

OPINION 6

HYPOCRISY IS VERY
MUCH ALIVE AND WELL

WORLD 8

US SANCTIONS ON MYANMAR GEMS
TARGET KEY JUNTA FUNDING SOURCE

SPORT 12

MAN UTD WIN IN
EUROPA LEAGUE

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY APRIL 10, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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CAN'T SPEAK
FLUENT
ENGLISH: MIKA
10 VIVACITY*Late City Vol. 31 Issue 98
*Air Surcharge Extra If ApplicableUS drill in EEZ, India protests
MEA expresses concerns to US over exercise without permission

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A naval drill by the US Navy earlier this week in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) has raised eyebrows as no prior consent from New Delhi was taken for the strategic exercise, which was in total disregard of international conventions. However, the US has claimed it has abided by the international laws.

This exercise without approval by India came at a time when the two countries are marching ahead to forge closer strategic and defence ties. Moreover, the two countries, now part of the Quadrilateral last year, held the Malabar series of exercises along with Japan and Australia.

Taking exception to the exercise, the External Affairs Ministry said here on Friday India has expressed its concerns to the US through diplomatic channels.

A Ministry statement said UN Convention on Law of the Sea did not authorise other states to carry out military exercises or manoeuvres, in particular those involving use of weapons, in EEZ and on continental shelf, without consent of coastal state.

It further said the US warship USS John Paul Jones was continuously monitored transiting from the Persian Gulf towards the Malacca Straits. "We have conveyed our con-



US Navy conducts a Freedom of Navigation Operation (FONOP) in the Indian Ocean region, in the La Pérouse exercise between April 5 and April 7

Twitter/@USNavy

cerns regarding this passage through our EEZ to the Government of the USA through diplomatic channels," the MEA statement said.

The US informed about its drill when a statement by the US Navy 7th fleet said it conducted Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPs) within India's exclusive economic zone off the Lakshadweep Islands without India's permission.

"On April 7, 2021, the USS John Paul Jones asserted navigational rights and freedoms approximately 130 nautical

miles west of the Lakshadweep Islands, inside India's EEZ, without requesting India's prior consent, consistent with international law. India requires prior consent for military exercises or manoeuvres in its exclusive economic zone or continental shelf, a claim inconsistent with international law," said a statement by the US 7th Fleet Public Affairs.

The statement irked New Delhi since the US is among India's closest strategic partners with both sides having repeatedly opposed China's maritime

expansionism, particularly in the South China Sea. India and the US hold naval exercises throughout the year.

The US statement also said, "We conduct routine and regular FONOPs, as we have done in the past and will continue to do in the future. FONOPs are not about one country, nor are they about making political statements."

In the Quad group meeting held in February this year, the first since a new US administration took over, the partners pledged "to strengthen coop-

eration on advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific region, including support for freedom of navigation and territorial integrity".

Reacting to this development, former Navy Chief Admiral Arun Prakash said on Twitter, "There is irony here. While India ratified UN Law of the Seas in 1995, the US has failed to do it so far. For the 7th Fleet to carry out FoN missions in Indian EEZ in violation of our domestic law is bad enough. But publicising it? USN please switch on IFF (Identification, friend or foe)!"

The US regularly conducts FONOPs against several countries challenging what it says are "excessive maritime claims" and FONOPs were regularly conducted against India too in the past.

Both the countries have differences on the rights of Littoral States to stop foreign warships from carrying out military activities in their EEZ.

India and the US have fundamental differences in coastal states' rights to stop foreign military ships from conducting military activities within their EEZ.

When India ratified the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1995, it declared that in its understanding "the provisions of the Convention do not authorise other States to carry out in the exclusive economic zone and

on the continental shelf military exercises or manoeuvres, in particular those involving the use of weapons or explosives without the consent of the coastal State". The US has so far not ratified UNCLOS.

The differences, which began during the drafting of the treaty, is over the interpretation of Article 58 (i) of the Convention, which says:.. In the exclusive economic zone, all States, whether coastal or landlocked, enjoy, subject to the relevant provisions of this Convention, the freedoms referred to in article 87 of navigation and over flight and of the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, and other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to these freedoms, such as those associated with the operation of ships, aircraft and submarine cables and pipelines, and compatible with the other provisions of this Convention.

The second clause of the Article then lists Articles "88 to 115" as also applying to the EEZ "in so far as they are not incompatible with this Part".

The US asserts that the phrase "other internationally lawful uses of the sea" means that they can enjoy the freedom to operate in the EEZ. They also cite Article 87 that lists freedoms in the high seas, including freedom of navigation, implying that this applies to the EEZ.

700 post-shot
adverse events
under scannerOver 1.44 lakh
cases in 24 hrs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At least 700 severe and serious adverse events have been reported from across the country post-Covid vaccination since nationwide inoculation drive began on January 16. The cases are under scanner in India in the wake of the global concerns over rare or unusual types of blood clots after administration of the AstraZeneca-Oxford University shots.

Meanwhile, India reported over 1.44 lakh cases in 24 hours on Friday, while the 773 people died of Covid-19.

Sources in the Union Health Ministry said the national committee on adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) is closely monitoring the cases and relooking at some of the unusual technical parameters following reports by the European regulator and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The result of the analysis is likely to be finalised by the end of this week, said the sources.

They said the review is significant as globally regulators are waiting for India's data

because of a large number of doses of Covid vaccine being administered here. At over 83 million, AstraZeneca's Covishield vaccine accounts for 90 per cent of the doses administered in India so far. The remaining 8.1 million doses are of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

"Besides, we also have a large-scale AEFI monitoring and assessment mechanism already in place for the universal child immunisation programme," he added.

On Wednesday, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) confirmed that the cases of blood clots with low blood platelets were associated with the administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine, but should still be listed as very rare side effects.

In fact, till March 29 when over 6 crore people were inoculated, nearly, 180 people died after getting the vaccine while 617 adverse events have been reported in India. This means that 29.2 per cent of these AEFI cases resulted in deaths. However, not a single case has been attributed to deaths due to the vaccine.

Instead, the Ministry has found that most of the persons who succumbed to their illness had co-morbidities.

Continued on Page 2

Mamata defies EC,
keeps blasting ShahShah: Mamata
outburst result
of frustration

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as the Election Commission of India slapped a second notice on Mamata Banerjee, this time for asking her supporters to blockade the Central forces and then vote because "they are Amit Shah's men," a defiant Bengal Chief Minister alleged Home Minister Amit Shah was trying to incite violence in the State and egging on the police to engage in unethical acts.

The TMC supremo advised Prime Minister Narendra Modi to control Shah, alleging that he may incite riots in the State.

"I have not seen such a 'gunda' (gangster), 'dangabaz' (rioteer) Home Minister in my entire life. Amit Shah is more dangerous than a tiger. People fear talking to him. I will urge



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee during an election campaign rally at Jotram in Bardhaman on Friday

PTI

PM Narendra Modi to control Amit Shah first. He is inciting riots here," news agency PTI quoted Mamata saying this while addressing a rally in Memari in Purba.

On his part, the Union Home Minister on Friday pledged "common sense" to the Bengal Chief Minister informing her about how the CPF functioned during the elections.

"Mamata Didi has been

holding the Home Ministry responsible for controlling the conduct of the Central forces during the elections... but a little common sense would make her think differently... in fact during the elections the Central forces are not controlled by the Union Home Ministry but by the Election Commission," Shah told mediapersons adding he had not seen a Chief Minister acting in a manner the way she did.

Saying that Mamata's outburst was the result of her fear of losing the elections, the Home Minister said, "Mamata Banerjee's outburst only indicates that she is losing the elections... the frustration is evident from her regular attack on the Central forces... In fact I have never seen a Chief Minister or party chief asking the people to gherao the Central forces." He wondered whether by using such words she was trying to create anarchy. "Is she trying to create anarchy? I do not understand," Shah said.

Continued on Page 2

Govt shuts schools
in Delhi after surge
in Covid-19 cases

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Friday ordered all schools to remain shut amid the rising cases of coronavirus in the city. On Friday, Delhi recorded 8,521 fresh Covid-19 cases, highest single-day spike since November 11 last year, and 39 new fatalities, according to Health department bulletin.

The Directorate of Education (DoE) in its order stated, "In view of the sudden surge in the cases of Covid-19 in Delhi, all the Heads of Government, Government aided and unaided recognised Schools are hereby informed that conduct of all academic and examination activities through physical mode shall remain suspended with immediate effect till further orders.

"They are further directed to ensure that no student of Classes IX to XII is called in the school physically for any kind of academic or examination activity (like practice of practicals, mid-term & annual



examination related work i.e., practical, project submission, assessments etc) till further orders," said the order issued by the DoE.

"However, teaching learning activities may be conducted for the students through digital modes," it said further.

Meanwhile, Delhi Government-run Rajiv Gandhi Speciality Hospital (RGGS) has been again converted into a dedicated Covid-19 facility amid a massive surge in coronavirus cases in the national Capital, officials said on Friday.

Covid +ve after both doses!

37 doctors in
Delhi's Sir Ganga
Ram Hospital
test positive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as Covid-19 cases are surging despite ramping up of the vaccination drive each passing day, the Government is bracing up for a new worry as the virus is infecting even those people, including large number of doctors, who have already taken both doses of vaccines.

This might hamper the health services at a time when the country is witnessing a second wave.

Dr Jugal Kishore, head of the department of community medicine at Safdarjung Hospital, said infection among doctors even after getting vaccination can impair the functionality of services that are being provided. "If doctors go for quarantine or get sick, who will provide healthcare services," he cautioned.

For instance, at least 37 doctors in Delhi's Sir Ganga Ram Hospital have tested pos-

itive for the coronavirus and five of them have been admitted for treatment.

Similarly, about 40 doctors have tested positive in a hospital in the last few days. Around half of them belong to the general surgery department, nine of the urology department and three of the department of medicine. Most of them had taken the vaccine in the first phase of the vaccination that was launched from January 16.

Studies say the "Peltzman Effect", might be one of the reasons. The term is used to indicate that when safety measures are mandated, people's perception of risk decreases, making them take riskier deci-

sions.

The Peltzman Effect has been termed after Sam Peltzman, an economist at the University of Chicago. According to the theory, Peltzman postulated that mandating the use of seatbelts in automobiles led to more accidents. This implies that safety perception increases the appetite for risks. In other terms, people become more careful when they sense greater risk and less careful if they feel more protected.

Continued on Page 2

RSS chief Bhagwat
tests Covid +ve

Nagpur: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has tested coronavirus positive and he has been admitted to a private hospital in Nagpur, sources said on Friday.

Maha Minister
for three-week
State lockdown

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Minister Vijay Wadettiwar on Friday said that a three-week long lockdown was required in the State to bring the coronavirus cases under control.

Having only a weekend lockdown was not enough for the State considering the rise in numbers, he said.

"We are doing all we can to check the spread, but it requires strong manpower. We will soon make available five lakh doctors, including those who are completing their postgraduation," the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister told a TV channel.

We need to bring curbs on the movement of railways and stop crowding in public places to prevent the community spread and save people's lives, Wadettiwar said.

"As Relief and Rehabilitation Minister, I would demand that instead of just a weekend lockdown, we should go for a three-week long strict lockdown. It is required to check the community spread," he said.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

7 ULTRAS KILLED IN 2
ENCOUNTERS IN J&K

Srinagar: Seven terrorists, including terror outfit Ansar Ghazwatul Hind's chief Imtiaz Ahmad Shah, were gunned down by security forces in two encounters in J&K's Shopian and Pulwama districts, police said on Friday.

2 PAK MINS OPPOSE JAIL
FOR FORCES' CRITICISM

Islamabad: Two senior federal ministers in Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's Cabinet have voiced their opposition to a controversial law which seeks to criminalise any criticism or ridicule of the country's powerful armed forces with a two-year imprisonment or fine up to rupees 50,000 or both.

IIMC DELHI TO CONDUCT
PRACTICAL CLASSES

New Delhi: The IIMC said it has decided to start practical classes for various post-graduate diploma courses from April 26 at its New Delhi campus.

Kisan to block
KMP e-way
for 24 hours

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Intensifying their protest against the three farm laws, the farmers protesting at Delhi borders will block the key Kundali-Manesar-Palwal highway for 24 hours starting Saturday morning.

"Tomorrow, on April 10, the KMP-KGP highway will be blocked for 24 hours (from 8 am, 10th April to 8 am 11th April) as a warning to the government," the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of the protesting farmer unions, said in a statement on Friday.

The KMP stands for Kundali-Manesar-Palwal expressway and the KGP for Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal expressway.

The move is a part of the farmers' strategy for protest this month.

Prince Philip: 4 royal
visits to India and a
tiger controversy

PTI ■ LONDON

Britain's Prince Philip — the Duke of Edinburgh, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II, who passed away at the age of 99 on Friday morning — made three memorable royal visits to India in his long years of accompanying the 94-year-old monarch during her nearly 69-year reign.

The UK's longest-serving royal consort joined the Queen in India in 1959, 1961, 1983 and 1997 — during which he made quite an impression with his sense of humour, which often also got him into some controversy.

"Deeply saddened at sad demise of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, an iconic pillar of the British monarchy, regarded by his people and



world with the highest esteem and affection. India had the honour of receiving him and HM The Queen on four memorable occasions," the Indian High Commission in London said in a statement.

Continued on Page 2
Related reports on P8AIUDF sends 22 candidates
to Jaipur to avert poaching

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

To thwart possible attempts of horse-trading by the ruling BJP, Assam's minority-based All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) on Friday sent all its candidates of the recently-concluded Assembly elections to Congress-ruled Rajasthan in a chartered plane, perhaps being the first case when election contestants, not MLAs, have been put in a secure place.

As many as 22 candidates of the Opposition alliance led by the Congress in Assam have been flown to Jaipur amid fears that the BJP may try to lure them away ahead of election results due early next month. The candidates from Mahajot alliance are from the Maulana Badruddin Ajmal-



led AIUDF. AIUDF is a component of Assam's 10-party and Congress-led grand alliance of Opposition. It was formed two months back to oust the BJP from power.

They have been kept in the same Fairmont resort in Jaipur where Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had put his MLAs last July during the party's internal crisis led by Sachin Pilot.

"It's now a trend since the BJP tries to break the Congress

after losing elections. So they (allies) want to take guard," AICC chief spokesman Congress's Randeep Singh Surjewala said confirming the developments.

Speculation is rife the candidates could be taken further to Dubai from Rajasthan as the results of the keenly-contested Assam elections will scheduled to be declared on May 2 comes closer.

"All of us have just landed in Rajasthan. The Rajasthan Government has made arrangements for our stay," one of the AIUDF candidates said as quoted by an Assam daily. He mentioned the AIUDF chief Maulana Badruddin Ajmal though have not accompanied the team since he is in Mumbai.

Continued on Page 2

CM enquires about docs who test +ve after jab

Kejriwal meets Sir Ganga Ram Hospital's head

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday met the chairman of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Dr DS Rana, at his

residence, where he inquired about the health of the 37 doctors appointed at the hospital who have tested positive for Corona. Rajendra Nagar MLA

Raghav Chaddha was also present in the meeting. Kejriwal said, "Our doctors have been at the forefront of fighting Coronavirus. I pray for a swift recovery of all the doctors who

have tested positive. The hospital can reach out to the Delhi government at any point, if and when required, and we will provide them with all the help possible." During the meeting, the CM was



FCI not procuring wheat at MSP in Delhi, alleges Rai



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Agriculture Minister Gopal Rai on Friday visited Narela Mandi after receiving a series of complaints from farmers of the food grains not being procured at 'Minimum Support Price' (MSP). The Minister visited mandi to check the situation on ground and found that FCI did not even set up a counter there. Rai said "We decided to

inspect the situation today and have been apprised by the president and secretary of the Mandi and found not even a single counter of the FCI. The Centre should stop harassing farmers and purchase food grains by setting up counters in mandis." To resolve the matter, he will hold a meeting with senior officials of FCI in Delhi Secretariat on Saturday, he said. "It is highly unfortunate that such a system has been created to trouble farmers. I would like to say to the union government that today farmers are fighting for their rights and they know that once the three farm laws are implemented, they will have to face a lot of trouble. Today a farmer is being sent from one place to another for MSP. No purchasing was done in the godown till today," he added.

Schools for Class I-VIII to remain closed until April 30: Haryana CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Haryana Government has decided to shut schools for classes 1 to 8 till April 30 in view of the Covid-19 situation. This was announced by Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday. Khattar was present in Gurugram on Friday to chair an annual meeting of the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA). "We are monitoring the situation in the state and are focusing on testing instead of 'Night curfew' or 'Lockdown'. In the coming days the government will increase testing at the market places, malls, bus stands, railway stations to curb infections. We don't need to panic in view of the surge in Covid-19 cases. We should work hard to fight against Covid-19 and need to follow covid guidelines," Khattar said. The decision comes after many school students and

teachers in different districts tested positive for coronavirus. Government school students from several districts had recently tested positive for coronavirus infection after which these schools had been closed until further orders. The students who were asymptomatic too had tested positive during a random sam-



pling drive carried out by the health department for the schools. Earlier, the state government had allowed classes from 3 to 12 to open in phased manner with the prior consent of parents. Meanwhile, the state is witnessing a surge in the cases of COVID-19.

Man shot at by criminal in Dayalpur

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 23-year-old man was injured after he was shot at by an alleged criminal in north-east Delhi's Dayalpur area. The victim has been identified as Sahil, a resident of Nehru Vihar area. According to a senior police official, Sahil had sustained a gunshot wound in his left leg and was admitted to the Jag Praveesh Chandra Hospital. "Initially, Sahil accused two other persons for the incident, but when he was examined in detail upon being discharged from the hospital he told that a person named Farooq was behind the whole episode," said the senior police official. "Farooq is a criminal of the area whose motive was to implicate others in the crime. On Thursday around 5 pm, Farooq allegedly shot at Sahil and later informed the police himself. A case has been registered and probe is underway," said the senior police official.

Two held for robbing people using monkeys

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested two men for allegedly using monkeys to threaten and rob people in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area. The accused duo, Balwan Nath (26) and Vikram Nath (23), who are residents of Okhla Mor in the city. According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, the duo

was waiting near Chirag Delhi bus stand with their two monkeys when the police team nabbed them on Thursday. "The two monkeys have been deposited with Wildlife SOS centre. The accused, along with their third associate, Ajay used monkeys to threaten people and rob them of their valuables," said the DCP adding efforts are being taken to catch hold of Ajay, who is still absconding. "The accused men had

caught the monkeys from Tughlakabad Fort jungle around three months ago. The matter came to light on March 2, when an advocate from Khirki Extension reported that three men carrying monkeys surrounded them and forcefully robbed Rs 6,000 from him," said the DCP. "When the lawyer was sitting in an auto-rickshaw, the duo made the monkeys sit inside the vehicle with one in the front and the other at the

back seat and demanded money from him. When the advocate took out the wallet, the duo robbed him and escaped," said the DCP. "A case was registered under Indian Penal Code Sections 392 (punishment for robbery) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) at Malviya Nagar police station and since it was a peculiar incident involving monkeys, a dedicated team was constituted to

nab the culprits," said the DCP. "Further, relevant provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 were added against the accused in the case. The team scanned through several CCTV footages and conducted raids in and around Delhi based on inputs from sources and informers," said the DCP. "On Thursday, a police team got a tip-off that two men with monkeys were present at Chirag Delhi bus stand who

had committed the robbery earlier and could commit further thefts. We acted upon the information and apprehended them along with the two monkeys," said the DCP. "During interrogation, the duo confessed to their involvement in the incident along with their associate Ajay who is absconding. The arrested accused are being further interrogated for their other involvements if any," the DCP added.



LoP in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, along with BJP MLAs, addresses a Press Conference on an important issue in New Delhi on Friday

23-year-old man shot in Mandawali

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 23-year-old man was shot dead by two unidentified assailants in east Delhi's Mandawali area. The deceased has been identified as Farman, a resident of the Welcome area.

According to Deepak Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East district, Farman was shot at by two unknown assailants on Thursday. "The man was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died during treatment. A case under

relevant sections of the IPC has been registered at Mandawali Police Station and a probe into the matter is underway," the DCP said. Police said the CCTV footage of surrounding areas is being checked to ascertain the identity of the accused persons.

5 held for kidnapping 3-yr-old girl in Raj Park

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested five people, including a couple, in connection with the alleged kidnapping of a three-year-old girl in outer Delhi's Raj Park area. The accused have been identified as Ravi (26), his wife Santosh (25), Mahesh (25), Guddan (26) and Ramprasad (36). Police said that the child was safely recovered and handed over to her parents. An amount of Rs 84,500 was also recovered from the accused," said police. According to Parvinder Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district, on Tuesday, the victim's mother reported that at around 8.30

pm, her daughter was playing with other children in a park in front of her house while she was busy with household work and subsequently, she went missing. "A case was registered and while scanning through the footage obtained from over 50 CCTV cameras, the police noticed a couple carrying a child. The couple were identified as Ravi and his wife Santosh and they were nabbed on April 7, but the child could not be found at their residence in outer Delhi's Mangolpuri," said the DCP. "During interrogation, Santosh told the police that he had got a job as a patient attendant at a house through Mahesh, who works as a ward boy at a private hospital, but

after the patient recovered, he lost his job and was in a financial crisis. When he approached Mahesh for help, the latter offered him Rs 50,000 if he could arrange for a child aged up to five years," said the DCP. "When Mahesh was questioned, he disclosed that Ram Prasad, who also works as a ward boy with him at the hospital, asked him to arrange for a child for adoption for his sister Guddan, who is separated from her husband and is under mental depression. Mahesh made a plan to kidnap a child through Ravi and Santosh and demanded Rs one Lakh for the same from Ram Prasad. After the girl was kidnapped, she was handed over to Guddan in exchange for the promised cash," said the DCP.

Begumpur best police station of Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner SN Shrivastava on Friday presented "Certificate of Excellence" to Station House Officer (SHO) of Begumpur police station, Inspector Jai Bhagwan, for being selected as the best police station of Delhi among top 10 police stations of India 2020. "The ranking is done on the basis of prefixed parameters by the Ministry of Home Affairs annually, and are conducted to incentivise effective functioning of police stations and bring healthy competition among them," said Chinmoy Biswal, the Public Relation Officer (PRO) of Delhi Police. "The surveys were conducted across the country, and the police stations were selected based on data analysis, direct observation and public feedback. The survey team also randomly visited various areas -- Rajiv Nagar, Jain Nagar,



Begumpur falling under the jurisdiction of Begumpur police station and recorded citizens' feedback. They also noticed checking being conducted at the pickets and observed the actual on ground situation," said Biswal. "The survey team further

analysed the CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) entries and Records of Police Station. They visited the Malkhanas as well as inspected the basic amenities for visitors, waiting areas, toilets, drinking water, public facilitation desks, bar-

racks, separate rooms for women constable, safety and security of armoury and other parameters as per the standards for best police station, and adjudged Begumpur as the best police station in Delhi," Biswal added. "To bolster effective polic-

ing, staff of Begumpur police station in coordination with members of public got installed around 400 CCTV cameras in 2019-2020. Inspector Jai Bhagwan, SHO Begumpur also took an initiative to involve good Samaritans and youth in order to control crime," said Biswal. "A gang of snatchers and robbers was apprehended by team of Begumpur police station actively involved in committing crime in Sector 37, Rohini through active engage-





Govt. of Haryana



Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

Farmers' welfare is
our prime objective



Under Pradhan Mantri Fasal
Bima Yojana, insurance
claim of Rs.3953.43 crore
to 17.08 lakh farmers



Under Mukhyamantri Bagwani
Bima Yojana, farmers will have
to pay a reduced premium
amount of only 2.5 percent



Hassle free crop procurement,
payment of purchase direct
into bank accounts of farmers



For accessible information
about agricultural produce
81 Mandis linked to e-NAM,
32 Mandis will be linked soon



To provide fair price to farmers for
their produce, 2000 'Har-Hith' Stores
to be opened soon by Haryana Agro



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Rahul seeks moratorium on vaccine export



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding an immediate moratorium on Covid-19 vaccine exports and opening up of the vaccination to “everyone who needs it”.

Rahul also asked for a provision of a direct income support to the vulnerable sections amid the disastrous second wave of Covid-19 in India, as he extended his support to the vaccination programme. “I humbly request you to provide vaccine suppliers with necessary resources to increase manufacturing capacity and place an immediate moratorium on vaccine export,” Rahul Gandhi said in his letter to the Prime Minister.

“Open up vaccination to everyone who needs it,” he demanded, seeking fast-tracking of approval of other vaccines as per norms and guidelines. He also asked the Prime Minister to double the central allocation for vaccine procurement from the existing ₹35,000 crore and give State Governments a greater say in



vaccine procurement and distribution.

His suggestions came a day after Prime Minister Modi said vaccines will have to be prioritised due to limited supply and lamented that some people were playing politics on the issue. Questioning the Government for permitting large-scale exports of vaccines, he said, “While our nation is facing vaccine starvation, more than six crore doses of vaccines have been exported.”

The Gandhi scion alleged that the state governments were repeatedly highlighting vaccine shortages only to receive interperate statements by the union health minister. He accused the health minister of targeting Opposition-ruled states and undercutting cooperative federalism.

“Was the export of vaccines also an ‘oversight’, like many other decisions of this government, or an effort to garner publicity at the cost of our own citizens,” he asked. Stressing that his party supports a well-planned, universalised and speedy vaccination drive, he said, “Our vaccination program has to move beyond an individual’s picture on the vaccine certificate, towards guaranteeing maximum vaccination.”

Expressing concern over the rising cases of the coronavirus, the former Congress chief said that over the last year, the country suffered irreparable losses, made tremendous sacrifices, and yet, it is under a renewed attack by this virus.

“This is unfortunate considering our scientific

community and vaccine suppliers worked overtime to develop a solution but their efforts are undermined by the Centre’s poor implementation and ‘oversight,’” he said. Lamenting that the vaccination drive is slow, Rahul Gandhi claimed at the current rate, it would take years to inoculate 75 per cent of the population.

“This will have catastrophic effects and will gravely decelerate India’s economy,” he added.

Hours after Rahul wrote to the PM, hitting back, senior Ravi Shankar Prasad took to Twitter to counter Rahul’s allegations and mentioned, “Rahul Gandhi must know that shortage in Congress-ruled states is not of vaccines but of basic commitment towards healthcare.” “He

Ex-Cong president facing attention starvation: Ravi Shankar Prasad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for saying that country is witnessing “vaccine starvation”, Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday said it is not India that is facing vaccine starvation but “Shri Gandhi is facing attention starvation.”

Former Congress president has in a letter to Prime Minister demanded that export of vaccines be immediately be halted ‘amidst domestic shortages’.

Hitting back at the Congress leader, Prasad accused Rahul of lobbying for pharma companies “by asking for arbitrary approvals for foreign vaccines.”

“Why has Rahul Gandhi not yet taken vaccine? Is it an oversight or he doesn’t want it

should write letters to his party’s governments to stop their ‘vasooli’ (extortion) ventures and concentrate on administering the lakhs of vaccines they are sitting on,” he said.

India is not facing vaccine

or has he already taken one in many of his undisclosed trips to foreign locations but doesn’t want to disclose?”, Tweeted Prasad in an aside.

“After failing as a part-time politician, has Rahul Gandhi switched to full-time lobbying? First, he lobbied for fighter plane companies by trying to derail India’s acquisition programme. Now he is lobbying for pharma companies by asking for arbitrary approvals for foreign vaccines”, said the Union minister.

Prasad claimed that Rahul does not have proper understandings of the strategy that needed to be adopted to counter the Coronavirus pandemic in the country.

“Fighting a pandemic is not a one trick game. Apart from vaccination, there needs to be adequate focus on testing,

starvation but Gandhi is facing “attention starvation”, Prasad said.

“Why has Rahul Gandhi not yet taken vaccine? Is it an oversight or he doesn’t want it or has he already taken one in

tracing & treating. Rahul Gandhi’s problem is that he doesn’t understand all this and his ignorance is compounded by his arrogance”, said the BJP leader.

Prasad denied charge of shortage of vaccine in the Congress-ruled states.

“Rahul Gandhi must know that shortage in Congress-ruled states is not of vaccines but of basic commitment towards health care.

“He should write letters to his party’s Governments to stop their vasooli ventures & concentrate on administering the lakhs of vaccines they r sitting upon”, said the Minister.

Amidst the talk of shortage of vaccine supply in the country and its supply to foreign nations, Maharashtra Shiv Sena headed Government which is currently draggers drawn with

many of his undisclosed trips to foreign locations but doesn’t want to disclose?” he posed.

“After failing as a part-time politician, has Rahul Gandhi switched to full-time lobbying? First, he lobbied for



the central Government, has accused the Modi-Government of showing bias against non-BJP-ruled states in the supply of vaccines. Maharashtra is the worst affected State in the country with the highest positive cases in the country.

The charge was denied by Union Minister Pralhad Javadekar on Thursday when he said 23 lakh doses were available with the Maharashtra government on a daily basis and the latter needs to efficiently distribute them in the State, he said.

The second surge in Coronavirus cases have made it more so necessary that a majority of the population of all age groups get the vaccine jab as soon as possible and that would require an uninterrupted supply of vaccine doses and speedy reduction in their wastage.

fighter plane companies by trying to derail India’s acquisition programme. Now he is lobbying for pharma companies by asking for arbitrary approvals for foreign vaccines,” Prasad said.

EC sends notice to Mamata for making demoralising barbs on Central forces

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has sent a notice to West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee for her “highly objectionable” statements about Central paramilitary forces on election duties in the State saying her remarks are demoralising the personnel. Among the statements cited by the EC in its notice was her appeal to women voters to “gherao” Central forces if they caused disturbance to voting. The Chief Minister has been asked to respond to the notice by 11 am on Saturday. This is the second time that a notice has been issued to Banerjee by the poll body.

The EC said prima facie, the completely false, provocative and intemperate statements by Banerjee attempted to berate and vilify central paramilitary forces during the electoral process. Citing statements by Mamata, the notice said: “...prima facie, completely false, provocative and intemperate statements made by Ms. Mamata Banerjee, Chairperson of AITC, who is



also the Hon’ble CM of West Bengal, to berate and vilify Central Paramilitary Forces during the electoral process, are causing extreme demoralisation amongst the ranks and file of these forces...”

The EC said it found Banerjee statements to be in violation of the Model Code of Conduct as well as Sections 186 (voluntarily obstructing public servant from discharging public functions), 189 (threat of injury to public servant) and 505 (making a statement with intent to incite any class or community of persons to commit an offence against any other class or community) of the Indian Penal Code.

The EC notice said “It is more than obvious that Ms Mamata Banerjee, Chairperson of AITMC, has been consistent

in berating and demoralising the Central para-military forces, who often played a significant role in assisting the concerned state government and governments of union territories in restoration of law and order and/or as and when requisitioned by the State Governments etc. in their day to day functioning also.

“In fact, Banerjee is sparing no effort to ensure that a deep wedge and drift is creating amongst them which is bound to have serious consequential damages after the process of election is over. It is extremely unfortunate that the political battles are thus sought to be fought in this manner instead of being fought in the campaign trail,” it said.

The notice issued on Thursday night said the West

In an election rally on Thursday, Mamata claimed that Central forces on poll duty in West Bengal were working under the instructions of the Centre

Bengal Chief Minister’s barbs and false accusations are vilifying the very forces “who have been rendering a yeoman service since late 80s, election after election, and have made a commendable contribution especially in ensuring area domination and causing deterrence for anti-social hooligans by their sheer presence, thereby playing a major role in assisting the ECI to conduct free, fair, transparent and accessible elections”.

Making it a point to record its appreciation of the Central forces, EC said they have invariably done commendable job on the duties assigned to them in all sectors, to the extent of laying down their lives, the most recent being the tragic episode of Bijapur, Chhattisgarh. “It also needs to be placed on record that they and many other ministries and departments of the Union government and departments of state governments assist the ECI for the conduct of elections. But the praiseworthy role of central forces in ensuring free, fair, transparent and accessible elections merits a special mention”, it stated.

In a strongly worded notice, the poll body deemed the statements made by the TMC supremo on March 28 and April 7 as an attempt to “berate and vilify Central Paramilitary Forces during the electoral process.” This, it adds, was “causing extreme demoralisation amongst the ranks and file of these forces”

The EC notice said a delegation of TMC leaders had alleged during the Commission’s visit to West Bengal in February 21 that Border Security Force personnel were intimidating villagers living along the border to vote for a particular party. The EC said the delegation was asked to give empirical evidence of the allegation, but it did not do so.

In an election rally on Thursday, Mamata claimed that central forces on poll duty in West Bengal were working under the instructions of the Central Government. Mamata also accused the forces of committing atrocities on villagers and harassing women.

Addressing a public meeting Alipurduar district, the TMC boss also accused the Election Commission of turning a blind eye to the “excesses” of the CRPF, CISF and the ITBP.

The poll body on Wednesday issued a notice to Mamata for “openly demanding votes on communal grounds”. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief has been directed to explain her remarks within 48 hours of receipt of the notice, failing which the commission would take a decision without further reference to her.

No fresh Covid-19 case reported in 149 dists in a week, says Harsh Vardhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

No fresh Covid-19 case has been reported in 149 districts in a week, while eight have not registered any new infection in a fortnight, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Friday even as ten States — Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Rajasthan — have shown a steep rise accounting for 83.29 percent of the new infections.

Chairing the 24th meeting

of the high-level Group of Ministers (GoM) on Covid-19 through a video link, he said more than 9.43 crore vaccine doses have been administered in the country till Friday morning.

More than three crore vaccine jabs have been administered to senior citizens, the health minister said.

“India has also supported the global community through ‘Vaccine Maitri’, under which 6.45 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been sent to 85 countries.

“While 3.58 crore doses

have been supplied to 25 countries under commercial contracts, 1.04 crore doses have been sent to 44 nations as grants, and 1.82 crore to 39 countries under COVAX,” Vardhan was quoted as saying in a statement.

The Minister said that there has been no fresh COVID-19 case in 149 districts in the last seven days. Eight districts have not reported any fresh case in the last 14 days, no new infection in three districts in the last 21 days and none in 63 districts in the last 28 days.

K’taka, HP join 15 other States, UTs in imposing night curfew

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As the daily caseload has breached the one lakh mark for the fifth consecutive day, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh on Friday joined the list of 15 States and Union Territories which have imposed restrictions in the form of night curfews , weekend lockdown and related curbs to combat the rapid transmission of coronavirus infections.

Karnataka has imposed corona curfews (night curfews) in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Bidar, Tumkuru, Udupi-Manipal till April 20 while Himachal Pradesh has closed all education institutions till April 20. Chhattisgarh’s Raipur has been in complete lockdown for 10 days. Bihar has closed all schools for a week. According to Pratyaya Amrit, Principal Secy (Disaster Management), Bihar. all shops are permitted to open till 7 pm. Restaurants, Dhabas & hotels are exempted & can function on 25% seating capacity. Cinema hall, public transportation can function on 50% occupancy.

Maharashtra, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu Kashmir, Odisha, Rajasthan, Punjab, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are among those states and UTs which have been forced to reintroduce lockdown-like curbs. Through the week, weekend lockdowns have been imposed in parts of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, while Delhi, Punjab, major cities in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and urban areas of Rajasthan have announced night curfews. Almost all states have limited the capacity of restaurants and bars and banned public events.

In Karnataka, all the public religious services in Churches, Chapels & institutions of Bangalore’s Urban & Rural districts of Archdiocese will be suspended from 7th to 20th April. However, Churches/Chapels

maybe kept open for private visits and adoration. Jammu and Kashmir has imposed night curfew in eight districts including Jammu, Kupwara, Anantnag and Srinagar till further order.

The UP Government has announced night curfew in Gautam Budh Nagar, and Ghaziabad from 10 pm to 5 am till April 17.

Madhya Pradesh Government imposed a night curfew in all “urban areas” of the state. Tamil Nadu government has barred all religious events and festival-gatherings have been barred till further orders.

The Chhattisgarh government has announced a lockdown in the Raipur district with effect from April 9 to 19. Fearing another lockdown, many migrant workers and their families have started proceeding to the hometowns.

The Chandigarh administration has announced a night curfew in the city from 10 pm to 5 am until further notice. Punjab has declared a series of restrictions including night curfew across the whole state -- up from the earlier 12 districts -- from 9 pm to 5 am. All political, social, cultural or sports gatherings have been banned for now. The MP Government also announced a lockdown in urban areas of all districts on every Sunday till further orders.

Delhi government has imposed a seven-hour night curfew from 10 pm to 5 am, till April 30 to curb the spread of the coronavirus cases in the national Capital. People will require a soft or hard copy of the e-pass to travel during curfew hours. The e-pass can be obtained from the Delhi government’s website www.delhi.gov.in. Punjab has extended night curfew across the state till April 30.

Maharashtra Government has imposed a night curfew from 8 pm to 7 am till April 30. There will also be a weekend lockdown all through the month. All shops, malls and markets, except those selling

groceries, medicines and vegetables, will remain closed till April 30. Cinemas, multiplexes, theatres, video parlours, clubs, swimming pools, sports complexes, auditoriums, water parks, salons, beauty parlours and spas will remain shut during the period. Restaurants and bars will also remain closed except those that are part of a hotel but round-the-clock take-aways have been allowed.

In Gujarat, the Rupani Government has imposed a curfew from 8 pm to 6 am in 20 cities of the State. The restrictions were earlier in force from 9 pm to 6 am in Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara and Rajkot cities in Gujarat. The cities where the curfew is being imposed are Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Bhavnagar, Junagadh, Gandhinagar, Anand, Nadiad, Mehasana, Morbi, Dahod, Patan, Godhra, Bhuj, Gandhidham, Bharuch, Surendranagar and Amreli. The Government has also banned political or social gatherings till April 30 and has further reduced the number of guests at a marriage ceremony to 100. Government offices will remain closed every Saturday and Sunday in April.

Odisha has extended the night curfew from 10 PM to 5 am in 10 districts which include Sundergarh, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Balangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Koraput and Nabarangpur.

Rajasthan has also imposed a night curfew and ordered the closure of multiplexes, gymnasiums till April 19. The night curfew will remain in force from 8 pm to 6 am. Dining at restaurants and hotels during the curfew hours has been prohibited but home delivery of food has been allowed.

Karnataka announced night curfew in six cities including capital Bengaluru and Mysuru even as Tamil Nadu banned on all religious gatherings from April 10 till April 30.

Bumper sowing of Kharif in 3 States despite Assembly polls

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Despite Assembly polls, three States—West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Assam has managed record sowing of summer kharif crops — rice and pulses—so far. Of the total 38.80 lakh hectare area sown under rice across the country, West Bengal contributed 10.42 lakh hectare under rice plantation; Assam 2.61 lakh hectare and Tamil Nadu 1.76 lakh hectare.

Similarly, in oilseed cultivation, West Bengal reported 2.61 lakh hectare while Tamil Nadu 0.61 lakh hectare. Sowing of summer crops is in full swing despite an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases, with the area expanding by 16.4% from last year to 6.78 million hectares.


As per data released by the Ministry of Agriculture on Friday, total summer crops has been sown on 67.87 lakh hectare area against 58.26 lakh hectare during the corresponding period of last year, thus increase in total summer area coverage by 9.61 lakh hectare compared to corresponding period of last year in the country.

Sowing reported under Pulses 8.68 lakh hectare against 5.72 lakh hectare area of last year i.e. increase in area coverage by 2.96 lakh hectare. Area coverage under Coarse Cereals reported on 10.86 lakh hectare area against 8.54 lakh hectare area of last year i.e. increase in area coverage by 2.33 lakh hectare in the country. Area coverage reported under Oilseeds 9.53 lakh hectare area against 7.96 lakh hectare area of last year, thus increase in area coverage by 1.57 lakh hectare. Area coverage reported under Rice on 38.80 lakh hectare area against 36.05 lakh hectare area of last year i.e. increase in area coverage by 2.75 lakh hectare.

Summer crops are planted during March-May, the intervening period between rabi and kharif season which starts with monsoon in June. “The trend of summer sowing progress is very good as on date. Besides, the prospect of rabi crops is also very good in the country. There is no impact of COVID-19 pandemic situation on progress of area coverage under summer crops in the country,” officials said.

Harvesting of wheat and other rabi crops have been completed in 65.05 per cent of the total 697 lakh hectares sown area during 2020-21 rabi season, according to data released by the agriculture ministry on Friday. Harvesting of rabi (winter) crops begins from March. The main rabi crop is wheat.

Wheat crop has been harvested in 135.85 lakh hectares, 43.02 per cent of the estimated total cultivated area of 315.77 lakh hectares during the rabi season of the 2020-21 crop year (July-June).

<div>  <div> <div>Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited</div> <div>Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001</div> <div>Branch Office: Plot No.6, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi - 110 005.</div> </div> </div>					
POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8 (1)					
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.					
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column [E] herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column [F] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13[4] of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.					
The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column [E] below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges.					
Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.					
SL. NO	NAME AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER AND CO-BORROWER & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER	13(2) NOTICE DATE	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT AS PER NOTICE	SECURED ASSET ADDRESS	DATE OF PHYSICAL POSSESSION
A	B	C	D	E	F
1.	Loan No. X0HEHD00000882623, X0HEHD00001020554, X0HELD00001584575 & X0HEHD00001325634 1. GAURAV MALHOTRA (BORROWER), 2. Renu Malhotra (CO-BORROWER), 3. A K Malhotra (CO-BORROWER), 4. Saroj Malhotra (CO-BORROWER), 5. Saurabh Malhotra (CO-BORROWER) All residing at: H. NO. 5 F-38A, FIRST FLOOR NIT FARIDABAD 121001. Also at : NO. 5 -H/3,GROUND FLOOR AND FIRST FLOOR NIT FARIDABAD 121001.	20-06-2018	Rs.1,07,50,433.06(Rupees One Lakh Seven Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Three And Paise Six Only)	PROPERTY ADMEASURING 122 SQ.YDS., BEARING HOUSE NO-5-F/38A, FIRST FLOOR, SITUATED IN NIT, FARIDABAD, HARYANA. ENTIRE GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF/ TERRACE RIGHTS HAVING COVERED AREA ADMEASURING 320 SQ. FTS., BUILT ON PORTION MARKED AS SUB-DIVISION NO-A AREA ADMEASURING 61 SQ. YDS., PART OF PROPERTY BEARING NO-5 F-38-A SITUATED AT NIT FARIDABAD TEHSIL AND DISTRICT FARIDABAD. PROPERTY ADMEASURING 81 SQ.YDS., BEARING HOUSE NO-5-F/38A, FIRST FLOOR, SITUATED IN NIT, FARIDABAD, HARYANA.	08-04-2021
	Loan No. X0HEHD00001215291 1. SHISH PAL (Borrower), 2. NIRMAL PAL (Co-Borrower) All residing at: HOUSE NO- 58/3, SECOND FLOOR, GALI NO. 4, ARYA NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110092.	15-03-2019	Rs. 67,68,200.24(Rupees Sixty Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Three And Paise Twenty Four Only)	PROPERTY BEARING SECOND FLOOR PORTION WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS HAVING ITS COVERED AREA OF 117.05 SQ.MTS., BUILT ON PLOT NO-2,PART OF KHASRA NO-1399, SITUATED IN THE ABADI OF ARYA NAGAR GALI NO-4, IN THE AREA OF VILLATE KARKARDOOM, ILLAQ SHAHDADARA, DELHI-110092.	09-04-2021
Date : 09/04/2021 Place : Delhi		AUTHORISED OFFICER M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited			

Knowledge Hub Nainital

Nainital suitable even in inclement conditions



Afzal Hussain Fauji

The impact of Covid-19 pandemic has been felt across the world. The education sector is among the sectors which has borne considerable impact of the epidemic. A year after the lockdown was first imposed, schools are now resuming their regular functioning. All educational institutions in Nainital are fully prepared to tackle the challenges posed by the situation. All necessary efforts have been undertaken to maintain the

glowing history of educational institutions in Nainital. Institutes imparting formal education in Nainital have a history of about 150 years. A number of noted personalities have done their schooling from institutions in Nainital. Field marshal Sam Manekshaw, actor Amitabh Bachchan, actress Shabana Azmi, actors Danny Dengzongpa, Vivek Mushran, former CM ND Tiwari and a number of other noted personalities have done their schooling from different schools in Nainital. Sherwood College, All Saints' College,



Saint Joseph College, Saint Mary college, Birla Vidya Mandir, Amtul Public School, Saint Xavier, Don Bosco Public School, Parvati Prema Jagati Saraswati Vihar, Longview Public School, Mohan Lal Sah Bal Vidya Mandir, Radha Children Academy, Bharatiya Shahid Sainik Vidyalay, GIC and GGIC are among the prominent schools in Nainital. The climate in Nainital is also conducive for education with maximum temperature in the summer being 32 degrees Celsius. The temperature

reaches zero during the winter which is the time when schools have winter vacation. According to top priority to the health of the students, the schools are following all the Covid-19 protocols. Social distancing, the frequent use of sanitiser and ensuring their nutritious diet are the focus of the school management. The school students are also informed about the various precautions to be undertaken for protection from Covid-19. In day-boarding school the day scholars are taught in the morning shift while the boarding students are taught in the evening shift.

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गौरवमय इतिहास है ऑलसेंट्स कॉलेज का

कोविड संक्रमण को ध्यान में रखते हुए कक्षा में कोई भी विद्यार्थी एक दूसरे से करीब नहीं जा सकता। अर्थात् दो गज की दूरी के साथ मास्क पहनना अनिवार्य है। कोई बच्चा कितना अपना पैन-पेंसिल नहीं लाता है तो वह किसी अन्य विद्यार्थी से भी नहीं ले सकता है। कोविड गाइड लाइन का पालन हर हाल में जरूरी है। ऑलसेंट्स कॉलेज का सुनहरा इतिहास ही उसकी पहचान है। हजारों बच्चे इस विद्यालय से शिक्षा प्राप्त कर अपना भविष्य संवार चुके हैं। वर्तमान में प्रधानाचार्य किशन जर्मिया कुशलतापूर्वक इस विद्यालय का संचालन कर रही हैं। अंग्रेजी माध्यम से संचालित इस विद्यालय की स्थापना 1869 में हुई थी तब से लेकर आज तक यह विद्यालय निरंतर प्रगति की ओर अग्रसर है। महानगर पत्रिका फोक्स इण्डिया ने ऑलसेंट्स कॉलेज को देश के टॉप 40 ग्रेट इंडियन स्कूल की सूची में शामिल किया है। देश विदेश के बच्चे इस विद्यालय में अध्ययन करने आते हैं। इस विद्यालय से पढ़कर कई ऐसी हस्तियां हैं जो देश और दुनिया में अपना नाम रोशन कर रही हैं। श्रीमती किशन जर्मिया कहती हैं कि शिक्षा के मापदंड को ध्यान में रखकर वह गुणवत्ता युक्त शिक्षा प्रदान कर रही हैं जिससे भविष्य में भी जारी रखेंगी।

शिक्षा जगत में लेखक कानेज निमरा राह है आरम भूमिका

रोखड़ कॉलेज शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में इस विद्यालय का नाम देश के नामांकित विद्यालयों में शामिल है। यह विद्यालय बच्चों का भविष्य संवारता हुआ आ रहा है। यह विद्यालय पूर्ण रूप से आवासीय है जिसमें बच्चों के भोजन व रहने तथा अन्य समस्त सुविधाएँ विद्यालय में मौजूद हैं।

पठन-पाठन कार्य अनुभवी शिक्षकों द्वारा किया जाता है। बच्चों के बेहतर भविष्य बनाने के लिये यह सभी सुविधाएँ विद्यालय में मौजूद हैं जो वर्तमान में जरूरत के हिसाब से आवश्यक होती हैं। अंग्रेजी माध्यम से संचालित यह विद्यालय कक्षा 3 से लेकर कक्षा 12वीं तक संचालित किया जाता है। वर्तमान में प्रधानाचार्य अमनदीप संभू विद्यालय का संचालन कर रहे हैं।

कोरोना को लेकर विद्यालय में जरूरी एहतियात बरती जा रही हैं, जिसके तहत कोविड नियम का पालन हर हाल में जरूरी है। मास्क, सैनीटाइजर व एक दूसरे से जरूरी दूरी के साथ विद्यालय में कक्षाएँ संचालित की जा रही हैं। इसके साथ कोविड से बचाव को लेकर आवश्यक जानकारी बच्चों को दी जा रही है।

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गौरवमय इतिहास है बिड़ला विद्या मंदिर का

देश में बिड़ला विद्या मंदिर अग्रणी पब्लिक स्कूलों में अपना अलग नाम व मुकाम हासिल किया है। जिसके फलस्वरूप यह विद्यालय अपना एक अलग स्थान कायम किए हुए है। सीबीएसई से संबद्ध यह विद्यालय पूर्ण रूप से आवासीय है। अंग्रेजी माध्यम से संचालित नगर के सर्वाधिक ऊँचाई वाले नैसर्गिक वातावरण में स्थित है। विद्यालय के प्रधानाचार्य अनिल शर्मा के कुशल नेतृत्व में संचालित किया जा रहा है। देश के कोने-कोने से लेकर दुनिया के कोने-कोने तक विद्यार्थी इस विद्यालय में शिक्षा प्राप्त कर अपना भविष्य संवार चुके हैं। श्री शर्मा कहते हैं कि वर्तमान परिस्थिति को ध्यान में रखकर बच्चों का भविष्य दृढ़बल बनाने के साथ उन्हें एक अच्छा इंसान बनाने का प्रयास रहता है। जिसे ध्यान में रखकर विद्यालय में अनिवार्य विषयों के अलावा तमाम प्रतिस्पर्धाओं में भी छात्रों को निपुण बनाया जाता है। विद्यालय का इतिहास है कि बोर्ड परिक्षाफल शत-प्रतिशत रहा है। जिसे भविष्य में भी कायम रखा जायेगा। कोरोना के प्रति जागरूकता को लेकर विद्यालय के हर छात्र को इस बीमारी की वारिकियों व बचाव के बारे में जानकारी दी जा रही है। कोविड गाइड लाइन का पूर्ण तरीके से पालन किया जा रहा है।

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- A Emenual (Principal)

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चंद साल पहले वृंदावन पब्लिक स्कूल की स्थापना की गयी थी। स्कूल का उद्देश्य छोटे-छोटे बच्चों का सर्वांगीण विकास कर भविष्य संवारना था। इस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति में विद्यालय शत-प्रतिशत खरा उतरा है। अंग्रेजी माध्यम से संचालित इस विद्यालय में बच्चों के बौद्धिक व शारीरिक विकास के लिए सभी सुविधाएँ विद्यालय में उपलब्ध हैं। प्रधानाचार्य राखी साह के नेतृत्व में बखुबी विद्यालय का संचालन हो रहा है। वह कहती हैं कि बच्चों के प्रति अथाह स्नेह ने उन्हें विद्यालय का संचालन करने के लिए बाध्य किया। नहें-मुन्हें बच्चों का बहुमुखी विकास करने के लिए वह संकल्पबद्ध हैं।

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उत्कृष्ट शिक्षा दे रहा है सेंट जेवियर्स स्कूल

दो गज की दूरी के साथ बच्चों के बैठने की व्यवस्था कक्षा में की गयी है। सैनीटाइजर की समुचित व्यवस्था की गई है। इसके अलावा प्रत्येक बच्चे को खान पान का पूरा ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। नैनीताल की सुरक्षित पहाड़ियों के मध्य स्थित सेंट जेवियर्स स्कूल की स्थापना वर्ष 1991 में हुई। प्रकृति के नैसर्गिक व शांत वातावरण में स्थित होने के कारण विद्यालय में छात्रों का सर्वांगीण विकास हो रहा है। विद्यालय में बेहतर कक्षाओं, कम्प्यूटर लैब तथा सुसज्जित लाइब्रेरी आदि उपलब्ध हैं। छात्रों को कम्प्यूटर तथा इंटरनेट के माध्यम से नई-नई जानकारीयों प्रदान की जाती हैं। विद्यालय में विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन किया जाता है। विद्यालय में अत्याधुनिक हॉस्टल सुविधा होने के साथ-साथ कक्षा 1 से 12 तक बोर्डस तथा डेस्कालर के लिए शिक्षा उपलब्ध है। प्रधानाचार्य नईम अली खान के अथक प्रयास तथा सरल स्वभाव के कारण विद्यालय में छात्र-छात्राओं की संख्या में निरंतर बढ़ाव देखा जा रहा है। विद्यालय का परीक्षाफल शत-प्रतिशत रहता है।



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Tightening the screws

It might be a good idea for the CBI and the NIA to work in tandem for unravelling the Vaze maze

The two independent agencies — the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) — will likely discover many common nodes and leads during their probe related to Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and suspended cop Sachin Vaze. The probes by these premier agencies will probably converge at several points and it would only serve the purpose of justice if both these agencies work in consonance. Extending this logic, the constitution of a common team — drawing officials from both these agencies — may also be considered to investigate the cases that are inter-related. Collecting evidence, recording statements and zeroing in on the culprits would become easier in a joint probe. In the latest development, two CBI teams reached the NIA office to record the statement of Vaze, who is in the latter's custody. Also, a special NIA court allowed the CBI to access the "extortion" diaries belonging to Vaze and Vinayak Shinde, both suspended policemen. In a startling revelation, Vaze had alleged in a four-page letter to the special NIA court that State Transport Minister Anil Parab of the Shiv Sena had asked him to initiate talks with a Trust for a "₹50-crore settlement" to close an inquiry. The Minister also asked Vaze to identify fraudulent contractors listed with the BMC and demand at least ₹2 crore from 50 of them, the letter claimed.



The letter mentioned an alleged "₹2 crore demand" by Deshmukh after NCP chief Sharad Pawar considered cancelling Vaze's reinstatement, and alleged that someone "very close" to Deputy CM Ajit Pawar asked Vaze to collect ₹100 crore a month from illegal *gutkha* sellers. Earlier, Vaze had said he was being made a scapegoat. These allegations are indicative of the fact that not only Deshmukh but several other dirty fish in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government seem to be neck-deep in corruption. On the other hand, Deshmukh — who tendered his resignation on "moral grounds" only after the Bombay High Court directed the CBI to conduct a preliminary inquiry into corruption allegations against him — got no respite from the Supreme Court, which dismissed his as well as the MVA Government's petition challenging the Bombay High Court's order. The Maharashtra developments resemble a Bollywood potboiler on the underworld, portraying the nexus among politicians, corrupt officials and criminals. But unlike the movies which have heroes fighting the corrupt system, the Maharashtra saga has none. However, with the CBI and the NIA tightening the screws, one hopes that several other influential names in the MVA Government would be exposed. Corruption has become the hallmark of the State Government, which is a coalition of the NCP, Congress and the Shiv Sena. The Opposition has often alleged that the Centre uses these agencies to target adversaries and settle scores; nevertheless, it doesn't take away from the fact that the Uddhav Thackeray-led Government arguably has many black sheep whose rightful place is behind the bars rather than in the Assembly.

PICTALK



The Baisakhi celebrations in full swing at a wheat farm in Amritsar

PTI

In low spirits

The migrant workers are making their way back to villages after local curbs were announced

Roughly around this time last year, millions of migrant workers and their families — with their young ones and meagre belongings on their heads and shoulders — started a long, weary walk back to their native places after the Government clamped a nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. As the industries shut operations, they were forced to go back because they couldn't afford to pay for food and relatively higher rent in the cities, especially in the absence of any regular inflow of income. Their struggle was made more tragic as several of them died on their journey back owing to fatigue by walking under the scorching sun since all forms of public transport had also been ordered off the roads. To this day, a significant percentage of these hired hands has not rejoined their workplace, either because the industries they worked in haven't yet become fully operational or they are still scared and scarred by last year's sudden clampdown that brought the wheels of their already-mundane life to a grinding halt. Worse, the few who had dared to



venture back to the big cities for want of employment opportunities in the hinterland, are again rushing back as local curbs and night curfews in several States have again spawned in them the fears of a total shutdown.

The bitter experience of the abrupt March 2020 lockdown has undeniably played a huge part in their decision to return quickly to their native places before any restrictions on travel are announced. Now, since migrant workers play a key role in the manufacturing sector, their hasty departure has dealt a severe blow to the small and medium industry owners who are yet to level their losses accrued from the shutdown that extended across most of last year. The trend is worrisome also because a second reverse migration would likely result in surplus labour in the rural areas while creating manpower scarcity in the urban and industrial centres. The logical conclusion would be a depressed demand, more people pushed into poverty and an increase in the rate of unemployment. A hint of confirmation of this trend has come with the announcement of the Central Railway to run special trains from Mumbai — which is among the worst hit regions — to places where a significant number of migrant labourers in the nation's financial capital come from, including Gorakhpur, Patna, Darbhanga and Danapur.

Hypocrisy is very much alive and well

In all spheres of life around us, every day we see leaders indulging in acts of abject pretence and insincerity



DEEPAK SINHA

Having been slaves for the better part of a millennia, we tend to have a heightened instinct for survival that is best reflected in our hypocritical behaviour. It is no surprise then that, by and large, our adherence to principles, rules and regulations is inversely proportional to the impact that they might have on our lives, preferring them to be applicable only to others and not us.

Take Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attitude towards the alarming spike in COVID cases. He is unable to see the dichotomy of, on the one hand, publicly berating State Governments and citizens for not adhering to basic precautions, while simultaneously rushing off to address election rallies. Rallies that are conducted with tens of thousands of attendees without masks, packed together like sardines.

The truth is that not just him or his associates are being hypocritical but other politicians as well, regardless of party affiliations. All those associated with the ongoing State elections are guilty of such irresponsible behaviour. This nonsensical behaviour has been aggravated by the utter lack of political will on the part of leaders across the country in their refusal to stop religious and cultural events, be it events like Holi or the Kumbh.

Their fear that they would be held responsible if they curtailed mass gatherings is not difficult to understand because, in their view, their career and reputation as politicians are at stake. Sadly, while they may well be, or become, renowned politicians, one thing they will never ever be is leaders. That requires the backbone to take difficult decisions, sometimes at great personal cost, when the occasion so demands.

Obviously, the most affected are not just those attending such gatherings, who may be there "voluntarily", but public servants compulsorily co-opted for duties such as crowd control and security, who are now



falling victim to the virus. They and their families are in effect being sacrificed on the altar of greed and personal aggrandisement. Undoubtedly, it also reflects poorly on the intellectual, administrative and professional abilities of the Election Commission which can come up with no better method to conduct elections other than stretching them to eternity.

Of course, politicians and Government officials are the easiest to point fingers at, but others too are as much to blame for the hypocrisy that abounds. The Supreme Court, for example, has recently pointed to the delay in giving women permanent commissions in the military, blaming it on systemic bias within the Ministry of Defence. While there certainly is some truth in what it says, it is a complicated issue, especially the impact of women in combat roles. More importantly, the military's only job is to win wars and keep us safe and it is by no means an equal opportunity employer.



SADLY, WHILE THEY MAY WELL BE, OR BECOME, RENOWNED POLITICIANS, ONE THING THEY WILL NEVER EVER BE IS LEADERS. THAT REQUIRES THE BACKBONE TO TAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS, SOMETIMES AT GREAT PERSONAL COST, WHEN THE OCCASION SO DEMANDS

While the Supreme Court's emphasis on gender issues is to be applauded, it would truly have credibility and value if its own actions were consistent in this regard. By some accounts, there are only two women judges among the 34 that constitute the Supreme Court and it has had only eight women judges since its inception.

Even the military has not been able to avoid this pernicious trend and its leadership seems to have lost its way in this regard. By stating that China has not occupied our territory in Eastern Ladakh, despite knowing it well that we can no longer patrol areas up to our claim lines, the Army chief has lowered his image and credibility. In addition, he has caused grievous damage to the Services' reputation.

The reason for where we are today is not very difficult to diagnose. Interestingly, in 1893, Swami Vivekananda while addressing the first World's Parliament of Religions meeting at Chicago said: "I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught

the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth."

Despite the fact that Modi sees himself as a devoted follower of the Swami, he has never let compassion or empathy get in the way of realpolitik. For all intents and purposes, we are now involved in an intense zero sum game where the winner takes all and losers are shown the door; where only the ends matter, not the means. What he and those who follow him have yet to realise is that all this can only get you so far and at the end of the day you have no choice but to pay the piper.

(The writer is a military veteran, who is a Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOOD DECISION BY THE SUPREME COURT

Sir — It's good that the Supreme Court has dismissed a plea filed by former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, challenging the Bombay High Court's order that had allowed a preliminary CBI probe against him. The apex court also dismissed a similar plea filed by the Maharashtra Government in the same case.

Delivering its order, the Supreme Court said the people involved in the matter do require to be investigated by an independent agency. "What has been directed by the High Court is a preliminary inquiry, and we are not inclined to interfere," the court said. Deshmukh resigned not because of his morality but he was compelled by the circumstances. His resignation came hours after the Bombay High Court ordered a CBI probe into the allegations of extortion against him, in what is the most high-profile casualty so far in the sensational Sachin Vaze-Antilia explosives case. The high-voltage events in Maharashtra started with the discovery of an explosives-laden vehicle outside the residence of billionaire Mukesh Ambani, gathered momentum with the alleged murder of the man in possession of the car, and who had reported it stolen, Mansukh Hiran, and took a surprising turn with the arrest of a politically connected assistant inspector of police Sachin Vaze in the explosives case.

Maharashtra's Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government, in an attempt to manage the fallout, transferred Mumbai Police Commissioner, with Deshmukh clearly articulating that the move was prompted by his mismanagement of the case. A miffed Singh wrote to the chief minister, alleging that Deshmukh instructed Vaze to run an extortion racket.

Abhishek Singh | Varanasi

MAHARASHTRA BACK TO SQUARE ONE

Sir — With Maharashtra witnessing an increase in the daily COVID-19 cases, the State Government was left with no option

Vaccine shortage is serious issue



That we may land into serious trouble in the coming days can be gauged from the data collated from the Union Health Ministry which shows that the States have on an average just over five days' vaccine stocks remaining at their current levels of vaccination, and an additional week's supply is in the pipeline. Despite India manufacturing the vaccines and supplying these to other countries across the globe, such a situation is a real

cause of worry. In some States like Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, however, the current stocks are for less than two days.

However, there is also good news. Johnson & Johnson is in talks with the Indian Government to begin a clinical trial of its single-dose COVID-19 vaccine in the country, the company has said. The US drugs and healthcare giant's vaccine is currently approved for use in the United States, the European Union and other nations, including Thailand and South Africa.

The news comes as some parts of India face a shortage of vaccine supplies just as the country of 1.3 billion battles a second wave of COVID-19 infections. India's Government, however, has said there is no shortage of the shots. Since Johnson & Johnson's vaccine has already been approved by the US regulator, a small bridging trial on about 1,000 participants would be enough before it is given the approval to manufacture the vaccine in India.

Sean Colin Young | New Delhi

except announcing a "strict lockdown" over the weekends. The Government has also enforced a night curfew in the State from 8 pm to 7 am daily when only essential services will be allowed to function. However, private and public transport will continue to operate but rickshaws, taxis and private vehicles can run with only 50 per cent seating capacity.

Further, newspaper printing and distribution can continue, provided the vendor is vaccinated. The Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) has decided to keep all inoculation centres in its areas closed due to a shortage of doses. The BMC on Thursday released a statement, saying it had around 50,000 doses left for Friday.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

IPL EXTRAVAGANZA HAS BECOME HOTTER

Sir — The slam-bang league is back and

the IPL extravaganza has seen many episodes and, this time round, the second wave of COVID-19. With such obscene amounts of money, this has become the norm. All are waiting for the big event and everyone wants to play in the IPL if it is held twice in six months. The game of cricket is a religion. The IPL extravaganza has become hotter during the summer months and the floodlights will add to the already hot stadiums. The IPL is nothing but a glorified way of making easy money and the gentleman's game of cricket is brought into disrepute. The IPL 14 is commencing as a Friday feature and television sets are ready to show the big event to the cricket lovers across India and the world.

GK Ramani | Mumbai

SOUNDBITE

Amid growing cases of COVID-19, the lack of vaccines is a serious issue. By putting own countrymen at risk, is it right to export COVID vaccines?



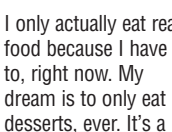
Congress leader
—Rahul Gandhi



With these dictators (Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan), one must be honest in

expressing one's diverging ideas and views about society.

Italian Prime Minister
—Mario Draghi



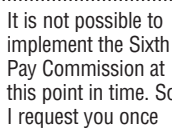
I only actually eat real food because I have to, right now. My dream is to only eat desserts, ever. It's a goal. When I get really old, I'm going to start taking a lot of vitamins.

Actor
—Catherine Zeta-Jones



Having missed match practice for much of last year, we have to cash in on the opportunities we get. It is good for us that we are tested against a tough opponent like Argentina.

India men's hockey captain
—Manpreet Singh




It is not possible to implement the Sixth Pay Commission at this point in time. So, I request you once again to come and join the duty.

Karnataka CM
—BS Yediyurappa

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THE SCOURGE OF FOREST FIRES



VK BAHUGUNA

The forests in Uttarakhand are in the grip of a massive fire these days; so much so that apart from destroying the rich biodiversity, it has killed four villagers and injured a forest guard during fire-fighting operations. Forest fires have become a recurring phenomenon in the State and every year thousands of acres of forests are engulfed by the raging inferno. Fires are a common feature in forests all over the country and sometimes the controlled burning of forest floor is used as a management tool to promote conservation by the foresters. The ecological impacts of forest fires are disastrous for the biodiversity and the forest hydrology. The forest department of Uttarakhand is failing year after year on prevention and control of the forest fires and *prima facie* it is gross negligence at all levels in dealing with the threat due to mismanagement, coupled with the shortage of resources.

The incidents of forest fires globally are increasing every year. In India through the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectro-radiometer sensor data (MODIS) of the Forest Survey of India (FSI), 37,059



forest fires were detected during 2018. Precious forest resources, including the carbon locked in biomass, are lost due to forest fires every year, which adversely impact the flow of goods and services from forests.

The FSI website showed 3,23,414 fire points across the country, detected through satellite during February 1- April 8, 2021, while Uttarakhand alone accounted for 1,31,61 fire points. More than 80 per cent of the forest fires are man-made and caused by the villagers, and the rest are due to natural factors like intense heat wave, lightning and friction in vegetation. The best strategy for forest fire control is in its prevention with mobilisation of resources, specially the local village communities, the Van Panchayats and Joint Forest Management. The forest fires can thus be effectively prevented and controlled, provided the State Government and the forest department have the commitment for taking timely action. With the FSI now coming up with real-time monitoring of forest fires through satellite-based messaging to the Divisional Forest Officers, it should be easy for the field staff to control the forest fires, provided that they have cleaned the forest fire lines in time before the commencement of the fire season, in the month of November, and have in place an early warning system and a fire management plan in operation.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Uttarakhand Government, and the State Governments all over India must accept responsibility for their gross inaction. They must take control of enforcing the preparation of the forest fire management plan, risk assessment maps of the vulnerable areas and establish the early warning systems in each division before the month of November. The Centre had already released to all forest departments of the country the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds to the tune of more than ₹50,000 crore. Did the forest department earmark the CAMPA fund for divisional-level fire-fighting plan, and what is the role of officers and the Ministers in filling up the vacancies of forest guards and other related ranks? The question is what has been done by the Uttarakhand Government to prevent forest fires?

(The writer is Chairman, Centre for Resource Management and Environment. The views expressed are personal.)

India-Pakistan peace process is far from dead

Right now, peace looks elusive, but the peace process does not. By all aspects, it is clear that the process is thriving and may succeed in thrashing out some of the differences

One does not need to be a rocket scientist to know Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has robbed whatever little credibility civilian Governments in his country have, with his multiple policy flip-flops. Just like one does not need to be an astute political pundit to know Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not like former PM Rajiv Gandhi in wanting to leave contentious border disputes to the “wisdom of the next generation”. If anything, PM Modi has enough political capital to push through a resolution. Amidst the contrast in the two civilian leaderships of the hostile neighbours, how does one read the current India-Pakistan situation? Is there any prospect of peace, given that even baby steps like trade and resumption of sporting ties are not possible in the vitiated atmosphere? There are reasons to assume a positive movement will take place in the India-Pakistan ties, for three clear reasons.

First, the Pakistani economy cannot continue the *status quo* — of next-to-nothing trade with India. Islamabad is on its 13th loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the economy is battling a crippling inflation. Adding to Pakistan’s economic woes is its surging wheat imports. After years of being self-sufficient, Pakistan is now being forced to import wheat to feed its people. Even if one discounts any comparisons with Bangladesh — which is growing at an impressive eight per cent with higher Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and four times more forex collections — Pakistan’s economy needs help.

It is not for nothing that the Pakistani Army chief spoke about geo-economics in his much talked-about speech on March 18. No amount of jingoism can cover up for the present economic woes of Pakistan. The Pakistani Army understands this even more, given that it is one of the key stakeholders in the economy. If it were not for its obsession to ‘checkmate’ India, would the Pakistani economy — with its excessive defence spends — be in such a mess? Opening up trade with India will be the first set of the baby steps that are needed towards any normalisation. But more importantly, it will be vital for fixing Pakistan’s economy.

The worst of Pakistan’s economic mess is yet to present itself, in the form of large payouts to China. China has invested heavily in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is a vital part of its Belt and Road Initiative. China is a rent-seeking country, not an aid-granting friend. And sooner than later, China will extract its pound of flesh from Pakistan for the large amount of funds it has invested in the strategically-located country. In fact, the few sane voices in the Pakistani establishment must be wondering what would have been Islamabad’s relations with Beijing if the former was not focused only on its India hatred. It would have had normal ties with China and not become its vassal State — only because it sought to undermine New Delhi. In the process, though, it has become heavily indebted to Beijing. As the payments would start, so would Pakistan’s economic headaches.

Second, the happenings in Afghanistan — keenly watched by Islamabad — may have a



THE HAPPENINGS IN AFGHANISTAN — KEENLY WATCHED BY ISLAMABAD — MAY HAVE A BEARING ON THE INDIA-PAKISTAN CONUNDRUM. IF SOME REPORTS ARE TO BE BELIEVED, THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE US FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR A MULTI-NATION UN TEAM TO OVERSEE THAT THE NATION DOES NOT FALL INTO CHAOS. IT WOULD BE LOGICAL TO ASSUME NEW DELHI’S INCLUSION IN THE SAME, SINCE THE US HAS ALWAYS FAVOURED INDIA TO PLAY A LARGER ROLE

The writer is a senior journalist and Visiting Fellow at the United Services Institution of India. The views expressed are personal.



bearing on the India-Pakistan conundrum. If some reports are to be believed, the withdrawal of the US forces from Afghanistan could pave the way for a multi-nation UN team to oversee that the nation does not fall into chaos. It would be logical to assume New Delhi’s inclusion in the same, since the US has always favoured India to play a larger role. Such an outcome would be least desirable for Islamabad since it will undercut its geo-strategic importance and reduce its bargaining power with the US.

It would not be out of the ordinary to assume that some of the backchannel lines of communication may include Afghanistan and the role both India and Pakistan would play in it. After all, Pakistan — which now has diminishing returns from its Kashmir rhetoric — has not been able to successfully rake up the support of global powers on the issue of abrogation of Article 370. On the contrary, Islamabad stands to gain significantly by leveraging its role in Kabul post-US exit. So will Imran Khan (or his military bosses) want to risk a larger play in Afghanistan by holding onto the Kashmir issue? Or would they choose to show some positive gestures (like

ceasefire) on Kashmir in return for continuing its important position in determining Kabul’s future?

The answer to this is clear, but its implementation will be decided by the fate of ‘informal’ talks between India and Pakistan. Nevertheless, it will be an important choice to make for all decision-makers in Pakistan (which may or may not include Imran Khan).

Third, in July, some elements in the Pakistani Army and the civilian Government will rake up the issue of integration of Gilgit-Baltistan and the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as the fifth and sixth provinces. Imran may not be able to resist the temptation to be seen as similar to Modi (post-abrogation of Article 370). This will quite naturally invite a strong response from New Delhi, since the incumbent dispensation has spoken about the will and determination to reclaim both these areas. If such a situation does arise, it will limit the flexibility that can be shown by the Indian side or its Pakistani counterpart to move beyond the usual irritants.

Since August 5, 2019, the Indian Government has made its stance clear — “all future discussions will now be only on PoK”

has been the usual response. Likewise, Pakistani Army’s institutional legitimacy has been centred on the need to wage a war with India to “solve the Kashmir issue”. If PoK becomes a Pakistani province, the pressure from domestic constituents will be so intense that both the sides will not be able to make any forward movement, lest they be termed a “sellout”. Given these complexities, there is high chance that these negotiations — being held behind closed doors and outside the purview of formal diplomatic channels — would expedite any outcome.

India and Pakistan are not doomed to live in hatred, hostility and tension. Despite false starts and multiple attempts by India — which have been followed by terror attacks by Pakistan — Modi may be keen to move ahead. Right now, peace looks elusive, but the peace process does not. By all aspects, it is clear that the process is thriving and may succeed in thrashing out some of the differences. A peaceful solution does not need to decide the fate of the most complex geo-political problem of the subcontinent right away; it needs to demonstrate the will to do so.



GAURIE DWIVEDI

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I REQUEST THE MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT TO DOUBLE THE RATE OF VACCINATION. — UNION MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR



THE STATE CAN ACHIEVE THE FEAT ONLY IF THE CENTRE ENSURES AN UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLY OF VACCINES. — MAHARASHTRA HEALTH MINISTER RAJESH TOPE




With law for healthcare workers, reforms continue unabated

The Act makes a significant shift from the doctor-led model to a more care-accessible and team-based model. It will transform the healthcare scenario

The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2020 (NCAHP Act) has been passed by Parliament after a long and anxious wait, particularly by the health professionals. The Act provides for regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by allied and healthcare professionals, assessment of institutions, maintenance of a Central Register and State Register and creation of a system to improve access, research and development.

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan explained the reasons and objects of the Bill: “I would say that most of you must have paid a visit to a hospital at some point of time in your life and I wish not, but you might have had



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

The writer is a former Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha. The views expressed are personal.

to. Please recall those days and remember the people who took care of you and who brought you out of your illness. You may remember the name of the doctor. You may remember the name of the hospital. But do you also remember the name of the persons who took your blood samples, gave you physiotherapy, took your X-ray, advised you on what you should eat, checked your eyesight, assisted your doctor or surgeon, looked into microscopes and bid you a farewell with a smile. Who are these people?”

They are varied health professionals — the lab technicians, physiotherapists, radiographers, dieticians, record keepers, optometrists, X-ray technicians, and many more, who are a critical part of the healthcare system and the foundation of the pyramid of the entire healthcare system.

According to studies, the role of doctors, undoubtedly critical, varies between 25 to 50 per cent in the entire healthcare chain. A wag said “doctor is next to God, nurse is next to the doctor and the pharmacist is closest to the patient”, but there are many others who are as vital and integral to this chain. In fact, these professionals are the bedrock of the complex healthcare system.

After enacting the National Medical Commission Bill, 2019 — which was fiercely contested by a large body of medical practitioners, another transformative piece of legislation, the NCAHP Act, has been enacted which covers a wide range of healthcare professions which were unrecognised or unregulated to date.



The Act is a paradigm shift in healthcare delivery as it recognises the specialised skills and contributions of more than 56 types of the allied and healthcare professionals. The nation, nay the world, has witnessed the invaluable contribution of these professionals during COVID-19 as the frontline health workers who risked their lives every day fighting the pandemic.

The Act would regulate and leverage the qualified allied and healthcare workforce and ensure high-quality multidisciplinary care in line with the vision of the universal health coverage moving towards a more care-accessible and team-based model. The Act would reform and regulate this entire sector in order to give these professionals their due, increase their employment opportunities and, more importantly, enhance their dignity by recognising their true worth, within the country and globally. The Act envisages the establishment of a Central statutory body as the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions.

The commission will frame policies and standards, regulate professional conduct and prescribe qual-

ifications for all these professions.

A National Allied and Healthcare Advisory Council to advise the national commission with representation from all the States is provided under the Act to enable adequate representation from all the States and Union Territories. Further, each State will have a separate State Council with four autonomous Boards pertaining to undergraduate education, post-graduate education, assessment, rating, ethics and registration. While doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacists in India are regulated through their respective regulatory bodies, the allied and healthcare professions are still unstructured, and unregulated.

Globally, most of the countries have a regulatory

framework for standardised education and training. But in India, there was an absence of a regulatory framework and lack of standardised education curriculum as well as training for these allied and healthcare professionals, a void now removed.

Also, the Act makes a significant shift from the doctor-led model to a more care-accessible and team-based model. The NCAHP Act, 2020, is a landmark legislation which will go down in the history of healthcare revolution in India. It will transform the healthcare scenario and make a paradigm shift in the ministration of the entire healthcare system and make it efficacious. Apparently, India is on the course of wholesale health sector reforms.

Britain mourns Prince Philip

Leaders honour service to Queen

AP ■ LONDON

Britain mourned the death of Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II, on Friday as the BBC interrupted scheduled programming to broadcast the national anthem, "God Save the Queen."

The flag at Buckingham Palace, the queen's residence in London, was lowered to half-staff after the announcement of Philip's death. The Royal Family's website featured a black-and-white portrait of the prince, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Philip "earned the affection of generations here in Britain, across the Commonwealth and around the world."

"Like the expert carriage

driver that he was, he helped to steer the royal family and the monarchy so that it remains an institution indisputably vital to the balance and happiness of our national life."

Keir Starmer, leader of the opposition Labour Party, was among the first to offer his condolences, noting Philip's long Record of public service, first as a naval officer during World War II then during more than 70 years of marriage to the queen.

"He will be remembered most of all for his extraordinary commitment and devotion to the Queen," Starmer said in a statement.

"For more than seven decades, he has been at her side. Their marriage has been a symbol of strength, stability



A tribute to Britain's Prince Philip is projected onto a large screen at Piccadilly Circus in London on Friday

AP

and hope, even as the world around them changed — most recently during the pandemic. It was a partnership that inspired millions in Britain and beyond."

UN chief Guterres condoles death of UK Prince Philip

United Nations: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Friday expressed condolences on the death of Britain's Prince Philip, saying the Duke of Edinburgh capably supported Queen Elizabeth II in her duties as sovereign for over 60 years.

Philip, the longest-serving consort in British history, died Friday at age 99.

"The Secretary-General is saddened at the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He extends condolences to Her Royal Highness, the Queen, and to the people of the UK," a statement released by the spokesperson of the Secretary General said.

PTI

Ex-US Prez Bush praises Prince Philip's devotion

AP ■ DALLA

Former US President George W Bush has praised Prince Philip's devotion to worthy causes and to others, in a statement issued on behalf of himself and his wife, Laura.

Philip died Friday at age 99. "He represented the United Kingdom with dignity and brought boundless strength and support to the sovereign. Laura and I are fortunate to have enjoyed the charm and wit of his company, and we know how much he will be missed," Bush said.

Positive atmosphere, little progress in Iran nuclear talks

Berlin: Nascent talks aimed at bringing the United States back into the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran broke Friday without any immediate signs of progress on the thorny issues dividing Washington and Tehran, but with delegates talking of a constructive atmosphere and resolving to continue the discussions.

Two working groups that have been meeting in Vienna since Tuesday to brainstorm ways to secure the lifting of American sanctions and Iran's return to compliance with the deal reported their initial progress to a joint commission of diplomats from the world powers that remain in the deal — France, Germany, Britain,

China and Russia.

Russian delegate Mikhail Ulyanov tweeted that participants had "noted with satisfaction the initial progress made."

"The commission will reconvene next week in order to maintain the positive momentum," he said.

The talks took place without the United States, which unilaterally left the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, in 2018, under then-President Donald Trump. He embarked on a campaign of "maximum pressure" by restoring previous sanctions and adding new ones on Iran.

AP

US sanctions on Myanmar gems target key junta funding source

AP ■ BANGKOK

The latest US sanctions on Myanmar target an army-controlled gems business rife with corruption and abuses that is one of the junta's key sources of revenue.



It's unclear if the sanctions will do much to close the taps of income and royalties from gems sales. Some estimates say more than half of such transactions are not declared, even though they are the country's second biggest export after natural gas and oil.

The rights group Justice for Myanmar on Friday urged the U.S. government to expand penalties to include the Myanmar Oil & Gas Enterprise, which handles the country's largest share of exports.

"It is imperative that other countries follow suit in sanctioning the key businesses enabling the Myanmar military's criminal conduct," said the group's spokesperson, Yadanar Maung.

The most recent report from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative for

royalties and overseas marketing and sales.

The gems trade is important enough that coup leader Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing and Myanmar's central bank governor were among the dignitaries who visited the opening of a gems, pearls and jade emporium earlier this month in the capital, Naypyitaw.

The U.S. and other governments have been ramping up sanctions in response to the coup and a deadly crackdown on mass pro-democracy protests. At least 598 protesters and bystanders have been killed by security forces since the coup and violence has spread from major cities to provincial towns.

Earlier, the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden sanctioned Myanmar Ruby Enterprise, Myanmar Imperial Jade Co., and Cancri (Gems and Jewellery) Co. — other military-controlled traders of gems and other precious stones. U.S. sanctions have also targeted two major military-controlled conglomerates that also have stakes in mining and gems businesses.

2 Pak Ministers oppose law seeking jail for Army critics

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Two senior Federal Ministers in Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's Cabinet have voiced their opposition to a controversial law which seeks to criminalise any criticism or ridicule of the country's powerful armed forces with a two-year imprisonment or fine up to Rs 50,000 or both.

The dissenting voices of Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry and Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari came after a Pakistani parliamentary panel endorsed the law on Wednesday.

The legislation was adopted by the National Assembly Standing Committee on

Interior despite sharp criticism by the Opposition parties which called it ultra vires of the fundamental rights.

Coup-prone Pakistan has been under military rule for almost half of its existence, with many governments deposed before completing its term, mostly at the behest of the country's powerful armed forces.

Chaudhry was the first to express his concern against the proposed legislation, calling it ridiculous in a tweet.

"Absolutely ridiculous idea to criminalise criticism, respect is earned, cannot be imposed on people, I strongly feel instead of new such laws, Contempt of Court laws should be repealed," he said.

Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari retweeted Chaudhry's tweet and then proceeded to add her comments: "Totally agree. Cannot state it strongly enough."

The law, which aims to amend the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), was introduced for discussion by the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmaker Amjad Ali Khan.

However, difference erupted over the law between the 11-member body after Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) opposed the harsh punishment suggested in the bill.

Biden unveils initial plans to curb growing gun violence in US

Washington: Declaring the spike in gun violence in the US an "epidemic" and an "international embarrassment," President Joe Biden has outlined actions to regulate certain home-made firearms and pressed Congress to renew the country's long-expired ban on assault weapons.

Under mounting pressure to act after a spate of mass shootings across America, Biden on Thursday said that whether Congress acts or not, he was going to use all the resources at his disposal as President to keep the American people safe from gun violence.

A bipartisan Senate compromise that was narrowly defeated eight years ago was focused on expanding checks to sales at gun shows and on the internet. But many Democrats and gun control advocates now want almost all sales and transfers to face a mandatory review, alienating Republicans who say extending the requirements would trample Second Amendment rights.

The dispute has been one of several hurdles in the renewed push for gun-control legislation, despite wide support for extending the checks. A small group of senators have engaged in tentative talks in the wake of recent mass shootings in Atlanta and Colorado, hoping to build on bipartisan proposals from the past. But support from at least 10 Republicans will be needed to get a bill through the Senate, and most are intractably opposed.

AP

Japan imposes new measures in Tokyo ahead of Olympics

Tokyo: Japan announced Friday that it will raise the coronavirus alert level in Tokyo to allow tougher measures to curb the rapid spread of a more contagious variant ahead of the Summer Olympics.

Japan's national vaccination drive has lagged and most people in the capital still have not been inoculated as infections have surged. The raised status announced by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga will allow Tokyo's governor to mandate shorter opening hours for bars and restaurants, along with punishments for violators and compensation for those who comply. The measures are to begin Monday and continue through May 11.

Many of Tokyo's cases have been linked to nightlife and dining, though they have recently spread to offices, elderly care facilities and schools, experts say. Suga also raised the alert level for Kyoto in western Japan and the southern island prefecture of Okinawa, where cases have surged in recent weeks.

AP

Indian docs to benefit from UK's fee-free 1-year visa extension

PTI ■ LONDON

Indian doctors and nurses are among 14,000 applicants from across the world that are set to benefit from a one-year fee waiver for visa extensions announced on Friday for front-line workers dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The UK Home Office said that the free one-year visa extensions will be automatically granted to eligible overseas health and care workers and their dependents whose visas were due to expire before October 1.

The extension will cover healthcare professionals working in the National Health Service (NHS) and the independent health and care sector, which includes a large number of Indian professionals.

"The dedication and skill of overseas health and care workers who are leading the UK's fight against coronavirus is truly extraordinary," said UK Home Secretary Priti Patel.

"Thousands of them have helped save countless lives throughout this pandemic and are now playing a vital part in the hugely successful vaccination rollout. Our offer of free visa extensions shows how our country values the contributions of these heroes," she said.

Periodic free visa extensions for health workers have been announced since last year at the peak of the pandemic

Extension will apply to those working both in NHS as well as independent sector

and the Home Office said it has extended the visas of more than 10,000 people across the UK.

The latest extension is intended for doctors, nurses, paramedics, midwives, occupational therapists, psychologists and others to be able to continue their crucial work in the fight against coronavirus as their visas will be extended for a year, free of all fees and charges, including the Immigration Health Surcharge.

"Our overseas health and care workers make such a vital contribution to our health system and have been a key part of the fight against the pandemic. They are protecting our loved ones and vaccinating the public so that we can save lives and return to normalcy," said UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

"To help those staff from overseas, we are extending their visas to provide security while they continue to tackle this virus," he said.

The Home Office said that those benefiting from this extension will need to complete a simple online form to verify their identity, with employers asked to confirm eligibility.

GLOBE TROTTER

TERRORIST OMAR SHIFTED FROM KARACHI TO LAHORE

Lahore: British-born al-Qaeda terrorist Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who was on death row for 18 years before his acquittal last year in the sensational kidnapping and beheading of US journalist Daniel Pearl, has been shifted to Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail from Karachi, officials said on Friday.

Pearl, the 38-year-old South Asia bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal, was abducted and beheaded while he was in Pakistan investigating a story in 2002 on the links between the country's powerful spy agency ISI and al-Qaeda.

NEPAL TO RESTRICT GATHERING OF OVER 25

Kathmandu: Nepal's Health Ministry on Friday recommended to restrict any gathering involving more than 25 people at a time in a bid to arrest the spread of the coronavirus.

MINING ACCIDENTS KILL 10 IN CHINA

Beijing: Nine workers were killed in northern China during an operation to destroy expired mining explosives, while one miner died and seven others were reportedly trapped by a blast in mine, underscoring the country's challenges as it attempts to improve industrial safety.

ARCHEOLOGISTS UNEARTH AN ANCIENT CITY IN EGYPT

Cairo: Egyptian archaeologists have unearthed a 3000-year-old lost city, complete with mud brick houses, artifacts, and tools from pharaonic times. Noted archaeologist Zahi Hawass said Thursday that an Egyptian mission had discovered the mortuary city in the southern province of Luxor. It dates back to what is considered a golden era of ancient Egypt, the period under King Amenhotep III of the 18th dynasty.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that in part supersession to the Public Notice published in various newspapers on 07.04.2021, regarding running of Godda-New Delhi-Godda Humsafar Special Exp., Railways have decided to revise the Train No. and timings of Godda - New Delhi-Godda Humsafar Special Express (Weekly) as under:-

02307/02308 GODDA - NEW DELHI - GODDA HUMSAFAR SPECIAL EXPRESS (WEEKLY)									
Train No.: 02307		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No.: 02308						
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.					
---	12:40	GODDA	00:45	---					
13:10	13:12	PRAYAHAT	00:10	00:12					
13:37	14:07	HANSDIHA	23:15	23:45					
14:32	14:34	MANDARHILL	22:47	22:49					
14:56	14:58	BARAHAT	21:57	21:59					
16:35	17:30	BHAGALPUR	20:00	20:30					
18:00	18:01	SULTANGANJ	19:14	19:15					
18:32	18:37	JAMALPUR JN	18:40	18:45					
18:56	18:57	ABHAIPUR	18:08	18:09					
20:00	20:05	KIUL JN	17:40	17:45					
21:22	21:24	NAWADAH	15:08	15:10					
23:20	23:25	GAYA JN	13:25	13:30					
00:28	00:30	SASARAM	11:57	11:59					
01:50	02:00	PT DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA JN	10:50	11:00					
04:00	04:10	PRAYAGRAJ JN	08:10	08:20					
06:30	06:35	KANPUR CENTRAL	05:35	05:45					
12:35	---	NEW DELHI	---	23:45					

DAYS OF RUN: 02307 from Godda on 19.04.21 (Monday) and 02308 from New Delhi on 20.04.21 (Tuesday).

ACCOMMODATION: 3 Tier AC.

TIMINGS OF REGULAR RUN OF HUMSAFAR WEEKLY SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAIN

Regular number of the Humsafar Express Special train will be 02349 from Godda on and from 26.04.2021 and 02350 from New Delhi on and from 27.04.2021.

02349/02350 GODDA - NEW DELHI - GODDA HUMSAFAR SPECIAL EXPRESS (WEEKLY)									
Train No.: 02349		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No.: 02350						
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.					
---	12:40	GODDA	00:45	---					
13:10	13:12	PRAYAHAT	00:10	00:12					
13:37	14:07	HANSDIHA	23:15	23:45					
14:32	14:34	MANDARHILL	22:47	22:49					
14:56	14:58	BARAHAT	21:57	21:59					
16:35	17:30	BHAGALPUR	20:00	20:30					
18:00	18:01	SULTANGANJ	19:14	19:15					
18:32	18:37	JAMALPUR JN	18:40	18:45					
18:56	18:57	ABHAIPUR	18:08	18:09					
20:00	20:05	KIUL JN	17:40	17:45					
21:22	21:24	NAWADAH	15:08	15:10					
23:20	23:25	GAYA JN	13:25	13:30					
00:28	00:30	SASARAM	11:57	11:59					
01:50	02:00	PT DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA JN	10:50	11:00					
04:00	04:10	PRAYAGRAJ JN	08:10	08:20					
06:30	06:35	KANPUR CENTRAL	05:35	05:45					
12:35	---	NEW DELHI	---	23:45					

DAYS OF RUN: 02349 from Godda on Monday from 26.04.21 to 28.06.21 and 02350 from New Delhi on Tuesday from 27.04.21 to 29.06.21.

ACCOMMODATION: 3 Tier AC.

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., must be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any other information passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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139

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ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

"I know the advantage of being middle-class. My spectrum towards life is wider because I have interacted with people from different walks of life. My compassion and empathy towards other people and their condition is more. I value my privilege of having good food, going to a good school, living in a good house and everything that my parents have given me. Honestly, I do not want to change those values," he summed up.

—JANS

Top Gear S27 sees Paddy McGuinness, Freddie Flintoff and Chris Harris tackling the fastest, hottest, toughest top gear challenges to date: pushing their cars and themselves to the very limits of endurance. All because no one takes testing cars as seriously as Top Gear. And also because they really should have checked the small print of their contracts more closely before signing. From the brutal heat of the Ethiopian desert, the sweltering Borneo rainforest, the wilds of Iceland to the pedestrianised shopping district of downtown Mansfield, the show is getting bigger than ever before. Excerpts:

How did the chemistry between the three of you begin?

Chris: We had a little test late last summer. We secretly went to an airfield with a couple of cameras and just messed about. It was a really good idea. It wasn't a chemistry-building exercise as much as a question of "How's this going to play?" We had only met for about an hour. I thought: "They're my heroes, I can't be that offensive." But then this note came through from them saying: "Nothing is off-limits," which was very refreshing. That's when I knew we'd be fine. We hit it off immediately.

It was quite clear from the beginning that the banter was pretty good and that we had a very similar puerile sense of humour, and the motorcar is a very good medium for that. It was immediately apparent that it was going to be quite light-hearted. If there is some geekery that needs to be done, I can cover that off. But Fred and Paddy know more about cars than they let on. They're very modest about that. I knew then that it would work



BEHIND THE WHEELS

From the brutal heat of the Ethiopian desert, the sweltering Borneo rainforest, the wilds of Iceland to the pedestrianised shopping district of downtown Mansfield, *Top Gear S27* is getting bigger than ever before, shares the host of the show CHRIS HARRIS. By TEAM VIVA

between us. We just clicked.

So you've become close?

Chris: Yes. They've both become massive mates of mine. This is quite strange for me, working with two people that I have admired from afar for a long time. Paddy was in *Phoenix Nights*, which is in my top three programmes ever. I still watch it religiously, and I'm always quoting bad lines at him. I'm a complete cricket tragic. So I'm working with my heroes. But this is a comfortable place for me. I know a lot about cars. I can test drive a

Lamborghini. I can plug the gaps in their knowledge. Meanwhile, they can be funny, and occasionally just kick the hell out of me. That's fine!

Do Paddy and Freddie sometimes gang up on you?

Chris: Yes. There is a danger that with Paddy and Fred, it's going to become a northern show. Even though I'm the incumbent presenter, I do sometimes feel that the North has taken over. It's a bit like *Game Of Thrones*. Paddy and Fred get into this northern bickering thing when they leave out the def-

inite article, and I don't understand what they're on about. So sometimes you have to say: "Can you just leave it alone?" You should hear them try and speak to people in Ethiopia — it's a struggle at times. Paddy always introduces himself by saying: "Hi, I'm Paddy from Bolton", which doesn't mean very much when you're on the Eritrean border.

Did Freddie also struggle to fit in some cars?

Chris: Yes. Fred is not designed for cars. There is a Lotus he drives later in the series, and it was funny

watching him getting strapped into that because his feet don't fit into the pedal boxes. Most cars are comfortable until you are about 6'3 or 6'4. A lot of sports cars are just not designed for the larger gentleman. We drove a buggy in Iceland at the weekend, and I just didn't know how Fred was going to fit. His knees were touching the steering wheel. I thought: "I'm not sure how that's going to work." But he always manages to do it, and he never complains about it.

How would you characterise

others' driving styles?

Chris: I would describe Paddy's driving style as squeaky, and I don't mean the tyres. When he's excited, he gets quite squeaky. But he and Fred are both amazing drivers. They wouldn't be doing this unless they could drive. We're a bit more rigorous about how we screen test people now. If someone turns up and they are absolutely mustard on camera, but they can't really drive, they aren't going to get the job. It's just not possible. You can't do that. It's not safe. The practicalities of filming mean you have to have cameramen near you. You can't be running people over. You need a level of skill behind the wheel. Both of these two have it. I won't say anything nicer than that, otherwise their egos will swell.

Is it important that the show also appeals to non-petrol heads?

Chris: Yes. With the changes in media increasingly, if you want to watch 40 minutes on the differential of a BMW, that's online. It's not eight o'clock on a Sunday night on

BBC Two, is it? This has got to be a more general show. That means fun and that's what Fred and Paddy bring. Frankly, they just have to walk through the door in the morning, and I start laughing. It's an entertainment show, and those guys really know how to entertain.

How does this series compare with previous ones that you have been involved with?

Chris: We are in a great place. We are very happy. There's a sense that anything is possible. From the first time we knocked about, the three of us have got on very well. We have a really good laugh. Paddy and Fred are very giving. They don't need to be as giving to me because they're both super famous. But they're both very willing to have the mickey ripped out of them, which is really important. We call chemistry the 'c' word on *Top Gear*, and you can't fake that, can you?

(The show will air on April 10 every Saturday at 10 pm on Colors Infinity.)

STUDIO CHAT

Proud of my wife: Sajid

In a special episode of *Indian Pro Music League*, composer Sajid Khan's wife LUBNA shares that she went behind everyone's back to donate Wajid her kidney

While the competition will heat up during the forthcoming episodes of Indian Pro Music League with all the teams putting their best foot forward, the 'Wajid Khan special' had many light moments with all the stars sharing some heart-warming anecdotes about the late musician. Sajid-Wajid's mother, Razina, and Sajid's wife, Lubna, also appeared on the show as special guests and a video tribute by them for Wajid had a very special revelation. Wajid's mother revealed a time when the late musician was in dire need of a kidney. Being a diabetic patient, she couldn't donate her kidney, but they were still hopeful of finding a match. However, as time went by, they were losing hope, especially with people cheating them and not helping them out. That's when Sajid's wife Lubna went behind everyone's back and gave her kidney to Wajid. As Razina revealed, "We had asked all our relatives, however, no one came forward. But during that time, Lubna



secretly got all her tests done and gave him her kidney."

Lubna added, "When I heard that someone else can also donate him a kidney, I didn't ask anyone. I just got all my tests done. Before the last test, I told Wajid everything and told him that if we're a match, we'll go for a transplant. He was very upset, but I told him one thing that you're very important to me, and that left him speechless. The person who has always stood by everyone, if his family doesn't stand by him in

his time of need, then it is very shameful. Thankfully, we were a match. Sajid, my mother, and my children were very supportive, and I am happy I could do this for him."

Delhi Jammers captain Sajid mentioned, "Wajid was unwell for two years and my mother took care of him on a daily basis. We requested her to go home and rest, but she never left the room where Wajid was staying. There was a time when my wife went to the hospital, got all the paper-



work done, and was ready to give Wajid her Kidney. I was scared, even my kids were worried, but I am really proud of what she did. At that time, none of our family members helped us. We had money, name, fame and we went to the best doctors, but we couldn't get the right donor. I can recall people taking money from me saying that they will donate their kidney but when the time came they just disappeared. I used to wait at the airport for hours for people to come, but

they'd never turn up. I had never felt so helpless in my life. That is when Lubna came to me and said I want to donate my kidney to Wajid, which she did. All I am trying to say through this is that we all are blessed to have a family that loves us, and we don't need anything more than that in life. We should spend time with them, love them and be there for them always."

(Indian Pro Music League airs every Saturday and Sunday at 8 pm on Zee TV.)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused namely **Rama S/o Otiya @ Teja R/o C-Block, T-Hut, Raghuveer Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 263/2019 U/s 308/34 IPC P.S.: Pahar Ganj, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rama** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rama** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rama of FIR No. 263/2019 U/s 308/34 IPC P.S.: Pahar Ganj, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.05.2021.**

By order
Sh. Chander Mohan
Addl Chief Metropolitan Magistrate-01,
Central District, Room No 366, 3rd Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/746/CD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN



Meenu Saini

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely **Meenu Saini W/o Rakesh Saini R/o H.No. B-50, Naharpur, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi Age : 38 years, Height : 5'2", Face : Round, Complexion : Fair, Build: Medium, Identification: Mentally Sound, wearing blue colour salwar-kurta and hawai chappal in feet, has been missing since 23.03.2021 from her house. In this regard DD No. 36-A dated 23.03.2021 has been lodged at P.S. North Rohini, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about this missing woman may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO : P.S. North Rohini, Delhi
Ph.: 011-8750870330
Tel.: 24368638/24368641
DP/754/RD/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Vivek Tandon son of Late Shri J.K. Tandon resident of MIG flat no. 312 1st floor, Prasad Nagar, New Delhi hereby informed to all that I am the bonafide ALLOTTEE/lessee/GPA holder of property no. MIG flat no. 1st floor, Prasad Nagar, New Delhi vide file no. F.27(253)/77LAB(H)/MIG has applied for Mutation and conversion from lease hold to free hold in DDA and the original demand letter, Possession letter, site possession and NOC for water and electric connection of the above said property/flat have been lost/ misplaced. An NCR/FIR to this effect has been lost in Delhi vide no.288603 dated 02.04.2021. If any one found same may please contact to me within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, the person/ institution / government/ Authority claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (MIG), 3rd floor, D-Block, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi 110023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Dharmender Kumar Sharma and Mr. Pardeep Kumar Sharma are the owners and in possession of Entire Third Floor with roof rights built on Property bearing No. C188, measuring 140 sq. yards, Rect. No.17, Killa No. 7, Village Asatpur, Khader Delhi colony known as Jeevan Park, Pankha Road, Uttam Nagar, Delhi. Said Property by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 17.05.2016, duly registered as Document No. 10249, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners intend to take loan from our client i.e. Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. by mortgaging the said property to our client. If anybody has any objection/s upon said property/its ownership & Title its Sale and Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Modl Nagar, N. Delhi-11 Ph.: 9114112927-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl, Named: **Neha, D/o: Sh. Sonu, R/o: H.No. C-2, Aman Vihar, Kirari, Delhi. Aged: 19 years** has been missing from her home since 15.03.2021 at 05:00 PM. In this regard, a Case Vides DD No. 101A, Dated 15.03.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. Her description is as under:
Height: 4'9" feet, Complexion: fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Dark Yellow Colour T-Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans and White Colour Shoes in her feet. If anyone has any information about the missing girl, then please inform P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi at email: ciccbi@cbi.nic.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Fax: No.011-23011133, Ph.: 011-23014046 (Direct), 23015229, 23015218 Extn. 210.



Neha

S.H.O
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-23014046, 23015218
DP/755/RD/2021.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Suresh Anand

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Suresh Anand, D/o: Sh. Vishmber Datt, R/o: H.No. B-2/8, Budh Vihar, Ph-I, Delhi** has been missing since 11.03.2021 from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 80A dated 18.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Vijay Vihar. The description of missing man is as under:
Name: Suresh Anand, Age: 34 Years, Height: 5'4", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue Jeans and Checkdark Shirt and Blue shoes in feet

If anyone has any information about this missing man please inform P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station, Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-27511294, 8750870329
DP/756/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Babita



Sanskarti

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Babita (along with her daughter namely Sanskarti), W/o: Devender, R/o: Lala ka Makan, Near Bus Stand 990 Rithala village, Delhi** has been missing since 07.03.2021 from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 46 A dated 19.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Vijay Vihar. The description of missing lady and her daughter is as under:
Name: Babita, Age: 38 Years, Height: 5'3", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Strong, Wearing: Red & Blue Colour Suit-Salwar and Chappal in Feet.

Name: Sanskarti, Age: 04 Years, Height: 2'5", Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Wearing: T-Shirt & Blue Colour Half Pant and Pink Colour Sandal in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing lady and her daughter please inform P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station, Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-27511294, 8750870329
DP/757/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED



Ryhaan

General Public is hereby informed that a small boy namely **Ryhaan S/o Mh. Usman R/o Foot path in front of Central Baptist Church, Main Road Chandani Chowk, Delhi, Age: 1 Month, Height: 1', Complexion: Sallow, Face: Oval, Built: Thin** is kidnapped since 20.10.2016 from the area of P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. In this regard a vide case FIR No. 497/16, u/s 363 IPC dated 20.10.2016 has been registered at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the kidnapped child but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this child please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in SHO
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-23797100,
DP/582/N/2020 23953442, 8750870121

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER- II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001.
PROCLAMATION OF SALE
NOTICE UNDER RULE 38 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 25(A) THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT,1993.
RC No. 312/2014
In the matter of:
ICICI BANK VS BHARAT SOMASTAMB
TO
CD#
Mr. Bharat Somastamb. S/o. Sh. Krishan Gopal Somastamb. R.o House No.523, Sector-21C Faridabad, Haryana-121001.
Also At:- Bharat Enterprises, G1/203A, Indera Enclave, Sector-21-D, Faridabad-121002.
Whereas in execution of ibid RC No.312/2014 dated 28.08.2014 in OA No.308/2013 drawn up by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Delhi, the CD is to pay to the applicant **Rs.12,16,823/- (Rs. Twelve Lacs Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred And Twenty Three Only)** has become due from you as per the ibid Recovery Certificate drawn in OA No. 308/2013 by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal - II, Delhi. The applicant is entitled to recover a sum of **Rs. 12,01,823/- (Rs. Twelve Lacs One Thousand Eight Hundred And Twenty Three Only)** alongwith pendente lite and future interest @15.01% per annum w.e.f. 18.10.2013 till realization with cost of Rs.15,000/- and costs from the Certificate Debtor (CD), failing which the amount shall be recovered by sale of the hypothecated vehicles. In case of any shortfall, the same shall be recovered from the personal movable and immovable assets of the CD.
2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of the hypothecated vehicle mentioned in scheduled property for satisfaction of the said Recovery Certificate.
3. Notice is hereby given that in the absence of any order of postponement, the said hypothecated vehicle (mentioned under the schedule of property below) shall be sold through auction by **Sh. Kamlesh Kumar Tiwari, Advocate (Mobile No. 9810019131)**, by Public Auction at **11:00, AM on 06.05.2021**.
4. The CH bank shall ensure that prospective bidders are allowed inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle (mentioned under the schedule of property below) before day of auction for which interested individuals may contact the concerned officer of CH Ms. Kalayani Preeti (MOB: 9599281817).
5. The sale shall be of the movable property of the above named Certificate Defaulters (CD), subject to the liabilities and claims attaching to the said hypothecated vehicle, if any.
6. The sale shall be stopped if, before lot is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate alongwith the interest and costs has been paid to the undersigned.
7. At the sale the public generally are invited to bid either personally or by duly authorized agent. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold.
8. The property is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS AND "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS."** The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Income-Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made thereunder and to the following further conditions:
9. The particulars specified in the Schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.
10. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) be fixed as follows:

S. No.	Details of property	Reserve Price(In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)
1.	Mercedes Benz/ E280CDI, bearing Registration No. HR- 51Y-0945.	3,00,000/-	30,000/-

11. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be determined by the Officer conducting the sale. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put to auction.
12. Intending bidders shall be required to pay Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by way of pay order/demand draft payable at New Delhi and in favour of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi before the start of bidding and identity proofs, address proofs etc. The said deposit shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidders; and in the case of unsuccessful bidders the same shall be refunded without interest, on the date of sale.
13. Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale proceeds by way of pay order/demand draft favoring the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, within 24 hours (next working day) by way of bank draft, after adjusting the EMD stated above, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.
14. The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds alongwith poundage fee @ 2% upto Rupees 1,000/- @ 1% of the sale price exceeding Rupees 1,000/ within 15 days from the date of auction. The Poundage fees shall be deposited through a demand draft payable in favor of the Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi.
15. In case of default, the amount earlier deposited by the bidder, if the undersigned considers fit, after defraying the expenses of the sale shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold, and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part thereof or of any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
16. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

Schedule of Property				
No. of lots	Description of property to be sold with names of co-owners where the property belongs to the defaulter and any other persons is co-owners	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrances to which the property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property and other known particulars bearing on its nature and value.
1.	Mercedes Benz/ E280CDI, bearing Registration No. HR- 51Y-0945.	No information	No information	No information

Place of auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No:166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram- 122022
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at New Delhi on this 02.03.2021.
(Dattatrey Bajpayee)
Recovery Officer- II
DRT- II, Delhi

