

HOME THEATRE

Not a patch on the book or original movie



THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN
Netflix
***ing: Parineeti Chopra, Aditi Rao Hydari, Kirti Kulhari, Avinash Tiwary**
Rated: 5/10

Let's talk about the positives first. It starts off on a good note. The opening scene tells you that there is more to come and it is bound to be interesting — murder-crime thrillers are definitely a treat to watch. And this latest Parineeti Chopra film is no different. A girl on the train who watches the life of another woman and reminiscing her own and wishing it was her in place of that girl is normal enough . More so when our life is in shambles and nothing is going right. So far so good.

Unfortunately, as the movie progresses it starts to spiral out of control and goes off track. Of course the makers wanted to give a Bollywood feel to the film and hence the song and dance but there

was no need to let it deviate so much.

If the makers had gone with the name and copied most of the scenes, they might have stuck true to the book by British author Paula Hawkins 2015 novel of the same name. One doesn't understand the need to go for a twist that doesn't make much sense because there are so many gaps that are difficult to fill. However, if can manage to watch it like any other B-town movie and not look for answers that need to be addressed, The Girl On The Train manages to hold your attention. But there is a condition— one should have neither seen nor read the book by the same or watched the 2016 movie starring Emily Blunt. The character in the Hindi version is played by Chopra.

If by any chance one gas done either of the above, it will be a lost cause even if there is a deviation at the climax which is definitely a surprise.

— Shalini Sakseena

Guru-shishya parampara is what it's about

AAVARTAN
IMDB
***ing: Miroslaw Baka, Mateusz Banasiuk, Adrianna Chlebicka, Krzysztof Czeczot, Wojciech Kalarus, Tomasz Karolak, Jacek Knap, Anna Smolowik, Sebastian Stankiewicz**
Rated: 5/10

The latest film by writer-director Durba Sahay, who had made her debut as a director with The Pen, is a take on the guru-shishya parampara and how one cycle ends and the next begins. With danseuse Shovana Narayan in the lead, the one-hour-and-56 minutes are spent exploring the beautiful relationship that a gurus have with their shishyas and how sometimes ego and pride cone in the way of this beautiful and sacred relationship. But the whole premise behind an art form is to surrender to the art and

there is no place for egos here.

Through the four generations of passing on the tradition of who will lead the next generation of young dancers, Aavartan, which means a cycle, is interesting to watch — that a guru can be jealous of her pupil but manages to over come her insecurities via a story told to her by her guru.

Narayan may not be a great actor but there is no doubt where her skills lie — a brilliant Kathak dancer. Those who love classic dance forms, this movie is a treat to watch. To see Narayan dance so beautifully even though she us 70 years old is magical. It just goes to show that one can never take the art form from the artist whatever be the age. The dual towards the climax where she performs is absolutely riveting. One can see clearly why she is still the queen of her art.

Watch this one for some excellent footwork by Shovana Narayan.

— Shalini Sakseena



Plan Your Day



Pupper Party 4.0
Venue: Cafe 27, Kailash Colony, New Delhi
When: February 28, 2021
Time: 1 pm onwards

We are pumped and ready for yet another pupper party in our city! Join us for the Delhi Pupper Party 4.0.

Enjoy a thrilling Sunday with your pups. Let your pets chomp on a yummilicious doggy buffet, play fun games & win super gift hampers worth ₹2,200! All pets at the event get a dazzling Just Dogs voucher worth ₹975 and humans get a complimentary FnB Coupon with ₹100 with each ticket!

Ultra Run

Venue: Delta 105, Village Pada,Manesar, Gurugram, India
When: February 28, 2021
Time: 6 pm onwards

Run in the clean and green environs on the outskirts of Gurgaon.

Choose your distances from short and sweet 10K to herculean 24hrs ultra run or an experiential night run inside a safe Military themed campus- Delta 105.

Race Categories
Note: Crew supporting participants & accompanying

guests will have to buy Food-Coupons to order meals from the campsite kitchen.

Race Categories (check route map)

- 63.3Km Ultra Run (Feb 28 6 am start, cutoff 10hrs, Min age 18yrs): ₹2,000
- Full Marathon (Feb 28 6:15 am start, cutoff 7hrs, Min age 18yrs): ₹1,400
- Half Marathon (Feb 28 7am start, Min age 18yrs): ₹1,000
- 10Km Run (Feb 28 7am start, Min age 18yrs): ₹1,000



TELLY TALE

'I FEEL WAJID'S PRESENCE'
Zee TV has been a pioneer and a trend-setter in shaping television content over the past three decades and is all set to



change the face of music reality shows once again with its latest non-fiction property, the *Indian Pro Music League* (IPML). In what will be a clutter-breaking format innovation, Zee TV is all set to present audiences with the world's first-ever music league championship, starting February 26. While the world of sports has seen several league competitions, this unique music league will have six teams representing different regions of India, battling it out against each other in a musical championship.

Each of these six teams supported by leading Bollywood and sports celebrities will have top playback singers as their captains, one reality show star and one fresh voice. The likes of Mika Singh, Kailash Kher, Sajid Khan, Shaan, Ankit Tiwari, Javed Ali, Asees Kaur, Bhoomi Trivedi, AkritiKakar, Payal Dev, Neha Bhasin, Shilpa Rao have been signed on to captain the 6 zonal teams.

During the shoot of the grand premiere episode, everyone was ecstatic to kickstart the reality show. In fact, all the celebrities put their best foot forward and gave some splendid performances on the grand Indian Pro Music League stage. However, it was popular Bollywood composer, Sajid Khan's words that left everyone teary-eyed during the shoot. Sajid, his family, and the whole of Bollywood was dealt a huge blow last year when his brother Wajid Khan passed away suddenly. Participating in the *Indian Pro Music League* was actually Wajid's dream and not having him around made Sajid very emotional, after all, it was also his first reality show without him. On the stage, Sajid mentioned how he missed his brother but also felt his presence on the stage, and hence, he is looking forward to making this show a huge success.

Sajid Khan who is the captain of Delhi Jammers mentioned on the stage, "Even when Wajid was hospitalized, he was

constantly concerned about the show. Whenever I visited him, he kept telling me that we must work hard for the *Indian Pro Music League* and make it a success. Till date, I have never done a show without Wajid, but this is the first time I am coming without him on such a big show with so many star singers. However, I feel his presence here, I think he is always with me and that makes me extremely comfortable. I feel I am no one without him and I will work really hard and make him proud."

PACKAGE FULL OF MASTI
Get ready to witness showdowns in the upcoming episodes across &TV shows. In *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai*, Manmohan Tiwari (Rohitashv Gour) finds himself at crossroads with his beautiful Anita Bhabi (NehhaPendse) who is fighting a court case against him. Either way, Manmohan is destined to lose! Whereas, Rajesh (Kamna Pathak) who tire to create a rift between her husband Happu Singh (Yogesh Tripathi) and Beni (Vishwanath Chatterjee) makes matters go out of hand in *Happu Ki Ultan Paltan*.



Bringing *aandhi* and *toofan* are the new visitors at Pappu's (Manmohan Tiwari) guest house in *Gudiya Humari Sabhi Pe Bhari* with an announcement that there is a pot full of gold hidden in the haveli, followed by an exhausting treasure hunt. In *Santoshi Maa Sunaye Vrat Katahyein*, a time warp takes place bringing Indresh (Ashish Kadian) back to life and Swati (Tanvi Dogra) to justice. But will Asur Rani Paulomi (Sara Khan) give up without a fight?

Sharing more on the zesty details of the track, NehhaPendse aka Anita Bhabi shares: "If there is one woman who can influence Vibhuti Narayan Mishra (Aasif Sheikh) like Anita does, is Angoori Bhabi (Shubhangi Atre). When Tiwari ji tortures Tilly (Syed Salim Zaidi) under pandit ji's orders, Anita gets furious and files a case against him. When Angoori convinces Vibhuti to fight Tiwari ji's case against Anita herself,things get heated."

Kamna Pathak aka Rajesh Singh says, "Beni and Happu's *dosti* is *pakk!* But Rajesh has triggered the two of them that will result in an ugly fight. The pair makes efforts to make each other feel jealous and ultimately refuse to talk.

Iss darar ke beech, will Rajesh and

Kamlesh (Sanjay Chaudhury) be able to patch the two best buds? "Santa Sagar aka Sarla shares: "The Gupta family is used to Gudiya's frequent surprises. This time around she brings the previous owners of the house who got displaced a long time ago. They reveal that back in the day they hid a huge pot of gold in the house. After knowing about the treasure, Sarla is determined on finding the fortune."

Sara Khan aka Asur Rani Paulomi shares: "Swati along with the help of Santoshi Maa (Gracy Singh) has always fought her battles. But will Indresh support her after being emotionally blackmailed by his father Singhasan Singh (Sushil Sinha)? Asur Rani Paulomi will not let Santoshi Maa win and to find out how, the audience must stay tuned!"

WELCOME SARGAM ON SCREEN
Laughter is the best medicine to take stress away, and Sony Entertainment Television is making sure the audience gets a good dose, with the launch of its new show *Sargam Ki Sadhesatii*. The channel is all set to unveil a sitcom that encourages family viewing. Produced by Vipul Shah of Optimistix Entertainment, *Sargam Ki Sadhe Satii* brings forth the Awasthi household with Sargam as the *bahu*, and her unique *sasural* where she is the only woman among men.

The shenanigans of the Awasthis from Ghaziabad will throw viewers into giggle-fits, while also warming the hearts with relatable situations. Altogether, the Awasthi family will be seen elevating the most mundane situation — ones that viewers will easily relate to — into a whole lot of fun. The makers have chosen an eclectic cast, led by *Mere Dad Ki Dulhan* actor Anjali Tatrari as Sargam and Kunal Saluja as Aparshakti Awasthi. The rest of the key cast members include names such as Darshan Jariwala, Sanat Vyas, Ojas Rawal, Yash Sehgal, Vishnu Bholwani, Akash Makhija, Yash Sehgal and Krish Chugh.

Sargam Awasthi is empathetic, rational, intelligent, selfless and a leader in essence, but for someone who becomes a homemaker, she faces two key challenges. Firstly, she does not know to cook, a stereotype that is often associated with a good *bahu*. Secondly, in her earnest desire to balance everything and to be a Jack of all trades at home, she keeps faltering here and there. Comical twists in the story happen as Sargam tries her best to be The Sadhesatii men include Sargam's husband Aparshakti Awasthi aka Appu, who is a small-time influencer for the world, but a *jugaadu* hero of his house. An aspiring actor, he is unabashedly disorganised and takes pride in being a multi-tasker.

'Dadaji' Anandil Awasthi, also called 'sympathy seeker' due to his unending love for talking about his 'fake' ailments, is the oldest, but most youthful member of this mad-house. His favourite topic is his bowel movement!

'I waited for movies, got TV shows instead'

AYUB KHAN, who plays Guddu Mishra on Ranju Ki Betiyaan on Dangal TV speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his role in the series, how he got into acting and why he ventured into TV shows

■ What is your role in Ranju Ki Betiyaan?
I play Guddu Mishra; he is from Muzaffarpur, Bihar. He is someone who is respectful of his father and because of his father's wish to get married to a particular person, even though he doesn't agree to this, he gets married to Ranju (played by Reena Kapoor). She is timid and has no voice of her own. Ranju has four daughters. But my character is of a patriarchal mindset, he yearns for a son who can take his family name forward. Even though he respects his father, he wants to break the norm and achieve what he has wanted to do, dreaming of doing. Even though he has a wife and daughters, he gets married to another with whom he has two sons. His situation is unconventional but with a conventional marriage. This is a bit of dichotomy.

■ How did you get this project?
I had earlier done a show for Rashmi Sharma Telefilms titled *Shakti-Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki*. The show was about a eunuch child. The role that was offered to me was challenging. The show was quite progressive and hence had agreed to do this show. I liked that my role was strong and all the twists and turns that happen are because of me.

■ What made you play Guddu Mishra?
Of course, the fact that while my character finds himself in a conventional marriage, the situation is unconventional. Second, the more important one is that the show is about a single working mother; something that is becoming prevalent in our society. More and more people are breaking out and craving a life for themselves. It is encouraging people to believe in their dreams and to strike out and make a living.

■ Was the fact that the role different from what you had done in the past also the attraction of taking up Ranju...?
More than the character that I was essaying, it was the concept of the show that had me take up the project. The concept is very interesting. I felt that the show is extremely progressive, that it has something to say. The part that has been offered here, I have something to say, there was a certain amount of identifiability here. I thought that the audience would get something out of it.

■ Do you think that people get impacted by what a show wants to say?
Yes, it does. When you pick up a subject like *Ranju*.... when one wants to break the mindsets of people, if one tries to approach this aggressively, there is a possibility that one may be rejected. At times, at the cost of looking regressive, you slowly and gently push a thought process



forward and steer him towards a path that is different from the present one. One has to achieve a balance where you don't lose your audience and yet cater them towards progressive ideas.

■ You started off with films, what was the attraction of venturing into TV?
After doing films like *Mrityudand*, whatever that came my way after that was not all that exciting. The roles offered were not doing anything for me. I waited for two years to get work. Then came a time when I needed to work and met a person who was making a show, he appeared to be progressive with his ideas. He made the show *Muskaan* (1999). Once I started doing TV I realised that the commitment to TV is very heavy especially with daily soaps. With weekly, one could still do films. Once daily started, it became difficult to do films and TV. But if your character was not pivotal, one could still manage but the minute your role became central to the show, doing anything else, it was unfair to not be committed to one platform.

■ Is that why you haven't done movies in the recent past?
The funny part is; it is ironic but the truth is that every time I waited for a movie to come my way and it didn't and I took up a TV show, the very next day of shooting of the TV, I would get an offer of doing a film. I don't know whether it is luck or fate. Also, once you commit to a TV show, it requires full attention and one cannot plan in advance.

■ You have a film background. Was there ever a time when you wanted to be something else besides an actor?
Yes, definitely. There was a time when I wanted to be a fighter pilot — the whole idea of having so much power under you! But then my mother threatened and bullied me, I am the youngest of the siblings and since she could not bully them, she did it with me. I agreed not to pursue flying. But I have no regrets.

■ Is it important for an actor to find a connection with the character he is essaying?
Actually, what an actor needs to have in his arsenal is to understand different facets of life and society. To be able to understand different thought processes. Also, to be able to understand characters of people. If one is unable to do this, one is just playing a part that people may or may not be able to identify with. One learns a lot from society and people and an actor needs to learn from them.

■ What next?
I am open to any form of medium to work in. It is just that whenever it comes my way, I hope I am in a position to take them up. Let's see what is in store.

City’s law & order situation deplorable: CM

Kejriwal urges Shah, L-G to take action

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday questioned the law and order situation in the national Capital and urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal to take action citing two crimes in the last 36 hours.

Taking to Twitter, Kejriwal tweeted, “Deeply concerned by the murder of a 8-yr-old girl in Khichdipur and attack on a 17-yr-old boy in Kalkaji. Delhi’s law and order situation is in a serious turmoil, I appeal to Hon’ble Home Minister and Lt. Gov to take appropriate action to address the situation.”

His tweet came after a 17-year-old boy was beaten up and stabbed for allegedly opposing three boys who were stalking his sister and passing “indecent remarks” on her in southeast Delhi’s Kalkaji area.

According to a senior police official, the incident took place on Friday near a



school in southeast Delhi’s Kalkaji area. “The injured boy, a resident of Sarvodaya camp in Kalkaji Nagar, was taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre for treatment. He was shifted to Operation Theatre so he could not be examined,” he said.

“In her statement, the victim’s sister said that on Friday while she was with her brother, three boys followed her and passed indecent remarks on her. When her brother objected to it, they all started beating him and one of them stabbed him on left side of abdomen and fled from the spot,” said the senior police official adding that he was shifted to AIIMS Trauma centre where he is still unfit for statement.

“Police have registered a case under section 307 (attempt to murder), 354 D (stalking), 509 (Word, gesture or act

intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) and further investigation is going on,” said R P Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district. “Efforts are being made to trace the accused who are residents of JJ camp, Giri Nagar in the area of Govindpuri,” said the DCP.

Earlier, two days ago, a body of a nine-year-old girl, who was kidnapped from east Delhi’s Khichripur three days ago, was found in the sugarcane fields of a village in Modinagar, near Ghaziabad, on Friday morning.

The police had said that the autopsy has ruled out sexual assault. Four alleged kidnappers, who live in the same neighbourhood as the girl’s family, have been arrested in connection with the kidnap and murder.

The arrested persons were identified by their first names — Johnny alias Shiva, the key suspect, his cousin Naresh, Kailash and Tarun. “In the kidnapping and murder case of Kalyanpuri, four persons have been arrested and the weapon of the offence has been recovered,” said a senior police official.

Women, children not safe under Delhi Police: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and MLA of Kalka Ji constituency Atishi on Saturday said that neither women nor school-going children are safe under Delhi Police.

Atishi said that a girl was molested by some men at Kalka Ji just 100 metres away from the police station while she was returning from school and her brother was stabbed when he tried to save her.

She said that the law and order situation in the entire city is crumbling, criminals think that they can kill anyone and they will not face any punishment.

“The survivor’s family will get all kinds of help from our party and the government, went to the ICU to see the boy,” she said.

Atishi Tweeted, “Met the family of the boy who was stabbed in Kalkaji yesterday. Have assured them of full sup-



IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE THAT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL OF INDIA IS GOING THROUGH SUCH A MISERABLE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION

port. Also spoke to the doctors at the AIIMS Trauma Centre, who said that the boy is stable and recovering.”

“Have also spoken to DCP east Delhi and asked them to ensure that the perpetrators are swiftly located and arrested.

Have also told DCP South East that CCTV footage will be made available from all nearby CCTV cameras so that the investigation can be assisted,” she said in another tweet.

Atishi said, “It is very unfortunate that the national capital of India is going through such a miserable law and order situation.

“Today I met the family of the survivor and assured them that the AAP will stand beside the family and help them. I also went to the ICU to see the boy. The doctors have informed me that the condition of the boy is improving,” she said.

“I have met the DCP of the area and requested stringent action and the quickest action against the culprits. The CCTV footage of the culprits is also available. So the police must arrest the culprits at the earliest. We demand stringent action against the culprits and it should become an example in front of everyone so that no such incident takes place hereafter,” she added.

Delhi Cong president visits family of victim

Demands probe by ex-judge, 1 crore compensation to kin

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar on Saturday visited the family of the Dalit girl from Kalyanpuri and demanded a probe by a retired Supreme Court or High Court judge to “unravel” the truth and ₹1 crore compensation to the family.

Kumar promised the full support to the family of the girl who was allegedly kidnapped, raped and murdered. Senior Delhi Congress leaders accused the BJP and Aam Aadmi Party leaders of protecting the criminals involved in the kidnapping, rape and murder of the nine-year-old girl.

Addressing the media, ex-MP Udit and ex-MLA Jaikishan said that ever since the BJP and the AAP came to power, attacks and crimes against Dalits are on the rise.

They said that the dastardly rape and murder of the Vth Standard Dalit girl was the latest incident of attacks against Dalit women and the Kichiripur rape was a repeat of the Hathras’ Dalit girl rape and murder crime. “If the Delhi Police and Uttar Pradesh had acted on time, the criminals could have been caught,” they added.

Jaikishan said that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind, who was an expert in sitting on dharnas demanding safety and security of women, was silent on the rape and murder of a girl from a poor Dalit family and it exposes his double-standard.

AAP spent just 1.6% of green cess to tackle pollution: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Adesh Gupta on Saturday said that the Delhi Government has spent only 1.6 per cent of ₹883 crore collected from the people in the name of green cess to control pollution which has now reached an alarming level.

Addressing the media, he charged the Kejriwal government with having completely failed in controlling the increasing pollution level and said the apathy of the government has resulted into Delhi becoming “a capital of dust”.

“The chief minister is only interested in political expansion of his party that has led to the worsening overall situation in the city where most of the people are compelled to live in miserable conditions,” he added.

Citing reports by some medical experts, he said corona pandemic would not have taken a monstrous turn in Delhi had air pollution been under control. “If people are suffering from lung cancer, heart disease, asthma, TB, it is Kejriwal who is responsible



for all this,” he said.

Extensively quoting from an NGO’s Greenpeace Southeast Asia report, he said 54,000 people died of pollution-related diseases in the capital last year alone or a daily average of 148 deaths and it caused a monetary loss of Delhi to the tune of ₹58,000 crore.

Talking about the Green budget of the Kejriwal government, Gupta said even on stubble burning, he made a lot of hue and cry, but figures show last year the government spent only ₹40,000 in buying bio decomposer units while ₹24 lakh was spent on their distribution and another whopping ₹9 crore on its publicity.

Woman, son stabbed by 4 boys for raising objection at noise

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A woman and her 19-year-old son were allegedly stabbed by a group of four boys when they raised objections for making noise in west Delhi’s Punjabi Bagh area on Saturday.

Police said that both the injured boy Moin and his mother, aged around 48, were taken to Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital where they are being given treatment.

“In his statement, Moin told police that four boys, all residents of his locality on DDU camp area of Punjabi Bagh were making noise. When his parents tried to stop them, they started fighting and one of the boys stabbed his mother on her chest with a



knife and injured him on his left thigh,” said the senior police official.

“A case has been registered and during investigation, it has come to notice that all the accused involved in the incident are below 18 and are presently absconding,” he said.

Fire breaks out at factory in Pratap Nagar area, 1 dead

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A charred body was recovered after a fire broke out at a factory in Pratap Nagar area of North Delhi in the early hours of Saturday. Police said that no one has been reported injured.

According to Delhi Fire Services (DFS), one of the firemen sustained minor injury on his finger during the fire-fighting operation but was given first aid at the spot.

“A call about the fire was received at around 3.47 am and 18 fire tenders were pressed into service. Later, 10 more fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the fire was brought under control while the cooling process is underway,” said Atul Garg, the Director, DFS.



Fire brigade personnel douse a fire which broke out in a factory at Pratap Nagar industrial area in New Delhi on Saturday

“The fire broke out on the first and second floor of the factory. The plastic and nail polish materials caught fire and a

charred body was recovered from the first floor of the factory. The cause of the blaze is being ascertained,” said Garg.

On duty ASI shoots self

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 55 year-old Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) of Delhi Police, who was attached with the Police Control Room (PCR) unit, allegedly shot himself with his service pistol while he was on duty at Zakhira flyover in west Delhi on Saturday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Tej Pal and he was presently residing at Rajnagar in Ghaziabad.

According to a senior police official, cops received information about the incident at around 7 am and said no suicide note was recovered from the spot.

“During enquiry, it came to notice that ASI Tej Pal, was on duty and allegedly shot himself on his chest with his service pistol inside a PCR van. He was rushed to ABG hospital by the PCR van driver where he was declared brought dead by the doctors on duty,” said the senior police official.

Two held for planning to kill pro-Kashmir activist

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two residents of Punjab have been arrested in Delhi’s RK Puram area on charges of conspiring to kill an activist who is quite vocal on Kashmir.

“Two pistols, two country-made guns and four live bullets have been recovered from them. The seized pistols are of the kind, manufactured in Pakistan,” police said.

The accused have been identified as Sukwinder Singh (25), a resident of Faridkot and Lakhan (21), a resident of Kotpura.

According to Ingit Pratap Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southwest district, both of them are acquaintance from

Punjab Faridkot and were sent to Delhi at behest of one person identified as Prince alias Lutti.

“During interrogation it was revealed that Prince, is a childhood friend of Lakhan and facing murder trial in Faridkot and facts of which are being verified,” he said.

“They were promised ₹10 lakh cash if they kill one Sushil Pandit who is Human Rights Activists and CLO of Hive Communications India Pvt Ltd.

“The duo also revealed that they were provided with four pistol, two of which are Country made pistol and two are foreign made pistol along with four cartridges and one mobile phone containing photograph of Sushil Pandit, provided by Prince,” said the

DCP in a statement issued on Saturday.

“While they were on the lookout for a rented accommodation in South West District they were nabbed by the local police of RK Puram police station on specific inputs,” said the DCP.

“A case under section 25/54/29 Arms Act, 120B (Punishment of criminal conspiracy) 115 IPC (Abetment of offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life) has been registered in RK Puram police station,” said the DCP adding that further investigation going on.

“Considering the nature of the case and that foreign hand may be involved in the case, the case is now being transferred to Special Cell of Delhi Police,” said the DCP.

465 EVs registered since launch of EV policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Since the launch of the Delhi ‘Electric Vehicles’ (EVs) policy in August 2020, 465 new EVs have been registered and more are being registered every day.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted “This will go a long way in curbing pollution in Delhi. Delhi is fast becoming a modern city. Every Indian is proud of Delhi”.

Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, “Since the launch of Delhi EV policy, 465 new EV four-wheelers have been registered. Incentives of up to ₹3 lakh are provided under Delhi EV policy, which includes 1.5 lakh subsidy, registration, and road tax exemption.”

“This is the highest subsidy in India and makes the total cost of ownership of an electric car in Delhi the same as a diesel car. Subsidies provided on electric cars in Delhi EV policy are reducing the total cost of own-



ership of the electric cars by up to 30 per cent. An individual can save ₹1,050 per month by switching to EV from a diesel car,” he said.

The third week of the Delhi Government’s Switch Delhi electric vehicle campaign that focused on sensitizing Delhiites on the benefits of electric four-wheelers along with the incentives that EV adopters can avail under the Delhi Government’s EV policy received overwhelming support from Delhiites.

The Switch Delhi pledge is available on ev.delhi.gov.in/pledge has been launched to encourage more and more Delhiites to be a part of the EV revolution and help to make Delhi the EV capital of India.

Delhiites can take the pledge to switch to an EV or install a charging point in their premises in the next 3 years.

The Delhi Government issued an order on Thursday saying that all Delhi Government departments, autonomous bodies, and grantee institutions will replace their existing fleet of hired conventional fuel vehicles with an electric vehicle. 2,000 cars will be impacted by this decision and transition will happen to EVs in the next 6 months.

The Transport Department of Delhi will be the nodal department to monitor the progress of the transition from existing diesel or petrol vehicle fleets to EVs. It will also be necessary for all departments to produce monthly action reports on the transition to EVs to the nodal department.

“Delhi govt’s commitment to switch all its hired cars to Electric in 6 months is unprece-

dented globally. As the nodal dept, Transport dept will leave no stone unturned to ensure a smooth transition. CM @ArvindKejriwal’s call for #SwitchDelhi marks a start of the EV revolution,” tweeted Gahlot.

Delhiites who have switched to electric cars came forward to share their experiences of switching to EVs under the #DilliKeGreenWarrior initiative.

Anju Jain, a Delhiite and an EV owner said, “Buying an EV was so convenient and it offers a very smooth and noiseless drive. Driving an EV is way better than driving an ICE vehicle in terms of speed and performance. All thanks to Delhi Govt’s EV policy, I got benefits of around three lakhs and also, a waiver of the road tax and registration fee. I charge my EV at my home through a 15A plug point and it runs for around 220 km.”

Man kills wife after scuffle in Rohini’s Budh Vihar



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old woman was allegedly killed by her husband following a quarrel between them in Budh Vihar area of Rohini. Police said that prima facie, it appears that the woman was thrashed and hit with stick by her husband who was suspected to be under the influence of alcohol during the time of incident.

The accused has been identified as Chetan Prakash Solanki while his wife has been identified as Geeta. The couple has a seven-year-old daughter and the accused husband is a driver by profession.

According to a senior police official, the incident took place on Friday night after a quarrel broke out between Chetan and his wife Geeta over some dispute.

“On reaching the spot, police broke out the door and found the injured woman while her husband was also found lying unconscious in the room. The two were rushed to BSA hospital where the woman was declared brought dead and her husband was also admitted to the hospital,” said the senior police official.

“During enquiry, neighbours told police that there was a quarrel between the couple. On the statement of the woman’s brother, a case of murder was registered and the accused husband has been apprehended in connection with the incident,” he said.

“Chetan is being interrogated to ascertain the sequence of events and the reason that led to a quarrel between them,” police said, adding further investigation is underway.

People throng Garden Tourism Festival

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

People from all age groups visited the 34th edition of the Garden Tourism Festival in large numbers. They were seen experiencing the floral arrangements, and unique displays of hanging baskets, dahlias, cut flowers, recycled floral displays and tray gardens. Many were keen on gaining experience to create their own home gardens and were seen interacting with buyers at the Garden Bazaar while purchasing products.

The event was graced by his excellency Walter J. Lindner- German Ambassador to India. Over the first week of the event, visitors

With the objective to create awareness about the environment and showcase the rich floriculture of Delhi, the three-week extravaganza is



themed ‘#Colours of Nature has been this year. Unlike a three-day format that was being followed previously, Delhi Tourism has extended the festival to three weeks, to give a safe, socially distanced and memorable experience to its visitors.

The venue, Garden of Five Senses spread over 22 acres of land is a unique venue appealing to the five senses. With sculptures like Prayer of Peace, Tree of Infinite Knowledge,

Wind Chime, Five Senses through Five Seasons dotting the lush green expanse, Garden of Five Senses is the largest collections of public art in the Capital.

A 95 year old lady visiting the festival shared, “I was visiting the festival for the first time and I thoroughly enjoyed. Everything from the flowers displays to the ambience of the Garden is very fascinating. I also appreciate the medical facilities provided at the

entrance to ensure the safety of the visitors during CORONA times.”

Two visitors from Kashmir shared, “It is a beautiful display of flowers and we are having a great time with our friends. Seeing the beauty of nature, we feel like we are home. We thank the organizers for such a thrilling experience.”

In order to revive tourism in the city, Delhi Tourism has modified this event in order to extend the experience to more visitors, keeping safety in mind. This will enable a guided movement that will adhere to all the norms of COVID-19 guidelines. Digital payment facility has also been available at the ticket counters along with online bookings on Paytm Insider, enabling cashless transactions.

The second weekend of the festival witnessed perfor-

mances by Sid K Official in partnership with Radio FM, our official radio partner. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by the crowd as many were seen dancing to his tunes.

Sunday 28th February, 2021, will witness performances by Punjabi artists Praveen Sharma and Ravinder Kaur, presented in collaboration with Punjabi Academy, Govt. of Delhi.

With the Garden Tourism Festival, it calls out to all garden enthusiasts and city dwellers to teach more about this skill and also help make Delhi a greener city. A special display of hydroponic plants has also been set up to showcase how certain plants can be grown without the use of soil.

Delhi Tourism will also provide free electric shuttle service from Saket Metro Station to the venue and back.

SDMC removes 2,000 posters under Swachh Survekshan drive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of Swachh Survekshan-2021, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) carried a sanitation and poster removal drive in all its zones. Under the drive, posters were removed from public places, markets, metro pillars, roads, key places etc. Nearly 2,000 posters, banners and hoardings were removed. The drive will be continued till March 2.

Nodal Officer of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Rajiv Jain said that in order to improve ranking in Swachh Survekshan-2021, theme based sanitation drives are being carried in the area under jurisdiction of

South MCD and poster removal drive is part of it.

The drive was started on Saturday from 85 locations including Najafgarh Road, New Mahavir Nagar, Govindpuri Metro Station, Kalkaji, Chirag Delhi, RK Puram, Pushp Vihar Ramphal Chowk, Palam Flyover, Sagarpur, Dabri, Ganesh Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Dwarka, Malviya Nagar, Greater Kailash-2 and Tagore Garden.

Jain said that to aware people about Swachh Survekshan-2021, sanitation drives are being conducted at various places. He said that drives are being conducted at various roads, parks, colonies, markets, bus stops, metro stations, schools, vacant plots etc.

Onus of creating enabling environment for further progress rests with India: Pak PM Khan

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday welcomed the ceasefire agreement with India but said the onus of creating an 'enabling environment' for further progress in bilateral relations rests with New Delhi.

In his first comments since the militaries of India and Pakistan jointly announced on Thursday that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and other sectors, Khan said Pakistan remains ready to move forward to resolve "all outstanding issues" with India through dialogue.

"I welcome restoration of the ceasefire along the LOC. The onus of creating an enabling environment for further progress rests with India. India must take necessary steps to meet the long-standing demand & right of the Kashmiri people to self determination according to UNSC resolutions," Khan tweeted.

"We have always stood for peace & remain ready to move forward to resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue," Khan said in a series of tweets. India has told Pakistan that "talks and terror

cannot go together and has asked Islamabad to take demonstrable steps against terror groups responsible for launching various attacks on India.

On Thursday, India said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and is committed to resolving all issues bilaterally in a peaceful manner.

"On relations with Pakistan, as we have said earlier, India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan. We have always maintained that we are committed to addressing issues, if any, in a peaceful and bilateral manner," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said in New Delhi.

India and Pakistan issued a joint statement on Thursday to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the LoC and other sectors after the hotline discussions by their Director Generals of Military Operations. The decision by the two countries came into effect from the midnight of February 24/25.

India and Pakistan signed a ceasefire agreement in 2003, but it has hardly been followed in letter and spirit over the past several years. **PTI**

Modi to receive global energy and environment leadership award

Washington: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive the CERAWeek global energy and environment leadership award during an annual international energy conference next week. The prime minister will also deliver the keynote address at the CERAWeek Conference-2021, which will be held virtually from March 1 to 5, its organiser, IHS Markit, said on Friday.

Prominent speakers at the conference include US special presidential envoy for climate John Kerry, Co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and founder of Breakthrough Energy Bill Gates and president and CEO, Saudi Aramco, Amin Nasser.

"We look forward to Prime Minister Modi's perspectives on the role of the world's largest democracy and are pleased to honour him with the CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award for his commitment to expanding India's leadership in sustainable development to meet the country's, and the world's, future energy needs," IHS Markit vice chairman and the conference's chair, Daniel Yergin, said.

In charting its path towards economic growth, poverty reduction and a new energy future, India has emerged at the centre of global energy and the environment, and its leadership is crucial to meet climate objectives for a sustainable future while ensuring universal energy access, he said. **PTI**

India has highest stake in resolution of Rohingyas' return from Bangladesh to Myanmar: India at UNGA

United Nations: India has emphasised the need for an early return of displaced Rohingyas from Bangladesh to Myanmar, saying that it has the highest stake in resolving the issue since it is the only nation that shares a long border with both countries.

Speaking at the informal UN General Assembly meeting on Friday on the situation in Myanmar after the military staged a coup this month, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti said that it must be ensured that the recent developments in the country do not impede the progress made so far and the international community must encourage and support positive steps.

Bangladesh is hosting over 1.1 million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, who fled Myanmar facing military crackdown, often considered as "ethnic cleansing"

by many rights groups.

Myanmar doesn't recognise Rohingyas as an ethnic group and insists that they are Bangladeshi migrants living illegally in the country.

Myanmar military seized the power on February 1, detaining the country's de-facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The military coup took place at a time when Bangladesh was spearheading a desperate campaign for safe return of some 1.1 million Rohingyas.

Tirumurti, addressing the issue of displaced persons from the Rakhine state of Myanmar, said India has the highest stake in resolving the issue of repatriation of the displaced persons since it is the only country that shares a long border with both Bangladesh and Myanmar.

"We have continued to counsel our partners on the need for a balanced and constructive approach to this issue. For this,

mobilisation of support for the developmental needs of the local people is crucial. India has been consistently encouraging stakeholders to find practical and pragmatic solutions," he said. He emphasised the need for an early resolution of the issue of Rohingyas.

Underscoring that a "collaborative and consensus-based approach" is key to arriving at a meaningful and practical outcome, Tirumurti said the international community must work to address the challenges that the concerned stakeholders continue to face so that this humanitarian problem is resolved in a timely manner.

"India will continue to work with both the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar to enable the earliest return of displaced persons to their homes in the Rakhine State in a manner that is safe, speedy and sustainable," he said. **PTI**



A vehicle moves on a snow covered road during a heavy snowfall at the ski resort of Gulmarg on Saturday

PTI

Will bring in law to prevent love jihad in Kerala if voted to power: BJP

PTI ■ PALAKKAD

The NDA in Kerala would bring in a law to prevent prevent 'love jihad' in the state, if voted to power in the April 6 assembly elections, as such cases are 'more prevalent' here than in Uttar Pradesh, BJP state chief K Surendran said here on Saturday.

'Love Jihad' is a term used by right wing activists to refer to an alleged campaign of Muslims forcing Hindu girls to convert in the guise of love.

Surendran said the Christian community was now more worried about the prac-

tice as they were reportedly being targetted, and had sought stringent action against it.

"Love Jihad is more prevalent in Kerala than in Uttar Pradesh and a law is required to prevent it.

The christian community in the state is worried and have sought stringent action against love jihad.. This is of serious concern for them," Surendran told reporters here.

BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh had earlier brought in religious freedom laws to stop conversions through marriage or by any other fraudulent means.

Asked about senior BJP leader Shobha Surendran's recent statement that IUML was welcome to the NDA if they leave behind their 'communal agenda' and accept the leadership and policies of the Narendra Modi led government, the state chief said the party would join hands only with those who leave their affiliation with the IUML, Congress and CPI(M).

"The BJP in Kerala will not join hands with the IUML, CPI (M) and the Congress. We will accept only those who leave their affiliation with these parties," Surendran said.

Toll in U'khand calamity rises to 72

Gopeshwar: One more body was recovered from the banks of the Alaknanda at Marwadi near Joshimath taking the toll in the recent avalanche in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district to 72. The 72nd body was recovered late on Friday evening, Chamoli's Disaster Management Officer N K Joshi said on Saturday.

Meanwhile, rescue operations in the avalanche hit-areas continued for the 21st day on Saturday, he said.

So far 72 bodies and 30 human body parts have been recovered from different places in the avalanche-hit areas out

of which 41 bodies have been identified, he said adding 132 persons are still missing.

Meanwhile, the NTPC whose Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project was one of the worst-hit by the February 7 disaster, has deposited a sum of Rs 3.52 crore in the chief judicial magistrate's court to be paid as compensation to 25 affected families as per a list issued by the state government, a company spokesperson said.

The rest of the families will also be paid compensation after the state government issues death certificates of their missing kin, he said. **PTI**

Covid-19 recoveries cross 10L mark in Kerala; 3,792 new cases

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala crossed the 10 lakh mark in terms of total COVID-19 recoveries, while reporting 3,792 new positive cases and 18 deaths.

With the addition of the fresh cases, the infection count surged to 10,56,498 and the death toll to 4,182, state Health Minister K K Shailaja said in a release here.

As many as 4,650 people have recuperated from the disease on Saturday, taking the total cured in the state to 10,01,164, she said.

Currently, there are 50,514 people under treatment.

The minister said no UK returnee had tested positive in the last 24 hours. So far, the total infected UK

returnees in the southern state was 94.

Among them, 11 people were earlier found infected with the new strain of virus, she said.

Stating that the state has tested 73,710 samples in the last 24 hours, the minister said the test positivity rate was 5.14 per cent.

Till now, 1,14,13,515 samples have been tested.

"Among those found infected today, 112 people reached the state from outside while 3,418 contracted the disease from their contacts. The source of infection of 236 are yet to be traced while 26 health workers are also among the infected," the minister said. **PTI**

Countdown begins for ISRO's first mission in 2021, Brazil's Amazonia-1 on board

Bengaluru: If things go as planned, an Indian rocket will launch a Brazilian satellite for the first time from Sriharikota spaceport on Sunday.

It's also Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) first launch of 2021.

Subject to weather conditions, the blastoff is scheduled at 10.24 hours from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota, where countdown commenced at 08.54 hours on Saturday for the PSLV-C51/Amazonia-1 mission.

PSLV-C51 rocket, which is the 53rd mission of PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle), will launch Amazonia-1 of Brazil as primary satellite and 18 co-passenger payloads from the first launch pad of

the Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district, about 100 kms from Chennai.

These co-passenger satellites include Satish Dhawan Sat (SD SAT) from Chennai-based Space Kidz India (SKI). A picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been engraved on the top panel of this spacecraft.

"This is to show solidarity and gratitude for his (PM's) Aatmanirbhar initiative and space privatisation," said SKI, which is also sending up "Bagavad Gita" in SD (secured digital) card.

It's also a big day for Bengaluru-headquartered ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL). PSLV-C51/Amazonia-1 is the first dedicated commercial

mission of NSIL, which is undertaking it under a commercial arrangement with Seattle, US-based satellite rideshare and mission management provider, Spaceflight Inc.

"We are eagerly looking forward to the launch. We are very proud to launch the first Brazilian-built satellite, Chairman and Managing Director of NSIL, G Narayanan, told PTI. The 637-kg Amazonia-1, which will be the first Brazilian satellite to be launched from India, is the optical earth observation satellite of National Institute for Space Research (INPE).

"This satellite would further strengthen the existing structure by providing remote sensing data to users for monitoring deforestation in the Amazon region and analysis

of diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory," an ISRO statement said.

In view of the strict COVID-19 pandemic norms in place at SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota, gathering of media personnel is not planned there and launch viewing gallery will be closed.

However, the live telecast of the launch will be available on ISRO website, Youtube, Facebook and Twitter channels.

The 18 co-passenger satellites are: four from ISRO's Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (three UNITYsats from consortium of three Indian academic institutes and the SD SAT from SKI) and 14 from NSIL. **PTI**

8 arrested for cow-slaughter in Telangana

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Eight people were on Saturday arrested for allegedly slaughtering 16 cows in Siddipet district of Telangana, police said.

Acting on information that the cows were slaughtered on the outskirts of Siddipet on Friday, a police team reached the spot and arrested the eight.

The district Police Commissioner D Joel Davis said a case was registered under relevant sections of the IPC, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act and Prohibition of Cows Slaughter Act.

Citing preliminary information, police said the arrested people used to purchase aged cows from farmers and took them to a poultry shed for allegedly slaughtering them to sell beef.

Meanwhile, members of BJP and VHP and other organisations held a rally on Friday, demanding the arrest of those responsible for the slaughter, the police said.

The situation is peaceful in Siddipet, they added.

Bombay HC refuses to hear case as lawyer removes mask in courtroom

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court recently refused to hear a case after a lawyer representing the appellant removed his face mask inside a courtroom. The order of the February 22 incident was made available on Saturday. A single-judge bench of Justice Prithviraj Chavan was on February 22 hearing an appeal matter during which the appellant's advocate removed his mask in the courtroom contrary to guidelines.

Centre caps ...

From Page 1

All the private health facilities which will serve as Government Covid Vaccination Centres has also been asked to strictly follow norms of due process, quality and safety including integration with the National Co-Win technology platform. "All private health facilities must also have adequate space, adequate cold chain arrangements, adequate number of vaccinators and support staff and adequate arrangements for addressing Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI)," said the official.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Manju Pandit, w/o Pawan Kumar, R/o B-464, Gurudwara, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110062 have changed my name from Manju to Manju Pandit for all purposes.

PD(8936)/A

Rare coin goes under hammer at starting price of ₹45 lakh

Bengaluru: A rare 10.9 gram gold coin of Kam Bakhsh, the fifth son of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, is going under the hammer here.

Marudhar Arts, a leading numismatic auction house here, is holding the auction at a price ranging between Rs 45 lakh and Rs 50 lakh.

According to Rajendra Maru, the CEO of Marudhar Arts, the gold 'Mohur' of Bijapur Dar-uz-Zafar mint has a Persian legend.

"The coin, weighing 10.90

gram, is almost uncirculated. So it's unique," Maru, who is organising the auction, said.

According to a statement on Marudhar Arts' portal, Kam Bakhsh took active part in the wars.

In 1707, he seized the control of the Bijapur fort and declared himself the king.

Gradually, Kam Bakhsh sway extended across much of Deccan winning control over Hyderabad, erstwhile Gulbarga (now Kalaburagi), Shahpur and Wakinkhara. **PTI**

Mizoram: Colleges & Varsities to reopen from March 1

Aizawl: The Mizoram government has decided to reopen colleges, universities and other higher educational institutions from March 1, an official statement said.

A meeting of Education and Health department officials chaired by Higher and Technical Education Minister Dr R Lalthangliana on Friday decided to reopen colleges, universities and higher educational institutions from March 1, the statement said.

The meeting instructed all college authorities to undertake mandatory thermal screening at the entrance and to strictly follow Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), it said.

Lalthangliana, who is also the Health Minister, urged authorities of schools, colleges, universities and other institutions to adhere to COVID-19 protocols and guidelines made from time to time. **PTI**

Centre: Enforce Covid...

From Page 1

Maharashtra reported the highest daily new cases at 8,333, followed by Kerala with 3,671 while Punjab reported 622 new cases in the last 24 hours.

In the last two weeks, Maharashtra has shown the highest rise in active cases from 34,449 on February 14 to 68,810 currently, the Ministry said.

Cong getting...

From Page 1

Meanwhile, Azad, who reached Jammu on Friday said the Congress party will contest the coming Assembly elections in four States and a Union Territory with its full might. He said, the fight is not over yet. "I may have retired from Parliament but not for the politics", Every time I received this treatment I have bounced back," he thundered.

Addressing the 'Shanti Sammelan Azad said, "Be it Jammu or Kashmir or Ladakh, we respect all religions, people and castes. We equally respect everyone, that is our strength and we will continue with this".

"In the last 5-6 years, all these friends did not speak any less than me in Parliament over Jammu & Kashmir, its unemployment, stripping off of statehood, finishing off industries and education, implementation of GST," the former Rajya Sabha MP added.

Raj Babbar also addressed the event and emphasised that the G-23 leaders want the Congress party to be strong. People say "G23", I say Gandhi 23. "With the belief, resolve and thinking of Mahatma Gandhi, this nation's law and Constitution was formed. Congress is standing strongly to take these forward. 'G23' wants Congress to be strong," he said.

Biden won't sanction MBS over murder of..

From Page 1

It leaves no doubt that as the prince continues in his powerful role and likely ascends to the throne, Americans will forever associate him with the brutal killing of a journalist who promoted democracy and human rights.

Yet even as the Biden administration released the findings, it appeared determined to preserve the Saudi relationship by avoiding direct punishment of the prince himself despite demands from some congressional Democrats and Khashoggi allies for significant and targeted sanctions.

Questioned by reporters, Secretary of State Antony Blinken defended the approach.

"What we've done by the actions we've taken is not to rupture the relationship but to recalibrate it to be more in line with our interests and our values," he said. "I think that we have to understand as well that this is bigger than any one person."

Lakhs take dip in Ganga on Maghi Purnima

PTI ■ HARIDWAR

Lakhs of devotees from different parts of the country took a dip in the Ganga at Har ki Pauri here on the occasion of Maghi Purnima on Saturday.

Devotees had begun to gather at the famous ghat from Friday itself for a bath in the river on the occasion which has a special religious significance for Hindus.


According to teerth-purohiths, taking a bath in the Ganga on the occasion of Maghi Purnima gives one as much spiritual benefits as

10,000 Ashwamedha Yagnas.

Though the notification for a COVID-delayed Kumbh Mela has not been issued yet, it would have been the fourth important bathing day on Saturday if the event was held on time.

The devotees said they prayed to mother Ganga for the wellbeing of their families and for freeing the world from the coronavirus pandemic.

The mela area was divided into nine zones and 23 sectors for the smooth conduct of Maghi Purnima snan.

 **CH. CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY, MEERUT**
चौ चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ
32वाँ दीक्षान्त समारोह

अधिस्चना

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि चौ चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ का 32वाँ दीक्षान्त समारोह मंगलवार, दिनांक 09 मार्च, 2021 को होना सुनिश्चित हुआ है। दीक्षान्त समारोह की अध्यक्षता माननीय कुलाधिपति एवं श्री राज्यपाल श्रीमती आनंदी बेन पटेल जी करेंगी। समारोह के विशिष्ट अतिथि उत्तर प्रदेश के माननीय उपमुख्यमंत्री एवं उच्च शिक्षा मंत्री डॉ दिनेश शर्मा जी तथा मुख्य अतिथि प्रो. एम0एन0 पटेल, पूर्व कुलपति, गुजरात विश्वविद्यालय, अहमदाबाद होंगे। दीक्षान्त समारोह में कार्यक्रमानुसार विश्वविद्यालय के विभिन्न संकायों में सर्वोच्च स्थान प्राप्तकर्ता विद्यार्थियों को प्रायोजित पदक, शोध छात्रों को उपाधि, पदक व विशिष्ट योग्यता प्रमाण-पत्र, लाला लाजपत राय मेडिकल कॉलेज, मेरठ से एमबीबीवीएस0 एवं एमडी0 उपाधि तथा विश्वविद्यालय परिसर से एम0ए0, एम0एससी0, एम0फिल0 एवं अन्य पाठ्यक्रमों के उपाधि धारकों को उपाधि प्रदान की जायेगी। उपाधियों का वितरण दीक्षान्त समारोह के दिन प्रातः 06:30 बजे से 08:30 बजे तक विश्वविद्यालय परिसर के गोपनीय विभाग एवं प्रशासनिक भवन के स्वागत कक्ष के काउन्टर से किया जायेगा।

कार्यक्रम

(दिनांक 09.03.2021, प्रातः 09:00 बजे से)

वर्ष 2020 में प्रदत्त किये जाने वाले पदकों से अर्ह विद्यार्थियों का अलंकरण, किसान ट्रस्ट, नई दिल्ली के पुरस्कारों से अर्ह विद्यार्थियों का अलंकरण, प्रायोजित पदक, विशिष्ट योग्यता प्रमाण-पत्र तथा विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा पूर्व परम्परागुसार दीक्षान्त समारोह में प्रदान की जाने वाली उपाधियों से विभूषित किया जाना एवं दीक्षोपदेश, नेताजी सुभाषचन्द्र बोस प्रेक्षागृह, विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में सम्पन्न होगा।

समस्त पदक एवं प्रमाण-पत्र प्राप्त करने वाले विद्यार्थी दिनांक 07.03.2021 को प्रातः 10.30 बजे विश्वविद्यालय परिसर स्थित नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस प्रेक्षागृह में पहुँचकर अपनी उपस्थिति दर्ज कराते हुए वांछित पत्रजातों को उपलब्ध करायेंगे। दीक्षान्त समारोह का कार्यक्रम, उपाधि वितरण का कार्यक्रम, सभी पदक व उपाधि धारकों की सूची एवं अद्यतन सूचना चौ चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ की वेबसाइट www.ccsuniversity.ac.in पर उपलब्ध रहेगी। अर्ह विद्यार्थियों से अपेक्षा है कि विश्वविद्यालय वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध विवरण व कार्यक्रमानुसार निर्धारित प्राप्ति में पटक प्राप्त किये जाने की समस्त औपचारिकतायें पूर्ण कर अपनी उपाधि तथा पदक ग्रहण करने के लिए उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करें।

विशेष : दीक्षान्त समारोह में प्रवेश निर्धारित समय तक ही निम्नरूप-पत्र एवं फोटोयुक्त परिचय-पत्र के द्वारा होगा, इनके अभाव में प्रवेश वर्जित होगा।

(श्रीरेणु कुमार) कुलसचिव

PUBLIC NOTICE

Know all the concerned that our client Mohd. Aarif S/o Noor Elahi and Chand Bee W/o Mohd. Aarif both R/o 11/3-B, Kabir Nagar, Near Madina Masjid, Delhi-110093 debarred/disowned their son Bilal from his movable and immovable properties due to his unsocial acts, misconduct and unfamiliar activities. In future and in past any one had made any relation with Bilal he/she shall be liable for any loss himself/ herself.

D & K ASSOCIATES
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Shashi Prakash Dhasmana & Renu Gupta (Advocates)
Ch.No.338 & 390A, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Saroj Kumar & Mrs. Chander Kantia, are joint owners of Third Floor, right hand side, with roof rights, "said floor" Part of Property No A-58, area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., build on Anata No. 27, Kharsa Nos. 400927/04597, Situated at Sudeshan Park Extn., New Delhi. "Said Property" by virtue of sale deed dated 23.01.2019, registration No. 851. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want the said floor to someone who is taking home loan from Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. for purchase of the said floor, if any body 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, Ind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph. 811-4112527-28 kumarsassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that our client Sh. Ramesh Kohli S/o Late Sh. C.L. Kohli and his wife Smt. Neelam Kohli both R/o 12/77, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110019 disown their son Sh. Jatink Kohli and Daughter in law Ms. Deepthi for all purposes. Due to personal reasons and grounds, Our client are not able to live with their son and Daughter in law and thus withdraw the permission granted to them to live together and have severe their relationship with their son Sh. Jatink Kohli and his wife Ms. Deepthi and shall not be responsible for any of their acts, commission and omission. Any person dealing with Sh. Jatink and Mrs. Deepthima go so as their own risk and consequences and our client shall not be responsible for the same.

Alok Kumar & Yashvir Sethi, (Advocates)
Office : W 99, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi-110048.

National action plan to boost toy industry: PM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the Government has prepared a 'National Toy Action Plan' that includes 15 ministries and departments to make the industry competitive and provide it with a global platform.

The Prime Minister said the ancient toy culture of the country reflects the practice of reuse and recycling, which is part of the Indian lifestyle.

He said India has the potential to take the world back to eco-friendly toys.

The fair that will continue from February 27 to March 2 aims to bring together all stakeholders including buyers, sellers, students, teachers, designers, etc on a virtual platform to create sustainable linkages and encourage dialogue for the overall development of the industry, according to a Government statement.

Speaking at the India Toy Fair 2021 here that he also inaugurated, the Prime Minister said the Government has prepared a National Toy Action Plan. It includes 15 ministries and departments to make the industry competitive, 'Aatmanirbhar', and to provide it with a global platform.

"This first Toy Fair is not just a business or economic event. This programme is a link to strengthen the country's age-old culture of sports and gaiety. India toy culture is as old as the Indus Valley



Civilisation. The world has studied the toys of the Mohenjo-Daro and Harappan era," he said.

Prime Minister had in his 'Maam ki baat' radio programme also stressed the role played by the toys in shaping mind and reflected on the rich and varied Indian tradition of toy Making.

Addressing the Toy Fair that he inaugurated, the Prime Minister said that India has given the world some of the most popular games like Chess and ludo.

"Chess, which is so popular in the world today, was earlier played in India as 'Chaturanga or Chaduranga'. Modern Ludo was played as 'Pachisi'. In our scriptures too, there are descriptions of young lord Ram, and lord Krishnas toys," he said.

Modi said that even today Indian toys are simpler and cheaper than western toys and appealed to the manufacturers to make toys that are better for both ecology and psychology. "Try to use less plastic in toys. Use such things that can be recycled," he said.

Indian toys, he said, contain elements of science, enter-

tainment and psychology.

"Take Lattu (top) as an example. When children learn to play with Lattu, they learn about gravity and balance. In the same way, a child playing with a slingshot inadvertently starts learning basics about kinetic energy and potential energy. Puzzle toys develop strategic thinking and problem-solving thinking," Prime Minister sight to explain.

Modi said that the new National Education Policy also incorporates play-based and activity-based education.

"This is an education system in which logical and creative thinking can be increased in children through riddles and games. Special attention has been given to this," he said.

The Prime Minister asserted that in the field of toys, India has tradition and technology coupled with concepts and competence.

"We can take the world back towards eco-friendly toys. The National Toy Action Plan has been prepared which includes 15 ministries and departments to make the industry competitive, Aatmanirbhar and take India's toys to the world," he said.

India, B'desh agree to finish early completion of border fencing, tackle terrorism

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh on Saturday decided to finish the early completion of border fencing and tackle the menace of cross-border terrorism. At the virtual Home Secretary level talks, headed by Union Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Bangladesh Mostafa Kamal Uddin, Senior Secretary, Public Security Division, Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh led the Bangladesh delegation.

"India and Bangladesh attach highest importance to their bilateral relations. Both Secretaries reiterated their commitment to further expand and strengthen mutual cooperation in the security and border related issues. Both sides reaffirmed not to allow the territory of either country to be used for any activity inimical to each other's interests."

"The 19th Home Secretary Level Talks (HSLT) between India and Bangladesh were held virtually today in the backdrop of 'MujibBarsho' and 50 years of Bangladesh Liberation War and establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. The Indian delega-

tion was led by Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Union Home Secretary. Sh. Mostafa Kamal Uddin, Senior Secretary, Public Security Division, Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh led the Bangladesh delegation.

"India and Bangladesh attach highest importance to their bilateral relations. Both Secretaries reiterated their commitment to further expand and strengthen mutual cooperation in the security and border related issues. Both sides reaffirmed not to allow the territory of either country to be used for any activity inimical to each other's interests. Both sides discussed early completion of pending fencing along the Indo Bangladesh Border (IBB) as agreed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries," said Union Home Ministry in a statement.

ED attaches ₹84.40 cr assets of Kanva group of companies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached immovable assets (agricultural and non-agricultural land, buildings, residential flat and factories) worth ₹84.40 crore held by Kanva Group of companies and related entities besides those of Founder Director and President of Bengaluru-based Sree Kanva Souhardha Co-Operative Credit Limited (SKSCCL), Harish S.

The accused individuals and the entities had collected ₹ 650 crore from the public and total attachments in the case is about ₹340 crore.

The attached assets are situated at Nelamangala, Koratagere, Chikkabalapura, Srirangapatana and Bengaluru in Karnataka and at Madakasira in Andhra Pradesh.

The ED initiated investigation on the basis of a complaint received from the Office of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Bengaluru and various registered FIRs wherein it was alleged that the entity has collected ₹650 crore deposits from the members of public, assuring high rate of interest through commission agents, without maintaining required liquidity.

EC freezes Assam Govt order on transfer, posting of police officers

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has decided to keep in abeyance Assam Government's decision of transferring and posting over a dozen police officers after the announcement of poll schedule.

The poll body has written to chief secretaries and chief electoral officers of five States—West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Puducherry—going for the polls, drawing the particular provisions of model code of conduct to the party in power and immediate enforcement of the MCC.

According to the EC, the Assam Government ordered the transfer of 12 IPS and 6 APS officers on the day the election schedule was announced. The Commission, therefore, decided to keep the transfer/posting of these police officers in abeyance till further orders. In West Bengal, the poll body replaced the top cop in charge of law and order for the State. Jag Mohan, who was previously DG (Fire Services), has been named as the new ADG and IGP (Law and Order), replacing Jawed Shamim "with immediate effect and in the interest of public service". Shamim will now take over the DG (Fire Services) position.

In a letter, the EC said "...the particular provisions of Model Code of Conduct relating to the 'party in power' which inter alia says that the party in power whether at the Centre or in the States concerned, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign."

"The Ministers shall not combine their official visit with



electioneering work and also shall not make use of official machinery or personnel during the electioneering work." There shall be a total ban on use of official vehicle by any political party, candidate or any other person connected with election (except officials performing any election related official duty) for campaigning, electioneering or election related travel during elections. The government transport including official air-crafts, vehicles, machinery and personnel shall not be used for furtherance of the interest of the party in power," the EC said in its communications.

The EC also stated that public places such as maidans etc., for holding election meetings, and use of helipads for air-flights in connection with elections shall not be monopolised by itself. Other parties and candidates shall be allowed the use of such places and facilities on the same terms and conditions on which they are used by the party in power," it said.

The EC further points out that rest houses, dak bungalows or other government accommodation where elections have been announced or are taking place can be given to the political functionaries who are provided security by the State in Z scale or above or equivalent by various State Governments or

the Central Government under provisions of their laws, on equitable basis.

"This shall be subject to condition that such accommodation is not already allotted or occupied by election related officials or Observers. Such political functionaries shall not carry out any political activity while staying in the Government Guest Houses/Rest Houses or other Government accommodation etc," it said.

The poll body further said that no advertisements shall be issued in electronic and print media highlighting the achievements of the government at the cost of public exchequer. "If any advertisement has already been released for telecast/broadcast or publication in the print media, it must be ensured that the telecast/broadcast of such ads on electronic media is stopped forthwith and that no such ad is published in any newspapers, magazines, etc., i.e. in print media, from today itself and it should be immediately withdrawn," it said.

The MCC is a set of rules put in force by the Election Commission of India to guarantee free and fair elections. It is a set of norms that have evolved with political parties consenting to abide by the principles embodied in the said code.

'Hunar Haat boon for Vocal for Local plan'

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Saturday said here that the "Hunar Haat" is playing "phenomenal and perfect" role in making "Vocal for Local" campaign a "mass movement" and as of now given employment to over five lakh people and 'still counting'.

Speaking at the "Hunar Haat" in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here Naqvi said that "Hunar Haat" has been becoming "Kumbh of backers of brilliance".

Naqvi said that more than 12 lakh people have visited the "Hunar Haat", started from 20th February and become "Proud Promoter" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Vocal for Local" campaign by purchasing handmade products of indigenous artisans and craftsmen worth crores of rupees.

The number of visitors is likely to go above 16 lakh in the next two days, he said. This "Hunar Haat" will be concluding on March first, 2021.

The 10-day "Hunar Haat" was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Several Ministers, MPs, senior government officials, various Diplomats, renowned industrialists have come here to encourage the artisans and



craftsmen.

More than 600 artisans and craftsmen from more than 31 States and UTs participating in the "Hunar Haat". Artisans and craftsmen from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal etc are participating in the "Hunar Haat to display and sale of their indigenous handmade products.

Naqvi said that indigenous handmade products such as Applique work, dry flowers, jute-cane, brass products, wooden and clay toys, Ajrakh Block Print, Blue Art Pottery, Pashmina Shawl, Khadi products, Banarsi Silk, Wooden Furniture, Chikankari Embroidery, Chanderi Silk, Lac bangles, Rajasthani jewellery, Phulkari, Oil Painting, Leather products, Khurja pottery, Sandalwood artefacts from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Jute products from West Bengal, rare antiques made of glass, mats and carpets etc were available for sale and display at the "Hunar Haat".

Naqvi said that the visitors also enjoyed traditional deli-

cacies from every region of the country at "Bawarchikhana" section.

Besides, different cultural and musical programmes were daily presented by renowned artists of the country such as Vinod Rathore (21 Feb); Nizami Brothers (24 Feb); Sudesh Bhonsle (26 Feb); SI Kailash Kher (27 Feb) and others.

Naqvi said that the "Hunar Haat" has, as of now, provided employment and employment opportunities to more than 5 lakh 30,000 artisans, craftsmen and artists.

The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs will provide employment and employment opportunities to 7 lakh 50,000 artisans and craftsmen through 75 "Hunar Haat" which will be organised by completion of 75 years of the country's independence.

The "Hunar Haat" is available on virtual and online platform <http://hunarhaat.org> and on GeM Portal also where the people of the country and abroad can buy products of indigenous artisans and craftsmen digital/online.

Next "Hunar Haat" will be organised in Bhopal (12 to 21 March 2021); Goa (25 March to 04 April); Kota (9 April to 18 April); Surat (23 April to 2 May).

NIA files chargesheet against four in human trafficking case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Saturday filed a chargesheet against four persons in a case relating to human trafficking in the guise of running placement agencies before the NIA Special Court, Ranchi under various Sections of the IPC, Provisions of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015.

Those charged are Panna Lal Mahto, Sunita Devi (absconding), Gopal Oraon and Shiv Shankar Ganjhu.

The case was initially registered as FIR No. 07/2019 at AHTU police station in Khunti, Jharkhand on July 19, 2019 in which the accused Panna Lal Mahto, aged about 37 years, of village Ganaloya under Murhu police station, Khunti was arrested for running a Human Trafficking network in Jharkhand and New Delhi.

The NIA had taken over the investigation on June 13 last year after re-registering the case as RC-09/2020/NIA/DLI.

"During investigation, it was revealed that Panna Lal Mahto, the kingpin of human trafficking racket, along with his wife, Sunita Devi, was operating a Human Trafficking network in the guise of six Placement Agencies in Delhi. They used to traffic poor and innocent minor boy and girls from Jharkhand on the pretext of providing them jobs in Delhi and neighbouring States. However, the victims were exploited and were never paid the promised remunerations," the NIA said in a statement.

During the investigation, two other accused Gopal Oraon and Shiv Shankar Ganjhu, both residents of Khunti district were arrested. Both were close associates of the kingpin Panna Lal Mahto, and were actively involved in trafficking vulnerable persons from Jharkhand, it said.

Investigation has also revealed that both were owners of three Placement Agencies in Delhi, involved in human trafficking racket. Another accused Sunita Devi, wife of arrested accused Pana Lal Mahto, is absconding.

The Pioneer ready to undergo major facelift

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Battling insolvency proceedings, *The Pioneer* media group is gearing up to undergo a major facelift. The group is planning to augment its revenue, improve its contents, and radically change its digital presence through the introduction of new technology, new marketing strategy and revamping of its circulation.

The senior employees of the newspaper both from the management and the editorial side met on Saturday under the leadership of NCLT-appointed Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) Ranjeet Kumar Verma where it was decided to effectively tackle the "existential" challenge the one of the oldest media houses in the country is facing.

"I am here as a representative of the court and my main objective is to keep *The Pioneer* group as a going concern. I've no score to settle or no axe to grind. I want the cooperation of everyone to make *The Pioneer* a vibrant brand again, both in Hindi and English," Verma said during the course of an exchange of idea session. He added that he expected the company operation to return to normal in a short while.

The IRP assured the employees that their priority would be look into a range of



serious issues flagged by them regarding their remuneration and staff shortage. "I will do everything possible to create a proper atmosphere so that everyone can contribute to the revival of the company," he said.

He said he didn't believe in a witch-hunt, but he expected everyone to help him implement the court's order in letter and spirit.

The Delhi bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) last month initiated insolvency proceedings against the CMYK Printech, which runs the operation of *The Pioneer* newspaper, following a plea by one of its directors.

KVIC's e-market portal touches new milestone, gives big push to 'swadeshi'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Khadi and Village Industry Commission's (KVIC) foray into the online marketing segment has found tremendous public patronage. Testimony to this is the gross turnover of over Rs 1.12 crore in just 8 months of the launch of Khadi's e-portal www.khadiindia.gov.in.

Launched on July 7, 2020, Khadi e-portal has delivered orders to over 10,000 customers out of the 65,000 people who visited the e-portal till date. The KVIC has also delivered more than 1 lakh articles/commodities to these customers. During this period, the average online purchase has recorded at Rs 11,000 per customer, which is an indication of Khadi's ever-growing popularity and the diversity of its product range.

Minister of MSME Nitin Gadkari has lauded Khadi's successful e-commerce venture saying this provided a wide marketing platform for various Khadi and village industry products to a larger population. "E-marketing of Khadi is proving to be a game-changer. Our efforts should be to reach a turnover of Rs 200 crore per year," Gadkari said.

KVIC has developed the e-portal in-house without spending a single rupee on web-developing. Unlike other online portals, the KVIC takes care of all logistics and infrastructure support like cataloguing, product photo-shoot, maintaining online inventory and packaging and transportation of goods to the customers' doorsteps. This saves Khadi artisans, institutions and PMEGP units man-

ufacturing Khadi products from any financial burden. "All expenses incurred on operating Khadi e-portal is borne by the KVIC. While in case of other e-commerce sites, product cataloguing, packaging and dispatch are the responsibility of the respective sellers, KVIC has a policy that the Khadi institutions and PMEGP units are exempted from any such financial and logistical burden. This saves them a lot of money and, therefore, Khadi's e-portal is a unique platform for lakhs of Khadi artisans," KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said.

Khadi's online sale that started with just Khadi Face Masks during the Covid-19 lockdown, has evolved into a full-fledged E-market platform with nearly 800 products.

Statins reduce Covid severity: Research

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People who took statins — widely used cholesterol-lowering medications — may have reduced risk of developing severe Covid-19 disease, a team of researchers said adding that they were approximately 50 per cent less likely to die if hospitalised for the infection.

"Our study is one of the larger studies confirming this hypothesis and the data lay the groundwork for future randomized clinical trials that are needed to confirm the benefit of statins in Covid-19," said Aakriti Gupta, cardiologist at NewYorkPresbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center and one of the co-lead authors of the study published in the Nature

Communications.

"If their beneficial effect bears out in randomized clinical trials, statins could potentially prove to be a low-cost and effective therapeutic strategy for COVID-19," adds co-lead author Mahesh V Madhavan, cardiologist at NewYorkPresbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

Gupta, Madhavan, and the study's leadership group are cardiologists who cared for hospitalized Covid-19 patients in the spring and summer of 2020 when the first wave of the pandemic swept through New York City. "We observed that patients who got very sick and required hospitalization had high rates of hyperinflammation and clotting," says Elaine

Wan, the Esther Aboodi Assistant Professor of Medicine in Cardiology and Cardiac Electrophysiology and a cardiac electrophysiologist at NewYorkPresbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center, one of the study's senior authors.

"As cardiologists, statins naturally came to mind," Gupta says. "In addition to their well-known cholesterol-lowering effect, statins are known for their anti-inflammatory, anticoagulant and immunomodulatory properties."

Based on their observations, the authors looked at outcomes for 2,626 patients with Covid-19 who were admitted to a quaternary academic medical center in Manhattan during the first 18 weeks of the pandemic.

Hrithik Roshan records statement with police

FAKE E-MAILS CASE
TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The controversy over a host of emails sent allegedly by an “imposter” pretending to be Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan to Kangana Ranaut resurfaced on Saturday, as the crime branch sleuths of the Mumbai police recorded the statement of “Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai” actor.

Four years after the actor lodged a complaint with the Mumbai police alleging that someone impersonating him was sending e-mails from a bogus e-mail ID between 2013 and 2014 to Kangana, the officials of the Crime Intelligence Unit of the Crime Branch-CID recorded Hrithik’s statement in connection with the investigations into his complaint.

It may be recalled that Hrithik had in 2016 lodged an impersonation complaint with the police after a spat with Kangana, with whom he had acted Kites (2010) and Krrish 3 (2013).

Earlier, in the wake of Kangana calling him a “silly-ex” during an interview, Hrithik had sent her a legal notice demanding a public apology from her. However, Kangana Ranaut

refused to apologise and claimed hat the two had been romantically involved in 2014. She sent a counter-notice to Hrithik Roshan, asking him to take his notice back or face a criminal case.

In his legal notice, Hrithik had that he was being harassed mentally by Kangana. The notice claimed that Kangana had sent him a staggering 1,439 emails, to which he never responded. He had also alleged that the actress was telling people that she was in a romantic relationship with her.

Among other things, Hrithik had claimed that Kangana had been in touch with was an imposter, pretending to be Hrithik Roshan.

On her part, Kangana had claimed that the particular email ID used for exchanging mails with him had been given to her by Hrithik Roshan himself. She had also said that the email had been kept private so as to prevent it from having a negative impact on the divorce proceedings between Hrithik Roshan and his wife Sussanne Khan that was going on then.

Based on Hrithik’s complaint, the police had registered a case under section 419 (cheating by personation) of IPC and sections 66C

(identity theft), 66D (cheating by personation using computer resources) of the Information Technology Act against an unknown person at the Cyber Police Station.

As part of the investigations, the Cyber Cell of the Mumbai police had also taken Hrithik’s laptop and phone for investigation.

In the past, the police forensic experts could not ascertain any facts about the email ID which was traced to the US and hence filed a nil report in June 2017. In December last year, Hrithik’s lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani had approached Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh and requested him to look into the actor’s complaint, after the case was transferred to the Crime Branch’s CIU.

Hrithik’s lawyers had told the Police chief that despite the Magistrate’s order directing the police to return the actor’s laptop and mobile phone submitted for the probe, he had not collected it yet to enable the police complete the probe and catch the real culprit.

On her part, an unfazed Kangana called Hritik “mera silly-ex and made fun of him as the actor appeared before the Crime branch sleuths to record his statement

“Duniya kahan se kahan pahunch gayi magar mera silly ex abhi bhi wahehen hai usi modh pe jahan yeh waqt dobara laut ke nahi jane wala”.

This is not the first time that Kangana has made fun of Hrithik. In October 2018, the actress had slammed Hrithik by saying that “people who keep wives as trophies and young girls as mistresses should be boycotted”.”There are men who make false promises of love and marriage to a girl to get them into a relationship that is also a type of harassment. There are married men who keep their wives as trophies and keep young girls as their mistresses like Hrithik..They lure young beautiful girls with the promise of marriage and later try to prove them mad. Nobody should work with such people. They should be boycotted,” Kangana had told a news television channel Justifying the treatment being meted out to film maker Vikas Bahl, a former member of the now dissolved Phantom Films who has been accused of sexual harassment by a couple of actresses,

Kangana said: “There are many people like Vikas Bahl, he is not the only one. We still have a lot of work to do so, we should not start the celebrations as yet. We have a long way

to go. We have to make this place (world) absolutely safe for woman”.

Kangana’s comments against Hrithik had come three days after the actor tweeted in the midst of “Me Too” movement: “It is impossible for me to work with any person if he/she is guilty of such grave misconduct. I am away and have access to only sporadic information. I have requested the producers of Super 30 to take stock of the apparent facts and take a harsh stand if need be. This is not to be hushed or brushed under the carpet. All proven offenders must be punished and all exploited people must be empowered and given strength to speak up.”

Hritik’s comment came in respect of Bahl, who is the director of Super 30, a biopic on the life of mathematician Anand Kumar and his educational programme Super 30. Incidentally, Kangana’s Queen co-star Nayani Dixit had accused Bahl of sexual misconduct.

After a reported affair between the two during the filming of Krrish 3, Kangana and Hrithik have been engaged in a legal war. While the actress has all along insisted that she had affair with Hrithik, the actor has steadfastly denied any relations between them.

TMC will return to power, Bengal people want its daughter back: Prashant

Kolkata: With the stage set for high-Octane Assembly elections, poll strategist Prashant Kishore on Saturday exuded confidence of TMC returning to power as the people of West Bengal are ready to bring back their rightful leader.

Kishor, whose team I-PAC is working in planning TMC’s election campaign, in his latest tweet said that one of the key battles for democracy in the country will be fought in the West Bengal. The people of the state want its daughter back and the public could hold him to this tweet on May 2, the day the results of the elections will be declared.

“One of the key battles FOR DEMOCRACY in India will be fought in West Bengal, and the people of Bengal are ready with their MESSAGE and determined to show the RIGHT CARD - #BanglaNijerMeyekeiChay (Bengal Only Wants its Daughter) PS: On 2nd May, hold me to my last tweet,” he tweeted.

Planned and conceptualised by I-PAC, TMC last week had unveiled

a poll slogan- “Bangla Nijer Meyekei Chaye”, portraying Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee mascot with a focus on women voters and Bengali sub-nationalism.

The BJP, however, mocked Kishor and said he has no idea about the ground reality in Bengal.

Earlier, in a tweet in December, Kishor had vowed to quit Twitter if the BJP crossed double digits in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections.

Kishor then wrote that BJP would struggle to secure even double digits in the West Bengal assembly election.

His tweet was in response to Home Minister Amit Shah setting a target of winning more than 200 out of 294 seats in West Bengal assembly polls in 2021.

The Election Commission has announced eight-phase elections in West Bengal from March 27 to April 29. Results will be declared on May 2 along with the three other poll-bound states and the union territory of Puducherry.

West Bengal has a 294-member assembly. **PTI**

Centre’s social media rules are dictatorial: Maha Min

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Minister of State for Home, IT, Housing, Transport, Parliamentary Affairs and Ex-Servicemen Welfare Satej Patil on Saturday hit out against the Centre for its recent move to regulate social media and over-the-top (OTT) platforms, saying that it was nothing but act of infringing the privacy of individuals and free speech under the Constitution.

Dubbing the move as an act of “suppressing” the voice of those exercising their freedom of speech, Patil said: “This move by the Centre needs to be fought tooth and nail. Such ‘dictatorial’ regulations will not be accepted by the people of this democratic country. Some bureaucrats passing the judgement on what needs to be published or not on any media platform is nothing but an attack on the freedom of press in India”.

“Such orders will not have any standing in court of law,” the minister said, as he

referred to the recent Delhi court’s recent order granting bail to climate activist Disha Ravi for allegedly editing a social media material or toolkit on the ongoing farmers’ protests.

“The Centre’s move is nothing but an act to suppress the voice of those who are exercising their freedom to speech,” Patil said.

The Centre had on February 25 announced sweeping regulations for social media firms such as Facebook and Twitter as well as OTT players such as Netflix, requiring them to remove any content flagged by authorities within 36 hours and setting up a complaint redressal mechanism with an officer being based in the country.

The regulations also make it mandatory for platforms such as Twitter and WhatsApp to identify the originator of a message that authorities consider to be anti-national and against security and sovereignty of the country.

Indo-Pak ceasefire along LoC will have no bearing on counter-terrorism operations in J&K, says Army

Jammu: The foot soldiers of the Indian Army, deployed in the hinterland to effectively tackle any threat from the terrorist outfits, would continue to participate in the counter terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir, Lt-Gen YK Joshi, GoC-in-C of the Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur said on Saturday.

“Recently, the Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan have announced an agreement to uphold a ceasefire along the LoC from February 24 and 25 midnight. I want to assure that this ceasefire will have no bearing on the counter-terrorist operations and we will maintain our alertness,” Lt Gen Joshi said at the Northern Command investiture ceremony.

He said the northern command, which looks after the security of the twin union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, remained on the highest

alert and made possible what was believed impossible by the bravery, grit and determination of its personnel in the face of challenging situations along the border. He said 2020 was historic in many ways for the Army which demonstrated its mettle in eastern Ladakh by its “grit, determination, self-confidence, bravery and steadfastness”. In Kashmir, he said, the overall security situation saw a great improvement in the previous year as there has been a considerable reduction in terrorist-initiated incidents, stone-pelting activities and protests as a result of tireless efforts of the security forces and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

“The northern command has always stood like a shield against the attempts by our neighbouring countries to spread disturbance and it will continue to remain so in the future. Whenever anyone raises an evil eye on our country, Indian Army has replied

strongly,” Lt Gen Joshi said. Without naming China and Pakistan, he said Indian Army has maintained its domination on its borders with the neighbouring countries and helped in maintaining peace in the hinterland.

He said there has been a tremendous improvement in the basic deployment and preparedness and the efforts in this direction will continue. “The measures we have put in to strengthen our defences, the same efforts were made to maintain peace,” he said. During the ceremony, the Army commander presented two Bar to Sena medals (gallantry) and 50 Sena medals (gallantry) to the brave soldiers. He also presented three Sena medals (distinguished) and six Vishisth Seva medals for selfless service to the nation.

Lt Gen Joshi also awarded unit appreciation to 26 units for their overall outstanding performance in the command theatre. **PNS**

Upset with non-payment of honorarium, woman gram sevak ‘commits suicide’

Ballia (UP): Upset with non-payment of honorarium, a 30-year-old woman ‘gram sevak’ allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in Ballia district, police said on Saturday.

Maya Pande, who worked as a gram sevak under MGNREGA in the Chitrolli village under Banshid Kotwali police station of the district, was found hanging in a room of her house in the same village on Friday, SHO Rajesh Singh said.

She was rushed to the district hospital by her family members, he said, adding the woman died there later.

The victim’s family members told police that she was not getting her honorarium for the past two months.

She was also not keeping well and had asked for leave which too was not granted, the family members told police, adding these reasons drove her to take the extreme step.

The body has been sent for post mortem examination and further investigations are on, the SHO added. **PTI**

Walayar victims’ mother tonsures head to protest police inaction

Palakkad (Kerala): The mother of two minor sisters, who were found hanging in their hut after an alleged sexual assault on them, tonsured her head on Saturday to protest against alleged inaction against the police.

The police, she said, had allegedly committed lapses in the probe of the death of the girls in 2017. She shaved her head after staging a month-long satyagraha here since January 26.

The woman recently announced that she would

shave her head and campaign across the state against the Left government if it did not take action on the police personnel for the alleged lapse.

Besides her, two activists tonsured their heads, expressing solidarity with the victims’ mother.

People raised slogans seeking justice for the women and her deceased daughters.

Congress leader and MP Remya Haridas and Mahila Congress president Lathika Subhash were also present.

The woman resorted to

the protest weeks after the LDF government handed the probe of the death of the minor Dalit girls over to the CBI.

The High Court had also ordered a re-trial in the Walayar case last month.

Allowing appeals filed by the state government and the mother of the children, the court had, on January 6, ordered the re-trial by observing that there were serious lapses in the investigation and that there has been a miscarriage of justice.

A Division Bench of

Justices A Hariprasad and M R Anitha had set aside a October 2019 order of POCSO (Special Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Court acquitting the five accused in the case for want of evidence.

The oldest of the siblings, aged 13, was found hanging in their hut in Walayar in Palakkad district on January 13, 2017, and the younger one (9) on March 4 the same year.

Both were allegedly sexually assaulted. The mother of the girls had earlier sought a CBI probe. **PTI**

TIK TOK STAR’S SUICIDE BJP women wing ups ante, demands suicide-linked Sena Min’s resignation

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid speculation that Shiv Sena Minister Sanjay Rathod has already been advised by his party to put in his resignation over alleged links with a 22-year-old Tik Tok star committed suicide in Pune early this month, the Opposition BJP on Saturday rooted for the minister’s resignation by organising “Chhakka jams” (traffic blockades) in several places across the state.

Ahead of the start of the budget session of the State Legislature beginning on March 1, the BJP’s women wing organised “Chhakka Jams” (traffic blockades) in several towns across the state. While BJP’s Mahila Morcha president Uma Khapre led the protests at Mulund in north Mumbai, Seema Hire and Mrs Vidya Thakur organised the protests in Nahsik. Uma Khapre claimed that her party’s women activists held protests in 100-odd places. “Twenty days have passed since 22-year-old Pooja Chavan died under suspicious circumstances, but the Maharashtra government has not taken any action against Rathod who is linked to her death. This is despite the fact that so much evidence has surfaced against him in the media,” Khapre said.

“We will not allow a smooth session unless Rathod is removed from the Cabinet,” state BJP president and former revenue minister Chandrakant Patil said.

Informed sources in the ruling Shiv Sena, meanwhile, said that at a meeting he had with Rathod on Wednesday, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray asked the minister to resign before the start of the budget session of the State Legislature on March 1. Uddhav had also told the Sena minister that if he did not resign before the start of the budget session, he would have no alternative but to sack him from the State Cabinet.

On their part, the Shiv Sena’s ruling alliance partners – the Congress and NCP – have told the chief minister that he should put in his papers immediately otherwise the MVA government will face considerable embarrassment and opposition during the budget session of the state legislature.

However, Rathod tried to brazen it out by staging a show of strength and denied the allegations linking him with the suicide by Tik-Tok star Pooja Chavan. Taking serious cognisance of the violation of Covid-19 protocols at a huge gathering of people who had come to greet Rathod at Pohradevi fort in Washim district, the chief minister ordered a probe and asked

the district collector and Police Superintendent to submit a report to the State Chief Secretary on the issue.

It may be recalled that on February 8, Pooja had allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the Heaven Park building in Pune’s Wanwadi locality on the intervening night of February 7 and 8.

Following her death, the Opposition BJP on Saturday had upped the ante over the alleged of a 22-year-old Tik-Tok star Pooja Chavan, by rooting for the arrest of Rathod, who was reportedly in love with the deceased woman.

BJP leaders Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, Kirit Somaia and party’s woman leader Chitra Wagh had said that the minister had no moral right to continue in the office. “In fact, he should be booked abetting Pooja’s alleged suicide and arrested immediately,” Wagh said.

Maharashtra’s former chief minister and senior BJP Devenra Fadnavis had demanded that Pooja’s death be investigated in view of the fact that the telephonic conversations between her and the minister had gone viral on society media. The Opposition leaders alleged that Pooja was pregnant at the time of death and that there were reasons to believe that the minister was responsible for her pregnancy.

Covid-19: FIR against 3 marriage halls in Mumbai for violating rules

Mumbai: Mumbai Police has registered a case against three marriage halls for allowing more number of guests than the prescribed limit of 50 on the complaint of the city civic body, an official said on Saturday.

At each of these three marriage halls, located on CST Road in Kalina, at least 200 guests had assembled on Friday, the civic official said.

He said many guests gathered at these halls were not wearing a face mask and social distancing norms were also not adhered to. “Officials of the BMC’s (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation’s) health department who were on supervision duty on Friday night spotted the violations at the three halls,” the official said. Accordingly, action was taken against these halls and an FIR was lodged at Vakola police station against officials concerned of each marriage hall for violating the COVID-19 rules, he added. **PTI**



CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate Office: - No.2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai 600 001.
Branch Office: - Plot No.6, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi - 110 005
Contact No: SUDHIR TOMAR 98184 60101 & Gaurav Dahiya 98117 47507

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of M/s Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrowers, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the Symbolic possession, on **'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS', 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS' and 'WHATEVER IS THERE IS BASIS'**, Particulars of which are given below:-

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Total Loan Outstanding as on 27.02.2021	Date & place of Auction
(XOHEEDL00001771442) 1. UMED SINGH 2. KUSUM KUMARI H.No.1077, Sect-7C Jan Kalyan Mandir, Ballabgarh,Faridabad- 121 006 3. OM SAI TRADERS SETH PESIRAM KUNJ, RAJ NAGAR, GURGAON - 122 001.	20.03.2020 Rs. 83,60,745.09/- as on : 28/02/2020	Property House No.1077, Block-C admeasuring 133 sq.yds, Sector-7, Faridabad, District Faridabad.	Rs. 62,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty Two Lakhs Only)	Rs. 6,20,000/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs. 97,99,594.65/- Further interest will be charged as applicable, as per the Loan Agreement on the amount outstanding in the notice and incidental expenses, costs, etc., is due and payable till its realization.	Date : 31.03.2021 Registered office at : Plot No.6, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi - 110 005

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING AUCTION PROCESS

1	Date of Auction	31.03.2021
2	Place of Submission of Bids and Place of Auction	Plot No.6, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi - 110 005.
3	Date of Inspection of Property	25.03.2021 & 26.03.2021 (In business Hours)
4	Last date for Submission of Bids	30.03.2021 before 5.00 pm

* A bidder may, on his own choice, avail the facility in the auction by making application in prescribed format which is available along with the offer/tender document on the given office address mentioned hereunder. Sale is strictly subject to terms and conditions incorporated in this advertisement and the prescribed Bid / Tender Document. This notice is also to be treated as a 30 days' notice under Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION

- The property is sold on 'As is where is basis' 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'.
- The Bidder is obliged to exercise full due diligence in all respects, including to inspect each of the details of the property mentioned above on the scheduled date & time.
- Submission of bids to M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited would be construed a deemed acceptance by the bidder that (i) he/she/it has exercised due diligence in all respects; (ii) Is satisfied with all details/measurements of property; (iii) Acknowledges full knowledge of terms and conditions that govern the auction and (iv) Waives all his/her/its rights to make any contrary claims against company at any future date.
- The sale is subject to confirmation by the Authorised officer if the borrower/guarantor pays the entire outstanding amount in full before sale, no sale will be conducted.
- The Bidder shall remit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c, along with the bid form in a Sealed Cover addressed to The Authorized Officer, M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited up to 5.00 PM on **30.03.2021 at Regional office, Delhi**. Please note that, in reference to successful bidder(s), EMD is adjustable against the sale consideration receivable by M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. Also, EMD is refundable to the unsuccessful bidder(s).
- The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his/her/its favour and the balance within 15 days by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c Number.
- In case the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on sale being knocked down in his/her/its favour and/or the balance amount, within 15 days the deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited without any prior intimation.
- The charges / fees payable for conveyance such as stamp duty, registration fee, maintenance charges electricity charges etc., shall be borne by the successful bidder. The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, property tax or any other dues to the Government or local body or any other authority in respect of the property under sale.
- The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn / postpone/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice or assigning any reason therefore.
- The Sale will only be in favour of successful bidder and not his/her nominee.
- This Notice is also to the Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general. The borrower has absolute right for the redemption of property till the confirmation of the sale Process.

M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited are not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. **The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'.**

For further details, contact the Authorised Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.

Place: Delhi
Date: 27.02.2021

Sd/- Authorised Officer
M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Myanmar police deploy early to crank up pressure on protests

AP ■ YANGON

Police in Myanmar escalated their crackdown on demonstrators against this month's military takeover, deploying early and in force on Saturday as protesters sought to assemble in the country's two biggest cities and elsewhere.

Security forces in some areas appeared to become more aggressive in using force and making arrests, utilising more plainclothes officers than had previously revealed themselves. Photos posted on social media showed that residents of at least two cities, Yangon and Monywa, resisted by erecting makeshift street barricades to try to hinder the advance of the police.

Myanmar's crisis took a dramatic turn on the international stage at a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Friday when the country's UN ambassador declared his loyalty to the ousted civilian government of Aung San Suu Kyi and called on the world to pressure the military to cede power.

There were arrests Saturday in Myanmar's two



Police stand in formation blocking a main road in Mandalay, Myanmar on Saturday

AP

biggest cities, Yangon and Mandalay, where demonstrators have been hitting the streets daily to peacefully demand the restoration of the government of Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party won a landslide election victory in

November. Police have increasingly been enforcing an order by the junta banning gatherings of five or more people.

Many other cities and towns have also hosted large protests against the Feb. 1 coup. Police in Dawei, in the southeast, and Monywa, 135

kilometres northwest of Mandalay, used force against protesters. Both cities, with populations of less than 200,000 each, have been seeing large demonstrations.

Social media carried unconfirmed reports of a protester shot dead in Monywa.

The reports could not immediately be independently confirmed but appeared credible, with both photos and identification of the victim. The reports from Monywa also said dozens or more people were arrested.

The military takeover reversed years of slow progress toward democracy after five decades of military rule. Suu Kyi's party would have been installed for a second five-year term in office, but the army blocked Parliament from convening and detained her and President Win Myint, as well as other top members of her government.

At the General Assembly in New York, Myanmar's UN ambassador, Kyaw Moe Tun, declared in an emotional speech to fellow delegates that he represented Suu Kyi's "civilian government elected by the people" and supported the fight against military rule.

He urged all countries to issue public statements strongly condemning the coup, and to refuse to recognise the military regime. He also called for stronger international measures to stop violence by security forces against peaceful demonstrators.

Myanmar's UN envoy dramatically opposes coup in his country

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Myanmar's UN ambassador strongly opposed the military coup in his country and appealed for the "strongest possible action from the international community" to immediately restore democracy in a dramatic speech to the UN General Assembly Friday that drew loud applause from many diplomats in the 193-nation global body.

Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun began his statement saying he represented Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy "civilian government elected by the people" in November, and supported their fight for the end of military rule.

He urged all countries to issue public statements strongly condemning the military coup, and to refuse to recognize the military regime and ask its leaders to respect the free and fair elections in November



In this image taken from video by UNTV, Myanmar Ambassador to the United Nations Kyaw Moe Tun flashes the three-fingered salute, a gesture of defiance done by anti-coup protesters in Myanmar, at the end of his speech before the UN General Assembly at the United Nations on Friday

AP

won by Suu Kyi's NLD party. He also urged stronger international measures to stop violence by security forces against peaceful demonstrators.

"It is time for the military to immediately relinquish power and release those detained," Tun said, agreeing

with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "that military coup is not acceptable in this modern world and the coup must cease."

"We will continue to fight for a government which is of the people, by the people, for the people," he vowed.

GLOBE TROTTER

42 ABDUCTED FROM NIGERIAN SCHOOL FREED

Lagos: An official says 42 people including 27 students who were abducted two weeks ago from a school in northern Nigeria have been freed. The chief press secretary for the Niger state governor, Mary Noel-Berje, told The Associated Press on Saturday that those released have arrived in the State capital, Minna.

COVID CASES CONTINUE TO RISE IN PAKISTAN

Islamabad: Pakistan's aviation authority on Saturday extended the existing restriction regarding the standard operating procedures for all inbound travellers for another two weeks as the nation continues to witness a surge in the number of coronavirus cases.

IRAN EXPECTS 2,50,000 JABS FROM CHINA

Tehran: Iran's Health Ministry says the country expects to receive 250,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine from China on Saturday. Alireza Raisi, deputy Health Minister, says the country will receive doses of other vaccines, including from India, in the "near future" as the country struggles to fight the worst outbreak of the pandemic.

GERMANY'S LEFT PICKS 2 WOMEN TO LEAD PARTY

Berlin: Germany's Left has picked two women to lead the anti-capitalist party into this fall's national election. A party conference on Saturday elected Janine Wissler and Susanne Hennig-Wellsow as co-leaders.

UKRAINE SEES SECOND FATAL OXYGEN BLAST

Kyiv: An explosion in a Ukrainian hospital where Covid-19 patients are being treated has killed one person and injured another, authorities said on Saturday. The emergencies service said that the explosion occurred in an oxygen pipe.

Biden: Strikes in Syria sent warning to Iran to 'be careful'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden said Friday that Iran should view his decision to authorize US airstrikes in Syria as a warning that it can expect consequences for its support of militia groups that threaten US interests or personnel.

"You can't act with impunity. Be careful," Biden said when a reporter asked what message he had intended to send with the airstrikes, which the Pentagon said destroyed several buildings in eastern Syria but were not intended to eradicate the militia groups that used them to facilitate attacks inside Iraq.

Administration officials defended the Thursday night airstrikes as legal and appropriate, saying they took out facilities that housed valuable "capabilities" used by Iranian-backed militia groups to attack American and allied forces in Iraq.

John Kirby, the Pentagon's chief spokesperson, said mem-

bers of Congress were notified before the strikes as two Air Force F-15E aircraft launched seven missiles, destroying nine facilities and heavily damaging two others, rendering both "functionally destroyed." He said the facilities, at "entry control points" on the border, had been used by militia

groups the US deems responsible for recent attacks against US interests in Iraq.

In a political twist for the new Democratic administration, several leading Congress members in Biden's own party denounced the strikes, which were the first military actions he authorized.

President Joe Biden protected US personnel, facilities: White House

Washington: The White House has said that through the airstrikes in Syria, President Joe Biden protected US personnel and facilities, and deterred the risk of additional attacks "over the coming weeks."

On Thursday, airstrikes in Syria targeted facilities belonging to a powerful Iranian-backed Iraqi armed group, reportedly killing one fighter and wounding several others.

The strikes came in the

wake of recent attacks on US interests in Iraq, including a rocket attack last week which killed a civilian contractor and injured a US service member and other coalition troops.

"The president is sending an unambiguous message that he's going to act to protect Americans, and when threats are posed, he has the right to take action at the time, and in the manner of his choosing," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters. **PTI**

Attackers strike gas pipeline in eastern Syria, causing fire

Damascus: Attackers struck a gas pipeline in eastern Syria on Saturday, leaving it ablaze but causing no casualties, state news agency SANA reported, the latest incidence of sabotage against Syria's oil and gas infrastructure.

As in the past, no one claimed responsibility for the attack. Syria's nearly 10-year conflict, which has killed about half a million people, has also badly affected oil and gas fields,

many of which are outside government control.

SANA said the attack occurred in the area known as Abu Khashab in the eastern province of Deir el-Zour that borders Iraq.

Sleeper cells of the Islamic State group are known to be active in the area and have targeted government forces and US-backed Kurdish fighters in eastern Syria. **AP**

Pakistan experts: Religiosity fostering rise in militancy

Islamabad: Terrorists attacks are on the rise in Pakistan amid a growing religiosity that has brought greater intolerance, prompting one expert to voice concern the country could be overwhelmed by religious extremism.

Pakistani authorities are embracing strengthening religious belief among the population to bring the country closer together. But it's doing just the opposite, creating intolerance and opening up space for a creeping resurgence in militancy, said Mohammad Amir Rana, executive director of the independent Pakistan

Institute for Peace Studies. "Unfortunately, instead of helping to inculcate better ethics and integrity, this phenomenon is encouraging a tunnel vision" that encourages violence, intolerance and hate, he wrote recently in a local newspaper.

"Religiosity has begun to define the Pakistani citizenry," Militant violence in Pakistan has spiked: In the past week alone, four vocational school instructors who advocated for women's rights were travelling together when they were gunned down in a Pakistan border region. **AP**

Officials: 400 escape, 25 dead after Haiti prison breakout

AP ■ PORT-AU-PRINCE (HAITI)

Haitian authorities announced Friday that more than 400 inmates escaped and 25 people died in a prison breakout, making it the country's largest and deadliest one in a decade, with the prison director and a powerful gang leader among those killed.

Some believe on Thursday's jailbreak at the Croix-des-Bouquets Civil Prison in northeast Port-au-Prince was to free gang leader Arnel Joseph, who had been Haiti's most wanted

fugitive until his 2019 arrest on charges including rape, kidnapping and murder.

Joseph was riding on a motorcycle through the Artibonite area in the town of L'Estère on Friday a day after his escape when he was spotted at a checkpoint, police spokesman Gary Desrosiers told *The Associated Press*. He said Joseph pulled out a gun and died in an exchange of gunfire with police.

Joseph ruled Village de Dieu, or Village of God, a shantytown in downtown Port-

au-Prince, and other communities, including some in Artibonite, which is Haiti's largest department.

Authorities have not yet provided much details on the breakout except to say that 60 inmates have been recaptured and the investigation is ongoing. State Secretary Frantz Exantus said authorities have created several commissions to investigate who organized the breakout and why. Among those killed was the prison director, identified as Paul Joseph Hector.

**UJVN Ltd.**
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone-0135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com.

RO NO. 173 **Date: 27.02.2021**

TENDER NOTICE
Office of Executive Engineer (M&G), Dhalipur Power House invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No.: 25/EE/M&G/DLR/2020-21
Name of the Work: Repairing and overhauling of damaged thrust bearing oil coolers.
Estimated Cost: (Rs) 13,00,000/- Only (GST Extra)
Date of availability of bid document: 27-02-2021 from 17:00 Hrs
Last Date for submission of tender: 20-03-2021 up to 16:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvn.com.
Executive Engineer (M&G)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was admitted in LNJP Hospital, Delhi. During treatment doctors declared him dead on 17.02.2021 in the area of PS Kotwali, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 77A u/s 174 CrPc, Dated 17.02.2021** has been lodged at **P.S. Kotwali, Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under:
Name: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 35 years, **Height:** 5'5"
Feet, Complexion: Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Build:** Thin, **Wearing:** Green Colour T-Shirt, Black Colour Lower and Bare Footed.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.



S.H.O

P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.

Ph. No. 011-23977100, 23953442

DP/962/N/2021

WFP: Security protocols, leaks a focus of Congo probe

AP ■ ROME

A UN investigation into the attack on a humanitarian convoy in Congo that killed the Italian ambassador, his bodyguard and driver will look into whether the long-planned mission's security protocols were followed and whether information might have leaked to the unknown gunmen involved in the ambush.

The deputy communications director of the World Food Program, Greg Barrow, told an online briefing Friday that the February 22 mission to bring Ambassador Luca Attanasio to a WFP school feeding program in eastern Congo had been in the works since 2020.

Advance planning and security meetings as well as security briefings took place up to the moment the seven-member team took off from Goma, in Congo's east, in a two-car convoy bound for the program in Rutshuru, he said.

UK PM Boris reiterates support against Taliban in call with Afghan Prez

PTI ■ LONDON

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has reiterated Britain's support to Afghanistan in its fight against the Taliban, as part of the wider North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance.

In a phone call from Downing Street in London with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Friday, Johnson also agreed on the importance of making progress in peace talks to secure a sovereign, democratic and united Afghanistan.

"He [Johnson] reiterated the UK's longstanding support for the Afghan government's fight against the Taliban as part of the NATO coalition," a Downing Street spokesperson said.

In February last year, the US and Taliban signed a peace agreement in Doha, Qatar, which provided withdrawal of all American and NATO troops from war-torn Afghanistan by May 1.

"They agreed on the importance of making progress in peace

talks to secure a sovereign, democratic and united Afghanistan, and to preserve the gains made by civil society and women and girls," the Downing Street spokesperson said.

The US-Taliban Peace Agreement also mentioned a pledge from the Taliban to prevent militant forces from operating in its areas, and dialogue between the Taliban and the Afghanistan government.

Besides regional matters, Johnson and Ghani discussed the Covid-19 crisis and global efforts around access to vaccines to combat the pandemic.

"The Prime Minister and President Ghani also discussed global efforts to tackle the pandemic and the rollout of vaccines in Afghanistan and the UK," Downing Street said.

The conversation between the two leaders comes amidst a review of the US-Taliban peace deal by the Joe Biden-led US administration, creating uncertainty over the future course of events.

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
NEW DELHI BENCH, COURT-3
COMPANY PETITION NO.CAA. 8/ND/2021
IN
COMPANY APPLICATION NO. CA(CAA)-4/(ND)/2020
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013
AND
PETITION UNDER SECTION 230 TO 232 AND OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 READ WITH THE COMPANIES (COMPROMISE, ARRANGEMENT & AMALGAMATION) RULES, 2016.
AND
IN THE MATTER OF:
SCHEME OF MERGER
OF
M/S FERN PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED
Regd. Off.: C-8/8289, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070
AND
M/S LEMCOM MERCHANTS PRIVATE LIMITED
Regd. Off.: C-8/8289, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070
AND
M/S TECHNO BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED
Regd. Off.: C-8/8289, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070
WITH
M/S UNIPACK MULTIPRODUCT PRIVATE LIMITED
Regd. Off.: C-8/8289, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070
.....Transferee Company**

Notice of Petition for Hearing
A petition under Section 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013, for approval of Scheme of Amalgamation of M/s FERN PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor Company 1), M/S LEMCOM MERCHANTS PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor Company 2), M/S TECHNO BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor Company 3), with M/S UNIPACK MULTIPRODUCT PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferee Company) was presented jointly by the companies on the 20th day of December, 2020 and the said petition is fixed for hearing before Principal Bench of National Company Law Tribunal on 24th day of March, 2021. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition/application/reference should send to the petitioner's advocate, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, so as to reach the petitioner's advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the petition/application/reference. Where he seeks to oppose the petition/application/reference, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition/application/reference will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Sd/-
Iswar Ch Mohapatra
Advocate for Petitioner

Sd/-
8/43, LGF, South Patel Nagar,
New Delhi-110008

Dated 25/02/2021
Place: New Delhi

One Dist One Focus Product list finalised

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday said that the list of One District One Focus Product (ODOFP), which will be promoted in a cluster approach through convergence of the various schemes, has been finalised. The products have been identified from agricultural, horticultural, animal, poultry, milk, fisheries and aquaculture, marine sectors for 728 districts across the country.

Fruits have been identified for 226 districts, the highest in the list while vegetables for 107 districts and spices for 105 districts are at the second and the third position in the list. The chief food crop paddy has been identified for 40 districts while wheat for 5 districts.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in consultation with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has finalised the products for One District One Focus Product, said an official statement.

The list of products have been finalised after taking inputs from the States/UTs and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). These products will be promoted in a cluster approach through convergence of the Government of India schemes, to increase the value of the products and with the ultimate aim of increasing the income of the farmers. These identified products will be supported under the PM-FME scheme (PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme) of the Ministry of

Food Processing Industries which provides incentives to promoter and micro-enterprises. Many products also include convergence of resources and approach from the other departments. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare will support ODOFP from its ongoing centrally sponsored schemes such as Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

The implementation of ODOFP by State Governments will benefit farmers and provide support for realizing the expectations of value addition and subsequently enhancing agricultural exports.

Hyundai i20 wins Indian Car Of The Year 2021

Indian Motorcycle Of The Year goes to the Royal Enfield Meteor

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Car Of The Year (ICOTY) 2021 and the Indian Motorcycle Of The Year (IMOTY) 2021 awards were announced at a glittering ceremony here in Delhi.

The winner of the ICOTY was the Hyundai i20 and the IMOTY award went to the Royal Enfield Meteor. The ICOTY award, which is celebrating its 16th year this year is well-established as India's top car award and similarly IMOTY is India's leading two-wheeler award.

Speaking to The Pioneer, Yogendra Pratap, Editor of Auto Today and the Chairman of the ICOTY jury said that ICOTY will always remain as India's top car award and not just because of

its name, "the fact that we partner with multiple publications which look at various aspects of



motoring, some are targeted at enthusiasts and other are targeted at practicality.

This in addition to the independent judges who come from various other publications and almost all of us have been evaluating cars for at least a decade makes this award the most influential in India.

Our judges have over 350 years of combined experience evaluating cars and because we are not part of a 'single' publication, I believe ICOTY

carries much more weight with Indian automotive manufacturers as well."

Speaking to The Pioneer, Aspi Bhatena, Editor of Bike Magazine and Chairman of the IMOTY jury said that the award was proof of how Indian manufacturers have progressed. "In all the years we have given this award, we have not given it to a 'lemon', all our winners have enjoyed immense commercial success and some like the 2019 winner, the Royal Enfield Interceptor have had immense global success."

At a function held at the Andaz attended by the senior management of several automotive companies, both awards firmly established themselves as India's leading and most credible awards for the industry.

'Improved economic environment to boost FY21 credit growth'

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Improved economic environment in 2HFY21 and the Centre's focus on higher spending especially on infrastructure will give a boost to FY21 credit growth, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said.

The agency's February 2021 edition of its credit market tracker showed an upgrade to its FY21 credit growth estimates to 6.9 per cent from 1.8 per cent.

Accordingly, the agency said that amid the pandemic, the credit offtake in the banking system has remained muted, which led to lesser issuances of certificates of deposits (CDs).

"The CD issuances for January 2021 increased for public sector banks, whereas that for private banks have remained muted.

Concurrently, the CD yield across maturities was confined to a narrow range, amid subdued issuances. Similarly, the issuances of commercial paper (CP) by corporates have fallen, due to a lesser requirement amid fewer rollovers.

"The CP yields however have largely seen an upward revision, owing to the Reserve Bank of India's announcement of the restoration of liquidity management operations."

Besides, demand from fund houses for corporate bonds and short-term funds has increased by "Rs 52 billion and Rs 10 billion, respectively".

On the other hand, the agency said that CP issuances by non-banking financial companies and housing finance companies have remained encouraging, both in terms of total amount and volumes.

PM asks toy manufacturers to use less plastic, more eco-friendly material

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday exhorted toy manufacturers to use less plastic and more eco-friendly and recyclable material in a bid to increase the share of the domestic industry in the global market.

Inaugurating the first India Toy Fair, the Prime Minister said, "We have to become Aatmanirbhar in the toy sector and also cater to the global market."

Observing that India's share in the USD 100 billion global toy market is very small, and 85 per cent of the toys in the country are sourced from abroad, Modi said there is a need to change this situation.

"In the field of toys, India has tradition and technology, India has concepts and competence. We can take the world back towards eco-friendly toys. Through our software engineers, computer games can

bring the stories of India to the world," he said.

While referring to the traditional toy industry, the Prime Minister underlined the need for promoting Handmade in India.

If there is a demand for Made in India today, then the demand for Handmade in India is also increasing equally, he said, adding "today people do not only buy toys as a product, but also want to connect with the experience associated with that toy. So, we have to promote Handmade in India as well".

The Prime Minister appealed to the manufacturers to make toys that are better for both ecology and psychology, using less plastic and more of such things that can be recycled.

Referring to the initiatives of the government, Modi said the country has now graded the toy industry in 24 major sectors.

Govt sets 50 lakh users threshold to define 'significant social media intermediary' under IT rules

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has fixed fifty lakh registered users as the threshold for defining 'significant social media intermediary', which will have to adhere to additional obligations and compliance under the new IT rules that seek to crack down on misuse of social media platforms.

The new rules, announced earlier this week, require 'significant social media intermediaries' to follow additional due diligence, including the appointment of a chief compliance officer, nodal contact person and resident grievance officer. All three officials will have to reside in India.

They will have to publish a monthly compliance report and details of the contents removed proactively.

At present, the country has 53 crore WhatsApp users, 44.8 crore YouTube users, 41 crore Facebook subscribers, 21 crore Instagram clients, while 1.75 crore account holders are on microblogging platform Twitter"...The Central

Government hereby specifies fifty lakh registered users in India as the threshold for a social media intermediary to be considered a significant social media intermediary," the notification said.

Earlier on Thursday, the government announced the tightening of the rules governing social media and streaming companies, requiring them to take down contentious content quicker, appoint grievance redressal officers and assist investigations.

The move aims to make social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and Instagram - which have seen a phenomenal surge in usage over the past few years in India - more accountable and responsible for the content hosted on their platform. Social media companies will have to remove contentious content flagged by the government or court orders within 36 hours and take down posts depicting nudity or morphed photos within 24 hours of receiving a complaint, as per the latest intermediary rules.

Gold Bond Scheme 20-21 to be issued at ₹4,662/gm

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The new series of Sovereign Gold Bonds 2020-21 will be opened for the period March 1-5, 2021.

The issue price of the Bond during the subscription period shall be Rs 4,662 per gram.

The Settlement date under the Series XII scheme had been fixed for March 9.

The Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow discount of Rs 50 per gram from the issue price to those investors who apply online and the payment is made through digital mode.

KVIC's e-market portal achieves ₹1.12 crore turnover in 8 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The e-market portal unveiled by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has achieved a gross turnover of over Rs 1.12 crore in just eight months of its launch, the MSME Ministry said on Saturday.

"Launched on 7 July 2020, Khadi e-portal has delivered orders to over 10,000 customers out of the 65,000 people who visited the e-portal till date. KVIC has also delivered more than 1 lakh articles/commodities to these customers," an official statement said.

During this period, the average online purchase has been recorded at Rs 11,000 per customer. MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari has lauded

Khadi's successful e-commerce venture saying this provided a wide marketing platform for various khadi and village industry products to a larger population. He said e-marketing of Khadi is proving to be a game-changer. Gadkari also said the effort should be to reach a turnover of Rs 200 crore per year. KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said all expenses incurred on operating Khadi e-portal are borne by KVIC.

"While in case of other e-commerce sites, product cataloguing, packaging and dispatch are the responsibility of the respective sellers;

KVIC has a policy that the Khadi institutions and PMEGP units are exempted from any such financial and logistical burden," Saxena said.

Fuel prices resurge after 3-day break

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Country's petrol and diesel prices continued its northward march on Saturday, after a three-day break, taking its retail rates to unprecedented levels and burning holes in the consumers pockets.

Oil marketing companies raised the pump price of petrol and diesel by 24 paise and 15 paise per litre on Saturday.

With this, petrol is now priced at Rs 91.17 a litre and diesel Rs 81.47 a litre in the capital.

Across the country as well the petrol and diesel prices increased between 20-30 paise per litre depending on the level of local duty at the state level.

RAJASTHAN STATE FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
Head Office : 5th floor, Kisan Bhawan, Lal Koti, Tonk Road, Jaipur-302015, Phone: 0141-2744692, 0141-2744649, Fax No. 0141-2741924, E-Mail: rsfcso@gmail.com, CIN : U63023RJ2010SGC033489
No. : F10(101)RSFCSC/ICDS/tender/2020-21/18947 Dated :- 26/02/2021

e-Bid Notice

e-Bids are invited for transportation work of Food Grain, wheat, Rice & Dal under ICDS in (14) Districts Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Bharatpur, Bikaner, bundi, Jaipur, Jhalawar, Sirahi, Udaipur, Barmer, Nagaur, Sawaimadhopur, Bhilwara & Chittorgarh for one year from the date of agreement. If the tenders of those districts where they are in process, are finally cancelled by the date of uploading this tender, those districts should also upload the new tender. The Bid shall be submitted only through online tendering system at concerned districts on the website www.eproc.raajasthan.gov.in. As detailed below:

UBN No. : FCS2021SLOB00053

S. No.	Name of the Service	On line uploading date	On line bid submission end date
1.	Transportation work for ICDS wheat, Rice & Dal	01/03/2021	22/03/2021

For details visit our Website <https://sppp.raajasthan.gov.in/http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in>
Raj.Samwad/C/20/10320 General Manager (Adm.)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Tasleem w/o Late Riyajuddin R/o H. No. 3 B, Gali No. 4B, Aram Park, Shastri Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. **189/14 U/s 420 IPC PS. Geeta Colony, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Tasleem** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Tasleem** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Tasleem** of F.I.R. No. **189/14 U/s 420 IPC PS. Geeta Colony, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 06.04.2021

By Order
Sh. Vinod Joshi
DP/82/Crime/2021
LD. MM, East - 02
-Court Matter
Karkardooma Court, New Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one Girl **Name: Ayushi D/o Yogender R/o H. No. 753, Village bakhtiyarpur, Delhi, Age: 17 Years, Height: 5'2", Built: Thin, Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Red Colour Jarsi & Blue Colour Payjama** has been missing since 29.01.2021 from the area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi.

In this regard a FIR No. 51/21, dated 30.01.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Alipur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this Girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO P.S. Alipur, Delhi Ph: 011-2720 2265 DP/789/ON/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Rishi S/o Ranbir Singh R/o C-52, Amar Colony, Nangloi, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of PS Nangloi, since **16.12.2020**. In this regard FIR No. **73/21 U/S 363 IPC** dated **10.02.2021** has been registered at **PS. Nangloi, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 17 years 6 months, Height: 5'8" ft., Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue Jacket-Blue Payjama and White shoes in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO P.S. Nangloi, Delhi Ph. No.: 011-25947225 Ph. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Ph. No. 7065036127 DP/684/OD/2021
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Fax No.: 011-24368639

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown about 40 years** of age was found dead at park Nigam Bodh Ghat, Kashmir Gate, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. **4-A U/s 174 CrPC** dated 24.02.2021 has been lodged in Police Station Kashmir Gate, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 40 years, Height : 5'5" ft., Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: White Shirt & Black Pant

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.
SHO P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi Ph. No.-011-23967889 Ph. No. 8750870123
DP/972/N/2021

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC029887/2358, V.C.V. Gabor Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001, Telephone: 0135-2763672-76, Fax: 0135-2760289, Website : www.uktenders.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE (NIT)

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd., Dehradun invites e-tender for purchase of following items as detailed below :-

Sl. No.	Tender Specification No.	Name of Item	Quantity (in Nos.)	Estimated Cost (₹)	Average Yearly Turn Over of Preceding Three Financial Years (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of Tender Document Including GST (₹)	Date & Time of Prebid conference in online mode	Last Date & Time of online request for Tender and submission of Tender in online & offline mode	Date of opening of Part-I of Tender in online & offline mode
1.	CCP-II/ 33/2020-21	9 KV 10 KA Lightning Arrester	8408	2,920 CRORE	4,380 CRORE	5,840 LAKH	17 700.00	08.03.2021 at 11:30 Hrs.	22.03.2021 upto 17:00 Hrs. upto 17:00 Hrs.	23.03.2021 at 15:30 Hrs.
2.	CCP-II/ 34/2020-21	30 KV 10 KA Lightning Arrester	1000	1,130 CRORE	2,260 CRORE	2,260 LAKH	11 800.00		22.03.2021 upto 17:00 Hrs.	23.03.2021 upto 17:00 Hrs. at 15:45 Hrs.

For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in
No. : 101/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Dated: 27.02.2021

Superintending Engineer Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION Use L.E.D. Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912)
Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org (For information on Electricity theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185 / Fax No. 0135-2760911)

WESTERN RAILWAY

PROVISION OF MULTI SECTION DIGITAL AXLE COUNTER

Tender No.: SG 217_2_285_286_288_WA dated 25/02/2021. Executive: Sr. DSTE(S) MMCT. Name of Work: Provision of Multi Section Digital Axle Counter by Replacing Old AC Track Circuit and ABB make AFTCS in Bandra - Kandivli section of Mumbai Suburban Division of Western Railway. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 8.93,19,553.19. EMD: Bid Security Declaration Required. Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 0/-. Completion Period: 12 Months. Validity of Offers: 45 Days from the Date of Opening. Type of E-Tender: Open E-Tender. Time & Date for Closure for Submission of E-Tender Documents: At 15.00 hrs. on 26/03/2021. Time & Date for Opening of E-Tender: After 15.30 hrs. on 26/03/2021. Particular Office Where E-Tender Open: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer(S), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. The tender can be viewed at website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

0685

Follow us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) twitter.com/WesternRly



From a 15-year-old who has designed a model that uses photographs to identify children afflicted with Down Syndrome to a 16-year-old who has been working with the transgender community to a 25-year-old IT professional who decided to work while on the move, the young are carving a niche for themselves and doing things differently. SHALINI SAKSENA tells you more

Photo reveals lot of information

Equality for all, including transgenders

SAANVI MEHRA (15)
THE SHRIRAM MILLENNIUM
SCHOOL, NOIDA

One would hardly associate a 15-year-old to work on a model that can detect Down Syndrome (DS) and prevent deaths. At present, 20,000 die with it in India. But this is precisely what Saanvi Mehra of The Shriram Millennium School has done. The 15-year-old who submitted her model to Google India Code Learn Contest 2020 not only won it in the Class IX-X category, but the model will be a boon for those suffering with DS.

Mehra chose this project because the DS prevalence in the country is estimated at roughly one out of every thousand children leading to over 30,000 children being born every year with this genetic disorder with survival rate standing at 44 per cent.

There is a more personal reason why Mehra chose DS as a project. It was during her mother's second pregnancy. It was suspected that the baby was at a high risk of DS.

"Fortunately, we were living in a metro and were privileged to be able to afford the necessary tests but I know this is not the

case for everyone. Since it was so personal to me, it struck me as something worth raising my voice. In India the penetration of smart-phones is more than the basic health-care; early detection of DS and treatment can change the lives of many," Mehra says.

The Class X student has always been inclined towards technology. She tells you that she came to know about the Google India Code Learn Contest when she was in Class VI.

"I had won the contest when I was in Class VI as well. It was for a book donation app called Vidyadaan that facilitates book donation. The app connects donors with those who need books utilising the surplus of books created each year. This year, I saw it was in the AI & ML category. They provided us with Google Cloud AutoML engine. I had a lot of time in my hand during the lockdown. I had also done a course in AI for Everyone by Andrew Ng. I was confident I would be able to showcase my talent," the 15-year-old who loves to read and cook tells you.

She took photographs from a dataset and statistics from the Internet to train an AutoML model using API which is the

visual AutoML. Children afflicted with DS have certain distinctive features like slanting eyes and flat nose bridge. She set these parameters and adjusted the sensitivity of each feature to determine DS. She trained, tested and deployed the model by repeatedly adjusting the sensitivity of each parameter.

She tells you that at present, there is no app only a model but she is working towards creating an app that will make things easier in the future. For now, she wants to test the clinical validity of the model. "I plan to test the validity of the model. All one has to do is send a photograph of the child to me. I will feed it into the model and do the test," Mehra says who started working on the model in October 2020.

At present, she is looking to broaden the dataset in a real time environment and make the process, background and lighting more uniform in existing photos that she has. The idea of taking a photo under set conditions makes it possible to ease the process and perfect the model before using it in real time.

"Suppose the parent had to use the model, I would ask the parent to go out in the open to take the photo so that the camera can recognise the facial features better," Mehra says who is interested in pursuing AI, ML, technology and loves to study in Computer and Biology. She plans to apply for a double major or a dual degree. She tells you that as of now, she is in talks with doctors who have been impressed.

"They are interested in the accuracy but would like her to make the process more uniform and come to the hospital and take photos of kids with DS and check for accuracy and then run tests to see if the child is really afflicted with DS and take it to the next level," Mehra says.

SARANYA BHATTACHARJYA
(16)
THE SHRI RAM SCHOOL,
MOULSARI, GURUGRAM

For now, this 16-year-old has taken a break from what she loves doing — writing — something that she has been doing since she was nine years old. Saranya Bhattacharjya is busy preparing for her Class XI Boards. However, once she is done with her exams she will be back to writing poems.

What makes Bhattacharjya different from your average 16 year olds is that the proceeds from her poems titled *Clash With Reason* that got published recently will go towards raising funds for the transgender community via the Mitr Trust. The book is published by K2 Publishing and is available on Amazon and leading bookstores at ₹499.

The poems are a collection of everything that she has been writing in a Blog. "But when the present epidemic broke out in 2020, she understood that the condition of the transgenders was even worse. I had been interacting with the community for the past two-and-a-half-years through Mitr Trust run by Rudrani Chettri. I found out that these people didn't have access to basic necessities like food and medicine. That is when I decided to compile the poems that I had written in a book and get it published and raise funds for this community from the sale of the books. All the money that I will get from the sale will go towards bettering the lives of the transgender community," Bhattacharjya says who plans to pursue Humanities.



THE REASON WHY TRANSGENDERS ARE VIEWED DIFFERENTLY IS DUE TO LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ON OUR PART. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT SINCE THEY ARE NOT WELL-EDUCATED, OUR PERCEPTION OF THEM IS DIFFERENT

In order to compile the book, she took the help of her friends with the art work to correspond with the poems that she has penned. However, this is not the first time that she has been published. Back in 2015, her poems

found their way into Global Citizen. She has also been published in her school magazine a few times and a text book in the North-east also finds a poem written by her.

Her work with the transgen-

der community began at an event organised by the Angles Network that her mother started. This is where she met Chettri. Like most people, Bhattacharjya was also scared of the transgender due to the stigma attached to them. After her conversation with Chettri, Bhattacharjya's perception of the community changed.

"I admired the work that Chettri has been doing for this community. I wanted to know more — about their living conditions. I slowly understood that they are people like you and me and don't need the ridicule that they face daily. I found out that they are grossly misunderstood and treated as piranhas and outcasts when they shouldn't be," Bhattacharjya tells you.

A major part of her work entails spending time going to their homes and talking to them, finding out how their lives are different from ours and how one can better their lives. On her 15th birthday she collected all the money that she got and bought things that they needed.

"We have a lot to learn from them. They are far more empathetic. The most significant problem that they face is that they don't get jobs and opportunities to study," Bhattacharjya tells you.

Her friends are supportive of her since Gen Z is all about equal opportunity.

"There is still a long way to go. I have a few ideas on how I want to proceed further and will take it up once my exams are over. The reason why this community is viewed differently is lack of knowledge on our part. Another problem is that since they are not well-educated, our perception of them is different," Bhattacharjya says.

ANDREW MENEZES (25)
IT PROFESSIONAL, MUMBAI

What if someone were to tell you that it is possible to go on a long vacation, not till your boss that you are missing by continuing to work? While this may have not been possible a couple of years back, but the present pandemic and the work from home made it possible for an IT professional working with Oracle in Mumbai to do just this. And it was no ordinary travel plans. Meet 25-year-old Andrew Menezes, who took on the challenge of a pan-India cyclo-thon while working on the move.

When working from home became the new norm, Menezes, who loves to cycle and ride three-four days in a week, took it one step ahead. He attended zoom calls on the road at

roadside *dhabas* always completing his work for the day. Between October-December, 2020, Menezes along with his companion — his trusted cycle traveled over 3,000 km stopping at 23 cities.

"Before the lockdown last year, I used to play football but then group activities were banned so I took to cycling in the morning and evening. When October came, the weather changed for the better and I decided that instead of taking the same route why not just keep cycling and hit the highway. I was anyways working while on the move. Just went a step ahead, Menezes says.

This required him to have high speed data. He used his mobile hotspot. "The surprising part was that the reception on highways is much better than any city. Once I found that I could attend meeting and do the work assigned

for the day, all my fears were put to rest. This encourages me to cycle further. Some cities that I covered were Nashik, Indore, Ujjain, Chittorgarh, Ajmer and Agra.

Interestingly, he didn't tell anyone of his plans. Only his parents were on the know-how and that after he had reached Nashik who live in Mangalore. Once he told them, he had to keep in touch with them and let them know where he was and send daily updates of where he was and where he was staying. He told his bosses only in February that he had been missing from home and that he was on the move and working and that too because he was about to become news. They were shocked to hear his feat.

He tells you that it was not as tough as he had imagined. "Most of the people I met on the way were extremely helpful. I expected them to be hostile due to COVID-19. All *dhaba*



owners were helpful; they would carry my backpack; offer me tea and water," Menezes says.

The idea behind the ride was to see if he could travel and work at the same time. "I decided to make the road my home. To begin with, I just wanted to go to Rajasthan on a cycle and explore the State," Menezes says.

Of course, he had to budget himself. He set aside ₹800 as daily expenses including food and lodging. Where they were no hotels, he stayed in guest houses or even *dharamshala*. It took him 25 days to reach Delhi where he then spent a week before he cycled down to the South.

"It was not really a vacation. I only explore the city that I was in after I had completed my work for the day or during the weekends. Some of the things that I learnt

during my work on the move was that one doesn't have to necessarily be stuck to the chair to get the work done. Second, it is important to take small breaks. This is because the concept of work from home blurred the boundaries of work and home life destroying work-life balance. I had to achieve a balance which was a challenge. I had set a target and reach a village or a city, else I would be stuck on the highway at night. I would cycle 100 km a day. I also took the cycle for maintenance at every major city. The only time I had a major breakdown was near Chambal river and had to walk with the cycle till Morena," Menezes tells you. He is all set for another ride if work from home continues.

For him, the best food he ate was in Rajasthan. "It was tasty and spicy," Menezes says.

WORKING FROM A CYCLE

‘Who defines a good cricket surface?’ questions Ashwin

Indian off-spinner says all the talk around pitches being used in ongoing England series is ‘getting out of hand’

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India off-spinner Ashwin Ravichandran on Saturday said that the talk around the pitches being used in the ongoing Test series against England is “getting out of hand.”

India edged ahead in the four-match series with a 10-wicket win over England in the third Test at the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad, and a major talking point in the match was the pitch which offered sharp turn from day one.

While several former England cricketers questioned the nature of the Ahmedabad pitch, Ashwin questioned the narrative that is emerging.

“I think I have said that in the past as well, everyone is entitled to their opinion and I am not here to say that your opinion is right and it is wrong. The fact remains that the talk about the surface is getting out of hand,” said Ashwin in a virtual press conference on Saturday.

“Why would you talk about the surface and sell that to us time and time again? Is there any instance where the pitch has been talked about this much when we have played games in other countries.

“I somehow find it funny that when they speak about the surface, it immediately gets quoted all over in our press and this is the issue here. There have been instances, we have been to New Zealand, where both the Tests got over in a total of five days.”

Ashwin said that the talk around the pitch is unnecessary and there is no set rule on how a cricket pitch should behave over the course of a Test match.

“The bowler wins the game, the batsmen need to bat well to score runs. Who defines what a good surface is? Seam on the first day, then bat well in the next couple of days and spin on the last two days, come on, who makes these rules?”

“We need to get over it and if you are asking whether the pitch in the third Test was a good surface, I do not see any players of England coming out and complaining. You should be hoping for a good cricket match, not the surface,” he said.

Ashwin also cited a press conference of Virat Kohli during a South Africa tour where the India captain refused to blame the pitch for the results.

“There is a video doing the rounds where Virat Kohli is talking in South Africa and he says I am not here to talk about the pitch. That is how we have been taught to play cricket, that’s why I say let them sell thoughts, buying is our choice,” he added, similar to the tweets he had put out on Friday.

The 34-year-old off-spinner, who has become second-fastest to 400 Test wickets, tweeted about “ideas being sold” to form public opinion.

“I am not disturbed with things being taken out of context. That is what has been happening for the last decade, if not more. That is why I put out the tweets I did yesterday (Friday). People need to get the context and what is happening,” said Ashwin.

“There have been people messaging me that the match has finished in two days. Every pink-ball game we have played has ended within three days. I do not know what to say, unfortunately, many people have not played the pink-ball game, so they will not understand this facet of the game.

“My angst against the whole thing is that someone says one thing, there are so many people watching the same picture but are not able to paint a different one as compared to someone who is driving a certain case and selling a certain case to us. This needs to stop,” he added.

Ashwin has stopped thinking about landmarks long back

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Ravichandran Ashwin has stopped bothering about landmarks “long, long time back” as his only endeavour currently is to work on his craft and be useful every time when he plays for India.

Ashwin has become the fourth Indian bowler to complete 400 wickets in Test cricket and was asked if surpassing ‘Peak 619’ could be a reality in coming years.

“If you look at it pragmatically, it’s 218 wickets away,” Ashwin, who is always good with words answered.

“For me, I have stopped thinking about all those landmarks and all long, long time ago.”

He said he is looking to become a better cricketer, every time he stepped on the field.

“It’s been about what I can do, how I can get better, what more I can offer to the team

because every time you come back into this setup, especially now that I am only playing Test cricket, it’s important to come back and offer to the team.”

Ashwin wants to be in this happy zone and enjoy his craft as he always does.

“I am looking to get better as an individual and cricketer. That’s probably one of the reasons why I am really, really happy and I am enjoying my game and probably the best I have done in the last 15 years.

I would like to continue this phase and not think about too much else,” the bowler added.

Ashwin has been in the bio-bubble since the IPL and then has been part of the Australia series and the ongoing England series, and he said that is incredibly hard to be without family but in the same vein said that the team bonding has got better.

“I think without them (family) around it can be



incredibly hard. Yes, we get larger hotel spaces. We do get our entertainment area. We bond much better. One thing that stands out is that the fact that because of this bio-bubble the players are getting together more than ever. I think the team

pink-ball Tests, Ashwin said: “There is no apprehension. If there was apprehension, we would have expressed.”

He said it was all about adapting.

“This is a new facet that has been introduced to the game. We are used to playing with the red ball. We are conditioned to playing with the red-ball and now all of a sudden, they have got in the pink ball. The pink ball has got a new dimension to the game, so it’s about adapting,” he said.

“You play more and more and get used to it, the players are going to adapt better. The same thing with one-dayers. We were used to playing with the red ball and then shifted to the white ball. Initially, the white-ball was doing a lot. Now, it does nothing. That’s how this format will also evolve. Anything new is going to have a lot of challenges,” he elaborated.



Motera likely to escape ICC ‘Red Eye’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Motera track may have received a lot of flak after the pink ball Test ended inside two days but it is unlikely to attract any severe sanctions from the game’s governing body ICC with the pitch for the final game set to be a batting beauty.

With India 2-1 up in the four-Test series and needing a draw to qualify for the World Test Championship final at Lord’s from June 18-22, another turner is currently out of question as the home team will be aiming to take minimal risks as far as the track is concerned.

“Expect a good hard surface which will be firm and even bounce. It will be a batting beauty and since it’s a traditional red ball match, one can expect a very high scoring contest here from March 4-8,” a senior BCCI official privy to the developments told PTI.

Also the BCCI bigwigs along with the team management understands the fact that another dust bowl won’t augur



well for the new venue which is expected to host a lot of important matches during IPL as well as ICC T20 World Cup.

“If there are two matches played at the same venue, you can’t hold one result in isolation. Let the final Test be over and then only based on match referee Javagal Srinath’s report can ICC decide its course of action.

Also as of now, the England team hasn’t lodged any official complaint,” the BCCI official

said.

If there has been one good and one bad pitch at the same venue, the ICC is unlikely to take any action. While India would be happy with a 3-1 margin, they will not require a result oriented turner as a draw would suffice their purpose.

Also the Indian team management doesn’t want to prepare a track that can ideally backfire on them in a very high-stake game of cricket.

Bumrah released from Test squad



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah will miss the fourth and final Test against England, beginning here on Thursday, as he was released from the Indian squad, owing to personal reasons.

The BCCI said no addition to India’s squad will be made

for the final Test at Motera.

“Jasprit Bumrah made a request to BCCI to be released from India’s squad ahead of the fourth Test owing to personal reasons,” BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said in a media release on Saturday.

“Accordingly, the fast bowler has been released and he will not be available for selection for the fourth Test.”

Bumrah has already been rested for the limited-over series, comprising five T20Is and three ODIs, beginning on March 12 here as part of the team’s extensive workload management programme.

The 27-year-old Indian pace bowling spearhead has been inside bio-secure bubble since August prior to the Indian Premier League in the UAE.

England all-rounder Chris Woakes also has left the Test tour without playing a match as part of the ECB’s rotation policy.

Shikha axed for SA series



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran medium pacer Shikha Pandey was on Saturday dropped from India’s ODI and T20 squads that will take on South African women in a twin series starting March 7.

The most debatable decision by the Neetu David-led selection committee, however, was the exclusion of teenage batting sensation Shafali Verma in the ODI squad which has plodders like skipper Mithali Raj and Punam Raut, whose strike-rates have come under the scanner time and again.

With 19 T20 Internationals under her belt and an amazing Women’s T20 World Cup last year, Shafali is a box-office cricketer.

“It will be interesting to know whether skipper Mithali Raj, who herself loves to bat at the top of the order and consumes more deliveries than permissible, had at all wanted Shafali in the ODI squad,” a senior BCCI official, who sounded miffed with the move, told PTI.

“Her absence means that India lack firepower save Harmanpreet and Smriti. We lost out on a big hitter,” he added.

The selectors, though, have included a lot of rookies based on their last season’s domestic performances as well as A and B team series against Bangladesh. Rookie keeper-batsman

Shwetha Verma, along with the seasoned Sushma Verma, are the two keepers in both formats.

Pandey’s exclusion was more to do with the selectors wanting to check out the pace bowling bench strength and rookie right-arm medium pacers C Prathyusha and Monica Patel were included in both the squads.

There is also young seamer Simran Dil Bahadur, who is part of the T20 Internationals team. Left-arm spinner Yastika Bhatia has made way for Ekta Bisht in the 50-over squad while Veda Krishnamurthy, after a prolonged lean phase, has been dropped from both squads.

ODI squad: Mithali Raj (Captain), Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Punam Raut, Priya Punia, Yastika Bhatia, Harmanpreet Kaur, D Hemalatha, Deepti Sharma, Sushma Verma, Shwetha Verma, Radha Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Jhulan Goswami, Mansi Joshi, Poonam Yadav, C Prathyusha, Monica Patel

T20I squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (Captain), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh, Harleen Deol, Sushma Verma, Nuzhat Parveen, Ayushi Soni, Arundhati Reddy, Radha Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Poonam Yadav, Mansi Joshi, Monica Patel, C Prathyusha, Simran Dil Bahadur.

Back to back hundreds for Shreyas

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Skipper Shreyas Iyer’s fluent 116 and an impressive show by India speedster Shardul Thakur powered Mumbai to a 67-run win over Rajasthan in an Elite Group D game of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Saturday.

This was Mumbai’s fourth successive win, having earlier defeated Delhi, Maharashtra and Puducherry.

Opting to bat at the KL Saini stadium, Mumbai rode on Iyer’s 103-ball knock to post a competitive 317/7. The elegant right-handed batsman led from the front before his bowlers bundled out the opposition for 250 with Thakur (4/50) doing the bulk of the damage.

Iyer anchored the innings before toying with the Rajasthan attack, scoring his second century of the tournament with the help of 11 fours and three sixes.

He found able partners in Sarfaraz Khan (30) and



Suryakumar Yadav (29), who played their roles to perfection.

For Rajasthan, left-arm spinner Shubham Sharma (3/59) did the bulk of the damage.

Chasing 318, Manender Singh (40) and Mahipal Lomror (76) tried to take the game deep with their 101-run third-wicket stand, but medium pacer Akash Pankar broke the partnership after trapping Singh in front of the wicket. Shardul castled Lomror to leave Rajasthan at 160/4.

From thereon, it was an uphill task for Rajasthan and they were eventually bowled out for 250.

In other matches of the group, India opener Shikhar Dhawan’s 153 helps Delhi beat Maharashtra by three wickets at Saiwai Mansingh Stadium. While Puducherry win by 104 runs against Himachal Pradesh.

PRERAK SLAMS 174

Kolkata: In Group E clash, middle-order batsman Prerak Mankad took Eden Gardens by storm with a sensational 174 to power

Saurashtra to a 62-run win over Chandigarh. The 26-year-old plundered six sixes and 16 fours in his knock from 130 balls to propel Saurashtra to a massive 388 for 7 after Chandigarh opted to bowl.

In reply, Chandigarh, who have been impressive in their debut Elite season with three wins on the trot, could manage 326 for 7.

The win helped Saurashtra consolidate their lead with 16 points, four clear of Chandigarh to close in on a quarterfinal spot.

The No 4 batsman paced his innings brilliantly taking 53 balls for his half-century before he stepped up to race to his second List A century in the next 39 balls.

There was no stopping Prerak as he took another 27 balls to cruise to 150. He was dismissed by Jagjit Singh in the final over but the damage had been done.

Chasing the target, Chandigarh skipper Manan Vohra (50) and Arslan Khan (61) put on a century-plus stand and then Ankit Kaushik chipped in with 54

but it proved too little in the end.

In other games, Services beat Haryana by 112 runs and Bengal win by 82 runs against Jammu & Kashmir.

UTTARAKHAND, ASSAM WIN

Chennai: Uttarakhand notched up their fourth straight win beating Mizoram by eight wickets in their Plate group match.

Uttarakhand are currently on top of the standings with 16 points from four matches, sharing the position with Assam, who won their match against Sikkim by four wickets.

Leg-spinner Dikshansu Negi took 6 for 21 in a brilliant bowling performance to help Uttarakhand bundle out Mizoram for a paltry 117.

In reply, Uttarakhand knocked off the required runs in just 10.5 overs.

In another match, Assam chased down a target of 246 set by Sikkim in the 48th over to maintain their all-win record in the group.

Gayle returns to Windies T20I side

PTI ■ ST JOHN’S

Veteran batsman Chris Gayle has returned to the West

Indies squad for the first time in nearly two years for the three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka, beginning on March 3.

The 41-year-old top-order batsman was recalled to the 14-man squad under Kieron Pollard on the basis of his good performances in recent tournaments, including the IPL and Pakistan Super League.

Senior fast bowler Fidel Edwards, 39, is also back in the national squad after a nine-

year hiatus.

The three matches of the T20I series will be played on March 3, 5, and 7 at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua, which will be making its International debut.

The big-hitting Gayle last played for West Indies in their home series against India in August 2019 after



the 50-over World Cup that year.

He had earlier said that the 2019 World Cup matches would be his last appearances for West Indies.

“Chris Gayle has performed very well in recent tournaments and the selection panel thinks that he can still add great value to our team,” Roger Harper, Cricket West Indies’ (CWI) lead selector, said.

“As we build towards the defence of the T20 World Cup, the opportunity is being taken to determine our best team and squad as we go forward.”

The selection panel also named the squad for the ODI series against the visiting Sri Lankans to be played between March 10-14 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

All-rounder Andre Russell is recovering from contracting Covid-19, and despite testing

negative over a week ago has been ruled out of the T20 series.

A West Indies spokesman added that fast bowlers Sheldon Cottrell and Oshane Thomas, along with batsman Shimon Hetmyer and all-rounder Roston Chase have all failed to reach the minimum fitness standard in time to be considered for selection.

T20I squad: Kieron Pollard (c), Nicholas Pooran, Fabian Allen Dwayne Bravo, Fidel Edwards, Andre Fletcher, Chris Gayle, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Evin Lewis, Obed McCoy, Rovman Powell, Lendl Simmons, Kevin Sinclair.

ODI squad: Kieron Pollard (c), Shai Hope, Fabian Allen, Darren Bravo, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Evin Lewis, Kyle Mayers, Jason Mohammed, Nicholas Pooran, Romario Shepherd, Kevin Sinclair.

New Covid case changes NZ-Aus T20I schedule

AFF ■ AUCKLAND

A community coronavirus outbreak in Auckland has forced New Zealand cricket bosses to hastily reschedule two T20 matches against Australia as other affected sports assessed their options.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has ordered Auckland, New Zealand’s largest city and the centre of the outbreak, into a seven-day lockdown from Sunday, requiring people to stay at home except for essential shopping and work.

The remainder of the country faces Level Two restrictions which limit the size of public gatherings.

A New Zealand Cricket spokesman said the third match in the current T20 series, to be played in Wellington on



Wednesday, will go ahead but without spectators.

Game four, scheduled for Auckland on Friday, has been moved to Wellington and, again, will be played behind closed doors.

The spokesman said they would wait for Government advice on whether crowd restrictions are to be lifted before deciding if there will be spectators at the final game of the series in Tauranga on Sunday.

20 NOT OUT

Dias, Stones score in Man City's record extending win as Pep's men go 13 points clear at top of the table

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola rates Manchester City's 20-game winning run as one of the greatest achievements of his glittering career. City moved 13 points clear at the top of the Premier League with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over West Ham at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday. Guardiola's side are unbeaten in 27 games and their run of 20 successive victories in all competitions is a record for an English top-flight side. The Spaniard has won 29 trophies as a manager with Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City, including consecutive Premier League titles in 2018 and 2019. But Guardiola believes City's



John Stones celebrates with his Manchester City teammate Ruben Dias after he scores his side's second goal against West Ham

@premierleague

remarkable winning streak this season, amid a pandemic and despite injuries to Sergio Agüero and Kevin De Bruyne, is up there with his finest moments. "It is so difficult. Twenty in this period, in this era, with this situation around the world. To be able to do 20 is maybe one of the greatest achievements we have done together in our careers," Guardiola said. "That doesn't mean we will win titles but we have not had

one week's rest in three months. A game every three days, with the Covid situation, injury situations — to make this winning run shows mental strength." City weren't at their best against in-form West Ham, but Guardiola was delighted with the way they fought for the points. "We didn't paint something nice but there are many of these games during the season,"

he said. "It was obvious to every person who saw the game it was really tough. The opposition is incredible, well composed. "So, a big compliment to West Ham. After 26 fixtures they were in the Champions League positions. They have everything. "It was a really tough game but that is good for us for the coming games, to realise what is going to happen."



STONES FIRES

Pep Guardiola's side are closing in on their third Premier League title in four seasons thanks to priceless contributions from their in-form centre-backs. Ruben Dias, imperious since signing from Benfica in September, put City ahead with his first goal for the club. Michail Antonio equalised for West Ham just before half-time, but the revitalised Stones

bagged the winner with a fine strike after the break. City are enjoying the longest ever winning streak by an English top-flight team, with 14 of those 20 victories coming in the league to leave their title rivals trailing in their wake. "It was really difficult. After 10-15 minutes today we realise we are not going to paint anything beautiful," Guardiola said. "Second half we were much better than the first half. When you play a lot of games, in the league and then the Champions League, this is normal. We were lucky to get all three points. The mathematics matter at the end of the season." Second placed Manchester United and third placed Leicester can close the gap back to 10 points if they beat Chelsea and Arsenal respectively on Sunday. But it is hard to imagine anyone catching City over the last 12 games of the season. They survived a stern test from fourth placed West Ham and ominously for the rest of the league, Sergio Agüero returned to the City starting line-up for the first time in four months. Once he gets his sharpness back, City's record goalscorer will provide a boost to their bid to win an unprecedented quadruple. West Ham had won seven of their previous nine league games, but even they couldn't halt City's relentless march to the title.

BHA MISS TWO FROM SPOT

Elsewhere, West Brom kept their hopes of avoiding the drop alive with just a second win in 13 games under Sam Allardyce in a game overshadowed by a surreal moment of refereeing by Lee Mason that cost Brighton an equaliser. Kyle Bartley's early header was enough for West Brom to seal the tie.



Moise Kean celebrates with his Paris Saint-Germain teammate Kylian Mbappe after scoring his side's opening goal against Dijon

@PSG_English

Mbappe ensures PSG bounce back vs Dijon

AP ■ DIJON

French league top-scorer Kylian Mbappe scored twice as Paris Saint-Germain routed rock-bottom Dijon 4-0 to move up to second place on Saturday. PSG was two points ahead of Lyon, which could reclaim second spot it wins on Sunday. Moise Kean gave visiting PSG the perfect start after five minutes. Mbappe and defender Abdou Diallo combined down the left to find near the penalty spot the Italy striker, who shifted the ball onto his right foot and squeezed it inside the right post. Mbappe netted a penalty in the 32nd following a handball and has converted all five he has taken this season. Five minutes after the break, he clipped the ball into the bottom left corner after neatly being set up by Rafinha for his 18th goal. Center half Danilo headed in the fourth from a corner late on. Elsewhere, Metz hit two late goals to win at Bordeaux 2-1 with a last-minute goal from

Cape Verdean forward Vagner. Metz's improvement under coach Frederic Antonetti continued as it rose to fifth place, while Bordeaux's fifth defeat in six games left it mired in mid-table. Striker Samuel Kalu put Bordeaux ahead in the 13th from Youssouf Sabaly's cross. After defender Thomas Delaine equalized in the 71st with a fine curling shot from the left, Vagner met Thierry Ambrose's cross at the back post. On Sunday, Marseille's fans will be in a better mood for the home game against Lyon after unpopular president Jacques-Henri Eyraud was replaced and Jorge Sampaoli was named as the new coach. Lille faces lowly Strasbourg and Monaco looks to make it 12 league games unbeaten when it hosts Brest. Niko Kovac's Monaco side has not lost since mid-December and comfortably won at PSG at 2-0 last weekend. Lyon will move top on goal difference if it wins and Lille loses.



Messi keeps Barca alive in title race

AFP ■ SEVILLE

Barcelona reignited their title hopes after Lionel Messi and Ousmane Dembele scored in a 2-0 victory over Sevilla on Saturday to put them two points behind Atletico Madrid. Atletico still have two games in hand, the first of those coming against sixth-placed Villarreal on Sunday, but a dip in form from La Liga's leaders has given their chasing rivals hope. Barca looked dead and buried a few weeks ago but this was their ninth win out of 10 in La Liga, a surge that has put them back in contention, with Atletico playing against Real Madrid next weekend. Sevilla started the day as arguably the form team at the top,



Lionel Messi scores Barcelona's second goal against Sevilla during La Liga clash

AP

having won all of their last six league games, the last five of those without conceding a goal. But they were second best at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan, a dominant performance from Barcelona exposing them still as slightly short of Spain's top three. It also creates an intriguing back-drop to Wednesday's Copa

Odisha down East Bengal in 11-goal thriller

PTI ■ BAMBOLIM

Odisha FC prevailed over OSC East Bengal 6-5 in a crazy 11-goal thriller as the Indian Super League on Saturday recorded the most goals in a match through teams whose season was blighted by their inability to score. Doubles from two Indian youngsters Paul Ramfangzauva (49', 66') and Jerry Mawihmingthanga (51', 67') enabled Odisha to end the season on a high, with S Lalhrezuala (33') and Diego Mauricio (69') chipping in. Goals from Anthony Pilkington (24'), Aaron Joshua Holloway (60', 90'), Jeje Lalpekhlua (74') and an own goal from Ravi Kumar (37') made up East Bengal's tally. However the result had no affect on the points table.

Deepak signs off with Silver

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian boxer Deepak Kumar's stupendous run at the 72nd Strandja Memorial tournament ended with a Silver medal in Sofia, Bulgaria after he lost a fiercely-contested flyweight (52kg) final on Saturday. Deepak, an Asian Silver-winner, was up against Bulgaria's Daniel Asenov, a two-time European championships Gold-medallist. The bout ended in a split verdict in favour of the local favourite. The Indian had created quite a flutter in the tournament when he stunned reigning Olympic and world champion — Uzbekistan's Shakhobidin Zoirov — in his semifinal showdown. On Saturday, the Bulgarian seemed the busier of the two boxers in the opening round and was sharper in his counter-attacking game. Asenov's consistent-high guard also denied Deepak a clear shot for most part. Deepak's second round was better and he also put up a stronger defensive performance but the judges ruled in favour of Asenov. In the final three minutes, however, it was Deepak who called the shots for most part, effortlessly dodging his rival's relentless attacks and also launching some strong ones of his

own. But Asenov, despite being visibly jaded, had done enough to seal the issue by that point. "It is disappointing that I could not win the Gold but these last few days have been nothing short of a dream come true. I was determined to make a mark in this tournament especially when I got an opportunity to play against a Champion opponent like Shakhobidin Zoirov in the semis. I am very happy that I could come out a winner. Though a lot of work still needs to be done and I will be focusing on it along with my coaches as I go return to India," Deepak added. A Naib Subedar in the Indian Army, Deepak is also a former India Open Gold-medallist. Earlier, Naveen Boora (69kg) settled for a Bronze medal after going down to Asian Games Gold medallist Bobo Usmon Baturov of Uzbekistan in his semifinal bout. With this, India signed off with two medals at the event this year, one less than what the country managed in the previous edition. None of the Indian women boxers could make the medal rounds and were eliminated by the quarterfinal stage.



Borussia Dortmund players Giovanni Reyna, Emre Can, Jadon Sancho and Erling Braut Haaland celebrate after Sancho scores Dortmund second goal against Arminia Bielefeld during Bundesliga match on Saturday

@BlackYellow

Sancho breaks Bundesliga record

AP ■ DORTMUND

Jadon Sancho brought up his 50th Bundesliga assist as the Borussia Dortmund forward starred in his side's 3-0 win over Arminia. The 20-year-old became the youngest player in Bundesliga history to reach that milestone as he also grabbed a goal from the penalty spot. The England international laid off the ball to teammate Mahmoud Dahoud who then fired into the back of the net at the start of the second half. Sancho then coolly netted from the spot to make it 2-0 to Dortmund before Reinier Carvalho made it three with nine minutes to go. He has now reached the 50 assists milestone in just 99 league games and has 36 goals to go along with that. No other players have ever reached that mark before playing 100 times. Sancho had a relatively slow start to the campaign following the fallout of Manchester United's failed attempts to bring

him to Old Trafford. But is now in red-hot form, as he has four goals and four assists in his last seven games in all competitions. **2 FOR LEWA & GNABRY** Bundesliga top scorer Robert Lewandowski bagged two goals as Bayern Munich routed Cologne 5-1 to end its two-game winless streak and consolidate its league lead. Lewandowski took his season tally to 28 goals as Bayern moved five points clear of Leipzig, which hosts Borussia Mönchengladbach in the late game. Leon Goretzka, making his first league start since recovering from the coronavirus, lifted a cross for Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting to open the scoring in the 18th minute, then brilliantly set up Lewandowski in the 34th. Goretzka received the ball from Lewandowski, turned and played the ball through Cologne defender Rafael Czichos' legs,

before sending it to the right for Lewandowski to score. Defensive errors from David Alaba and Jérôme Boateng allowed Ellyes Skhiri pull one back for Cologne after the break, but Lewandowski killed off any notions of a surprise when Thomas Müller set up his second in the 65th. Müller had only been on the pitch a minute, after making his comeback from his coronavirus infection. Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer almost gifted Cologne a way back when he lost the ball to Dominick Drexler, but the midfielder's effort came back off the post. Serge Gnabry, who came with Müller in the 64th, sealed the result in the 82nd and wrapped up the scoring in the 86th. Schalke moved another step closed to relegation with a 5-1 loss at Stuttgart, and Hertha Berlin's winless streak continued in a 2-0 loss at Wolfsburg.



Iga crushes Bencic in Adelaide final

AFP ■ ADELAIDE

French Open tennis champion Iga Swiatek crushed world No 12 Belinda Bencic in straight sets to claim the Adelaide International at Memorial Drive on Saturday. The 19-year-old Pole was in ruthless form as she downed her Swiss opponent 6-2, 6-2 to claim the second title of her career. Swiatek burst onto the scene at Roland Garros last year when she claimed the French Open crown, defeating then world No 6 Sofia Kenin in the final. She started strongly against Bencic and never eased up, breaking her twice in each set to wrap up a comfortable victory. The women's doubles final



Iga Swiatek celebrates with her team after win in Adelaide final

@iga_swiatek

was won by Chilean-US pair Alexa Guarachi and Desirae Krawczyk, who beat Hayley Carter of the US and Brazil's Luisa Stefani 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 10-3.



'I don't take acting advice from my father'

■ **What is keeping you busy these days?**

I am towards the end of shooting for a Netflix Original project. I can't reveal too much details, but it is a thriller drama. It stars myself, Anil Kapoor, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Mukti Mohan and Satish Kaushik. It will release towards the end of this year. I have also shot a film for Vasan Bala.

Talktime

HARSH VARRDHAN KAPOOR

He was recently seen in AK VS AK on Netflix, though short, his role is receiving a lot of appreciation from the audience.

Kapoor speaks with Musba Hashmi about the show-stealing monologue, people drawing comparisons with his father and how he doesn't take acting advice from him

It's a dark comedy. It stars Radhika Madan and I. It is also a Netflix film and will release sometime in May.

■ **Your monologue AK VS AK caught a lot of attention. Some memories that you have to share.**

When I got the film, though the part was small, but it was a seven-page long script. If I talk about the monologue, it was a unique one because the character was putting on a performance for Anurag Basu. I got the material and worked on it. I was trying to create a character of myself. In reality, I am not at all like it. It's just that the character is called Harsh and is Anil Kapoor's son, but apart from that I don't share any similarities with it. I am not an extrovert or an attention seeking person in my real life. I just played it like any other character. That was all the preparation part. Not to mention, it was great to be together in a project with dad, Sonam and Boney *chacha* which was directed by Vikramaditya Motwane. I have always dreamt of something like this. Also, I have done a lot of improvisations in it and it came out well.

Acting is a personal thing and you can't take tips from anyone. It is about you and how you play the character. Everyone has their way of playing a character. If we talk about the monologue in AK VS AK, I can't ask my dad how will he do it. It is personal and you have to do it your way

■ **When you started back in 2016, did you have the fear of people drawing comparisons with your father?**

I don't want to waste time or energy thinking about the comparisons being made. I don't want to spend my career trying to replicate what my father did in the 80s and 90s. I am different. I know whenever you try to do something different it takes people time to understand it, but eventually your work speaks for itself. My focus is on doing unique and progressive films and that is what I am working towards.

■ **Are you careful about your career choices or do you believe in going with the flow?**

I don't strategise a master plan to choose films on the basis of how much it will earn at the Box Office and how much fame I will get from it. My thinking is if I like Vasu's film *Mard Ko Dard Nahii Hota*, I know if he is offering me a film it will be different from the previous ones. I know he will push me to deliver, just like Vikram did for AK VS AK.

■ **Is there a lesson you learnt in the industry?**

I realised that a movies' success is

judged by the amount of money it has made at the Box Office. This, for me, is a strange fact. I always wonder how only money and not the hard work of the team and the meaning of the film matters. If a film earns good, it gets good reviews. If it doesn't, the reviews will also reflect the same. This is what I have learnt in the industry.

■ **An advice that your father has given to you.**

It's a simple one: Be true to yourself and don't try to imitate anyone.

■ **Do you go to him for tips and tricks related to acting?**

I have always been saying this that acting is a personal thing and you can't take tips from anyone. It is about you and how you play the character. Everyone has their way of playing a character. If we talk about monologue in AK VS AK, I can't ask my dad how will he do it.

Because it is personal and you have to do it your way. But when it comes to career choices, yes I do take advice from him because of his expertise in the field. I do discuss projects with him before taking one up.

YOUNGEST AUTHOR & A GRANDMASTER IN WRITING

SHALINI SAKSENA chats up seven-year-old ABHIJITA GUPTA, world's youngest author and the first Indian kid to ink a four-book deal



youngest author to write poetry and prose.

Gupta began writing at age five. Hailing from the third generation of the renowned poet — Rashtrakavi Maithilisharan Gupta and Santkavi Siyaramsharan Gupta, Gupta has a flair for creativity. She penned her first book amid the COVID-19 lockdown. Titled *Happiness All Around*, it is a book that has short stories and poems with illustrations. The kids love reading this one. The only daughter of proud parents — Ashish Gupta and Anupriya Gupta, Gupta lives in Ghaziabad and studies in Class II, Presidium School

I LOVE TO WRITE. BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I WRITE ALL THE TIME. THERE ARE DAYS WHEN I DON'T WRITE ANYTHING; THEN THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I WRITE LATE INTO THE NIGHT. NOT THAT I AM FORCED TO. MY PARENTS, IN FACT, WANT ME TO ENJOY MYSELF

Indirapuram.

She tells you that she doesn't know when and how she got interested in writing but just one day she came up with a story that she wanted to write and asked her parents for a pencil and notebook. "From that day onwards, I developed interest in expressing myself and there has been no stopping me. I love to write. But it doesn't mean that I write all the time. Sometimes, there are days when I don't write anything; then there are times when I write late into the night. Not that I am forced to. My parents, in fact, want me to enjoy myself. But they also understand that I need to express myself and

support me," Gupta tells you.

Her mother, Anupriya, an engineer-turned-entrepreneur tells you that they never force their daughter to write. "We want her to have a normal childhood and enjoy doing things that kids this age are interested in. She is the one who gets down to writing at odd hours of the day. Sometimes, she will write at night. We are extremely proud of her and will continue supporting her in every leg of her writing journey," Anupriya says.

Believe it or not but this author doesn't need anybody's help when she gets stuck while writing and tells you that she doesn't go to anybody when she has no idea how to proceed further. She just racks her brains and begins from scratch.

She tells you how writing her book was literally a child's play since she loves writing. "I didn't have any problems because writing is something which I love to do. I get ideas from my surroundings, whatever I see, hear or feel. Since I love to write, it doesn't matter whether it is prose or poetry," She says.

Strangely enough she doesn't want to be a writer when she grows up even though English is her favourite subject. "I want to be a pediatrician so that I can help needy people but yes I will continue writing as a hobby. I see so many people who don't get proper treatment because they can't afford the fees. I want to be a doctor and help such people," Gupta says.

Her first book was received with much fanfare among her friends and family. "They are excited and happy to read my books," says Gupta, who launched her second book last week.

Titled *We Will Surely Sustain*, the book is about the pandemic affected life of kids during this period.

"I decided to write this because I feel that all the kids must have gone through a difficult phase and so was I and I thought of expressing this through this book. And the money that I will get, I will donate some of it to the needy people," Gupta says.



'I learnt music on how to be more disciplined'

National Award winner music composer, SHASHWAT SACHDEV, makes his singing debut with Machlo. He speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about what made him take to singing, why he came back to India and Bollywood journey

■ **You are a composer-producer. What made you take to singing?**

I started learning Hindustani Classical Vocal at a very young age. I was three and continued to do so for 21 years from my guru Ustad Ramzan Khan *saheb*. I also learnt Western piano for 10 years. Singing, therefore is an integral part of my composing and producing. Hence, I have always been singing.

■ **How was the experience of being at the other end of the studio?**

I have also been recording on a mis are normal for me. Most of the tracks that I produce, compose and record are sung by me; before anybody else records them even though this is only a small part of producing music.

■ **How did your music journey begin?**

My parents were very particular that I learn music as part of how to be more disciplined in life. I moved to Mumbai in 2017. My first was Phillaury and released the same year. Learning Indian classical music is important. I believe it is part and parcel of life in people who are from small towns. For me, music began as a hobby; it was much later that I decided to take it up as a profession. Producing and composing for films is the most important part in the business. I am glad and blessed that I am getting an opportunity to work with the industry.

■ **You worked on a few projects in the US. Why come back to India?**

I had worked on huge projects in the US. But there were smaller aspects of these projects that I was working on. I was not getting an opportunity to express my creativity or be the kind of music I wanted to do. Since I had so much training in Indian music everybody told me I should be making Indian music. Hence, I came back.

■ **How did you end up in Bollywood?**

I met Rhea Kapoor (film producer) in 2016 and motivated me to come back to India. She gave me a project that she was working on. This was the beginning for me. I am extremely grateful to her that this project kickstarted my journey in the industry. I will forever remain indebted to her. The opportunity that she gave me helped me gain confidence and believe in myself that I had a future here. It gave me courage and fearlessness to continue on this path.

■ **You have composed for web series, TV series and films. How are the three platforms different?**

In the long format, the opportunity to express oneself is much longer. However, the long format shows are more difficult to score than films. In films, if one works on a project, say for six months, there is a certain kind of content that has been created during this period and the entire team is involved and chooses the best part and puts it out in the movie. But in a long format that is, say for 10 hours, you get the same amount of time for a lot of content. The quality of content that you create has to be consistent for the entire duration. After a while, this takes a toll. I respect those who create music for this format.

■ **What next?**

I have a few movies planned this year and a couple of projects are in the pipeline for next year. I am excited for the new music that will come out soon. I hope that the fun that I had during the making of these songs, the listeners have just as much fun when they hear it.

A change that has been for the worse

PADMA PATIL talks about how things have changed in the last few years and the way this change is perceived by different generations

It's a no brainer that the only thing that is constant is change. With time, people changes and so does countries. Even India has changed for that matter. But this change is perceived differently by different generations. For some, it is good while for others it is as bad as can be.

Padma Patil, a retired school teacher and a senior citizen, tells you how our country has changed in the last few decades. "India has changed in many aspects from lifestyle to cities and from clothing to communication. This shows how people are trying to adapt to the new technology. However, while doing this they are gradually forgetting their roots and sometimes history too," she says.

Earlier people used to live a simple life. Everything from their clothes to their lifestyle was normal. But now, with time, people believe in showing off their expensive clothes and accessories from luxurious brands. "They all live a fake lifestyle; they do things for others not for themselves or for their satisfaction. This speaks of how people are more concerned about what others think of them. Their focus

Car was considered a luxury back then and only one out of 10 people owned a car. While today, multistory buildings have taken over the open grounds. This results in cluttering places and leaving no space for children to play at all. This leaves them with no option but to take to playing on roads



is to look fashionable, while humanity in between this is taking a back seat. However, on the contrary, earlier people lived for themselves and to the fullest, while at the same time also caring for others' opinions," Patil opines.

Not to mention, the cities have also changed in terms of infrastruc-

ture. Earlier there used to be few houses and more open grounds. "Car was considered a luxury back then and only one out of 10 people owned a car. While today, multistory buildings have taken over the open grounds. This results in cluttering places and leaving no space for children to play at all. This leaves them with no option

but to take to playing on roads. And this comes with a risk of accidents. Also, there are uncountable number of cars on the road which create unnecessary traffic thereby increasing the travel time for even nearby places. This amount of load definitely affects our planet in some or the other way," she says.

Even relationships have gone for a toss. Back then, there were small houses with big families and everyone lived happily, but nowadays the concept of nuclear families have taken over.

"People prefer to live away from their parents and in some cases they are not happy from their partners as well," Patil explains.

Climate change is one of the major changes that the older generation has seen in the last few years. "In our times, like I said before, there were absolutely no cars on roads and more number of trees. Hence, the air quality was extremely good, but now due to air pollution, climate change has become frequent and bad. This is not only harming our health, but also harming our planet," she says.

the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

The Magic of Mandu

Mandu's geographical location is what made it such an important city. It prospered greatly under the Sultans of Malwa for nearly 200 years

2

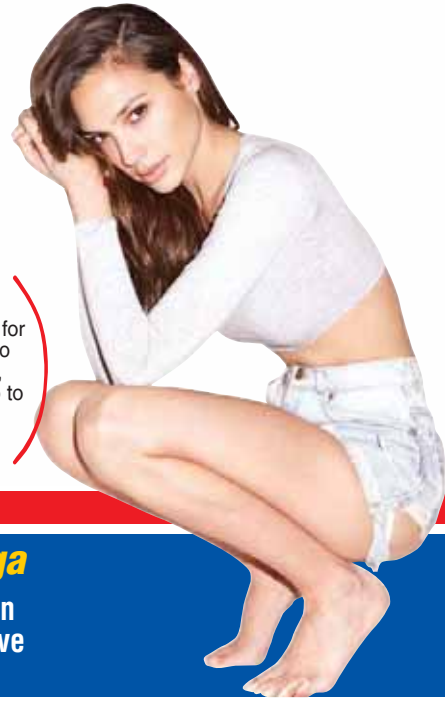


4

Attaining the state of Yoga

In the state of *Yoga*, mind enters an infinite domain having no distinctive existences

It is so important for girls and boys to have a female, strong superhero to look up to
— Gal Gadot



As the pandemic brought the world economies to a halt/slowdown, different industries are leading their way through the crisis and changing the core strategy. DISHA CHHABRA shares top 5 lessons from senior leaders across industries



LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM TURBULENT TIMES

In the last one year, our lifestyles and habits have changed forever. The way we live, eat, play, work is all altered. The resulting lockdowns of countries has brought national economies to a standstill. Salary and job cuts are happening throughout the world. Lives versus livelihood is a constant debate. No one living in these times has experienced a crisis that can be remotely equated to this one. And things are still unfolding.

When we are not going out to eat out but cooking more at home; when we prefer services at home rather than going out; when we need high speed internet to work from home, when masks are the new fashion statement; all these changes in our behaviour shape the way different industries are leading their way through the crisis and changing the core strategy. Covid-19 has impacted every sphere of the corporate world.

The pandemic has had a varied impact on different industries. Across the globe, there have been industries where revenue has gone negative; for some it has even gone down to zero. Industries like travel which relied on people physically moving around even needed to refund future bookings. Entertainment like physical events, movie ticketing, are in the same category. It is not sure when revenue is going to return. Some of these industries fall in the bucket of 'putting off for the future'. For example, people are putting off the visit to the hairdresser and are likely to go back when the crisis eases. These industries are shifting their present revenues into the future. The immediate focus is on cash conservation.

During this crisis, we have all indulged in some kind of hoarding. Be it toilet paper in the western countries or Maggi noodles in India; industries selling products which are essentials and non-perishable are seeing their future revenues brought forward as people buy for the next quarter and at some point in future, the present day spends will impact the future spends.

On the other end, being stuck and home and having a lot of time at hand; people are finding time to take up new hobbies; cooking, gardening and other isolation friendly activities. Baking banana breads became a huge trend. Companies that help provide these virtual classes or sell the raw materials one needs for these activities are attracting a large share

of discretionary spends of customers. This is new revenue for the companies but not necessarily brought forward from the future. However, the growth that these industries are seeing may not sustain once people begin to step out for leisure and entertainment.

And then there are big winners in this crisis. Industries like video conferencing, online grocery delivery, digital payments have seen a huge spike in adoption and have reached levels they would have otherwise expected to reach in order of months to years. These are likely fundamental customer behaviour changes and expected to stay even when the crisis eases. These industries are not only making a lot of revenue during the crisis. And when the crisis is over, the new normal of these industries will be at a higher level. These are industries that are mostly constrained on their supply side to handle the exponential growth in demand.

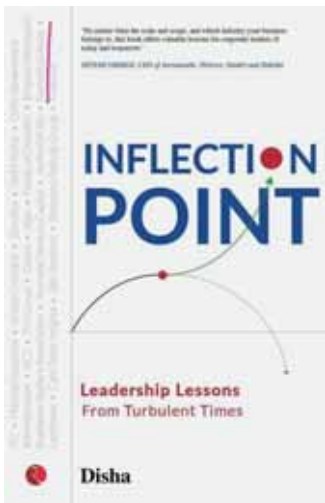
Few years down the line, leadership and business lessons from this crisis will be taught as crisis management case studies in B-schools. Which of these lessons will be permanent armours for future leaders for dealing with any crisis? And do the learnings differ depending on which side of the revenue curve a company finds itself. Does leadership need to be reactive? Here are the top 5 lessons coming directly from senior leaders across different industries and organisations.

LESSON 1: NIMBLENESS

Ever since the world reported its first case, every day has been a roller coaster ride. Situations on the ground have evolved rapidly. Every day has been different from the previous one.

A week before, leaders were checking the sales numbers and reviewing their 2020 plans. A week later, supply chains were disrupted and businesses asked to temporarily shut until further notice. A day before, all our employees were safe. A day later, an entire department got infected. The time horizon of major events was severely shortened.

In a crisis situation, dealing with uncertainty needs less planning, more execution. This is not the time to draw a product roadmap, a 5-year vision or long-term strategies. Leaders are embracing speed, mitigating the short to mid-term consequences to stabilize the situation and stay afloat. COVID-19



THE PANDEMIC HAS HAD A VARIED IMPACT ON DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES. ACROSS THE GLOBE, THERE HAVE BEEN INDUSTRIES WHERE REVENUE HAS GONE NEGATIVE; FOR SOME IT HAS EVEN GONE DOWN TO ZERO. INDUSTRIES LIKE TRAVEL WHICH RELIED ON PEOPLE PHYSICALLY MOVING AROUND EVEN NEEDED TO REFUND FUTURE BOOKINGS. ENTERTAINMENT LIKE PHYSICAL EVENTS, MOVIE TICKETING, ARE IN THE SAME CATEGORY. IT IS NOT SURE WHEN REVENUE IS GOING TO RETURN



has delivered a crash course in agility for organisations of all stripes.

LESSON 2 - INNOVATION

It is said that innovation and creativity love crises and constraints. Crisis brings out constraints and makes innovation almost a forcing function. Leaders often leverage consultants to get a fresh, outside perspective on their organisations to find opportunities to innovate. A crisis can have much the same effect, putting the spotlight on vulnerabilities, problem areas; great and small, that we've been ignoring or are just plain unaware of. When a crisis hits, we are forced to confront the truth about how our systems work (or don't). The places where things could be done better or more efficiently become glaringly obvious. All of a sudden, opportunities for innovation are staring us in the face.

The current crisis is bringing a whole new set of innovations. Services like medicine, education, industrial plant set ups are all going digital. Google and Apple are collaborating on contact tracing. Dunzo is working with brands to get the products delivered at one's doorstep. ITC's personal care team deserves recognition for introducing a range of new health and hygiene products for households. Its hospitality team curated a gourmet menu, which recreates the ITC dining experience for our customers in the comfort of their homes. While these are just a couple of examples, leaders across industries continue to strive to change and innovate to ensure that they deliver nothing short of excellence in their products and services to our customers, despite the pandemic.

LESSON 3: EMPLOYEE WELL BEING

While it may sound obvious, crises are crises because people suffer. In a situation where emotions and anxieties run high, leaders connect with employees and other stakeholders and acknowledge the personal and professional challenges they are going through. Impactful leaders convey their vision in a manner that the employees feel aligned, motivated and rallied against.

Effective crisis management requires integrity, accountability, and moral courage. Thoughtful, frequent, and empathetic communication signals that the leaders share with their organization show they care and are together in the journey that employees go

through. These messages are delivered with "bounded optimism" — hope combined with realism.

LESSON 4: RISING ABOVE SELF INTEREST

What makes a leader is not just thinking about self but for the larger community. Be it giving back to the community in cash or kind or even gestures where one takes care of people who are not directly on the organization's payroll but on the frontline; leaders showcase how it is not enough if the organization alone progresses. No true leader sees crisis as a time to carve out a competitive advantage; definitely not at the cost of a struggling competitor. Compassion is leadership, leadership is compassion — compassion not just for self but for everyone else, especially ones where one has no self-interest whatsoever. If anything, the crisis will make leadership more humane and above self-interest.

LESSON 5: BEING OPEN TO FAILING

In times of crisis, the acceptance of failure and moving on from there to the next step and the next is a critical leadership trait. These are times when given the dynamicity of the situation, decisions need to be made based on the limited information available and many times in decentralized manners. Fail fast is more important than learning and waiting to make the right decision. Different business models are prototyped and many of them may not work. It's ok. Leaders move on.

There are often external circumstances beyond one's control. Leaders are kind to yourself and to their teams. They repivot as many times as necessary. They collaborate with competitors. Leadership is not about the outcome — it is about the process. Even a decision of shutting down the business may look like a failure looking outwards. But the process of arriving at that decision, accepting, communicating and executing the failure can demonstrate leadership. Being open to failure is the biggest lesson from turbulent times.

The onus of leadership lies with each one of us. We all need to lead ourselves, our loved ones, our societies, organisations and countries out of this and every crisis.

The writer is a corporate professional and author of 4 books. Her latest book, Inflection Point – Leadership Lessons from Turbulent Times, has been published by Rupa Publications



The canopy facing the Narmada from where Roopmati looked at the river; Hoshang Shah's tomb; Jami Masjid

Though the cemetery is not easy to locate and gets only few visitors, it is very well maintained. So next time you visit Ranchi, do make time to visit this piece of history. As reads a message at one of the resting places: *Thoughts go back to bygone days. Life moves on but memory stays.*

Lankan Civil War and human rights violation

The Mahinda Rajapaksa Government in Sri Lanka is in trouble again. The horrors of the three decades of Lankan Civil War are revisiting the Government. The two brothers — Mahinda and Gotabaya — are holding the two crucial posts, Prime Minister and President, respectively.

Earlier, Mahinda served as the President from 2005 to 2010, when Gotabaya was the Defence Secretary. During this period, both the brothers crushed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and put an end to the longest Civil War in the country.

However it was the leadership of former Lieutenant Colonel Gotabaya, who finally led the Lankan Army to the successful war against the dreaded LTTE leadership of Velupillai Prabhakaran in 2009. It was good that an ethnic terror movement came to an end that took the lives of many in the past. And the armed forces of this tiny island nation and its political leadership breathed a sigh of relief. Prabhakaran's torture regime was over with his killing in May 2009 at the hands of the Lankan Army.

This had not only shattered the command structure of the Tamil Tigers, but also pushed the outfit to the brink of closure. The organisation had lost both its firepower and manpower. The Lankan Government forces too had received severe casualties though the forces received abundant supply of arms from China.

The end of the war brought the most vital question to the fore — the massive violation of human rights by the Lankan Army. Though the Rajapaksa Government had justified the war, the humanitarian concerns emerging from the number of dead, missing and post-war rehabilitation of the Tamil civilians exposed the extreme level of brutalities that the Lankan forces resorted to.

Both the Rajapaksa brothers turned out to be heroes among the majority Sinhalese population, but questions of the violation of fundamental rights of the Tamils in the North and Eastern part of the country remained unanswered.



And this has been haunting the Rajapaksa Government since the end of the Civil War and now also with the returning of the duo to power.

Sri Lanka is facing a new UN Resolution at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), calling on the human rights abusers to account and asking the country's Government to deliver immediate justice to the victims. Britain and others have circulated a draft of the resolution among the members of the UNHRC.

It is expected to be adopted at the end of the four-week Spring Session of the UN's top human rights body. The session began on February 22 in Geneva.

Both the Tamil Tigers and the Lankan Army were accused of massive violations of human

rights during the war. Therefore, the UN human rights office blames both for carrying out unparalleled brutalities against the innocent civilians during the war.

Germany and Canada are among the six countries that formed the core group along with Britain to bring the resolution on Lanka. Lord Ahmad, Britain's Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth, said: "The victims from all communities of Sri Lanka's brutal Civil War are, a decade later, still awaiting justice for loved ones murdered or missing and dealing with the repercussions of violence and conflict".

He further commented that the current resolution moved by his country in the UNHRC is a vital step towards reconciliation and peaceful

relations among all of Sri Lanka's diverse communities and faith groups. This will bring an added pressure on the Lankan Government, but then how Colombo will respond may only decide the future of the families of the victims.

UN Human Rights chief Michelle Bachelet has submitted her report on Sri Lanka to the UNHRC. While introducing the report to the Council, she said the effect of the conflict on thousands of survivors from all communities was devastating.

She highlighted that 12 years after the end of the armed conflict in Lanka, the domestic efforts to ensure justice for victims have failed.

Further she stated, "Despite commitments made in 2015, the current Government, like its predecessor, has failed to

pursue genuine truth-seeking or accountability processes... Moreover, the systems, structures, policies and personnel that gave rise to such grave violations in the past remain and have recently been reinforced".

This has put the Rajapaksa Government in the dock. All efforts are on to pressurise Colombo so as to offer justice to the families of thousands of victims and missing persons in this devastating war.

As per the records made available by the international media and human rights agencies, the war killed about 1,00,000 people, including 40,000 Tamil civilians, massacred by the Lankan Army in the final onslaught.

However, the Rajapaksa Government completely denies these allegations. An estimated 1,50,000 people were

trapped on the coast at the end of the war. Besides thousands went missing and the Lankan security forces were blamed for the disappearance of the Tamil rebels who either surrendered or captured.

Recently in a meeting with a UN envoy, Lankan President Gotabaya acknowledged for the first time that more than 20,000 people who disappeared during the country's Civil War were dead.

Further his office released a statement that steps would be taken to issue death certificates for those missing. This has certainly dampened the hopes of those who were expecting a positive response from the Government.

Sri Lanka, the island nation, had witnessed the scourge of terrorism for about three decades. The terror fuelled by the monstrous LTTE had claimed many lives, including the civilians, soldiers and high-profile political leaders within and outside the country.

The LTTE under the leadership of Prabhakaran was simply running a parallel Government in the North-Eastern parts of Lanka. Today, the Tamils and other minority groups like the Muslims and Christians are alleging massive violation of human rights by the Lankan forces in the final war against the LTTE in 2009. But the international community must not forget the reign of terror brought by Prabhakaran and his team over innocent civilians across the island.

The LTTE, formed on May 5, 1976, by Prabhakaran was once used to be the only terror group in the world possessing its own military. Its political headquarters was in Kilinochchi, situating at a distance of 200 miles north of Lanka's capital city of Colombo. And this military consisted of three distinct branches — the Tigers (Infantry), Sea Tigers (Sea Wing) and Air Tigers (Air Wing). It had gradually emerged as the most lethal and well-organised terror group.

In fact, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in its report published in January 2008, stated that the LTTE was one of the most dangerous

and deadly extremist outfits in the world and the world should be concerned about the outfit as they had inspired networks worldwide, including the al-Qaeda in Iraq. The brutal tactics and the employment of child soldiers by the LTTE were causing concerns across South Asia in its heydays.

Further some reports indicate that women were also forced to join the organisation. Only after seven years of its formation in 1983, the organisation opened its Women's Front of the Liberation Tigers under the leadership of Vithusha. Like many other African terror groups, the LTTE used to recruit children for combat forces.

As per the estimates of the Sri Lankan Directorate of Military Intelligence, as much as 60 per cent of the outfit's fighters were below 18 years. It was also revealed that the fighters of the Tamil Tigers who were killed in the war were mostly between 9 and 18 years.

These were some of the harrowing episodes of the LTTE that rightly underlines how the terror organisation was simply twisting and undermining the epithets of basic human rights. Initially, it seemed to be an endless saga of terror, violence, torture and a parallel state run by an authoritarian leader.

Today the Tamils are calling for accountability and justice for the crimes committed during the Civil War by the Lankan forces. It is hard time for the Rajapaksa duo to respond to the Tamil minority in their country and to the world Tamil diaspora on this sensitive issue. What is expected from Colombo is quick redressal of the grievances of the minorities in the North and Eastern part of the country.

It is time to accept the responsibility of war crimes on the part of the Lankan Government. It is time to heal the wounds. Else, relationship between the Sinhalese majority and rest of the minority communities, particularly with the Tamils, would further deteriorate.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Wastewater surveillance for detecting early spread of Covid

Sewers or sewage treatment plants can provide near real-time outbreak data as they constantly collect human fluids shed by infected population. Real-time community sewage detection can be taken as early as possible to restrict the movement of the local population, working to minimise the pathogen spread and threat to public health

The ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019, caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), has been declared as a public health emergency of international concern (WHO, 2020).

Several research studies across the globe have confirmed that SARS-CoV-2 ribonucleic acid (RNA) has been detected in faeces of not only symptomatic but also asymptomatic patients. It has also been seen that sewers or sewage treatment plants (STPs) can provide near-real-time outbreak data because they constantly collect human fluids shed by infected population.

Thus, wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) is a promising approach to understand the prevalence of viruses in any given wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) catchment population.

A densely populated country like India will require constant vigilance to contain Covid-19 infection hot spots, unless and until either a vaccine is proven to be effective or herd immunity is achieved, to combat the spread of SARS-CoV-2. Real-time community sewage detection can be taken as early as possible to restrict the movement of the local population, working to minimise the pathogen spread and threat to public health.

This could help the timely

determination of whether there are Covid-19 carriers (both asymptomatic and symptomatic) in an area to enable preventive measures such as rapid screening and quarantine, even before the residents of that city have been tested.

In India, the pandemic steadily rose from April 2020 with peaking in mid-August 2020. The cumulative confirmed cases have significantly lowered at present.

Several research groups across the globe have reported detecting novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater. In Switzerland, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) researchers, working in association with the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG) on wastewater sampling and analysis developed a study in March 2020, which acts as an early warning signal for spread of SARS-CoV-2 in communities. Similarly, in April 2020, sewage sampling across greater Paris (France) for more than one month, researchers have detected a rise and fall in novel coronavirus concentrations that correspond to the shape of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in the region.

Other researchers have also reported detecting novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater in countries such as: Australia (Ahmed et al, 2020),

Cyprus (Michael-Kordatou et al, 2020), Ireland (Cahill et al, 2020), Italy (La Rosa et al, 2020), Japan (Haramoto et al, 2020), South Africa (Street et al., 2020), The Netherlands (Dutch Water Sector, 2020), Spain (Chavarria-Miró et al, 2020), USA (Peccia et al and Hart & Halden et al, 2020), and India (Kumar et al and Arora et al., 2020).

For effective dissemination of knowledge created by the current research efforts, and to empower collaboration on a global scale for wastewater-based epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2, there are various ongoing initiatives such as the European Union's NORMAN - SCORE Joint Initiative (Sewage Analysis CORe group Europe) (score-cost.eu/), COVID-19 WBE Collaborative (covid19wbec.org/), Biobot Analytics (biobot.io/), NSF Research Coordination Network (RCN) (sites.nd.edu/rcn-wastewater-sarscov2/), COVIDPoops19 (https://twitter.com/COVIDPoops19?s=20), Global Water Pathogen Project (GWPP) (waterpathogens.org/) and others.

In IIT Gandhinagar, India, Kumar et al, 2020, for the first time, detected the presence of three SARS-CoV-2 genes (ORF1ab, N and S virus) in wastewater. The samples were collected in May 2020 from Old Pirana WWTP in Ahmedabad

(Gujarat) to understand the application of WBE surveillance in India.

The WWTP has a capacity of 106 MLD receiving effluents of Civil Hospital treating Covid-19 patients. The number of gene copies was found comparable to that reported in the untreated wastewaters of Australia, China, and Turkey and lower than that of the USA, France, and Spain. A similar study was conducted by researchers of Dr B Lal Institute of Biotechnology (Rajasthan) with samples from hospital wastewater as well as from WWTPs of Jaipur, which has been a pandemic hotspot (red zone) since April 2020.

To analyse the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in the community wastewater of different catchments in Chennai city in India, a group of scientists led by Chakraborty et al from SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Mu Gamma Consultants Pvt Ltd (MGC) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) jointly implemented an intensive wastewater surveillance study, the first-of-its-kind in the southern region of India.

The study entailed partial lockdown and post lockdown survey along the wastewater discharge points in Adayar and Cooum Riverine belt flowing through the densely populated region of Chennai to

develop an early signalling spread of Covid-19 in communities during partial and post-lockdown periods in 2020. This study gave interesting insights for informing policy actions.

The wastewater surveillance study in Chennai has the potential for replication in other Indian cities like Delhi as well as upscaling it for larger geographic areas covering a large population. Also, it could potentially be one of the bases for scientifically informed decisions to implement public health intervention strategies consistent with legal and ethical considerations in India.

At present, Delhi has 41 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) with a cumulative treatment capacity of 3,149 MLD. Out of 41 STPs, 32 STPs (2,775 MLD) are operational and 9 STPs (373 MLD) are non-operational. Also, importantly, 75 per cent of pollution is contributed by three major drains

(Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara) out of all the drains falling into the river Yamuna. Given the current sewage management scenario of Delhi, a wastewater surveillance study (similar to the one conducted by SRM IST, MGC and TERI in Chennai) can be taken up in the national Capital to track the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the wastewater samples from major drains

falling into the Yamuna river and select STPs.

The advantages of wastewater surveillance in Delhi will include the monitoring of wastewater samples from sewage treatment plants and major drains of the Yamuna river in Delhi can help in estimating the number of infected individuals, and hence provide robust scientific evidence for informed decision making at the policy level.

This is an early, cost-effective, unbiased community-level indicator of the presence of Covid-19 and of "hot-spots" within a community. It will support risk mitigation decisions for the communities, and guide decisions about where and when to impose or relax more targeted restrictions on movement and activity. It will help alert asymptomatic infections in the community through real-time community sewage detection could be determined.

It will be very useful for positioning resources and triggering public actions for improved health outcomes. It will also alert second and subsequent waves, and develop preparedness towards outbreak of other pandemics in the future.

To track any resurgence of Covid-19, national wastewater surveillance programmes are being implemented in various countries like the USA,

Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, and Pakistan. The same can be planned for India. In the past, WBE has played an important role in the eradication of polio in 2011 in India, and at present, wastewater surveillance continues at 52 WWTPs and unregulated catchment areas for detection of poliovirus.

This surveillance network can be a viable resource for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater in the country, including the national Capital Delhi.

There is a need to identify the key issues and challenges related to the development of validated methodological protocols for the quantitative analysis of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater.

The data generated from the SARS-CoV-2 wastewater monitoring system in Delhi might be used to show a roadmap for tracking disease, intensifying testing, re-introducing public orders related to social distancing or quarantines (if needed), and even lifting restrictions once a cessation of infection is confirmed.

(Paromita Chakraborty is Associate Professor, SRM Institute of Science & Technology, and Girija K Bharat is director, Mu Gamma Consultants Pvt Ltd, Gurugram)



PAROMITA CHAKRABORTY



GIRIJA K BHARAT

