DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PUNE, VADODARA • REG.NO. MCS/067/2018 - 20 RNI REGN. NO. 1543/57

The Indian EXPRESS

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021, MUMBAI, LATE CITY, 14 PAGES

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE **SINCE 1932**

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RAISES QUESTIONS OF VACCINE EQUITY, LOCKDOWN EFFECTIVENESS Curbs tighten but vaccination slackens in country's most vulnerable districts

67% of 306 dists with 20% positivity show dip in vaccination May 1-7 compared to previous week

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M NEW DELHI, MAY 10

AS MANY as two-thirds of all districts reporting a positivity rate of more than 20 per cent an index of the pandemic's current severity and its potential spread – have reported an alarming dip in vaccination after the Centre's new norms kicked in May 1, an analysis of districtwise data obtained by The Indian Express reveals.

Not only does this raise doubts over the immediate course of the national vaccination programme, it also puts a question mark on vaccine equity. For, a scrutiny of the worst-hit districts shows these include several rural areas where the curve is rising and where there are glaring gaps in medical infrastructure

Between May 2 and May 8, as many as 306 districts - just under half of the country – were reporting a positivity rate of more than 20 per cent. The Centre's strategy for these CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





NAVY BRINGS 40 MT OXYGEN TO MUMBAI

Indian Naval Ship Trikand on Monday brought 40 metric tonnes of liquid medical oxygen to Mumbai from Qatar. According to a statement, the consignment is part of the French mission 'Oxygen Solidarity Bridge' to support India's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The first consignment was handed over to Maharashtra state authorities. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

Vaccine inequity gets worse: rural India, smaller hospitals hit

PRANAV MUKUL & ANIL SASI NEW DELHI, MAY 10

THE SLIDE in the number of vaccine doses administered in the week starting May 1, after the government "opened up" vaccination beyond priority groups,

to its lowest level in eight weeks

supply-chain map. The skew is beginning to get reflected on two counts.

First, the ability of hospitals to procure vaccines and arrange shipments, alongside the impact that these factors may have on

vis-à-vis the already-established

the landed cost of the shots for each facility, according to multiple players in the vaccine supply

Rs 700-Rs 1,500: Amid lack of clarity, what pvt hospitals are charging

PRABHA RAGHAVAN & **AASHISH ARYAN** NEW DELHI, MAY 10

THE GOVERNMENT'S liberalised Covid-19 vaccine policy has led to wide differences in the prices that private hospitals are charging for the shots, not just intercity but intra-city as well.

For instance, as per the Co-



THE DIFFERENT rates are likely to lead to disparity in access to vaccines. Most of the supply is currently with select private to set own prices, while states are scrambling to access doses. While this has led to a lack of transparency in the system, prices may stabilise if the supply picks up.



LIZ MATHEW, HARIKISHAN SHARMA & MAULSHREE SETH NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, MAY 10

AS UTTAR Pradesh continues to battle the second wave of Covid-19, there are growing voices of unease within the state BJP, with a number of MLAs and MPs raising questions about the state government's handling of the situation - from shortage of hospital beds to alleged lack of cooperation from authorities to deal with the hundreds of SOS calls from their constituencies.

Over the last few weeks. many of them have written to the Chief Minister with these complaints, prompting Chief

As deaths go up 10 fold, worrying signs from smaller states

AMITABH SINHA PUNE, MAY 10

SINCE April, the daily count of new cases has increased five times, from about 80,000 to more than four lakh a day now. During this same time, however, the number of deaths being reported every day has increased almost 10 times, from about 400 a day to over 4,000 a day now.

count from the state had risen to While Maharashtra continues 180. Not all of these deaths hapto report the maximum number pened on the same day - the of deaths every day, the worrying sign is the rapid rise in deaths in ally has a large number of unother states, even relatively counted ones from previous days.



CM inspects AIIMS, Gorakhpur, Covid facility, Monday. PT

Minister Yogi Adityanath, who has himself only recently recovered from Covid-19, to start visiting hotspot districts in the state and review arrangements.

Covid rumblings within: BJP

leaders in UP complain as

govt puts up a brave face

While Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Santosh Gangwar's May 6 letter to Adityanath complaining about poor Covid care in his Lok Sabha constituency. Bareilly, saw the CM taking stock of the situation in the district, earlier, Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister and Lucknow MLA Brijesh Pathak; BJP's Bareilly

MLA Kesar Singh who ultimately

Uttar Pradesh has been around

that are reporting more than 100

deaths a day. These include rela-

tively new entrants such as

Uttarakhand, Haryana, Jharkhand

reporting deaths in single digits

until the second week of April. By

Sunday, however, the daily death

death toll reported by states usu-

Uttarakhand, for example, was

There are a dozen states now

300 each.

and West Bengal

in with requests for hospital beds and medical supplies such as oxygen. The party has had to suffer personal losses, with at least four BJP MLAs dying of Covid since CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

died of Covid; Mohanlalganj MLA

Kaushal Kishore who lost his

brother to Covid: Basti MP Haish

Dwivedi; Bhadohi MLA Dinanath

Bhaskar and Kanpur MP Satyadev

Pachauri too had written such let-

ters to the CM, pointing out the

failure of the system and how

they felt helpless as calls poured

ll patients die in AP hospital after oxygen tanker delayed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD, MAY 10

ELEVEN Covid-19 patients in the ICU of Sri Venkateswara Ramnarain Ruia Government General Hospital at Tirupati, the largest in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh, died on Monday evening due to lack of oxygen after a tanker with the gas got late by minutes.

District Collector M Hari Narayana said while the 11 people who were on oxygen support died, they were able to save several others. Nearly 1,000 Covid patients are being treated at the

Officials said the oxygen

pressure started dropping after

8:30 pm and the patients died

within a few minutes, before the

supply could be restored. Angry

relatives broke into the Covid

ICU, damaged some equipment

and overturned tables with in-

Officials said nurses and doc-

iections and medicines.

Nellore and Kadapa.





Ex Farm Broiler Chicken Rate ₹ 88 per kilo Retail Sale Rate Live ₹116 per kilo Dressed (with skin) ₹ 142 per kilo Retail Rate Per Dozen of Eggs ₹ 65 per Dozen

tion that the inoculation process could be turning more in-

tinues to see a demand-supply urban-rural divide in terms of

equitable than earlier.

mismatch, the revised vaccine procurement process builds in a skew against smaller hospitals in cities and towns in comparison to their bigger counterparts in simply getting access to the shots, and a more disconcerting

spoke to. Then there is the issue of mandatory Co-Win registration as part of the new decentralised

In a vaccine market that con-

In the guidelines for the "Liberalised and Accelerated CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

users so far

distribution strategy, which po-

Reliance Hospital in Mumbai is charging Rs 700 per dose for Covishield - Rs 100 more than the price at which the Serum Institute of India (SII) sold the tentially adds to an entry barrier vaccine to private hospitals. that could be tougher to navigate However, Nanavati Hospital in for users in the hinterland, both the city has set a price of Rs 900 for one shot, as per the portal. in terms access to the platform Other hospitals like Dr B L Kapur and an English-only interface for Hospital in Delhi and Max Healthcare in North India which like Nanavati, are under the management of Radiant Life

Care, also charge this rate, showed Co-WIN.

Similarly, the rate specified by Apollo Hospitals and Fortis CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and now Uttarakhand. At the end of March, Maharashtra was contributing roughly one-third of all the deaths in the country. Now, that share is just about one-fifth.

States such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Punjab

have seen a large number of coronavirus-related deaths in the last 40 days. Karnataka has now been routinely reporting more than 400 deaths a day, while the death toll in Delhi and

FIR names six in 'gangrape' of 26-year-old at Tikri protest site

where healthcare facilities are

SAKSHIDAYAL GURGAON, MAY 10

THE HARYANA police have registered an FIR against six people for the alleged gangrape of a 26year-old woman who was participating in the farmers' protest at Tikri border, and who died of Covid on April 30.

According to police, the woman hailed from West Bengal and had come to the border in April with six people from the

Kisan Social Army, including two women, whom she had met during a public meeting in Bengal. Days after arriving at the border, she began to exhibit Covid symptoms and as her condition worsened, was admitted to hospital on April 26, police said.

Her father said at a press conference on Monday evening that she came to know of the al-

leged rape after he reached Jhajjar on April 29 and met her at the hospital.

PAGE 1

ANCHOR

harassed and raped after she left for Tikri. In the train, one of the accused grabbed her hand and forcefully kissed her. After she came to Tikri, she was staying in the tent of the Kisan Social Army, where two of the men who had accompanied her raped her. She told me that they had been

blackmailing her," he said. Police have identified the two men as Anil Malik and Anup Singh. "We have registered an FIR under various IPC sections,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

"She told me she had been



BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

BMC TO ISSUE GLOBAL TENDER TO PROCURE 50 LAKH VACCINE DOSES PAGE 4

Vaccines short, Mumbai residents head to centres in rural pockets

YOGESH NAIK MUMBAI, MAY 10

TO GET around the shortage of vaccine doses in Mumbai, many are booking slots at inoculation centres in rural pockets of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region,

fuelling anger among local residents. Each day, people from

Mumbai and satellite towns like Thane, Navi Mumbai, Kalyan Dombivali and especially those in



Cars lined up at Shendrun PHC. Express

18-44 years category who cannot find a slot near their place of res-

Still ove 3,700 deaths have occurred just in the last one month.

This proportion is the highest CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

PLEASE DON'T DENY Governments should ensure truth isn't a Covid casualty, howsoever

idence are flocking to vaccination

centres in tribal-dominated

Shahapur and Murbad talukas in

centre in Shahapur tehsil, a tribal-

dominated belt, and another in

Healthcare Centre, there were at

least 25 cars. Shendrun PHC is

about 13 km from Shahapur town

Amit Raghav (40), a resident

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

on the Shahapur Murbad road.

The Indian Express visited one

At Shendrun's Primary

Thane district.

Murbad

terrible it makes them look **PAGE 10**

tors fled the ICU fearing for their safety, returning only after police arrived and took control of the situation. Earlier on Monday, Chief

Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had held a review meeting on the prevailing Covid situation in the state, including measures to increase oxygen supply. Andhra reported 14.986 new positive cases on Sunday and 84 Covid deaths.

Monday also saw a spat between Andhra and Telangana over Covid patients from Andhra reportedly being stopped from proceeding towards Hyderabad for treatment. PTI reported that Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary Aditva Nath Das spoke to his Telangana counterpart Somesh Kumar to sort out the issue.

As per the PTI report, authorities in Telangana started **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

WORLD



AL AQSA VIOLENCE: **ROCKETS FIRED AT ISRAEL, 9 KILLED IN GAZA**

OLI LOSES TRUST VOTE IN NEPAL, HAS ROOM FOR NEW COALITION **PAGE 12**

SADAF MODAK & TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA MUMBAI, MAY10

Shahabuddin Karikar's employer at a construction site in Mumbai's western suburb Malad asked him to get vaccinated. The 30-year-old labourer has an Android phone but no data pack. He tried to use the phone of a neighbour in Behram Baug slum to register online, but failed.

"After some time, I gave up. I don't understand how to do it. I

will get vaccinated when I go back to my village in West Bengal later this year," he said. In Malvani slum 10 km north of

Malad, Zulekha Mehboob Mulla (41) managed to register herself on CoWIN, but could not book a slot after trying for three days with her slow Internet connection. Desperate to get the shot, she showed up at a vaccination centre in NESCO on May 8. After she had waited for two hours, she was turned away.

"They said book online and come," Zulekha said.

According to government es-



As stocks run low, a sign at a drive-in vaccination facility at a mall in Navi Mumbai says no shots on Monday. Amit Chakravarty

timates, over 40 per cent of Mumbai's 1.3 crore population lives in slums. A large section of the slum population either does not have a smartphone or is not adept at handling one. The government's insistence on registering and booking a slot online through CoWIN makes it especially difficult for these citizens to get vaccinated.

getting the second dose of Also, vaccines are in short sup-Covaxin. after several centres reply, and many among this popuported massive crowds and anger lation simply do not have the time to keep trying for a slot. Karikar said he earned Rs 200 after work-Sunita Wagh got her first dose of ing for 12 hours at the construc-Covishield last month, and in-

tion site: "I don't have the time to sit and keep trying for a slot."

While there are no data, offi-

cials at various vaccination cen-

tres in Mumbai estimated that

the turnout from slums was "very

poor". The civic body stopped

walk-ins last week, making pre-

registration on CoWIN manda-

tory for everyone except those

42-year-old domestic worker

ver long waiting times.

tends to go for her second shot next week. She does not know she will no longer be able to simply stand in line like she did the first time. No health official or public health representative has visited the Versova slum colony of a hundred-plus homes where she lives.

"I do not know much about this... I got the vaccine because mv employer insisted I do. I went to Cooper Hospital and stood in line for five hours. I will go again next week," she said. Wagh does not have a smartphone and knows CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

No smart phones or time, Mumbai slums run into vaccine wall



2 THE SECOND PAGE

The Indian EXPRESS



FROM PAGE ONE

Rumblings in BJP

the second wave started --Lucknow West's Suresh Srivastava, Rae Bareli's Dal Bahadur Kori, Bareilly's Kesar Singh, Auraiya's Ramesh Diwakar -- and many others losing their relatives.

On Sunday, BJP's Firozabad MLA Pappu Lodhi, who is himself Covid positive, had released a video on social media saying his Covid-positive wife had to spend 2-3 hours lying on the ground at S N Medical College Agra as she waited for a bed.

Uttar Pradesh, which has the fourth highest caseload in the country, both in terms of total (15 lakh) and active cases (2.25 lakh), has been reporting a severe shortage of healthcare resources. Among the worst affected districts of Uttar Pradesh are Lucknow, Kanpur Nagar, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Meerut, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Gorakhpur, Ghaziabad, Bareilly and Moradabad. These districts, represented by some of the biggest leaders in the BJP, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi (Varanasi) and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (Lucknow), account for almost half (7.38 lakh) of the total 15.03 lakh Covid-19 cases recorded in the state.

A number of BJP leaders The Indian Express spoke to said they have been flooded with requests for help from their constituencies, but were unable to meet their demands. While Mohanlalganj MP Kaushal Kishore said the situation has improved in the last three days, Meerut MP Rajendra Agarwal said "they were still racing against time" to meet the requirements of the people.

Some of the MPs also warned that the Covid situation in rural areas of the state could be "alarm-

85,000," Adityanath said in Avodhya on Monday. Adityanath has so far visited

four districts -- Bareilly, Varanasi, Gorakhpur and Ayodhya -- where he has inspected hospitals and reviewed the Covid management.

Sidharth Nath Singh, a Cabinet Minister in the Adityanath government, argued that while the state government has been building capacity, the rise in cases made their work tougher. "The ratio between capacity and requirement is around 1:10. Naturally there will be crisis." Singh told The Indian Express. But he argued that since the pandemic broke out, the state's infrastructure and capacity have improved.

Pvt hospitals

Healthcare for a dose of Covaxin across the country was Rs 1,250 on Co-WIN -- Rs 50 more than the price set by Bharat Biotech for the private market. However, those seeking Covaxin at Kolkata's Woodlands Hospital would have to pay Rs 1,500 per dose, showed Co-WIN

As of May 5, Bengaluru's BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital was also charging Rs 1,500 per jab for Covaxin, according to an analysis by the All India Drug Action Network co-convenor Malini Aisola and theoretical physicist Siddhartha Das, who have both been working on vaccine access issues. Aisola and Das analysed private hospital charges on Co-WIN in major cities between May

5 and 8. BGS Gleneagles, however, clarified that its Rs 1,500 charge was set for walk-in patients "only for the first two days, before the pricing/delivery mechanisms were optimised pursuant to stock and future deliveries". It currently administers Covaxin at Rs 1,250 and charges Rs 1,500 "only" when it administers the vaccine in corhas added Rs 150 for administering the vaccine and GST, bringing porate offices or apartment buildings, as they involve additional the price to Rs 1,350 per dose. "We travel and logistic costs. are just doing the basic minimum. The variation in how these shots are priced between hospitals is currently around Rs 200said Pai. 250. However, all are much higher compared to the earlier price of Rs 250 per dose to priority groups -- mostly stemming from insufficient supply as well as lack of transparency over the process followed to fix the prices, according to Aisola. "The supply of vaccines, even in the private sector, is monopocent expected wastage. lised by a few prominent and corporate hospital chains. Several states are still scrambling to get vaccines, whereas these players already received some stock before May 1," she said. Facilities operating in cities with fewer private Covid-19 vaccination sites have more room to price their services higher. In the earlier phases, hospitals were mandated by the Centre to charge no more than Rs 100 over the price of the vaccine as their service charges. "There is not much transparency over the hospital margins (now)," said Aisola. "The implications are that private hospitals, the first movers since free pricing was permitted in the private sector, are basically pricing and logistics, are also factors. for what they think the market can bear, because we know that

Vaccination slackens in vulnerable districts

districts was on twin planks echoing the UK model: put in strict containment measures and, in parallel, expand vaccination coverage to cut the cycle of transmission. But the new norms -- split-

ting the vaccine basket 50-50, dual pricing, opening up and stock shortage – have ensured that as high as 67 per cent of these 306 districts are reporting a decline in vaccination.

So while strict containment is being imposed in these districts, it's not being complemented by aggressive vaccination to break the chain of transmission and reduce mortality among the vulnerable population. In short, curbs on movement are not being harnessed.

Significantly, the decline in vaccination was reported between May 1 and May 7 compared to April 24-April 30. From May 1, only 50 per cent of doses are directly distributed to the states by the Centre; the remaining 50 per cent are procured directly from the open market.

Overall, between April 24-30, 77.23 lakh doses were administered in these 306 high positivity districts. This dropped 21.64 per cent to 60.51 lakh between May 1 and May 7.

Three broad patterns emerge. First, the decline in vaccination in 66 per cent of these districts began as states had to di-

Covaxin, paid Bharat Biotech Rs 1,200 per shot, according to Manipal Education and Medical Group chairman Dr Ranian Pai. It



rectly procure 50 per cent of doses to vaccinate the 18-44 age group. Second, a majority of these are in the rural districts of the country.

Third, the increase in vaccination reported in 101 surge districts - 19.11 lakh doses between May 1-7 - was marginal and skewed: approximately 40% of these doses were administered in Delhi and Haryana. This indicates that even where increase in vaccination is taking place, it is

concentrated in a few states. Above 50 per cent drop in vaccination:

As many as 37 surge districts reported over 50 per cent drop. Cumulatively, 5.18 lakh does were administered May-1-7 in these districts. Under this category, Odisha (8 districts), Karnataka (4) and Maharashtra (4), were among top three states. The six high-positivity dis-

tricts that reported more than 70 per cent drop in vaccination are South District in Sikkim (80 per cent); East Singhbhum (72.89

India's population has access to broadband Internet, while rural tele-density is under 60 per cent - with states including Bihar.

per cent) in Jharkhand; Udupi (73.72 per cent) in Karnataka; Satara (71.36 per cent) in Maharashtra; Sambalpur(71.34 percent) and Bargarh (76.09 per

Prominent districts in this Cuttack (63.34 per cent), Dimapur(50.51 per cent), Nashik (54.89), Kozhikode (50.98), and

40-50 per cent drop

doses were administered between May-1-7 in these districts. Karnataka (5 districts), Odisha (3), and West Bengal & Kerala (2), were among top three states in this category. Prominent districts: Pune (46.35 per cent); Amritsar (40.33 per cent); Chennai (43.83 per cent); Tirupur (41.93 per cent); Ernakulam (45.79).

seeking a comment sent to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and National Health Authority Chairman R S Sharma.

which registered a 30-40 per cent drop. Under this category, Karnataka (9 districts), Andhra Pradesh (6), and Chhattisgarh (4), were among top three states. The prominent districts: Thiruvananthapuram (35.63 per cent), Gautam Buddha Nagar (30.21 per cent), Visakhapatnam (36.02 per cent), Mysore (33.59 per cent), Bengaluru Rural (34.14 per cent), AND Bhatinda (35.1 per cent). ■20-30 per cent drop

There are 41 districts that reported a 20-30 per cent drop. Cumulatively, 8.93 lakh doses were administered between May-1-7 in these districts. Maharashtra & Karnataka (5), and Rajasthan (4), were among top three states. Prominent districts: Bengaluru Urban (24.96 percent), Nagpur (28.93 per cent), Wayanad (29.88 per cent), Ranchi (23.87 per cent), Dehradun (29.09 per cent), and Ballari(25.94)

Below 20 per cent drop : There are 62 districts that reported a drop below 20 percent. Cumulatively, 12.55 lakh were administered between Mav-1-7 in these districts. West Bengal (6 districts), Chhattisgarh (6), & Karnataka(5), and Rajasthan(5), were among top three states. Prominent districts under this category are : Patna (7.23 per cent), Jaipur (6.3 per cent), Chandigarh (12.72 per cent) Raipur (10.3 per cent) and Ghaziabad (15.21 per cent).

of weeks. That is because the daily count of deaths is a lagging indicator that follows the case curve by about two weeks.

deaths, India now accounts for about one-third to one-fourth of all coronavirus deaths on any given day in the world. The global count of deaths is between 11,000 and 15,000 every day right now.

11 die in Andhra

stopping ambulances carrying Covid-19 patients from Andhra Monday morning, resulting in trouble at two major check-posts - Kodada (from the Vijayawada end) and Jogulamba Gadwal Kurnool (from and

Hyderabad is increasing due to pa-

tients coming from other places.

of Thane city, was one of the many

city residents who had lined up at

the centre. "I got a token here. I

waited 45 minutes. I travelled

nearly 20 km to come here as I

Others like Aditya Shah un-

dertook a long car ride to reach

the centre from his Thane home.

"I got to know through Aarogya

Setu that slots were available here.

I travelled two hours to get here."

that they may be eating into the

share of locals, the need to get vac-

cinated at any cost seems to over-

mind while coming here, and I do

believe there should be a quota for

locals. But what we are doing is le-

claimed that as a Maharashtrian

ride all other concerns.

While many like Shah realise

"The thought came to my

could not get a slot in Thane."

Rural pockets

Anantapuramu) as frustrated relatives took on police. For the past few days, authorities in Telangana have been saying that load in hospitals in

how to register, and we depend on them," said Meenakshi Lade, a resident of the same colony. Residents said they had many questions about getting vaccinated, but there was no one to ask. They said they had heard that a local corporator was helping people register on CoWIN at an office of his party. "But how many will reach there? Most are scared. If they can visit our homes during elections, why can't they come

now?" asked a resident. But there are also places where

things are working differently. At Dharavi's Chota Sion hospital vaccination centre, a team of data operators is helping slum-dwellers register for vaccination and book a slot online. A van fitted with a public address system rolls through the lanes, blaring out the

"Most of those who come here are not educated, do not have gal," Shah said. Others like S access to technology, and do not Sawant, a resident of Mumbai, understand how to register on the CoWIN app. So we decided to set up a registration desk to guide them," Dr Virendra Mohite, medical officer of G-North ward that

cent) in Odisha. category: Kolkata (67.8 per cent),

Dakshina Kannada (63.61).

There are 23 districts in this category. Cumulatively, 5.84 lakh

■ 30-40 per cent drop

Cumulatively, 8.88 lakh doses were administered between May-1-7 in 41 districts

dition so it was decided to take her

to the hospital the next day." Yadav said that the next day,

was alerted by the woman's fa-

With more than 4,000 daily

tribals, we told our nurses and booked slots for them. But by the time they could finish one registration, people from Mumbai occupied the other 99 slots as our internet speed is low."

order problems and I had to send

police on three occasions. To help

Executive Health Officer Dr Mangala Gomare of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation said, "I have examples of people coming from other cities and taking jabs in Mumbai. In Mumbai, people from posh areas book slots in areas like Shivaji Nagar, Mankhurd and Govandi as people there are not so tech savvy."

Mumbai slums

nothing about CoWIN or prebooking slots.

"We are trying to help each other. Some youngsters know

message of vaccination.

ing" as many cases are not "getting recorded nor being handled properly". "In the villages, things are getting bad. They are not only unaware of the situation, but also refusing to go to hospitals. The number of cases is going up there. We are trying to create awareness among them," said Kishore.

BIP leader and Faizabad MP Lallu Singh, however, said the situation was easing over the last three days. "I used to get at least 150 calls a day till 1 am or so. Now it has come down to 20-25. District authorities are responding to calls now. During election time, there were issues. But now both the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister are seeing to it that the required facilities, including oxygen producing centres, are in place," Singh said.

BIP MLA Mahesh Trivedi, who represents Kidwai Nagar constituency in Kanpur, too said the situation has improved over the last 4-5 days. "Earlier, my office would get 250-300 phone calls a day from people, seeking help for hospital beds, oxygen cylinders or medicines, but now I get 8-10 such calls daily," Trivedi said.

Both Agarwal and Kishore said the panchayat elections intensified the spread of the virus in the state. "Many election officials got infected and some of them died too," Kishore said.

Agarwal admitted the Kumbh Mela could have also led to a spurt in cases. "I must say there has been complacency. After the first phase, there was a general feeling of 'corona chala gaya'. That created problems. But there is no point blaming anyone now. We are working hard. We have had several rounds of meetings and after the initial hiccups, officials are also cooperating," Agarwal said.

The state government, on its part, has maintained that the situation is getting better. "The sec-

ond wave, all of a sudden, presented a challenge before the state as well as the entire country. The situation is under control now. Over the last 10 days, active cases in the state have gone down by

the demand is outstripping the supply," she added. Industry executives, however,

attribute the price difference to various factors, including discounts in procurement negotiations. The Apollo Hospitals Group, which began negotiations for Covid-19 vaccines back in November 2020, managed to get Covaxin from Bharat Biotech at Rs 1,000 a dose, according to

Shobana Kamineni, the group's Executive Vice President. The group has added a Rs 200 charge for administration and consultation and Rs 50 for GST, "which we can't absorb", she had earlier told The Indian Express.

On the other hand, Manipal Hospitals, which also provides

The whole idea is to get as many people vaccinated as possible,"

A spokesperson for Max Healthcare said its Rs 900 for Covishield is inclusive of a Rs 710-715 landed cost per inoculation. Within this, the group has taken into account factors like the GST costs "over and above" the basic cost of the Rs 600 per dose charged by the SII and a 5-6 per-

The hospital chain has also worked out a charge of Rs 170-180 per inoculation to cover other costs, including vaccine administration kits, hand sanitisers, PPEs for staff, standby doctors and biomedical waste disposal.

Queries, phone calls and a message to Radiant Life Care and Max Healthcare Institute promoter, Chairman and Managing Director Dr Abhay Soi remained unanswered by press time Monday. Queries sent to Kolkata's Woodlands Hospital also got no response. A senior doctor at a private hospital in Delhi said the costs of storing the vaccine at the right temperature and humidity, and a severe crunch of manpower

"Most hospitals including ours do not necessarily have the storage containers or medical refrigerators needed. We are either renting or buying from the open

market," the doctor said. "We (also) have to take extra precautions that the people who come to get vaccinated don't catch an infection. We have had to hire nurses at extra cost. No one is willing to work in these circumstances," the doctor added.

Vaccine inequity Phase 3 Strategy of Covid-19 Vaccination", the Centre mandated prior online registration on the Co-WIN portal for the 18-44 years age group. Mandatory online registration introduces a skew in favour of urban centres, given that a little over half of

Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh The Co-WIN app also allows

having among the country's lowest tele-density. With vaccines in short supply in a market that is now open to competition, booking slots for vaccination — which frequently takes multiple attempts – is more difficult for those with less access and greater unfamiliarity with technology, including access to a smartphone or computer. said that those who cannot access According to the Telecom the online portal can register

Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), India's overall tele-density is 87 per cent, with seven circles call centre number. Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, 'Gangrape' Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka – having more than 100 per cent tele-density, which indicates more than one connection per person. Smartphone penetration

has a similar skew. "According to Trai, India has 58 Internet subscribers for every 100 people, which means there is a significant part of the population that does not have an Internet connection. This is the first thing that leads to a digital divide. There is also a lack of digital literacy. If people do not have digital literacy, how do people register themselves [for vaccination]?" Apurva Singh, Volunteer Legal Counsel at Software Freedom Law Centre, India, said.

The unavailability of the Co-WIN portal in languages other than English is an inherent entry barrier in the hinterland. "How will someone who does not know English register themselves for a vaccine dose?" Singh asked.

Incidentally, Co-WIN's vaccinator mobile app, which is meant for those administering doses at vaccine centres, is available in 12 languages. Other government apps like Aarogya Setu, which provide an option to change the language, also allow vaccine registration only in English.

Again, Co-WIN is issuing API certificates in different Indian languages, allowing third-party app developers to develop slot finder and registration platforms in languages other than English. Mails

did not elicit a response.

Bahadurgarh City police station.

named four other people as well.

have been helping me since I

The SHO, however, said: "The

his complaint that his daughter

left from Bengal with six people,

so we have named them all and

will investigate whether this was

that will emerge in the probe."

should not have to suffer."

somewhere". On calling her, those with the know-how to book Yadav said he "sensed someone appointments at vaccine centres was listening to the call". outside the limits of their cities According to Yadav, he got her to where available, potentially dehand over the phone to the peopriving rural beneficiaries of the ple with her -- they have since jab. Senior government officials been identified as the two main have said that the idea behind accused -- and asked them where mandating Co-WIN for the 18-44 they were taking her. "The men claimed they were group was to prevent crowding at vaccination centres. They have

taking her to Bengal and had crossed Agra, but I asked the girl, in Bangla, to send me her themselves for a jab at a Common WhatsApp location. I then found Service Centre, or through an IVRS out they were in Hansi, so I called on her number again and asked the men to turn the car around and bring her back to Delhi. They including section 376-D (gandid that and, as soon as they grape), and are conducting invesreached, we began looking for a tigations. A Special Investigation hospital bed for her. It was not un-Team, headed by DCP til after her last rites that we found (Bahadurgarh) and including myout that she had been sexually asself, has been formed to conduct saulted, when her father came and told us." said Yaday the probe," said Vijay Kumar, SHO,

"If the men had not brought The woman's father said: "I her home, we would have immehad given a complaint against diately alerted police, but since Malik and Singh, but police have they followed our instructions, we thought we would investigate Two of them are women who later about who took her and why," he said, adding that the SKM "wanted to respect her facame here. I want the accused to be punished but the innocent ther's first right to register a complaint in the matter".

Her father said she had particcomplainant has mentioned in ipated in "protests for various causes before as well, including against NRC".

Death curve rises

in the case of Jharkhand. Almost a conspiracy. If anyone is innocent, 70 per cent of deaths recorded in the state till now, 2,678 out of Farmer leaders associated 3,853, have happened in the last one month. Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan are the other states where more than half of the deaths have taken place in the last month.

> These are just the official numbers. Anecdotal evidence, and data from crematoriums. suggest the actual number of deaths could be much higher. And while there are some early signs of a possible slowdown in the number of cases, the death figures are likely to remain at this level, or possibly rise, for the next couple

ther that "she is being taken he had the right to get vaccinated anywhere in the state.

> Local health officials acknowledged the problem. Dr Rupali Shendge, medical officer of the Shendrun PHC, said, "We opened vaccination for 18-44 years recently and there is a big rush. Many from Mumbai come here, and locals object. Often there is tension at the centre. I have told my district health officer about the problems. I have seen people come in fancy cars and I tell them to go to private hospitals so that the poor can benefit."

On Monday, too, local tribals complained to health authorities at Shendrun about city residents getting vaccinated there.

The story was the same in Murbad, where a vaccination centre has been opened in the government guesthouse, about 30 km from Shahapur town.

Dr Kalpana Aher, medical officer of Murbad, said, "Vaccination has begun for the 18-44 group and online registration is mandatory and open to all in Maharashtra. On day one, 200 people registered and 170 were from Panvel, Vasai and Mumbai. We have to give more priority to locals now."

Ramchandra Kudale, Murbad Shiva Sena chief, said, "This is a tribal area. People come from Dadar and Worli as net connectivity is good. But locals suffer. Something must be done and what is happening is wrong. We stopped people coming from Dadar, but they are not at fault. But our people must get vaccines. We have 15,000 tribals in Murbad. I had stopped the vaccination on the first day of the drive for 18-44 group. People came in big cars

and deprived us of vaccines." Santosh Parshuram Shinde, deputy sampark pramukh of Thane, said, "In Shendrun, beneficiaries are mostly from Mumbai and Thane, and locals are left out. This is injustice."

Rajesh Narvekar, Collector of Thane district, told The Indian Express. "We have observed that Mumbaikars book slots in rural Thane areas. There were law and

covers Dharavi, said. In M-East ward, one of the poorest in the city, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, with assistance from the BMC, is running a field action project called Community-Led Action Partnership (CLAP).

Volunteers are allaying people's fears, busting misinformation, and ferrying residents to vaccination centres in a bus. Over 500 people have been vaccinated through the initiative so far. M-East ward is home to over 8 lakh people as per the 2011 Census, and the initiative has reached out to people from areas like Mankhurd and Govandi in the eastern suburbs.

Local corporator Samiksha Sakhre has set up desks to help people register for vaccination. She has visited homes along with volunteers to talk to people, and to show them pictures of neighbours who took the shot to instill confidence. "Many people have lost their jobs, and do not even have the money to travel to a public hospital a few kilometres away," Sakhre said.

Avinash Madhale, a senior programme coordinator with CLAP, underlined the need for a massive awareness campaign in the city's slum pockets. "With preregistration made mandatory, there is a need to have digital volunteers who can help those without access to technology to book slots. There is also a need to conduct outreach through creative campaigns," Madhale said.

Mumbai's slums could, in fact, be turning increasingly vulnerable to infection. Three sero-surveys have shown consistent antibody decay among the slum population - from 57 per cent last July to 41 per cent this March. While the vaccine crunch in Mumbai is expected to ease by next month, in the absence of proactive measures, slums are likely to remain at the bottom rung in inoculation coverage.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com



with the Samyukta Kisan Morcha said they were not aware of the allegations until after her death. Swaraj India head Yogendra Yadav, who has been associated with the farmers' protest, said at a press conference on Monday: "My first contact with the family was on April 24, when the victim's

father alerted me about her medical condition. Since she was from Bengal, I asked my wife to speak to her in Bangla. She indicated she was being troubled, but it was not clear what the situation was. However, she had a medical con-

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 'I'HE ('ITY K

Lack of Covaxin, cancelled slots plague vaccine drive

SANJANA BHALERAO MUMBAI, MAY 10

CANCELLATION OF confirmed appointments, unavailability of second dose of Covaxin, and lack of coordination between vaccination centres and the Municipal Brihanmumbai Corporation (BMC) marked the vaccination drive in Mumbai on Monday.

Citizens complained that some centres refused to accept online appointments, while others turned them down, citing unavailability of stock.

Following criticism, BMC said that slots for appointment will open every day at 9pm. However, the civic body was criticised for making the announcement late at night, and through its Twitter handle.

Out of the total 190 vaccination centres in the city, 105 were functional on Monday. However, the centres did not administer Covaxin for the second consecutive day, causing worry among several senior citizens.

Sandeep Shelar, who has been trying to get the second dose of Covaxin for his seniorcitizen parents for the past one week, said, "The whole idea of having a vaccination centre in every locality is that citizens don't have to travel a long distance to merely scout for a dose. It has been seven weeks since my parents received the first

dose of Covaxin. I have been trying for weeks now at multiple centres, but Covaxin is not available. My parents have diabetes. among other health-related is-



Citizens in the 18-44 years age group being vaccinated in Thane. Deepak Joshi

getting appointments.

sues. I don't want to make them 29th day after the first dose. go from one centre to another. Why did BMC start administering Covaxin to the 18 to 44 age group, if the stock was not sufficient?

Like Shelar, several citizens expressed anger and frustration at not being able to take their second jab even weeks after receiving their first shot. Many senior citizens said the administration should prioritise vaccination of people due for a second dose and pause the drive for the under-45 age group until the vaccine supply is streamlined.

While Covishield's second dose can be taken from six to eight weeks of the first shot, experts said Covaxin cannot be delayed beyond 28 days. State authorities said they have been pressing the Centre to supply more doses of Covaxin.

JJ Hospital's in-charge Dr Lalit Sankhe said a person should try and take the second dose on the

will be very difficult to take

them to centres. Currently,

due to shortage of vaccines, all centres are witnessing

crowds and waiting goes up

to 4-5 hours. Many organisa-

tions had demanded sepa-

rate centres for specially

abled citizens," said a BMC

Mumbai have been declin-

ing, experts have warned of

a third wave of COVID-19

that could hit by July-August.

Before that, the BMC has set a

While daily cases in

official

BMC plans immunisation of specially-abled

BMC

Commissioner

Kakani said, "We are plan-

ning to set up vaccination

centres for specially abled

persons so that they do not

have to travel far. Currently,

we have very limited stock of

vaccines. But when the sup-

ply increases, we will set up

centres for such people in

He added, "The centres

can be started soon and the

BMC will coordinate with or-

ganisations who are working

corporators' wards."

book appointments at the nearest centre. Many centres administering Covishield had run out of the vaccine stock by Monday afternoon, causing on-spot cancellation of appointments. Citizens also complained about the token system being practised at few centres despite the discontinuation of the walk-in facil-

ity. On May 6, following crowding and chaos at the vaccination centres, the BMC dis-

of Covaxin. vaccination centre at Chhota On Monday,

Sion Hospital, an urban health centre, to facilitate residents in the area. After an initial tepid response, vaccination picked up with most recipients availing of the walk-in facility. However, fol-44 age group. Till

ment rule by BMC last week, the response in Dharavi has dropped. To improve the vaccination numbers in the area, three organisations led by locals are helping citizens register and Mumbai

booked

exception was using the CoWIN application in made for healthcare and front line workers and those aged above 45 and due for the second dose

> Covid-19 vaccine was administered to 31,043 citizens, including 4,837 in 18 to

lowing the mandatory appointnow. 20.67 lakh have received the first dose while 6.6 lakh received both the doses in

Over 12000 booked for flouting Covid norms WORKPLACE VACCINATION

Mumbai: The BMC is authorising housing societies, industrial complexes and workplaces to tie up with private hospitals to hold vaccination drives within their premises, subject to availability of stocks Hospitals will have to ensure

all protocols are followed during the drive

Vaccines at these places will come at a cost decided mutually by the private hospitals and the workplaces/housing societies. The workplace or housing society management will have a

nodal officer, who will coordinate between the institution and the private centre. ENS

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU MUMBAI, MAY 10

> WITH THE pandemic's second wave raging across the state, Mumbai Police registered 11,558 FIRs against over 12,000 people in a bid to ensure that the partial lockdown is effective.

> These FIRs were lodged between April 5 and May 9. Of these, 3,737 were registered against those who roamed on the streets without a valid reason and another 2,853 against those who did not wear masks. Besides, 171 FIRs were lodged over gathering at public places,

285 against those who violated the home or institutional quarantine order and 168 FIRs were registered against motorists for roaming in cars without a valid reason

are allowed to offer only home

were registered against 302 ho-

The police have beefed up As per the lockdown rules, their arrangements at all vaccishops that fall in the category of nation centres after some inciessential services are allowed to dents of over-crowding were reoperate. But many shops in the ported in BKC and Goregaon. non-essential category were **Blood donation** found to be violating the rule and Vile Parle police on Sunday 2,914 such shops, along with 93 pan shops, were booked. Hotels

of Mumbai.

teamed up with 32 non-political organisations to conduct a blood deliveries and no take away donation camp at Utkarsha Seva Mandal, Vile Parle (east), with parcels, but many hotels were seen violating the norm. FIRs the help of Mahatma Phule Blood Bank.

tels/eateries and 235 hawkers.

Total 2,000 FIRs were registered

in each of the five regions (east,

west, south, north and central)

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED CIN-L65910MH1987PLC042961

Registered Office: Akurdi, Pune 411 035 Corporate Office: 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv Corporate Office, Off Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune 411 014

FIXED DEPOSIT SCHEMES

'FAAA/Stable' rating by CRISIL AND 'MAAA (Stable)' rating by ICRA.'

The abovementioned ratings indicate highest degree of safety with regard to timely payment of interest and principal on the instrument.

		Minimum			Non-Cum	ulative		Particulars As at As 31 March 2020 31 March 20
Tenor	in months	deposit (in Rs.)	Cumulative	Monthly	Quarterly	Half Yearly	Annual	Income tax matters:
12	- 23		5.65%	5.51%	5.53%	5.57%	5.65%	Appeals by the Company 0.32 0. Appeals by the Income tax department 0.24 0.
24	- 35	25,000	6.10%	5.94%	5.97%	6.01%	6.10%	G. a) Amount which the Company can raise by way of Deposits as per N
	36		6.50%	6.31%	6.35%	6.40%	6.50%	Banking Financial Companies Acceptance of Public Deposits (Reserve Ba Directions, 2016: ₹43,046.58 Crore
Funds wi	ill be accepted fr	om NRO (Non-Resident Or	dinary) bank account	NAME	40000555		OCCUPATION	b) The aggregate of deposits actually held as on 31.03.2020: ₹21,427.10 Cr H.The aggregate dues from the facilities, both fund and non-fund based, extended
only and from NR	d the amount mu E/ FCNR (B) acco	ust not represent inward ro unt.	emittance or transfer	Shri D J Balaji Rao (Independent Director)			OCCUPATION Professional	In the aggregate uses from the radiates, both found and formula based, extended the companies in the same group or other entities or business ventures in which Director/Company are holding substantial interest are ₹43.53 crore (Bajaj Allia General Insurance Company – ₹5.02 Cr, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Lit
of Senic	or citizens (i.e. p	rimary depositor, falling u ersons more than 60 yea e) will be eligible for Addi	irs of age, subject to	Dr. Omkar Goswami (Independent Director)	Bangalore 560082. E-121, Masjid Moth Kailash 3, New Del		Economist	₹5.59 Cr, Bajaj Auto Ltd ₹0.25 Cr, Bajaj Electricals Ltd - ₹0.08 Cr, Bajaj Hous Finance Ltd ₹7.26 Cr, Jamnalal Sons Pvt. Ltd - ₹0.19 Cr and Mukand Ltd ₹25.14 Cr)
		n per Deposit amount of up		Dr. Gita Piramal		Pochkhanwala Road	Business	I. The Company has no overdue deposits other than unclaimed deposits. J. The Company declares as under:
		depositor only and does		(Independent Director)				 i) The company bas complied with the provisions of the directions applicable to it
rate of u	ending to renew the FDR upon maturity will be eligible for additio te of upto 0.10% p.a. for deposit size up to ₹5 Crore. Additional ra Il be over and above applicable rate of interest.			Dr. Naushad Forbes (Independent Director)			Business	ii) The compliance with the directions does not imply that the repayment of Depo is guaranteed by the Reserve Bank of India.
Rate of i	nterest for bulk o	deposits for more than ₹5 0		Shri Anami Narayan Roy	62 Sagar Tarang, K Khan Road, Worli S		Retired Civil Servant	iii) The deposits accepted by the Company are unsecured and rank pari passu w other unsecured liabilities.
		l card rate and will be dec o on Rate of Interest spec		(Independent Director)	Mumbai 400030.			iv) The deposits solicited by the Company are not insured.
Bank of		of the of interest spee	and by the Reserve	F. Summarised Finan		ompany (standalo	ne) as appearing in	The Financial position of the Company as disclosed and the representations m in the deposit application form are true and correct. The Company and its Boar
		repayment of deposit on		the two latest audi	ted balance sheets:		(₹in Crore)	Directors are responsible for the correctness and veracity thereof. The finan activities of the Company are regulated by Reserve Bank of India. It m
		it receives any request fo e the date of maturity. T				As at	As at	however, be distinctly understood that Reserve Bank of India does not undert
made th	nrough NEFT or F	RTGS and/or account paye	e cheque (in case of			31 March 2020	31 March 2019	any responsibility for the financial soundness of the Company or for correctness of any of the statements or the representations made or oping
	n of transfer by N ned in the deposi	IEFT/RTGS) to the bank acc it application.	ount of the depositor	Financial assets				expressed by the Company and for repayment of deposits / discharge of liabili by the Company.
		submit a written reques hereof) so as to reach E		Cash and cash equival Bank balances other the equivalents		674.53 4.83	240.00 1.69	
		aturity date of the Deposit. The written request Derivative finance		Derivative financial instruments Trade receivables		171.76	-	L. Deposits may be withdrawn prior to the date of maturity subject to the regulation
		or to the independent		Loans		867.18 1,13,417.08	805.38 95,181.26	the Reserve Bank of India in this regard. Please note that premature withdrawa Deposit (including death cases) is subject to the following conditions
		npaneled with the Comp		Investments Other financial assets		20,138.98 349.51	10,370.41 381.61	a) Upto 3 months from date of deposit: Withdrawal is not permitted.
		all be accepted post th ewal should be accompa		Total financial assets		1,35,623.87	1,06,980.35	b) After 3 months but before 6 months: Interest shall not be payable.
applicat	ion form duly fi	lled in and signed by all	the Deposit holders.	Non-financial assets				c) After 6 months but before the date of maturity: The rate of interest shall be lower than the rate specified for the period during which the scheme has run
		ill be subject to the rate of evailing on the date of r		Current tax assets (net	:)	204.57	147.80	case of no rate being specified for the deposit period, interest rate payable sl be 3% lower than the lowest rate offered by BFL.
		t be required at the time o		Deferred tax assets (n Property, plant and eq		847.61 1,016.16	660.83 495.84	
		ost its maturity date.		Intangible assets		211.98	158.49	branches or units if any:
		itor(s) has opted for renew m, however, wishes to		Other non-financial as Total non-financial a		99.38 2,379.70	56.56 1,519.52	 Business carried on by the Company and its branches: Providing consumer finance ranging from vehicle loans, consumer dura
) should submit a specific		Total assets		1,38,003.57	1,08,499.87	financing, personal loans, loan against property, Home Loans, construct
date of	the Deposit. The	Itleast 3 (three) business of written request can be sor sending by post/ courier	submitted at nearest	LIABILITIES AND EQUI	гү			 equipment financing, small business loans, loan against securities a infrastructure financing. The Company is having its Branches at Agra, Ahmedab Ahmednagar, Ajmer, Akola, Akot, Alappuzha, Allahabad, Ambala, Amrav
the inde	ependent financi	ial advisors or national dis requests shall be accept	tributors empaneled	Liabilities Financial liabilities Payables				Amreli, Amritsar, Anand, Anantpur, and Ankaleshwar, Asansol, Aurangab Bagalkot, Bangalore, Baramati, Bardoli, Bareilly, Baroda, Barshi, Belgar Bellary, Bhandra, Bharuch, Bhatninda, Bhavnagar, Bhilai, Bhiwandi, Bho
	mentioned period. ulars to be furnished as per the Non-Banking Financial Companies (nancial Companies &	<u>Trade payables</u> -Total outstanding due	s of micro enterprises	0.30	0.44	Bhubaneshwar, Bhuj, Bidar, Bijapur, Bikaner, Bilaspur, Bokaro, Bolpur, Bors Calicut, Chalisgaon, Chandigarh, Chandrapur, Chennai, Chhindwara, Chik
scellaneou 1ended.	s Non-Banking	Companies (Advertisem	ent) Rules, 1977 as	and small enterprises -Total outstanding due	s of creditors other th		547.25	Chiplun, Chitradurga, Chittaranjan, Chopda, Cochin, Coimbatore, Cuddal Cuttack, Dabhoi, Dahod, Davangere, Dehradun, Dewas, Dhanbad, Dharapur Dharwad, Dhule, Dindigul, Durqapur, Eluru, Erode, Gandhidham, Goa, Gok
Name of t	the Company: E	BAJAJ FINANCE LTD.		micro enterprises and Other payables	small enterprises			Gulberga, Guna, Guntur, Gwailor, Haldia, Halol, Hassan, Haveri, Himatnag
Date of In	corporation: 25	5th March, 1987		-Total outstanding due			-	Hoshangabad, Hoshiarpur, Hospet, Hubli, Hyderabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jagadl Jaipur, Jalandhar, Jalgaon, Jalpaiguri, Jammu, Jamnagar, Jamner, Jamshedg
Profits/Div	vidends:			and small enterprises				Jodhpur, Junaqadh, Kadi, Kaithal, Kakinada, Kalka, Kannur, Kanpur, Kapurth

B. Date of Incorporation: 25th March, 1987 C. Profits/Dividends

Profits of the Company before and after making provisions for tax, for the three financial years immediately preceding the date of the advertisement

High Court seeking door-todoor vaccination considering the problems faced by specially abled citizens and those who are bedridden.

The BMC has already announced that they will start vaccine centres in 227 corporator wards across the city. However, due to shortage of

progress on that. Currently,

there are more than 170 cen-

Last month, a petition

was filed before Bombay

vaccines, there is little

continued walkin vaccination and only those who Amidst technical glitches and their appointments on the the absence of assistance from the BMC, corporators were seen CoWIN app were helping senior citizens and othallowed to get a ers without the know-how of jab. However, an

Amid rising Covid-19 cases and pressure to encourage vaccination among slum dwellers in Dharavi, health care volunteers began door-to-door counselling. On March 22, the BMC opened a

pen when supply of vaccines is normalised.

LAXMAN SINGH

THE BMC is planning a spe-

cial immunisation drive for

specially abled citizens

According to officials,

special centres will be set up

in corporators' electoral

wards to handle specially

abled citizens' immunisa-

tion. However, this will hap-

MUMBAI, MAY 10

across the city.

"Specially abled people target of immunising the major population in the city. cannot wait in a queue and it

FIRST TIME IN 2.5 MONTHS

Dharavi records cases in single digit

SANJANA BHALERAO MUMBAI, MAY 10

MUMBAI'S DHARAVI recorded nine new Covid-19 cases on Monday, the first time in two-and-a-half months that the densely populated area reported cases in single digit.

The last time Dharavi recorded a single-digit figure was on February 23.

According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the slum-dominated locality has reported 6,632 cases since last year's Covid outbreak. Of these, nearly 2,500 new cases were recorded in the last two months.

Dharavi currently has 727 active cases.



Additional

Suresh

them.'

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTERES

Mumbai International Airport Ltd. ("MIAL") invites experienced

competent and resourceful Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or authorized System Integration (SI) Partner of OEM for pre-qualification for undertaking the work to "design, develop, configure, commission, integrate, test and migrate from existing to new system of Voice telephony communication system including end devices" at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ("CSMIA").

Interested OEM's or SI's having relevant experience of installation and commissioning of similar systems at different large mission critical campuses are requested to visit the website: **www.csmia.aero** \rightarrow Corporate \rightarrow Partnerships \rightarrow Business opportunities \rightarrow Operation Procurement to download the EOI application forms for pre-qualification of bidders. Parties must submit completed form along with their credentials, detailed specifications of product's offered as per relevant standards, list of clients, company's last three years turnover details etc within 7 days from the date of the advertisement to the given email address: mial.voiceproject@gvk.com.

This invitation for EOI does not give any right to the prospective OEM's or SI's and is not an offer or an invitation to offer. MIAL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the EOIs or modify the terms hereof without signing any reasons

and the dividends dec	clared by the company in respect of th	ie sald years.	Borrowings (other than debt securities)	36,923.32	29,970.67	Ma	adurai, Mandya, Mangalore	e, Mapusa, Margao, Mehsana, Me	oga, Morbi, Mumbai
		(₹in Crore)	Deposits	21,427.10	13,193.01			agarcoil, Nagpur, Namakkal, N	
Financial Year	Profit (Standalone)	Dividend	Subordinated debts Other financial liabilities	4,141.75	4,139.07			ew Delhi, Palanpur, Pandharp	
ended on	Before Tax After Tax	%		669.90	1,411.81			algaon, Pollachi, Pondicherry, P unagar, Rajkot, Rajnandangaon,	
21.02.2010	4.05(.3)	200	Total financial liabilities	105,692.36	88,529.86			wa, Rohtak, Ropar, Rourkela, Sa	
31.03.2018 31.03.2019	4,056.36 2,646.70 6.035.30 3.890.34	200 300	Non-financial liabilities					noga, Siliguri, Sirsa, Solapur, Su	
31.03.2020	6,808.13 4,881.12	500	Current tax liabilities (net)	52.10	22.37			eli, Tirupati, Tirupur, Trichur,	
	0,000110 0,000112		Provisions	78.87	68.88	Tu	makuru, Tuticorin, Udaipu	ır, Udipi, Ujjain, Vadakara, Val	sad, Vapi, Varanas
D. Brief particulars of t	he management of the Company:		Other non-financial liabilities	367.03	315.13			, Vizianagram, Wani, Waranga	
	ged by the Managing Director, subject ard of Directors. The Managing Director		Total non-financial liabilities	498.00	406.38	www.bajajfinserv.in => Scroll to bottom of the webpage=>Contact			
	anaging the business and affairs of the Cor		Equity					https://www.bajajfinserv.in/bra	nch-locator
E. Names, addresses and occupations of Directors:			Equity share capital	119.99	115.37	2. Bu	siness carried on by the su	bsidiaries of the Company:	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			Other equity	31,693.22	19,448.26	Sr.	No	Address of	
NAME	ADDRESS	OCCUPATION	Total assets	31,813.21	19,563.63	No.	Name of subsidiary	registered office	Activity
Shri Sanjiv Bajaj (Chairman)	Bajaj Vihar Colony, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035.	Industrialist	Total liabilities and equity	1,38,003.57	1,08,499.87	1.	Bajaj Housing Finance Limited	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi,	Housing Finance Business
Shri Rajeev Jain	D-2, Ivy Glen, Marigold Premises, Kalvani Nagar, Pune 411014.	Service	Contingent Liabilities (Standalone)					Pune 411035	
(Managing Director) Shri Madhur Baiai	Kaiyani Nagai, Pune 411014. Bungalow No. 3. Baiai Vihar Colony.	Industrialist	Particulars	As at	As at	2.	Bajaj Financial Securities Limited	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi,	Stock broking and depository
(Non-Executive Director)	Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi.	muusunansi		31 March 2020	31 March 2019		Secondes chinted	Pune 411035	participant
	Pune 411035.		Disputed claims against the Company not acknowledged as debts	44.18	28.04				
Shri Rajiv Bajaj (Non-Executive Director)	34/35, Yog Koregaon Park, Lane No. 2, Pune 411001.	Industrialist	VAT matters under appeal	4.39	4.39				
Shri Dipak Poddar	171. Brii Kutir. Rungta Lane, Off Nepean	Industrialist	ESI matters under appeal	5.14	5.14				
(Independent Director)	Sea Road, Mumbai 400026.		Service tax matters under appeal						
Shri Ranjan Sanghi	Flat No. 21, Mistry Court, 4th Floor,	Business	- On interest subsidy	1,971.65	1,340.49				
(Independent Director)	Dinshaw Vachha Road, Opp. CCI Club,		 On penal interest/ charges 	223.15	245.19				
	Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020.		- On others	6.22	5.45				

-Total outstanding dues of creditors other than

micro enterprises and small enterprise

Debt securities

179.46

218.64

The above text of advertisement has been issued on the authority and in the name of the Board of Directors and has been approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on 21 July 2020 and copy of the same signed by the majority of Directors has been deliver to the Reserve Bank of India for registration

> By order of the Board of Direct for Bajaj Finance Limit

Karad, Karaikudi, Karnal, Karunagappally, Karur, Karvar, Katni, Khamgaoi

Khandwa, Kharagpur, Kolar, Kolhapur, Kolkata, Kollarn, Kopergaon, Korba, Kota

Kottayam, Kurnool, Kurukshetra, Latur, Lucknow, Ludhiana

ajeev Jain, Managing Director

07 May 2021 HOW TO INVEST:

The amount should be deposited only by net-banking, cheque or debit card. Cheques should be payable to 'Bajja Finance Ltd, for FD of <1st depositor namee' and crossed 'Account Payee only'. The cheques should be payable at par and CTS compliant. Application Form along with the necessary remittance should be sent to the Distributors of the Fixed Deposit Schemes of BFL or be submitted at a ray of the BFL branches. For NET/RTGS, please use the following details. Beneficiary Name: Baja Finance Ltd, Bank acc no.: ZBAJAFD (numerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code: ZBAJAFD), Account Payee current account, Bank Name: Indusind Bank Ltd, IFSC: NBB0000006, Bank Nanch: Natiman Point, Mumbai. For any investment queries or information about our affiliated partner websites, write to us at fd@bajajfinserv.in or call us on +918698010101



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 MAHARASHTRA

BMC to issue global tender to procure 50 L vaccine doses

Mayor has given nod to the proposal

LAXMAN SINGH MUMBAL MAY 10

REVIVING ITS plan to procure vaccines for the city independently, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has decided to issue a global tender for purchase of about 50 lakh doses to ramp up Mumbai's immunization drive. The BMC is in the process of finalizing the rules of the global tenders to be floated this week, officials said. Municipal Commissioner

Iqbal Singh Chahal Monday tabled a proposal for procurement of 50 lakh doses for "in principle" approval at a meeting with the corporation's party group leaders. Mayor Kishori Pednekar has given the goahead to the proposal.

'Apart from two Indian companies, the four international companies(making the vaccine) can also participate. This would be helpful as some of these are one dose vaccines. There was a discussion in the Group Leaders meeting today and we all immediately agreed to the commissioner's proposal," Pednekar told The Indian Express.

Guardian Minister Aaditya Thackeray is also pushing the move. He tweeted that the BMC was exploring possibilities of global procurement of vaccines. "After discussing with CM Uddhav Thackeray and understanding the need for adequate vaccines to ensure that vaccination in the state is swift and efficient, I have asked BMC explore possibilities of global procurement of vaccines," he said.

Earlier, the BMC had dropped the plan of independently procuring vaccines as the state government did not green signal it. At an Idea Exchange with The Indian Express last Thursday, Chahal had said the plan had to be dropped as the state government had conveyed that it would supply all corporations.

A BMC source said the change of mind to allow BMC to buy its own vaccines may have to do with next year's BMC polls and the poor financial health of the state government. "The BMC has enough money to buy such a huge quantity of vaccine stock," said the source, adding that it would help Sena "hold the fort" in the elections.

Although the exact expenditure is yet to be worked out, officials said the vaccine purchase could dent the BMC exchequer by about Rs 400 crore. The selected bidder will have to deliver

the doses between 3 to 4 weeks. Officials said that apart from Bharat Biotech and SII, the BMC is eyeing vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna, Sputnik and Johnson & Johnson. Senior officials said there would be multiple tenders. "We are in process of finalizing the tender conditions," PVelrasu, Additional Municipal Commissioner, (Projects), told The Indian Express.

The finalized company will have to do other compliance in India like import facilitation, getting essential registration. Despite repeated attempts, Chahal was not available for

comment. FULL REPORT ON:

www.indianexpress.com



A container of medical oxygen being offloaded in Mumbai. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) successfully executed the handling of four containers carrying 80 metric tonnes of medical oxygen in cryogenic state in the vessel MV. GSF GISELLE of AXS service, which were sent by UAE. The containers will be transported to destinations decided by the government. Express

Task force to ensure safe custody for kids of Covid-positive patients

SADAF MODAK MUMBAI, MAY 10

HOSPITALS WILL now have to ask Covid-19 patients at the time of admission if they have minor children and under whose custody are they kept during the treatment. This is among the guidelines given to members of district-level task forces, newly appointed by the Women and Child Development (WCD) department, to ensure children, whose parents are infected with the virus, are in safe custody.

The directions to set up a task force were given following order by the Supreme Court and guidelines by the Union WCD ministry after social media posts were seen circulating with details of children claimed to have lost both parents to Covid-19.

The posts, which claimed that such children were up for adoption, were red-flagged by authorities stating that it was ille-

Each district is required to set up the 10-member task force, headed by the collector. Other members are the civic chief, police commissioner or superintendent of police in rural areas, secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee, district civil surgeon, district child protection officer and officials of the WCD, health and information departments.

The tasks assigned to the municipal commissioner, district civil surgeon and the district's health officer include directions to be given to all hospitals under their jurisdiction to ensure information is taken from those be-

MUMBAI, MAY 9

last year.

COVID-19 TESTING of staffers at

regular intervals, restricted ac-

cess to animal enclosures and

regular health check-up of ani-

mals are some of the measures

that Mumbai's Veer Mata Iijabai

Bhosale Udvan and Zoo has been

taking since the pandemic began

zoo said, "Currently, no testing of

the animals is required. As per

the guidelines issued last year,

regular health check-ups of the

zoo workers and that of animals

are being conducted. We are

monitoring symptoms like

coughing, nasal discharge, respi-

ratory distress, diarrhoea,

anorexia, nervous symptoms

After 11 months, the Byculla

zoo had re-opened for visitors in

February this year. It was again

shut in April after Covid-19 cases

and fever among the animals."

An official from the Byculla

supervise the task force's activities and meet once in 15 days to check on the adherence of the guidelines. Health officials are also directed to ensure that Child Helpline 1098 is prominently displayed in the hospital prem-

The guidelines also direct police to ensure that action is initiated against those who put up posts offering illegal adoption of children. The DLSA is directed to offer legal aid to ensure the protection of financial and property rights of the minor children.

The CWC is directed to follow procedures to hand over custody of the child to a relative or follow the CARA guidelines in cases of adoption. The guidelines also

state that children should be given counselling wherever reauired.

The task force members are expected to send information to the district WCD office on a weekly basis which will be submitted to the WCD commissioner. The guidelines also include ensuring periodic medical checks and treatment to those in children's homes in their districts.

"The increase in cases and deaths due to Covid-19 is also having an impact on children. The situation has given rise to cases where children have lost both parents to Covid-19. This has made such children vulnerable to being victimised and trafficked or pushed into child labour. The task-force is assigned to ensure care and protection of these children." an official said.

Covaxin, HC tells state govt Intervet, which is exiting business operations in India, had entered into an agreement with

latter

facility.

Biovet to transfer the Pune land

and manufacturing unit to the

government approval for trans-

fer of land and unit, the Forest

Department said it could not be

carried out as the area was part

of reserved forest land, adding

Advocate RD Soni, appearing

for Biovet, informed the court

that the firm had filed a writ plea challenging two directives by the

Forest Department that pre-

vented the firm from starting

manufacturing activities at the

Kumbhakoni, appearing for the

state government, submitted

that it did not have objection if

the firm's plea is allowed only for

manufacturing Covaxin and

other life-saving vaccines with-

out claiming any right or title on

same property, subject to out-

come of writ plea. He said that

the officers concerned will de-

cide "without wasting time" on

requests for necessary permis-

sions. The bench allowed interim

application made by Biovet and

directed the authorities to grant

licenses, permissions or no-ob-

jection certificates to Biovet in a

'time-bound manner" to enable

manufacturing of the vaccines.

Treatment of

mucormycosis

under MJPJAY,

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE STATE government has de-

cided to include mucormycosis

treatment under the Mahatma

Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojna

(MIPIAY) to facilitate free health-

says Tope

MUMBAI, MAY 10

Advocate General Ashutosh

the 1973 grant itself was bad.

However, after Biovet sought

OMKAR GOKHALE MUMBAI, MAY 10

THE BOMBAY High Court has directed the Maharashtra government to hand over "peaceful possession" of an "idle" vaccinemanufacturing unit situated in a Pune village to Biovet Private Limited, an associate of Bharat Biotech, to begin manufacturing of Covaxin – the homegrown Covid-19 vaccine -- and other life-saving vaccines.

The facility is situated in Village Manjari Khurd, in Haveli Taluka, on a piece of land measuring 11.58 hectares.

A division bench of Justice K K Tated and Justice Nitin R Borkar passed the order to the Maharashtra government through the Pune District Collector on May 6, on an interim application by Biovet seeking possession of the unit for vaccine-manufacturing. The applicant firm also sought direction to the authorities to permit it to carry out structural changes to utilise the maximum installed capacity of the unit, which the court accepted.

The unit was being used by Intervet India Pvt Ltd, a multinational subsidiary of Merck & Co, after the land was granted to it in 1973 to manufacture a vaccine for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

State gets 6 lakh doses of Covishield, 36 k of Covaxin

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS PUNE, MAY 10

MAHARASHTRA HAS received six lakh Covishield vaccine doses and 36,000 Covaxin doses, state Additional Chief Secretary Dr Pradeep Vvas told The Indian Express on Monday. Of the six lakh Covishield doses, 2.5 lakh

care to patients. Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Monday said, "The state health department has decided to

launch an awareness campaign

about mucormycosis. It has also

decided to bring it under the MIP-

among Covid-positive and dia-

betes patients, who often develop

black spots under nose and lips.

If it is not treated early, the dis-

ease can cause severe effect on

cormycosis are expensive. So we

decided to include it under the

government scheme under

which there are 1,000 hospitals

across Maharashtra," Tope said.

The minister said the state

'The medicines for mu-

eyes, brain and lungs.

Mucormycosis is found

'SC certified failure': Sena Monitoring animals for targets Centre over Covid symptoms: Byculla zoo

ing admitted about the custody of their minor children during their stay at the hospital. The collectors are directed to

task force, BJP hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, MAY 10

DAYS AFTER the Supreme Court set up a national task force for Covid response and oxygen allocation, the Shiv Sena on Monday said it had certified the Centre's failure in tackling Covid. The BJP hit back, saying that the Centre itself had suggested setting up a task force.

An editorial in Saamana said that the Supreme Court set up a national committee after the Union government failed to tackle the Corona crisis. "The SC has certified the Centre's failure by setting up the task force. Now, what does the BJP's Goebbels system have to say on it?" asked the editorial.

It further said that the second wave of Covid has spread across the country and there is daily

The SC has certified the Centre's failure by setting up the task force. Now, what does the BJP's Goebbels system have to say on it? SAAMANA EDITORIAL

confusion about medicines, vaccination and oxygen supply in the states.

"Many patients and their relatives are knocking on the door of the court as they are not getting oxygen and beds. Since the last few days, the courts have taken up the task of oxygen, bed distribution with others. Finally. the court set up a national committee and entrusted them with the responsibility," said the edi-

torial It also said that while the SC has taken steps to address the Covid crisis, the nation's rulers

are still engaged in politics. "They were busy resolving the issue of Assam's chief ministership. Though Mamata Banerjee has won in West Bengal, they are spending time plotting conspiracies to not allow her to run the state smoothly," the editorial said.

> **Opposition leader Devendra** Fadnvis asked whether it is ignorance or purposeful act of defamation.

> > "How can one be so shallow to write/speak on serious thing like a SC order without even reading the details? Especially the pillars of democracy?" asked Fadnavis in a tweet.

He said that the Union government itself, through the solicitor general, suggested constituting a national task force of

prompting the complainant to

transaction appears to be suspi-

under section 438 of CrPC.'

The HC held, "The entire

register an FIR.

experts "So, why BLATANT LIE again & again?" asked Fadnavis.

started rising. SANJANA BHALERAO In Mumbai, Sanjay Gandhi

National Park has 20 captive animals, while the Byculla zoo has nearly 335 animals, birds and reptiles. Of the total animals, 12 are mammals, including a pair of tigers, leopards, hyenas, hippopotamus and a lone elephant. "We are following the CZA

guidelines, i.e., regular sanitisation of the enclosures and observation of the animals for any symptoms. Every 15 days, we are conducting RT-PCR tests for the staff, who are handling the animals. Except for the concerned staff, no one else is allowed to go inside the enclosures. There has been no need to collect swabs of animals from SGNP for Covid-19 test. If we have to take a swab test, we have to sedate the ani-

mal which is also a risk," said G Mallikarjuna, SGNP director. A nasal or an oral swab of the animals for the Covid-19 test is only collected if symptoms are

diagnosed. The samples from the

wild animals will be collected either by the 'squeeze cage' method or by tranquilising them. In the 'squeeze cage method, the animal will be confined in a cage without any space so that it cannot move or resist while taking samples. India has four designated Covid-19 testing centres for captive animals.

After eight Asiatic lions at Hyderabad zoo tested positive for Covid-19, rescue centres, national parks which have captive animals and zoos across the country are vigilant.

In April last year, after a tiger at a US zoo tested positive for coronavirus, the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) had asked all zoos across the country to be on high alert and collect samples fortnightly in suspected cases.

Because of the rapid spread of the coronavirus in the country, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently issued an advisory to close all zoological parks.

doses are for the 45 + age group while 3.5 lakh doses will be allocated for the 18-44 age group. The state pays for the pro-

curement of doses for the 18-44 age group while the Centre allocates vaccines procured from Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech for the 45 years and above age group to states.

Till May 9, a total of 1.8 crore beneficiaries have been administered Covid-19 vaccine doses across the state. Of this, 4.36 lakh beneficiaries are among the 18-44 age group who have been administered the vaccine since the drive began on May 1.

An analysis of the data shows that till May 9, a total of 6.68 lakh will soon declare the fixed rate of healthcare workers have been administered both doses of the vaccine while 6.19 lakh frontline workers have got both doses. The highest number of persons vaccinated with doses amount to 20.67 lakh beneficiaries in both 45-59 age group, and the 60 years and above age group. tor's advice for Covid," he added.

injection for mucormycosis treatment. Tope also urged Covid-positive people to opt for immediate treatment. "Those with diabetes should exercise regularly and have nutritious food. All medicines should be taken as per doc-

No pre-arrest bail for man Ex-Parliamentarian, staunch opponent of Sharad Pawar, Sambhajirao Kakade dies at 89 who 'defrauded' trader

OMKAR GOKHALE MUMBAI, MAY 10

THE BOMBAY High Court recently rejected the anticipatory bail application of a man who was booked for allegedly defrauding a trader from Mumbai, who had ordered 5000 A+ quality Nitrile gloves and made payment of Rs 17.64 lakh to the applicant.

The case was filed after the applicant failed to deliver the goods after receiving the payment and claimed that he was cheated by another supplier of the gloves.

A single-judge bench of Justice Prakash D Naik last month passed an order on the

The case was filed after the applicant failed to

deliver the goods after payment and claimed that he was cheated by another supplier

anticipatory bail application filed by Saiyad Faiz Hasan in connection with the FIR registered with Vanrai police station in Mumbai for offences of cheating and breach of trust on February 6. As per the FIR, in January, the

complainant, a trader from Mumbai. came across WhatsApp promotion messages forwarded by the accused for

sale of Nitrile gloves and placed **MANOJ MORE** a purchase order for 5000 boxes of A+ quality Nitrile gloves (blue PUNE, MAY 10 colour), after which the accused

SAMBHAJIRAO KAKADE, the last showed invoices, E-way bills and other documents. Relying on asof the socialist leaders from Pune surance of the accused, the comwho was known as the arch-riplainant paid Rs 17.64 lakh, but val of NCP chief Sharad Pawar. the delivery was delayed and the died of old age on Monday. He accused allegedly avoided calls, was 89

Other than Pawar, who had won from the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency several times. Kakade was the only other leader who won two terms from the seat.

cious. Undisputedly, the entire payment was made to him and Fondly addressed as 'Lala', the complainant has not re-Kakade headed the state Janata ceived the goods nor the pay-Party unit in the 1970s and later ment. In view of the above, no ioined the Ianata Dal formed uncase is made out for granting reder the leadership of V P Singh. lief of granting pre-arrest bail He was known for his proximity to the former prime minister

The Kakade family had control over the Pune district Central Cooperative Bank for nearly 25 years before yielding control to the Pawar family.

"The Kakade family and Pawar family are well known in Pune district. The Kakade family strongly opposed the Pawars on the political terrain and outside. They did everything to outdo each other ...," recalled Manav

Paying his tribute, NCP chief Pawar tweeted, "In Kakade's death, Baramati has lost a strong political leader. As senior Janata Dal leader, he cast his influence on Maharashtra's political terrain for a long time. He gave direction to new leadership."

Kakade was the contempo-



BIP leader Mahesh Kulkarni

Ramesh Iver.

said Kakade had won two Lok Sabha elections from Baramati. "In the Lok Sabha elections after Emergency was lifted in 1977, he had defeated barrister Vithalrao Gadil of the Congress. He had also won in a by-poll in 1985, after Sharad Pawar had resigned," he said.

In the 1977 election, the Janata Party had won all the three seats of Pune city, Baramati and Khed in Pune district during what was described as the 'Janata Party wave'.

Iyer said, "Though Kakade was a strong opponent of Pawar, it was Pawar who had supported Kakade in the by-poll in 1985. Kakade had won the election then." Kakade's nephew Viraj had also contested from Baramati once, but lost the election. Iyer said in 2004, Kakade, who had decided to contest from Baramati, eventually withdrew from the race after it became known that Pawar was suffering from a serious illness. "Kakade had issued a statement to the effect, saying he was withdrawing from the race in support of Pawar who was suffering from a disease" he said.

Kakade was first elected as a member of the state Legislative Council in 1971. His associates said he always opposed the Congress and never gave up the ideology of the Janata Party. Despite old age, he would make all efforts to attend a rally held for a public cause, they said.

Sambhajirao Kakade Kamble, a close associate.

> rarv of stalwarts such as NM Joshi, Mohan Dhariya and Nanasaheb Gore. "They were all socialist leaders from Pune who were acclaimed for their leadership qualities and their tireless work for society at large. Kakade worked in close association with them," said Congress leader

INSPECTOR LEVELLED ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PARAM BIR SINGH

Mumbai Police file chargesheet in FIR registered by Dange

MOHAMED THAVER MUMBAI, MAY10

NEARLY A year-and-a-half after an FIR was registered against Yash Mehta -- grandson of diamond merchant and film producer Bharat Shah -- along with his friends over a brawl outside a pub by Gamdevi police station, Mumbai Police filed a chargesheet last week.

The case was controversial since the senior inspector of Gamdevi police station, Anup Dange, who had registered the case, was later suspended when Param Bir Singh became Mumbai Police Commissioner. Dange recently wrote a letter

to CM Uddhav Thackeray, the state Home Minister and DGP alleging that Singh had transferred him since Dange had not agreed to his demand for not naming a builder, Jitu Navlani, in the FIR. Dange had also alleged that Singh later demanded Rs 2 crore to revoke his suspension.



good relations with Param Bir Singh, the then DG Anti Param Bir Corruption Bureau. Around the same time, a

The allegations are being investigated by a panel appointed by the Maharashtra government and Anti Corruption Bureau. Senior inspector of Gamdevi

police station R Rajbhar told The Indian Express, "We have filed a chargesheet against seven persons in connection with the case. These include Yash Mehta, two of his friends, three others with whom they got into a brawl and Jitu Navlani. The accused have been

charged under Sections 353 (obstructing a public servant from performing his duty) among other sections of the IPC. The incident took place on

November 22, 2019, outside 'Dirty Buns Sobo', a pub owned by Jitu Navlani. Dange had al-

tried to get Navlani's name releged that even though it was late at night, Navlani refused to moved from the FIR. The chargesheet filed by the shut the pub and claimed to have Gamdevi police last week is in connection with this FIR. Soon after this FIR was regis-

tered in November 2019, Shah fight broke out in the elevator of and his son reached Gamdevi police station and allegedly the pub. When a police constable tried to intervene, the youths threatened Dange. Following who were part of the fight althis, Dange had registered anlegedly assaulted the constable. other FIR against Shah and his Dange alleged that when he son and a chargesheet in this case was filed last year, sources tried to arrest three persons involved in the brawl, Navlani said.

On February 29, 2020, Singh became the Mumbai Police commissioner and in July Dange was first transferred from Gamdevi police station. Eventually Dange was suspended from the force on July 18 on the grounds that he allegedly made derogatory remarks against some senior officers in a police WhatsApp group.

After the Maharashtra government had a fallout with Singh, Dange was reinstated in the force.

Finish probe into corruption charges against Param Bir Singh within a week, says lawyer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, MAY 10

A DAY after The Indian Express reported about the three probes by Maharashtra Antithe Corruption Bureau(ACB) against Senior IPS Officer Param Bir Singh, the lawyer of one of the complainants demanded the investigation in the corruption cases to be completed within a week

Advocate Abha Singh, lawyer of alleged bookie Sonu Jalan, held

adani

Electricity

a press conference on Monday, stating the demand.

Jalan in his complaint had alleged that Rs 3.45 crore was taken from him in two cases to close investigation against him by former cop Pradeep Sharma. Jalan alleged that in one of the two cases, Rs 10 crore was demanded by Sharma in Param Bir Singh's cabin and eventually, he ended up paying Rs 3 crore.

This is one of the three complaints in which the ACB is conducting what it calls a "discreet inquiry". There are two other

such inquiries on separate complaints by two inspectors Anup Dange and Bhimrao Ghadge.

These probes by the ACB are in addition to the two inquiries by police and an FIR, based on the complaints of Dange, Ghadge and Ialan.

Ås per the ACB's manual, a "discreet inquiry" should be completed in no more than three months.

During the press conference, Abha Singh said while the ACB manual may have a stipulated time period, the law of the land

justice," Abha Singh said. ACB officials said their inquiry was under way and refused to comment on the issue.

Central Procurement Group

laid out by the Supreme Court in

the Lalita Kumari judgment

states that an inquiry should just

take a week before a decision on

whether an FIR should be regis-

"In this case, three days have

already passed, so the ACB

should complete the inquiry in

four days. If not, on behalf of my

client, I may approach the ACB

court or any other court to get

tered or not should be taken.

ADANI ELECTRICITY MUMBAI LIMITED

Registered Office: Adani House, 56, Shrimali Society, Nr. Mithakhali Six Roads, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 380009, India. Website: www.adanielectricity.com CIN: U74999GJ2008PLC107256

NIT No.	Brief Works Description	Estimated Cost (INR, Lakhs)	Cost of EMD (INR, Lakhs)	Prebid Meeting Date	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Bid Opening
AEML/MDB/ 2021-22/26	Supply & Services for HT/LT Jointing & Terminations	6865	30.0	20.05.2021 11.30 hrs	27.05.2021 16.00 hrs	28.05.202 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/ 2021-22/27	Supply of 2X630 kVA Dry Type Horizontal Oriented Distribution Transformer	630	3.00	21.05.2021 11.30 hrs	04.06.2021 16.00 hrs	05.06.202 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/ 2021-22/28	Supply & Installation of New Earthing System at 33-22/11kV AEML DSS	176.3	1.00	20.05.2021 11.30 hrs	31.05.2021 16.00 hrs	01.06.202 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/ 2021-22/29	Construction of 24th Road Receiving Station	710	7.10	18.05.2021 11.45 hrs	31.05.2021 16.00 hrs	01.06.202 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/ 2021-22/30	Appointment of Architect and RCC Consultant for 50 Nos. of G+1 Substation at MDB	74	0.74	17.05.2021 11.45 hrs	26.05.2021 16.00 hrs	27.05.202 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/ 2021-22/31	Appointment of Liasioning Consultancy for Tanaji Nagar Receiving Station, MIAL Plot	35.5	0.36	17.05.2021 14.30 hrs	24.05.2021 16.00 hrs	25.05.202 16.00 hrs

All Materials & Services will be as per Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited Specifications / BOQ. All Prebid Meetings will be done electronically / telephonically due to the COVID-19 restriction

For details with respect to Service/ Material, Qualifying Requirement, Terms & Conditions, Services / Submission of Tender Documents, etc., please visit our website:- www.adanielectricity.com ->Open Tenders. The Tender document will be available on the above link by 11th May 2021

Tenderer must submit their bids online / electronically. Vendor should visit the website www.adanielectricity.com for any Corrigendum / Amendments; no separate mation regarding Corrigendum will be published in the newspape

Date: 11/05/2021

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

CIN-L65910MH1987PLC042961 Registered Office: Akurdi, Pune 411 035

Corporate Office: 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv Corporate Office, Off Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune 411 014

FIXED DEPOSIT SCHEMES

'FAAA/Stable' rating by CRISIL AND 'MAAA (Stable)' rating by ICRA.'

The abovementioned ratings indicate highest degree of safety with regard to timely payment of interest and principal on the instrument.

Tenor in months	Minimum	Cumulativa		Non-Cu	nulative		Particulars	As at 31 March 2020	As at 31 March 2019 245.19
renor in months	deposit (in Rs.)	Cumulative	Monthly	Quarterly	Half Yearly	Annual	- On penal interest/ charges	223.15	
12 - 23		5.65%	5.51%	5.53%	5.57%	5.65%	- On others Income tax matters:	6.22	5.4
24 - 35	25,000	00 6.10% 5.94% 5.97% 6.01% 6.10%		6.10%	 Appeals by the Company Appeals by the Income tax department 	0.32 0.24	0.32		
26 60	1								
36 - 60		6.50%	6.31%	6.35%	6.40%	6.50%	G. a) Amount which the Company can ra Banking Financial Companies Accepta		
Ainimum deposit size is as sp			6.31%	6.35% ADDRESS	6.40%	6.50%		ince of Public Deposit	s (Reserve Ban
Minimum deposit size is as sp 1) Individual depositor or pr Senior citizens (i.e. person proof of age) will be eligit	imary depositor, falling und Is more than 60 years of age, I for additional interest at	ler special category of subject to provision of		ADDRESS D-103 Adarsh Re	sidency, 47th Cross,		Banking Financial Companies Accepta Directions, 2016: ₹43,046.58 Crore	nce of Public Deposit eld as on 31.03.2020: h fund and non-fund ba entities or business ver	ts (Reserve Ban ₹21,427.10 Cro ased, extended htures in which th
Ainimum deposit size is as sp I) Individual depositor or pr Senior citizens (i.e. person proof of age) will be eligi p.a. on per Deposit amoun ii) Individual depositor aj	imary depositor, falling und is more than 60 years of age, ole for additional interest at t of up to ₹5 (five) crore;	ler special category of subject to provision of the rate of upto 0.25% ugh BFL online link	NAME Shri D J Balaji Rao	ADDRESS D-103 Adarsh Re r) 8th Block, Jayana Bangalore 56008 E-121, Masjid Mo	sidency, 47th Cross, Igar, 2. th, First Floor, Greater	OCCUPATION	Banking Financial Companies Accepts Directions, 2016: *43,046.58 Core b) The aggregate of deposits actually h H. The aggregate dues from the facilities, bot the companies in the same group or other:	nce of Public Deposit eld as on 31.03.2020: h fund and non-fund bantities or business ver interest are ₹43.53 c jaj Allianz Life Insuran Electricals Ltd – ₹0.08	ts (Reserve Ban 21,427.10 Cro ased, extended tures in which t rore (Bajaj Allia ce Company Ltd Cr, Bajaj Housi

F. Summarised Financial Position of the Company (standalone) as appearing in the two latest audited balance sheets:

31 March 2020

674.53

171.76 867.18 1,13,417.08 20,138.98 349.51

1,35,623.87

204.57 847.61 1,016.16 211.98 99.38

2,379.70

0.30

636.76

179.46

41,713.77

36,923.32

21,427.10

4,141.75

669.90

52.10

78.87

367.03

119.99

498.00

105,692.36

1,38,003.57

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises

Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises

Financial liabilities Payables

Other payables

Equity Equity share capital

Liabiliti

4.83

MLA 'abuses' health officer for 'not informing' him about Covid tests

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, MAY10

CONGRESS MLA from Deoli, Wardha district, Ranjit Kamble has been accused of abusing the district health officer on Monday.

The doctor, Ajay Dhawale, recorded a 2.20-minute telephonic conversation in which Kamble can be heard abusing him. Wardha police said it seemed to be a "non-cognizable" complaint and they will seek legal opinion before taking action.

Kamble apparently was angry with Dhawale as the latter "did not inform" him that RT-PCR testing had been started in Nachangaon, which falls under his constituency

Dhawale told The Indian Express, "Covid-19 cases in Kamble's constituency are increasing. Hence, we had to start RT-PCR and antigen tests there. Just because he was not aware of the development, he abused me. I told him I am not aware that he was not informed by my subordinate but he did not listen to me.'

In the conversation, the man who Dhawale alleges to be Kamble says, "You are conducting tests in my constituency and do not feel the need to inform me about it? You announced a lockdown and have started with the testing as well? Are you playing politics with me? I will beat you... I will thrash you with my chappal. What do you think of my constituency? How can you conduct tests during lockdown? You can go to the superintendent or local police. You think he will save you? I will beat you inside the police station."

Kamble did not respond to calls or messages.

S M Bandiwar, senior police inspector of the Wardha city police station, said: "Dhawale has given us the audio clip and a written complaint. The crime is

Reconstruction of Himalaya Bridge may start by month-end

stopped him from doing so.

In the FIR, Dange alleged that

He said in the complaint that

when his team came to the po-

lice station with the three ac-

cused, he started receiving calls

he found one of the three ac-

cused arrested by them was Yash

Mehta, grandson of Bharat Shah.

An FIR was then registered

against Navlani, Mehta and oth-

plaint alleged that Singh had

Dange in the recent com-

from several police officers.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, MAY 10

ers

TWO YEARS after its collapse, work on reconstruction of Himalaya Bridge at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) is expected to start by the end of this month.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has finalised a contractor and a proposal will be tabled before the standing committee for final approval on Wednesday.

According to the proposal, while the expenditure for the bridge's re-construction is Rs 5.53 crore, the entire project cost, which also includes various taxes, is Rs 7.5 crore. The contract has been awarded to Pinaki Engineers and Developers.

Once the proposal is approved by the committee, the work will start in 15 days. The civic body has said the project will be completed within 15 months (excluding monsoon period) from the day the contractor is appointed.

The 28.5-metre long and 4.4-metre wide new bridge will be made of ce-

NOTICE

BEFORE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WESTERN DIRECTOR, EVEREST, 5[™] FLOOR, 100 MARINE DRIVE, MUMBAI 400002

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 12(5) OF THE COMPANIES ACT

ment concrete upon a steel structure. In March 2019, six people had died and 31 injured after the bridge, which used to connect CSMT over Dr D N Road to Azad Maidan police station, collapsed during the evening peak hour rush.

Following the collapse, the BMC's roads and traffic department had conducted a study to decide whether to re-

construct the bridge or build a subway. After the department suggested a bridge, the BMC prepared a plan for a new bridge with the help of a consultant.

On an average nearly 25,000 commuters cross D N Road to get to the CSMT station daily. After the incident, commuters use a subway located at 200 metre from the site of the fallen bridge. A zebra crossing

with signals has also been made for pedestrians.

Sd/-

SANDEEP MUKUND PIMPLE

Director

of non-cognizable nature. We are seeking legal opinion before initiating appropriate action."

Two new FCI offices to benefit Marathwada, Western Vidarbha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAL MAY 10

THE CENTRE has sanctioned two more divisional offices of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the state, at Aurangabad and Amravati, to benefit the Marathwada

and Western Vidarbha region. While making the announcement, Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Raosaheb Patil Danve said on Monday, "The role of Food Corporation of India is of paramount importance in ensuring food security to masses under National Food Security Act."

The FCI acts as a trusted institution in procurement of produce from the farmers, and its role during the time of Covid-19 is extremely important, he added.

The offices got functional with immediate effect. With this, the farmers, PDS beneficiaries, NGOs,

Government Agencies and end consumers of Marathwada and Western Vidarbha will be benefited in a significant manner," said Danve.

Until now, FCI had six Divisional Offices in the region, including one in Goa. The offices are situated in Borivali (catering to Mumbai and suburban area), Panvel (Raigarh), Pune (southern Marathwada, Western Maharashtra and Konkan belt), Nagpur (Vidarbha) and Manmad (Nasik, Khandesh and a major portion of Marathwada).

HAZARE FILES PLEA FOR CASE TRANSFER

Mumbai: Social activist Anna Hazare has filed a plea before the principal judge of a sessions court, seeking transfer of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank case to another court.

Hazare claimed that his PIL filed before the Bombay High Court in 2018 had challenged the sale of sugar cooperative factories in the state, which is pending. The HC had, while deciding another PIL filed by one Surinder Arora, directed an investigation in the case. The transfer application filed by Hazara says Arora "is won over by the accused" so that other protest petitions, including his, are not heard in the case. The Mumbai Police Economic Offences Wing has filed a closure report in the case, giving a clean chit to directors of the cooperatives and others, including leaders like Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. Arora had filed a protest petition opposing the closure report, which is pending. **ENS** WITH RULE 28 OF THE COMPANIES (INCORPORATION) RULES, 2014 AND

IN THE MATTER OF M/S PRATAM FIN SERV PRIVATE LIMITED A COMPANY INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT. 2013 AND HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT, CAVIANA B WING/703,: HIRANANDANI ESTATE, THANE MH 400607 IN .. Applicant

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under Section 12 of the Companies Act 2013 seeking confirmation in terms of the special resolution passed on 03RD MAY, 2021 to enable the company to shift its Registered Office from Mumbai to Pune (i.e. within the same state, from the jurisdiction of Registrar o Companies, Mumbai to the jurisdiction of Registrar of Companies, Pune). Any Person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed shifting of the Registered Office of the Company may deliver or caused to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the above mentioned Regional Director, Western Region, within twenty one days from the date of publication of notice with a copy to the applicant company as its registered office

By order of the Board of Directors For PRATAM FIN SERV PRIVATE LIMITED CIN - U67190MH2016PTC274257 DIN: 07410720 Place : Thane Date: 06/05/2021



TWO - YEAR FULL TIME M.SC IN PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY &

POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PACKAGING (M.Sc in Packaging Technology Course available at Hyderabad & Delhi centre only) ligibility: Fresh Graduate in Engineering / Technology or Science (12th +3 years degree -entire years in science only), with Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, Microbiology or Bio Chemistry as the main subject or one of them as second subject in the 3 Years Degree or

Agriculture / Pharma / Food Science / Polymer Science Degree of a AICTE / recognised University with minimum second class and maximum age 30 years as on 31/05/2021, age relaxation 3 years for OBC and 5 years for SC / ST. Students awaiting the result may also apply.

Admission: Through Entrance Examination at Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Delhi. Application Forms available at all the centres of IIP

Last date for receiving filled application forms at IIP Mumbai : 11th June, 2027 Entrance Exam : On 18th June, 2021

lostel Facility: Separate Hostel accommodation for Boys and Girls is available at Mumbai only. Job Prospects: Excellent, in Food, Pharma, Polymer including MNC'S and other Companies in India and Overseas. Over 5,000 Alumnia re working in Industries in India and Abroad. Application form along with Prospectus can be obtained from any IIP Centre/ Website of India Institute of Packaging by paying Rs. 500/- only by cash/online or DD in favour of "Indian Institute of Packaging" payable at respective Centres of IIP.

Due to Covid Pandemic situation online payment & online submission will be encouraged date can visit IIP website and submit the online application through www.iip-in.com

Further details, please contact: HEAD OFFICE & IIP CENTRES

IIP CENTRES : NEW DELHI: Plot No. 21, Functional Industrial Estate, Patpargunj, Opp. Patpargunj Bus Depot, Delhi-110092. Tel : 011-22166703 - 05, Email : iipdelhi@iip-in.com. KOLKATA: Block CP, Sector V, Salt Lake, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata-700 091. Tel : 033 - 23670763, 23676016. Email: lipkolkata@ilp-in.com. HYDERABAD: Lux-3, Industrial Centre, Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad - 500 018. Tel: 040 -23814321. Email: liphyd@ilp-in.com. CHENNAI: Plot No. Tel Industrial Estate, Perungudi, Chennai - 600 096. Tel: 044-24961077 / 24961560. Email: lipchennai@ilpin. com. AHMEDABAD: 1st Floor, CFC Building, Apparel Park, GIDC, Khokhra. Ahmedabad 380021. Tel.: +91-79-22930200 Email: iipahmedabad@iip-in.com

HEAD OFFICE:

HEAU OFFICE: E-2, Road No. 8, MIDC Area, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 093. INDIA Tel: 91-22-2821 9803/6751/9469, 28391506, 28329623, 2825 4631 Extn. 310, 303, 306, 301 Fax: 91-22- 28328178 / 2837 5302, Mob. 8692943727, 7208119238 Email: rneiip@iip-in.com, onlinepgdp@iip-in.com, theiip1@iip-in.com Web: www.iip-in.com

 75 (five) crore;
 Dr. Naushad Forbes
 74 Koregaon Park, Lane No. 3,

 Depositor will be eligible for only one of the special category benefits
 (Independent Director)
 Pune 411001

- mentioned above in point no. (b)(i) to (ii). c) Depositor(s) (individual depositors only and does not include entities) intending to renew the FDR upon maturity will be eligible for additional rate of upto 0.10% pa, for depositis use up to 75 Corre, Additional rate will be over and above indiversation of the Company (standa benefit will be applicable. ()Rate of interest for bulk deposits for more than 75 Crore per deposit may vary from the published card rate and will be decided on case to case basis but within the cap on Rate of Interest specified by the Reserve Bank of India. e)In case of online application for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be booked upon artual receint of attraction for FD, the FD will be attraction for FD, the FD will be attraction for FD. attraction for FD, the FD will be attraction for FD, the FD will be attraction for FD will be attraction for FD. attraction for FD, the FD will be attraction for FD will be attraction for FD will be attraction for FD. attraction for FD will be attraction

e)In case of online application for FD, the FD will be booked upon actual receipt of the funds by BFL from third party payment gateway and hence the FD will be ASSETS booked within 5 days from date of the application. The interest will be applicable Financial assets from date of booking of FD. Cash and cash equivalents

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h)In case where the depositor(s) has opted for renewal of deposit through FD Total assets application form, however, wishes to cancel the renewal request, the depositor(s) should submit a specific written request so as to reach the Company atleast 3 (three) business days before maturity date of the Deposit. The writter request can be submitted at nearest branch of the Company or sending by post/ courier to the Company or to the independent financial advisors or national distributors empaneled with the Company. No requests shall be accepted post Trade payable the above-mentioned period.

An the other inclusion of the companies (Advertisement) Rules, 1977 as amended. A Name of the Company: BAJAJ FINANCE LTD. A Name of the Company: BAJAJ FINANCE LTD. A Name of the Company: BAJAJ FINANCE LTD.

B. Date of Incorporation: 25th March, 1987 C. Profits/Dividends:

Profits of the Company before and after making provisions for tax, for the three financial years immediately preceding the date of the advertisement and the dividends declared by the Company in respect of the said years.

Financial Year	Profit (Sta	ndalone)	(₹in Crore) Dividend	Borrowings (other than debt securities) Deposits Subordinated debts
ended on	Before Tax	After Tax	%	Other financial liabilities
31.03.2018	4,056.36	2,646.70	200	Total financial liabilities
31.03.2019	6,035.30	3,890.34	300	
31.03.2020	6,808.13	4,881.12	500	Non-financial liabilities
				Current tax liabilities (net)

D. Brief particulars of the management of the Company: The Company is managed by the Managing Director, subject to the control and supervision of the Board of Directors. The Managing Director is entrusted with necessary powers for managing the business and affairs of the Company.

E. Names, addresses and occupations of Directors: ADDRESS OCCUPATION NAME Shri Sa (Chairi

07 May 2021

HOW TO INVEST:

NAME	ADDRESS	OCCUPATION	Equity share capital Other equity	119.99 31,693.22	115.37 19,448.26	Sr. No.	Name of subsidiary	Address of registered office	Activity	
Shri Sanjiv Bajaj (Chairman)	Bajaj Vihar Colony, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035.	Industrialist	Total assets	31,813.21	19,563.63	1.	Bajaj Housing Finance	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex,	Housing Finance	
Shri Rajeev Jain	D-2, Ivy Glen, Marigold Premises,	Service	Total liabilities and equity	1,38,003.57	1,08,499.87		Limited	Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035	Business	
(Managing Director)	Kalyani Nagar, Pune 411014.		Contingent Liabilities (Standalone)			2.	Bajaj Financial	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex,	Stock broking	
Shri Madhur Bajaj (Non-Executive Director)	Bungalow No. 3, Bajaj Vihar Colony, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035.	Industrialist	Particulars	As at 31 March 2020	As at 31 March 2019		Securities Limited	Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035	and depository participant	
Shri Rajiv Bajaj (Non-Executive Director)	34/35, Yog Koregaon Park, Lane No. 2, Pune 411001.	Industrialist	Disputed claims against the Company not acknowledged as debts	44.18	28.04					
Shri Dipak Poddar	171, Brij Kutir, Rungta Lane, Off Nepean	Industrialist	VAT matters under appeal	4.39	4.39					
(Independent Director)	Sea Road, Mumbai 400026.	industrialist	ESI matters under appeal	5.14	5.14					
Shri Ranjan Sanghi (Independent Director)	Flat No. 21, Mistry Court, 4th Floor, Dinshaw Vachha Road, Opp. CCI Club, Churchqate, Mumbai 400 020.	Business	Service tax matters under appeal - On interest subsidy	1,971.65	1,340.49					

The above text of advertisement has been issued on the authority and in the name of the Board of Directors and has been approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on 21 July 2020 and copy of the same signed by the majority of Directors has been delivered to the Reserve Bank of India for registration.

By order of the Board of Directors for Bajaj Finance Limited

Rajeev Jain, Managing Director DIN: 01550158

The amount should be deposited only by net-banking, cheque or debit card. Cheques should be payable to 'Bajaj Finance Ltd. for FD of <1st depositor name>' and crossed'Account Payee only'. The cheques should be payable at par and CTS compliant. Application Form along with the necessary remittance should be sent to the Distributors of the Fixed Deposit Schemes of BFL to be submitted at any of the BFL branches. For NET/KIRGS, please use the following details: Beneficiary Name: Bajaj Finance Ltd, Bank acc no.: ZBAJAJFD (numerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code - ZBAJAFD. Account type: current account, Bank Name: Indusind Bank Ltd. IfSC: INBRO00006, Bank hanch: Natiman Point, Mumbana Po





Business i) The Company has complied with the provisions of the directions applicable to it.

(₹in Crore)

95,181.26 10,370.41 381.61

1,06,980.35

1,519.52

0.44

547.25

218.64

39,048.97

13,193.01

4,139.07

1,411.81

22.37

68.88

315.13

406.38

88,529.86

1,08,499.87

31 March 2019

- ii) The compliance with the directions does not imply that the repayment of Deposits is guaranteed by the Reserve Bank of India. Retired Civil Servant
 - iii) The deposits accepted by the Company are unsecured and rank pari passu with other unsecured liabilities.
 - iv) The deposits solicited by the Company are not insured.

v) The Financial position of the Company as disclosed and the representations made in the deposit application form are true and correct. The Company and its Board of Directors are responsible for the correctness and veracity thereof. The financial Directors are responsible for the correctness and veracity thereof. The financial activities of the Company are regulated by Reserve Bank of India. It must, however, be distinctly understood that Reserve Bank of India does not undertake any responsibility for the financial soundness of the Company or for the correctness of any of the statements or the representations made or opinion expressed by the Company and for repayment of deposits / discharge of liabilities by the Company.

240.00 1.69 K. The deposits shall also be subject to the terms and conditions as per the deposit application form.

L. Deposits may be withdrawn prior to the date of maturity subject to the regulations of the Reserve Bank of India in this regard. Please note that premature withdrawal of Deposit (including death cases) is subject to the following conditions:

a) Upto 3 months from date of deposit: Withdrawal is not permitted b) After 3 months but before 6 months: Interest shall not be payable

c) Area innovation by the provide information interests sharing the payable of the payable of

M.The Business carried on by the Company and its subsidiaries with details of branches or units if any:

1. Business carried on by the Company and its branches:

I. Business carried on by the Company and its branches: Providing consumer finance ranging from vehicle loans, consumer durable financing, personal loans, loan against property, Home Loans, construction equipment financing, small business loans, loan against pseuties and infrastructure financing. The Company is having its Branches at Agra, Ahmedbad, Ahmedhagar, Ajmer, Akola, Akot, Akaputha, Allahabad, Ambala, Armavati, Amreli, Amritsar, Anana, Anantyur, and Ankaleshwar, Asansol, Aurangabad, Bagalkot, Badra, Bijapur, Bikaner, Bilsayan, Bohara, Bihwandi, Bhoyal, Bhubabad, Bharghad, Babardan, Bharuch, Bhatinda, Bharnagar, Bhila, Bhiwandi, Bhoyal, Bhubabad, Bagalkot, Bidar, Bijapur, Bikaner, Bilsayan, Bokara, Bolyar, Bosad, Calicut, Chalisgaon, Chandigarh, Chandrapur, Chennal, Chhindwara, Chikhil, Chiplun, Chitradurga, Chittaranjan, Chodpa, Cochin, Combatote, Cuddoner, Cuttack, Obaho, Dahod, Davangere, Dehradun, Dewas, Dhanbad, Dharapuram, Dharwad, Dhule, Dindigul, Duragpur, Etrur, Eode, Gandhilann, Goa, Cokak, Guberga, Guna, Guntu, Gwailor, Haldia, Halol, Hassan, Haveri, Himantagar, Hoshangbad, Hoshiarpur, Hospet, Hubli, Hyderada, Indore, Jabalku, Izadahti, Janjuu, Jalandhar, Jalgon, Jalpaiguri, Jammu, Jamnaga, Jamme, Jamshedgur, Jodhpur, Jiandhara, Jalgaon, Jalpaiguri, Calkak, Kannur, Kanpur Kayurthak, Aradi, Karaik, Karan, Kananagpapally, Karur, Karvar, Kathi, Khamgaon, Khandwa, Kharaghur, Kolar, Kollanpur, Kolara, Kolama, Kopergaon, Korba, Kota, Kotayam, Kunnol, Kuruk-Sherta, Latur, Lucknow, Ludhinan, Machhilpatham, Madurai, Mandya, Mangalore, Mapuz, Margao Melsana, Mogain Machhilpatham, Madurai, Mandya, Mangalore, Mangao Melsana, Mogain Machhilpatham, Madurai, Mandya, Mangalore, Mangao Melsana, Mogain Machhilpatham, Madurai, Mandya, Mangalore, Mangao Melsana, Mogain Machhilpatham, Madurai, Ma Kopergaan, Korba, Kota, Kottayam, Kurnool, Kurukshetra, Latur, Luckmow, Ludhiana, Machilipatnam, Madurai, Mandya, Mangalore, Mapusa, Margao, Mehsana, Moga, Morbi, Mumbai, Mysore, Nabha, Nadiad Nagarcoii, Nagour, Namakkal, Nanded, Nandurbar, Nashik, Navsari, Nellore, New Delhi, Palanpur, Pandharpur, Panipat, Patiala, Patna, Pen, Phagwada, Pimpalgaon, Pollachi, Pondichery, Pune, Puttur, Raichur, Raipur, Rajahmundry, Rajgurunagar, Rajkot, Rajanadangaon, Rajpura, Ranaghat, Ranchi, Ratiam, Ratnagiri, Rewa, Rohtak, Ropar, Rourkela, Salem, Sangli, Satara, Satna, Sehore, Shimita, Shimoga, Siliguri, Sirsa, Solapur, Surat, Surata, Stana, Sehore, Shimita, Shimoga, Siliguri, Sirsa, Solapur, Surat, Surata, Stana, Sehore, Shimita, Shimoga, Siliguri, Sirsa, Solapur, Surat, Suradanagar, Tenali, Thiruvalla, Tirunelveli, Tirupati, Tirupur, Tirchu, Tirvandrum, Tunakuru, Tuttorion, Udaipur, Udgi, Ujajia, Vadakara, Valsad, Vagi, Varanasi, Vidisha, Vijayawada, Vizag, Vizianagram, Wani, Warangal, Wardha, Warud, Washim, Yavatnal and allo teher branches mentioned on the Grical website page www.bajaffinservi.n=> Scroll to bottom of the webpage=>contact us=>Visit our branch orby directly clicking https://www.bajafinservi.n/branch-locator 2. Business carried on by the subsidiaries of the Company:

Business carried on by the subsidiaries of the Company: 115.37 Sr. Name of subsidiary Address of

EXPRESS NETWORK

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1. en	UNDER S ECHS Cell, Sta agagement of fol	TATION tion Heac lowing va	I HEADO	TORY HEALTH QUARTERS, AH Ahmednagar invite on contractual basis	HMEDNA es applicati s in ECHS	GAR ons for	MA` Pan	YURA JANN AJI, MAY 10	NALKAR will treat Ivern	day anr be start ment by nectin to	nounced ing prop y admin all above	that phylax iisterin e the ag	is ge H (ar in jail, father' for activist: 'Imj	
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rea Pii & 3. cri 4.	ach Station HQ, n-414002 by 2 P Tele No. 0241-23 Only those pers iteria.	Ahmedna M. on 02: 321233 ons will b atively scl	agar, Jamk Jun 2021 e called fo heduled ir	khed Road, District I. E-mail ID <u>shqahn</u> or interview who are n the 1 st / 2 nd week c	-Ahmednag nednagar@ e fulfilling th	gar, gechs.gov.in	TE	NDER De	Admin E-Tender MT/TM/ADMIN/O scription:- "Grou ployees and th	Dept Not 01/21-2	t. ice 22 Ith Insu		e policy	DAY after l tivist arwal's fath ovid-19, t gh Court o anted her	Natasha ner died of he Delhi n Monday r interim	her release her release norms in force in view of the rent pandemic and obset the precautions as stiput therein including but no ited to PPE kit at the time cremation," said the oremation," said the oremation, said the oremation of the second s	rve all ilated ot lim- of the court, r after
(Co on "P Ma	ommercial), Mum single stage two rovision of Cat	NOT 2021/2 D bai Divisio packet s ering Sei the form of	ICE INVI ated: 0 on, Wester system, fro rvices at	N RAILWAY TING E-TENDER 7.05.2021 Divisio nm Railway, Mumbai om food and caterin Major Static Unit ne- Self Dispensing I	nal Railwa Central invit ng service p – Automa t Units at follow	tes e-Tender providers for tic Vending	NI W	MMT." hich is av	ailable on Web si <u>nc.etenders.in</u>	te	anspor	S/d	sa "i ho sc	mperative our of grief nal loss.	release is " in this f and per- who has	2020. Her father Mahavir Narwal, a retired scientist from CCS Haryana Agricultural University, passed away on Sunday evening at Rohtak in Haryana. Narwal's application for interim bail on grounds of her father's failing health was	T-PCR ndent. at it is t from ne cir- sibling
Sr. No.	Tender Notice No.	Station	Category of Station	Location	Reserve Price per annum (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Γ	ान्ना क	गर्यालय, विर	ं च		6	वनीः ०२५०-२५२५१		४/०५/०६	filed on Friday. A Division Bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and ther, the applicant has al	ıd fur- ready
1 2	C45/1/AVM/MMC T/Circulating C45/1/AVM/ BDTS/Concours	Central Bandra		Circulating area, north side of PRS entrance gate Concourse hall, between AMUL stall and SSE	2,97,500 3,41,000	29,800 34,100		-	विरार (पूर र्ह, जि. पालघर-४०१ ३	र्व), ०५.		ई-मेत जावन दिनां	ণ্ণ : ০২५০–২५২५१০ স্ত : vasaivirarcorpo ক ক্র. : ব.বি.হা.म./ ক : ০४.০५.२०२१	ration@yaho		Anup Jairam Bhambhani said Narwal's bail will remain subject to her furnishing a personal bond of Rs 50,000 and providing her telephone number to the Delhi	Pujari, ld the
3	C45/1/AVM/ VAPI/1/1	VAPI	A	Linen Office PF No. 1, between pillar no. 12 & 13 north side of OHE MAST 171/34	2,58,500	25,900			पाणीपुरवठा प्रथम वेळ	जाहीर	ई-निवि	ादा सूच	वना क्र.	6	<i>.</i>	tested positive Covid on May was in isolation	e for 7 and 1, and
4	C45/1/AVM/ UDN/1/1	Udhna	A	PF No.1, between pole no. 11 & 12 south side of water cooler.	1,74,000	17,400		रेनेशन यंत्रणेची दे	०२२ व २०२२-२३ वित्तीय वर्षाक ख़भाल दुरुस्ती करणे कामाची व पलब्ध होणार आहे. ई-टेंडरिंगबाबत	होरे निविदा	फॉर्म <u>https</u>	://mahat	tenders.gov.in या	अधिकृत संकेत	स्थळावर दि.	Vardan Commercial Complex, 9th Floor, MIDC, Road	
5	C45/1/AVM/ VYA/1/1	Vyara	D	PF No.1, east side of OHE mast 56/41 & Water Fountain PF No.1, west	11,750	1,200	जा.व्र	संपर्क साधावा. ह. वविशम/शअ/१								E-Tender Notice No. 8 (2 nd Extension) for 2020-21 STEM Water Dist. & Infra. Co. Pvt. Ltd., Thane are	
6	C45/1/AVM/ VYA/1/2	Vyara	D	side of OHE mast 56/29 & Water Fountain PF No.2, east	11,750	1,200	Plea	कः ०४.०५.२०२१ ase Visit our off ps://mahatend	ficial web site							following work. Name of work: Maintenance & repairs to Various M.S/C.I/A.C pipeline from MBR to Majiwade/	ee:
7	C45/1/AVM/ VYA/2/1 C45/1/AVM/	Vyara	D	side of OHE mast 56/46 & Water Fountain PF No. 1, between	11,750	1,200		•					कार्यव	वाक्षरी/- तरी अभियंता		Patlipada/ Bhayander/ Dongari/ Panju Pure Water Feeder Mains. Estimated Cost Rs. 79,87,362/ E-Tender documents will be available for view/ downloading on authorised web site	
8	CHM/1/1	Chaltha	n D	Station building and Toilet block PF No. 2, on west	32,250	3,300			WES	TED	N RA			हर महानगरपालि	છ્વમા	https://stem.abcprocure.com from dt. 12.05.2021 to dt. 19.05.2021. Last date of online submission of tenders with e-payment of cost of blank tender form	the 18-4
9	C45/1/AVM/ CHM/2/1	Chaltha	n D	side of OHE mast 11/04 and Water Fountain PF No. 1, betweer	33,750	3,400	No.	C45/1/SBD/202			TING E-T	ENDER		ivision. Weste	rn Railway.	& EMD is dt. 12.05.2021 up to 19.05.2021 hrs. 1500. Received tenders will be opened on dt. 19.05.2021 at hrs. 1510. Right to reject any or all) said on
10	C45/1/AVM/ MID/1/1 C45/1/AVM/	Madhi	E	OHE mast 41/25 and Water Hut PF No. 2, on east	9,500	1,000	Mur	nbai Central invi	tes e-Tender from Individuals A1, A, & B' Class for a period of	/ Sole Prop				s at Special M		reserved by the STEM Water Distri. & Infra. Co. Pvt. Ltd., Thane.	al Prabha and insis
11	MID/2/1	Madhi	E	side of OHE mast 41/34 & Water Hut PF No.1, on east side of Water	t	1,000	Sr. No.	Tender Notice No.	Category & Sub quota	Station	Category of Station	Type of Unit	Location	Reserve Price per annum (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Sd/- Managing Director	oration (I
12	BIY/1/1 C45/1/AVM/	Bardoli	E	Fountain on NDB end PF No.2, on east		1,000	1	C45/NVS/201 8/TS/2-3/1	Other backward classes	NVS	A	Tea Stall	Platform No 2/3 between pole no 17 & 18 south side of pole no17	2,20,000	22,900	राजकीय दून मेडिकल कॉलेज देहराखास, पटेल नगर, देहरादून-248001	
13 An	BIY/2/1	Bardoli		side of Water Fountain on NDB end dly visit website www		1,000	2	C45/BDTS/20 18/TS/6-7/1	Other backward classes	BDTS	A1	Tea Stall	Platform No 6/7 between pillar no 16 & 17	3,30,000	34,400	फोन नं. 0135-2726020, 2726021, फेक्स नं0135-2726020 वेबसाइटः www.gdmcuk.com	
clo for oni 15 Of Div Co	osing time & date r Submission of line website www .30 hrs on 07.06. fer from Date of visional Railway ommercial Depart	for any ar e-Tender <i>i</i> .ireps.go 2021 throu e-Tender Manager ment, Gro	Documer Documer v.in / only. ugh online r Opening (Commerce und Floor,	s) Corrigendum. Tim nt: Up to 15:00 Hrs. Date and time of c website www.ireps. g: 60 Days. Address cial), Divisional Rai Mumbai Central, M 299, Email : cmictgb	e and Date on 07.06.2 opening of .gov.in / only for Correst ilway Manag lumbai – 40	for Closure 2021 through e-Tender: At y. Validity of spondence: ger's Office, 0 008. Tele :	3	C45/NDB/201 8/TS/1/2	Freedom fighters / war widows & widows of Railway Employees, persons who have been dislocated / displaced due to their land having been taken over by the railways for its own use - women	, NDB	В	Tea Stall	PF No. 1(OHE mast Km No. 156/5A- 156/4A 15mtr from pole no 156/4A east side near RRI building;	1,62,000	16,900	ई-निविदा सूचना अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा संस्थान के बायोकैमेस्ट्री विभाग में Fully Autom Biochemistry Analyzer के क्रय तथा संस्थान में Central clir Diagnostic laboratory स्थापित करने हेतू Reagent Rental Basi उपकरणों की अधिप्राप्ति हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जा रही है। निवि सम्बन्धित अन्य समस्त सूचनाये उत्तराखण्ड सरकार की वेब http://uktenders.gov.in से दिनांक 11.05.2021 अपराहन 2:30 से प्राप	hical is पर दा से साइट
				y Follow us: ww		001	4.	C45/BIM/201 8/TS/1/1	Scheduled Tribe	BIM	В	Tea Stall	Pf. No. 1 (At Chainage 55 meters.)	1,84,000	19,200	जा सकती है। पत्र संख्याः रा०दू०मे०कॉ०/निविदा/2021-22/4576 प्र	त का ाचार्य
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Sr. No.	Tender Notice No.	Category & Sub quota	Station	Category of Station	Type of Unit	Location	Reserve Price per annum (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)
1	C45/NVS/201 8/TS/2-3/1	Other backward classes	NVS	А	Tea Stall	Platform No 2/3 between pole no 17 & 18 south side of pole no17	2,20,000	22,900
2	C45/BDTS/20 18/TS/6-7/1	Other backward classes	BDTS	A1	Tea Stall	Platform No 6/7 between pillar no 16 & 17	3,30,000	34,400
3	C45/NDB/201 8/TS/1/2	Freedom fighters / war widows & widows of Railway Employees, persons who have been dislocated / displaced due to their land having been taken over by the railways for its own use - women	NDB	В	Tea Stall	PF No. 1(OHE mast Km No.156/5A- 156/4A, 15mtr from pole no 156/4A east side near RRI building)	1,62,000	16,900
4.	C45/BIM/201 8/TS/1/1	Scheduled Tribe	BIM	В	Tea Stall	Pf. No. 1 (At Chainage 55 meters.)	1,84,000	19,200
5.	C45/BIM/201 8/TS/1/3	Scheduled Tribe	BIM	В	Tea Stall	Pf. No. 1 (At Chainage 145 meters.)	1,92,000	20,000
6.	C45/BCT/201 8/TS/3-4/2	Freedom fighters / war widows & widows of Railway Employees, persons who have been dislocated / displaced due to their land having been taken over by the railways for its own use	ВСТ	A1	Tea Stall	PF. No. 3/4 (between pole no. 22 & 23)	2,90,000	30,200

Amendment/Corrigendum, if any: Kindly visit website www.ireps.gov.in/ till tender closing time & date for any amendments/Corrigendum. Time and Date for Closure for Submission of e-Tender Document: Up to 15:00 Hrs. on 08.06.2021 through online website www.ireps.gov.in/ only, Date and time of opening of e-Tender: At 15.30 hrs on 08.06.2021 through online website www.ireps.gov.in/ only. Validity of Offer from Date of e-Tender Opening: 45 Days, Address for Correspondence: Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial). Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial) Department, Ground Floor, Numbai Central, Mumbai – 400 008, Tele : 022-676-44246/44238, Fax : 022-676-44299, Email : cmictofe/@omail.com cmictgbct@gmail.com 089

s death, erative'

दिनांकः 10.05.2021 राजकीय दून मेडिकल कॉलेज, देहरादून।

RailTel

Tender No.:RCIL_ER_2021-22_1269-127 Date : 13.04.2021 RailTel invites E-Tender from eligible bidders for "Providing of 3 Nos. of vehicle on hiring basis for MCL Project for RailTel Corporation of India Ltd., Eastern Region with HQ a Sambalpur, Talcher and Jharsuguda." Tender Notice & Tender Document an available on www.railtelindia.com and https://www.ireps.gov.in Addendum orrigendum will be uploaded in RailTe

nobody else in the family to perform her father's last rites.

While the Delhi Police did not oppose the bail plea, it submitted that Narwal should not make any comments or tweets about the case. Pujari told the court that Narwal would be advised not to do so.

"All that we are telling you is... we are not recording it but we are telling you she will maintain radio silence. Otherwise, we may be constrained to recall the order at some stage. We are not recording it but we are telling you," observed the court.

Akash Bhattacharya, who teaches at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru and has been a friend of Natasha's for a decade, said, "The bail application was initially filed keeping in mind that her father was not well. The hearing happened after he passed away. These are not normal circumstances. Families are suffering due to Covid, and bails, paroles and release on humanitarian grounds should be considered on an urgent basis."

Covid vaccine to ee: BJP to BMC

SERVICE

18-44 age group in Mumbai should be id-19 vaccines for free, the Bharatiya aid on Monday.

of BJP leaders, including its Mumbai Prabhat Lodha, met Municipal commisd insisted that since the Brihanmumbai tion (BMC) had a Rs 70,000 crore fixed

deposit, it would not hurt the civic body financially to make the vaccines free for everybody.

In a letter to Chahal, the BJP also said that BMC should write to the state government seeking free vaccines for all citizens.

At present, vaccines are provided for free at BMC and government-run centres. However, private hospitals are allowed to charge the beneficiaries.

"Entire Mumbai should be vaccinated as soon as possible," said BJP leader Vinod Mishra.

BULK ADVERTISING RIGHTS In its letter to the BMC Dept : Commercial Executive: Sr. DCM chief. BIP leaders said free vac-E-Tender Notice No. & Date : No. CA11cines for all citizens would not OOH-WP-MX_to_BA-21-2 dated cost more than Rs 350 crore. 10.05.2021 Work and Location : Bulk dvertising rights through display of Wall "As per the population census Painting on Boundary walls at Mahalaxmi -2011, there are 58.50 lakh cit-West), Dadar (West), Matunga Road izens in Mumbai between the (West), Mahim (West) and Bandra (West age of 18 and 44. Two doses of Railway Colony) facing road, total display area 9081 sq. ft., for a period of five years. vaccines will cost Rs 600 each Aprox. cost of Work Rs.: ₹ 19,80,406/and so, by this calculation, the entire vaccination drive for the 18-44 year group will cost Rs 350 crore. The amount is not big for an institution like BMC and it should purchase the doses through the state government," the letter read. The BJP leaders also said that to ensure only Mumbai residents get the benefit of free vaccines in the city, Aadhaar Card should be sought from the beneficiaries.

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ZORABIAN Today's Ex-Farm Live Broiler Rate Rs. 84/- Retail Market Rate Rs. 110/-. Mobile: 8879050887/9372663242. Office: 022-26604937/ 0070721613-1 38/ 39.

VENCOBB Ex-Farm Yesterday's price in Pune Rs. 86/-. Suggested Retail Price is Rs. 104/-. 0070735580-1

N.E.C.C suggested price for 100 eggs in Mumbai on 11/05/2021 Rs. 495/-(Four Hundred Ninety Five) only. NECC 22834107. 0070738990-1

MEA Mumbai Eggs Association Suggested Selling Rate in Mumbai Rs. 465/- per 100 Eggs. Mobile: 9820057700/ 9820351822/7303390009. 0070734347-1

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- Consent letter from a physician advising Home isolation.
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- Body temperature and oxygen level should be checked and noted 4 to 6 times a day.
- If there are any alarming readings such as mentioned below, immediately consult a doctor and get admitted in the hospital.



immediately consult the Doctor and get admitted to the NMMC Covid Centre or any private hospital.

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(excluding taxes etc.) EMD Rs. ₹ 39,700/- Website where Tender form available: www.ireps.gov.in Date & Time of closing of online submission: Up to 15.00 hrs. on 08.06.2021 Date 8 Time of opening of e-tender: After 15.30 hrs. on 08.06.2021 NOTE:- Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. Cost of tender and EMD shall be accepted only through online net banking or E-payment gateway. Bidder should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated. 091 .ike us: 🖬 www.facebook.

WESTERN RAILWAY

दूरध्वनीः ०२५०-२५२५१०१/०२/०३/०४/०५/०६ फुक्सः ०२५०-२५२५१०७ मुख्य कार्यालय विरार विरार (पूर्व), ई-मेल : vasaivirarcorporation@yahoo.con जावक क्र.: व.वि.श.म./बांध/७१६/२०२१ वसई, जि. पालघर-४०१३०५ दिनांक : १०.०५.२०२१ ।। जाहीर ई-निविदा सूचना।। वसई-विरार शहर महानगरपालिका हद्दीतील विविध कामांसाठी ऑनलाइन निविदा मागविणेत येत आहेत. ६ कामांच्या ई-निविदा सूचना व निविदा प्रपत्र https://Mahatenders.gov.in च्या संकेतस्थळावर दि. १२.०५.२०२१ ते दि. १९.०५.२०२१ रोजी दु. ३.०० वाजेपर्यंत उपलब्ध होणार आहेत. https://Mahatenders.gov.in च्या संकेतस्थळावर दि. १९.०५.२०२१ रोजी दुपारी ३.०० वाजेपर्यंत स्वीकारण्यात येतील. ठिकाण- विरार दिनांक- १०.०५.२०२१ सही/-शहर अभियंता वसई-विरार शहर महानगरपालिका MAHARASHTRA REAL ESTATE

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The interested candidate/s may apply for the post within a beriod of 7 days from the date of publishing this advertisement on smail techoff2@maharera.mahaonline.gov.in The date, time and venue of the interview will be informed to he eligible candidate by the Appointing authority after scrutiny hrough email. No fare charges can be claimed by the candidate/s for attending the interview. Sd/- (Dr.Vasant Prabhu)								
				Secretary MahaRERA				

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interacts with newly inducted West Bengal ministers - 43 ministers were sworn-in on Monday. Express

TMC govt 3.0 sworn in; **CM retains key ministries**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, MAY10

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday unveiled her new council of ministers as 43 Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders were sworn in at a low-key ceremony in Raj Bhavan in Kolkata.

Banerjee retained key portfolios such as Home and Hill Personnel Affairs. and Administration, Health and Family Welfare, Land, Refugee and Rehabilitation, Information and Cultural Affairs, and North Bengal Development. She gave up the Minority Affairs and Education Madrasah Department to Mohammed Gulam Rabbani.

Of the 43 ministers, 24 are of the Cabinet rank, 10 are minis-

'Need to put house in order': Sonia sets up panel to look into Cong's election defeat

MANOJCG NEW DELHI, MAY10

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Sonia Gandhi on Monday told a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) that she is setting up a committee to look into the party's humiliating defeat in the Assembly elections, thus deftly avoiding an immediate stocktaking which could have resulted in venting of anger and questioning of the leadership. The CWC also shied Sonia away from addressing the tricky Gandhi

ters of state with independent charge, and nine are ministers of state (MoS). "There are nine women ministers [including Banerjee], seven ministers represent the minority community and four each are from the SC

and ST communities," Banerjee said after the ceremony. Amit Mitra, Bratya Basu, and Rathin Ghosh were sworn in vir-

tually. While Mitra is unwell and suffers from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), both Basu and Ghosh are recuperating from Covid-19. Mitra remains the finance

minister and will also head the Department of Planning and Statistics & Programme Monitoring. Among the other senior ministers, Subrata Mukherjee retained the Rural Panchavat and Development department, and

was given the additional charge of Public Enterprises and Industrial Reconstruction while Firhad Hakim was appointed the Minister of Transport, and Housing. The MoS (Independent charge) for Health, Chandrima Bhattacharya, took over from him in the Urban Development and Municipal Affairs department.

Partha Chatteriee retained the Parliamentary Affairs department but was replaced as Minister of Education by Bratya Basu, who had the two portfolios that are the responsibility of the minister from 2011 to 2013. Chatterjee, who is among the senior-most ministers in the

government, will also head the departments of Information Technology and Electronics, and Industry, Commerce and Enterprise.

पालघर नगरपरिषद, पालघर

सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग दूरध्वनी क्र. - (०२५२५) २५४७९६ फॅक्स क्र. - (०२५२५) २५४९३६

E-mail: palgharnagarparishad@gmail.co

ई-निविदा सूचना

मुख्याधिकारी पालघर नगरपरिषद, पालघर खालीलप्रमाणे विकास कामासाठी शासनाकडील

. आवश्यक त्या वर्गातील नोंदणीकृत ठेकेदाराकडून/सेवा पुरवठादाराकडून ऑनलाईन पद्धतीने

ई–निविदा मागविण्यात येत असून सदरच्या विकास कामांच्या ई–निविदा दि. ११.०५.२०२१

रोजी पासून शासनाच्या htpp://mahatenders.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावरुन विनामूल

ई-निविदा पोर्टलवर बिड लॉक झाल्यानंतर निविदेसोबत संक्रमित (upload) केलेली हार्ड

सही/-

श्री. उत्तम मो. घरत

उपनगराध्यक्ष

सही/-

श्रीम, खाती देशपांडे कलकर्णी

मुख्याधिकारी

राज्य रक्त संक्रमण परिषद. महाराष्ट्र राज्य

सही/–

श्री. रविंद्र म. म्हात्रे

सभापती

सा.बा. समिती

कॉपी एका प्रतीत ठेकेदारांनी त्याच दिवशी या कार्यालयात सादर करणे अनिवार्य राहिल.

डाऊनलोड करता येतील

सही/-

डॉ. सौ. उज्वला के. काळे

नगराध्यक्षा

दि. १०.०५.२०२१

SBTC

सही/–

श्री. प्रशांत पवार

नगर अभियंता

जा.क्र.पानप/सा.बा./कार्या-२४७४/२०२१-२२

Leader of Oppn, Suvendu says All 77 Bengal BJP MLAs to get security cover from Centre will make state violence-free

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, MAY10

THE BJP on Monday unanimously chose the party's Nandigram MLA and former state minister Suvendu Adhikari the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the new West Bengal Assembly.

Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad announced Adhikari's name as the leader of the BJP Legislature Party after a meeting of party's MLAs at the BJP election office in the city's Hastings area. Prasad was one of the party's observers for the election along with senior leader Bhupendra Yaday.

The Union minister said the party's national vice-president and MLA Mukul Roy, who was be-

ing considered one of the frontrunners to head the legislature party, proposed Adhikari's name for the post and was seconded by 22 MLAs. Since the BJP is the largest Opposition party with 77 seats, the Nandigram MLA automatically became the Leader of the Opposition. With one seat, the Indian Secular Front (ISF) is the other Opposition party in the Assembly, while Independent MLA RS Lepcha, belonging to the Binay Tamang faction of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM), will represent Kalimpong.

At the BJP meeting on Monday, Adhikari's predecessor Manoj Tigga was chosen as the party's chief whip in the Assembly. The new appointments came on a day 43 TMC MLAs were

sworn in as ministers in CM Mamata Banerjee's government.

"In this Assembly polls, we have to seen three things. One is a chief ministerial candidate who lost the election has been sworn in as the CM of the state and this happened for the first time in Bengal. Secondly, for the first time, there will be no representatives from the Congress and the Left Front in Assembly and the third is for the first time 77 BJP MLAs will be in the Assembly. I will try to fulfil my duty and responsibility as the Leader of the Opposition,' Adhikari said after his election.

The BJP leader, who joined the Opposition party last December, defeated his former boss Banerjee in Nandigram by 1,956 votes. -WITH PTI INPUTS

New Delhi: All the newly-elected cial sources said on Monday. 77 BJP MLAs in West Bengal are They said the MLAs will be sebeing provided security cover by Central paramilitary forces in view commandos.

of potential threats to them, offi-

GOVT & POLITICS 7

cured by armed CISF and CRPF PTI

OMSSIDC MAHARASHTRA SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES **DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED** (A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking) "Krupanidhi", 9, Walchand Hirachand Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai - 400001 Phone No. (022) 22617567 **E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender is invited for the Repair of roof top & providing ceiling and flooring at MSSIDC office situated at, Bombay Life Bldg. 5th Floor, 45, Veer Nariman Marg, Mumbai 400 001. The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from GoM E-Tendering Porta www.mahatenders.gov.in E-Tender is to be downloaded & submitted from 11/05/2021 12.00 noon to 20/05/2021 upto 3.00 hrs. Right for any amendment in the Terms & Conditions of Tender and the right to reject any or all offers without assigning any reason thereof is reserved with Competent Authority. Place · Mumbai

General Manager (MKTG)

ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri-522503, Guntur District. Amaravathi Region, Andhra Pradesh, email - ce.aphmhido@gmail.com Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform for T.N No.3/ APMSIDC/TECHNICAL/2021-22, Dated. 10.05.2021. Establishment of new Government Medical Colleges at (1) (i) Amalapuram and (ii) Rajahmandry in East Godavari Dist. under Package-2 2) (i) Palakollu and (ii) Eluru in West Godavan Dist. under Package-3 (3) (i)Bapatia in Guntur Dist. and (ii) Markapur in Prakasam Dist. under Package-4-4) (i) Madanapalli in Chittoo Dist. and (ii) Penukonda in Anantapuram Dist. under Package-5 5) (i) Nandyal and (ii) Adoni in Kurnool Dist, under Package-6-6) Strengthening of Existing GMC at (i) SMC/GGH Vijayawada in Krishna Dist. (ii) GMC/GGH Guntur & Govt. Fever Hospital at Guntur in Guntur Dist. (iii) GMC / GGH Ongole in Prakasam Dist. (iv) ACSR Medical College / GGH, Nellore in SPSR Nellore Dist. under Package -3 7) Establishment of State Institute of Health & Family Welfare at Visakhapatnam (2nd Call) 8) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of PSA Oxygen Generation Plants (53 Nos) to Govt. hospitals at various locations in AP (2nd Call) 9) Providing Pest & Roden Control Services for the Hospitals under control of DME & APVVP in the State of AP (3rd Call) 10) Annual Maintenance Contract for the 13 Nos Walk in Cold Rooms at Central Medicine Store at various Dist s in A.P. For 2 Years (2nd Call) 11) Annual Maintenance Contract for 8 Nos Johnson Company Lifts at Central Medicine Store at various Dist.s in AP For 5 Years (2nd Call) 12) Annual Maintenance Contract for 13 Nos Mahindra Make DG sets at Central Medicine Store at various Dist.s in AP For 5 Years (2nd Call) 13) Annual Maintainance of Existing Medical Gas Pipelines and Manifolds rooms at Govt Hospitals in 13 Dist. of AP. The other details can be seen at the website http://msidc.ap.nic.in. Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR DIPR No.81PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, DE 10/05/2021

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA MAHARASHTRA STATE SKILL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Date : 10.05.2021

1st Floor, Elphinstone Technical High School Campus, 3, Mahapalika Marg, Dhobi Talao, Mumbai-400 001. E-mail : registrar@mssds.in, missionco@mssds.in

Outward No. : MSSDS/PMKUVA/2020-21/712 Date : 11.05.2021

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EoI) for empanelment & selection of Training Providers for Recognition of Prior Learning Component i.e. RPL under of Pramod Mahajan Kausha <u>Udyojakta Vikas Abhiyan (PMKUVA).</u>

MAHARASHTRA State Skill Development Society invites proposals to participate in the Expression of Interest process for selection of Eligible Training Provider/s for conducting Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) training under Pramod Mahajan Kaushal Udyojakta Vikas Abhiyar (PMKUVA).

For detailed tender document, Interested Bidders the should visit mahatenders.gov.in the web site https://www.kaushalya.mahaswayam.gov.in for detailed advertisement.

Tender submission would be online and the deadline to submit the proposal is 03rd June 2021 by 1700 hours.

Sd/-

Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra State Skill Development Society

Skill Development, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department Government of Maharashtra

DGIPR/2021-2022/423

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

CIN-L65910MH1987PLC042961

Corporate Office: 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv Corporate Office, Off Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune 411 014

FIXED DEPOSIT SCHEMES

'FAAA/Stable' rating by CRISIL AND 'MAAA (Stable)' rating by ICRA.'

The abovementioned ratings indicate highest degree of safety with regard to timely payment of interest and principal on the instrument.

Systematic Deposit Plan (SDP) (for Resident Individuals only): Rate of Interest per annum valid up to ₹5 Crores per deposit (w.e.f. May 12, 2021) ncial liabilitie Cumulative rates of interest (% p.a) Current tax liabilities (net) 68.88 315.13 Other non-financial liabilitie Tenor in Special Category For Depositors other than Total non-fir 498.00 406.38 months For applications received Senior Citizens **Equity** Equity share capital Other equity For senior citizens through online mode 115.3 31,693.22 19,448.26 5.90% 12 - 23 5.65% 5.75% Total assets 19,563.67 31,813.21 Total liabilities and equity 1,38,003.57 1,08,499.87 24 - 35 6.10% 6.35% 6.20% Contingent Liabilities (Standalone 36 - 60 6.50% 6.60% 6.75% 31 March 2020 31 March 201 Minimum deposit amount under systematic deposit plan is ₹5,000/- per Deposit The SDP is offered only to Indian residents. 28.04

D. Briefparticulars of the management of the Company: The Company is managed by the Managing Director, subject to the control and supervision of the Board of Directors. The Managing Director is entrusted with necessary

Disputed claims against the Company not acknowledged as debts 44.18

Registered Office: Akurdi, Pune 411 035

leadership issue by deferring elec tions for the post of Congress president once again citing the pandemi

There was some plain speaking the CWC, which met for the first tin tion debacle. Senior leader Ghulam the signatories of the letter 23 leade Gandhi last year seeking changes in t out that the party's performance v the same in Assam had it not align bringing to the table the unease in t alliance with the Muslim outfit.

Azad, sources said, also pointed tral leadership should be involved loop in policy matters like alliances hinting at the Congress's associat Secular Front in West Bengal.

Earlier, Gandhi set the tone for th saying the party should take note o backs. "To say that we are deeply d make an understatement. I intend group to look at every aspect that verses and report back very quickly. didly understand why in Kerala and to dislodge the incumbent government West Bengal we drew a complete b

"These will yield uncomfortable do not face up to reality, if we do no the face, we will not draw the right l 'These results tell us clearly that we house in order."

By making such a strong stateme ing setting up of a committee, Gane the CWC does not get into a blame sults. AICC general secretary in cha tion K C Venugopal said the panel, of which is to be announced in the n meet state leaders, candidates and out the reasons for the defeat and Gandhi at the earliest.

Many leaders, especially those from it as "time tested" tactic of the leade to "cool off tempers". "This is the ne we have been setting up committee tion defeats. Sadly no one has see those panels or neither felt the act the groups have become a farce," a

As for elections for the post of a fi president, sources said there was u CWC that the exercise should be de severity of the pandemic. Senior Rahul Gandhi, who many believe v once again, did not attend the meet recover from Covid.

But the party argued Gandhi h that the deferment cannot be op Congress president is very clear that is not an open-ended deferment. It i months... as the situation stabilizes munication department in ch Surjewala said.

ky Gandhi	रविद्र अनेक्स, ५वा मज	ाला, दिनशाँ बाच्छा रोड, चर्चगेट रिक्लेमेशन,	respective Deposit.	(FDR) will be issued with tenore	that will be compared no	with the date of soch	powers for managing the	e business and affairs of th	ie Company
ec		त : २२८३ ०२१६ फॅक्स : २२८५४९८१	number of monthly D					nd occupations of Direct	tors:
si-	E-Mai	l: sbtc@mahasbtc.com	 e) In case of Single Ma number of monthly De 	iturity Scheme, the Depositor wi eposits under SDP.	Il have option to choose	e between 6 to 47	NAME A	ADDRESS	
mic.	जाहिरात क्र.१	/२०२१-२२	f) The maturity period of	of each monthly deposit created u iod of 12 months to a maximum p		cheme of SDP shall	Shri Sanjiv Bajaj	Bajaj Vihar Colony, Mur	mbai-Pune
ng nevertheless at	सेवानिवृत्त अधिकाऱ्यांच्या विवक्षित	-	 In case of Single Mate 	urity Scheme of SDP, the SDP Ten ths. All deposits under the said Sin	ure shall be for a minimu	JM of 19 months to	(Chairman)	Akurdi, Pune 411035.	Deemises
time after the elec-		3	same date. According	ily, the tenure of first deposit unde	er the said Single Maturity	y scheme will be as	(Managing Director)	D-2, Ivy Glen, Marigold Kalyani Nagar, Pune 41	
n Nabi Azad, one of	शासकिय / निमशासकिय सेवेतून गट अ/ग		denosit will gradually	elected by the Applicant and the reduce in order to match the same	e towards fixed maturity d	date	Shri Madhur Baiai	Bungalow No. 3, Bajaj	
ders had written to	प्रशासकिय तसेच लेखा व वित्त विभागाचा	अनुभव असलेल्या व चांगले प्रकृतिमान	per the tenor selected					Mumbai-Pune Road, Ak Pune 411035.	kurdi,
n the party, pointed	। असणाऱ्या अधिकाऱ्यांकडून तीन महिने काल		the funds by BFL from	cation, the first FD under the SDP S n third party payment gateway an e application. The rest of FD's unc	nd hence the first FD will b	be booked within 5	Shri Rajiv Bajaj	34/35, Yog Koregaon Pa	ark, Lane N
would have been	विभाग क्रमांक संकिर्ण-२७१५/प्र. क्र.१००		receipt of funds by BFI	E application. The rest of FD's unc L. The interest will be applicable fr SDP will be considered as cumu	rom date of booking of FD.			Pune 411001. 171, Brij Kutir, Rungta Li	ane, Off Ne
gned with AIUDF,	विवक्षित कामासाठी करार पध्दतीने नियुक्ती वे		maturity only. The amount towards	the first Deposit under the SDP :	shall be made through in	nternet banking, e-	(Independent Director)	Sea Road, Mumbai 400 Flat No. 21, Mistry Cour	
the party over the	अर्ज मागविण्यात येत आहेत.	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	National Automated 0	payee cheque. The subsequent Clearing House (NACH) mandate of the in a month on the date specifie-	duly registered with Depos	ositor's Bank, which	(Independent Director)	Dinshaw Vachha Road, Churchgate, Mumbai 40	. Opp. CCI Cl
ed out that the cen-	विवक्षित सेवा / कामाचे स्वरुप / अर्हता / अ		registration of NACH r SDP.	mandate, no subsequent Deposit	t shall be booked by the G	Company under the	Shri D J Balaji Rao (Independent Director)	D-103 Adarsh Residence 8th Block, Jayanagar,	
ed and kept in the	राज्य रक्त संक्रमण परिषदेच्या संकेतस्थळ	•	other payment mode, k) (a) Individual deposit	, except through NACH mandate. tor or primary depositor, falling u	Inder special category of S	Senior citizens (i.e.	Dr. Omkar Goswami (Independent Director)	Bangalore 560082. E-121, Masjid Moth, Firs	
es. He was possibly ation with Indian	आहे. इच्छुक पात्र गट अ/गट ब संवगातील र		additional interest	t at the rate of upto 0.25% p.a. on [a per Deposit amount of up to ₹5 (five) crore; a REL angline link bitte: //www.baiaifine.or/in		Dr. Gita Piramal	Kailash 3, New Delhi 11 Piramal House, 61, Pocl	
	आवश्यक त्या शैक्षणीक अर्हता व अनुभवा		/fixed-deposit-a application filling	pplication-form?ProductName and payment through net banki	e=SDP (where entire jo ing and e-NACH is conclud	journey including Ided through online	(independent bilector)	Worli, Mumbai 400025.	
the CWC meeting	इमेल sbtc@mahasbtc.com वर दि		upto ₹5 (five) crore				(Independent Director)	74 Koregaon Park, Lane Pune 411001	2 No. 3,
of the serious set-	उशीरा आलेल्या अर्जाचा विचार केला जाणा		no.(i)(a) and (b). If the	jible for only one of the special c e Applicant falls under any of the a he Company. For sake of clarity, i	above category on the dat	ate of receipt of SDP	Roy	62 Sagar Tarang, Khan . Khan Road, Worli Sea F	
disappointed is to		संचालक, मन्त्र मंत्राणा प्रक्रित मंतर्न	category subsequent	to placing of first deposit, the Ap efits for subsequent monthly depo	pplicant will not be eligibl	ole for the aforesaid	(Independent Director)	Mumbai 400030.	,
d to set up a small at caused such re-	L	राज्य रक्त संक्रमण परिषद, मुंबई	opting for SDP. The sar	ory will not change during the SI me category will be applicable thr	roughout the SDP tenure.		F. Summarised Financia	al Position of the Compa	ıny (standa
ly. We need to can-	RAJASTHAN RAJYA VID	YUT PRASARAN NIGAM, LTD.	upon maturity will be	Depositor only and does not in e eligible for additional rate of up e over and above the applicable ra	oto 0.10% p.a. for deposit s		two latest audited ba	lance sheets:	
nd Assam we failed	(Corporate Identity Number Read, Office: Vidyut Bha	(CIN) : U40109RJ2000SGC016485) wan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur- 302005	n) Rate of interest for bu	ulk deposits for more than ₹5 Cro decided on case to case basis but	ore per deposit may vary f				31 March
ments, and why in	Tele: 0141-2/40226	Email: Sr.ao.br@rvpn.co.in		ake repayment of deposit on the					
blank," she said.	Website: energy.raja			for renewal within the prescrib de through NEFT or RTGS or acco			Cash and cash equivalen Bank balances other tha		6
le lessons, but if we	CALL OPTION NOTICE TO BOND H			b) to the bank account of the deport of NACH mandate, deposit will			equivalents		
not look the facts in	LISTED UNSECURED NON-CONV		mandate will be prese	ented in the next month as per SD e extended for equal number of m)P. In such case, tenure of S	SDP selected by the		uments	-
t lessons," she said.	Notice is hereby given to the Bondholders Unsecured Non-Convertible Redeemable		q) Monthly Deposit refe	rs to presentation of NACH mand			Loans		1,13,
we need to put our	Prasaran Nigam Limited ("the Company"), is		the depositor while o r) The depositor should	submit a written request for ren			Investments Other financial assets		20,1
we need to put our	Company is exercising 'Call Option' to fi	ully redeem the NCDs pursuant to the	Maturity Scheme (or	a portion thereof) so as to reach Deposit. The written request c			Total financial assets		1,35,6
pont and appound	Disclosure Document dated 07th June 2012		Company or sending	by post/ courier to the Company empaneled with the Company. N	or to the independent fir	inancial advisors or	Non-financial assets		
nent and announc-	Put and Call option at the end of 9th year an years if either of the put or call option is exerc		accepted post the ab	ove-mentioned period. Request	for renewal should be ac	ccompanied by the	Current tax assets (net)		2
indhi ensured that	The specific terms of the redemption are give		will be subject to th	orm duly filled in and signed by a ie rate of interest and other ter	rms & conditions prevailir	ling on the date of	Deferred tax assets (net) Property, plant and equi		8 1,0
ne game on the re-	ISIN No.	INE572F08014		existing deposit may not be requi st its maturity date. Once renewal			Intangible assets		7
harge of organisa-	Issue Description	RRVPN 9.74% 2024	Maturity Plan, such de deposits of resident I	eposit (s) will be governed by the Indians. No renewal is permitted	terms and condition as ap I for Deposits created unc	oplicable for regular der Single Maturity	Other non-financial asse Total non-financial asse		2,3
l, the composition	Face Value (Rs./Bond)	50,00,000/-	Scheme s) In case where the de	positor(s) has opted for renewal	I of denosit created unde	er Monthly Maturity			1,38,0
next 48 hours, will	Coupon Rate	9.74% p.a.	Scheme through rene	ewal application form, however, ubmit a specific written request	wishes to cancel the ren	newal request, the			
nd workers to find	Deemed Date of Allotment No. of Bonds issued	28th June 2012 791	business days before	maturity date of the Deposit. The	written request can be su	ubmitted at nearest	LIABILITIES AND EQUITY Liabilities		
d give its report to	Issue Price & Redemption Price	AtPar	advisors or national d	ny or sending by post/ courier to t listributors empaneled with the C			Financial liabilities Payables		
	Tenure	12 Years from Deemed Date of Allotment		e individual primary depositor, the			Trade pavables		
from the G 23, saw	Date of Maturity	30% on 28th June 2022		her creation of deposits after rece e settled in accordance with the			-Total outstanding dues	of micro enterprises and	
lership to buy time		30% on 28th June 2023	Deposit.				small enterprises -Total outstanding dues	of creditors other than	6
not the first time	Put/Call Option for seeking early redemption	40% on 28th June 2024 At the end of 9th year from the Deemed	Companies (Advertiseme	d as per the Non-Banking Financi ent) Rules, 1977 as amended.			micro enterprises and sn	nall enterprises	
ees to go into elec-		Date of Allotment	A. Name of the Compar B. Date of Incorporation				Other payables -Total outstanding dues	of micro enterprises and	
een the reports of	Call Option Date	28th June 2021	C. Profits/Dividends: Profits of the Company	before and after making provis	sions for tax. for the the	ree financial vears	small enterprises		
ction taken on it	Record Date for determining the Beneficial	11th June 2021	immediately preceding the respect of the said years.	he date of the advertisement and	d the dividends declared	by the Company in	-Total outstanding dues micro enterprises and sn		1
	Owners for the purpose of payment of	(Scheduled Record Date 13th June 2021	respector the said years.			(₹in Crore)	Debt securities		41,7
a leader said.	redemption amount and final interest accrued thereon	being Sunday)	Financial Year	Profit (Standa	lone)	Dividend	Borrowings (other than on Deposits	Jebt securities)	36,9 21,4
full-time Congress	Listed on	NSE	ended on	Before Tax	After Tax	%	Subordinated debts		4,1
s unanimity in the	Depositories	NSDL and CDSL	31.03.2018 31.03.2019	4,056.36 6,035.30	2,646.70 3,890.34	200 300	Other financial liabilities Total financial liabilitie		105,69
deferred given the	Registrar & Transfer Agent	Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd.	31.03.2020	6,808.13	4,881.12	500			
r Congress leader	The redemption amount shall be paid to Be		The should be the	warticomont has have '	ad on the	nd in the	of the Beard of Direct.	nd has been an and the	w the O-
will replace Sonia	Record Date by crediting the redemption are demat account of respective beneficial owne		been delivered to the	lvertisement has been issue e Reserve Bank of India for	registration. The Dep	o in the name o posit shall be bor	where a source of Directors all of Directors and the providence of the second of Directors and the second of Direc	Application Form and the	у une воал ? required !
eting as he is yet to	Address/Bank Particulars in the demat acco	unt as appearing in the details provided by							
- •	National Securities Depository Limited ("NS	SDL")/Central Depository Services (India)							
has made it clear	Limited ("CDSL")/Registrar & Transfer Ag								
pen-ended. "The	The Bonds shall be taken as discharged on		Pune						
hat this deferment	issuer to the list of Beneficial Owners as on	record date. The Company's liability to the	07 May 2021 HOW TO INVEST:						
t is for two to three	Bondholders towards all their rights includin			e deposited only by net-ban	king or cheaue. Cheau	ues should be na	vable to 'Bajai Finance I td	. for FD of <1st depositor r	name>'anr
	stand extinguished from the due date of rede Place:- JAIPUR		the necessary remitta	ance should be sent to the Di	istributors of the Fixed	d Deposit Scheme	es of BFL or be submitted at	any of the BFL branches.	For NEFT/R
es," Congress com-	Date:- 05.05.2021	(Vijay Mathur)	of our offiliated earte	y CMS Collection code – ZBAJ/ er websites or apps. For any i	AJFD), Account type: cu investment queries or	urrent account, B r information abr	ank Name: IndusInd Bank L out our affiliated partner we	.td, IFSC: INDB0000006, E absites, write to us at fdr	3ank brand @bajaifie:
charge Randeep	RRVPN/TR-5139/2021 Raj.Samwad/C/20/1227	Jt. Director (Corporate Affairs) cum Company Secretary							<i></i>
	ruj.sumwau/s/zv/1221	company decretary							

tors. The Man	aging Director is entrus	ed with necessary	acknowledged as debts				
	of the Company.		VAT matters under appeal	4.39	4.39		
			ESI matters under appeal	5.14	5,14		
pations of Di	rectors:		Service tax matters under appeal		5.11		
5		OCCUPATION	- On interest subsidy	1.971.65	1,340,49		
/ihar Colony, i i, Pune 411035	Mumbai-Pune Road, 5.	Industrialist	- On Intelest Subsidy - On penal interest/ charges - On others	223.15 6.22	1,340.49 245.19 5.45		
y Glen, Marig ni Nagar, Pune	old Premises, 411014	Service	Income tax matters: - Appeals by the Company	0.32	0.32		
-	jaj Vihar Colony,	Industrialist	- Appeals by the Income tax department	0.24	0.24		
411035.			G. a) Amount which the Company can raise by way o Companies Acceptance of Public Deposits (Res				
Yog Koregao 411001.	n Park, Lane No. 2,	Industrialist	Crore b) The aggregate of deposits actually held as on	31.03.2020 : ₹21,427.10 C	rore		
ij Kutir, Rungi oad, Mumbai	ta Lane, Off Nepean 400026.	Industrialist	companies in the same group or other entiti	es or business ventures	s in which the		
	ourt, 4th Floor, ad, Opp. CCI Club, ii 400 020.	Business	Director/Company are holding substantial interest Insurance Company –₹5.02 Cr, Bajaj Allianz Life Insura ₹0.25 Cr, Bajaj Electricals Ltd –₹0.08 Cr, Bajaj Housing F –₹0.19 Crand Mukand Ltd.–₹25.14 Cr).	ince Company Ltd ₹5.59 Ćr,	, Bajaj Auto Ltd		
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ock, Jayanaga	ſ,		J. The Company declares as under:				
lore 560082.			i) The Company has complied with the RBI directions	applicable to it.			
Masjid Moth, n 3, New Dell	First Floor, Greater ni 110048.	Economist	ii) The compliance with the RBI directions does no guaranteed by the Reserve Bank of India.	it imply that the repayment	nt of Deposits is		
al House, 61, I Mumbai 400	Pochkhanwala Road, 025.	Business	iii) The deposits accepted by the Company are un unsecured liabilities.		assu with other		
	on Park, Lane No. 3, Busine 001		iv) The deposits solicited by the Company are not insuv) The Financial position of the Company as disclosed	osed and the representatio			
	an Abdul Gaffar ea Face,	Retired Civil Servant	deposit application form are true and correct. It responsible for the correctness and veracity ther are regulated by Reserve Bank of India. It mus Reserve Bank of India does not undertake any resp Company or for the correctness of any of the st opinion expressed by the Company and for repay	eof. The financial activities st, however, be distinctly ponsibility for the financial tatements or the represen	of the Company understood that soundness of the tations made or		
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			 a) Upto 3 months from date of deposit: Withdrawal is b) After 3 months but before 6 months: Interest shall 				
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nd cash	4.83	1.69	rate specified for the period during which the specified for the deposit period, interest rate pay	scheme has run. In case o	of no rate being		
	171.76		offered by BFL.				
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	1,016.16	495.84	Chennai, Chhindwara, Chikhli, Chiplun, Chitradurga				
	211.98	158.49	Cuddalore, Cuttack, Dabhoi, Dahod, Davangere, Dharwad, Dhula, Diadiaul, Duragour, Flury, Freda				
	99.38	56.56	Dharwad, Dhule, Dindigul, Durgapur, Eluru, Erode, Guntur, Gwailor, Haldia, Halol, Hassan, Haveri, Hirr				
	2,379.70	1,519.52	Hubli, Hyderabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jagadhri, Jai	ipur, Jalandhar, Jalgaon, Jal	lpaiguri, Jammu,		
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ard of Directors at its Meeting held on 21st July 2020 and copy of the same signed by the majority of Directors has d KYC to the satisfaction of Bajaj Finance Limited and as per T&Cs.

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By order of the Board of Director for Bajaj Finance Limite Rajeev Jain

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and crossed 'Account Payee only'. The cheques should be payable at par and CTS compliant. Application Form along with TRTGS, please use the following details: Beneficiary Name: Bajaj Financet UA, Bank acc no. 2BA/AJFD (numerical account anch: Namina Point, Mumbal. Applications can also be made online by visiting www.bajajinser.uri/tired-deposit or any inserv.in or call us on +91 8698010101.







THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 **8** THE SECOND SURGE

WHO classifies **Indian** Covid strain as 'variant of concern'

YOSHITA SINGH UNITED NATIONS, MAY 10

THE B-1617 variant of coronavirus, first identified in India, has been classified as a "variant of concern" at the global level by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, Covid-19 Technical Lead at WHO, on Monday said that the B.1.617 virus variant had been classified as a "variant of interest" by the WHO.

She said the Epi team and WHO lab team has been discussing with the WHO virus evolution working group this variant, and everything that "we know about it in terms of transmissibility and any studies that are being done in India as well as in other countries" where this virus is circulating.

"In consultation with our virus evolution working group, and our Epi teams and our lab teams internally, there is some available information to suggest increased transmissibility of B-1617; as such we are classifying this as a variant of concern at the global level." she said.

She added that even though there is increased transmissibility demonstrated by some preliminary studies, "we need much more information about this virus variant in this lineage, so we need more targeted sequencing to be done, and to be shared in India and elsewhere so that we know how much of this virus

is circulating". Van Kerkhove said there is need for more information on the epidemiologic studies that are underway, the studies that are evaluating neutralization severity. "So far, from information that we have (is) the public health and social measures work, but we need to work that much harder to control any virus variants that have demonstrated increased transmissibility," she said, adding that the WHO does not have anything to suggest that "our diagnostics or therapeutics and our vaccines don't work".

"We will continue to see variants of concern and we must do everything to limit the spread, limit infections and reduce severe disease and death," she said.

VACCINE HEARING DEFERRED AFTER TECHNICAL GLITCH On vaccine policy affidavit, SC tells Centre: Express had it before us

EXPRESSNEWSSERVICE NEW DELHI, MAY 10

The Supreme Court will take up the Centre's affidavit on vaccine policy and pricing for hearing on May 13.

A Bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud, L Nageswara Rao and S Ravindra Bhat which sat to hear the matter on Monday via video conferencing could not proceed beyond a few minutes due to technical snags.

The Indian Express reported on Monday that the Centre had, in an affidavit filed late on Sunday, told the court that its vaccination policv had been framed with equitable distribution with limited availability, vulnerability, and the

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who appeared for the Centre, tendered an apology.

The Centre also told the Court that it was "actively engaging itself with global organisations at a diplomatic level to find out a solution" to the surge in demand for vaccines and drugs to fight Covid-19" in the best possible interest of India".

As such, "any discussion or a mention of exercise of statutory powers" for granting compulsory licenses for their manufacture "can only prove to be counter-productive at this stage", it said.

"When there is a surge in cases and in demand of patented medicines/drugs/vaccines from all over the world the solution needs to be found out essentially at an executive level engaging at diplomatic levels. Any exercise of statutory powers either under the Patents Act 1970 read with TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement and Doha Declaration or in any other way can only prove to be counter-productive at this stage...", and "would have serious, severe and unintended adverse

consequences in the country's efforts being made on global platform using all its resources, goodwill and good-offices though diplomatic and other channels", it said.

Hearing the matter on April 30, the SC had sought to know whether the Centre intended to consider invoking powers under the Patents Act, 1979, to grant

compulsory licences to enable more manufacturers to make the vaccines and essential drugs like remdesivir.

The government also sought to explain how the new "Liberalized Pricing and Accelerated National Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy" which kicked in on May 1, "would further ramp up the pace of COVID-19 vaccination". It said the "differential pricing is based on the concept of creating an incentivised demand for the private vaccine manufacturers in order to instil a competitive market resulting in higher production of vaccines and market driven affordable prices for the same. This will also attract offshore vaccine manufacturers to enter the country."



WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 22.30% OVERALL POSITIVITY: 7.53%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW Cases	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY Positivity	TOTAL Vaccination
Karnataka	39,305	5,71,026	30.89%	1,05,26,921
Maharashtra	37,236	5,90,818	20.83%	1,79,70,191
Tamil Nadu	28,978	1,52,389	17.14%	64,99,349
Kerala	27,487	4,20,029	27.13%	79,34,469
Uttar Pradesh	21,277	2,25,271	11.56%	1,35,95,851

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S Deaths	TOTAL Deaths	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
Karnataka	596	19,372	1.63%	1.42%
Maharashtra	594	78,730	1.29%	1.81%
Delhi	319	19,663	1.32%	1.88%
Uttar Pradesh	278	15,742	0.95%	1.41%
Tamil Nadu	232	15,880	1.48%	1.45%

At 1,000 cases a day, Rlys has lost 1,952 staff so far

113 station masters among dead; unions demand vaccination, insurance

AVISHEKGDASTIDAR NEW DELHI, MAY 10

INDIAN RAILWAYS has lost 1,952 of its employees, including frontline staff like station masters, to the pandemic since last year, and even now around 1,000 railwaymen are reporting affected on a daily basis, the Railways Ministry said on Monday.

"As of now we have 4,000

beds currently occupied by staff

and their families. Our effort is to

see that they recover quickly. As of

yesterday, 1,952 rail employees

have died due to Covid-19 since

Piyush Goyal

"From the beginning of the pandemic and lockdown, we the Station Masters of Indian Railways and other Frontline Staff have been fighting as Corona Warriors and have rendered our services in moving the wheels of the Nation.

Bodies of suspected Covid victims found floating in Ganga

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PATNA, MAY10

SEVERAL BODIES, decomposed, bloated and suspected to be of people who succumbed to Covid-19, were on Monday found float-

ing in the Ganga in Chausa block of Bihar's Buxar district. "We were alerted by the local chowkidar that many bodies have been spotted floating from upstream. We have so far recovered

15 of these. None of the deceased happens to be a resident of the district," Chausa BDO, Ashok Kumar, told PTI over telephone. He said, "Many Uttar Pradesh

districts are right across the river and the bodies may have been dumped in the Ganga for reasons not known to us. We cannot confirm whether the deceased were indeed Covid-19 positive. The bodies have started decomposing. But we are taking all precautions while ensuring that these are disposed of in a decent manner".

Some news channels claimed the number of bodies to be as high as 100, which the BDO dismissed as "highly exaggerated". Scare along Yamuna in

fact that vaccinating the entire

country was not possible in one

go, "as the prime consideration".

non-discriminatory and based

upon an intelligible differentiat-

ing factor between the two age

groups (45 plus and those be-

court to trust the wisdom of the

executive, which it said needed

discretion to formulate policies in

Monday, Justice Chandrachud said

although he had got the affidavit

late on Sunday night and the other

judges had got it on Monday morn-

ing, things had been easy as he had

read the report in The Indian

Express, which "had it before us".

As proceedings began on

The Centre also urged the

low)", it had said.

the larger interest.

The policy was "just, equitable,

UP, too In UP's Hamirpur district, lo-

cal residents spotted five bodies floating in the Yamuna, which created a scare that these were of Covid patients, an apprehension dismissed by the authorities. The resident had spotted the bodies, including a half-burnt corpse, under a bridge on the Yamuna on May 6, according to an official.

"After speaking to people and looking at the bodies, prima facie, it can be said these were not of Covid-19 patients, as these were draped in a traditional manner and no body was wrapped as done in the case of Covid-19 victims," District Magistrate Gyaneshwar Tripathi said in a statement. He said all bodies were cremated with full respect

Govt: 13 states distributing free grains under PMGKAY

RUSH HOUR AS CURBS KICK IN

Heavy rush at the railway station in Jaipur as Rajasthan imposed a two-week lockdown on Monday. The state recorded 160 fatalities and 16,487 new cases on Monday. Rohit Jain Paras

EXPRESS EXPLAINED.LIVE

Top virologist Dr Shahid Jameel to clear the air on second wave today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, MAY 10

IT IS more than a week that India has been reporting around four lakh new coronavirus infections every day. But this

Kerala are still surging, and at least for the time being, are able to compensate for the marginal decline that is being seen in Maharashtra. Some other states like Uttar Pradesh. Bihar or West Bengal have the potential to rise.

Express Explained.Live event on Tuesday to provide a credible scientific answer to the question that is uppermost on the minds of every Indian: when will this second wave end? Dr Jameel, currently director of Trivedi School of Biosciences at

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, MAY 10

THIRTEEN STATES have started distributing foodgrains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY), which is aimed at providing free additional 5 kg foodgrains per month to beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act over and above their monthly entitlement for two months, May and Iune, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said on Monday.

The ministry also said that out of a total monthly allocation of 39.69 lakh metric tonnes (MT) under the PMGKAY, 15.55 lakh MT have been lifted by states and 1.01 lakh MT have been distributed to 2.03 crore beneficiaries till May 10.

The figures were shared during a press conference, which was addressed by Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey through

video conference. On April 23, the government had announced its decision to restart the PMGKAY to provide free-of-cost additional 5 kg foodgrains per person per month to the beneficiaries, who are cov-

ered under the NFSA, 2013 amid surge in the Covid-19 cases. However, the new version of the PMGKAY lacks one of its important components-free-of-cost 1 kg pulses per month to each household covered under the NFSA.

and it's not a scenario of uncertainty. It's a local lockdown: in-The PMGKAY was first andustry is working; complete nounced by Finance Minister lockdown is not there. That panic Nirmala Sitharaman as part of is also not there," said Pandey, when asked why the governthe government's Rs 1.70 lakh crore relief package under ment has not started the free "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan foodgrain scheme for migrants Yojana for the poor to help this time. "So, those migrants who

them fight the battle against coronavirus" on March 26 last year. Initially, the scheme was for three months – May, June and July - but later it was ex-

tended till November 2020. The Centre had also the One Nation, One Ration card launched a separate scheme to scheme.

provide free 5 kg foodgrain per person per month to stranded migrants for two months. However, the ministry has ruled out possibility of a similar scheme this time.

went back to their villages, are

availing of their ration cards -- ei-

ther state ration card or the cen-

He said that people are using

tral ration card," Pandey said.

The migrant crisis is not as big as it was last year. And migrants, whosoever have either stayed behind at their places of work because the industrial production in many areas - it's not a complete lockdown scenario

week has also been the first time since April that the upward march of the Covid curve has been interrupted. The daily Jharkhand, count of cases has moved up and down, unlike in April when every single day, except Mondays, had brought in a higher number of cases.

Still, it might be too early to suggest that India is finally approaching the peak of the second wave. While the growth of cases in Maharashtra, and possibly Delhi, may have plateaued, states such as Karnataka and

More than 100 deaths are being reported even by relatively small states such as Haryana, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh. India has seen over 85,000 Covid-related deaths in the last 40 days, and the daily death count of about 4.000 is likely to continue for some more days, at least.

Dr Shahid Jameel, one of India's topmost virologists, and director of Trivedi School of Biosciences at the Ashoka University, will appear at the

MGNREGS demand in April nearly doubled over last year

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, MAY 10

AMID THE surge in Covid-19 cases, about 2 crore families across the country availed of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural **Employment Guarantee Scheme** (MGNREGS) in April-80 per cent

higher than the corresponding figure last year, according to the data on the scheme's website.

The April 2021 figure is provisional and likely to be revised upwards. This is because muster rolls data of the last week of the month gets updated over the first fortnight of the following month.

The data, reported by states till

the Ashoka University, is one of India's most distinguished virologists and among the most prominent voices of reason during the pandemic.

He would try to make sense of the current situation, and explain the possible reasons behind this unprecedented surge in cases.

He would also answer queries on the bottlenecks being witnessed in India's vaccination drive, the possibility of a third wave, and the lessons learnt from this crisis.

May 9, shows that 1.99 crore fam-

ilies-availed of the NREGS in April

2021, compared to 1.10 crore fam-

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

March last year," said Suneet Sharma, Chairman Railway Board. "Railway is not different from

daily. We have augmented the

number of beds, we have built

oxygen plants in rail hospitals. We

take care of our staff...," he added.

died in the pandemic, most of

them in the second wave this year.

according to the All Indian Station

Masters'Association(AISMA).The

Railway Protection Force has so far

In letters to Railway Board as

well as several rail divisions, the

association has demanded things

like special insurance cover of Rs

50 lakh for each of them, and im-

mediate vaccination of their cadre.

It has said that due to many sta-

tion masters falling sick, the trun-

cated staff have to work overtime,

since stations cannot be left with-

Railways – the largest commercial

utility employer in India – have

cited that around 1 lakh employ-

ees have been struck by the virus

during the pandemic, of which

two-third have so far recovered.

Employees' unions of the

out station masters.

lost 50 men.

So far, 113 station masters have

But, we are sorry to inform that no office has given us any positive reany other state or territory and we sponse," Sunil Kumar, secretary are also getting Covid cases... We general of AISMA, wrote in a lethave to move freight and people. ter to the Railway Board. Around 1,000 cases are reported

Currently, the focus is on vaccinating the staff, officials said. In several zones and divisions, effort is on to vaccinate staff in batches through coordination with state governments. "It is a top priority for us to get all our staff vaccinated. We are in constant coordination with the state governments," said S C Jain. Divisional Railway Manager, Delhi.

When vaccination opened for frontline workers, railway medical staff as well as RPF personnel got vaccinated. However, other categories like ticket checkers, station masters, drivers and guards were not included in that drive.

A couple of days ago, the All India Railwavmen's Federation. the largest railway union, wrote to Railway Minister Piyush Goyal demanding compensation on a par with frontline workers for railwavmen who lost their lives while working during the crisis. In the letter, they said that these employees deserved Rs 50 lakh compensation, same as that announced for frontline workers and not Rs 25 lakh, which is paid to them.

ilies in April 2020. The April 2021 figure, however, is also higher than the pre-Covid-19 number of April 2019, when 1.70 crore households used the scheme.

Delhi to UP, DU to AMU, teaching community battles loss **Odisha clears** proposal to float

SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, MAY 10

FROM SENIOR professors to para-teachers in rural pockets, from Delhi to Uttar Pradesh, both bearing the brunt of the raging pandemic, all sections of the teaching community are reeling under the loss of colleagues and friends.

Among the institutions that have been hit hard is Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), which has lost close to 50 members in the current wave, including serving and retired teachers, teachers in its school, and nonteaching staff members,

spokesperson Rahat Abrar said. At Delhi University (DU),

teachers estimate that around 24 members of the teaching staff have lost their lives in this wave. Iamia Millia Islamia has lost four professors, and a total of 15 staff members to Covid, according to its Public Relations Officer.

On Saturday, AMU lost Mohammad Shakeel Ahmed, the dean of its Faculty of Law who had taught there for 12 years and authored two books one on the uniform civil code and another called Maintenance of the Muslim Divorcee.

"He was a passionate and dedicated teacher, and a reputed academician. His vibrant pres-



Mount Carmel School in Dwarka, Delhi, has a Covid centre now, with 100-odd churches pooling in resources. Amit Mehra

ence left an indelible mark." said vice-chancellor Tariq Mansoor. Some of the other senior professors in the university who lost their battles to Covid in the

last few weeks are Sajid Ali Khan, chairman of the Department of Psychology; Shadab Ahmed Khan, chairman of the Department of Medicine;

and, Khalid Bin Yusuf, former chairman of the Department of Sanskrit. Last week, the community was stunned by the loss of voung English teacher Mohammad Yusuf Ansari.

long association with AMU. He had topped his B.A and M.A there, did his Ph.D too, and started teaching in the English department in 2014.

"As a student, he would quickly endear himself to teachers – punctual and polite with extremely neat handwriting. When he started teaching, I was worried that he won't be up for it because he was gentle and quiet. But he was liked by his

students and deeply involved in his work. He was working to get his Ph.D published on the works of Girish Karnad," said Seemin Hasan, his colleague who had been his Ph.D supervisor.

"Given that we have lost several heads of departments, the academic loss for students is great. But even more than that. we are a very closely knit community since it's a residential university and there is a great sense of loss," said Abrar, the spokesperson. In Jamia, the deceased professors include senior academics such as historian Rizwan Qaiser and Shafeeque Ansari, who was former director of the university's Centre for

Department of Physics and float a global tender for Covid-

Astrophysics, who was formerly Dean. Examinations. Some institutes have lost multiple teachers in the last few weeks. Kirori Mal College lost two teachers -- Pramod Kumar Singh of the Chemistry department and Arunesh Chaudhury from the Commerce depart-

> FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

www.indianexpress.com

ment

vaccine tender Interdisciplinary Research in Basic Sciences. The DU community has also lost those who held **AISHWARYA MOHANTY** senior positions in the central BHUBANESWAR, MAY 10 administration such Sudhir Sharma, who was Joint Registrar, and Vinay Gupta of the THE ODISHA government on Monday approved a proposal to

> 19 vaccines in order to expedite the vaccination programme in the state. While the modalities and quantity is yet to be finalised, the Chief Minister's office (CMO) said it was decided that vaccines would be procured in the short-

> > est possible time as cases continue to surge. **FULL REPORT ON**

In his thirties, Ansari had a

9 FIEINDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 **FXPIAINED**

00 @ieExplained #ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

SIMPLY PUT

Behind the clashes at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa

What is the significance of the mosque and its location, and why has it become the site of clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinians over the last one week?

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN MUMBAI, MAY 10

ON MONDAY, Israeli police stormed the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in East Jerusalem, leaving a reported 300 people injured. It came on a day Israel observes as Jerusalem Day, and marked the fourth day of clashes at one of the most revered and the most contested sites of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Week of tensions

On the last Friday of Ramzan last week. more than 150 people were injured when Israeli forces broke up a massive gathering of Palestinian worshippers who had gathered to pray at the mosque, revered as Islam's third holiest site. There were more clashes in the area over the weekend. The stand-off came at the end of a week of tensions over the eviction of Palestinian residents from two neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem, Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, to make way for Jewish settlers.

On Monday, the tensions came to a head again, hours before the annual May 10 Jerusalem Day processions by Jewish groups through the Old City of East Jerusalem to mark the day the territory was captured by Israeli forces during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Israel annexed the territory later and incorporated it into West Jerusalem, captured



The Israeli Foreign Ministry said Monday's incident was the "direct result of incitement by Palestinian terror groups". On Twitter, the ministry posted photos of stone purportedly collected inside the mosque, implying that people inside the compound were planning to attack the May 10 processions. Due to the spike in tensions, the police changed the route of the processions at the last minute.

The mosque & the Mount

The Al-Aqsa is located on a plaza at Temple Mount, which is known in Islam as Haram-e-Sharif. The Mount is also Judaism's holiest site. The most imposing structure on the compound is the Dome of the Rock, with its golden dome. The Western Wall, also known as the Wailing Wall sacred to Jews, is one side of the retaining wall of the Al-Aqsa compound.

Al-Aqsa is central to the rival claims over Jerusalem. Both Israel and Palestine have declared it their capital. In July 1980, the Israeli Parliament passed the Jerusalem Law declaring it the country's capital. Palestinians declared Jerusalem the capital of the putative state of Palestine by a law passed by the Palestinian Authority in 2000. The 1988



A Palestinian man runs away from tear gas in front of the Dome of the Rock Mosque at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem on Monday. AP

Palestinian Declaration of Independence also declared Jerusalem as the capital. For the present, the Palestinian Authority has its headquarters in Ramallah.

Soon after the 1967 Six-Day War ended, Israel gave back to Jordan the administration and management of the Al-Aqsa compound. While non-Muslims have not been allowed to worship at Al-Aqsa, Jewish individuals and groups have made repeated attempts to gain entry to the Mount Temple plaza. Since the late 1990s, around the time of the first in-

tifada, such attempts began occurring with a regularity as Jewish settlers began claiming land in East Jerusalem and surrounding areas. It has led to repeated clashes and tensions at Al-Aqsa. Frequently, the Israeli police have backed such attempts.

World concerns

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan called his Israeli counterpart to express "serious concern". The Security Council held a meeting on the situation in Jerusalem, but did not make any statement immediately. UN Secretary General António Guterres expressed "deep concern" over the violence and the possible eviction of Palestinian families from their homes in East Jerusalem. He asked Israeli authorities to exercise "maximum restraint". A spokesperson for Guterres said the status quo at Al-Aqsa should be "upheld and respected".

Last Friday, the US said it was "extremely concerned". A White House spokesman said the US wanted Israeli and Palestinian authorities to "act decisively to de-escalate tensions and bring a halt to the violence". He also said it was "critical" not to aggravate the situation with "evictions in East Jerusalem, settlement activity, home demolitions and acts of terrorism'

The UAE, which recently recognised as Israel as a state and sealed a historic peace

agreement to normalise relations with it, has "strongly condemned" the clashes and the planned evictions in Jerusalem over the past week. The statement, issued by Foreign Minister Khalifa al-Marar, asked Israel to protect the sanctity of the Al-Aqsa.

Saudi Arabia, which has given its tacit blessings to the "Abraham Accords" by not opposing Israel's recognition by UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan, said it "rejects Israel's plans and measures to evict dozens of Palestinians from their homes in Ierusalem".

On a visit to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday took to Twitter to condemn Israel for "violating all norms of humanity and international law. We must reiterate support for Palestinian ppl. Int community must take immed action to protect Palestinians and their legitimate rights".

Israel response

At a special cabinet meeting to commemorate Jerusalem Day, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that Israel would "not allow any extremist element to undermine the quiet Jerusalem", and that "we will uphold law and order...we will continue to safeguard freedom of worship for all faiths but we will not allow violent disturbances".

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EXPLAINED THE PANDEMIC Challenge ahead in vaccinating India

Covid-19 vaccines are being developed at a pace faster than for any other disease, yet there are shortages. India will look forward to procuring more vaccines and a proposed IP waiver from global manufacturers.



of specialists, exclusive insight

CHAUHAN From The Indian Express panel

COVID-19 vaccines were developed at an astonishing pace. No other disease has seen so many vaccines developed so fast. Out of 250 candidate vaccines that were being developed, at least 10 have already been approved for emergency use in different parts of the world. Most of the first flush of approved vaccines were based on two technologies never used in humans earlier. These include mRNA-based vaccines of Pfizer-BioNTech. Moderna. and the viral vector-based vaccines of Astra Zeneca/Oxford University, Sputnik V, and Coronavac of CanSino Biologics from China. Vaccines based on the time-tested technology of using an inactivated virus include Covaxin of Bharat Biotech-ICMR. Janssen of Johnson and Johnson, and vaccines from Sinovac and Sinopharm from China. All these are safe and efficacious in protecting from severe disease and death but not necessarily from infection. These are given as two jabs, with the exception of Janssen, a single-shot vaccine, possibly a trendsetter for future vaccines. At least 50 more vaccines are in the pipeline with three or four close to approvals in different parts of the world. Several, including a DNA-based vaccine from Zydus Cadila in India, are in the final stages of development.



worked out. The world over, and now very much in India, the question being raised is that even after so many vaccines having been approved, why is there a huge shortage of supply, and unjustifiable and inequitable access to these vaccines?

centre in New Delhi. Praveen Khanna

the most ferocious second

wave of the pandemic

seen anywhere in the

world. With more than 4

lakh cases reported per

day, there is a serious con-

cern that the virus could

mutate into more danger-

ous variants and if the

chain of viral multiplica-

tion is not controlled soon,

it will become a global

problem. New waves the

world over are driven by

Queue at a Covid-19

vaccination

haps, even babies. It will therefore become even more difficult to access these vaccines in the free market.

On the other hand, approval for Sputnik V was recently denied in Brazil. Vaccines of China's Sinovac and Sinopharm are not yet ap-

supply chain of the ambitious programme to vaccinate all its adult population. Although India ranks number three after the US and China in the absolute number of vaccines administered, only about 13% of its population has received a single jab and about 2% fully vaccinated. Many countries have already vaccinated more than half their adult population.

With India being known as the hub of vaccine manufacturing, everybody is asking why it is so, and why is it difficult to ramp up production of the two available vaccines. Vaccines are complex formulations of many components and depend on a seamless supply of raw materials that are mostly imported. From production of the bulk material to filling of the formulation in vials is a highly complex and time-consuming process that cannot be hastened. Ramping up of existing production, even after adequate funds are available, will inevitably take a minimum 2-3 months. Even if the licence is granted to vaccine manufacturers, actual production will take several months of preparation to kick off. The vaccination drive to cover India's adult population will therefore face a supply chain crunch at least for the next few months, unless a large number of vaccines are imported. This option should be carefully but quickly considered. With at least three or four more vaccines, including Sputnik V, Janssen, and Novavax, already slated to be produced in India and several more being indigenously developed, India would certainly be producing vaccines to vaccinate major parts of the world, hopefully by the end of 2021. There is a joint proposal of India and South Africa that will be taken up once again at the World Trade Organization, and as per the latest update, the US has already responded positively in support of the proposal when it comes up for consideration sometime soon. Under this proposal, companies already producing Covid vaccines will be expected to share their IPR for at least a given period with enough safeguards of their own interests. That will greatly help in producing high quality and affordable vaccines for the whole world and, hopefully, all this will happen before the virus is able to develop immune escape mutants. The race is on and humanity has no option but to defeat the virus and stay ahead in this race.

INDIA TOTAL CASES WORLD TOTAL CASES 22.662.575 ce: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on May 10

158,480,718 ce: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on May 10

1/3rd of patients hospitalised with severe Covid-19 still show lung effects after a year

A NEW study has shown that most patients discharged from hospital after experiencing severe Covid-19 infection appear to return to full health, although up to a third do still have evidence of effects upon the lungs one year on

People are most commonly hospitalised for Covid-19 infection when it

affects the lungs termed Covid-19 pneumonia. While significant progress has been made in understanding and treating acute Covid-19 pneumonia, very little is understood about how long it takes for patients to fully recover and whether changes within the lungs persist.

In this new study, published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, researchers from the University of Southampton worked with collaborators in Wuhan, China, to investigate the natural history of recovery from severe Covid-19 pneumonia up to one year after hospitalisation.

Eighty-three patients were recruited after they were discharged from hospital following severe Covid-19 pneumonia and were followed up after three, six, nine and twelve months. At each time point they un-

derwent clinical assessment as well as measures of how well the lungs function, a CT scan of their chest to take a picture of the lungs, and a walking test.

Over 12 months in most patients, there was an improvement in symptoms, exercise capacity, and Covid-related CT changes. By 12 months the

majority of patients appeared to have fully recovered although about 5% of patients still reported breathlessness. A third of patients' measures of lung function were still reduced - in particular how efficiently oxygen is transferred in the lungs into the blood – and this was more frequently found in women than in

men. In around a guarter of patients CT scans showed there were still small areas of change in the lungs, and this was more common in patients with more severe lung changes at time of hospitalisation.

The researchers acknowledged that this study only involved a small number of patients and the findings will require confirmation in additional studies. However they have identified a number of important implications. Source: University of Southampton

So many and yet shortage

With so many vaccines being developed, it may create the impression that it is not very difficult to make efficacious vaccines against a virus like SARS-CoV-2. Far from it! Vaccine development is a highly complex and a specialised enterprise. Under normal circumstances, it takes 10-15 years to develop any vaccine after the scientific rationale has been

First, with about seven billion people to be vaccinated worldwide, with mostly two jabs each, the demand is obviously very high. Second, the rich nations have behaved as they always do. More than 80% of available vaccines have been ordered and/or already stocked by a few countries represent-

ing only about 20% of the

world population. Even

with a WHO-led effort like

COVAX, only about 1% of

the African population has

There are other com-

plexities as well. For ex-

ample, as of now, only

three vaccines - Pfizer,

Moderna, and recently

Ianssen – have been ap-

most

proved by the US FDA. The

received vaccines so far.

THE EXPERT **DR VIRANDER SINGH CHAUHAN** is a former UGC Chairman and a former director of the International Centre for currently holds the Arturo Falaschi Chair.

affordable AstraZeneca vaccine still

awaits approval. With recent reports of Pfizer getting approval for immunising the age group 12-16, and Moderna and Janssen close to completing safety and efficacy trials in this age group, it is clear that western countries, which have already immunised a significant portion of their adult populations, will proceed to vaccinate young children and, per-

proved in western countries. Efficacious and safe vaccines, regardless of their origin, need to be critically but quickly examined and added to the pool.

Shortage in India India is in the grip of

Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, where he

> mutants and although current vaccines seem effective against these, the chances of emergence of immune-escape mutants will only increase if the pandemic is not brought under control.

India, with its inherently fragile healthcare system, has come under immense pressure as never before. There is an acute shortage of medical oxygen, and there is a big gap in the

1 in 7 hospital staff infected after jabs: small study

ASTHA SAXENA NEW DELHI, MAY 10

A SMALL-SCALE study in healthcare workers at a private hospital in Delhi found that "breakthrough" infections occurred in 13.3% of them (about 1 in 7), with one requiring hospitalisation. The study was conducted on healthcare workers from Fortis Centre of Excellence for Diabetes, Metabolic Diseases and Endocrinology and has been published in the journal Diabetes & Metabolic Syndrome: Clinical Research & Reviews.

What are breakthrough cases?

People who get infected with Covid-19 even after getting a vaccine shot are known as "breakthrough cases", implying that the infection has broken through the protection provided by the vaccine. According to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the incidence of such cases in both vaccines in use in India – Covaxin and Covishield has remained low.

How was the study conducted?

The hospital has 123 employees out of whom 113 had been vaccinated by the time the study took place. The workers included doctors, nutritionists, nurses, paramedical workers, and maintenance staff. The healthcare facility caters to patients of diabetes with or without complications, related metabolic disorders & those requiring non-emergency surgeries

A detailed database was maintained by the hospital regarding vaccinations and Covid-19 infections of all the employees from January till date. All infections after any dose

of vaccinations were recorded. The study was conducted between January 16 till date. Of the 113 participants, 28 had been administered Covaxin while 85 were inoculated with Covishield.

What were the findings?

Out of the 113 who had been vaccinated, a second dose was administered to 107. Breakthrough symptomatic Covid-19 infections (more than 14 days after the second dose) was seen in 15 persons (13.3% of 113). All were symptomatic with fever and half of them had sore throat and cough. "A few had loose motion and loss of smell and taste. Symptoms lasted from 3-14 days. Except one who required hospitalisation, all 14 persons with breakthrough infections had mild Covid- 19 disease," said Dr Anoop Misra, Chairman of the healthcare facility.

What are the implications?

The researchers concluded that high prevalence of "breakthrough" infection is seen in the healthcare facility. Dr Misra said: "Covid-19 infections after complete doses of vaccination will be important morbidity post pandemic, and may become a source of further infections. We need more research and data especially in community dwelling people. 'Breakthrough' infection in India after complete vaccination should be a prime area of research. This is an important area and clearly needs more research. It is reassuring that the majority of breakthrough infections seen in our facility are mild. But a significant area of concern is that asymptomatic infections were missed since RT-PCR test was selectively done in symptomatic patients. These asymptomatic patients are likely to promote viral spread.'

PAPER NEW RESEARCH

0 THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE THE CORONAVIRUS IS HAVING A DEVASTATING ECONOMIC IMPACT ON STATES. — CONOR LAMB

The Indian **EXPRESS**

S FOUNDED BY S RAMNATH GOENKA BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

PLEASE DON'T DENY

Covid surge is going rural. Governments should ensure truth isn't a Covid casualty, howsoever terrible it makes them look

MONGSTTHE WORRYING aspects of the pandemic's second wave is the speed at which the virus has spread to large swathes of the country's rural areas. According to a report released last week by the State Bank of India, 48.5 per cent of the caseload burden is borne by the rural districts. The number of deaths has quadrupled compared to the peak of the first wave in September 2020. These disconcerting figures may not convey the scale of the tragedy unfolding in large parts of rural India. Reporting of Covid cases is low, for one, because of a dearth of testing facilities. The mismatch between official deaths and funerals, blurred lines between Covid funerals and Covid protocol funerals, singular lack of testing — all these have helped nervous state governments in dropping the analytical ball. Away from the media spotlight, and with few participants in social media, a crisis more serious than that suggested by official records seems to be playing out.

Last year, it took more than four months for the virus to leave its footprint in the villages. This seems to have fuelled misconceptions about the pandemic being a predominantly urban phenomenon. While several cities took steps, though inadequate, to augment medical facilities, rural centres continue to make do with under-staffed and under-equipped primary health centres. Rural government hospitals in the worst-hit state Maharashtra, for instance, have just two beds per 10,000 people — less than half the number recommended by the WHO. In Muzaffarnagar district, as an ongoing series of reports from UP in this paper revealed, nurses are substituting for doctors and ward attendants are doing the job of nurses. Reports from Odisha also point to a beleaguered health infrastructure overwhelmed by a community spread of the infection, especially in villages that share the border with Chhattisgarh. The country's flagship healthcare insurance programme, Ayushman Bharat, means nothing when there aren't enough beds or oxygen cylinders.

In most parts of the world, official records report only confirmed cases, not actual infections, because several people display mild or no symptoms. But in India, the matter has been compounded by widespread undercounting. Even in pre-Covid times, the disease burden was not accurately counted, and deaths went under-reported in villages because a large number of people died at home without medical attention. But dealing with this notoriously infectious virus requires every detail to be mapped and demands that state governments step up their data collection methods and be scrupulous with facts. Not only will a true picture of the spread help in checking the pathogen's surge, it will also build capacities and strengthen SOPs for the next wave. If every crisis is also an opportunity, this one is for governments to get pandemic surveillance right — the pulse polio success is why there is a formidable network of vaccinators in villages. Maharashtra, to some extent, and Kerala, have recognised the salience of robust data, and other states need to follow suit. Every government should realise and internalise that the only way to flatten and bend the Covid curve is to ensure that truth is never a Covid casualty, howsoever terrible it may make them look.

SARMA'S TASK

New Assam chief minister needs to carry everyone along, as state fights new scourge, while healing old divides

IX YEARS AFTER he left the Congress, Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as the 15th CM of Assam on Monday. In this short span of time, Sarma made himself indispensable to the BJP's political expansion in the Northeast. He played a key role in the BJP winning Assam in 2016 and piloted the party's success in states including Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.

For most of his political career, Sarma has been more a behind-the-scenes crisis manager and strategist for the party – first the Congress, and then the BJP – apart from being minister of crucial departments such as health and education in the Tarun Gogoi and Sonowal governments. As CM, he will be expected to lead from the front. His will also be the responsibility of healing a state riven by numerous faultlines - some of which have been deepened by his party's politics. As a border state, Assam bears the scars of an exploitative colonial settlement policy and the Partition. It remains a restive society and is still not at peace with issues of identity and resource distribution. The BJP saw these through a communal prism and amended the citizenship act, reviving old fears and insecurities. The CAA and the National Register of Citizens polarised Assam on ethnic, linguistic and religious lines and Sarma was in the forefront of a campaign that stoked minority insecurities. Though the CAA and NRC took a backseat during the elections, the BJP targeted the AIUDF and its leader Badruddin Ajmal. Sarma, on one occasion, framed the election as a battle between 65 per cent (Hindus) and 35 per cent (Muslims). Before that, as minister, he had denied social and cultural agency to Muslims of Bengali origin by labelling them as outsiders. As CM, Sarma will need to win the trust and confidence of the whole electorate, not just those who had voted for the BJP. Sarma has promised to turn Assam into an economic powerhouse. This is possible if he can ensure social peace and turn Assam's geography and location - particularly, its border with Bangladesh and the Brahmaputra - into an advantage to further trade, commerce, and tourism. However, the immediate task for Sarma, who has held the health portfolio for many years, would be to lead the administration's charge in the uphill battle against the pandemic.



CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

IN THE WAKE of the oxygen supply crisis in Covid-19 management in India, the Supreme Court has set up a 12-member National Task Force (NTF) to guide, inter alia, the central government allocation of medical oxygen to the states. The task force will work with senior officials of NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade as well as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Directorate General of Health Services. The Supreme Court has also mandated that the task force may constitute more sub-groups on specialised areas or regions to assist in its work and also to consider, if appropriate, seeking the assistance of experts both within and outside government in areas such as critical care, infectious disease modelling, clinical virology and immunology, and epidemiology/ public health. The rationale for setting up the task force has been to facilitate a public health response to the pandemic based upon scientific and specialised domain knowledge.

It is hoped that the establishment of the NTF will help the decision-makers with inputs that can enable them to go beyond ad hoc solutions to the unprecedented challenge. In the 12-point terms of reference (ToR) of the NTF, the first five points focus on oxygen supply, including, deciding on a methodology for the scientific allocation of oxygen to states and facilitating audits (of oxygen supply, distribution and utilisation) by sub-groups within each state and UTs. The task force will also review and suggest measures necessary for ensuring the availability of essential drugs and medicines. The remaining six ToR of the NTF are aimed at the broader pandemic preparedness and response, which include planning and adopting remedial measures to ensure preparedness for present and future emergencies; to facilitate the use of technology; to suggest augmenting the availability of trained doctors, nurses and paramedical staff; to promote evidence-based research and enhance effective response to the pandemic; facili-

The NTF will have the responsibility to ensure that India should not end up with a medicalised response to a public health challenge. The decisions and recommendations of this NTF and how they co-opt the members with the right expertise will determine whether India ends up becoming a medicalised care system (which would focus on treating sick) or a healthcare system which can keep people healthy and respond to future epidemics and pandemics.

tate sharing of best practices across the nation to promote knowledge about management of the pandemic and to make recommendations in regard to other issues of pressing national concerns. The tenure of the task force shall be six months initially.

The Supreme Court's order to set up the task force is highly significant, considering that India is struggling to mount an effective response to the second wave of the pandemic. It ensures the participation of independent subject experts in policy decisions, which have often been criticised as being overly led by a techno-bureaucratic process. It is very significant that the Court has considered the supply of medical oxygen in the broader context of the shortage of medicines at health facilities and that the improved supply and provision of essential drugs and medicines has been included as one of the ToRs.

The shortage of medical oxygen in the Covid-19 response reflects insufficient planning, delayed procurement, and weakness of supply chain management - issues which plague medicine supply in the public healthcare sector in India. The only differences are i) that the shortage of medical oxygen is more acute and urgent and ii), while people can buy medicines from the private sector, medical oxygen is short across the board. The root cause of this situation is the insufficient capacity of state health departments in planning, procurement and supply of medicines, an issue which is widely known. This is further aggravated by insuf-ficient government funding. The importance of such a mechanism cannot be underestimated. For instance, Tamil Nadu had set up the medical supply corporation in 1994 and has better supply management than most other Indian states. In recent years, a number of states have set up medical procurement and supply corporations, but their functioning remains suboptimal in the absence of sufficient and trained human resources. As a result, though most Indian states have started free medicine schemes, people continue to spend on medicines from their own pockets. The coexistence of

free medicine schemes and high out-ofpocket expenditure (which accounts for nearly 30-40 per cent of healthcare costs paid by the people from their pocket) on medicines is a comment on the performance of these schemes. The presence of many private chemist shops just outside every government hospital across India, speaks volumes, too. Therefore, looking at the shortage of medical oxygen through a broader lens is a great start.

The work of the NTF will not be without challenges. They have a short time to look at far broader issues. The members of NTF have the needed qualification and expertise to advise on clinical matters and oxygen supply; however, they may need to proactively co-opt members with expertise in medical procurement and supply; pharmacology, free medicines and diagnostics; and public health and emergency health response. Also, considering that the availability of diagnostics has similar challenges as medicines, the NTF may consider including that as well in the scope of its work.

However, the NTF may face a bigger challenge in delivering on its ToRs on the broader pandemic response. All 10 of the 12 independent members of the NTF (the other two are government officials, ex-officio) are leading clinicians, critical care specialists and virologists. They may be the best in their area of work; but a long-term and effective pandemic response needs broader expertise than medical care. The NTF will have the responsibility to ensure that India should not end up with a medicalised response to a public health challenge. The decisions and recommendations of this NTF and how they co-opt members with the right expertise will determine whether India ends up becoming a medicalised care system (which would focus on treating sick) or a healthcare system which can keep people healthy and respond to future epidemics and pandemics.

> Lahariya is a public policy and health systems expert. He is the co-author of Till We Win: India's Fight Against The COVID-19 Pandemic



BETRAYING BENGAL'S MANDATE

Silence is no option. TMC cadres have unleashed terror, BJP will resist

A guiding force

Task Force set up by court can shape response to pandemic — and future public health challenge

A BAT OF BAMBOO

Results of a new study point to a possible tweak in the old game. The batsmen are smiling

OR CENTURIES, THE sound of a leather ball on a wooden bat has been romanticised. If a couple of Cambridge University researchers have their way, it might be time to start fussing about the sound of leather on bamboo. The results from their study on bamboo bats will please the mollycoddled batsmen: Bamboo is 22 per cent stiffer than willow and apparently increases the speed at which the ball leaves the bat. The sweet spot on their prototype performed 19 per cent better than traditional bats and was closer to the toe-end of the bat. In the words of the co-author of the study, Dr Darshil Shah, who was a member of Thailand's under-19 national cricket team, "this is a batsman's dream". The investigations comprised microscopic analysis, video-capture technology, computer modelling, compression, and vibrations testing — and presumably some good-old thwacking.

This is also another step towards the de-colonisation of the English game. It can promote sustainability and drastically cut down the cost of producing a bat, further democratising the sport. Bamboo grass is far cheaper than the English willow. There is already a shortage of good-quality English willow, which, like good whiskey, takes up to 15 years to mature. The Moso bamboo matures in five to six years and is abundantly found in India, which is the second-largest cultivator after China, South-East Asia, and South America.

The law specifies "blade shall consist solely of wood". One of the first-ever mentions of a bat was found in an inquest of death in England in 1614. Fearing he might be caught, the batsman whacked the ball again — those days, the batsmen could strike more than once — but ended up hitting fielder Jasper Vinall, who tragically died. The inquest absolved the batsman of any homicidal intent. Would the result have been less ghastly if the bat were made of bamboo? That is a question. But certainly, batsmen with a bamboo bat can cause more legal mayhem.

SUVENDU ADHIKARI

ON MAY 7, the people of West Bengal marked Tagore Jayanti, an occasion to recall the great thoughts of the man who said, "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high." Unfortunately, in today's West Bengal, the minds of the people are not free and our heads hang in shame at the situation, which is a textbook case of what fascism looks like. A sitting Union minister was attacked by goons associated with the ruling party. This was not an isolated phenomenon. Across the state, violence continues unchecked.

Victory, it is said, brings humility. Shri Ramakrishna taught us all: A tree laden with fruits will bend more. The West Bengal elections have concluded and the results are for everyone to see. The people of the state have given a clear mandate to the TMC to govern and not unleash terror across the state. There is a lot that has to be done on the governance front - Covid has to be brought under control. But TMC cadres, supported by their top leadership, are doing everything possible to destroy the culture of democracy in the state. So busy was the West Bengal Chief Minister in her rallies that she did not find it prudent to attend the recent Covid meetings called by the Prime Minister.

After the results were declared on May 2, TMC cadres got clear instructions to intimidate the political opposition in the state. They went about their work with clinical precision. Dozens of our party workers have been Assam is not very far from West Bengal. Did we see such violent triumphalism in Assam after the NDA was re-elected? Did we see such aggression in Puducherry where the NDA will form a government? The clear answer is no. When the TMC is defeated in an election, they leave no opportunity to blame the EVMs. Did we hear the BJP blame the EVMs in West Bengal? killed, thousands forced to flee their homes. Nobody has been spared — women, children, farmers, poor or the young. TMC has violated every tenet of our Constitution. So ungrateful are the TMC cadres that they have attacked the remaining few offices of the Left and Congress in the state. This, when both parties did everything possible to embolden TMC to defeat BJP, even if it meant their own tally drops to zero.

The people of Nandigram gave TMC and their leaders so much affection. Had it not been for the movement in Nandigram, TMC would never have won in 2011. Today, because Nandigram has seen through the failures of TMC and rejected the party, their cadres are taking revenge on the people here. Elected representatives are being attacked.

Some people who have ideological differences with the BJP were elated over the West Bengal result. But their silence on the TMC-sponsored violence is deafening. Not a word to criticise the aggression of TMC cadres. Not a word on the lives lost. Not a word on the women attacked. They leave no opportunity to talk about their "idea of India" but conveniently shut their eyes and ears while this very idea of a liberal democratic India is being sullied in West Bengal.

Assam is not very far from West Bengal. Did we see such violent triumphalism in Assam after the NDA was re-elected? Did we see such aggression in Puducherry where the NDA will form a government? The clear answer is no. When the TMC is defeated in an election, they leave no opportunity to blame the EVMs. Did we hear the BJP blame the EVMs in West Bengal? This time, the TMC launched an offensive against the Election Commission and central forces. But, if I remember correctly, the TMC always wanted phased elections so that democratic aspirations can be manifested. TMC always wanted proper security for the voters before they cast their vote. What has changed now? The answer is obvious.

Lord Curzon and HS Suhrawardy would be very proud of the antics of today's TMC. The party is laser-focused on destroying the united fabric of West Bengal. If they are doing so much just after victory, imagine what they can do in the coming days. As for the BJP, our tally has shot up to 77 from three. Certainly, not the result we would have wanted but we are here to stay for the long run and will bring back the glory of West Bengal. Today, silence is not an option. We will continue resisting the money and muscle power of the TMC. If the TMC continues like this, the fate of the Left front awaits it very soon. That is when the dream of a Sonar Bangla will be a reality.

The writer is the newly elected BJP MLA from Nandigram and Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly



MAY 11, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

MITTERRAND WINS

IN A DRAMATIC upset, the Socialist Party chief, Francois Mitterrand won the French presidential elections defeating the incumbent candidate, Valery Giscard d'Estaing after a close, grueling race. The win appeared all the more sweeter, since it was Mitterrand's third and final bid for presidency. In the last presidential elections, seven years ago, he was beaten by d'Estaing by 425,000 votes. But in the eyes of the 64year old socialist, the win was inevitable. "Ideas mature as fruits and men," he said. The victory of the first left wing candidate in presidential elections in the Fifth Republic is being considered as much a vic-

tory of style as ideology. Under pressure from d'Estaing that Mitterrand would lean on communists, the president-elect assured voters that he would try for gradual change.

BIHAR SHARIF RIOTS

UNION HOME MINISTER Zail Singh has alleged that the RSS played a role in the Bihar Sharif riots. Some other parties had backed the rioting, he said. He, however, refrained from naming these parties. These parties, he said, were out to malign the government by creating such disturbances. The situation in Bihar Sharif was fast improving after action taken by the government, he said.

VAJPAYEE'S ALLEGATIONS

BJP PRESIDENT, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said people were again perturbed as they were on the eve of 1977 and 1980 elections. The two elections had proved fatal for the Congress and the Janata Party respectively. The country's mood had changed to one of frustration under economic strain and the ruling party's threat of invoking the National Security Act.

DACOITS STRIKE IN UP

SIX POLICE OFFICERS were killed in an encounter with dacoits in UP's Mainpuri district. The gangs of Chhabi Ram and Anar Singh were involved in the encounter.



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021

THE IDEAS PAGE The Middle East reset

India and Pakistan long assumed that American role in the Middle East was unchanging. Both must now imagine a region that is not micromanaged by the US



AS THE LAST American troops begin to leave Afghanistan and the US turns away from the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific, there is a scramble to redo the foreign policy maths in the region. Since it replaced Britain as the major external power in Greater Middle East half a century ago, America has been the pivot around which the regional politics has played out.

The old colonial powers of Europe deferred to American leadership in the region. Russia and China, in contrast, sought to chip away at US dominance. Many regional actors sought alliances with America to secure themselves against ambitious or troublesome neighbours. Others sought to balance against America. But as Washington recasts its role in the region, new realignments have become inevitable.

India and Pakistan, like most other regional actors and powers, long assumed that the American role in the greater Middle East was unchanging. Both Delhi and Rawalpindi must now imagine a Middle East that is not micromanaged by the US.

Israel's security, ensuring oil supplies, competing with other powers, making regional peace, promoting democracy, and stamping out terrorism are no longer compelling factors demanding massive American military, political and diplomatic investments in the region. After the costly and prolonged military interventions in the Middle East, Washington has begun to see that it can't fix centuries-old conflicts in the region. Even more important, the US now has other urgent priorities such as the challenge from an assertive China.

As America steps back from the Middle East, most regional actors either need alternate patrons or reduced tensions with their neighbours. Although China and Russia have regional ambitions, neither of them bring the kind of strategic heft America brought to bear on the Middle East all these decades. Learning to live with neighbours has then become an urgent priority.

Turkey has figured that its troubled economy can't sustain the ambitious regional policies of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. After years of challenging Saudi leadership of the Islamic world, Erdogan is offering an olive branch to Riyadh. He is also trying to make nice with Egypt after years of trying to destabilise Cairo by support to the Muslim Brotherhood.

After years of intense mutual hostility, Saudi Arabia and Iran are now exploring means to reduce bilateral tensions and moderate their proxy wars in the region. Saudi lations with India.

If Delhi has been pragmatic, Pakistan has struggled to recalibrate its policies towards the Middle East. It is unable to overcome the domestic ideological opposition to establishing diplomatic ties with Israel despite the recognition that a normal relationship with the Jewish state serves Pakistan's interests. Pakistan also fell between the stools in coping with regional rivalries in the Middle East.

When he came to power nearly three years ago, Prime Minister Imran Khan unveiled ostentatious plans to construct a new Islamic bloc with Turkey and Malaysia. His foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi publicly berated the Saudi-led Organisation of Islamic Cooperation for not rallying against India's constitutional changes in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Saudis and Emiratis were quick to remind of Pakistan's deep economic dependence on its Arab Gulf friends by calling in their loans to Islamabad. Abu Dhabi also turned the squeeze on Pakistan's labour exports to the UAE. Since then, the Pak army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has worked assiduously to mend Pakistan's ties with the Gulf nations.

Bajwa's effort culminated in Imran Khan's visit to Saudi Arabia last week. If religious ideologues in Pakistan had expected a thundering Saudi condemnation of India's Kashmir policy, they would have been deeply disappointed. The Saudi-Pak joint statement simply supported a dialogue between India and Pakistan on all issues, including Kashmir.

Pakistan on all issues, including Kashmir. Pakistan's about-turn on Saudi Arabia underlines that the Subcontinent does not have Delhi and Rawalpindi, for very different reasons, would have liked to see the US forces stay forever in Afghanistan. For Delhi, American military presence would have kept a check on extremist forces and created conducive conditions for an Indian role in Afghanistan. For Rawalpindi, American military presence in Afghanistan keeps the US utterly dependent on Pakistan for geographic access and operational support. And that dependence in turn could be mobilised against India.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The resurgence of militants either in the country or across the border in Afghanistan is a matter of grave concern." **– DAWN**

Dear members of BJP

We must point to the gross neglect of duty that has worsened our situation. This cannot wait for a post-Covid-19 analysis



TM Krishna

I write to you as a citizen of this country. One with socio-political views divergent from yours. You and I may argue irreconcilably, but we should still be able to walk away with mutual respect because humaneness must be a common ideal. I am writing to you in this spirit of co-citizenship, believing that all of us love this land: India, that is Bharat.

This country is at a precipice. Thousands are dying every day; there are many beyond our line of vision who are not even counted among the dead. We struggle to keep even the healthy safe. This is unprecedented and we need to plow a way through this darkness. This means that we must recognise our follies and point to the gross neglect of duty that has most definitely worsened our situation. This cannot wait for a post-Covid-19 analysis because a course correction is urgently needed, and now. In battling the pandemic, it was — and is — up to us to act in a manner that is caring and scientife. Pende's lives are at state.

tific. People's lives are at stake. Narendra Modi is not just your party leader; he is our prime minister. This constitutional role must matter. You have to see him as the leader of the entire nation, not as a protector of your party's political beliefs. Indulge me, just for a moment. Put aside the fact that Modi is the most powerful leader your party has had in decades, or that he gave your party a complete majority in parliament, not once, but twice.

If Modi belonged to any other political outfit, would you have stood by in silence as he forced thousands of migrant workers to walk and cycle across the country for weeks, without even food, just to get back home? Would you have not accused the prime minister and his government of utter mismanagement and inept planning? Would you have not asked questions of a prime minister under whose watch the vaccination programme has been stuttering, leaving the people at the mercy of a few private companies? Would you not have been aghast that oxygen is unavailable in the capital city? Would you not have been shocked that the Supreme Court has had to direct the central government to supply oxygen?

Would you have not demanded that the government investigate the discrepancy in Covid data that is coming out of some states? Would you have not said that the unscientific nature of governance has led to the ignoring of crucial scientific advice? And in all this mayhem, ministers are busy with perception management and blocking social media commentators. The government, meanwhile, is busy building the Central Vista in the middle of a pandemic. which the state assembly elections were conducted, was it not shocking to hear the prime minister celebrate the huge crowds that gathered to hear him speak even as India's infection numbers were peaking? With him setting such an example, can we blame the citizens of this country for not following Covid protocol? I cannot believe that you actually buy

the argument that the international media is only interested in tarnishing our reputation. The pictures, data, stories are true; those are real bodies burning on pyres. People are struggling to breathe, beseeching help - not of the government, but of other citizens. Aren't you shaken? You and I have lost so many friends in this pandemic, and yet you are unwilling to say that the Union government is responsible for all that is unravelling. Are you more interested in safeguarding your leader's image than saving lives? It is your party that speaks of internal democracy. Why don't we see that in action, especially now?

Of course, state governments are also responsible for dereliction of duty, but the management and responsibility for handling the Covid-19 pandemic lies with the Centre. In March 2020, the Union government called in the Disaster Management Act, 2005. In all the months that followed, the principle of co-operative federalism was nowhere to be seen; the Modi government has only been adversarial. The Centre is far more powerful than any state, and the responsibility for building bridges lies with it. Not once have we heard the prime minister speak in that spirit; he only talks down to his colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

He repeatedly said that he will protect every citizen, that he will take responsibility for all his actions. Having come from a modest background, he claimed to understand hardships of the people who occupy the lowest rungs of India's social ladder. But all we hear is a man who infantilises us. In his Mann Ki Baat, he responds only to pre-cleared questions, and participates only in curated media interviews. Why have you not asked him to hold an open press conference? Every world leader is facing the press, except Modi.

When Covid-19 hit our shores, Modi could have brought all political parties under one roof and shared the burden of decision and action. The pandemic is a once-in-a-century occurrence that no one could have planned for, but we could have fought it together. We, the citizens, have forgotten that we elect members of parliament - not political parties. Modi could have shown the states manship that you want us to see in him. There will be no perfect time to ask difficult questions. Every day that you remain silent, more people die. We now know that, without urgent intervention, without immediate, productive and positive administration action, we will see worse horrors

Arabia is also trying to heal the rift within the Gulf by ending the earlier effort to isolate Qatar. These changes come in the wake of the big moves last year by some Arab states — the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan — to normalise ties with Israel.

India's emphasis on good relations with all the regional actors without a reference to their conflicts has been vindicated by the turn of events. Barring Turkey, which turned hostile to India under Erdogan, Delhi has managed to expand its ties with most regional actors. Hopefully, the new regional churn will encourage Turkey to take a fresh look at its rethe luxury of relying on old ideological tropes like pan-Islamism, pan-Arabism, or anti-Americanism in a region that is undergoing major transformations. Nationalism, economic interest, and regime security have trumped transcendental ideologies.

Whether by design or not, the regional reset in the Middle East has coincided with efforts by Delhi and Rawalpindi to cool their tensions. The ceasefire on the Line of Control in Kashmir announced at the end of February appears to be holding. Pakistan's military establishment is in the middle of a vigorous debate on how to link or delink the question of India's Subcontinent forgetting that raison d'etat — or nationalist interest of the state — must prevail over all other considerations, including religious ones. In Pakistan, the religious forces empowered over the last many decades have tied Pakistan's foreign policy towards the Middle East, South Asia and Europe into knots. A state that cedes power to extremism of any kind courts the danger of being consumed by it.

2019 constitutional changes in Kashmir from

the normalisation of bilateral relations. It is not

clear how this debate will conclude and its im-

Afghanistan poses major challenges to the

Subcontinent. Delhi and Rawalpindi, for

very different reasons, would have liked to

see the US forces stay forever in Afghanistan.

For Delhi, American military presence would have kept a check on extremist forces

and created conducive conditions for an

Indian role in Afghanistan. For Rawalpindi,

American military presence in Afghanistan

keeps the US utterly dependent on Pakistan

for geographic access and operational sup-

port. And that dependence in turn could be

and Pakistan will have to live with the conse-

quences that include the triumphal return of

the Taliban to power in Kabul and a boost to

violent religious extremism across the region.

The prospect of trans-border links between

the Taliban and other extremist forces in the

region is a challenge that South Asian states

will have to confront sooner than later. Soaring

levels of violence in Afghanistan and last

week's attack on Mohamed Nasheed, the for-

mer president of Maldives, underlines South

Asia's enduring challenges with terrorism.

Unless the South Asian states collaborate on

countering extremism and terrorism, every

Finally, the current turmoil in the Greater

Middle East underlines the dangers of the

one of them will be weakened.

But America is leaving Afghanistan. India

mobilised against India.

Meanwhile, the US withdrawal from

pact on the India-Pak dialogue.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

Forget the controversial manner in

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Her due

opportunity' (IE, May 10). The women

voters in India are increasingly becoming a consolidated constituency and a

reckoning force in different elections.

The inspiring women leaders in differ-

ent walks of life has raised the aspira-

tional level of the common womenfolk.

This section of the electorate encour-

ages the politics of progressive ideas

and real socio-economic development

rather than the politics of hate along

caste and communal faultlines. The

representation of women in public life

has to mirror their actual proportion in

WOMEN'S VOTE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you care for India, you will speak up now.

The writer is a musician and author



A saffron battle-axe in Karnataka

An urbane veneer cannot obscure Tejasvi Surya's politics of vitriol

Janaki Nair

Since 2019, Karnataka has had its own Ajay Bisht aka Yogi Adityanath. His looks, age, educational background - and not least his sartorial style - unsuccessfully conceal the same extreme, intemperate impulses. It was Tejasvi Surya who, even before he turned 28 and was elected to India's Parliament on the BIP ticket in 2019, openly declared his "dread" of women's reservation in Parliament and the legislatures. That tweet has since been deleted, but the people – especially the women – of Karnataka possess longer memories than he credits them with. He successfully evaded a summons to the State Women's Commission on a sexual harassment complaint while on his campaign trail in 2019 - the woman concerned later withdrew the case. But not before he put his legal training to protecting "national interest": He obtained an ex-parte temporary injunction against the publication of "defamatory statements" about him, covering 49 print, television and internet media providers, including YouTube, during the election campaign. Fortunately, the Karnataka High Court thought better of such "prior restraints" and set the injunction aside.

Since his election, Surya has been the battle-axe on behalf of Hindu dharma that he promised to be. He began by asking the National Investigation Agency to set up a fullfledged branch in Bengaluru, which he had determined was the "epicentre of terrorist activities". According to his own account, his request was seriously considered. He often boldly "corrects" history by deciding which "good Muslims' should be taught about in schools not Tipu Sultan but Shishunala Shariff. Like Ajay Bisht, he compensates for what he lacks by way of knowledge with a high-decibel conviction that his supporters feel no desire to correct or question. He has understood the mesmerising power of repetition, even of untruths.

Surya's public actions during the Covid-19 crisis were singularly unremarkable and unimaginative. If anything, he strictly conformed to what politicians of his ilk have been publicly endorsing, by attending a political rally without his mask, and was lightly rapped on the wrists for that misdemeanour.

But the swashbuckling hero came into his own following the death of 24 Covid patients in Chamarajanagara, Mysore district, on May 2, due to an oxygen shortage. His detective skills and loud assertions rescued the BJP from almost paralysing critique. So, following up reports that had already appeared about beds in Covid hospitals being blocked for those paying bribes, Tejasvi Surya charged into the South Bangalore Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Covid war room, with battle cries against 16 Muslim men who were employed there. He was ably aided by three BIP MLAs demanding to know whether this was a madrasa or a Haj committee. Their sensational and dramatic confrontation of the service provider over 16 Muslim employees out of 200-plus telecallers

led to the instant suspension of the young Muslim men.

It is another matter that those eventually arrested in the scam bore no relation to the 16 or their religion. The minor inconvenience of the central government, state government, and the BBMP all being in the hands of the BJP was also sidestepped by briefly dragging in a Congress "hand".

Whether or not he tendered an apology, on which there is now doubt, Tejasvi Surya's "decisionism" mimics his masters' and signals a shift in the career of Karnataka's BJP. The Karnataka BJP, unlike the party at the Centre, has practiced an old-style corruption, allowing money to stick to the hands of its MLAs rather than funnelling it upwards to the party alone. Secondly, many of the party's MLAs such as Basangouda Yatnal and A H Vishwanath, and its ministers – notably K S Eshwarappa and B C Patil - had recently participated in vociferous campaigns for changes to the reservation policy. Thirdly, Yeddyurappa's old style and pronounced "pro-Hindu" stance consisted of courting dominant-caste Lingayat votes, and appeasing (Lingayat and other) dominant-caste demands through the symbolics of establishing development corporations.

Tejasvi Surya's "decisionism" challenges CM Yeddyurappa's vacillations and old-style politics. It refocuses the Karnataka BJP on its mainstream national goals. Such "mainstreaming" is subtly happening at other levels that go almost unopposed. In January 2021, a plaque unveiled to inaugurate the RAF in Bhadravathi used only English and Hindi; apart from the usual outrage among litterateurs and public intellectuals over the complete absence of Kannada, the event has now been forgotten. In February 2021, the cow protection bill was passed by voice vote to become law. Now Tejasvi Surya has publicly revealed a

bias against Muslims. He does this as a practising lawyer, and as a lawmaker, defying Articles 15 and 16 of the Indian Constitution that he swore to uphold. But more unfortunate is the "terrorism" tag that has stuck to the 16 men. It serves to normalise an "anti-Muslim" stance: Consider the alacrity with which the service providers and the senior administration acted to suspend the 16 innocent men. But even if they are re-employed, it will be only because they have been "proved innocent".

Surya's "decisionism", apart from revealing his ambitions at the local level, also attempts to seal the wide public cracks in a Karnataka BJP teeming with discontent. His vitriol and misogyny have been made more acceptable in English. Whether he will be allowed to go even further than the UP's man in orange will depend on whether Karnataka's enviable heritage — of developmentalism, secularism and social justice — can be firmly reclaimed. Or we are surely making our way to the UP model.

The writer is former professor of history, JNU

IDEAS ONLINE ONLY IN THE EXPRESS •THE SONGS AND STORIES THAT PROVIDE SUCCOUR: JYOTIBAWA •THE RISE OF THE FEMALE VOTING BLOC: SNEHA NARAYANA PILLAI www.indianexpress.com

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

CREDIT AND BLAME

the population.

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Disinformation crisis' (IE, May 10). These are the facts: Crematoriums across the country are over-flowing; there is still an oxygen crisis; requests for hospital beds flood timelines and messages. Here's another set of facts: There is dual, if not triple pricing for vaccines, which are in short supply; the Central Vista project - with all its vanity - is underway; the PM's photo appears on vaccine certificates. This is not a crisis of disinformation but of lives, lakhs of them, being lost. The Centre cannot hope to take credit but none of the blame. Its problem is not propaganda, but inaction and incompetence. Shantanu Ray, via email

WEST RESURGENT THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Return

of the west' (IE, May 10). With a change in leadership and a robust response to the Covid crisis, the new US president Joe Biden has alluded to regaining and maintaining Western supremacy in the changing global order. China's expansionist approach to destabilise the world order and supersede the West was aided by ex-President Donald Trump's bizarre decision-making over the course of the pandemic. Now, India which missed the bus recently to "seize new strategic opportunities" is facing the heat of pandemic but Delhi will have to come back stronger and set the right tone for the G-7 meet.

Nischai Vats, Sultanpur



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 12 THE WORLD



JEFFREY HELLER&

NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI

JERUSALEM, GAZA, MAY 10

PALESTINIAN MILITANTS in the

Gaza Strip fired rockets toward

the Jerusalem area and southern

Israel on Monday, carrying out a

threat to punish Israel for violent

confrontations with Palestinians

said nine Palestinians were killed

in Israeli airstrikes in the

Palestinian territory after the

barrages against Israel. The

Israeli military issued no imme-

diate comment on any action it

Jerusalem, in nearby towns and in

communities near the Gaza min-

mosque compound and another

flashpoint in the holy city expired.

ports of casualties from the rocket

fire in Israel, but local media re-

ported that a house in the

Jerusalem hills had been damaged,

in the most serious outbreak of

hostilities with Hamas in months.

Day" earlier on Monday, marking

As Israel celebrated "Jerusalem

There were no immediate re-

Rocket sirens sounded in

had taken in the enclave.

The Gaza health ministry

in Jerusalem.

MEANWHILE ATTENBOROUGH IS COP26 PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

Britain has tasked naturalist David Attenborough with inspiring action to tackle the issue of climate change as its People's Advocate ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November in Glasgow, Scotland. COP26 could accelerate measures by countries to tackle climate change. Britain holds the presidency of the conference this year.



Taliban spokesman Mohammad Naeem

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban declares 3-day ceasefire

TALIBAN INSURGENTS said Monday they would observe a 3-day ceasefire in Afghanistan for the Eid holiday, starting this week, after weeks of increasing violence that gripped the country. Mohammad Naeem, a Taliban spokesman, made the announcement on Twitter. Eid will begin Wednesday or Thursday this week. REUTERS

WEST ASIA

Iran confirms talks with Saudi Arabia

IRAN CONFIRMED on Monday that it is in talks with regional arch rival Saudi Arabia, saying it would do what it could to resolve issues between them. The countries have been locked in a rivalry that has played out in proxy conflicts across REUTERS the region.

TAIWAN

Taipei seeks invite to WHO meeting

TAIWAN WILL fight to the end for an invitation to a World Health Organisation meeting this month, its foreign ministry said Monday, but China said there was no room for compromise over the island Beijing claims as its own. China considers Taiwan one of its provinces, REUTERS not a country.

TOPOFTHE Oli loses trust vote in Nepal, has room for new coalition

Oli called on her.

in the next three days.

The move opens the way for

Oli to explore a new political align-

ment and remain in the fray since

he retains considerable support in

the ruling party. Sources said the

"anti-Oli group" has "informally"

proposed the name of former

prime minister and leader of the

Opposition Nepali Congress, Sher

Bahadur Deuba, as their candidate.

Oli's fortunes have been wan-

for the second time in 2018.

'Outright lies': China on reports that it

had probed weaponising coronaviruses

Quoting The Australian, UK-

ticle

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE KATHMANDU, MAY 10

THE LONG-RUNNING political crisis in Nepal took a sharp turn Monday when the government headed by Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli lost a vote of confidence in the country's parliament following several months of bickering among factions

within the ruling party. The vote of confidence placed by Oli before the 271-member House of Representatives secured 93 votes in favour and 124 against.

At least 28 dissidents from the ruling Nepal Communist Party-Unified Marxist Leninist (NCP-UML), including former prime ministers Jhalanath Khanal and Madhav Kumar Nepal, abstained from voting, and are likely to lose their House seats for defying the party whip. Later, House Speaker Agni Sapkota sent a letter to President

Bidhya Devi Bhandari, informing that Oli's government had lost the majority. Oli, meanwhile, presided over a Cabinet meeting and recommended that the House be prorogued with effect from midnight. The recommendation was endorsed by the President even as

KJM VARMA

BEIJING, MAY10



ing since December last year when Late Monday, the President he got the President to unilaterally issued a communique citing ardissolve the House. The President 76(2) of Nepal's also announced fresh elections in Constitution that paves the way April and May. However, the disfor two or more political parties solved House was reinstated by to form a coalition government the Supreme Court early this year. Last week, the Communist

Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) a key faction led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" withdrew support to the government, leaving it without a majority in the House. The party said the Oli government had breached the Constitution and its recent activities posed a threat to the democratic process and national sovereignty.

For the ruling party, Monday's Oli was also accused by critsetback brings to an end 38 months of Oli's turbulent stint at ics of running a "totalitarian" the helm after he assumed power regime.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

here when asked about the report



Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani (*right*) meets Pakistan Army Chief of Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, in Kabul on Monday. Reuters

Pakistan Army chief in Kabul, meets Afghan President Ghani

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, MAY10

PAKISTAN'S ARMY chief General Qamar Jawed Bajwa on Monday met the top Afghan leadership in Kabul and reiterated that Pakistan would continue to support the "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" peace process based on mutual consensus of all stakeholders.

Bajwa held talks with utes after an ultimatum from the President Ashraf Ghani and senenclave's ruling Islamist Hamas ior leader Abdullah Abdullah. group demanding Israel stand According to an official statedown forces in the Al Aqsa

ment, Bajwa said, "A peaceful Afghanistan means a peaceful region in general and a peaceful Pakistan in particular".

Matters of mutual interest, current developments in Afghan peace process, enhanced bilateral security and defence cooperation and need for effective border management between the two countries were discussed. **PTI**

Myanmar universities suspend 11,000 anti-junta staff

Students protest

MORE THAN 11,000 academics and other university staff opposed to Myanmar's ruling junta have been suspended after going on strike in protest against military rule, a teachers' group told Reuters. The suspensions come as the

resumption of universities after

against the junta, in Mandalay, Myanmar, on Monday. Reuters

partners in your plans

a family gathering

combining business with

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Adelicate

a complex personal tangle.

extreme care where legal

Friends will be able to appeal to

your better nature and you'll be

willing to listen to reason. Take

matters are involved and avoid

any temptation to bend the rules.

on domestic

reorganisation

pleasure and perhaps organising

relationship between

Mercury and Venus

will help you clear up

a year closed due to the coronare calling for boycotts over the avirus epidemic prompts a new February 1 coup. confrontation between the army "I feel upset to give up a job that I adored so much, but I feel and the staff and students who



Clashes at the Al Aqsa Mosque compound on Monday. AP

EXPLAINED

Tensions boil over after Al Aqsa clashes

A PLAN to evict Palestinian families from an East Jerusalem area had led to days of

protests, raising tensions in the city. These tensions have now boiled over into suspected airstrikes by Israel and rocket strikes by Hamas after the Israeli police clashed with worshippers at the Al Aqsa mosque

its capture of eastern sections of the holy city in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, violence erupted at the al Aqsa mosque, Islam's third most sacred site.

The Palestinian Red Crescent down by the time Hamas issued Society said more than 300 the 6 pm ultimatum. **REUTERS**

> proud to stand against injustice," said one 37-year-old university rector, who gave her name only as Thandar for fear of reprisals.

compound. This com-

pound is situated on a

est places in Judaism,

Issues regarding access to this

site, and Israeli claims to the en-

tire East Ierusalem which con-

tains this site have been some of

the major emotive issues in the

Palestinians were injured in

clashes with police who fired

rubber bullets, stun grenades

and teargas in the compound.

The clashes at Al Agsa had died

Israel-Palestine conflict.

Islam and Christianity.

hill that is one of the holi-

A professor on a fellowship in the United States said she was told she would have to declare opposition to the strikes or lose her job. Her university authorities had told her every scholar would be tracked down and forced to

choose, she told Reuters.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis **CROSSWORD 4426 DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL** REALLY? ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) I WONDER This is an ideal time to The Sun continues its WHY? seriously think about smooth and helpful implementing a passage through number of long-term reforms. As usual, it's essential for beneficial regions of your chart, but there's a slight your success that you involve problem on the horizon

ported that Chinese scientists described SARS coronaviruses -CHINA ON Monday termed as of which the one that causes "outright lies" the media reports

Covid is an example – as prethat its military scientists invessenting a "new era of genetic tigated weaponising coronweapons". aviruses five years before the "I have seen the relevant re-Covid-19 pandemic outbreak, port... Some in the US have been and said that it was an attempt playing up so-called internal docby the US to smear the country. uments to smear China. But even-Reports in the media had said tually, facts proved that they are

the US State Department obeither making malicious interpretained "bombshell" documents, tations out of context or spreadwhich were written by Chinese ing outright lies," Chinese Foreign military scientists and senior Ministry spokesperson Hua public health officials in 2015. Chunying told a media briefing

based The Sun newspaper refirst released by The Australian. Hua referred to a report published by state-run Global Times, which stated that what the US State Department referred to is not an internal document of the PLA but a publicly issued academic book.

The book cited former US Air Force colonel Michael J Ainscough stating that the next generation biological weapons are part of the US programme to deal with weapons of mass destruction, she said. "So this is the US who is undertaking the research in biological war." she said. PTI

REUTERS MAY10



DOWN

(5)

(8)

(4)

saw(6)

disarray(10)

5 His victims lose heart

6 Magnetic holders?

honest(5,5)

12 Not free to wed

14 Seaside yarn(6)

17 Left in charge

beer on board (5)

tape(8)

(7)

(4)

2

Outmoded description of St

Parent gets cut up by surgeon's

Peter's for example

If rebuffed, stay at home

4 They dance with bears, all in

9 It's beyond the directors to be

11 I'd bring a form of decorative

16 These are sure to be brisk for

ACROSS

- Challenging in a deft fashion 4 Chance of a rest(5) 7 Dutch half-sovereign 8 Line brought into use when one rings (4,4)
- 10 Do they stop cars in record time?(4,6) 12 Object I've put into the salad 13 Type of briefs used in the textile industry (6)
- 15 Final notices (10) 18 Be generous with some incriminating information? (4,4)19 How a man may be called to
- give $\operatorname{account}(4)$ 20 Presumed a large number read badly(5)21 Mother loses youth; gets some compensation (7)

Solutions Crossword 4425: Across: 1 Date of birth, 9 Needles, 10 Qualm, 11 Emma, 12 Yodeller, 14 Insure, 16 Stodge, 18 Anisette, 19 Otic, 22 Large, 23 Austere, 24 Spirit level. **Down:** 2 Abeam, 3 Eels, 4 Fusion, 5 Inquests, 6 Trailed, 7 Undesirable, 8 Emergencies, 13 Free beer, 15 Stirrup, 17 Strait, 20 These, 21 Isle.

JUMBLED WORDS

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 _.- Emily Dickinson (7,..,7) ____ is counted sweetest by those who never__



Answer: Success is counted sweetest by those who never succeed.- Emily Dickinson SOLUTION: GEESE, SASSY, CAUCUS, ACCEDE



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson





Difficulty Level 5s

To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

must appear in each of the

nine vertical columns, in

each of the nine horizonta

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;

3s = Medium: 4s = Hard:

5s = Very Hard; 6s =

rows and in each of the

every digit from 1 to 9

Instructions

nine boxes.

Genius

Difficulty Level

44

DOKU

SU





4-3

And who could make MY HEART FEEL WOOZY? ONLY THOU, MY FAIR SWEET SUSIE .



While Venus and Mars are so active, you'll come out on top every time. TURNS OUT Certain professional pressures ALSO HAVE A may have apparently eased up, 50000 but if you've been placing too BALD FACE much emphasis on work commitments at the expense of home affairs - or vice versa correct the imbalance before someone accuses you of letting them down.

LEO(July 24 - Aug 23) The Moon's subtle association with your sign boosts your closest relationships but does give partners the last

word. If you feel restless today then be sure to channel your energy more effectively, and don't let uncertainty at home have a debilitating effect on the more important areas of your life.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

It's a busy moment, and you're bound to feel a little overworked, but then, the more you achieve now, the less you'll have on your plate later in the week. Pay heed to any warning signals that point to an uncontrolled increase in your expenses, probably backed up by little more than the hope that your income will increase accordingly. Don't overreach yourself.

associated with a nagging doubt or a spot of confusion. Close attention to the facts of the situation will keep you on the straight and narrow.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

It's inevitable that you'll be involved in routine matters, yet don't let this blind you to today's deeper potential. There's great scope for you to put your talents at other people's disposal. Later in the day your mind will start to buzz, and you could come up with a dramatic answer to an old question.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Important decisions The time is soon approaching to should be settled by consider the broader implications of your current personal plans, particularly financial schemes. It will be necessary to collect all and intuition will be more use to the information you need on the legal situation before next month.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

On the whole, you'll do better now and over the next month or two if you see yourself as part of a team rather than a solitary adventurer. There'll be a number of occasions when you'll need moral support but today you could probably do with financial backing; there is now a very high chance of an increase in your income.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

When the Moon assists your sign, as it does today, it heightens your emotional sensitivity, making you feel that the odds

against you. So this might not be the best day to sort out contentious emotional issues – or to get involved in trivial arguments. If you're changing jobs, steer clear of potential muddles.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

In many ways, your intensity and love of the truth as you see it makes you

something of a loner. But, at times like these, there's every chance that somebody close to you will fulfil your deep need for genuine partnership. If you feel under pressure today, put off difficult questions for another forty-eight hours.

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U 4467

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SILVER

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 **13** ECONOMY

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as on May 7, 2021 SENSEX: 49,502.41 ▲ 295.94 (0.60%) NIFTY: 14,942.35 ▲ 119.20 (0.80%) NIKKEI: 29,518.34 ▲ 160.52 HANG SENG: 28,595.66 ▼ 14.99 FTSE: 7,115.39 ▼ 14.32 DAX: 15,371.07 ▼ 28.58

DEMAND RECOVERY, SUPPLY-SIDE CONSTRAINTS, LOOSE MONETARY POLICY AIDING RALLY **Commodities in super cycle: Hit highs** but cast cloud over recovery, inflation

rolled coil steel futures prices, for

instance, have shot up from

around \$450-500 in April to over

\$1500 now (for a contract of 20

time highs, surpassing the previ-

ous peak in February 2011. Copper

futures on COMEX have more than

doubled from \$2.1 per pound on

March 19,2020 to \$4.87 per pound

on May 10, 2021. "Bullish investors

bet that demand for copper will in-

Reliance Securities.

Prices of copper are also at all-

short tonnes).

SUNNY VERMA& SANDEEP SINGH NEW DELHI, MAY 10

AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD rise in global commodity prices is leading to input cost pressures and is a growing concern, as it is not only expected to have a bearing on cost of infrastructure development in India but also have an impact on the overall inflation, economic recovery and policy making.

In what is being billed as a new commodity super cycle resulting from recovery in global demand (led by recovery in China and the US), supply-side constraints and loose monetary policy of global central banks, most commodities are on an unprecedented bull run that is expected to extend.

Steel, the most commonly used input in construction sector and industries, is at all-time highs, as most metals including base and precious metals prices have gone through the roof over the last one year. Commodities from agriculture — such as sugar, corn, coffee, soy bean oil, palm oil – have risen sharply in the US commodities market, the effect of which is being seen in the domestic market, too. Precious metals including gold

ON THE RISE

Commodity (Unit)	May 1, 2020	May 7, 2021	% Rise				
NSE Nifty Metal Index	1700	5500	223				
Hot-rolled coil/HRC Steel*	\$478	\$1519	217				
Copper (per pound)	\$2.42	\$4.83	99				
Brent Crude (Per barrel)	\$24.2	\$68.27	182				
Source: COMEX. National Stock Exchange							

*Contract of 20 short tonnes

and silver are also on an upward trajectory. Mrinal Singh, CEO & CIO, InCred Asset Management, said the sharp jump in commodity prices is a result of money starting to hide in assets that are store of value as there is an expectation that inflation may rise. So "it is fear of inflation that is leading to jump in prices and it is not demand

driven," he said Mirroring the surge in prices, the National Stock Exchange's NIFTY Metal Index hit a fresh high of 5,503 on Monday, surging from a low of 1,501 on April 1 last year - a jump of nearly 265 per cent. "I haven't seen such an unprecedented increase in steel prices in just a short span of time, with prices nearly tripling. This has come with volatility and raised construction/production costs significantly. With the economy amid

\$72 being seen as taking it further up till \$85 a barrel, according to analvsts. Compared to other commodities that are hitting fresh highs such as steel, the recovery in crude oil prices though are lackadaisical, with prices barely managing to reach 2019 highs. The domestic prices of petrol and diesel are, however, at record highs as a slowdown, such a sharp rise is a steady increase in Central and state bit difficult to comprehend," said taxes have added to their final a mid-sized metals trader. Hot-

tear, nearing around \$69 to a bar-

rel with any potential rise above

price to the consumers. Economists and experts say the rise in commodity prices have now become a macroeconomic monitoring variable."The decision makers need to look at the mismatch in supply and demand and they need to find out where to invest, where to incentivise through PLI scheme to prepare ourselves to deal with the situation," said Davinder Sandhu, advisor at Primus Partners and formerly advisor at The World Bank group.

crease further as the world econ-As India has outlined a big inomy recovers from Covid slumps frastructure development plan, and as investments into green en-Sandhu also feels that the sharp ergy sectors ramp up," said Sriram rise in prices of steel and cement lyer, senior research analyst at is a bit of a worry. "For every percentage point growth in GDP, this After bottoming out in April, would lead to a backward in-Brent crude oil prices are also on a crease in cost on account of in-

crease in price of steel and cement. Also, if we increase the cost of building infra, it will lead to increase in costing of the project and then the toll prices among others," said Sandhu.

CARE Ratings chief economist Madan Sabnavis said commodity prices are going up on account of global cues as recovery in big economies like China and the US are driving the prices of metals, which is also translating into higher agri products prices.

"Higher metal prices will lead to higher WPI inflation and so the core inflation may not come down. However, the CPI may not get affected much and hence it won't impact the monetary policy," he said. He added while India is not a huge metal importer, it is a price taker and not a price setter and, in that sense, it will lead to rise in prices and input cost for many companies, ultimately leading to higher WPI inflation. "Companies will have to de-

cide between passing on the cost to the consumer or absorb the cost. I think most of them would pass it through as they have been facing stress for second year now," he said. Full report on

www.indianexpress.com

Better balance sheets

Corporate balance sheets have

gained resilience, in view of the healthy pre-tax margins and

strong cash-flows since the

second half of the previous

The growth in exports has been

months and is likely to sustain

exporting destinations

Varying impact

reasonably strong in the past 6-8

given the fiscal push across its key

Though supply chain disruptions

could play out, overall impact on

moderate to minimal. However,

borrowers are likely to see stresses

Source: India Ratings/PTI

corporates is expected to be

small husinesses and retail

financial year

Export growth

Amid Covid effect, bank steps, wilful defaults rise ₹38,976 cr A wilful default happens when

RUPEE

OIL

GEORGE MATHEW & KHUSHBOONARAYAN MUMBAI, MAY 10

BANKS HAVE added Rs 38,976 crore from 662 borrower accounts as wilful defaulters during the 12 months ended December 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country's financial system.

GOLD

₹47.452

With this, total wilful defaults amounted to Rs 2,44,602 crore from 12,917 accounts as of December 2020, as against Rs 2,05,606 crore from 12,255 accounts in December 2019, according to data available from credit information bureau TransUnion CIBIL,

Wilful defaults have now more than doubled from Rs 1,18,130 crore in December 2017.

"Banks are now often using the wilful defaulter status as a weapon to force borrowers to repay loans. Many borrowers pay up fearing the tag, as once they are declared a wilful defaulter, they won't get any more bank funding. Banks used the wilful default tag during the Covid period, so recoveries improved," a banking sector source said. However, recoveries from some of the top wilful defaulters have remained negligible.

In cases such as Winsome Diamonds and Jewellery Pvt Ltd (Rs 8,000 crore), Kingfisher Airlines Ltd (Rs 10.000 crore). Sterling Biotech Group (Rs 15,600 crore), Rei Agro Ltd (Rs 3,871 crore), Pixion Media Pvt Ltd (Rs

'12,917 ACCOUNTS AS OF DEC 2020' With ₹38,976 crore

from 662 borrower accounts added in 2020, the total wilful defaults amounted to ₹2,44,602 crore from 12,917 accounts as of December 2020, as against ₹2,05,606 crore from 12,255 accounts in December 2019, as

3,000 crore), which were referred to investigative agencies, banks are yet to recover any money.

per TransUnion CIBIL

While the agencies have seized assets of these defaulters under the money laundering law, most of the promoters have challenged the attachment and cases are stuck in various courts. Most promoters, including Jatin Mehta of Winsome Diamonds, Vijay Mallya of Kingfisher, and Nitin Sandesara of Sterling Biotech, have left India and are now locked in legal and extradition battles with the banks and the government.

As per the RBI's classification, a 'wilful default' would be deemed to have occurred if the borrower has defaulted in meeting their repayment obligations to the lender even when they have the capacity to honour the said obligations.

a borrower has not utilised the finance from a lender for the specific purpose for which it was availed — and has diverted the funds for other purposes, or siphoned them off, or disposed of or removed the movable fixed assets or immovable property given for the purpose of securing a term loan without the lender's knowledge. State Bank of India (SBI),

India's largest bank, has topped the list of wilful defaulters with 1,792 borrower accounts owing Rs 62,709 crore as of December 2020. Punjab National Bank is in the second position with wilful defaults amounting to Rs 36,684 crore as against Rs 24,062 crore in December 2019. Banks had offered moratoriums and announced loan restructuring in 2020 to various classes of borrowers to mitigate hardships caused by the pandemic.

SBI has declared 1,538 borrowers including companies, with aggregate outstanding of Rs 53,806 crore, as wilful defaulters in respect of loans that were sanctioned before March 31, 2014. Of these 1,538 wilful defaulters, at least 218 have outstandings of more than Rs 50 crore each. The majority of wilful defaulters are in sectors such as iron and steel, textile, food processing, gems & jewellery, trading, engineering, construction, and infrastructure. Full report on

www.indianexpress.com

ing corona specific product en-

ables the insured to renew the pol-

icv as specified in the Irdai circular,

insurers are advised to renew such

policies subject to the underwrit-

ing policy of respective insurers,"

it said. As the pandemic has accen-

tuated the need for health insur-

ance, all insurers are advised to ac-

tively promote protection through

health insurance so as to develop

the much-needed trust and good-

-INVESTMENT WATCH-**DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS**

DII holding in listed cos falls but total value rises to all-time high

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI MAY10

THE HOLDING of domestic institutional investors (DII) domestic mutual funds, insurance companies, banks, financial institutions and pension funds-as a whole declined to a 10-quarter low of 13.03 per cent as of March 2021 from 13.56 per cent as on December



profit booking

THE SLIP in shareholding of DIIs in listed companies is primarily believed to be on of profit bo This is evident from the net DII outflows of Rs 23,124 crore recorded during the quarter ended March. The fall in holdings of insurance companies – which has fallen to a 5-year low – and mutual funds – falling for four straight quarters – has been significant.

COVID-19 IMPACT

'Exports, better balance sheets to help cos tide over 2nd wave'

Partial-to-full lockdowns in various states are likely to have a muted impact on overall business environment, given strong export demand and improved balance sheets in the past six months, an India Ratings report said



Risk of stringent lockdown: If there were a stringent lockdown or a protracted normalisation of activities due to the pandemic, the economy in general will have a bumpy road to recovery

Complaints of insurers refusing to offer Covid policies: Irdai steps in

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, MAY10

WITH COMPLAINTS of insurance companies refusing to offer and renew Covid insurance policies on the rise, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) on Monday directed insurers not to deny Covid policy coverage to customers in the wake of rising infection rates.

"It has come to the notice of the Authority that some insurers are not offering Corona Kavach and Corona Rakshak Policies to customers, and some insurers are not renewing such policies," Irdai said. The regulator has been flooded with complaints about insurers reoffer or renew Covid poli

icy, it said. "Similarly, where the underly-

Corona Kavach and Corona Rakshak were launched by insurers under Irdai's guidance

"In the wake of rising infection rates due to the second wave of the Covid-19, the insurable public require appropriate health insurance coverage and it is not correct to deny such coverage to the customers in this crucial time." Irda said in a letter to insurance companies. All insurers are advised to ensure that wherever Corona specific standard products have been filed and approved by the Authority, the same should be of-

to the insurer's underwriting pol-

ared to the customer

will of the general public, Irdai said. "Insurers have seen a spurt in claims under the Covid policies. They don't want to take a hit in their books," said an insurance source. Two corona-specific products - Corona Kavach and Corona - were launched by Raks

surers under the guidance of Irdai.

Outlets closed.

auto sales skid

Net outflows from DIIs was at Rs 23,124 crore during the quarter. In rupee value terms, DII holding rose to an all-time high of Rs 25.75 lakh crore by this March, an increase of 3.27 per cent over the last quarter.

LIC's holding (across 296 companies where its holding is over 1 per cent) slipped to an all-time low of 3.66 per cent as on March 31, 2021, down from 3.70 per cent as of December 2020 and from all-time high of 5 per cent as of June 2012, as per primeinfobase.com of the Prime Database Group.

According to Pranav Haldea, MD, Prime Database, this was on account of profit booking by India's largest institutional investor. In rupee value terms though, it reached an all-time high of Rs 7.24 lakh crore during the quarter ended March 2021 - a rise of 6.30 per cent over the previous quarter.

The Sensex and Nifty rose by 3.70 and 5.10 per cent, respectively, in this period. LIC also continues to command a lion's share of investments in equities by insurance compa-

nies (76 per cent).

Holding of insurance companies as a whole also fell to a 5-year low of 4.80 per cent by March, from 5.00 per cent last December. In rupee terms, it rose by 3.09 per cent over the previous quarter to a new high of Rs 9.48 lakh crore in March.

Holding of domestic mutual funds in companies listed on the NSE also fell to 7.23 per cent by March, from 7.42 per cent in December 2020.

According to Haldea, holding of mutual funds has now declined for four consecutive quarters, after 24 quarters of continuous rise (from 2.81 per cent as on March 31, 2014 to 7.96 per cent as on March 31, 2020).

'Second wave peak in June may lead to growth falling to 8.2%'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU

RATING FIRM Crisil has warned

that India's economic growth may

slip to 8.2 per cent if the second

wave peaks in end of June, but

maintained its baseline estimate

growth forecast are "firmly tilted

downwards", and presented two

likely scenarios. If the second wave

peaks in May-end, the GDP expan-

sion will come at 9.8 per cent, and

can go down to 8.2 per cent if the

peaking happens in June-end, it

said. The economy contracted by

7.6 per cent in FY21, because of the

national lockdown. There has been

a slew of downward revisions in

growth estimates after the emer-

client collateral

New Delhi: Markets regula-

tor Sebi on Monday came out

with a fresh proposal for seg-

regation and monitoring of

collateral at client level amid

instances of misuse of client

collateral by trading mem-

bers. The proposal comes in

the wake of the Karvy Stock

ties, approach to mitigate or adapt

to the risks along with financial

implications of the same. **ENS**

Broking crisis. PTI

It said the risks to its 11 per cent

of 11 per cent uptick in activity.

MUMBAI, MAY10

POSSIBLE SCENARIOS

■ If the second wave peaks in May-end, the **GDP** expansion will come at 9.8 per cent, and cango down to 8.2 per cent if peaking happens in June-end, Crisil said

gence of the second wave, which has overwhelmed the healthcare apparatus and also led to localised lockdowns across the country.

Crisil said the lockdowns are less restrictive right now, but the expanse of area under such measures is increasing with the ingress of the virus into the rural areas where healthcare infrastructure is weak.

Users not accepting privacy terms to face limited functionality: WhatsApp

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, MAY 10

WHATSAPP WILL not delete any account for not accepting its new privacy update, but users not agreeing to the controversial terms after "several weeks" will not be able to access their chat list, and eventually, will not be able to answer incoming phone or video calls over the app

Last week, the Facebookowned company had said users not accepting its privacy policy update by its May 15 deadline will not face deletion or lose functionality of their accounts on the said date.

WhatsApp, on its website, said it is continuing to remind those who haven't had the chance to review and accept the terms, and after a period of several weeks, "the reminder(that)people receive will

WHAT'S AT STAKE

cies fearing spurt in claims.



WhatsApp said after a few weeks of limited functionality, users, who still won't accept the terms, "won't be able to receive incoming calls or notifications and WhatsApp will stop sending messages and calls to your phone"

eventually become persistent".

It, however, did not divulge the timelines set for these reminders. Explaining the course of action after 'persistent' reminders are

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU sent to users, WhatsApp said: "At CHENNAI, MAY 10 that time, you'll encounter limited functionality on WhatsApp until you accept the updates".

"This will not happen to all users at the same time. You won't be able to access your chat list, but you can still answer incoming phone and video calls. If you have notifications enabled, you can tap on them to read or respond to a message or call back a missed phone or video call," it said.

The messaging platform said after a few weeks of limited functionality, users, who still won't accept the terms, "won't be able to receive incoming calls or notifications and WhatsApp will stop sending messages and calls to your phone".

WhatsApp said it won't delete the users' accounts if they haven't accepted the update but highlighted that its existing policy related to inactive users will apply.

viewed by Reuters. Wearing a blue

AUTO SALES declined in April and outlook remains bleak with the second wave of the Covid triggering lockdowns across several states leading to closure of majority of dealerships. As a result auto manufacturers like Maruti Suzuki India, Hero MotoCorp and others have not only advanced their annual maintenance shutdowns but

also extended them.

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (Fada) said the first nine days of May saw extremely lean sales due to lockdown announced by majority of states. It said that even in places where dealerships are open, the walk-ins have dropped to 30 per cent and customers are delaying their purchase decision. According to Fada the second wave of Covid has not only unsettled urban but also the rural markets. FE

BRIEFLY — **Fuel prices**

New Delhi: With the fifth hike in a week, petrol and diesel prices Monday hit record highs across India with petrol rising by 26 paise a litre and diesel by 33 paise. In Delhi, petrol hit Rs 91.53 a litre and diesel Rs 82.06.

BPCLchairman

New Delhi: The Public **Enterprise Selection Board** on Monday interviewed prospective candidates and selected Arun Kumar Singh for the position of chairman and managing director of BPCL. PTI

Disclosure requirements under new BRSR issued

New Delhi: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Monday came out with disclosure requirements under business responsibility and sustainability reporting, covering environmental. social and governance perspectives, which will be applicable on the top 1,000 listed entities by

market capitalisation. The new report – Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)— will replace the existing Business Responsibility Report (BRR). Under BRSR, listed entities need to disclose about an overview of the entity's material ESG (environmental, social and governance) risks and opportuni-

'Budget heading for jab spend does not inhibit Centre from using funds' Sebi proposal on

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry said Monday the provisioning Rs 35,000 crore-expenditure for vaccines in the FY22 Budget under the title 'Transfers to States' does in no way inhibit the Centre from using the funds to buy Covid shots.

The amount of Rs 35,000 crore provided in the Union Budget for FY22 under the Demand for Grants No. 40, titled Transfers to States' has been done for several administrative advantages, including expenditure under such head being exempted from the quarterly control restrictions. ENS

Jack Ma makes rare visit to Alibaba headquarters REUTERS BEIJING, MAY 10

ALIBABA FOUNDER Jack Ma, largely out of public view amid a regulatory clampdown on the group, made a rare visit to its Hangzhou campus on Monday during the e-commerce giant's annual "Ali Day" staff and family event, company sources said.

tremely low profile since delivering a speech in October in Shanghai criticising China's financial regulators, which set off a chain of events that led to the shelving of what would have been a record \$37 billion initial public offering of Alibaba's affili-



Alibaba founder Jack Ma Reuters file

ate Ant Group.

On Monday, Ma was seen in an T-shirt, white trousers and a pair open-air campus shuttle bus with of Chinese-style cloth shoes, Ma a number of Alibaba executives. was smiling. "It's so exciting to see according to a photograph taken Jack," said the employee, declining by an employee at the event, to be named.

"It's a pity there was no chance

to take a photo with him." China's most famous entrepreneur, Ma enjoyed cult-like status among staff even after stepping down as chairman in 2019.

Ma, who is based in Hangzhou, disappeared from public view for three months before surfacing in January, speaking to a group of teachers by video, which sent Alibaba shares surging, but has not made any other public appearances since then, read more

Last month, regulators imosed a sweeping restructuring on Ant Group, while Alibaba was hit with a record antitrust fine of 18.2 billion vuan (\$2.84 billion) after an investigation found it abused its market dominance.

The billionaire has kept an ex-



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY MAY 11, 2021 14 SPORT

CONCUSSION SPOTTERS AT QATAR WC

Zurich: FIFA is introducing concussion spotters at the 2022 Qatar World Cup to help with the treatment of head injuries and "to make the game a lot safer". Experts will monitor from seats in the stands to identify possible brain injuries that may have been missed and team doctors will also have instant access to video replays.

Consider yourself out of England tour if you test positive in Mumbai, BCCI tells players

DEVENDRA PANDEY MUMBAI, MAY10

THE BOARD of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has informed its England-bound players that if they test positive after landing in Mumbai before embarking on the tour, they can consider themselves out of the trip.

The Indian Express understands that Indian team physio Yogesh Parmar has advised the players to try and keep themselves isolated until they reach Mumbai.

The players, support staff and their family members going to England will undergo RT-PCR Tests on the first day after checking

BRIEFLY —

in at their hotel. With the contingent coming from all parts of the country, the BCCI wants a secure bio-bubble in place.

The Indian team is scheduled to fly out on June 2 to play the World Test Championship final against New Zealand, followed by a five-Test series against England. "The players have been informed to consider their tour over if they are found positive on their arrival in Mumbai as BCCI will not arrange another charter flight for any cricketer." a source in the Indian board informed. Chastened by the suspension of the Indian Premier League (IPL) after several positive tests in various franchises, the board has become more cautious. It has told

the players that RT-PCR tests will be conducted on their family members too before they reach Mumbai. This has been done as a precautionary measure keeping in mind the second wave of the pandemic wreaking havoc in the country. The board has also asked the team members to take the first jab of the Covishield vaccine in India and BCCI will arrange for their second doses in England.

As the AstraZeneca vaccine available in England is a version of Covishield, the BCCI can make the second dose available for its players there.

"The players, support staff and families will be tested and two negative reports are



Virat Kohli took his first shot of the vaccine on Monday. virat.kohli/Instagram

required before they leave for Mumbai. It will be done in order to ensure that they are coming into the bubble without any infection. The players have also been given the option to travel by air or car to reach Mumbai. For vaccination, BCCI has informed the players to take Covishield which they can get in England, and not Covaxin," the BCCI source informed. Players like Virat Kohli, Ishant Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara and Umesh Yadav took their first vaccine doses on Monday while a few players will be taking them in the coming days. The BCCI has asked players to get in touch if they don't have access to the Covishield vaccine, and the Board will

arrange it for them. The BCCI is still to finalise the number of days the Indian players will have to undergo quarantine. The board wants 14 days' quarantine in India and another 10 days in England before they play the World Test Championship final. The players don't want a hard guarantine and want some relaxation while being in isolation in India. The Indian team will play three ODIs and as many T20Is against Sri Lanka in July. A second-string Indian team will be travelling to the island nation with the India A support staff as coaches. The Indian team has nearly a one-month gap between the World Test Championship final and the first Test against England.

Delhi Police issues Look-out-Circular against Sushil

New Delh: Fortunato Franco, one of the pillars of India's last Asian Games goldwinning football

Asian Games football hero Franco no more

team in 1962. died on Monday. He was 84. The AIFF confirmed the news of his death but did not specify the cause

of his demise. Franco is survived by his wife, son and daughter. of India's finest mid-fielders (half-back

as per 1960s parlance), Franco was a part of Indian football's golden era between 1960-64. He was a part of the 1960 Rome Olympics squad but didn't get a game but was an integral part of the 1962 Asiad gold winning team in Jakarta. He made 26 appearances for India, including the 1962 Asian Cup, where India finished runners-up, and silver and bronze-winning medal winning sides of 1964 and 1965 Merdeka Cup. But his best performance was in the 1962 Asian Games where Indian witnessed its finest hour beating Korea 2-1 in the final in Jakarta watched by 100,000 people. PTI

Zverev wins second Madrid Open title

Madird: Alexander Zverev continued his impressive form going into the French Open by winning his second After beating Madrid Open title. top-seeded Rafael Nadal in the quarterfinals and fourth-ranked Dominic Thiem in the semifinals, Zverev rallied to defeat Matteo Berrettini 6-7(8), 6-4, 6-3 for his second title this season. The sixth-ranked German also won the Mexican Open in Acapulco in March. Zverev won his first Madrid title in 2018 in a final against Thiem. The win on Sunday gave him his fourth Masters 1000 title, and first in three years. Zverev will be trying to improve from his fourth-round exit la French Open. "To do well at the French Open, you need to be playing well during the clay court season,? the 24-yearold Zverev said. "That is in a way important for me, as well. At the end of the day I won a Masters. There's really very little in terms of bigger than this one right here." AP

Olympic-size confusion

MIHIR VASAVDA NEW DELHI, MAY 10

ROB KOEHLER, the director-general of rights group Global Athlete, balked at the 'ridiculousness' of the playbooks for the Tokyo Games. "You go to an Olympic Games," he told the Toronto Star, "there's always thousands of condoms in the athletes' village to ensure safe sex. But yet when it comes to a pandemic, they're not willing to provide free medical-grade masks for all competitors, It doesn't make sense."

Koehler isn't the only one trying to make sense of how, in less than 75 days, the Games will be conducted in the middle of a pandemic.

On Sunday, amidst fake cheers and in front of empty stands, American sprinter Justin Gatlin crossed the 100m finish line in first place during the track and field test event at the Olympic Stadium. After experiencing what the Games would look like in July-August, he said "a lot of athletes are not going to be happy" with the restrictions that have been put in place.

The restrictions, outlined in the playbooks released last month, will be enforced on tens of thousands of athletes, officials, organisers and media to allay the fears of the local population, which wants the Games to be cancelled, according to various Japanese opinion polls.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), nevertheless, is pressing ahead with the Games. According to their plan, tens of thousands of athletes will virtually be airdropped into Tokyo, kept away from the public and airlifted back to their respective countries within 48 hours of their event getting over.

Athletes' safety

Additionally, they have ordered the athletes to restrict their movements only between the village and the venues, undergo Covid-19 tests every day, limit their interactions with teammates, alter meal timings to ensure distancing at the catering hall, and sign waivers. This has raised concerns over the safety of the athletes and the possible impact ilv routine



Officials, wearing face masks, watch a Japanese competitor during the test event for the Tokyo Games on Sunday.

In case of a positive test, the athlete will be withdrawn from the event.

'Everything on the line'

However, several questions remain unanswered. If an athlete qualifies for the medal round and tests positive on the morning of his/her event, will all of their opponents from the previous rounds have to isolate as close contacts? What procedure will be followed to replace the Covid-positive athlete in a medal match? What happens if it turns out to be a false positive? Or, what if the athlete misses his/her event while waiting for confirmatory reports? In team sports, if one player tests positive, will everyone have to isolate until reports of others are known? And what happens if they miss the match during

the waiting period? Several athletes have returned false-positive reports in tournaments across sports. However, the flexibility of a standalone tournament gave those organisers a chance to he match ers. At the Olympics, which have an airtight schedule with no room to push back a match even by a minute, such considerations won't be possible. Two-time Olympian Nikki Dryden, who is now a human rights lawyer, said everything the athletes have been training for is 'on the line'. "The support of family, community, local business, national sponsors, local and national governments - everything - comes down to this one moment. If that moment is taken away, it's going to impact not only the livelihood of the athlete ... but it's going to impact entire communities," the former Canadian swimmer told The Ticket podcast. "Is this process fair? Do athletes trust the fairness and integrity of the system? We need to know who is conducting the tests, and what are their protocols?"

Logistical challenges

The uncertainty goes beyond what will happen on the ground in Tokyo. Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra said an "additional concern" has come to their notice.

"Right now, a lot of countries have imposed restrictions on travellers from India. If that doesn't change by the time the Olympics come, and they ask our athletes to quarantine for 14 days, then we have to figure out a place to send the athletes 20 or 25 days before, from where ev can get direct entry ' Batra said "It's ar additional concern that has now come to our notice based on the situation now. Things might change for the better in July, we will wait and watch. But we are keeping in mind all possibilities and preparing for it."

CONCERNS

False positives: What happens if an athlete tests positive on the day of his/her event, is forced to sit out and it then emerges as a false positive case?

Team sports: In team sports, it isn't specified whether the whole team will have to isolate until their reports are known, if one player tests positive. It also isn't known what happens if they miss the match during the waiting period

Quarantine: Will athletes from countries with a high caseload, like India, be forced to quarantine? While that is not the case at the moment in Japan, the Indian Olympic Association is preparing for such an eventuality.

Safety: Global Athlete, an activist group, has demanded that all athletes be given individual rooms with private bathrooms to avoid being identified as close contacts and catching infection. They've also urged the organisers to provide free medical-grade masks during the Games, as against the current rule that requires athletes to bring their own masks.

Olympics. "We had to get the RT-PCR test results in a specified format, which is different from what we get in India. Each document is verified at the airport and only if everything is fine will you be allowed to board the flight," MV Sriram, secretary-general of the Rowing Federation of India, said.

After they landed, it took them almost five hours to leave the airport, as they waited for ovid test results and while o the mobile phones of each member to ensure the track-and-trace app mandated by the organisers was functional. "If it took so long with a few hundred athletes. I wonder how they will manage during the Olympics when there will be thousands." Sriram said.

NEW DELHI, MAY 10 DELHI POLICE has issued a Look-out-Circular (LoC) against the two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar who is absconding after a 23year-old former junior national champion,

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

Sagar Rana, was beaten to death during a brawl at the Chhatrasal Stadium parking area. After the incident, an FIR of murder, abduction and criminal conspiracy was registered against Kumar. Additional DCP (North-West district) Dr Guriobal Singh Sidhu has con-

firmed that they have issued LoC against Sushil Kumar. "We have recorded statements of all the victims and they all made allegations against Sushil Kumar. We are conducting raids to nab Sushil Kumar," Sidhu said. The victims in their statements have also

alleged that Kumar and his associates abducted Sagar from his house in Model Town to teach him a lesson for bad mouthing him in front of other wrestlers, police said.

On Tuesday, Sagar Rana, who had competed in the 97-kg Greco-Roman category, was beaten to death in a clash involving two groups. Rana was a former junior national champion and is part of the senior national camp. "We have found during investigation that a quarrel had allegedly taken place between Sushil Kumar, Ajay, Prince Dalal, Sonu, Sagar, Amit and others in the parking area of the stadium, Sidhu said.

Police recorded the statements of all the victims during which they said that Sagar and some of his friends, including injured Sonu Mahal, who is a close associate of gangster Kala Jathedi, were staying in a house linked to Sushil near the stadium. "They had been asked to vacate recently and were removed from the house forcefully. Sushil later came to know that Sagar had started bad mouthing him in the Chhatrasal Stadium in front of other wrestlers and also threatened him of dire consequences,' a senior police officer said.



Restrictions on athletes for the Tokyo Olympics leaves them with more questions than answers

Every day, the athletes will have to go to a dedicated testing facility inside the village, where a saliva antigen test will be conducted on each one of them. The timing of the test will be determined by a liaison officer, based on the athlete's event schedule. According to the playbooks, if the result of the antigen test is inconclusive or positive, a PCR test will be conducted from the same sample of saliva.

Earlier this month, India's rowing team was allowed into Tokyo for the Asia-Oceania qualifiers without any quarantine. But they got a taste of the tedious process put in place for the

Amidst protests that are gathering momentum and strict protocols announced, that's a question on everyone's minds.

Double Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar has been named in the murder case of wrestler Sagar Rana.

Why Istanbul may lose CL final hosting rights

SHAHID JUDGE

MUMBAL MAY 10

THE VENUE for the UEFA Champions League final might change for the second time in as many years. After the 2020 final between Paris Saint-Germain and eventual winners Bayern Munich originally to be held at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul was moved to the Estadio da Luz in Lisbon due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Manchester City-Chelsea final on May 29, may again be taken away from the Turkish venue. While a move to England can't be ruled out though the decision is pending, the Turks aren't keen on letting it slip away again.

Why is the change being proposed?

Last Friday, the United Kingdom government placed Turkey on a 'Red List' for travel. So travelling into UK from Turkey will mean 10 days of mandatory quarantine at pre-approved airport hotels - with no exceptions.

So support staff and their 4,000 fans each of both clubs will have to isolate on return to England. This will also hamper England's preparation for the European Championships (the rescheduled Euro 2020). After returning on May 30, their quarantine will end on June 9, and Euros start on June 11.

When was Istanbul given hosting rights?

In May 2018, Ataturk Stadium was

granted hosting rights of the 2020 Champions League final which got shifted due to the pandemic to Lisbon, Portugal.

The 2021 final was to be held at the Krestovsky Stadium in Saint Petersburg, Russia, however UEFA decided to push back the final hosts by a year - Istanbul in 2021 (instead of 2020), Saint Petersburg in 2022.

The Turkish stadium now stands to lose for the second time. Incidentally, the last and only time the venue hosted a final in 2005, an English club came out victors as Liverpool beat AC Milan on penalties - a match dubbed 'The Miracle of Istanbul.'

Is the shift confirmed?

Not yet. The English Football Association (FA) is in talks with UEFA regarding a shift. UK Prime Minister Boris

Iohnson has pushed for the change to happen. EXPLAINE The Champions League

is the pinnacle of European club football," he was quoted by The Sun. "And with two English teams contesting the final, it would be a great shame if fans were unable to

attend. It would be brilliant to host the game here if we can. I want to help supporters of both clubs see their team in action."

UK Transport Secretary Grand Shapps also chimed in: "The UK has a successful track record of hosting matches with spectators so we are well placed to do it," he said according to the BBC. "So we are very open to it, but it is actually in the end a decision for UEFA to make." At the moment, all Premier League matches are being held behind closed doors.

Istanbul recorded 15,191 cases on May

9. The Turkish Football Federation however is firm that it still holds hosting rights.

"UK officials seem to insist but we are moving ahead according to UEFA directions and statements. There were no updates on this from an official channel, we will be hosting the final in Istanbul," a spokesperson said, as reported by ESPN.

Has UEFA said anything about the issue?

Yes, but the body has indicated that Istanbul will host the match as of now.

"The Uefa Champions League final will take place in Istanbul on 29 May with a limited number of spectators and we are assured the temporary lockdown which is in force until 17 May (in Turkey) should not

have any impact on the match," a UEFA spokesperson said to The Guardian.

What does Istanbul stand to lose?

Revenue through tourism, as hoardes of travelling fans would book accommodation and dine at local restaurants. Ticket sales bring in some income

Where can it happen if not in Istanbul? The immediate name that comes to mind is the Wembley Stadium in London. However, the venue will be hosting the English Championship Play-offs that same weekend. In Birmingham however, Aston Villa has shown interest in organising the match at their Villa Park stadium.

There's also a chance the final may move to Lisbon again this year.

Bamboo bats could be cricket's game-changing weapon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MAY 10

IN AN iconic photograph shot some years ago, Barry Richards is seen holding a waferthin bat he used when knocking 325 runs in a single day of a Sheffield Shield game in 1970 on one hand, and on the other, a bulky willow David Warner had wielded in a Test match.

In many ways, that photograph was a reminder of how bats have become beefier, especially the sweet spot, wresting thus an unfair advantage to batsmen. Now a recent study published in the Journal of Sports Engineering and Technology says that replacing willow with bamboo could make the sweet-spot even sweeter.

A research conducted by Darshil Shah and Ben Tinkler-Davies of Cambridge University noted that prototype bats made out of laminated bamboo were 40 per cent heavier and more robust than those made from the traditional willow. It means batsmen will be able to hit the ball much harder because these bats have a bigger sweet spot. "This sweet-spot was about 20 mm wide and 40 mm long, significantly larger than on a typical willow bat, and better still, was positioned closer to the toe (12.5 cm from the toe at its sweetest point)," the researchers said in a statement.

They have also found that the bamboo bat is 22% stiffer than the willow variant, which increases the speed at which the ball leaves the bat. "This is a batsman's dream,"



Researchers say there's a paucity of willow since these trees typically take around 15 years to mature. file

Shah was quoted as saying in The Times. "The sweet spot on a bamboo bat makes it much easier to hit a four off a vorker for starters, but it's exciting for all kinds of strokes," he asserted.

Ben Tinkler-Davies said: "Whether you're playing or spectating, you wouldn't notice much of a difference." Going forward, lighter bamboo blades could potentially be in the offing in the years to come, which would only facilitate more sparkling stroke-play.

Despite the inherent advantages it provides to batsmen, what makes bamboo bats such a tantalising option is that it's more sustainable and cheaper when compared with the English willow.

The researchers have claimed that there's a paucity of willow since these trees typically

take around 15 years to mature. In contrast, bamboo, which is grass, takes only seven years to reach maturity, and is found in abundance in China and parts of South-East Asia. "Bamboo is prevalent in countries that are taking up cricket such as China, Japan, South America as well," Shah told The Guardian.

MCC unmoved

However, it will not be easy convincing Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodians of the game, about the benefits of the prototype bamboo bat. "The MCC has read with interest the research study from the University of Cambridge, which suggests that cricket bats made from bamboo offer a more suitable alternative to the traditional use of the willow," the MCC said in a statement issued on Monday.

The current law 5.3.2 stipulates that bats must consist solely of wood, so for bamboo (which is grass) to be considered as a realistic alternative would require a tweak in the

law. "MCC's role includes maintaining the balance between bat and ball, and any potential amendments to this law would need to carefully take this into consideration, particularly the concept of the bat producing greater power. The Club has worked hard to ensure that bats aren't too powerful, taking steps in 2008 and 2017 to limit the materials and the size of the bats for this purpose," the statement added.

As things stand, the MCC said this topic will come up for discussion at the next laws sub-committee meeting.

Vol. LXV No. 110 Printed for the proprietors, The Indian Express (P) Ltd by Ms Vaidehi Thakar at The Indian Express Press, Plot No. EL-208, TTC Industrial Area, Mahape, Navi Mumbai - 400710 and published from Mafatlal Centre, 7th floor, Ramnath Goenka Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021. Editorial & Administrative offices: Mafatlal Centre, 7th floor, Ramnath Goenka Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021. Phone: 22022627/67440000. Fax: 022-22835726. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor: Raj Kamal Jha, Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Mumbai): Nirupama Subramanian.* (*Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act) Additional air surcharge of ₹1.00 - Goa. Copyright: The Indian Express (P) Ltd. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited. The Indian Express®







