

**Forecast:**Forecast: Sunny. Temp: Max.37°C. Min.22°C. Humidity: 14% Sunrise: 05:47 Sunset: 06:51

" Singh with the help of his colleagues Sattender and Nikhil used to telephonically send the report to Himanshu and Prgyanand, who used to prepare the reports on their laptop using the letter head of the above named lab. This latter was provided to them by Singh," he added.



# Womenia



GRUSHA KHANNA

## Tricks to turn your ordinary clothes into stylish ones

**You don't have to spend a lot of money to look amazing. With these styling tricks, you'll slay every outfit of the day**

### T-shirt to a crop top

Take any t-shirt a little loose will be the perfect fit for this trick. Take an elastic band and gather your t-shirt in the front in a shape of a pony tail and tie it with the elastic band. Then insert it inwards from tuck it inside the loop that is created and you are done.

### Pleated skirt to a dress

Take your pleated skirt and wear it like a tubeless dress above your breast. Take a belt that complements the skirt and tie it across your waist, this will help your skirt stay stuck. Wear a nice shrug or blazer to give it a perfect look.

### Turn your scarf to a shrug

Take any old shrug or dupatta that you love to wear frequently. Hold the two ends and tie it together. Then tie that knot with the center point of the dupatta or shrug. You will find two armholes on the ends becoming the two armholes like a shrug and you are done.

### Shirt to a stylish top

Take your favorite shirt and tie the first button with the loop. Now take the second button and tie it in the first loop. Now go on like this, tie the third button with the second loop and fourth with the third loop. Once you are done you will see that one side of the shirt is little longer than the other. You can either tuck that end inside your pants or even leave it like this, whatever suits you.

### Shirt to a strap top

Wrap your shirt above your bust and tie all the buttons of the shirt they way it's done. Take the sleeves from back to front and pin it with a safety pin. Repeat the same on the other side as well, and you are done.

### White T-shirt to a printed t-shirt

Spread a white t-shirt on the floor and place a fork in the

center of the t-shirt. Start twisting the fork forming a circular pattern of the shirt. Tie 3 elastic bands across the t-shirt dividing it into 6 halves. Put tie and dye colors of your choice across the disc shaped t-shirt. Let the cloth absorb the colors and dry. You will get a colorful print t-shirt.

All these amazing tips will help you give your wardrobe a modern and stylish touch and that too while staying home. So try these amazing hacks and get going.



TWEET PATROL



**SHRUTI HAASAN**  
**@SHRUTIIHAASAN**

Hi everyone I really hope you're safe and well !!! My prayers and love to everyone ! Sorry I haven't been so active on here but I'm sharing tonnes of stories on my Instagram handle shrutzaasan - please visit for info on all things Covid related sending love and healing hugs



## Appreciation for service

Hyderabad based gynecologist and a true champion for women, Dr Evita Fernandez, Chairperson of Fernandez Foundation was awarded in the '29th Yudhvir Foundation Award' for her selfless and compassionate work in the field of maternal healthcare and contribution to the empowerment of women. She received the award from Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu in a virtual meeting.

An otherwise elaborate function, this year, keeping in view of the pandemic, the trustees decided to keep it strictly low key in a small private virtual ceremony ably compered by Anuj Gurwara. As a part of her award, Dr Evita Fernandez has been presented with a citation and Rs 1 Lakh honorarium.

M Venkaiah Naidu congratulated Dr Fernandez for her path-breaking efforts to make childbirth a natural and positive experience for women.

While addressing the Yudhvir Memorial Award ceremony from Uparashtrapati Nivas on Friday Venkaiah Naidu said, "Women health is vital for the overall health of a family, under-nutrition continues to affect women in India and concerted efforts are needed to address the issue."

Venkaiah Naidu on Late Shri Yudhvir in whose name the award is instituted, today being his 100th birth anniversary, remarked that he was a man of many parts. "He was a freedom fighter, social worker and a reputed journalist, all rolled into one. Above all, he was a noble individual, a truly exemplary human being."

Adding to that he also said that award and honour restored upon Yudhvir views, not only motivates the awardees to scale greater heights but also inspires others to evaluate themselves. A tradition of recognising and rewarding people for their good work has been embraced in the Indian culture, Naidu said.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Evita Fernandez, said, "I stand before you with emotions and indeed honor for receiving the Yudhvir Memorial Award and I have read the life sketch of Yudhvir Ji and discovered him as a freedom fighter and renowned journalist. He had faced many trials including being imprisoned and yet he demonstrated incredible courage. Today it is his 100th birthday and I wish to refer to the fact that both daily Hindi Milap and Fernandez Hospital are 70-year-old institutions, we share a common history, we both are engaged in serving the community."

Dr. Fernandez feels that one of the commendable aims of the Yudhvir Foundation is to promote activities related to public health and the welfare of humanity. "This aligns with the vision and mission of Fernandez Foundation - we are committed to respectable care for women and children," Dr Fernandez added.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Murlidhar Gupta, Chairman of Yudhvir Foundation thanked the Vice President for being the chief guest for the Yudhvir Foundation award ceremony. Gupta further said that Naidu has been a vocal supporter of anti-gender discrimination and applauded his call for a national movement to empower women and educate them.

## Therapeutic Massage Awareness Day

Whether you've never had a therapeutic massage before or you enjoy them regularly, Therapeutic Massage Awareness Day is the day to make the most of what these massages have to offer. The day is about embracing those benefits and taking the time to relax, and if it's something that you'll be doing for the first time, you'll soon find yourself wanting more.

With so many of us leading busy, demanding and stressful lives, it's important to stop and think about your own health and relaxation sometimes. That's one of the reasons why Therapeutic Massage Awareness Day was started.

It gives you a chance to relax and enjoy the benefits of massage. Health matters more than anything else, and it's more than worth investing a little time and money in looking after your body with a regular massage. That's what Therapeutic Massage Awareness Day aims to remind us of as we rush through life.

Some things need to be prioritized over others and that's certainly the case with our health. Nothing matters more, so why not treat yourself and take some time to relax? It's the least you can do for your body.

So, how did Therapeutic Massage Awareness Day begin? It's been running since 2014 and in that time, it's helped to raise awareness of the many health and relaxation benefits that are brought about by receiving regular therapeutic massages.

Many people might vaguely understand what massages can do for their body, but they might not be aware of the wide range of therapeutic massage styles out there and they almost certainly won't have tried them all. This day was started with the intention of giving people a chance to try the options out there.

Medicinal styles of therapeutic massages are promoted to help people feel real health benefits post-massage. Lomi Lomi, Ayurvedic and Acupressure massages are all encouraged as part of Therapeutic Massage Awareness Day.



## How to apply the right eye makeup

Take a look at your makeup arsenal and think of all the masterpieces you can create with it. What if we tell you that your eye-shadow palette can be used for a lot more than just adding color to the eyelids? Or, let you in on some tricks that would make sure that your cat eyes and wings are on fleek every single time? It doesn't matter if you are a beginner or a pro at makeup, tips and hacks always come in handy. It is smart to get your money's worth by using the same product in multiple ways. Here are 50 makeup tips that will make sure you look your best at all times.

### Makeup Tips To Apply Eyeliner

#### Dots And Dashes To The Rescue

It might sound lame to a few, but there are people (like me) for whom drawing a straight line on paper is a task difficult enough, let alone exhibit such mastery on eyes with an eyeliner. Worry not, just draw small dots or dashes with your eyeliner on the lashline and join them.



BEAUTY FUNDA

#### Scotch Tape Method.

For a perfect wing, use the scotch tape method. Just stick a scotch tape in an angular fashion on the sides of your eyes and let the ends guide you to achieve that killer winged eyeliner every single time. You can also use a spoon, business card, debit card or basically anything with a straight edge as a guide.

#### Go Natural With Tightlining

Try tightlining for the perfect no makeup look. Instead of putting the eyeliner on the lashline, apply it beneath the line. Make sure you use a waterproof variant for this one.

#### Use A Shadow To Lock It In.

Use an eyeshadow of the same

shade as the eyeliner to set the liner in place.

### Makeup tips to apply kohl/kajal

#### Prevention From Smudging

When it comes to smudge prevention, kajal is not the easiest product to work with. However, to ensure your kajal stays put for hours, simply dab some eyeshadow over it once you are done. You can also use an eyeliner. Simply draw a line with the liner over your kajal. It will lock the kajal in place and also look super neat.

#### Hassle Free Smokey Eyes

For a quick smokey eye, apply kohl on your upper and lower lashlines and waterline and then smudge it. Finish off by drawing a sideways "V" on the outer corner and blend well. Rock the sultry smokey eyes for a night out.

#### Easy Removal Of Kajal

Removing kajal from your eyes can be quite a task. Simply dip a Q-tip into a cleansing lotion and carefully remove the kajal with it. Avoid poking yourself in the eyes.

## Ace your corporate look with these stylish range of eyewear...

"Putting on a new pair of glasses or sunglasses is a simple way to completely transform your look - just like a new hairstyle." - Brad Goreski, Hollywood stylist and television personality.

Pammi Jamalpuria, VP-Corporate Marketing, Vision Rx Lab, pioneer of international eyewear brand, Nova Eyewear says, "Acing a corporate look is often a challenge to many."

In the post pandemic scenario, as the world made a paradigm shift to working indoors, corporate looks or dress codes took a back seat. The wardrobe pattern also changed quite significantly. Many of us prefer a lightweight, comfort wear and accessories over stiff formal work wear."

Face masks have evolved as the new fashion accessory. People are pairing them with

conventional work attire as well as comfortable outfits and some classy accessories. Talking about accessories, one cannot miss to mention about eyewear.

The pandemic has resulted in extended working hours for many at home and increased screen time. Eye health has become a glaring concern irrespective of any age and gender. Long exposure to harmful HEV Blue light (emitted from most of the digital devices) is affecting the eye health of many corporate employees.

Nowadays eyewear comes with advanced lenses, which have anti-fog, blue-light filtering and anti-reflective properties, which make them apt for comfortable vision and prolonged usage. Lenses with blue-light filter offer stress free vision when handling digital devices while the anti-

fog property keeps the glasses fog-free especially while wearing masks. The anti-reflective property helps in reducing annoying ghost images ensuring maximum transparency of lenses. Being presentable and creating a mark through one's personality and dressing sense can always get you the right kind of attention at workplace. Many of us get confused and refrain from wearing eyeglasses in public because we are not aware about how to style it up and make it look classy.

Once in a corporate environment, one has to be little conscious while choosing the right set of frames because an eyewear plays an extremely crucial role in creating a perception about your personality which eventually leverages your confidence. A perfect set of eyewear is

capable of adding that extra charisma which also boosts your confidence while meeting business clients or colleagues.

It is advisable not to experiment much with funky pairs and choose slightly traditional and subtle ones for professional use.

Titanium or stainless steel frames can be one of the choices as they come mostly in rimless frame style. Such pairs are lightweight and if wore with right pair of glasses can help in building a personality where one wants to portray intellect and confidence.

Apart from rimless frames, classic shapes such as ovals, round and rectangles in traditional colours of gold, silver, brown, grey and black are few selections which can never go wrong and can be carried by anyone without much effort. These colours also give an

edge to your professional outlook as they match really well with a variety of palazzo suits giving a vibe of comfort.

Overall, personality plays a huge role in creating any impression. A well-read person with a good personality can always mark his/her presence and is capable of standing apart in a crowd.





# No lockdown, MHA asks States to go for containment measures

NEW DELHI

THERE would be no lockdown across the states as the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has advised them to go in for "containment" in districts and areas where the second wave surged.

The ministry directed states and Union Territories to consider containment measures such as restrictions on gatherings, operations of markets, offices, schools and universities, and intensified testing and tracking for immediate implementation based on their assessment of the situation until May 31.

It has suggested intensive, local

and focused containment measures in districts and areas with test positivity of 10 per cent and more in the last one week and where more than 60 per cent of oxygen-supported or ICU beds are occupied.

Despite the surge in Covid-positive cases and deaths in April, the MHA's fresh guidelines on Covid containment steered clear of imposing lockdowns and left it to states and UTs to devise their own containment strategies.

The advisory asks states to encourage work from home. All District Magistrates are required to strictly enforce state-level directives on containment measures



as well as the national guidelines.

The Union Health Ministry had called for measures like night curfew, prohibiting public gatherings for political, social, reli-

gious, sports or entertainment purposes, capping attendance at marriages to 50 and at funerals to 20, closing of shopping complexes, cinema halls, gyms, spas,

restaurants, stadia, operating public transport at 50 per cent, and a cap of 50 per cent attendance in government and private offices.

"However, these are indicative activities, and states and UTs should make a careful analysis of the local situation, areas to be covered, and probability of transmission and then take a decision," the Health Ministry had advised.

The restrictions were prescribed for 14 days across the containment zones, which shall be declared such after a public announcement outlining the rationale and the nature of restrictions while asking for a test-track-

treat-vaccine approach and ensure Covid-appropriate behaviour.

Apart from suggesting 100 per cent vaccination of eligible age groups, the Health Ministry had also said that details of hospital beds and vacancy status be made available online on a daily basis.

It also said details on availability of oxygen, drugs, vaccines and vaccination centres, including the guidelines related to use of drugs like Remdesivir and Tocilizumab, should be widely publicised to generate public confidence.

A similar advisory was issued on April 26 based on the Health Ministry guidelines where the

states were asked to impose localised restrictions for at least 14 days to flatten the Covid-19 curve.

The guidelines will be applicable till May 31. The previous guidelines issued on March 23 are effective till April 30.

The fresh guidelines for Covid-19 management came amid a sudden spike in the number of cases and a shortage of beds, ICUs and oxygen in some parts of the country like Delhi.

The implementation framework for community containment and large containment areas, as advised by the Health Ministry, has also been enclosed with the MHA order.

## Punjab CM rules out full lockdown for now

CHANDIGARH

RULING out a complete lockdown in the state for now, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday directed the Deputy Commissioners of the six worst-affected districts to further tighten the micro-containment strategy and ensure 100 per cent testing.

Lockdown is not a solution, as it will lead to exodus of labourers and force them to go to states with even lesser medical facilities, said Amarinder Singh, as he directed the district administrations to enforce all restrictions strictly and to stop dine-in facility in all high positivity areas, with Covid testing of staff in restaurants by the health department.

Urging the industry to set up its own Covid treatment centres and makeshift hospitals, he stressed on teamwork to fight the battle. He also directed the Chief Secretary to look into encouraging retired doctors and nurses, along with final year MBBS students, to rejoin for



handling facilities and suggested setting up of temporary health-care facilities in halls and gymnasiums, etc. The Chief Minister was chairing a virtual emergency meeting to review the Covid situation in the six worst hit districts of Ludhiana, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Jalandhar, Bathinda, Patiala and Amritsar.

Expressing concern over the fewer number of containment zones in Mohali and two other

districts that were among the most badly hit six districts, the Chief Minister ordered steps to strengthen the containment and testing mechanism.

Micro-containment strategy must be strictly implemented and encouraged, he said, directing all district officers to give this their highest priority to control the spread. Even as he appreciated the good work being done by the officers despite these chal-

lenging times, the Chief Minister expressed concern over the fact that 14 districts in the state currently had over 10 per cent positivity rate, while five had more than 60 per cent bed occupancy.

A prefabricated 100-bed hospital will come up at Mohali and a 250 bedded temporary hospital is being set up near the Bathinda refinery, with oxygen supply from the refinery, he said, urging all departments to be prepared for the peak and identify areas in the various districts for establishment of temporary hospitals.

Taking note of the shortage of Fateh Kits, mainly on account of lack of oxymeters, he acceded to the Chief Secretary's suggestion to request recovered patients to return their oxymeters for use in kits after proper sanitisation.

K.K. Talwar, who heads the Covid expert group advising the state, said all hospitals had been provided detailed guidelines to check oxygen wastage.

Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan said the Panjab University in Chandigarh has been advised not to hold senate elections at present in view of the grave situation.

### Sub inspector held for trying to abduct woman

GORAKHPUR

A police sub-inspector, posted in Bahraich district, has been arrested for allegedly barging into the house of a woman and trying to abduct her at gun point. The sub-inspector was arrested late on Thursday night, a day after the incident took place in Sahjanwa area in Gorakhpur. The police official was overpowered by the family members and villagers who beat him up. He managed to flee the spot, leaving behind his mobile phone and service revolver.

Circle officer, Campiarganj, Rahul Bhati said that sub-inspector Narendra Chaudhary, posted in Bahraich, entered a house in Gahasa village with two of his associates.

"He harassed and misbehaved with a woman in the house. He allegedly threatened and beat the family members at gunpoint," he said. After the accused managed to escape, the villagers informed the police who arrested the accused.

The police have also recovered the mobile phone and service revolver from the villagers. "A case has been registered against the sub-inspector and his associates. The information about the incident is also being forwarded to senior officials in Bahraich for further action," the CO said.



### UP prepares for three-day closure to check Covid spread

LUCKNOW

UTTAR Pradesh will witness a complete closure from 8 p.m. on Friday to 7 a.m. on Tuesday in a bid to tackle the second wave of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The state government, on Thursday, had decided to extend the weekend closure by 24 hours to cover Mondays too.

Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Navneet Sehgal had said on Thursday: "The weekend closure will now be applicable from Friday 8 p.m. till Tuesday 7 a.m."

He, however, termed it as 'closure' and not lockdown.

All essential services will be allowed during the closure period and the vaccination drive will also continue in the state.

At weddings, only 50 people will be allowed, and 20 at funerals.

All public transport, including

rail, Metro, buses, cabs will operate with a maximum of 50 per cent capacity.

Public and private offices are allowed to have up to 50 per cent of staff in offices.

Services like health care, police, fire, bank, electricity, water and irrigation, scheduled operation of common transport will continue.

There will be no ban on operations of inter-state and inter-state along with transportation of essential commodities. Take-aways, and food and goods delivery will be allowed.

However, all shops and establishments will remain closed between Friday 8 p.m. and Tuesday 7 a.m.

The government has prohibited all political, sports, entertainment, religious gatherings and malls, cinema halls, restaurants, bars, sports complexes, gyms will also remain shut.



### 4 held for black marketing of Remdesivir, Fabiflu

MORADABAD

THE Moradabad police busted a gang which was allegedly involved in black marketing of Remdesivir injections and Fabiflu tablets here and arrested four persons working in three prominent private hospitals, while efforts are on to arrest one more member of the gang.

Both the medicines are crucial in the treatment of Covid patients.

According to the police, a complaint was registered by the family of a Covid-positive patient with the Moradabad SSP following which raids were conducted and the four were caught red-handed.

The accused have been identified as Piyush Kumar (22), Kamran (24), Saddam (26), and Jeevan (25) while Rikki Thakur (28) is absconding.

Moradabad SSP Prabhakar Chaudhary, said, "Acting on the complaint, a special operations group (SOG) and the Majhola police launched a joint operation to crack down on the black-marketing racket and raids were conducted on prominent private hospitals in the city.

The accused were apprehended and two empty and two full vials of Remdesivir injection, one syringe, 12 Fabiflu tablets and Rs 62,000 cash were recovered from their possession."

During interrogation, the four suspects said they stole Remdesivir and other medicines for treating Covid patients from hospital supplies and sold them at a premium. Each Remdesivir vial was sold for Rs 20,000 - Rs 25,000. Mukesh Shukla, SHO of Majhola police station, said an FIR has been registered against the accused under various IPC sections.

## Gurugram admin releases control room number for oxygen supply

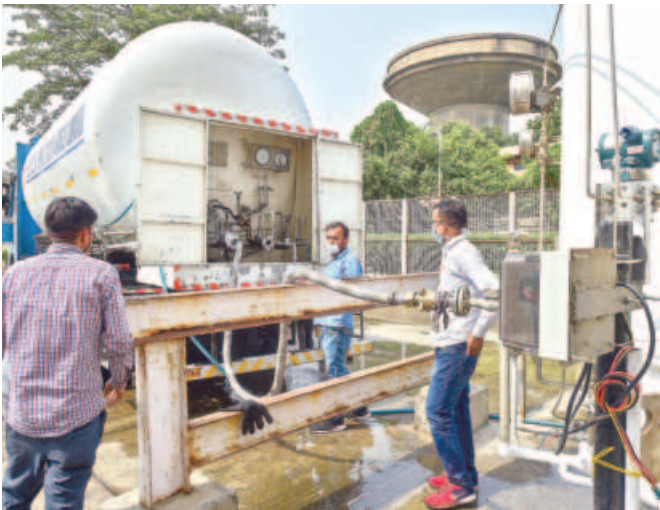
GURUGRAM

TO provide oxygen in a time-bound manner the Gurugram district administration has released a control room number for the supply of oxygen cylinders at different hospitals in the district. An emergency cylinder requirement can be availed of by calling 01242971110.

This control room will work 24x7. To avail of this facility, when any hospital calls the control room, the name of the hospital, the driver's name and the mobile number, the number of the vehicle, how long is backup of oxygen left in the hospital, how many cylinders are required etc, all information will have to be provided to the control room.

Recently, it came to light that several leading hospitals in Gurugram had asked for urgent supply of oxygen by tweeting for help.

"We have also issued an or-



der regarding oxygen supply to hospitals. Any hospital will have to inform the district administration six hours before they need oxygen. Also to meet the demand for liquid medical oxygen in private hospitals, we have asked all hospitals and nursing homes to fill up a Google form which

appears on clicking the website 'covidharyana.in'," said Gurugram Deputy Commissioner Yash Garg.

The district administration has clarified that efforts would be made to provide oxygen only to those hospitals and nursing homes registered with it.

AGRA

ADDITIONAL Director General of Police (ADG) Rajiv Krishna has ordered a probe into allegations that a group of policemen forcibly took away an oxygen cylinder from a 17-year-old boy who had arranged it for his mother, a critical Covid-19 patient admitted at a private hospital.

She died two hours later.

Videos of the youth in a PPE kit, down on his knees and crying as he pleads with the cops to give him back the cylinder or 'my mother will die' was shared on social media platforms, drawing widespread criticism.

The youth, Ansh Goyal, later told reporters that the policemen forcibly took away the oxygen cylinder he had got for his mother. His family alleged that they took away the oxygen cylinder for a 'VIP patient'.

ADG Rajiv Krishna said, "Strict action will be taken



against the guilty policemen after the probe."

Earlier, the local police had denied the charges and said that the cylinder was empty.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Botre Rohan Pramod said, "The man was requesting the police to provide him with an oxygen cylinder for treatment of his relative. No one was taking away any cylinder. The

video is misleading."

He also added that the cylinders were empty but did not explain why the policemen would take away an empty cylinder.

According to sources, deceased, Usha, was a niece of senior Jan Sangh leader, late Lala Roshanlal -- a close associate of Champat Rai, vice-president of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

### Yogi tests negative, disbands 'Team 11'



LUCKNOW

IN a major development, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, disbanded his "Team 11" that had been involved in Covid management since the past one year.

The Chief Minister also tested negative for Covid on Friday.

"Team 11" had been drawing considerable flak for its inability to handle the crisis and failure to provide relief to the people in the pandemic.

According to the government spokesman, the Chief Minister has now formed "Team 9" that will be headed by Minister for Medical Education Suresh Khanna and Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh. The new committee will be accountable for providing necessary 'relief to the common man and dealing with the situation in a sensitive manner'. Later, the Chief Minister went to inspect the under construction DRDO hospital in Lucknow.

## Small hospitals in Gurugram continue to grapple with oxygen supply

GURUGRAM

DESPITE several measures and after a dedicated helpline issued by the Gurugram district administration to provide liquid oxygen supply to the district's hospital, several small hospitals in Gurugram are facing acute shortage of oxygen.

The situation is such that they are even struggling to replenish oxygen supply for coronavirus patients on Friday since morning.

Hospitals including Satyam, Uma Sanjeevani, Umkal, Aarvi, Pushpanjali, Elpine, Aryan, Kathuria and SPES are grappling with a shortage of oxygen supply amid spike in Covid-19 cases and have complained that no help has reached them.



"Around 12 patients are on oxygen beds. We have approached the local authorities over oxygen shortage and had called up their oxygen supply helpline number but in vain. We did not get any response from the administration. The

lives of 12 patients are on risk," said Dr Bharat, medical superintendent SPES hospital.

Dr A. K. Kathuria, Director of Kathuria hospital in Gurugram said, "We have stopped admission of fresh Covid patient due to the lack of oxygen

supply. We can not risk anyone's life. The oxygen crisis is at its worst. No one is able to help".

Gurugram registered 5,042 coronavirus cases and nine deaths on Thursday.

According to the administration's covidggn.com portal there were not even a single oxygen beds, ICU and ventilator available at 42 dedicated Covid care hospitals.

The city has reported over 50 deaths due to the deadly virus in the current month.

"I have directed the officials to make necessary arrangements to ensure an adequate supply of liquid oxygen to all hospitals in the district," Yash Garg, deputy commissioner of Gurugram said.



# Japan raises anxiety levels of neighbours

JAPAN is all set to embrace an international controversy over the release of more than 1 million tonnes of contaminated water from the destroyed Fukushima nuclear station into the sea. The move has been strongly opposed by its neighbours, more than any by China, Japan's arch rival in the region. The first release of water will take place in about two years, giving plant operator Tokyo Electric Power time to begin filtering the water to remove harmful isotopes, build infrastructure and acquire regulatory approval.

Japan has argued the water release is necessary to press ahead with the complex decommissioning of the plant after it was crippled by a 2011 earthquake and tsunami, pointing out that similarly filtered water is routinely released from nuclear plants around the world. The plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power

[TEPCO] plans to filter the contaminated water to remove isotopes, leaving only tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen hard to separate from water. Tepco will then dilute the water until tritium levels fall below regulatory limits, before pumping it into the ocean. Tritium is considered to be relatively harmless because it does not emit enough energy to penetrate human skin. Other nuclear plants around the world routinely pump water with low levels of the isotope into the ocean.

Contrary to China's claims, there is a consensus among scientists that the impact on health will be minuscule. The decision comes about three months ahead of the postponed Tokyo Olympic Games, with some events to be held as close as 60 km (35 miles) to the wrecked plant. Of course, world will demand more negotiations on the issue as the

action is being termed by some as extremely irresponsible that would seriously damage international public health and safety, and the vital interests of people in neighbouring countries. South Korea expressed serious concerns that the decision could bring a direct and indirect impact on the safety of its people and surrounding environment adding it would step up its own radiological measuring and monitoring. Taiwan has also expressed concern.

There are reports which support the arguments raised by the neighbours of Japan that it could be cancerous at least if any. Some experts are worried about other contaminants. The water currently contains significant amounts of harmful isotopes despite years of treatment, according to TEPCO. These other contaminants are all of greater health risk than tritium and accumulate more

readily in seafood and sea floor sediments. Local fishing communities say the water's release will undo years of hard work to rebuild consumer confidence in their seafood. The announcement drew swift condemnation from environmental groups as well.

Greenpeace Japan said it "strongly condemned" the water's release, which "completely disregards the human rights and interests of the people in Fukushima, wider Japan and the Asia-Pacific region". It will be better if Japan holds its proposal much longer, at least till all doubts are eliminated and it is scientifically proved that the waste waters will not contaminate or endanger the environs in any form. This move anyway will trigger the usefulness of nuclear reactors once again. Man's quest for cheaper alternatives would always bring up such questions at a later time. On the one hand the ecosystems are being destroyed by the processes of development and so called civilization threatening the future of the planet.



# Govt should focus on telehealth to achieve holistic wellness

DR M.SURESH BABU AND VYSHANAVA SREENATH

TELEHEALTH has emerged as a viable tool for healthcare providers and governments to improve accessibility, provide remote care, and help them in achieving universal healthcare. The medical world is constantly changing. Technology now plays a predominant role in the medical domain. As doctors regularly look for better ways to treat people, technology has brought numerous great advances to the medical field. Technological advancements such as telemedicine, obtain access to medical services or information that might normally be unavailable.

The growth of smartphone ownership and spread of broadband connectivity have been the two most prominent developments that have, in recent years, created a large potential market for teleconsultations. Telemedicine is the exchange of medical information from one site to another through electronic communications. This is done for the purpose of improving a person's health.

Telemedicine has been around for over 40 years. It is a rapidly growing field. It can be very difficult to get an appointment with primary care doctors and specialists. The waiting list can be long and even getting a referral doesn't guarantee a quick appointment. Telemedicine can help bring you and the doctor together more efficiently.

India's rural urban divide in terms of accessibility to healthcare facilities is widely known. Rural areas that are home to over 70 per cent of the population have access to less than 24 per cent of the doctors. According to National Health Mission say that the doctor patient ratio in rural areas is seven times lower than in urban areas. There is a whopping 82 per cent shortage of specialists in community health centres.

Healthcare providers and social entrepreneurs in India have already gauged the potential of telehealth services to grow in underserved areas. The government should initiate a series of telehealth based projects to make doctors and consultations easily accessible to people living in rural areas and urban slums. Medical emergencies like heart failure, critical accidents, and snake bites are being handled effectively in western countries along with monitoring chronic conditions via connected devices. Increasing penetration of telehealth services not only enable people in rural areas to depend less on unqualified medical practitioners, but it also saves a lot of people from spending time and money on travelling long distances to seek medical help. Telehealth centres, when made accessible to a large number of underserved people, can help significantly reduce the long queues in government hospitals.

Telemedicine has the potential to replace half of the in-person outpatient consultations in India and an accelerated implementation could enable us to tap 60 to 80 per cent of this potential by 2025. It should not be considered as a complete replacement for care by doctors, instead, it must be developed to act as a bridge. Mass disease screening programmes in western countries have helped successfully reduce mortality rates due to non-communicable diseases. Reaching out to the underserved consumers in many ways should be the primary focus of telehealth services.

Enabling easier access to multiple doctors' opinion and providing holistic wellness advice are another vital components that have gained eminence. There are several advantages to telemedicine. One of the biggest is it gives you access to specialists and information that you might not readily have access to otherwise. During a telemedicine consultation, you usually have a chance to tell the doctor about your medical history and ask questions. In turn, the specialist can ask you questions directly. This telemedicine setup is better than trying to relay information to your doctor or nurse, and then having them relay the message. The specialist can hear the sound of your cough or see your swollen eyes. You can hear firsthand about your diagnosis and treatment options. Telemedicine is considered a regular healthcare service. Like any technology, virtual care has its advantages and disadvantages.

While many in the industry point to virtual care as a strategy for reducing healthcare costs, raising care accessibility, and even helping to improve patient outcomes, some remain doubtful of the extent to which virtual care delivers on these promises. Other providers may wonder whether adding virtual care to their practices is worth the time and effort. One of the main disadvantages is availability and cost. You may not have access to telemedicine services. For the provider, it can be expensive to set up and maintain. Though a great and worthy service, telemedicine may be too costly for smaller healthcare facilities. Telemedicine can open up many treatment doors, but it is not the same as a brick-and-mortar doctor office. If you prefer a more personal or face-to-face relationship, telemedicine might not be the option for you. You often do not get a chance to bond with your telemedicine doctor, and you may never get a chance to personally meet them. Though no service is perfect, telemedicine is a positive and growing medical treatment option. Telemedicine saves time, money, and lives. With the rapidly rising cost of healthcare and nonexistent in some places, the need for telemedicine continues to grow. It may not be the option for everyone, but the pros seem to outweigh the cons, being able to treat patients from their home, give valuable medical support and information, and provide service to less developed areas makes it hard to pass up.

(The authors are State President, Praja Science Vedika and Gen Secretary, Residential Welfare Association respectively)

# Harnessing technology to tackle Covid 2.0



FIRST wave of the novel coronavirus took the globe by shock and surprise and pushed the world into a depressing situation.

The governments had no clue on how to handle the situation. It was pure trial and error method of treatment and the Centre and States depended more on manual system of tracing and testing methods followed by certain measures like national lockdown which helped in breaking the chain and gaining control over the situation.

Though the country is in midst of second wave, still it appears that not enough focus is being laid in using technology to its optimum level. The tools that were introduced during the first wave helped in analysing the Covid-19 cases and distribution of ration etc. The Aarogya Setu app which is an Indian Covid-19 app helped in "contact tracing, syndromic mapping and self-assessment" and the app reached more than 100 million installs in 40 days.

The purpose of this app was to spread awareness of Covid-19 and to connect essential Covid-19 related health services to the people of India. It augmented the initiatives of the Health department to contain the virus and share best practices and advisories using the smartphone's GPS and Bluetooth features to track the Coronavirus. It is meant to determine the risk if one has been near (within six feet of) a Covid-19 infected person, by scanning through a database of known cases across India.

The state governments used technology to communicate with the Union government and interact with the officers and public representatives at the district and mandal level.

Drones were used to spray disinfectants in districts and this helped the government in preventing the spread of the virus to some extent in rural areas. The drones helped police officials in crowd management during the lockdown. Usage of technology has not only solved problems but has created new opportunities in the State.

At a time when most news coverage is centred around inaccessibility of oxygen, shortage of injections like Remdesivir due to production limitations and perhaps lack of timely planning by respective State governments, shortage of beds, growing number of Covid-19 deaths etc, it would be interesting to see how technology can be used to overcome the logistical challenges and physically delivering the vaccine.

This becomes all the more important since the Centre had decided all those who are above 18 should get vaccinated from May 1. This has led to all state governments sending SoS to the Centre saying that they cannot implement it at least till August as there were no adequate quantities of vaccine available.

The Telangana government which has been ahead of other States in giving a boost to technology is planning to use drones for distribution of vaccine. It has obtained necessary permissions from Director General Civil Aviation and ICMR. In the backdrop of this latest development, it would be interesting to see how drones can be helpful in vaccine distribution.

The drones will help in limiting human exposure to Covid congested or Covid-prone areas through aerial delivery. They will ensure access to health care to the last mile, especially in remote areas; possible integration into the middle mile of medical logistics for long-range drones; and improving the medical supply chain, especially with a third vaccine expected to be commissioned and millions of doses to be transported across India.

Since Covid-19 vaccine needs to be delivered using cooler boxes, these drones will have to be equipped with heavy lift capacity and heavy vaccine cooler box. Drones have been playing a critical role in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic; delivering vaccines to communities that need them the most in other parts of the globe.

Since late 2018, countries have started deploying drones to deliver vaccines. According to information available, small Pacific island nation of Vanuatu was the first one to do it. In 2019, Ghana

started off one of the largest drone delivery vaccine networks in the world.

The service, reports say they operate 24x7 with a force of 30 drones serving nearly 12 million people of the country. During the Covid-19 crisis, drones also carried testing kits across Ghana. In Rwanda, drones are supplying blood and medical supplies to several locations across the country. At present, drones carry more than 35 per cent of Rwanda's national blood transfusion service supply through a network of 21 remotely located clinics.

There are instances of drone usage in emergency situations in India as well. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) used drones during the Uttarakhand floods in 2013, and again during Kerala floods in 2018. In 2019, during the forest fires at Bandipur in Karnataka,

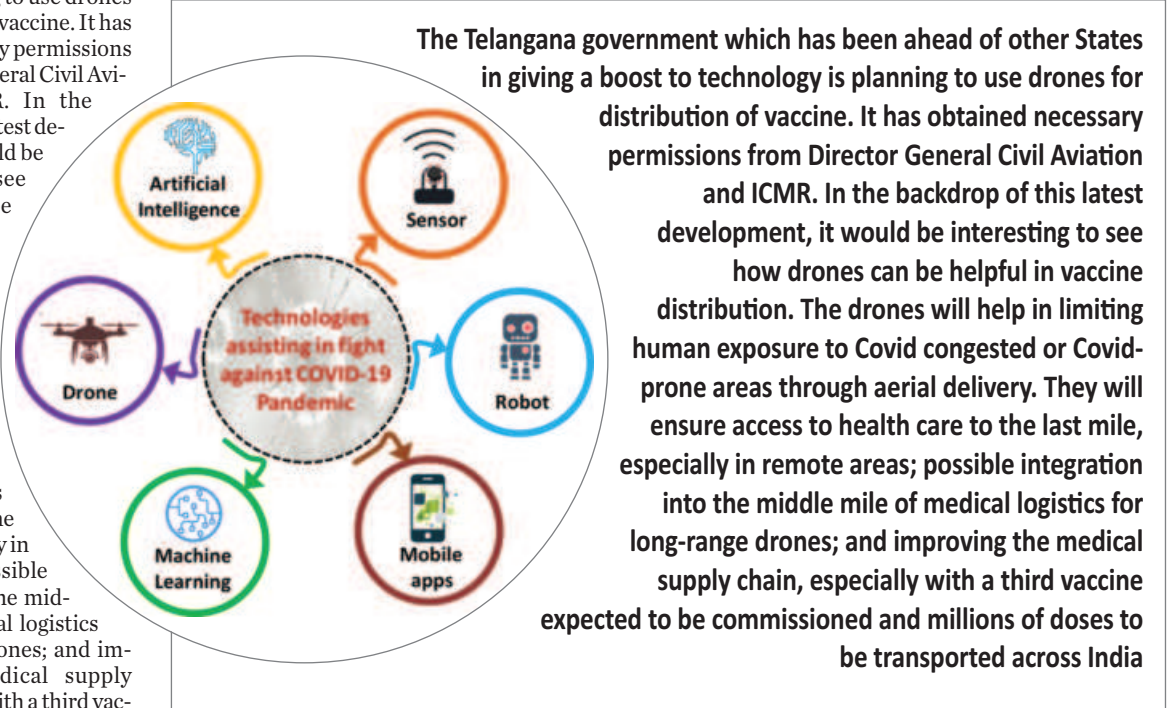
and state governments do not seem to be utilising the digital platforms for dissemination of accurate information pertaining to the Covid-19. While 167 countries out of 193 which are member states of United Nations had provided information pertaining to outbreak of cases, travel restrictions, practical guidance on how to protect from the virus, governmental responses etc on their national portals, mobile apps or through social media, we in India failed to make that kind of use of technology.

India has however successfully utilised online platforms for providing opportunity to all those in IT sector to work from home for almost past one year. This technology also helped in connecting millions of students and workers to their schools and offices which helped in containing the spread of Coronavirus to a great extent.

telligence is used for diagnosis and assessment of virus symptoms. The software developed by them can detect, segment and produce 3D models of lung damage caused by Covid-19 based on analysis of CT images. They also use mobile technology for contract tracing so that understanding the spread of the virus and its management becomes much easy.

Its time the political executive of the country both at the Centre and in States focuses its attention on making best to use the technology and put political considerations and rhetoric on the back burner. They should zoom ahead in making maximum use of technology and show guts to come out with real time real data on Covid-19 management.

The way things are moving at present, it appears that the Centre and States have landed in a terrible mess with regard to sup-



the Forest department administered drones to tackle the situation.

In September 2019, the Maharashtra government and Zipline, a drone delivery service, "announced a partnership to use a logistics network of autonomous delivery drones to help transform emergency medicine and critical care". Similarly, the Drone Application and Research Centre (DARC) of Uttarakhand recently conducted successful trials to deliver vaccines in remote areas. The State government is also planning to collaborate with private players to expand the scope of the project.

So far so good but, the Centre

Educators embraced online learning and held live-streaming of classes through digital platforms like Zoom, Google Hangouts, and Microsoft Teams. With the governments yet to come to grips in containing the second wave and with alerts of a third wave towards end of 2021, the use of digital platforms is likely to continue and even schools may decide to continue with online classes.

Though there are many other possibilities where technology can be well used during the pandemic time, somehow, we in India seem to be lagging behind in this direction.

In South Korea, artificial in-

ply of vaccine. While the Centre remained silent on dual pricing, states like Telangana have withdrawn supply of vaccine to private hospitals. Such policies are bound to create greater problems and result in bigger mess in handling Covid-19 situation.

If the Centre had continued with its decision to buy entire stock of vaccine produced in India and continued with the responsibility to supply to States, may be, such confusion would not have arisen. Technology could have been used to streamline the supply chain, but political considerations seem to be making the rulers blindfold to reality.

# THE 'SIMHA AMONG THE NARAS' I KNEW

PROF. M CHANDRASEKHAR



I belong to the Administrative Staff College of India family. This is how I fondly remember Shri Maidavolu Narasimham, the Chairman Emeritus of the Court of Governors. Shri Narasimham is no stranger to those whose interests lay in the economy. He authored the oft quoted banking sector reforms, seminal in many respects, popular as Narasimham Committee Reforms I&II.

I joined ASCI as a Professor in 2002 from Bank of India, and hence knew well about the contribution of Shri Narasimham as former Finance Secretary and RBI Governor. Later, I had many opportunities (privileges, shall I say) of closely interacting with him often, as a Dean. He was a versatile genius. There wasn't a subject on which he could not speak in depth and chances are, those from the domains knew less than him. He could speak about defence policy with the same fa-



cility as on fiscal or monetary policy. He would often leave the late Shri K V Krishna Rao (former Army Chief) and the late Shri H H Latif (former Air Chief) who were Members on the Court, in awe of his knowledge of the intricate details of equipment design and functioning. Navy was, particularly his passion. He would quip, the Director General is the Captain of the ship. I am the Admiral of the fleet.

Shri Narasimham was an erudite scholar. A slice of it must have come from inheritance since he was the grandson of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. His mornings in ASCI, when in active service or otherwise, would be spent in reading, from financial matters to foreign affairs, international and national. When he spoke, always crisp and extempore, brilliance radiated. He used to say that the surgeon who operated on his brain commented, he has not seen one as close-circuited and well-knitted as that. The surgeon was spot on.

Deans were invitees to the court meetings at ASCI, and I was witness that he was a real "simha" as Chairman of the Court. When he

spoke, no one did. In fact, he left no scope. Members would just nod in agreement. The court meetings would begin at 11:30 sharp. They had to end, come hell or high tide, at 13:00 hrs for a multi-course lunch that ASCI is famous for. Aperitifs preceded lunch. Shri Narasimham would regale the audience with his ready wit and humour, in his clipped Cambridge English. The late Dr Abid Husain would say, "I would end my letters to Narasimham with 'Love to Shanthi' (his wife) and Narasimham would read out to her the entire letter except that last phrase".

From what he used to share Shri Narasimham was the blue-eyed boy of Mrs Gandhi. He recalled once, "After my retirement, I met Mrs Gandhi to inform her about my moving to ASCI. She asked, "how come the file did not go through me". I said, it won't because ASCI is not an institution on which any Ministry has any control. She remarked, nor can anyone have on you... but surely you are not leaving."

We train several officers of Bangladesh Civil Service at ASCI. He would often hold

them spell bound with his very deep knowledge and ring-side view of their country's economy, as the single-man commissioned by Mrs Gandhi to address the monetary issues and currency management, as soon as their country attained independence. He would often narrate how the currency had to be "rubber-stamped" to make it new legal tender and how they went about addressing the issue of reserves, external payment commitments etc. He has written about it all in his books.

He chaired (as the Chairman of the Court) the interview committee for my selection at ASCI. His eye caught the minute detail in my CV that I learnt German. At the end, he suddenly sprang "auf wiedersehen" (till we meet again) on me. I collected myself, recollected my German, grinned and said "danke schoen" (thank you). I knew I was in. The single phrase that summarises the life and times of Shri Narasimham is "Na Bhootho, Na Bhavishyathi".

(The author is Director, Indian Institute of Management, Visakhapatnam)



# Residents want weekly markets stopped

**MOHAMMED HUSSAIN  
HYDERABAD**

FEAR of contracting infection among residents is growing. Now no one is appreciating any sought of gathering in and around their place of residence. Amid the surge of Covid-19 cases and deaths in the city, weekly pavement markets have become a matter of concern for the residents of various colonies.

People from several residential areas have raised concern over the weekly markets held on a rotation basis in most of the localities of the city.

This has become so serious that residents' welfare associations of Twin Cities have submitted representations to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and even lodged complaints with the police stations concerned.

Ravikiran of Radhakrishna Nagar Welfare Association, said, "Weekly markets bring a large number of hawkers descending from various corners of the city. The market gathers hundreds of people at RuB street in Malkajgiri on every Sunday. A large gathering which does not follow Covid protocols is posing a health threat to residents."

Several areas in Hyderabad and Secunderabad are famous for weekly markets, including Sanathnagar, Moula Ali, Borabanda, Kachiguda, Shah Ali



- ▶ Weekly markets ideal source of spreading corona virus
- ▶ Locals fear contracting infection as most of visitors violating Covid-19 norms
- ▶ Despite police imposing challans for not wearing masks, public yet to lessons

Banda, Falaknuma, Errakunta, and many other areas.

With Health authorities enforcing night curfew to avoid gatherings and have canceled all the religious congregations to curb the spread of Covid-19, these weekly markets are getting overcrowded.

Another local Mohammed Mujeeb from Falaknuma shared that he had been observing a large number of people without face masks purchasing vegeta-

bles, fruits, and all other essentials during morning and evening hours every Sunday. "There have been instances where police personnel had to issue challans for people who were not wearing masks in the market," Mujeeb said.

The Residents' Welfare Associations have urged the police department and GHMC officials to stop holding weekly markets till the corona situation stabilizes.



Amaravati capital regiona farmers take part in a protest marking completion of 500 days at Velagapudi on Friday

## Ready to fight 5,000 more days, vows Amaravati JAC

**HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI**

THE protest launched by farmers of Amaravati region seeking retention of capital at Amaravati entered 500th day on Friday. The Amaravati JAC organised a virtual meeting on the occasion which was attended by a large number of farmers and leaders.

Speaking on this occasion, Amaravati JAC leaders said that they are ready to continue the agitation for even 5,000 days to protect Amaravati capital. After unveiling a statue of Gouthama Buddha at the protest venue, they said that they will continue their agitation in non-violent way.

- The agitation against trifurcation of capital completes 500 days
- A virtual meeting is held to mark the occasion with participation of a large number of farmers and leaders

The JAC leaders said that the YSRCP government had failed to credit the land lease amount to the farmers. They expressed ire over the irresponsible behaviour of the government towards the farmers who offered their lands for the development of Amaravati capital. They alleged that the state government is trying to harass and threaten

the agitating farmers including women instead of listening to their genuine and just demands.

A large number of farmers including women participated in the virtual meeting. Telugu Yuvaata leader V Kiran observed one-day fast extending support to the Amaravati farmers on the occasion of agitation completing 500 days.

- Says it will be impossible to anyone to create three capitals
- Asserts justice is on the side of 29,000 farmers and their families



leaders were trying hard to destroy the dream capital of the AP people. Except for the YSRCP, all other political parties and intellectuals were supporting the cause of the Amaravati agitation just because it was just and unstoppable.

Naidu said, "I am extending my full support to the capital city agitation not because this project was started during my regime. It is because dharma and justice are on

the side of all the 29,000 farmers' families. They have sacrificed their lands for creating a capital for whole state. If anybody protects dharma, then dharma will protect them. The farmers are now suffering just because of the bad intentions of some atrocious rulers."

The TDP chief questioned the YSRCP government's audacity to ignore the agreements reached with the 29,000 farmers who gave their lands only upon being promised to develop Amaravati as a

well-equipped capital city for AP. Even a small company cannot escape from its large commitment if it failed to fulfil the agreements reached with the stakeholders. Huge compensation would have to be paid if the MoUs were to be violated. The YSRCP government was committing blatant violations of the agreements reached with the farmers, he said.

Naidu expressed surprise at the Jagan Mohan Reddy regime's constant attacks on the Amaravati agitators without trying to open any dialogue with them. They were leading their struggle for over 500 days but the Chief Minister has never made any efforts to reach out to them. The YSRCP leaders were stooping to such levels that they were getting false SC, ST atrocities cases filed against the SC agitators themselves in the capital city area, he criticised.

### MANABADI-NADU NEDU

## AP CM stresses on quality of works

- Asks authorities to display photos of schools before and after Nadu Nedu works in schools after the completion works so that the importance of the scheme can be understood
- Works of painting, installation of smart TVs, wall art works and others will be completed by May-end
- Directs that Vidya Kanuka kits with English dictionary should be ready by the time schools reopen in July

**HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI**

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the officials not to compromise on quality of works taken up under Manabadi-Nadu Nedu and said quality auditing should be done on every work in all the schools.

During a review at camp office here on the progress of schools' modernisation programme on Friday, the Chief Minister instructed the officials to draw paintings on the buildings of the schools, which were being renovated to look more attractive.

The photos of schools before and after Nadu Nedu works should be displayed in schools after the completion of Nadu-Nedu works so that the importance of the scheme could be understood and



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy reviews progress of Manabadi-Nadu Nedu works at his camp office in Tadepalli on Friday

also the staff will get an idea on maintenance. He said the works of painting, setting up of smart TVs, wall art works and other works should be completed by end of May. He said there should be no compromise over the quality of works and that was the reason parent committees were also formed. He said the officials should check on quality of works in schools in May and June and quality audit should be completed. He said toilet maintenance system should be ready by the time schools reopen.

He said teachers should be given training to ensure smooth functioning of English as medium of instruction. He said Vidya Kanuka kits should be ready by the time schools reopen and English dictionary should be made available in the kit. He said all the items being given in Vidya Kanuka kit should be of good quality and the second phase of Nadu-Nedu works should start once the

### JAGAN DEFENDS HOLDING SSC, INTER EXAMS

- Asks what will be the future of students if they are promoted with only pass marks

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said the Central government had not announced any policy on Class X and Intermediate exams and left the decision to the state government. He added that while some states are conducting exams, others have cancelled them. He said the states which didn't conduct exams are promoting the students only with pass marks and questioned the future of those students.

He reiterated the state government will be conducting SSC and Intermediate exams only to benefit students. "Cancelling exams will be an easy task for the government while conducting exams need more responsibility," he said. Asserting that the state government is going to conduct exams only after considering the future of the students, the Chief Minister said every teacher should understand that. He appealed to the teachers to explain to the parents that their cooperation and support are needed for conducting exams. He instructed the teachers to conduct the exams following Covid protocols.

schools reopen in July. Education minister Audimulapuri Suresh, school education principal secretary Buditi Rajashekar, education

commissioner Chinaveerabhadru, Sarwa Siksha Abhiyan project director Vetri Selvi and other officials were present.

## HC asks govt to reconsider decision on exams

**AMARAVATI**

THE AP High Court while asking the state government to reconsider its decision to conduct examinations to Class X and Intermediate students, posted the next hearing on the petition to May 3. Several people filed petitions against government's decision to conduct the SSC and Intermediate examinations amidst present Covid pandemic.

The petitioners stated that health of over 30 lakh people will be at risk, including students, parents and teachers, if the government goes ahead with the decision of conducting examinations. The High Court

- Hearing several petitions seeking postponement or cancellation of exams, the court points out Central boards and many States have already done so
- The hearing will continue on May 3

asked the government as to how it will conduct the examinations amidst present Covid pandemic and what will be the status of students who are under quarantine. The counsel for the state government said that special arrangements will be made for those students afflicted with

Covid. Noting that several state governments and CBSE and ICSE boards have cancelled or postponed examinations, the court asked the government to reconsider its decision on the issue. The court asked the state government file counter affidavit by May 3.



# 'Shooter Dadi' Chandro Tomar passes away due to coronavirus

## You will live on forever in all the girls you gave hope to live, says Taapsee Pannu

NEW DELHI

Octogenarian shooter Chandro Tomar, who became the oldest woman sharp shooter in the world after battling Covid-19. She was 89 and was being treated at a hospital in Meerut since April 26. "Mera saath chhoot gaya, Chandro kaha chali gayi (She has left me, Chandro where have you gone?)," her sister-in-law Prakash Tomar, who is also one of the oldest female sharp shooters, wrote on her Twitter page.

Tomar, who was nicknamed 'Shooter Dadi' for her exploits, was hospitalised after complaining of difficulty in breathing. Tests revealed she had contracted the highly contagious virus that is causing over 3,000 deaths daily in the country. Hailing from a village in Uttar Pradesh's

Baghpat district, Tomar was 60-plus when she picked up the gun for the first time but went on to win many national competitions for veterans, her feats ultimately inspiring the award-winning Bollywood movie 'Saand Ki Aankh'.

Taapsee Pannu, who played the role of the late sharp shooter in 2019 film, in her eulogy for Chandro Tomar, wrote on Twitter: "For the inspiration you will always be... You will live on forever in all the girls you gave hope to live. My cutest rockstar May the love and peace be with you."

Well-known people from various walks of life condoled her death, including sports minister Kiren Rijju and actor Bhumi Pednekar, who played her in the biopic. "I'm deeply saddened by tragic demise of our most lovable Dadi Chandro Tomar ji. She was inspiration for millions



and will continue to inspire forever. May her soul rest in peace. Om Shanti," Rijju said. "Devastated by the news of Chandro Dadi's demise. Feels like a part of me is gone. She made her own rules & paved the path for many girl to find their dream. Her legacy will live on in them. Condolences to the family. Am lucky I got to know and be her," Pednekar tweeted. India's aviation minister Hard-eep Singh Puri called her an "epitome of gender equality & champion of women's rights".

"The courage with which she challenged patriarchy & took up shooting as a sport will inspire generations to come. Condolences to her family," he said. Olympians -- boxer Akhil Kumar, who personally knew Tomar, and shooter Joydeep Karmakar -- also condoled her death. "Is this corona or something else, I am having doubts now. God, please have mercy. One more tragic news.. Winner

of many national awards, the free-spirited dadi 'Shooter Dadi' Chandro Tomar has lost her battle with corona.

Considered a feminist icon, Tomar was all of 15 when she got married and took to shooting after she was well over 65. It all started with a chance visit to a shooting club when her grand-daughter expressed a desire to pursue the sport. Tomar picked up the gun and took a shot while at the club and hit the bull's eye, impressing the club coach. "I am deeply saddened and again shocked after listening that we lost our another gem. Dadi Chandro Tomar was inspiration for many youngsters. You will be missed Dadi. RIP Dadi," tweeted double Olympic-medallist Sushil Kumar, who knew her closely. Tomar went on to take part in several competitions along with her sister-in-law Prakash, who was also depicted in the movie inspired by their lives.

## WINDOWS



Labourers work at a brick factory on the eve of Labour Day, in Patna on Friday

## HC judge to take Lessons in psycho edn

CHENNAI: Justice N Anand Venkatesh, a Madras High Court judge, has decided to "subject" himself to psycho-education regarding same-sex relationship, saying such a move will help him better understand the concept and write an order where the "words will fall from my heart." In his recent order, Venkatesh, while hearing a petition from a same-sex couple seeking guidelines in cases of such nature, said "I want to give myself some more time to churn." "Ultimately in this case, the words must come from my heart and not from my head, and the same will not be possible if I am not fully 'woke' on this aspect." "For this purpose, I want to subject myself for psycho-education with Ms Vidhya Dinakaran (Counselling Psychologist) and I would request the psychologist to fix a convenient appointment for the same," he said.

CHENNAI/MUMBAI/DELHI

DAYS after observing that the Election Commission officers "should be booked on murder charges probably" for allowing political parties to carry on with rallies even as the country is battling Covid-19, the Madras High Court has now pulled up the Centre over its alleged lapse in taking prompt action in containing the Covid-19 pandemic, wondering what it was doing for 14 months.

Chief Justice Sanjeeb Banerjee said there was a need to act on expert advice and not adhocism.

"Why are we acting only now in April, though we had one full year?" the CJ asked, when Additional Solicitor General R Sankaranarayanan told the court that the resurgence of the second wave of the virus was 'unexpected'.

The CJ also questioned the pricing of the vaccines.

Meanwhile, the EC has requested the Madras High Court to restrain the media from reporting on its oral observations, days after the court's sharp remarks on "murder charges" on officials of the election body for not stopping political rallies.

"These reports have tarnished the image of the Election Commission of India as an independent constitutional agency that is entrusted with the constitutional responsibility of conducting elections," said the poll body. The court turned down the plea.

It also said a police complaint had been filed against the Deputy Election Commissioner accusing him of murder in West Bengal after the media reported on the observations.

The suspension of scheduled international passenger flights has been extended till May 31, aviation regulator DGCA said on Friday.

France detected its first case of contamination with the B.1.617 variant of the novel coronavirus, currently very present in India, the country's Health Ministry said in a statement.

The Maharashtra government on Friday announced that it would take back vaccines from private hospitals and administer these doses to people through state-run health centres only.

State Health Minister Rajesh Tope said the government has decided to do so as per the Centre's orders.

Tope insisted that people should visit the vaccination centre with prior appointment. It will avoid crowding and every one will get the dose, he added.

## Muslims help Hindu to perform last rites

MEERUT

A group of Muslim men in Meerut carried a Hindu woman's bier as her husband waited for hours in vain for his family members to turn up to take the body for cremation. At a time when fear of coronavirus spread has thrown family and social duties out of gear, the Muslim men's act of helping the grieving man perform the last rites of his wife has earned praise from several sections of society. A clip of the incident has now gone viral.

According to reports, the woman, named Sushma Aggarwal, who lived near Hapur, was unwell for a few days before breathing her last. Her hus-

band then rushed from Varanasi to complete the last rites. When no one in the family and immediate acquaintances turned up for the cremation, one Tauseef Ansari reached the couple's home with some of his companions and took the bier (arthi) on their shoulders to Surajkund crematorium and helped the man perform the final rites following Hindu rituals.

Several cases of near and dear ones staying away even at such hours due to fear of coronavirus have been reported over the past few months, even as stories of people going out of their ways to help others and even strangers are making news from across the nation.



People wait outside a government dispensary to buy anti-viral drug Remdesivir in Chennai on Friday

# Ghants on peepal tree, a ghastly reminder of pandemic deaths

LUCKNOW

Earthen pots hung on a Peepal tree, usually near the cremation grounds, is a rarity in normal times.

As per Hindu tradition, the ashes placed in the earthen pot, called 'Ghant' is hung on a Peepal tree until the ashes are immersed.

Usually, a tree has two to three Ghant hanging on them at a time. These are usually of those whose children are abroad and cannot return immediately for cremation.

Today, however, with the pandemic raging on and the death toll mounting, the number of 'ghant' hanging on Peepal tree is growing by the day.

"There are more than two dozen 'ghant' hang-

ing here. People are not coming back to collect the ashes of their family members and we cannot discard them. Maybe, after waiting for a few more days, we will immerse them in the river," said Krishna (name changed on request) a worker at the Gulala cremation ghat in Lucknow.

He said that the Covid scare was so great that there have been at least three instances in the past one week where the relatives have left the bodies at the cremation ground without cremating them because they were asked to wait for their turn.

While hanging a 'ghant' is a traditional way of keeping the ashes till the immersion is done, some cremation grounds have also got lockers where the urn can be kept.

"Our lockers are full and people now put a slip



with the name of the deceased and hang the pot on the tree," said Alok, a worker at the Parmat Ghat in Kanpur.

Workers at the cremation grounds say that here is no time to perform pre-cremation rituals that include chanting of mantras.

"We now do the basics and the pyre is set on fire because there are bodies waiting in the queue. Even the cremation of non-Covid bodies is being rushed up. It is a sad situation but the fact is that no one - not even the closest relatives, want to stay at the cremation ground

Abhimanyu Tiwari, a priest at Rasoolabad ghat in Prayagraj, said, "We are performing cremation for around 60-70 bodies every day and more than half of them are not able to perform the last rites. Still, there are so many Ghant tied on the tree

that just a look makes a person shiver."

Post death rituals are also being done away.

"When my father died last week, my mother-in-law, husband and sister-in-law had also tested positive. They are all in home isolation and there is no question of even holding a prayer meeting for my father-in-law," said Nalini Singh, a young homemaker.

Most of the people, in whose families deaths have taken place, are not holding the 'Tehraven' ritual that is held on the 13th day of the death.

"There is no point because people cannot attend the ritual which is actually a kind of farewell feast in memory of the deceased. We will hold a prayer meeting when things normalize," said Nishant Mehrotra, who lost both his parents to Covid this month.

## '18-44 age group will be able to choose vaccine'

NEW DELHI: People between 18 and 44 years, who become eligible for inoculation on May 1, can choose their preferred vaccines at private centres that will make public the options available with them, RS Sharma, the chairperson of an empowered committee on Covid-19 vaccination said on Friday.

"The government centres will continue to vaccinate (beneficiaries with) whatever vaccines they are getting. And obviously if they are giving the second dose, they will also have to ensure that the second dose is of the same vaccine as the first dose...Private centres will declare as to which vaccines they are (using for) vaccinating, and what the prices of those vaccines are," said Sharma, also the chief of India's CoWin platform that is being used for the inoculation drive.

"The CoWin portal will be able to show the prices and the vaccine types (at private centres)," Sharma added, explaining that this will help benefi-



ciaries choose the vaccines they want.

India received the first Covid emergency aid supplies from the United States on Friday morning as the country fights a deadly second wave that has strained the healthcare system. 3.86 lakh cases were reported on Friday. The United States has allowed the voluntary departure of families of its diplomats at missions in India out of an abundance of caution as it has extended the Do not travel advisory for India in view of the Covid-19 epidemic, the state department spokesperson said.

## Bhopal driver turns auto into Covid ambulance

BHOPAL

AMBULANCES are hard to find these days in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal city that is grappling with the destructive second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. But Javed Khan is around. The autorickshaw driver has turned his vehicle into a free ambulance service for Covid patients, that too with oxygen support.

Khan who normally earns Rs 200-300 per day, has limited financial resources and says there was a time when he had to sell his wife's jewellery to keep his benevolent act going. "I saw on social

media and news channels how people were being carried to hospitals due to the shortage of ambulances. So I thought of doing this," he told news agency ANI. "I sold my wife's jewellery for this. I queue up outside a refill centre and get oxygen. My contact number is available on social media. People can call me up if there's no ambulance. I've been doing this for 15-20 days now and have taken 9 serious patients to hospital."

Javed has been so preoccupied with the service that he says he can hardly make time for his family these days.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Centre increases remdesivir supply to States

“The allocation plan of anti-viral drug remdesivir for all States has been revised due to its enhanced availability on account of ramping up of its production. The increased supply of the drug will help in fighting the pandemic with deeper resolve.

—Sadananda Gowda, Union Minister



## REVERSE MIGRATION

### MGNREGS demand doubles to 2.57 cr in April

Indicating massive reverse migration to villages amid the second wave of Covid-19, an SBI Research report said. The demand for work by households under rural employment scheme or MGNREGS has almost doubled to 2.57 crore in April, the highest in any April since compilation of the data started in 2013

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	74.8	South	
Euro	90.49	African Rand	5.92
UAE Dirham	20.76	Hong Kong Dollar	10.97
Thai Baht	2.61	Japanese Yen	0.78
British Pound	104.7	New Zealand Dollar	54.13
Australian Dollar	58.1	Saudi Riyal	21.71
Canadian Dollar	60.93	Swedish Krona	10.14
Swiss Franc	82.21	Singapore Dollar	56.86

DELHI SATURDAY 1 MAY 2021

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Manipal Hospitals' acquisition

Manipal Hospitals has announced the completion of acquiring 100 per cent stake in Columbia Asia Hospitals Private Limited (Columbia Asia). The transfer of ownership has taken place post the completion of all regulatory approvals. With this acquisition, Manipal Hospitals becomes India's second largest multi-specialty hospital chain. Together, the combined entity now has 26 hospitals across 14 cities with over 7,000 beds. Ranjan Pai, Chairman, Manipal Education and Medical Group (MEMG), said: "We are pleased to have completed the regulatory processes that now allow these two outstanding healthcare delivery organisations to function as one. The focus now is on integration that captures the best from both systems so as to offer a world class experience to all our patients. I once again welcome the entire team at Columbia Asia Hospitals."

### Vivo's offers on Y51A

Vivo has announced offers on Vivo Y51A across mainline channels starting May 1, 2021. The smartphone features a triple camera setup with 48MP primary camera with other modes like ultra-stable video, super night mode. Consumers can avail schemes like one-time screen replacement, flat Rs 1000 cashback with HDFC Bank, flat Rs 1000 cashback with Kotak Mahindra Bank on CC regular, triple zero scheme with Bajaj Finance Ltd, six months with zero down payment 12+1 scheme from home credit India, 6 or 8 months zero down payment scheme from HDB Financials, eight months zero down payment scheme from IDFC First Bank, ten months with one month down payment scheme from IDFC First Bank.

# Market plunges amid Covid pandemic surge

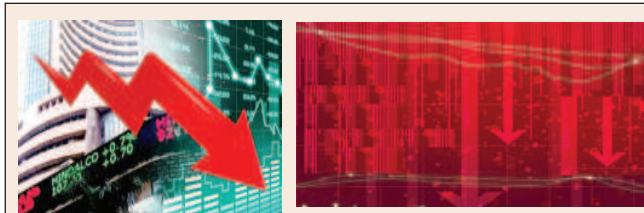
Sensex snaps 4-day rally, crashes 984 pts; HDFC twins top drags

## MUMBAI

EQUITY indices broke their four-day winning streak to close deep in the red on Friday as the grim Covid-19 situation and lacklustre Asian cues triggered unwinding of risky bets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex sank 983.58 points or 1.98 per cent to finish at 48,782.36. The broader NSE Nifty tanked 263.80 points or 1.77 per cent to 14,631.10. HDFC twins were the top losers in the Sensex pack, skidding up to 4.38 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, Kotak Bank, Asian Paints, M&M, TCS, HUL, and Maruti. Only four index components closed higher - ONGC, Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's and Bajaj Auto, climbing up to 4.32 per cent.

However, on a weekly basis, the Sensex advanced 903.91 points or 1.88 per cent, while the Nifty surged 289.75 points or 2.02 per cent. "Domestic equities fell sharply today on weak global cues and heavy sell-off in financials. Asian markets traded weak on emerging concerns about growth after China's factory activity expanded slower than expected in April. "A persistent rise in daily caseload and higher number of deaths continue to remain matters of concern for central and State governments and therefore any



- BSE midcap, smallcap indices slip
- ONGC, Dr Reddy's in green zone
- Lacklustre Asian cues also weighed

possibility of further economic restrictions cannot be ruled out by the state governments. Market is expected to be volatile until we see a clear reversal in Covid-19 cases," said Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities. Sectorally, BSE finance, bankex, auto, FMCG and industrials indices tanked up to 2.73 per cent, while oil and gas, healthcare and metal closed in the positive territory.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices slipped up to 0.65 per cent. India saw 3,86,452 new coronavirus infections in a span of 24 hours, the highest single-day rise so far, pushing the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 1,87,62,976, while active cases crossed the 31-lakh mark, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday. The death toll increased to

2,08,330 with 3,498 new fatalities. Global markets were mixed as investors digested a raft of macroeconomic data and corporate results.

The US posted a robust Q1 GDP growth of 6.4 per cent as economic activities picked up pace in tandem with vaccinations. However in China, both manufacturing and services sector growth weakened, showing the challenges facing countries on the recovery path. In Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended on a negative note. Markets in Europe were trading with marginal gains in mid-session deals even as data showed that the euro-area economy contracted 0.6 per cent in Q1, slipping into a double-dip recession. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.31 per cent lower at \$67.15 per barrel.



### Core sectors' output zooms 6.8% in March

## NEW DELHI

THE output of eight core sectors grew by 6.8 per cent in March, driven by base effect-led uptick in production of natural gas, steel, cement and electricity, official data showed on Friday.

The growth rate of the eight infrastructure sectors - coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity - stood at (-) 8.6 per cent in March 2020. According to the commerce and industry ministry data, production of natural gas, steel, cement and electricity jumped by 12.3 per cent, 23 per cent, 32.5 per cent and 21.6 per cent in March, as against (-) 15.1 per cent, (-) 21.9 per cent, (-) 25.1 per cent and (-) 8.2 per cent in March 2020, respectively.

Coal, crude oil, refinery products and fertiliser segments recorded negative growth during the month under review. During 2020-21 (April-March), output of the eight sectors contracted by 7 per cent as against a positive growth of 0.4 per cent in 2019-20.

## Yes Bank posts Q4 loss of ₹3,788 cr

## NEW DELHI

PRIVATE sector lender Yes Bank on Friday posted a whopping standalone net loss of Rs 3,788 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2021 due to a fall in income and jump in provisions for bad loans. The bank had reported a loss of Rs 3,668 crore in the same period last year. However, due to the exceptional write back of Rs 6,296.94 crore, the bank's bottom line turned positive at Rs 2,628.61 crore during January-March period of 2019-20.

During the quarter, the total income of the bank declined to Rs 4,805.30 crore from Rs 5,818.59 crore in the same period a year ago, Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing.

## GST collections likely to cross ₹1 lakh cr: SBI

## MUMBAI

EVEN with the new wave of Covid-19 resulting in 'lockdowns' in 15 parts of the country and impacting business all across, the country's GST collections, the barometer of economic activity in India, is likely to cross the one lakh crore mark for the sixth time in as many months in April, a SBI Ecwrap report said on



Friday. According to the internal simulation model adopted by SBI Ecwrap, the April GST collection is expected to be in the range of Rs

1.15-1.20 lakh crore. This is marginally short of the record high GST collection in March of Rs 1.24 lakh crore.

The optimism about possible GST collection in April, the report says, is from a healthy growth in E-way bill generation. "This will be quite impressive given the fact that during April, most of the States imposed partial lockdowns.

Also, it is heartening to note that despite the curbs due to the second wave, the All India GST E-way bills till 25 April have reached 4.89 crore and we estimate it to cross 5.5 crore comfortably, given the past trends," the report said. "We believe that any disruption in GST collections will be transient and the States will have comfortable SGST collections."

## REAL CORNER

# AFFORDABLE HOUSES HALF OF REALTY SALES IN JAN-MAR

India's residential property market recovering month-on-month on pent-up demand

## NEW DELHI

AFFORDABLE housing segment - apartments priced up to Rs 45 lakh - is contributing nearly half of the total demand in the primary residential market across eight major cities, real estate brokerage firm PropTiger.com said on Friday.

Addressing a webinar, PropTiger COO Mani Rangarajan said the April-June quarter may witness demand slowdown because of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic but sales should pick up in the second half of this year. He ruled out price correction in the primary housing market, saying that builders have been operating at a thin profit margin. In its Real Insight report for January-March 2021 quarter.

PropTiger found out that around 45 per cent of sales in January-March 2021 were contributed by the affordable housing segment. The consultant further said that around 26 per cent of the sales were in Rs 45-75 lakh price bracket, 10 per cent in Rs 75 lakh to Rs 1 crore and 19 per cent above Rs 1 crore. Out of the total sales, 44 per cent contribution came from two-bedroom apartments.

Earlier this month, PropTiger reported that housing sales across eight major cities declined by 5 per cent year-on-year at 66,176 units. Mumbai,



Around 26 per cent of the sales were in Rs 45-75 lakh price bracket, 10 per cent in Rs 75 lakh to Rs 1 crore and 19 per cent above Rs 1 crore. Out of the total sales, 44 per cent contribution came from two-bedroom apartments

Pune, and Bengaluru witnessed a fall in sales, while the other five cities - Delhi-NCR, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Ahmedabad - saw growth in demand.

"Affordable housing segment has been a top performer since the last few years. The government is providing tax incentives and interest subsidies to boost demand in this segment and achieve its target of Housing for

All," said Mani Rangarajan, who is also COO of Housing.com and Makaan.com.

After a huge setback during the April-June quarter of 2020, he said India's residential property market has been recovering month-on-month on pent-up demand, festival sales, and the rising importance of having homeownership. Low interest on home loans and stamp duty cut by the Maharashtra

government has also helped in the recovery process.

However, Rangarajan said the recent outbreak of the second wave of Covid-19 and semi-lockdown in many states may put a brake on the revival of the housing demand seen during the last nine months. "Though it is too early to assess the impact, we need to keep in mind that the real estate industry is more prepared this time to handle the situation. The sector has taken a giant leap in the adoption of digital tools for marketing and sales during the last year," he observed.

On the supply side, PropTiger and Housing.com Research Head Ankita Sood said the new supply grew 49 per cent year-on-year to 53,037 units across these eight cities during January-March 2021. New supply continues to be concentrated in less than Rs 45 lakh category, with 45 per cent share from the overall pie, she added.

The mid-segment (Rs 45-75 lakh price bracket) recorded a share of 27 percent of the total supply in the first quarter. More than Rs 75 lakh price bracket accounted for 28 percent of the total supply. "Weighted average prices for newly launched projects in a majority of India's top cities remained muted in the past few quarters, with prices appreciating marginally in the range of 1-3 percent annually," the report said.

## Hyderabad sees highest capital flows of \$384 mn

Institutional investments in realty up 21% in Jan-Mar qtr at \$922 mn

## HANS BUSINESS

HYDERABAD witnessed the highest capital flows of \$384 million, accounting for a 42 per cent share of investments during the first quarter of 2021 as per a recent report by a leading real estate consulting firm.

Institutional investments in real estate rose 21 per cent in January - March period of this year at \$922 million but inflow of funds may be impacted in this quarter due to spurt in cases of Covid-19 infections, according to JLL.

Mumbai accounted for 21 per cent share of investments with \$193 million deployed in its office and residential segments, supported by the reduction in stamp duty introduced by the State Government of Maharashtra.

Recently, Knight Frank India came out with a report mentioning that private equity investment in real estate jumped over 16-fold in January-March 2021 to \$3.24 billion as several deals spilled over from the last year.

According to property consultant JLL India, institutional flow of funds includes investments by family offices, foreign corporate groups, foreign banks, proprietary books, pen-

sion funds, private equity, real estate fund-cum-developers, foreign funded NBFCs and sovereign wealth funds. It also includes anchor investors in REITs.

"Institutional investments continued the momentum during the first quarter (January-March) of 2021, registering 21 per cent growth in volumes at \$922 million, indicating sustained investor interest in India's real estate market," JLL said in a statement. The consultant attributed the rise in institutional investments to increased activity from funds and closed development stage deals.

"However, the pandemic surge during the second half of March 2021 is expected to delay the investment pipeline in the second quarter," it cautioned. Among asset classes, institutional investments in residential segments fell to \$58 million in January-March 2021 from \$74 million in the year ago period. But, the inflow of funds in office market grew to \$864 million from \$505 million.

Recently, Anarock said that private equity investment in real estate rose 19 per cent during the last fiscal year to \$6.27 billion despite the Covid-19 pandemic.



Prashant Thakur, Director and Head - Research, Anarock



## Motivated men's hockey team can finish on podium: Baskaran

NEW DELHI

FORMER India coach and captain of the hockey team that won gold at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, Vasudevan Baskaran, believes both the men's and women's teams are capable of finishing on the podium at the Tokyo Olympics.

"Indian teams (men's and women's) can finish on the podium in Tokyo. I have no doubt about it. The men's team has been playing really well. My advice to them is to keep the confidence level up. Each player has come up the hard way to reach here. It would perhaps be the first Olympics for about seven-eight players, and I feel they shouldn't just be happy with the 'Olympian title (tag)' but should aim for a medal.

"This is possible only when everybody in the team believes that they can be a medal-winning team and finish on the podium," Baskaran said in a podcast series launched by Hockey India.

The Arjuna awardee, who last coached the India men's team during the 2006 Asian Games in Doha and the World Cup in

Monchengladbach (Germany), felt that the women's team had "gained tremendous confidence since their previous outing at the 2016 Rio Olympics".

The Rani Rampal-led team had qualified for the Tokyo Olympics by beating USA in the FIH Olympic Qualifiers.

"They (women's team) must remain focused on finishing in the top-4. When I was playing at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, women's hockey was included. Our team had missed the bronze narrowly. After seeing the current Indian women's team, I feel they have developed a lot of confidence after (Rio) 2016. I saw them play live in Bhubaneswar when they beat USA, one of the best teams in the world. They rightfully earned the place in the Olympics," said Baskaran. "The team is on rise. I feel they are capable of doing well. They need to push themselves for the first-four position. I know Rani and team are capable of doing very well," he said.

Hockey India had launched the podcast series, 'Hockey Te Charcha' on April 14, exactly 100 days ahead of the Tokyo Olympics. (IANS)



## Feeling at home in Delhi, MI take on CSK

NEW DELHI

A resurgent Mumbai Indians (MI) will take on Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in an Indian Premier League (IPL) match here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Saturday night.

MI, who seem to have rediscovered their mojo on a batting-friendly surface in Delhi after the Chennai leg saw them lose three of their five matches, will be tough competitors for CSK who are on top of the table at the moment.

The Chennai franchise has won five out of its six matches and looks a very strong unit. MI have won three and lost three matches.

**SQUADS:** Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma (captain), Adam Milne, Aditya Tare, Anmolpreet Singh, Anukul Roy, Arjun Tendulkar, Chris Lynn, Dhawal Kulkarni, Hardik Pandya, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), James Neesham, Jasprit Bumrah, Jayant Yadav, Kieron Pollard, Krunal Pandya, Marco Jansen, Mohsin Khan, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Piyush Chawla, Quinton De Kock (wicketkeeper), Rahul Chahar, Saurabh Tiwary, Suryakumar Yadav, Trent Boult, Yuvraj Singh.

However, the biggest concern for MI will be the opening pair of Faf du Plessis and Ruturaj Gaikwad. The India-South Africa duo has given CSK solid starts in the

recent matches, providing a solid platform.

MI would hope their strong bowling attack led by pacers Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah would be able to provide early breakthrough and expose the CSK middle-order that hasn't looked solid. For CSK, handling MI's strong batting line-up would be a tough task.

With matches shifting to Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium, where the pitch is batting-friendly, the MI middle and lower order will find stroke-play easy with the ball coming onto the bat. Skipper Rohit Sharma had said after the last match that the pitch is conducive to their style of play. (IANS)

## Aussie IPL stars may have to pay heavy penalty on return home

NEW DELHI

AUSTRALIAN cricketers may face trouble getting back home and could be left stranded somewhere after their media reported that Australian government was mulling hefty fine and jail term for those returning from India, which is reeling under unprecedented surge in Covid-19 cases. "The federal government is considering fining and jailing anyone who tries to enter Australia from India amid that country's Covid-19 crisis," said a report in the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH).

As many as 14 Australian cricketers are currently playing the Indian Premier League (IPL) in India. They include top draws like David Warner, Steve Smith and Pat Cummins.

Australians are also part of various IPL franchises' coaching/support staff and TV commentary team. They include Ricky Ponting, David Hussey, Brett Lee and Matthew Hayden among others.

"Nine News reported on Friday night that the government was considering a further step by making it a crime, punishable by a maximum \$66,000 fine or five years' jail, if they travel home from India," said the SMH report. "Nine reported that federal Health Minister Greg Hunt would invoke powers under the Biosecurity Act -- the same legislation used to close the borders -- as soon as Saturday."

While there are 36,000 Australians stuck abroad there are 9,000 Aussies in India including the cricketers. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison had earlier said that since the players are privately visiting India for the IPL they would have to ensure their return.

"They have travelled there privately," Morrison was quoted as saying by The Guardian. "This wasn't part of an Australian tour.

They're under their own resources and they'll be using those resources too, I'm sure, to see them return to Australia in accordance with their own arrangements," the report said.

"If imposed, it would be the first time it has been made a crime for an Australian to enter their own country," the SMH report on Friday further said.

Three of the Australian cricketers in IPL -- Adam Zampa, Kane Richardson and Andrew Tye -- have already returned home via Qatar. However, since their arrival home, the Australian borders have been completely sealed. Umpire Paul Reiffel, who also wanted to return via Qatar after the three cricketers, couldn't do so as the flights to Australia were by then cancelled. He was just 10 minutes away from leaving the IPL bio-bubble before he learnt about the cancellation of the flights.

Cricketers aren't the only ones affected.

Bengaluru FC footballer Erik Paartalu on Friday criticised the Australian government. "As an Aussie that has lived and worked in India for 4 years now I have never felt so far away from feeling Australian. I don't know how you can deny citizens to return home especially when there are hotel quarantines in place," he tweeted.

"I have worked inside a bubble for 7 months here in India and this is a huge blow to mine and thousands of others trying to get back to Australia. I hope the government aren't able to implement what they are trying to do," he added in the tweet. "I understand everyone's concern with the level of infection over here and the possibility of a new variant. But isn't that the purpose of hotel quarantine for 14 days? Love to all those affected and hope this situation has a good outcome for all the Aussies here in India." (IANS)



## Madrid Open: Osaka wins maiden clay match in two years

MADRID

PLAYING her first match on clay in nearly two years, world No. 2 Naomi Osaka recovered from a slow start to defeat qualifier Misaki Doi 7-5, 6-2 in the first round of the Madrid Open on Friday.

The reigning US Open and Australian Open champion had withdrawn from last year's autumn clay swing due to a hamstring injury and had not competed on clay since her third-round loss to Katerina Siniakova at Roland Garros 2019. But Osaka has stated that mastering the natural surfaces, where she is yet to reach a WTA final, is a goal for 2021.

Against Japanese compatriot Doi, she kept her focus to edge a tight first set before asserting her authority in the second, eventually tallying 26 winners to 15 unforced errors, according to wtatennis.com. Doi got off to a superb start, swatting away drive volleys and dictating off the ground with her left-handed forehand. But the World No.79's high-risk

game also leaked errors, and after missing three points for a 3-0 lead, Osaka took control.

Increasingly comfortable in longer exchanges and finding some remarkable angles, Osaka won five out of six games to advance to 5-3. A flurry of unforced errors prevented her from serving the set out at the first go, but after battling through six deuces to break Doi again for 6-5, the former World No. 1 made no mistake the second time.

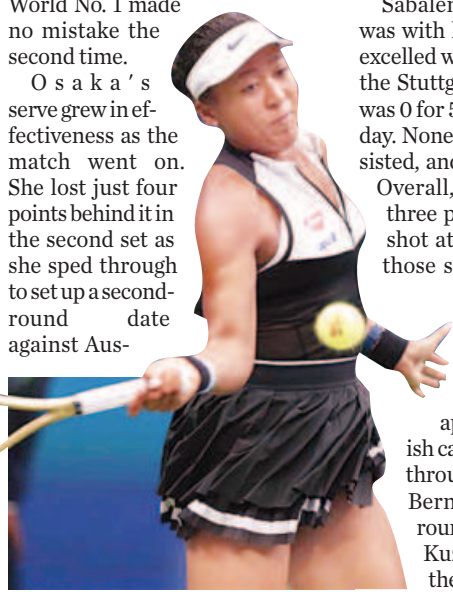
Osaka's serve grew in effectiveness as the match went on. She lost just four points behind it in the second set as she sped through to set up a second-round date against Aus-

tralian Open semi-finalist Karolina Muchova. The Czech needed just 69 minutes to dismiss Wang Qiang 6-1, 6-3.

Fifth seed Aryna Sabalenka overcame the experience of qualifier Vera Zvonareva and her own stubborn streak to win her opener 6-1, 6-2 in 66 minutes. The Belarusian landed 37 winners to former world No.2 Zvonareva's six, and dropped serve just once.

Sabalenka's primary struggle was with her drop shot. She had excelled with the shot en route to the Stuttgart final last week, but was 0 for 5 on it in the first set today. Nonetheless, Sabalenka persisted, and it eventually paid off. Overall, she would only win three points from her 11 drop shot attempts, but the last of those sealed match point for her.

The result is Sabalenka's first career main draw win in Madrid on her third appearance in the Spanish capital. In 2018, she came through qualifying but fell to Bernarda Pera in the first round, and in 2019 Svetlana Kuznetsova halted her at the first hurdle. (IANS)



## Covid-stricken boxer Simranjit dropped from India squad

NEW DELHI

NATIONAL champion and Olympic-bound boxer Simranjit Kaur has been dropped from the Indian squad for the Asian Boxing Championships to be held in Dubai from May 21 as she is still recovering from Covid-19.

The 25-year-old national champion in the 60 kg had tested positive for Covid-19 last week.

"Since she is still in quarantine here at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Sports Complex, it wouldn't be possible for her to compete in the continental competition. We will check if the second boxer in her category (60kg) is fit for competition," an official of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) told IANS. The BFI had conducted national selection trials in women's category last month here at the IG Stadium. But due to the recent surge in Covid-19 cases, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) had closed all the national camps in New Delhi. "We would send a proposal to SAI to allow the BFI to conduct a national camp for the elite women boxers in Patiala from next week," said the BFI official.

Simranjit is among four Indian women boxers to have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics. Six-time world champion MC Marykom (51kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69 kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) are the other three to have got quota for the Tokyo Olympics starting July 23.

## Shaw's rumoured girlfriend Prachi reacts to his innings

NEW DELHI

ACTOR Prachi Singh said that Delhi Capitals opener Prithvi Shaw might need a new suitcase to pack all the awards that he is getting during this season's Indian Premier League (IPL). Shaw led DC to victory against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Thursday with a 41-ball 82 which earned him the Player of the Match award. As he collected his award and spoke to the broadcasters in the post-



match presentation ceremony, Prachi, who is rumoured to be dating Shaw, posted photos of him on her television.

"So proud of you," she said in her caption to the first photo. "Need a new suitcase to pack them all," she said in the caption for the second image. The innings also helped Shaw enter the top three of the Orange Cap standings, with his total run tally of 270 putting him one run ahead of Punjab Kings captain KL Rahul. (IANS)

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**నా ఎంపిక కపిల్ చిట్స్ ఇప్పటికీ వెన్నంటే ఉంది.**