

**OPINION 6**  
THE TURKISH ANGLE IN  
SINO-PAK DIMENSION

**WORLD 8**  
GUNMEN ABDUCT 30 STUDENTS FROM  
SCHOOL IN NORTHWEST NIGERIA

**SPORT 12**  
MITHALI COMPLETES 10,000  
INTERNATIONAL RUNS

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### CAPSULE

#### SURGICAL KIT FACTORY BLAZE: OWNER KILLED

Ghaziabad: A fire broke out in a surgical equipment factory in which the unit owner died and several workers sustained severe burns in Sahibabad area here, police said on Friday.

#### BJP MLA MAKES SUICIDE BID IN ODISHA ASSEMBLY

Bhubaneswar: The noisy protests in the Odisha Assembly over alleged mismanagement in paddy procurement turned ugly on Friday when an agitated BJP member made a suicide bid by attempting to consume sanitiser in the House.

#### BOUT OF LIGHT RAIN LOWERS TEMP IN DELHI

New Delhi: A bout of light rain under the influence of a fresh Western Disturbance brought the mercury down by a few notches in the national Capital on Friday. The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for the city, recorded 2.6 mm rainfall till 8.30 am in the morning and a drizzle thereafter. The minimum temperature settled at 17.9 degrees Celsius.

# Quad pillar of stability in region, says Modi

PM says it's force for global good, reiterates ancient philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Signaling the growing importance of India and its alliance with the US, Japan and Australia under the aegis of the Quad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the coalition has come of age and it will now remain an important pillar of stability in the region.

Underlining the importance of a secure, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, he also talked about the shared values of the four countries.

Making these observations in the first ever summit-level talks of the Quadrilateral countries, Modi also said, "We are united by our democratic values, and our commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. Our agenda today covering areas like vaccines, climate change and emerging technologies makes the Quad



US President Joe Biden speaks during a virtual meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, from the State Dining Room of the White House on Friday

a force for global good."

These statements in the virtual meet came against the backdrop of China flexing its military and economic muscle

in the Indo-Pacific region and vociferously objecting to the Quad alliance. US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga were other participants in the talks.

Incidentally, the summit level talks of the Quad came

months after the Quad nations carried out the Malabar series of naval exercises at a time when the tension at the Line of Actual Control were at a peak.

China has all along opposed the Quad and claims that it will lead to militarisation of the region.

With India emerging as one of the leading players in fighting the challenge of corona pandemic by having world class pharmaceutical industry, Biden said the Quad nations are launching a new ambitious joint partnership to boost vaccine manufacturing for the global benefit, strengthen vaccinations to benefit the entire Indo-Pacific.

Reiterating India's role in fostering friendly ties with all, Modi said, "I see this positive vision as an extension of India's ancient philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which regards the world as one family. We will work together, closer than ever before for advancing our shared values and promoting a secure, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific."

It was in an apparent reference to China's belligerence with India and other nations always maintaining free movement of maritime assets in the Indo-Pacific.

In his remarks, US President Joe Biden said there is a need to focus on generating domestic demand and driving sustainable global growth. He talked about an ambitious new joint partnership that is going to boost vaccine manufacturing and strengthen vaccinations to benefit the entire Indo-Pacific region.

"We are establishing a new mechanism to enhance our cooperation and raise our mutual ambition as we address accelerating climate change," said the US President, mentioning the commitment to ensure the region is governed by international law and it is free from coercion.

Continued on Page 2

## TMC, BJP move EC, seek Didi attack probe

### As TMC alleges conspiracy, BJP asks EC to make video of Mamata poll rally public

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two days after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee suffered an injury in Nandigram during a poll campaign, a delegation of six Trinamool Congress MPs in a formal complaint to the Election Commission on Friday alleged a "deep-rooted BJP conspiracy" behind the attack and asked for an "immediate and unbiased" investigation into the incident.

After the TMC, a delegation of BJP leaders comprising Piyush Goyal and Bhupendra Yadav, Sambit Patra, Swapan Dasgupta, and Om Pathak met EC demanding an independent probe in the incident.

BJP leaders also urged the EC that they should make



TMC MPs Saugata Roy, Derek O'Brien, Kakoli Ghosh and Satabdi Roy come out of the Nirvachan Sadan after meeting the EC team in New Delhi on Friday

public video of Mamata's March 10 rally in Nandigram.

The six-member delegation of the TMC met the full EC team, including Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora, for over an hour and submitted a memorandum highlighting how BJP leaders in West Bengal had threatened the Chief Minister through tweets and other remarks and claimed it was not an "unfortunate incident", but a conspiracy.

In the memorandum, the TMC has made allegations

against Suwendu Adhikari, the BJP candidate from Nandigram in the upcoming State Assembly polls. "When an attempt was made on the life of Mamata, in which she was grievously hurt, to cover up the attack, eyewitnesses were planted, illustratively, eyewitnesses Chittaranjan Das and Debabrata Das, who testified that Mamata's car was hit against an iron pillar, are associates of Suwendu Adhikari, BJP candidate from Nandigram," the memorandum said.

Continued on Page 2

## CBI summons TMC Min, Abhishek's kin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has summoned Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee on March 15 in connection with a probe into a ponzi case relating to ICore group of companies, and TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's brother-in-law in connection with a separate case of alleged illegal coal mining from the Eastern Coalfields Limited mines in Asansol, officials said.

Besides being Trinamool Congress secretary general, Partha is also a senior Minister in the State Government and considered close to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. He has been asked to appear before a CBI team on March 15, they said.

The CBI had registered the case against ICore group for allegedly raising over ₹3,000 crore from the common man by offering high returns and diverted a portion of these funds, defaulting on promised returns, they said.

The agency had taken over the probe into the matter in 2014 and registered an FIR against ICore E-services under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy and cheating. The case was registered at



the behest of the Supreme Court that had in 2014 directed the CBI to take over all cases related to chit fund companies.

Company directors Anukul Maity and his wife Kanika were arrested by the CBI in 2017. Maiti, a prime accused in the ICore E-services scam, died at a Bhubaneswar hospital while under judicial custody. The CBI has stepped up heat against politicians in poll-bound West Bengal as the agency has already questioned the family members of TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee in connection with the illegal coal mining case and summoned two more relatives on March 15 in the case, they said.

Husband of TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's sister-in-law Ankush Arora and his father Pawan Arora have been asked to appear before the investigating officer of the case on March 15 in Kolkata, they said.

Continued on Page 2

## Sonia, Manmohan, Rahul among 30 Cong star campaigners for Bengal

### G-23 leaders left out of phase-1 poll campaign

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi are among 30 star campaigners who will address the party's public meetings in poll-bound West Bengal for the first phase poll on March 27.

The list also comprises former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, former Rajasthan deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and former Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu.

Other Congress leaders who have been roped in to improve the party's chances in Bengal include Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, Punjab CM Amarinder Singh, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel, and former Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath.

Others who are in the list released by the AICC are Abhishek Banerjee, the son of

### Indian National Congress



former president late Pranab Mukherjee, senior party leaders Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Mallikarjun Kharge, Salman Khurshid, Randeep Singh Surjewala, Jitin Prasad, Deependra Hooda and former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin.

However, leaders of the "G-23" faction, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Kapil Sibal, Manish Tewari and Bhupendra Singh Hooda have been left out of the list of the party's star campaigners for Bengal. Akhilesh Prasad Singh, who is a part of G-23, has, however, been included in the list.

Continued on Page 2

### SC: Govt officials cannot work as State Election Commissioners

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday held that a person associated or employed with the Centre or the State Government cannot work as a State Election Commissioner, who need to be an independent person.

The judgment came on an appeal by the Goa government against the high court's ruling on panchayat polls.

## CPM steals campaign march on BJP, Cong

PNS ■ KOCHI

The ruling CPI(M) is at the receiving end of allegations of massive corruption charges and favoritism in appointing youths in Government service. But the party stands at the forefront in finalising the list of candidates and in the campaign for the April 6 Assembly polls.

While the Congress and the BJP are yet to finalise their candidates, the CPI(M) has completed the first two rounds of the campaign in the State where the party has considerable presence.

"The party had deputed group of leaders in each constituency and they have already completed two rounds of campaigning. The Marxist style of campaigning is an ideal study

material for all corporates struggling to sell their products in highly competitive markets," said Suresh Gopinath, an auditor in Ernakulam who keeps track of the CPI(M)'s functioning in the State.

"Leaders of the party had convened community meetings where they had a free exchange of ideas. The leaders solicited from the cadre what more has to be done to widen the party base and network in the concerned region. The community meetings attended by all households in the area are unique because they conclude with the choicest of dishes ranging from biryani to pudding," said MS Giri, Thiruvananthapuram based entrepreneur.

Continued on Page 2

## Retail inflation rises to 5.03% in Feb, IIP falls by 1.6% in Jan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a double whammy for the economy, industrial production growth re-entered the negative territory by contracting 1.6 per cent in January, while retail inflation soared to a three-month high of 5.03 per cent in February on costlier food items.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for January 2021 and Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers for February 2021 on

Friday evening.

As per the data, the contraction in the IIP in January was mainly due to decline in output of capital goods, manufacturing and mining.

The output of the manufacturing sector, which accounts for 77.6 per cent of the IIP, contracted by 2 per cent, against a growth of 1.8 per cent for the month last fiscal.

The worst performance was witnessed in the capital goods sector which showed a contraction of 9.6 per cent during January over a decline of 4.4 per cent during the same month previous fiscal.

Continued on Page 2

## Delhi Govt reserves 5% parking space for EVs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

All buildings like malls, shopping complexes, multiplexes, office spaces, hotels, restaurants and hospitals that have a parking capacity of more than 100 vehicles to set aside at least 5 per cent of it for EVs along with suitable slow EV chargers," he said.

Building premises are expected to be given time up to December to upgrade and incorporate these facilities, he added.

Delhi Power Minister Satyendar Jain has directed all

buildings such as malls, shopping complexes, cinema halls, multiplexes, office spaces, hotels, restaurants and hospitals that have a parking capacity of more than 100 vehicles to set aside at least 5 per cent of it for EVs along with suitable slow EV chargers," he said.

The Delhi Government had launched "Switch Delhi", an eight-week awareness drive to sensitise Delhiites about the benefits of switching to EVs for clean air as well as to make them aware of the incentives and infrastructure being developed under Delhi's EV policy.

## No reason to stop using AstraZeneca Covid jab: WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is no reason to stop using Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid vaccine, the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Friday said after several nations stopped its rollout over blood clot fears.

The WHO said its vaccines advisory committee was examining the safety data and stressed that no causal link had been established between the vaccine and blood clotting.

The UN health agency said that after the injection of more than 260 million coronavirus vaccine doses so far around the world, no deaths had yet been attributed to a Covid-19 jab. "Yes, we should continue using the AstraZeneca vac-

cine," WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris said in a statement, adding that "There is no indication to not use it".

Several European countries, including Denmark, Norway and Iceland temporarily suspended the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine amid reports that blood clots had formed in some who had received the shots.

The European Medicines Agency backed the use of the vaccine, saying its benefits outweighed its risks.

Austria earlier stopped using a batch of AstraZeneca shots while investigating a death from coagulation disorders and an illness from a pulmonary embolism.

Continued on Page 2



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# There should be no politics over patriotism: CM slams Opp

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Hitting out at Opposition parties for opposing the Delhi Government's decision to unfurl the tricolour across the national Capital, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday criticised them saying "will it be hoisted in Pakistan if not in India".

Addressing the Delhi Assembly, Kejriwal said, "There should be no politics of patriotism. India is everyone's nation, be it BJP, Congress, AAP, or any other party. Keeping politics aside, we have supported the Central govern-

ment in every good decision that they have made until now. I remember going to India Gate with a yoga mat when the PM announced Yoga initiatives. When it comes to India, no political party but only Bharat Mata is our priority. I want to ask the BJP, if not in India, will our flag be unfurled in Pakistan, if not in Delhi, will it be unfurled in Islamabad."

Kejriwal said that in the budget, the government announced to unfurl the tricolour at 500 places across the city. "Whenever we see the national flag, we are reminded of the soldier fighting at the

borders. I fail to understand why the BJP and the Congress have been opposing the decision," he asked.

The Delhi Chief Minister said there should be no politics over patriotism and the country belongs to all. "They should support and appreciate the decision. There should be no politics over patriotism. The country belongs to all... I want to ask the BJP whether the tricolour can be hoisted in Pakistan if not in India" he said.

Kejriwal congratulated Finance Minister Manish Sisodia for presenting an excellent and surplus budget despite



difficult circumstances. "Last year, when the government revenue got drastically reduced, many people and media used to predict that we will cease the subsidy on electricity and

water. But, we continued to provide free electricity, water, school education, healthcare, bus rides for women. We will continue to provide all these services for free in the next financial year as well. I want to congratulate the people of Delhi on this," he added.

"We announced to provide free pilgrimage and free darshan of the Ayodhya temple and Lord Rama to our elders in Delhi now that the construction of the temple has started on the orders of the Supreme Court. But the BJP and Congress parties are opposing this decision. I do not understand why. Is it a crime to pro-

vide our elders with a free pilgrimage to a place of worship such as Ayodhya? They want to play politics in everything," said the CM.

"Another dream that this budget seeks to fulfill is that Delhi should be able to host the Olympics 2048. I was reading the statement given by the Indian Olympic Association, where they opposed the Delhi government for claiming this without consulting them. This will be a matter of pride for India and we will seek support from the Central government, Indian Olympics Association, sports organisations, and several other organisations," he

said.

The chief minister further said "Singapore is one of the best nations in the world in terms of per capita income. India is still counted as one of the poorest nations in the world. As Manish Ji said, when will we be counted amongst the developed nations in the world? We have been listening since the start that India is a developing country, when will it be called a developed country? We have to make a resolution. So, we will take all measures for Delhi's per capita income in 2047 to be equivalent to Singapore's per capita income.

## Panel to look into irregularities of funds in colleges: Sisodia



**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has directed the Directorate of Higher Education to set up an enquiry committee to look into financial irregularities of funds in the Delhi Government-funded colleges of Delhi University, saying stringent action shall be taken against responsible officials.

The Deputy Chief minister said, "It has been brought to my notice that several Delhi Government funded colleges of

education certificates seems to indicate financial irregularities. It seems like an attempt to avoid scrutiny and accountability," he added.

He further said the Directorate of Higher Education is hereby directed to set up an inquiry committee - which should include senior accounts functionaries -- to look into how the third quarter grants and existing surplus funds have been spent with transparency. Strongest action needs to be taken against any financial irregularities by these government's colleges.

The development came after Delhi University teachers went on a strike on Thursday over non-payment of salaries for the past six months. The call for university "shutdown" was given by the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) on Tuesday as many employees of the 12 DU colleges, that are 100 per cent funded by Delhi government, had alleged that they had not received their salaries and other dues for over six months.

Delhi University have not disbursed the salaries of teaching and non-teaching staff from the grant-in-aid released for the third quarter of 2020-21. I have also come to know that many of the colleges have not submitted the utilisation certificates of the grant-in-aid given in the third quarter.

"If the colleges have not disbursed salaries, then what has been done with the funds with the college? What is the reason that utilisation certificates have not been submitted? The non-submission of utili-

## Deshbhakti Budget passed in Delhi Assembly

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Deshbhakti Budget presented by the Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was passed in the Delhi Vidhan Sabha on Friday. Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, while responding to the discussion on Budget reiterated that deshbhakti means to envision growth and progress for all.

Lauding the provisions of the budget, he said "The continuous progress and growth of Delhi is deshbhakti for us. Educating students, providing accessible and quality schooling is deshbhakti, healthcare for all citizens and Mohalla Clinics, especially for our women of Delhi is deshbhakti, installing 500 tirangas and respecting those standing under the tiranga is deshbhakti. We believe that treating everyone equally and respecting all.

Targeting the opposition, Sisodia said, "We do not believe in empty promises and zero actions. We believe in fulfilling our promises and truly working for the people of Delhi. The opposition has been in charge of the MCD for the last 15 years but it is astonishing to see that children who study in Grade V in MCD schools are unable to read a Grade II text.

Talking about progress in education, Sisodia said, "As children, we used to study about developed, developing and under-developed nations.

We were always told that India is a developing nation. I believe that we have the opportunity through education to ensure that our nation achieves the status of a developed country.

"We have to envision such a feat by improving our educational structures, our healthcare facilities and providing our

citizens with necessary welfare schemes. It is the ultimate mission of our Government to take our country to progressive heights," he said.

citizens with necessary welfare schemes. It is the ultimate mission of our Government to take our country to progressive heights," he said.

## NON-PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO STAFF AAP lashes out at civic bodies

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief spokesperson and MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj lashed out at the Municipal Corporations of Delhi over non-payment of salaries to teachers, doctors, nurses and other workers.

Referring to a Delhi High Court order dated March 9, he said that the commissioners of all three zones directly responsible for non-payment of salaries of staffs.

Saurabh Bhardwaj further said that the Delhi High Court ordered pension and salary to retired and current employees of the three BJP-ruled MCDs by April 5.

"Despite the corporations being well aware of what situation, the employees were going through, no concrete action was taken. The Municipal Corporation D has not paid teachers, doctors, nurses, sanitation workers, retired employees for a long time," he said.

The AAP chief spokesperson further said, "The MCD Commissioners have now been directed to make these payments with respect to salaries and pensions by 5 April. It must be noted that the MCD lawyers

have made attempts to accuse the Delhi government, but because no arrears were due from our end, Delhi High Court has issued these directions directly to the MCD commissioners."

"The situation of the MCD is absolutely abysmal. Delhi BJP Chief Adesh Gupta thought that the corruption at the MCD can be washed away with the

help of mere excuses but this was not to be. The people of Delhi saw through these excuses which is why in the recent by-elections, the BJP won zero out of five seats," he added.

help of mere excuses but this was not to be. The people of Delhi saw through these excuses which is why in the recent by-elections, the BJP won zero out of five seats," he added.

## Govt paralysed MCDs by reducing funds: Mayors

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Mayors of all the three corporations accused the Delhi Government of paralysing the civic bodies by "intentionally" reducing budgetary allocation for municipal corporations.

In a joint Press conference, all three mayors in Delhi Jai Prakash (north Corporation), Anamika (Anamika) and Nirmal Jain (east corporation) lashed out at the Delhi Government, saying that only the allocation to civic agencies are being reduced despite that the overall budget are increasing every year.

Mayor of South DMC Anamika said that the government is trying to derail ongoing

development works of all three MCDs so it could get political benefits in upcoming municipal elections. She said that in the Financial Year 2020-21, Delhi Government has released Rs 94.89 Crore to the SDMC against budgetary allocation of Rs 106 Crore under 'Urban Development Fund'.

Elaborating it further, she said that under education fund, it has released Rs 390 Crore against the allocation of Rs 451 Crore under mid-day meal fund, the Delhi Government has released Rs 7.02 Crore against the budgetary allocation of Rs 23.70 Crore, under health fund it has released Rs 56.17 Crore against the allocation of Rs 65 Crore and under non-plan overhead it has released Rs

647.22 Crore against the allocation of Rs 1010.26 Crore.

North Corporation Mayor Jai Prakash said that the Delhi Government is selling dreams to people through the budget. "In the Financial Year 2018-19, Delhi government made a provision of Rs 6,930 Crore, in Financial Year 2019-20 it made a provision of Rs 6,380 Crore, in 2020-21 it made a provision of Rs 6,828 Crore and in Financial Year 2021-22 it is just Rs 6,172 Crore which is nearly Rs 700 Crore less than the last year," he said.

East Mayor Nirmal Jain said that the Delhi Government is busy in sloganeering and in releasing advertisements as they have nothing to do with development of the city.

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# Bihar's regional parties set to fight Bengal poll

May prove to be 'vote katus' for BJP and TMC by attracting Hindi-speaking voters



DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Main rivals the TMC, BJP, Congress and CPI(M) apart, the regional parties of Bihar have also thrown their hat in the ring in the high-stake West Bengal poll which is turning more melodramatic as the voting for the month-end first-phase is coming closer and campaigning reaching to a feverish pitch.

The regional parties may prove to be "vote-katus" (vote cutter) vis-a-vis the BJP and the TMC by attracting part of the votes of Hindi-speaking voters in the State. Besides Bengal, these parties may also impact Hindi-speaking voters in Assam.

West Bengal has over the century drawn a significant number of migrants, mostly from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan. Many of them have been settled in Bengal since three or four generations. Their concentration is known mostly around the industrial belt comprising Howrah, Hooghly, 24 Parganas, etc., and the coal belt of Asansol-Raniganj.

Though Maharashtra's Shiv Sena, a former BJP ally, has rolled-back its plan to contest the Bengal poll in a tacit support for the ruling TMC and RJD from Bihar too shelved its plan to put up can-

didates and is now backing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, four other regional parties from Bihar have joined the electoral fray in Bengal.

Janata Da-United (JDU), Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) are seeking to test their 'vote-bank' in the substantial population of Muslims in West Bengal, especially in the areas bordering Bangladesh.

The JD (U) has decided to fight the BJP on nearly 25 seats in West Bengal and over 30 Assembly Seats in Assam.

Still smarting by the defection of JD(U) MLAs to the BJP in Arunachal Pradesh, the Nitish Kumar-led party wants to strike its 'independence' and seeks to send a message to its NDA ally and now the senior partner in Bihar Government.

In Assam, the JD (U) has zeroed-in on constituencies like Moregaon, Navgain, Sahaguri, Ruphar and Laharighat with substantial presence of Hindi-speaking people from Bihar besides the Muslims.

In the 2015 Bihar elections, Mamata Banerjee had extended moral support to the RJD-Congress-JD (U) coalition. The RJD had also won a seat

in West Bengal in the 2006 assembly elections as part of the Left Front alliance.

The jailed RJD chief Lalu Prasad has backed Mamata to "protect democratic values" and "uphold politics based on principles" in the country.

The RJD has, however, decided to contest the Assam polls with "like-minded" parties. It is in talks with the Congress and AIUDEF, led by Lok Sabha MP Badruddin Ajmal, to firm up the pre-poll alliance.

The LJP will field candidates in all the 294 assembly seats in Bengal. In the 2016 Assembly polls, the LJP had contested 63 Assembly seats in the state.

The AIMIM, which won five seats in the recent Bihar assembly elections, wants to capitalize on the sizeable Muslim population in Bengal.

Targeted for allegedly playing as a 'B-team' of the BJP, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi had earlier formed an alliance with Furfura Sharif cleric Abbas Siddiqui to field candidates in the state. However, Abbas floated the Indian Secular Front and moved with the Congress-Left alliance to influence the Muslim votes against Mamata Banerjee.

Former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, who heads HAM, would be contesting on 26 seats in Bengal.

Despite being in alliance with the Congress in Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Friday announced that his party JMM will not contest the Bengal polls and instead back Mamata.

# India, China reaffirm pledge for permanent peace at LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China on Friday reaffirmed their commitment to resolve the continuing stand-offs at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh through continuous dialogue. While they were satisfied with the first phase of pullback of troops from the Pangong Tso (lake) last month, the two sides decided to speed up the pace of resolving dispute at the remaining friction points on the border.

These points emerged from the diplomatic-level talks between India and China under aegis of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Co-ordination on Border Affairs (WMCC). The Indian delegation was led by additional secretary (East Asia) in the ministry of external affairs, the Chinese side was headed by the Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Department.

Incidentally, these talks were held more than a fortnight after the Corps Commanders of the two armies held the tenth round of talks at the LAC on February 20. These parleys took place 48 hours after the successful completion of withdrawal of troops of both the armies from the southern and northern banks of the Pangong Tso. The pull-back started on February 12 nearly ten months after the face-offs commenced from there in early May last year.

Giving details of the diplomatic level talks, the external affairs ministry said the two sides reviewed the situation along the LAC in the Western Sector and had in-depth discussions on the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector.

They agreed that the completion of the disengagement in North and South Bank of the Pangong Lake provided a good basis for the two sides to work towards early resolution of these remaining issues. They

## THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE COMMUNICATION AND DIALOGUE THROUGH BOTH THE DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY CHANNELS

agreed that the agreement reached between the two Foreign Ministers in Moscow in September last year as also their recent phone conversation last month, should continue to guide the work of two sides.

The two sides should continue their dialogue to reach a mutually acceptable solution for complete disengagement from all friction points at the earliest. This would enable two sides to look at broader de-escalation of troops in the area and work towards restoration of peace and tranquility in the border areas.

They also agreed that in the interim two sides should continue to maintain stability at ground level and prevent any outward incident.

The two sides agreed to maintain close communication and dialogue through both the diplomatic and military channels. In this regard, they agreed to convene the 11th round of the Corps Commanders meeting at an early date so that two sides could work towards complete disengagement from the remaining friction areas.

Having completed the first phase of disengagement from the Pangong Tso, the focus of the two sides was now on friction points including Gogra, Hot Springs, Depsang Plains and Demchok.

For the disengagement at Pangong lake, both sides had worked out a step by step agreement which was signed by both sides.

## Officials associated with Govts cannot work as SECs: SC



New Delhi: In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court Friday held that a person employed with the Government cannot work as State Election Commissioners (SECs) and came down on the Goa Government for giving its Law Secretary the additional charge of the SEC.

The apex court said the state poll panels shall be headed by independent persons who do not hold any office under the state government and if they hold any such offices, then they have to resign before taking charge of SEC.

The top court said election commissioners have to be independent persons and no state can appoint a person who holds any office with the Government.

A bench headed by Justice R F Nariman also directed the Goa state election body to issue the notification for the local body polls within 10 days from today and complete the election process by April 30.

"Under the Constitutional mandate, it is the duty of the State to not interfere with the functioning of the state election commission," the bench held in its judgement delivered on the appeal of the State Government.

The judgement came on an appeal by the Goa government against the high court's ruling on panchayat polls.

The case pertained to local body elections in Goa in which reservation of wards for woman and Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes were allegedly not carried out in terms of state law.

The Bombay High Court had struck down the notice of state poll panel for reservation of wards.

The Goa government, in its appeal, had said that High Court could not have interfered with the poll process. **PTI**

# SC notice to Centre, MCI on plea by girl with disability for admission in MBBS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from the Centre and the Medical Council of India on an appeal filed by a girl suffering from benchmark disability seeking admission in MBBS course.

A Bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and S Ravindra Bhat issued notices to the government, Medical Council of India and others while seeking their replies on the petition.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Rajasthan res-

ident Shashi Kumari challenging High Court order dismissing her petition seeking admission in MBBS course despite clearing the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test.

The plea contended that the Certificate issued by the Safdarjung Hospital discriminates against the petitioner on the basis of their nature of disability, whereas she was fully capable to perform all the functions as a medical professional and thus would be eligible and entitled to admission in the Medical College.

# Pregnant rape survivor must be told about legal rights, says SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rape victim, who becomes pregnant, must be told about her legal rights, the Supreme Court Friday said and issued notice to the Centre on a plea for setting up of medical boards in States and Union Territories to decide cases of unwanted pregnancies of over 20 weeks for termination.

Section 3 of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971 prohibits termination of pregnancy after 20 weeks.

"If a woman is raped and is pregnant, she must be told about her legal rights," said the bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde.

The bench, also comprising justice A S Bopanna, took up the larger issue of setting up of medical boards in every states and UTs after lawyer V K Biju, appearing for a 14-year-old rape victim, decided not to seek permission to terminate the 26-week pregnancy of the survivor apparently on account of some medical opinion.

The court has sought response of the Centre in four weeks. Earlier, besides seeking nod to abort the fetus of the

victim, the plea has sought framing of guideline on appointment of medical boards "to decide cases of unwanted pregnancies that has crossed 20 weeks" in every states and UTs for termination of pregnancy.

During brief hearing, Biju said he was not seeking the permission to abort now, but sought setting up of medical boards in states saying "When I was drafting this petition, I had seen the pain of the parents (of the girl)".

"We will issue notice on this (prayer two). We will record your statement that you are not pressing prayer 1 (termination of pregnancy of the girl)," the bench said.

If there is a local board to check such cases, it will be helpful, the bench told Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati who was appearing in the matter.

"It is a different case when rape is not reported to you as a State. If it is reported, there can be some mechanism where you can follow up with the victim whether she is pregnant and what are her legal rights," the bench told the law officer.

The law officer said she will file an affidavit giving all the details on the issue.

# NIA seizes ₹91L drug proceeds in Handwara narco-terrorism case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday said it has recovered ₹ 91 lakh drug proceeds in Handwara narco-terrorism case.

The case was initially registered as FIR No. 183/2020 dated June 11, 2020 at Police Station Handwara under Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir wherein during checking of vehicles at Kairo Bridge, Handwara, accused Abdul Momin Peer's Hyundai Creta vehicle was intercepted by police.

During the searches, Rs 20 lakh along with two kg Heroin was recovered.

The NIA had re-registered the case on June 23 last year and taken up the investigation.

"Recently, NIA had arrested five accused persons from Srinagar and Jammu on March 1 and had taken them on remand for 15 days. Based upon examination and disclosure of arrested accused persons, NIA conducted searches and recovered proceeds of narcotics smuggling to the tune of 91 lakh," the NIA said in a statement.

# Parl panel seeks Indian Medical Service on Civil Services lines

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Appreciating and recognising the role of Corona warriors in combating Covid-19, a Parliamentary panel has joined the bandwagon of country's doctors calling for the creation of an Indian Medical Services (IMS) on the lines of All India Civil Services such as IAS and IPS for the implementation of flagship programmes related to health.

The "moment is the golden opportunity to explore the possibility of organizing Indian Medical Services ... The Committee feels that Indian Medical Services would provide efficient healthcare managers to enhance the success rate of healthcare projects and make policy programmes and specific course of action for fighting against lethal disease," said Parliamentary Committee headed by Rajya Sabha member Ram Gopal Verma.

The Parliamentary panel's views in its report submitted in Parliament recently are in consonance to the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and The Federation of Resident Doctors

**The creation of the IMS cadre has become more relevant in the times of coronavirus, whereby doctors from various specialities can devise effective strategies for controlling the epidemic**

Association (FORDA) demand for setting up such exclusive Service "to bring about a drastic change in the healthcare sector."

The IMS will be responsible for holding the administrative responsibilities pertaining to the district medical officer, project officers of various disease control programmes, and the various ranks of secretaries in the Union health ministry and the state health departments and the heads all other areas in the health sector, Dr Rajan Sharma, the then IMA national president had said in a letter last year in July. The basic qualification to

sit for the IMS examination should be MBBS, he had said. Similarly, the FORDA too had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding a separate cadre for healthcare professionals in view of "situation arising out of the coronavirus pandemic that had stressed the need for improving the healthcare infrastructure in the nation beginning from the grassroots."

The creation of the IMS cadre has become more relevant in the times of coronavirus, whereby doctors from various specialities can devise effective strategies for controlling the epidemic and improving the overall healthcare system in the future, the federation said. "Healthcare systems demand thorough knowledge of the domain. Knowledge of subject specialists (doctors) in devising policies is essential for galvanising the healthcare system of the nation," it said.

The Health Survey and Planning Committee (also known as Mudaliar Committee) had recommended the formation of a central health cadre in its report in 1961, it said.

# Govt launches 'Mera Ration App' for One Nation One Ration Card beneficiaries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has launched the "Mera Ration App" for One Nation One Ration Card beneficiaries aiming for a nationwide portability of ration cards under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Migrant beneficiaries in particular can use it for identifying the nearest fair price shop, check details of their entitlement and recent transactions.

According to Sudhanshu Pandey, Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, a total of about 15.4 Crore portability transactions have been recorded under the one nation one ration card between April 2020 and Feb 2021. "Presently, 32 States/UTs are covered under ONORC and integration of remaining four states, West Bengal, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Assam, is expected to be completed in next few months," he said.

Pandey said that the android-based mobile application, developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), is currently in Hindi and English.

# Kaushik appointed Uttarakhand State BJP president

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday appointed MLA Madan Kaushik as its Uttarakhand State president, replacing Banshidhar Bhagat, who may be inducted as a Minister in the Government headed by the newly appointed Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat.

Kaushik is a fourth-term MLA from Haridwar constituency, and is one of the senior most legislators of the party in the hilly State.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
E-Tender No.: 27-TRD-NDLS-2020-21	Dated 12.03.2021
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:	
1 Name of Work with its location	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE modification work in connection with construction of integrated Transit Corridor Development Plan in & around Pragati Maidan Station.
2 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 29,08,153.26
3 Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 0/-
4 E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	23.03.2021 (00.00 Hrs.) to 06.04.2021 (15.00 Hrs.)
5 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	06.04.2021 (15.00 hrs.)
7 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)	
NIT No.	221-S/4/2/WBP/SSB/ML-IV (2020)
Name of work and its location	Round the clock Transportation of Drivers Line Boxes of Diesel & Electric Drivers and guards from Engine/Train/B. Van to running room/Lobby/Station/ Yard and vice versa at Shakurbasti Station under Sr. Crew Controller, for the period of two years from the date of execution of work.
Approx Cost of work	Rs. 21,70,868/- + GST as applicable (Rs. Twenty One Lakh Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Eight only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 43420/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no.2015/CR-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
Completion period of work	Two years i.e. 24 months from the date of execution of work
Cost of tender document on cash/buy post	Rs. 3540/- including GST @18%
Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 12.00 hrs. on 05.04.2021 Opening of Tender at 12:15 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender will be available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION	
CRS INSPECTION OF ELEVATED TRACK IN ROHTAK CITY FROM KM 0/800 TO 5/650 ON ROHTAK-GOHANA-PANIPAT LINE OF DELHI DIVISION.	
Newly constructed elevated line in Rohtak City on Rohtak-Gohana-Panipat section (5 Km) of Delhi Division will be inspected by Commissioner of Railway Safety. High speed trial of the section by special train will be conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety on 14.03.2021 after trolley inspection.	
General public is informed to stay away from Railway lines in above section. Track should not be crossed. Trespassing of track is a punishable offence and liable for prosecution under Railway Act.	
Issued by 563/2021 Northern Railway Construction Organization	
Serving Customers With A Smile	

# After Feb dip, daily Covid cases soar to 23,285

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After dipping to below 10,000 in third week of February, the daily Covid cases crossed 23,285 mark, the highest in around 78 days, taking the total tally of infections to 1,13,08,846.

The death toll has increased to 1,58,306 with 117 daily new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed. The total active caseload increased to 1,97,237, which now comprises 1.74 per cent of the total infections, while the recovery rate has dropped to 96.86 per cent, said the Union Health Ministry. Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu continue to report a surge in the COVID daily

cases. They cumulatively account for 85.6 per cent of the new cases reported in the past 24 hours.

On December 24, 24,712 new infections were reported in a span of 24 hours. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,09,53,303, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.40 per cent, the data stated. The 117 new fatalities include 57 from Maharashtra, 18 from Punjab and 13 from Kerala.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! IMPORTANT NOTICE	
In part supersession to the public notice published on 12.03.2021 regarding running of 3 special trains, viz (1) 02143/02144 Lokmanya Tilak T. - Sultanpur (2) 04525/04526 Ambala Cantt. Jn. - Shri Ganganagar (3) 06001/06002 Trivandrum Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin, It is inform to all passengers that out of these the dates of run of 02143/02144 Lokmanya Tilak T. - Sultanpur Lokmanya Tilak T. Superfast Special Express Train (Weekly) have been revised as under:-	
02143/02144 Lokmanya Tilak T. - Sultanpur - Lokmanya Tilak T. Superfast Special Express Train (Weekly)	
REVISED DATES	
02143 Lokmanya Tilak T. - Sultanpur Superfast Special Express Train (Weekly) will run from 21.03.2021 on Sunday (Weekly) instead of 14.03.2021 Sunday (Weekly) and 02144 Sultanpur - Lokmanya Tilak T. Superfast Special Express Train (Weekly) will run from 23.03.2021 on Tuesday (Weekly) instead of 16.03.2021 Tuesday (Weekly).	
Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.	
For any kind of Information such as detailed Time-Table and Stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.	
RailMadad Helpline No. 139	Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad app.	
Please join us on	
NORTHERN RAILWAY Always at your service	
Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in	
Serving Customers with a Smile	



# Course correction

Biden defends Asian-Americans targeted by the Right-wingers since the start of the pandemic

Every once in a while in the history of mankind comes a leader who does irreparable damage to a country's social fabric; former US President Donald Trump falls in that category. The incumbent, Joe Biden, has been left to undo the damage that Trump's divisive politics did to American society. In his forthright, no-nonsense manner, Biden has stepped right up to the plate to set matters right. In his first prime-time address, giving details of the progress made in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, Biden didn't mince words in condemning "vicious hate crimes" committed against Asian-Americans since the start of the outbreak. Terming such acts "un-American", he called for an immediate halt to these. The remarks come in the backdrop of China being accused globally of unleashing the virus upon the world, with Trump often referring to it as "the Chinese virus". This unleashed a spate of attacks on Asian-Americans who were harassed and blamed for the outbreak. If a research conducted by the California State University is to be believed, anti-Asian hate crimes more than doubled from 49 to 122 in 2020 across 16 major US cities even as overall hate crimes fell. According to another study by the Stop AAPI Hate advocacy group, more than 2,800 incidents of racism and discrimination against Asian-Americans were reported online across the country between March-December 2020. Though Biden's intentions are good, it remains to be seen whether he can heal the wounds inflicted by Trump's divisive narrative, which targeted not only Asian-Americans but set the Blacks and Whites against each other, too. His reign saw protracted race riots and 'Black Lives Matter' protests across America.



Though Right-wing violence is a result of the Whites' anxiety about Barack Obama's presidency, it accelerated in the Trump era. This is because certain statements by Trump were perceived by White supremacists as the former President's tacit support for their cause. For instance, after the violence in Charlottesville, Trump asserted that "both sides" were equally to blame and that there were "some very fine people" among the far-Right demonstrators. Ironically, many of those "very fine people" were wearing 'Make America Great Again' caps while chanting racist and anti-Semitic slogans. Also, in the run-up to the November 6 mid-term polls, Trump rallied crowds with inflammatory rhetoric about Muslims and immigrants. So, with a country split nearly down the middle, Biden faces an uphill task of uniting hearts. In fact, even US citizens are doubtful if he can get the job done. While a *CNN* survey shows that 67 per cent Americans are confident of Biden's ability to guide the US out of the pandemic and a majority of the people surveyed by Pew researchers said they trusted the new President to make sound decisions on foreign policy and economy, there is less faith (52 per cent Doubting Thomases) in his ability to unite the country. Whether their fears are misplaced or not, only time will tell.

While Biden's intentions are good, it remains to be seen whether he can heal the wounds inflicted by Trump's divisive narrative, which targeted not only Asian-Americans but set the Blacks and Whites against each other, too. His reign saw protracted race riots and 'Black Lives Matter' protests across America. Though Right-wing violence is a result of the Whites' anxiety about Barack Obama's presidency, it accelerated in the Trump era. This is because certain statements by Trump were perceived by White supremacists as the former President's tacit support for their cause. For instance, after the violence in Charlottesville, Trump asserted that "both sides" were equally to blame and that there were "some very fine people" among the far-Right demonstrators. Ironically, many of those "very fine people" were wearing 'Make America Great Again' caps while chanting racist and anti-Semitic slogans. Also, in the run-up to the November 6 mid-term polls, Trump rallied crowds with inflammatory rhetoric about Muslims and immigrants. So, with a country split nearly down the middle, Biden faces an uphill task of uniting hearts. In fact, even US citizens are doubtful if he can get the job done. While a *CNN* survey shows that 67 per cent Americans are confident of Biden's ability to guide the US out of the pandemic and a majority of the people surveyed by Pew researchers said they trusted the new President to make sound decisions on foreign policy and economy, there is less faith (52 per cent Doubting Thomases) in his ability to unite the country. Whether their fears are misplaced or not, only time will tell.

PICTALK



An alpaca family in front of dark rain clouds on a pasture near Wehnder Warte in Wehnde, Germany AP

# Incorrigible

After 'Freedom House', Rahul cites Swedish report to claim India 'no longer a democracy'

It is a matter of serious concern, shame rather, when a few citizens of a country don't fight shy of targeting even their 'motherland' for settling petty scores with a competitor in the pursuit of upmanship. What's worse, to achieve this end, they rely on and quote reports released by foreign establishments debasing the State without realising that the nation can easily see through their game plan: After all, we all live in the world's oldest democracy and experience it every day! Why do we need foreign institutes to tell us the state of democracy in our very own country? However, this simple logic doesn't cut with frustrated politicians like Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury who would seemingly go to any length in their attempts to embarrass the country's incumbent leadership. Days after quoting a report by 'Freedom House' — a US-based organisation that conducts research and advocacy on democracy — that downgraded India's status as a "free society" to "partly free", Rahul has now said India is no longer a democratic country. The research institute had said India was descending into "authoritarianism"; a claim sharply rebutted by the Centre point by point.

This time round, he was citing a report by Sweden's V-Dem Institute that has downgraded India from the "world's largest democracy" to "electoral autocracy". Earlier in February, AAP MP Sushil Kumar Gupta had tried to raise the matter of the Sweden-based institute's report but Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu ticked him off, curtly asking Gupta what the concern of Sweden's institute was in Indian democracy. But the simple point is this: Rather than citing foreign reports for gaining political mileage while simultaneously running down the democratic institutions of his own country, Rahul would be better advised to approach the judiciary if he has any just complaint or apprehension about any type of threat to our democracy. Better still, since he is a Member of Parliament and the erstwhile president of the country's oldest political party, he had better raise the matter in the august House where he has several means available: the Question Hour, notice for discussion, special mention, calling attention notice et al. This will help convey his apprehensions across the length and breadth of the country and force the Government to responsibly respond to his critique.



# The Turkish angle in Sino-Pak dimension



Turkey's decision to lend disproportionate support to Pakistan is part realpolitik, part desperation as it wants to get closer to China

The Turkish imprint on the subcontinental psyche has been complex and divisive since the arrival of Taimurlane, Mahmud of Ghazni and, later, Muhammad of Ghor. Popular perception on either side of the Line of Control (LoC) dividing the modern-day Indo-Pak realm varies, shaped by politics and the insistence of "two-nation" necessities from the Pakistani standpoint, which conveniently overlooks the historical pillage by the invaders. That wounded legacy and memories of bigotry and plunder at places like the Somnath Temple auto-institively became the default trigger for deification of these Turkish invaders in modern Pakistan.

Provocatively, the Pakistani military has named its missiles after these ruthless invaders i.e. Ghauri (medium-range ballistic missile), Ghaznavi (short-range ballistic missile) and so on. One of the 16 companies of the Pakistan Military Academy is called Ghaznavi, and the infamous and rogue Pakistani nuclear scientist, AQ Khan, personally built a mausoleum for Muhammad Ghor! Later, Pakistani dictators like Ayub Khan and Pervez Musharraf were particularly inspired by the Kemalist model and postured themselves on Turkish nationalist Kemal Ataturk. That historically the Turkish invaders ravaged the conjoined swathes of subcontinental land, that Mahatma Gandhi supported the Khilafat movement or that Kemal Ataturk was principally against religion in governance (hence antithetical to the two-nation idea) has been studiously ignored. In both the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars, Turkey was an odd supporter of Pakistan, even though there was no apparent dissonance with India.

Today, both Pakistan and Turkey are in the throes of political and societal revisionism, where they make even more common cause with each other. Both the Cold War US allies find themselves at odds in a recalibrated order that broadly splits the world into "democracies" and various shades of expansionist



"autocracies" such as China, North Korea and Turkey. Pakistan, too, has failed to extricate itself from the Cold War sensibilities of nursing foreign insurgents on its soil and, therefore, the elements of its establishment (military, politicians and clergy) harbour stakes in the terror industry that militates against the interests of one-time allies, like the US. Similarly, Turkey under religion-conservative Recep Erdogan senses an opportunity to seize leadership within the *Ummah* by challenging the control of Saudi-led sheikhdoms, who have relatively nuanced their outlook by "opening up" and having warm relations with countries like India and Israel, to the discomfort of Pakistan.

The reciprocal and asymmetrical support plays out with Islamabad aligning itself to Ankara's position in the Nagorno-Karabakh war, just as Ankara emerges as the only other (besides China) supporter of Islamabad on Kashmir. Washington DC faces a difficult challenge to control and balance conflicting interest with Pakistan, which it needs irreplaceably for securing American interests in Afghanistan and, with Turkey, where it has the strategic Incirlik Air Base

THE UNHOLY NEXUS BETWEEN THE ERDOGAN DISPENSATION AND THE 'DEEP STATE' OF PAKISTAN IS PREDICATED ON THE MURKY DOMESTIC POLITICS THAT WARRANTS BELLIGERENCE, INTER-REFERENCES AND AGGRESSIVE POSTURING FOR ITS OWN REGIME'S SUSTENANCE

that houses nuclear warheads. This leads to a constant tussle of pull and push which brings the Pakistani-Turkish relationship even closer.

Recently, the US put a spoke in the burgeoning military trade between Turkey and Pakistan when it blocked Turkey from supplying 30 Turkish ATAK T-129 attack helicopters (based on the US Agusta A129 Mangusta platform, with US-made engines) to Pakistan. Interestingly, the US had recently supplied India with 22 Apache attack helicopters. Importantly, this blockade was triggered by the Trump Administration and has now been reiterated by the Biden Administration — leaving Pakistan with no choice but to look at China for its Z-10 attack helicopters. This move will accelerate the looping of the triad entailing Turkey, Pakistan and China, wherein the Turkish jointmanship with Pakistan in developing the Siper long-range missiles and the TF-X fighter jets could get access to Chinese technology.

Turkey has already signed a manufacture-and-technology-transfer contract with Pakistan for four Turkish-built MILGEM corvettes, whereas the air forces collaborate with the project of mod-

ernising Pakistan's F-16 fleet as also Pakistan sparing its pilots to fly Turkish F-16s (following a Turkish purge of its fighter pilots suspected to be behind a botched coup attempt) to fly "mercenary missions". For Turkey to lend disproportionate support to Pakistan is part realpolitik, part desperation — as the two nations have the most powerful militaries in the Islamic world and the alliance facilitates the "China opportunity" for Turkey. In return, Turkey saves Pakistan from near-pariah status and parrots the tired "Kashmir" line that has lost its resonance in most countries within the *Ummah*.

The dangers of acceding to the basic instincts of both Turkey and Pakistan have started outweighing the benefits of tactically "overlooking" their repeated misdemeanours. Irrespective of the partisan administration in Washington, the US actions and reactions are following a set pattern, and Delhi is stitching its own alliances to counter the unholy nexus among the triad of Turkey, China and Pakistan. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FIGHTING SPIRIT OF MAMATA BANERJEE

Sir — This refers to the editorial 'Master stroke?' (March 12). It is an irony that an obvious accident is being politicised in our country. It seems that both the TMC and BJP are doing politics on it for brownie points in the West Bengal Assembly elections.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is planning to resume her Assembly poll campaign, which shows her zeal and courage. It also shows her fighting spirit and an indomitable soul to face all adverse situations. Her resolve must be a cause of concern for the leaders of the BJP as they know that the people of West Bengal love Didi and when they see her campaigning on wheelchair, they will vote for her out of sympathy.

However, there is also no denying that she is playing the victim card and will tap the situation to the maximum. The leaders in our country often resort to all kinds of manoeuvres and tricks to win the elections. Playing the victim card is one of these. Many a time, leaders divide people in the name of religion, caste and other factors and create a rift in society. They do it for polarising the votes. Therefore, the recent incident must be thoroughly probed and those responsible for it must be brought to book. Further, if it is a security lapse then it a matter of great concern and it raises some pertinent questions. If the VVIPs and VIPs who have Z+ and Z category of security are not safe, there is no guarantee of the safety of a common man.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

### THE GOVT MUST CONTROL PSUs

Sir — Advocating the sale of inefficient Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is a stereotypical view. There are exceptions as well where public sector companies run as star performers and private sector firms have abysmal levels of efficiency. There are historical reasons that need to be examined. In India, the origin of the public sector during the 1950s stemmed from the lack of large and mature entrepreneurs who could organise large-scale investments with long

## Democracy is not only about polls



In a democracy, people choose their Government through vote. But in our country, people are often misled by politicians in the name of caste, religion, region and other factors. Hate speeches and communal flare-ups have become an indispensable part of election campaigning and have taken a toll on democratic values. Campaigning in a dignified manner by contending candidates and elections held in a free and fair environment reflect the true democratic spirit.

In the US, former President Donald Trump spent four years as a totalitarian, clinging to divisive racial rhetoric, regressive immigration policies and creating a constant whirlwind of chaos and intimidation. It was an explicit use of violence "to coerce a political outcome" that Trump and his supporters failed to achieve through the democratic process. He lost the presidential elections because his campaigns were a systematic organisation of hatred.

Back home, among the States in which elections are scheduled to be held, West Bengal is most complex because of its demography and political climate. A calculated smear campaign is witnessed in the State mainly by the BJP and TMC. These chaotic debates and a ugly campaign have marred the election campaign. On the top of that, the killing of political workers is the worst kind of violence. Democracy is not only about elections, our politicians should realise it.

Seetharam Basaani | Telangana

of the Maharashtra Government to issue guidelines for the Mahashivratri festival stating that not more than 50 people will be allowed at a time inside temples. It was a much-needed step in the backdrop of rising cases of Coronavirus in the State. Further, the Government should mull on closing down all religious places for now. People must understand that strict measures are necessary for bringing the number of infections under control. Also, there should be restrictions like those imposed during the lockdown. Public transport services should stop and the people should be encouraged to work from home (WFH). It is for the Government and private companies to allow their employees to WFH. At this stage, we cannot let COVID-19 defeat us. We have fought very bravely till now.

Jayanthi S Maniam | Mumbai

### CLOSE DOWN ALL RELIGIOUS PLACES

Sir — It was a good decision on the part

## SOUNDBITE

Our achievements are not only for us, but for showing the path to the entire humankind. India's developmental path, intermingled with 'Atmanirbharta', will be the pathway for the world.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

Too often, we've turned against one another. A mask, the easiest thing to do to save lives, sometimes it divides us...vicious hate crimes against Asian-Americans, who have been attacked, harassed, blamed and scapegoated.



US President — Joe Biden

When you come into the industry, there is not so much that you know. You have a set of managers and agencies that tell you what is good and what is not.

Actor — Kriti Sanon

All set to take on Russian boxer Artysh Lopsan in my upcoming fight in Goa. Can't wait to get inside the ring on the rooftop deck of the Majestic Pride Ship on March 19.



Boxer — Vijender Singh

The BJP's patriotism is just a slogan and we do not need it. People need development and not 'fake deshbhakti' of the BJP.



Delhi Deputy CM — Manish Sisodia

Send your feedback to: letterstospioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### TIME TO SHIFT THE GOALPOST

The population growth rate should be assessed from the lens of human development and gender equity



VIKAS MAHATME

Almost three decades before family planning was initiated in India in 1952, Pune in Maharashtra created history when social reformer RD Karve opened the nation's first family planning clinic in 1923 and the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) advocated the adoption of voluntary birth control in 1935. Since then, India has steadily progressed towards population stabilisation by prioritising family planning and has achieved commendable outcomes. For instance, the maternal and child mortality rates have dropped significantly and there has been a progressive decline in fertility rates from 5.1 in 1971-73 to 2.2 in 2015-16. In fact, 24 States have already achieved the population stabilisation goal of a fertility rate of 2.1, that is the number of children a woman will bear in her reproductive years.

Progress is not uniform across the country, given the demographic and sociocultural diversity, with several States still recording high fertility (Bihar 3.4, Uttar Pradesh 2.7, Meghalaya 3.0, to mention a few). Even in the 24 States which have achieved the replacement-level fertility, there are intra-State variations, depending on the level of education, health, employment and gender parity in the regions. People have disproportionate access to health services, including family planning, depending on their socioeconomic status and geographic location. As per the wealth index in the National Family Health Survey-IV, the poorest Indians have an unmet need for contraceptives at 16.7 per cent and a Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR) of 36.3 per cent, as compared to the richest at 11.6 per cent and 53.1 per cent, respectively. As communities attain improved literacy and income levels, and when women are empowered through education and workforce par-



icipation, the number of children they bear decreases naturally. This has been observed in States such as Kerala (1.8), Tamil Nadu (1.6) and Andhra Pradesh (1.7). Evidence shows that women's education has a direct bearing on fertility rates and those who have never been to school are likely to bear more than three children.

A critical look at the religious differentials in the uptake of family planning services will reveal multi-layered aspects of the problem of inequity. Muslims, among all the religious groups in India, despite having experienced the highest decrease in fertility rates between 1995 and 2015 (by 0.79), are still lagging behind others in equitable access to family planning services. With the highest unmet need among Hindus, Christians and Sikhs, Muslims stand at 16.4 per cent, showing that they want to use contraceptives for spacing/limiting births, but are not able to access the same. On the other hand, mCPR for Muslims is lowest at 37.9 per cent, while Hindus are at 48.8 per cent and Sikhs at 65.4 per cent. Therefore, instead of looking at population growth rate from a religious standpoint, it should be assessed from the lens of human development and gender equity, to reach the unreached populations, such as tribal women, slums dwellers and migrants. The NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme must include indicators for family planning and must be a key development indice, with the objective to improve access to family planning choices and services for the marginalised. The Government must set up a full-fledged department for family planning with a dedicated central budget. This could be entrusted with tracking family planning activities and would become a focal point for coordinating convergence of different Ministries and platforms. Family planning is crucial in the aftermath of the pandemic, which has slowed the progress of our Sustainable Development Goals. An UNAIDS report says that the contagion disrupted contraceptive access to more than 25 million couples in India. We need to address this on a war footing.

(The writer is a Rajya Sabha member, a Padma Shri awardee and a renowned ophthalmologist.)

# Mine wayside amenities for economic growth

What is needed is an enabling ambience and interventions from the Centre and States, in terms of hassle-free land acquisition and faster approvals



SB PRASAD PETER SHARP

The wayside amenities sector is evolving as a potential economic trigger in India. The catalyst is a huge network of quality highways coming up across the country. The way things are shaping up, wayside amenities consisting of retail fuel outlets, eating joints, food courts, public conveniences and other commuter-friendly services will create a plethora of gainful jobs and economic activities away from urban spaces and will give a big boost to the local economy in the countryside. According to Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, over 11,000 km of National Highways (NHs) were constructed during the current financial year at an average of 35 km per day. Gadkari has vowed to increase the pace of road construction to achieve a rate of 40 km per day and the Union Budget allocated ₹1.81 lakh crore to highways. The Government has already awarded contracts for 13,000 km of roads at a cost of ₹3.3 lakh crore under the ₹5.35 lakh crore 'Bharatmala Pariyojana'.

Better road infrastructure is loaded with varied opportunities as wayside amenities along highways and byways can be utilised as a marketplace for local artisans by promoting their craft. This will in turn add value to that particular place. The concept of wayside amenities is also in sync with the Central Government's initiative to set up Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), which are aimed at enhancing not only our growers' income but also to ensure that their produce is sold at a remunerative price. FPOs are member-based farmers' institutions to feed the growing population of the world with shrinking resources and a rapidly changing climate. Besides India, countries like China, Vietnam and Indonesia, too, have adopted the FPO approach very successfully. The Government, with an aim to make this initiative a success, is providing necessary policy support. Consequently, FPOs have the potential to be the game changers for small and marginal farmers, who do not have the economic strength to apply production technology, services and marketing, including value addition.

For instance, food courts can have a dedicated corner where they can run retail outlets for the farm produce supplied by FPOs for whom the Central Government has provisioned ₹496 crore for five years (2019-20 to 2023-24) with a further committed liability of ₹2,369 crore from 2024-25 to 2027-28 towards their hand holding. FPOs are being formed and promoted through the Cluster-Based Business Organisations (CBBOs) engaged at the State or cluster level by implementing agencies. The CBBOs will have five categories of specialists from the domain of crop husbandry, agri-marketing, value addition and processing, social mobilisation, law and accounts, and Information Technology/Management Information Systems. These CBBOs will be a platform for end-to-end knowledge for all issues in FPO promotion.

The concept of 'Agri Visit' is very popular in foreign countries. In India, too, at many places on highways, farms are being developed for this purpose. On similar lines, such places can be developed on highways, which, in addition to commercial services, can also promote local goods and services. It will also lead to empowerment and inclusive growth of local communities. Wayside amenities can also promote organic farming in a big way, which is beneficial for all: Farmers, consumers and the environment. There is a need for making organic agri-



THE WAY THINGS ARE SHAPING UP, WAYSIDE AMENITIES CONSISTING OF RETAIL FUEL OUTLETS, EATING JOINTS, FOOD COURTS, PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND OTHER COMMUTER-FRIENDLY SERVICES WILL CREATE A PLETHORA OF GAINFUL JOBS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM URBAN SPACES AND WILL GIVE A BIG BOOST TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Prasad and Sharp are co-founders, Aritraa Corporation. The views expressed are personal.



culture a mass movement, not just for a wealthy nation but also a healthy nation. As per an estimate, the organic food segment in India is expected to grow at 10 per cent during 2015-25 and is estimated to reach ₹75,000 crore by 2025.

The Central Government aims to increase the length of NHs to 2,00,000 km against the current length of around 1,31,326 km. A huge stretch of State roads — around 53,000 km — is being developed as NHs. Around 3,500 km of the NH which includes the Madurai-Kollam corridor and the Chittoor-Thatchur corridor will be developed at an investment of ₹1.03 lakh crore. In Kerala, 1,100 km of NHs will be developed at an investment of ₹65,000 crore, including the Mumbai-Kanyakumari corridor's 600-km section. These highways will change the economic profile of the region.

The 675-km-long NH in West Bengal to be developed at a cost of ₹25,000 crore, including the upgradation of the existing Kolkata-Siliguri route, will not only ensure seamless movement of traffic but will also provide umpteen highway tourism opportunities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many fuel stations also made groceries and other essentials available for the people for purchase. Since the movement was restricted and hygiene was a point of concern, fuel stations became a popular choice for people to buy items of daily need. It was also an occasion for people to appreciate the value of good facilities on highways.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has already started the process of developing wayside amenities at 183 locations along the NHs. Facilities with an area of more than five acres will be developed under the brand name 'Highway Village' and facilities on plots smaller than five acres will be developed under the brand name 'Highway Nest'. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) plans to develop a network of amenities every 50 km on the NHs. So, over 1,000 such amenities will be developed across the country. Private players will also be involved in this endeavour.

However, the country cannot cash in on the economic opportunities provided by wayside amenities if the movement of traffic on highways is not safe. Hence, the rating of roads is very important and recently Gadkari released the ratings for 18,668 km of completed four-six lane NH stretches covering 343 toll plazas. This initiative undertaken by the NHAI aims at improving its accountability towards road users, who pay a fee for the use of developed NHs. The fundamental objective of highway rating is "minimum time with maximum safety in a stress-free environment" from the highway users' perspective.

High-quality highways, coupled with improved standards of living and higher disposable income, would enable overall growth in tourism, never seen before in our country. And hence development of superior way-

side amenities would be a vital infrastructure to boost tourism and add to the employment opportunities for the local populace.

Each toll plaza is being judged on three major criteria: Efficiency, safety and user services. These are further divided into a total of 39 parameters which include average speed; road condition; facility for public; service road; delay at toll plaza; accidents; incident response time; wayside amenities; general cleanliness and so on. These criteria were framed after detailed studies held by the NHAI and MoRTH. No such criteria have been developed across the globe in the past which evaluates the performance of highways from the user's perspective. Better traffic flow facilitates in saving the time spent in commuting, improving customer experience, saving fuel and reducing the nation's carbon footprint. Thanks to visionary leaders, India is going to have many iconic corridors, which are world class, for example, the Mumbai-Delhi Expressway, the Taj Expressway, the Ambala-Chandigarh Expressway and the Delhi-Saharanpur-Dehradun Economic Corridor, work on which is underway.

India is poised for a wayside amenities boom. What is needed is an enabling ambience and interventions from the Centre and States, in terms of hassle-free land acquisitions and faster approvals. It will be a win-win situation for all stakeholders in an evergreen sector, which beckons public-private partnership for a self-reliant India.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

INDIA IS NO LONGER A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY. IT IS NOW AS AUTOCRATIC AS PAKISTAN AND WORSE THAN BANGLADESH, SAYS A SWEDISH REPORT.

— CONGRESS LEADER

RAHUL GANDHI



THESE PEOPLE HAVE A HISTORY OF DESTROYING DEMOCRACY AND ONE CANNOT SAY ANYTHING TO SUCH SCEPTICS.

— BJP LEADER

MEENAKSHI LEKHI

# Militancy of trade unions is a curse for the pharma industry

The sector is in the grip of irresponsible trade unionism as a section of medical representatives holds the drug companies to ransom

The militancy of trade unions (TUs) has done enough damage to the economy of the country. Though it may sound strange, but some of the States have been lagging behind in the race for industrialisation and employment generation mainly because of the militant and irresponsible TUs. For instance, West Bengal which was once considered the hub of industries in India was deprived of investment opportunities, and hence employment and prosperity, due to the activities of the Left-leaning TUs.

Sadly, even the pharmaceutical industry is in the grip of irresponsible trade unionism as a section of medical representatives, which earns well but works less, often holds the drug companies to ransom. As far as Kerala is concerned, the words of



HL KUMAR

The writer is a senior advocate. The views expressed are personal.

'Metro Man' E Sreedharan are pertinent. He says that Kerala has not had a single industrial investment in the last 20 years due to the malaise of trade unionism. He wonders that if Keralites can go to the Middle East and set up an industry there, why can't they do it in India? However, he observes that if any industry comes up in Kerala, it is closed within two years. Without industries, how will you create capital, wealth and add jobs?

Kerala is a cent per cent literate State but it has hardly any jobs for youngsters. Sreedharan cites how industrialist Kochouseph Chittilappilly, who set up an electrical appliance maker V-Guard had to shift 80 per cent of his firm's operations outside Kerala because of a hostile labour climate.

"My State shows a red flag

whereas we should be waving green flags to investors", he says. His words need to be taken seriously.

It is a relief that the Kerala High Court in its recent judgment has taken note of the growing militancy among medical representatives. A drug company filed a writ petition stating that on account of administrative reasons, as well as business exigencies, it had to redeploy its territory branch managers to other parts of the country. The service conditions clearly stated that the employees were transferable. Though most of the staff accepted the transfer and joined their respective postings, some refused to oblige.

With the help of the Association of Medical and Sales Representatives, they caused obstruction to the managerial staff, regional



business managers and sales representatives of the said company in carrying out their duties.

Further, they also approached the Labour Commissioner, Mumbai, with their grievance. According to the writ petition, those who refuse to

comply as well as the TUs have threatened that they will not permit the company to carry on its business activities in the State unless their demands are met.

Similar incidents were reported at Thrissur, Calicut and Parappanangadi where the unions threatened that the entire business would be brought to a standstill if their demands were not met. The deputy general manager lodged a complaint before the senior police officers; however, no action was taken.

While allowing the petition, the High Court in its order said that even if the demand is legitimate, the only option for the unions is to resolve the dispute in a manner known to law. Under no circumstances can the workers resort to violence to further their cause. That would infringe upon the right

of the management to carry on the business.

The pharmaceutical industry is rapidly growing, particularly in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic and also due to India's projected position as the pharmacy of the world.

Given the nation's ambitions to become a global hub for medical tourism and quality, affordable drugs, the need of the hour is to tap into the opportunity so as to grab the world market. But this must be realised by the workers and their leaders, too. However, the general grievance of the companies is that the TUs have their self-styled rules and they often resort to violence.

The normal process of the working of the medical representatives is that they work only up to three pm and remain idle for the rest of the

day. Moreover, it is almost unsupervised work as a company official or manager must give 10-day advance intimation to an employee for a field visit which cannot be for more than three days at a stretch. Even the number of times a manager can visit an employee is fixed.

Hence, there are many such rules that discourage effective supervision and by and large the sales employee is on his/her own. The Government, the judiciary, the companies, the TUs and above all civil society will have to make concerted efforts to stop this menace so as to take the country on the path of progress and prosperity. This is the need of the hour in a post-pandemic world if India is to realise its dream of a \$5 trillion economy and a global economic powerhouse by 2024-25.

CHINA ON QUAD SUMMIT

# 'Countries' ties should not target third party

Beijing: Ahead of the Quad summit on Friday, China said exchanges and cooperation between countries should contribute to mutual understanding rather than "targeting" a third party and refrain from "pursuing exclusive blocs".



US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga will attend the virtual summit, which is the first conclave of the top leaders of the Quadrilateral alliance, on Friday.

Known as the "Quadrilateral Security Dialogue", representatives for the four-member nations have met periodically since its establishment in 2007.

Asked for China's reaction to the Quad conclave, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that "exchanges and cooperation

90 minutes, during which all the four leaders would also lay out their vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific, amidst China flexing its muscles in the strategically-vital region.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in the South and East China Seas. Beijing has also made substantial progress in militarising its man-made islands in the past few years.

Beijing claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea. But Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims. In the East China Sea, China has territorial disputes with Japan.

The evolving situation in the Indo-Pacific region in the wake of China's increasing military muscle-flexing has become a major talking point among leading global powers. The US has been favouring making Quad a security architecture to check China's growing assertiveness. PTI

# Myanmar court extends detention of AP journalist

AP ■ YANGON

A court in Myanmar on Friday extended the pre-trial detention period for an Associated Press journalist arrested while covering demonstrations against the military's seizure of power last month. He is facing a charge that could send him to prison for three years.

Thein Zaw, 32, was one of nine media workers taken into custody during a street protest on February 27 in Yangon, the country's largest city, and has been held without bail. His next hearing at the Kamayut Township court will be on March 24.

Friday's hearing, which Thein Zaw attended via a video teleconference, came at the end of his initial remand period.

Thein Zaw and at least six other members of the media have been charged with violating a public order law, according to his lawyer, Tin Zar Oo, and the independent Assistance Association for Political

Prisoners. Separate hearings were held Friday for the other detained journalists.

Tin Zar Oo and one of Thein Zaw's brothers were allowed into the courtroom to take part in the 10-minute videoconference. Tin Zar Oo said she was able to submit documents giving her power of attorney for the case, but only at the next hearing might be allowed to submit a bail application.

A representative of the US Embassy was also present in court for the teleconference, said Aryani Manning, a spokeswoman for the mission. His translator and a policeman, as well as the judge, were also there.

Thein Zaw had not been seen by his lawyer or any of his family members since his arrest. Tin Zar Oo said visits at Insein Prison, where he is being held, are not allowed because of coronavirus concerns, so his family has been dropping off food and supplies for him at the gate.

# Gunmen abduct 30 students from school in northwest Nigeria

Lagos (Nigeria): Gunmen have attacked a school in northwestern Nigeria and kidnapped at least 30 students just weeks after a similar attack in the region, authorities said Friday.

The latest abduction took place late Thursday night at the Federal College of Forestry Mechanization, Afaka, in the Igbali local government area of Kaduna state, police said.

"About 30 students, a mix of males and females, are yet to be accounted for," the state's commissioner for International Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, said in a statement. Several staff of the school were also kidnapped, he added.

Aruwan said the attack

was carried out by a large group of "armed bandits," adding that the military engaged the attackers and were able to take 180 staff and students to safety.

An unspecified number of the students were injured and are receiving medical attention at a military facility. Security forces "are conducting an operation to track the missing students," Aruwan said.

Nigerian authorities also said that "bandits" were behind the earlier abduction of 279 schoolgirls late last month in the northwest, referring to the groups of armed men who kidnap for money or to press for the release of jailed mem-

bers of their groups. Those girls were later freed following negotiations with the government, and it is not known whether a ransom was paid.

The Islamic extremist group Boko Haram is also known to kidnap young women and force them into marriage, most notably the 2014 attack on the Chibok secondary school in Borno state.

That mass abduction sparked international outcry and prompted the #BringBackOurGirls campaign. Of the 276 girls taken, more than 100 are still missing nearly seven years later. AP



South Korean Buddhist monks and Myanmar nationals living in South Korea prostrate on the road in a march as they protest calling for the recovery of Myanmar's democracy and against the military coup near the Myanmar embassy in Seoul, South Korea on Friday

# Germany regrets neighbours' move to pause AstraZeneca

Berlin: Germany's top health official expressed regret Friday that some neighbouring countries have paused their use of AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine following reports of blood clots in some people, despite the lack of any evidence the shot was responsible.

Health Minister Jens Spahn said that while Germany takes reports of possible side effects from vaccines "very, very seriously," both the European Medicines Agency and Germany's own vaccine oversight body have said they have no evidence of an increase in dangerous blood clots in connection with the shots.

"I regret that on the basis of the knowledge of Friday morning some countries in the European Union have sus-

pending vaccinations with AstraZeneca," Spahn told reporters in Berlin.

Denmark was the first to temporarily suspend use of the AstraZeneca vaccine Thursday after reports of blood clots in some people. The Nordic nation's health authority said the decision was "based on a precautionary principle" and that one person who developed a blood clot after vaccination had died.

Norway decided to follow suit and halted use of the Anglo-Swedish company's vaccine, which was developed with the University of Oxford. Italy's pharmaceutical agency on Thursday ordered a precautionary ban on a particular batch of the vaccine after what it said were "serious adverse events." AP

# Taliban should be included in interim Afghan admin: Russia

Moscow: Russia said on Friday that the Taliban should be included in any Afghan interim administration, ahead of a conference in Moscow aimed at supporting peace talks between the Islamist group and Afghanistan's government.

Moscow is set to host a conference on Afghanistan on March 18 and has invited several regional players, including Taliban representatives. It comes at a crucial time for the peace process ahead of a May 1 deadline for foreign troops to withdraw from Afghanistan.

The United States has drafted a peace plan calling for the current Afghan government to be replaced with an interim administration until a new constitution is agreed and elections held, but Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has refused to step aside for a transitional government.



The formation of an interim coalition government should be decided by the Afghans themselves during national reconciliation negotiations," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters at her weekly briefing.

"At the same time we have noted that the formation of an interim, inclusive administration would be a logical solution to the problem of integrating the Taliban into Afghanistan's peaceful political life." The US-drafted peace plans suggests that under the interim Afghan administration, the national parliament could either be expanded to include members of the Taliban or suspended until after the election. Moscow has said its conference next week is meant to support peace talks held in Doha, which have struggled to yield any breakthroughs. AFP

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**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  
General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Anu D/o Jagdish R/o X-497, Camp No.1, Nangloi, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Nangloi, Delhi since 25.01.2021. In this regard, a case DD No. 01-A Dated 26.01.2021 has been registered at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. The description of the missing girl is as under.  
**Age: 22 Years Complexion: Fair, Height: 5', Face: Round, Wearing: Blue colour suit-salwar and purple colour jutti in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped girl then please inform P.S. Nangloi, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in, providing clue about the missing girl.**  
**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639**  
**Sd/- SHO PS: Nangloi, Delhi Ph.: 011-25947225, 25949470**  
**DP/724/OD/2021**

# S Africa's Zulu King Zwelithini dies at 72

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

King Goodwill Zwelithini, the traditional leader of South Africa's Zulu nation, has died aged 72 after being hospitalised for more than a month, his family announced on Friday.

Zwelithini had health problems related to diabetes, according to local news reports. Zwelithini, the eighth Zulu king, reigned for more than 50 years, making him the longest-serving Zulu monarch. As the traditional leader of the Zulu nation, Zwelithini

did not hold political office but had considerable influence over the country's estimated 12 million Zulus, the largest ethnic group of South Africa's 60 million people.

King Zwelithini was an outspoken critic of the government's planned land redistribution policy, which could affect large tracts of land belonging to the Zulu nation.

The Ingonyama Trust controlled by the king owns 29 per cent of the land of the KwaZulu-Natal province, about 28,000 square kilometers, or 10,811 square miles.

# Gurdeep Singh takes oath as Pak Senator

Islamabad: Gurdeep Singh from the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party took the oath on Friday as a Senator, becoming the first turban-clad Sikh representative in the upper house of Pakistan's Parliament.

Singh, from the party of Prime Minister Imran Khan became the first turban-clad Sikh representative from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan's Senate on March 3. He defeated rival candidates on a minority seat by a huge margin in the election to the upper chamber of Parliament.

Singh secured 103 votes in the House of 145 whereas Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazlur) candidate Ranjeet Singh secured just 25 votes and Asif Bhatti of the Awami National Party received 12.

Forty-seven other Senators also took oath on Friday. Senator Sayed Muzafar Hussain Shah, who has been nominated as the presiding officer, administered the oath to the members-elect. They have been sworn in as Senators for a term of six years (2021-27). PTI

# Journalists' group: 65 media workers killed in 2020

Brussels: A total of 65 journalists and media workers were killed worldwide in 2020 while doing their jobs, according to the International Federation of Journalists.

That is 17 more than in 2019, and the death toll is around the same level as in the 1990s, the federation said Friday as it published details of its annual report on killings.

The IFJ said the killings took place in 16 different countries during targeted attacks, bomb attacks and crossfire incidents.

A total of 2,680 journalists have been killed since the IFJ started keeping count in 1990.

"The ruthless reign of crime barons in Mexico, the violence of extremists in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Somalia, as well as the intolerance of hard-liners in India and the Philippines have contributed to the continued bloodshed in media," said IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellenger.

For the fourth time in five years, Mexico topped the list of countries where the most journalists were killed, with 14 killings. It was followed by 10 deaths in Afghanistan; nine in Pakistan, eight in India, four each in the Philippines and Syria, and three each in Nigeria and Yemen. AP

**SALE NOTICE**  
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

CASE DETAILS	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Ankit Bhadana, Case No-CM (M)-231/2020	Vehicle No- HR38V7561, Make and Model- HYUNDAI XCENT, Manu Yr- 2015
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Kulvinder Singh, Fao 213/2015	Unregistered, Make and Model- MARUTI SUZUKI ERTIGA, Manu Yr- 2013
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Archana Raj, Case No-CM (M) 573/2020 & CM Appl. 29273/2020	Vehicle No- UP14ET7203, Make and Model- CHEVROLET ENJOY LT, Manu Yr- 2015
ICICI Bank Vs Mohan Shyam, Suit No.1324/2018	Vehicle no DL5CN1421, Make and Model TATA TIAGO XT 1.2P, Manu 2016
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Mehkar Singh, Case No-CM (M) 549/2020 & CM Appl. 27986/2020	Vehicle No- UP16DT4118, Make and Model- CHEVROLET ENJOY, Manu Yr- 2015
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Dhereeraj Singh 16/18	VEHICLE NO UP16BH1700, Make and Model MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA LTD VDI, Manu Yr 2016
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Subodh Kumar, Case No-CM (M) 602/2020 & CM Appl. 30659/2020	Vehicle No- UP14FT6208, Make and Model- RENAULT LODGY RXE, Manu Yr- 2016

**Auction Date & Time: 20-March-2021 from: 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM**  
Venue: Godara Yard, Kheawat No:166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrail, Gurugram- 122022.  
**Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)**

ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Muneer Khan, Case No- 229/2020	Vehicle No- UP16AH0220, Make and Model- FORD INDIA LTD, XLT Manu Yr- 2012
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**Auction Date & Time: 20-March-2021 from: 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM**  
Venue: JCS Financial Services & Parking Security Plot No. 112, Old Raipur Road Pakri, Near Kishan Nagar, Kanpur Nagar, Pin 209304, Uttar Pradesh  
**Contact Person- Avinash Kumar (8953652366)**

ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Rahul Yadav, 222/2020	Vehicle No- UP14ET0642, Make and Model- TATA ACE, Manu Yr- 2014
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**Auction Date & Time: 20-March-2021 from: 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM**  
Venue: A. N. Motors 14 Km - Stone, Agra- Mathura Road Runkata Agra- 282007  
**Contact Person- Avinash Kumar (8953652366)**

**Terms of Sale**  
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction. Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No- 7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085, for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the public at large that we are investigating and verifying the title, in respect of the premises more particularly described in the schedule hereunder written which is seized, possessed, owned and/or lent by Dimple Kapoor and Ameeta Kapoor. All those persons/ entities having any rights, title, interest, share, claim, demand whatsoever in respect of the said premises or any parts thereof by way of sale, mortgage (save and except the Mortgage application in respect of the said premises in favour of Anand Rathi Global Finance Limited "ARGFL"), transfer, exchange, gift, bequest, trust, inheritance, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease and license, care taker basis, possession, family arrangement/settlement, decree or order of any Court of Law, Contracts/ agreements, encumbrance, lispendens, and/or any commitment or otherwise howsoever into, over or upon the said premises is hereby required to give notice thereof in writing together with the supporting documents and particulars of any such right or claim to the undersigned, within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the claim, if any, shall be deemed to have been released or waived. The Schedule I herein above referred to (Description of the property) The Mortgage Property bearing Front Side Portion of Ground Floor, 630 Square feet i.e. 70 Square Yards, out of total admeasuring of 179 Square yards, forming part of Property No. 576A, admeasuring 179 Square Yards, Comprised in Kharsa No. 974/576 of Mauja Aliganj, Abadi Jangpura, Situated at Masjid Road, Bhogal, New Delhi-14. **Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)** Shop No. 5 & 6, Pkt-E, CSC, Mayapuri Vihar-II, Delhi-91, 9110063351

**SBFC**  
SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.  
(Erstwhile Small Business Finance India Pvt. Ltd.)  
Address Unit No. 103, First Floor C&B Square, Sangam Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400059 | Telephone: +91 22 67875300 | Fax: +91 22 67875334 | www.sbfc.com | Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. on 23rd March 2021 at 10 AM or thereafter at 10 AM, O - 7, 1st Floor, above Look Sal on, Lajpat Nagar 2, New Delhi - 110024, Faridabad branch D-2, First Floor, N.I.T., Near 1-2 Chowk, Faridabad, Haryana-121001 and Gurugram branch First Floor, Property No. 342/9, Subhash Nagar, 1 st floor, New Railway Road, Gurugram - 122001, Shop No.-B-02 Lower Ground Floor, Front Side D.C.Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, 201102, Ghaziabad. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers, who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.  
Faridabad: PR00830754 PR00797352 PR00818202 PR00824899 PR00693381 PR00830739  
Faridabad: PR00819317 PR00826558 PR00749830 PR00832157 PR00806628 PR00819594 PR00826562  
PR00830042 PR00816187 PR00790779 PR00724632 PR00830601 PR00800255 PR00819458  
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# Sensex snaps 3-day winning run as RIL, banks drag

## Investor wealth tumbles ₹1.37L cr as markets fall



Snapping its three-session rising streak, equity benchmark Sensex tumbled 487 points on Friday as investors offloaded RIL, banks and auto stocks amid a lacklustre trend overseas.

Investor wealth tumbled ₹1.37 lakh crore on Friday as markets declined, snapping their three-session rising streak. After gyrating 1,283 points

during the day, the 30-share BSE index ended 487.43 points or 0.95 per cent lower at 50,792.08.

The broader NSE Nifty tanked 143.85 points or 0.95 per cent to end at 15,030.95.

Bajaj Auto was the top loser in the Sensex pack, falling 3.10 per cent, followed by Maruti, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, Reliance Industries and UltraTech Cement.

Index heavyweight Reliance accounted for most of the index's losses.

Only four Sensex constituents closed in the green — PowerGrid, Titan, ONGC and Infosys, rising up to 2.28 per cent. During the holiday-shortened week, the Sensex advanced 386.76 points or 0.78 per cent, while the Nifty rose 92.85 points or 0.62 per cent.

According to Binod Modi, Head — Strategy at Reliance

## Gold declines ₹291; silver tanks ₹1,096

Gold in the national Capital declined ₹291 to ₹44,059 per 10 gram on Friday reflecting fall in international prices of the precious metal and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, it had closed at ₹44,350 per 10 gram. Silver also tanked ₹1,096 to ₹65,958 per kg, from ₹67,054 per kg in the previous trade.

Securities, after seeing a brisk opening on favourable global cues, domestic equities fell sharply mainly led by selling pressure in financials and auto stocks.

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## Rupee climbs for 3rd day, up 12 paise against USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Extending its gaining streak for the third day in a row, the Indian rupee advanced by another 12 paise to close at 72.79 against the US dollar on Friday amid some easing of crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the Indian unit opened at 72.66 but surrendered some gains as the trade progressed and closed the session at 72.79 — showing a rise of 12 paise to the dollar.

In the last three sessions, the Indian currency has gained 46 paise against the American currency. On a weekly basis, the rupee has gained 23 paise or 0.31 per cent.

Forex market was closed on Thursday on account of 'Mahashivratri'.



Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.57 per cent to 91.94.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.13 per cent to \$69.53 per barrel.

## INBRIEF

### STORES DEPT OF N RLY CELEBRATES WOMEN'S DAY

New Delhi: International Women's Day was celebrated on 10.03.2021 in the stores department of northern railway headquarters office, Baroda House, New Delhi. Eminent women personalities were invited for this Programme. The ladies staff of Stores and other Departments of Headquarters Office, Baroda House have attended this function with full enthusiasm. In the course of celebration, a cultural programme was also organised. Vimla Mehra, a 1978 batch IPS officer was the chief guest of this programme. Jaya Sharma, an International Cricket Player of Northern Railway and Nirmala Ram Lalwas the guest of honour. Chandralekha Mukherjee, SDGM/NR was a special invitee and speaker. This International Women's Day programme was dedicated to the great women achievers in various fields. A documentary on eminent women was also presented.

### VIRTUAL EDITION OF WORLD BOOK FAIR 2021 CONCLUDES

New Delhi: The Virtual Edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2021 successfully concluded on 09 March 2021. NDWBF is a much awaited annual calendar event for booklovers. The virtual edition of NDWBF 2021 made it possible for readers from other nations to visit the fair. The book fair was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Education — Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' on 5 March 2021 on a virtual mode. The exhibition platform, with a 360 degree view environment and an interactive interface as is in a physical fair.

### VIT-AP UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES WOMEN'S DAY



New Delhi: VIT-AP University celebrated International Women's Day by felicitating the women for their accomplishments. VIT-AP University also believe that every human being is born equal. We have a right to dream, live, challenge and thrive just as any other. While addressing the online gathering Gagandeep Kang, the 'Vaccine God Mother of India' said that time it takes to develop and deliver a new vaccine to market is slow until Covid-19. Why think of vaccines when other approaches work? Prevention is better than cure, Preparation compared to uncertain scale of response is needed. Challenges in epidemics are screening needs, availability of trained staff, Surge capacity in hospitals, people/resources and impact on other health programs. Vaccines transformed public health in the 20th century and have a huge role to play in communicable and non-communicable disease in the 21st century.

## Biden admin issues notification to further delay mandatory minimum pay for H-1B visa

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration on Friday issued a formal notification to delay the implementation of the previous Trump regime's controversial rule to raise mandatory minimum pay for foreign workers on the H-1B visa, the most sought after among Indian IT professionals.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The Department of Labour in its federal notification published on Friday said that it is considering whether to propose a further delay of the final rule's effective date and accompanying implementation periods that are currently scheduled to take effect on May 14, 2021, and July 1, 2021, respectively.

Before further delaying the effective date and implementation periods, the Department will provide the public an opportunity to comment, it said. On February 1, the



Department of Labour proposed to delay the effective date of the final rule entitled 'Strengthening Wage Protections for the Temporary and Permanent Employment of Certain Aliens in the United States,' published in the Federal Register on January 14, 2021, for a period of 60 days.

The Department proposed to delay the effective date of the final rule until May 14, 2021, in accordance with the Presidential directive as expressed in the memorandum of January 20, 2021, from the Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, entitled 'Regulatory Freeze Pending Review.'

As stated in the proposal, the 60-day delay would allow agency officials the opportunity to review any questions of fact, law, or policy. The Department invited written comments from the public for 15 days on the proposed delay of effective date. All comments had to be received by February 16, 2021.

## FinMin to infuse ₹14,500 crore in banks under PCA soon

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry is likely to infuse ₹14,500 crore mainly in the banks that are under the RBI's prompt corrective action framework in the next few days to improve their financial health.

Indian Overseas Bank, Central Bank of India and UCO Bank are currently under this framework that puts several restrictions on them, including on lending, management compensation and directors' fees. The Ministry has almost finalised its names of probable candidates for capital infusion, sources said.

The infusion will be made in the next few days, the sources said, adding the biggest beneficiary of this round of capital infusion would be the banks that are under the prompt corrective action (PCA).

## Civil Aviation Min working on demand to bring jet fuel under GST: Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI

The Civil Aviation Ministry is working on the airline industry's demand to bring Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) under the ambit of GST and has taken up the matter with the Finance Ministry, a senior official said on Friday.

Addressing a virtual event on global aviation and air cargo sector, Civil Aviation secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola also said the Ministry has taken specific steps for optimum utilisation of the country's vast airspace, which would help international airlines overflying India as well as domestic carriers in saving costs.

ATF or jet fuel cost, which account for 45-55 per cent of an airline's operating expenses, in India is among the highest in the world and the industry has long been demanding that it should be brought under the GST regime.

## India imposes anti-dumping duty on Chinese antibacterial drug Ciprofloxacin Hydrochloride

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on the Chinese antibacterial drug Ciprofloxacin Hydrochloride to guard the domestic industry against cheap imports from the neighbouring country.

The duty was imposed following a recommendation by the commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR). DGTR in its probe had concluded the product has been exported to India from China below its normal value, which has resulted in dumping and in turn impacting the domestic industry.

"The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be levied for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of imposition of the provisional anti-dumping duty, that is, September 2,

2020, and shall be payable in Indian currency," a department of revenue notification has said. The duty imposed was in the range of \$0.91 per kg to \$3.27 per kg.

Imports of the product from China increased to 377 tonnes during the period of investigation (April 2018 — June 2019) from 117 tonnes in 2015-16.

### GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH.	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH.	NOTAL OFFICE/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	SUPA ROKTAK	TENDER FOR PROVIDING AND FIXING FASTENERS ONSTONE CLADDING OF ALL BUILDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY.	09.03.2021	30.03.2021	21.77 LACS	https://pisc.gov.in	88220360 benubehal@gmail.com
2	SUPA ROKTAK	TENDER FOR HIRING OF AN INDIAN AGENCY FOR SUPPLY OF INDIAN AND FOREIGN MAGAZINES/JOURNALS TO THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.	09.03.2021	31.03.2021	55000/-	https://pisc.gov.in	88220360 benubehal@gmail.com
3	HAFED PANCHKULA	E-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AGENCIES FOR PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF STOCKS STORED IN HAFED'S OWN AND HIRSD GOODWINS IN THE STATE OF HARYANA	09.03.2021	25.03.2021	AS MENTIONED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS	www.hafed.gov.in	0172259020 hafed@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO No. 2162

### AXIS BANK LIMITED

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS

THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENTS PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH.

THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS ("GOLD LOAN FACILITY") IN FAVOUR OF THE BANK TOWARDS THE SECURITY. THE DEMAND NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS CALLING UP THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS TO PAY THEIR OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOWARDS THE GOLD LOAN FACILITY. AS THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT, THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO INVOKE THE PLEDGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 23.03.2021 AT 12.30 PM TO 3.30 PM ON "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" AND "NO RECOURSE BASIS".

DETAILS OF BORROWERS AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT

S. No.	BRANCH NAME	CUSTOMER NAME	LOAN A/C NO.	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	DATE OF RECALL	GROSS WEIGHT
BRANCH NAME: SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
1.	SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	VIKRAM SINGH SHEORAN	919060087927556	278480	27-Oct-20	10.5
BRANCH NAME: FARIDABAD [HR]						
2.	FARIDABAD [HR]	VIVEK MURTI	917060085591117	195870	28-Jan-20	52.6
3.	FARIDABAD [HR]	IMRAN MALIK	91906008866322	116901	27-Oct-20	20.2
BRANCH NAME: VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP]						
4.	VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP]	AMAN PRAKASH	920060036644754	229128	26-DEC-20	49.8
5.	VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP]	AMAN PRAKASH	920060036629807	219667	26-DEC-20	8.9

AXIS BANK LTD. HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REMOVE ACCOUNT/CHANGE THE AUCTION DATE WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTICE. AUCTION WILL BE HELD ONLINE [HTTPS://GOLD.SAMIL.IN](https://gold.samil.in) BETWEEN 12.30 PM TO 3.30 PM.

FOR DETAILED TERMS AND CONDITIONS, PLEASE LOG INTO GIVEN WEBSITE [HTTPS://GOLD.SAMIL.IN](https://gold.samil.in)

PLACE: DELHI DATE: 13-03-2021

AUTHORIZED OFFICER  
AXIS BANK LTD.

### WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS WORKS

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	WORK AND LOCATION	Approx. cost of work in ₹
1	BCT/20-21/375 dt. 10.03.2021	Udhna - Ukai Songadh section : Improvement to drainage under ADEN-Vyara in connection of sanctioned track works for the year 2020-21.	1,29,82,422.78
2	BCT/20-21/376 dt. 10.03.2021	Udhna - Jalgaon section : Maintenance to P.way of UP line between km 3.180 to 77.162 under ADEN - Vyara for one year.	1,47,91,624.04
3	BCT/20-21/377 dt. 10.03.2021	Udhna - Jalgaon section : Cleaning and disinfection of overhead and underground water tank for two years in the jurisdiction of ADEN - Vyara.	4,08,000.00
4	BCT/20-21/378 dt. 10.03.2021	Udhna - Jalgaon section : (1) Recharging of existing dry open well under SSE(W) Vyara & Nandurbar jurisdiction (2) Development of dried borewell in USD-JL section by deepening and checking of yield of borewell at final level under DEN/East jurisdiction.	56,41,697.48

Sr. No. : 1 to 4 : EMD (in ₹) : 0. Date & Time of Submission : On 06.04.2021 till 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening : On 06.04.2021 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed tender conditions please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Manual offers will not be considered. 0723

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

### ICICI Bank PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 6th Floor, S.D. Tower, Plot No-7 Community Centre, Sector-8, Rohini, New Delhi-110085.

Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	M/s. Abhiyan Cargo Private Limited, (Borrower) M/s. Abhiyan Logistics Pvt. Ltd. (Guarantor) Mr. Narayan Prasad Lohia. (Guarantor) Mr. Pulak Vardhan Lohia. (Guarantor) Mr. Nikesh Drolia. (Guarantor) Account No.000751000404.	Commercial property being Premises No.61A, Ambassador Apartment, Park Street, Suite No.12, on First Floor, P.S. Park Street, Kolkata-700016. Carpet area 1700 Sq.Ft. (as per the sale deed) and Super Builtup Area-2444 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 18,21,10,225.54/- (As on February 28, 2021).	Rs. 2,61,80,000/-	March 29, 2021 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	April 08, 2021 From 11:30 AM Onwards.

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagees/ Noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till April 07, 2021 before 05:00 PM else this secured asset will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 6th Floor, S.D. Tower, Plot No-7 Community Centre, Sector-8, Rohini, New Delhi-110085 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before April 07, 2021 before 03:00 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 6th Floor, S.D. Tower, Plot No-7 Community Centre, Sector-8, Rohini, New Delhi-110085 on or before April 07, 2021 before 05:00 PM Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 09163344399/ 09560905989 or M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 8697008233/ 9810029926/ 093110029933/ 01244233933.

Please note that Marketing Agencies 1. M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited, 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt.Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s).

Date: March 12, 2021 Place: Delhi NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

### SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo), Name: Geeta, W/o: Sh. Kamal Singh, R/o: H.No. 8349, Pump House, Near Pani Ki Tanki, PWD Office, Tibbia College, Karol Bagh, Delhi has been missing (alongwith her son: Pratham) from her house since 08.03.2021. A case vide DD No. 95A, Dated 08.03.2021, has been registered at P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi. Their physical description is as under:

(1) Geeta: Aged: 39 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'4", Face: Oval, Physique/Build: Strong, ID Mark: A black mole on right side cheek, Clothing: Suit and Salwar.

(2) Pratham: Aged: 6 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 3', Face: Round, Physique/Build: Strong, Clothing: Green Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Half Pant.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing female and her son, may inform SHO, Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 S.H.O P.S. Deshbandhu Gupta Road, Delhi Ph.: 011-23613252, 8758074029

DP/698/CD/2021.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Subh Laxmi D/o Shrawan Kumar Choudhary R/o H.No.2/3, Dass Garden, Gali No.6, Baprola, Delhi Aged-27 Years has been reported missing/ kidnapped since 20.01.2021 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi vide DD No.86-A Dated 21.01.2021 registered at Police Station Ranhola, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'3", Face: Round, Clothing: Red coloured suit-salwar and pink coloured slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Ranhola, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Ranhola, Delhi  
DP/721/OD/2021 Tel.: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003

### SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is here by informed that one girl Name: Chanchal, D/o Dhaniram, R/o H. No. 114, Pitampura Village, Delhi. Age: 17 years, Height: 4'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Wearing: Orange Top & Blue Jeans, has been missing / kidnapped since 19.02.2021 from the area of PS. Rani Bagh, Delhi.

In this regard a FIR No. 106/21 U/s 363 dated 20.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. Rani Bagh, 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](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi  
FAX: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-25946700, 25946710  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/731/OD/2021

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one male namely Sheikh Tanvir S/o Sheikh Gulam R/o N-38/160 T-Huts CD Park, Jahangir Puri, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from in the area of PS: Jahangir Puri, Delhi since 03.03.2021. In this regard, a case DD No. 45-A dated 03.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi. The description of the missing person as under.

Age: 27 Years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'8", Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Grey colour Jacket Blue Jeans and Black Boot in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped male then please inform P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Sd/- S.H.O.  
Fax No. 011-24368639 PS: Jahangir Puri, Delhi  
DP/711/NW/2021 Phone: 011-27631600



**Bollywood**  
 'Love is quite simple. We kind of twist things ourselves including our thoughts.'  
 —Karan Singh Grover

https://www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

**SHORTCIRCUITS**



**SHAAN**

*Tu Jo Haan Kahe Toh Haan* will have to be one of the most catchy tracks I have curated so far. It's got this happy vibe, which is quite infectious. I stayed away from featuring on the video since the target audience is a much younger generation and, with me featuring in the video they may not relate to the song.



**ARIJIT SINGH**

I make my debut as a music composer with a project very close to my heart. I am honoured to serve music to the world. The endearing story of Sandhya of self-belief and triumph is much like my musical journey and I feel honoured to be associated with a special film like *Pagglait*.



**DINESH VIJAN**

Digital is a significant contributor but the difference for me is that the audience chooses to go to a theatre and watch a film, so it is a more challenging or daunting task to do. It's because you need to engage your viewer to come, watch and like the film.



**RIDHI DOGRA**

*The Married Woman* has been a great journey, which I will cherish forever. When I watched the entire show recently, I got emotional. When the song *Bematlab* started playing, I started crying. I was wondering why I did I cry since I had only played the character. I could feel Astha's pain and journey.

**VANESSA KIRBY**

It's quite mad to think that Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have seen *The Crown*. What a crazy life concept to have a show made, about literally your grandparents and their lives, and then I guess, you know, that yours is possibly forthcoming.



**CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES**

# AN ACTOR, NOT A STAR

PANKAJ TRIPATHI has aced the game of getting into the skin of characters, says SAIMI SATTAR

What do the menacing and overpowering Kaleen bhaiyya (*Mirzapur* Season 1 & 2), the common man Lal Bihari in *Kaagaz* and Anup Saxena, the wind beneath *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl's* wings and the power-hungry Guruji in *Sacred Games* have in common? Of course the actor, Pankaj Tripathi, playing these diverse roles with his trademark finesse.

When one wonders at the effortless switch between characters, Tripathi explains that he relies upon, "A combination of a method, a process, life experiences and imagination. I hear the director's vision and after that, I don't venture around the monitor. It is the director's job to watch it." He does not interact with the director and hardly talks to him before the shooting. "Because, of late, there's hardly any time," he adds.

That is not surprising considering he is for all practical purposes named the 'man of 2020' in entertainment as we have seen a deluge of films and series, in the past 12 months, on the OTT platforms. Starting with *Angrezi Medium* going on to *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl*, *Mirzapur 2*, *Ludo*, *Criminal Justice: Behind Closed Doors*, *Shakela* and *Kaagaz*. Releasing next week is *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar*, a black comedy directed and produced by Dibakar Banerjee.

Tripathi himself concurs. "When I took a break recently, I realised that I had worked a lot just before the lockdown. I should have taken it easy. I don't know how I was managing it," he says in chaste Hindi laced with the matter-of-fact tone that he is known for. He's befuddled at the sheer volume as, he now points out that, a series is equivalent to three films so *Mirzapur* and *Criminal Justice* would add up to six and, then, there were three films too. "It means nine films. I am unaware as to how I was doing it. But the good thing is that — despite so much — I would still say, I am not overexposed and neither have my shortcomings, as an actor, become common knowledge. My honour remained intact," he says, a sense of satisfaction palpable in his voice.

We move on to his last release, *Kaagaz*, which talks about the need for papers to prove the existence of a person and he says, "Our film is a period drama set between 1970-93. The director, Satish Kaushik wanted to show a fight between the system and a person. In the film, the character says, 'Whenever the system's mouth opens, it demands the sacrifice of a common man.'"

Though *Kaagaz* was hailed in the



media as the film where he plays the lead for the first time but the assertion seems to be surprising. Talk about *Ludo* or *Mirzapur* and his is the first name that comes to mind before any other actor in the ensemble cast in both. Tripathi too concurs. "I also don't get this discussion because I've considered characters that might have had a screen time of 10 minutes as leads. It's like 10 minutes of the character's life were seen in the film and not the remaining. *Kaagaz* is two hours of Lal Bihari's life. Everything is the main role in real life and in cinema, everything is a role. Everyone is playing a lead role in their life or wants to play it and that's why there are so many problems. A lead role means that the story should be mine or everyone should understand me," he says sagely.

However, he says that he puts in equal amount of sincerity irrespective of the role's screen time. Since the character in *Kaagaz* is based on a real person, who was declared dead, did Tripathi meet him for inspiration. "I met and spoke to him for 10 minutes and looked at him for about half an

hour. I didn't take any reference points from his body language, mannerisms or behaviour because the audience doesn't know Lal Bihari. I wanted to do justice to his inner struggle, conflict and mental strength. That thought was already there in the script, which I followed," says the actor.

Tripathi draws on his wide variety of experiences to play any role and lists joining hotel management and, later, Geeta Press — both of which he didn't enjoy — as adding depth to the characters that he plays. "These help me 100 per cent. *Jitne ghaat ka paani piyenge, wo experience hoga...* My life experiences are responsible for me being natural in front of the camera. Everyone talks about my natural acting or uses words like gifted, flawless to describe it. But this is practiced natural and the comfort in my acting comes from there," says Tripathi.

Having worked in two diverse industries, Tripathi finally settled on acting as a profession when, after working in plays in his village, he realised that, "I liked doing it and overtime didn't feel like a burden.

Sometimes I worked for 15 hours at a stretch but it didn't matter." So he enrolled at National School of Drama from where he graduated in 2004 and landed an uncredited role in the film *Run*. As an outsider, the going was tough. "I did have problems initially in getting work and wandered from one studio to the other one. But it was an organic process. Why should they give me work was always a question," he says.

Would he say it was nepotism that hampered his progress? "The debate is more to do with who will play the lead in a film. Nepotism is about who was launched by whom. Our audience is aware that if someone doesn't have the talent, irrespective of whose child it is, they reject him/her. Moreover, there's no debate about nepotism in the role of a character actor. And 80 per cent of the people who come to Mumbai from different parts of the country are not aiming to be the romantic leads. They come here after honing their craft in theatre and if they're talented, they get good roles. I find the film industry to be a very democratic and unique place," he says. And there are no doubts that he can be classified as one given that when a director wanted to cast him recently, Tripathi could accommodate him only after March 2022!

A lot of credit for Tripathi making a mark initially goes to *Gangs of Wasseypur* (2012), the cult film, where he played Sultan Qureshi. That he landed the role after eight hours of audition is something which has now passed into film folklore. "Mukesh Chhabra (casting director) made me do every scene in a variety of ways. And now when he goes for acting workshops, whether it is at Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) or at other places, where he interacts with aspiring actors, he shows this clip to demonstrate and analyse how an audition is done and what is the process," he says without a trace of pride that would have been normal in any actor who is not as rooted as Tripathi is.

His slice-of-life films and series, especially during the lockdown last year, made phenomenal inroads into our lives. The primacy of talent over star power was inbuilt into this development. "This should have happened earlier. Cinema never paid attention to people like us. The OTT platform picked me and placed me on a poster," he says and explains, "Talent is appreciated because there's no pressure of a Friday opening. I am not an expert but, as per my understanding, if the performance is good and the story is grip-

ping, people get connected to it. If that's not so, they stop watching after the first or second episode."

Another definite shift, which has been witnessed, is the change in content. Tripathi feels this is due to both the audience and the filmmakers. "The audience exposure has increased as, with the advent of the internet, people can see world cinema and compare it. Earlier, we had been eating the same cuisine. When we experimented with food, we came to know that there are many kinds in the world. At the same time, amazing storytellers like Imtiaz Ali, Himanshu Dhulia, Anurag Basu, Anurag Kashyap, Neeraj Ghaywan and more — who were outsiders — burst upon the scene. Sharan Sharma, the director of *Gunjan Saxena*, is 25-26 years old. I was very impressed with the way he works," he says.

With directors who call small towns and cities home, the narrative too has shifted from metros, says the actor. While these changes are external, the choice of one particular kind of role is something that Tripathi himself determined — the type of father that he plays to young women in films — given that he has a young daughter. "The father I portray in reel life, when it comes to daughters, is the kind I want to be in real life... But in the case of sons, I am an absolutely different father. The one in *Mirzapur* is cunning. When it comes to daughters, I am simple, kind and a brilliant human being," he says and one can immediately think of *Bareilly ki Barfi's* Narottam Mishra who does not mind sharing a cigarette with his daughter, Bitti.

Tripathi does not shy away from endorsing women's rights. Post *Criminal Justice* he starred in a video where he spoke about the importance of consent. "I made it because consent is very important whether it is pre- or post-marriage. When I read the script, it moved me," he says but doesn't want to comment whether a law that doesn't make marital rape punishable is archaic or not. "I don't have any understanding about the law. When you've half-baked knowledge and have read about it only on social media, you can't form an opinion," asserts Tripathi, who prefers to read, cook or eat out rather than watching TV or operating the mobile. While he might not be keen on the visual medium but, in the coming months, Tripathi would be appearing in 83, where he plays PR Man Singh, the manager of the 1983 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team. Undoubtedly, he is transferring the real to reel effortlessly.



## Turn up the volume

Singer AKRITI KAKKAR shares her six favourite songs. By TEAM VIVA

Music is something that has always played an important role in people's lives all across the globe. And certainly, it tells a lot about someone's personality. So let's dig in singer Akriti Kakkar's playlist and find out her taste in music. Here are her favourite six songs, which sets her mood right:

☐ **Tere Bin Nahi Lagda Dil Mera** by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan

The song has some sort of power that it does something to me every time I hear it in his voice. It's magical. Even though I am happily in love, it makes me feel very torn inside.

☐ **Lag Jaa Gale** By Lata Mangeshkar

It's an eternal fav of all music lovers.

☐ **Nature Boy** by Nat King Cole

It's a first Jazz song that I ever heard. One of a very prominent Jazz musicians introduced me to Nat King Cole. He gave it to me on a CD and my mind was blown. As a 14-year-old when I heard it for the first time, I was like *yeh kya hai, yeh toh kabhi sunna hi nahi*. I have heard Lataji, Ashaji, *voh itna difficult hai, yeh naya kya hai*. It had a very crazy impact on my head.

☐ **Akhiyan Udeek Diyan** by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan

I don't know why but everytime I sing it on stage, it creates that magical aura. Even the qawwali version of this is just out of the world.

☐ **Tum Jo Mil Gaye Ho** by Mohammed Rafi

I don't think anybody can sing this song how Rafi *sahab* sung it. Nobody can even try getting close to the high that he created with his voice.

☐ **Aao Naa** by Shankar Ehsaan Loy

It supersedes even *Pehla Nasha* for me, which is a very close song to my heart. I just love the composition. You must listen to it.

**CELEB TALK 15 MINUTES**

## 'No anxiety, rather excitement'

Actor ISABELLE KAIF is all set for her debut film — *Time To Dance*. Her sister KATRINA told her that one can't be liked by all

Katrina Kaif's sister Isabelle is all set for the release of her Hindi debut film *Time To Dance*. She says she got a few very important tips from her sister to understand the big world of Bollywood.

"She (Katrina) watched the trailer and the songs that have come out so far, and after watching them she sent me a long message. I am in Agra now, shooting. So we are away from each other. She said to me, 'in films, it is actually going to be more hard work than what you are thinking probably, so focus on the work first and do not get distracted by anything else'," Isabelle recalls.

"My sister also said that you cannot get the liking of 100 per cent people but that should not demotivate you. It is okay, no one gets that, but do not take criticism personal-



ly or in your heart so much that it hurts you. She watched the song when it came out and told me that I am looking nice while dancing! I am happy!" she adds.

In *Time To Dance*, Isabelle Kaif portrays a dancer who participates in a competition to save her dance academy. However, during the rehearsals, she has a leg injury and that changes everything in her life and sets new challenges.

Her Bollywood debut will happen in theatres, so what's her frame of mind? "I thought I would be nervous because it is my debut film, but surprisingly I am excited to know what the audience feels. So, I am enjoying the moment, since the trailer released and the reactions started pouring in. This is my first film, so I am rather eager to know what the audience thinks. Also, since I am shooting for my next film here in Agra, my mind is invested in that, too. So, there is no anxiety for the release, rather excitement," she replies.

Directed by Stanley D'Costa, the film also features Sooraj Pancholi, Waluscha De Sousa, Saqib Saleem, and Rajpal Yadav.

—IANS

## Responsibility to stand for good content: Anushka

Actor-producer Anushka Sharma's journey as a producer began when she delivered the clutter-breaking *NH10*. On the sixth anniversary of the film, Anushka says she is proud that she is considered a force to be reckoned with now who is always striving to change the narrative for content in India.

"I was told by many that I should concentrate on my film career and not get distracted by production. Today, I can't imagine myself without *NH10*, *Pari*, *Phillauri*, *Bulbbul*, *Paatal Lok* and the exciting projects that lie ahead. The journey started with *NH10* and while it started with a bang, I can tell you that I was a clueless producer," says Anushka.

She adds, "I was young, I had to really take time out to understand the ropes of production and I'm thankful that I had my brother Karnesh (Sharma) who shared my vision and passion of giving clutter-breaking content to the audience. I had a head full of dreams and my brother really fanned my thoughts and brought



his strong content sensibilities to the fore. We were and are a great team."

Anushka was just 25 when she decided to shape the content land-

scape in India. She says, "I'm glad I took the punt at 25 and if I have been able to change the discourse of being a female producer in town who is always looking to be disruptive, I consider myself fortunate. I have always felt a responsibility to stand for good content and deliver fresh entertainment to the audience. *NH10* was our attempt to break-away from stereotyped cinema, stereotyped films with women protagonists."

Anushka reckons *NH10* to be a film that has had several deep impacts in Bollywood. She says, "It was a necessary film to shake things up for women actors. It showed how a woman can fight to survive, can stand up for herself. I'm glad I became a producer with an important film in our cinematic history."

Anushka adds, "I'm glad that I chose to be an actor-producer and I'm lucky that I was successful doing both. It definitely helped in showing our industry that actresses are not unidimensional. It was an important step to change the narrative in our industry."

ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

# THE FAIRY TALE UNRAVELS

Royal response to PRINCE HARRY and MEGHAN's allegations of racism and mistreatment has failed to quieten the controversy

Buckingham Palace's response to Prince Harry and Meghan's allegations of racism and mistreatment has failed to quieten the controversy, with some observers criticising the royal family for not forcefully condemning racism and suggesting the couple's version of events may not be accurate.

"Too little, too late" was the verdict of royal commentator Peter Hunt, who also criticised the palace's 61-word statement for saying the issue would be dealt with privately as a family matter.

"This delayed, tame statement went for predictability when unpredictability — stepping out of the Windsor comfort zone — was what was needed," Hunt wrote on the website of the influential British magazine *The Spectator*.

The statement, issued on behalf of the queen, was released 36 hours after the interview of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex by Oprah Winfrey was broadcast in the United States.

"The whole family is saddened to learn the full extent of how challenging the last few years have been for Harry and Meghan," the palace said. "The issues raised, particularly that of race, are concerning. While some recollections may vary, they are taken very seriously and will be addressed by the family privately."

The comments were the palace's first word since the interview rocked the royal family — and touched off conversations around the world about racism, mental health and even the relationship between Britain and its former colonies.

Those tensions only built as the public waited to see how the royal family would respond. The statement should lower the temperature of the debate, but media interest in the story isn't going away and there will be pressure for the palace to publicly address Harry and Meghan's concerns, said Ed Owens,



a historian of British monarchy and author of *The Family Firm: Monarchy, Mass Media and the British Public, 1932-53*.

"There are big questions here that need to be answered, and I think the press, both in the UK, Europe and in the USA, are going to continue to ask questions about the family relationship that exists between Harry and Meghan and the Windsors in the UK," Owens said.

Meghan, who is biracial, said in the interview she was so isolated and miserable as a working member of the royal family that she had suicidal thoughts, yet when she asked for mental health assistance from the palace's human resources staff, she was told they couldn't help because she wasn't a paid employee. She also said Harry told her there were "concerns and conversations" about

the colour of her baby's skin when she was pregnant with their son, Archie.

The interview, seen by almost 50 million viewers worldwide, has divided opinions.

Many people have backed Meghan, saying the allegations demonstrate the need for change in an institution that hasn't kept pace with the #MeToo and Black Lives Matter movements. Others stand behind the royal family, criticising the couple for making their damning allegations at a time when Harry's 99-year-old grandfather, Prince Philip, remains hospitalised in London after a heart procedure.

Anna Whitelock, director of the Centre for the Study of Modern Monarchy at Royal Holloway, University of London, said the palace's brief message had "hard-

ened the lines" between people who believe the monarchy is an outdated bastion of inherited white privilege and those who see it as cherished national institution.

Fallout from the interview is likely to fuel the debate over the future of the monarchy and its role both in Britain and the other countries for which the queen serves as head of state, Whitelock said. Besides the UK, the queen remains the head of state for 15 countries, most of which were once part of the British Empire, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand and island nations in the Caribbean.

"That's a debate that's been held in check, in large part, given the length of the queen's reign and in respect to her and the role that she's played," Whitelock said. "But it's going to happen, and it's just a ques-



tion of when, not if."

The ongoing controversy has already cost a prominent British TV personality his job. Piers Morgan left ITV's morning news chat show amid a row over his on-air criticism of Meghan. More than 41,000 people complained to Britain's communications regulator about Monday's edition of the show, during which Morgan said he didn't believe anything Meghan had said. The duchess complained to the British TV channel about the comments, focussing on their impact on people dealing with mental health issues, ITV News reported.

The revelations by Harry and Meghan were a stark contrast to the image forged after their May 2018 wedding at Windsor Castle. At that time, the royal family seemed to welcome Meghan, a glamorous for-

mer TV star, and the couple were seen as providing a fresh young face for the monarchy of an increasingly multicultural nation.

It didn't take long for the fairy tale to unravel. The couple stepped away from royal duties last year and eventually settled in California, saying they wanted to escape racist coverage and unwanted intrusions on their privacy by the British media.

Many Black people have said Meghan's comments highlighted the reality of racism in Britain, where the issue is too often characterised as an American problem.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy, a Black member of Parliament from the opposition Labour Party, said she was disappointed the royal family planned to deal with Meghan's allegations privately.

She also criticised the Buckingham Palace statement because it didn't directly condemn racism. The failure to do so contrasts with the palace's reaction just last week when newspapers printed allegations that Meghan had bullied staff during her time as a working royal, Ribeiro-Addy said. In response to those charges, the palace quickly issued a statement saying it "does not and will not tolerate bullying or harassment."

"The monarchy is a public institution that receives public money and any criticism of the institution should really be met with a forceful response from the institution about what they are going to do," Ribeiro-Addy told the BBC. "We expect (that) of any institution. Why not the monarchy, why not the palace?"

—AP

STUDIO CHAT 15 MINUTES

## Dibakar Banerjee lauds Parineeti

Producer and director of *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar* (SAPF), Dibakar Banerjee, salutes Parineeti Chopra for enduring this violent film. The acclaimed director praises her for channeling her anger on screen to take on Arjun Kapoor with whom she is pitted against in the film.

Dibakar says, "Parineeti and I argued endlessly on Sandeep (Pari's character in the film) and I learnt a lot. She is a very strong willed and combative individual, who needs her own answers. I immensely enjoy confrontations so that was the high point of our combined work on *SAPF*. The patriarchy, objectification and the muddled woke-but-male gaze of Bollywood has pushed most of our spirited actresses into a gilded box."

He adds, "Sandy is trying to unbox herself in the film. So is Parineeti in the film as Sandy. It was physically and mentally brutal, bruising, challenging, exhausting and stretched her to her limits. Her animosity with Arjun's character channelled all the real anger. I think many actresses constantly hide against the relentless patriarchy and mansplaining they



encounter. She knows Sandy is the film."

Dibakar reveals that *SAPF* is centred around Parineeti and it is her character that drives the narrative forward. He says, "Sandy makes the story happen and yet everyone's trying to explain to Sandy what they think she should do! Both Parineeti and Sandy are smarter than a lot of people they meet, yet they have to

hide it and put on their 'gameface'. Parineeti taught me a lesson about 'gameface'. I'll never forget it and I have used it in the film."

Dibakar says Sandeep, as a character, is a mirror reflection to what actresses go through in the industry every single day.

"How Sandy navigates through the story while trying to protect her life and others' is a mirror of how talented

actresses in Bollywood have to manoeuvre for survival. Every bit of that shines through her performance here. She did not hold back and jumped into the unknown. That's the win on *SAPF* I'd love the audience to enjoy," says the director.

*Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar* is a raw and edgy suspense thriller that pits Arjun versus Parineeti Chopra. It is set to be released on March 19.

## Bunty Aur Babli 2 a masala entertainer: Sharvari

Debutante Sharvari Wagh says her debut Bollywood film *Bunty Aur Babli 2* is a full-on masala popcorn entertainer and that she cannot wait for the film to release in theatres.

"*Bunty Aur Babli 2* is a full masala, popcorn entertainer and I can't wait for the film to release in theatres! It's a laugh riot and I'm fortunate that I have got this film as my launch in Bollywood. The script is so brilliantly written that it has given me so many moments to shine and I think and hope I have done justice to those scenes and the film," she said.

Sharvari has been paired opposite Siddhant Chaturvedi in the film as they play Bunty and Babli in this film.

"As an actor, I have waited patiently for my debut film to release in theatres

and that time is coming soon. I have worked really hard to get this film. I know that I have worked tirelessly to deliver a good performance and catch people's attention," she said.

Sharvari is confident that *Bunty Aur Babli 2* will be loved by everyone who loves watching commercial Hindi films.

"I'm only manifesting positivity around the release and I hope that it entertains the whole of India. It is a film meant for Hindi film lovers across generations and everyone would want to watch it with their families on the big screen," said Sharvari.

The film is slated to release on April 23. The film also stars Saif Ali Khan and Rani Mukerji.



GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI  
**DELHI FIRE SERVICE**  
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### PUBLIC NOTICE

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Whereas, evacuation and fire fighting in the initial stages of fire is a key of survival and its significance increases in the patient care occupancies. Therefore it would be in public interest that all the occupants and employees of Nursing Homes, Hospitals should undergo basic fire safety training to keep themselves acquainted with evacuation and firefighting procedures.

Accordingly, it is proposed to conduct half day basic firefighting training programme at Fire Safety management Academy, Delhi Fire Service, Rohini, Delhi. The training will be imparted in different batches of 40 persons (maximum), depending on the number of nominations received from different organizations, on first come first serve basis, against the prescribed fee of Rs.1000 per candidate, payable to DDO, Motinagar, Delhi Fire Service in conformity with the provisions of Delhi Fire Service Rules 2010.

Therefore, the owners / occupiers of all Nursing Homes, Hospitals are hereby advised to nominate their staff / officials, either directly or through their respective associations, for the basic firefighting training. The nominations may be sent to Officer In Charge, Fire Safety Management Academy, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi - 110085 (Telephone No. 011- 27550138 and e-mail : [ocfsma-dlfire@delhi.gov.in](mailto:ocfsma-dlfire@delhi.gov.in))

**DIRECTOR**

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 DIP/Shabdarth/0703/20-21

# India collapse at Modi stadium

## Manage only 124 runs as England win opening T20 by 8 wickets

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Indian batsmen had little to offer in the face of a regimented English bowling effort on a two-paced track as the hosts received an eight-wicket hammering in the opening T20 at Narendra Modi stadium on Friday.

Indian batsmen struggled to score freely before Shreyas Iyer showed the way with a dogged 67-run knock that took Virat Kohli's men to 124 for seven.

In the absence of scoreboard pressure, England overhauled the target with ease in 15.3 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The Indian batsmen never got the momentum going as England's pace-heavy attack, led by Mark Wood, used the extra bounce effectively to trouble them.

Most of the Indian batsmen went for flashy shots when placement would have served them well, as Iyer did later in the innings.

The world's biggest stadium, which has a seating capacity of 1,32,000, played host to 67,200 fans, according to *EspnCrinfo*, way more than the 50 per cent capacity that was to be filled for the game in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jason Roy scored a well-calculated 49-run knock while Jonny Bairstow's big hits showed there were no demons in the pitch as the Indians made it seem after being invited to bat by England skipper Eoin Morgan.

Roy struck the ball clean and hard to form a 72-run opening wicket stand with Jos Buttler (28), ending any hopes that the Indians harboured of getting back in the game.

The luxury of time allowed the England batsmen to play freely. None of the Indian bowlers looked like asking tough questions to the visitors.

Roy was trapped by Washington Sundar but by that time England had put 89 runs on the board. Bairstow (26) and Dawid Malan (24) took the side past the finish line.

Earlier, after India's top-order was blown away, Iyer gauged the nature of the pitch quickly and adjusted his game



England Jonny Bairstow and Dawid Malan shake hands with Indian players after winning the first T20 match at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Friday PTI

accordingly, playing a sensible innings that helped them cross the 100-run mark.

Laced with eight boundaries and a six, and coming off 48 balls, it was Iyer's best T20 knock. He fell in the last over.

England surprised India by opening the attack with leg-spinner Adil Rashid, who was not only economical but also dismissed Kohli (0) after KL Rahul (1) dragged one back onto his stumps from player of the match Jofra Archer (3/23).

Feeling the heat, Shikhar Dhawan, who got the opportunity since Rohit Sharma was rested, attempted to break the shackles with a flashy shot off Wood but completely missed the line to see his timber disturbed.

In-form batsman Rishabh Pant (21) was promoted to number four. He struck the ball clean, which included a reverse-sweep off Archer for a six, but the England bowlers kept it tight.

The home team was tottering at 34 for three in eight overs. Pant and Iyer added 28 runs for the fourth wicket before the former hit one

## We weren't aware of what we had to do on that pitch: Kohli

**Ahmedabad:** Outgunned by England on a tricky pitch, India skipper Virat Kohli admitted that they were clueless about handling the challenge posed by the conditions in the first T20.

Invited to bat, Kohli, KL Rahul and Shikhar Dhawan fell to poor shots, something about which the Indian skipper looked concerned.

"We just weren't aware of what we had to do on that pitch, lack of execution on our shots and something we have to address," Kohli said after going

down by eight wickets. "Accept your faults, come back with more intent, clarity of areas you want to hit. Wicket didn't allow you to hit the shots we wanted to."

Kohli was pleased with the determination showed by Shreyas Iyer, who hit a half-century to help India post a respectable total.

"Shreyas showed how to use the crease and ride the bounce. Below par batting performance and England made us play. We looked to try a few

things, but having said that you have to accept the conditions. "If the pitch allows you to, you can be aggressive from ball one. We didn't spend enough time assessing. Shreyas did but we had lost too many wickets to get to 150-160."

Happy to be on the winning side, England skipper said: "(It was a good game) Particularly in the bowling department, the wicket was better for us than we expected, we didn't have to go to plan B and C very often, which is always a good sign." PTI

straight to Bairstow off Ben Stokes.

That brought Hardik Pandya to the crease, who true to his style, looked for some big hits but could not do much.

The visiting players wore black armbands in memory of former cricketer Joey Benjamin, who died Wednesday.

## Sharjeel back for Africa tour post ban

AFP ■ LAHORE

Disgraced opener Sharjeel Khan has returned to Pakistan's T20 squad for the away series against South Africa and Zimbabwe, four years after being banned for spot-fixing during matches.

The 31-year-old was banned for five years — with half the period suspended — for his part in a gambling fix during the Pakistan Super League in 2017.

Regarded a top T20 batsman, Sharjeel hit a hundred in the PSL's sixth edition, which was suspended earlier this month after a Covid outbreak among players.

"Sharjeel has shown tremendous form in recent matches and he is someone who can give us robust starts in

T20 cricket," chief selector Mohammad Wasim said while announcing the T20, One-Day and Test squads in Lahore.

Sharjeel played the last of his 25 One-Day Internationals in January 2017. He has also played one Test and 15 T20 Internationals.

Babar Azam will lead Pakistan in all three formats on tour.

Pakistan will play three ODIs in South Africa, starting in Centurion on April 2. The other two matches are in Johannesburg (April 4) and Centurion (April 7).

The teams will also play four T20s after the ODI series. Following that, Pakistan travel north for two Tests and three T20Is in Zimbabwe.

The selectors have included three exciting uncapped pace bowlers in 19-year-old Mohammad Wasim Junior, 20-year-old Arshad Iqbal, and 22-year-old Shahnawaz Dhani in multiple squads.

Ace leg-spinner Yasir Shah will miss the tour as he is recovering from a knee injury.

Middle-order batsman Mohammad Hafeez and all-

## Lee scripts SA win



PTI ■ LUCKNOW

South African opener Lizelle Lee single-handedly destroyed India's chances with a career-best unbeaten 132 as the home team lost by six runs via the Duckworth-Lewis (DLS) method in the rain-marred third women's ODI of the five-match series here on Friday.

Chasing a competitive 249, Lee starred for the visitors with her breathtaking knock that came off 131 balls and had 16 fours and two hits over the fence. South Africa now lead the series 2-1.

Lee kept South Africa abreast with the required rate, which eventually proved crucial after rain played spoilsport with the visitors at 223 for four in 46.3 overs, six ahead of India via the DLS method.

Earlier, Punam Raut struck a second successive half-century — 77 off 108 balls — to power India to a fighting score.

Raut, who made 62 in a winning cause in the last match, continued her good form after the hosts were put in to bat. She struck 11 boundaries during her knock.

Also, India skipper Mithali Raj (36) became the first Indian woman to score 10,000 International runs during a 77-run third wicket stand with Raut.

Her 36 runs came off 50 balls and she hit five boundaries in the process.

Harmanpreet Kaur (36 off 46) played a quick knock before

Deepti Sharma (36 not out) and Sushma Verma (14 not out) remained unbeaten and shared

27 runs for the sixth wicket to take India close to the 250-run mark.

## Mithali in 10K club

MOST RUNS IN WOMEN'S INT'L CRICKET		
PLAYER	INNINGS	RUNS
Charlotte Edwards (England)	316	10373
Mithali Raj (India)	291	10001
Suzie Bates (New Zealand)	238	7949
Stafanie Taylor (West Indies)	229	7849
Meghann Lanning (Australia)	191	6900

FAISEL FEATURES

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Veteran batter Mithali Raj on Friday became the first Indian woman cricketer and second Internationally to complete 10,000 runs across all formats, drawing praise from some iconic names of the game and the BCCI.

The 38-year-old Mithali, who leads the Indian ODI team, joined Charlotte Edwards in the elite club.

Mithali achieved the feat with a boundary off Anne Bosch in the 28th over of India's innings during the third ODI against South Africa.

Mithali has amassed 663 runs in 10 Test matches with a best score of 214, while she has

6974 and 2364 runs from 212 ODIs and 89 T20 Internationals respectively. The figures add up to 10001.

"Heartiest congratulations Mithali on completing 10000 runs in International Cricket. Terrific achievement... Keep going strong!" men's batting great and former captain Sachin Tendulkar tweeted.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah called the India captain an "absolute legend".

Mithali made her International debut against Ireland in an ODI back in June 1999 and has scored seven centuries and 54 half-centuries in the format.

The Rajasthan player announced her retirement from the T20 format of the game in September 2019. She has 17 half-centuries in T20Is with a top score of 97 not out.



**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल**  
केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके. शाखा)  
तृतीय निविदा सूचना

क्र. 165/के.कर्म./2021  
भोपाल, दिनांक 12.03.2021  
नगर निगम भोपाल केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला के द्वारा मैकेनिकल रोड स्वर्णिम मशीन क्रय किये जाने हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	निविदा क्र.	सामान का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	घरोर राशि का मूल्य	निविदा फार्म का मूल्य	प्रदाय अवधि
1	2021 UAD-123395_3	PURCHASE OF 03 NOS MECHANICAL ROAD SWEEPING MACHINE FOR CENTRAL WORKSHOP NAGAR NIGAM BHOPAL (M.P.) (THIRD CALL)	29913000/-	299130/-	15000/-	45 दिवस

BID SUBMISSION END DATE- 24.03.2021 TIME- 03.00 PM  
BID OPENING DATE- 25.03.2021 TIME- 03.00 PM

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उपायुक्त, परिवहन शाखा  
नगर निगम भोपाल

नि.क्र.1831/020/021

**उत्तराखण्ड पावर कॉर्पोरेशन लि.**  
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, रुड़की  
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, रुड़की  
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, रुड़की

**निविदा सूचना**

विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, रुड़की के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु प्रतिष्ठित एवं GST, आयकर, ई.पी.एफ. तथा ई.एस.आई. विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से मुहुरबन्द निविदायें दो भागों में, प्रथम भाग में धरोहर धनराशि (जो निविदा खुलने की तिथि से 180 दिन के लिये वैध होनी चाहिए), उत्तराखण्ड विद्युत निरीक्षक द्वारा नवीनतम निर्गत "ए" क्लास लाइसेंस, आयकर, ई.पी.एफ., ई.एस.आई. तथा GST पंजीकरण, Certificate regarding that the bidder must have successfully executed the work of construction of HT/LT Lines, Installation of Transformer or Maintenance of HT/LT Lines & Transformers of 100% of estimated cost for any Govt. department/Govt. Undertaking/SEBs/Power Sector Utilities during last three (3) years from the date of bid opening. Bidder shall provide the performance certificate for work of Construction of HT/LT Lines, Installation of Transformer or Maintenance of HT/LT Lines & Transformers of 50% of estimated cost issued from concerned Govt. department/Govt. Undertaking/ SEBs/ Power Sector Utilities to the effect that these works has been completed successfully and work performance is satisfactory for one year after completion of work and Audited balance sheet (In case of Audit mandatory under Income Tax Act) or balance sheet certified by CA (In case of Audit not mandatory under Income Tax Act) should be attached with bid regarding that bidder shall meet the following minimum criteria. Minimum Annual Average Turnover (MAAT): MAAT of the bidder, for last three financial years (i.e. 2017-18, 2018-19 & 2019-20) should not be less than 300% of estimated cost of work. आदि एवं द्वितीय भाग में दर्द जो कि निविदा खुलने की तिथि से कम से कम 180 दिन के लिए वैध हो दिनांक 30.03.2021 को अपरान्ह 14:00 बजे तक अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड पावर कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, 26 सिविल लाईन्स, रुड़की के कार्यालय में आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन 15:30 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समुच्च अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जाएगी। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय से निविदा मूल्य रु. 1000.00+12% जी.एस.टी. का भुगतान अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड, रुड़की के पक्ष में बने हुये डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट द्वारा करने के परचात् निविदा खुलने के एक दिन पहले तक प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं। धरोहर धनराशि जो किसी भी राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक की बी.जी./एफ.डी.आर./सी.डी.आर. के रूप में अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड, रुड़की के पक्ष में बन्धक होनी चाहिए। प्रथम भाग में धरोहर राशि एवं आवश्यक प्रमाण पत्र न होने पर निविदा भाग-2 नहीं खोली जाएगी। यदि निविदा के खुलने के दिनांक को किसी कारणवश कार्यालय बन्द रहता है तो अगले कार्य दिवस को निविदा खोली जाएगी। अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता को बिना कारण बताए निविदा को निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।

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**उत्तराखण्ड पावर कॉर्पोरेशन लि.**  
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, रुड़की  
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कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, रुड़की

**निविदा सूचना**

विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, रुड़की के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु प्रतिष्ठित एवं GST, आयकर, ई.पी.एफ. तथा ई.एस.आई. विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से मुहुरबन्द निविदायें दो भागों में, प्रथम भाग में धरोहर धनराशि (जो निविदा खुलने की तिथि से 180 दिन के लिये वैध होनी चाहिए), उत्तराखण्ड विद्युत निरीक्षक द्वारा नवीनतम निर्गत "ए" क्लास लाइसेंस, आयकर, ई.पी.एफ., ई.एस.आई. तथा GST पंजीकरण, Certificate regarding that the bidder must have successfully executed the work of construction of HT/HT work or same nature of work of 100% of estimated cost for any Govt. department/Govt. Undertaking/SEBs/Power Sector Utilities during last three (3) years from the date of bid opening. Bidder shall provide the performance certificate for HT/HT work or same nature of work of 50% of estimated cost issued from concerned Govt. department/Govt. Undertaking/SEBs/Power Sector Utilities to the effect that these works has been completed successfully and work performance is satisfactory for one year after completion of work and Audited balance sheet (In case of Audit mandatory under Income Tax Act) or balance sheet certified by CA (In case of Audit not mandatory under Income Tax Act) should be attached with bid regarding that bidder shall meet the following minimum criteria. Minimum Annual Average Turnover (MAAT): MAAT of the bidder, for last three financial years (i.e. 2017-18, 2018-19 & 2019-20) should not be less than 300% of estimated cost of work. आदि एवं द्वितीय भाग में दर्द जो कि निविदा खुलने की तिथि से कम से कम 180 दिन के लिए वैध हो दिनांक 30.03.2021 को अपरान्ह 14:00 बजे तक अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड पावर कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, 26 सिविल लाईन्स, रुड़की के कार्यालय में आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन 15:30 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समुच्च अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जाएगी। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय से निविदा मूल्य रु. 1000.00+12% जी.एस.टी. का भुगतान अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड, रुड़की के पक्ष में बने हुये डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट द्वारा करने के परचात् निविदा खुलने के एक दिन पहले तक प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं। धरोहर धनराशि जो किसी भी राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक की बी.जी./एफ.डी.आर./सी.डी.आर. के रूप में अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड, रुड़की के पक्ष में बन्धक होनी चाहिए। प्रथम भाग में धरोहर राशि एवं आवश्यक प्रमाण पत्र न होने पर निविदा भाग-2 नहीं खोली जाएगी। यदि निविदा के खुलने के दिनांक को किसी कारणवश कार्यालय बन्द रहता है तो अगले कार्य दिवस को निविदा खोली जाएगी। अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता को बिना कारण बताए निविदा को निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।

**Tender No. SE/EDC-RKE/2020-21/53**  
Work for Maintenance of 33 KV, 11 KV & LT Lines and attending the consumer's complaint of 33/11 KV Sikanderpur Sub-Station under EDD Bhagwanpur, Roorkee.  
**Earnest Money- Rs. 51000.00 & Estimated Cost- Rs. 16.80 Lakhs**  
पत्रांक: 629/वि.चि.म.रू./नि. दिनांक 12.03.2021 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

"एड्टर हिल में बिजली बचाने" विजली बचाने हेतु एलईडी बल्ब का प्रयोग करें  
(टोल फ्री नं.-1800 419 0405 अथवा 1912) विद्युत बिलों के 24x7 ऑनलाईन भुगतान हेतु [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org) पर जाएं। (विद्युत बिलों की सूचना टोल फ्री नं. 1800 180 4185/फैक्स संख्या: 0135-2780911 पर दें)

## PCB against holding Asia Cup

**Karachi:** Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ehsan Mani has conveyed to the PSL franchise owners that the game's governing body in the country is not in favour of having the Asia Cup T20 event this year.

A PCB source said this was conveyed by Mani to the PSL franchise owners during a virtual meeting on Thursday, after it was announced that the remaining matches of PSL 6 would be completed in June.

Mani spoke about the Asia

that regular T20 players like Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Aamir Yamin and Ahammad Butt had also been dropped because of lack of form in recent matches.

The experienced left-arm pacer, Wahab Riaz has also been dumped for the twin tours but opener, Fakhar Zaman has also won a comeback in the ODI squad.

Qatar, will welcome Group E opponents Oman, Afghanistan, India and Bangladesh," the AFC said in a release on Friday.

India are currently fourth in Group E with three points from five games.

The second round of qualification matches have not been held since November 2019.

Though out of contention for a World Cup berth, India are still in contention for a spot in the Asian Cup, to be held in China. A third-place finish in the group will help India get a direct berth in the third round of the qualifiers for the Asian Cup.

## Mumbai face ATK Bagan for ISL trophy

PTI ■ MARGAO

As many as 114 games, 295 goals, 87,811 passes and 7307 tackles later, the Indian Super League 7 will culminate with a heavyweight summit showdown between Mumbai City FC and ATK Mohun Bagan here on Saturday.

The match that lends meaning to every single touch taken so far, in what has been an exciting Hero ISL season, will be played at the Fatorda Stadium.

When Mumbai City FC take on ATK Mohun Bagan in the summit clash, there will be no more complex equations in play. The winner takes home the trophy. It's as simple as that.

Few would argue that there is a better candidate for the final than these two — both Bagan and Mumbai have been head and shoulders above the rest throughout the season.

Both the teams come into the final with identical records, 12 wins and just 4 defeats in the league stage.

Despite a nervy penalty-shootout win over FC Goa in the semifinal, it will be Mumbai who head into the final full of confidence.

They did the double over Bagan in the league stage, the latter of those victories handing them the League Winners Shield.

They (ATK Mohun Bagan) are a very good team with good players and have the momentum. But the most important thing now is to put the focus on ourselves and try to do our best.

"We have no specific plan, only small details about the opponent. We need to work 100 per cent on our style of play," said Lobera.

There will be few selection dilemmas for Lobera, with the exception of figuring out Mandar Rao Dessai's replacement. The Goan will miss the final due to suspension.

In the other corner, there is Bagan, buoyed by Antonio Habas' almost super-human record in knockout games. He has already tasted glory twice and has a chance to create history by winning his second straight title and third overall.

On the eve of the final, the Spaniard sounded as focused as ever.

"We have to compete and our idea is to win against our opponents. My team is prepared for winning," he said.

Habas dismissed that previous results had no bearing on the match but that his side was braced for a tough test.

"We have to analyse the match and control (our chances of) victory than (try to) control the way they play. The opponent will play and maybe, we have will difficulties."

