

**Decoding The Hindu Article**

# All adults to get precaution jab

It will be available at private centres from tomorrow; nine-month gap mandatory

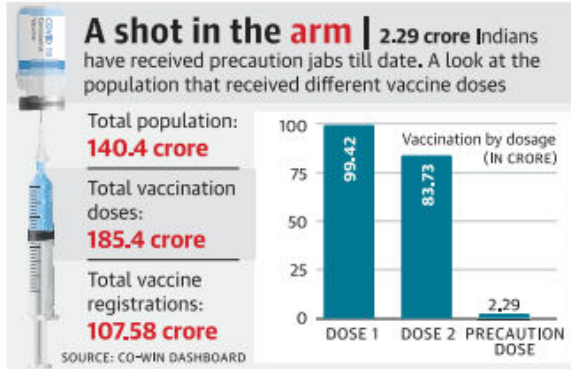
**BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Friday announced that the precautionary or third dose of COVID-19 vaccine would be made available to the 18+ population at private vaccination centres. It would be the same as the previous doses.

The administration of this dose would begin on April 10. All those who have completed nine months after the administration of the second dose would be eligible, it stated. Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** termed the extension of the vaccination drive an “extra layer of safety”.

**1,109 new infections**

The decision comes even as India logged 1,109 new coro-



navirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,30,33,067, while the active cases dipped to 11,492, according to the Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

Cases had dipped to triple digits but there’s been an uptick in some States. Kerala has reported 2,321 cases in

the last week, accounting for nearly 30% of the country’s new cases along with an increase in positivity (number of confirmed positives relative to tests) from 13.45% to 15.53%. This has prompted the Health Ministry to write to the State’s Health Secretary on Friday to monitor clusters of new cases, in-

crease testing and take required steps in areas with high positivity and step up genome sequencing of samples.

This week, reports emerged from Maharashtra of the likely detection of the XE variant, a highly infectious variant of the coronavirus that is a genetic offshoot of the BA.1 and BA.2 Omicron variants. Though not associated with increased disease severity, it has been linked to a spike in infectivity in the U.K. and parts of Europe. However, Union Health Ministry officials and Maharashtra State officials have differed on whether it was indeed the XE variant.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8**

**GUJARAT REPORTS ITS FIRST CASE OF XE VARIANT ► PAGE 10**

### Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Offshoot	(Noun): a thing that develops from something else.	शाखा

### Static News

Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya is an Indian politician currently serving as the Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemical and Fertilizers of India. He is also a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat.

India will continue to follow homologous vaccination for booster schedules. This means that a beneficiary who has received two doses of Covishield will have to take Covishield as the third dose. Similarly, those who received two doses of Covaxin will have to take Covaxin as the precautionary dose.

### Grammar

A modal verb is a kind of an auxiliary verb. It assists the main verb to indicate modality – that is: likelihood, ability, permission, request, capacity, suggestions, order, obligation, or advice.

The modal verbs are can, could, must, may, might, ought to, shall, should, will, would.

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Vocabulary

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the Static News

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Grammar

# Maharashtra faces power scarcity, decides to purchase from outside

Do not want to start load-shedding in the State, says Energy Minister Nitin Raut

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

With a **surge** in demand for power across the State due to the heatwave, Maharashtra Energy department on Friday announced it was purchasing 760 megawatt (MW) from **Coastal Gujarat Power Limited (CGPL)**. The decision comes hours after the State cabinet cleared the decision to allow **Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company (MAHADISCOM)** to purchase power to avoid load-shedding in the State.

“The State is facing a heatwave leading to **manifold** increase in power consumption. The supply of coal is inadequate. With the lifting of all COVID-19 related restrictions, all businesses and commercial establishments too have begun work in full



Demand went up due to heatwave in the State. •FILE PHOTO

capacity. Irrigation too requires electricity. All thermal power centres in the country are facing coal shortage. As a result, we have decided to purchase 760 MW power from CGPL,” said State Energy Minister **Nitin Raut**.

Mr. Raut pointed out that Gujarat has begun load-shedding once a week, while

Andhra Pradesh too has cut power supply by 50%. “We do not want to start load-shedding in the State,” he said.

According to the Minister, the power is available in the open market at ₹12 per unit, but Maharashtra will get it at half this rate. Purchasing 760 MW power every day till June

15 will cost ₹100 crore to ₹150 crore to the State exchequer.

The total power demand in the State had peaked to 28,489 MW per day, which is 8.2% more than the previous year. At present, the State is facing a deficit of 3,500 to 4,000 MW.

Maharashtra has also decided to run the 1,900 MW Koyana Hydro power project at full capacity, but it will have certain limitations as the dam presently has only 17 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) water which can be used for power generation of 17 days only.

Earlier in the day, the State Cabinet gave green signal to the MAHADISCOM to purchase power from outside sources as per the stipulations laid down by the Union Power Ministry.

## Decoding The Hindu Article

### Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Surge	(Noun): a sudden powerful forward or upward movement, especially by a crowd or by a natural force such as the tide.	लहर
Manifold	(Adjective): having many different forms or elements.	विविध

### Static News

CGPL Mundra reached its full generation capacity in March 2013 and has been operating since. It has been selling power to utilities in 5 states – the western states of Gujarat and Maharashtra and the northern states of Haryana, Punjab, and Rajasthan – through a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The project has benefited 16 million rural and urban-based domestic consumers in those states and supplies cost-competitive power to the manufacturing and service industries.

TATA GROUP IS ITS PARENT COMPANY

Mahavitaran or Mahadiscom or MSEDCL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. It is the largest electricity distribution utility in India 2nd largest in the World after SGCC in terms of consumers

### Grammar

A linking verb doesn't always act like a linking verb. Well, that's because a word like "is" can also play an auxiliary or helping role in a sentence.

For example, in the sentence, Malcom is drawing a picture, the word "is" isn't a linking verb. It's a helping verb. It's there to "help" the main verb in the sentence (drawing)

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Vocabulary

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# India studying U.S. sanctions on Alrosa

Diamonds have been a major component of trade between India and Russia in the recent years

**KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE**  
NEW DELHI

The United States' decision to impose stricter sanctions on Alrosa of Russia, a major player in India's gems and jewellery industry, was being evaluated, sources in the industry said on Friday.

The "blocking sanctions" on the largest diamond mining company of the world was announced by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday. "The United States is imposing blocking sanctions on two Russian state-owned enterprises. We will keep raising the cost for President Putin's unconscionable war and atrocities against Ukraine," he said.

Diamond has been a major component of India-Russia trade in recent years and the sector also received at-

tention at the top political level.

## Biggest supplier

The latest sanctions on the biggest supplier of Russian diamonds to India, came hours after India and the United States announced the April 11 "2+2" ministerial meeting where Mr. Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin will engage External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Alrosa, which has been recognised as a state-owned entity (SOE) by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, was targeted by the U.S. authorities during the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine. The Department of the Treasury described Alrosa as the "world's largest dia-



Alrosa supplies 90% of Russia's rough diamonds.

mond mining company", which supplies "90%" of Russia's rough diamonds. Western capitals have described Alrosa's supplies as "conflict diamonds" because of its perceived links with top Russian officials. Alrosa's supplies to India had paused briefly earlier this year but

resumed last month even as the Indian gems and jewellery sector grappled with the challenges of making payments through German banks.

## Curbs on Alrosa chief

Soon after the beginning of the Russian military campaign, the Chief Executive of Alrosa, Sergei Sergeevich Ivanov, was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury. He is the son of Sergey B. Ivanov, one of the closest officials of President Vladimir Putin.

Friday's U.S. announcement said, the latest measures are "expanding previous sanctions by designating Alrosa". The order says that all property of Alrosa that are in possession of American citizens are "blocked and must be re-

ported" to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Department of the Treasury. Therefore, all India-Russia diamond trade that have participation of U.S. citizens are likely to be affected.

The Department of the Treasury further tightened the sanction by declaring "... any entities that are owned, directly or indirectly, 50 percent or more by one or more blocked persons are also blocked. All transactions by U.S. persons or within (or transiting) the United States that involve any property or interests in property of designated or otherwise blocked persons are prohibited unless authorized by a general or specific license issued by OFAC, or otherwise exempt".

## Decoding The Hindu Article

### Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Grappled	(Verb): struggle to deal with or overcome (a difficulty or challenge).	गुत्थम गुत्था

### Static News

Alrosa is a Russian group of diamond mining companies that specialize in exploration, mining, manufacture, and sale of diamonds. The company leads the world in diamond mining by volume. Mining takes place in Western Yakutia, the Arkhangelsk region, and Africa

Lloyd James Austin III is an American retired United States Army four-star general who, since his appointment on January 22, 2021, has served as the 28th United States secretary of defense. He is the first African American to serve as the United States secretary of defense

### Grammar

All English verbs are either regular or irregular, depending on how they are conjugated (It means to give the different forms of (a verb in an inflected language such as Latin) as they vary according to voice, mood, tense, number, and person.). The majority are regular verbs, which means that “-d” or “-ed” is added to their base form (the infinitive of the verb without to) to create both the past simple tense and past participle.

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Red Represents the Grammar

# PSUs can cede inactive coal mines

Committee chaired by PM allows a one-time window without penalty

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Thursday approved the Coal Ministry's proposal to give Central and State public sector undertakings (PSU) a one-time window to surrender non-operational coal mines without penalty, the government said on Friday.

The CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had taken the decision at Thursday evening's meeting.

The government said in a statement that the PSUs would be allowed to surrender non-operational mines without giving any reason.

"This may release several coal mines which the present government PSU allottees are not in a position to develop or are disinterested and could be auctioned as per the present auction policy. Three months' time will



**One-time offer:** Union Minister Prahlad Joshi briefing the media, in New Delhi on Thursday. •PTI

be granted to the allottee government companies to surrender the coal mines from the date of publication of the approved surrender policy," the government statement read.

The government said that after the Supreme Court order on cancellation of coal blocks in 2014, many of those blocks had been allot-

ted to PSUs.

"The allocation route was **expeditious** and it was expected that the coal requirement of State GENCOs would be met from those blocks... Given the context of allocation of coal blocks at that point of time, conditions for times lines for operationalisation of coal blocks were very stringent and firm leaving

no wriggle room either to the successful allottee or the nominated authority. Penalisation for delay in operationalisation of coal mines has resulted in disputes and court cases," the statement read.

It added that as of December 2021, 45 out of the 73 mines allotted to PSUs remained non-operational.

"Delays were due to reasons beyond the control of allottees, for example, law and order issues; enhancement in the area of forest from what was declared earlier; resistance of land-holders against land acquisition; geological surprises in terms of availability of coal resources," the government said.

It added that the CCEA's decision would lead to the coal blocks being offered under the recently launched commercial coal mines auction policy.



### Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Expeditious	(Adjective): done with speed and efficiency.	जल्द

### Static News

CCEA - It considers proposals for investment of more than Rs 1,000 crore, deals with industrial licensing policies and reviews rural development and the Public Distribution System.

Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi is an Indian politician who is the current union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines of India, since from 30 May 2019 and Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha, since from 2004, representing the Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency

### Grammar

Forming the past simple tense of regular verbs is mostly straightforward, and you use the same form for the first, second, and third persons, singular and plural:

- ❑ If the basic form of the verb ends in a consonant or a vowel other than e, add the letters -ed to the end (e.g. seem/seemed, laugh/laughed, look/looked).
- ❑ For verbs that end in -e, add -d (e.g. love/loved, recede/receded, hope/hoped).
- ❑ If the verb ends in a consonant plus -y, change the y to an i before adding -ed (e.g. hurry/hurried, clarify/clarified). But if the verb ends in a vowel plus -y, just add -ed (e.g. play/played, enjoy/enjoyed).



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## Decoding The Hindu Article

# RBI to 'focus' on inflation, lifts estimates

Central bank holds interest rates, lowers GDP growth forecast as war clouds India's economic outlook

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee on Friday raised its estimate for inflation in FY23 to 5.7%, from the 4.5% forecast in February before Russia invaded Ukraine, and stressed that it would now turn its focus to the "withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward".

"In the sequence of priority we have now put inflation before growth," RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said at a press conference after announcing the MPC's decision to hold interest rates at its first policy review of the new fiscal year. "For the last three years growth was ahead of inflation in sequence. This time we have reversed it be-



**On guard:** The stance continues to be accommodative but RBI is focussing on withdrawal of accommodation, says Das. •PTI

cause we thought the time is appropriate," he added.

The RBI has also started withdrawing some of the accommodation it had provided in the last two years, though gradually.

"The stance continues to

be accommodative but we are now focussing on withdrawal of accommodation. So, gradually we are moving away from an 'accommodative' stance which has been there for more than two years," Mr. Das stressed.

Elaborating on the change in tack, RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said, "We have taken the policy repo rate to an all-time low which is 4%. If you adjust it with the targeted inflation then the real rate is zero. That was ultra accommodation. The situation is changing and now we want to withdraw the ultra accommodation but there is scope to remain accommodative."

### 'War-induced factors'

Mr. Das said the MPC had decided to revise the inflation projections for FY23 upwards with the estimate for Q1 at 6.3%; Q2 at 5.8%; Q3 at 5.4%; and Q4 at 5.1% due to "war-induced factors".

He pointed to the sharp increase in crude oil, edible

oil and wheat prices, and the cost of feed – which has pushed prices of poultry, egg and dairy products – as reason for the higher estimates.

Earlier, the MPC voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 4%.

Mr. Das said escalating geopolitical tensions had cast a shadow on India's economic outlook. As a result, real GDP growth for FY23 has been projected at 7.2%, compared with 7.8% estimated earlier.

Asked about the likely impact of any economic fallout due to India's ongoing trade with Russia, which is facing sanctions from western nations, Mr. Das said, "The government is seized of the issue... as far as RBI is concerned, we will not do anything that goes against the sanctions."

## Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Fallout	(Noun): the adverse results of a situation or action.	उत्तर

## Static News

Shaktikanta Das is a retired 1980 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Tamil Nadu cadre. Currently serving as the 25th governor of the Reserve Bank of India, he was earlier a member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission and India's Sherpa to the G20

Michael Debabrata Patra is an Indian economist and central banker. A career Reserve Bank of India officer, he is currently serving as one its four deputy governors

## Grammar

If a subject and the verb are joined by a relative pronoun, the verb used will agree with the antecedent to the relative pronoun.

EXAMPLES:

☑ She is one of the noblest women that has ever lived on this earth. (That is a relative pronoun whose antecedent is "women" and hence, here we use 'have' in place of 'has')

☑ I am not one of those who will trust everyone whom I meet. (who is a relative pronoun, so here we use 'they meet' in place of 'I meet')



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**Decoding The Hindu Article**

# Woods launches unlikely Masters quest with one-under

South Korean Im Sung-jae tops the leaderboard after the first round

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
AUGUSTA

Tiger Woods called on all of his hard-won stamina and the knowledge gleaned in five past triumphs to launch his boldest Masters bid yet with a one-under-par 71 at Augusta National on Thursday.

The 46-year-old superstar, whose February 2021 car crash left him with injuries so severe he feared he might lose his right leg, said just being able to play his first competitive round in 17 months was a victory.

But it might not be the only one he celebrates this week.

"I was able to finish up in the red," Woods said. "I'm right where I need to be."

Woods was tied for 10th, four shots behind South Korean Im Sung-jae, who

launched his round with three straight birdies and finished with five birdies and an eagle in his five-under 67.

Australian Cameron Smith, like Im chasing a first major title, was a stroke back after a 68 that was all the more remarkable considering it was bookended by double bogeys at the first and 18th holes.

Woods had indicated as recently as February that he was unlikely to be ready to tee it up in the first major of the year, and said all week that his biggest challenge would be negotiating the hilly, 7,510-yard Augusta National course on his surgically repaired right leg.

"It did not get easier, let's put it that way," he said after a round in blustery winds that lasted nearly five and a

half hours. "I can swing a golf club. The walking's not easy.

"With all the hard work, my leg, it's going to be difficult for the rest of my life."

Meanwhile, first round leader Im – who finished tied for second on his Masters debut in 2020 – powered up the leaderboard with a trio of birdies on his first three holes.

While excited by his first round performance, Im cautioned that he would remain "humble."

**Top scores:** Im Sung-Jae (67); Cameron Smith (68); Dustin Johnson, Scottie Scheffler, Danny Willett and Joaquin Niemann (all 69); Corey Conners, Jason Kokrak and Patrick Cantlay (all 70); Matthew Fitzpatrick, Tiger Woods, Kevin Na, Webb Simpson, Tony Finau, Harold Varner III, Daniel Berger, Will Zalatoris and Harry Higgs (all 71).



**'Not easy':** Woods, who was tied 10th, said the challenge would be negotiating the course with his surgically repaired leg. •AFP

### Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Gleaned	(Verb): obtain (information) from various sources, often with difficulty.	चमका हुआ
Blustery	(Adjective): (of weather) characterized by strong winds.	धमकी से

### Static News

Eldrick Tont "Tiger" Woods is an American professional golfer. He is tied for first in PGA Tour wins, ranks second in men's major championships, and holds numerous golf records. Woods is widely regarded as one of the greatest golfers of all time and one of the most famous athletes in modern history.

Im Sung-jae, also known as Sungjae Im, is a South Korean professional golfer. Im won twice and was Player of the Year on the 2018 Web.com Tour. He was Rookie of the Year for the 2018–19 PGA Tour, and got his first PGA Tour victory at The Honda Classic in March 2020

### Grammar

If a sentence states an imaginary position, it starts with if, as if, as though, suppose, I wish, in case, would that etc. In such sentences 'were' is used as the verb irrespective of the number of the subject.

EXAMPLES:

- ☒ I wish, I were bird.
- ☒ If he were rich, he would help others.

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