



#Unite2FightCorona

The Sikka Times

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Sensex 48,690.80 NIFTY 14,696.50 Gold 49,315.00 10 grm Silver 7113 100 grm Dollar 73.59 Euro 88.94 Pound 103.43

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Hit hard by 2nd wave, Bengaluru is using Mumbai's Covid management idea to prepare for 3rd wave

Bengaluru: Bengaluru is going micro to tackle Covid-19, which has hit the city and Karnataka hard during the second Covid-19 wave. The state government has instructed the Bengaluru civic agency — the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) — to set up committees in each of the city's 198 wards to better manage the pandemic.

The order, issued 8 May, states that the panels will be called Ward Decentralised Triage and Emergency Response (Ward DETER) committees. Among other things, the committees will ensure critical Covid patients receive immediate medical attention.

Modi govt doesn't have much time. It should start work on economic recovery now

Studies have shown that over 200 million Indians are expected to fall into poverty as a result of shutdowns & healthcare costs. The S&P has now downgraded the GDP growth to 9.8%.

At the beginning of 2021, when S&P Global Ratings forecast Indian gross domestic product growth at 11% for the coming financial year, the number looked eminently achievable. Last month, the Goods and Services Tax — a good barometer of economy activity — hit 1.41 trillion rupees (\$19.1 billion), its highest ever monthly collection. Indeed, it's been higher than the benchmark Rs. 1 trillion for seven consecutive months and higher than the same month for the last year for eight consecutive months.

India's international merchandise trade reached \$34 billion in March, the highest ever, and stayed over \$30 billion in April. Many short term economic indicators — auto sales, electricity consumption, highway toll collection — were also pointing to a strong recovery after a crushing 2020.

But that's when the second wave of the pandemic hit with a vengeance. The daily case count went up from 81,000 on April 1 to more than 402,000 thousand on April 30. India's healthcare system came under severe stress the same month. As the outbreak grew worse, state governments applied restrictive lockdown measures that halted the nascent economic recovery in its tracks.

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy — a think tank — the unemployment rate grew from 6% in March to 8% in April. Studies show that more than 200 million Indians are expected to fall into poverty as a result of shutdowns and healthcare costs. The S&P has now downgraded Indian GDP growth to 9.8%.

Most experts predict the second wave to recede by June. But the government has to start now to rebuild the economy. There are three parts to this. The most immediate involves vaccinations: choosing which sectors of the population get inoculated first will mitigate the negative impact on GDP. A

government spending boost will then help backstop the downside. Finally, structural changes must be initiated to ensure that India's prowess in technology and manufacturing is leveraged to its highest potential.

Right now, the focus must be placed on vaccinations in the 53 cities with populations of a million-plus each. They are hubs of economic activity and need to be de-risked from a third wave.



Second, workers in customer-facing businesses — hospitality, restaurants, aviation, storefront retail, local transportation, commercial real estate —

should have priority. The sectors have all taken a hard knock, as in every other country; inoculations there will help build confidence for consumers to patronize them and move about again.

Government spending must then follow. At the end of 2019, the government released a National Infrastructure Pipeline, outlining capital expenditures of Rs. 120 trillion over five years. The announcement ran into the onset of the pandemic but this program should be expedited. With a gradual glide path to 3% fiscal deficit signaled in the union budget and buoyant direct and indirect tax collections, the government has fiscal headroom for this expansionary spend.

The aggressive spending plan is likely to face political opposition. A project to revamp New Delhi's central vista is currently facing criticism. But there is no better way than infrastructure to rekindle animal spirits.



Infrastructure is a job multipliers and that will help India's unorganized labor market. These projects also catalyze growth in core sectors — construction, cement, roads, railways and real estate. One specific area of investment should be healthcare: Build modern hospitals in each of the 700 districts, upgrade all the 150,000 primary health centers and bring domestic vaccine production to 2 billion doses a year.

The government should continue to push for structural market reforms. A recent Credit Suisse study talked about how 100 unicorns — firms with more than \$1 billion valuation — have sprung up in India in just a few years. Political opposition, however, has delayed the tough reforms that would encourage even more enterprise. Easier and cheaper access to capital, faster land acquisition for marquee projects and new business investments, bureaucratic agility, administrative transparency and a nimbler judiciary will go a long way. Encouraging more digitization of retail through simpler rules can further open the national market to small businesses. The government can further boost business confidence with the full privatization of companies like Bharat Petroleum Corporation and IDBI Bank and Shipping Corporation this year.

The scars of the second wave of the pandemic will run deep but well-executed policy measures will help meet the challenge.

Armed forces plan to hire 400 retired military doctors to assist in fight against Covid

New Delhi: The Directorate General of the Armed Forces Medical Services (DG, AFMS) has mooted a proposal to hire around 400 medical veterans of the service to aid with the handling of the Covid-19 wave raging across the country.

The former medical officers will be hired on a contract basis for a year and will be expected to pitch in with their expertise on advising, counselling and treating patients, ThePrint has learnt.

Defence sources told ThePrint that the proposal is under active consideration of the defence ministry and a decision is expected soon.

If approved, the measure will provide some relief to the military medical staff, who have been stretched thin due to the burgeoning Covid cases and states looking to them for personnel and infrastructure.

The proposal talks about recruiting retired officers of the AFMS and short service commission medical officers for a period of about a year, the sources added.

"There are plans to hire around 400 such medically sound officers who retired in the last four to five years on a contract basis," a defence source said. This will also include those medical officers who resigned or took premature retirement

during this period.

The source added that their monthly remuneration would be based on the last salary they drew from the government and other specialisations.

The new proposal comes days after the DG AFMS sent out an appeal to the veteran officers of the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) to aid in the fight against Covid.

In a letter last week, the DG AFMS had asked veteran AFMS officers to register themselves on the defence ministry's e-Sehat portal where they can provide their advice, guidance and counselling to needy patients through teleconsultation.

Prior to that, Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that all armed

forces medical personnel who had retired or taken premature retirement in the last two years would be recalled to serve in Covid-19 facilities near their residences.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

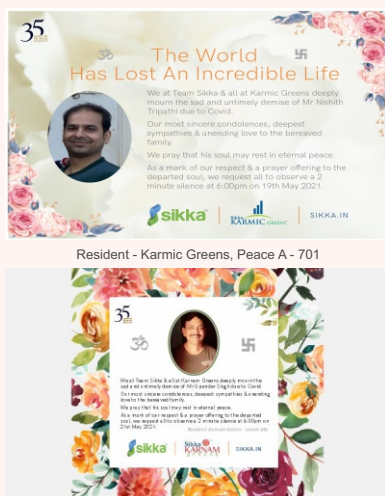
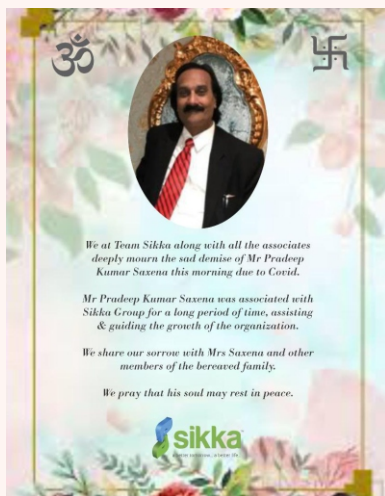


It is with a very heavy heart that I write to you this month, given the unprecedented difficulties that each one of us has had bear due to the ongoing pandemic situation that our country is faced with. We at Sikka are doing our very best to extend whatever help & support we can from providing nutritious meals to the ones in need to fiscal support for the underprivileged. Rest assured, we stand by you at every step in your hour of need. You are always in our prayers. It is my firm belief that if all of us stand together as one, we will soon overcome this too. I urge you all to stay united. Stay strong. Stay safe. Stay healthy. Take good care of yourself & your family.



Greatest regard & prayers,
Gurinder Singh Sikka
Chairman

IN REMEMBRANCE



FREE MEAL SERVICES AT SIKKA PROJECT SITES



IN THE PRESS



In an industry story on the recent announcement of Microsoft, Adani buying lands in Noida, views of Mr Harvinder Singh Sikka have been published in the leading real estate news platform. **Storyline:** Microsoft, Adani Buying Lands In Noida, Good News For The Realty Market

● constructionweekonline.in ● propertyhome.in ● thepropertytimes.in ● realtybuzz.in

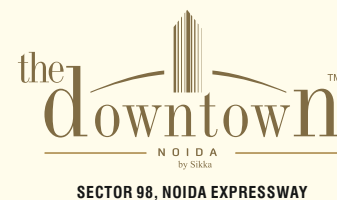
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE - MAY 2021



• T-E4 (Splendor) Repair work in flat in progress • Famed Tower Lift Wall Chipping work in progress • Famed Tower staircase stone work in progress • Stone cutting work in progress • Esteem & Famed Fire Escape repairing work in progress • Commercial slab & staircase shuttering work in progress • Re-Inforcement work in progress • Main gate planter brick work in progress • Non Tower slab chipping work • Landscape stone work in progress.



External plaster work in Jolly Tower • Plumbing work in Concord Tower • Tile work in Concord Tower • Raft re-inforcement work in commercial areas.



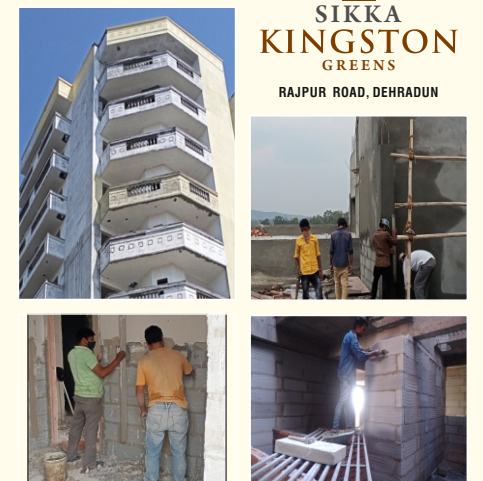
Office Tower:- Facade work in progress on 12th floor • Aluminium frame making work in progress • Aluminium section cutting work in progress • Rear Block:- Upper basement slab reinforcement binding work in progress • Non-Tower road side retaining wall casting done • Retail Block:- Ground floor staircase brick work in progress • Retail Block :- 1st floor roof slab reinforcement binding work in progress.



Plumbing work, stone fixing, pop work and tile fixing work is in progress • Block work, lintel steel binding and plaster work is in progress • Door frame fixing and column work is in progress • Slab & Lift wall shuttering work is in progress.



T5 slab shuttering work • T4 slab shuttering work • T8 lift pit shuttering work • T4 plaster work • T3 roof slab shuttering work • T9 water proofing work.



Basement Floor - PCC dressing is in progress • 6th Floor - POP work in 3bhk is in progress • Terrace Floor - Outer walls side plaster of Rear OHT • Material shifting is in progress.



Beauty treatments you should avoid in summers

Summer is the time to get into loose, comfortable clothes, sip iced tea and chill by the poolside. Since you will be spending more time in the sun, you need to be extra careful about your skincare routine and beauty treatments. You may think your skin requires more treatments during summers due to more prolonged exposure to the sun, but did you know some skin treatments don't work well when the temperature soars and are better

left for the colder months.

If you are not sure about which treatments to avoid during this season, we've made a list for you.

Chemical Peels: A chemical peel is a great treatment that helps get rid of dead skin cells and visibly improves the appearance of your skin. During this procedure, the dermatologist applies a chemical solution that removes the top layer of the skin, revealing a fresh, new layer underneath. However, you should avoid this treatment during summers as it removes the epidermal layer of the skin, which can cause hyperpigmentation

when exposed to direct sunlight.

Laser hair removal & Threading:

We all know that laser hair removal is a permanent way to get rid of unwanted body hair. And since you will be wearing short dresses and sleeveless tops to beat the heat during summers, you may consider getting this treatment done during this season. But getting a laser hair removal treatment in summer is not the best idea. Here's why: During this treatment, concentrated light rays are used to kill hair follicle and stunt hair growth. Exposing your body to the harsh rays of the sun afterwards can lead to severe burns, freckles and tan.



Ethereum Co-Founder Vitalik Buterin Donates \$1 Billion Worth Shiba Inu Crypto to India COVID Relief Fund

The creators of Shiba Inu had gifted Buterin 50 per cent of these dog-themed meme tokens



Vitalik Buterin, the co-founder of Ethereum, has donated \$1 billion (over Rs. 7,360 crore) worth of Shiba Inu, new cryptocurrency, to India COVID Relief Fund, as the country continues to battle the novel coronavirus pandemic. The Shiba Inu creators had gifted Buterin 50 per cent of these dog-themed meme tokens, thinking he wouldn't touch them. But the world's youngest crypto billionaire decided to make the donation instead. The creators of Shiba Inu say they locked 50 per cent of the total supply to Uniswap and threw away the keys.

"Fifty percent was burned to Vitalik Buterin and we were the first project following this path. So, everyone has to buy on the open market, ensuring a fair and complete distribution where devs don't own team tokens they can dump on the community," the team behind the token wrote on its website.

Buterin transferred 50 trillion Shibu tokens worth \$1.2 billion (over Rs. 7,360 crore) to the India COVID Relief Fund, set up by tech entrepreneur Sandeep Nailwal. The donation was also one of the biggest ever made by any cryptocurrency personality. Of course given how new the token is, and it's status as a meme coin, rather than a real cryptocurrency, unlike Bitcoin (price in India) or Ether (price in India), it's unlikely that this amount can be fully realised in rupees — if it were, then it would likely lower the value of the coin and hurt the retail investors at the same time. However, that doesn't mean meme coins can't become real assets — ask anyone who invested in Dogecoin (price in India).

In a tweet, the official handle of the relief fund expressed gratitude to the Ethereum co-founder, adding that it will "do a thoughtful liquidation to ensure" it meets its COVID relief goals.

"We have decided to convert the donation slowly over a period of time," it added.

Reacting to Buterin's donation, Nailwal said that one thing they had learnt from Ethereum and its co-founder was the importance of community. Assuaging the apprehensions of Shib holders, Nailwal said that they won't do anything that hurts any community, "specially the retail community involved with SHIB."

"We will act responsibly!"



Hyderabad Shahi Mixed Veg Curry

The Hyderabad Shahi Mixed Vegetable Curry Recipe is a rich gravy dish that has a creamy texture, lots of vegetables, has a spicy taste and is packed with flavors. The addition of almond paste into the recipe adds great flavors and the richness to the Shahi Mixed Vegetable Curry.

Ingredients

- 12 Baby Potatoes , boiled peeled
- 1/4 cup Green peas (Matar)
- 2 Carrots (Gajjar) , diced
- 10 Green beans (French Beans) , cut
- 1 Red Bell pepper (Capsicum) , diced
- 1 Yellow Bell Pepper (Capsicum) , diced
- 2 tablespoons Sultana Raisins
- 1/4 cup Tomato , puree
- 1 Onion , finely chopped
- 3 cloves Garlic
- 1 inch Ginger
- 1 teaspoon Red Chilli powder
- 1/2 teaspoon Turmeric powder (Haldi)
- 1 teaspoon Garam masala powder
- 1 teaspoon Coriander Powder (Dhania)
- 1/2 teaspoon Cumin powder (Jeera)
- 1 Bay leaves (tej patta)
- 3 tablespoons Cashew nuts
- 3 tablespoons Fresh cream
- 2 sprig Coriander (Dhania) Leaves
- Salt , as per taste

METHOD:

- To begin making the Hyderabad Shahi Mixed Vegetable Curry Recipe, we will first prepare the vegetables for the curry.
- Boil the potatoes, until just about cooked. Once cooked allow the potatoes to cool a bit, peel the skin and dice the baby potatoes. Keep this aside.
- Steam the remaining vegetables in a steamer for 5 minutes.
- Heat couple of teaspoons of oil in a heavy bottomed pan, add the onions, ginger and garlic and saute until soft and lightly browned and the raw smell has gone away. Turn off the heat and allow it cool. Once cooled, make a paste of the onion ginger and garlic - keep this aside.
- Make the tomato puree according to the recipe on the link and keep aside.
- Make a paste of the cashew nuts adding little water to make a smooth cream like paste. Keep this cashew nut paste aside.
- The next step is to begin cooking the Shahi Vegetable Curry.
- In the same heavy bottomed pan we cooked the onion, add a teaspoon of oil. Add the red and yellow bell peppers and stir fry them until they are softened and well roasted.
- Add the onion garlic paste, bay leaf and turmeric powder. Saute the onion mixture until the paste is cooked and comes together and leaves oil around the edges.
- Next, add tomato puree along with red chili powder, bay leaf, coriander powder, cumin powder, salt and garam masala. Stir until everything is completely combined.
- Give the Shahi Curry mixture a brisk boil and add in the cooked potatoes and steamed vegetables. Turn the heat to low, add a little water, cover the pan and simmer the Hyderabad Shahi Mixed Vegetable Curry for about 5 minutes until all the vegetables get the flavors of the masala.
- Finally stir in the cashew nut cream and the fresh cream into the Shahi Curry and simmer for another 3 to 4 minutes. Turn off the heat. Check the salt and spice levels and adjust to suit your taste.
- Stir in the chopped coriander leaves and serve.
- Serve the Shahi Mixed Vegetable Curry along with Whole Wheat Lachha Paratha, Palak Raita and Pickle for a weeknight dinner or even as a main course for a party.

Chef Dhan Singh Bhandari



Anand Mahindra Gifts T Natarajan A Vehicle, Gets A 'Treasure' In Return

Business magnate Anand Mahindra was thrilled to get a treasured gift from India pacer T. Natarajan after gifting the bowler with a new vehicle.



Anand Mahindra was thrilled with the "return gift" he got after presenting India pacer T. Natarajan with a Mahindra Thar as the former got a jersey signed by the rising star. Mahindra, who gifted India's new pace discovery Natarajan with a new vehicle and got a valuable return gift - the jersey that the left-arm bowler wore during the historic Brisbane Test against Australia in January this year. Thrilled at having received the present, the businessman wrote, "Thank you Nattu. I will treasure the return present and wear it with pride."

Mahindra's post was in response to a two-part tweet put out by Natarajan on Thursday. "As I drive the beautiful Mahindra Thar home today, I feel immense gratitude towards Shri Anand Mahindra for recognising my journey & for his appreciation. I trust sir, that given your love for cricket, you will find this signed shirt of mine from the #Gabba Test, meaningful." t of mine from the #Gabba Test, meaningful."

Natarajan's rise has been impressive. In the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020, playing for SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH), he earned a lot of praise for his accuracy, especially in the death overs.

His performance in the IPL got him his maiden India call-up for the tour of Australia last year. Multiple injuries in the squad opened a window of opportunity for Natarajan, and he got to play all three formats, impressing one and all.

Applauding the pacer's performance and that of five other youngsters -- Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj, Shubman Gill, Navdeep Saini and Washington Sundar -- during the tour Down Under, Anand Mahindra had announced that he would gift each of them a Thar.

ENTERTAINMENT



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<https://theprint.in/economy/modi-govt-doesnt-have-much-time-it-should-start-work-on-economic-recovery-now/657475/>
2. The armed forces plan to hire 400 retired military doctors....
<https://theprint.in/health/armed-forces-plan-to-hire-400-retired-military-doctors-to-assist-in-fight-against-covid/653471/>
3. Ethereum Co-founder Vitalik Buterin donates \$1 Billion....
<https://gadgets.ndtv.com/internet/news/vitalik-buterin-donates-1bn-worth-shiba-inu-tokens-to-india-covid-relief-fund-2440733>
4. Beauty treatments you should avoid in summers
<https://www.bebeautiful.in/news/beauty-treatments-to-avoid-in-summers>
5. Anand Mahindra gifts T Natarajan.....
<https://sports.ndtv.com/cricket/anand-mahindra-gets-treasure-in-return-after-gifting-t-natarajan-with-a-vehicle-2404650>

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