

# ‘Will give free precaution doses after Centre’s nod’

DDMA to meet next week to discuss containment measures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Following the continuing surge in COVID-19 cases in the Capital over the last two days, the Delhi government on Friday said that it will give precaution doses for free, subject to the Centre's nod in this regard.

While assuring citizens that the government had geared up to deal with any eventuality, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, “We are keeping a close eye on the rising cases of Coronavirus. Hospital admissions are not increasing, so there is no need to panic. Nothing to worry about as of now.”

Health Minister Satyendar Jain appealed to the people to get vaccinated at the earliest. “Prevention is better than cure. All those who have not yet taken the vaccine or have taken only the first dose, should visit or be taken to their nearest health facility as soon as possible for complete vaccination.”

“Even though cases of Coronavirus have increased in Delhi, the number of patients admitted to hospitals is still normal. Apart from this, the XE variant has not been included in the list of ‘Variants of Concern’ by the World Health Organization. So there is no need to pan-



A girl being administered a COVID-19 vaccine at a dispensary in Daryaganj in Delhi ■FILE PHOTO

ic,” Mr. Jain added.

### Surge in cases

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) will meet on April 20 to discuss the rise in COVID cases and measures to contain its spread. This comes a day after the Education Department issued guidelines to keep the infection from spreading in city schools.

The daily COVID-19 cases and positivity rate in the city have seen an upward trend in the last few days. On Friday, the Capital recorded 366 fresh COVID-19 cases and zero death, while the positivity rate rose further to 3.95%, according to the State health bulletin.

### On war footing

The Delhi government said officials have been instructed to keep an eye on the new

variant. On the Chief Minister's orders, about 37,000 COVID-19 beds and 10,594 COVID-19 ICU beds have been readied. The government is working to add 100 oxygen beds in every civic ward within two weeks.

While efforts to resurrect the ‘home isolation’ system are also being made, the Delhi government currently has a capacity of 1,363.73 MT of oxygen, including Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) storage, LMO buffer and pressure swing absorption plants.

The government added that precaution doses of the same vaccine will be given to people, which they have received for their first and second doses. Those who have completed nine months from their second dose are eligible for the precaution doses.

# Three questioned for ‘bhagwa JNU’ flags

Student leaders demand arrests



Delhi Police getting the posters removed near JNU on Friday ■R.V. MOORTHY

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Three persons belonging to the Hindu Sena were questioned by the police for putting up flags and banners near the main gate of Jawaharlal Nehru University on Friday. The flags and banners, which read ‘bhagwa [saffron] JNU’, were later taken down by the police.

This comes five days after a clash broke out between students on Ram Navami over the issue of non-vegetarian food items being taken off the menu.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South West) Manoj C. said, “On Friday morning, it was noticed that a few flags and banners had been put on the road and adjoining areas of JNU. They were promptly removed because of the recent incident and

suitable legal action is being taken.”

He added that a case under Section 3 of the Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2007, was registered and three persons involved in the offence were bound down as per legal procedure.

In a case where a person is bound down, he is not booked under any legal provision but is released subject to the condition that he appears before the police for further investigation.

### Students’ reactions

“The Delhi police recently installed five-six CCTV cameras at the entrance. However, no arrests have been made till now. What are they waiting for?” said Harendra Sheshma, president of the Students’ Federation of India.

He added, “The scuffle that broke out on January 5, 2020, the clashes on November 15 last year and the recent incident that took place on April 10 show that this has become a pattern. Flags and banners are put up to target students and push an agenda.”

N. Sai Balaji, national president of the All India Students’ Association, demanded that the police arrest those who have been identified.

## Remembering the sacrifice



Women and young girls participate in Good Friday prayer at St. Stephen's Orthodox Church in New Delhi on Friday ■R.V. MOORTHY

# Will resolve St. Stephen's admission issue through dialogue, says DU V-C

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

With St. Stephen's College announcing that it will conduct interviews carrying 15% weightage for admissions across categories, Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh on Friday said the varsity does not want any confrontation and will resolve the issue through dialogue.

In an admission notice posted on its website on Tuesday, St. Stephen's Col-

lege said it will give 85% weightage to Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores and 15% to interviews it will conduct for admissions for all categories of students.

The college also said that it reserves the right to proceed with admissions as per its own admission policy guaranteed to it as a minority institution.

While releasing DU's admission policy earlier this month, Mr. Singh had said

that for the general seats, a college should solely take the CUET scores into consideration. For the minority seats, he added, the college could hold interviews, for which it could assign 15% weightage, with the remaining 85% being given to CUET.

“We do not want any confrontation and will work it out. We are not challenging their legal authority but will discuss things with them and find a solution,” Mr. Singh said.

# BJP felicitates members accused of vandalising CM's residence

AAP launches attack on BJP, calls it a “party of criminals”

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI

A war of words broke out between the Aam Aadmi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party here on Friday over the felicitation of eight members of the BJP's youth wing who were granted bail after being arrested for vandalising Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence last month.

The row was triggered after pictures of Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta honouring the men – Chandrakant, Jitender Bisht, Sunny, Neeraj Dixit, Bablu, Pradeep Tiwari, Raju and Navin – at a ceremony a day earlier appeared on social media.

### AAP's attack

Terming it a “party of criminals”, AAP spokesperson Atishi said the party had exposed “its real face”. She attacked the BJP for “celebrating goons.”

Defending its State president, the BJP said Mr. Gupta had merely sought to encourage and “stand in solidarity with” a group of its young members who had taken exception to AAP's and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's comments “disrespecting Kashmiri Pandits and their plight.”

A group of Bharatiya Jana-

ta Yuva Morcha (BJYM) activists, led by the outfit's president and BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, had demonstrated outside Mr. Kejriwal's Civil Lines residence on March 30.

The protesters demanded that Mr. Kejriwal tender an unconditional apology for, what they believed were, derogatory comments against the Kashmiri Pandit community during a discussion on the film ‘The Kashmir Files’ in the Delhi Assembly a few days earlier.

Criminal proceedings were initiated and the eight BJYM members, identified on the basis of CCTV footage, were arrested.

“The attack on CM Arvind Kejriwal's residence was not an isolated incident either. This kind of savagery, violence, and vandalism is in the BJP's DNA. I have a list running into countless pages of similar incidents which include harassment, hooliganism, rape, murder and kidnapping,” Ms. Atishi said.

“The people behind these heinous acts are respected and enabled by the BJP. Everyone in the BJP is promoted and praised for indulging in such harrowing crimes, many even given Cabinet positions,” she added.

The country, she also

said, had two political options available to it: on the one hand, there was “a party of goons” and on the other, there was AAP, “a party of honest, educated, and decent people.”

### BJP's defence

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that the party's workers did not indulge in violence against the Chief Minister. He said they were protesting against Mr. Kejriwal for “insulting Kashmiri Hindus” and insisted that he tender an unconditional apology.

He also condemned Ms. Atishi for terming BJP workers goons and the BJP's “emotional support on their release from jail” as the felicitation of goondas.

“If she calls BJP workers goondas for demonstrating outside the CM house, then what will she call her colleague MLA Amanuttullah Khan accused of beating erstwhile Chief Secretary inside the CM house?” Mr. Kapoor said.

“Before levelling allegations at the BJP, Ms. Atishi should not forget she comes from a party which promoted Jarnail Singh, accused of hurling a shoe at the country's Home Minister,” Mr. Kapoor added.

# Drivers' unions call strike despite Gahlot's overture

Demand fuel price cut, fare regulation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Even as Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot announced on Friday the government's decision to form a committee to examine the drivers' demands and furnish its findings in a time-bound manner, the city's drivers' unions reiterated their decision of going on an indefinite strike from Monday.

The two major demands raised by the auto and taxi drivers' unions, including drivers employed by Ola and Uber, have been reduction in fuel prices and regulation of fares by the government.

### Six-day ultimatum

Sanjay Samrat, president of the Delhi Taxi, Tourist Transporters Association, said the unions had decided to strike work at least on Monday.

The drivers' unions had on April 12 given the Union and Delhi governments a six-day ultimatum, demanding a reduction in CNG, petrol and diesel prices or a rebate on fuel charges for passenger vehicles such as autorickshaws, cabs and tourist vehicles that operate in the Capital.

The protesting unions include the Delhi Taxi, Tourist Transporters Association, the Sarvodaya Driver Asso-

**We will strike work on Monday and if the governments still don't listen, this strike may go on indefinitely**

SANJAY SAMRAT  
President, Delhi Taxi, Tourist Transporters Association

ciation of Delhi and the Expert Driver Association.

“We have been writing to the governments and making them aware of these demands for months but nothing has happened so far. We will strike work on Monday and if the governments still don't listen, this strike may go on indefinitely,” Mr. Samrat said.

According to the associations, cabs attached to ride-hailing apps are operating at a meagre rate of ₹6 per km even as their earnings were being affected by the rising fuel prices.

They said they were also being charged a commission of “over 25% on each trip” by the cab aggregator firms.

Mr. Samrat said removal of speed governors, tax collection from cabs registered in the Capital and a rebate on or cancellation of charges related to vehicle fitness, which had accrued over the last two years, were among the other demands of the unions.

# Mother arrested for killing child

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old woman was arrested on Thursday for killing her three-month-old girl child by strangulation in north-west Delhi's Haiderpur, the police said.

Investigation revealed that the accused Anjali Devi strangled her three-month-old baby with the help of a thread that the child was wearing round her neck, the police said.

DCP (North West) Usha Rangnani said on Thursday that the accused had a quarrel with her husband over domestic issues. After her husband left for work, Devi killed the baby in a fit of rage, she said.

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NOTICE

Title: “Engagement of an Agency for Setting-up and providing Maintenance Support of GIS Laboratory via Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract”

The Director of Land Records & Surveys etc., Assam Requests for Qualification from reputed agencies for the above-mentioned project in the office of the Joint Director of Surveys, Assam at Dakhingaon. The bidding document may be freely downloaded from the website of Tenders Assam at [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in).

1. Pre-bid meeting: Online through Google Meet

Link: <https://meet.google.com/deu-mmry-cys>

Date: 18th April 2022 (10:30 Hours)

2. Last date and time of submission of Application 4th May 2022 (14.00 hrs)

3. Date and time of opening of Application 4th May 2022 (14.30 hrs)

The Director, Land Records & Surveys etc., Assam reserve the right to accept / reject any / all applications without assigning any reason thereof.

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Remembering

UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

Madanjeet Singh

(April 16, 1924- January 6, 2013)

On his 98<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary

South Asia Foundation fondly remembers the visionary UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Madanjeet Singh, author, diplomat, painter, photographer and philanthropist, who dedicated his life to the principle of regional cooperation among the countries of South Asia. He is the first Indian in the history of UNESCO to be nominated UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

The South Asia Foundation pays tribute to the memory of its Founder and dedicates itself to achieving his vision for the Region.

I do believe that history is not merely a series of accidents. It is a never-ending struggle between the reactionary, divisive warmongers and the people striving to realize their dream to live peacefully in cooperation with each other in a society where men and women love reason, despite hatred and violence."

- Ambassador Madanjeet Singh

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