



## दशकों में जो न हो पाया 4 वर्ष में कर दिखाया



ईज ऑफ डूइंग  
बिजनेस रैंकिंग में  
देश में दूसरा स्थान

देश की दूसरी  
बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था  
प्रति व्यक्ति  
आय हुई दोगुनी

4 लाख  
से अधिक युवाओं को  
सरकारी नौकरी

बेरोजगारी की दर जो  
वर्ष 2017 में 17.5% थी  
वह मार्च 2021 में  
घटकर 4.1% हुई

4 नये एक्सप्रेस-वे  
5 इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट  
10 शहरों में मेट्रो रेल  
परियोजना

प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि  
योजना में 2.41 करोड़  
किसानों के खातों में  
₹27,286 करोड़  
हस्तांतरित

40 लाख से अधिक  
प्रधानमंत्री आवास  
निर्मित/स्वीकृत

2.61 करोड़  
शौचालयों का निर्माण  
10 करोड़ से  
अधिक लोग लाभान्वित

# वर्ष

गन्ना किसानों  
को रिकॉर्ड  
₹1.27 लाख करोड़  
से अधिक का भुगतान

एमएसपी के अंतर्गत  
378 लाख मी. टन  
खाद्यान्न की खरीद  
₹66 हजार करोड़  
का भुगतान

कोरोना प्रबंधन की  
WHO द्वारा प्रशंसा  
30 नये मेडिकल कॉलेज  
का निर्माण  
2 एम्स का संचालन

1.38 करोड़ घरों को  
निःशुल्क विद्युत कनेक्शन  
1.47 करोड़ परिवारों को  
निःशुल्क गैस कनेक्शन

एमएसएमई

इकाइयों में

₹1.80 करोड़  
से अधिक लोगों को  
रोजगार

1.35 लाख  
सरकारी स्कूलों का  
कायाकल्प

- प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना में 6.47 करोड़ लोगों को ₹5 लाख का बीमा कवर
- मुख्यमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना में 42.19 लाख लोगों को ₹5 लाख का बीमा कवर
- आत्मनिर्भर भारत योजना में 13,20,696 इकाइयों को ₹43 हजार 541 करोड़ का ऋण वितरित
- आत्मनिर्भर भारत योजना में 12,949 मी. टन खाद्यान्न का वितरण
- प्रधानमंत्री गरीब अन्न योजना में 59 लाख मी. टन खाद्यान्न का वितरण

कार्यक्रम  
का लाइव प्रसारण  
DD UP व  
Youtube.com/DDNEWS  
Youtube.com/dduttarpradesh  
यूट्यूब एवं  
UPGovtOfficial  
CMOUttarpradesh  
CMOfficeUP  
सोशल मीडिया हैंडलस  
के माध्यम से  
देख सकते हैं।



प्रधानमंत्री जी का  
विज़न हो रहा साकार

काम दमदार  
योगी सरकार



# दशकों में जो न हो पाया 4 वर्ष में कर दिखाया

## कानून- व्यवस्था हुई बेहतर



- जीरो टॉलरेंस नीति से अपराधों में रिकॉर्ड गिरावट
- माफिया एवं अपराधियों द्वारा अवैध रूप से अर्जित 1000 करोड़ रु. से अधिक की संपत्तियां जब्त/ध्वस्त
- उत्तर प्रदेश विधि विरुद्ध धर्म संपरिवर्तन प्रतिषेध विधेयक को मंजूरी
- सी.ए.ए. के विरोध-प्रदर्शन के दौरान सरकारी सम्पत्तियों को क्षति पहुंचाने वाले व्यक्तियों से क्षतिपूर्ति वसूली
- एण्टी रोमियो स्कॉयड का गठन
- सभी 1535 थानों पर महिला हेल्प डेस्क की स्थापना
- महिला एवं बाल सुरक्षा संगठन (WCSO) का गठन
- 218 नये फास्ट ट्रैक कोर्ट गठित
- उत्तर प्रदेश स्पेशल सिक्योरिटी फोर्स (UPSSF) का गठन
- पुलिस अधीक्षक कार्यालयों में भी एफ.आई.आर. काउन्टर
- 213 नये थानों एवं 16 परिक्षेत्रीय मुख्यालयों पर साइबर क्राइम पुलिस थानों की स्थापना
- 1 लाख 37 हजार पुलिसकर्मियों की भर्ती

## किसान हुए खुशहाल



- मंडी शुल्क में 1% की कमी
- 45 कृषि उत्पाद मण्डी शुल्क से मुक्त
- प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना में रु. 1910 करोड़ की क्षतिपूर्ति
- कृषि निवेशों पर देय रु. 1803 करोड़ की अनुदान राशि किसानों के खाते में हस्तांतरित
- रु. 3 लाख 58 हजार करोड़ का फसल ऋण वितरित
- रु. 36 हजार करोड़ से 86 लाख किसानों का ऋण माफ
- 20 चीनी मिलों का आधुनिकीकरण एवं विस्तारीकरण
- बाण सागर परियोजना सहित 11 सिंचाई परियोजनाएं पूर्ण कर एवं अन्य सिंचाई स्रोतों से 3.77 लाख हेक्टेयर अतिरिक्त सिंचाई क्षमता में वृद्धि
- वरासत अभियान के अंतर्गत 8,87,617 प्रकरण निस्तारित
- स्वामित्व योजना के अंतर्गत 2,09,016 घरौनी वितरित
- 5 लाख 66 हजार से अधिक गोवंश संरक्षित, गोवंश रखने पर प्रति गोवंश प्रतिमाह रु. 900 की सहायता

## बुनियादी सुविधाओं का विकास



- पूर्वांचल एक्सप्रेस-वे, बुंदेलखण्ड एक्सप्रेस-वे, गंगा एक्सप्रेस-वे व गोरखपुर लिंक एक्सप्रेस-वे का तेजी से निर्माण, बलिया लिंक एक्सप्रेस-वे को मंजूरी
- ग्रेटर नोएडा में इंटरनेशनल ग्रीनफील्ड एयरपोर्ट, अयोध्या एवं कुशीनगर में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट
- 8 एयरपोर्ट संचालित, 13 अन्य एयरपोर्ट एवं 7 हवाईपट्टी का विकास
- प्रदेश के 10 नगरों का भारत सरकार तथा 7 नगरों का राज्य सरकार के वित्त पोषण से स्मार्ट सिटी के रूप में विकास
- प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना में 56,862 किमी. सड़कों का निर्माण
- 3,32,804 किमी. सड़कों का गड़ढामुक्तिकरण
- 13,189 किमी. नई सड़कों का निर्माण
- 13,613 किमी. सड़कों का चौड़ीकरण/सुदृढीकरण
- 428 छोटे-बड़े पुलों का निर्माण
- 1.21 लाख गांवों तक निर्बाध बिजली आपूर्ति
- जिला मुख्यालयों को 24 घंटे, तहसील मुख्यालयों को 22 घंटे तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 18-20 घंटे बिजली की आपूर्ति
- हर घर नल योजना में 30 हजार ग्राम पंचायतों को शुद्ध पेयजल

## शिक्षा से खुले प्रगति के द्वार



- मुख्यमंत्री अभ्युदय योजना में प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं के लिए निःशुल्क कोचिंग
- बालिकाओं के लिए स्नातक स्तर तक निःशुल्क शिक्षा
- 3 नए राज्य विश्वविद्यालय, 51 राजकीय महाविद्यालय, 194 राजकीय माध्यमिक विद्यालय, 28 इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज, 26 पॉलीटेक्निक, 79 आईटीआई, 248 इंटर कॉलेज और 771 कस्तूरबा विद्यालयों की स्थापना
- कक्षा-1 से कक्षा-8 तक के सभी बच्चों को निःशुल्क ड्रेस, जूते-मोजे, स्कूल बैग एवं पाठ्य-पुस्तकों का वितरण
- श्रमिकों के बच्चों की निःशुल्क शिक्षा के लिए 18 मंडलों में अटल आवासीय विद्यालयों की स्थापना
- कोरोना कालखण्ड में विद्यार्थियों के लिए वर्चुअल क्लास की व्यवस्था

## स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं हुई सुलभ



- 3 करोड़ से अधिक कोविड जांच व प्रतिदिन 1.75 लाख कोरोना जांच करने वाला देश का पहला राज्य
- 16 करोड़ लोगों की कॉन्टेक्ट ट्रेसिंग, अब तक 35 लाख से अधिक लोगों का वैक्सीनेशन
- हर रविवार सभी स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों पर मुख्यमंत्री जन आरोग्य मेलों का आयोजन, अब तक 60 लाख से अधिक लोगों का स्वास्थ्य परीक्षण एवं इलाज
- पूर्वांचल में दिमागी बुखार पर नियंत्रण, मृत्यु दर में 95% तक की कमी
- 6920 एम्बुलेंस संचालित
- 47 जनपदों में निःशुल्क डायलिसिस सेवाएं एवं 56 जनपद चिकित्सालयों में सी.टी. स्कैन की सुविधा।
- प्रत्येक जनपद में वेंटिलेटर एवं टूनेट मशीनें उपलब्ध

## निवेशकों की पहली पसंद



- निवेश फ्रेण्डली 21 नीतियां लागू
- इन्वेस्टर्स समिट में रु. 4.68 लाख करोड़ निवेश के एम.ओ.यू. हस्ताक्षरित
- सिंगल विंडो पोर्टल 'निवेश मित्र' के माध्यम से 96% निवेश प्रस्तावों का निस्तारण
- रु. 3 लाख करोड़ के निवेश से परियोजनाएं शुरू
- डिफेंस इण्डस्ट्रियल मैनुफैक्चरिंग कॉरिडोर का निर्माण, रु. 50 हजार करोड़ का निवेश
- फिल्म सिटी से निवेश और रोजगार के बढ़ते अवसर
- ओडीओपी योजनांतर्गत 25 लाख से अधिक लोगों को रोजगार, निर्यात में 38% की वृद्धि
- स्वरोजगार हेतु उद्यम सारथी एप संचालित

## महिला सम्मान एवं सशक्तिकरण को प्राथमिकता



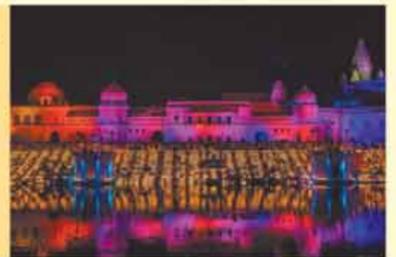
- 1 लाख से अधिक महिलाओं को सरकारी नौकरी
- 58,758 महिलाओं की बैंकिंग कॉरिस्पॉन्डेंट सखी के रूप में नियुक्ति
- मिशन शक्ति अभियान में 7.30 करोड़ लोगों को जागरूक किया गया
- प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना से 36.16 लाख महिलाएं लाभान्वित
- 6.94 लाख बेटियों को मुख्यमंत्री कन्या सुमंगला योजना का लाभ
- 'बेटी बचाओ-बेटी पढ़ाओ' योजना में 1 करोड़ 80 लाख बेटियां लाभान्वित
- ग्रामीण आवासीय अभिलेख (घरौनी) परिवार की महिला सदस्य के नाम होगा
- पौत्री (पुत्र की पुत्री), भतीजी (सगे भाई की पुत्री) और भांजियों (सगी बहन की पुत्री) को भी राजस्व संहिता में भौमिक अधिकार
- महिलाओं एवं बालिकाओं की सुरक्षा हेतु सेफ सिटी परियोजना

## जरूरतमंदों को मिला सरकार का साथ



- मुख्यमंत्री सामूहिक विवाह योजना में 1.52 लाख निर्धन कन्याओं का विवाह
- निर्माण श्रमिकों की पुत्रियों के लिए संचालित कन्या विवाह सहायता योजना के अंतर्गत 11,581 कन्याओं का विवाह
- 51 लाख से अधिक वृद्धजन, 28 लाख निराश्रित महिलाओं व 22 लाख विधवा महिलाओं को रु. 500 प्रतिमाह की पेंशन
- मुख्यमंत्री आवास योजना (ग्रामीण) में 72 हजार 302 आवासों का निर्माण/स्वीकृति
- वनटांगिया/मुसहर/कोल एवं थारु समूह के 38 गांवों को राजस्व गांवों का दर्जा एवं बुनियादी सुविधाएं
- अल्पसंख्यक वर्ग, अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति, पिछड़ी जाति व सामान्य वर्ग के कुल 1 करोड़ 78 लाख से अधिक छात्र-छात्राओं को कुल रु. 13,690 करोड़ से अधिक की पूर्वदशम एवं दशमोत्तर छात्रवृत्ति वितरित
- 40 लाख कामगारों की स्किल मैपिंग कर रोजगार उपलब्ध कराया गया
- 101 करोड़ से अधिक मानव दिवस सृजित कर 1.50 करोड़ श्रमिकों को रोजगार
- पी.एम. स्वनिधि योजना में 8 लाख 32 हजार स्ट्रीट वेण्डर्स आच्छादित

## आस्था का सम्मान पर्यावरण के लिए अभियान



- प्रयागराज कुम्भ में 24 करोड़ से अधिक श्रद्धालुओं व पर्यटकों का आगमन, यूनेस्को द्वारा सराहना
- अयोध्या में दीपोत्सव, वाराणसी में देव-दीपावली, मथुरा में कृष्णोत्सव व बरसाना में रंगोत्सव का भव्य आयोजन
- काशी विश्वनाथ कॉरिडोर का विकास
- बौद्ध सर्किट के अंतर्गत श्रावस्ती, कपिलवस्तु और कुशीनगर का विकास
- रामायण सर्किट के अंतर्गत चित्रकूट और शृंगवेरपुर का विकास
- जैन तथा सूफी सर्किट के तहत आगरा एवं फतेहपुर सीकरी में पर्यटन सुविधाओं का विकास
- कैलाश मानसरोवर भवन का निर्माण, तीर्थयात्रियों की अनुदान राशि रु. 50 हजार से बढ़कर रु. 1 लाख प्रति यात्री की गयी
- 39.42 करोड़ पौधरोपण
- गंगा के दोनों किनारों पर 9 करोड़ पौधरोपण

प्रधानमंत्री जी का विज़न हो रहा साकार | काम दमदार, योगी सरकार

**OPINION 6**  
SAY BYE TO REALITY,  
FAKE IS THE NEW REAL

**WORLD 9**  
TROUBLED US-CHINA TIES FACE  
NEW TEST IN ALASKA MEETING

**SPORT 12**  
CHELSEA BEAT ATLETICO  
IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
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\*Late City Vol. 31 Issue 77  
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NEW DELHI, FRIDAY MARCH 19, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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## Vaccination Campaign

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## Stop Corona New Strain

Sh. Manohar Lal  
Chief Minister, Haryana

# Covid daily count soars to 3-month high

35,871 cases in 24 hours; 150% rise in 70 dists from Mar 1-15

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
With Maharashtra seeing a huge spike, India registered a surge of 35,871 fresh coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, the highest since early December, a day after the Government said a total of 70 districts in 16 States have seen an increase of more than 150 per cent active cases between March 1 and 15.



A health worker collects swab samples for Covid-19 testing of passengers arriving by train in Ahmedabad on Thursday PTI

The infection tally has risen to 1,14,74,605, according to the Union Health Ministry data while the active caseload has reached 2,52,364 which accounts for 2.20 per cent of the total infections. The recovery rate has further dropped to 96.41 per cent, the data updated at 8 am on Thursday showed.

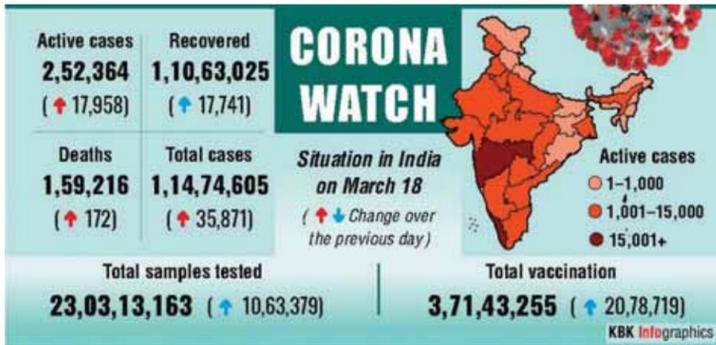
The death toll too increased to 1,59,216 with 172 new fatalities. The single-day spike of 35,871 cases is the highest in 102 days. As many as 36,011 new infections were recorded on December 6.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,10,63,025, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.39 per cent, according to the data.

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, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, 23,03,13,163 samples had been tested up to March 17 with 10,63,379 being tested on Wednesday.

The 172 new fatalities include 84 from Maharashtra, 35 from Punjab and 13 from Kerala. Of 1,59,216 deaths, 53,080 were from Maharashtra, 12,564 from Tamil Nadu, 12,407 from Karnataka, 10,948 from Delhi, 10,298 from West Bengal, 8,751 from Uttar Pradesh and 7,186 from Andhra Pradesh.



## Jabs in Delhi each day to be raised from 40K to 1.25 lakh

**SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI**  
The number of people vaccinated in Delhi each day will be raised from around 40,000 to 1.25 lakh, according to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

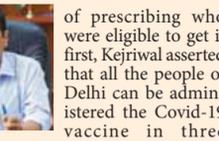
Asserting that the recent rise in Covid-19 cases in Delhi is not a cause of worry, the CM said on Thursday in a Press conference that the number of vaccination centres in Delhi will be doubled from 500 to 1,000 and they will open from 9 am to 9 pm.

In the last three days, the number of daily Covid-19 cases in Delhi has increased to over 500, he said, adding that though it was a "negligible" rise, his Government has directed officials for stricter tracking, tracing and isolation of cases.

Appealing to the Centre to open vaccination for all instead

of prescribing who were eligible to get it first, Kejriwal asserted that all the people of Delhi can be administered the Covid-19 vaccine in three months if the restrictions were lifted and enough supply of vaccine was ensured.

He appealed to the Centre to decentralise vaccination process so that States can carry out immunisation on a war footing.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal PTI

## 400 hit with deadly mutant variants

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases, the Union Health Ministry said that 400 patients have been found to be affected with the UK, South Africa and Brazil mutant variants of the coronavirus which is far more contagious than the first virus. On March 4, the country had recorded 242 cases with these variants while 158 cases were reported in the last two weeks.

On December 29, the mutant strain from the United Kingdom was first reported in India in six passengers who had returned from Britain. These were the first cases of a mutant strain in the country.

"The total number of cases with the UK, South Africa and Brazil variants of the Covid virus in the country as on date is 400," the Ministry said in a statement.

On whether the people who have been infected once could get re-infected by the new virus strain, Minister of State for Health Ashwini Choubey cited the example of three countries where the pandemic is being driven by the variant mutants of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

He said as per World

## UK, S Africa, Brazil variants of corona more contagious

Health Organisation, in these three countries, the new strain has shown the potential to reinfect persons who have been previously infected with SARS-CoV-2.

The three variants are believed to be more contagious or easier to catch.

"No case of re-infection by mutant variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus has been reported from India so far," the Minister said.

A genomic consortium of 10 regional laboratories with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) as the apex laboratory has been established to perform genomic sequencing of the samples from positive travellers. It found that about 5 per cent of the positive test samples are from the community.

The news has come against the backdrop of Maharashtra reporting an upsurge in Covid-19 cases. The State accounts for over 63 per cent of the daily coronavirus cases.

## Game over for Didi, says Modi You played for 10 yrs, now development will begin: PM

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

"Khele shesh hobe... vikas Karombho hobe (game will be over and development will commence)." That is how Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday countered Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's "khela hobey" (the game will be played) rhetoric. Modi was speaking at a huge election rally in Purulia.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an election rally ahead of West Bengal Assembly polls in Purulia district on Thursday PTI

Alleging that the dynamics of Mamata's Government were appeasement, syndicate, corruption and extortion, Modi said in the name of bringing Poriborton (change) the Trinamool Congress had in the past one decade had perpetrated a goonda raj.

"Didi has made appeasement, mafia raj and corruption the corner stone of her governance where coal, cow and sand mafia rule where violence is perpetrated on the common man and where people's money is stolen," Modi said.

## Mamata: Bengal will bring real poriborton in Delhi

**PNS ■ KOLKATA**

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attack on the TMC regime in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Bengal would never tolerate the outside goons who are coming to this State with wads of cash in order to purchase votes.

"Those who are jumping in the name of poriborton in Bengal will lose the elections not only in Bengal but also elsewhere... Bengal will lead the way and after they are defeated in Bengal it will be difficult for them to save Delhi... then the real poriborton will come in Delhi," she said.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses a rally in West Midnapore on Thursday PTI

"The BJP will omit the names of citizens and will evict you from your land," she said. "The TMC will never allow NPR or NCA... Not a single member of any family, no citizen of the country can be evicted from Bengal," she said.

Attacking the PM for copying the word poriborton from her books, she said it is my creation and they are using it as they have done by copying all the welfare schemes she started in Bengal like and implementing them nationally.

Meanwhile, violence erupted in places like Bhatpara and Nandigram after alleged TMC supporters attacked the BJP members, sources said.

## Vehicle scrappage policy announced, benefits listed

### Offers 5% rebate on buying new vehicles

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday announced the much awaited vehicle scrappage policy in the Lok Sabha and offered five per cent discount to those buying new vehicles after scrapping their old ones.

Rules for fitness tests and scrapping centres are to come into effect from October 1, 2021.

The voluntary vehicle scrapping policy provides for fitness test after 20 years for personal vehicle while commercial ones would require it after 15 years.

"The vehicle manufacturers are advised to provide a discount of five per cent on purchase of new vehicle against the scrapping certificate," said Gadkari.

The State Governments may be advised to offer a road tax rebate of up to 25 per cent for personal vehicles and up to 15 per cent for commercial vehicles. The registration fees may also be waived for purchase of new vehicles against the scrapping certificate.

Stating it to be a win-win policy for scrapping old vehicles, Gadkari said recycling will reduce cost of components for the automobile industry. The Minister said, "Scrap value for the old vehicle given by the scrapping centre will be approximately 4-6 per cent of the ex-showroom price of a

new vehicle".

A vehicle failing the fitness test or failing to get a renewal of its registration certificate may be declared as "end of life vehicle".

"The policy is aimed at reducing the population of old and defective vehicles, bringing down vehicular air pollutants, improving road and vehicular safety," Gadkari said.

Continued on Page 4

### Toll booths to be removed within yr

All toll booths to be removed within a year, money will be collected based on GPS imaging, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari told Parliament.

## SC raps 'rakhi for bail' HC order for molester

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Thursday termed as "wholly unacceptable" the Madhya Pradesh High Court order setting "rakhi" tying as a condition of bail to an accused in a sexual offence case, saying it "transforms a molester into a brother, by a judicial mandate".

The SC also issued a slew of directions to be followed by judges while dealing with sexual offence cases, saying certain attitudes such as references to survivors' previous consent, promiscuous behaviour, clothing and so on should "never enter judicial verdict".

The top court's judgment came on a plea by nine citizens against the high court verdict imposing "bizarre" bail condition of "rakhi" tying on the accused by the victim. They had also sought clear directions to all courts to refrain from imposing "irrelevant, freaky or illegal bail conditions".

A bench of justices AM



The Supreme Court building in New Delhi PTI

Khanwilkar and S Ravindra Bhat set aside the HC verdict and said, "This court... Holds that the use of reasoning/language which diminishes the offence and tends to trivialise the survivor, is especially to be avoided under all circumstances."

"Using rakhi tying as a condition for bail, transforms a molester into a brother, by a judicial mandate. This is wholly unacceptable, and has the effect of diluting and eroding the offence of sexual harassment. The act perpetrated on the survivor constitutes an offence in law, and is not a minor transgression that can be remedied by way of an apology, rendering community ser-

vice, tying a rakhi or presenting a gift to the survivor, or even promising to marry her, as the case may be.

"The law criminalises outraging the modesty of a woman. Granting bail, subject to such conditions, renders the court susceptible to the charge of re-negotiating and mediating justice between confronting parties in a criminal offence and perpetuating gender stereotypes," said Justice Bhat who wrote the judgement.

The SC also directed the Bar Council of India to work on "training and sensitization of judges and lawyers, including public prosecutors".

Continued on Page 4

## CAPSULE

**DELHI'S OWN SCHOOL EDU BOARD REGISTERED**  
New Delhi: Delhi's own school education board DBSE has been registered and an official notification detailing its modalities is expected soon.

**IT'S TIME FOR PAK, INDIA TO BURY PAST: BAJWA**  
Islamabad: Pakistan's Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa said on Thursday that it was time for India and Pakistan to "bury the past and move forward", a day after Prime Minister Imran Khan made similar overtures towards India following an unexpected ceasefire announcement by the militaries of the two countries.

**211 PIECES OF PEACOCK TAIL FEATHERS SEIZED**  
New Delhi: Customs officials have seized about 211 lakh pieces of peacock tail feathers at the Inland Container Depot here while they were allegedly being smuggled to China.

# Follow Covid norms, Jain exhorts Delhiites

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the number of Covid-19 cases reported surge in Delhi, Health Minister Satyendra Jain on Thursday asked people to be cautious and observe all safety norms and not get complacent about the pandemic situation in the national Capital.

"The positivity rate of Delhi was 0.6 per cent which was the lowest compared to States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Punjab, M.P and Haryana. The positivity rate is between 0.6-0.8 per cent and since the past two months, it is under one per cent. For the past 5 months, it has been under five per cent.

"Today, Delhi has a positivity rate of only 0.6 per cent while Maharashtra has a positivity rate of 19.32 per cent, M.P has 4.89 per cent, Punjab has 4.96 per cent, while Kerala saw positivity rate of 3.49 per cent, Gujarat saw a rate of 1.92 per cent and Haryana was at 2.88 per cent. When compared to all, Delhi has the lowest positivity rate," he said.

The situation in Delhi is well within control as compared to other States. But I will still emphasise staying cautious of the coronavirus, he said.

The Minister also said that Delhi's testing capacity is five times that of the national average and that the Delhi government was very careful and aware. "Delhi is well within the safe arena. Everyone should continue to wear a mask and follow proper social distancing.

Responding to queries surrounding the surge in infection given the upcoming festive season, the Minister said, "The benchmark set by WHO is 1, 5 and above 5 per cent. Right now the positivity rate is below 1 per cent and the fluctuation of the positivity rate is normal, as the Coronavirus has not completely cured."

Talking about the meeting that was conducted by the Prime Minister of India, Jain said, "The testing capacity in Delhi has been increased to 80,000 per day, which is the highest in the country. We are testing at a capacity that is five times that of the national average which is why we can identify and effectively treat the active cases."

"We are effectively monitoring people that are coming to Delhi from various states. Strict instructions have been issued to adhere to corona protocols. Ahead of the festive season, people get relaxed and it is my humble request to all

to not defy the precautions to be taken. It is our humble appeal to all Delhiites to maintain social distancing," he said.

Speaking about the latest proposal of the Central Government to amend the GNCTD Act, Jain said, "It is unfortunate that the Central Government is bringing a law to change the Constitution. Article 239A of the Indian Constitution clearly states that Delhi will have its government which will form a Vidhan Sabha and the elected government will be accountable to the Vidhan Sabha. Now the central government wants to change Delhi's elected government with Lieutenant Governor (LG).

"The real reason why the Central Government is stressing to bring this change is that it wants to delay the developmental works in Delhi. We have got independence from British rule after a long struggle. Even in those times, the elected government used to report to the Viceroy. The same thing BJP wants to bring in the 73rd year of independence which is unacceptable," he said.

The Minister further said that it was a tactic to delay the developmental work in the Capital.

# 'Delhi's own school education board registered, notification detailing modalities soon'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's own school education board DBSE has been registered and an official notification detailing its modalities is expected soon, according to officials at the Directorate of Education (DoE). The Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE), which was approved by the Cabinet on March 6, was registered on Tuesday.

"The board was officially registered on Tuesday and is expected to bring a most-awaited reform in the school assessment system. To start with, 20 to 25 Delhi government schools will be affiliated to DBSE from the 2021-22 academic session.

Consultations are on with principals, teachers and parents concerned to decide upon which schools will be affiliated with the board in the first phase," a senior DoE official said.

According to the official, the modalities are being worked out and a notification detailing everything is expected soon. The board will have a governing body chaired by the education minister.

It will also have an execu-

tive body for day-to-day functions to be headed by a CEO. Both bodies will have experts from industries the education sector, principals of government and private schools, and bureaucrats, the official added.

At present, there are about 1,000 government and 1,700 private schools in Delhi, nearly all of which are affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

In July last year, the Delhi government had constituted two committees to prepare the scheme and framework for the formation of the state education board and for curriculum reforms.

Announcing the cabinet approval, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said the present education system focuses only on learning by rote that needs to be changed.

He added that high-end technique will be used to teach students of the new education board.

He had said that all schools in the national capital will not be brought under the new education board in one go and private schools will have an option to choose from

# No definite opinion on cause of Sunanda's death: Tharoor

New Delhi: Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, accused in a case related to his wife Sunanda Pushkar's death, has told a Delhi court that he should be discharged as various investigations have been conducted by experts but they have not given a 'definite opinion on the cause of death'.

Tharoor, represented by Senior Advocate Vikas Pahwa, sought discharge in the case, saying there was no evidence against him to prove the offence punishable under either section 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) or 306 (abetment of suicide) of

IPC. Pahwa said her death should be treated as accidental. Pushkar was found dead in a suite of a luxury hotel in the city on the night of January 17, 2014. The couple was staying in the hotel, as the official bungalow of Tharoor was being renovated at that time.

Pahwa told special judge Geetanjali Goel on Wednesday that during the course of the investigation there have been a plethora of reports by experts before the investigating officer (IO) but there was 'no definite opinion on the cause of death'.

"These reports have been

drafted by some of the nation's most renowned doctors & forensic experts. Furthermore, a psychological autopsy was conducted in this investigation.

"All of these reports have one thing in common that is 'no definite opinion on the cause of death'. As experts have failed to establish death by suicide or homicide, one must conclude that the death would fall into the only remaining category which is accidental death," Pahwa told.

He added that even after years of investigation by the police, the prosecution has failed to conclusively identify the cause of death.

## Game over...

From Page 1  
Saying that the people of Bengal would never forget how the Chief Minister had accused the Army of plotting a coup against her, Modi said "people still remember what you had said during the Pulwama attack and the Batla House encounter..." Attacking the Chief Minister for her appeasement politics, Modi said, "It is in the interest of vote bank politics that even the name of Lord Ram the epitome of virtue and goodness becomes intolerable to her. Referring to the lack of development he said "this land is a witness to Lord Ram and Goddess Sita's exile. This land has Sitakund which was created by Ram who shot his arrow in the ground to bring a water spring... and now it is the same Purulia which faces water crisis today." Alleging that the TMC had no interest in the development of the Dalits, backward castes and tribal people who had become the worst victims of "tolabaji", cut money culture perpetrated by her party, the Prime Minister said that the "days of badla are over" adding "the days of vikas" will start after the BJP came to power after the elections. Attacking the TMC for patronising the Maoists he said that though the people of Jangalmahal had overwhelmingly voted Mamata they got nothing in return.

## Vehicle...

From Page 1  
"Besides, it will help in achieving better fuel efficiency, formalising the informal vehicle scrapping industry, and boost the availability of low-cost raw materials for the automotive, steel and electronics industry," he said.  
Gadkari also emphasised that work is underway to introduce schemes that will make India the world's largest automobile hub in the next 5 years.  
The scrapping policy increase in RC and fitness certificate renewal fee for personal and commercial vehicles respectively, additional penalty for delay in renewal of certificates and additional levy of green tax on old vehicles by States also proposed. Those failing in mandatory automated fitness test to be deregistered automatically, he said.

## SC raps...

From Page 1  
Giving some illustrations, the verdict said the language and reasoning trivializing the survivor should be avoided "under all circumstances".  
"Thus, the following conduct, actions or situations are hereby deemed irrelevant, e.g. - to say that the survivor had in the past consented to such or similar acts or that she behaved promiscuously, or by her acts or clothing, provoked the alleged action of the accused, that she behaved in a manner unbecoming of chaste or 'Indian' women, or that she had called upon the situation by her behaviour, etc."  
"These instances are only illustrations of an attitude which should never enter judicial verdicts or orders or be considered relevant while making a judicial decision; they cannot be reasons for granting bail or other such relief," it said.

# Kejriwal thanks Mamata for support against Centre's Bill

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal thanked his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee for coming out in his support against the Centre's bill that gives overarching power to the Centre's bill that gives overarching power to

porting people of Delhi against Centre's unconstitutional step. Anyone who supports India and its democracy cannot support this Bill. I hope BJP govt will withdraw this Bill. Please take care of your health. I also pray for your handsome victory in coming elections," Arvind Kejriwal tweeted.

Lieutenant Governor (LG), saying anyone who supports India and its democracy cannot support the legislation.

In a tweet, Kejriwal also wished for Banerjee's "handsome victory" in the upcoming polls in West Bengal. "Thank you Didi for sup-

Banerjee extended support to Kejriwal over the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021. "I am sorry to say Prime Minister, I respect your chair, but it is very unfortunate that you want the Lieutenant Governor to have more powers than the elected Chief Minister. I condemn this and I think every democratic citizen of this country will oppose it. I support Arvind Kejriwal and the elected government but I cannot support a nominated person," Banerjee said on Wednesday.

The GNCTD (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy on Monday. According to the bill, the "government" in the city would mean the "Lieutenant Governor" in context of any law made by the legislative assembly.

The bill also makes it mandatory for the Delhi government to take the opinion of the LG before any executive action.

# G'gram's top cop opens hi-tech police station

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Giving a major boost to upgrade and strengthen security, Gurugram Police Commissioner KK Rao on Thursday inaugurated a hi-tech and fully functional police station at Vatika India Next Township, Sector 83 in Gurugram. Which is already home to more than 30,000 residents.

"The Vatika Group has handed over this fully-oper-

ational police station to us. Before this, We were running the 'Kheri Daula police station' operations through a rented private building as the construction of this building was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This building is equipped with all the necessary and modern amenities and will give a huge relief to the residents of the nearby areas," said KK Rao, Commissioner of Gurugram Police.

# SALARY ROW: Resident doctors of Hindu Rao to be on mass leave

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The resident doctors of the Hindu Rao Hospital that run by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) have decided to go on a mass

casual leave on Thursday to press for release of their pending salaries.

The 'Resident Doctors Association' (RDA) in a statement issued late night on Wednesday threatened that its members will go on a complete indefinite strike, if the demands are not met.

Their demands include release of all pending salaries from December 2020, along with previous year's arrears, immediately, the RDA said in a letter dated March 17, written to the North Delhi Municipal Corporation's commissioner.

This is an "intimation regarding mass casual leave on March 19, followed by complete indefinite strike from March 22, if all salaries with arrears are not released along with interest and regular seat vacancies are not issued at the earliest", it said.

# Man held, juvenile apprehended in murder case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 23-year-old man while his juvenile friend has been apprehended from Agra for allegedly stabbing a person to death in Dwarka area. The accused has been identified as Salman, a resident of Mahavir Enclave. According to police, the victim, Pankaj, was seriously injured and shifted to DDU hospital after he was stabbed by the juvenile during a scuffle in Dabri on Sunday. The victim died during treatment.

"The accused, Salman went absconding along with his friend. The two were held on Monday in Agra," said Santosh Kumar Meena, the DCP, Dwarka district.

"After a brawl erupted between Salman and Pankaj over the latter's girlfriend in her presence, the accused called his juvenile friend for help. During the scuffle, the juvenile stabbed Pankaj with a knife and fled from the spot," said the DCP.

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Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate)  
Contact No- 9810310373 / 011-41830049  
E-mail : a.ahujas@rediffmail.com



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I, Anil Kumar Yadav S/o. Late Mr. Gaj Singh Yadav Flat No.105A, Kanchanjunga Apartment Sector-53, Noida, Flat No.105A, Kanchanjunga Apartment Sector-53. The original allotment and possession has been lost somewhere and notify us on receipt 8447750599.  
PD(8962)A

e-mail id: [se\\_sicham@yahoo.com](mailto:se_sicham@yahoo.com)  
**Superintending Engineer, Southern Irrigation Circle-1, Berhampur**  
A-693  
**e-Procurement Notice No. SE, SIC - 11/2020-21**

- Type of Work :- System Improvement works.
- Total No of W :- 01 (One) No
- Amount put to :- Rs 309.11 lakh
- Period of com :- 11 (Eleven) calendar months

Procurement officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Superintending Engineer, Southern Irrigation Circle-1, Berhampur, Ganjam	SE,SIC,(BNID)-24 / 2020-21	309.11	From 22.03.2021, 10.00 A.M. to 06.04.2021, 5.00 P.M

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 07.04.2021 at 11.30 A.M.  
Further detail can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersorissa.gov](http://www.tendersorissa.gov),  
OIPR-32061/11/0010/2021

Superintending Engineer,  
Southern Irrigation Circle-1,  
Berhampur.

**कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण निर्माण विभाग प्रखण्ड देहरादून**  
**तपोवन रोड, रायपुर रोड देहरादून।**  
**फोन/फैक्स : 0135-2780538 Email-enres.10dun@gmail.com**

पत्रांक 4961 / ग्राहनिधि/निविदा सूचना / 2020-2021 **निविदा सूचना** दिनांक 08 / 03 / 2021

उत्तराखण्ड राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्न कार्यों की सीलबन्द निविदा निम्न तालिका के कॉलम 06 के अनुसार पंजीकृत टेकेंदारों से दिनांक 26.03.2021 को अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता ग्रामीण निर्माण विभाग प्रखण्ड देहरादून में आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन साय 2.30 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी अथवा उनके द्वारा प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि द्वारा निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधियों के सम्मक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 23.03.2021 से निविदा खोलने की तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व कार्य दिवस में साय 4.00 बजे तक निश्चित शुल्क जमा करा कर प्रखण्ड कार्यालय देहरादून से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर घनराशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य टीएटी	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	टेकेंदारों हेत श्रेणी
1	राजकीय इण्टर कालेज किशनपुर में आर्ट क्राफ्ट कक्ष का निर्माण कार्य।	34000/-	1500.00 + 18% G.S.T	04 माह	'डी' एच उच्च श्रेणी भवन निर्माण
2	राजकीय इण्टर कालेज सेलाकुई में आर्ट क्राफ्ट कक्ष, बालक एवं बालिका शौचालय का निर्माण कार्य।	48000/-	2000.00 + 18% G.S.T	04 माह	'डी' एच उच्च श्रेणी भवन निर्माण
3	राजकीय इण्टर कालेज सहिया में वृहद भस्मत्त कार्य।	40000/-	2000.00 + 18% G.S.T	04 माह	'डी' एच उच्च श्रेणी भवन निर्माण
4	विकासखण्ड सहसपुर के अन्तर्गत केहरी गांव में बारात घर का निर्माण कार्य।	40000/-	2000.00 + 18% G.S.T	04 माह	'डी' एच उच्च श्रेणी भवन निर्माण

**निविदा की शर्तें-**

- निविदा की शेष विस्तृत शर्तें/जानकारी कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण निर्माण विभाग, प्रखण्ड देहरादून से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

**अधिशासी अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण निर्माण विभाग प्रखण्ड देहरादून**

**IN THE COURT OF DR. SHIRISH AGGARWAL**  
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-ARC (Central), Delhi-110054  
Room No. 323, 3rd Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi  
Petition No. SC-41/2021  
**Kshama Steiner V/s The State**  
**Kshama Steiner**  
R/o Wolfsmilchgaesse 63, A-1220,  
Vienna, Austria  
Petitioner.

FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT 1925 To All Concerned

Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs. xxx . as per record to be standing in the name of Late Smt. Asha Lata Sethi the deceased.

Whereas the 20-03-2021 at 10' o'clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing or the application notice is hereby given to this concerned.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 06-03-2021.

Sd/  
(SHIRISH AGGARWAL)  
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-ARC (Central), Delhi

**कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ (उत्तीरागढ़)**  
क्र. 2712/स्वा.वि.न.प्रा.नि./2021 रायगढ़, दिनांक 18/03/2021

**॥ ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ॥**

नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	सि.नि. क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत राशि रु.	निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि
1	73119	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-62 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone- 1	7000000.00	01-04-2021
2	73121	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-62 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone- 2	7000000.00	01-04-2021
3	73128	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-61 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone- 3	7000000.00	01-04-2021
4	73144	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-63 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone- 4	7100000.00	01-04-2021
5	73152	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-56 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone- 5	6500000.00	01-04-2021
6	73155	Supply of Placement Labour Unskilled-56 For Nagar Palik Nigam Raigarh Zone- 6	6500000.00	01-04-2021

उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

आयुक्त  
नगर पालिक निगम,  
रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Appointment of Vice-Chancellor of Assam University, Silchar (Assam), (A Central University)**  
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- A Visionary with proven leadership qualities, administrative capabilities as well as teaching and research credentials.
- Having outstanding academic record throughout and a minimum of **ten years'** experience as a **Professor** in a University or ten years' of experience in a reputed research and / or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership.
- Not more than 65 years of age as on the closing date of receipt of applications of this advertisement.

**Salary and Service Conditions:**

- The post carries a pay of Rs. 2,10,000/- (Fixed) per month with Special Allowance of Rs. 11,250/- and other usual allowances.
- The terms and conditions of the services will be those as set forth in the Act, Statutes and Ordinances of the University.

**Procedure for appointment:**

- Appointment will be made from a panel of names recommended by a Committee constituted under the provisions of Assam University Act, 1989.
- The advertisement and the format of application are available on the websites <http://education.gov.in> and <https://www.aus.ac.in>
- The applications in the **prescribed pro-forma** should reach latest by **5th April,2021** by Registered/Speed Post Or email to:  
**Under Secretary (CU-I)**  
**Department of Higher Education**  
**Ministry of Education,**  
**Room No.515-B, 'B' Wing,**  
**Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001**  
**Or e-mail: - navin.kumar.nacwc@nic.in**

**"Application for the post of Vice Chancellor, Assam University" should be super-scribed on the envelope.**

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# Opp raises din in RS over Insurance Amendment Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Thursday raised a din in the Rajya Sabha forcing repeated adjournments against the Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2021 hiking the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the sector to 74 per cent from the current 49 per cent.

The Congress demanded that the Bill be referred to the standing committee as the proposed law will put "the country into trouble." The House witnessed uproar when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Bill in the post lunch Session. The agitated members also rushed into the well.

Later, Sitharaman gave a detailed reply on the Bill and said in the Bill the FDI limit was not a compulsion as it sets only upper limit. Increasing limit does not mean automatic foreign investment to that level to all companies. Every company will decide for themselves, whether they want that money, to what extent & so on, she said. When the Bill was put to voice vote, the Opposition staged a walk out. The Bill was passed.

Earlier, Leader of Opposition and senior Congress leader Mallikarjun



Kharge said the Bill will put the people of country in "trouble" adding the Insurance Act 1938 is being amended for the third time under the BJP.

The Act was first amended during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure when 26 per cent FDI was allowed in the insurance sector, he said, adding later in 2015, the law was amended further to allow 49 per cent FDI and now the amendment is for allowing 74 per cent FDI.

"I want the Bill scrutinised to address the gaps and it should be referred to a standing committee," the Congress leader said as his party colleagues rose in support of the demand and began shouting slogans.

Amid sloganeering, BJP leader Bhupender Yadav said Kharge's statement was "factually incorrect".

Firstly, the Opposition has not given a

motion to refer the Bill to a select committee under Rule 71 and 72, he said. Secondly, he added, this is the only bill which has been examined by a standing committee, the Law Commission and the Narasimhan Commission and even a select committee of the Upper House.

As Opposition members trooped into the Well of the House raising slogans, Deputy Chairman Hariwansh told them that amendments to refer the Bill to a select committee has not been given.

DMK leader Tiruchi Siva said, "Had the bill been passed in the Lok Sabha, we could have given an amendment to refer it to a select committee. The Bill has been introduced in our House, so it could be referred to a standing committee. The Bill needs to be scrutinised."

As the uproar continued,

## Opp raises concern over Govt's aggressive disinvestment plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition members in the Lok Sabha on Thursday raised concerns over the Government's "aggressive" disinvestment and asset monetisation plan and "failures" in managing the economy. Participating in a discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants Second batch for 2020-21, Supriya Sule of NCP said eight ministries have lined up asset monetisation plan and the government's stake in LIC is also being diluted. Replying to Opposition's charges, Minister

of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said that the steps taken by the Government to deal with COVID-19 pandemic are resulting in "V-shaped" economic recovery and the country is likely to witness double digit growth in 2021-22.

"I understand a certain amount of disinvestment is the need of the hour, considering that we are in the global game. But aggressively? Why is the Government in such a hurry for eight ministries... Which are all in a lucrative business and also LIC... That is a concern," said Supriya Sule. Countering

her, Thakur said the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is not being privatised and an Initial Public Offering (IPO) is being planned.

Margani Bharat of the YSRC asked the Government not to go ahead with the privatisation of Vizag Steel Plant or RINL and suggested that it could be merged with SAIL. He said that Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has clocked ₹ 200 crore profit before COVID-19 and suggested that the Centre and the Andhra Pradesh State G could work out a way to turn it profitable again. Saptagiri

Ulaka of the Congress alleged that although the government was hell-bent on disinvestment and sets high targets, it doesn't have a strategy and hence no one is buying Air India. Participating in the discussion, Vinayak Raut (Shiv Sena) said that rising prices of petrol and diesel have made the common man's life difficult and demanded to know what steps have been taken to control inflation.

Replying to a discussion on the second and final batch of the supplementary demands for grants for 2020-21, Anurag Thakur he said that it was because of the efforts of the Government that GST collection was over ₹1 lakh crore for continuously five months. "The GST collection in the last five months was continuously more than ₹1 lakh crore... Because of the steps taken by the government during Covid, V-shaped economic recovery is happen-

ing. And world over, agencies have stated India will witness double digit growth in 2021-22," said Thakur.

The Minister further said that the government has provided additional funds for programmes such as MNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, capital expenditure for defence, and free food for 80 crore people for eight months. He also said that West Bengal farmers were deprived of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi because of non-cooperation by the State.

Participating in the discussion, Hanuman Beniwal (RLP) urged the Government to reduce the prices of petrol and diesel as these were impacting the common man. He regretted that fuel prices are skyrocketing at a time when international crude oil rates have declined.

the Deputy Chair first adjourned the House for 10 minutes. When it reassembled, the House was again adjourned for 17 minutes and later for 15 minutes before the discussion began at 3.15 pm amid commotion. As discussion started, the House was adjourned again

for the fourth time till 3.39 pm amid uproar.

Later, the Deputy Chairman invited Congress leader Anand Sharma to initiate the discussion on the bill. But Sharma asked the Deputy Chairman to hear the Leader of Opposition for a while first.

Kharge said, "I am not going to make a speech. He (Sharma) will make a speech. But my request is that this is a very important matter. It pertains to the crore of people's lives and crores of rupees are invested. Nearly 58 companies are involved in this. Therefore,

we are requesting, you refer this bill to standing committee and everything will come out."

The Deputy Chairman explained that the amendment for sending the bill to standing committee is given either by Government or the Opposition, but neither has done so in this

case. Addressing Sharma, he said this Bill is now a property of the House and the House will decide about it.

When Sharma did not start the discussion on the bill, BJP member Arun Singh was asked to speak on the Bill. The Opposition raised a ruckus.

## Road accidents killed more people last year than Covid: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday drew the attention of the House to road accident deaths which he said killed more people last year than Covid-19.

Maintaining that road accidents killed more people than COVID-19 last year, Gadkari said the Government is serious about reducing road accidents.

During the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, the Union transport minister said the Government is very much concerned about road accidents and will have to take all steps to reduce road accidents.

"Our Government is serious about reducing road accidents...1.5 lakh people died due to road accidents in the last one year which is more than 1.46 lakh deaths due to COVID-19," he said.

The Minister further noted that most of those who died due to road accidents were people in the age group of 18-35.

According to a recent World Bank report, India accounts for the highest number of road accidents globally,

with 1.5 lakh people being killed and more than 4.5 lakh crippled annually in 4.5 lakh road accidents with losses amounting to 3.14 per cent of the GDP.

For his part, BJP MP Sushil Kumar Singh focused on the plight of poor in jail by stating in the Lok Sabha that lakhs of underprivileged people remain behind bars on bailable offences even after getting bail from courts and demanded changes in law to help them.

Highlighting the dismal state of the poor in jail, the BJP MP said drastic changes needed in laws to help out the hapless poor jailed for small bailable offences.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, when members highlight matters of public interest, Singh said it is a very big problem afflicting the poor across the country.

These accused neither own land/home nor any other asset and even after being granted bail, they are not able to submit it, he said. They own no assets or have no one to ensure surety for them, he said.

Changes should be effected in law to help them, the MP from Aurangabad in Bihar said.

## Parl panel asks LBSNAA to rejig its programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary Committee has asked Mussoorie-based Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) to recalibrate its training and instill a new service-oriented professionalism in civil servants so that they reach out to the citizens they serve. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) is a premier training institution for civil services in the country. It holds a common foundation course for entrants to the all India services; Indian Foreign Service; Group 'A' services of the Union and the Royal Bhutan Service followed by professional training for the regular recruits of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and members of the Royal Bhutan Service. "The committee is of the view that civil services training should be all encompassing and focus on behavioural aspects and interpersonal relations as well," the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice said in its 106th report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, tabled in Parliament.

## BJP richest political party in country with ₹2,904.18-cr assets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With ₹2,904.18 crore declared assets, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the richest political party in the country, followed by the Congress with ₹928.84 crore and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) with ₹738 cr. Among the regional parties, the highest assets were declared by Samajwadi Party (SP) worth Rs 572.21 cr (28.28%), followed by BJD worth ₹232.27 cr and AIADMK worth ₹206.75 crore.

"The total assets of seven national- BJP, Congress, NCP, BSP, CPI, CPI (Marxist) and TMC and 41 regional parties in 2018-19 is to be amounted to ₹5349.25 crore and ₹ 2023.71 crore, respectively," the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) said in its report pertaining to assets and liabilities of the national and regional parties in 2018-19. The total liabilities declared the national and regional parties amounted to be ₹213.231 crore.

According to the ADR, the total assets declared by the seven national parties in 2016-17 amounted to ₹3,260.81 cr which increased by 6 percent to ₹3,456.65 crore in 2017-18. In

case of regional parties, ADR's analysis showed that the assets and liabilities declared by the 39 regional parties in 2016-17 in amounted to ₹1,267.81 crore while 41 regional parties in 2017-18 declared ₹1,320.06 crore.

"The liabilities declared by political parties fall under two major heads: Borrowings (from banks, overdraft facilities and sundry creditors) and other liabilities. Political Parties declared ₹123.40 cr (57.87%) under Other Liabilities and Rs 89.831 cr (42.13%) under Borrowings," the ADR said.

The Congress has declared the highest total liabilities of ₹78.415 cr (58.75%) followed by BJP that declared ₹37.463 cr (28.06%). The regional political parties declared the total liabilities of ₹79.751 crore in 2018-19. Regional Parties declared ₹47.181 crore under borrowings and ₹32.57 crore under other liabilities. TDP declared the highest total liabilities of ₹18.10 cr (22.696%) followed by JDS that declared ₹18.01 cr (22.583%) in 2018-19.

"The lowest capital was declared by CPI of ₹24.87 cr followed by NCP of ₹31.05 cr," it said.

## In reply to farmer, PM says work on to lift kisan's status

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote to a farmer from Uttarakhand saying continuous efforts are being made to remove every small and big impediment in the way of farmers' journey from 'seed to market' and to ensure the progress of agriculture. Replying to a message by Kheemanand Pandey from Nainital, who had congratulated the Prime Minister on the completion of five years of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) on NaMo App, Modi said the scheme is continuously playing an important role in protecting the economic interests of hard-working farmers by reducing the

risk associated with weather uncertainties.

Crores of farmers are availing the benefits of this farmer-friendly insurance scheme, the Prime Minister noted in his reply to Kheemanand's letter. Referring to the Government's committed efforts towards agriculture and farmers' welfare, Prime Minister Modi said, "Through comprehensive coverage and transparent claim redressal process over the last five years, the 'fasal bima' (crop insurance) scheme has emerged as an example of our determined efforts for farmers' welfare."

"Today, continuous efforts are being made to remove every small and big impediment in the way of the farmers' journey

from the 'seed to market' and to ensure their prosperity and progress of agriculture," Modi wrote in the letter. In his letter to the farmer, the Prime Minister also appreciated the contribution and role of the people in the progress of the country.

"With a vision of all-round development, today the country is rapidly moving towards building a strong, prosperous and self-reliant India," he said. The country energised by the confidence of all the citizens is united to achieve the national goals, the PM said and expressed confidence "that our efforts to take the country to new heights on the world stage will be further intensified."

## 215 terrorists neutralised last yr: CRPF DG

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CRPF Director General Kuldeep Singh on Thursday said the Force, in conjunction with the Army and J&K police, neutralised 215 terrorists last year and 11 ultras so far this year in the Valley in operations. The CRPF also killed 37 Maoists last year.

In 2020, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) apprehended 296 terrorists.

The DG said stone-pelting incidents in the Valley have "reduced drastically", although they have not stopped completely.

The stone-pelting incidents have now been reduced to 10 per cent of what it used to be earlier, Singh. He was addressing a Press conference on the eve of the Force's 82nd anniversary.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, where the force works in close coordination with the

state police and the Indian Army, 215 terrorists were neutralised in 2020 and 11 terrorists were killed this year," Singh said.

"Only a few days back, we neutralised four terrorists in two different operations. This included top Jaish commander Sajjad Afghani who was neutralised in Shopian in a joint operation," he said.

During the same period, eight terrorists surrendered before the security forces.

# Leprosy drug has potential to control Covid-19

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved leprosy drug, clofazimine, which is on the World Health Organization's list of Essential Medicines, has been found to have antiviral activities against SARS-CoV-2 and initial trials show that it prevents the exaggerated inflammatory response associated with severe Covid-19.

Based on the tests on hamsters—an animal model for Covid-19, the scientists found that clofazimine lowered the amount of virus in the lungs, including when given to healthy animals prior to infection (prophylactically). The drug also reduced lung damage and prevented "cytokine storm," an overwhelming inflammatory response to SARS-CoV-2 that can be deadly.

Based on these findings, a Phase 2 study evaluating clofazimine as an at-home treatment for Covid-19 is on the anvil anytime soon, said a study published in the journal Nature.

"Clofazimine is an ideal candidate for a Covid-19 treatment. It is safe, affordable, easy to make, taken as a pill and can be made globally available," said co-senior author Sumit Chanda, profes-

sor and director of the Immunity and Pathogenesis Program at Sanford Burnham Prebys.

"We hope to test clofazimine in a Phase 2 clinical trial as soon as possible for people who test positive for COVID-19 but are not hospitalised. Since there is currently no outpatient treatment available for these individuals, clofazimine may help reduce the impact of the disease, which is

**Clofazimine was initially identified by screening one of the world's largest collections of known drugs for their ability to block the replication of SARS-CoV-2**

particularly important now as we see new variants of the virus emerge and against which the current vaccines appear less efficacious."

Discovered in 1954 and used to treat leprosy, Clofazimine was initially identified by screening one of the world's largest collections of known drugs for their ability to block the replication of SARS-CoV-2.

"The animals that received

clofazimine had less lung damage and lower viral load, especially when receiving the drug before infection," said co-author Ren Sun, professor at the University of Hong Kong and professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Clofazimine also worked synergistically with remdesivir, the current standard-of-care treatment for people who are hospitalised due to

COVID-19.

"Potentially most importantly, clofazimine appears to have pan-coronavirus activity, indicating it could be an important weapon against future pandemics," said co-senior author Kwok-Yung Yuen, chair of Infectious Diseases at the University of Hong Kong, who discovered the coronavirus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

# The expendables?

Is the Mumbai Police Commissioner's transfer a ruse to deflect attention from an uncomfortable truth?

No matter how shrewdly you plot something, you will always leave a trail while executing the nefarious activity. Looked at diligently and linked together properly, the trail always leads to the real perpetrator/s. However, if the culprits are high and mighty, they will make all efforts to ensure that their traces are wiped clean. The shifting out of Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh from the prime post, a reshuffle that came three days after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Vaze in connection with a case where a Scorpio car laden with 20 gelatin sticks was found outside Mukesh Ambani's residence 'Antilia', appears to be a lot more serious development than just a "face-saving exercise" by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government, as is being made out to be. Often, lower-rung, trigger-happy "encounter specialists" like Vaze are given a free hand and prominence by their seniors at the behest of their political masters, to be used in a *quid pro quo* by the politicians as and when required. But no matter how powerful Vaze must have been, it's hard to imagine that an Assistant Inspector-ranked officer would have had the courage to scare a top industrialist like Ambani by himself. It would not be wrong to assume that Vaze is just a small fry in the operation. However, it is for sure that when things go wrong, officers like him — and sometimes seniors — are made the scapegoats and dumped.

In the tripartite Government, the NCP's Anil Deshmukh is the Home Minister. The anxiety on the part of the NCP can be gauged from the fact that party chief Sharad Pawar met Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray after Vaze was arrested by the NIA. Only Thackeray and Pawar must be aware of what transpired at the meeting but the Mumbai Police Commissioner was shunted out only after this meeting. What was the hurry on the part of the Government? Who are they trying to save? Is it just a damage-control exercise or is there something more than meets the eye? Even if a case is being investigated by the country's premier investigating agency, a Police Commissioner could still be powerful enough to tamper with the evidence as it is not only electronic but physical, circumstantial and of other types, too. But it can be done only if he is in a position of authority. A bureaucrat accords top priority to his career; on the other hand, it's like a double-edged sword for politicians if they are complicit in a crime. They know that besides facing the Opposition, they may have to face the music if the investigation leads up to them. They would, therefore, do whatever it takes to save their necks — appointing a new police chief, dismissing the lower officer, initiating inquiries and even reaching out to the political opponents to cut a deal. As the NIA investigation unfolds, the situation will become murkier by the day. Let's see what happens in Maharashtra and how many "dirty fish" are netted by the investigators.



Women labourers pull a cart laden with waste building material, in Ahmedabad PTI

# The second coming

If we don't mend our ways, the resurgent COVID wave will obliterate our health, jobs and lives

Just when the country had begun to heave a collective sigh of relief and think that we were going to beat Coronavirus, what with the caseloads going down exponentially and the vaccination drive running smoothly, India saw a sudden surge in infections in many States like Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. In fact, the spectre of a nationwide outbreak, or "second wave", is looming large. Worryingly, India detected 35,871 cases of the virus on March 17, of which 23,179 cases (close to 65 per cent) were from Maharashtra. The number of active cases in India has increased to more than 2.52 lakh and at least 172 deaths were reported the same day, taking the toll to over 1.59 lakh. It is no wonder then that the Prime Minister (PM) saw it prudent to call a meeting of the Chief Ministers (CMs) to decide the new pandemic management strategy, wherein he stressed the need for checking the "emerging peak" of the contagion and speeding up the vaccination drive. He asked the CMs to follow the "test, track and treat mantra" and lamented the nearly 10 per cent vaccine wastage in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Though it is fine that the nation's leaders are brainstorming over the strategy to beat the contagion the second time around, it is time that the citizens snap out of the COVID fatigue that has set in and re-start following all the Corona protocols strictly. This is because no Government can beat a pandemic on its own; it needs the unquestioning cooperation of its citizens and their unflinching commitment to following all pandemic protocols. This is where we are lacking as people have all but given up wearing masks and are not observing social distancing or frequent sanitising and temperature checking. People must realise that even though we have the healthcare infrastructure, we cannot afford to opt for another hard, nationwide lockdown as our flailing economy will not be able to survive it. The middle class has almost exhausted all the savings and the poor had nothing to fall back upon in the first place. If the economy is closed down again, there will be crippling unemployment; we might witness the kind of food riots and looting that some European nations did and crime will rise in proportion to people's desperation levels. So, it will be better if we take responsibility for our actions and lack of discipline.

# Say bye to reality, fake is the new real

If you want to live in the brave new world of fake, give up your habit of questioning everything; being rational is not a virtue anymore



GYANESHWAR DAYAL

Often, negative connotations are attributed to certain words that are pious and mean no harm. "Fake", which has gained currency in recent times, is one such word. It does more good than bad to an individual or a nation, yet it is scorned. You may rubbish this right away, but hang on. What if I told you that it is rooted in great Indian traditions, philosophy and popular culture? Larger good of humanity is its *raison d'être*. Confused? Read on.

Let's first onion the whole concept. Fake is not fictitious and by no means a lie. It is not to be confused with "Feku" which is a Hindi word and has a different connotation. Fake is an alternative reality. It furnishes a purpose and, that too, rather cut-price.

Fake is all around us. Having fake Ray-Ban glasses, fake Nike sneakers, fake Louis Vuitton bags that we all so proudly sport, is popular culture. Why do people buy fakes? Well, the real may be too expensive and beyond reach. Exactly! Fake offers an alternative to an unaffordable reality. It gives you a sense of pride in your existence.

You may not have realised but we do it all the time. We don't mind a fake smile while entering a plane. We don't mind faking emotions — clapping for a performance you hated or smiling at the stranger who stepped on your toes is so much part of you and me. We are all walking, talking fakes. Then why such a hullabaloo?

Fake gives you that coveted space in your national life. It helps you feel proud of the nation you belong to. Now that it is done with such élan that one should feel rather blessed. Fake news is a work of art and has a pre-defined purpose. It makes you feel happy and content.

Now that faking has emerged as a fine art, we have all the more reasons to embrace it with open arms. For those who might have moral compunctions in doing so, I have this to say: Don't you believe in the concept of "Maya"; this world is anything



but real, a fake pulled across our five senses, fooling us with its fine details? In the movie *Inception*, a guy when woken up feels that it is difficult to say if he has woken up or gone to sleep. So getting hung up on reality is no good.

Abraham Lincoln once said: "Don't believe everything you read on Facebook." Even George Washington warned against WhatsApp. I know you are sceptical about the quotes. Please Google it but, let me tell you, it is a bad habit. If you want to live in the brave new world of fake, give up your habit of questioning everything. Being rational is no virtue anymore. These are old-school things. Don't be doubting Thomases. It did him no good. It does no good to you.

Haven't you read how fake news about the death of an elephant, Ashwathama, helped the Pandavas get rid of Dronacharya and paved the way for their victory in the *Mahabharata*? We all know how Krishna pulled off a fake sunset to save Arjuna from self-immolation and helped him exact revenge on Jaidrath. Does one need more stories to validate the glory of the "fake"?

Of course, some spoilers earn their bread and butter

by distinguishing between the real and the fake. They run websites like 'Alt News'. Good for them but what is there for us, and for what? Just to take away from you those moments of elation and pride? What purpose does the news serve when we are told that a few Chinese soldiers strayed into our territory? It is news better avoided; better still replaced by a positive item. Replace it with pictures of the Chinese soldiers' graves so that people don't feel paranoid about national security. Isn't that fake better than the real?

In any case, we can do nothing more than delete some Chinese apps on our Chinese mobile phones. So why the fuss? Rest assured, we have a new reality being woven for us right now, right here, for our own good. Nobody would be able to know what is real and what isn't. Fake is being aided by technology that helps create an alternative reality in this agonisingly real or surreal world. What more could you ask for?

Unlike real news, fake news is fast and smart. It convinces, motivates and propels you to act. And what does the

real news do? It upsets you and spirals you into depression. The problem is not fake news. The problem is that you haven't completely adjusted to it.

The stories of Riya's thug life and theories of Sushant Singh Rajput's murder mystery kept you from watching on your TV screens the wrapped-up, lined-up bodies of Corona victims. Besides, the former stories were outright entertaining. Learn to enjoy it. Fake news, just like a fake orgasm, is loaded with good intentions. Both offer a feel-good factor to the second party. A false sense of satisfaction, but satisfying nonetheless.

Fake, then, is the new real. The new textbooks with new insights on history and polity, untold theories of the greatness of a nation and the stories of heroes hitherto unknown would help create an alternative reality. It is so realistic! So, be prepared because the floodgates of fake are wide open. Meanwhile, just ponder what the great men had said about Facebook and WhatsApp!

(The writer is a columnist and documentary film-maker. The views expressed are personal.)

WE HAVE A NEW REALITY BEING WOVEN FOR US RIGHT NOW, RIGHT HERE FOR OUR OWN GOOD. NOBODY WOULD BE ABLE TO KNOW WHAT IS REAL AND WHAT ISN'T. FAKE IS BEING AIDED BY TECHNOLOGY THAT HELPS CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE REALITY IN THIS AGONISINGLY REAL WORLD

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE L-G IS NOT GOVERNMENT

Sir — The introduction of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021, by the Modi Government is to circumscribe the powers of the Delhi Government and to confer more powers on the Lieutenant Governor (L-G); who is an appointee and an agent of the Union Government. The move is ill-advised and regressive, to say the least.

The context in which the Bill is introduced is significant; it is linked to the BJP's adverse political relationship with the AAP and its inability to reconcile with the AAP's stronghold over the Capital. It is an attempt to invert democracy to elevate the L-G to the status akin to that of the Viceroy during the British Raj and make him synonymous with the "Government". It is indeed our understanding that a piece of legislation should not be motivated by political considerations. A law should be above ascription to any political motive. But the new Bill does not meet these basic requirements.

Further, it reflects BJP's scant regard for the Supreme Court's ruling that the Delhi Government has powers to take its own independent decisions on all matters other than police and land. It shows the Centre's unwillingness to abide by the Supreme Court's verdict and putting in place a power-sharing arrangement without any friction between the Union Government and the Delhi Government. The Bill's passage in Parliament could prove to be an exercise in futility as it won't stand constitutional scrutiny. We urge the Government to show respect for electoral democracy and drop the move.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

### HOLD ALL ELECTIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY

Sir — It's a welcome move that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice has stated that holding simultaneous polls will reduce the burden on the exchequer as well as the expenditure of political parties and ensure that human resources are utilised optimally. The BJP-led-NDA Government strongly favours simultaneous elections, having registered

## Stop colonial practices



The practice of referring to judges as "My lord" or "Your lordship" reeks of colonialism and should be done away with. It is a relic of India's colonial past. The judges of the Supreme Court, High Court and other courts should take the initiative and ask lawyers to stop addressing them that way. Last year Justice S Muralidhar, days after he joined the Punjab and Haryana High Court, had asked lawyers addressing his court to avoid referring to him as "My

lord" or "Your lordship". While hearing a PIL in 2014, the apex court had said judges should be addressed respectfully and in a dignified manner, but it was not compulsory to call them "My lord", "Your lordship" or "Your honour".

In 2019, the Rajasthan High Court unanimously resolved to do away with the practice of referring to judges as "My lord" and "Your lordship". The usage of titles and bowing before judges while addressing them, as instituted by the British within the courts, was to distinguish the jurors from the lawyers and those standing in their respective boxes. However, this later developed into a symbol of prestige. As distinguished jurist Fali S Nariman said, the reason to call judges with elective honorifics is simply because they love it. Even the Bar Council of India (BCI) rules, which regulate legal practice, categorically acknowledge and point out that such references are relics of the colonial past. We need not carry such legacies that are nothing more than a burden. Also, we must relinquish all other colonial practices that have become obsolete and are outdated.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

resounding wins in successive Parliament polls, but the fragmented Opposition is not so enthusiastic about it.

Further, the collapse of the Governments will discourage the Opposition to go forward for "one nation, one election". The frequent imposition of the Model Code of Conduct cripples governance and impedes development; hence it makes sense to club the elections to the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies. Any move to curtail or extend the tenure of some Assemblies has to be well thought out in the face of constitutional hurdles. It is expected from all the parties that they should come forward in the interest of the country and implement the idea of "one nation, one election".

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

### FORCED TO BREATHE POISON

Sir — Indian cities are polluted and resi-

dents are forced to breathe the poisonous air. This is due to indiscriminate urbanisation and the pollution caused by vehicles. Adoption of electric vehicles is not as expeditious as it should be and this is a matter of concern.

Our cities are not suffering only from air pollution but land and water pollution also are making life miserable for the citizens. Despite water treatment plants, there is a need to install water purifiers at home. The Governments have failed to supply potable drinking water. Also, garbage is neither properly dumped nor scientifically disposed. It causes several diseases and various bacteria and virus attack our immune system.

Jayanthi Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

I feel that the CM is to be blamed for reinstating Vaze in the police force. The law and order situation in the State has collapsed. He must resign.



BJP MP

Narayan Rane

New Zealand's economy remains resilient despite the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, reinforcing the steps the Government has taken to support and secure the recovery.



New Zealand Deputy PM

Grant Robertson

I totally don't respect awards. It's a joke. It's comical to see actors dance and then collect an award and make funny jokes.



Actor

John Abraham

Now with Suresh Raina coming into the squad, I think he holds the key in the Chennai Super Kings lineup and we have seen what he has done throughout the years of IPL.



Former Indian cricketer

Parthiv Patel

I have realised that the people also have realised that only the Left Government can assure them of the overall development of the State.



Kerala CM

Pinarayi Vijayan



## FIRST COLUMN

### A TIGHTER QUAD NEED OF THE HOUR

A strong leadership with the potential of bringing in more allies from Europe could be a good move



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Almost a year after the world order changed due to the pandemic, a new paradigm in global alignments has emerged to navigate the tricky corridors of multinational alliances. The Quad nations consisting of India, the US, Australia and Japan were hosted virtually by US President Joe Biden. The signals emerging, including the Press statement issued after the discussion, showcase the growing consensus among nations to come together to tackle global challenges. This is the opportunity for India to launch itself into the rich and strategically important club of countries. Shedding its post-Cold War chills, India today recognises the growing importance of deep bilateral ties with the US which continue to evolve despite changing political flavours in Washington and New Delhi. The two countries, despite complaining about each other in closed groups, have managed to strategically cooperate in many tricky areas of trade and commerce, emerging technology and regional security. At this stage it would be worthy to mention the Quad statement which reads: "Today we pledge to respond to the economic and health impacts of COVID-19, combat climate change and address shared challenges, including in cyber space, critical technologies, counter-terrorism, quality infrastructure investment, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as well as maritime domains." In order to achieve these goals, the Quad leaders have pledged to double their efforts and establish a vaccine expert working group consisting of the best from the scientific, medical and finance communities of the nations concerned, establish a working group on critical and emerging technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and 5G, to serve as a facilitation desk for identifying new technologies and developing world stan-



dards and finally a climate action work group. It is encouraging to note that despite almost all of these solutions featuring prominently in bilateral dialogues India has had with Quad member states independently, this is the first time the issue has been addressed on a multilateral platform which can be seen as the rise of a truly representative world order.

While much has been said about climate and vaccine cooperation, the issue of joint development of new international standards for emerging technologies needs to be stressed. Any new technology needs to follow certain globally accepted interoperable protocols. For instance, a bunch of plugs for any electronic equipment has to adhere to a certain international standard to be able to be sold globally. If nations start developing goods according to their own country-specific standards, it may lead to forced exclusion of global products in domestic markets and a setback for seamless global supply chains. The issue becomes far more complex with new technologies, with everyone trying to decipher the potential challenges and risks. In India's case, a weaponised technology-aided neighbour, pushing the envelope on all fronts, could mean unipolar standards dominance world order. This is red alert for all future coalitions as the world has got ample evidence of what a single State-backed technology company can do to disrupt sovereigns. The Quad nations are all technology leaders and need to develop a closer bond, if not assign a working secretariat with permanent staff to be able to shape up the 21st century digital economy narrative. Even though the Quad statement did not mention a joint defence working group, it mentions commitment "to promoting a free, open, rules-based order, rooted in international law to advance security and prosperity and counter threats to both in the Indo-Pacific and beyond." All of these points are key to defining relationships among the nations and almost all Quad countries have challenges managing the dragon. A strong Quad leadership with the potential of bringing in more allies from Europe and the UK could be a good move going ahead.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

## Fix gaps in anti-human trafficking landscape

The AHT ecosystem needs to move beyond treating survivors as victims and rather empower and create survivor leadership models wherein they can grow and influence the ecosystem



GEETIKA DANG

PALAGATI REDDY

SAMRIDHI PURI

Estimates by social impact organisations suggest that at any given time there are more than 25 million trafficked people in the country. Human trafficking can take many forms, be it forced labour, bonded labour, sexual slavery, organ harvesting, or the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children. In India, the underprivileged and minority groups are often at the highest risk of exploitation due to factors such as extreme poverty, low levels of education and lack of viable livelihood opportunities. The problem of human trafficking is a multidimensional one and, to be effectively addressed, it requires coordination across a spectrum of stakeholders like the Government, industry, social enterprises, civil society, non-Government organisations (NGOs), the local community and media. Over the last few decades, organisations in India have increasingly focused on combating trafficking, with a stress on safeguarding the most vulnerable, through engagement with Government bodies, focusing on rehabilitation of survivors, providing them with livelihood opportunities and sensitising community stakeholders. These efforts, however, are isolated in nature, highlighting the need to create an enabling environment for implementation agencies to collaborate, scale and sustain their efforts.

**Key gaps and challenges in the anti-human trafficking ecosystem:** The anti-human trafficking (AHT) solution ecosystem in India predominantly focuses on the delivery of services to survivors, as opposed to building, strengthening and actively addressing gaps in the existing AHT solution systems. A recent study by Sattva included a survey of 59 AHT organisations across 16 States, along with 120 institutional stakeholders and 52 survivor groups to identify gaps in the AHT ecosystem. The study found that while 96 per cent of the surveyed organisations focused on delivering immediate rescue, care and support services to the survivors, only 42 per cent focused on building, strengthening, and actively addressing gaps in the existing AHT systems. Thus, there is a strong need for a balanced approach between these two functions of AHT programmes, with the disconnect often leading to structural and systematic gaps and challenges.

The recovery system can also often be disorganised and a lack of viable livelihood opportunities, holistic reintegration mechanisms and social stigma can lead to re-trafficking of survivors. Even though there is increasing collaboration between organisations across various intervention types in the ecosystem, most stakeholders continue to operate in silos with little coordination across State and national borders. Due to the lack of collaboration, implementation organisations also report having a high dependence on funders.

The study suggested that other critical gaps have crept in across the ecosystem due to a lack of tailored interventions at the initial stages of trafficking prevention, along with an absence of robust tracking mechanisms leading to information asymmetry across the ecosystem when it comes to the scope or scale of the problem. The absence of standard procedures to guide rescue



OVERALL, THERE IS ALSO AN INHERENT NEED TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF THE GRASSROOTS IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATIONS TO SOLVE THE GAPS WITHIN THE HUMAN ECOSYSTEM. REVISITING HOW INTERVENTIONS ARE DRIVEN, MOVING FROM AN INDIVIDUAL LEADER-LED APPROACH TO A MORE EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES, ALONG WITH DESIGNING CONTEXTUALISED INTERVENTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITH EXTERNAL AUDIT AND EVALUATIONS, CAN BE HELPFUL

Dang and Reddy are research consultants while Puri is research associate, Sattva Consulting. The views expressed are personal.



operations, the lack of logistical and safety precautions in place for field staff and the aforementioned information asymmetry often put both the rescue team and the rescued survivor at risk.

Additionally, an overall lack of awareness associated with legal processes and challenges in engaging with local police can often result in only a small percentage of survivors receiving legal support, and results in an overall poor rate of convictions.

Another critical gap in the ecosystem pivots around the low capacity of rehabilitation homes — this is magnified when juxtaposed against the increasing need for rehabilitation both in transit and within communities for survivors, followed along with targeted quality mental health counselling and medical interventions.

**Solving the gaps in the AHT landscape:** Keeping in mind the structural and systematic nature of the gaps in the ecosystem, there is a primary need for strengthening the capacity and engagement of implementing organisations and other stakeholders in the overall AHT ecosystem. It is critical to start working towards collaboration and coordination, given the expanding nexus of traffickers, especially within the context of emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.

These traffickers can range from opportunistic individuals to sophisticated criminal organisa-

tions with multi-jurisdictional activity. Combating them effectively needs a multidisciplinary approach that can influence larger ecosystems, social policy and drive legislative change while strengthening the capacity of grassroots organisations.

The study finds that the organisations with funded AHT programmes need to widen their reach and partnership beyond local authorities and begin engagement at the State or national level. These efforts need to be in collaboration with organisations working across different parts of the survivor life cycle and geographies. On-ground organisations are often burdened with various other challenges relating to implementation and need support from stakeholders across the ecosystem to design holistic interventions which consider all survivor needs.

Collaborative efforts and measures need to be taken at the systemic, programmatic and delivery level to ensure a comprehensive response to human trafficking. Across stakeholders, the creation of common data repositories and investments in centralised tracking systems is an important step that could be a means to prevent re-trafficking.

This could be coupled with a means to incorporate feedback mechanisms, wherein survivors provide feedback to the implementing organisations on support received from Government

officers and access to Government schemes.

Overall, there is also an inherent need to build the capacity of the grassroots implementing organisations to solve the gaps within the human ecosystem. Revisiting how interventions are driven, moving from an individual leader-led approach to a more effective distribution of responsibilities, along with designing contextualised interventions for the prevention of human trafficking with external audit and evaluations, can be helpful.

Moreover, creating networks of organisations working in different States and networks that are funder-led across areas of intervention will allow greater collaboration, and allow them to leverage cross-learning and encourage knowledge sharing. Aside from strengthening legal action and processes, funder-led approaches for financial aid or capacity building for NGOs can lead to immense eventual value for survivors, be it through rehabilitation, medical care, or the provision of mental healthcare.

Fundamentally though, an increased focus on survivor and community-led and community-centric solutions is imperative. The Indian AHT ecosystem needs to move beyond treating survivors as victims and rather empower and create survivor leadership models wherein the victims can grow within the ecosystem and influence it.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE BJP, WHICH HAS A SIZEABLE PRESENCE IN CHENGANOOR AND ARANMULA, MAY HELP THE CPI(M) FOR THE FAVOUR IT WILL BE RECEIVING IN RANNI.

—FORMER CHIEF EDITOR OF 'THE ORGANISER'

R BALASANKAR



THIS STATEMENT BY HIM AROSE OUT OF THE DISCONTENTMENT OVER THE DENIAL OF TICKET TO HIM.

—KERALA BJP CHIEF

K SURENDRAN

## Cumulative efforts must to save sparrow from extinction

Buildings and other public spaces must have an enabling environment in the form of nesting places to help the bird get a toehold in our cities again

The humble house sparrow or *Passer domesticus* is a bird most of us grew up with. The chorus of chirping that greeted one at sunrise and sunset was as good as clockwork, but slowly and surely these little delightful and hyperactive birds have bid adieu to our homes and cities. This has been an ongoing process since the 1990s.

Designated as the State bird of Delhi in 2012, the sparrow has been facing multiple threats to its very existence but, curiously, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List has categorised the bird as being of "Least Concern" which means that it is a species requiring least conservation attention. This is concerning considering that huge swathes of the sparrow population have dis-



KOTA SRIRAJ

The writer is an environmental journalist. The views expressed are personal.

appeared from various cities in just under a decade.

Each year March 20 is observed as the World Sparrow Day and rightly so, as these birds deserve sincere conservation efforts because they have been displaced from their genuine habitats due to anthropogenic intervention. Modern technology-based outdoor equipment coupled with rising pollution levels has disturbed the ambient living conditions of these birds in our cities.

The rapid rise of cell phone towers and the resultant radiation emission from these towers, coupled with noxious pollution levels have severely challenged the sparrow population of our cities. These conditions have been exacerbated by the burgeoning population of other invasive bird species such as that of pigeons which not only

reproduce faster but also put more pressure on the available food resources.

These conditions have driven sparrows to the fringes and peri-urban locations and unless supporting measures are undertaken to protect the bird, it might disappear from these locations as well.

As the sparrow becomes an increasingly rare sight, the bird's extinction itself may not be far off. The avian species of carrier pigeons which were in abundance at the beginning of the 19th century are nowhere to be seen now. The same is the case with the white-backed vulture which used to be a common sight in the 1980s but is not anywhere to be seen now.

In some cases, fascinating insectivorous bird species have succumbed to pesticide poisoning. The drongo and bee-eater birds can be cited as



examples of this tragic occurrence. The treatment of crops with aldrin pesticide to protect against termites claimed a huge number of the Sarus cranes in Rajasthan as these birds fed on wheat. Post this blow, the crane population could never recover and eventually disappeared. The ring dove birds, too, fell for the aldrin-laced crops and met the same fate. This indiscriminate use of pesticide has obliterated some amazing avian species forever from our lives.

The house sparrow is considered to be a social avian

species as it mainly survives close to human settlements and largely feeds on grains. The species is considered as a hardy survivor as it can adjust in most weather conditions, therefore, it is all the more shocking that this little, strong bird is now nowhere to be seen.

The fate of the species was sealed due to the acute shortage of nesting sites in modern concrete buildings, disappearing kitchen gardens and the non-availability of a particular larvae (*Helicoverpa armigera*), associated with the field bean. These adverse conditions, coupled with the rising heat island effect from concretised urban settings, meant that the bird could also not withstand exceptionally high temperatures. This ultimately drove the species to city fringes where food availability was a major problem.

The house sparrow plays a vital role in balancing the ecological biodiversity of a city where the flora and fauna survive due to the complementary role played by each one of them. The extinction of an entire species is bound to create an imbalance that can damage nature's setting and eventually harm human survival, too, as we also are a part of nature.

Many not-for-profit institutions are engaged in breathing life into the dying species of house sparrows. These spirited efforts of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are a valiant fight to keep the spunky bird alive. However, unless the Government throws its weight behind the activities of these NGOs it could be akin to fighting a losing battle to save the species.

As a first step, the municipal corporations must start a

special initiative aimed towards resuscitating house sparrows in the cities. Buildings and other public spaces must have an enabling environment in the form of nesting places to help the bird get a foothold in urban spaces.

NGOs can be roped in to work with Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) to help build artificial nests that can provide a secure place for the birds to breed and keep their newborns safe. House sparrows are birds of short flight and, as such, cannot fly long distances to bring food to nourish the newborns, so the RWAs can set up locations inside residential colonies and societies where provision of nutritious bird feed can be done for the benefit of the sparrows. If these hardy little birds are lost forever, it will be a great loss to mankind.

# Turncoats, cine stars in BJP's Bengal list of 148 candidates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

A blend of old members, turncoats and cine stars characterised the BJP's list for the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth phases of Bengal Assembly elections. The 148-member list — which saw saffron workers revolting in many places against the choice of candidates — was released on Thursday.

The main highlight of the list was the candidature of party all-India vice president Mukul Roy who will contest from Krishnagar North constituency. Roy will be contesting an election after a gap of almost two decades.

Apart from Roy, Nadia MP Jagannath Sarkar too has been fielded to contest from Shantipur in the same district. Former Kolkata Deputy Mayor Meena Devi Purohit will contest from North Kolkata where as fashion personality Agnimitra Paul will contest from Asansol.

Among the turncoats are Jitendra Tewari who will contest from Pandaveshwar and

Vaishali Dalmiya --- a former TMC MLA and daughter of late BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya --- will contest from Bali. Besides, Bengali cine stars like Rudranil Ghosh will contest from Bhawanipore seat. The Chief Minister who has shifted to Nandigram is currently the sitting MLA from this seat.

Actress Sayantika Chatterjee will contest against senior Bengal Minister Partho Chatterjee from Behala whereas former BJP State president Rahul Sinha will fight from Habra in North 24 Parganas.

Meanwhile, in a related development violence erupted in places like Bhatpara and Nandigram after alleged TMC

supporters attacked the BJP members, sources said.

At Bhatpara in North 24 Parganas a woman was injured after several bombs were hurled near the residence of BJP MP Arjun Singh who alleged police complacency in the matter. Singh said bombs were thrown at 15 places by TMC goons in Jagaddal area of Bhatpara.

"We have informed the police that criminals are roaming around with arms. But nothing has been done. Bombs were hurled and CCTV cameras installed by police have been broken by the TMC goons. We are bringing this to the notice of the Election Commission,"

Singh added.

Elsewhere clashes broke out between supporters of the TMC and the BJP on Thursday at high-profile Nandigram where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari have locked horns.

The incident took place just after Adhikari's meeting and in presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan who was leading a rally. At least six persons from both the parties were injured, sources said adding police have been rushed to the area and the situation has been brought under control.

"I saw five to six TMC men attacking one of our Yuva Morcha (BJYM) activists, Purna Patra. He was bleeding as the attackers fled the spot. I managed to send him to Reapara Hospital in the area," Pradhan said. Violence also broke out at Harishchandrapur in Malda and some other places after angry BJP workers protested at their respective party offices alleging money had played a game in distribution of tickets in many places.

**TMC, BJP workers clashed in Nandigram just after Adhikari's meeting and in presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan who was leading a rally. At least six persons from both the parties were injured, sources said, adding police have been rushed to the area and the situation has been brought under control**

# Unrealistic and unimplementable poll promises by ADMK, DMK

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The poll battle in Tamil Nadu has turned out to be a freebies war between the AIADMK, the DMK and other outfits vying for power and most promises seem to be unrealistic. A cursory glance through the election manifestos of the Dravidian majors makes one feel whether this is an election or a freebies fair, said S Kalyanaram, former executive of the Asian Development Bank and a former member of the Indian Railway Accounts Service.

It has already been announced that the AIADMK would offer Rs 1,500 per month to the woman head of each family, six cooking gas cylinders per year, washing machines, solar powered cooker and stoves, 50 per cent subsidy for women commuters in all city buses.

The DMK went one step further and announced Rs 4,000 to each pandemic hit ration holder, and Rs 100 subsidy on every cooking gas cylinder. Besides this woman head of every family in the State would receive from the DMK, a monthly pay packet of Rs 1,000.

Nadu's war for water with Karnataka would intensify," said Dr Kalyanaram, a strong water for the national water grid.

Both the DMK and the AIADMK are vying with each other to placate the common man with cash and kind under the label of family pension, said Dr Kalyanaram. He also pointed out that the report by 15th Finance Commission led by NK Singh had painted a pathetic picture on the state of economy of Tamil Nadu and this is due to the freebie culture.

"Though I scanned the manifestos of both the parties, I could not find any action plan to address the employment problem haunting the State or any solutions to help the mini, small, medium enterprises (MSME) units in the State, the main wealth generators," said Sam Rajappa, political commentator.

Tamil Nadu lost more than 12,500 lives during the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the reasons being cited for the spread of the pandemic was the absence of sufficient space in cities like Chennai for social distancing. "There are more than three million persons in Chennai and suburbs who live in unhygienic conditions and overcrowded locations. Unless this issue is resolved, we are certain to see more pandemics and more fatalities," said Dr Murukadas, former head of the Department of economics, Madras University.

The DMK's unique promise that it would bring in special legislation to make the State free from National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) has been only made to cheat the voters. "How is it possible to bring in a legislation to derail the verdict by the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court?" asked Narayanan Thirupathi, spokesman, Tamil Nadu BJP.

The AIADMK, in its enthusiasm to please the Muslim community which is against the Citizens Amendment Act (CAA) has assured them through party manifesto that it would emphasise the Centre to do away with the contentious legislation.

Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami reiterates in all his meetings that the AIADMK remains a secular party despite its alliance with the BJP. "This is an indirect way of telling the electorate that the BJP is a communal organisation," said Govindarajan Satyamurthi, political commentator based in Coimbatore.

The meaninglessness of the new age manifesto comes a full circle with the DMK's promise that it would retrieve Katchateev, the islet in the Bay of Bengal which was seceded by India to Sri Lanka in 1976. "To retrieve Katchatheev we have to wage a war with Sri Lanka," the Centre had told the apex court during a hearing on the topic.

"The question is whether DMK has the wherewithal for such an adventure," said Sathyamurthi.

# BJP fields Sobha of Sabarimala fame from Kadakampalli seat

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

In a strange coincidence, Kadakampalli Surendran, the Marxist Minister for Temple Administration and Tourism, sees himself pitched against Sobha Surendran, the mercurial BJP leader at Kazhakoottam in Thiruvananthapuram district.

Surendran was in the forefront to ensure the entry of women in Sabarimala Temple, the holy shrine in the western Ghats, while Sobha Surendran led the devotees and believers against the CPI(M) move to make women enter the temple premises.

Surendran had won from Kazhakoottam in the 2016 assembly election by a margin of 7,000 votes. The then BJP candidate V Muraliedharan came a close second while the Congress candidate M A Wahid had to content with the third position.

Since then Sobha had emerged as a leading woman activist of the BJP and it was reported that she was likely to be appointed as the party chief in Kerala.

But the duo of K Surendran and Muraliedharan had their way as the national leadership chose the former, much to the anguish of the RSS and the Sangh Parivar groups.

Sobha Surendran has endeared herself to the people of the State with her characteristic oratorical skills and rival political parties are fearful of her tongue-in-the-replies in debates and discussions.

"I was deputed by Lord Ayyappa to take on Kadakampalli Surendran who violated all age-old customs and traditions and ordered the police to provide security to women in the ten to fifty age group to enter the temple. My candidature was announced on the day Sitaram Yechury of

the CPI(M) declared that the Kerala Government would stand by women who want to violate the traditions," Sobha told reporters at Kazhakoottam.

The Sobha-Kadakampalli Surendran duel would be watched in awe by political Kerala electorate as the Congress has fielded S S Lal, a political greenhorn from Kazhakoottam. This has given rise to apprehensions among the BJP cadre about a possible CPI(M)-Congress deal. "The Congress is likely to transfer the party's votes to the CPI(M) to defeat the BJP.

Lets wait for the final result as the Congress had polled 38,600 votes in this constituency in 2016," said J K Ambika, commentator, who is touring select constituencies to study the mood of the voters. She said the voters are yet to recover from the Sabarimala shock.

# Man kills wife by cutting her throat

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

In the village Khedia Bahadurgarhi, a drunk man killed his wife by cutting her throat with a spud (kharuri). During this, the villagers arrived after hearing the screams of the young woman but the accused had run away after killing her. The police sent the body for autopsy.

According to the police, Neeraj, son of Shankarlal, a laborer and resident of village Khedia Bahadurgarhi, was addicted to alcohol. He used to get into a quarrel with his wife when he came home after drinking alcohol every next day. Despite convincing the in-laws and family members, he did not stop drinking alcohol. On Tuesday night too, he reached home after drinking alcohol. On this, he got into a fight with wife Ritesh Devi. After this, Neeraj killed his wife Ritesh Devi by a spud stabbing

her and escaped.

About fifteen years ago, Neeraj was married to Ritesh Devi, the daughter of Ramprasad, a resident of Dhimi, village Dibai of Bulandshahar district. According to the police, the accused is being searched.

Vikas and Kuldeep, two sons of Neeraj and Ritesh Devi, are 12-13 years old. Both children were sleeping. At night, both of them opened their eyes when there was a fight between the couple. When the children heard Ritesh Devi's scream, they ran towards them. The children told the police that they held Papa's feet and told him not to kill the mother repeatedly, but father killed the mother. The screaming of children did not affect Neeraj either. He inflicted a number of spuds on his wife's neck. The children were crying badly after seeing the blood-soaked body.

# UP sarpanch contender's daughter gangraped

**Barabanki (Uttar Pradesh):** A minor girl in Uttar Pradesh was allegedly gangraped by four youths from her village in Barabanki district. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Manoj Kumar Pandey, said that the incident in Zaidpur took place on Wednesday and the matter was reported on Thursday.

"The girl has filed a complaint accusing four youths of the village of abducting and raping her. The FIR has been filed and the girl has been sent for medical examination," he said.

The victim said in her complaint that she was on her way to her school when the four accused kidnapped her and took her to a deserted place and took turns raping her.

She further stated that after reaching home she narrated her ordeal to her family members after which a complaint was lodged with the police.

The victim's father said that he is a candidate for the village head in the upcoming panchayat elections and he was being pressurized not to contest the polls.

He said that he was offered money and when he refused, his daughter was kidnapped by four youths. He named Akash Verma, Lalji Verma, Sachin Verma and Shivam Verma as the four accused.

He further said that after committing the crime, they left his daughter near their house. The ASP said, "The victim's statement has been recorded and a complaint has been filed. We have launched an investigation and will take appropriate action against the accused after the medical report is received." IANS

# ₹5L for families of Andhra scribes who succumbed to coronavirus

**After careful examination of the matter, the Government hereby accords sanction of financial assistance of an amount of ₹5 lakh to the dependents of deceased accredited journalists due to Covid, said Principal Secretary V Usharani late on Wednesday**

IANS ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh government will dole out a financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to the family members of accredited journalists who passed away due to coronavirus.

"After careful examination of the matter, the government hereby accords sanction of financial assistance of an amount of Rs 5 lakh to the dependents of deceased accredited journalists due to Covid," said Principal Secretary V Usharani late on Wednesday.

The funds will be tapped from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Information and public relations commissioner has been authorised to take necessary action in these cases.

# Students of 1 to 5 in Raj to be promoted to next class

**Jaipur:** In the wake of a surge in Covid numbers, the students from classes 1 to 5 shall be promoted to the next classes without taking the test in Rajasthan, confirmed officials here on Thursday.

However, final exams for Classes 6 and 7 students will start on April 15, while a separate guideline will be released by the officials for Class 8 Board examination.

Apart from this, Class 9 and 10 examinations will be held from April 6-22. The result of all these exams will be announced on April 30. The next session will start from May 1.

As per the orders, in view of changing circumstances of Covid-19, children up to Class 1 to 5 will be promoted to the next class based on the assessment made under Smile-1, Smile-2 and "Aao ghar se sikhe" program. State government has launched a smile project during lockdown under which teachers were teaching students via YouTUBE channels. IANS

# 3,500 couples tie knot at mass marriage

**Lucknow:** Over 3,500 couples tied the knot at a mass marriage function held here on Thursday.

UP Labour Minister Swami Prasad Maurya said it was a world record of sorts. The mass marriage was one of the welfare schemes run by the Yogi Adityanath government for economically weaker sections of society.

The couples wearing clothes in bright hues, sat on the carpets laid on the sprawling grounds, waiting for priests to perform the rituals. Some Muslim couples too tied the knot at the venue. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who completed four years in office, was present to bless the couples at the event organised by the Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

Speaking on the occasion, he listed the various welfare schemes for labourers and said the government will soon ensure payment of Rs 2 lakh to any worker who dies while working.

He also asked those present in the gathering to maintain social distancing and wear masks to prevent Corona virus from spreading as fresh cases were being reported.

Swami Prasad Maurya said that as part of the mass wedding scheme, financial assistance is given under different heads. IANS

# EXPLOSIVE-LADEN SUV RECOVERY & BUSINESSMAN MURDER CASE Mumbai CP transferred to ensure transparent probe: Maha HM

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said here on Thursday that Param Bir Singh was transferred from his post as the Mumbai Police Commissioner to facilitate unimpeded investigations into the cases involving the arrested police officer Sachin Vaze in the recovery of gelatin sticks' laden SUV and murder of businessman Manshukh Hiran.

A day after the appointment of senior IPS officer Hemant Nagrale as the Mumbai Police Commissioner in place of Singh, Deshmukh said: The NIA and ATS are investigating professionally the cases involving Vaze. Singh was shifted out from his post as the Mumbai Police Commissioner to ensure that there are no obstacles in the investigations being carried out by the NIA and ATS.

Deshmukh said that Vaze, a junior officer, had committed several mistakes which were now being investigated and since Singh was overall in-charge of the case the

junior officer was dealing, "hence we felt it is better to post him elsewhere to ensure impartial probe".

Deshmukh said that the decision to shunt Singh from his post as the Mumbai Commissioner was taken after he discussed the matter with chief minister Uddhav Thackeray "We decided to shift him out from his post so that there are no obstacles to the investigations. No officer, however big or small will be spared in the probe," the Home minister said.

Speaking at a media event organised by leading group of publications, Deshmukh debunked allegation by former chief minister and leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP that the ruling Shiv Sena had pressured the latter to reinstate Vaze into service, by saying that it was a "political statement".

"Fadnavis should know that for officers of the rank of Assistant Police Inspector (API), there is a committee at the Police Commissioner level that reviews such cases and takes suitable decisions to reinstate them.

The files are handled by the CoP committee and do not come to the government... Neither the CM nor have I the authority to take decisions for an API-level officer," Deshmukh said.

Deshmukh said that no one would be spared in the cases involving the recovery of explosive laden SUV and the subsequent murder of Hiran.

"Any officer found guilty in the investigations would be prosecuted and punished," he said.

In a related development, senior NCP minister and party's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik came to the defence of the chief minister and rubbished Fadnavis' allegation that Uddhav had pressured him (Fadnavis) when he was the chief minister of the state to reinstate Vaze.

"No such pressure was brought to bear on Fadnavis by Uddhavji. It was on the recommendation of a committee headed by the Mumbai Police Commissioner that Vaze came to be reinstated into the service," Malik said.

# NIA seizes 2 more high-end cars

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

As part of the ongoing investigations into the recent recovery of explosive laden SUV near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's skyscraper mansion "Antilia" in south Mumbai, the NIA on Thursday seized two more high-end cars — one Mercedes-Benz and another Toyota Land Cruiser Prado.

The seizure came two days after it seized a Mercedes car that Vaze was using in his personal capacity, the NIA seized two more cars.

# Rane asks for Maha CM's resignation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Narayan Rane on Thursday demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray over the planting of explosive-laden SUV near Industrialist Mukesh Ambani's, "mysterious death" of businessman Manshukh Hiran and the arrest of police officer Sachin Vaze in connection with the two cases.

Talking to media persons here, Rane said: "The recent events, including the arrest of Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Vaze and the subsequent transfer of Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh have exposed the MVA government".

"The law and order has collapsed in the state. Uddhav Thackeray must resign as Chief Minister. I feel that he is to be blamed for the reinstatement of Sachin Vaze in the police force. Given the police officer's past record, the charges he faces including his alleged involvement in the planting of SUV near Ambani's residence and subsequent murder Manshukh Hiran and others, the chief minister must own up moral responsibility and resign," Rane said.

**कार्यालय नगर निगम देहरादून**  
 दिनांक 28/मार्च-2021  
**सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना**  
 दिनांक 18.03.21

नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत निम्नलिखित मार्गों पर लगे विद्युत पोलों पर पोल किचोकर के माध्यम से विज्ञान प्रदर्शित करने हेतु दिनांक 10.04.2021 से दिनांक 09.04.2023 तक कुल 2 वर्ष हेतु सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 06.04.2021 की अपरान्त 2.00 बजे तक पोल किचोकर विज्ञान की 30 निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है—

पोल क्योर स्थल का विवरण	कुल पोल	निगम द्वारा आक्षेप धनराशि (18% जीएसटी अतिरिक्त)
निविदा प्रपत्र के अनुसार	15477	1,05,00,000/-

निविदा के साथ निविदा सूचना प्रपत्र में अंकित निविदा धनराशि की 10 प्रतिशत धनराशि रु= 10,50,000/- का सीडीआर/एफडीआर) एवं निर्धारित निविदा फार्म का शुल्क रु= 11800/- का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट नगर निगम देहरादून के नाम देणे होगी एवं निविदा फार्म में अंकित अन्य तकनीकी दस्तावेजों को दिनांक 05.04.2021 की सायं 4.00 बजे तक मूल में निगम कार्यालय में उपलब्ध करना अनिवार्य होगा। दिनांक 05.04.2021 तक दस्तावेज मूल में निगम कार्यालय में जमा न किये जाने पर निविदादाता को असफल माना जायेगा। निविदादाता दिनांक 06.04.2021 अपरान्त 2.00 बजे ई-निविदा हेतु उत्तराखण्ड शासन की ई0टेंडर वेबसाइट [www.uktender.gov.in](http://www.uktender.gov.in) पर अपलोड करना सुनिश्चित करें। निविदा दिनांक 06.04.2021 सायं 4.00 बजे गठित निविदा समिति के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्तें विज्ञान प्रकाशन की तिथि से किसी भी कार्यदिनस में दिनांक 03.04.2021 की सायं 04.00 बजे तक नगर निगम कार्यालय में निर्धारित शुल्क जमा कराकर भी प्राप्त की जा सकती है। अधिक जानकारी के लिये निम्नलिखित मोबाईल नं० 7017981898 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

**नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम देहरादून**

**J&K SPORTS COUNCIL**  
**M. A Stadium Jammu/Bakhshi Stadium Srinagar**

**Gift of e-NIT No. 02 of 2021**  
**Dated :- 15.03.2021**

For and on behalf of the Secretary, J&K Sports Council, e-tender are invited from the reputed manufacturers or their authorized distributors/dealers or registered suppliers/Agencies for purchase of Sports Equipments/Kits for Small Khelo India Centres at District Level:-

**S.No. 1. Particulars :- Supply of Sports equipments/Kits etc.**  
**Adv. Cost :- Rs 200.00 Lacs, Cost of Tender Document :- Rs 2000/-**  
**Date of Publishing of tender :- 15.03.2021 from 02.00 P M**  
**Period of Downloading of documents :- 16.03.2021 from 02.00 P M to 22.03.2021 upto 4.00 P M**  
**Bid submission start date :- 17.03.2021 from 10.00 A.M**  
**Bid submission end date (online documents) :- 22.03.2021 upto 4.00 P M**  
**Date & time of opening of Bids (online) :- 23.03.2021 after 11:00 A.M or subsequent date in the office of Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Sports House, M. A Stadium Jammu**

The tender documents along with other Terms and Conditions of the NIT and relevant documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The tender shall be uploaded in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The bidders shall have to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents like CDR/PAN/GST Number/ Demand Draft/ (Tender fee) registration certificate duly renewed. **The cost of tender documents shall be deposited in the J&K Bank bearing Account No. : 011001010000007, IFSC Code: JAKAOMVING, Branch: Moving Secretariat.** The cost of tender document is non refundable while as the Earnest Money is refundable.

**Sd/- SECRETARY,**  
**J&K Sports Council, Jammu**  
**No. DIP/J-5014-P/20 Dated:- 18.03.2021**

**GLOBE TROTTER**

**JAPAN COURT DENIES NUKE PLANT RESTART**  
Tokyo: A Japanese court on Thursday ruled that a nuclear power plant northeast of Tokyo should not restart because it lacks an adequate emergency plan to safely evacuate nearly 1 million people nearby in case of a Fukushima-class accident.

**TANZANIA'S POPULIST PREZ MAGUFULI HAS DIED**  
Nakuru (Kenya): President John Magufuli of Tanzania, a prominent Covid-19 skeptic in Africa whose populist rule often cast his East African country in a harsh international spotlight, has died. He was 61 years old.

**ARMENIA TO HOLD EARLY PARL ELECTION IN JUNE**  
Yerevan: Armenia's Prime Minister set an early parliamentary election for June as he sought to defuse the country's political crisis.

**DUTCH PM POWERS TO 4TH STRAIGHT POLL WIN**  
The Hague: Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's conservative party powered to a fourth consecutive election victory in a vote held during a nationwide lockdown and dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic, near-complete results indicated Thursday.

**HELICOPTER CRASH KILLS NINE AFGHAN TROOPS**  
Kabul: A helicopter crash overnight has taken the lives of at least nine Afghan military personnel in a central province, the defense ministry said Thursday.

# Asian Americans grieve, organise in wake of Atlanta attacks



After dropping off flowers Jesus Estrella, left, and Shelby stand in support of the Asian and Hispanic community outside Young's Asian Massage on Wednesday AP

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**  
Asian Americans were already worn down by a year of pandemic-fueled racist attacks when a white gunman was charged with killing eight people, most of them Asian women, at three Atlanta-area massage parlors.  
Hundreds of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders turned to social media to air their anger, sadness, fear and hopelessness. The hashtag #StopAsianHate was a top trending topic on Twitter hours after the shootings that happened Tuesday evening.  
"I think the reason why people are feeling so hopeless is because Asian Americans have been ringing the bell on this issue for so long ... We've been raising the red flag," said Aisha Yaqoob Mahmood, executive director of the Atlanta-based Asian American Advocacy Fund, which does political and advocacy work across Georgia.  
Many were also outraged that the suspect, 21-year-old Robert Aaron Long, was not immediately charged with hate crimes. Authorities said Long told police the attack was not racially motivated, and he claimed that he targeted the spas because of a "sex addiction." Six of the seven slain women were identified as Asian.  
Law enforcement needs "some training understanding what a hate crime is. This man identified targets owned by

Asians," said Margaret Huang, president and CEO of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups. The gunman "was very clearly going after a targeted group of people."  
Being Asian American herself, Huang said the shootings felt personal. She is worried that not classifying the attack as a hate crime will "absolutely discourage others from coming forward and seeking help."  
She also cringed at the comments of a sheriff's captain who said of the gunman, "It was a really bad day for him."  
The remark "appeared to be trying to explain and justify" the suspect's actions. "Hopefully it was a misstatement," Huang said.  
Mahmood said Asian American business owners in the Atlanta area were already fearful because of incidents like graffiti and break-ins. The shootings will raise that worry to new heights.  
"A lot of Asian American business owners in the beauty parlor industry and food service — these are often the most visible front-line faces in the community," Mahmood said.  
Her organization is partnering with other groups such as the Atlanta chapter of Asian Americans Advancing Justice to offer resources in multiple languages, including mental health assistance, self-defense training and bystander training.  
Meanwhile, from Phoenix

to Philadelphia, Asian American organizations nationwide organized events aimed at showing unity.  
Asian Americans United, the Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance and several other partner groups held a vigil Wednesday afternoon in Philadelphia's Chinatown neighborhood.  
"After the month and year we had, we knew our folks needed the time to come together safely just to grieve and heal and mourn and speak to what's happening," said Mohan Seshadri, Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance co-executive director.  
As much despair as Asian Americans feel, Seshadri said, the shootings also mark a flash-point.

## Troubled US-China ties face new test in Alaska meeting

**Washington:** The United States and China will face a new test in their increasingly troubled relations when top officials from both countries meet in Alaska.  
Ties between the world's two largest economies have been torn for years and the Biden administration has yet to signal it's ready or willing to back down on the hard-line stances taken under President Donald Trump. Nor has China signaled it's prepared to ease the pressure it has brought to bear. Thus, the stage is set for a contentious first face-to-face meeting Thursday.  
Secretary of State Antony Blinken and national security adviser Jake Sullivan will meet China's top two diplomats, State

## Nepal's ruling CPN-UML's meeting forms 24-member Parliamentary board

**Kathmandu:** The parliamentary party meeting of Nepal's ruling CPN-UML, led by Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, formed a 24-member parliamentary board and three-member statute amendment task force on Thursday even as leaders of the rival faction boycotted the meet, according to media reports.  
Over 100 lawmakers close to Oli, who is also the party's Chairperson, took part in the meeting held at the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar. The 27-member parliamentary board, which will be headed by Prime Minister Oli, includes leaders of the party's rival faction Madhav Kumar Nepal and Jhala Nath Khanal, myRepublica newspaper reported. The board will be full-fledged after three more members are added to it, the report said.  
Padam Giri, a lawmaker who attended the meeting, said it was also decided to form a three-member task force to amend the party's statute. The task force comprises party's chief whip Bishal Bhattarai, Bimala Rai Poudel and Sher Bahadur Tamang, it said.  
"More than 100 lawmakers of the House of Representatives attended today's meeting," Niru Devi Pal, who is a parliamentarian close to the Oli faction, said. The next parliamentary party meeting has been scheduled for March 20 and all the lawmakers close to the Nepal-Khanal faction will also attend the next meeting, Sher Bahadur Tamang, UML (Unified Marxist Leninist) lawmaker, said. **PTI**

## Suu Kyi payments claimed as Myanmar junta raises pressure

**AP ■ MANDALAY (MYANMAR)**  
A Myanmar construction magnate with links to military rulers said he personally gave more than half a million dollars in cash to deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi in a broadcast on state television aimed at discrediting the ousted civilian government.  
The statement by Maung Waik could pave the way for more serious charges against Suu Kyi, who has been detained since the Feb 1 military takeover while security forces increasingly use lethal force against a popular uprising demanding the restoration of democratically elected leaders.  
The military has already tried to implicate Suu Kyi in corruption, alleging she was given \$600,000 plus gold bars by a political ally. She and President Win Myint have been charged so far with inciting unrest, possession of walkie-talkies and violating a pandemic order limiting public gatherings.  
In the latest salvo of allegations, Maung Waik, who has previously been convicted of drug trafficking, told state TV he gave cash to government ministers to help his businesses.



People walk along a deserted road blocked with improvised barricades built by anti-coup protesters to secure a neighborhood in Yangon on Thursday AP

## Putin points finger at US after Biden's 'killer' remark

**AP ■ MOSCOW**  
Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that US President Joe Biden's remarks about him reflect the past and current problems of the United States.  
Biden was asked in an interview this week whether he thought Putin was a killer and

replied "I do." Asked about Biden's comment during a video call marking the anniversary of Russia's annexation of Crimea, Putin charged that it reflected the United States' own troubled history.  
The Russian leader pointed at the U.S. Atomic bombing of Japan during World War II, as well as America's past history of slaughtering Native Americans and slavery, arguing that the painful legacies weigh on the United States.  
"Otherwise, where would the Black Lives Matter movement come from," he said.  
The exchange of tough statements comes on the heels of a declassified report from the US National intelligence director's office that found Putin authorized influence operations to



him: Be well! I wish him health, and I say that without any irony or joking."

## Sri Lanka group seeks probe of reporter's alleged kidnapping

**Colombo:** A Sri Lankan media rights group on Thursday urged police to expedite a probe into the alleged abduction and torture of a journalist, calling the incident a serious threat to the safety of journalists in the country.  
However, Sri Lankan police say the journalist, Sujeewa Gamage, lied about being abducted and has been taken into custody for making a false statement. A police spokesperson said the current investigation is focused on determining why he fabricated the events. **AP**

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following Special Trains will be revised due to operational reason as under:-

02323/02324 HOWRAH JN. - BARMER - HOWRAH JN. SUPERFAST FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAIN					
Train No. 02323	STATIONS		Train No. 02324		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	18:50	Howrah Jn.	05:50	--	
21:13	21:18	Asansol Jn.	02:25	02:30	
22:35	22:40	Dhanbad Jn.	01:15	01:20	
00:11	00:13	Koderma	23:27	23:29	
01:47	01:52	Gaya Jn.	22:05	22:10	
04:25	04:35	Pt. Deen Upadhyaya Jn.	19:28	19:38	
06:45	06:50	Prayagraj Jn.	16:40	16:50	
09:15	09:25	Kanpur Central	13:55	14:05	
15:15	15:40	Delhi Jn.	07:30	07:55	
17:20	17:22	Rewari	05:59	06:01	
19:50	19:55	Sadulpur Jn.	03:20	03:25	
20:45	20:55	Churu	02:15	02:25	
21:55	22:00	Ratangarh Jn.	01:30	01:35	
22:32	22:35	Sujargarh	00:30	00:33	
22:55	22:58	Ladnun	00:17	00:20	
23:18	23:21	Didwana	23:51	23:54	
23:46	23:48	Chhoti Khattu	22:44	22:46	
02:50	03:05	Jodhpur Jn.	19:20	19:40	
04:28	04:30	Samdari Jn.	17:50	17:55	
04:52	04:57	Balotra	17:12	17:17	
07:05	--	Barmer	--	15:55	

Days of Run: 02323 Ex Howrah Jn. from 02.04.2021 and 02324 Ex Barmer from 07.04.2021 to till further advice

02277/02278 TIRUPATI - JAMMU TAWI - TIRUPATI HUMSAFAR SUPERFAST FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAIN					
Train No. 02277	STATIONS		Train No. 02278		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	21:10	Tirupati	06:25	--	
02:40	02:48	Jhansi Jn.	22:50	23:00	
18:10	--	Jammu Tawi	--	07:20	

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](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in)  
Download RailMadad app.

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627/2021

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## Russian FM to visit China as Beijing, Moscow warm up to counter US' tough policy push

**Beijing:** Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will visit China next week amid the stepped-up efforts by the two countries to further solidify their close ties to counter the Biden administration's plan to pursue a tough policy towards Beijing and Moscow on a host of issues including human rights violations.  
During his two-day visit beginning March 22, Lavrov will hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on bilateral ties, the recent high-level exchanges as well as international and regional

## Kremlin: Biden's comment about Putin 'very bad'

**AP ■ MOSCOW**  
The Kremlin on Thursday denounced U.S. President Joe Biden's remarks about Russian President Vladimir Putin, warning it would rethink its approach to relations with Washington.  
Russia on Wednesday announced it's recalling its ambassador in Washington for consultations after Biden was asked in an interview whether he thought Russian President Vladimir Putin is a killer and said "I do."  
Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said it was a "very bad statement by the U.S. President" that made it clear that "he doesn't want to normalize relations."

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OFFICE PURCHASE - 1<sup>ST</sup> SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA, SRINAGAR- 190011**

**Sub: Opening of Technical Bid of e-tender floated for purchase of Inj. Haemodialysis Fluids etc**  
Ref: E-NIT No. SIMS 325 P-1<sup>st</sup> Tender 03 of 2021 dated: 19/02/2021.

This is for information of all the concerned that the technical bid in respect of Inj. Haemodialysis fluids etc floated vide e-NIT referred to above, shall be opened on 19/03/2021 at 3.00 PM in the office of IT department as already notified by the SKIMS.

- The following officers of the tender opening committee are accordingly informed.
1. Prof. Tariq Ahmad Gojwari HOD Radiology Convener
  2. Dr. Haroon Rashid Associate prof. Hosp. Admn. Member
  3. Accounts Officer to be nominated by Director Finance Member
- Sd/-  
Sr. Materials Management Officer  
Purchase - 1<sup>st</sup>  
No: SIMS 325 Tender 03 of 2021- 1687-94-6147-48  
Dated: 17.03.2021

**UJVN Limited**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 214 **Tender Notice** Date: 18.03.2021

Office of Executive Engineer (Maint.), Khodri Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites tenders for following supplyworks:  
**Tender No. 25/EE(Maint./Khodri/2020-21 - Under water inspection of draft tube gates and associated structure of Khodri power station.**  
Estimated Cost: Rs. 7,56,000/-  
Date of availability of bid documents : 18.03.2021 (18:00 Hrs)  
Last date for submission of Tender : 08.04.2021 (upto 16:00 Hrs.)  
For further details and downloading of the tender documents kindly visit our Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

Executive Engineer(Maintenance)  
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Rita Sehgal and Mr. Navneet Sehgal, are joint owners of Eastern Portion area measuring 116.5 Sq. Yds., (the said portion), of Property bearing No. 1-B/108, area measuring 233 sq. yds. Situated at New Township No. 1, Tehsil & District: Faridkot. "Said property" by virtue of Sale Deed dated 26.06.2014, read with rectification deed dated 03.05.2018. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to take loan against the said property from DCB Bank Ltd. If anybody has any objections upon said property's ownership & Title/ its Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 15 days of the present.  
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, Ind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mohi Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph. 011-411527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Sikandar Lal son of Shiv Lal Singh, resident of 93 Anandlok, New Delhi was having property No PT-5-07-11002 IN PROJECT "PALM TERRACES SELECT" measuring 3670 sq. feet, situated at Gurgaon, Haryana, which his legal heirs Sh. Samrat Yadav and Smt. Shaheen Narang requested the company to be transferred to his son namely Sh. Samrat Yadav. Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company office, details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.  
M/s. Emaar MGF Land Limited Shop No.306, 307, 308, Third Floor, Square One Mall, Delhi-110017

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**  
General public is hereby informed that one male namely Ganja Son & address unknown. Age: about 40-45 Yrs, Height- 5'4", shallow complexion, build thin, long face. Wearing white colour kurta, Black colour payjama was found dead in Urdu Park, Meena Bazaar, Jama Masjid, Delhi on 11.03.2021.  
In this regard a DD No. 19-A, dt. 11.03.2021 has been lodged at PS Jama Masjid, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at MAMC Mortuary, Delhi for identification.  
Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the following.  
S.H.O.,  
P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-23261625, 23269777  
DP/712/CD/2021

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**  
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 21-23 years, Height: 5' 5", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue colour Jeans shirt and Sky Blue colour Jeans pant, who was found at Electric Pole No. 7/14 - 7/16 Downline Rampura Flyover, Railway Track, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 19A Dated 14.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi.**  
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.  
Sd/- SHO  
P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi  
DP/85/RLY/2021 Tel.: 011-28711697, 28714802

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  
General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Pyare S/o Ram Chander R/o E-392, Camp No.2, Nangloi, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 25.02.2020 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 53-A dated 28.02.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Nangloi, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-  
**Age : 29 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion : Wheatish, Face: Oval, Wearing : Blue colour T-shirt and gray/black colour jeans paint and white colour chappal in feet.**  
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped person, may inform SHO, Nangloi, Delhi at E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Phone: SHO 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
DP/765/OD/2021  
P.S. Nangloi, Outer Distt., Delhi  
Ph. No. 011-25949470, 25947225

# Investors wealth tumbles by over ₹8 L cr in 5 days

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Equity investors became poorer by over Rs 8 lakh crore in five days of market plunge. The BSE benchmark has lost 2,062.99 points or 4 per cent in five trading sessions. On Thursday, the 30-share BSE benchmark tanked 585.10 points or 1.17 per cent to close at 49,216.52. Following the bearish trend, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies declined by Rs 8,04,216.71 crore to Rs 2,01,22,436.75 crore in five days. "Indian market has been in a corrective phase for the past

10 days due factors like high bond yields in the US and increased number of COVID cases being reported across the country," said Hemang Jani, Head Equity Strategy, Broking & Distribution, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. After its two-day policy meeting, the US Federal Reserve reassured investors that it expects to keep its key interest rate near zero through 2023. HCL Tech was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, falling 3.97 per cent, followed by Infosys, Dr Reddy's, TCS, Tech Mahindra and Reliance Industries. In contrast, ITC, Bajaj Auto, M&M, Maruti and Bharti

Airtel were among the gainers, gaining up to 3.25 per cent. "Having seen a brisk gap-up opening on positive global cues, domestic equities fell sharply for the fifth consecutive day as sharp rise in coronavirus cases in the country made investors jittery. The mounting concerns of possible fresh economic restrictions made enthusiasm of dovish commentary from the Federal Reserve short-lived for domestic markets," Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities said. In the broader market, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices fell by up to 1.58 per cent.

# Steps taken by Govt during pandemic yielding results, economy on V-shaped recovery: MoS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Steps taken by the government to deal with COVID-19 pandemic are resulting in 'V-shaped' economic recovery and the country is likely to witness double digit growth in 2021-22, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said on Thursday in the Lok Sabha. Replying to a discussion on the second and final batch of the supplementary demands for grants for 2020-21, he said that it was because of the efforts of the government that GST collection was over Rs 1 lakh crore for continuously five months. In the final batch of supplementary demands for grants for the current fiscal, the govern-

ment sought Parliament's nod for an additional expenditure of Rs 6.28 lakh crore of which the net outgo has been estimated at Rs 4.12 lakh crore. The rest will be matched by savings in different ministries and departments. The Lok Sabha later passed the supplementary demands for grants and the related appropriation bill by voice vote. In his reply the minister said the government focused on saving lives during the pandemic without bothering about the fiscal deficit. In the next fiscal, the Budget has earmarked Rs 35,000 crore for vaccination and more would be provided if needed, Thakur said. "The GST collection in the

last five months was continuously more than Rs one lakh crore...Because of the steps taken by the government during Covid, V-shaped economic recovery is happening. And world over, agencies have stated India will witness double digit growth in 2021-22," he added. The growth in the current year is estimated to contract by 8 per cent on account of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is estimated to rise to 11 per cent in 2021-22. The minister further said that the government has provided additional funds for programmes such as MNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, capital expenditure for defence, and free food for 80 crore people for eight months.

# Delhi HC restrains Future Group from moving ahead with ₹ 24K cr Reliance deal on Amazon's plea

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Thursday upheld the Singapore's Emergency Arbitrator's (EA) order restraining Future Retail Ltd (FRL) from going ahead with its Rs 24,713 crore deal with Reliance Retail to sell its business, which was objected to by US-based e-commerce giant Amazon. Justice J R Midha directed Kishore Biyani-led FRL not to take further action on the deal and held that the group wilfully violated Singapore Arbitrator's order. The high court directed the Future Group and its directors to deposit Rs 20 lakh cost in Prime Minister's Relief Fund for providing COVID-19 vaccines to senior citizens of Below Poverty Line (BPL) category. The court directed the presence of Biyani and others before it on April 28 as also

attachment of their properties. The high court asked them to show cause as to why they be not detained for 3 months under civil prison for violating emergency arbitrator's order. The high court's order came on Amazon's plea seeking direction to order enforcement of the award by Singapore's EA on October 25, 2020, restraining FRL from going ahead with its Rs 24,713 crore deal with Reliance Retail. Amazon, in its interim plea, has sought to restrain FRL from taking any steps to complete the transaction with entities that are a part of the Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani (MDA) Group. Future Group and Amazon have been locked in a battle after the US-based company took FRL into the emergency arbitration over alleged breach of a contract between them.

# Reliance Securities in India's top 10 share trading platforms

Mumbai: Reliance Securities (RSEC) has been recognised as India's top 10 most promising share trading platforms of 2020. Despite the challenges of last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic, RSEC emerged as one of the fastest-growing financial services business in India, enhancing its retail customer base to over 1 million, increasing its financial investment & savings offerings and widening its pan-India presence across 3500+ touch-

points and 60+ branches. Commenting on the honour, Mr. Lav Chaturvedi, ED & CEO, Reliance Securities, said, "Reliance Securities was able to grow transactions by 25-30% at a pan-India level despite the challenges of working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was possible owing to our single-window Systematic Digital Engagements (SDE) growth model, which is core to our consumer engagements across

all categories of our services and offerings, along with our 'phygital' presence, which helped us widen our reach across a wider customer base and geography." Reliance Securities was chosen as India's top 10 share trading platform by a team of market experts and journalists at Silicon India, after a 3-month scrutiny and evaluation process. The experts actively tracked all the solutions available for share trading platforms in India. Initially, 30 platforms were shortlisted based on the information collated from market reports, industry news, social media, surveys with potential buyers and industry events. Reliance Securities has been creating continuous value for customers as part of its SDE initiative. It has been continuously developing analytically driven solutions for digital consumer engagements across advisory, research, transactions, education, training and awareness creation. It has also

consciously transitioned to the 'Phygital' business model, which is a balanced growth of brick-and-mortar and digital presence, to cater to a wider category of clients and meet every client need, which includes market knowledge and financial literacy, insights and expert views and finally for ensuring faster, smoother, seamless and educated investment decisions across asset classes. The trading and investment processes are backed by hi-tech predictive technologies such as data analytics, AI, robotics for predicting possible future events and enabling clients to make well-calculated investment decisions. Application of regulatory technology (Regtech) has also enabled R-sec to become one of the most compliant brokers in the category by speeding up and making compliance processes seamless. For more details visit: <https://www.Reliacesmartmoney.com/>.

# Jio, Airtel, Voda Idea make upfront payments to Govt for spectrum bought in auctions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Operators Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have made upfront payments to the telecom department for the spectrum they acquired in the recently-held auctions, industry sources said on Thursday. The telecom department has issued demand notes to the three operators on March 8, and the deadline for making the upfront payment was Thursday. The sources privy to the development said that Reliance Jio has made an upfront payment of about Rs 15,019 crore, while Bharti Airtel has paid around Rs 6,323 crore as the immediate upfront amount. Vodafone Idea has paid about Rs 574 crore, as stipulated, they said. There was no official word from the companies on the payments made. The auctions held earlier this month raked-in winning bids of over Rs 77,800 crore for 855.6 MHz of spectrum.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio spent the most in the auction, picking up 488.35 MHz spectrum in bands such as 800 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2300 MHz for over Rs 57,100 crore. Bharti Airtel won the right to use spectrum, the total value of which is about Rs 18,700 crore. For Vodafone Idea, the value of spectrum bought in auctions was pegged at Rs 1,993.4 crore. As per the auction terms, successful bidders could pay the entire bid amount in one go, or exercise an option to pay a certain amount (25 per cent for spectrum won in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz bands or 50 per cent for spectrum won in 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz bands) upfront with the remaining amount in a maximum up to 16 equated annual instalments, after a moratorium of two years. It is pertinent to mention here that there were no takers for spectrum in 700 MHz and 2500 MHz bands in the recent auctions.

# Adani Green Energy raises \$1.35 billion

AHMEDABAD: Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) raised a USD 1.35 billion debt package for its under-construction renewable asset portfolio through definitive agreements signed with a group of leading international lenders. The revolving project finance facility would initially finance the 1.69 GW hybrid portfolio of solar and wind renewable projects to be set up in four SPVs in the state of Rajasthan, India. According to the agreement, 12 international banks - Standard Chartered Bank, Intesa Sanpaolo S.P.A, MUFG Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A., DBS Bank Ltd., Mizuho Bank, Ltd., BNP Paribas, Barclays Bank PLC, Deutsche Bank AG, Siemens Bank GmbH and ING Bank N.V committed for the facility which will be the first certified green hybrid project loan in India.

# CEO Delhi presents its publications to CEC, ECs

New Delhi: Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi Dr. Ranbir Singh on Thursday presented to the Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Election Commissioners Shushil Chandra and Rajiv Kumar four publications on Delhi Assembly Elections 2020 and SVEEP activities conducted by CEO office during Special Summary Revision 2021. PNS

# Gold gains ₹105; silver jumps by ₹1,073

New Delhi: Gold rose by Rs 105 to Rs 44,509 per 10 gram in the national Capital on Thursday, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 44,404 per 10 gram. "Spot gold prices for 24 carats in Delhi were up by Rs 105 reflecting overnight rally in global gold prices," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel. Silver also jumped Rs 1,073 to Rs 67,364 per kilogram from Rs 66,291 per kilogram in the previous trade. PTI

**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of Rajasthan**  
**RMSC**  
 "Mukhyamantri Nishulk Dava Yojana"  
 Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, India  
 Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064. Fax No: 0141-2228065  
 Website: <http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in>  
 CIN:U24232RJ52011SGC035067 E-mail: [edprmsc@nic.in](mailto:edprmsc@nic.in)  
 Ref. No.: F.02(314)/RMSC/Proc/VTM Test/NIB-05/2021/401. Dated: 15.3.2021  
**Notice Inviting E-Bids**  
 E-bids are invited up to 3:00 PM of 05.04.2021 for E-BID FOR THE RAIE CONTRACT CUM SUPPLY OF VIM Test. Details of NIB-05/2021 may be seen in the Bidding Documents at our office or at the website of State Public Procurement Portal <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>, [www.dipronline.org](http://www.dipronline.org), [www.rmhc.health.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.rmhc.health.rajasthan.gov.in), <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and may be downloaded from <http://www.rmhc.health.rajasthan.gov.in> and may be downloaded from <http://www.rmhc.health.rajasthan.gov.in> (UBSN NO.-MSC/2021GLR/CO0132)  
 Executive Director (Procurement) RMSC  
 Raj.Samwad/C/11157/2021

**WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (MECH.)  
 IRRIGATION MECHANICAL DIVISION, BIRPUR  
 Short Tender Notice. - 09/2020-21  
**LOCAL/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**  
 (Through e-procurement mode only - [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))  
 Letter No. 283, Birpur

1. DETAILS OF WORK

Gro up No.	Name of work	Estimat ed Cost (in Lac)	Ernest Money (in Lac)	Cost of B.O.Q.(Ten der form in Rs.) non-refundable	"Payable to Beltron, Bid processing fee (Non-refundable), only payable online mode"	Time of complet ion
1	Fabrication and Erection of 15 Nos. Fixed Wheel Vertical Lift Type Anti Flood Sluice Gates (Size- 3220mm x 4160mm) Including Embedded Parts, hoist Bridges & Screw Hoists At 26.60 km. of Western Koshi Embankment (India Portion).	468.00	9.40	10,000.00	5,000.00 + Tax	06 Month

2. Date of issue of Notice Inviting Tender :- Date 12.03.2021  
 3. Period of sale of Bid Document :- Date 25.03.2021 to 05.04.2021 5.00 PM only  
 On website: [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)  
 4. Time, date and place of Pre-Bid Meeting:- Date 26.03.2021 at 3.00 PM office of the Chief Engineer (Mech.), WRD, Patna  
 5. Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids :- Date : 06.04.2021 up to 3.00 PM only  
 On website: [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)  
 6. Time and Date of Opening Technical Bids :-Date 08.04.2021 at 3.30 PM only  
 On website: [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)  
 7. Time and Date of Opening Financial Bids :- After approval of Technical Bid.  
 Through website: [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) only  
 Through website: [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) only  
 8. Place of Opening of Bids :- Through website: [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) only  
 9. Period of Bids Validity :- 120 Days  
 10. Officer Inviting Bids :- Executive Engineer (Mech.), Irrigation Mech. Division, Birpur  
 Mob. No. - 9431089323

11. For detailed information tenderer can visit website. [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) and state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

**Executive Engineer (Mech.), Irrigation Mechanical Division, Birpur**

PR. No. 14505 (WRD) 20-21

नोवल कोरोना के संकथ में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहायता हेतु Toll Free No. : 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

# GAIL, Ranchi Municipal Corp sign agreement for setting up biogas plant

Ranchi: GAIL (India) Limited and Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) have signed a Concession Agreement (CA) for setting up Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant in Ranchi. The agreement was signed in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Hemant Soren, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Ashish Chatterjee, Director (Business Development), GAIL Shri M V Iyer and Executive Director (Business Development), Shri Santanu Roy by Ranchi Municipal Commissioner Shri Mukesh Kumar, IAS and Executive Director (Projects), GAIL Shri K B Singh. PNS

# NTPC conferred with 'Role Model' award at 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21

New Delhi: India's largest integrated power generation company, NTPC Ltd has been conferred the prestigious 'Role Model' Award at the most coveted and prestigious 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21. CII National Committee Chairman on Leadership and HR, Mr. Sanjay Behl presented the award, along with Ms. Indrani Kar, Head of CII's Suresh Neotia Centre of Excellence for Leadership to Shri D.K. Patel, Director (HR) in the virtual conference "Learn from the Achievers" held on Thursday amidst senior leaders from the industry and HR assessors. PNS

**DOON UNIVERSITY**  
 Mothrowala Road Kedarpur,  
 PO Defence Colony, Dehradun-248012  
 Phone No : 0135-253105/253134

**E-Tender (Short term) Notice**  
**E-42DU/2020-21**  
 Doon University invites e-tender for Procurement of computers and electronic based equipment. Interested firms may apply through Uttarakhand Govt. e-portal for submission of tender in [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

**Store & Purchase Officer**

# Govt keen to develop, strengthen own mobile app store: Prasad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government while encouraging private players to host apps, is equally keen to develop and strengthen its own mobile app store, Parliament was informed on Thursday. India's first indigenously developed Appstore, 'Mobile Seva Appstore' hosts more than 965 live apps from various domains and categories of public services, Minister for Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. "While the government encourages private players to host apps, it is equally keen to develop and encourage its own mobile App Store," Prasad said. The response has been good and the government wishes to strengthen it further,

he added. The minister was replying to a question on whether in the absence of country's own digital application store, dependence on Google and Apple for digital services is creating problems in digital ecosystem and if the ministry would consider having either a single or separate digital store for Government and private apps, for self-reliance. Prasad informed that India is the largest user of mobile apps, and mentioned that Digital India programme coupled with encouragement being given to Indian innovators to create apps has become a big movement. Citing India App Market Statistics report 2021, he said that around 5 per cent apps on Android are from Indian Apps developers.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 This is notified for the information of passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of Train No. 02549/02550 Kamakhya-Anand Vihar T- Kamakhya Express Special and revise the composition of Train No. 02191/02192 Haridwar-Jabalpur-Haridwar Special as per following detail :-

Train No.	From	To	Frequency	Period	Composition
02549	Kamakhya	Anand Vihar (T)	Daily	01.04.2021 to 30.06.2021	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper-3 & Reserved Second Seating
02550	Anand Vihar (T)	Kamakhya	Daily	03.04.2021 to 02.07.2021	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper-9 & Reserved Second Seating

**EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SPECIAL TRAINS**

Train No.	From	To	Frequency	Period	Composition
02191	Jabalpur-Haridwar	Haridwar	Weekly Special Train	07.04.2021 to 30.06.2021	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper-9 & Reserved Second Seating
02192	Haridwar-Jabalpur	Jabalpur	Weekly Special Train	08.04.2021 to 01.07.2021	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper-9 & Reserved Second Seating

**REVISED COMPOSITION OF SPECIAL TRAINS**

Train No. & Train Name	Trips	Existing Composition	Revised Composition	Effective From (from Originating Station)
02191 Jabalpur-Haridwar Weekly Special Train	13	AC 2 Tier-1, AC 3 Tier-2, Sleeper-7 & Second Seating (Reserved)	AC 2 Tier-1, AC 3 Tier-5, Sleeper-9 & Second Seating (Reserved)	07.04.2021 to 30.06.2021 Ex. Jabalpur
02192 Haridwar-Jabalpur Weekly Special Train	13	Divyang Friendly-2	Divyang Friendly-2	08.04.2021 to 01.07.2021 Ex. Haridwar

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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

**RAILMADAD HELPLINE NO. 139**  
 Visit RailMadad Website :- [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in)  
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**UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY**

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead at Electric Pole KM. No. 20/9, 20/11 UP Line Near Bagdola Fatak dated 17.03.2021 at 3:15 am by train accident. In this regard a vide DD No. 01A, dated 17.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Delhi Cantt Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification at DDU Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hrs. The description of the person is given as under Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 28-30 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Sallow, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue Colour Lower, Red Baniyan, White T-shirt. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

**SHO PS Delhi Cantt. Railway Station, Delhi**  
 DP/87/RLV/2021 Ph. : 011-25688505, 8750871309

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a man namely Jiut Yadav, S/o Dhari Chand R/o B-188, Ganga Ram colony, Narela, Delhi has been missing since 24.02.2021 at 04:00 pm from his house. In this regard a DD No. 42-A dated 26.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing man is as under: Name: Jiut Yadav, Gender: Male, Age: 95 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Identification: Mentally weak, Wearing: Red colour sweater, white colour dhoti and green colour slippers on his feet. If anyone has any information regarding this missing man, kindly inform SHO/Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. E-mail : [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax : 011-24368639 DP/849/ON/2021

**SHO P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.**  
 Ph. No. 011-27280904

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.

**VEHICLES FOR SALE**

- 1) CB\_VE\_10\_75\_FULLY\_BUILT REG. NO. DL1LAA4596-YOM-2018
- 2) T1518FBGD REG. NO. UP79T7288-YOM - 2019
- 3) AL\_1214 REG. NO. UP14HT2618-YOM-2018
- 4) 1075\_GOODS REG. NO. DL1LAC5914-YOM 2019
- 5)BB1214RGO BHARATBENZ REG. NO. HR47D4520 YOM 2017
- 6) CB\_TATA LPT 2518 FULLY BUILT GOODS REG. NO. DL1GC5188-YOM 2015
- 7)TATAMOTORSTAXENON REG. NO. HR38Y6433 YOM 2018
- 8) FORCE TTFBP FORCE REG. NO. UP16ET5742 YOM 2017
- 9) FORCE TTFBP FORCE REG. NO. UP16GT7962 YOM 2020
- 10) TATA-2518 REG. NO. HR63C7774-YOM 2014
- 11) FORCE TTFBP FORCE REG. NO. UP16DT1585 YOM 2015
- 12) SML ISUZU SARTAJ REG. NO. DL1LY4071-YOM-2017

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 07 DAYS AT KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT : RAJESH ANTIL /NITESH MATHUR KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT:9711173320/783225565



**Bollywood**  
 Happy 18th birthday Arin. From today the stars are yours to enjoy, protect and brighten.  
 —Madhuri Dixit Nene

# #OrganicRangBarse

## Award shows are a joke: John

Award shows are a big no-no for actor John Abraham, who said that he has no respect for them. The actor, who will soon be seen in the film *Mumbai Saga*, refers to award shows as "circus" and says he maintains distance from such events.

"I totally don't respect awards. It's a joke. It's comical to see actors dance and then collect an award and make funny jokes," he said. However, he knows that people who take part in these shows don't view them in this way.

"I feel what they are doing is not necessarily wrong or what I am doing is wrong. But I am on this side of the fence. I am quiet about it. I just don't go for these functions. I will be a joker going to a circus, it will be demeaning and I don't want to do that," he said.

On his film *Mumbai Saga*, which releases in theatres, he said nothing can be predicted as of now.

"No one is sure what will happen the next day. We are not experts here. We are sure that we want to release in the theatre. We know that *Mumbai Saga* needs a big screen experience and merits a large screen release and that is what we are doing," he said.

The actor said he loves being part of action films and enjoys the genre. "It's a genre that I am comfortable with. The audience finds that space very believable with me and I, too, enjoy that space. There are actors who love song and dance and I love action. Action sequences are my item numbers," said the actor, who has been part of many action films including *Shootout At Wadala* and *Force*.

John added that all action films are not alike and have something different for him to showcase. "There are different kinds of roles in action films. In *Ek Villain* the action was different from *Satyameva Jayate*. *Attack* has action which is very Hollywood. Each film has a different brief," he said.



Holi is round the corner. This time head to the kitchen and tap into easily available ingredients to make colours at home, suggests

NEHA JUNEJA

The festival of colours is around the corner, and it's time to get ready to party! Holi brings a lot of fun, bright colours, delectable delicacies, and nonstop singing and dancing until our throats hurt from all the cheering and hooting! Colours, in reality, literally add to the holiday spirit, and there isn't a single person who doesn't appreciate the rainbow of hues in the air. Yet, time again, we are the ones who bear the brunt of chemical-based colours' effects on our skin and their negative health consequences. However, there has been a change in the trend lately. People are opting for organically made colours as of late, but are they still budget-friendly?

If you're thinking of going organic and ditching the chemical-based colours,

here is a list of easy-to-find kitchen ingredients that can be used to create natural colours at home.

### RED

The colour red represents both sensuality and purity. To make it, Hibiscus flowers can be dried in the shade and then you can grind them. Blood-red flowers will add a lovely pop of colour. If you want to bulk it up, add some flour and mix it thoroughly. Another great option is to go with red sandalwood powder or what is also known as — *lal chandan*. It will not only provide an amazing shade but will also be beneficial for your skin. Its powder form can be used as a dry colour as well as in the wet form. Bring a liter of water to a boil with two teaspoons of the powder.



### YELLOW

Knowledge and learning are represented by this colour. It represents happiness, optimism, enlightenment, creativity, sunshine and spring. To make a dry yellow gual, combine turmeric powder and gram flour in a 1:2 ratio. Any yellow-coloured flowers such as marigolds or yellow chrysanthemums can also be crushed and converted into a fine powder.

### MAGENTA

Beetroot is an excellent agent for magenta and all shades of pink. Soak sliced beetroots in water. Leave overnight. Then boil the mixture. Simply dilute the concoction a little more if you want a more pinkish tint. Red onions can also be used for this.

### ORANGE

Orange is the colour of fire, and since fire burns away impurities, it also represents purity. Tesu (Palash/ Flame of the Forest/ Dhak) flowers can be soaked in water overnight or boiled to achieve a lovely orange hue. For a dry colour, you can also dry the medicinal flowers in the shade and grind them finely.

### FOOD COLOURS

The following recipe can be used to create Holi colours with food dyes or icing colours. Just add your favourite food colour to the rice flour and mix well.

Let's be extra careful this Holi. (The writer is the founder of SkinWorks.)



## Freedom, hope and happiness

Designer duo PANKAJ & NIDHI's collection *Kaleido* saw models sashaying down in a burst of rainbow hues of brilliant reds, luscious oranges, unabashed pinks, ultra-violet blues and electric greens at the Lakmé Fashion Week Summer/Resort 2021

The term — *Kaleido* — derived from a Greek word, which means "beautiful form", evoked the essence of designer duo Pankaj & Nidhi's collection at Lakmé Fashion Week Summer/Resort 2021. In collaboration with Lakmé Salon, it was a celebration of new beginnings on the ramp — of unbridled self-expression and an optimistic look at the future. *Kaleido* was a collection of free-flowing hair looks and bright-hued, flowy garments that encourage women to embrace and enhance their natural form. Their geometrically sharp and precise collection came in a burst of rainbow hues of brilliant reds, luscious oranges, unabashed pinks, ultra-violet blues and electric greens. The silhouettes include flowing maxi and mini dresses to kick back and let loose and tailored co-ord sets with sporty elements to acknowledge our pursuits towards wellness and fitness. The fabrics were sheer, translucent, breathable and easy to wear.

The Lakmé Salon hair cut and style collection, created and curated by the team of Lakmé Salon experts, was inspired by the global collections from TIGI Bed Head. They played up the natural hair type and texture to give trendsetting looks that can be styled in different ways. From free-flowing waves to a textured bob and crown-caressing curls, each look represented the intrinsically magnificent spirit of the Indian woman. The makeup looks used the watercolour technique in happy shades like aqua, orange, and pink to mirror the essence of the collection.

Inspired by the basic elements of 3D geometry, especially optical pyramids, Pankaj & Nidhi offered a new vision for the new year with luminous fabrics, wanderlust-inducing silhouettes and edgy, psychedelic textures



and patterns. The shine of prismatic elements was also interpreted in the holographic embroidery; dexterously hand-cut appliqués in triangles, squares, and diamonds with grading evocative of the transition of light from its colourless form to its dispersed spectrum.

Combined, this collaborative collection was nothing short of a celebration of life and an ode to new beginnings. An optimistic look at the future, this partnership was about breaking the shackles of the past, moving ahead with joy and embracing one's intrinsic self.

Commenting on the show's success, Pushkaraj Shenai, CEO, Lakmé Lever, said, "We have been a part of the fashion week backstage since its inception, and we're proud to be able to bring our expertise and innovation to

the ramp as well as to our customers in the salon. This year, we wanted to present a collection which is free-flowing, trendsetting and happy, and with *Kaleido*, the experts at the salon have brought this vision to life."

National Creative Director, Hair, Lakmé Salon, Pooja Singh, added, "*Kaleido* is our way of honouring the Indian woman's natural hair and beauty to enhance her already exquisite features. With glamorous waves, textured curls and beachy bobs, each look is crafted with the thought that she should flaunt her natural locks and feel like her best self every day. These looks will look just as wonderful on women ruling the real world as they did on the runway, and we're looking forward to launching the commercial collection in the salon for our customers soon."

Designer duo Pankaj & Nidhi said, "Through our collection, we wanted to bring about a sense of freedom, hope and happiness, and I think with bright colours, versatile silhouettes, and edgy geometric patterns, we were able to do justice to that vision on the runway. Each piece we created exudes joy and optimism and is also extremely wearable. We're so glad we partnered with the incredibly talented team for this show."



As a young boy, I had once bought an encyclopedia of world cars. If I remember correctly, it was for the years 1989-1990. The cover of that book, which must be in some trunk in my mother's house now, was the legendary Lamborghini Countach. I even had a poster of this mad Italian supercar on my wall, its scissor doors alone making it the dream car for any young child. And if you were lucky enough to be able to go to the hotel we now call The Lalit in central Delhi, you would see hotelier Lalit Suri's Lamborghini Countach parked right on the porch. Believe me, the car looked even more bonkers in real-life.

It is an abiding regret that I have not driven a classic Countach or even a Diablo, for that matter, but I have been fortunate enough to have driven the Murcielago, Diablo, Huracan and now the Urus in India. It has been a privilege to be able to drive these mean Italian machines. But that was also possible, thanks to a very odd quirk of the Indian market when it comes to ultra-luxury vehicles with a sticker price of two crores and above. Lamborghini is a market leader in this slot which is evident from the fact that just three years after the Lamborghini Urus Super-SUV was launched in India in January 2018, the vehicle has cracked the 100-unit sales mark. When you think that the base price of the Urus is ₹15 crore but given that, almost every car is customised, ex-showroom prices would easily top four crores. For example, if an Urus buyer takes the recently introduced 'Pearl Capsule' shimmering dual-tone paint job, it costs over ₹50 lakh. So think about it, a single one of these cars costs as much as a hundred small hatchbacks!

In 2019, Lamborghini sold 52 cars, meaning one crazy car

## Running with the Bulls

Lamborghini is India's most successful ultra-luxury car marque. And they want to keep on growing



KUSHAN MITRA



found a loving home every week. And it was the Urus that supercharged sales for the Italian car-maker in India. Sharad Agarwal, who heads the Italian brand in India, shared that it's not just because of the appeal of the Urus' 650-horsepower engine but the fact that it allowed owners to 'share' the experience. "You do want to take your family and your friends out for a ride in a car," he told me over a recent lunch.

The Urus has been so successful in India, along with new variants of the Huracan supercar

that Agarwal said that the sales in 2021 will be well over the 2019 figures, he, however, did not disclose how many cars Lamborghini India sold in 2020. But he did add that while in the beginning customers deferred deliveries because of the potential of bad optics of taking an insanely expensive vehicle while the economy was suffering and millions lost their jobs, towards the latter half of 2020, many potential customers who had put off buying a supercar — either a Lamborghini or that 'other' Italian brand — "realised that life is too short to put such things off." The problem is that it wasn't just Indian buyers who had that realisation post-pandemic.

"Getting slots is a challenge. We get five-six slots for India every month right now, but the fact is that if you book a Lamborghini today, it would only be delivered in March 2022." However, Lamborghini India ensures that customers are kept engaged during the entire process. "There is a significant downpayment but customers get a large-scale model of the vehicle which is a replica as they specified — the colours, the interiors, the wheels — everything. So once the model is on his or her table, we know that we have just whetted their appetite for the finished product."

Can this segment grow further? Agarwal believes it can but gives the example of Thailand. "In Thailand, the duties on imported cars is actually far higher than in India, if you can believe that with taxes coming to over 300 per cent. Yet, the 'ultra-luxury' segment in Thailand is around 700 vehicles annually compared to India's 300 at best. So it isn't just taxation that impacts sales, but also the conflation of personal and company wealth. We still have an old-school mentality in this country about wealth. That is changing these days, but I hope that as the economy grows that becomes less pronounced."

One can only hope that teenage boys of today will look out of their windows on Gurugram's Golf Course Road or wherever they live and stare at amazement at these new Lamborghinis as I stared at Mr. Suri's one back at his hotel. These are special cars and deserve the eyeballs and the dreams that they inspire.

## TRENDBLAZER



### I ACT REALISTIC, RELATABLE: PANKAJ

Actor **PANKAJ TRIPATHI** says irrespective of the character he portrays on screen, he ensures that he adopts an acting style that people can relate to.

"I make sure that I adopt an acting style that is realistic and relatable. Be it comedy or any other character that I play, I ensure they are projected as human as possible on-screen," Pankaj said.

He added, "I'm so delighted that I have something to offer to each generation through some of my projects."

### fairtalk

RADHIKA APTE



"Working with the robots was really fun in *Ok Computer*. I have never really been so interested in AI or machines in my life and ever indulged in that idea. So when we had scenes where I just had to talk to robots in the series, they felt so innocent and harmless and you could just fall in love with them. They are very friendly and helpful."

### dailytalk

KUNAL KAPOOR



"The journey of bringing a film to the audience is always very challenging, but it becomes easier when you work with people you admire and enjoy being around. *Koi Jaane Na* is set for release soon and I hope the audience will be smiling when they leave the theatres, like we did after the first preview last night."

### SARAH WRITES ABOUT HER CANCER BATTLE

Singer **SARAH HARDING** has documented her battle with breast cancer in her biography. She talks about the 'little victories' in her struggle.

"MRI scans revealed that the tumours in my brain and in my lung have shrunk a bit with the treatment. (I don't know) exactly what this means (but) right now, every little victory feels momentous. At the moment, I'm just grateful to wake up every day and live my best life, because now I know just how precious it is," she writes.



Surya starts his career with six and scores fifty in maiden innings to set up India's series levelling 8 run win

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India survived some nervy late overs after Suryakumar Yadav's blistering maiden fifty to register a series-levelling eight-run victory over England in the fourth T20 International here on Thursday.

Asked to bat, India posted 185 for 8, their highest total in the series, thanks largely to a 31-ball 57 from Suryakumar and then restricted England to 177 for 8 to win the match and level the five-match series 2-2.

The visiting side were in the hunt till Ben Stokes (46 off 23 balls) and Jonny Bairstow (25 off 19) were on the crease with the Indian bowlers leaking runs in the middle overs. The dew also created problems for the bowlers to grip the ball.

But the home side made a fine recovery with Hardik Pandya and senior pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar leading the way. England needed 23 from the last over and Jofra Archer hit a four and a six but could not get the required runs in the end.

From 132 for 4 at the end of the 15th over, England could add just 45 runs in the last five overs.

India were led by Rohit Sharma in these anxious moments as Virat Kohli left the

# SKY IS THE LIMIT



field. Shardul Thakur ended with figures of 3 for 42 while Pandya got 2 for 16. Rahul Chahar also got two and Bhuvneshwar Kumar one wicket.

Earlier, India kept England on a tight leash by giving away just two runs in the first two

overs and removing the dangerous Jos Buttler (9) in the third over.

But Jason Roy (40) and Dawin Malan (14) began to pick up the pieces, with England reaching 48 for 1 after the powerplay. Malan was dropped by Shardul Thakur when on 3 but

he did not add too many runs as he was out for 14 in the eighth over with Rahul Chahar cleaning him up.

With the asking rate nearing 10 an over, England had to play the shots but Roy failed to have a complete control of his pull off Pandya in the ninth over for Suryakumar to complete an easy catch near the boundary.

At 71 for 3 at the halfway stage and the asking rate going past 11 runs per over, England had to take risks and Ben Stokes did just that with two huge sixes, one off Washington Sundar and the other off Chahar.

With the dew giving difficulties to the spinners, Stokes and Jonny Bairstow got the boundaries required to keep the asking rate near 10 an over.

## Natarajan back in dugout

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's left-arm yorker sensation Thangarasu Natarajan has passed his fitness Test and joined the team during the fourth T20 International against England in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

The 29 year old, who impressed one and all in Australia by making his debut across all formats, had a shoulder injury as well as a knee niggle that had ruled him out of the first couple of games of the five-match series.



"Natarajan has passed all the mandatory fitness tests including YoYo and 2km run. He had flown into

Ahmedabad a few days back but had to undergo mandatory hard quarantine since he was not a part of the bubble," a senior BCCI official told PTI.

"Today, his quarantine got over and he could sit in the dugout. He will certainly be available for selection in the next game also and for the 50 over games," he said.

Natarajan was brilliant during India's T20 series win in Australia and was also given a Test cap in Brisbane where he got three wickets in the first innings.

Stokes was particularly in ominous form as he cleared the boundaries with ease.

But the dismissal of Bairstow in the 15th over and that of Stokes two overs later turned the match in India's favour. The duo had shared 65 runs for the fourth wicket.

After sending Stokes back, Shardul Thakur took two in two. Earlier, Suryakumar smashed a blistering maiden fifty and powered India to 185 for 8 after the hosts were asked to bat.

Suryakumar, who replaced an injured Ishan Kishan, struck six fours and three sixes in his 31-ball 57 to top score for India. He debuted in the second T20I but did not bat in that match.

India did not have a big partnership but quickfire knocks from Shreyas Iyer (37 off 18 balls) and Rishabh Pant (30 off 23) took the hosts to their highest total of the series.

England again opened the attack with leg-spinner Adil Rashid but Rohit Sharma (12) clobbered him for a six in the first ball of the match.

But Rohit's promising innings was cut short in the fourth over as he was caught and bowled by Jofra Archer, who took career-best figures of 4/33.

Suryakumar hit Archer for a six in the first ball he faced in international cricket, picked up the gaps and found the boundaries to keep the scoreboard moving, though the England bowlers were by no means wayward.

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England again opened the attack with leg-spinner Adil Rashid but Rohit Sharma (12) clobbered him for a six in the first ball of the match.

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## Pakistan Optimistic of host India in '23 Asia Cup



PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ehsan Mani is optimistic about hosting India in the Asia Cup in 2023 and hopes the political relations between the two neighbouring countries would improve by then.

Mani informed that Sri Lanka will host the Asia Cup in 2022, ruling out any chances of the continental event being staged this year in June.

"In 2022 Sri Lanka will have it (Asia Cup) and in 2023 Pakistan will be hosting the regional event. I am optimistic that by time the political relations between the two countries would have improved and this would pave the way for the Indian team to come to Pakistan," Mani said.

"In recent days there has been some positive signs through backdoor channels and hopefully the ice will melt in the relations," he told the 'Jang'

newspaper in an interview on Wednesday.

Mani said if the Indian team visits its neighbours, it will be a "big breakthrough" for Pakistan cricket.

Mani further said that the Asia Cup 2021 is unlikely to be held as Pakistan doesn't have the time for it due to PSL 6 matches and India will also be busy with the ICC World Test Championship final against New Zealand.

"Their is no question of the Asia Cup being held this year as we are very busy and don't have time to spare this year."

"There was a small window in June in which we are going to play the rest of the Pakistan Super League matches," Mani said. "The Indian team will play the final of the Test Championship against New Zealand. They have to go to England two weeks ago and stay in quarantine so the Indian team is also busy," he added.

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## Stimac wants fearless football from young blood

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

His squad packed with youngsters, India head coach Igor Stimac wants his players to play fearless football when the team faces more fancied Oman and United Arab Emirates in the international friendlies next week.

India play Oman and UAE in Dubai on March 25 and 29 respectively — their first matches after more than a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic — as part of preparations for the joint qualifying round matches for 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup.

"We need to come to the pitch without any fear, we need to try to make our transitions properly, and we need to try and enjoy the possession that we have. That's what I want to ask of my players," Stimac told AIFF TV.

"As part of our footballing philosophy, we do not look for easy opponents. We can improve only by playing against better sides. Immediately after we found out (that the World Cup Qualifiers were postponed to June), we were able to confirm two friendlies against Oman and UAE."

Though India are already out of reckoning for a 2022 World Cup berth, they are still keen to play matches against Qatar (at home) and Afghanistan (at home) and Bangladesh (away). All the three matches will be played in June.

Stimac said the selection of the 27-man

squad was based on a number of criteria, including the Indian Super League form, past performances for the national team and overall experience.

"A conglomeration of different factors (went into deciding the squad). Most of the players made it to the squad on merit. But there are a few who have also proved themselves on the international stage. A few poor performances should not erase them from the squad," said Croatian.

He painted a bright future for Indian football. "It's a long process, and we are preparing to play and win against the best," he said.

"We are trying to build on the U-17s and develop their knowledge. Football promotion has grown leaps and bounds in India. Soon, football will take over as the number one sport here."

While the Blue Tigers are set for their return to international football after the pandemic, they will be without their captain and talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri, who has himself tested positive for COVID-19.

Stimac heaped praises on Chhetri, stating that his presence motivates youngsters for the national team.

"Because not many players of his age can continue performing at such a high level."

"When you watch Sunil this season, you can see that he has improved, even though Bengaluru FC did not play as well. His individual numbers show that," said Stimac.

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PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Lakshya Sen on Thursday became the youngest Indian male shuttler to reach the All England Championship quarterfinals, where Olympic silver medalist P V Sindhu joined him with an easy win at the Super 1000 tournament here.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, recorded a dominant 21-8, 21-8 win over Denmark's Line Christophersen in a completely lop-sided second-round match.

Earlier, the 19-year-old Lakshya from Almorat, who had claimed five titles in 2019, saw off France's Thomas Rouxel 21-18 21-16 to make it to his maiden quarterfinals.

However, it was curtains

for HS Prannoy and B Sai Praneeth after the duo went down in the men's singles second round on Thursday.

Lakshya, who had claimed the Asian Junior Championships title, the World Junior championships Bronze and Youth Olympics Games Silver in 2018, will next face Netherland's world no 36 Mark Caljouw.

Sindhu will take on Japan's third seed Akane Yamaguchi.

In the men's singles, Prannoy, a former top 10 player couldn't find his way across world number 1 Kento Momota, the Japanese playing his first event since a horrific accident that saw him under-

go an eye surgery last year. The Indian lost 15-21 14-21 in a 48-minute match to bow out of the competition.

Olympic hopeful Praneeth then squandered a first-game advantage, losing 21-15, 12-21 12-21 to second seed Viktor Axelsen of Denmark.

Also ousted from the tournament was the mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, who lost 19-21 9-21 to Japanese duo of Yuki Kaneko and Misaki Matsutomo in the opening round.

Sindhu came out will all cylinders blazing, zooming into the interval with a mas-

sive 10-point lead at 11-1 in just 4 minutes. The Indian then moved to 16-4 and soon sealed the opening game without much effort.

In the second game, Sindhu opened up a 6-4 lead before entering the break with a seven-point advantage.

The Indian conceded three points after the interval before reeling off the remaining 10 points as Line could just watch at the other end.

On Wednesday night, Prannoy along with Lakshya, Olympic hopeful B Sai Praneeth and Sameer Verma had entered the second round but former world number one Saina Nehwal was forced to concede her opening women's singles match after suffering an injury.

Saina, who finished second best here in 2015, looked in considerable, troubled by her right thigh. She decided to retire after lagging behind (8-21 4-10) in her opening round

match against seventh seed Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark.

In the men's singles, world number 15 Praneeth had beaten France's Toma Junior Popov 21-18 22-20, while Prannoy brushed aside Malaysia's Daren Liew 21-10 21-10.

Sameer ousted Brazil's Ygor Coelho 21-11 21-19, while Lakshya had stunned Thailand's world No. 18 Kantaphon Wangcharoen 21-18 21-12.

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## Sindhu wins in mixed day for India

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