

# KAMAL SANDESH

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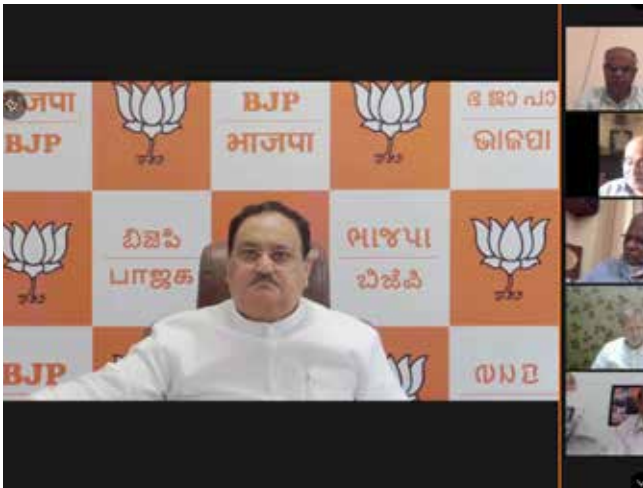
'BRINGING TREATMENT TO PATIENT'S DOORSTEP  
WILL REDUCE BURDEN ON HEALTH SYSTEM'



**'OUR FIGHT AGAINST 2ND WAVE OF COVID  
IS TO SAVE EVERY SINGLE LIFE'**



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda flagging-off Covid relief materials for Himachal Pradesh under BJP's 'Seva Hi Sangathan 2.0' camping in New Delhi.



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda addressing BJP State Presidents, In-charges, Office Bearers and MPs of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, J&K and Ladakh via video conferencing in New Delhi.



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda addressing Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh BJP State Presidents, Organisational Secretary, Prabhari, Sah-Prabhari and MPs via video conferencing in New Delhi.



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah reviewing the preparedness to tackle the situation arising out of Cyclone Yaas, which is forming in the Bay of Bengal.



Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh handing over the first batch of 2-DG anti Covid drug to the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan after it was released in New Delhi.

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**TAKE CARE OF EASE OF LIVING OF EVERY CITIZEN : PM MODI**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi through video conference interacted with field officials from States and Districts on...



**VAICHARIKI**

“INTEGRAL HUMANISM” 24

**SHRADHANJALI**

VETERAN J&K BJP LEADER CHAMAN LAL GUPTA NO MORE 26

MANIPUR BJP PRESIDENT S TIKEN SINGH PASSES AWAY DUE TO COVID COMPLICATIONS 26

**ARTICLE**

FIGHTING THE INVISIBLE ENEMY: MOD'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SURGE 28

CATCH THE RAIN: WHERE IT FALLS, WHEN IT FALLS 31

**OTHERS**

PM INTERACTS WITH GROUP OF DOCTORS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY 08

‘BRINGING TREATMENT TO PATIENT’S DOORSTEP WILL REDUCE BURDEN ON HEALTH SYSTEM’ 11

PM CHAIRS A HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON COVID AND VACCINATION RELATED SITUATION 13

1.5 LAKH UNITS OF OXYCARE SYSTEMS TO BE PROCURED THROUGH PM-CARES 15

CENTRAL GOVT TAKES HISTORIC PRO-FARMER DECISION OF HIKING FERTILISER 19

PM RELEASES 8TH INSTALLMENT WORTH OVER 20,000 CRORE TO 9.5 CRORE FARMERS 20

CABINET APPROVES 18,100 CRORE PLI SCHEME FOR BATTERY STORAGE 22

FDI HITS ALL-TIME HIGH IN FY21; FOREX RESERVES JUMP OVER \$100 BN 23



**09 DRDO'S ANTI-COVID DRUG 2-DG LAUNCHED**

Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan on May 17, 2021 released the first batch of Anti-Covid drug...

**16 HIMANTA BISWA SARMA BECOMES 15TH CHIEF MINISTER OF ASSAM**

The North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) convener and BJP senior leader Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma...



**18 N RANGASAMY TAKES OATH AS PUDUCHERRY CM**

AINRC leader Shri N Rangasamy was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Puducherry on 07 May, 2021 at a brief ceremony at Raj Nivas in Puducherry...

**27 PM ANNOUNCES 1,000 CRORE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN GUJARAT**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on May 19, 2021 visited Gujarat to...





## SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

**@narendramodi**

Took stock of the progress of the National Digital Health Mission, a futuristic endeavour that will ensure a range of top quality health services to our citizens and give a boost to 'Ease of Living.'



**@JPNadda**

When Hon PM Shri @narendramodi stands strong with the citizens of West Bengal in wake of cyclone Yaas, Mamata ji should also set aside her ego for the welfare of people. Her absence from the PM's meeting is murder of constitutional ethos & the culture of cooperative federalism.



**@rajnathsingh**

The 'Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD portal was launched on May 27 via video conferencing. This portal provides tele-medicine services to the serving Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families.



**@AmitShah**

Greetings to all technocrats and scientists on 'National Technology Day'. This day marks the anniversary of the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, which gave India a new strength and presence across the globe. Nation proudly remembers the remarkable achievements of our innovative minds.



**@Nitin Gadkari**

My heartiest gratitude to the Oxygen tanker drivers who have been working relentlessly to ensure supply of oxygen to hospitals and institutions. We salute these unnamed frontline workers who are instrumental in saving lives every day.



**@blsanthosh**

"Good news coming from #SputnikV manufacturers. RDIF, Russia & Panacea Biotech launch #SputnikV vaccine production in India. While some create #Toolkit to belittle India, PM @narendramodi Govt is ramping up vaccine production. #IndiaFightsBack



**RAPID RISE IN GREEN ENERGY**

**72% increase in green energy capacity in India from 80 GW in 2014 to 138 GW in 2020**

**1200% increase in solar energy capacity, from 2.6 GW in 2015 to 34 GW in 2020!**

One Sun, One World, One Grid of India will connect 140 countries through a common solar power grid

India is on track for 175GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022 and will work towards 450GW by 2030

#IndiasGreenFuture

**KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR**  
*wishes a very happy*  
**MAHARANA PRATAP JAYANTI** (13 JUNE)  
*to all of its readers*

# UNITED SPIRIT OF NATION WILL DEFEAT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**T**he nation is facing the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic with indomitable courage and indefatigable spirit. The people are united in their determination to defeat the pandemic and the reaching out to those in need with every kind of help and support showing the united spirit of the nation. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been continuously working to mobilize relief to the affected people by interacting with concerned groups and individuals. Apart from interacting with the chief ministers of the affected groups in a series of meetings earlier, the Prime Minister has also interacted with State and Districts officials, group of doctors across the country and manufacturers of medicines and vaccines and chaired various high level meetings to speed up the relief works. As the entire nation stood united, the intensity of the pandemic has started showing declining trends showing the signs that the second wave will be contained within a short time.

The Modi government has taken many initiatives to ensure supply of oxygen, required medical equipments and medicines apart from providing food grains to 80 crore people across the country to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. The centre has made available 17,755 oxygen concentrators, 15,961, cylinders, 19 oxygen plants

and 12,913 ventilators received as assistance from different countries/organization to various states. At the same time 1.5 lac unit of oxycare systems are being procured under PM-Cares funds. In addition to these, 21.80 crore vaccine doses have been provided to the states to speed up the world's largest and fastest vaccination drive. The result can be seen in the availability of oxygen, medical equipments, medicines and vaccines for the people across the country.

While the lockdowns announced by various state governments have slowed down life across the country but the farmers have been making India proud by their achievements even in the face of pandemic. In the year 2020-21, India has exported record 20 MT of rice in continuation of the last year trend when the export was doubled to 17.7 MT. Such achievements are the results of continuous encouragement by Modi government to the farmers which has enthused them with new energy and

determination. The transfer of 20,000 crore to the accounts of 9.5 crore farmers as eighth instalment under PM-KISAN is one such initiative which has empowered farmers across the nation with cash availability for their farming and other needs. The record procurement of wheat and rice is another such example which has not only rescued the farmers from the clutches of middlemen by transferring payment directly to the farmers but also provided the farmers with 50% more than their investment in the crops. The historic hike in the subsidy of DAP will further empower farmers in the country.

While the people are united in their fight against the pandemic, the nation is proud of its doctors, nurses, medical staffs, lab technicians, administrative officials and Corona warriors for waging the fight relentlessly even in the face of their own personal risks. The industrial sector, pharma sector and vaccine manufacturers have shown a rare unity in mobilising their strength to tide of the pandemic by supplying oxygen, medicines and vaccines on war level. At the same time it is highly unfortunate to note that a section of opposition led by Congress has tried to create panic in the country to serve their vested political interests. While it was the time to express solidarity with the sufferings of people by extending them all kinds of support in the fight against the pandemic the Congress has chosen to play politics in this hour of national crisis. The BJP is proud of its karyklatas who have rededicated themselves to the goals of 'Seva Hi Sangathan-2' and carried out massive relief works across the nation. There is no doubt that united spirit of nation will defeat the Covid-19 pandemic. ■

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**THE NATION IS PROUD OF ITS DOCTORS, NURSES, MEDICAL STAFFS, LAB TECHNICIANS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS AND CORONA WARRIORS FOR WAGING THE FIGHT RELENTLESSLY EVEN IN THE FACE OF THEIR OWN PERSONAL RISKS.**



## PM INTERACTS WITH STATE & DISTRICT OFFICIALS ON COVID SITUATION

# TAKE CARE OF EASE OF LIVING OF EVERY CITIZEN : PM MODI

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi through video conference interacted with field officials from States and Districts on May 18, 2021 regarding their experience in handling the Covid-19 pandemic. The interaction witnessed the participation of field level officials from various districts who are leading the battle of COVID-19.

During the interaction, the officials thanked the Prime Minister for leading the fight against the second wave of Covid from the front. The officials shared their

experiences and apprised the Prime Minister about the innovative steps that were undertaken to manage the recent surge of cases. They also informed about the efforts being undertaken to augment the medical infrastructure and capacity building in rural areas. PM Shri Modi asked the officials to compile the best practices and innovative steps so that these may be used in other districts of the country.

Addressing the officials after his interaction, the Prime Minister appreciated the

dedication and perseverance shown by the nation's healthcare workers, frontline workers and administrators during these difficult times, and urged them to continue working with similar vigour moving forward. The Prime Minister said that every district in the country is equally different and has its own unique challenges. He said to the district officials, "You understand the challenges of your district much better. So when your district wins, the country wins. When your district beats Corona, the country defeats Corona." He commended



the officials who were working without taking any leave in spite of contracting COVID-19. He added that they are inspiration to many and he understands the sacrifices made by them.

Shri Modi said that all the officials have a very important role in this war against Corona like a field commander of this war. He remarked that Local containment zones, aggressive testing and correct & complete information to the people are the weapons against the virus. At this time, the number of corona infections are decreasing in some states as well as increasing in several other states. So he stressed on the need to be more vigilant in the face of decreasing infections. He emphasized that the fight is to save every single life and the focus should be in rural and

### **HE REQUESTED THE OFFICIALS TO MAKE THE RELIEF MATERIAL EASILY ACCESSIBLE FOR THE RURAL POPULATION.**

inaccessible areas. He requested the officials to make the relief material easily accessible for the rural population.

PM Shri Modi advised the officials also to take care of the ease of living of every citizen of their district. He stressed on the need to stop infection and at the same time ensure unhindered flow of essential supplies. He informed that work is being done rapidly to install oxygen plants in hospitals in every district of the country through PM CARES Fund and these plants have already started functioning in many hospitals.

The Prime Minister spoke about how getting vaccinated is instrumental to lowering the severity of the disease and reducing hospitalizations and mortalities. He said continuous efforts are being made to increase the supply of Corona vaccine on a very large scale. He added that the Health Ministry is streamlining the system and process of vaccination. Attempts are being made to give a schedule of the next 15 days to the states in advance. He stressed on the need to stop vaccine wastage. He said the convenience of the people increases when information of bed availability and vaccine availability are easily made available. In the same way, black marketing should be curbed and strict action should be taken against those who do so. Mobilizing the front-line workers by keeping their morale high.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi commended the way villagers were maintaining social distance in their farm. He said villages grasp the information and modify it according to their needs. This is the strength of villages. He added we must adopt best practices against coronavirus. He gives free hand to them says you are free to innovate, suggest policy changes. He appeals to stay alert even with Covid cases reducing.

The meeting was attended by the Union Home Minister, Defence Minister, Health Minister, Chief Ministers of Various states, Member (Health) NITI Aayog, Health Secretary, Pharmaceutical Secretary, and other officers from PMO, Ministries and Departments of Central Government. ■

## 'ENTIRE COUNTRY IS INDEBTED TO THE MEDICAL FRATERNITY FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY SERVICE'

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on May 17, 2021 interacted with a Group of Doctors from across the country to discuss the Covid related situation.

The Prime Minister thanked the entire medical fraternity & the paramedical staff for the exemplary fight displayed by them against the extraordinary circumstances of the second wave of Covid, adding that the entire country is indebted to them. He noted that be it testing, supply of medicines or set-up of new infrastructure in record time, all these are being done at a fast pace. Several challenges of oxygen production and supply are being overcome. The steps taken by the country to augment human resources, like including MBBS students in Covid treatment, and ASHAs and Anganwadi workers in rural areas, provided extra support to the health system.

Shri Modi underlined that the strategy of starting vaccination programme with front line warriors has paid rich dividends in the second wave. About 90% of the health professionals in the country have already taken the first dose. Vaccines have ensured safety of most of the doctors.

He urged doctors to include oxygen audit in their daily efforts. Noting that a large number of patients are undergoing treatment in 'home isolation', he requested the doctors to ensure that the home based care of every patient is SOP driven. He said that telemedicine has played a big role for patients in home isolation, and this service needs to be expanded in rural areas as well. He lauded the doctors who are forming teams and providing telemedicine service in villages. He appealed to doctors across the states to form similar teams, train final year MBBS students and MBBS interns, and work towards ensuring that all Tehsils and districts of the country have telemedicine service.

### PM DISCUSSES THE CHALLENGE OF MUCORMYCOSIS

PM Shri Modi also discussed the challenge of



Mucormycosis and said that doctors may need to put in extra effort towards taking active steps and spreading awareness about it. He further underscored the importance of psychological care, along with the importance of physical care. He said that continuously fighting this long battle against the virus must be mentally challenging for the medical fraternity, but the power of faith of citizens stands with them in this fight.

During the interaction, the Doctors thanked the Prime Minister for his guidance and leadership during the recent surge of cases. Doctors thanked the Prime Minister for prioritising the health care workers for vaccination. They informed Shri Modi about their preparedness since the first wave of Covid and the challenges they faced in the second wave. The doctors shared their experiences, best practices and the innovative efforts. They informed that in the fight against Covid, every effort is also being made to take proper care of non-Covid patients. They also shared their experiences of increasing awareness among the public, including about sensitizing patients against improper use of medicines.

The meeting was attended by Member (Health) NITI Aayog, Health Secretary, Pharmaceutical Secretary and other officers from PMO, Ministries and Departments of Central Government. ■





## DRDO'S ANTI-COVID DRUG 2-DG LAUNCHED WILL REDUCE RECOVERY TIME & OXYGEN DEPENDENCY

**U**nion Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan on May 17, 2021 released the first batch of Anti-Covid drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The drug has been developed by DRDO's Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories.

DRDO Chairman Dr G Satheesh Reddy said that DRDO and Dr Reddy's lab had gone through the complete trials and conducted trials across 30 hospitals and on a large number of patients.

The first batch of 10,000 doses of 2DG medicine would be launched early next week, informed the DRDO. The drug comes in powder form in a sachet, which is taken orally by dissolving it in water. It accumulates in the virus-infected cells and prevents virus growth by stopping viral synthesis and energy production. Its selective accumulation in virally infected cells makes this drug unique.

In the ongoing second Covid-19 wave, a large number of patients are facing severe oxygen dependency and need hospitalisation. The drug is expected to save

precious lives due to the mechanism of operation of the drug in infected cells. This also reduces the hospital stay of Covid-19 patients.

**'NO MATTER HOW BIG THE DIFFICULTY IS, WE WILL OVERCOME IT'**

On the occasion Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said, "We do not need to be relaxed, nor should we get tired. Because this wave has come for the second time, and there is nothing definite about this. We have to take steps with full caution," he said at the event in DRDO headquarters.

Shri Singh said the government has taken the overall situation very seriously, whether it is the matter of oxygen supply or ensuring ICU beds or the arrangement of cryogenic tankers for transportation of liquid oxygen.

"I am happy to say that the Medical Corps has also decided to take back its retired doctors so that our health system can be strengthened further. I heartily commend such physicians who are joining this campaign even after their service," Shri Singh said.

The Defence Minister also listed efforts of the armed forces in helping civilian authorities deal with the situation across the country. However, he asserted

that deployment of the armed forces for Covid-relief measures has not impacted their operational preparedness at the borders.

Shri Singh said, "The clinical trials of the drug 2-DG showed that it helps in faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces supplemental oxygen dependence. The approval of the drug has come at a time India has been grappling with a record-breaking wave of coronavirus pandemic that has stretched the country's healthcare infrastructure to its limit". He said, "No matter how big the difficulty is, we will overcome it".

### **'2-DG WILL REDUCE RECOVERY TIME & OXYGEN DEPENDENCY'**

Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that the recovery time from COVID-19 infection and oxygen dependency will be reduced by anti-Covid drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

While speaking at the release ceremony of the first batch of the 2-DG drug, Dr. Vardhan said, "With the support of DRDO and in the leadership of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, this (anti-COVID drug

2DG) may be our first indigenous research-based outcome to fight against Covid-19. It will reduce recovery time and oxygen dependency."

"I hope that this drug will serve the world and not just India in the fight against Covid-19 in the coming days," he further said.

"We have been combating Covid-19 for the past year and our scientists have developed the vaccine and made it available to the public. I thank and congratulate DRDO and its scientists. We have seen that under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership DRDO has played an important role in the fight against COVID-19," he added.

He also expressed happiness in the Covid-19 recovery rate in the country. "Today is a special and happy day for all of us as we have seen that the number of recovered cases have exceeded the number of active cases by more than one lakh," he added.

In the ongoing second COVID-19 wave, a large number of patients are facing severe oxygen dependency and need hospitalisation. The drug is expected to save precious lives due to the mechanism of operation of the drug in infected cells. This also reduces the hospital stay of Covid-19 patients. ■

## **GOVERNMENT EXTENDS ALL HELP TO MANUFACTURERS TO ENHANCE PRODUCTION OF MEDICINES: PM**

**P**M Shri Narendra Modi chaired a high level meeting to review the availability & supply of oxygen & medicines on May 12, 2021. Shri Narendra Modi also took stock of the situation on oxygen availability and supply in the country. It was discussed that the supply of oxygen is now more than three times the supply during the peak of first wave. PM Shri Modi was briefed about the operations of oxygen rail and sorties by IAF planes. He was also informed about the status of procurement of Oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders as well as the status of PSA plants being installed across the country.

PM Shri Modi was briefed that the Government is actively monitoring the supply of drugs being used in the management of Covid as well Mucormycosis. The Minister updated PM that they are in regular touch

with the manufacturers to enhance production & extend all kind of help needed. He was also informed about the current production & stock of APIs for each such drug. It was discussed that states are being provided medicines in good quantities. PM was also apprised that the production of all drugs including Remdesivir have been ramped up significantly in the last few weeks.

Shri Narendra Modi said that India has a very vibrant Pharma sector and Government's continued close coordination with them will ensure proper availability of all medicines.

The PM also remarked that states should be asked to operationalize ventilators in a time-bound manner and resolve technical & training issues with the help of the manufacturers. ■



## PM INTERACTS WITH DOCTORS AND OFFICIALS OF VARANASI

# 'BRINGING TREATMENT TO PATIENT'S DOORSTEP WILL REDUCE BURDEN ON HEALTH SYSTEM'

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with doctors and officials of Varanasi on May 21, 2021 through video conference. During the interaction, the doctors and officials of Varanasi thanked the Prime Minister for his continuous and proactive leadership that helped in ramping up health infrastructure and ensured adequate supply of necessary medications and critical equipment like ventilators and oxygen concentrators.

The Prime Minister was informed about the efforts undertaken in the last one month to contain the spread of Covid, vaccination status, and the ongoing steps and plans to prepare the district for future challenges. The doctors also informed the Prime Minister that they have been vigilant about the threat of Mucormycosis and have already taken steps and created facilities for the management of the disease.

Shri Modi underscored the importance of continuous training of the manpower fighting Covid and advised the officials and doctors to conduct training sessions and webinars, especially for the paramedical staff and doctors serving in the rural areas. He also asked the officials to work towards bringing down vaccine wastage in the district. He

commended the work done by the doctors, nurses, technicians, ward boys, ambulance drivers and other frontline health workers of Kashi. He paid tributes to all those who lost their loved ones. He praised the speed with which the number of oxygen and ICU beds has been increased in such a short time in Banaras and the way the Pandit Rajan Mishra Kovid Hospital has been activated at such a short notice. He expressed happiness that the Integrated Covid command system in Varanasi worked very well and said Varanasi's example inspires the world.

Prime Minister Shri Modi lauded the efforts of the medical team in containing the epidemic to a great extent. He also warned against complacency and urged them to engage in fighting a long battle right now by focusing on the rural areas of Benaras and Purvanchal. He said that the plans that have been made and the campaigns that have been run in our country in the last few years have helped a lot in fighting Corona. Initiatives like the toilets built under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the free treatment facilities under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, the gas cylinders under the Ujjwala scheme, the Jan Dhan bank accounts or the Fit India campaign, awareness

of Yoga and AYUSH have increased the strength of the people in the fight against Corona.

The Prime Minister provided a new mantra in Covid Management : 'जहां बीमार वही उपचार'. He remarked that bringing the treatment to the patient's doorstep will reduce the burden on the health system. The Prime Minister also hailed the initiative of micro containment zones and appreciated the home delivery of medicines. He requested the health workers to make this campaign as comprehensive as possible in rural areas. He said bringing doctors, labs and e-marketing companies together to provide a tele-medicine facility named 'Kashi Kavach' is also a very innovative initiative.

Shri Modi emphasized the important role played by ASHA and ANM sisters in the ongoing war against COVID-19 in the villages and urged the health officials to take maximum advantage of their potential and experience. He added that during this second wave, the front line workers have been able to serve the people safely because they were already vaccinated.

He urged everyone to administer the vaccine when their turn comes.

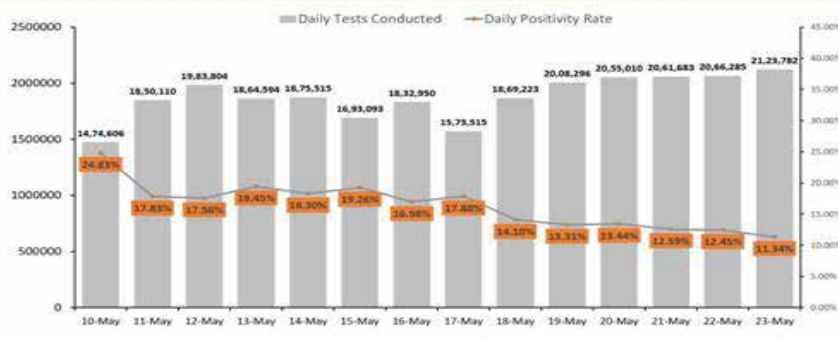
The Prime Minister gave the example of substantial control of 'encephalitis cases in children' in the Purvanchal region due to active efforts of the UP government and urged the officials and doctors to work with the same sensitivity and vigilance. He cautioned against the new challenge posed by Black Fungus in the battle against the pandemic. He added that it is important to pay attention to the precautions and arrangements required to deal with it.

The Prime Minister hailed the leadership provided by public representatives of Varanasi in the fight against Covid. He urged the public representatives to remain connected with the public and advised them to show full sensitivity towards their concern despite criticisms. He added that if any citizen has any grievance, then it is the responsibility of the public representatives to be concerned about it. He also praised the people of Varanasi for keeping the promise of maintaining the city clean. ■

## INDIA SETS A NEW RECORD AGAIN WITH HIGHEST EVER 21.23 LAKH TESTS IN ONE DAY

With more than 21.23 Lakh tests conducted in the last 24 hours of 23 May, 2021 India has again set a new record of highest tests conducted in a single day. This is also the fifth successive day of more than 20 lakh tests in India. India has significantly ramped up its testing capacity to about 25 lakh tests per day, since Jan 2020. In other positive development, India has recorded less than 3 lakh Daily New Cases for seven consecutive days now.

### More than 20 lakh tests conducted daily in the last 5 days



2,40,842 Daily New Cases were registered in the last 24 hours. This is the lowest figure since 17th April 2021, when the daily new cases were 2.34 lakh. India's Daily Recoveries continue to outnumber the Daily New Cases for the ninth consecutive day. 3,55,102 recoveries were registered in the last 24 hours.

India's cumulative recoveries have reached 2,34,25,467 today. The National Recovery Rate has grown further to touch 88.30%. On the other hand, India's total Active Caseload has decreased to 28,05,399. A net decline of 1,18,001 is witnessed in the last 24 hours. It now comprises 10.57% of the country's total Positive Cases. The National Mortality Rate currently stands at 1.13%. Ten States account for 73.88% of the new deaths. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties (682). Karnataka follows with 451 daily deaths. ■

# PM CHAIRS A HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON COVID AND VACCINATION RELATED SITUATION

**P**M Shri Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the Covid and vaccination related situation in the country on May 15, 2021. Officials briefed the PM on the current Covid related situation in the country. PM Shri Modi was briefed that testing has gone up rapidly in the country, from around 50 lakh tests per week in early March to around 1.3 crore tests per week now. They also informed the PM about the gradually decreasing test positivity rate and increasing recovery rate. It was discussed that cases which had gone over 4 lakh cases per day are now coming down as a result of the efforts by healthcare workers, state governments and central government.

Officials gave a detailed presentation on the state & district level situation of Covid, testing, oxygen availability, healthcare infrastructure, vaccination roadmap.

Shri Modi said that localised containment strategies are the need of the hour specially for states where TPR in districts is high. He instructed that testing needs to be scaled up further, with use of both RT PCR and Rapid Tests, especially in areas with high test positivity rates. PM said that states should be encouraged to report their numbers transparently without any pressure of high numbers showing adversely on their efforts.

Shri Modi asked for augmentation of healthcare resources in rural areas to focus on door to door testing & surveillance. He also spoke about empowering ASHA & Anganwadi workers with all necessary tools. He asked for guidelines to be made available in easy language along with illustrations for home isolation and treatment in rural areas.

The Prime Minister directed that a distribution plan for ensuring oxygen supply in rural areas should be worked out, including through provision of Oxygen Concentrators. The Prime Minister added that necessary training should be provided to

health workers in the operation of such equipment, and power supply should be ensured for smooth operation of such medical devices.

The Prime Minister took serious note of some reports about ventilators lying unutilized in storage in some states and directed that an immediate audit of installation and operation of ventilators provided by the Central Government should be carried out. The Prime Minister added that refresher training for properly operating ventilators should be provided to healthcare workers if necessary.

Shri Narendra Modi said that India's fight against Covid has been guided throughout by scientists and subject experts and will continue being guided by them.

Officials briefed also about the vaccination process and

the state-wise coverage of 45+ population. The roadmap for future vaccine availability was also discussed. He directed officials to work closely with states to ramp up the speed of vaccination.

## INDIA'S FIGHT AGAINST COVID HAS BEEN GUIDED THROUGHOUT BY SCIENTISTS AND SUBJECT EXPERTS AND WILL CONTINUE BEING GUIDED BY THEM.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Testing has gone up from around 50 lakh tests per week in early March to around 1.3 crore tests per week now.
- Localized containment strategies are the need of the hour.
- PM instructed that testing needs to be scaled up further in areas with high test positivity rates.
- PM asks for augmentation of healthcare resources in rural areas to focus on door to door testing & surveillance.
- Empower ASHA & Anganwadi workers with all necessary tools to boost fight in rural areas.
- Important to ensure proper distribution of oxygen supply in rural areas.
- Necessary training should be provided to health workers in the operation of ventilators & other equipment. ■

## MORE THAN 21.80 CRORE VACCINE DOSES PROVIDED TO STATES/UTS

**A**s part of the nationwide vaccination drive, Government of India has been supporting the States and UTs by providing them COVID Vaccines free of cost. In addition, the Govt. of India has also been facilitating direct procurement of vaccines by the States/UTs. Vaccination is an integral pillar of the comprehensive strategy of Government of India for containment and management of the pandemic, along with Test, Track, Treat and COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

Implementation of the Liberalized and Accelerated Phase-3 Strategy of Covid-19 Vaccination has started from 1st May 2021. Under the Strategy, in every month 50% of the total Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) cleared vaccine doses of any manufacturer would be procured by Govt. of India. It would continue to make these doses available to the State Govts totally free of cost as was being done earlier.



Till 24 May 2021, Government of India has provided both through the free of cost category and through direct state procurement category, more than 21.80 crore vaccine doses (21,80,51,890) to States/UTs. Of this, the total consumption, calculated based on average up to 23rd May 2021, including wastages is 20,00,08,875 doses. More than 1.80 crore COVID Vaccine doses (1,80,43,015) are still available with the States/UTs to be administered. ■

## 17,755 OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS; 15,961 CYLINDERS; 19 OXYGEN PLANTS & 12,913 VENTILATORS DELIVERED TO STATES

**T**he Government of India has been receiving international cooperation of COVID-19 relief medical supplies and equipment since 27th April, 2021 from different countries/organisations. These are being promptly dispatched/delivered to the States and UTs.

Cumulatively, 17,755 Oxygen Concentrators; 15,961 Oxygen Cylinders; 19 Oxygen Generation Plants; 12,913 ventilators/ BiPAP; ~6.9 L Remdesivir vials delivered/ dispatched through road and air, from 27th April 2021 to 23rd May 2021.

Effective immediate allocation, and streamlined delivery to the recipient states/UTs and institutions is an ongoing exercise. The Union Health Ministry is comprehensively monitoring this on a regular basis.

A dedicated Coordination Cell has been created in the Union Health Ministry to coordinate the receipt



and allocation of foreign COVID relief material as international cooperation in the form of grants, aid and donations. This Cell started functioning from 26th April, 2021. A Standard Operating Procedure has been framed and implemented by the Health Ministry since 2nd May, 2021. ■

# 1.5 LAKH UNITS OF OXYCARE SYSTEMS TO BE PROCURED THROUGH PM-CARES

**P**M-CARES Fund has accorded sanction for procurement of 1,50,000 units of Oxycare System at a cost of Rs 322.5 Crore. It is a comprehensive system developed by DRDO to regulate oxygen being administered to patients based on the sensed values of their SpO2 levels.

The system has been developed in two Configurations. The basic version consists of a 10 litre Oxygen cylinder, a Pressure Regulator cum Flow Controller, a Humidifier and a Nasal Cannula. The Oxygen flow is regulated manually based on the SpO2 readings. The intelligent configuration includes a system for automatic regulation of Oxygen through a Low Pressure Regulator, Electronic Control System and an SpO2 Probe in addition to the basic version.

SpO2 Based Oxygen Control System optimises consumption of oxygen based on the SpO2 level of the patient and effectively increases the endurance of portable Oxygen cylinder. The threshold SpO2 value for initiating flow from the system can be adjusted by the health staff and the SpO2 levels are continuously monitored and displayed by the system. It reduces the work load and exposure of healthcare providers by eliminating the need of routine measurement and manual adjustments of Oxygen flow, thereby facilitating tele-consultation also. The automatic system also provides suitable audio warning for various failure scenarios including low SpO2 values and probe disconnections. These Oxycare systems can be used at Homes, Quarantine Centers, COVID Care Centers and Hospitals.

In addition, Non-Rebreather Masks (NRM) are integrated with the Oxycare Systems for efficient use of oxygen which results in saving of Oxygen by 30-40%.

DRDO has transferred the technology to multiple industries in India who will be producing the Oxycare Systems for use all across India.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- PM-CARES Fund to procurement 1,50,000 units



of Oxycare System at a cost of Rs 322.5 Crore.

- Comprehensive system developed by DRDO to regulate oxygen being administered to patients based on the sensed values of their SpO2 levels.
- DRDO has transferred the technology to multiple industries in India who will be producing the Oxycare Systems for use all across India.
- Oxycare system reduces the work load and exposure of healthcare providers by eliminating the need of routine measurement and manual adjustments of Oxygen flow.

The current medical protocol recommends oxygen therapy for all severe and critical Covid-19 patients. Given the current status of oxygen generation, transport and storage, oxygen cylinders have proved to be effective. Considering the present COVID pandemic situation with large number of individuals requiring oxygen therapy, sourcing only one type of system may not be practical, as all the manufacturing plants making the basic building blocks of the system are already running at their maximum capacity. A mix and match of the system would prove to be a useful arrangement in the given situation. While the capacity of existing domestic manufacturers of carbon-manganese steel cylinders is very limited, as an alternative, DRDO has suggested light material portable cylinders which can easily act as substitutes for normal oxygen cylinders. ■



**BJP LED NDA GOVERNMENT TAKES OATH IN ASSAM**

## HIMANTA BISWA SARMA BECOMES 15TH CHIEF MINISTER OF ASSAM

**T**he North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) convener and BJP senior leader Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma took oath as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam on 09 May, 2021. Along with the CM, 13 other Ministers of his cabinet also took oath. He was being administered the oath by Hon'ble Assam Governor Shri Jagdish Mukhi at the Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati. BJP National President Shri JP Nadda and other senior leaders including former Assam CM Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Tripura Chief Minister Shri Biplab Deb, Meghalaya CM Shri Conrad Sangma, Manipur CM Shri N Biren Singh and Nagaland CM Shri Neiphiu Rio were present at the swearing-in ceremony.

The new CM Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, clad in traditional 'pat silk' dhoti and kurta with a muga 'gamosa' draped around his neck, took the oath of office and secrecy in Assamese. Later in a twitter message he said, "Offering my respect to all residents of the state, and following in the footsteps of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, I have taken the responsibility as the Chief Minister of the holy state of Assam and promise to serve with honesty,

determination and devotion."

Showing his gratitude to the BJP National President, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma in a message said, "My gratitude to the BJP National President Shri JP Nadda for your blissful presence when a new dawn takes place in Assam. Sir, your guidance and blessings will help us not only come up to people's expectations but also do much more good to build a great Assam".

Earlier, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma was elected unanimously by the Bharatiya Janata Legislature Party which met in Guwahati on 09 May, 2021. The Central observers including Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, BJP National Vice President & Assam In-charge Shri Baijayant Panda, BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri BL Santhosh and BJP National General Secretary Shri Arun Singh were present in the Legislature Party meeting. The name of Shri Sarma was proposed by the outgoing CM Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and seconded by BJP State President Shri Ranjeet Kumar Dass and Smt. Nandita Garlosa, MLA.

"As no other name was proposed, Shri Sarma



was elected unanimously as the BJP legislature party leader,” Shri Narendra Singh Tomar informed the media persons.

Speaking after the legislature party meeting, the outgoing CM Shri Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted how the BJP government had managed to restore peace and expedited development in Assam. “The government had managed to restore peace and ensure progress and security. People’s faith and trust in us increased as evident from this victory. Given his long experience, I am confident Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma will take the state to new highs,” Shri Sonowal said.

Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma said Assam had seen value-based politics in the last five years under Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. He said Shri Sonowal’s tenure was spotless. “We will march ahead by following in Shri Sonowal’s footsteps. I promise the new government will maintain value-based politics. Shri Sonowal was our leader and he will remain so”.

Expressing his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for reposing faith in him, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma said, “I feel enormously blessed Hon’ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji for your faith in me. This is the biggest day in my life, and I so fondly cherish your generous affection. I assure you, we shall leave no stone unturned to carry forward your vision of taking Assam and the North-East to greater heights”.

Later in the evening, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma along with Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and other

leaders of BJP-led alliance met Governor Shri Jagdish Mukhi and submitted a list of legislators to him, staking claim to form the government.

Noteworthy, in Assam’s history, for the very first time a non-Congress government has returned to power following the 2021 Assembly election. The BJP-led NDA won consecutive second terms and retained power in the northeastern state. The ruling NDA got total 75 seats in the 126-member house.

**PM CONGRATULATES NEW CM OF ASSAM**

Congratulating Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma on taking oath as Assam CM, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in a twitter message said, “Congratulations to @himantabiswa Ji and the other Ministers who took oath today. I am confident this team will add momentum to the development journey of Assam and fulfill aspirations of the people”.

**NDA GOVT WILL FULFIL ASPIRATIONS OF ASSAM: JP NADDA**

Congratulating Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda in a twitter message said, “Congratulations to @himantabiswa ji on taking oath as Chief Minister of Assam. I also congratulate all those who took oath as Ministers in the Assam Government. I am confident that under the guidance of Hon’ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji, NDA Government will fulfil all the aspirations of the state”. ■

**‘SEVA HI SANGATHAN’ CAMPAIGN DURING 2ND WAVE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC**



Under the second phase of nationwide ‘Seva Hi Sangathan’ program, the BJP Karyakartas of Kanpur, Meerut, Jhansi and Chitrakoot from Uttar Pradesh and Puducherry distribute food, ration, face guards, steamers and other essential items to the needy.

# **N RANGASAMY TAKES OATH AS PUDUCHERRY CM**

**A**INRC leader Shri N Rangasamy was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Puducherry on 07 May, 2021 at a brief ceremony at Raj Nivas in Puducherry. Lt. Governor Smt. Tamilisai Soundararajan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri Rangasamy, who has become Chief Minister for the fourth time. Earlier, the Chief Secretary read out the Presidential notification appointing Shri Rangasamy as the Chief Minister. Shri N Rangasamy took the oath in Tamil.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri G Kishan Reddy, Tamil Nadu BJP President Shri L Murugan, Karnataka BJP Vice President and party Puducherry in-charge Shri Nirmal Kumar Surana, Rajya Sabha MP Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Puducherry MP Shri N Gokulakrishnan, MLAs of AINRC, BJP, AIADMK leaders and elected members from the opposition Congress and DMK participated in the swearing-in ceremony.

Shortly after swearing-in as the Chief Minister, Shri Rangasamy reached his chamber in the legislative assembly and signed three government orders providing rice free of cost to the beneficiaries through fair price shops, extending old age and widow pension to 10,000 fresh beneficiaries and extending educational assistance to the students sponsored by the Centralized Admission Committee to pursue professional courses.



Speaking to reporters, Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri G Kishan Reddy said the AINRC and

**BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY, WHICH HAD NO PRESENCE IN THE REGION UNTIL NOW, HAD SECURED SIX SEATS. AFTER KARNATAKA, THIS IS THE SECOND STATE IN SOUTH INDIA WHERE THE NDA HAS FORMED ITS GOVERNMENT.**

BJP have agreed on the expansion of the Puducherry cabinet. The AINRC and BJP will have three ministerial berths each and BJP will get the deputy Chief Minister post. The cabinet will be expanded within a few days.

He said the NDA will take the UT on the path of rapid progress and fulfill the commitments made to the people as soon as possible.

After the oath-taking, Shri Rangasamy said the NDA government would strive hard for the development of Puducherry and for amelioration of the welfare

of the people.

Notable, the BJP has scripted a history in Puducherry following the 2021 Assembly election results. For the first time, the BJP and AINRC alliance has swept in Puducherry by winning a conformable majority in the Assembly. As per the Election Commission of India data, the AINRC had won 10 seats while the ally Bharatiya Janata Party, which had no presence in the region until now, had secured six seats. After Karnataka, this is the second state in South India where the NDA has formed its government.

## **PM CONGRATULATES NEW CM OF PUDUCHERRY**

Congratulating Shri N.Rangasamy on taking oath as Puducherry CM, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in a twitter message said, "I would like to congratulate Shri N.Rangasamy Ji on taking oath as Puducherry CM. Best wishes for the tenure ahead". ■

## CENTRAL GOVT TAKES HISTORIC PRO-FARMER DECISION OF HIKING FERTILISER

### SUBSIDY ON DAP FERTILISER HIKED BY 140% TO RS.1,200 PER BAG

**P**M Narendra Modi chaired a high level meeting on the issue of fertiliser prices on May 19, 2021. A detailed presentation was given to him on the issue of fertiliser prices. It was discussed that the price of fertilisers is undergoing an increase due to the rising prices of phosphoric acid, ammonia etc internationally. PM stressed that farmers should get fertilisers at old rates despite the international rise in prices.

A historic decision was taken to increase the subsidy for DAP fertiliser from Rs. 500 per bag to Rs. 1200 per bag, which is an increase of 140%. Thus, despite the rise in international market prices of DAP, it has been decided to continue selling it at the older price of Rs.1200 and the central government has decided to bear all the burden of price hike. The amount of subsidy per bag has never been increased so much at once.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Subsidy on DAP fertiliser hiked by 140%



- Farmers to get subsidy of Rs 1200 per bag of DAP instead of Rs 500
- Farmers to get a bag of DAP for Rs 1200 instead of Rs 2400
- Government to spend additional Rs 14,775 crore towards this subsidy
- Farmer should get fertilisers at old rates despite international price rise
- Welfare of Farmers at the core of Government's efforts

Last year, the actual price of DAP was Rs 1,700 per bag. In which the Central Government was giving a subsidy of Rs. 500 per bag. So the companies were selling fertilizer to farmers for Rs 1200 per bag.

Recently, the international prices of phosphoric acid, ammonia etc. used in DAP have gone up by 60% to 70%. So the actual price of a DAP bag is now

Rs 2400, which could be sold by Fertilizer companies at Rs 1900 after considering a subsidy of Rs 500. With today's decision, farmers will continue to get a DAP bag for Rs 1200.

PM remarked that his Government is committed to the welfare of farmers and will take all efforts to ensure that farmers do not have to face the brunt of price-rise. The Central Government spends about Rs 80,000 crore on subsidies for chemical fertilisers every year. With the increase in subsidy in DAP, Government of India will spend an additional Rs 14,775 crore as subsidy in Kharif season.

This is the second major decision in the farmers' interest, after directly transferring Rs. 20,667 crore in Farmers' account under PM-KISAN on the day of Akshay Tritiya. ■

#### CUMULATIVE VACCINATIONS IN INDIA CROSS 19.50 CRORE

Under the Phase-3 of the nationwide Vaccination Drive the cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country exceeded 19.50 Crore on 23 May, 2021.

A total of 19,50,04,184 vaccine doses have been administered through 28,00,808 sessions, as per the provisional report. These include 97,52,900 HCWs who have taken the 1st dose and 67,00,614 HCWs who have taken the 2nd dose, 1,49,52,345 FLWs (1stdose), 83,26,534 FLWs (2nddose), 99,93,908 beneficiaries under 18-44 age group (1stdose), 6,06,90,560 (1stdose) and 97,87,289 (2nd dose) beneficiaries aged 45 to 60 years. 5,65,55,558 1stdose beneficiaries and 1,82,44,476 2nd dose beneficiaries of more than 60 years old. ■

# PM RELEASES 8TH INSTALLMENT WORTH OVER 20,000 CRORE TO 9.5 CRORE FARMERS

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released 8th installment of financial benefit of Rs 2,06,67,75,66,000 to 9,50,67,601 beneficiary farmers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme on May 14, 2021 via video conferencing. Prime Minister also interacted with farmer beneficiaries during the event. Union Agriculture Minister was also present on the occasion.

While interacting with beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme via video conferencing, Prime Minister appreciated Arvind from Unnao in Uttar Pradesh for providing training to young farmers of his region on organic farming and new farming techniques. He lauded Patrick from Car Nicobar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for doing large-scale organic farming. He praised the efforts taken by N Vennurama from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh for guiding more than 170 adivasi farmers of her region. PM appreciated Revistar from Meghalaya for producing spices like Ginger powder, turmeric, cinnamon, etc in the hilly areas of Meghalaya. He also interacted with Khurshid Ahmed from Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir who cultivates vegetables like capsicum, green chillies and cucumber organically.



Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said for the first time, the farmers of West Bengal would be getting the benefit of this scheme. He lauded the efforts of the farmers who have made

**THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSTANTLY TRYING TO PROVIDE NEW SOLUTIONS AND NEW OPTIONS IN FARMING. PROMOTING ORGANIC FARMING IS ALSO ONE OF SUCH EFFORT.**

record produce in food grains and horticulture amidst the difficulties during this pandemic. He said Government is also setting new records in procurement at MSP every year. Paddy procurement at MSP had set new records and now wheat procurement at MSP is also setting new records. He added that so far this year, about 10 percent more wheat has been

procured at MSP, compared to last year. So far, about Rs. 58,000 crores for wheat procurement has reached the farmers' account directly.

Prime Minister remarked that the Government is constantly trying to provide new solutions and new options in farming. Promoting organic farming is also one of such effort. Organic farming delivers more profit and is now being practiced across the nation by young farmers. He said that now organic farming is being practiced on both banks of Ganga and within a radius of about 5 kilometers, so that the Ganga remains clean.

Prime Minister stressed that during this COVID-19 pandemic, Kisan Credit Card's deadline has been extended and instalments can now be renewed by 30 June. He said more than 2 crore Kisan Credit Cards have been issued in recent years. ■

# RIDING ON DIRECT PAYMENT, PUNJAB WHEAT PROCUREMENT HITS NEW HIGH



**I**n the midst of the second corona virus surge, Punjab has surpassed all previous records in wheat procurement for the Rabi season. Government agencies have procured 132.08 lakh metric tonnes of wheat, 2 lakh metric tonnes more than the target set by the government, with more than 9 lakh farmers receiving over Rs 23,000 crore directly from the Central Government into their bank accounts. It was the first time in Punjab that farmers were paid directly instead of through Arhtiyas or middlemen.

Food Corporation of India (FCI) record till May 15, 2021 shows that this is the highest wheat procurement in Punjab's history. The number was under 100 lakh metric tonnes till 2009-10. At over 9 lakh, the number

of farmers who came with their grain to Mandis this year is also higher than the figure of 8.8 lakh

**IN PUNJAB, THE  
PROCUREMENT ROSE  
SHARPLY THIS YEAR IN  
DOABA REGION'S JALANDHAR,  
HOSHIARPUR, NAWANSHAHR  
AND KAPURTHALA DISTRICTS;  
AND MAJHA'S AMRITSAR,  
GURDASPUR, PATHANKOT AND  
TARN TARAN DISTRICTS.**

last year.

Incidentally, the higher procurement was despite a slightly lesser yield. While the weather was largely favorable, an unusually warm March meant the average was 49 quintals per hectare compared to 50.04 per hectare last year.

FCI sources said that direct

payment into the account of farmer and not through middleman was one of the main reasons for this.

Apart from it, the government has also registered farmers on the portal before the procurement and the J form that carries the details about the crop a farmer sells to the government was also included in the Digilocker. For these steps, the farmer's dependence on a middleman for getting the J form or payment was brought to an end and therefore, farmers went to the Mandis this time instead to flour millers.

In Punjab, the procurement rose sharply this year in Doaba region's Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Nawanshahr and Kapurthala districts; and Majha's Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Pathankot and Tarn Taran districts. ■

# CABINET APPROVES 18,100 CRORE PLI SCHEME FOR BATTERY STORAGE

**T**he Union Cabinet on 12 May, 2021 approved the proposal of the Department of Heavy Industry for implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage' for achieving the manufacturing capacity of 50 GWh of ACC and 5 GWh of "Niche" ACC with an outlay of Rs 18,100 crore.

ACCs are the new generation of advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.

The consumer electronics, electric vehicles, advanced electricity grids, solar rooftop, etc, which are major battery-consuming sectors are expected to achieve robust growth in the coming years. It is expected that the dominant battery technologies will control some of the world's largest growth sectors.

While several companies have already started investing in battery packs, though the capacities of these facilities are too small when compared to global averages, but there still is a negligible investment in manufacturing, along with value addition, of ACCs in India.

All the demand of the ACCs is currently being met through imports in India. The National Programme on Advanced

Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage will reduce import dependence. It will also support the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

ACC battery Storage manufacturers will be selected through a transparent competitive bidding process. The manufacturing facility would have to be commissioned within a period of two years. The incentive will be disbursed thereafter over a period of five years.

The incentive amount will increase with increased specific energy density and cycles and increased local value addition. Each selected ACC battery Storage manufacturer would have to commit to set-up an ACC manufacturing facility of minimum five (5) GWh capacity and ensure a minimum 60% domestic value addition at the Project level within five years.

Furthermore, the beneficiary firms have to achieve a domestic value addition of at least 25% and incur the mandatory investment of Rs 225 crore /GWh within 2 Years (at the Mother Unit Level) and raise it to 60% domestic value addition within 5 Years, either at Mother Unit, in-case of an Integrated Unit, or at the Project Level, in-case of "Hub & Spoke" structure.

## THE OUTCOMES/ BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE SCHEME ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Setup a cumulative 50 GWh of ACC manufacturing facilities in

India under the Programme.

- Direct investment of around Rs.45,000 crore in ACC Battery storage manufacturing projects.
- Facilitate demand creation for battery storage in India.
- Facilitate Make-In-India: Greater emphasis upon domestic value-capture and therefore reduction in import dependence.
- Net savings of Indian Rs.2,00,000 crore to Rs.2,50,000 crore on account of oil import bill reduction during the period of this Programme due to EV adoption as ACCs manufactured under the Programme is expected to accelerate EV adoption.
- The manufacturing of ACCs will facilitate demand for EVs, which are proven to be significantly less polluting. As India pursues an ambitious renewable energy agenda, the ACC program will be a key contributing factor to reduce India's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions which will be in line with India's commitment to combat climate change.
- Import substitution of around Rs.20,000 crore every year.
- Impetus to Research and Development to achieve higher specific energy density and cycles in ACC.
- Promote newer and niche cell technologies. ■

# FDI HITS ALL-TIME HIGH IN FY21; FOREX RESERVES JUMP OVER \$100 BN

**N**et foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country hit a fresh high of \$43.366 billion in the year ended March 2021 as it crossed the previous high of \$43.013 billion that it had reached last fiscal. In a Covid-hit year, the FDI witnessed a big thrust from stake sale by Reliance Industries (RIL) group companies, which raised around \$35 billion during the fiscal year.

According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), while the direct investment to India in FY21 stood at \$54.665 billion, FDI by India amounted to \$11.299 billion, thereby resulting into a net FDI of \$43.336 billion.

The FDI flows in India were hugely augmented by stake sale by RIL group companies to Facebook, Google and a number of other global investors.

The group sold stake in Jio Platforms and Reliance Retail and raised over \$35 billion during the year, thereby contributing to more than 64 per cent of the total FDI received by India during the year.

Beside the FDI, even the foreign portfolio investments jumped significantly. In the year ended March 2021, the FPI inflows into debt and equities amounted to \$36.18 billion. It was only second to net FPI flows of \$45.6 billion received in fiscal 2014-15. FPI inflows into equities, however, hit a new high of \$37 billion during the year.

The strong inflow of FDI and



foreign portfolio investor (FPI) money ensured that the Forex reserves jumped significantly. In the financial year ended March 2021, the foreign exchange — or Forex — reserves jumped by over \$100 billion and amounted to \$576.8 billion as on week-ended April 2, 2021.

Four states — Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and NCT of Delhi — accounted for nearly 90 per cent of the FDI inflows received during the year, with Maharashtra receiving nearly over 46.67 per cent of the flows, followed by Gujarat at 24.38 per cent, according to government data for first nine months of the previous financial year.

Flows have been driven both by pockets of growth in the Indian economy as well as record amount of liquidity being injected by global central banks, which is chasing promising assets across the world.

IT, pharma, telecom and digital economy sectors attracted most of the flows.

Industry executives expect the trend to continue despite the raging Covid-19, as FDI investors typically have a multi-year view on their investments.

Production-linked incentive scheme offered by the government for several sunrise sectors, potential growth in digital economy segments, as well as privatisation plans of the Central government are being seen as the pull factors for foreign investors.

Apart from FDI, FPI flows have also surged into the economy compared to sharp outflows seen in immediate months after the Covid-19 hit the economy last March.

According to the Ministry of Finance's Monthly Economic Report for April, 2021 FY 2020-21 was a bullish year for stock markets, supported by stimulus measures, surplus liquidity and record FPI flows. FY 2020-21 witnessed a record FPI inflow of USD 36.2 billion, the highest in a decade after 2014-15. . ■

# “INTEGRAL HUMANISM”

-PT. DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA

...Continuing from previous issue

## FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES ARE NOT UNIVERSAL

Similarly those who would like to make western ideologies the basis of our progress forget that these ideologies have arisen in certain special situations and time. These are not necessarily universal. They cannot be free from the limitations of the particular people and their culture, which gave birth to these Isms. Besides many of these ideas are already out of date. The principles of Marx have changed both with the changing times as well as with varying conditions to the extent that parrot like repetition of Marxism for problems facing our country would amount to a reactionary attitude rather than a scientific and pragmatic one. It is indeed surprising that those who claim to reform the society by removing dead traditions, themselves fall prey to some outdated foreign traditions.

## OUR COUNTRY: OUR PROBLEMS

Every country has its own peculiar historical. Social and economic situations and its leaders decide the remedies to the ills that beset the country from time to time taking into consideration its background. It is illogical to believe that remedies which the

leaders of one country decided to try for their problems are likely to be applicable as such to all other peoples. A simple illustration will suffice. Even though the basic organic activity is the same in all human beings the drugs which may be helpful in England may not prove equally

drug does not necessarily cure all persons. Those who apply a single panacea to all diseases must be considered quacks rather than doctors. Therefore, Ayurveda states that for the disease in each place remedy suitable to that place must be found. Therefore, it is neither possible nor wise to adopt foreign Isms in our country in the original from in toto. It will not be helpful in achieving happiness and prosperity.



**AYURVEDA STATES THAT FOR THE DISEASE IN EACH PLACE REMEDY SUITABLE TO THAT PLACE MUST BE FOUND. THEREFORE, IT IS NEITHER POSSIBLE NOR WISE TO ADOPT FOREIGN ISMS IN OUR COUNTRY IN THE ORIGINAL FROM IN TOTO.**

helpful in India. Diseases depend also upon climate, water, dietary habits and heredity. Even though the external symptoms may be apparently similar the same

## HUMAN KNOWLEDGE IS COMMON PROPERTY

On the other hand it needs, to be realized that not all the thoughts and principles that have sprung up elsewhere are necessarily local in space and time. The response of human beings in a particular place time and social atmosphere may, and does, in many cases have relation and use to other human beings elsewhere and at other times. Therefore to ignore altogether the developments in other societies, past or present is certainly unwise. Whatever truths these developments contains must be taken not of and accepted. The rest must be scrupulously avoided. While absorbing the wisdom of other societies it is only proper that we avoid their mistakes or perversities. Even their wisdom



should be adapted to our particular circumstances. In brief, we must absorb the knowledge and gains of the entire humanity so far as eternal principles and truths are concerned. Of these the ones that originated in our midst have to be clarified and adapted to changed times and those that we take from other societies have to be adapted to our conditions.

### **THE CONFLICTING IDEAS**

The western political thought has accepted Nationalism, Democracy and Socialism or equality as ideals. Besides now and then, there have been attempts directed at world unity which took the shape of the "League of Nations" and after the Second World War, the "United Nations Organizations". For a variety of reasons those have not succeeded.

However, those definitely were attempts in that direction.

All these ideals have in practice proved to be incomplete and mutually opposing.

Nationalism led to conflict between nations and in turn to global conflict, whereas if status-quo is regarded as synonymous with world peace the aspirations of many small nations to be independent would have never been fulfilled. World unity and Nationalism conflict

with each other. Some advocate suppression of Nationalism for world unity whereas others regard world unity as an utopian ideal and emphasize national interest to the utmost.

Similar difficulty arises in reconciling Socialism and Democracy. Democracy grants individual liberty but the same is used by capitalist system for exploitation and monopoly. Socialism was brought in to end exploitation but it eliminated

**THE WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT HAS ACCEPTED NATIONALISM, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM OR EQUALITY AS IDEALS. BESIDES NOW AND THEN, THERE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTS DIRECTED AT WORLD UNITY WHICH TOOK THE SHAPE OF THE "LEAGUE OF NATIONS" AND AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE "UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS". FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS THOSE HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED. HOWEVER, THOSE DEFINITELY WERE ATTEMPTS IN THAT DIRECTION.**

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the freedom and dignity of the individual.

Mankind stands confused unable to decide what is the correct path for future progress. The West is not in a position to say with confidence that "this alone and no other" is the right path. It is itself groping. Therefore simply to follow the West would be an instance of a blind being led by another blind.

In this situation our attention is claimed by the Bharatiya culture.

Is possible that our culture can point the direction to the world?

From the national standpoint we shall have to consider our culture because that is our very nature. Independence is intimately related to one's own culture. If culture does not form the basis of independence then the political movement for independence would reduce simply to a scramble by selfish and power seeking persons independence can be meaningful only if it becomes instrument for the expression of our culture. Such expression will not only contribute to our progress but the effort required will also give us the experience of joy. Therefore, both from the national as well as human standpoint it has become essential that we think of the principles of the Bharatiya culture. If with its help we can reconcile the

various ideals of the western political thought then it will be an added advantage for us. These western principles are a product of revolution in human thought, and social conflict. They represent one or the other aspiration of mankind. It is not proper to ignore them. ■

**To be continued...**

**(Excerpts of the Speech delivered on "Integral Humanism" in Bombay on April 22nd - 25th, 1965 by Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya in the form of four lectures.)**

## VETERAN J&K BJP LEADER CHAMAN LAL GUPTA NO MORE

**V**eteran Jammu & Kashmir BJP leader, former Union Minister Shri Chaman Lal Gupta passed away at his residence at Gandhi Nagar in Jammu & Kashmir on 18 May, 2021. According to the family, Shri Chaman Lal Gupta had tested positive for COVID-19 on 05 May and was after successful treatment at Narayana hospital after successful treatment. His condition suddenly deteriorated in the wee hours and he breathed his last around 5.10 am on 18 May. Shri Gupta (87) is survived by his two sons and a daughter. He was known for championing the cause of Jammu region, a Messiah for the poor and downtrodden and a true philanthropist.

Condoling his death Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Twitter messages said, "Shri Chaman Lal Gupta Ji will be remembered

for numerous community service efforts. He was a dedicated legislator and strengthened the BJP across Jammu and Kashmir. Pained by his demise. My thoughts are with his family and supporters in this hour of grief. Om Shanti".

In his message, BJP National President Shri JP Nadda said, "Shocked to hear about the demise of senior BJP leader & former Union Minister Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta Ji. He played an important role in strengthening the party in Jammu & Kashmir. It's an irrecoverable loss for us. My condolences to the family & supporters in this sad time. Om Shanti".

Paying rich tributes to Shri Chaman Lal Gupta, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Shri Manoj Sinha said, "Deeply pained to hear about the passing away of former union minister, Prof Chaman Lal Gupta Ji. A seasoned



politician and a widely respected public figure, his demise is a great loss to the political sphere...he will always be remembered for his immense contribution towards welfare of the people".

Born in Jammu on April 13, 1934, Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta had an illustrious political career spanning over five decades. He became a member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, for the first time in 1972. He was again a member of Legislative Assembly between 2008 and 2014. ■

## MANIPUR BJP PRESIDENT S TIKEN SINGH PASSES AWAY DUE TO COVID COMPLICATIONS

**B**JP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda along with many other party leaders attended a virtual condolence meeting held for Manipur BJP President late Prof. Saikhom Tikendra Singh and paid their tributes & condolences on May 15, 2021.

In his message, Shri Nadda said, "Paid my heartfelt condolences to the late Shri. S Tiken Singh Ji, President @BJP4Manipur at a condolence meeting held virtually. His efforts to

strengthen the BJP will always be remembered. Entire BJP stands firmly with his family in this hour of grief. Om Shanti."

Noteworthy, BJP Manipur State President Shri Saikhom Tikendra Singh (S Tiken Singh) passed away late on 13 May, 2021 night at Shija Hospital in Imphal due to COVID-19 complications.

Expressing Condolences PM Shri Narendra Modi also said, "Saddened by the demise of Prof. S Tiken Singh, president of BJP Manipur. He will be remembered



as a hardworking Karyakarta who strengthened the party in Manipur. He was active in many social service initiatives. Condolences to his family and supporters. Om Shanti". ■

## PM ANNOUNCES 1,000 CRORE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN GUJARAT



**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on May 19, 2021 visited Gujarat to review the situation arising out of Cyclone Tauktae. The Prime Minister undertook an aerial survey of the cyclone affected areas in Una (Gir - Somnath), Jafraabad (Amreli), Mahua (Bhavnagar) in Gujarat & Diu.

Thereafter, he chaired a meeting at Ahmadabad to review the relief and rehabilitation measures being undertaken in Gujarat & Diu.

He announced a financial assistance of Rs. 1,000 crore, for immediate relief activities, to the State of Gujarat. Subsequently, Union Government will deploy an Inter-Ministerial Team to visit the state to assess the extent of damage in the State, based on which further assistance will be given.

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

During his visit he also took stock of the situation relating to the Covid pandemic. The state administration apprised the PM of the response measures being taken and the PM stressed the need to ensure that preventive measures should also be taken.

He was accompanied by Chief Minister Shri Vijay Rupani and other officials during this visit to Gujarat.

Prime Minister expressed his complete solidarity with all those who suffered due to the cyclone in different parts of India and expressed deep sorrow to the families who have lost their kin during the calamity.

He announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs. 50,000 to the seriously injured in the cyclone in the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and the UTs of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

The Prime Minister said that the Centre is working closely with the affected state governments in the wake of the situation post the cyclone. Immediate financial assistance for these states would also be given after the respective state governments would share their assessments with the Centre.

PM Modi said that we have to continue the focus towards more scientific studies relating to disaster management. He called for devoting more focus to enhancing intra-state coordination as well as using modern communication techniques to ensure quicker evacuation from the affected areas. He also called for immediate attention to be devoted to repairing the damaged houses and properties across affected areas. ■

# FIGHTING THE INVISIBLE ENEMY: MOD'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SURGE



RAJNATH SINGH

**T**he surge of Covid-19 cases during the last 2-3 weeks has resulted in once in a century crisis. Sensing the emergency situation, the whole Government machinery immediately swung into action by mobilizing all possible resources. Along with the efforts put together by the scientific community, health professionals, civil administration, the Armed Forces too have pitched in this battle against an invisible yet deadly enemy. Indian Army, Air Force, Navy, and other organisations of the Ministry of Defence like DG AFMS, DRDO, OFB, DPSU, NCC, Cantonments Boards, etc are engaged to help mitigate the sufferings of the people. Mobilisation of additional health professionals, setting up of new COVID facilities, deployment of IAF transport aircraft and IN Ships to provide logistic support to facilitate the supply of oxygen from friendly foreign countries and within the country and setting up of new oxygen plants are some of the ongoing efforts of the Ministry of Defence.

## EMERGENCY FINANCIAL POWERS GRANTED

I have directed the Armed Forces to extend all possible

assistance to the civil administration to tide over the crisis. People have great faith and trust in the capabilities of the Armed Forces. Emergency Financial Powers were granted to the Armed Forces so that Formation Commanders can establish and operate quarantine facilities/hospitals and undertake procurement/repair of equipment/items/material/stores, besides provisioning of various services and works required to support the ongoing effort against the pandemic. The powers were in addition to the emergency financial powers delegated to Director General Medical Services (Army/Navy/Air Force), head of Medical Branches at Formation/Command Headquarters of Army/Navy/Air Force/Andaman & Nicobar Command and Joint Staff including Command Medical Officers of Navy and Principal Medical Officers of Air Force (Major General and equivalent/Brigadiers and equivalent).

To tide over the immediate requirement of Covid care ready medical facilities Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Cantonment Boards established COVID hospitals/facilities in Delhi, Lucknow, Bengaluru, Patna and more are coming up in other cities as per request of respective state governments. Nearly 750 beds in various Military Hospitals have been

set aside for civilian use while the AFMS also dedicated 19 hospitals, over 4,000 beds and 585 ICU units across the country. Base Hospital in Delhi has been converted into a COVID hospital with capacity being increased from around 400 to 1,000 beds.

## DRDO HOSPITALS

DRDO has set up a 500-bed COVID-19 facility each in New Delhi and Lucknow, a 900-bed hospital in Ahmedabad and converted ESIC Hospital in Patna to COVID hospital with 500 beds. Work is in full swing to set up COVID hospitals at Muzaffarpur and Varanasi. DRDO is also offering technical support to state governments in setting up temporary COVID hospitals.

## ADDITIONAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS MOBILISED

The AFMS has deployed additional doctors, including specialists, super specialists and paramedics, at various hospitals. My Ministry has granted an extension to Short Service Commissioned Doctors of AFMS till December 31, 2021, which has augmented the strength of AFMS by 238 more doctors. To further strengthen the workforce of health professionals, those who have recently retired from AFMS have been re-deployed. To cater to veterans and their dependents additional contractual staff have been temporarily hired in 51 high-pressure ECHS polyclinics for night

duty for three months.

In addition, DG AFMS is going to operationalise this week teleconsultation for Covid-19 related issues. Retired AFMS doctors are being engaged for this task.

## **ARMY HOSPITALS FOR CIVILIANS**

Indian Army has mobilised its resources to assist the civil administration to tide over the current COVID-19 situation in the country. Army has provided 100 beds each at Lucknow and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh to cater to the surge in cases. In Madhya Pradesh, a 40-bedded isolation facility has been set up along with ambulances at Sagour. 100 beds each have been provided at Bhopal & Jabalpur and 40 beds at Gwalior. A 50-bed isolation facility has been established in Namkum, Jharkhand. In Maharashtra, 60 ICU beds have been provided at Pune and 20 at Kamptee while 100 beds have been provided at Barmer in Rajasthan. Besides, Army medical persons have been deployed at Ahmedabad and at Patna, battlefield-nursing assistants (BFNAs) have been provided to Patiala administration for hospital management. 200 drivers have been kept on standby for driving oxygen transporters to various parts of the country and 10 TATRA and 15 ALS vehicles are on standby to tranship medical supplies arriving at Palam airport.

## **LOGISTICS SUPPORT BY IAF AND IN**

To augment the supply of medical oxygen, Indian Air Force

(IAF) is carrying out sorties from within India and abroad. IAF transport aircraft carried out 50 sorties, airlifting 61 oxygen containers of 1142 MT capacity from abroad. Within the country, It carried out 344 sorties, airlifting 230 containers of 4527 MT capacity till 05th of May 2021.

Indian Navy has deployed its ships to augment the mission for meeting the oxygen requirements. The first such consignment was brought in to Mangalore on May 5 by INS Talwar from Bahrain. Other Naval ships viz. Kolkata, Kochi, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat have been deployed

## **INDIAN ARMY HAS MOBILISED ITS RESOURCES TO ASSIST THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION TO TIDE OVER THE CURRENT COVID-19 SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY.**

for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries in the Middle East and South-East Asia. The second batch of ships comprising Kochi, Trikand and Tabar mission deployed in the Arabian sea has also been diverted to join the national effort. Indian Navy also has the surge capability, to deploy more ships when the need arises. The Indian Army has repaired two civil oxygen plants at Agra to facilitate the resumption of supply of up to 1,800 cylinders per day.

## **OXYGEN PLANTS**

DRDO initiated fabrication of

500 Medical Oxygen Plants under PM CARES Fund with the release of supply orders for 332 on Tata Advanced Systems Limited, Bengaluru and 48 on Trident Pneumatics Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore. 120 plants will be produced by industries working with the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, belonging to CSIR. Two such plants have been established in AIIMS and RML hospitals in New Delhi. The remaining plants are expected to be installed within three months. DRDO also developed a SpO<sub>2</sub> (Blood Oxygen Saturation) supplemental Oxygen Delivery System for soldiers posted at extreme high-altitude areas. The system will be useful for COVID patients as their conditions become similar. Several DPSUs also fast-tracked the procurement of oxygen plants to deliver to local government hospitals in different states under CSR.

Additionally, orders for 23 mobile oxygen generating plants have been placed by DG AFMS on a firm in Germany. Delivery of these plants is expected in a week. Further, tender for 23 big sizes (300L/min to 750 L/min capacity) oxygen plants has been floated... This will help augment the supply of oxygen for Military Hospitals across the country.

## **DEFENCE PSUS PITCH IN**

Various DPSUs, including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), and Ordnance Factory Board are providing COVID care services, including oxygen beds, at their facilities in several places across the country, in coordination with different state governments. A

180-bed COVID care centre, with ICU, oxygen and ventilator support, set up by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is functional in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The DPSU has also prepared a 250-bed facility in Bengaluru and handed it over to municipal authorities under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). A 70-bed facility in Koraput, Odisha and a 40-bed hospital in Nasik, Maharashtra are also operational. Work has also been undertaken by HAL to set up a 250-bed COVID care facility in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. HAL is planning to provide more ventilators and oxygen points at Bangalore and Lucknow.

Cantonment Boards are also helping the civil administration to

tide over the situation. Presently, 39 Cantonment Boards are maintaining 40 general hospitals with 1,240 beds in various parts of the country. Oxygen support is available in 37 Cantonment Boards.

Services of NCC officers, JCOs and ORs have been placed at the disposal of Armed Forces and to support the state governments in the fight against the second wave and also assist them in the vaccination drive.

The Armed Forces and various establishments of MoD are not just providing support to the civil administration/state governments in fighting the current situation but are also playing a pivotal role in conducting the vaccination

drive launched by the government across the country. All the efforts and initiatives by the Armed Forces and various organizations of MoD, some of which enumerated above, are being done without compromising the objective of defending the nation from any external threat.

As the whole of India stands united in the fight against the current surge in the pandemic the Armed Forces are walking the extra mile for the nation to emerge a winner. Hard times demand the manifestation of an indomitable spirit to fight against the odds and that is what the country is doing at the moment.

**(The writer is Union Defence Minister, GoI)**

## INDIA EXPORTS RECORD 20 MT OF RICE, WHEAT IN FY21

**D**efying Covid blues, India exported a record 19.8 million tonne (MT) of rice and wheat in FY21 on the back of attractive overseas prices of the commodities and massive surplus production at home. Brimming official inventory (mainly for welfare programmes) also ensured that no export curb was imposed by the government in a pandemic year.

Rice exports almost doubled to an all-time high of 17.7 MT last fiscal, against 9.5 MT a year ago. Similarly, wheat exports surged to 2.1 MT in FY21, the highest since FY15 and compared with just 0.2 MT in the previous year, showed the official data.

There was an almost 4% increase in basmati exports to 4.45 MT and a 160% surge in non-basmati to 13.09 MT in FY21, according to data with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). In value terms, while the non-basmati rice segment more than doubled to \$4.8 billion (Rs 35,448 crore), even higher than basmati, there is a drop of 7% to \$4 billion (Rs 29,849

crore) in shipments of aromatic varieties. Chairman of APEDA on May 20, 2021 said demand for wheat; non-basmati rice and other cereals are likely to rise further.

On the back of rising international prices, Indian cereal export became more viable, particularly that of wheat. The UN Food and Agricultural Organization's global cereal price index is currently ruling at 125.1, highest since May 2014.

Wheat futures at the Chicago Board of Trade jumped 12.3% during FY21 to close at \$6.18 a bushel on March 31, 2021. Indian wheat is being contracted at \$280-285 a tonne against Australian available at \$290-300 and Ukraine's \$270-280 for Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, West Asian countries.

Meanwhile, official grain inventory, too, remain elevated. According to Food Corporation of India, the official reserves had 77.23 MT of grains as of April 1, up 4.6% from a year earlier. The stocks were almost four times of the overall buffer and strategic reserve requirements. ■

# CATCH THE RAIN: WHERE IT FALLS, WHEN IT FALLS

## JAL SHAKTI ABHIYAN-2: AN AMALGAMATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL INTERVENTION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



RATTAN LAL  
KATARIA

**A**s a child, onset of monsoons brought succor from the dry and harsh summers. Playing outdoors was no less than walking on a clay oven often giving blisters on feet. The Village ponds used to dry up denying children of their unassailable right of diving into the water with their accomplice - the domestic cattle.

Come Monsoons and the entire landscape changed. The first rains brought with it water for crops, village ponds, wells and most importantly - hope for the farmers. The importance of rains can be appreciated with the fact that 60% of our farmers covering 55% of gross cropped area are dependent on Rain water for irrigation purposes. Besides, rain-fed areas support 64 per cent of cattle, 74 per cent of sheep and 78 per cent of goat population in the country. Therefore, preparing for Monsoons was a sacred ritual for the entire village. Ponds were de-silted and cleaned through collective efforts. Fields were appropriately prepared with bunds. But for us children,

feeling the trickle of rainwater on our palms and “Catching the Rain” in it, gave unparalleled joy.

Diving into our rich history, we discover that it is replete with marvelous structures of storage and irrigati on tanks which were built primarily to cope with seasonal fluctuations in water availability. They are called by distinct local names like bawri, Baoli, Bavadi, Vav (Gujarati), Pushkarani (Kannada), Barav (Marathi) etc. The earliest known

**WE LIVE IN A DIFFERENT ERA NOW. WE NEED WATER BOTH FOR OUR PERSONAL AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS. WITH BURGEONING POPULATION, OUR OVERALL REQUIREMENT OF WATER HAS INCREASED MANIFOLD.**

structures dates back to 2500 BC as cylindrical brick-lined wells and ‘Great Bath’ were reported at Mohenjodaro site under the Indus Valley civilization. First Ghats were built in northern India around 100 AD. Many of these structures exhibit complex engineering skills and are even known to have withstood several earthquakes. The existing Bawris of Kalka and Taals of Morning hills in my parliamentary constituency were reportedly used by Pandavas during the exile period.

We live in a different era

now. We need water both for our personal as well as developmental needs. With burgeoning population, our overall requirement of water has increased manifold. A majority part of this need is catered by extracting ground water. As per a World Bank report, India is more dependent on water pumped from aquifers than any other nation — it accounts for about a quarter of global demand for groundwater.

Roughly 80 percent of India’s 1.35 billion residents depend on groundwater for both drinking and irrigation.

Indiscriminate use of ground water and depleting ground water levels pose a serious threat to sustainable development of our nation. As per UNEP report, “it is estimated that around 1.8

billion people will live in water scarce areas and about 2/3rd in water stressed areas by 2050.

The uncertainties induced by climate change are further aggravating the problem of water scarcity. There is a close interdependency between freshwater ecosystems and human well being. The Millenium Ecosystem Assessment found that 60% of the ecosystems assessed were in Global decline, particularly the aquatic ones, with detrimental effects to human well being. Therefore, effective water management by



successfully tapping rain water is required to replenish our ground sources as well as to support aquatic ecosystems.

Our country is home to 18% of global human population but has only 2% of land mass and 4% of global freshwater resources. India receives, on an average, around 1170 mm annual rainfall. 80-90% of it is received during the Monsoons. Therefore, tapping rainfall becomes an absolute necessity.

As per a study report, even if half of the rainfall is captured, every village in India will be able to meet its own domestic water needs (R Agarwal et al,2001). Another study (UN-Habitat & Govt of MP) mentions that Roof top rainwater harvesting, for a plot size of 250 sq m, saves water (50 litres per person per day) for a family of 5 throughout the year.

Realizing the imminent need to tap rain water, the Modi Government started a Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the year 2019 covering 256 water stressed districts of the Nation. This was

a first of its kind campaign where a team of technical experts from CWC and CGWB, led by a Joint

### THE RIGVEDA, TERMS “PARJANYA” (CLOUD), SON OF HEAVEN, AS THE BESTOWER OF RAINS ON EARTH WHICH IN TURN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GERMINATING THE SEED OF LIFE ON THIS PLANET.

secretary rank officer, visited field formations to sensitize local authorities about tapping rain water. The results were overwhelming as successful interventions were made for rejuvenating existing water bodies and for harvesting roof top rain water.

Now, the Honorable Prime Minister, on 22nd March 2021, has launched a Nationwide campaign (JSA-2) Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2 titled as - Catch the Rain : where it falls, when it falls. Our aim is to leverage all big sized Public and Private enterprises to coordinate their actions in this direction. Our

Ministry has requested Ministry of Defence, Railways, Airports authority of India, all PSUs, Public sector Banks, Universities etc to join hands for 'Catching the Rain'.

A campaign of this scale cannot succeed without tapping the vibrant energy of our youth. To make them an important stakeholder, a dedicated cadre of Nehru Yuva Kendra has been roped in to carry a robust awareness generation programme in almost 623 districts. Training has already been accorded to 700 State/District level NYKS coordinators and around 29 lac people have so far participated in activities organized through them. Team of officials shall shortly visit the field formations to guide & handhold them. This time, an effort shall be made to geo-tag all the existing water bodies, ponds etc for better mapping and planning. With these sincere efforts supported by public participation, I am confident that soon we will be

able to transform “Jal” andolan into a “Jan” andolan.

The RigVeda, terms “Parjanya” (cloud), son of heaven, as the bestower of Rains on earth which in turn is responsible for germinating the seed of life on this planet.

With JSA-2, let's collectively 'Catch the Rain' for sustaining life as well as livelihoods. In fact, what we tried with our palms during childhood days, needs to be scaled up with the help of technological intervention and public participation. ■

**(The writer is Union Minister of State Jal Shakti, GoI)**



# BHUTAN PM EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH INDIA AGAINST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION BETWEEN PM MODI AND BHUTAN PM TSHERING

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation with the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Dr. Lotay Tshering on May 11, 2021.

The Bhutan Prime Minister expressed solidarity with the Government and the people of India in their efforts against the recent wave of COVID-19 pandemic. Prime Minister conveyed his sincere thanks to the people and Government of Bhutan for their good wishes and support.

He also appreciated the leadership of His Majesty the King in managing Bhutan's fight against the pandemic, and extended his best wishes to Lyonchhen for the continuing efforts.

The leaders noted that the present crisis situation has served to further highlight the special



friendship between India and Bhutan, anchored in mutual understanding and respect, shared cultural heritage, and strong people to people links. ■

# PM MODI & FRENCH PRESIDENT DISCUSS BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST

## PM MODI & FRENCH PRESIDENT'S TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a phone call with President of the French Republic H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron on May 26, 2021.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi thanked President Macron for the assistance rendered by France to India's Covid response. The leaders discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest, and expressed their satisfaction at the positive outcomes of the recently concluded India-EU Leaders' Meeting. Both the leaders agreed that the announcements regarding resumption of negotiations for balanced and comprehensive free



trade and investment agreements, and India-EU Connectivity Partnership were welcome steps.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the depth and strength that the India-France Strategic Partnership has acquired

in recent years and agreed to continue working closely together in the post-COVID era.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also reiterated his invitation to President Macron to visit India as soon as conditions permit. ■

# US CONGRESSMAN HAILS PM MODI'S EFFORTS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

**U**nited States Congressman Mr. Joe Wilson on 18 May, 2021 showered praises on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. In addition, the Congressman has also added that as a member of the House Caucus on India and Indian-Americans and a friend of India, my thoughts and sympathies are with the great people of India during this time, and I am confident that they will overcome this challenge. .

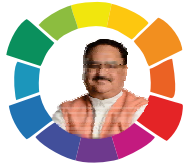
Issuing a statement, Mr. Wilson said, "Our sympathy to the people of India as victims of the coronavirus pandemic. I appreciate the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during this heartbreaking crisis. The United States and India share a special partnership, and I am grateful to support efforts in Congress to supply India with the necessary equipment to combat



the pandemic. As a member of the House Caucus on India and Indian Americans and a friend of India, my thoughts and sympathies are with the great people of India during this time, and I am confident that they will overcome this challenge". ■



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**KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE**



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi releases the 8th installment of financial benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, through video conferencing, in New Delhi.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi making an aerial survey to review the situation and damage due to Cyclone Tauktae in Gujarat and Diu.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacting with the doctors and officials of Varanasi through video conferencing in New Delhi.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacting with the State and District officials across the country on COVID-19 management through video conferencing in New Delhi.



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## THE WORLD'S FASTEST VACCINATION PROGRAMME IN FULL SWING

#IndiaFightsCorona

Vaccine doses administered  
**22.4 CRORE**

Vaccination centres  
**38,887**

Vaccines provided  
 to States/UTs  
**24.21 CRORE**

Vaccines available with  
 States/UTs currently  
**OVER 1.92 CRORE**

Source - Govt. of India  
 Data till 8 AM on June 4, 2021

/BJP4India www.bjp.org

Highest  
 vaccination on June 3

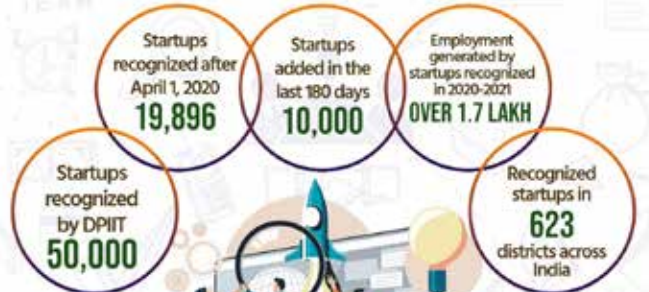
Uttar Pradesh  
**3.75 LAKH**

Madhya Pradesh  
**3.64 LAKH**

Karnataka  
**2.42 LAKH**

Tamil Nadu  
**2.36 LAKH**

## #startupindia START-UP INDIA SCHEME REACHING NEW HEIGHTS



DPIIT - Department for  
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 and Internal Trade

/BJP4India www.bjp.org

Data till 3 June, 2021  
 Read full at bitly.ws/dQgD

## PMGKAY-III PROVIDING FOOD GRAINS TO THE NEEDY DURING COVID

#IndiaFightsCorona

- FCI has so far supplied over **63.67 LMT** free food grains to all States/UTs under the scheme
- **55 crore** beneficiaries received free food grains in May and about **2.6 crore** beneficiaries in June
- Food subsidy so far received under PMGKAY for May and June 2021 - over **Rs 9,200 crore**

Data till June 3, 2021



© - Food Corporation of India  
 PMGKAY - Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

Read full at bitly.ws/dQgP

/BJP4India www.bjp.org

## Ushering in an Era of Transparency



- **Direct Benefit Transfer** brought total transparency in fund transfer to beneficiaries
- **Over Rs 15.47 lakh crore** transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts
- UPI registered **264 crore transactions worth Rs 4.93 lakh crore** in April 2021
- Faceless assessment implemented for **greater transparency & accountability** in tax collection

#7 YearsOfSeva