





# Womenia

TWEET PATROL


**BIPASHA BASU**  
**@BIPSLUVURSELF**

Let go of anything that no longer serves your higher purpose  
 #release #loveyourself  
 #lovelife #loveall



## Say good bye to elbow tanning with these simple remedies

Darkening of elbows is the most common problem seen in women these days. Over exposure to sun is the main cause of tanning on elbows. It is one of the most difficult and stubborn areas from where removing these black marks will become a big task to every individual. But there are certain home remedies that will help you to get rid of dark and black elbows.

### Lemon

Lemon juice acts as a great exfoliator. Cut a lemon into half and rub one half of a lemon on one elbow and the other half on the other elbow. Rub for 10 minutes and then allow the juice to dry. Wash the juice with cold water. Do this treatment as many numbers of times as you want in a day. But don't forget to apply a moisturizer on your elbows after every treatment.

### Turmeric, honey and milk

Turmeric has antiseptic properties and milk act as bleach, while honey moisturizes the dry skin. Mix some turmeric with milk and honey to make it a smooth paste. Apply the paste on the dark areas and leave it there for at least 20 minutes. Wet your hands and rub it for few minutes and then wash it off with cold water.

### Gram flour and lemon

Gram flour cleanses the area and also provides mild exfoliation. While lemon juice acts as natural bleach and helps to reduce the darkness from your elbows. Add some lime juice to gram flour to make it paste. Apply the mixture and rub in circular motion on your elbows. Allow it to dry and wash it off with cold water.

### Olive oil and sugar

Sugar works as an excellent source of exfoliation, while olive oil will moisturize the skin. Mix equal quantities of olive oil and sugar to make a thick paste. Apply this mix on to the black knees and elbow. Rub the skin using this mixture for about five minutes. Wash using mild soap and water.

### Sunscreens lotion

Sunscreens should be generously applied on the elbows when you are stepping outside as elbows are also exposed to the harsh sunrays which can ruin your skin cells. So, it will show an impact if you apply a generous dose of sunscreen the next time you are stepping out of your home.

# Take care of your skin during Covid-19

**Dr Chiranjiv Chhabra, leading Dermatologist and Director of Alive Wellness Clinics says that regular usage of masks and sanitizers may lead to skin problems**

ASKARI JAFFER

As the second wave of Covid-19 is spreading severely, masks and sanitizers became common products in everyone's daily routine. Using sanitizers and washing your hands in regular intervals may keep you away from the deadly virus but Dermatology experts say that, it is very harmful to your skin.

In our conversation with Dr Chiranjiv Chhabra, leading Dermatologist and Director of Alive Wellness Clinics says, "While wearing masks, sanitising and social distancing are the key step to keep ourselves safe from virus, it is equally important to take care of our skin health and personal care during this tough times. Following basis self-care routine can help you to stay away from these skin related problems."



"Frequent hand washing and sanitising can strip your hands of their natural oils. To prevent dry and cracked skin, it is very important to be gentle to your hands. Use cool or lukewarm water with soap to wash your hands," says Dr Chhabra. He suggests avoiding antibacterial cleansers as they aren't that useful for preventing infectious disease and they contain chemicals such as fragrance that can irritate skin.

Dr Chiranjiv adds, "It is important using moisturizers after washing your hands. Gently rinse and pat the hands dry and apply plenty of moisturiser. Hypoallergenic moisturisers are more

preferable which are free of fragrances and dyes to avoid skin irritation." Working for long hours in Covid duty and wearing mask to protect us from virus causes itchiness or a rash, sweaty or damp conditions under the mask which leads to acne breakouts and other skin concerns. Making a few skin care routines can help to counteract these problems.

"Cleanse, moisturise and tone your face before and after using a mask. Choose 'non-comedogenic' products, which won't clog skin pores. Don't use products with petrolatum such as petroleum

jelly. Exfoliate your face with a home-made or a light scrub at least once a week to get rid of dead skin and bacteria. Don't forget to wash and clean your face before going to bed at night," says Chhabra.

He added, "To prevent or relieve skin injuries caused by pressure or friction from masks, a thin layer of zinc oxide can soothe and

protect skin. Zinc oxide is used to protect the skin often used for diaper rash or severely chapped skin. Use it on the bridge of your nose or behind your ears. Cleanse your skin regularly. Use a water-soluble moisturiser. Look for acne treatment products that contain benzoyl peroxide or salicylic acid and avoid popping or squeezing pimples."

## PERSONAL CARE MEASURES ONE SHOULD TAKE DURING COVID-19

### Drink plenty of water

It's very important to stay hydrated to stay active, look fresh and prevent your skin and body from toxins. Drink at least 8-10 glasses of water that will help to flush out the toxins from your body.

### Eat right

When you're eating a balanced and nourishing diet, your skin will reflect exactly that. Eat a king-sized breakfast, healthy lunch and light dinner. Focus on ingredients in your kitchen that will help boost your immunity such as, turmeric, ginger, garlic, black pepper etc.

### Take Enough Sleep

Do not compromise on your regular sleep pattern. Sleep early and wake up early and try and get at least eight hours of sleep every night. This will help you to prevent dark circles, puffy eyes and premature ageing of the skin.

### Take Vitamin C and Oral antioxidants

Serums are one of the most important skincare products you can use. Topical Vitamin C prevents free radical damage while brightening the skin. An oral antioxidant with the goodness of vitamins and minerals goes a long way in protecting and revitalizing the skin.

## BISCUIT DAY

As you might imagine, celebrating Biscuit Day is a lot of fun. It is your yearly excuse to eat as many biscuits as you like – and to do a spot of baking.

Baking an ancient Roman biscuit called a buccellum is perhaps the most exciting way to experience the day. While the final product won't be as delectable as manufactured biscuits, it will give you an insight into the sort of cuisine that people enjoyed in the past while sailing.

Failing that, nothing is stopping you from baking cookies or traditional biscuit bread. What's more, you could trial unique, healthy versions using authentic ingredients. There are plenty of recipes that still use wholemeal flours and sugar alternatives on the internet. Biscuits are an experience that you'll want to share. Many people, therefore,

## Deepika Padukone features in 'Seven Happy Women' list

PUJA GUPTA

Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone has featured in the 'Seven Happy Women' list by Chopard under its 'Happy Diamond' campaign. The other names in the list include Aja Naomi King, Jung Ryeo-Won, Sadie Sink, Anne Nakamura, Dorra Zarrouk and Yang Zi. Chopard's Co-President and Artistic Director, Caroline Scheufele has chosen the names with unparalleled influence to embody Happy Diamonds. "Seven Friends of the Maison who represent, each through in their own way, a strong, free, joyful way of living in the world and of owning the spirit of the era. Deepika Padukone, Aja Naomi King, Jung Ryeo-Won, Sadie Sink, Anne Nakamura, Dorra Zarrouk and Yang Zi have all grasped the codes of their time to blaze their trail in a manner that is both

**Other names in the list include Aja Naomi King, Jung Ryeo-Won, Sadie Sink, Anne Nakamura, Dorra Zarrouk and Yang Zi**

singular and generous." Theirs are powerful voices that resonate with that of Karin Scheufele – Caroline Scheufele's mother - who once exclaimed, faced with the first sketches of the future Happy Diamonds: "diamonds are happier when they are free". The brand quotes: "An indispensable voice, she (Deepika) speaks of the fragility and strength of the human mind, which she describes with great intelligence: 'To accept the highs and the lows. To embrace the various emotions that we are challenged with every single day. And to live a life that is fuelled by authenticity and purpose.' A strong mantra for a free spirit that bears witness to a deep humanity, making her a true global icon."

## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Ileana D'Cruz: You just want people to like watching you

Actress Ileana D'Cruz has had a great run down South and has also been doing her share of Bollywood films. She says everything comes down to people and, as an artiste, one just wants the audience to like watching you. Popularity, she explains, is the one thing that balances the fact that the film industry can actually be a very cruel

place to survive. "It (the film industry) is brutal, of course, but it comes down to people.

If they (people) like you that is all you need. You just want people to like watching you," says Ileana.

Ileana feels the moment an actor is not appreciated they lose the mark. "It basically goes the same for me. I wouldn't want to watch a film

with an actor I don't like watching. The minute you are not liked anymore you sort of lose the mark. The industry is brutal in a sense, but it has got so many perks as well," she says.

Acting is a profession that comes with its pros and cons, the actress notes, in this context. "You cannot have all the good things only here,

there is always a little bit of con. I think that makes it interesting. It makes you work harder. It makes you strive to keep doing better," she sums up. In the workfront, Ileana will next be seen in "Unfair N Lovely", a comic take on India's obsession with fair skin. The film is set against the backdrop of Haryana and casts her opposite Randee Hooda.





# RT-PCR test: NEERI develops simple, fast method of swab collection and processing

NEW DELHI

The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has developed a simple and fast method of swab collection and processing for RT-PCR coronavirus test which could be used in rural and tribal areas.

The method is simple, fast, cost-effective, patient-friendly and comfortable, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) said.

It is well-suited for rural and tribal areas, given minimal infrastructure requirements, it said.

The Nagpur-based NEERI is a constituent laboratory of CSIR. Krishna Khairnar, senior scientist, Environmental Virology Cell at NEERI, said the swab collection method requires time. Moreover, since it is an invasive technique, it is a bit uncomfortable for patients. "Sometime, it is also lost in the transport of the



sample to the collection centre.

On the other hand, the Saline Gargle RT-PCR method

is instant, comfortable and patient-friendly. Sampling is done instantly and results will be generated within three hours," he said. The method is non-invasive and so simple that a patient can collect the sample himself, said Khairnar.

Collection methods like nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab collection require technical expertise and they are also time-consuming. In contrast, the Saline Gargle RT-PCR method uses a simple

collection tube filled with saline solution, he said.

The patient gargles the solution and rinses it inside the tube. This sample in the collection tube is taken to the laboratory where it is kept at room temperature, in a special buffer solution prepared by NEERI. An RNA template is produced when this solution is heated, which is further processed for Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR).

This particular method of collecting and processing the sample enables to save on the otherwise costly infrastructural requirement of RNA extraction. The method is environment-friendly as well, since waste generation is minimised, Khairnar said.

The Nagpur Municipal Corporation has given permission to go ahead with the method, following which testing has begun at NEERI, the CSIR said. *(PTI)*

# PM RESPONSIBLE FOR SECOND COVID WAVE: RAHUL

## ‘More to come if no vaccine strategy in place’

NEW DELHI

LASHING out at the government for its Covid management, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday held Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "theatrics" responsible for the second coronavirus wave and warned of more waves to come at the current rate of vaccination.

Calling on the government to evolve a vaccine strategy for the entire population, he noted that India is the vaccine capital of the world and it is possible to escalate the inoculation drive as only 3 per cent of the people have received their jabs.

Addressing an online press conference, Gandhi also termed the prime minister an event manager and said it is time for him to be a leader and show that he can organise vaccines for everyone. "My understanding and the understanding of experts is the current rate of vaccination of 3 per cent almost guarantees a third wave of virus when the lockdown goes, which is completely unnecessary," he warned.

If the vaccination is at 50-60 per cent of the population, India would not have a third wave and certainly not a fourth or a fifth wave, Gandhi said.

"The problem is there is no strategy. The prime minister doesn't think strategically. He is an event manager. He thinks one event at a time. You don't need events now as events will kill people, you need a strategy. The aim of the strategy should be to shut the space for corona," he said. Asserting that the more space you leave for the virus, the more dangerous it will become, the former Congress chief said Modi and his government have still not understood the virus and that is why they have no strategy.

Going by the current pace of vaccinations, the entire inoculation exercise will take another three years, till May 2024, and the country will witness several Covid waves by then.

Gandhi said the prime minister created space for Covid to spread through his actions.

"The PM is responsible for the



## Highest inoculation done in Northwest Delhi

NEW DELHI

NORTHWEST Delhi has administered 6.34 lakh vaccine doses, the maximum by any district in Delhi so far, while only 3.15 lakh people have got jabs in the northeast region, according to government data. According to data shared with the Centre, 52.84 lakh doses have been administered in Delhi since the inoculation exercise started on January 16. Of this, 36.79 lakh were Covishield doses and 16.04 were Covaxin jabs.

The maximum number of 1.41 lakh people were vaccinated on May 10. As many as 11.87 lakh people have received both the doses. At least one dose has been administered to 23.71 lakh males and 17.24 lakh females



in the city.

Authorities in the Northwest district have administered 6.34 lakh doses till Friday afternoon, the highest in the city so far. In West Delhi district, 6.29 lakh jabs have been given.

The number of doses administered stands at 5.74 lakh in Central Delhi, 5.55 lakh in South Delhi and 5.37 lakh in Southwest district, according to government data.

Southeast Delhi has administered 4.84 lakh doses so far. The figure is 4.68 lakh in New Delhi, 3.74 lakh in North Delhi, 3.73 lakh in Shahdara, 3.34 in East Delhi and 3.15 lakh in Northeast Delhi. A government official said the number of doses administered in districts also depends on the number of inoculation centres and eligible population. *(PTI)*

second wave of virus, it is a result of his theatrics and the lack of his responsibility. It is time for the prime minister to be a leader and display leadership skills and show courage and not come out with excuses and blame others," he

said. The fact that India has so far vaccinated 3 per cent of its population means that 97 per cent can get the infection as "the government has left the door open for the disease to spread".

Gandhi also alleged that the

## UP vaccine goof-up: ANM suspended, medical officer transferred

SIDDHARTHANAGAR (UP)

A female health worker was suspended and a medical officer got transferred, two weeks after 20 villagers in Uttar Pradesh's Siddharthnagar district were administered Covaxin after receiving Covishield in the first dose.

The incident took place on May 14 at the primary health centre in Barhni where people from Audahi Kala and another village received Covaxin shots. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Sandeep Chaudhary has admitted departmental negligence on their part and suspended Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) Kalavati in

this regard. Besides, Shivesht Kumar, the medical officer, who was in charge of the health centre, was transferred, an official statement said. The CMO also issued a recovery order of Rs 7,500 against Immunisation Officer Shanti Singh after 50 doses of Covishield were found missing from the cold chain, it said.

Meanwhile, medical teams visited villages, including Audahi Kala and Manpur, on Thursday to examine the people who were received the wrong jabs. "We have tested 18 of the 20 people so far and none of them are facing any issues," said AS Khan, team in-charge. *(PTI)*

## Vaccination centre for persons with disabilities opened

NEW DELHI

A Covid vaccination centre dedicated for persons with disabilities (PwD) was opened on Friday at the Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya in Chhatarpur.

As per a notice from the south Delhi district magistrate, the centre will cater to PwDs aged 45 or older for now. The centre will remain open from 9 am to 5 pm every day of the week, except on Sunday. The visitors will be required to carry a proof of disability in the form of PwD identity card, or proof of residency in a PwD shelter/hostel/centre, or any other relevant PwD certificate, the notice said.

The Delhi government on Thursday had asked all district

social welfare officers (DSWOs) to proactively coordinate with revenue and health department functionaries at the district level to facilitate timely treatment and vaccination of persons with disabilities against COVID-19.

The DSWOs have also been directed to actively coordinate with the office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and implement any directions received without delay.

The department also provided the DSWOs a district-wise list of NGOs so that they can establish linkages for providing information and services to persons with disabilities for access to food, shelter, treatment and other necessities during the pandemic. (PTI)

According to the Congress leader, the lockdown, masks and social distancing are temporary fixes. Vaccination is the permanent solution to COVID-19 and the government must evolve a strategy, he said. *(PTI)*

## HC seeks Centre, Delhi's response on 12-year-old's Covid vax plea

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court on Friday sought response from Centre and Delhi government on a plea moved by a 12-year-old seeking for immediate vaccination of children between the ages of 12-17 in the city. The plea, filed by Tia Gupta through advocate Bihu Sharma also demanded vaccination be prioritised for parents having children up to 17 years of age.

The plea contended that data from across the country, including Delhi, has revealed that between April-May, the number of reported cases of children infected and suffering from Covid-19 "has risen tremendously".

The plea said children have a fundamental right to be a beneficiary of the Covid-19 vaccines which are being promoted as "an easy, low-cost way to avoid the infection which may cause them serious harm or death".

A bench comprising Chief Justice D.N. Patel and justice Jyoti Singh issued notice to the Centre and Delhi government on the petition.

The plea contended that it is pertinent that the vaccine policy against Covid-19 has failed to factor in children or parents of children, who are a vulnerable section of society, for vaccination against

the deadly virus.

The plea added that the evidence that unvaccinated children are more likely to develop a new, more powerful Covid-19 strain, is reflected in the prevalent 'second wave', which has infected many more children than the 'first wave' last year.

"The Respondents have failed to prepare a National Plan for children in adherence to the guidelines as given under the National Disaster Management Plan 2019, for-

mulated under the Disaster Management Act 2005 ("DM Act"), which clearly recognize children and their vulnerability during a 'biological health emergency', such as the present COVID pandemic," said the plea.

The plea said there is enough empirical evidence to show that Covid-19 virus brings long term health complications such as organ damage, long Covid, or multi-system inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) and death -- to at least some proportion of children. "The State is obligated to recognize the vulnerability of children during this pandemic and accordingly take all suitable vaccination measures for them, along with other preventive medical infrastructure measures to ensure mitigation of the 'disaster'," added the plea. *(IANS)*

## Covid negative mom gives birth to Covid+ baby

VARANASI

A Covid negative mother has given birth to a baby who tested positive immediately after being born. The 26-year-old mother had tested negative for coronavirus before the delivery when she was admitted to SSL Hospital in Banaras Hindu University on May 24.

On May 25, the woman gave birth to a baby girl who was tested for coronavirus just after her birth. The new-born's test report came positive despite her mother testing negative for the virus. The family and doctors are shocked over the new born being Covid positive. The BHU hospital has said they will test

the two again in a few days for Covid.

SSL hospital medical superintendent K.K. Gupta said that this was not a rare or abnormal incident.

"The RT-PCR test's sensitivity was up to 70 per cent. The woman's sample might have gone beyond that sensitivity. So the woman's Covid-19 test would be done again," he said. (IANS)

Both, the mother and her new born, are doing fine.

Varanasi Chief Medical Officer B.B. Singh said the RT-PCR tests will be conducted again. "I have been informed about the case, but we can say something only after their re-examination."

## Transgender's plea for passport: HC seeks Centre stand

NEW DELHI

Aggrieved by non-issuance of a passport by the authorities with a change in name and gender, a transgender person moved the Delhi High Court for issuance of the travel document with the requisite changes.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh issued notice to the Ministry of External Affairs seeking its stand on the plea which has claimed that the petitioner was issued an Aadhaar card, PAN card and a Voter ID under the changed name and gender, but not a passport.

"That since all the documents of the petitioner, including her Aadhaar Card, Voter ID as well as her PAN Card have been issued to her with the required changes in name and gender on the basis of the affidavit dated December 2, 2019, the petitioner is also entitled to be issued her new passport with the same changes as have been made in her other documents," the petition has said.



The petitioner, who was born a male and subsequently changed his gender to female by way of a self declaration on an affidavit in 2019, has also challenged a requirement under the Passport Rules 1980 to submit a "sex-change certificate" from a hospital for issuance of the travel document.

In the petition, filed through advocates Siddharth Seem and Oindrila Sen, the petitioner has claimed that the requirement for a sex-change certificate was "illegal and unconstitutional" and it has prevented several

transgender persons in getting their passports to reflect their self-identified gender.

"The petitioner has already undergone a facial feminization surgery from a trusted doctor at Bangkok. She wishes to undergo rest of her gender reassignment procedures/surgeries from the same doctor at Bangkok.

"Presently, the petitioner does not have a passport and would therefore be unable to travel anywhere for her future surgeries," the plea has said. *(PTI)*

## 65 yr old man becomes 1st Covid patient to get antibody cocktail at Apollo in Delhi

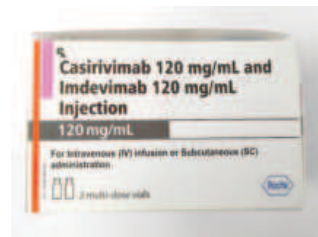
NEW DELHI

A 65-year-old man from Delhi, having multiple co-morbidities, has become the first COVID-19 patient to receive monoclonal antibody therapy at the Apollo hospital here, the healthcare group said on Friday.

The patient responded well to the infusion of the antibody cocktail and went home after an hour of observation on Thursday, hospital authorities said. As part of this single dose infusion-based treatment, patients with mild to moderate symptoms, are offered a cocktail of Casirivimab and Imdevimab, that is said to reduce their chance of hospitalisation by 70 per cent.

In a statement, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi on Friday announced that "Roche India's antibody cocktail (Casirivimab and Imdevimab) distributed by Cipla Ltd. is available for administration to patients with mild and moderate COVID-19 infection" at its facility.

The Antibody Cocktail was launched on May 24 in India by



Roche India after receiving Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) from the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO), it said. The first patient to receive the therapy at Apollo hospital here is a 65-year-old COVID patient from Delhi who has multiple co-morbidities, including acute blood pressure, a spokesperson of the hospital said.

"We are glad to have launched a pan-India program to make available this advanced treatment comprising of neutralising monoclonal antibodies for our patients with COVID-19," said Anupam Sibal, Group Medical Director, Apollo Hospitals Group and seniors consultant, paediatric gastroenterology at the hospital.

Monoclonal antibodies bind to and 'neutralise' the SARS-CoV-2

virus, he said, adding, "we are confident that this treatment option will significantly boost our efforts to bring the pandemic under control and will help prevent progression of the disease in those with mild to moderate COVID-19".

The therapy is most suited for "high-risk COVID-19 patients" who are within first ten days of symptom onset and meet any of the listed criteria, such as age being 65 years or above.

Other criteria include, obesity with BMI (Body Mass Index) of more than 35; or type 1 or type 2 diabetes mellitus; or chronic kidney disease, including those on dialysis; or chronic liver disease; or currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment; or if aged above 55, having either heart disease, or hypertension, or chronic lung disease.

Dr Rajesh Chawla, senior pulmonologist at Apollo hospital, said the reason why this therapy is termed as an anti-body cocktail is because it comprises a mixture of biological drugs (Casirivimab and Imdevimab) that mirror the hu-

man antibodies in the immune system which consequently help fight the infection, similar to the natural antibodies produced when one gets infected with Covid. Both these antibodies also strengthen the immune defence system, he said.

This drug is said to restrict pathogens and virus from entering the patient's body, from where they otherwise would have derived nutrition and multiplied. This antibody cocktail will help prevent progression of the disease to a severe stage, he said.

Mohabbat Singh, an 84-year-old Covid-positive man, was given monoclonal antibody therapy at Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon on Tuesday and was sent home the same day, after being kept under observation, hospital authorities said on Wednesday, adding, Singh became the first patient to receive the therapy at Medanta. Fortis Escorts Heart Institute (FEHI) in south Delhi, after receiving doses on Wednesday has started offering the therapy from Thursday, FEHI Chairman Dr Ashok Seth earlier said. *(PTI)*









District Collector RV Karnan inspecting special vaccination drive for super-spreaders in Khammam on Friday

## 7,500 super-spreaders vaccinated on day 1

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KHAMMAM

DISTRICT Collector RV Karnan observed super-spreaders vaccination drive in Khammam on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, he informed that nearly 24 centres were setup for the drive and vaccine was

given to about 7,500 people.

He said the government had identified ration shops, fertiliser and seed shops dealers, LPG dealers, workers, petrol bunk workers, journalists as the super spreaders.

The Collector said the drive will continue till Saturday (May 29) from 9 am to 4 pm in

the district. Stating that vaccination is the only way to prevent Covid, he appealed to all the eligible people to take vaccine.

Municipal Corporation Commissioner Anurag Jayanthi, Additional Collector N Madhusudhan and others have accompanied the Collector.

## Rachakonda CP inspects lockdown at Gudur tollplaza

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NALGONDA / BHONGIR:

RACHAKONDA Commissioner of Police Mahesh Bhagwat on Friday visited check post at Gudur toll plaza on Hyderabad-Warangal highway in Bibinagar mandal in the district. He inspected the functioning of check post and instructed the staff to implement lockdown strictly and directed the duty staff to exempt emergency services, patients, hospital visitors and journalists during lockdown hours. Later, he distributed masks, sanitisers and butter milk packets to the duty police.

The Police Commissioner was accompanied by Bhongir Zone DCP Narayana Reddy and other police officials.

Meanwhile, Nalgonda district SP AV Ranganath inspected the lockdown situation at various places in Nalgonda town on Friday. He directed the duty police to implement the lockdown strictly and expressed anger as a few shops inside the colonies were opened. He warned of seizing the vehicles of persons, who come on roads unnecessarily and added that stern action would be taken against the violators. The SP advised people to buy essentials during lockdown relaxation time only.



Rachakonda CP Mahesh Bhagwat inquiring a woman during lockdown at Gudur toll plaza in Bibinagar on Friday



BC leader, TRS office in-charge RJC Krishna at Chiranjeevi oxygen plant in Khammam on Friday

## RJC Krishna visits Chiranjeevi oxygen bank

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KHAMMAM

SENIOR BC leader and TRS office in-charge RJC Krishna on Friday visited Chiranjeevi oxygen bank, which was setup in Khammam on Wednesday. During his visit, Krishna thanked Tollywood actor Chiranjeevi for establishing oxygen bank in Khammam. He

also lauded the services of Chiranjeevi blood bank in the district. Krishna appealed to Chiranjeevi to extend his services in the erstwhile Khammam district for the benefit of tribal people.

Corporator Raparthi Ravi, Chiranjeevi Charitable Trust members and others participated in the programme.

## ₹50L ex-gratia demanded to teachers died of Covid

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KHAMMAM

CPM district secretary Nunna Nageswara Rao demanded the government to give Rs 50 lakh ex-gratia to the teachers, who died during election duty.

Speaking to the media here on Friday, he said that a large number of teachers, who did election duty, got infected with Covid and died. Hence, he demanded that the government should immediately fulfil their demands and provide job to one of their family members. He also asked the District Collector to withdraw show-cause notice, issued to those, who didn't attend election duties.



CPM district secretary Nunna Nageswara Rao



Minister for Tribal Welfare Satyavathi Rathod and MP Maloth Kaviha inaugurating Covid-19 ward at Eturnagaram in Mulugu district on Friday

## TS State to help orphans

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MULUGU

THE State government to help the children orphaned by the Covid-19, Minister for Tribal Welfare Satyavathi Rathod said.

Speaking at a review meeting at Eturnagaram in Mulugu district on Friday, she assured of taking the responsibility of children who lost their parents due to the coronavirus pandemic.

All the State-run hospitals have been equipped with proper facilities

to treat Covid-19, she said, referring to the measures being taken by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

Even though the imposition of lockdown affects the exchequer of the State, the CM took a bold decision to protect the people falling prey to the Covid-19.

"Since the imposition of lockdown, the number of coronavirus cases has started to decline. The fever survey conducted by the government also helped the authorities

to focus on grey areas," she said. The survey helped a lot of people to undergo appropriate treatment, Rathod said.

The Minister inaugurated the Covid-19 ward at the ITDA office and also the oxygen concentrator provided at the health centre.

MP Malothu Kavitha, MLA Seethakka, ZP Chairman Kusuma Jagadish, Collector Krishna Aditya and ITDA Project Officer Hanmantu K Zendage were among others present.

## 'Provide moratorium facility to goods vehicles'

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NALGONDA

TELANGANA Lorry Welfare Association State vice-president Survi Yadaiah Goud criticised that increasing petrol and diesel prices 14 times in a single month was a record in the history of the country, which became a burden on the people.

On Friday, he released a statement on the plight of lorry owners in the present pandemic time. He observed that except our country, no other country might have increased fuel prices in the present critical time.

Life of common man will become miserable if the Central government continues increasing diesel and petrol prices without any restraint, he explained.

Yadaiah Goud lamented that increased diesel prices have become a major challenge for the owners of goods vehicles, who were facing financial difficulties. Lorry owners will be pushed into debts if the same situation continues, he pointed out and the Central government to provide moratorium facility on goods vehicles by considering the plight of owners of these vehicles.



## Mangalagiri Ayurvedic doctor offers cure to Covid in 1 hour

- Vasudev of Chamundeswari Ayurvedic Hospital claims those who take 3 pills from his medicine kit will test negative in 1 hour
- Says he can treat people in age group of 15 to 60 years but not pregnant women and people with comorbidities
- Patients have to take medicine for 20 more days for other symptoms of pandemic

his Ayurvedic preparation would cure patients aged above 15-years and below 60 years of Covid within an hour. But he said he can't cure pregnant women, diabetics, those having hypertension and breathing problems. He said at present he is dispensing Ayurvedic medicine kit to cure the deadly pandemic within 24-hours. If the patient uses three pills, he will test negative after 24-hours, he added.

For other symptoms, the patient has to use Ayurvedic medicines for 20-days. Dr Vasudev said the medicine kit contains three pills and medicines for symptoms for 20 days. The cost of each kit is Rs 4,500. So far, he had sold 70 kits only through mouth publicity. He says as soon as the patient takes first pill, he has to drink one litre coconut water immediately. He said he had not taken details of Covid-19 patients who purchased medicines from him. Expressing his uninterest in media publicity, Dr Vasudev said a satellite TV channel telecast news about his medicine without his permission.

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
GUNTUR

DR A Vasudev of Chamundeswari Ayurvedic Hospital, Mangalagiri, claimed that he would cure Covid-19 within one hour. "Patients suffering from Covid-19 can take my Ayurvedic medicine and get themselves tested with rapid antigen kit after one hour. The test will return definitely negative," he said in a statement. Soon after, his name went viral on social media.

When contacted by The Hans India, Dr Vasudev said

## TDP demands Bharat Ratna to NTR

- Rich tributes are paid on the 98th birth anniversary of veteran actor, TDP founder and former CM
- TDP president Chandrababu Naidu says NTR will remain a rich legacy and heritage of all the Telugu people forever
- Family members visit NTR Ghat to pay homage to the late leader NTR on 98th birth anniversary

AMARAVATI/HYDERABAD

RICH tributes were paid to TDP founder and former chief minister NT Rama Rao on his 98th birth anniversary on Friday with the leaders of TDP reiterating the demand for conferring country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna on him. TDP national president and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu, his son Nara Lokesh, grandson Devansh and other family members and party leaders paid tributes to Rama Rao at NTR Ghat on the banks of Hussain Sagar lake in Hyderabad.

Chandrababu Naidu, who is son-in-law of the late leader, said NTR would remain as a rich legacy and heritage for the Telugu people forever.

He said the late leader would al-



TDP national president along with his son Nara Lokesh and other party leaders pays tributes to N T Rama Rao on the occasion of his 98th death anniversary at NTR Ghat in Hyderabad on Friday

ways be remembered for his contributions in politics and films. "NTR will continue to be an inspiration not only for this generation but also the coming generations," said Naidu. Later, addressing annual conclave Mahanadu of the TDP via video conferencing, Naidu recalled how NTR left an unforgettable impression on the Telugu speaking people all over the world with his great achievements. Born in an ordinary family, NTR rose to the greatest heights in film and political careers and became a 'Yug-purush' for the people.

The TDP chief said that NTR was not just one person but an institution by himself and Naidu recalled how NTR excelled in what-

ever he took up and he did not merely act in the films but he actually lived in the characters that he portrayed.

After entering politics, NTR introduced many programmes that met the basic needs of the disadvantaged sections of the people. He used foresight and pragmatism in making decisions to pass on benefits to the deserving people.

Naidu asserted that NTR's life and career had made the average Telugu person proud. Everybody should remember NTR's contributions and draw inspiration from them to do best possible service to the people. NTR showed to the world that power and authority were not meant for one's enjoy-

ment but they were something that should be used to render greater service to the public.

The TDP chief said NTR never used to compromise or rest till achieving the set goals. "He made even impossible tasks possible with his determination," said Naidu.

NTR's second wife Lakshmi Parvathi, actor son and MLA N Balakrishna and other family members separately paid tributes at NTR Ghat. NTR's another son N Ramakrishna released a video and said that he and his family members were unable to visit NTR Ghat for paying tributes because of the Covid pandemic.

Meanwhile, senior TDP leader and former union minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju reiterated the demand that Bharat Ratna be posthumously conferred on NTR. He recalled that the TDP founder strived for the upliftment of the backward and weaker sections and always worked for decentralization and strengthening of federal system.

NTR had launched TDP in 1982 on the slogan of Telugu self-respect and created record of sorts by coming to power within nine months, ending the single party rule of Congress in the undivided Andhra Pradesh. He died on January 18, 1996, a few months after Chandrababu Naidu led a revolt against him and became the chief minister.

## PSA oxygen plants must in pvt hospitals

- Principal Secretary, Health, Anil Kumar Singhal issues order prescribing minimum standards for equipment and manufacture for hospitals on the basis of bed strength
- As per the order, every hospital with more than 100 beds will have to install a 1,000 Litres Per Minute PSA oxygen plant and those with 50 beds, a 500 LPM plant

AMARAVATI

THE state government on Friday made it mandatory for private hospitals and nursing homes to install Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) technology oxygen plants in proportion to their bed strength.

Principal secretary (health) Anil Kumar Singhal issued an or-



der, amending the Andhra Pradesh Allopathic Private Medical Care Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Rules, 2007, and prescribing the minimum standards for equipment and furniture for hospitals based on the bed strength.

Every hospital with more than 100 beds will have to install a 1,000 Litres Per Minute (LPM) PSA oxygen plant and those with 50 beds, a 500 LPM plant, according to the order.

The hospitals should also have oxygen concentrators equal in

number to the oxygen-supported beds. The private hospitals are also required to have oxygen masks with regulators in equal numbers.

"During the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, the government supplied oxygen even to private hospitals.

But they charged their own rates from the patients. Now we are making it mandatory for them to install their own PSA plants so that they will be self-sufficient," a senior health official said.

The industries department of the state government is working out a plan to extend a 30 per cent subsidy to the private healthcare establishments for installing the PSA oxygen plants.

"The Chief Minister approved this proposal and the modalities are being worked out," the official added.

## Excess fees: Hospitals to face fines, cases

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

THE state government on Friday issued orders notifying the rates to be charged for Covid treatment and penalties for excess charging in private hospitals.

The order stated that if any hospital is found to be charging more than the rates as indicated by the government earlier, they shall be levied a penalty which shall be 10 times of the additional charges by the district medical and health officer concerned at first violation

and if any hospital is found to be repeating the same, such hospital shall be prosecuted as per the provision of IPC, besides action as per the Clinical Establishment Act.

Principal secretary, medical and health, AK Singhal issued the orders to this effect.



# 'Dharavi model' helps tame second Covid-19 wave in slum town

Mumbai

AFTER reporting up to 99 Covid-19 cases daily in April, Mumbai's slum colony of Dharavi has seen a gradual drop in single-day infections - below 5 - in the last couple of days with the tally of patients under treatment dropping to 50, marking a turnaround in the second wave. The 'Dharavi model' of Covid-19 management and the vaccination drive have helped in successfully containing the second wave in the area, officials said.

A steady drop in coronavirus cases in Dharavi, a sprawling and congested shanty town which was once a Covid-19 hotspot, has brought huge relief to the civic authorities in Mumbai. BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) officials said the slum cluster, spread across 2.5 square km and located on the border of the island city, reported three and four cases on Wednesday and Thursday, respectively, while Mumbai is still witnessing daily coronavirus cases in four digits.

They said Dharavi's active cases have come down to just 50 (6,398 of the total 6,802 Covid-19 patients have recovered, while 354 have died). This was in sharp contrast to the adjoining Dadar and Mahim areas, which have 204 and 254 active cases, respectively. Since the outbreak of coronavirus in April 2020, the slum-dominated area has reported 354 deaths (till May 26). Of those, 42 fatalities have been recorded since February 7, 2021, the officials said.

According to them, the daily



Covid-19 cases in Dharavi started going up from mid-February, when Mumbai was hit by a second wave of the coronavirus infection. Cases in the slum-dominated area rose significantly in March and peaked in April, when it reported the highest single-day spike of 99 cases on April 8.

The sharp rise in daily infections pushed the civic authorities to once again fall back on the "Dharavi model" which involved 4Ts - tracing, tracking, testing and treating - a strategy which was praised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) during the first

wave of Covid-19. "Despite a slow spread of the virus in December 2020 and early January 2021, we continued with comprehensive testing and tracking of cases in Dharavi," said Kiran Dighavkar, assistant municipal commissioner of G-North ward that houses Dharavi.

With the onset of the Covid-19 second wave in February 2021, the Dharavi Model was activated again to stem the spread of the infection, he said. "Door-to-door screening of people with symptoms, aggressive testing, regular screening and testing of Dharavi

residents who work in different parts of Mumbai, including delivery personnel, industrial workers, helped to control the spread of the pandemic," Dighavkar said. Dharavi has a population of 6.5 lakh, which means 2,27,136 people living per sq km.

Social distancing was next to impossible in Dharavi, where families of eight to 10 people live in 10x10 hutments. Apart from congested slum pockets, Dharavi is home to several small-scale leather, pottery and textile manufacturing units. The area has 5,000 GST-registered enter-

prises, 15,000 single-room factories and is a hub of international exports with an annual turnover of 1 billion USD, according to BMC data.

In Dharavi, the first Covid-19 patient was found on April 1, 2020, about 20 days after Mumbai reported its first Covid-19 case. Thereafter, the daily Covid-19 cases rose sharply and the area was declared a 'Covid-19 hotspot'. With a proactive screening of residents with the assistance of private doctors and community support, the local body managed to flatten the COVID-19 curve last year.

According to a BMC official, the biggest challenge was to maintain hygiene as 80 per cent the population is dependent on 450 community toilets. Hence, the civic body focused on cleaning these toilets thrice a day to control the spread of Covid-19, he said. Dighavkar said even though the second wave has eased, the BMC was going to continue screening and testing of people through 11 fever clinics and mobile testing units in anticipation of a third wave of the infection.

"We will not let our guards down even though the cases have dropped. We are going to continue aggressive screening and testing until Dharavi reports zero cases," Dighavkar said. The focus will continue to be on vaccination in Dharavi where 27,000 people have been inoculated against Covid-19 so far, he added. (PTI)



## Over 1.84 crore vaccine doses with states, more on way: Health Ministry

New Delhi

MORE than 1.84 crore coronavirus vaccine doses are currently available with states and union territories, and three lakh more will be received by them in the next three days, the Union Health Ministry said on Friday.

The central government has so far provided, through the free of cost channel and direct state procurement, more than 22.46 crore doses to states and UTs. Of these, the total consumption, including wastage, is 20,48,04,853 doses, according to data available till 8 AM on Friday.

A total of 1,84,92,677 COVID-19 vaccine doses are still available with the states and UTs to be administered, the ministry said, adding 3,20,380 more doses are in the pipeline and will be received by them within the next three days. As part of the nationwide vaccination drive, the Centre has been supporting the

states and UTs by providing them vaccines free of cost.

In addition, the central government has been facilitating direct procurement of vaccines by the states and UTs. Vaccination is an integral pillar of the comprehensive strategy of the Government of India for containment and management of the pandemic, along with test, track, treat and COVID-19-appropriate behaviour. Implementation of the liberalised and accelerated Phase-3 strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination has started from May 1.

Under the strategy, in every month 50 per cent of the total Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) cleared vaccine doses of any manufacturer would be procured by the Government of India. It would continue to make these doses available to the states free of cost as was being done earlier, the ministry said. (PTI)

# Cyclone Yaas: PM announces ₹1K cr relief package after aerial survey

New Delhi

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Friday conducted an aerial survey to review the damages caused by the severe cyclonic storm 'Yaas' in Odisha and West Bengal.

Expressing solidarity with the people affected by the cyclonic storm, the Prime Minister announced financial assistance of Rs 1,000 crore for immediate relief activities. Of this, Rs 500 crore would be given to Odisha, while the remaining amount would be allotted to West Bengal and Jharkhand on the basis of the extent of damage.

The Union government will also deploy an inter-ministerial team to visit the states to assess the extent of damage, based on which further assistance will be announced.

The Centre has assured all help for restoration and rebuilding of the infrastructure in the affected areas.

An amount of Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia would be given to the next of kin of the deceased, while Rs 50,000 would be given to the injured persons.

During his visit to Odisha and West Bengal to review the situation arising out of cyclone Yaas, the Prime Minister undertook an aerial survey of the affected areas in Bhadrak and Baleswar districts in Odisha, and East Midnapore in West Bengal.

In Bhubaneswar, the Prime Minister chaired a meeting to re-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducts aerial survey of Cyclone Yaas hit parts of Odisha and West Bengal

## Mamata skips review meeting, meets Modi personally

Kolkata

IN a surprise development, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday skipped a review meeting conducted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station near Kharagpur to assess the damages caused by severe cyclonic storm Yaas that hit the state on Wednesday. The review meeting snowballed into a political controversy after Banerjee personally met the Prime Minister before the meeting and submitted a copy of the damages caused by the cyclone to him.

She even left the Air Force Station before the meeting commenced. Sources in the administration confirmed that Banerjee had asked for a separate meeting with Modi ahead of the review meeting convened by the Prime Minister. Accordingly, a slot of 15 minutes was allotted during which Banerjee submitted a detailed report of the damages caused by the storm, mainly in three districts, to Modi.

Though there has been no official briefing on the meeting between the two leaders so far, sources close to the Chief Minister confirmed that the state government has submitted in the report that Bengal incurred damage to the tune of Rs 15,000 crore due to the severe cyclonic storm.

view the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken so far.

The Prime Minister was briefed that the maximum damage due to cyclone Yaas happened in Odisha, and in some parts of West Bengal and Jharkhand.

Modi assured the people of Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand that the Centre will work closely with the state governments at this difficult time, and extend all possible assistance for the restoration and rebuilding of the infrastructure in the affected areas.

The Prime Minister expressed his solidarity with all those who suffered due to the cyclone and expressed deep sorrow to the families which lost their kin during the calamity.

"We have to continue the focus on more scientific management of disasters. As the frequency and impact of cyclonic storms are increasing in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, communication systems, mitigation efforts and preparedness have to undergo a major change," Modi said.

He also spoke about the importance of building trust among the people for better cooperation in relief efforts.

Modi appreciated the preparedness and disaster management measures of the Odisha government which resulted in minimal loss of lives. He also noted that the state has embarked on long-term mitigation efforts to deal with natural disasters. (IANS)

# Naxal-hit Bastar gets roads, river bridges, security camps



Raipur

A total of 28 camps for security forces were set up in the last two years in Chhattisgarh's Naxal-affected Bastar region to facilitate and accelerate development works, the state government said on Friday. In a statement issued by the state public relations department, the Congress government under Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said inaccessible Naxal-hit areas of Bastar, where it was difficult to even walk, has roads, electricity supply, education and health facilities now.

"To add momentum to development works, 28 security forces camps were set up in different areas of Bastar in the last two years. With the establishment of these facilities, development works have been accelerated," the statement said. Since December, 2108, when the Congress came to power in the state after 15 years of BJP rule, 21 roads have been built in Maoist-hit areas, while remote areas are being connected through a network of about 700 kilometres of roads. These include the Bijapur-Awapalli-Jagrgunda, Narayanpur-Palli-Barsur, Antagarh-Bedma, Chintanapalli-Nayapara, Chintal Nar-Madai Guda, Konta-Golla Palli roads etc, it informed.

"At the same time, about 450 kilometres of roads have been completed in the extreme Naxal-affected areas of Bastar during the coronavirus-enforced lockdown. Similarly, 132 bridge-culverts have been constructed during this period," the statement informed. A bridge built on the

Indravati River in Chhindanar village, expected to be functional by the end of June this year, will allow access to the forests of Abujmad from Dantewada, thereby giving access to several villages on the other side, it said.

Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraaj P said the life of tribals has changed with the establishment of new camps. "Four bridges are being built on the Indravati River. Since Independence, there were only three bridges on the 200-kilometre stretch of Indravati River, which will increase to seven by next year. Similarly, the Palli-Barsur, Basaguda-Jagrgunda and Usur-Pameed roads, which have been closed for the last 30 years, are being opened with the help of security forces," Sundarraaj said. (PTI)

# UP BJP MLA backs Ramdev over comments on allopathy

Ballia

UTTAR Pradesh BJP MLA Surendra Singh has joined the row between Ramdev and the doctors' fraternity, saying the comments against the yoga guru are condemnable. The Bairaia MLA took to Facebook on Thursday to back Ramdev for his remarks against allopathy and termed him a flag bearer of the Indian medicine system.

"Those robbing the society by making the present the medical system expensive are giving lessons on morality. People who sell tablets worth Rs 10 for Rs 100 in the field of allopathy are criminals in white clothes, not well-wishers of society," Singh said in a post on the social media platform. He, however, went on to say both allopathy and Ayurveda are helpful. "Allopathy is useful but Ayurveda is no less. Physicians



should serve the ailing people with this sense," the BJP MLA added. In a second post, he said, "I heartily congratulate the flag bearer of the Indian system of medicine, Ramdev ji. He has started the 'Swasth Bharat, Samarth Bharat Abhiyan' through Ayurveda." On Sunday,

Ramdev was forced to withdraw a statement made in the viral video clip in which he was heard questioning some of the medicines being used to treat the coronavirus infection and saying that "lakhs have died from taking allopathic medicines for COVID-19".

## Army averts fire tragedy in J&K's Udhampur district

Jammu

A major tragedy was averted after the Indian army's fire fighting trucks helped douse a raging fire at a chemical factory in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

The army said that in the late hours of Thursday a major fire broke out at the Chemical factory in Battal Ballian industrial area in Udhampur. "A distress call from the Udhampur civil administration was received by the station commander, Military Garrison Udhampur, seeking army's assistance in dousing the raging fire," the army said.

"Three fire-fighting trucks of the army were immediately rushed to the spot and in collaboration with the fire tenders from the civil and Air Force, the fire was brought under control by the wee hours of Friday, though the factory was damaged," it added.

## CAREER MOVE



Newly recruited constables of Uttar Pradesh Provincial Armed Constabulary (UP-PAC) during their passing out parade in Moradabad on Friday



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### India well-placed to tap AI tech

India is well-placed on the government and businesses fronts to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) in unique ways to solve challenges. The huge data now across systems has been generated and the time is right to apply AI across the board to India's most challenging issues


— Nandan Nilekani, Aadhaar architect, Infosys co-founder



## HONOURS

### Icon Awards will celebrate success

Global Icon Awards 2021 to recognise the various organisations and companies, entrepreneurs and service providers for their outstanding performance and achievements in their respective fields. These awards are going to be a small token of appreciation for the individuals who are pushing the boundaries.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	73.15	South	
Euro	89.18	African Rand	6.01
UAE Dirham	20.31	Hong Kong Dollar	10.73
Thai Baht	2.55	Japanese Yen	0.76
British Pound	103.84	New Zealand Dollar	53.06
Australian Dollar	56.54	Saudi Riyal	21.23
Canadian Dollar	60.57	Swedish Krona	10.05
Swiss Franc	81.47	Singapore Dollar	55.84

DELHI SATURDAY 29 MAY 2021

## BIZ BRIEFS

### ASCI norms for digital media

The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) unveiled the final guidelines for influencer advertising on digital media. The draft guidelines initially were issued in February and feedback from all stakeholders – advertisers, agencies, influencers and consumers – was sought. To ensure a collaborative process and expert inputs, ASCI tied up with Big Bang Social, a leading marketplace for social storytelling, to get India's leading digital influencers' views on board. The guidelines will be applicable to commercial messages or advertisements published on or after June 14, 2021. The guidelines make it mandatory for influencers to label the promotional content they post. Subhash Kamath, Chairman, ASCI, said: "We received an overwhelming positive engagement and feedback from influencers and others for the draft guidelines, as well as suggestions to finetune and clarify some points."

### Corteva ties up with NGOs

Corteva Agriscience, a global agriculture company, is collaborating with local governments and non-profit organizations (NGO) to fight against the pandemic. Keeping in line with its CSR goals to safeguard the community and to address urgent needs, the company is serving more than 2,000 patients every day at 13 Covid care centers in Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Ranchi, Lucknow, Savli and other cities in India. These Covid care centers are set up in hospitals in some locations, others are set up as dedicated quarantine centers equipped with oxygen facilitated beds, 24x7 doctor consultation, nursing staff and access to ambulance facilities. Rahoul Sawani, President South Asia, Corteva Agriscience said: "With the severity of the second wave of Covid-19, we see an important role for us in supporting communities in overcoming challenges."

## India sees steep fall in new jobs in FY21

SBI Research reveals that India's economy has added 16.9 lakh less jobs in FY21

MUMBAI

NET job creation in the economy fell by 16.9 lakh in FY21 over the previous fiscal, shows an SBI Research analysis of EPFO payroll data.

However, the FY21 numbers are better than the FY20 net job creation, which had declined by 28.9 lakh, further cementing the view that the economy is not creating new employment opportunities. The latest EPFO data shows that net new EPF subscribers stood at 94.5 lakh in FY21, and NPS added 5.82 lakh, taking the cumulative net addition to 100.4 lakh, which is marginally down from 102.3 lakh in FY20.

However, according to Soumya Kanti Ghosh, SBI's group chief economic adviser, "this does not represent the correct picture as the data include the number of exited members who re-joined and re-subscribed, and thus not fresh job creation."

"An estimate of the actual net new payroll (first job) adjusted for re-joined/re-subscribed members and formalization (based on ECR data), shows the actual net new payroll is only 44 lakh in FY21, which is 16.9 lakh less than the net new payroll generated in FY20, when the new payroll declined by almost 28.9 lakh," he said. Ghosh also said most of the 44 lakh additions are low quality

jobs. The second job (or the exited members who re-joined and re-subscribed) rose by 17.9 lakh in FY21. However, the number of new members who joined declined by 6.9 lakh in FY21 compared to an increase of 1.5 lakh in FY20. This indicates that lower number of people exited from job market in search for better/new jobs (which was obviously scarce during the pandemic-hit year).



"A breakup of the 95.4 lakhs job created by the EPFO payrolls, 41.2 lakh were through second jobs, 44 lakh through first jobs and 9.3 lakh were through formalization," he said. Ghosh added that the official numbers did not capture the 16.9 lakh decline in first-time jobs in FY21, though the number of second time jobs or those members who re-joined the payroll rose by 17.9 lakh. Even the rate of formalisation declined by 1.2 lakh, reflecting the disruptions in MSME sector. "Cumulatively, total payroll generation of EPFO and NPS was almost 19 lakh less than the previous fiscal," he says, adding in the private sector, most job losses were in smaller companies.

## Nifty hits record high as RIL zooms

Sensex soars 308 pts, NSE index gains 98 pts to end at 15,435.65 pts

MUMBAI

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

The rupee's rising streak and daily Covid-19 cases falling below the 2-lakh mark also spurred bullish sentiment, traders said. The Nifty surged 97.80 points or 0.64 per cent to finish at 15,435.65, closing at a record high for the second straight day. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 307.66 points or 0.60 per cent higher at 51,422.88.

Reliance Industries hogged the limelight in Friday's session, topping the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 5.90 per cent. M&M spurted 2.13 per cent after the homegrown auto major swung into black in the March quarter with a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 163 crore. HDFC twins, Kotak Bank, IndusInd Bank, ITC and Bharti Airtel were among the other gainers, climbing as much as 1.47 per cent.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv, Nestle India, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Dr Reddy's were among the laggards, tumbling up to 4.30 per cent. During the week, the Sensex rallied 882.40 points or 1.74 per cent, while the broader Nifty



surged 260.35 points or 1.71 per cent. "Domestic equities remained upbeat and recorded fresh high as improved prospects of economy recovery and strong 4QFY21 earnings continued to bolster investors' sentiments. A strong rebound in Reliance Industries was a key driving force," said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities. Sustained market rally added over Rs 3 trillion in investors' wealth this week, with the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies crossing the landmark \$3 trillion during the week, he noted. Further, a sharp drop in daily Covid-19 caseload in second wave (remaining below 2 lakhs despite higher testing) and improvement in recovery rates have emboldened investors in the last couple of days, he said.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research

## Ketto sees 250x rise in memorial fundraisers

HANS BUSINESS

HYDERABAD: Ketto.org, a crowd-funding platform, records an unprecedented surge in memorial fundraisers. Historically, the company has hosted over 2,200 fundraisers so far and raised over Rs 144 crore, but ever since the pandemic started, Ketto has seen an increase of 250 times in memorial fundraisers. The platform has hosted



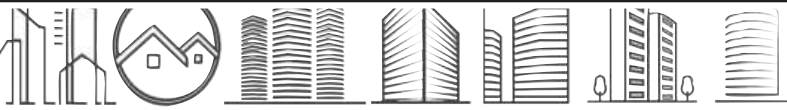
over 600 fundraisers and raised around Rs 31 crore during the pandemic. With an intent to honour the loss of a loved one, memorial fundraisers are usually started by friends and colleagues to offer financial support to the family of the deceased, especially in cases of children's education or whose income was dependent on the deceased. Varun Sheth, CEO and co-

founder Ketto.org, said, "We are noticing an unusual increase in memorial fundraisers and contributions coming across major cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad. In the last year, we have raised more than Rs 30 crore with the highest amounts being raised from Mumbai at 15 per cent followed by Delhi and Bengaluru at 12 per cent each and Chennai at Hyderabad contributing around 9 per cent."

## MEIL's 3 cryogenic tanks arrive



The second batch of three cryogenic oxygen tanks out of the 11 being imported by infrastructure major Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) landed in Air Force Station Begumpet on Friday. An Indian Air Force IL 76 AirCraft has took off from Chandigarh Air base to Bangkok in Thailand and airlifted the three cryogenic tanks and touch-down at Hyderabad. The remaining five tanks will reach Hyderabad within few days. MEIL is importing these tanks to provide medical oxygen free of cost to hospitals treating Covid patients.



## REAL CORNER



## RESIDENTIAL REALTY WILL TAKE 2 YRS TO RECOVER

Demand will touch pre-pandemic level only after FY23, says Crisil

MUMBAI

THE residential real estate sector demand will touch the pre-pandemic levels only after 2022-23, a domestic ratings agency said on Thursday. The top-six markets of Bengaluru, Hyderabad, the National Capital Region (NCR), Kolkata, Pune and Mumbai will collectively grow five-ten per cent by area in 2021-22 on improved affordability and work from home needs, Crisil said.

Two of these six markets, Pune and Mumbai, will show a contraction because of the stamp duty cut-fuelled demand in the previous fiscal year, it said. "Demand in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, the National Capital Region (NCR) and Kolkata is set to rise 40-45 per cent this fiscal after plunging 25-45 per cent last fiscal, propelled by better affordability and lower base," its Director Isha Chaudhary said.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Pune will likely see a contraction of 10-20 per cent this fiscal, after a 5-15 per cent growth last fiscal, with end-users concluding transactions to benefit from lower stamp duty, Chaudhary added. The agency said demand in the first half of this fiscal will be impacted by the



second wave of the pandemic but a healthy recovery is expected in the second half, much like the previous fiscal. "Absolute demand will catch up with pre-pandemic levels only after fiscal 2023," it said.

Affordability has improved by up to 30 per cent in the six cities during the past five years because of low interest rates, moderate price correction

MMR and Pune will likely see a contraction of 10-20 per cent this fiscal, after a 5-15 per cent growth last fiscal, with end-users concluding transactions to benefit from lower stamp duty

and reduction in stamp duty (especially in Maharashtra in fiscal 2021), the agency said. Established developers with well-managed balance sheets would grow faster than the industry, consolidate their presence, and sustain their credit profiles, the agency said. The established developers with a strong track record of timely delivery increased their market share to 25 per cent last fiscal from 21 per

cent in FY20, as they recovered faster in the second half and maintained, or even exceeded, pre-pandemic sales, it said.

Anand Kulkarni, a director at the agency, said the well established developers raised Rs 44,000 crore in the last five years via equity, and land and commercial assets monetisation. He added that the improved financials will help tackle stress from the second wave, meet growth needs and keep their credit profiles stable.

Some mid-sized, regional developers, which have historically maintained low leverage, are also expected to sustain their credit profiles, the agency said. However, leveraged developers dependent on debt as the primary source of capital will continue to struggle, crippled by high debt-to-total assets ratio of above 60 per cent, weak liquidity and limited ability to raise equity and monetise commercial assets. The agency expects a slowdown in new launches this fiscal, and developers to focus on sale of ready or near-complete properties, leading to a gradual reduction in inventory. It added that the impact of the pandemic on employment and incomes will also be monitored.

### Listed realty players' sales share widens amid Covid

NEWDELHI: The overall housing sales share of the top eight listed realty players has surged amid the pandemic. As per latest Anarock data, out of the total sales of around 93,140 units in the first nine months of FY21 across the top seven cities, the top eight listed players' share stood at 22 per cent while non-listed leading players' share was 18 per cent. Non-branded developers accounted for a 60 per cent share. In contrast, of the total 2.03 lakh units sold in top seven cities in FY17, the share of these top eight listed players was the lowest at about 6 per cent while that of non-listed leading players stood at 11 per cent and others (non-branded) had a whopping 83 per cent share.

The increased share of these top eight listed players over the years provides a clear roadmap of home buyers' evolving preferences. The top eight listed developers considered are Brigade Enterprises, Godrej Properties, Kolte-Patil, Mahindra Lifespaces, Oberoi Realty, Prestige Estates, Puravankara, and Sobha.

The top listed players together sold as much as 21.23 million square feet area in the first three quarters of financial year 2021 despite the first wave of Covid-19, rising by 2 per cent against the corresponding period in FY20, when 20.88 million square feet were sold.

## Timeline extension for projects by 9 mths likely

NEW DELHI

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

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

Naredco's representatives made several demands before the secretary to revive both demand and supply in the sector that has been badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The association sought extension of timeline for completion of projects by 6-9 months under the realty law RERA, extension of all building permissions till March 2023, rationalisation of government taxes on real estate, and control of rising prices of cement and steel.

It also sought reintroduction of interest subvention scheme, grant of input credit tax on GST

paid in leased commercial real estate, suspension of insolvency law for some more period, and an online environment clearance system.

Responding to the demand of extension of timeline for project completion, Mishra assured that he will "go in detail" to understand the matter.



"If need be, we will take this matter to RAC (RERA Advisory Council)," he said.

However, the secretary did mention that this relief was given last year because of the imposition of the national lockdown. On high taxes levied by the central and state governments on real estate, Mishra directed the ministry's senior officials to examine the matter in detail.

"We will try to reduce government levies," he said.

Regarding a rise in prices of steel and cement, Mishra said he took up this issue with the ministry's concerned and would discuss the issue again.

On the PMAY, he said 1.13 crore houses have already been sanctioned and out of that, 48 lakh have been completed and handed over to the people.



# Tokyo hopes end for Srikanth, Saina

**BWF says no further events in qualifying window**

NEW DELHI

KIDAMBI Srikanth and Saina Nehwal's slim hopes of qualifying for Tokyo Games ended after the game's governing body (BWF) on Friday made it clear there will not be any change in the current ranking list and no further tournament will be held inside the qualification period.

Former world no 1 Srikanth and London Games bronze-medallist Saina's hopes were all but dashed when the last of the Olympic qualifiers in Singapore was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The duo had hung on a slim hope when the governing body said it "will issue a further statement on Tokyo Olympics qualifying at a later date".

"The Badminton World Federation (BWF) can confirm no further tournaments will be played inside the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games qualifying window," the apex body said in a statement on Friday.

"As such, while the qualification period officially closes 15 June 2021 as per the Revised Tokyo 2020 Qualification System, the

current Race To Tokyo rankings list will not change."

Owing to the health crisis, the world body had earlier revised the qualification period, extending it by nearly two months to June 15 after postponement of three important events. However, with no respite from the

pandemic, BWF was forced to cancel or postpone the last three qualifiers -- India Open, Malaysia Open and Singapore Open, leaving players, including Srikanth and Saina, with no chance to earn a qualification.

"The Olympic qualification process is in effect closed as there are no additional opportunities for players to earn points," BWF secretary general Thomas Lund said. "However, we still need to receive confirmations from National Olympic Committees and Member Associations, followed by any possible reallocations, and this will take a number of

weeks to complete."

According to the qualification rules, the top 16 players - a maximum of two players each in men's and women's singles from a country - as on June 15 will gain direct entries.

The BWF said "invitations will be sent shortly with final participation lists and seedings to be published at the conclusion of this process."

Indian shuttlers who have already made the cut for the Olympics include PV Sindhu, B Sai Praneeeth and the men's doubles pairing of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy. (PTI)



## Amit Panghal storms into final of Asian Boxing C'ship

DUBAI

DEFENDING champion Amit Panghal (52kg) out-punched familiar foe Saken Bibossinov of Kazakhstan to enter the finals of the Asian Boxing Championships here on Friday.

The top-seeded Indian defeated Bibossinov 5-0. The Kazakh is a world championship bronze-medallist and had lost to silver-winner Panghal in the semifinals of that event as well. Panghal was in top form as he took control with his sharp counter-attacks against the defensively weaker Bibossinov.

The Indian played the waiting game to perfection as the third-seeded Bibossinov's plan to dazzle him with early aggression fell flat as the bout progressed. The world number one from Haryana be-

came the aggressor in the final round as Bibossinov ran out of steam.

On Thursday night, four Indian women boxers had advanced to the finals. Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom (51kg), Lalbuatsaihi (64kg), Pooja Rani (75kg) and Anupama (+81kg) won their bouts to make the summit clash.

Of these, Pooja got a walkover after her opponent pulled out. It was heartbreak for two-time world youth champion Sakshi Choudhary (54kg) as she lost her final spot after her rival, top-seeded

Kazakh Dina Zholaman, successfully challenged the narrow victory that she had clinched in the last-four stage. Sakshi had prevailed 3-2 in the regulation bout but the decision was challenged by the Kazakh team and eventually overturned. (PTI)



## Talking points ahead of the Champions League final

LONDON

MANCHESTER City and Chelsea meet in an all-English Champions League final in Porto on Saturday.

Here are some of the talking points in the match: **GUARDIOLA VS. TUCHEL** It's a meeting of two of the sharpest minds in soccer, seven years after Guardiola and Tuchel were first properly acquainted -- in a Munich restaurant where they talked tactics for hours using salt and pepper shakers as props and were so animated that waiters were too afraid to interrupt. Guardiola is the "benchmark," according to Tuchel, and is looking to win the 27th major trophy (excluding Spanish Super Cups and English Community Shields) of his 13-year coaching career. It's his third Champions League final -- a first in 10 years -- and he won his first two at Barcelona. Tuchel became the first coach to reach back-to-back finals with different clubs, having lost last year's title match with Paris Saint-Germain. The pair are so tactically astute that they are prone to overthinking in big matches. Indeed, whoever has more clarity in his thinking is likely to emerge victorious.

**TOO RESTED?** The teams have had contrasting buildups to the final. While City was able to rotate its lineup in the last weeks of the Premier League with the title wrapped up early, Chelsea was at full tilt through the end of the season to secure a top-four finish. **NO STRIKERS** Get ready for a strikerless final -- kind of. City is sure to go into the match without a genuine striker, with center forwards Sergio Aguero and Gabriel Jesus on the bench and attacking midfielders Kevin De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva alternating as "false nines." It's not the first time Guardiola has adopted this tactic -- he did so often at Barcelona -- but he has never had a team that spreads the goals around as much City's class of 2020-21 does.

Chelsea is also likely to start without the presence of an out-and-out striker. Timo Werner should start but potentially in a deeper, inside-left role. Mason Mount and either Christian Pulisic or Kai Havertz -- all three being attacking midfielders -- will complete Chelsea's forward line.

**DEFENSES RULE** It's unlikely to be a goal-fest at Estádio do Dragão. City and Chelsea had the best two defensive records both in the Premier League -- conceding 32 and 36 goals, respectively -- and in the group stage of the Champions League -- conceding one goal and two goals, respectively. In the knockout stage, the teams conceded only five goals (two by Chelsea, three by City) between them in 12 games. Chelsea's revival under Tuchel since his arrival in January has centered around being tight at the back and smothering the midfield through the energy of N'Golo Kante and Mateo Kovacic and the positioning of Jorginho. "We want to be annoying, a horrible team to play against," Chelsea defender Andreas Christensen said. City, meanwhile, has been transformed by the September signing of center back Ruben Dias, a 23-year-old Portugal international who has played like a veteran. (AP)

# Our preparation far from being ideal, expected lot more from Qatar association: Stimac

**'I'm confident India will qualify for 2023 AFC Asian Cup'**



KOLKATA

LIVID with the strict quarantine arrangements in Qatar, Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac on Friday said their preparation is "far from being ideal" for the upcoming World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Already out of contention for a World Cup berth, India will face Asian champions Qatar on June 3 before taking on Bangladesh (June 7) and Afghanistan (June 15) in their remaining group E matches, with an aim to qualify for the 2023 Asian Cup in China.

The Sunil Chhetri-led Blue Tigers, who were originally slated to reach Qatar on May 30, advanced their arrival to May 19. As per the strict quarantine, they are not allowed to train in gym, use the meeting hall or even eat

together.

"If I knew that everything will be like it is today, I would never accept to be honest. We

could organise such games in such way in India also. At the end we lost possibility of playing two home games," Stimac told reporters during a virtual interaction.

"Here we are now, not in great conditions. This is far away from a proper preparation for the World Cup qualifiers, but it is what it is. This is not a proper football work which needs to be obtained before the World Cup qualifiers."

Frustrated with the arrangements, Stimac continued: "I'm well aware that Qatar is future host of the World Cup, and we all know about the great facilities for football teams.

"But, as a coach, personally I expected a lot more from this organisation. I know that we changed all our plans due to the pandemic. I say a big thank you to Qatar govern-

ment for allowing us to come over here."

Under the current circumstances, the Indian players are forced to practice on the corridor, in front of their respective rooms, the 53-year-old Croatian World Cupper said. "I didn't expect this. I expected as a coach that we're going to have a possibility of using the gym."

"We are doing our morning sessions in the hall in front of our rooms, and our players are eating delivery food, which is left in front of our rooms. That's not proper preparation for a football players, I'm quite sure that the Qatari team is not in the same position."

Stimac said they are forced to go through all this despite being tested COVID-19 negative three times. "We were tested three times already, all the tests are negative. Why we don't have a proper meeting hall, so we can discuss and analyse our opponents, why we don't have a possibility of spending more time together, eating together. Instead of that we have one chance going out in the evenings for the training session, that's all."

With India reeling under a second wave of the pandemic, most of the players, barring the ones from Bengaluru FC and FC Goa who were involved in the AFC club tournaments, have not played any match since the ISL got over earlier this year.

But Stimac is hopeful that they would make the Asian Cup. Currently placed third with three points, India still have a bright chance to make the continental showpiece even if they finish last in their group. "I'm very confident that at the end of this journey, we will be in the AFC Cup. I know that our actual situation at the moment is far from ideal. The Qatar team is fully prepared."

"The Bangladesh side was playing in their league until recently. They will be much better prepared. 23 out of 28 players in the Afghanistan side are playing in Europe or in the United States, so they will be in full swing."

"On the other hand, you know the situation of our team. But what I can promise to all of you we're going to give everything we have at the moment, playing these games. Our

players will leave each atom of energy on the field, will do everything to get as many points as possible in these matches to qualify for the AFC Asian Cup. We can judge ourselves after that."

Stimac said they are eying a third-place finish in the group to make the cut. "We will try everything to finish third but if it's not possible, from whichever position we start further, we're going to do everything and qualify for the AFC cup."

The Indian team is bolstered by the return of their talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri who missed the two international friendlies in March due to COVID-19.

"Having Sunil Chhetri back is great for all of us. But we also need to be clever here, because there are three games in few days, so I need to be careful in where I use him."

The former Croatian coach's contract is up for renewal having served a two-year tenure already. "I'm not thinking about that (renewal). I'm fully concentrated on the job I need to do here. Everybody knows that in last 12 months we didn't have any action." (PTI)

## World Test Championship Final

# India, NZ to be adjudged joint winners in case of draw or tie

DUBAI

INDIA and New Zealand will be adjudged joint winners of the inaugural World Test Championship if their final clash in Southampton ends in a draw or tie, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Friday.

According to the playing conditions unveiled by the global body, "a draw or a tie will see both teams crowned as joint winners..." The ICC has also allocated a Reserve Day to make up for any lost time during the regular days of the Final, scheduled to be played from 18 to 22 June, with 23 June set aside as the Reserve Day.

"Both of these decisions were made in June 2018, prior to the commencement of the ICC World Test Championship."

The Reserve Day has been scheduled to ensure five full days of play, and it will only be used if lost playing time cannot be recovered through the normal provisions for each day. "There will be no ad-

ditional day's play if a positive result is not achieved after five full days of play and the match will be declared a draw in such a scenario," the ICC stated.

In the event of time being lost during the match, the ICC match referee will regularly update the teams and media about the way in which the Reserve Day may be used. The final decision on whether the Reserve Day needs to be used will be announced at the scheduled start of the last hour on the fifth day. While India play at home with SG Test and New Zealand use Kookaburra at home, the final will be played with Grade 1 Dukes balls.

The final will also feature the implementation of three changes to international playing conditions, which were brought into effect with the ongoing World Cup Super League series between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka:

**Short Runs --** The Third Umpire will automatically review any call of a 'short run' by the on-field umpire and communicate the decision prior to the next ball being bowled.

**Player Reviews --** The fielding captain or the dismissed batsman will be able confirm with the umpire whether a genuine attempt has been made to play the ball prior to deciding whether to initiate a review for LBW.

**DRS Reviews --** For LBW reviews, the height margin of the wicket zone has been lifted to the top of the stumps to ensure the same Umpire's Call margin around the stumps for both height and width. (PTI)



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