No. - 57, Village & Post - Gundi, P.S. - Krishnagarh, Dist. - Bhojpur, Total Area - 71.5 Decmal <b>Boundary - North</b> - Banshi Rai, <b>South</b> - Road, <b>East</b> - Jai Kumar, <b>West</b> - Shri Ram Rai.	<b>Rs. 64,12,500/-</b> <b>Rs. 6,41,250/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>209272946</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>CNRB0000376</b>
6.	<b>BUXAR BRANCH Main Road, Tatri Bazar, PO + PS - Buxar Sadar Dist.- Buxar Bihar, 8210998309</b>	M/s Shanker Oil Mill, Prop. Raghunath Prasad, Add. - Shankar Oil Mill Purana Bhojpur, PS - Dumraon, Distt. - Buxar, Bihar, Pin - 802101 <b>Property in the name of</b> - Raghunath Teli.	<b>Rs. 28,28,103.64</b> as on 16.04.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All the part & parcel of the property Khata No. - 1008/912, Plot No. - 2214, Thana No. - 158, Mauza - Bhojpur Jadid, Thana - Dumraon Sub Registrar Office - Buxar, Extent of Area 2.00 Decimal. <b>Boundary - North</b> - Bihar Sarkar (Rasta), <b>South</b> - Sri Suraj Prasad, <b>East</b> - Sri Deelip Jaisawal <b>West</b> - S. S. P Public School.	<b>Rs. 9,78,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 97,800/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>209272946</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>CNRB0001419</b>
7.	<b>Hajipur Rajpati Kunwar Shopping Centre, D.B Rd.,Hajipur, Vaishali, Mob. : 8102916781</b>	M/s Maa Vinধ্যवासini Flour Mill. Prop. Sumant Kumar Ekara, PO - Dharahra, PS - Hajipur, Vaishali - 844117, <b>Property in the name</b> - Smt. Indrashan Devi and Smt. Meena Devi	<b>Rs. 4,76,595.36</b> as on 16.04.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All the part & parcel of the property Mauza - Arara, Rev. Thana No. - 16, Anchal / SRO Hajipur, P.S. - Sadar Hajipur, Dist. - Vaishali, Khata No. - 1019 & 881, Khesra - 4723 and 4118, Extent - 6097.28 Decimal, <b>Boundary - North</b> - Vendee and others, <b>South</b> - Alakh Kumar Sinha and others, <b>East</b> - Suryadeo Pd and others <b>West</b> - Vendee.	<b>Rs. 10,15,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 1,01,500/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>209272946</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>SYNB0007586</b>
8.	<b>Hajipur Rajpati Kunwar Shopping Centre, D.B Rd.,Hajipur, Vaishali, Mob. : 8102916781</b>	<b>Mr. Ahmad Hussain Alias Md. Kalam, S/o Late Abdul Ahmad, Noon Gola Ward No. - 15, Hajipur, Vaishali - 844101</b>  Sub - Registry Office - Hajipur, Ward No. - 15, Dist. - Vaishali, Total Area - 1263 sqft. Sale Deed No. - 344 Dated - 18.01.2008 <b>Boundary - North</b> - Ahmad Hussain & 6 feet wide Rasta, <b>South</b> - Mohammad Usman, <b>East</b> - Mohammad Suleman Mahmud & 8 Feet Wide Road, <b>West</b> - Ahmad Hussain	<b>Rs. 5,90,121.02</b> as on 16.04.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All the part & parcel of the property in the name of Mr. Ahmad Hussain Alias Md. Kalam, S/o Late Abdul Ahmad consisting of Mauza - Noon Gola, Khata No. - 396, Khesra No. - 541, 542, 543 (MI) & 86, 99 (Old), Jambandhi No. - 969, Thana No. - 178, Haika No. - 11, PO & PS - Hajipur,	<b>Rs. 41,03,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 04,10,000/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>209272946</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>SYNB0007586</b>
9.	<b>Hajipur SME Hajipur Mob. : 8210998317</b>	(A) M/s Raghooji Hatchery and Farms Pvt. Ltd. C/o - Akash Kumar Sonu 1st Floor Ram Sagar Singh Complex Kachhari Road Hajipur Dist. Vaishali Bihar. (B) Mr. Akash Kumar Sonu S/o Sri Kaushlendra Singh House No. 7 Road No. 1 Rajput Nagar Hajipur Vaishali, 844101. (C) Mrs. Anju Rani W/o Sri Sudhir Kumar A-61, AnanadVihar Colony, Ambedkar Path , Near Jagdeo Path , Patna- 800014. (D) Mr. Satya Prakash S/o Sri Satish Kumar Singh, At. Kataro Anasad, PatedhiBelsar, Dist. - Vaishali-844101. (E) Kaushlendra Singh S/o Late Surendra Chandra Singh, House No 7 Road No 1 Rajput Nagar Hajipur Vaishali 844101 (F) Smt. Chandra Kala Devi W/O Sh. Shyam Sundar Chaudhary Ward No 16, Medanilnagar Pokhra Moualla Hajipur/Vaishali 844111. (G) M/s Raghooji Hatchery and Farms Pvt. Ltd. At. Kataro, P.O.-Patedhi Belsar, P.S Patedhi Belsar Ghoraul Dist. Vaishali Bihar 844118	<b>Rs. 1,50,00,000/- (Term Loan) + 1,57,00,000/- (OCC) = 3,07,00,000/-</b> as on 17.05.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon <b>Boundary of the property As per Deed - North - Road South</b> - Indrawati Devi <b>East</b> - Chandrakala Devi, <b>West</b> - Godawari Devi <b>Boundary - North</b> - Road Nagarpalika, <b>South</b> - Brijandan Prasad, <b>East</b> - Municipal School, <b>West</b> - Niz Anupam Chandra,	<b>Rs. 1,31,87,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 13,18,700/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>4960296000001</b> <b>IFSC Code</b> <b>CNRB0004960</b>	
10.	<b>Bahura Branch Vill. - Bahura, PO - Biddupur, Bahura, Vaishali - 844502 Mob. : 8017267798</b>	M/s D. K. Enterprises, Prop. Manish Kishore, S/o Surendra Prasad Sing. Vill. - Shyampur Dayal, PO - Madhupur, Hajipur - Vaishali - 844503. <b>Property in the name</b> - Mrs. Pramila Devi, Vill. - Shyampur Dayal, PO - Madhupur, Hajipur - Vaishali - 844503.	<b>Rs. 6,92,758.87</b> as on 16.04.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All the part and parcel of property land & building in the name of Pramila Devi, W/o Surendra Prasad Sing consisting of Mauza - Shyampurdayal, Khata No. - 135, Thana No. - 373, Khesara No. - 205, 206, PO & PS - Hajipur, Sub - Registry Office - Hajipur, Dist. - Vaishali Total Area - 1960 Sqft. Sale Deed No. - 9872, Dated - 17.12.2013 <b>Boundary - North</b> - 15 Feet Wide Rasta, <b>South</b> - Sunil Singh, <b>East</b> - Laldeo Singh, <b>West</b> - Mithilesh Pandit.	<b>Rs. 19,46,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 1,09,000/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>209272946</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>SYNB0007412</b>
11.	<b>Juran Chapra Branch Main Road, Mahesh Babu Chowk, Muzaffarpur - 842003 Mob. : 8210998501</b>	M/s Sona Agro Enterprises, Partners : Sri Rajesh Kumar & Sri Santosh Kumar Srivastava, Sunita Complex, Opposite Krishna Cinema, Akaharaghat Road, Dist. - Muzaffarpur, Bihar - 842001 <b>Guarantor</b> - Smt. Anumeha Kumari, W/o Sri Santosh Kumar Srivastava, Alokpuri, Bahalkhana Road, PS - Ramna, District - Muzaffarpur, Bihar - 842002	<b>Rs. 21,10,489.10</b> as on 16.04.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All that part and parcel of property consisting in the name of Smt. Anumeha Kumari, W/o Sri Santosh Kumar Srivastava, Khata No. - 297, Khesra No. - 50 (Part) Area - 2-02.45 Decimals (12¼ Dhur) <b>Boundary - North</b> - Nij Gali KMP Sinha, <b>South</b> - Road, <b>East</b> - Road, <b>West</b> - Shashi Kumar	<b>Rs. 44,24,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 4,42,400/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>2821296000001</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>CNRB0002821</b>
12.	<b>Line Bazar Branch 1st Floor, NH-31, Purnea Line Bazar - 854301 Mob. : 8210998621</b>	(A) Md. Mojahidul Islam, S/o Md Ramjan Ali (Prop - M/s Badal Trading) at Lavarbari Panchayat Gurhi, Post - Matkopa, PS - Kasba, Dist. - Purnea, Pin - 854330 (B) Bibi Mehnaz Khatoun, W/o Md. Mojahidul Islam, At Panchayat Gurhi, PO - Matkopa, PS - Kasba, Dist. - Purnea, Pin - 854330	<b>Rs. 18,39,363/-</b> as on 31.03.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon <b>Boundary - North</b> - Neej seller, <b>South</b> - Md. Jakir Hussain and others, <b>East</b> - 14'0" Wide Pvt. Road, <b>West</b> - Neej Seller (2) All that part & parcel of land situated at Khata No. - 361, Khesra No. - 150, area 24 decimal 675 sq. Kari Mauja - Matkopa, Tajuji No. - 8/5, Thana No. - 175, Thana - Kasba, Dist. - Purnea Name of title holder - Bibi Mehnaz Khatoun W/o Md. Mojahidul Islam <b>Boundary - North</b> - Saiyada Khatoun, <b>South</b> - Ramjan Ali, <b>East</b> - Kachcha Road, <b>West</b> - Md. Rakib Alam	<b>Property - 1</b> <b>Rs. 17,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 1,70,000/-</b> <b>Property - 2</b> <b>Rs. 17,50,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 1,75,000/-</b> <b>10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>5745296000002</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>CNRB0005745</b>	
Last Date of EMD 24.05.2021. For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <a href="http://www.canarabank.com">www.canarabank.com</a>					
<b>Date: 19.04.2021</b>		<b>Place: Patna</b>		<b>Authorised Officer</b> Canara Bank	



YOU CAN HAVE THE BEST VACCINES FOR A WOMAN, BUT IF YOU CAN'T GET HER TO COME AND GET THEM THEN THEY WON'T WORK. — MELINDA GATES

The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## JAB AND PUSH

Centre's new vaccine roadmap will help in the much-needed ramp-up; it also raises some critical questions

WITH THE RELENTLESS surge in Covid-19 infections showing no signs of abating, the Union government, on Monday, announced a significant change in its vaccination strategy. The Centre has opted for a more liberalised approach in terms of both eligibility and pricing of vaccines — a welcome departure from its previous approach that drew a specious distinction between those who “want” and those who “require” the vaccine and trashed all suggestions of opening up supplies as being at the behest of “foreign pharma lobbies”. All above the age of 18 are eligible, states can prioritise them, vaccine manufacturers have also been liberated, though partially, from the tyranny of price controls, and have now the option to supply part of their production to state governments and in the open market. The balance 50 per cent will continue to be directed to the Centre, which shall provide free-of-cost vaccines to all healthcare and frontline workers and all those above 45 years of age. This change in approach, which allows for a greater role of the private sector, and gives pricing freedom to incentivise vaccine manufacturers is a step in the right direction.

But this raises several issues that need to be addressed for the benefits to be harnessed. For one, by all accounts, there continues to be a supply crunch. While the government has taken steps, although belatedly, to scale up the availability/production of vaccines in the country, ramping up supplies specially post May 1, will be a challenge. There is no clear indication of the stockpiles available. Nor any clarity over how many doses of Russian Sputnik V can be imported immediately. Second, as demand outstrips supply, especially as the virus spreads, the vaccine basket will need to be dramatically expanded. Regulatory approvals will need to be expedited, financial constraints for manufacturing will need to be eased. It's not clear how the Centre will allocate stocks under the revised norms. Which states will be at the front of the queue? Will states bearing the brunt of the virus be prioritised over others? Will it be linked to wastage?

There are also questions over who should do what. Should the Centre be coordinating procurement and distribution across buyers, between states, and between the states and vaccine manufacturers? Or will individual states be left to negotiate with vaccine manufacturers, both domestic and foreign? There is also a regulatory challenge. Vaccines have been approved under emergency use authorisation which implies that these drugs cannot be sold directly in the market, only under regulatory supervision. While there is surely a greater role for the market, vaccine is a public good. The CoWin architecture will anyway register each vaccination. So the private sector needs to be welcomed under vigil by a robust and transparent regulatory mechanism managed by the Centre in constant consultation with states.

## WITH DUE RESPECT

Allahabad HC's anguish is understandable. But deciding on a UP lockdown is the government's job, not for the bench to order

THE SUPREME COURT has rightly stayed the Allahabad High Court directive to impose a week-long lockdown in five districts in UP following what it deemed a failure of the system to deal with the spike in COVID-19 cases. A two-judge bench of the Allahabad HC Monday had held that the medical infrastructure in these districts was “virtually incapacitated” and called the measures undertaken by the government as an eyewash. The pandemic situation in UP, no doubt, is grave and all systems have been strained. But a lockdown is a call best left to the political executive since its economic and social implications are far-reaching. Moreover, managing a lockdown is based on inputs from the district level on the spread of the infection, the health infrastructure available and the demographic profile of those hit the hardest. The High Court's anguish is understandable but a fiat from the bench is hardly the best way to go about tackling a pandemic.

The Allahabad HC has been watching closely the actions of UP administration and has been periodically hauling up the government for its omissions and commissions. For instance, the HC has repeatedly read the rulebook back to the administration in cases where the due process was subverted or justice denied. The court's unbending commitment to fairness and the rule of law has been exceptional, especially since other institutions seem to have buckled under pressure but its directive on lockdown borders on overreach. A week ago, the HC had asked the government if a lockdown was necessary to contain the spread of the pandemic. Its concern was fuelled by reports of rising cases and deaths and the failure of the system to cope with it — the court was hearing a PIL on the “inhuman” condition in the quarantine centre and the state of COVID treatment. The government held that a lockdown could cause destruction of livelihoods and accentuate economic distress and claimed that it had taken a series of measures, including declaring the worst affected areas as containment zones. The measures may not have yielded the expected results and it triggered an angry response from the HC.

There are glaring gaps in the state's health infrastructure. Fixing that is a long haul and will require sustained investment and political focus on public health. That's why the state government may have got relief from the apex court but it will do well to listen carefully to the Allahabad HC's censure. More so, in a year leading to Assembly elections when it's a challenge for any government to blend both governance and politics.

## FOUL PLAY

The European Super League will diminish the soul of football, destroy the romance of the game

IF THE EUROPEAN Super League becomes a glittering reality, as their creators have designed it to be, football, as we know it, would cease to be a sport. It could rather become a plastic showbiz of the most talented footballers on the planet kicking the ball around with humdrum regularity, conserving and multiplying the revenue for a small cartel of owners. It would destroy not only the soul of the game but also the identity, tradition, history, and romance of football. Perhaps it's a sign of times, when the world itself is gravitating towards exclusivity, taking with it whatever little egalitarianism that prevailed in European club football, shaking the founding principles of several decorated clubs, founded mostly by the working class of the 19th century.

The Joel Glazers, Sheikh Mansours and Roman Abramoviches are pumping in billions into the leagues, not out of love for the game or the club, but to make money. Presently, the narrative of top-flight domestic competition is all about reaching the top three-four spots, in order to get into the Champions League. That would not be the case anymore. There would not be any motivation, neither for the elites nor for the aspirants. After a point, over-saturation would creep in, the audience would be bored of watching Liverpool and Barcelona on a reel. They would yearn to watch an Atlanta, or Istanbul Basaksehir or Leicester City and warm their hearts in their fairy-tale stories.

Thankfully, there is a resounding backlash to the concept, which has reaffirmed faith in the audience that football could be saved from the cavernous vultures greedily picking on the flesh and bones of the game, seeing only the twinkling riches and blind to the soul of the game. From presidents, prime ministers and premiers, to footballers and managers, fans and their family, there is an unequivocal resistance to the designs of a gluttonous few. There, thus, is a hope that football will continue to exist, as we know it. And as we want it to be.

# A new social contract



MANISH SABHARWAL AND RAJIV MEHRISHI

Covid is an opportunity to make structural changes to our largest health insurance and pension schemes

COVID REMINDS US that a modern state is a welfare state — governments worldwide launched 1,600 plus new social protection programmes in 2020. It also reinforces the importance of resources — America's fiscal deficit this year is more than India's GDP. While sustainable social security lies in raising India's 138th ranking in country per-capita GDP, we make the case for three reforms to our biggest health insurance and pension schemes: The Employee State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) and Employee Provident Fund (EPF). Both have hostages rather than clients with no option to opt out or choose a competitor. Touted as “employee welfare” schemes since the 1950s, both have failed their clients since birthing and in COVID. Changing who wields the tool will change, for the better, what they do.

ESIS is India's richest and biggest health insurance scheme with 13 crore people covered and Rs 80,000 crore in cash. Employers with more than 10 employees make a mandatory 4 per cent payroll deduction for employees earning up to Rs 21,000 per month. Despite covering roughly 10 per cent of India's population, a recent working paper from Dvara Research suggests high dissatisfaction. The constraint is hardly resources: ESIC's unspent reserves are larger than the Central government's healthcare budgetary allocation. Painfully, its annual profits of Rs 10,000 crore persist.

EPF is India's biggest pension scheme with a Rs 12 lakh crore corpus and 6.5 crore contributors. Employers with more than 20 employees make mandatory 24 per cent payroll deductions for employees earning up to Rs 15,000 per month. It only covers 10 per cent of India's labour force and 60 per cent of accounts and 50 per cent of registered employers are inactive. EPF's 1991 creation of a defined benefit component — contested by employers then as unsustainable — can now only be made solvent with an unfair benefit cut or taxpayer haircut. EPF offers poor service and pathetic technology despite employer-funded administrative costs that make it the world's most expensive government securities mutual fund.

This article's title comes from a wonderful new book, *What We Owe Each Other: A New Social Contract* by Nemat Shafik of London School of Economics, that suggests updating the risk-sharing framework in so-

Health and pensions need complex skills developed over time; Malcolm Gladwell's 10,000 hours of deliberate practice. Yet, ESIS and EPF are led by generalist bureaucrats who not only view their posting as a government backwater but their weak domain expertise feels like the cabin crew is flying the plane. Both organisations need professional chief executives.

## HER FAMILY OF FILMS

Sumitra Bhavé's persistence, generosity was an inspiration for independent cinema



CHAITANYA TAMHANE

I WOKE up on Tuesday morning to terrible news. It had, anyway, been a tough week because we lost Vira Sathidar, the cultural activist and poet who acted in *Court*, and some of my very close relatives are in critical condition. I knew Sumitra Bhavé was in the ICU for the last few weeks and I was hoping that she would recover, given her boundless energy and spirit for life. I couldn't believe it when I heard she is no more.

It goes without saying that her passing is a huge loss to Indian cinema. There are very few filmmakers who were as prolific as she was, and who could do what she did for the independent film movement. She collaborated with generations of filmmakers and actors, who were enriched after working with her. She was no less than an institution; she forged the paths and careers of many other bright stars. She has made numerous important films in Marathi, which told stories rooted in a strong social and cultural context and yet depicted a universal human condition. Her films were also social projects — she would form families, not teams, while she worked with entire communities to make films happen — this also reflected in the conversations I had with her about cinema and I took great inspiration from them.

When I went to offer her a part in *The*

*Disciple*, I was nervous even to speak to someone so accomplished, but I also knew she was the only one who could do justice to the role of “Maai”. Luckily, she agreed. She was full of nerves and excitement because she had never acted herself. This nervousness was nothing but her humility and the desire to give her best. There was not even a hint of ego or the baggage of seniority in her behaviour. Not only did she blow us away with her performance, she was so good that we finished our work in half the time we had scheduled for the recordings.

I regret that she could not watch the finished film. We organised a private screening of *The Disciple* for the cast and crew in January, but she had had cataract surgery. Even then, she considered attending the screening to just “hear the film”. I had to convince her to drop the idea and get rest. Such was her enthusiasm! We thought we could do a screening again in a few months. Her not having watched the film will always be a big, sad gaping hole.

The first time I met her to narrate the role, I was stunned by her optimism, energy and positivity towards life and cinema. Filmmaking was a way of life for her, and she didn't know any other way of being. I don't think that the thought of retiring or stopping ever crossed her mind. She told me, “We have to value life

and enjoy it. Do what we are here for.”

I must also mention her generosity: She refused to take money from us for the film although we insisted. She had some medical issues but she travelled to Mumbai twice from Pune, when it was not an easy journey for her. I remember my assistants running around in different shops and buying gifts for her. It was as if we were working with our favourite, most giving grandmother. But she was so young at heart, that everyone called her “maushi”, which is what you call your mother's sister in Marathi.

I remember my last conversation with her. She was excited about her latest film, *Dithi*, which hasn't yet come out. She had requested me to share her films with the executive producer of *The Disciple*, Alfonso Cuarón. I wish I had made it happen sooner. Having said that, it's not a time for regrets. This is an opportunity to celebrate Sumitra Bhavé's legacy, her warrior-like spirit and endless curiosity for life. She was a living example of how to find your purpose, and to selflessly dedicate yourself to it, despite the odds and difficulties; sheer love and passion was her guide along the way.

The writer is director of *The Disciple* and *Court*

## APRIL 21, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

### REAGAN'S PLAN

THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION is preparing a strategy that would build up and modernise America's strategic and tactical nuclear weaponry, as well as prepare conventional forces for a protracted war with the Soviet Union or any other country on several fronts simultaneously. This would not only call for vast increases in expenditure but may necessitate reintroduction of the draft. Arming other nations, particularly Egypt, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, might also be necessary. The policy, said *The New York Times*, also envisages revitalising the defence industry to double or triple production within a year of the onset of hostilities.

### TRANSFER CASE

A WRIT PETITION challenging the constitutional validity of the Union Law Minister's circular letter requesting the Chief Ministers to obtain the consent of additional judges of high courts for transfer to other high courts was admitted on Monday by Justice M L Pendse at the Bombay High Court. The writ petition was filed by Iqbal M Chagla and others.

### FM TO TAX EVADERS

FINANCE MINISTER R Venkataraman said that the special bearer bond scheme was intended as the last chance to those having black money to bring it into productive

channels. Inaugurating a three-day conference of income-tax commissioners, Venkataraman called for a relentless drive against tax evaders.

### HALLUCINATIONS

“HE IS SUFFERING from hallucinations,” an official spokesman said in New Delhi about a British journalist who wrote about “Russian military officers openly strutting about in Delhi”. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman made the remark when newsmen mentioned a report about “Russian influence” in the *Daily Mail*, by its representative who covered the visit of British PM Mrs Margaret Thatcher.



# THE IDEAS PAGE

## On red turf, standing ground

The recent Chhattisgarh ambush has triggered a fresh round of finger-pointing from predictable quarters of civil society and security experts. But the state is far from losing the war against Maoists



ABHINAV KUMAR

THE LONG WAR against India's Maoists is over five decades old now. As the recent attack in and around Tekulagudem village in Sukma district demonstrates, it shows no signs of ending anytime soon. On the face of it, Maoists seem to have pulled off a spectacular strike against our security forces in the jungles of Chhattisgarh. As of now, the Chhattisgarh police and the CRPF have suffered a combined total of 22 casualties. There are no reliable inputs about casualties on the Maoist side but there are reports that they too number in the double digits.

Even before the bravehearts could be accorded their last rites, a fresh round of breast-beating and finger-pointing, from entirely predictable quarters of our civil society and security experts, has begun. No matter what the specifics of the setback may be, their diagnosis and prescriptions remain remarkable, if not for their accuracy and relevance, at least for their consistency.

Broadly speaking, the post-incident analysis of such setbacks comes in two flavours. The most popular theory amongst our intelligentsia and media is the root cause and alienation approach. It focuses on the socio-economic causes that are supposed to be the most important drivers of support for the Naxal movement. According to the votaries of this approach, it is the failure of the Indian state to provide economic development and social justice to the tribals living in these areas that has fuelled the Naxal movement and sustained it for five decades. As a prescription, experts in favour of this theory emphasise a development-centric approach and negotiations as the way forward.

There are several problems with this approach. First, it glosses over the ideological foundations of the movement, specifically its rejection of India's Constitution and democracy, and its exaltation of the Maoist variant of communism. Second, it fails to see that social and economic deprivation is not unique to the jungles of Chhattisgarh. Large parts of the country suffer from this affliction. Third, it doesn't account for the possibility that while alienation and deprivation may help in igniting the spark of revolution, once lit the flames draw oxygen from many sources. Fourth, the role of external forces in fomenting and sustaining this movement is deliberately underplayed. Fifth, the grubby ground reality of the praxis of revolution is conveniently swept under the carpet. The organised extortion racket from all economic stakeholders in the Naxal-affected areas by our alienated revolutionaries seldom gets talked about. Sixth, the extensive ideological, financial and logistical ecosystem that provides sustenance to these revolutionaries in the jungle is seldom acknowledged. Last but not the least, every time Naxalites are killed in an exchange of fire by the security forces, the overground network goes into overdrive through the media and the judiciary in labelling it as cold-blooded murder of innocent civilians.

The other kind of diagnosis is offered by a coalition of Cassandras consisting of retired military experts, CAPF cadre officers and disgruntled IPS officers. According to this view,



CR Sankumar

our tactical failures against the Maoists are entirely due to the poor quality of leadership provided by the Indian Police Service. The when, where, how of a setback simply don't matter. When in doubt, identify the first IPS officer in the chain of command and hoist him on the petard of tactical incompetence. It doesn't matter if there are three or four layers of officers in the chain of command belonging to the CAPF cadre involved in the incident. Of course, in the case of any operational success, cadre officers will fall over each other in claiming credit.

This view completely ignores the many successes of IPS leadership in counterinsurgency operations in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and most recently in Odisha. Even in the Northeast and Jammu and Kashmir, where the Indian Army provides the backbone of the counterinsurgency grid, the police forces of the respective states and their IPS leadership play a crucial role in gathering intelligence and in executing operations. So, the failures and setbacks in the Naxal areas of Chhattisgarh need to be placed in perspective.

The loss of 22 lives is undoubtedly a setback and a tragic loss for the families of men killed in the ambush. But to read anything more into it is an overreaction. History tells us that nation-states on the losing side of an insurgency seldom lose militarily. They simply lose their appetite for a long war characterised by open-ended attrition and casualties. More precisely, their decision-makers are forced to disengage by domestic public opinion and/or international pressure. In most of these cases, we are dealing with expeditionary forces in foreign countries, the Americans in Vietnam, the French in Algeria or even the IPKF in Sri Lanka. Our forces in Chhattisgarh are not invading armies. They are forces of a democratic republic deployed

The loss of 22 lives is undoubtedly a setback and a tragic loss. But to read anything more into it is an overreaction. History tells us that nation-states on the losing side of an insurgency seldom lose militarily. They simply lose their appetite for a long war. More precisely, decision-makers are forced to disengage by domestic public opinion and/or international pressure. But our forces in Chhattisgarh are not invading armies.

in their own heartland, backed by the full force of public opinion and faith in the legitimacy of their cause.

In the context of our Maoist challenge, I don't see us being defeated militarily or facing a public clamour for withdrawal happening anytime soon. Despite the current setback, the level of bloodshed is negligible compared to the overall deployment and, therefore, is unlikely to turn public opinion. The fact that the Indian state has adopted a broad policy of economic development, military restraint and gradual attrition and rejected indiscriminate violence in the Naxal theatre is the democratically prudent and morally just course of action. This hasn't dissuaded Maoist sympathisers from gaining international attention through relentless propaganda against our security forces. However, such attacks also help in exposing their true nature and hardening public resolve against them.

The finger-pointing and breast-beating at this debacle are along expected lines but it must be taken with a large pinch of salt. We have enough examples of successful, police led CI Ops in our country. Why we are not able to replicate these successes in Chhattisgarh is a matter of larger political issues, well beyond the narrow scope of operational tactics and individual lapses of police leadership. Not just the politics, the geography and demography of the Naxal-affected areas, make it an even more complex challenge of internal security. Our public opinion is rightly reluctant to adopt a brute force strategy as the prime ingredient of a comprehensive solution.

Nevertheless, despite this tragic setback in Tekulagudem, the revolution has zero chance of success in India's own long war.

The writer is an IPS officer. Views are personal

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"After decades of money-grabbing at the top of the game, a new settlement for football is indeed required. But it is not the one envisaged by Joel Glazer and his unscrupulous allies."

— THE GUARDIAN

## Wrongful confinement

Delhi court granting bail to infant's mother is a welcome change during a pandemic in which legal system has resisted release of prisoners



PRATIKSHA BAXI

FOR WOMEN and children, life in Indian prisons means being subjected to the patriarchy of custodial institutions in unusually cruel ways that have not found much judicial reflection in bail jurisprudence. For bail jurisprudence is foundationally adult, able-bodied and male. It does not empathise with women and children, or the elderly and the afflicted. It does not consider the vicarious liability of the state for the systemic and everyday forms of violence, humiliation and deprivation on women or transgender undertrials. Custodial rape, pregnancy or childbirth is not seen as cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment of women prisoners as women. Nor are the rights of children of incarcerated parents put at the centre of bail jurisprudence. The abject state of women's prisons, which is much worse than male prisons, is often not seen as a justified ground for the release of women undertrials, even in a pandemic.

In *State v. Suman Kumari*, Additional Sessions Judge Vishal Gogne made an important departure from malestream bail jurisprudence by privileging the rights of children of incarcerated parents. In this case of dowry murder allegation, the court noticed that the accused sister-in-law of the dead victim was also a mother of a 21-month infant. The mother, who was in prison since December 9, 2020, had applied for regular bail.

Granting bail to the mother on April 2, the court pointed out that the incarceration of mothers amounts to the "de facto detention of their infant/toddler wards". This was seen as a serious violation of Article 37 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989. As also a violation of the JJ Act, 2015 which mandates the best interests of the child as paramount and under Section 3 advocates "institutionalisation of the child as a step of last resort".

Further, the court points out that the child in "de facto detention" must not suffer worse custodial conditions than children in conflict with the law or children in need of care and protection. Further, the court calls for "empathy" as "the ground for bail" to shine "light upon the often-forgotten victims of incarceration viz the children of imprisoned parents." The legal gaze on the plight of children of incarcerated parents highlights the injustice of such "detention without cause".

This was a regular bail hearing—and most of the accused's incarceration with her young baby was during the time when the prison has been under lockdown and with little, if any gynaecological, paediatric, legal or familial care. This order is very significant today as the mutant COVID-19 ravages prisons.

Despite the 2020 NHRC recommendations to state governments to release women prisoners, especially pregnant women, most

states have not recommended the release of pregnant women or mothers with children from prisons. In 2020, the high-powered committee of the Delhi High Court did not release all pregnant women or mothers with infants, despite representations from women's rights activists and academics. Their criteria for release were based on offence, duration of sentence, nationality etc.

Ignoring, therefore, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DMA) which constitutes overcrowded prisons as hotspots of mass contagion, and mandates that mitigation, rescue or relief must be read with Section 61 of the DMA. Section 61 says that the state must provide compensation and relief to the victims of disaster and that "there shall be no discrimination on the ground of sex, caste, community, descent or religion". The disaster law recognises the differential needs of women and other vulnerable populations in prisons. Surely, the disaster law must be read with prison rules so that all women, children and transgender prisoners are considered the most vulnerable populations, who deserve immediate rescue and relief, mitigation and compensation.

Currently, a public interest litigation has been filed in the Delhi High Court to release prisoners on interim bail following reports that 117 prisoners and 14 jail staff have been infected as on April 17 in Tihar jail where the number of actual prisoners is more than double the capacity. Fifty-five inmates and four jail staff members have been infected in the Sabarmati Central jail, while 198 prisoners are infected in Maharashtra prisons. Forty-four women prisoners are infected in the Patiala jail, while Gurdaspur jail reported 200 cases. Pregnant women and children, who cannot be given vaccines, continue to be imprisoned as a virulent virus sweeps through our prisons. We can only hope that our courts will release women and trans-prisoners and provide them with the support to survive once released, in this health emergency.

This pandemic has taught us that by refusing to even give interim bail to women undertrials, including mothers and pregnant women or the elderly and the seriously ill, and victims of prison rape, the criminal legal system is attached to a spectacular form of cruelty. Courts have refused to recognise that our prisons are overpopulated and gendered by design. Unusually cruel gendered, reproductive and sexual punishment is built into the design of our prisons which remain colonial.

We must, therefore, ask ourselves why the decolonisation of the Indian prison system has not yet begun? It is high time that the practice of imprisoning women, children and sexual minorities in prisons, irrespective of offence, nationality or exceptional laws, is abolished altogether as the first step towards decolonising the prison system. And non-custodial measures replace the practice of imprisoning women undertrials. Our courts need to strengthen law's constitutional quest for humanity, and displace its historical attachment to custodial cruelty, as a basic feature of decolonising Indian law.

The writer is associate professor, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, JNU

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### STOP THE SPIN

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Elections are less free and fair' (IE, April 18). The columnist asks, "The most egregious action of the EC was spreading the election calendar in West Bengal over eight phases and 33 days. Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry have, together, 404 seats and elections could be held on one day, April 6. Why does West Bengal with 294 seats require eight days?" West Bengal has a history of multi-phase elections keeping in view the requirement of security forces and input on law and order situation in the state. Staggering of polls in multiple phases becomes essential to ensure effective and efficient use of resources and security. Another claim is, "For example, in Tamil Nadu, the EC has not been able to stop the distribution of money. Money is offered to — and accepted by — practically every voter." As West Bengal has specific condition of law and order concerns, Tamil Nadu has the concern of money power. The zero tolerance approach of the commission can be gauged by the fact that stringent actions were taken against erring officials in a case in Tiruchirappalli. It is despicable to ignore the hard facts and build a political narrative to criticise a constitutional authority, which has thrived on public trust in the era of heightened political competitiveness and slugfest.

Sheephali Sharan, ECI spokesperson

### UNHEALTHY TREND

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Disease politics' (IE, April 20). It is a pity that the all-powerful ruling party, the BJP, and the

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Congress, instead of coming forward on their own to exchange their ideas and suggestions to deal with the second more furious surge of the COVID-19, are firing broadsides at each other.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

### REACTIVE BJP

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Finally, BJP cuts back in Bengal: 'Now dangerous to hold big rallies' (IE, April 20). PM Narendra Modi's appeal for symbolic Kumbh Mela to strengthen fight against the pandemic lost its lustre when he marvelled at the size of the crowd at his Asansol poll rally the same day. The Election Commission's inability to club the remaining 3-4 phases of West Bengal polling is dismaying. Perhaps for the first time, it was the Opposition's narrative to which BJP reacted defensively.

LR Murmu, Delhi



RAMESH ABHISHEK

## Towards digital atmanirbharta

Public policies must provide enabling environment, level-playing field

THE INTERNET as a channel of communication was invented over five decades ago. Essentially, it was a medium for researchers and scientists to communicate with one another. Little did one know that this medium will grow and go on to govern an average human's life in multiple ways. One sector that has significantly evolved with this invention is the consumer retail sector. With their efficient, quick and reliable logistics network, e-commerce platforms have nudged consumer behaviour patterns from an offline to an online shopping mode. The utility was also made evident during the pandemic when the world came to a standstill. E-commerce emerged as an enabler in ensuring the availability of essentials to the masses.

E-commerce is going to be increasingly important in the future of retail shopping in India and the world over. It is estimated to become a \$100 billion industry by 2024, which was at \$38.5 billion until 2017. In just one festive week of October 2020, the reported sales online have been to the extent of \$4.1 billion.

The numbers show India's story, where the dependence on online retail is alike from metropolitan to tier III cities. The trend will continue to grow with the government's impetus on digital literacy, also supported by the increasing penetration of internet and smart-phone users. However, what the sector lacks is

the bandwidth of operation.

For any trade or industry to flourish, a significant role in its success is played by the operational policies. An investor-friendly environment not only catalyses the growth of a sector but relevant policy interventions by lawmakers go a long way in ensuring compliance. Both over-regulation and under-regulation are detrimental to the healthy future of any business entity. In addition to the FDI Policy/FEMA, other laws such as IT Act, Consumer Protection Act, and those pertaining to IP and copyright, regulate the e-commerce sector in India. Of these, the FDI policy plays an important role as massive investments are needed to build and strengthen the entire ecosystem of the e-commerce sector in the country.

FDI policy on e-commerce needs to be viewed as part of the FDI policy on trade. Due to historical reasons, FDI policies on trade have evolved over time as policy-making was done from time to time mostly responding to the needs of the market coupled with political feasibility. Thus, FDI policy in cash and carry or wholesale B2B operations is different (100 per cent FDI allowed under automatic route) compared to highly restrictive FDI policy on retail B2C trade. Similarly, an artificial distinction was created between single-brand retail and multi-brand retail as opposition to multi-brand retail was strong: 100 per cent FDI is al-

lowed under automatic route in single-brand retail whereas FDI regime in multi-brand retail is quite restricted. E-commerce is not allowed under FDI policy in multi-brand retail.

Manufacturers are, however, allowed to sell their goods through e-commerce also without any restriction. The FDI policy on e-commerce is quite different as e-commerce platforms are allowed to work only as a marketplace with permission to provide certain specified services to sellers and buyers. However, FDI is allowed in the inventory model when these platforms sell fresh farm produce made in India. There is no specific policy on FDI in e-commerce for exports though it can probably be justified as there is no sale to domestic consumers and hence, there should not be any objection to e-commerce platforms themselves owning inventories purely for exports.

The above only shows the need for a comprehensive FDI policy on trade that takes care of the needs of all the stakeholders: Producers, consumers, service providers in the supply chain and small traders. The policies that have evolved over time need a relook to balance the interests of all in a win-win policy at a time when rapid expansion of the retail, organised retail as well e-commerce sector in India in coming years will create huge opportunities for all. Today, our small

businesses employing an exceptionally large number of workers need to use e-commerce more and more to augment their sales. These businesses compete against cheap imported goods while they face many disadvantages that unfairly dilutes their competitiveness. E-commerce provides them with the means to access a much bigger market without having to overly invest in marketing. This should include more and more foreign markets. Consumers, of course, have benefited enormously from e-commerce. Also, the harmonious working of online and offline retailers is essential. With GST and the drive towards digitisation, more small traders need to be enabled to make the transition and take advantage of the expanding opportunities.

Public policies need to provide an enabling environment and a level-playing field to promote and nurture competition and protect the interests of all. Public policy on e-commerce needs to place an equal premium on the views and interests of all the stakeholders in the ecosystem to strengthen our domestic businesses and create many more jobs and livelihood opportunities in the country to fulfil the dreams of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The writer is a former secretary to the Government of India, DPIIT. He is currently advisor to Primus Partners Pvt. Ltd

TOPOF THE WORLD



Idriss Deby

CHAD

President killed on frontline, son to take over

**N'Djamena:** Chad's President Idriss Deby, who ruled his country for more than 30 years and was an important Western ally in the fight against Islamist militants in Africa, has been killed on the frontline against rebels in the north. Deby's son, Mahamat Kaka, was named interim president by a transitional council of military officers, spokesman Azem Bermendao Agouna said in a broadcast on state television. "Marshal Idriss Deby Itno, as he did each time that the institutions of the republic were gravely threatened, took control of operations during the heroic combat led against the terrorists from Libya. He was wounded during the fighting and died once repatriated to N'Djamena," Bermendao said. **REUTERS**

NEPAL

Former royals test positive for Covid-19

**Kathmandu:** Former Nepal King Gyanendra Shah and his wife Komal have tested Covid-19 positive, days after they returned from a ten-day visit to India. Shah (73) had participated in the shahi snan at the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar on April 12, where he had been invited as the 'Vishwa Hindu Samrat'. The royals had tested negative for the virus on April 17, a day before they had boarded a flight back to Nepal. **ENS**

UNITED STATES

Ex vice-president Walter Mondale dies at 93

**Minneapolis:** Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale, a liberal icon who lost one of the most lopsided presidential elections after bluntly telling voters to expect a tax increase if he won, died Monday. He was 93. The death of the former senator, ambassador and Minnesota attorney general was announced in a statement from his family. No cause was cited. Mondale followed the trail blazed by his political mentor, Hubert H. Humphrey, from Minnesota politics to the US Senate and the vice presidency, serving under Jimmy Carter. **AP**

# Resolution seeking expulsion of French ambassador tabled in Pak Parliament

Speaker says he would like to give time to the House for discussion, adjourns session till Friday

**SAJJAD HUSSAIN & M ZULQERNAIN**  
ISLAMABAD, LAHORE, APRIL 20

SUCCUMBING TO Islamists' demands, the Pakistan government on Tuesday decided to introduce a resolution in Parliament to expel the French ambassador and quash all criminal cases filed against the banned radical party TLP after they reached a deal following a marathon round of talks.

The agreement came a day after Prime Minister Imran Khan said that the expulsion of the French ambassador was not a solution to stop the incidences of blasphemy in the western world, noting that "it will only trigger incidents of blasphemy in other countries as in the West they call it freedom of expression".

"Under a marathon round of talks and an agreement reached with the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), a resolution on the expulsion of the French ambassador will be presented on Tuesday in the National Assembly," Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said in a video statement.

The cases against TLP workers, registered under terrorism charges, will also be quashed. Besides, the names of TLP leaders from the Fourth Schedule will also be taken off, Rashid said.

The expulsion of the French ambassador is one of the main



Supporters of Tehreek-e-Labiak Pakistan at a protest in Lahore on Tuesday. AP/PTI

four demands of the radical Islamist party, which was banned last week after its members staged violent anti-France protests across the country.

On Monday, the National Assembly session was adjourned to meet again on April 22. However, shortly after the minister's statement, a session of the lower house of Parliament was summoned in the late afternoon.

Hours later, a resolution was tabled in the National Assembly for the expulsion of the French ambassador from Pakistan over the issue of blasphemous cartoons being published there.

Amjad Ali Khan of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party presented the resolution in the National Assembly with Speaker Asad Qaiser in the chair. Technically, it was not an official document as it was moved by a member in his private capacity but it was accepted for discussion.

The resolution condemned the publication of blasphemous caricatures by French magazine *Charlie Hebdo* in September last year and expressed regret over the French's president "encouragement of the elements hurting the sentiments of the hundreds of millions of Muslims in the

name of freedom of expression".

"The House condemns the publication of insulting sketches by the controversial French magazine *Charlie Hebdo* and Muslims around the world had also expressed outrage at the publication of the sketches," the resolution added.

The main Opposition Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) attended the session but the Pakistan People's Party boycotted it.

Ahsan Iqbal of PML-N demanded that the resolutions should be presented by Khan or

some minister to make it an official document and the government should bring a new resolution after discussion with the opposition.

Speaker Qaiser said that he would like to give time to the House for discussion to come up with the consensus document and adjourned the session until Friday.

Earlier, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said that the TLP has agreed to call off its sit-in in Lahore and elsewhere in the country. The TLP had given an April 20 deadline to expel the French ambassador. **PTI**

EXPLAINED

Strained relations

RELATIONS BETWEEN Paris and Islamabad became more strained after President Emmanuel Macron paid tribute late last year to a French teacher who was beheaded by a man of Chechen origin for showing cartoons depicting the Prophet in a lesson on free speech. Many Muslims consider such cartoons blasphemous. Macron maintains that free speech is a fundamental right in France.

# Xi calls for fairer world order amid rivalry with US

**REUTERS**  
BEIJING, APRIL 20

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping on Tuesday called for a rejection of hegemonic power structures in global governance, amid growing tensions between Washington and Beijing over a widening range of issues including alleged human rights abuses.

Speaking at the annual Boao Forum for Asia, Xi criticised efforts by some countries to "build barriers" and "decouple", which he said would harm others and benefit no one.

China has long called for reforms of the global governance system to better reflect a more diverse range of perspectives and values from the international community, including its own, instead of those of a few major nations.

It has also repeatedly clashed with the biggest stakeholders in world governance, particularly the United States, over a range of issues from human rights to China's economic influence over other countries.

"The world wants justice, not hegemony," Xi said in remarks broadcast to the forum.

"A big country should look like a big country by showing that it is shouldering more responsibility," he said.

While Xi did not identify any country in his remarks, Chinese officials have in recent times referred to U.S. "hegemony" in



Chinese President Xi Jinping

public criticisms of Washington's global projection of power in trade and geopolitics.

On Friday, US President Joe Biden held his first face-to-face White House summit since taking office, in a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in which China topped the agenda.

Both leaders said they "share serious concerns" about the human rights situation in Hong Kong and China's Xinjiang region, where Washington has said Beijing is perpetrating a genocide against Muslim Uighurs. China has denied abuses.

China's trade practices were a focus of an intense tariff war between Beijing and Washington under the Trump administration, with the United States accusing Beijing of unfair subsidiaries that give Chinese companies unfair advantage abroad and forced transfers of technology and intellectual property.

# Nepal's Oli uses Hindutva as key agenda for the next election

**YUBARAJ GHIMIRE**  
KATHMANDU, APRIL 20

With the ruling Nepal Communist Party fragmented, and the campaign to dislodge the present regime taking a more aggressive form, Prime Minister K P Oli seems to have adopted twin strategy of expelling dissidents from the party, and adopting Hindutva as the major electoral plank.

On Tuesday, observed as Chaitra Mahaastami, Oli spent a substantial time in "worship and bhajan" at his official residence, where three newly built idols of Ram, Sita and Lakshman had been brought before their ceremonial installation at Chitwan's Madi area, which Oli has claimed is the "real" birthplace of Ram, rather than in Ayodhya, as is generally believed.



Nepal PM K P Oli

The three idols were be installed at Ayodhyapuri area of Madi, around 180 km from Kathmandu, on Wednesday on the occasion of Ram Navami. Oli seems to believe that establishment of the idols and the resultant Hindutva wave it creates will sway heavily in his favour in a country where more than 85 per cent of the population is Hindu.

Immediately after the religious function was over, Oli

served a showcase notice to 27 dissidents from the CPM-UML party, which is being seen as a prelude to their expulsion from the party that will also result in the loss of their membership of the House.

The leaders served with the showcase notice including former Prime Ministers Madhav Kumar Nepal and Jhala Nath Khanal. As per the Constitution, Parliamentarians of either House lose their status as MPs if they quit or are expelled from the party that fielded them during the elections. Oli is using that clause to expel dissidents in phases and batches, so that their number is less than 40 per cent of the total strength required to be qualified as a "division".

With the dissidents MPs expelled, the effective strength of the House would come down drastically, which would make it

easier for the government to pass any Bill or to defeat a no-trust motion.

Oli's move comes as the Nepal Communist Party-Maoist Centre is preparing to formally withdraw its support to the government and move a no-trust motion in the House, and is soliciting support of all other opposition parties.

This is not the first time Oli is trying to be seen a devout Hindu. Months after he publicly said that he did not believe in God, and that if ever any God was born, it was Karl Marx, Oli went for an elaborate puja at the Pashupatinath Temple in January and ordered the replacement of the silver "Jalahari" (at the bottom of the Lingam that gives passage to liquid offerings down to the Bagmati river) with 80 kg gold at the government's expense.

# Merkel's bloc chooses Laschet as chancellor candidate, rival concedes

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
BERLIN, APRIL 20

ARMIN LASCHET has won his rival's backing to lead Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right bloc into the German election in September, after a bruising power struggle.

Widespread use of the shot in Europe has not yet started. **AP**



Armin Laschet

Union, after the latter's party leadership gave him majority support. Soeder said that "the die is cast: Armin Laschet will be the chancellor candidate of the Union."

Soeder had faced off against

Laschet for over a week in a standoff that laid bare deep divisions in Merkel's party.

The Union bloc is the last major party to nominate a candidate for chancellor in the September 26 parliamentary election, in which Merkel is not seeking a fifth four-year term.

Laschet is the governor of Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia. Soeder is the governor of Bavaria.

# Senior Pakistani journalist shot after criticizing the military

**SALMAN MASOOD**  
ISLAMABAD, APRIL 20

A VETERAN Pakistani journalist who has been critical of the country's powerful military establishment was shot near his home on Tuesday but survived, officials said.

The journalist, Absar Alam, who has also served as the chairman of the country's electronic media regulatory authority, was wounded when he was shot during an evening walk at a park near his residence in Islamabad on Tuesday. Officials said Mr. Alam was in stable condition.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, the country's interior minister, said he has ordered an investigation, and Fawad Chaudhry, the information minister, condemned what he called an assassination attempt.

Mr. Alam did not make any specific accusations about who might be behind the attack. But many journalists noted that just two days before, he posted tweets accusing the country's powerful intelligence chief, Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed, of pressuring him in 2018 to feature critical coverage of the previous government, led by the PML-N party, during anti-government protests. **NYT**

# 'We know how to defend our interests': Putin's emerging hard line

**ANTON TROIANOVSKI**  
KYIV, UKRAINE, APRIL 20

THE WORLD according to President Vladimir V. Putin looks like this: Russia is on the rise while the West is in chaos.

The West, spurred on by a new American president who is more anti-Russian than his predecessor, seeks Russia's — and Mr. Putin's — destruction.

And it is time for Russia, imbued with a moral authority and a thinning supply of patience, to hit back.

"They may think that we are like them, but we are different, with a different genetic, cultural and moral code," Mr. Putin said last month, excoriating the U.S. "We know how to defend our interests."

As he masses troops near Ukraine, puts down domestic dissent and engages in a fast-intensifying conflict with President Biden, Mr. Putin is on the verge of decisions that could define a new, even harder-line phase of his presidency. On Wednesday, Mr. Putin is scheduled to deliver his annual state-of-the-nation address, a speech that could shed light on just how far he is prepared to escalate tensions with the West.

Now in his third decade in power, Mr. Putin, 68, appears more convinced than ever of his special, historic role as the father of a reborn Russian nation, fighting at home and abroad against a craven, hypocritical, morally degenerated West.

Mr. Putin has made moves in recent weeks that, even by his standards, signal an escalation in



Vladimir Putin is in his third decade in power. Reuters file

his conflict with those he perceives as his enemies, foreign and domestic. Russian prosecutors last week filed suit to outlaw the organization of the opposition leader Aleksei A. Navalny, a

step that could result in the most intense wave of political repression in post-Soviet Russia.

To his critics and much of the outside world, Mr. Putin's recent actions look like paranoia. But to

his supporters and to analysts who follow him closely, his moves have a certain internal logic — revolving around the conviction that the West seeks to weaken Russia and that Mr. Putin is integral to its strength.

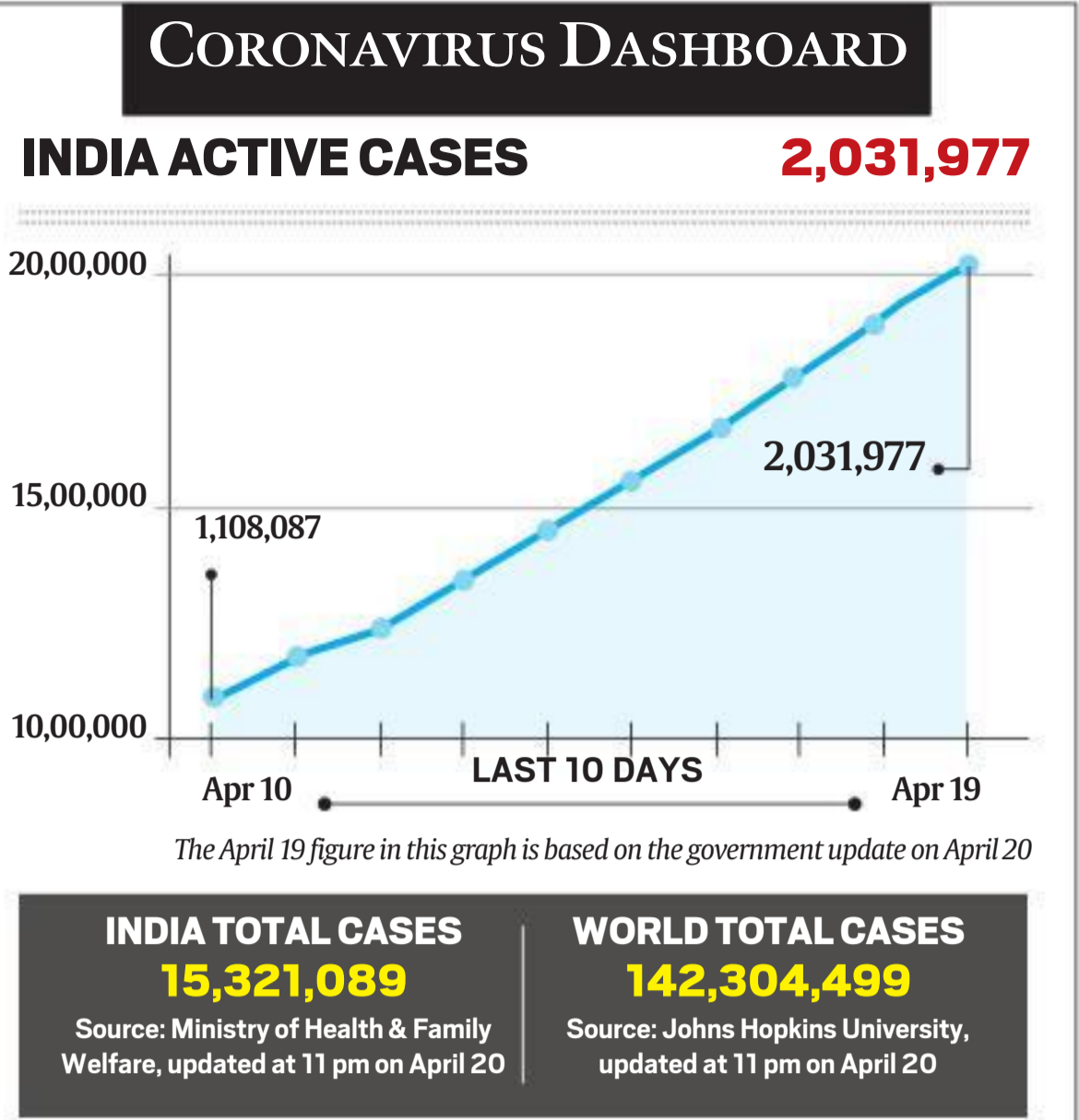
The election of Mr. Biden, despite his promise to be tough on Russia, initially gave the Kremlin hope, analysts say. He was seen as more professional, reliable and pragmatic than President Donald J. Trump.

Then came the television interview in March in which Mr. Biden assented when asked whether Mr. Putin was a "killer." A month later, that moment — to which Russian officials and commentators responded with a squall of prime-time-televised, anti-American fury — looks like a turning point. It was followed by

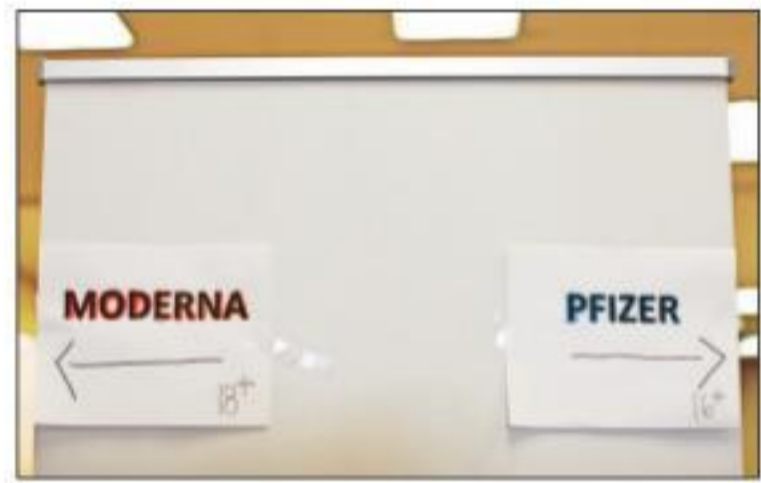
last week's raft of American sanctions against Russia, combined with Mr. Biden's call for a summit meeting with Mr. Putin, which to many Russians looked like a crude American attempt to negotiate from a position of strength.

How far Mr. Putin goes in striking back against the West's real or imagined hostility is still an open question. In the state news media, the mood music is dire. On the flagship weekly news show on the *Rossiya 1* channel Sunday, host Dmitri Kiselyov closed a segment on Mr. Putin's showdown with Mr. Biden by reminding viewers of Poseidon — a new weapon in Russia's nuclear arsenal that Mr. Putin revealed three years ago.

Still, there are signs that Mr. Putin does not want tensions with the West to spiral out of control.



## Study suggests those who had Covid may need only one vaccine dose



Sign at a vaccination centre in California. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines both use the mRNA platform; the Penn Institute study is on mRNA vaccines. Reuters

PEOPLE WHO have recovered from Covid-19 had a robust antibody response after the first mRNA vaccine dose, but little immune benefit after the second dose, according to new research from the Penn Institute of Immunology. The study has been published in *Science Immunology*.

The researchers said their findings suggest that only a single vaccine dose may be needed to produce a sufficient antibody response. The team found that those who did not have Covid-19 did not have a full immune response until after receiving their second vaccine dose, reinforcing the importance of completing the two recommended doses for achieving strong levels of immunity.

The study provides more insight on the underlying immunobiology of mRNA vaccines, which could help shape future vaccine strategies.

"These results are encouraging for both short- and long-term vaccine efficacy, and this adds to our understanding of the mRNA vaccine immune response through the analysis

of memory B cells," senior author E John Wherry, director of the Penn Institute of Immunology, said in a statement issued by the University of Pennsylvania.

The human immune response to vaccines and infections results in two major outcomes — the production of antibodies that provide rapid immunity, and the creation of memory B cells that assist in long-term immunity. This study investigated how memory B cell responses differ after vaccination in people who previously experienced infection, compared to those who have not had Covid-19.

"Previous Covid-19 mRNA vaccine studies on vaccinated individuals have focused on antibodies more than memory B cells. Memory B cells are a strong predictor of future antibody responses, which is why it's vital to measure B cell responses to these vaccines. This effort to examine memory B cells is important for understanding long-term protection and the ability to respond to variants," Wherry said.

*Source: University of Pennsylvania*



### KAUNAIN SHERIFF M NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE ONGOING second surge in Covid-19 cases has seen a huge rise in the demand for supplemental oxygen. What makes the gas so vital in Covid-19 management?

#### When does a Covid-19 patient need oxygen support?

A small proportion of Covid-19 patients need oxygen support, when shortness of breath progresses to a more acute condition. Most patients with Covid-19 have a respiratory tract infection, and in the most severe cases their symptoms can include shortness of breath. In a small proportion of such cases, this can progress to a more severe and systemic disease characterised by Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS).

#### How does Covid-19 trigger shortness of breath?

Shortness of breath occurs because of the way Covid-19 affects the patient's respiratory system. The lungs enable the body to absorb oxygen from the air and expel carbon dioxide. When a person inhales, the tiny air sacs in the lungs — alveoli — expand to capture this oxygen, which is then transferred to blood vessels and transported through the rest of the body. Respiratory epithelial cells line the respiratory tract. Their primary function is to protect the airway tract from pathogens and infections, and also facilitate gas exchange. And the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus can infect these epithelial cells.

To fight such infection, the body's immune system releases cells that trigger inflammation. When this inflammatory immune response continues, it impedes the regular transfer of oxygen in the lungs. Simultaneously, fluids too build up. Both these factors combined make it difficult to breathe. Low levels of oxygen triggered by Covid-19 are inflammatory markers, which include elevated white blood cell counts and neutrophil counts.

#### Is India witnessing more patients with shortness of breath?

Yes. Data with the National Clinical Registry for Covid-19 shows a new emerging trend during the second wave: shortness of breath is the

### KABIR FIRAQUE NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

USING A new platform, scientists have developed a Covid-19 vaccine that they say could offer protection against not only existing and future strains of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, but also other coronaviruses. The vaccine is cheap, at \$1 a dose, and has shown promising results in early animal testing, the researchers have reported in the journal *PNAS*.

#### How it's different

The new vaccine-production platform was invented by Dr Steven L Zeichner of the University of Virginia Health System (UVA). It involves synthesising DNA that directs the production of a piece of the virus. This can instruct the immune system how to mount an immune response against the virus.

The vaccine, created by Zeichner and Virginia Tech's Dr Xiang-Jin Meng, targets a part of the virus's spike protein called the fusion peptide. This compound is essentially universal among coronaviruses, and has not been observed to differ at all in the many genetic sequences of SARS-CoV-2 obtained from around



Queue to fill cylinders with medical oxygen at a plant in Prayagraj. PTI

most common clinical feature among symptomatic hospitalised patients at 47.5%, compared to 41.7% during the first wave. Simultaneously, other symptoms have dropped significantly compared to the first wave: dry cough (5.6% vs 1.5%); loss of smell (7.7% vs 2.2%); fatigue (24.2% vs 11.5%); sore throat (16% vs 7.5%); muscle ache (14.8% vs 6.3%).

#### How many symptomatic people now require oxygen?

In India, as of Tuesday, 1.75% of the patients were in ICU beds, 0.40% were on ventilator, and 4.03% were occupying oxygen beds. Since the total active cases have now risen to 20,31,977, the number of patients requiring oxygen beds is significant.

On Monday, members of the national Covid-19 task force said hospital data shows that a significant 54.5% of hospital admissions during the second wave required supplemental oxygen during treatment. This was a 13.4-percentage-point increase compared to the previous wave between September and November, the data from 40 centres across the country shows. However, requirement of mechanical ventilation dropped during the second wave: to 27.8% of admitted patients from 37.3% during the first wave.

Dr Balram Bhargava, DG, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said there is limited data on why more patients are requiring oxy-

gen, and this needs to be further studied. "This (more patients requiring oxygen) could be explained by the fact that due to the sudden surge of cases there is a panic, people wanted to get admitted to hospitals, therefore oxygen requirement suddenly shot up. But there is limited data from hospital settings and more will have to be looked at. However, oxygen [remains] an important tool in the management of Covid-19 disease, particularly when oxygen saturation has fallen," Bhargava said.

#### In what conditions is oxygen used in Covid-19 clinical management?

According to the clinical management protocol, a person is suffering from moderate disease when he or she is diagnosed with pneumonia with no signs of severe disease; with the presence of clinical features of dyspnea (shortness of breath) and/or hypoxia (when the body is deprived of adequate oxygen supply at the tissue level); fever, cough, including SpO2 (oxygen saturation level) less than 94% (range 90-94%) in room air.

In moderate cases, oxygen therapy is the primary form of treatment: the target is to achieve 92-96% SpO2, or 88-92% in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The devices for administering oxygen in moderate disease are nasal prongs, masks, or masks with breathing/non-rebreathing reservoir bags, depending on requirement. The proto-

# Vaccine that targets multiple coronaviruses

the world, the researchers said.

"Other Covid-19 vaccines do not appear to be specifically targeting the fusion peptide, to my knowledge," Zeichner said, in response to an emailed question. "Most vaccines in development target either the entire spike protein, or just the receptor binding domain (RBD)."

While antibodies against the RBD can provide good neutralising activity, there can be mutations in the RBD that decrease somewhat the effectiveness of the antibodies, he said. "I think that making a vaccine that essentially recapitulates almost exactly the antigens made by the virus may be mistaken. The virus has evolved to be able to continue to live even in the presence of an immune response. In a sense, making a vaccine that elicits an immune response against an immunodominant antigen may be 'falling for' the 'tricks' that the virus has laid out for us," he said.

#### How it works

There are other vaccines that instruct the creation of a part of the virus. For example, mRNA vaccines such as those developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, both in use in the US, deliver mRNA (messenger RNA) carrying instructions for creating the spike protein

of the coronavirus. The idea is that when the real virus attacks, the immune system will recognise the spike and mount a response.

How similar, then, is the new DNA-based platform that delivers instructions encoding for the fusion peptide? It is quite different from mRNA, Zeichner said. In the new platform, once DNA encoding for the fusion peptide has been synthesised, it is inserted into another small circle of DNA, called a plasmid, which can reproduce within bacteria. The DNA plasmid is introduced into bacteria; this technique uses the bacteria *E coli*.

"To make our vaccine, we grow the *E coli*, then inactivate it with formalin," Zeichner said. "...Growing bacteria and inactivating them is a well-developed process, and the factories that can do this already exist in many countries around the world. The killed whole-cell cholera vaccines can be made for <US\$1/dose, which can serve as a kind of benchmark. Growing bacteria and inactivating them is easier and much less expensive than making large quantities of mRNA."

#### Tests & results

Meng and Zeichner made two vaccines, one designed to protect against Covid-19, and

col also recommends awake proning (having patients lie on their stomachs) as a rescue therapy to increase oxygenation.

Severe cases are defined in three categories: severe pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, and sepsis. The clinical management protocol recommends oxygen therapy at 5 litres/min. When respiratory distress and/or hypoxemia of the patient cannot be alleviated after receiving standard oxygen therapy, the protocol recommends that high-flow nasal cannula oxygen therapy or non-invasive ventilation can be considered. "Compared to standard oxygen therapy, High Flow Nasal Cannula Oxygenation (HFNO) reduces the need for intubation. Patients with hypercapnia (exacerbation of obstructive lung disease), hemodynamic instability, multi-organ failure, or abnormal mental status should generally not receive HFNO," the protocol says.

#### Does a patient always show Covid symptoms when their oxygen levels drop?

No. According to the FAQs on Covid-19 from AIIMS e-ICUS, sudden deaths have been reported at presentation to the emergency department, as well as in hospital. AIIMS has said that the reasons that have been proposed include a sudden cardiac event, preceding "silent hypoxia" that went unnoticed, or due to a thrombotic complication such as pulmonary thromboembolism.

In silent hypoxia, patients have extremely low blood oxygen levels, yet do not show signs of breathlessness. "In patients with silent hypoxia, the amount of oxygen carried in our blood, otherwise known as blood oxygen level, is lower than expected compared to the other vital signs. Silent hypoxia is not usually an early symptom to occur in Covid-19 patients. They frequently arrive at the emergency room for other reasons, such as muscle aches, fatigue, fever and cough. Typically, when a patient begins to demonstrate silent hypoxia, they already have other Covid-19 symptoms and may be in critical condition," the American Lung Association says.

It recommends that instead of solely relying on a pulse oximeter, the patient should monitor for gastrointestinal symptoms, muscle soreness, fatigue, and changes in taste and smell as well as the more common initial symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

# Another vaccine designed to protect against porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus (PEDV). The latter, which infects pigs, is also a coronavirus. When PEDV first appeared in pig herds in the US, it killed almost 10% of pigs in the country.

Both vaccines were found to protect the pigs against illness caused by PEDV. The vaccines did not prevent infection, but protected the pigs from developing severe symptoms.

#### What next

The researchers acknowledged that additional testing — including human trials — would be required before their Covid-19 vaccine could be approved by regulatory agencies around the world for use in people.

But what if the fusion peptide of SARS-CoV-2, too, mutates? "I suppose anything is possible, but to date this has not been observed. All the SARS-CoV-2 sequenced to date share the same core fusion peptide sequence exactly, and every sequenced coronavirus has an identical 6 amino acid fusion peptide core," Zeichner said.

PEDV and SARS-CoV-2 are related, but distantly. "Yet, even these very distantly related coronaviruses share the same 13 amino acid fusion peptide core sequence," Zeichner said.

# How radical outfit forced Pakistan hand in move to expel French envoy

### NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN MUMBAI, APRIL 20

ANY HOPE Pakistan might have had in November 2020 that the death of Khadim Hussain Rizvi would lead to the disintegration of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), the extremist outfit he headed, has evaporated. Pakistan's decision to discuss in Parliament a resolution demanding the expulsion of the French Ambassador to Pakistan is the latest in a long series of surrenders to the group and its radical agenda.

#### Old demand, new leader

The violence and chaos in Pakistan all of last week around TLP's demand that Pakistan send back the Ambassador has its roots in a protest in November 2020 in response to French President Emmanuel Macron's landmark speech on Islam and the French way.

Khadim Rizvi was alive then. He summoned a huge rally to march on Islamabad from Rawalpindi to make the point that Pakistani Muslims were wounded by

Macron's defence of the right to caricature the Prophet as integral to freedom of expression and French secularism.

As police tried to stop the march with tear gas and *lathis*, there was rioting. The rallyists sat on a *dharna* on an arterial road, blocking access to the capital Islamabad, while Khadim gave fiery speeches from Karachi.

The government caved in. Interior Minister Ejaz Shah purportedly signed off on a written agreement that Parliament would decide on the expulsion of the French diplomat within three months and on the demand of Pakistan not stationing an Ambassador in Paris. It would release all TLP workers arrested in the clashes, and not register any cases. Although the government did not confirm the written agreement, it did not deny it either. Khadim died hours after declaring victory, likely due to Covid-19. Saad Hussain, his son, was anointed the new leader.

#### Brewing since January

In January, Saad reminded the government of its agreement, warning that three months would end on February 17. Five days



TLP rally in Lahore on Tuesday. Reuters

before the deadline, the government reached another agreement, that it would place the matter before Parliament by April 20. In the first few days of April, the government was negotiating with TLP to buy time, but as large crowds started gathering in Rawalpindi, the government arrested Saad. That led to a week of clashes and rioting in Rawalpindi and Lahore. Four policemen were killed; over 800 were injured. France asked all its citizens to leave Pakistan. On April 15, the government banned the group, including it in its list of pro-

scribed terrorist organisations under its Anti-Terrorism Act.

By the weekend, TLP had taken 11 policemen hostage at Lahore. By Sunday, the government was back to negotiating with TLP for the freedom of the captured policemen. They were released on Monday, and on Tuesday, a member of the ruling party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, moved a private member's Bill for the assassination. Following his execution in February 2016, Rizvi renamed the movement Tehreek-e-Labbaik Ya Rasoolullah in 2016. It morphed into a political party, TLP, which contested the 2018 general elections, and won two seats in the Sindh Assembly.

TLP is a Bareilvi movement. Most Bareilvis are viewed as middle-of-the-road, moderate Sunni Muslims. Half of Pakistan identify as Bareilvi, whose practice of Islam is suffused more with Sufi traditions prevalent across South Asia, than with the Saudi Wahabism that reigns over jihadi *tanzeems*.

Khadim channelled the belief that there can be no forgiveness for blaspheming against the Prophet, and turned it into raw street power. His biggest success was in forcing gov-

ernments to abandon the idea of reforming the draconian blasphemy laws.

ernments to abandon the idea of reforming the draconian blasphemy laws.

#### Relations with Pak army

Khadim made it clear that he trusted the Pakistan Army more than politicians. It was only after a deal brokered and underwritten by the army that TLP called off a 2017 siege on the capital, accusing the PML(N) government for trying to dilute anti-Ahmadi clauses in the Constitution. For the government the deal was a surrender. A minister had to apologise and resign. As the rallyists dispersed, an army general handed them envelopes with cash.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, who in November had criticised Marcon's speech, on Monday made the case that cutting off ties with France, as TLP was demanding, was suicidal for Pakistan's economy. It would hurt Pakistan more than France. EU is the largest market for Pakistan's textile exports. It would lead to closure of factories and unemployment in Pakistan, he said.

The message did not go down well. It only added to TLP's popularity. And the government has had to eat crow, once again.



# Import duty on Remdesivir, its raw materials waived off

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE GOVERNMENT ON Tuesday waived customs duty on Remdesivir, its raw materials and other components used to make the antiviral drug. The move would help augment domestic availability and reduce cost of the injection. Remdesivir is being used in the treatment of coronavirus, as infections are mounting in the country. The Department of Revenue, in a notification, said “the central government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest to do, hereby exempts the goods...when imported into India, from the whole of the duty of cus-

toms leviable”.

The items on which the duty has been waived include Remdesivir active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), injection Remdesivir, and beta Cyclodextrin used in manufacture of Remdesivir. This import duty exemption would remain in force till October 31 this year.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted, “In line with PM @NarendraModi's priority to ensure affordable medical care for COVID-19 patients, imports of Remdesivir API, injection and specific inputs have been made import duty free. This should increase supply and reduce cost thus providing relief to patients.”

## COVID WATCH INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

# After UK, it's US: Why nations are against India travel

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

WITH COVID-19 cases in India rising, the global community is drawing the line when it comes to travel from here. Late Monday, the UK put India in its travel 'red list' effective Friday. Shortly after, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) put out an advisory saying “Travelers should avoid all travel to India”.



The US CDC has issued an advisory against India. File

Why are nations curbing travel to and from India?

As per the UK, the move to put India on the 'red list' was a result of detecting 103 cases of a coronavirus variant first identified here. On Sunday, Hong Kong put a two-week flight ban on India citing a similar reason.

What does being on the UK red list mean?

As per the UK norms, those arriving from India before 4 am, April 23 local time, must self-isolate for 10 days in the place they're staying and take a Covid-19 test on day 2 and

day 8. However, from 4am, April 23, if one has been in India in the last 10 days, they will only be allowed to enter the UK if they are a British, Irish or third-country national with residency rights.

What does the US CDC's decision mean?

The CDC said due to “the current situation in India, even fully vaccinated travelers may be at risk for getting and spreading Covid-19 variants and should avoid all travel to India”.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## BRIEFLY

### DGCA on 737 MAX

New Delhi: DGCA allowed foreign-registered Boeing 737 MAX planes to overfly India after taking the agency's permission.

### RBI forex activity

New Delhi: Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan on Tuesday rejected the grounds used by the US to put India on the currency watchlist, saying the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) activities in forex market were perfectly balanced and it was not accumulating reserves.

### Icra forecast

Mumbai: Icra cut its FY22 growth estimate by 0.5 per cent to 10-10.5 per cent, against the 10-11 per cent estimated earlier.

### EPFO payroll

New Delhi: Net new enrolments with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) rose nearly 20 per cent to 12.37 lakh in February against a year-ago, as per payroll data on Tuesday. PTI

### New SIDBI MD

Mumbai: Sivasubramanian Ramann on Monday took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). ENS

## INDUSTRY ENDS FY21 WITH 5% GROWTH AT ₹1,98,735 CRORE

# Motor, crop insurance biz declines, health rises 11%

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

INDIA'S GENERAL insurance industry narrowly missed the milestone of Rs 2 lakh crore of gross premium during 2020-21, due to the negative growth in motor insurance — the largest portfolio in the industry — and crop business.

The industry ended financial year 2020-21 with a positive year-on-year (y-o-y) growth of 5 per cent at Rs 1,98,735 crore, aided by growth in health insurance segment. While the health portfolio, propelled by the Covid-19 pandemic, has grown by 11 per cent to Rs 58,584 crore, two large business segments — overall motor portfolio and crop business — of the industry declined during FY21. Premiums in the overall motor portfolio have fallen by around 2 per cent to Rs 67,790 crore, while the crop business has fallen by 3.5 per cent to Rs 31,184 crore during FY 2020-21, according to figures compiled by GI Council and Irdai.

In the motor portfolio, motor third party (TP) premium — which has not been hiked by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) in FY21 — has grown 5 per cent to Rs 10,650 crore.

Motor OD (own damage) segment has surged by 138 per cent to Rs 4,136 crore, while the premium out of motor package has

## Record new premium in FY21: LIC

Mumbai: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) said it has collected the highest ever new premium at Rs 1.84 lakh crore, despite a highly challenging business environment due to the pandemic, in FY21. It also paid Rs 1.34 lakh crore as

contracted by 7 per cent during the reporting period.

The fact that premiums in motor OD and motor TP have gone up despite the pandemic — when a long period of lock down has limited the use of all kinds of vehicles — shows more people have bought automobiles and more uninsured vehicles have got insured.

Despite the pandemic, which disrupted the domestic insurance industry extensively, New India Assurance (NIA) — powered by a global premium of around Rs 32,500 crore — has further scaled up its domestic market share to 14.33 per cent in FY21 from 14.11 per cent in 2019-20. It has ended the fiscal with a domestic premium of Rs 28,482 crore, showing a y-o-y rise of 6.22 per cent.

Among the top 10 general insurers that include three large PSUs, NIA is the only company which has the distinct achievement of positive premium growth, profitability and higher market

## DIRECTOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION RAJASTHAN, BIKANER

Ref. No. Shivira-Sec/Accounts/D-228011/20-21 Date 16/04/2021

**Notice Inviting Bid**  
Bids for Ladies Bicycle, Black Colour are invited from interested bidders up to 1.00 PM. Dated 10.05.2021. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>), <http://sppp.rajj.nic.in> of the state; and departmental website, ([www.education.rajjasthan.gov.in](http://www.education.rajjasthan.gov.in))  
UBIN: EDU2122GLOB00013  
(Estimated no. of Bicycles :- 700,000, Seven Lakhs)  
(Estimated cost of Bicycles:- Rs. 2,31,00,00,000 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty One Crores Only)  
Sd/-  
(Sourabh Swami)  
I.A.S.  
Director  
Secondary Education Rajasthan Bikaner

## KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: 02/2021-22/SE/PHC/CHN. State Plan 2019-2020 - Interim augmentation of WSS to Kochi city and adjoining Municipalities and panchayaths - supplying, laying, testing and commissioning of MS pipes for changing existing lines with - 1422 mm MS, 1016 mm MS and 1118 mm MS pipes. EMD: Rs. 500000. Tender fee: Rs. 16800. Last date for submitting Tender : 21-05-2021 04:00 pm. Phone : 0484-2360645. Website : [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in), [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in).  
Superintending Engineer  
PH Circle, Kochi  
KWA-JB-GL-6-27-2021-22

## Office of The Superintendent, Associated Group of Hospital, Jodhpur.

No. F Acc/AGH/Ju/2021-22/ 64 Date: 08.04.2021  
**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING BID 01/2021-22**  
Bids for Rate Contract for Supply of Liquid Medical Oxygen Gas at M.G. Hospital are invited from interested bidders upto 03:00 pm 19.04.2021. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> of the state website.  
UBN No. SMC2122GLRC0008  
Sd/-  
Superintendent  
Associated group of hospital Jodhpur  
DIPRC/3974/2021

Deputy General Manager, Jodhpur House, 25, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi.  
F-35/JH/2021/15 Date: 09.04.2021

Bid for Providing the Services of Housekeeping i.e. Cleaning of Guest Rooms, Bathrooms, Toilets, Internal and External Public area etc. inclusive of Man Power on Job Basis and Supply of Cleaning Material on yearly rate Contract Basis. The tender value of the bid is Rs. 20,00,00,00.00 and Bid for Providing the Services of Garden Maintenance/Garden upkeep Manpower on Job Basis and Supply of Gardening Material on yearly rate Contract Basis at Jodhpur House situated at 25, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi are invited from 10.04.2021 at 03:00 P.M. till 20.04.2021 at 04:00 P.M. The tender value is Rs. 18,00,00,00.00 and other Particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (<https://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> and <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>) of the State.  
NIB: GAD2122A0001  
UBN: GAD2122SLOB00001/GAD2122 SLOB00002  
DIPRC/4065/2021  
Sd/-  
Deputy General Manager,  
Jodhpur House, New Delhi

Deputy General Manager, Rajasthan House, 7, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi.  
F-36/RH/NIVIDA/2021/33 Date: 12.04.2021

Bid for Providing the Services On Job Basis of Senior Housekeeper (UDC), Catering Supervisor & Receptionist at 7, Prithviraj Road, Rajasthan House, New Delhi are invited from interested bidders. The bid will open from 14.04.2021 at 01:00 P.M. till 26.04.2021 at 03:00 P.M. The tender value is Rs. 19,00,00,00.00 and Bid for Providing the Services On Job basis of Waiter, Jamadar & Mashalchi at 7, Prithviraj Road, Rajasthan House, New Delhi are invited from interested bidders. The bid will open from 14.04.2021 at 01:00 P.M. till 26.04.2021 at 03:00 P.M. The tender value is Rs. 36,00,00,00.00 and other Particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (<https://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> and <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>) of the State.  
NIB: GAD2122A0003  
UBN: GAD2122SLOB00004/GAD2122SLOB00005  
DIPRC/4063/2021  
Sd/-  
Deputy General Manager,  
Rajasthan House, New Delhi

## The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)

**KMML**  
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)  
Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam-681 583, Kerala, India  
Ph: +91 476 2651215 to 2561217 CNA/KMML/1923000238  
Fax: 91 0476 2680101, 2686721 E-mail: [contact@kmml.com](mailto:contact@kmml.com), URL: [www.kmml.com](http://www.kmml.com)  
Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or [www.kmml.com](http://www.kmml.com)

S/No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2021_KMML_421320_1	For the supply of Uniform Cloths (Suiting and Shirting)
Chavara 21.04.2021 Sd/- DGM (Mts) For The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd.		
2.	2021_KMML_421482_1	Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Painting, testing at works, transportation to site, unloading and storage at site, erection, insurance, testing and commissioning of DCS for Liquid Nitrogen / Oxygen storage tanks & allied items at Titanium Dioxide pigment unit of KMML on turnkey basis (Excluding Civil Works)
Chavara 21.04.2021 Sd/- HOU(T) For The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd.		
Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge		

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>RUPEE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹46,756	₹74.88	\$65.18	₹67,810

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as on April 19, 2021

# ‘New, young loan seekers show better creditworthiness’

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

WHILE BANKS and other lending institutions are too cautious in lending to new and young customers, figures reveal that new-to-credit (NTC) consumers tend to prove lower risk and build a higher credit score when they are given credit opportunities. In other words, they are making timely repayment without defaulting on their loans, showing higher creditworthiness.

Of the NTC consumers who were given loans in January 2019, as much as 72.30 per cent had a credit score of 700 plus — prime category — in January 2020, said TransUnion CIBIL. When compared to this, of the ‘below prime’ existing-to-credit consumers (Cibil score of 300-699) who were given credit in January 2019, only 47.29 per cent had a score of 700 plus in January 2020, the credit information bureau added.

However, bankers think twice before extending credit to new customers even as the credit industry witnessed a significant shift over the last decade, with increasing numbers of first-time borrowers seeking credit opportunities from institutional lenders. “Credit institutions are often cautious when lending to NTC

**Of the new-to-credit consumers who were given loans in January 2019, as much as 72.30% had a credit score of 700 plus — prime category — in January 2020, said TransUnion CIBIL**

consumers as there is no credit history to assess their probability of default on the loan. However, CIBIL analysis shows that NTC consumers tend to prove lower risk and build a higher score when they are given credit opportunities,” CIBIL said.

Score analysis of consumers who were granted credit in January 2019 shows that a significant proportion of these NTC consumers were scored as prime consumers after a one-year period. Insights based on share of enquiries of applications by NTC consumers show that two-wheeler loans (46 per cent) account for the highest number of enquiries from NTC borrowers, followed by consumer durable loans (28 per cent) and home loans (25 per cent).

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)




राष्ट्रीय उद्यमिता एवं लघु व्यवसाय विकास संस्थान  
The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD)

**TENDER NOTICE**  
EOI for empanelment of agency for Design, Development and Maintenance of Mentor Platform.  
National E-Hub, PM-YUVA on behalf of NIESBUD (National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development) invites sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed agencies for empanelment to take up its development of Mentor Platform.  
The EOI Document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work etc. can be downloaded from the NIESBUD website <https://niesbud.nic.in/>  
Interested agencies having relevant work experience may submit their EOI by 17:00 Hrs of 05.05.2021 to National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), A-23, Sector 62, Noida 201309.  
Applicants meeting the qualification criteria may be invited for presentation / proposal before the selection committee. Bid Document will be subsequently issued to the short-listed applicants only.

## VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Enterprise)  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division, No.3 Arasikere  
Ph: 08174233111 e-mail: [eeypd3ask@gmail.com](mailto:eeypd3ask@gmail.com)  
No: EE/YP/VJNL/DIV-03/YGC/TN/2021-22/65 Dated: 17.04.2021  
**CORRIGENDUM : 01**

Ref: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No:06/2020-21 dtd:30.03.2021 No: EE/YP/VJNL/DIV-03/YGC/TN/2020-21/1457 Dated: 30.03.2021 Tenders invited in e-procurement on “PERCENTAGE BASIS” for the package work of “Improvement works to the roads in the purview of Yettinahole integrated drinking water project in Sakaleshpura, Alur, Belur and Arasikere Talukas of Hassan Dist”.The following change is to be considered for the above said work notification. All other conditions remain unaltered. SIno.a)As per short term tender notificationTN06/2020-21 dated:30.03.2021: The amount put to tender is Rs5187.00lakhs. To be read as: The amount put to tender is Rs5177.00lakhs. b)Intending bidder can access the tender documents from 08.04.2021 through e-portal. To be read as: Intending bidder can access the tender documents from 22.04.2021 through e-portal Executive Engineer,VJNL, YP Division, No.3,Arasikere. Ph: 08174-233111, e-mail: [eeypd3ask@gmail.com](mailto:eeypd3ask@gmail.com) Sd/- Executive Engineer, VJNL, Y P Division, No.3 Arasikere

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.  
Wear Mask 5 Feet Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

## VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)  
Uppar Bhadra Project, Division No.04, Hosadurga.  
Ph/Fax: 08199—230018 E-Mail: [eeubpdvn4@gmail.com](mailto:eeubpdvn4@gmail.com)  
No: EE/UBP/VJNL/DIV-04/Bridge/TD.01/2021-22 Dt: 17.04.2021

## TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Only through E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)

Percentage tender through e-portal for the Construction of Bridge cum Barrages work in Two cover system is invited by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No. 4 Hosadurga on behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd, from the eligible contractors who fulfils the pre-qualification conditions for the works “Construction of Road Bridge and approach roads from bevinahalli village to Hunasekatte village via Bevinalamma temple (in Back water of Vani Vilas sagara) of Hosadurga Taluk in Chitradurga district”. The Contractors can access and download the completed bid documents through e-procurement website [www.cproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.cproc.karnataka.gov.in) from 22.04.2021.

Details such as Amount put to tender/ EMD amount/ qualification of Bidders/ Tender conditions/Tender processing fee etc., can be obtained through e-procurement or from the office of the under signed during the office hours up to 28.04.2021 up to 4.00 PM. Pre bid meeting will be held on 29.04.2021 on O/o Chief Engineer, VJNL, UBP Zone. Chitradurga at 11.00 AM. The date for submission of completed tenders is 21.05.2021 at 4.00 PM. The tender will be opened on 24.05.2021 @ 11.00 AM at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.04, Hosadurga through e-procurement. The date of opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to the qualified bidders. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not bound to accept the lowest tender.

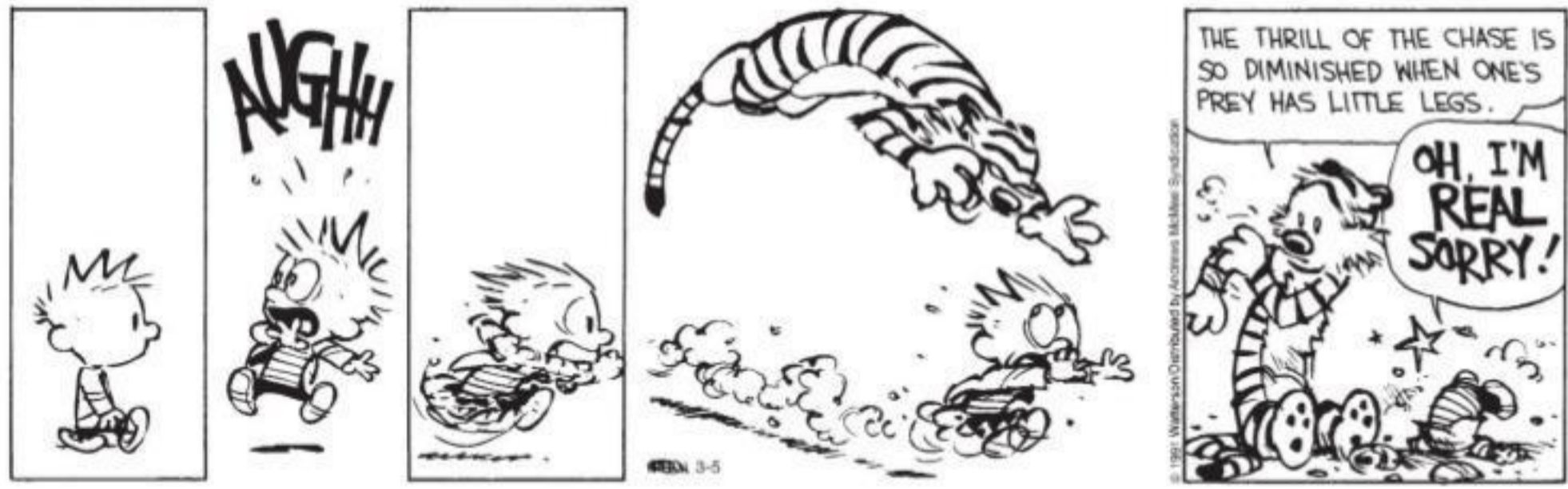
**Note: EPF Registration Certificate is mandatory; the tenders of the bidder who fails to upload EPF Registration Certificate will be disqualified.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer

**OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis



# CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Fall \_\_\_ times, stand up \_\_\_ - Japanese proverb (5,5)

### Difficulty Level 5s

#### Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

#### Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;  
 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;  
 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius


## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4447

3	8	6	5	7	4	9	2	1
5	4	9	8	1	2	6	7	3
7	1	2	9	6	3	5	8	4
4	6	7	1	2	5	8	3	9
9	3	8	7	4	6	2	1	5
1	2	5	3	8	9	4	6	7
8	9	4	2	3	1	7	5	6
6	7	3	4	5	8	1	9	2
2	5	1	6	9	7	3	4	8

## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL


**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
 The Sun and Pluto have teamed up in a rather splendid alignment, but if you think that you can sit around while financial matters sort themselves out, you are making a big mistake. Don't take risks, and don't toy with someone else's emotions.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
 Partners really must be taken seriously if you are not to blunder into something rather more than you bargained for. Never make the cardinal error of belittling any friend, colleague or associate, especially if you happen to be in their debt.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
 One area of your chart which deserves mention today represents your physical well-being. It looks as if emotional tension could leave you feeling worn out, but sensible, organised relaxation will go a long way to help. Pamper yourself.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
 Tomorrow's stars raise the prospect of wild and costly financial risks. The reason this needs to be mentioned today is so that you can resist any seductive blandishments or offers coming your way over the next twenty-four hours - at least until you're aware of the hidden pitfalls.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
 A very powerful theme in your solar chart concerns a possible move of home or equivalent domestic upheaval. The best way to retain control is to set the pace at every turn. Once you start reacting to events after they happen, you will quickly lose your way.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
 There's a possible problem at work, perhaps involving a misunderstanding and almost certainly connected to a person of intense passions. Somebody you're involved with will also make a demand for total truth and commitment. Be careful, and say only what you mean.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**


There is a sense in which you keep coming back to the same financial problems and worries, just like a cracked record. Yet rather than dwelling on hopes, fears and other illusions, you may actually do something about it. All you need is sufficient determination.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
It so happens that today's planetary picture offers you the chance to triumph once and for all. You could even be propelled headlong into a remarkable twelve-month period of optimism and opportunity. Any way in which you can put your cares behind you will be well worth the effort.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
 Mercury represents your brilliant thoughts and best ideas, and its current helpful presence reveals your ability to control everyone and everything set up in opposition to you. You may be able to banish rivals with no more than a few well-chosen words.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**

 Business pressures are mild today, but liable to blow up before much longer. In general I'd advise caution but, in specific situations, you must use your own judgment. It may be better to make plans in secret, away from others' intrusive gaze. That way you'll avoid unnecessary criticism.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
 Little by little life is moving your way, and you may assert your independence and stand up for your rights. However, authority figures, from employers to the law, are liable to be swept by intense emotions at unpredictable moments, so watch out!

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
 You still have a powerful desire for anything which is strange, different or just plain unusual. It really doesn't matter what you dabble in, or where you do it, just as long as it is stimulating and stirs up new ideas. Leave partners to cope with dull, everyday life!

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRISONS**  
**PRISONS HEADQUARTERS: NEAR LAJWANTI**  
**GARDEN CHOWK JANAKPURI: NEW DELHI.**

No. F. 21(13)/DS, Prov/Local Purchase/CD-003633685/2020-21/ Dated:  
NIT ID No.: 2021\_CJT\_202979\_1

**e-TENDER NOTICE**

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-Tender (on line e-procurement website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) are invited for Procurement of Local Purchase (Daily Purchase) of Medicines and Drugs, Lab items, Small surgical items, Small Dental items and X-ray items etc required in Central Jail Tihar, Rohini Jail & Distt. Jail Mandoli, Delhi. The NIT has been uploaded and available along with terms and condition and detailed specifications. All the tenderers are requested to have digital certificate (class II and above) and then to get themselves registered with the application service provider of Govt. of NCT of Delhi e-procurement System and should **apply online before the Last Date and Time.**

Estimated Cost Of Work : Rs. 12 crore  
Date of release of tender through : 19.04.2021  
E-procurement solution  
Last date / Time of receipt of tenders :10.05.2021 at 12:00 NOON  
Through e-procurement solution  
Online bid opening date : 10.05.2021 at 12:30 PM  
Further information can be seen at: <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
Sd/-  
**Superintendent-II: PHQ**  
**Tihar, New Delhi**  
DIP/ SHABDARTH / 0032/21-22

**FORM NO. CAA.2**

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL,  
DELHI BENCH, NEW DELHI**

**COMPANY APPLICATION (CAA) NO. 49/ND/2021**

**OPEN SOLUTIONS SOFTWARE SERVICES  
PRIVATE LIMITED**  
(CIN: U72200DL2005PTC170412)  
Registered office: First Floor, Annexe Building 30,  
Nizamuddin, Delhi -110013

..... Applicant Company No. 1

**FISERV CE PRIVATE LIMITED**  
(CIN: U72900DL2003PTC123500)  
Registered office: 30, Nizamuddin East, New  
Delhi -110013

..... Applicant Company No. 2

**ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that by an order dated 13 th April, 2021 the New Delhi Bench of National Company Law Tribunal has directed separate meetings to be held of Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors of the aforesaid Applicant Companies for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modification, the Scheme of Amalgamation proposed to be made between the Open Solutions Software Services Private Limited, Fiserv CE Private Limited, CDI Bluebay Private Limited and First Data Development Private Limited (being "Transferor Companies") with Fiserv India Private Limited (being "Transferee Company") and their respective Shareholders.

In pursuance of the said order and as directed therein further notice is hereby given that:

1. a meeting of Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors of the Applicant Company No. 1 will be held on Saturday, the 22 nd May, 2021 at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. respectively, through audio-visual means and registered office of the said Company shall be deemed to be the place of the meetings at which and place the said Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend; and
2. a meeting of Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors of the Applicant Company No. 2 will be held on Saturday, the 22 nd May, 2021 at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. respectively, through audio-visual means and registered office of the said Company shall be deemed to be the place of the meetings at which and place the said Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend, and the detailed instructions regarding attendance at the meetings through audio visual means and voting thereto are circulated along with the notices served upon the Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors.

Copies of the said Scheme of Amalgamation and of the Statement under Section 230-232 of the Companies Act 2013 can be obtained free of charge at the registered office of the Company or at the office of its Advocates ASP Advocates, C- 530, Ground Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024. Persons entitled to attend and vote at the aforesaid meetings may, vote in person or by proxy, provided that all proxies in the prescribed form are deposited at the respective registered office of the Applicant Companies at First Floor, Annexe Building 30, Nizamuddin, Delhi - 110013 and 30, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi -110013, not later than 48 hours before the said meeting.

Forms of proxy can be obtained free of cost at the respective registered office of the Applicant Companies.

The Tribunal has appointed Ms. Deepa Krishnan as the Chairperson and Adv. S Babbar as the alternate Chairperson of the said meetings. The abovementioned Scheme if approved by the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Sd/-  
Piyush Kewalramani

Dated This 20 th day of April 2021. Authorized Representative of the Applicant Companies

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Name:** Anshu Kumari **D/o** Shailender Choudhary **R/o** H. No. 186, Khasra No. 558, Adhikari Mohalla, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi has been missing since 31.03.2021 from the area of P.S. Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 77/21 u/s 363 IPC dated 02.04.2021 has been registered at Police Station Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Age :** 17 Years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Medium, **Wearing :** Black colour T-shirt & brown colour jeans and black colour shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi at E-mail Id – [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

**Phone:**

**011-24368638, 24368641**

**Fax No. 011-24368639**

**DP/484/SD/2021**

**SHO**

**P.S. Maidan Garhi, New Delhi**

**South Distt., Delhi**

**Ph. No. 011-26653615, 7827710234, 8750870825**

# SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a boy namely Jogender, **S/o** Sh. Brijesh Kumar, **R/o** H.No. 6/169, Dakshinpuri, New Delhi has been missing from his house since 04.04.2021. In this regard a **FIR No. 162/21**, dated **05.04.2021 u/s 363 IPC** has been registered at PS, Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi.

The description of missing boy is as under :

**Jogender**

**Name:** Jogender, **Husband's Name :** Sh. Brijesh Kumar, **Age :** 16 years, **Height :** 5'3", **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Face :** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Blue jeans, red colour shirt and white colour shoes in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

**SHO**  
**P.S., Ambedkar Nagar,**  
**New Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-29052304**  
**29051917**

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
 e-mail : [cibci@cbi.nic.in](mailto:cibci@cbi.nic.in)  
 Fax : 011-230111334  
 Ph. : 011-23014048, 30115229,  
 23015218, Extn. 210  
 DP/492/SD/2021



BRIEFLY

Deepika to work on mindset ahead of Tokyo

Kolkata: Gearing up for her third Olympics, India's number one woman archer Deepika Kumari is busy working on the mental side of her game in her effort to break the country's medal jinx in the sport at the highest level. Having won the 2010 Commonwealth Games gold at the age of 15, Deepika has has finished on the podium five times in seven appearances at the Archery World Cup Final and collected countless other international medals, but faltered at the Olympics. "The upcoming Olympics will be different for me. I'm learning how to control my thoughts. At the same time, I'm performing better," Deepika told World Archery ahead of the first stage of the World Cup in Guatemala City. This time Deepika will be the lone entry from India at the Tokyo Games if the archers fail to grab the team quota at the World Cup Stage 3 in Paris. "Archery is all about your mind and thoughts. We have to know how to handle pressure. How to control the brain. My mind control, my thought control. That's the key in archery and sports," Deepika said.

Drawing inspiration from Federer: Mairaj

New Delhi: The oldest shooter in India's 15-member team for Tokyo Olympics, top shotgun marksman Mairaj Ahmad Khan says he is drawing inspiration from tennis legend Roger Federer to shine at the upcoming sporting showpiece. The Tokyo Games, scheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8, will be the 45-year-old Mairaj's second appearance at the Olympics. "When I see him on the court and when people say he is getting old, I say 'no. I think he is the G.O.A.T. (greatest of all time). Whenever I see him, it gives me goose bumps," Mairaj, who is ranked 10th in the world in his event, said in a video posted by Sports Authority of India (SAI). "I really want to be like him; he is my idol," Mairaj said of the 39-year-old tennis great, who has won an unprecedented 20 Grand Slams in an illustrious career. "I always watch his (Federer's) games. I always read about him. It gives me immense pleasure."

7 more Indians boxers in semis of youth Worlds

New Delhi: Babyrojisana Chanu out-classed defending European champion Alexas Kubicka as seven Indian boxers stormed into the semi-finals at the youth world championships for men and women in Kielce, Poland. Along with Chanu (51 kg), Arundhati Choudhary (69 kg), Sanamacha Chanu (75 kg), Ankit Narwal (64 kg), Vishal Gupta (91 kg), Bishwamitra Chongtham (49 kg) and Sachin (56 kg) assured themselves of at least a bronze by advancing to the last-four stage on Day 7 of competitions. With the confirmation of seven more medals, the 20-member Indian contingent is now assured of 11 medals from the ongoing championship. Earlier on Day 6, Vinka, Alfiya, Gitika and Poonam had advanced to the semi-finals. In the men's category, Asian junior champ Bishwamitra and Narwal notched-up 5-0 victories

PTI

Rumbling in the ranks

Manager Pep Guardiola criticises European Super League's closed format of which his club Manchester City is part of

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, APRIL 20

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola called on his club's ownership to break its silence on the creation of a breakaway Super League, which he believes threatens the integrity and values of the sport.

Guardiola said he is still waiting for more information from those behind the proposals for a closed-off league of elite clubs, 36 hours after they were first announced in a press release that revealed only a few details about the planned competition.

"The right people have to clarify -- they have the obligation, the duty, as soon as possible, today better than tomorrow, tomorrow better than the day after tomorrow, to come out all around the world," Guardiola said.

"Because it is a worldwide issue. Clarify what is the situation that is going to come, and the benefits, and why they took the decision these teams are going to play and the other ones not."

City is one of six English teams involved in the proposed Super League, along with three from Italy and three from Spain. Aside from those 12 "founding clubs," three more will be invited to join the league as permanent members while five slots would be left open, to be determined each year.

Guardiola took issue with the fact that 15 teams, including City, would be guaranteed a place in the competition.

"Sport's not a sport when the relationship between the effort and the success, the effort and reward, doesn't exist," he said. "It's not a sport. It's not a sport when success is already guaranteed. It's not a sport when it doesn't matter when you lose. That's why I've said many times, I want the best competitions as strong as possible, especially the Premier League, and that it's not fair when one team fights, fights, fights and arrives at the top and after cannot be qualified because the success is already guaranteed for just a few clubs."

Guardiola spoke out a day after Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp voiced his



Fans outside Old Trafford protest against Manchester United's decision to join the Super League project. Reuters

concerns about the lack of competition in a closed-off Super League.

Guardiola said he felt "uncomfortable" that managers such as him and Klopp were being asked to answer for their owners.

"Honestly, we are not the right people to answer this question because there are presidents who can talk more clearly about what is the idea for the future where football wants to go," he said. "I would love," Guardiola added, "the president of this committee to go out all around the world and say what is the reason why we took that decision. I support my club. I know the people and I am part of this club."

Johnson rolls up sleeves

English opposition to the Super League intensified on Tuesday when the Premier League threatened action against the six

rebel clubs and Prime Minister Boris Johnson considered introducing laws to stop them forming the new European competition.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has also expressed concerns about the actions of his club's owners.

The Premier League has already threatened the six Super League clubs with expulsion if they go it alone in Europe. The other 14 clubs met on Tuesday and "unanimously and vigorously" rejected the Super League plans.

"The Premier League is considering all actions available to prevent it from progressing, as well as holding those shareholders involved to account under its rules," the English top division said in a statement.

Premier League officials were also part

of a meeting alongside representatives of fan groups led from Downing Street by Johnson, who called the Super League "anti-competitive" and pledged to "drop a legislative bomb" on it if necessary.

The government could adopt the 50-plus-1 rule from Germany that gives fans the majority of voting rights, nominally to protect clubs from being controlled by private investors.

"All attendees agreed that action was necessary to protect the fairness and open competition we expect to see in football, and to uphold the fundamental principle that any club should have the chance to play and win against the biggest players in the game," Johnson's Downing Street office said in a statement.

The Super League aims for 15 founding Super League clubs, three places are yet to

Mishra's dream spell paves the way for Capitals win

SYNOPSIS  
■ Mishra rolls back the years. Capitals hold their nerve

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
APRIL 20

DELHI CAPITALS were cruising at one stage. But Mumbai Indians' never-say-die attitude took the game into the final over. Shikhar Dhawan and Rishabh Pant departed in quick succession to make matters tense for Capitals, but Jasprit Bumrah bowled two no-balls to release the pressure. Also, MI had only 137 runs on the board, and Shimron Hetmyer and Lalit Yadav held their nerve to secure a six-wicket win with five balls remaining.

Capitals' win was even more creditable for this was their first match in Chennai. Conditions were tricky, something which MI got acquainted with, as this was their fourth game at Chepauk. But Capitals were the bet-

ter team on the night.

Mishra rolls back the years

In favourable conditions, Amit Mishra can still spin a web. At 38 years of age, international cricket probably has bypassed him, but on a 'gripping' surface, the leg-spinner showed his value. This was only Mishra's second match in this year's IPL and he made a telling contribution.

Rohit Sharma took a little bit of time to get into the groove but once he settled down, the MI captain was playing like a prince. An inside-out lofted drive for six off Kagiso Rabada was magnificent. Pant hurriedly brought on Mishra, inside the Powerplay, to stem the run-flow.

He started off by conceding back-to-back fours to Suryakumar Yadav. But when Mishra came back for his second spell, his dream run began. Rohit jumped out of his crease, but the bowler had held his leg-break back a little. The batsman had to reach out for the ball and skied it to Steve Smith at long-on.

A couple of balls later, a similar delivery accounted for Hardik Pandya. The all-rounder went through his shot, but the wily leggie had beaten him in the air.

A googly trapped Kieron Pollard plumb in front. Mishra wasn't giving the batsmen any pace to play with and was turning the ball. Suddenly, MI were 84/6 after 12 overs with the cream of their batting back in the hut.

Scores of around 150 have proved to be par at this venue, which the defending champions had defended successfully.

On Tuesday, however, Mishra took out all the MI big hitters and innovators to thwart their death-overs push. Ishan Kishan was playing sensibly, building a partnership with Jayant Yadav and setting himself up nicely for a back-end slog. But he fell prey to Mishra's pace variation -- a faster delivery that almost yorked him. The left-hander jabbed his bat down and played the ball onto his stumps. The veteran spinner finished with 4/24 from four overs.

Before that, at the start of the innings, two champion cricketers cancelled each other out.

Honours were even between Rohit and Ravichandran Ashwin until the former stood and delivered a gorgeous six over extra cover to a carrom ball.

Capitals hold their nerve

Dhawan survived a marginal decision on four, in the very first over of Capitals' chase. Hardik had pulled off a stunner diving forward but the TV umpire adjudged that the ball had touched the ground. Against a modest total, Capitals needed to avoid a collapse. A 53-run second wicket stand between Dhawan (45) and Smith (33) laid the foundation for their victory. The former stayed until the 15th over to ensure that there was no middle-overs muddle.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Mumbai Indians 137/9 in 20 ovs (Rohit Sharma 44, 30b, 3x4, 3x6; Suryakumar Yadav 24, 15b, 4x4; Amit Mishra 4/24, 11 dots) lost to Delhi Capitals 138/4 in 19.1 ovs (Shikhar Dhawan 45, 42b, 5x4, 1x6; Steve Smith 33, 29b, 4x4; Jayant Yadav 1/25, 10 dots)



Amit Mishra came away with figures of 4/24. IPL20.com/BCCI

Despite BCCI objection, Bihar plans second T20 league

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

CHAOS PREVAILS in the Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) as a group of officials want to conduct a second T20 tournament, less than a month after a controversy-ridden league concluded.

Last month the Indian cricket board expressed ire over BCA hosting the inaugural Bihar Cricket League (BCL) without permission. Now the BCA's other faction, led by its secretary, has announced dates for the Bihar Premier League (BPL), starting from June 12 in Patna.

They have sought permission from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to run a franchise-based tournament. The BCCI, however, says it will only allow a non-franchise tournament without private individuals as owners.

BCA has two groups within their Apex Council. The group headed by BCA president Rakesh Tiwary and a group headed by BCA secretary Sanjay Kumar.

Last month, Tiwary's faction had hosted the BCL despite BCCI emailing them to stop their league after the tournament began.

Now, the other faction headed by BCA's secretary Kumar wants the BCCI to give a green signal for the BPL.

"We have written to BCCI to grant permission to hold BPL. It will be hosted by BCA and will be a franchise-based T20 league. If everything goes well, we will have a franchise auc-

tion and then a player auction in May," BCA secretary Kumar told The Indian Express. "We will reply to their mail. If they want to run a cricket tournament without a franchise model, the BCCI has no problem but if not, the BCCI will not permit them. If they do it again the board will suspend them," a BCCI official said.

The BCCI had earlier sought legal opinion on the BCA going ahead with the Bihar Cricket League and demanded a compliance certificate to check if all norms set by Lodha Committee's recommendation had been followed. When contacted BCA president Tiwary, from the faction that hosted the BCL, said the new proposed tournament of the rival faction had nothing to do with BCA and no player of the BCA can take part in it.

"Sanjay (the rival faction's secretary) has been expelled from BCA. He cannot host any tournament under the BCA banner and any player registered with BCA will not take part in the league," Tiwary stated.

In response, Kumar stated that for BCA, Tiwary is no longer the president.

"None of the office bearers were with him during his BCL. For us he is not president of BCA. Let BCCI decide on our request," Kumar told this newspaper.

A few months ago, BCA president Tiwary had expelled its secretary Kumar in their Apex Council meeting. However, soon, Kumar with support of its district members removed Tiwary as it's president. The matter is in court and BCCI has informed BCA that until the court gives a verdict, the BCA president and secretary will continue in their respective posts.

Hockey's go-to statistician passes away

MIHIR VASAVDA  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

A KENYAN hockey team touring India is not an event that would enthrust many, not even the die-hards. However, when the African minnows travelled to New Delhi in the 90s, one man from Sehore on the outskirts of Bhopal bunked office and made the trip to the Capital.

It wasn't just to watch Kenya play. He, instead, wanted to meet the team captain with a rather unusual request. A few years earlier, India had played a series in Kenya and he was desperate to find out the names of the two goalscorers missing in his list.

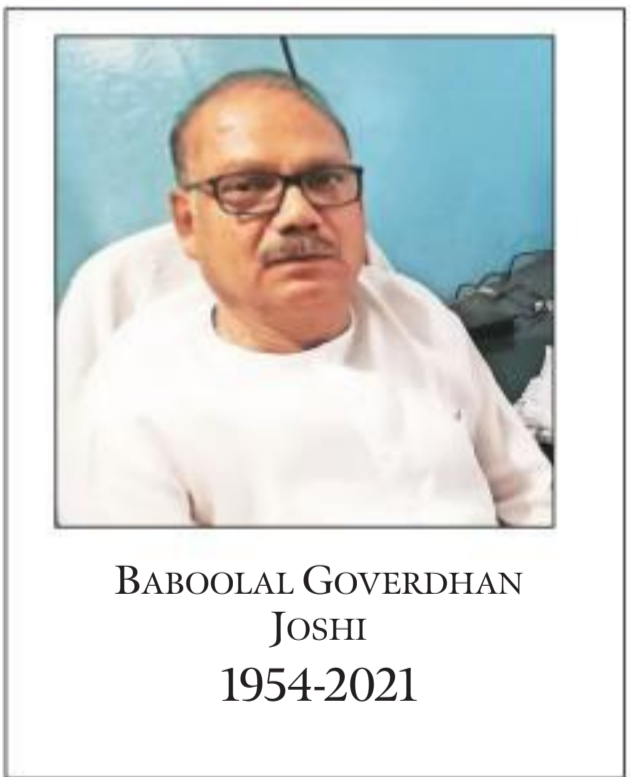
It was this dedication to his craft that made Baboolal Goverdhan Joshi, who passed away on Tuesday due to Covid-19, one of the most prominent hockey statisticians with an unparalleled body of work. He was 67.

At a time when professional sports had dedicated teams to maintain statistics, Joshi was a one-man army in a sport that was bereft of any such data, especially on Indian players.

He went to extreme lengths to make sure not a single goal scored by an Indian went unrecorded.

This, despite the sport not being widely telecast, matches being played at irregular intervals and barely any information available on the web, making stats-keeping that much harder.

Yet, for close to five decades, he has



BABOOLAL GOVERDHAN JOSHI  
1954-2021

been a go-to man for federations, players and journalists for all the numbers related to hockey, more so the Indian game.

A retired engineer with the Madhya Pradesh Water Resource Department, Joshi's tryst with numbers began with the 1970 Asian Games in Bangkok, when he started keeping notes for himself listening to radio commentary of India's matches.

As India won three back-to-back World Cup medals, starting with the bronze in 1971 and culminating with a gold medal in 1975, Joshi's interest in the sport grew further.

It was during this period that he started keeping stats seriously -- first by making a ₹10 subscription to the World Hockey

Magazine, which the International Hockey Federation (FIH) published monthly with all match data ("The subscription cost was more than my monthly salary, but still I somehow managed," Joshi often recalled).

He even paid advance money to a newspaper vendor in Bhopal for copies of The Hindu, which he referred to for hockey match reports.

Once a month, Joshi travelled to the state capital to collect his bundle as the daily wasn't delivered to Sehore. After a decent database was established, a regional newspaper started publishing his stats during the 1978 World in exchange for a token amount.

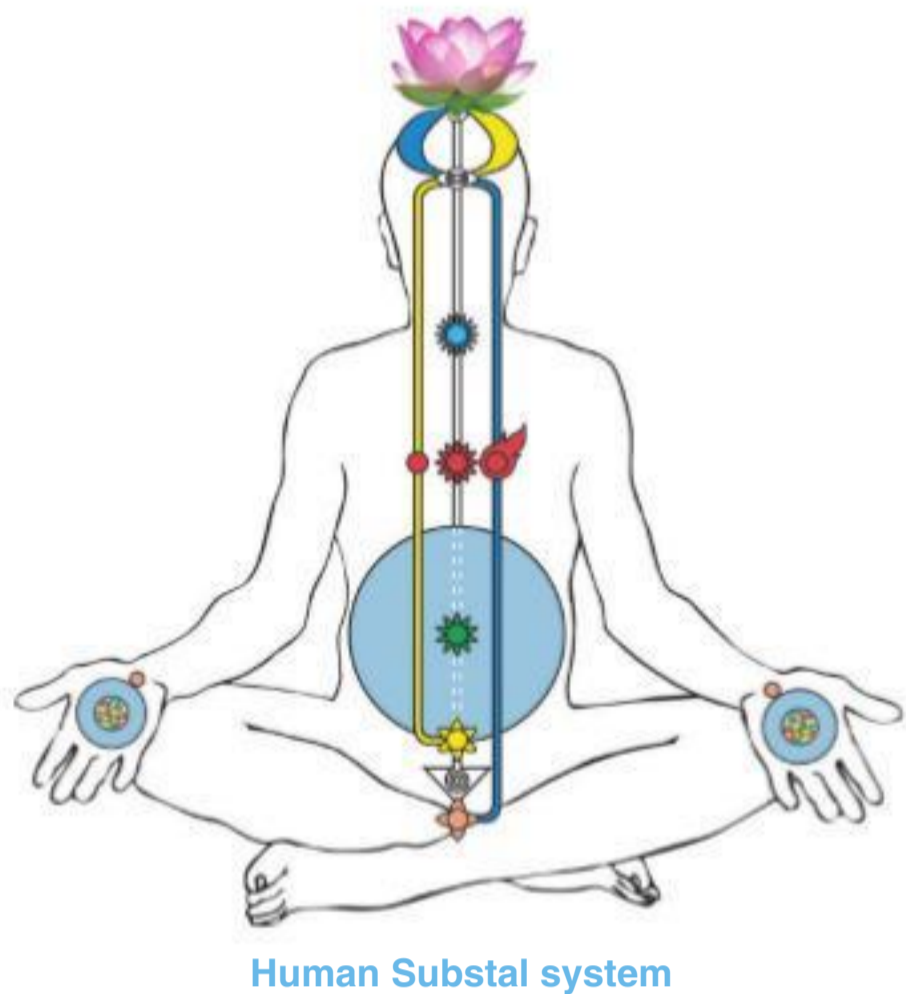
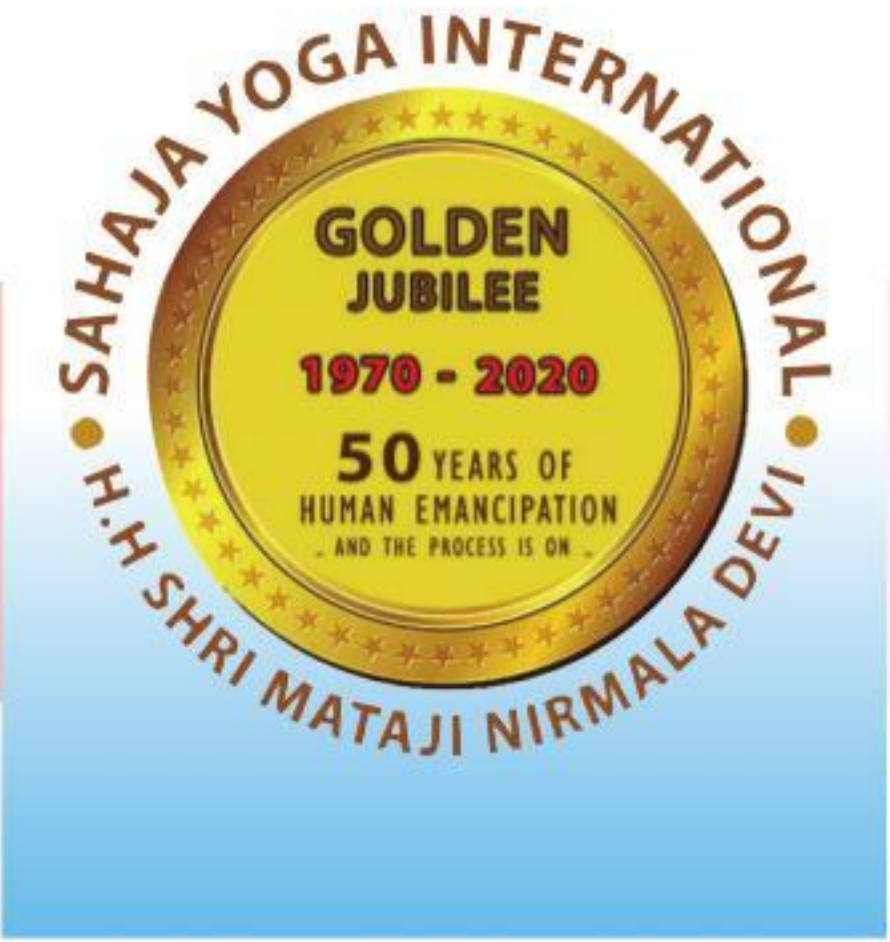
That encouraged him to travel for hockey by taking leave from work. He started by visiting national training camps, where he collected data of every Indian player first hand.

When he visited Lahore for the 1990 World Cup, he collected data of players from the leading nations from the team brochures.

It's a practice he continued till the very end through more or less the same means: meet players and officials in person and gather data as many hockey matches are not shown on TV even today and sketchy details available online.

The stockily-built man with hearty laughter was an unmissable presence at every major hockey tournament, especially the ones held in India.

"He did painstaking work to keep his records updated," Joshi's son Shravan said.



Human Substalar system

In these modern times when the idea of God seems a mirage and ego rules the mind, it is only through understanding and awakening the essence of Shri Rama within that one can cross the sea of illusion, the Bhavasagara. However, it is not through a mental activity such as reading or discourse that Shri Rama's essence can be understood, but an inner understanding that comes through the awakening of a subtle energy within. The subtle energy called as the Kundalini bears lot of mention in all the scriptures and sacred writings (granthas) like Vedas and Upanishadas, the working benefit of which was also taught to Shri Rama and Lakshmana by their guru, Vashishtha, during their stay in his ashram. Kundalini is a form of divine feminine energy (or Shakti) that resides in three and a half coils at the base of the spinal cord in the sacrum bone, called as the Mooladhara. This Kundalini energy is thus the 'mother' energy which rises through different centers of the Human Subtle System, piercing the six chakras above it, ultimately opening the Sahasrara in the limbic area. When this Kundalini gets awakened, the union of the Spirit 'Atma' or Yoga takes place with the Divine and one starts experiencing a new level of awareness within. This is also called self-realization. It is said that without knowing oneself, one cannot know God. It is only after self-realization one can actually understand the truth of all religions, saints and all the incarnations including Shri Rama. In ancient times though, the awakening or jagruti of this energy was very difficult and one guru could give self-realization to only one disciple. The process was extremely rigid and involved strict purification of the mind and body through tough penances and practices under the instructions of the guru. From penances in the chills of the snow-capped Himalaya to extensive meditations in the deep forests of the Kishkindha, only and only, the most pure and dedicated ones could get their Self Realization. As a result, among millions, only one or two hardly got the Spirit enlightened in their attention.

Bestowing the greatest gift of Kaliyuga is the knowledge of Sahaja Yoga, the method of en-masse realization founded by Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi in the year 1970. Fondly called as Shri Mataji, she worked out a method to give Self Realization to desiring seekers however small or large they would be in number. 'Sahaja' means effortless, hence this union with the Divine, the 'Yoga', becomes extremely effortless through Kundalini awakening in Sahaja Yoga. Once the pure desire is expressed, Mother Kundalini rises, crossing all the chakras, opening the Sahasrara, ultimately filling the attention with the light of the Spirit. As the light penetrates the being, all the darkness of ignorance goes away and one starts experiencing the connection with the Divine expressed as subtle waves of cool breeze on the palms of our hands and on top of the head.

**"Although the Mani (Kundalini) manifests in the world, but without the grace of Shri Rama no one can achieve it. To achieve it is also easy (Sahaja) but unfortunate people reject the easy method."**

(Shri Ramcharitmanas)

On enlightenment this body itself becomes a temple with the enlightened light of the different deities at their respective chakras, one of them being Shri Rama, residing in the Temple of our Hearts. When Shri Hanumana grabbed open his chest, Shri Sita Ram were seen residing in his heart. Similarly, in our Subtle System which is made up of three channels (nadis) and seven energy centers (chakras), Shri Rama resides with his consort Shri Sita in the right side of the Heart or the Anahata Chakra. When the Kundalini passes through this chakra, Shri Rama gets awakened and the person automatically starts adopting his qualities on his own. This adoption of qualities is not forced through any mental activity or outward discipline but occurs spontaneously on the Central Nervous System just as other parasympathetic activities of digestion and heartbeat.

Shri Rama is the Maryada Purushottam, the keeper of the sanctity and the greatest in all mankind. Through his incarnation he showed the character of an ideal being, the importance of Dharma and the role as a responsible and benevolent king. Shri Rama always looked for the welfare of the public, their opinion and worked for Janamatta or the decision of the people. Not only that, the greatest quality (guna) visible in his life is that of an honest government keeper and a truthful king which he accomplished through his balance, peace, mildness and sweetness.

"The sweetness of Shri Rama, the way He used to make people feel comfortable, an example is of an oyster who gets a little stone into the body of the shell, takes out a kind of a shiny liquid and covers it with that shiny liquid and makes it into a pearl to be comfortable. Now He did not want His own comfort. Rama is a little bit different, that He wanted to make everyone into a diamond or a pearl so that

# The Only Road to RAM RAJYA Awakening the Essence of Shri RAMA within



the other person would shine and would look nice and that is how He felt comforted. The benevolence of Shri Rama was shown when He started ruling the people. He was the one who cared for the needs of the people."

(H.H Shri Mataji's description of Shri Rama as a benevolent king)

For the protection of the innocent, Shri Rama killed innumerable Rakshasas including the hefty Ravana, even though he was the most patient and calm (Paramsheel) but for the protection of Dharma and righteousness he did not hesitate in devouring the evil doers. In Treta Yuga, these Rakshasas however manifested in the physical form but in this Kaliyuga when the Ravana sits in each mind as the Ego and these Rakshasas have seeped into the human nature, hollowing the country with corruption and dirty politics, it can only be killed when light of Shri Rama's power within gets enlightened. This enlightenment is an actualization which occurs and can be felt on the Parasympathetic Nervous System. It is not just talking, it is a happening. We talk of Ram Rajya but Ram Rajya cannot be achieved through outward purification of the system but first through this inward purification of each individual. Unless and until all the politicians and people get their innate honesty awakened within, Ram Rajya will just be the vision of a utopian society which seems good in principle but not in practice.

**"If Ram Rajya has to come, then Rama is to be born in the hearts of the people who are at the helm of affairs."**

(Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi)

Shri Rama resides in the heart with all his gunas of truth (Satya), righteousness (Dharma) and responsibility (Maryada). Shri Rama's life as a loving father, husband and a benevolent king lay the vision of an ideal leader and individual. His humility in accepting 'ber' (Indian plum) from even the most down trodden Shabri shows his utmost humility and immense love. Shri Rama was above the ideas of inferiority or superiority even though he was the son of a king but for him everyone was the same. The love and compassion with which he received Shabri's offerings reflects the beauty of his character. For him, stature and caste did not matter. His love and respect permeated the being of every person with the same intensity. This love comes when the identification with Pure Spirit takes place. That is when we start seeing beyond a person and can touch his/her essence. In today's time we see hefty discourse on politics and governance but taking examples from Shri Rama's life we can see that an ideal government can only function if it is based on the ideals of public opinion (Janamatta) and public good (Janahitta) with complete love, humility and selflessness.

In Kaliyuga lies this most crucial choice, either to take to Shri Ram or Ravana, both reside within us but the ultimate freedom lies in the hands of the man. Unless and until the Mother Kundalini is not awakened within Shri Rama can never be truly understood. There can be discussions, discourses, book readings, construction of temples, rallies, all in the name of Shri Ramchandra but if Shri Rama is missing from the heart itself, then all these things fall futile. A lamp which is not lit cannot spread the light; similarly unless and until the light within us is covered with the dark clouds of ignorance, Shri Rama's character (charitra), which is greatly talked, discussed and revered in the whole of the Bharatavarsha, can never permeate our being. Only talking will not make us like Shri Ram, it is through Kundalini awakening which is a living process and is an actualization that occurs on our Central Nervous System which can be felt and experienced as a result of which get nourished by the essence of the Maryada Purushottam. One can say that he worships Shri Ram a lot but that worshipping is only outward unless we are connected within. The real Dusschera takes place inside us, that is, when the Ravana settled in the human personality as Ego, the Ahankara, is burnt and destroyed by the cooling fire of the Mother Kundalini within. This is the real victory of good over evil, but it lies in your hands. Only in your own complete independence you have to desire this awakening. It cannot be imposed. It is a seeking which works out with a pure desire and nothing else. Therefore, it is only through the subtle and spontaneous awakening of the Kundalini which happens in Sahaja Yoga because of which we can fully adopt the tattva (essence) of Shri Rama and place him in the Temple of our Hearts.

**"After achieving his ideals, we reach another because he was human ideal. It is great that God came to this world in a human form to become our ideal. He has gone through all the hardships to show us strength to keep Dharma. That is Vishwa Dharma and the state of Yoga."**

(H.H Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi)



**"You have to become Rama from inside"**

- Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi

**The crow Kakbhushundi says to the Garuda, "Oh Garuda, the foe of serpents, this Kaliyuga is the house of sin and falsehood. But, the greatest blessing in Kaliyuga is that one gets free from the trap of Bhava effortlessly."**

(Shri Ramcharitmanas)



## The Twelve Principal Qualities of Shri Rama:

1. **MARYADA PURUSHOTTAM:** Shri Rama is the keeper of the Maryada, the divine limits and the greatest in all humankind. He is the ideal being, the one whose words are his actions.
2. **SWEETNESS:** Despite being the son of the king Rama's character is full of sweetness (madhurya). His social stature does not affect him. Whomsoever he interacts with gets enveloped in the sweetness of his personality just like a particle of dirt gets transformed into a pearl by an oyster.
3. **SELFLESSNESS:** Shri Rama kept his people higher than himself, than his wife and children. If politicians today understand this point they wouldn't be called selfish, they wouldn't be selfish and would be followers of Dharma.
4. **BENEVOLENCE:** Welfare of the people and respect for public opinion are key ideals from Shri Rama's life. Shri Rama was a benevolent king. Unless and until this benevolence comes within us we cannot be an honest government keeper. Only when we care for the benevolence of others we can actually become leaders in a true sense.
5. **HUMILITY:** Hailing from the most revered Raghuakula, Shri Rama still did not have any false mental projections of himself as superior to others. He was very humble. His humility is shown in his acceptance of the Shabri's ber.
6. **COMPASSION:** With zeal to transform others, with love and understanding, Shri Rama is the most compassionate, the Karunamaya. Even when he devours the Rakshasas, it is done with the compassion to save the saints. Ahilyodhar, the emancipation of Ahilya shows Rama's heartfelt compassion and love for the troubled and down trodden. Compassion is a very rigorous force whose real meaning we can understand only after Realization.
7. **SATYA:** Shri Rama's life was completely truthful. What he said, he did that and there was no escape from the reality. The absolute truth, which is the spirit, comes naturally to us when the attention gets enlightened by the Kundalini and we become completely honest and truthful by both words and actions.
8. **DHARMA:** Shri Rama's greatest quality was to follow the path of righteousness. He was the one who kept the Dharma, the innate righteousness. Even being the most calm and compassionate, he took up the bow and slew the demons and the wrong doers. Rama's dharma was of the Spirit. When we get Self Realization, our Atma Dharma also gets established within us.
9. **PATIENCE:** Through the patience and mildness in his attitude Shri Rama won the hearts of the people. He patiently waited for fourteen years during the period of his exile and there is no doubt that the sheer strength of his character came from the silence of his attention. This silence of the Spirit nourishes us and develops these qualities.
10. **BALANCE:** Shri Rama stood on the essence of balance and love. His character was very simple, loving and balanced. This is the quality of the Sushumna Nadi, the channel of ascent which gives us balance and is the path of our innate evolution.
11. **OBEDIENCE:** Portraying the form of the ideal human, Shri Rama at various instances of his life showed the utter sense of obedience of his elders and the right things. In the same manner, when the essence of Shri Rama gets established in our hearts, we develop the obedience of the Spirit and do what is right. Automatically whatever is wrong and inappropriate for our being falls off from our personality and the truth takes its charge.
12. **STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION:** Shri Maryada Purushottam's entire life shows the sheer strength of his character, the power of his love and his dedication towards his endeavors in life. He was above the temptations, the one who could not be lured by Surpanakha. Shri Rama was above all these false ideas. He did and achieved what he said through his dedicated efforts and determination of the Spirit. We too can develop this quality (guna), the only thing is to enter the realm of our Spirit that resides within.

The tattva of Shri Ram stands on Sanatana, the ever eternal. Only when we become one with the power of Spirit which is also Sanatana, can we actually understand Shri Rama. Through Sahaja Yoga, this union takes place effortlessly just as any other living process like breathing, which happens on its own. We do not do any efforts to make the heart pump, we do not make any efforts in the living process of digestion and similarly we cannot make any efforts to raise our Kundalini. It takes place spontaneously on its own. All the qualities of Shri Rama can be manifested in our personalities through Kundalini awakening in Sahaja Yoga. When the Kundalini touches the Sahasrara and pierces it, our attention is nourished and established in the light of the Spirit. That is when we become the real Self, the Pure Spirit. Becoming the Spirit is the highest point of our evolution and only through Sahaja Yoga this actualization can be felt, experienced and imbedded in life.

This is the absolute truth. It is time that in this Yuga we understand it, take our Self Realization and lead a life full of eternal joy and everlasting peace. If we are at peace within there will be peace all over the world. The answer to man's seeking has come. Let the entire humanity yearn for it.