

**OPINION 6**  
OVERCOMING HURDLES  
FOR SEAMLESS GROWTH

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SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN BECOMES  
TANZANIA'S FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT

**SPORT 12**  
LIVERPOOL VS REAL  
IN CL QUARTERS

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## Adopt 3-T Mantras to Break the Chain - Together We Fight Corona Strain

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Sh. Manohar Lal  
Chief Minister, Haryana



# 50% cap on pvt offices' attendance in Maha

## CM Uddhav says lockdown an option but won't exercise this immediately

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As the daily Covid-19 infections crossed a staggering 25,000 mark in Maharashtra for the second consecutive day on Friday, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said that re-imposition was an option before his Government to check the rapid increase in the number of cases in the State in the recent days, but hastened to add that he would not impose lockdown immediately.

On a day when the State imposed a fresh 50 per cent restriction on attendance in private offices across the State, Uddhav said: "The Covid-19 threat is looming large in the State. We reached a peak in terms of Covid-19 cases in September last year. But, now we have crossed those figures. This is a serious cause for concern. Under the circumstances, lockdown is an option for us. But we will not exercise this



Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray interacts with locals during his visit to Dhadgaon Rural Health Centre in Nandurbar on Friday

option immediately." "It is a good thing that people have started wearing masks. But, I expect full cooperation from the people. If we are to do without lockdown, then the people will have to exercise self-discipline and following Covid-

19 protocols strictly," he told mediapersons after a visit to a rural nutrition and rehabilitation centre-cum-vaccination outlet at Molgi village in the tribal-dominated Nandurbar district in north Maharashtra. "All of a sudden we are wit-

nessing a rapid increase in the number of cases. Sometime back, we had discovered a new Covid-19 strain that emanated from abroad. But, we had succeeded in arresting the spread of the new strain.

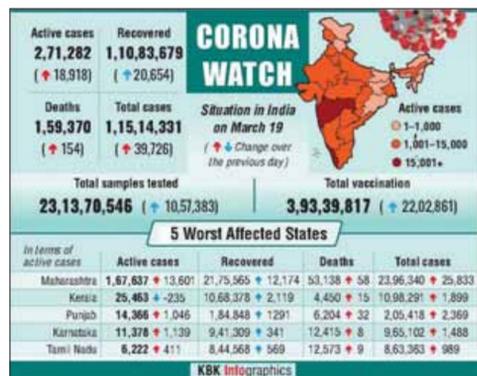
Continued on Page 2

# Covid cases soar to 4-month high

## Total 4 crore people vaccinated against coronavirus so far

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At 39,726 coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, India witnessed the sharpest surge in Covid-19 infections since November last year, taking the total tally to 1,15,14,331. Meanwhile, total 4 crore people have been vaccinated against corona as on Friday. A single-day spike of 41,810 new infections were recorded on November 28 last year. The country has registered an increase in the cases for the ninth consecutive day. Maharashtra, Kerala, and Punjab are recording the highest daily cases, while the death toll is at 1,59,370 with 154 more people dying in the last 24 hours. The fatality has reached 1,59,370 in India. The active caseload has mounted to 2,71,282. With the discharge of



doses were administered on a single day on Thursday. States like Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh continue to report a surge in the daily Covid-19 cases, accounting for over 80 per cent of the new infections, he said.

The Ministry also said that India's total active caseload has increased to 2,71,282 and comprises 2.82 per cent of the total infections.

A net rise of 18,918 cases have been recorded in the total active caseload in a span of 24 hours.

Maharashtra continues to report the highest daily new cases at 25,833 which is 65 per cent of daily cases. It is followed by Punjab with 2,369 while Kerala reported 1,899 new cases, the official said. A total of 39,726 new daily cases were reported in a span of 24 hours.

Continued on Page 2

# Delhi Govt can't use NFSA grains for its scheme: Centre

## 'City Govt should use its resources for doorstep ration scheme'

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre and the Delhi Government are at loggerheads over the Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana to provide "doorstep delivery of ration" using subsidised foodgrains provided under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) as the former turned down the move saying subsidised foodgrains under the NFSA cannot be used for State specific scheme.

However, the Centre will have no objection if the Delhi Government comes out with a separate scheme without mixing the elements of the NFSA.

In a letter to Padmini Singla, Secretary-cum-



Commissioner Food and Supplies Department of the Delhi Government, S Jagannathan, Joint Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, said that the use of new nomenclature / scheme name for distribution of NFSA foodgrains by the Government of National Territory Delhi (NCTD) is not permissible but this department will have no objection if a separate scheme is made by the State Government without mixing the elements of the NFSA foodgrains. "...therefore requested that

the GNCTD may follow the norms and provisions of the NFSA in rightful spirit and manner for the distribution of NFSA foodgrains to the eligible beneficiaries under the Act", the letter read. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was scheduled to launch the scheme with doorstep delivery of ration to 100 households in Seemapuri area on March 25. The letter further states: "Upon examination of the Delhi Government's notification dated February 20, on 'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojna, for door to door delivery of packaged wheat, flour, rice and sugar, it is clarified that the subsidised foodgrains being allocated by this department of distribution under the NFSA cannot be used for the operationalisation of any State specific/ other scheme under a different name/ nomenclature other than NFSA, as the same is not permissible under the Act.

Continued on Page 2

# Min airfare raised by 5% on ATF price rise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Air travel will now become a little expensive as the Government has decided to increase the lower limit on airfares by five per cent amid rising aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday. The upper limit on airfares will remain as it is for now. Just a month back, the Centre had increased the lower and upper limits on domestic airfares by 10-30 per cent due to rising ATF prices. While announcing resumption of scheduled domestic flights in May last year, the Aviation Ministry had placed limits on airfares through seven bands classified on the basis of flight duration. The first band consists of flights having less than 40-minute duration and its lower limit has been increased to

₹2,310 on Friday. The lower limit for the highest band of flights having duration of 180-210 minutes was further hiked to ₹7,560.

"There has been a continuous rise in price of ATF so it has been decided to increase the lower fare band by 5% keeping the upper fare band unchanged," Puri tweeted. "We may open the sector for 100% operations when daily passenger traffic crosses 3.5 lakhs on 3 occasions in a month."

Currently, the airlines are permitted to operate not more than 80 per cent of their per-Covid domestic flights.

"Last few days have seen a decline in the number of air passengers largely due to restrictions & imposition of compulsory RT-PCR test by various states. Due to this we have decided to retain the permissible limit to 80% of schedule," Puri added.

Continued on Page 2

# Desi firm to make 4,960 anti-tank guided missiles

## Defence Min's deal to boost Make in India initiative

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a boost to operational preparedness of the Armed forces, the Defence Ministry on Friday inked a deal with the public sector unit Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) to acquire 4,960 anti-tank guided missiles at a cost of ₹1,188 crore for the Indian Army.

The missiles, having a range of 1,850 metres, can be fired from the ground as well as vehicle-based launchers and their induction is planned to be completed in three years, the Ministry said.

In the last few months, the Ministry finalised a range of



procurement projects for the three forces to enhance their overall combat capabilities. The acquisition wing of the Ministry of Defence signed a contract with defence public sector undertaking Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the supply of 4,960 MILAN-2T anti-tank guided missiles to Indian Army at a cost of ₹1,188 crore, it said. The missiles are being produced by BDL under license from French defence major MBDA Missile Systems. Officials also said it is a repeat order of contract which was signed with the BDL in

March, 2016. The deal with further enhance the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government.

This project is a big opportunity for the defence industry to showcase its capability and will be a step in the direction of achieving the goal of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector.

The Ministry last year banned the import of more than 100 items including weapons and ammunition in order to give a fillip to the local industry. Plans are afoot to increase this list in the coming months.

### CAPSULE

**AIR 'VERY POOR' FOR THIRD DAY IN NCR**  
Noida: The air quality remained in the "very poor" category in Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida and Faridabad for the third day in a row, while it was in the "poor" zone in Gurgaon, according to data issued by a government agency on Friday.

**ED ATTACHES ASSETS OF BIHAR MAOIST, FAMILY**  
New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has attached assets worth over ₹40 lakh of a Bihar-based Maoist and his family under the anti-money laundering law.

**US DEF SECY AUSTIN CALLS ON PM MODI**  
New Delhi: US Secretary of Defense Lloyd James Austin called on PM Narendra Modi and expressed his country's strong desire to further enhance the strategic partnership.

# Order against WhatsApp new privacy policy, Govt urges HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday urged the Delhi High Court to restrain Facebook-owned WhatsApp from implementing its new privacy policy and terms of service which are to take effect from May 15. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology made the statement in its affidavit filed in response to a petition challenging the new privacy policy of social networking platform WhatsApp. The petitioners, Seema Singh, Meghan and Vikram Singh, have contended that the new privacy policy indicates the "fissures" in Indian data protection and privacy laws. Under the new policy,



users can either accept it or exit the app, but they cannot opt not to share their data with other Facebook-owned or third party apps. A Bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jasmeel Singh listed the matter for further hearing on April 20. The Centre, in its affidavit,

said, "It is humbly prayed that in view of the above submissions, the Respondent No. 2 (WhatsApp) may be restrained from implementing its new privacy policy and terms of service dated January 4, 2021 from February 8, 2021 or any subsequent date pending adjudication by this court." The affidavit further said that the IT Rules impose a host of obligations on a company in relation to the security of the data collected by it in the course of its business. "Notably, the Rules require a body corporate who collects, stores or otherwise deals with data to issue a privacy policy, providing for certain safeguards, in addition to imposing various other obligations.

Continued on Page 2

# ED issues notice to Mamata's ex-secy

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what the Trinamool Congress called an "electoral game plan of the BJP" to use Central agencies against its leaders and honest officers to arm-twist them into submission, at least three IAS officers and equal number of IPS officers — all either retired or on extension — have been issued notices by the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI, sources said. According to ED sources notices to Gautam Sanyal, a retired IAS officer and former Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and BP Gopalika, a former secretary with the Animal Resources Department. The notices have been

issued to explain the sale of Government owned Metro-Dairy to a private company. The sale of shares allegedly took place reducing the company's worth to a bare 84 crore, sources said. The notices come at a time when the electoral atmosphere in West Bengal is charged with rhetoric and counter-rhetoric issued by leaders of the TMC and the BJP. The ED apart, notices were also sent by the CBI to former Director General of Police Surajit Karpurakayastha, currently functioning as Security Advisor to the Chief Minister, and former ADG Rajat Majumdar. The CBI notices pertain to multi-crore Sharada chit fund scam. The notices have been

# CBI raids 100 spots in States to check graft in Union Govt offices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday carried out preventive surprise checks at about 100 locations in over 15 States to identify Central Government offices where corrupt practices could be taking place. Officials said the operation is going on at the offices of Railways and Income Tax Department among others in the national Capital, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and other States. For the detailed multi-city operation, the agency has coordinated with the vigilance teams of various departments to carry out the checks and col-

lect evidence of corrupt practices, they said. Meanwhile, the agency has filed a case against Indian Technometal Company Ltd and its directors for alleged fraud of ₹555.65 crore to a consortium of banks led by erstwhile Corporation Bank. The action followed a complaint from Union Bank of India (erstwhile Corporation Bank) alleging that the private company, through its directors, in conspiracy with others defrauded the consortium of banks by misrepresentations, concealment of facts and submitting false documents and information to avail credit facilities.

Continued on Page 2

# Fleeing Myanmar cops take refuge in Mizoram

AP ■ MIZORAM

A group of police officers who defied the Myanmar army's orders to shoot opponents of the coup recounted their experience after they escaped to India. While speaking, they raised a three-finger salute - a symbol of resistance to Myanmar's military rulers.

"We cannot hurt our people, that's why we came to Mizoram," said one of the men, who hails from the north-western town of Tedit. Mizoram state in India's north-east shares a border with Bangladesh and Myanmar.

After the army coup, the police were told to "shoot people and not just the people, we were told to shoot our own family if they are not on the side of the army," he said. The Associated Press has not been able to independently verify their claims, though images and accounts of the security forces' crackdown inside Myanmar have shown intensifying violence against civilians.

Indian villagers in Mizoram have given shelter to 34 police personnel and one firefighter who crossed into India over the last two weeks. They spoke to an AP photo-journalist on condition of anonymity because of fears of retribution against family members still in Myanmar.

Back in Myanmar, the three-finger salute, which traces its origins to the Hunger



Police officers who fled Myanmar following a military coup display the three-finger salute at an undisclosed location bordering Myanmar in the northeastern Indian state of Mizoram

Games books and movies by Suzanne Collins, is being used by youth protesters at massive anti-army demonstrations. Meanwhile, K. Vanlalvena, a lawmaker from Mizoram state, urged the Indian government not to deport refugees from Myanmar until the return of normalcy there. The lawmaker belongs to the Mizo National Front, an ally of India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party.

Those who escaped spend their time watching television and doing chores. Some have carried mobile phones and are trying to connect to families they were forced to leave behind. At night, all of them sleep on mattresses on the floor of a single room.

One of them told the AP that they were under the command of Myanmar's army.

"We are all policemen working under the Myanmar government. We left our family in Myanmar. We do not know what is happening to our family, but they will face a lot of problems from the army. We came to Mizoram for shelter, we will die if we go back there," he said.

"We cannot reach our parents due to telecommunication problems, but what we heard is they are very scared to go out of their homes... I'm hoping that one day we will meet again," he added.

Earlier this month, Myanmar asked India to return the police officers who crossed the border. India shares a 1,643-kilometer (1,020-mile) border with Myanmar, and is home to thousands of refugees from Myanmar in different states.

## IMD forecasts rain, snowfall in parts of hill States from March 22/23

New Delhi: Isolated parts in the hill states of north India are likely to receive heavy rainfall and snowfall from March 22-23, while the plains are likely to receive light precipitation from March 21-24, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

It said no significant heat wave conditions are likely over the country during next one week.

"Under the influence of an intense western disturbance, scattered to widespread rainfall likely over the western Himalayan region and isolated to scattered light to moderate rainfall over adjoining plains of northwest India during March 21-24. Isolated heavy rainfall/snowfall also likely over the western Himalayan region on March 23-24, 2021.

Western Disturbance is a normal phenomenon that can be observed over western Himalayas and north Indians plain from October to March.

Isolated to scattered rainfall with thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds with a speed reaching 30-40 kilometres per hour are very likely over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha (Maharashtra) and Chhattisgarh till March 21, the IMD said.

Isolated hailstorm is also very likely over west Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha on March 18 and 19 over east Madhya Pradesh on March 19, over Marathawada and Telangana on March 19-20. PTI

# SUV case: NIA team meets Police Commissioner Nagrale

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A team of National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday met Mumbai's new Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale and discussed issues relating to the Explosive laden SUV recovery case, even as Maharashtra's Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) prepared to seek the custody of the arrested police officer Sachin Vaze in connection with the alleged murder of Thane businessman Mansukh Hiran.

Ahead of its move to seek the arrested police officer's custody, the ATS opposed the anticipatory bail plea of Vaze - who is currently in the NIA custody till March 25 - at a hearing before the Thane Sessions Court.

Hearing an anticipatory bail plea filed by Assistant Police Inspector Vaze before his arrest and subsequent suspension in the cases involving the planting of explosive laden SUV near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence in south Mumbai and the alleged murder of businessman Hiran, the Thane court scheduled the next hearing of the case for March 30.

While the NIA is currently investigating the SUV recovery case, Maharashtra's ATS is looking in to the murder of Hiran, whose body was recovered from the Reti Bunder creek area at Mumbra-Kalwa in the neighbouring Thane on March 5.

In a related development, a team of two senior NIA officials - Inspector General of Police Anil Shukla and Superintendent of Police Vikram Khalate met Nagrale. Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Milind Bharambe and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Detection) Akbar Pathan were also present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, facing intense pressure from the Opposition BJP to tender his resignation over the SUV recovery and Vaze arrest issued, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Friday air-dashed to New Delhi to meet NCP supreme Sharad Pawar, sparking speculation in the political circles about the purpose of his visit to the national capital.

The development came two days after Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh shunted out from his

post On Thursday, Deshmukh had himself admitted Deshmukh himself admitted that Vaze had committed "serious and unpardonable mistakes."

"Since Singh was overall in-charge of the case which his junior officer (Vaze) was dealing, we felt it is better to post him elsewhere to ensure an impartial probe," Deshmukh said.

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.

After the meeting with Pawar in the national capital, Deshmukh said on Friday: "I met Sharad Pawar at his residence in Delhi and had discussions on the Antilia case. I also informed him that the State Government is extending full cooperation to NIA and lawful actions will be taken based on the findings."

# Bribery case: CBI files case against its own staff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday chargesheeted four of its own officials in a bribe-for-relief case involving the investigation against Frost International that had allegedly committed a bank fraud of over ₹4,300 crore.

Earlier, the agency had booked its deputy superintendents of police - R K Rishi and R K Sangwan - and Inspector Kapil Dhankar along with an advocate in connection with an alleged bribery ring run by them within the agency to help companies accused of siphoning off bank loan funds, officials had said Wednesday.

The three accused CBI officials were arrested in January this year.

They were booked for allegedly "compromising the integrity of investigation of certain cases on extraneous pecuniary considerations".

The FIR had also named Additional Director of Shree Shyam Pulp and Board Mills Mandeep Kaur Dhillon and directors of Frost International Sujay Desai and Uday Desai in the bribery case.

# CBI raids 100 spots in States to check...

The default on payments caused a loss to the tune of ₹555.65 crore to the consortium which also included State Bank of Hyderabad (now State Bank of India), Punjab National Bank, Punjab & Sindh Bank, UCO Bank, Syndicate Bank, Central Bank of India, Karur Vysya Bank and JM Financial ARC, the CBI said. "Searches on the premises

of the accused/firm were conducted at Kangra (Himachal Pradesh), which led to the recovery of incriminating documents," the agency said in a statement.

Besides the accused firm Indian Technometal Company Limited, the agency has also named directors of the company Rakesh Kumar Sharma and Vinay Kumar Sharma as accused in the case.

# Order against WhatsApp...

The impugned Privacy policy violates the 2011 Rules..." it said. The Centre said that the Supreme Court has placed a responsibility on the Centre to introduce a regime on data protection and privacy.

"The Union has discharged this obligation by introducing the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha. Upon enactment, this law will provide a robust regime on data protection which will limit the ability of entities such as Respondent No. 2 issuing privacy policies which do not align with appropriate standards of security and data protection," the affidavit, filed through advocate Kirtiman Singh, said.

It also said that pending the passage of this Bill, the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Rules made thereunder form the extant regime on data protection, any privacy

policy issued by a 'body corporate' such as WhatsApp must comply with the requirements specified in the Act and the accompanying Rules.

The high court had on February 3 issued notice to the Centre and WhatsApp and sought their replies on the petition challenging the social networking platform's new privacy policy.

Another petition, filed in January, challenging the new privacy policy of WhatsApp on the ground that it violates users right to privacy under the Constitution is pending before another bench of the high court.

The petitioners have sought directions to the ministry and WhatsApp to ensure that people using the messaging app are given the option to opt out of sharing their personal data with its parent firm Facebook and its other companies.

They have also sought a direction to the ministry to frame guidelines, regulation or rules for safeguarding the privacy of the citizens from all the apps and organisations operating in India which collect user data.

# ED, CBI notices to Mamata's ex-secy

Karpurakayastha is likely to be asked the reason why he advised the Government to make security arrangements for Sharada kingpin and jailed accused Sudipto Sen. Karpurakayastha is also likely to be asked to explain his presence in Jangalmahal when the Sharada company distributed ambulances in these areas.

According to reports these ambulances were used to ferry ill-gotten cash raised from the chit fund. The two ex-officials considered close to the Chief Minister have been asked to

appear before the Central agency on March 25.

Apart from this senior IPS officer and former Asansol Commissioner of Police LM Meena and IAS Arun Prasad have also been asked by the CBI to appear before it to answer some queries regarding coal scam. Meanwhile, TMC candidate - in the upcoming Assembly elections - Madan Mitra was on Friday grilled by the CBI in relation to the chit fund scam. Another candidate Vivek Gupta too has been asked to appear before the agency, sources said.

# Covid cases rise to 4-month high

Eight States including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka and Haryana are displaying an upward trajectory in daily new cases.

The Centre is actively engaging with all State and UT Governments, especially those showing an upsurge in daily new cases and with a high caseload of active cases, he said.

"States and UTs have been advised to improve testing in districts reporting a reduction in testing and increase the overall share of RT-PCR tests

(more than 70 per cent), especially in districts dependent on high levels of antigen testing in line with the 'Test Track and Treat' strategy of the Government."

They have also been advised to carry out an average close contact tracing of minimum of 20 persons per positive case (in the first 72 hours) along with isolation and early treatment of serious cases as per clinical protocol.

Besides, nearly 4 crore (3,93,39,817) vaccine doses have been administered through 6,47,480 sessions, as per the provisional report till February 7 am.

# Delhi Govt can't use...

Further, any changes/amendments in the provisions of the Act including nomenclatures used for distribution of the NFSA foodgrain can only be done through the parliamentary procedures.

"It is also highlighted that while States may like to enhance the distribution of subsidised foodgrains including additional entitlements, more subsidy etc the nomenclature from NFSA to any local State scheme name may be misinterpreted by the beneficiaries as State benefit and may give rise to confusion regarding their rights under the Act," the letter said.

Under the NFSA, passed by Parliament in 2013, the Central Government provides foodgrains to States for distribution to 81.35 crore people via the public distribution system (PDS) at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 1-3 per kg. As per the Ministry's data, about 41.33 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated under the NFSA to Delhi Government till February of the 2020-21 fiscal

for distribution via PDS. Out of which, offtake has been 40.97 lakh tonnes.

According to the Delhi Government, there are about 68.75 lakh beneficiaries through 17.14 lakh food security cards. As per the notified scheme, Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) will empanel millers and rice processors to lift the foodgrains for cleaning, grinding and packaging. The packed foodgrains will be transported from millers to fair price shops and from there to the doorsteps of beneficiaries through direct home delivery (DHD) agencies to be engaged by Delhi Consumer's Co-operative Wholesale Store Ltd (OCCWS). An e-POD (proof of delivery) will be captured for records, it said. Ration card holders may draw their full entitlement of foodgrains in more than one installment.

The Modi Government and the Arvind Kejriwal Government has been at loggerheads in the past over the jurisdiction of the Delhi Government. The Kejriwal Government had earlier lashed out at the Modi Government over the Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, giving more powers to the Lieutenant-Governor.

## MADHYA PRADESH HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (3rd CALL)  
Online percentage rate bids for the following work is invited from registered contractors fulfilling registration criteria :

System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract (Rs. Lakh)	Completion Period (Months)	Purchase Start Date & End Date	Bid Submission End Date	Date of Opening of Tenders
2021_MPHID_135889	Construction of shop cum office building at Dr. Hari Singh Gour Nagar Sagar M.P.	Rs. 296.99 Lakh EMD Rs. 297000.00 Cost of Form Rs. 17700.00 (i/c) GST	10 Months i/c Rainy Season	23.03.2021 15.00 Hrs. And 08.04.2021 17.30 Hrs.	09.04.2021 17.30 Hrs.	ENV-A 12.04.2021 15:30 Hrs. ENV-B 12.04.2021 17:30 Hrs. ENV-C 19.04.2021 15:30 Hrs.

- Interested bidders can view the detailed NIT on website [www.mphousing.in](http://www.mphousing.in) and [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in).
  - The bid document(s) can be purchased online only as per schedule :  
S.No. (i) Purchase of Tender Online 23.03.2021 at 15:00 Hrs. to 08.04.2021 at 17:30 Hrs.
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# Min air fare...

The government had taken the decision to impose lower and upper limits on airfares while resuming domestic services in May last year in order to ensure that the financially-hit airlines are able to survive as well as passengers are not charged exorbitantly.

The aviation sector has been significantly impacted due to the travel restrictions imposed in India and other countries in view of the coronavirus pandemic. All Indian carriers last year took cost-cutting measures like pay cuts, leave without pay and firing of employees.

Scheduled international passenger traffic continues to remain suspended in India since March 23, 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

# 50% cap on offices...

"We are trying to establish as to what is the reason for the sudden increase in the number of cases. We would like to know if the new strain had anything to do with the new strain," the Chief Minister said.

Meanwhile, participating in a meeting called via video-conferencing by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review the Covid-19 situation in the country, Uddhav proposed the State-run Mumbai-based Haffkine Institute as an institution that could produce vaccines by way of technology transfer or fill-and-finish basis.

In a related development, Maharashtra's Chief Secretary Sitaram Kunte came out with a new set of Covid-19 guidelines under which private offices have now been mandated to function at 50 per cent strength.

The State Government guidelines said that the manufacturing sector could function in full strength. However, the State Government directed the private firms to reduce staff strength on the production floor and ensure social distancing. Among other things, the State Government allowed the manufacturing sector to alter the work timings.

Similarly, the State Government directed operators of drama halls/auditoriums to function at 50 per cent strength. "There would be no entry without masks and temperature screening. Besides, sanitisers have to be kept at convenient locations," the order

said. Meanwhile, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation indicated that it would make it compulsory for the Rapid Antigen Test facilities to take samples for coronavirus testing.

Meanwhile, the State health authorities continued to reel under anxiety as the daily Covid -19 infections crossed 25,000 mark for the second consecutive day on Friday.

A day after the daily infection tally touched a disturbing 25,883, surpassing the previous single-day peak of 24,886 registered on September 11 last year, Maharashtra recorded 25,681 cases on Friday. As many as 70 more people died of pandemic in various parts of the State.

With 25,681 fresh cases, the total infections in the State climbed from 23,96,340 to 24,22,021. Similarly, with 70 new deaths the Covid-19 toll in the State went up from 53,138 to 53,208.

As 14,400 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the State after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year went up to 21,68,965. The recovery rate in the State dropped marginally from 90.79 per cent to 90.42 per cent.

With 10 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 11,559 to 11,569, while the infected cases went up by 3,063 to trigger a jump in the infections from 3,52,851 to 3,55,914.

Meanwhile, the number of "active cases" in the State went up from 1,66,353 to 1,77,560. The fatality rate in the State stood static at 2.22 per cent.

**Vidya Daan (3.0)**  
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Davp 21104/11/0008/2021

**कार्यालय नगर निगम देहसदून**  
पत्रक 32 / भू-2021 सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना दिनांक 19.03.21

नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत मोबाईल एलईडीओ वैन के माध्यम से विज्ञापन 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 अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक एलईडीओ मोबाईल वैन विज्ञापन की ईओ निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है-

विज्ञापन स्थल का विवरण	कुल एलईडीओ मोबाईल वैन की सं.	(18% जीओ एफओ टोल सहित)
संपूर्ण नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत मुख्य मार्ग पर	04	48,00,000/-

निविदा के साथ निविदा सूचना प्रपत्र में अंकित निविदा धनराशि की 10 प्रतिशत धनराशि रु- 4,80,000/- की सीडीओआर/एफडीओआर एवं निष्कर्षित निविदा प्रकाशन के नाम पर 05.04.2021 को नाम प्लेज होगी एवं निविदा फार्म में अंकित अन्य तकनीकी दस्तावेजों को दिनांक 05.04.2021 को सायं 4.00 बजे तक मूल में निगम कार्यालय में उपलब्ध कराना 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 अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे ई-निविदा हेतु उत्तराखण्ड शासन की ईओटिन्टर वेबसाइट [www.uktender.gov.in](http://www.uktender.gov.in) पर अपलोड करना सुनिश्चित करें। निविदा दिनांक 06.04.2021 सायं 4.00 बजे गतिर निविदा समिति के सम्मन खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्तें विज्ञापित प्रकाशन की तिथि से किसी भी कार्यदिन 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 नं 7017981898 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

**नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम देहसदून**

**National Health Mission**  
Department of Health & Family Welfare  
Government of Madhya Pradesh

NO./NHM/HWC/2021/4830 Bhopal Dated: 16/03/2021

**Cancellation Notice**

The advertisement, No. SN/NHM/HWC/MP/2020-21/1509 Bhopal, Date 29/01/2021 inviting applications for the vacant seats of 6 months certificate in Community Health and post of Community Health Officers (CHOs) is hereby cancelled.

Mission Director  
National Health Mission, MP

**CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION**  
1, NAWAB YUSUF ROAD, CIVIL LINES/PRAVARA-211001  
FAX No. : 0532-2407197

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender Notice No. ST215005 Dated: 19.03.2021  
On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager, Central Organization Railway Electrification, Prayagraj, invites following E-TENDER :-

E-Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Tender Due Date
ST215005	Supply, Installation Testing and Commissioning of High Availability Dual/Redundant Single Section Digital Axle System (HASSDAC) per RDSO specification.	8Set	20.04.2021

Note:1. The complete information of above E-Tender and Tender document are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Only E-Bids shall be accepted against above Tender. The e-bids may be submitted before 11.00 hrs on tender opening date.

PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER/CORE/PRAVARAJ  
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT OF INDIA  
PR/72/2021 Adk  
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# AAP: Centre move to block doorstep ration anti-people

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj on Friday said that the Central Government had asked the Delhi Government to withdraw the Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana or Doorstep Delivery of Ration Scheme, which was scheduled to be launched on the 25th of this month.

Bhardwaj appealed to the Central Government not to interfere in such matters of the Delhi Government, saying that this is against the mandate of the people of Delhi and goes against the grain of public good.

The AAP leader said that stopping such a scheme just 4-5 days before its launch is highly unfortunate and sad. "The Central Government must immediately withdraw this direction and allow the Delhi Government to launch the scheme," he said.

Bhardwaj said that the Delhi Government has not taken a single penny for this



scheme from the Centre and if such a scheme prevented rampant corruption, the Centre should not take umbrage.

"The doorstep delivery of ration is the flagship programme of the AAP Government under the able leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Every State Government provides ration to the poor. Each month, the State Government distributes ration to families based on their size," he said.

"There were several complaints from the poor that in Delhi the ration shops do not open regularly, which leads to the poor suffering a lot. Taking

cognisance of the situation, for the last 3-4 years, the Delhi Government developed the scheme of home delivery of ration. Under this scheme, ration is packed by the Delhi Government and delivered to the people," he added.

"We have less than a week to launch this scheme and now the Central Government has written to the Delhi Government asking to stop this scheme," he said.

Bhardwaj said, "Four years ago, when the Kejriwal Government thought about this scheme it was the first of its kind policy decision. The Delhi Government planned to bring ration to the doorstep of the poor. We have not asked a single penny from the Central Government to implement this scheme but despite that, the Central Government is trying to stop this revolutionary and flagship project of the Delhi Government."

"We appeal to the Central Government that by stopping this scheme they have taken an anti-people decision and it must be withdrawn," he said.

# Eleven arrested for thrashing neighbour to death in Rajouri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Eleven people, including three women, were arrested by the Delhi Police for thrashing their neighbour to death after an altercation broke out between them in Rajouri Garden area.

Police said that they have arrested Ravinder (48), his wife Anita (45), son Tarun (23), Tarun's wife Priyanka (21), Deepa (30), Gaurav (19), Puneet (20), Amit (43), Nitin (24), Suman (32) and Deepak (39).

According to a senior police official, a police control room (PCR) call was received at around 11.45 pm on Monday regarding a quarrel at Raghuraj Nagar following which Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was dispatched to the spot.

"A police team reached the spot and got to know that the injured were already taken to the GGS hospital. One of the injured, Rupesh, was declared brought dead by doctors at the hospital," said the senior police official.

"The brother of the deceased, Mukesh, stated that around 11 pm, a quarrel broke out between their neighbour Tarun and his wife Priyanka. Subsequently, Tarun's father Ravinder, mother Anita, brother Puneet and cousin Deepa got involved and all of them created a ruckus," said the official.

"When Mukesh and his mother objected to it and the use of foul language, the accused allegedly beat them up. Rupesh, his father Rajbahadur and maternal uncle Rajbir tried to pacify the accused, but Deepa, Puneet and Ravinder called their friends Nitin, Kaju, Summi and Gaurav, and all of them allegedly assaulted Mukesh, Rupesh and some other family members of the deceased with sticks," said the official.

"By the time the police were informed of the incident, the accused had fled the spot. Mukesh sustained injuries on his head and right hand in the incident. His father, mother, uncle and sister-in-law also got injured, the police said.

# Govt to organise exhibitions on handicrafts: Satyendra Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Terming the national Capital a 'Mini Bharat', Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain said that the Government will take steps to encourage handicraft art as it has an amalgamation of all various Indian cultures.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia along with Jain felicitated the handicraft artisans in a function held on Friday.

Sisodia said that for Indians art is the way of living and artisans help us to be alive.

"Handicraft has a different style and this beauty can come neither from machines nor from 3D print. We can not only survive based on machines but only with art and artisans," he added.

"I want to welcome all the

artisans present here and I am very happy to see that our government is honouring these artisans. Today in the world the competition is very high. Today there are various countries from where cheap products come and today there is also 3-D print," he said.

"The handicrafts are a very special kind of products and no other country or technology can bring such products. Only our artisans can make such beautiful products. The handicrafts are not business to these people. But handicrafts are the

way of living and tradition for our country," he said.

Sixteen skilled artisans were selected for the 'State Awards and State Merit Awards' on Friday. Applauding the winners on their achievements, Jain said that all governments should make vigorous efforts to promote handicrafts.

Jain further proposed that public demonstration of the compositions by the awardees of the past five years should be organised to bring their art, craft, and talent before the eyes of the public so that they become cognisant of the rich cultural heritage of our nation.

For both, the years 2016 and 2017, the Department of Industries selected 16 such craftsmen with a remarkable talent to award them with State Awards and State Merit Awards.

## TO STOP STUBBLE BURNING

# Officials to study effect of bio-decomposer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of senior officials from Haryana and Punjab reached Delhi on Friday to study the effect of the bio-decomposer which was used by the Kejriwal Government to stop the stubble burning, Delhi Development Minister Gopal Rai said.

The delegations of both States took detailed information about the effects of spraying of bio-de-composer made by the Kejriwal Government to solve the problem of stubble burning, he said, adding that like the Kejriwal Government, other State Governments should also make bio-composers available free of cost to the farmers to stubble burning. Rai said that state



Governments will have to make a centralized system for bio-compositing and set up a centre in every district. "We hope that all the State Governments will take positive initiatives together to deal with the problem of stubble burning. The

delegation met the officials of the development department, scientists of Pusa and the farmers and appreciated the efforts of the Kejriwal Government," he said.

The Minister further said, "A delegation of senior officials

from Haryana and Punjab have come to Delhi to understand the impact of the bio-decomposer by the Pusa Institute to solve the problem of stubble burning. We discussed this in a meeting with the delegation and informed them about the effects of bio-decomposer."

The delegation met the farmers of Delhi's Hiranki, Palla and Jindpur villages along with officials of the Delhi Development Department and scientists from Pusa Institute.

After meeting the farmers, officials from Punjab and Haryana and scientists from Pusa Institute met Rai. Farmers of Delhi told them that spraying of bio-de-composer is very effective and at the same time they had to use less fertilizer. Rai said, "All the States will

have to make concerted efforts to solve the problem of stubble burning. The delhi development minister told the officials of both the states that a centralized arrangement will have to be made for this and a centre should be established in each district through which bio-de-composers would be provided free of cost to the farmers."

Rai further said that both short term and long term policy will have to be made for this so that the problem of burning stubble can be eliminated. "Scientists of Pusa Institute and officials of Delhi, Haryana and Punjab should work on this by forming a joint team. On this occasion, the officials appreciated the efforts of the Delhi Government," he said.

# SDMC virtually inaugurates public utility projects

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Friday virtually inaugurated public utility projects at Civic Centre.

A foundation laying ceremony of an automated multi-level puzzle car parking in Nizamuddin took place and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed with the NTPC for setting up of a Solar Panel e-Charging station.

Additionally, modern equipment installed at 19 SDMC dispensaries and vaccination centres were dedicated to the citizens, a senior SDMC official said.

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta and Mayor of the SDMC Anamika Mithilesh Singh were present

on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Choubey said that the Narendra Modi Government is working on a war footing level to contain Covid-19.

He assured that Union Health Ministry will ensure uninterrupted supply of Covid-19 vaccine to Delhi. While paying condolences to deceased Covid-19 warriors of SDMC, he said that if Delhi Government moves any proposal for bereaved families, Centre will surely look into it.

BJP Delhi unit president, Adesh Gupta said that inauguration of three Public Utility Services shows that the Civic Agency is dedicated to provide better services to its citizens. "The SDMC has done better management to enhance services. The automated multi-level puzzle car parking in Nizamuddin will ease parking menace in the area," he said.

# 17 shanties gutted in fire at Bangali Basti, 3 injured

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three people, including two children, sustained injuries after 17 shanties were gutted following a fire at Bangali Basti in southwest Delhi's Vasant Kunj area.

The injured include a 35-year-old Mukesh and two children aged four and two.

"After receiving call regarding the fire in shanties around 2:45 AM around 10 fire tenders were rushed to the spot," said Atul Garg, Director, Delhi Fire Service (DFS).

According to Ingit Pratap Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southwest district, the source of fire was a garbage heap at near by shanties.

"A total of 17 shanties got burnt and the fire was, however, brought under control. During this, Mukesh was trying to save the two children when he got injured while the children suffered minor injuries," said police.

# Nat'l Rail Plan to develop Rly infra to meet future demands



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an objective to develop infrastructure and to meet future demand, Indian Railways has envisaged a number of infrastructure development initiatives in the National Rail Plan (NRP) being prepared by Indian Railways.

The plan will also cater to future growth in demand right up to 2050 and also increase the modal share of Railways to 45 per cent in freight traffic and to continue to sustain it.

The draft plan has been put up in the public domain and is also being circulated amongst stakeholders for comments, said Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.

The key infrastructure initiatives taken by Indian Railways are to complete the identified 58 super critical, 68 critical and 20 coal projects for capacity augmentation, complete all executable gauge conversion projects, he said.

As part of the National Rail Plan, Vision 2024 has been launched for accelerated implementation of certain critical projects by 2024 such as 100 per cent electrification up gradation of speed to 160 kmph on Delhi-Howrah and Delhi-Mumbai routes up gradation of speed to 130 kmph on all other Golden Quadrilateral-Golden Diagonal (GQ/GD) routes and elimination of all Level Crossings on all GQ/GD route.



Delhi Pradesh Mahila Congress members take part in a protest against Uttarakhnd Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat's remarks regarding ripped jeans at Connaught Place in New Delhi on Friday

# 3 injured over boundary wall dispute in G'gram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Three persons were injured in a firing incident over a boundary wall dispute which took place on Thursday evening at Behrampur village, Sector-65 in Gurugram, the police said on Friday.

In connection with the incident a team of crime branch unit Sector-31 led by Sub-Inspector Sanjeev Kumar has managed to arrest the alleged three criminals who were involved in the firing incident on Friday after a tip-off from a community center in Sector-38.

The victims were identified

as Ravi Bhati, Mohit Shukla and Himanshu Mishra.

Those arrested were identified as Mahesh, Rishi of Behrampur village and Karambir of Taurau in Nuh district. The police have also recovered Maruti Swift car which was used in the crime.

The complainant Bijender who was a brother of Ravi told the police that he was a contractor and used to make bounty wall of the plots.

"During questioning the culprits disclosed that they had enmity with the victim, Ravi over making a bounty wall of a farm house in the village. They had warned the victim not to

make a bounty wall of the farm house as they have owned a contract to make it's boundary wall but the victim didn't pay heed on their warning. Following this they alleged had shot the victims and fled the spot," said Preet Pal Sangwan, ACP crime.

Based on the complaint filed by Bijender an FIR under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code including 307 (attempt to murder) was registered against the culprits at Sector-65 police station.

"The arrested accused will taken on police remand for recovery of the crime weapons," Sangwan said.

# Social welfare Minister directs officials to remove encroachment from DDA land

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Social Welfare Minister SrAjendra Pal Gautam on Friday inspected the sight in Seemapuri and ordered to remove encroachments and illegal occupation from Delhi Development Authority.

"Encroachments ought to be removed from Sunder Nagri F One Block and O Block DDA. If DDA is unable to maintain their land, we offer to build multi storey barat houses," the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said who is Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Seemapuri constituency.

It may recalled that on March 17, at a meeting at the Secretariat where officials of DDA and other related agencies were also present, it was decided that on-the-spot inspection should be done for a permanent solution to the illegal occupation.

Gautam directed the DDA officials that if they weren't going to do anything to save their land, then gradually this entire land would be captured.

The Seemapuri MLA also said that if a community building were to be constructed there, it will be useful for the local residents, and could even become a source of income for the DDA. It would also halt any and every encroachment with immediate effect. "To save its land, DDA should prepare a comprehensive project soon," he added.

During the inspection, Gautam drew the officials' attention to the newly constructed Government school, and said that this land was also under encroachment and illegal occupation for a long time. However, due to the coordinated efforts of the PWD, Delhi Police, Education and Revenue Department, a spectacular school stood here.

When Gautam reached Idgah, located in O-Block of DDA land, he told the officials that since the said land stood empty, and is out of the green belt, mohalla clinic could be built there. He said that if DDA wanted to sell the land through auction, local institutions would be ready to bid on it.

# Spl traffic CP to look after work of commissioner for 3 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taj Hassan, the Special Commissioner of Police, Traffic, will be looking after the work of Delhi Police Commissioner for three days as the incumbent will be on leave. According to an official letter, the Home Department has approved one-day casual leave to Delhi Police Commissioner SN Shrivastava.

"I am directed to convey the approval of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi to Commissioner of Police, Delhi to avail LTC (hometown) to visit Varanasi for personal work from 19.03.21 to 21.03.21," the letter said.

"Further, Hon'ble Lt. Governor has sanctioned one day Casual Leave on 19th March, 2021 along with permission to avail Govt holidays falling on 20th March, 2021 and 21st March, 2021. During his leave period, Shri Mohd. Taj Hassan, Special CP/Traffic will look after the work of Commissioner Police, Delhi," it said.

# Only 5% kids get quality edu: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday said that achieving excellence in a job is not innovation but thinking out of the box is. The problem with our education system is that only five per cent children are able to attain quality education while 95 per cent of them are left behind.

"what is even more problematic is that even the five percent of students are unable to innovate or contribute excellent research. Research needs time and resources but our leadership lacks the right approach. We need to redirect our focus to strengthen research activities and I think the only way we can do that is through correct leadership. Our leadership needs to have the right priorities in higher education. In this regard, our

Government is keen to have research in our institutions through matching grants and encouragement," Sisodia said.

He further said, "Our universities should take the responsibility to hone skills. Our present model of education has failed us if our students graduate schools without attaining 21st century skills. Our work in education is of no use if our children are unable to attain skills that match the demands of the market. We need to ensure that we develop a fleet of students who will be job providers, not job seekers."

On curriculum incorporating practical knowledge in higher education, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Manish Sisodia said, "Our education system is set on the false ideals that our children obtain worldly knowledge by passing an end of school exam.

Government structures need to understand that the pursuit of knowledge is beyond passing exams, it is about developing a holistic profile."

Speaking about the future of higher education institutions, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Manish Sisodia said, "Higher education institutions need to recognise and accept that in the next few years, students and institutions will not be competing with each other, but with robots. Robots, AI, internet of things are changing the world as we speak. Digital revolution is everywhere and it is eliminating physical boundaries. So it's important to be cognisant of the fact that robots may very swiftly replicate our skills and take over. Higher institutions, in this sense, need to instil skills that cannot be replicated by robots and we are constantly ahead of this technology."

Addressing the key role assessments have to play in education system, he said, "We have to focus on continuous comprehensive assessment. It is crucial for us to change our ways of assessing students and we need to assess students in a way that we understand the complete learner profile. Assessments form the crux of our education system and at present, rote learning forms the premise of assessments in India. We need to change this narrative, we need to have continuous comprehensive assessments through which a child is able to harness his/her talent, attain skills and knowledge, and contribute to the growth of our nation."

Deputy Chief Minister Shri Manish Sisodia felicitated the great work of professors across the country by honouring them with the New Code Education 2021 Awards.

# US Defence Secy in India to boost bilateral ties



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and the US will on Saturday discuss the entire gamut of bilateral defence ties in the talks between visiting US Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh here. They are also likely to review the situation in the wake of growing Chinese assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.

Austin, who arrived here on Friday is also likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during his three-day visit. This is the first high-level visit by a US Minister since Joe Biden became US President.

Moreover, the talks on Saturday come after heads of State of India, US, Australia and Japan last week held the first ever virtual summit under the aegis of the Quad. The leaders in a veiled reference to China called for freedom of navigation and trade in the Indo-Pacific. China has all along objected to the formation of Quad claiming it will lead to militarisation.

India is the third stop of Austin's three-nation first over-

seas tour, and the visit is seen as a strong commitment of the Joe Biden administration to its close allies and partners in the region.

Ways to further accelerate India-US strategic ties, boosting cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, China's aggressive behaviour in eastern Ladakh, challenges posed by terrorism and the Afghan peace process are expected to be focus of the talks between the two sides, sources said. The two sides will issue a joint statement after the talks on Saturday.

Sources said India's plan to procure around 30 multi-mission armed

Predator drones from the US for the three services at an estimated cost of over USD 3 billion is also expected to figure in the talks. The medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) Predator-B drones, manufactured by US defence major General Atomics, are capable of remaining airborne for around 35 hours and can hunt down targets at land and sea, they said.

However, no deals are likely to be inked, they said. Incidentally, the US in the last one decade has sold weapons worth over 15 billion dollars to

India. The US Defence Secretary visited Japan and South Korea before arriving in India. The visit to all the countries during his ongoing tour is perceived as a bid by the new US Government to have a united front against China. Austin described it as the "pacing threat".

"China ... presents the most significant threat going forward because China is ascending," Austin told the Senate confirmation hearing back in January, underlining that in contrast to Beijing, the threat from Moscow "is in decline".

Austin, former US Central Command chief, is well aware of the threat to world security from radicalization and terrorism after seeing the rise of the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

He also has first-hand experience of the threat posed by terrorist groups in Pakistan to India.

Though no deals or agreements are likely to be signed during the visit, India and US may prepare a detailed plan to further strengthen defence cooperation and intelligence sharing in the Indo-Pacific.

This will be done through interoperability exercises and joint training designed to make them the first responders in the vast ocean while the navies of the two other Quad members, Japan and Australia, hold the other fringes.

The Quad navies plus France are scheduled to exercise in the Bay of Bengal from April 4-7 under the La Perouse banner.

# Thalassemia, Covid inoculation figure in LS debate



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Issues ranging from providing facilities to patients of Thalassemia to moving to BS VI norms and electric vehicles to apprehensions on Covid-19 vaccinations to shifting people living in land-slide prone zones to safer areas figured in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

In the question hour, Congress MP Ravneet Bittu asked if COVID-19 vaccines affect the DNA of future generations and pointed to lot of apprehensions.

Replying to the query, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "When a vaccine is given the final go ahead, a lot of trials are done and data is analysed not just in the country but also at the level of the WHO. 0.000432 per cent of side effects are seen for COVID-19 vaccine. The data needs to be believed. I want to tell the citizens, don't have any apprehensions."

NCP MP Supriya Sule asked as to when would the Government allow universal vaccination. The Minister said that every vaccine doesn't require universalisation.

"The National Expert Group for Vaccination Administration decides, on scientific basis, whether it is necessary that each and every person should be given the

vaccine", he said. BJP MP Maneka Gandhi said Thalassemia has been recognised as a disability and sought the Minister about specific steps taken in terms of free blood bank etc., for Thalassemic patients.

The Minister replied that screening of such patients, counseling at the stage of conception, and bone marrow transplants are ongoing. He said since bone marrow transplant is expensive, the Centre suggests that State governments should bear half the cost while the Centre will bear the other half.

Dr. Vardhan also spoke about corporates pitching in for bone marrow transplants.

But Maneka suggested bringing Thalassemic patients under the Atal Amrit Abhiyan. She said there is no point in talking about corporates as "they do nothing".

The Minister replied that thalassemic patients are provided free blood. He also sought specific suggestions from her.

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar spoke about steps like efforts to move to BS VI emissions norms and the move to electric vehicles. "3,000 industries switched to piped natural gas; 3,000 brick kilns were fitted with Zig Zag technology," he says.

# Rail infrastructure will never be privatised: Goyal in RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Allaying apprehensions of the Elders, the Government on Friday said railways infrastructure will never be privatised. However, plans are there to monetise the assets of the railways to generate funds to fast track growth.

Giving this assurance in the Rajya Sabha, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said passenger train operations taken up through Public Private Partnership (PPP) are targeted to bring a total investment of about ₹30,000 crore.

Fielding questions on reported privatization, he said the railways plans to monetise assets including through Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors after commissioning, induction of 150 modern rakes through PPP, station redevelopment through PPP, railway land parcels, multi-functional complexes (MFC), railway colonies, hill railways and stadia.

When Jairam Ramesh (Congress) said assets monetisation was another form of privatisation, Goyal said the Congress leader was not able to understand the difference between privatisation and monetisation.

"When you privatise, you sell off the assets permanently

The Minister said, "Compared with previous years, the emission norms have come down."

Replying to a question on landslides, Union Earth



and it no more remains a part of the government ownership. In the railways, the plan to monetise in terms of how it will generate resources, further investment and growth. The infrastructure of Indian Railways will never be privatised," Goyal said.

Elaborating upon the dedicated freight corridors project, he said they are a separate corporate entity and the railways are supporting them. He clarified that the railways are supporting but is not the owner of tracks that the freight corridor is laying. "If we raise funds by leasing them, giving them out to private sector to use in the interim period we are doing a service to the nation," the minister said.

He also said assets monetisation involves various transaction processes, and the investment expected depends

Sciences Minister Harsh Vardhan, spoke about mapping 4.25 lakh square kms of land saying 50% of the job is done.

On the question of shift-

ing people who are vulnerable to landslides, the Minister said the information collected by the Geological Survey of India is passed on to the State Governments.

Replying to a supplementary raised by the leader of the opposition

Mallikarjun Kharge about a proposal to merge three divisions of Gulbarga in Karnataka, Goyal said the Railways Board did not find it feasible.

In a reply to another supplementary, Goyal said for seven routes dedicated to semi-high speed passenger corridors, the Government is talking to State Governments and added that there has been good response from the Uttar Pradesh government which is cooperating on the Delhi-Varanasi route, mostly elevated along the highways.

# Govt urged to step up genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2



ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Experts have urged the Government to step up the genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 to detect cases of Coronavirus variants which are more contagious and lethal. Presently, 400 cases of Coronavirus patients in India have been found to be affected with three mutant variants first detected in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil.

Presently, the Government is sequencing just five percent of all positive samples from each State in order to identify potential outbreaks and related strains as part of continuous surveillance.

Public Health expert and neurologist (HoD of the Neurology Department) of the Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC) Dr RK Dhamija said: "There is no reason to scale down RT PCR testing as we have seen lately in many states and that can be disastrous especially with new mutant variants of the virus making entry into our cities. These variants will be seen in India as it is difficult to stop the transmission in view of relaxation of movements and in the era of necessary inter-

# Naidu urges MPs to take Covid seriously



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of a surge in the number of corona positive cases in some parts of the country, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday urged all the MPs to observe all precautions and remain extra careful.

Making this observation in the Rajya Sabha, he also asked the Elders to follow all the

guidelines issued by the health ministry. While the severity has come down, reports are coming from certain states that the pandemic is spreading, Naidu said.

"...All the members of Parliament, who are here, who are there in their respective fields, to be extra careful. I know that you are all public representatives, you can't live in isolation. But at the same time, while dealing with people, meeting them, or going to the constituencies or areas, be careful, follow strictly the advice given by the Health Ministry and Home Ministry, central government, as well as the

guidelines issued by the state governments concerned from time to time and see to it that they are implemented," he said.

Naidu further said the MPs should take interest to see that common people too are guided properly. "One of the reasons, as we are seeing, though the severity has come down, but the cases are spreading here and there, is that people in those respective areas are not following the amount of discipline," he said, and added "we should not allow the situation to deteriorate". The Chairman also urged MPs and their family members, who are eligible, to get themselves vaccinated.

national travel. "More genomic sequencing would help us for early detection of these new variants arriving in the country and within the country," said Dr Dhamija.

In fact, Minister of State for

Health Ashwini Choubey had on Thursday told the Rajya Sabha, citing findings from the World Health Organization, that the three variants are believed to be more contagious or easier to catch.

"These three mutated variants also have the potential to re-infect people who have been previously infected with SARS-CoV-2," he had said.

As of March 10, 2021, a total of 19,092 RT-PCR positive samples for SARS CoV-2 have been received from various states/UTs, in which 4869 samples have been processed. Among the processed samples, 284 samples have been detected to be positive for the

'UK strain' and 11 samples positive for the 'South African strain' and 1 sample positive for the 'Brazil strain', as on March 10, the Government told the Parliament on Friday.

The Government has formed genomic surveillance consortium INSACOG to detect the presence of different strains of coronavirus in India, involving ten regional genome sequencing laboratories (RGSLS) namely NIBMG Kalyani, ILS Bhubaneswar, ICMR-NIV Pune, NCCS Pune, CSIR-CCMB Hyderabad, CSDF Hyderabad, InStem/NCBS Bengaluru, NIMHANS Bengaluru, CSIR-IGIB Delhi, and NCDC Delhi.

# LS passes Bill to amend Mines Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Bill to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, would bring in mega reforms in the sector with resolution in legacy issues, thereby making a large number of mines available for auctions. It will also help strengthen the auction-only regime and boost transparency in the system.

The Bill also seeks to remove the distinction between captive and non-captive mines as well as introduce an index-based mechanism by developing a National Mineral Index (NMI) for various statutory payments. In order to boost exploration, there will be a review of functioning of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET), which will also be made an autonomous body.

sending broader guidelines," he pointed out. The bill to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, would bring in mega reforms in the sector with resolution in legacy issues, thereby making a large number of mines available for auctions. It will also help strengthen the auction-only regime and boost transparency in the system.

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# LS passes Bill to modify SC list in TN

New Delhi: A Bill to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu by grouping of seven castes which presently exist as separate castes, was passed by the Lok Sabha on Friday. According to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021, the Tamil Nadu government has proposed certain modifications in the list of Scheduled Castes by way of grouping of seven castes which presently exist as separate castes. The Registrar General of India has conveyed concurrence to the proposed modifications, the bill said. To give effect to the changes, it is necessary to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 by Parliament.

# Govt raises concern with German NGO over accuracy of data on India's hunger level

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has flagged its concerns with German organisation Welthungerhilfe on "appropriateness, accuracy and representativeness of data" used to calculate the level of hunger in India. Responding to Aam Aadmi party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh's comment in the Rajya Sabha on India's poor rank in the Global Hunger Index 2020, Union Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala on Friday said the Government has already written to NGO Welthungerhilfe, which compiled the report, expressing concerns about their methodology and accuracy of data, and is yet to hear from them.

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report 2020 — published jointly by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe — has given a score of 27.2 for

India and ranked the country at 94 out of 107. Whereas in the GHI Report 2019, India had scored 30.3 and was ranked 102 out of 117. "Some NGO in the world has done the survey. We have already asked them on what basis have you reached this conclusion? They have not replied yet. But this is a separate matter," the minister said. He said that the GHI score has reduced from 30.3 to 27.2 during the period 2019 to 2020.

Rupala mentioned that the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) conducted in 2017-28 showed an improvement in indicators — wasting, stunting and under-nutrition — when compared to data enumerated from National Family Survey 4 (NFHS-4) in 2015-16.

These three indicators are used at the national level for measurement of the prevalence of undernourishment, he added.

# EC's ban on State police within 100 mtrs of booths biased: TMC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a spike in political violence in poll-bound West Bengal, a delegation of Trinamool Congress MPs met the Election Commission on Friday to register their protest against the poll panel's reported decision to not permit State police personnel within 100 metres of polling stations.

The TMC parliamentary delegation comprising Saugata Roy, Yashwant Sinha, Md Nadimul Haque, Pratima Mondal and Mahua Moitra, described the EC's approach as partisan and biased. It is becoming increasingly clear that free, fair and transparent elections in

the State of West Bengal is becoming a distant reality. This is evident from the partisan and biased approach taken by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in respect of the ongoing elections in the State, a memorandum submitted to the apex poll panel said.

On the first count, it has been reported in media that the ECI has decided to not permit presence of State police within 100 m of polling stations and only deploy Central Forces in such arena. If true, this decision is unprecedented and casts severe aspersions on the reputation of the police administration in the State of West Bengal," it added.

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead in Tikona Park, Near Railway Line, Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi on 05.03.2021. In this regard a DD No. 24A u/s 174 CrPC, Dated 05.03.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in mortuary of Subzi Mandi, Delhi for 72 hrs for identification. The description of the dead body is given as under:



Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 35-40 years, Height: 5'10" Feet, Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Build: Thin, Hair: Black, Wearing: Blue Coloured Jersey, Blue Colour Lower and Bare footed.

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

S.H.O P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Ph.: 011-23693611, 23691106, 8750870133

# 30 kids die every day in road accidents in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At least 30 kids die every day in road accidents across the country. Alarmingly, a majority of 11,168 children who died in road mishaps in 2019 could have been saved had their parents or caretakers made them wear good quality helmets while pillion-riding, Dr Rajendra Prasad, senior Consultant Neuro and Spine Surgeon from Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi said on the eve of the World Head Injury Day on Saturday. Unofficial death estimates are much higher.

Unfortunately, laments Dr

Prasad, while parents are yet to take the issue serious and prevent their kids from getting serious injuries to brains, there are not good quality head-gears available in the market. An injury to the brain can alter their kids life forever, warned the doctor.

He knows better. The Indian Head Injury Foundation of which Dr Prasad is a Medical Director, is engaged in distributing helmets to the school children across the country, as a part of its awareness campaign on how essential head-gear are to keep children's developing brains safe.

In the last five years since 2015, the Foundation has doled



out at least 30,000 helmets to the school kids free of cost.

However, Dr Prasad shared that they had to place orders to the helmet manufacturing companies to specially manufacture helmets as either there were not enough in the market while those existing did not meet standards.

The doctor is now hopeful that the new Vehicle Act making it mandatory for the parents to ensure kids wear seatbelts in



the car will also sensitise them to make their children wear helmets when ferrying them in two-wheeler or letting them bike. He said, "It is necessary to make the public aware about causes and prevention of head injuries. The majority of head injuries in India are caused due to road traffic accidents."

Over 1,50,000 deaths every year from road traffic accidents

(RTA). Five times as many are left with severe disabilities. As per a report by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, around 11,168 children lost their lives in road accidents in 2019.

Major cause for mortality on roads were not wearing helmets and seat belts, untrained first responders, poor pre-hospital care and lack of neuro-rehabilitation facilities, he pointed out.

The Indian Head Injury Foundation (IHIF) in 2007 aims to build a comprehensive system for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury and provide neuro-rehabilitation to such

patients in the country.

**Metro Railway, Kolkata**  
Kolkata's Pride  
**CORRIGENDUM 2**  
To Tender Notice No.: S&T/Work\_05-2021 for Upgradation of Train Management System in Metro Bhawan in order to improve visibility. For above tender Tender Value is ₹ 3,83,49,800 and Completion period is 12 (Twelve) months. A corrigendum has been issued for this tender on 18.03.2021. Corrigendum details are to be viewed at website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. Tender opening date is 05.04.2021 at 12.30 hrs.  
By: Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Tele

# Bengal doesn't want to see Modi face: Didi

## BJP SEEKS EC ACTION AGAINST MAMATA FOR PEDDLING LIES

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Continuing with her "outsider rhetoric", Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said that the people of the State did not want to see the face of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and "Duryodhanas and Dushasanas" who come in his trail asking the people of the State to say "good bye" to the leaders whose sole job was to promote riots.

Launching a blistering attack on the Prime Minister she said "we don't want to see the face of Modi. We don't want rioters, looters to come to Bengal... Say good bye to the BJP's Duryodhanas and Dushasanas, who would try everything to win power in Bengal."

Asking the people to remain on vigil --- against the vote looters --- not only before or during the poll but also the full one month after it till the counting takes place, the Chief Minister said, "They will try every trick to rig the polls and even the EVM machines and so you will have to remain on guard for the whole month after the polls... at least 25 people will be required to keep a watch on the strong rooms where the EVMs will be kept."

She asked the people to "ensure that the EVMs function properly," adding "do not leave the area if the EVM malfunctions... because it will be their

trick to make you return without voting... so hand around till the EVMs are replaced and cast your vote and then go home."

The TMC chief had been using the "Bengali pride" as her poll plank and had been constantly attacking the national BJP leaders as "outsiders who are coming to Bengal to disturb peace and engineer riots." Asking the women to remain vigilant she said "if you find outsiders roaming about your area then you don't have to do anything... because you have your rolling pins and brooms with you."

Saying the Prime Minister's bid to rouse Bengali sentiments by addressing the audience in Hindi language the Chief Minister said, "Modi says Kemon Acho Bangla (How are you Bengal) not on his own, but by being guided by a teleprompter." Calling the Prime Minister a "tukli master" (copycat) the Chief Minister said "poriborton (change) is a slogan used by me (during 2011 Assembly elections)... and now they are stealing this slogan. I want to ask why will you steal my slogan... you copycat?"

The Chief Minister was speaking at a rally at Egga in East Midnapore. Raising once again the issue of her ankle injury that she suffered during a campaign at Nandigram on March 10, Banerjee who has been using wheelchair while



addressing the crowds said "they (the BJP) thought that they will immobilize me by injuring my leg... but I am a different metal. I have injuries all over my body... I have injured, head, back... I have operations in my stomach... and still I can work continuously... no one can stop me from reaching my people."

Apparently referring to the turncoat Trinamool Congress leaders including her opponent in Nandigram Suvendu Adhikari --- who switched over to the BJP in the recent past --- as Mirzafar (the traitor-general of Nawab Siraj ud Daulah of Plassey fame) Banerjee said "I blindly loved them... I trusted them but they betrayed me... They were in touch with the BJP since 2014... they did all these mischief behind my back... still I have full faith in my people who are the ultimate decision makers."

Attacking the BJP for maligning Bengal by raising women's issues she said the BJP should first take a look at the BJP-ruled states like "Uttar Pradesh where women are raped and murdered... The

## BJP workers protest turncoats' candidature

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Spate of protests within the BJP continued throughout Bengal even as the saffron workers protesting against nomination of "corrupt turncoats" from the TMC vandalised party offices torched furniture and blocked roads.

Reports of violent protests, sloganeering and road blockades came in from Harishchandrapur, Malda, Sujapur, Fazol in Malda district, Chakulia, Karandighi and Raiganj in North Dinajpur district, Jalpaiguri, Burdwan

east, Purbasthali, Pandabeshwar --- from where TMC turncoat Jitendra Tiwari is fighting, Bally --- from where Baishali Dalmiya former TMC MLA and the daughter of late BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya is contesting --- Ranaghat North East and other places sources said.

Party office was vandalized at Harishchandrapur where the old-timers alleged "the BJP leadership has provided tickets in lieu of cash to the TMC turncoats who are down-right corrupt people and against whom we had been

fighting all these years." Even as Mamata pooh-pooed the saffron outfit for "fielding the borrowed candidates from Trinamool," reminding how "relieved I am having got rid of the black sheep and traitors who have now become the headache of the BJP" State BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said "such things happen in bigger parties... this is a sign that the BJP is growing and the people's aspirations about this party is increasing... things will die down soon and all will work together to oust the Trinamool from Bengal."

The election will happen in a democratic way and that is why she is disturbed. Even now she is misusing administration, police and using ghuspaitheye (intruders) and Pakistanis. Police is a mute spectator. But the people are with us," he said. Meanwhile, a BJP delegation on Friday appealed to the Election Commission to put Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on notice for indulging in misinformation campaign not only against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah but also trying to subvert the reputation of Election Commission by peddling lies against it.

"We have brought to the attention of the Election Commission how Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is spreading misinformation about BJP leaders like Prime

Minister Narendra Modi ji and Amit Shah ji... we have told the Commission how she is telling that Amit Shah ji is controlling the EC... this is a direct affront on the credibility of the poll panel... this is aimed at diminishing the people's faith in the Commission and we have requested the EC to take appropriate action as per the election laws and put the Chief Minister on notice," BJP leader and Union Minister Debashree Chowdhury said.

The Commission was also told about how the Chief Minister was trying to draw sympathy from the people by telling that the BJP was behind the ankle injury she received at Nandigram on March 10.

"This is in sharp contrast to what the EC said... it said that the Chief Minister received the injury in an accident" and not in an attack the BJP leader said.

# Tectonic shift in Kerala politics over Sabarimala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala Politics underwent a tectonic shift in the last 24 hours as the Sabarimala controversy, which has been in the backburner since the last Lok Sabha election returned to the forefront thanks to the CPI(M) and a BJP leader who has been declared as the party candidate from Kazhakoottam. This is likely to cause setback to the CPI(M) dream of coming back to power.

Sitaram Yechury, the CPI(M) general secretary, told journalists that there is no change in the party's stance vis a vis women's entry to Sabarimala Temple. He said that the CPI(M) is always for gender equality and would stand by the rights of the women to worship in all temples.

The Sabarimala Temple was the centre of a major controversy following the Supreme Court verdict that women in the age group of ten to fifty years should be allowed entry in the shrine while disposing a petition challenging the age-old custom of banning women in the particular age group from offering prayers.

The devotees have filed a revision petition in the apex court and the matter is being heard by a Constitution Bench. Interestingly, the Kerala Minister for Temple Administration Katakampalli Surendran, who was in the forefront in providing police security to women devotees to worship in the temple much to the anguish of devotees including women, expressed regret for his actions in helping women activists to enter the temple.

But Pinarayi Vijayan, chief minister, corrected his minister the next day and declared that the Government would not do anything to deny the women in the ten to fifty age group from worshipping in the temple.

Sobha surendran, the BJP leader who is taking on Katakampalli at Kazhakoottam said on Friday that it was a divine intervention which resulted in her candidature and she would defeat the minister

All Hindu organisations in the State came out in the open asking the LDF Government to make its stance clear on the issue and the statement by Yechury was in connection with this issue

with the blessings of Lord Ayyappa, the presiding deity of Sabarimala.

All Hindu organisations in the State came out in the open asking the LDF Government to make its stance clear on the issue and the statement by Yechury was in connection with this issue.

"The Sabarimala Temple controversy is going to be the major issue in the April 6 assembly election. The devotees are still in a state of shock and fear," said J K Ambika, political commentator who has been touring the constituencies to find out the mood of the voters.

The Congress led UDF had swept the 2019 Lok Sabha election by winning 19 out of the 20 seats from Kerala. This has been only because of the consolidation of Hindu votes behind the UDF. "The BJP in Kerala is yet to get an efficient leadership and hence the voters lined up behind the UDF," said Bimal Roy, writer and commentator.

The last three months saw various youth organisations laying siege to the Kerala secretariat to protest the indifference of the Government to their requests that those who figure in the rank list prepared by the Public Service Commission be offered letters of appointment without delay. "All opinion polls held by various agencies that forecast that the CPI(M)-led LDF would return to power after this election were unanimous in two issues. More than 40 per cent of the people who responded to the question on Sabarimala issue said that the Pinarayi Vijayan Government was a miserable failure in handling the people's reaction while an equal number of participants said the Government had failed in providing jobs to the unemployed youth," pointed out P Rajan, former editor, Mathrubhumi.



Devotees pray as the head priest displays a relic believed to be a hair from the beard of Islam's Prophet Muhammad at the Hazratbal shrine on the Friday following Mehraj-u-Alam, believed to mark the ascension of Prophet Muhammad to heaven, in Srinagar on Friday

# Maha ATS likely to seek Vaze's custody in bizman's death case

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS), which is probing the death of Thane businessman Mankukh Hiran, is likely to seek custody of arrested-suspended Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Vaze from the Special NIA Court, official sources said on Friday.

Official sources said that the ATS has collected sufficient evidences in the case for which Vaze's custody may be required and for this, it will approach the

Special NIA Court. Earlier on Friday, the ATS opposed the anticipatory bail plea of Vaze - currently in the NIA custody till March 25 - at a hearing before the Thane Sessions Court.

The anticipatory bail plea - which was filed by Vaze before his arrest and subsequent suspension - had come up for hearing on March 12 when the court declined any relief, but served notice to the

state government and posted it for hearing on March 19.

After a brief hearing this afternoon, the Thane court has now posted the matter for further hearing on March 30.

The NIA is probing the SUV case involving the abandoned Scorpio found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's home on Feb 25 along with 20 gelatin sticks and a threat note, while the ATS is handling the Hiran death case. IANS

# LDF manifesto promises four million jobs in 5 yrs in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Four million new jobs in the next five years and houses for all Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the State form the manifesto of the CPI(M)-led LDF. The comprehensive manifesto was released on Friday by A Vijayaraghavan, the secretary of the Kerala CPI(M) in the presence of leaders of other constituents in the front.

The manifesto promises that the welfare pension for the aged would be hiked to Rs 2,500/- per month and all home makers would get monthly pension. The agricultural income would be hiked by 50 per cent in the next five years, though the manifesto is silent about the resources for these programmes.

Taking a cue from the setback suffered by the State in

controlling the Covid-19 pandemic, the LDF manifesto has assured the electorate that it would set up health care services of global standards.

The Government to be formed by the LDF would bring in investment worth Rs 10,000 crore in the next five years. The number of MSME units in the State would be increased to 3,00,000 in the next five years.

"This is the best manifesto the State has ever seen in its history. The next five years of LDF rule would elevate Kerala to the best developed State in the world," said Vijayaraghavan.

The Government would offer development loan up to Rs 15 lakh to 4.5 million households as part of poverty eradication scheme. The State would see investment worth Rs 60,000 crore to develop infra-

structure facilities over the next five years, says the manifesto.

The LDF will usher in alternative schemes for development which would act as a role model for the rest of India.

Veteran political commentator P Rajan said the promises made by the LDF are not at all viable and feasible as on date.

"In 2016 the LDF had promised 3.5 million jobs but in the last five years they could not provide at least 1 lakh jobs. The finance minister Thomas Issac was heard blaming the Narendra Modi government for the LDF Government's failure in meeting the promises. Election manifesto should have credibility and feasibility. Political parties should offer only what they could do," said Rajan.

# B'luru becomes first city after Nagpur to elect new sarkaryavah

ArrayBengaluru: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) highest decision-making body Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS) commenced its two-day meeting here on Friday which will end with the election of the new sarkaryavah (General Secretary) on Saturday.

While, this will be the seventh ABPS meeting in Karnataka, but for Bengaluru, the city will be the first one to elect a new sarkaryavah outside the RSS-based headquarter in Nagpur.

RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat and current Sarkaryavah Suresh aka Bhaiyyaji Joshi offered floral tributes to the portrait of Bharat Mata heralding the commencement of the meeting. Bhaiyyaji's term expires on Friday.

The ABPS meets once in a year and also elects the Sarkaryavah who is the top executive head, with each term having three years, every third year. The ABPS' election meeting is being regularly held in Nagpur but this year due to the Covid pandemic, it has been shifted to Bengaluru. The 2019 ABPS was held in Gwalior, while the 2020 meeting was scheduled in Bengaluru but was cancelled in the wake of the pandemic.

The number of participants has been reduced to 450 from 1,500 as part of the Covid protocol. The remaining delegates will participate in the ABPS meeting from their respective states through videoconferencing.

"This year the ABPS was scheduled in Nagpur but due to the spike in Covid-19 cases, it was later shifted to Bengaluru," said Manmohan Vaidya, Sah Sarkaryavah of the RSS.

The RSS has 11 zones called kshetras which are further organised as 44 working units called prants (regions). Many delegates from these kshetras and prants will attend the ABPS online.

The two-day Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal meeting that concluded on March 18 in Bengaluru has decided the agenda of the ABPS and the resolutions to be presented and passed.

Vaidya said the ABPS meets every year to deliberate on the year gone by and plan for the next year. "The ABPS will review its activities of 2020 and plan for the coming year's programmes besides electing the new Sarkaryavah for the next three years. The participants will also deliberate on expansion of Sangh work and the organisational activities," he added. IANS

# Gehlot expresses concern over Covid second wave

Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has expressed serious concern over the danger of second wave of Covid-19 epidemic in the State and has directed all health and administrative officials to make available the resources available for control of the epidemic based on their old experience.

Use it. Re-tighten the rules of over-testing, crowd control, wearing masks, frequent hand washing, and social distance protection from corona.

Gehlot was addressing a review meeting on Thursday about the condition of corona infection through video conference at the Chief Minister's residence. He said that the

increase of 3 times the positive rate of corona contraction in a week is very worrying.

He said that on the basis of 'We have to save people from danger'

our shared experience of fighting corona during the last one year, we have to save the people from danger of second wave. For this, discussions will be held with various political parties, social organisations, activists and religious leaders etc. He said that we have been able to successfully fight the war against Corona so far by taking all sides together and with mutual coordination.

# Assam polls: BJP's Sarma files papers from Jalukbari seat

Guwahati: Assam Minister and BJP's pointsman in the northeastern region, Himanta Biswa Sarma accompanied by the Chief Ministers of Assam and Manipur as well as top party leaders, on Friday submitted his nomination papers for the Jalukbari seat.

The Congress turned saffron party leader was elected from here for three consecutive terms until 2016.

Sarma, who holds the Finance, Health, Education, PWD and other portfolios, had won the seat by a margin of over 85,000 votes in 2016.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, his Manipur counterpart N.Biren Singh, BJP's national Vice-President Baijawat Jay Panda, Union Minister Rameswar Teli, a host of other senior leaders led a mega roadshow when Sarma sub-

mitted his candidature for the Jalukbari seat at the Deputy Commissioner's office at Panbazar in Guwahati.

Jalukbari will go to the polls on April 6 in the third phase.

Convener of the BJP-led anti-Congress alliance of regional parties -- North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), Sarma, who was also accompanied by his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sharma and son Nandil, has been winning this seat since 2001 as the Congress nominee before he joined the BJP in 2015.

"I expect that the winning margin will be increased this time and would be in between 1,20,000 to 1,50,000," Sarma told the media. Sarma since last year off and on said that he would not contest the

elections but latter agreed to fight the polls fuelling debate on the BJP's chief ministerial candidate in Assam as the party has been non-committal on declaring incumbent CM Sarbananda Sonowal, as its CM candidate. Ahead of the rally, Sarma offered prayers at the famous Kamakhya Devi Temple, which was rebuilt in 1565 by Koch king Naranarayana and is one of the 51 holy and venerated sites in India.

Thousand of BJP supporters played musical instruments to greet Sarma while hundreds of women, in colourful attires, performed the famous Bihu dance on the 2-km stretch from Sonaram High School field at Bharalukmukh to the deputy commissioner's office at Panbazar which the rally covered in a span of three hours. IANS

**GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY**  
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Website: www.ipu.ac.in

**TENDER NOTICE FOR INVESTMENT OF CPF FUNDS**  
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University intends to invest its funds of CPF Trust approx Rs. 3.03 Cr. in fixed deposit and accordingly invites competitive interest rates from the Nationalized Banks only by 22nd March 2021 upto 10.30 A.M by post or via Email on Email Id: investment@ipu.ac.in with the validity of interest rates upto 24th March 2021. The detailed notice can be seen on the University website "www.ipu.ac.in" under the Head "Tenders" in Events & Notices.  
(CONTROLLER OF FINANCE)

**Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Khatima, District- Udham Singh Nagar**  
(E-mail: eecd/khatima@gmail.com)

**E-Tendering/Tender Notice**

Letter No. 505/Nivida/25	Date.19.03.2021
1 Name of Work :- Jogithar Nagla GOV W/S SCHEME / Estimated cost -- Rs. 66.89 Lakh	
2 Period of completion of each work: - 06 months	
3 Date of Online Publication	20.03.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
4 Document Download : Start Date	21.03.2021 at 10:00 hrs.
5 Document Download : End Date	03.04.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
6 Pre Bid Meeting	25.03.2021 at 14:00 hrs.
7 Bid Submission : Start Date	21.03.2021 at 10:00 hrs.
8 Bid Submission : End Date	03.04.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
9 Offline Submission of Document (Cost of bidding document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the Supporting Documents in support of qualification)	05.04.2021 upto 17:00 hrs.
10 Date of Technical Bid Opening	06.04.2021 at 11:00 hrs.
11 Date of Financial Bid Opening	To be announced Later
12 Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc. may be obtained at web site: www.uktenders.gov.in	

Executive Engineer

Online Tender Document "Equipment" for M.P. Police  
**POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL**  
No. PHQ/15/GPC/1071-6/2021 Bhopal, Dated 17/03/2021

**"Second e-TENDER NOTICE"**  
Online tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police (Provisioning) Police Head Quarter, Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

S.No.	Name of Item (s)	Qty.	Tender Fees, (Rs.)	EMD Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in
1	ALL IN ONE COMPUTER	54	5,000	51,000

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.  
2. Tender document can be downloaded from the website of MP Police ([www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in))  
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>  
4. Critical Date Sheet :

Published Date	17/03/2021 Time 14:00 PM
Bid Document Download Start Date	18/03/2021 Time 11:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	20/03/2021 Time 11:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date	30/03/2021 Time 14:00 PM
Bid Opening Date	31/03/2021 Time 16:30 PM

D.S.P. (Provisioning)  
For: Director General of Police M.P.

G-21425/20 दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।

# Judgemental *hai kya?*

Social media rips apart the Uttarakhand CM for his remarks on women wearing ripped jeans

Most women and young girls must be familiar with the irritating dig coming from parents or close friends when they dress up in "non-sanskari" clothing: "It's not looking nice. Change it. *Aise kapdo mein bahar jaogi?*" However, the bitter truth is that a woman is vulnerable in equal measure, whether she is clad in a sari, a salwar suit or a T-shirt and ripped jeans. Well, what needs to change here is not the attire but the mindset. The mentality that prompts men to tell their wives, girlfriends or daughters to fully cover themselves up before stepping out but, contrarily, want to ogle at other women in revealing dresses. The salacious looks women receive while travelling by public transport and at other public spaces speak volumes about our *sanskars* (culture). There's no doubt over their grit, talent and abilities in any field but the medieval, patriarchal mindset is deep-rooted and not going to go away soon. Remember, she is not a "property" and you don't "own" her. It's not new for the bigots, clerics and suchlike to issue guidelines/fatwa on what women should wear and what is *haram* (proscribed) for them. Over a vast swathe of the Hindi heartland, particularly in the "Jat land", *khaps* (clan-based groups) also dictate terms to the fair gender, banning for them mobile phones, western attire and things as bizarre as lipstick, eyeliner and eyeshadow. Their sense tells them that if a woman wearing a jeans is raped or molested, it's her own fault as revealing attire mean an open invitation to men.

Sadly, our lawmakers are also infested with a similar deplorable mindset that reeks of male chauvinism and misogyny. What else would prompt Uttarakhand's new Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat to deride women wearing ripped jeans? His comments have landed him into the eye of a storm and women on social media have literally ripped him apart over his "ripped jeans" remark. Twitter is flooded with pictures of women in ripped jeans; the whole episode is nothing short of an embarrassment to the BJP which keeps glorifying its "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" programme. The CM's wife has defended his statement, saying it was "blown out of context" and "wrongly interpreted". Well, she has acted like a *sanskari* wife standing by her husband, no matter what. On the other hand, Tirath must not feel singled out as the likes of him are numerous, cutting across parties. He must remember former Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav who opposed capital punishment for rape, saying, "Boys will be boys, they commit mistakes"; party leader Azam Khan's "khaki underwear" jibe against Jaya Pradha; "dented-painted protesters" by Abhijit Mukherjee, the son of late former President Pranab Mukherjee; or Sanjay Nirupam's sexist remark against Smriti Irani: "You were shaking hips on TV..." However, Rawat would do well to take note of the Supreme Court's recent judgment that forbade all judges from making stereotypical comments like "good women are chaste, women who drink and smoke ask for sexual advances" or presuming that a sexually active woman consented to rape.



People, not adhering to social distancing norms, at the Byculla market amid Coronavirus pandemic, in Mumbai

# When the spirit dies

The tragic death of a young Phogat is another grim reminder to not take mental health issues lightly

We, as a nation, tend to ignore mental health issues or just be embarrassed by them until something major, like the suicide of an actor or that of a young sportsperson with a bright future, forces us to face the harsh reality that depression and other mental health issues are real. They happen to real people living among us and there is a crying need to address this malaise. The latest shocker to serve as a cruel reminder of this is the death by suicide of 17-year-old State-level sub-junior wrestler Ritika Phogat after she failed to win the final of a tournament on March 14 by just one point. However, the naked truth is that had Ritika not been a cousin of celebrity wrestlers Geeta and Babita Phogat, her suicide might not have made it such major news. This is because, on an annual average, more than 1,35,000 people commit suicide in India. Sadly, 33 per cent of those who kill themselves are between 30 and 45 years of age and 32 per cent are between 18 and 30 years. In the prime of youth, they have all the reasons in the world to live but they choose to opt out. India, at the 19th spot, is among the top

25 countries of deaths by suicide. This goes to show that Indians are losing their *joie de vivre*. Why is that? Because, if we go by the figures of the World Health Organisation, 60 million Indians are victims of depression and 40 million have anxiety disorders. And double that pressure or mental health issues for celebrities and sportspersons who have to shoulder the burden of performance, injuries, time away from families, a regimented life, loneliness, victories, losses and the expectations of billions of Indians. It is no wonder that we lose some of the brightest and the best to mental disorders as they give up the battle for survival. As Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli recently revealed, he battled depression during a harrowing tour of England in 2014 where he felt like the "loneliest guy in the world" after a string of failures with the bat. "I won't say I didn't have people... but not having a professional to speak to, I think is a huge factor," he had said. There is a crying need to address the issue of mental well-being in the country and assure the suffering people that they can seek help. And they will not be judged for it.

# Overcoming hurdles for seamless growth

Uttar Pradesh has turned the tide towards development in the last four years, emerging as the growth engine of the nation



YOGI ADITYANATH

Completing four years of our solemn pledge to meet the aspirations of the 24 crore people of Uttar Pradesh (UP), I feel that our services for the well-being of the State and its people have encouraged us to continue doing good work. It's my firm belief today that it is not difficult to achieve your goals by working with dedication, honesty and purity of intention.

A year of intense struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic has passed. It has been a great learning experience. I remember the day of the "Janata curfew" when the President and the Vice-President spoke to me on the phone and collected information about the State's preparedness in the midst of the deepening crisis. They were concerned about how UP would cope with the global pandemic with its weak health infrastructure, dense population and geographical diversity. Nevertheless, I assured them that UP would do its best to contain the virus and we eventually did. Strictly following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "testing and tracing" mantra, we moved on with a well-defined strategy on the ground to contain the virus on the one hand and save lives and livelihoods on the other. Both the residents and migrants have been taken care of during this crisis. We were sensitive towards the problems faced by our migrant workers in the metros and tried to help them as much as we could. We also tried to help the workers from other States while fulfilling the needs of UP's residents. It gives me immense satisfaction to say that every section of society unitedly fought the epidemic. The COVID management by UP was appreciated globally. And it won't be an exaggeration to say that the pandemic has seen the emergence of a new, vibrant UP on the national platform.

Uttar Pradesh is committed to contributing substantially towards the Prime Minister's vision of making the country a \$5 trillion economy through self-reliance. In this context, the manner in which the Balinee Milk



Producers Group, formed by the women of Bundelkhand, has achieved a turnover of ₹46 crore and a profit of ₹2 crore despite the pandemic, is truly inspiring. Many such innovative efforts by the State's youth and women are becoming the foundation for realising the dream of a "self-reliant UP".

As UP takes rapid strides towards self-sufficiency, it is noteworthy that 40 lakh families got houses and 1.38 crore got electricity connections in just four years. Besides, work on the optical fibre network in the countryside is taking place on a war-footing. The basis of our rapid progress is our solid effort to establish world-class connectivity. Also, zero tolerance on corruption, a transparent work culture and robust law and order have created a conducive environment for business and development. The result is that UP is the first choice for the investors today. Within four years, the State has risen to number two in the national ranking of "Ease of Doing Business". The per capita income in 2015-16 was just ₹47,116, which has risen up to ₹94,495 now. On the basis of GSDP, UP has emerged as the second largest economy of the country.

Four years ago, our

Government's journey of public welfare started with the waiving of farmer loans. Today, our growers are moving towards agricultural diversification by connecting with advanced technology. We are leaving no stone unturned to reduce their costs and double their income. The State Government has completed several irrigation projects that had been pending for decades. We have made a record payment of ₹1.27 lakh crore to the sugarcane farmers to date. The prosperity of farmers is one of our top priorities.

Our policies are clear in terms of both faith and economy. In our policies, both expressions have a parallel movement. Today, I am glad to report that cultural nationalism illuminates the heart of every believer in UP. The 'Ganga Yatra' helped fulfill the objectives of both faith and economy. Similarly, the much-awaited laying of the foundation stone for the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya took place in 2020. Our Government's vision is to present Ayodhya as the meeting point of the Vedic and modern cultures on the global stage.

The Prime Minister has shown us the path of "Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vish-

was". As our Government completes four years in office, I am happy that we are religiously following this path. Our political opponents also believe that there has not been a single case of discrimination in the last four years on the basis of caste or religion.

Some time ago, when we called UP a State of possibilities, some people mocked us saying that nothing could happen here. But today, the dreams of the State are coming true due to our determination to do the larger good. The last four years have witnessed the emergence of "New India's New UP". Four years ago, the State, which was known as a BIMARU State both within the country and abroad, is setting examples of progress for others to emulate. The State is the same, the resources and the workers are also the same, but the work culture has changed.

This committed, transparent work culture with dedicated spirit is the hallmark of this new UP. No matter how big the challenges are, no matter how difficult the road may be, this eternal journey in the larger interest of the people will continue.

(The writer is the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.)



THE BASIS OF OUR RAPID PROGRESS IS OUR EFFORT TO ESTABLISH WORLD-CLASS CONNECTIVITY. ALSO, ZERO TOLERANCE ON CORRUPTION, A TRANSPARENT WORK CULTURE AND ROBUST LAW AND ORDER HAVE CREATED A CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SHRINKING DEMOCRATIC SPACES

Sir — The induced, if not forced, resignation of Pratap Bhanu Mehta from the Ashoka University has come as a worrying development. We are disheartened that this has happened in a prestigious institution that is held in great esteem for its intellectual exertions and output.

Economist Arvind Subramanian, who quit the university in solidarity with his illustrious colleague, has described Ashoka's inability to provide a space for academic freedom and expression to the faculty as ominously disturbing. What good is a university if it is unable to protect its autonomy and academic freedom and keep its integrity intact to do what it is supposed to do?

That the private university could not accommodate such a gem of a professor as Mehta says a lot about the times we live in. A university is a centre for critical thinking, creativity and originality and not an arm of the Government of the day. As such, the reason cited for the high-profile exit — Mehta's intellectual interventions do not suit the "current political environment" — is an encroachment on academic freedom.

A pre-eminent political theorist and commentator who has a mind of his own, the courage of his convictions and isn't afraid to say what he thinks, Mehta cannot be expected to sing from the hymn book in the ruling dispensation's hands. He has shown great strength of character and spoken the truth to power. The shrinking space for public intellectuals aborts wide diversity of opinion and renders democracy poorer. It is time we wake up to the seriousness of the situation and guard against the threats to our hard-won rights and freedom.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

### TIME TO PROTECT THE SPARROW

Sir — The World Sparrow Day is the day to redeem our pledge to save this beautiful bird from getting extinct. There are many kinds of sparrows but the house sparrow is the most common. They are famous for greeting us with their musical notes early in the morning. We must raise awareness

## Minister's role must be probed



This refers to the editorial 'The expendables?' (March 19). It seems that there is some nefarious design behind the transfer of the Mumbai Police Commissioner. He was shunted out in a hurried manner which shows that the State Government doesn't want him to continue on the prime post. It raises several questions, and doubts ought to rise over the credentials of the Home Minister and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government. Home Minister Anil Deshmukh belongs to the NCP and

it cannot be denied that he has given patronage to encounter specialist Assistant Inspector Sachin Vaze. Further, NCP chief Sharad Pawar meeting Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray after Vaze was arrested by the NIA speaks volumes about what is wrong with the Government.

On the other hand, the transfer of Commissioner seems to be more than just a "face-saving exercise." The nexus of corrupt politicians, police officials, businessmen and criminals is well-known. This problem is endemic not only in Maharashtra but even in other States. Politicians often use criminals to settle scores with the Opposition leaders and when these goons become too powerful and out of control, they get them executed by lower-rank police officials. These officials do it for fame and popularity as encounter specialists these days are hailed as heroes. When these police officials become too powerful, the politicians dump them or implicate them in criminal cases to get rid of them. It cannot be denied that Vaze and the Commissioner were used just as a tool by the politicians.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

and protect the common house sparrows, which are not so commonly seen now.

The house sparrow is believed to be declining for various reasons, ranging from the destruction of its habitat to lack of food for the young and even the increasing wave pollution from mobile phone towers. On this day, we must undertake sparrow monitoring in and around our homes. We must spend at least 15 minutes observing the bird from a location in our house, neighbourhood garden or terrace and count the number of sparrows. We must also rope in kids and ask them to keep a bowl of water and grains for the sparrows to feed on.

Jubel D'Cruz | Mumbai

### WAR AGAINST COVID IS NOT YET OVER

Sir — The recent surge in the number of COVID-19 cases in some parts of India, particularly in Maharashtra, clearly

points towards a grim situation and possibly the beginning of a second wave. Needless to say, the crisis is far from over, and the road ahead is long and difficult. The war against the pandemic is nowhere its end and needs to be carried forward more vigorously by way of increasing testing, vaccination on war footing and strictly adhering to standard safety protocols for COVID.

Also, we must take all necessary precautions to keep infection at bay and must wear face masks and sanitise our hands. We must also maintain proper social distancing and avoid crowding public spaces. Remember, masks work best when everyone wears one.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

The RSS never differentiated on any basis. Those who contributed funds for the Ram Mandir are its own people and those who did not are also its own.

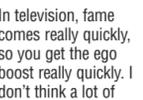


RSS leader — Manmohan Vaidya



I will hold talks with the Sultan of Brunei as the chairman of Asean for the possibility of an Asean summit to discuss the crisis in Myanmar.

Indonesian President — Joko Widodo



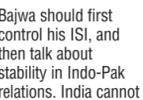
In television, fame comes really quickly, so you get the ego boost really quickly. I don't think a lot of people are ready to bring their ego down.

Actress — Radhika Madan



It's not good to pat your own back. I would like my fists to do the talking on Friday.

Boxer — Vijender Singh



Bajwa should first control his ISI, and then talk about stability in Indo-Pak relations. India cannot afford to go soft with Pakistan till they walk the talk.

Punjab CM — Amarinder Singh



## FIRST COLUMN

## CAN WE DEAL WITH TSUNAMI OF THE AGED?

In India, the number of seniors will be over 150 million by 2025 and a majority will be women living alone



ARCHANA SHARMA

Globally, the number of people above 60 years of age is the fastest-growing segment and comprises almost 11 per cent of the population. According to the World Health Organisation, as of 2020, the number of people above 60 outnumbered children younger than five years of age. Significantly, 80 per cent of the ageing population will be in lower and middle income countries. In India, the number of seniors will be more than 150 million by 2025 and a significant percentage will be older women living alone with comorbidities. Many elderly will have no provision for care to meet these challenges. So how prepared are we to face this ageing tsunami? In the developed world senior care service offerings, both public and private, are at a mature stage and insurances help cover a part of the care expenses. These service offerings include home-care agencies, institutional care homes, rehabilitation care, day care, assisted and independent senior living communities. In India, longevity has increased due to better healthcare facilities, however, social infrastructure and support services have not kept pace with this changing demographic. Urbanisation has led to a disintegration of the joint family system and more elderly are living alone or prefer to live independently. According to a study conducted by the UNFPA, *India Ageing Report, 2017*, there will be an increase in demand for services for activities of daily living as well as instrumental activities of daily living. According to a 2018 CII report, the senior care market is around ₹6,000 crore. These opportunities exist across healthcare needs, lifestyle products, clinical and residential services and non-clinical support services.



Due to COVID-19, there is an increased demand for residential facilities as well as home-care services and firms are seizing this opportunity. The home-care services focus on healthy ageing, quality of life, care management, on demand care and long-term care for degenerative diseases like Alzheimers, Parkinsons and so on. Many tech startups are focusing on remote monitoring devices for fall prevention, safety, security and digital health monitoring. Robotic solutions for caregiving and beating social isolation and loneliness are prevalent in countries like Japan, which has the highest ageing population. There are AI and virtual reality solutions on the horizon to provide for care and help monitor elderly with dementia, send reminders for medication and other routine chores. Wearable devices with GPS tracking help monitor movement of the elderly with decreased mobility and cognition.

Digital literacy among the elderly has gone up due to the pandemic and there is an increased willingness to explore online services and products. Many service offerings focus on second careers, reskilling, matrimonial and recreational offerings like online classes for dance, music and yoga. However, there are many challenges in the senior care sector in India with few resources available for geriatric care, including doctors and other geriatric specialists; lack of early detection mechanisms for ailments requiring long-term care; inadequate public infrastructure and policy support and the GST rates on elder care services.

Technology will play a key role in helping this sector fill the gap for resources as well as tech-enabled solutions to help improve the quality of life. Many startups offer solutions to help family caregivers to enable and empower them to provide long-term care while biomarker sensor devices can help predict risks of certain chronic ailments. On the policy front, the Government can help boost the sector by creating awareness about geriatric care issues. Develop sensitisation programmes for old age issues, including both physical and mental health, and social well-being needs of the elderly. Public-private partnerships can help boost the sector as the challenge is huge and needs a multi-pronged approach to address the gap in services.

(The writer is founder and managing director, Samvedna)

## The camouflaged urge to commit genocide

The only explanation for the imperviousness of stray dog-haters to information and logic, and their insistence on mass killing or removal of stray dogs, is a desire for genocide

Reports have been coming in from various places in Delhi and Gurugram of presidents of Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) and their satellites and sub-satellites harassing and assaulting people feeding and looking after stray dog.

They clearly do so because they hate stray dogs and, therefore, those who look after them. They hate stray dogs because they fear them. Fear leads to hatred. Both fear and hatred cloud reason, blur the line between fact and fiction and send morbid imaginations soaring, projecting stray dogs as monsters, attacking and killing children, hurting adults and spreading rabies which, once contracted, causes death.

People get paranoid about rabies because of the highly exaggerated figures of its incidence in circulation. For example, the survey *Assessing the Burden of Rabies in India*: The World Health Organisation (WHO)-sponsored multi-centric rabies survey, 2003, by the Association for the Prevention and Control of Rabies in India, puts the annual number of human deaths from rabies in the country at 20,565.

The survey is flawed on many counts. It is merely a projected estimate and not the total of recorded deaths from hospitals in various parts of the country. The sample is very small. The actual figures are very different. Since 2005, the Union Government's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) has been annually publishing a National Health Profile for the country. According to its 2018 edition, there were 97 cases of human deaths from rabies countrywide in 2017.

According to the relevant preceding annual National Health Profiles, there were 86 human deaths from rabies in 2016, 113 in 2015, 125 in 2014 and 132 in 2013. Going back further in time, there were 386, 365 and 485 deaths from rabies in 1997, 1998 and 1999 respectively. The number was 486 in 2000 and 488 in 2001.

Clearly, the facts are very different from projected estimates! Nor are stray dogs ferocious and intrinsically malevolent creatures forever ready to lunge at humans. Erich Fromm wrote in his landmark work, *Anatomy of Human Destructiveness*, "Man is the only mammal who is a large-scale killer and a sadist."

Indulgence in destruction and cruelty can always cause a man to feel "intense satisfaction." Animals, he states, "do not enjoy inflicting pain or suffering on other animals. Sometimes an animal seems to display sadistic behaviour — for instance a cat playing with a mouse; but it is an anthropomorphic interpretation that the cat enjoys the suffering of the mouse; any fast-moving object can serve as (a) plaything, whether a mouse of a ball of wool."

He adds, "Man's history is a record of extraordinary destructiveness and cruelty and human aggression, it seems, far surpasses that of man's animal ancestors, and man is in contrast to most animals, a real killer."

Dogs are animals, and share their fundamental attributes. More, far from being inimical to humans, they display an instinctive ten-



STRAY DOG-HATERS HAVE SHOWN THEIR PRONENESS TO VIOLENCE THROUGH THEIR ATTACKS ON PEOPLE CARING FOR THESE CANINES. SINCE THE LAWS OF THE LAND STAND IN THE WAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR AGENDA OF EXTERMINATING STRAY DOGS, THEIR DESIRE FOR MASS KILLING MAY WELL TARGET HUMANS

The writer is a Consulting Editor with The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.



dency to be friendly. As Konrad Lorenz wrote in *Man Meets Dog*, "The whole charm of the dog lies in the depth of the friendship and strength of the spiritual ties with which he has bound himself to man..."

Blinded by hatred, people do not see this and demand the mass killing and removal of stray dogs, which several WHO documents like the *Technical Report Series 931*, *Technical Report Series 824* and *Guidelines for Dog Population Management* (which it issued along with the World Society for the Protection of Animals), show will be counterproductive.

As the WHO has repeatedly stated, the only way to control stray dog population is to implement the canine animal birth control programme under which stray dogs are removed from

their habitats and brought back there after neutering and vaccination.

Given the fact that dogs are territorial and guard their turf zealously, they would, on their return, keep out other dogs that have not been vaccinated and neutered, which can then be taken up area-wise.

Stray dog-haters should know all this. The Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, the legal bedrock of the animal birth control programme in India, were originally enacted as early as December 2001.

The only explanation of the imperviousness of their heads to information and logic, and their insistence on mass killing or removal of stray dogs, is a desire for genocide.

A person calling for the mass killing of a category of people

would be severely condemned in a sane, democratic society and action taken to forestall his design.

On the other hand, a call for a genocide of stray dogs may not only not attract condemnation but even allow the person concerned to strut about as a great defender of human civilisation against monsters in canine form.

Finally, stray dog-haters have shown their proneness to violence through their attacks on people caring for these canines. Since the laws of the land stand in the way of the implementation of their agenda of exterminating stray dogs, their desire for mass killing may well target humans.

They may not be able to perpetrate a genocide, but may cause violence and/or individual murders. They pose a greater threat to society than any stray dog.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

SHOWING BARE KNEES BY WEARING RIPPED JEANS JUST TO LOOK LIKE RICH KIDS ARE THE VALUES GIVEN NOW.  
—UTTARAKHAND CHIEF MINISTER  
TIRATH SINGH RAWAT



CHANGE YOUR THINKING CHIEF MINISTER RAWAT/JI, ONLY THEN THE COUNTRY WILL CHANGE.  
—SHIV SENA LEADER  
PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI

## Precision farming: Meeting the challenges of food safety

It is an information and technology-based farm management system that involves extremely precise methodology to increase the average yield with minimal chemical use

The introduction of technology in the Indian agriculture sector occurred in a systematic manner during the Green Revolution. At that time, its aim was to attain self-sufficiency by increasing the overall yield. However, the goal-post was gradually shifted from food security to food safety in the last decade.

Extensive researches have revealed the direct impact of rampant adulteration on the health of consumers. At the same time, an expanding population means that food security can't be ignored. Consequently, there is now a pressing demand for increasing food safety while ensuring that overall yields are not impacted.

Precision farming could offer a solution to these challenges by ensuring food safety in a planned and efficient



THIRUKUMARAN NAGARAJAN

The writer is CEO and Co-Founder of Ninjacart. The views expressed are personal.

way and by streamlining production in a sustainable and cost-effective manner. It involves an extremely precise methodology to increase the average yields with minimal chemical traces. An information and technology-based farm management system, it is employed to identify, analyse as well as manage spatial and temporal variability in agriculture. The main aim of precision farming is to achieve optimum productivity, efficiency, sustainability and protection of land resources by minimising production costs. It entails the usage of several disruptive devices and the smart application of big data to offer significant results.

**Global Positioning System (GPS):** A navigation tool based on the positioning of longitudes and latitudes, GPS allows farmers to locate

the exact spot on the field for acquiring information such as soil type, pest presence, weed invasion, water holes, boundaries and obstructions. Additionally, with the help of reliable location identification, adequate inputs — seeds, fertilisers, pesticides or herbicides — can be supplied to the field, simultaneously boosting the overall performance of the farm and curbing the concerns of over or under supplementation of the crop.

**Sensor technologies:** Primarily used for measuring factors like humidity, vegetation, temperature, texture, structure, nutrient level, vapour presence, these technologies have multiple elements such as electromagnetic conductivity, photo electricity and ultrasound. The data obtained via remote sensing is used to differenti-



ate crop species, pinpoint stress conditions, locate pests and weeds, monitor drought and check the health of both soil as well as of the plant. One of the main reasons behind the popularity of sensors is that they are time-saving, efficient and provide immense amount of data without the help of laboratory analysis.

**Crop management:** No two pieces of land are the

same, nor are two regions within a field similar. Each portion has its own specific needs; some might have high nutritional content, while other parts might require less irrigation. Satellite data helps farmers in gaining an in-depth understanding of the variation in soil health and topography that affect crop yield within the field. With the availability of such information, farmers can precisely manage factors linked with production, thus simultaneously increasing the quality as well as quantity of the produce.

**Yield monitors:** A combination of various components, it includes sensors, data storage devices, user interface-friendly keypad and displays along with a central computing system that controls the interaction of all these elements. The grain

flow sensors are used to measure the mass or volume of the grains. A recent development in these sensors has introduced the system of transmitting microwave energy beams to measure the portion of the energy that bounces back after hitting the seeds. Yield monitors also include devices that keep track of weight, moisture and other crucial parameters.

**Rate controllers:** These are devices that are meticulously designed to curb the presence of chemical elements such as fertilisers and pesticides, either in liquid or granular form. Their function is to keep a check on the speed of the sprayers used across the field. These tools even monitor the rate and pressure of liquid chemicals and make real time adjustments during the time of application.

Food safety has gained paramount importance in recent times. Consumers are opting for fresh fruits and vegetables, which are residue-free, organic or have minimal chemical content. Precision farming methods tend to benefit both the parties — the buyers and the sellers. As these procedures help in reducing the usage of fertilisers and pesticides, they make the product safe for consumption. On the other hand, it helps farmers draw optimum results from their resources. It enables them to enhance the quality and quantity of their output. It is safe to say that precision farming is the one-stop solution to numerous agrarian challenges faced by the country. Its thoughtful adoption will remarkably work towards streamlining the agriculture sector.



# Top US, Chinese diplomats clash publicly under Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON  
US Secretary of State Tony Blinken has bluntly told China's top diplomats that Beijing's actions have threatened the rules-based order that maintains global stability, as the two sides exchanged sharp rebukes in public during their first in-person high-level meeting since President Joe Biden took office.



Thursday, Blinken said that the issues to be raised by his delegation are relevant not only to the two countries but to others across the region and indeed around the world. The Biden administration, Blinken asserted, is committed to leading with diplomacy to advance the interests of the United States and to strengthen the rules-based international order. "That system is not an abstraction. It helps countries resolve differences peacefully, coordinate multilateral efforts

effectively, and participate in global commerce with the assurance that everyone is following the same rules," Blinken said. "The alternative to a rules-based order is a world in which might makes right and winners take all, and that would be a far more violent and unstable world for all of us," he said. At the first-ever meeting of the Quad last week, US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said they were committed 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.

## China says 'strong smell of gunpowder' sensed in US talks

AP ■ BEIJING  
China said on Friday a "strong smell of gunpowder and drama" resulted from talks with top American diplomats in Alaska, continuing the contentious tone of the first face-to-face meetings under the Biden administration. Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, speaking in Beijing, said American officials at the Alaska meetings had provoked Chinese officials into making a "solemn response" after US officials made "groundless attacks" against Chinese foreign and domestic policies. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Communist Party foreign affairs chief Yang Jiechi took aim at each other's country's policies on Thursday in their meeting in Anchorage.

# Myanmar junta chokes info flow as protests intensify

AP ■ YANGON  
Two more journalists were detained in Myanmar on Friday, part of the junta's intensifying efforts to choke off information about resistance to last month's coup. Mizzima News reported that one of its former reporters, Than Htike Aung, and Aung Thura, a journalist from the BBC's Burmese-language service, were detained by men who appeared to be plainclothes security agents outside a court in the capital of Naypyitaw. The journalists were there to cover legal proceedings against Win Htein, a

detained senior official from the National League for Democracy, the party that ran the country before the takeover. The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy after five decades of military rule. In the face of persistent strikes and protests against the takeover, the junta has responded with an increasingly violent crackdown and efforts to severely limit information reaching the outside world.

## Indonesia urges ASEAN leaders to hold summit on Myanmar coup

Jakarta: Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Friday urged a halt to violence in Myanmar and asked the fellow leaders of Southeast Asian countries to hold a summit on the crisis. "Indonesia urges that the use of violence in Myanmar be stopped immediately to avoid more victims," Widodo told a televised address, offering his condolences to the victims and their families. More than 200 people have been killed by security forces since the February 1 coup, according to credible tallies. Nearly 2,000 have been jailed. Widodo, the leader of Southeast Asia's largest economy, said that he will immediately contact the sultan of Brunei, which holds the rotating presidency of

**FIRE AT SAUDI OIL FACILITY AFTER DRONE ATTACK**  
Dubai: A drone attack struck an oil installation in Saudi Arabia's capital of Riyadh on Friday, the Saudi state-run news agency reported, igniting a blaze at the facility deep in the kingdom's territory. The dawn attack caused no injuries or damage, and did not disrupt oil supplies, according to the official Saudi Press Agency. The kingdom is facing more frequent airborne assaults as Saudi-led coalition forces battle Iran-backed Houthi rebels across the southern border in Yemen.

**BLAST IN MOSCOW SUBURB KILLS 3 PEOPLE, INJURES 4**  
Moscow: An explosion in a residential building in a Moscow suburb killed three people and injured four more, officials said.

**INDONESIAN MUSLIM BODY CLEARS ASTRA USE**  
Jakarta: AstraZeneca's vaccine against Covid-19 was cleared on Friday for use in Indonesia after the drug regulator declared it safe and clerics in the world's most populous Muslim nation said a pig-derived element was acceptable in a pandemic. Southeast Asia's biggest economy had delayed using AstraZeneca's product after more than a dozen countries in Europe suspended the vaccine due to concerns of some people who received the vaccine developing blood clots.

# Taliban expect US withdrawal, vow to restore Islamic rule

AP ■ MOSCOW  
The Taliban warned Washington on Friday against defying a May 1 deadline for the withdrawal of American and NATO troops from Afghanistan, promising a "reaction," which could mean increased attacks by the insurgent group. The Taliban issued their warning at a press conference in Moscow, the day after meeting with senior Afghan government negotiators and international observers to try to jumpstart a stalled peace process to end Afghanistan's decades of war. President Joe Biden's administration says it is review-



Members of the Taliban delegation attend their joint news conference in Moscow, Russia on Friday

ing an agreement the Taliban signed with the Trump administration. Biden told ABC in an interview Wednesday that the May 1 deadline "could happen, but it is tough," adding that if the deadline is extended it won't be by "a lot longer."

## Kremlin: Putin's offer of a call with Biden was to save ties

AP ■ MOSCOW  
The Kremlin said on Friday that President Vladimir Putin's offer to speak by phone with US President Joe Biden was intended to prevent bilateral ties from completely falling apart over the American's remark that the Russian leader was a killer. Putin made it clear that "it makes sense to have a talk to maintain Russia-US Relations instead of trading barbs," and he wanted to make it public to help

defuse tensions over Biden's "very bad remarks," said his spokesman, Dmitry Peskov. In an interview broadcast Wednesday, Biden replied "I do" when asked if he thought Putin was a "killer." Russia responded by recalling its ambassador in Washington for consultations and Putin on Thursday pointed at the US History of slavery, slaughtering Native Americans and the atomic bombing of Japan in World War II in an "it-takes-one-to-know-one" response.

## New mom, Army vet among 8 killed in Atlanta shootings

Atlanta: One was new mother taking a rare break from caring for her baby girl. Another was an Army veteran who installed security systems in the Atlanta area. They were among eight people killed Tuesday in shootings at three metro Atlanta massage businesses. Police have charged a 21-year-old man with the slayings. Seven of the slain were women, and six of them were of Asian descent. Authorities have not released all of the victims' names but did identify 33-year-old Delaina Ashley Yaun, 54-year-old Paul Andre Michels, 44-year-old Daoyou Feng and 49-year-old Xiaojie Tan, who owned one of the massage businesses.

## Samia Suluhu Hassan becomes Tanzania's first woman President

Dar Es Salaam: Samia Suluhu Hassan, 61, made history Friday when she was sworn in as Tanzania's first female president at State House, the government offices in Dar es Salaam, the country's largest city. Wearing a hijab and holding up a Quran with her right hand, Hassan took the oath of office, administered by Chief Justice Ibrahim Jumavowing, in



Samia Suluhu Hassan

## Scientist behind coronavirus shot says next target is cancer

Berlin: The scientist who won the race to deliver the first widely used coronavirus vaccine says people can rest assured the shots are safe, and the technology behind it will soon be used to fight another global scourge — cancer. Ozlem Tureci, who co-founded the German company BioNTech with her husband, was working on a way to harness the body's immune system to tackle tumors when they learned last year of an unknown virus infecting people in China. Over breakfast, the couple decided to apply the technology they'd been researching for two decades to the new threat, dubbing the effort "Project Lightspeed."

**बिहार सरकार**  
**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय**  
**बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, गोपालगंज**  
पत्रांक- 430/गोपालगंज,  
अति अल्पकालीन राष्ट्रीय स्पर्द्धा निविदा आमंत्रण  
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))  
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-07-SBD/2020-21

1. कार्य का विवरण :-

क्रमांक / पृष्ठ सं०	कार्य का नाम	अंशधन की राशि (लाख रुप में)	परिमाण मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (अथवा किंवल / नैनुअल अथवा मुगतेय) रुप में	वेद्यों को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग फी (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुगतेय) रुप में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	
1.	बैकुण्ठपुर रिटायर लाईन के 0.00 कि०मी० से 7.00 कि०मी० के बीच एवं 7.00 कि०मी० से 12.40 कि०मी० में दूतान भराई कार्य (एरजेन्डा संख्या-176/07/2021)	349.40	6.988	10,000/-	5900.00	15.05.2021

2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक 17.03.2021  
निविदा कागजात दाखलनाहद एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि : दिनांक 24.03.2021 से दिनांक 26.03.2021 के 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक (सिर्फ वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

3. दिनांक 25.03.2021 को 11:00 बजे पूर्वानु में मुख्य अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, जल संसाधन विभाग, गोपालगंज के कार्यालय में।

4. प्री-बिड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक 31.03.2021 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न (सिर्फ वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

5. तकनीकी शीट खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 31.03.2021 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न (सिर्फ वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

6. वित्तीय शीट खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 31.03.2021 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न (सिर्फ वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : सिर्फ वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर

8. निविदा की घेदता की अवधि : निविदा प्रालि के 120 दिन बाद तक

9. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, गोपालगंज।

10. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) एवं [www.wrd.bih.nic.in](http://www.wrd.bih.nic.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

सिस्तुत जानकारी के लिए [state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar) पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, गोपालगंज  
PR-14603 (WRD) 2020-21  
नोवल कोरोना के संसंध में सिस्तुत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु Toll Free No. **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Namely: KIRAN KUMAR S/o : Birju R/o : H. No. 11, Gali No. 9, Shri Enclave, Panshalai, Near Chhat Pooja, Delhi** has been missing since 28.02.2021 from his house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 46A dated 02.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Begumpur, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**Age: 37 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Wearing: Chocolate colour jacket and black colour pant.**

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

SHO  
P.S. Begumpur, Delhi  
Rohini Distt., Delhi  
DP/725/RD/2021 Ph. No. 011-27579029, 27579033, 27579030

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006,  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax- 0135-2763508,  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)

पत्रांक सं. 220  
**e-Tender Notice** दिनांक 19.03.2021  
Office of the Executive Engineer, (M&G) Patni Power House, Bahadrapur, Haridwar invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-  
Tender No. : 1. 28/EE(Patni)/2020-21 & 30/EE(Patni)/2020-21  
Name of work: 1. Procurement of different types of electrical spares for electrical equipments of Power House.  
2. Supply of Hydraulic Torque Wrench at Power House.  
Estimated Cost : 1. Rs. 5,73,181.00 (GST extra) 2. Rs. 10,88,320.00 (GST extra)  
Date of availability of bid document on website : 23-03-2021  
Last date for submission of bids on website : 14-04-2021  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<https://uktenders.gov.in>"  
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M&G)**  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1	Name of Work with its location	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE modification work in connection with extension of loop line no. 4 at Bazida Jattan Railway station on DUK section in connection with removal of PSR and shifting of turnout (4 stations)
2	Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 21,56,338.77/-
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 0/-
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	29.03.2021 (00.00 Hrs.) to 12.04.2021 (15:00 Hrs.)
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	12.04.2021 (15:00 hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	29164103
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

E-Tender No.: 29-TRD-NDLS-2020-21 Dated: 18.03.2021 634/2021  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OFFICE OF Principal Chief Materials Manager**  
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001  
Mail ID : [salenr365@gmail.com](mailto:salenr365@gmail.com)

No. 117/S/Auction Programme/Sale/2020-21 Date: 19.03.2021  
**Extra date in Auction Program of Northern Railway**  
Following extra dates of the auction program for the month of March 2021 will be as under:-

S.No.	Depots	Extra date of e-auction
1.	Dy. CMM/AMV 0522-2451257	26.03.2021
2.	Dy. CMM/JUDW 01732-252388	26.03.2021
3.	Dy. CMM/SSB 011-27015387	26.03.2021

All other auction dates advised earlier will remain same. For further details regarding e-auction please visit Railway website "[www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)".

sd/-  
(Perhlad Singh)  
Dy. CMM/S&P  
For Principal Chief Materials Manager  
638/2021  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**  
**CRS INSPECTION OF NEWLY ELECTRIFIED NOLI (EXCL.) OHE MAST LOCATION: 10/08 (Ch. Km. 10/469.50) TO SHAMLI (INCL.) SMQL/1055 (Ch: 88/643.00) SINGLE LINE UNDER DELHI DIVISION**  
Newly electrified Noli (Excl.) - Shamli (Incl.) line in Delhi Shahdara - Shamli - Tapri Section (79 RKM, 90 TKM) of Delhi Division will be inspected by Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety. High speed trial of the section by special train will be conducted by chief Commissioner of Railway Safety on 22.03.2021 after trolley inspection. General public is informed to stay away from Railway lines in above section. Track should not be crossed. Trespassing of track is a punishable offence and liable for prosecution under Railway Act. 636/2021  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE**  
General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Mohd. Jesain S/o Tohid Ahmed R/o G-123, Inder Enclave, Phase-II, Prem Nagar, Delhi Aged-17 Years has been reported missing since 05.03.2021. In this regard a FIR No.145/21 U/s 363 IPC Dated 08.03.2021 has been registered at Police Station Prem Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-  
**Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'3", Face: Long, Hairs: Black, Clothing: Red coloured t-shirt, black coloured pant and black coloured shoes.**  
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Prem Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO, Prem Nagar, Delhi  
Tel.: 9315164042  
Mob.: 8750870322  
DP/728/RD/2021

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  
General Public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Shivam @ Ansh S/o Rajesh Kumar, R/o H.No.1436, T.C. Camp JJ Colony, Raghuraj Nagar, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 16.07.2018 at 08 AM from his house. In this regard FIR No. 441/18 u/s 363 IPC at 17.07.2018 has been registered at PS Rajouri Garden, Delhi. The description of Missing/Kidnapped boy is as under: (At the time of missing)  
**Age : 15 Years, Height : 5 Feet, Built : Thin, Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Oval, Wearing : Uniform of Bhardwaj Model School Shyam Nagar, Shirt White and Brown and Pant Black Colour.**  
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the I/C /AHTU Rajouri Garden, Delhi at following phone numbers.  
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
e-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph. : 011-23014046 (Direct)  
23015229 & 23015218 Extn.-210  
Fax: 011-23011334  
DP/371/WD/21  
**Anti Human Trafficking Unit**  
West Delhi, New Delhi  
Mob.: 9210406020, Ph.: 011-25101702

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  
General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Gambhir Singh, S/o Bhrampal, R/o G-179, Naveen Vihar, Begumpur, Delhi, Age: 42 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Hair: Black, Face: Round, wearing Yellow colour Linedar Shirt and Blue Pant, has been missing/kidnapped since 09.03.2021 at about 09:00 AM. In this regards a DD No. 42A, dated 10.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Begumpur, New Delhi.**  
Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.  
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
DP/727/RD/2021  
SHO  
P.S. Begumpur, New Delhi  
Tel.: 011-27581128, 8750870335

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  
General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely: Deepanshu, S/o: Prem Nath, R/o: A-53, Gali No. 4, Vijay Nagar, Mohan Garden, Delhi, Age: 17 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing: White Colour Shirt, Grey Colour School Pant, Maroon Colour Sweater and Black Colour Shoes in Feet** has been missing/kidnapped since 15.03.2021 from A Block Sarodaya Vidhyalya School, Vikas Puri, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 127/21, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 16.03.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Vikas Puri, Delhi.  
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped boy please inform the undersigned.  
Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-Mail ID: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-23011334  
DP/374/WD/2021  
SHO  
P.S. Vikas Puri, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-25551213, 25592600

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL**  
General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Safia Bano D/o Mohd. Iklaph R/o H.No.2,222, Gali No.22, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, Delhi Aged-21 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 10.03.2021 at about 10:30 AM from Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Hospital, Patel Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a DD No.71 Dated 10.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Patel Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-  
**Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5', Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: White & black coloured suit, yellow & black coloured striped palazzo and Red coloured slipper in feet.**  
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform to the following at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO  
Patel Nagar, Delhi  
Tel.: 011-25872637  
Mob.: 8750870434  
DP/709/CD/2021





'I have played a cop's role more than twice in my whole career and I've enjoyed it every time.'  
 —Manoj Bajpayee

**SHORTCIRCUITS**



**RANI MUKERJI**

I'm looking forward to celebrate my birthday with my fans first, even before I celebrate it with my family. Their love and relentless support has motivated me and validated all my film choices. So, this is my way of thanking them for being there and watching my back at every step of my journey.



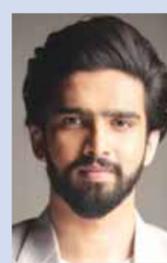
**EKTA KAPOOR**

LSD is best remembered for its riveting storytelling and innovative music. And what better day than today to announce the second part of one of our most loved and critically acclaimed film. Dibakar's (Banerjee) craft and storytelling prowess is superlative and I am thrilled to associate with him again.



**ELLI AVRRAM**

It was one of the best experiences to shoot with Aamir Khan. I've had I learnt so much from him during these five days of shoot! The way he explains everything... The best part is he never made me feel intimidated. He was so warm and kind from day one.



**AMAAL MALLIK**

Lockdown gave me a time to experiment with music. I wanted to, for example, do something different for *Parinda*. It was only possible during lockdown because the film had gotten delayed. That's when I decided to work with Macedonian Symphonic Orchestra for the film.

**SHEFALI SHAH**

There were so many women-centric films and powerful films. We had films such as *Aradhana* (1969), *Aandhi* (1975) and *Guide* (1965). All these were amazing films. Then, unfortunately, women were reduced to flowers on screen. They were no more than beautiful props.



**CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES**

**DIALOGUE 15 MINUTES**

**IN SEARCH OF DIVERSE PERFECTION**

**'I was ready to evolve'**

Film director, screenwriter, producer **DIBAKAR BANERJEE** keeps on changing the challenges to rise to his expectations, says **SAIMI SATTAR**

Actor **RADHIKA MADAN** says that not many TV actors are ready to control their ego

Two slice-of-life comedies. An anthology drama using digital formats with different cameras, including a handycam, an amateur film camera, a security camera, an underwater camera and spy cameras. A political thriller. A mystery action period film. Dibakar Banerjee's trajectory has been as diverse as the different hats that he wears including film director, screenwriter, producer and even an advertisement-filmmaker.

Explaining the reason for taking up any particular topic and their diversity Banerjee says that the two go hand in hand. "What you choose and what you choose to tell depends on who you are at that moment of time in that whole growth cycle. What comes first is how I am growing and where are my concerns? In any of my experiences how much I want to forget, remember, change or remain the same automatically points me towards the topic. The last thing is what kind of a film should I make next in terms of where I want to go next. This can be seen in terms of covering new grounds or going back to some familiar grounds and telling it in a new way and reinventing it," says the director whose newest film *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar* hit the theatres yesterday.

His last outing was in *Ghost Stories* (2020), an anthology of horror stories which he directed along with Zoya Akhtar, Karan Johar and Anurag Kashyap which was released on Netflix. Banerjee says, that there is no inspiration behind taking up different genres rather it stems from deep within him. "There is a certain impatience and frustra-

tion with my abilities which leads to me charting newer directions each time because I always feel I am failing my expectations. So I keep changing my challenges each time to come up with something new and rise to my own expectation. Though, I must say that it is an ongoing struggle and I don't forgive myself easily," he says. And nowhere is the diversity more evident than if you compare it with his debut film *Khosla Ka Ghosla* (2006) which took a humorous look at a quirky family whose plot is fraudulently taken over by the land mafia. The director says, "If I make a film, I would go totally with my heart and then use my head (to market it)."

His latest venture also marks the last in the series of three-film deal with Yash Raj Films (YRF). Banerjee feels that the experience has been enriching. "In hindsight, during the course of directing, producing and exhibition of *Detective Byomkesh Bakshi!* (2015), *Titli* (2015) and *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar*, I really have matured. The learning that has come while working with YRF will stand in good stead for a lifetime," he says. Banerjee says that to play the lead Sandeep, he always had actor Parineeti Chopra in mind. "I wanted a city girl on scratching whose surface a small-town girl with all her fears, suppressed trauma, desires and ambitions surfaces. It really needed somebody, who when pushed to an extreme, whose core character shows through. I think, in Parineeti I have always seen something grittier and slightly more contrasted and that is why I chose



her because she had that contradiction. There is an amazing conflict going on," says Banerjee. Incidentally he also decided that breaking Hindi film industry's norms, Parineeti's name appears before the male actor, Arjun Kapoor's in the credits. This was done because Sandeep is the focal point in the film who brings all the characters together. Pinky, on the other hand, is defined by the class of the character, the profession and the situation. "So

Arjun had to do a lot of workshops on the accent, the life of a policeman and do a lot of rehearsing as well as language coaching to become the character," says Banerjee. While clearly cinema is changing, has the recent pandemic brought about any transformation in the industry? "I have no idea how the pandemic has changed the actors and topics. The technique, for some time till we are all vaccinated, will involve shooting with extreme safe-

ty. Therefore, there will be some kind of limits as far as crowds are concerned, the amount of congregation that you allow on the set. Also, there will be other limitations of budgets and the canvas," he says and adds a positive note, "Yet we will come up." However, he is not certain about what the future holds for theatres and the OTT platforms. "Nobody knows the future. Nor do I. I can tell you the future that I want is that OTT and theatrical stay together. This will give the audience a choice and we have more variety. Any kind of monopoly and any kind of concentration leads to stagnation," he says.

As for his forthcoming projects, the director says he does not have a future beyond *Sandeep and Pinky Faraar*. Certainly, he has sights firmly fixed in search of perfection, yet again.

Radhika Madan has made a mark as a Bollywood actor with her roles in *Angrezi Medium*, *Pataakha* and *Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota*. However, before her film debut in 2018, she was a well-known television star.

Talking about her transition from television to films, the actor said it was important to shed the ego that comes with television stardom. "In television, fame comes really quickly, so you get the ego boost very fast. Once the ego is high up there and you want to start with films. I don't think a lot of people are ready to bring their ego down and start as a student," she said.

Was it easy for her to leave her ego behind? "I wouldn't have survived otherwise. It's a different medium. The dialogues are different, the delivery scenes are different. Here, the viewers sit in a dark room, in front of a huge screen, without any distraction. Whereas in television, people watch it, especially the *saas-bahu* sagas, while taking care of their kids or cutting vegetable or doing household chores. The actors' performance needs to be up by a notch to get the attention but in films, even if you blink an eye, you miss the scene," she said.

For Radhika, who played the lead in television show *Meri Aashiqui Tumse Hi* between 2014 and 2016, taking the leap wasn't difficult because she was ready to evolve in accordance to her new medium.

"It (change of medium) was not difficult in my head. I understood both the mediums and I think people see you as you see yourself. Because it wasn't a hindrance in my head, I don't think people saw it as hindrance as well. I was aware that television is a different medium and cinema is different, and I needed to change my acting style. I needed to unlearn whatever I have learnt," said she.

Radhika, who will soon be seen in the film *Shiddat*, added: "The

problem comes when you want to approach films with the same attitude, with the same acting style as TV and you expect them to take you. It is about understanding the medium. Unlearning happens with every project."

Radhika will also be seen in two OTT original films. She says that she is open to the probability of the web some day overpowering films.

"Earlier, there used to be a certain taboo connected with OTT. If you are coming on a digital platform then it was a step down. Now if you are a digital star, people are in awe and they also want to be you. A time may come when digital stars are bigger than film stars. I wouldn't be surprised then," said Radhika. —JANS

**STUDIO CHAT 15 MINUTES**

**JUKEBOX**

**Don't want to be a cliched filmmaker: Prabhu**

**Let the music take over your soul**

Tamil director Prabhu Solomons trilingual film *Haathi Mere Saathi* stars Rana Daggubati, and is scheduled to release across India on March 26. He believes that as a storyteller he shouldn't tell stories that are cliched.

"As a filmmaker I want to do something useful for society. I don't want to be a cliched filmmaker, showing a guy fighting for love, society or nation. Everyone has seen a lot of this, and there are many people to fight for that. What about animals and our ecosystem? Who is going to give a voice or be a voice to the jungle?" Prabhu raised concern.

His film showcases a man's struggle to save the forest and wildlife, especially elephants. "Elephants are a big part of the jungle. We have forgotten the importance of saving forests, elephants and the ecosystem. The reason the pandemic happened reflects how we disturbed nature," said Solomon.

The filmmaker's biggest hit so far has been the 2010 romantic tragedy film *Mynaa*. He worked with elephants for the first time in his 2012 film *Kumki*.

Talking about his yearning to tell diverse stories, and how the idea of an elephant-centric film came to his mind, Prabhu said: "For me as a filmmaker, I must not do something that leaves me with similar kinds of scripts. I want to do something out of the box and when I was doing my Tamil film *Kumki*, I



did my research on stories about elephants. I wanted to one day do a story properly on what is happening with these animals in India. This seemed the right time for *Haathi Mere Saathi* to come out. It is really a big experience to do a film with elephants."

Actor Rana Daggubati plays Bander in the film, which will be released in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi language. For Prabhu, working with the actor was an easy task.

"Rana was a good friend. He met me one day and we planned to do a movie together. He is a down-to-earth human being and for this kind of the film it is important that there is no attitude, and that was a good thing about Rana. He was very passionate about the character and it was very easy for me to work with him," shared the filmmaker.

Any plans to direct an out-an-out Hindi film? "As of now, it is all about *Haathi Mere Saathi*. It is a pan-Indian film. I feel that the Hindi audience will really like it because they will see a film with elephants after Rajesh Khanna's *Haathi Mere Saathi*," he said.

Singer **PURVA MANTRI** shares her five all-time favourite songs with **TEAM VIVA**

"Music has always inspired," says singer Purva Mantri, who is a part of the show *Indian Pro Music League (IPML)*. It's something that has travelled with her through thick and thin. She adds, "There are some songs that have touched my heart and I listen to them, again and again, depending upon my mood." We ask her to share five of her all-time favorite tracks.

**Duma Dum Mast Kalandar**

This is one song that mends every mood. I truly mean it. You can hear it at all times and cheer yourself up. Today, there are many versions of this track and each one has its own feel. It can make you groove to its beats and create a party vibe at any place. Honestly, this song has the potential of breeding life at any place and at any time. You can listen to it as a good listener or dance on it if you are a good dancer. When I want to feel great energy, I listen to this track myself.

**Aaj Jane Ki Zid Na Karo**

I am sure this song is a favourite of many in the world. The lyrics are magical and the symphony is extremely calming. This is one of my midnight favourites. When I want to take a break late at night, after my shoots are done or if I wake up at midnight and I want to listen to something that's soothing, this is the song.

**Uljhi**

This is very close to my heart because, of course, it's my first indie track as an artist. However, the most important thing is it's a mother-daughter duo. The composition is delicate and inspirational. It could instantly make you realise the value and the sacrifices a mother



makes. Anyone who listens to this song would feel very close to their family, especially mother.

**Ab Ke Saawan**

I am a big fan of Shubha Mudgal! I always love to attempt this song as a singer because I feel, after Shubha Mudgalji, this song is meant for me. If I get a chance, I would definitely love to recreate this song officially. In fact, I love all Usha Uthup songs because it's very difficult to choose one. When you idolise someone, you can't be choosy. She is my love, her voice, her

aura, her charisma, everything.

**Intehaa**

I just love this song. The lyrics and the voice complement each other. I have received great appreciation for this song. I listen to it a couple of times when I want to remind myself of the potential I have and how much I need to explore it further. The industry has appreciated the way I projected the song. People from the industry and outside are just praising the voice texture and my take on this song. It constantly keeps me motivated to do more.

ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

# CALL OF THE JUNGLE

JAVED JAFFREY is a firm believer and promoter of conservation. He tells AYUSHI SHARMA that *Animals Gone Wild* will give viewers an insight into this bizarre, unexplained and unexpected world

**What made you a part of *Animals Gone Wild*?**

The most important thing was National Geographic. I used to read their magazines when I was kid. At that point, they were quite expensive but I used to somehow manage. Approximately, a decade ago, there was a CD collection of 100 years of Nat Geo... I can still recall buying one for Mr (Amitabh) Bachchan for one of his birthdays and one for myself. What they did as a channel and are doing through their powerful visual storytelling and exploration is beyond words, at least for me. The way they bring our planet to you, exploring animals, humans, our environment... I am a fan of how they often adopt a compelling and unique style to narrate their stories of the world we live in. Actually the channel came much later, it's my connection with the magazines. I am also a firm believer and promoter of wildlife conservation, and with this show, we create awareness of the life and behaviour of animals around us in a humorous manner. It's an association that I am really truly happy about.

**How informative was your experience? What were the major learnings?**

See, I used to watch so many shows, and now I became a part of one. So, the learning has already played its part because I have watched several series. Through this, you can say that I got to know animal behaviour and their interaction with human beings... This, for me, was how animals and humans connect and how they behave or look at human beings around. I got interesting insights into animals like bears, lamas, gorillas, elephants and, also, snakes for that matter. The interactions were fascinating. It didn't result in any kind of disaster. With shows like these,

we learn how human intrusion into the animal's space has made a difference. Scientists are usually drawn towards the study of animal behaviour for varied reasons. The field is extremely broad, ranging from research on feeding behaviour, habitat selection to mating.

The point of this show is to let wild animals be wild. Let's not tame and make them pets, and bring them into your home. Wild animals are wild, you must keep a distance. They are not used to you and you are not used to them. And we shouldn't even try doing that. Elephants are not made to stand on two legs and dance in a circus. We still use them for hard slogging and heavy lifting. Logging is particularly ideal for them and they are trained to uproot trees and move large logs. We use horses for pulling carts... but if you look at it closely, are they really meant for that? We are taking them out of their territory and just slaving them in a way, which is not right.

**There have been many shows that have given viewers an insight into the unexpected world of animals. How and why do you think this is different?**

It's not something radically different. It's been happening. You have been seeing

**Through this show, I got to know animal behaviour and their interaction with human beings. It was fascinating. It didn't result in any kind of disaster'**



human interaction with animals. We just captured their movements candidly to learn about how they behave. The way we have been doing it here is through incorporating someone like me who brings humour to the context. While the show promises to be witty, entertaining, funny, yet educational, I, as a host, will be seen in multiple quirky avatars like CamRay, Gullu Guide, EggJact-Lee among others to make it more fun and interactive for the viewers. It's a very good balance of information and humour.

**You are seen in multiple quirky avatars... So how have been they conceptualised?**

We, of course, started with having a creative team. I had this idea of presenting various characters. So we have a guy called Tony Tiwala, who's a news reader from the 70s. He has got a very typical style of reading the news. Then there is CamRay, who's ben-

gali wildlife photographer. There is also Javed as Javed... I am interacting with these different characters, who are presenting various facts and stories from the jungle. So the stories that they give are connected with the so-called videos. For instance, while a video is playing, you can see my commentary on certain things that are happening in them. There is a lot of Indianness in the way I speak because the different avatars are from various states of our country. This involved a lot of editing and restructuring of the pre-existing show. We cut shots from the existing show and put my character in between the videos to convey whatever information has to be given to the audience. I think it has worked pretty well.

**Were there any striking discoveries that you didn't know earlier?**

You can never know how an animal behaves in a certain situation. You gradually learn how they behave. It's a trial and error method of understanding animals and how to use it further. When we gain insight into animal behaviour, we are in a stronger position to understand vexing conservation problems, such as how to save endangered species, assess environmental quality, design nature preserves, and evaluate the importance of human-related threats to survival in otherwise fit animals.

(The show airs on March 22 at 8 pm on National Geographic India.)



CELEB TALK 15 MINUTES

## 'More than a religious book'

MOUNI ROY says that *Bhagwat Geeta* must be a part of the school curriculum

Actor Mouni Roy feels that *Bhagwat Geeta* must be made a part of academic curriculum across India. She adds that she turned to the Hindu scripture during the lockdown and, having discovered its core value, believes it should be inculcated at school level.

"I read *Bhagwat Geeta Ka Saar* in childhood but didn't understand it until now. See, one of my friends started reading the *Bhagwat Geeta* and I also joined the class — this is before lockdown — and I didn't make many classes due to hectic schedule. But during the lockdown, I was very religious. I think it should be a part of our school curriculum. I genuinely feel that it is more than a religious book. It is life *ka saar* (crux of life), eternal knowledge, and it is very important. If you have a question in your head, the *Geeta* has the answer," said Mouni.

Asked if the entertainment sector needs to inculcate the teachings of the *Geeta*, she replied, "The *Geeta* is needed worldwide, not just in India or Bollywood or school. In India, it could change the orthodox thought process in families. We talk about *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*, instead it should be *Beta Padhao, Beta Bachao*. I think society is in need of this knowledge or awareness."

"We literally live in ignorance, and we actually come from a country of the *Vedas* and the *Upanishad*, yet we don't do anything. We are sitting on a gold mine and we don't do anything it. The entertainment industry is a stressful place, you don't have the concept of Saturdays and Sundays, a 9-to-5 job, and we are constantly consumed in our minds and thoughts. So, for sure, the *Geeta* is needed here, but having said that I think (be it) the rural, the urban, and the metros, everyone is in dire need of the *Bhagwat Geeta's* teachings,"



added Mouni.

Mouni will be seen in Ayan Mukerji's fantasy action adventure *Brahmastra* alongside Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Nagarjuna, with Shah Rukh Khan in a cameo. Talking about working with our minds and thoughts. So, for sure, the *Geeta* is needed here, but having said that I think (be it) the rural, the urban, and the metros, everyone is in dire need of the *Bhagwat Geeta's* teachings,"

for almost seven to eight years now. He is god's child, for sure."

"Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt are fire on screen and they are beautiful human beings on sets. So, I feel very lucky. With *Brahmastra*, I got to work with Nagarjuna, and obviously Amitabh Bachchan — he is the greatest. I cannot forget the day I met Shah Rukh Khan. So, it's like a dream you'd never thought would come true, and it has come true," she summed up.

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25	HSAMB GURUGRAM	A/R OF L/R FROM VILLAGE DAULTABAD TO 220 SUB-STATION IN DAULTABAD (1208) RE-CALL	CLOSING DATE 25.03.2021	1.32 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466457133 xengurugram.hsamb@gmail.com
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# FINAL ENCOUNTER

## India, England battle in winner's take the series contest today

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Having outsmarted England in challenging conditions, a confident India will back themselves to win the series-decider here on Saturday and take another firm step towards finalising their core for the T20 World Cup.

India, who went into the series with a fresh and fearless approach in the shortest format, find themselves well-placed in their preparations for the mega event at home later this year, irrespective of what happens in the fifth game.

The Virat Kohli-led side, which did not have the depth earlier to attack in all situations, finds itself full of 'x-factor' with the



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emergence of Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav, whose willow bludgeoned the England bowlers, making it a dream debut on Friday.

His innings at number three was pure delight and left even the likes of Kohli "stunned", reinforcing the role of IPL in providing polished talent to the national team.

It was not a surprise that Suryakumar found a place in the squad for the upcoming ODI series.

"It's not easy to walk in at three in your first game and we all were stunned. He stamped his authority and allowed the likes of Shreyas, Hardik and Pant to do their job. I am a fan of these youngsters," said Kohli referring to Suryakumar.

With Kishan and Suryakumar making massive impact in their maiden series, Haryana all-rounder Rahul Tewatia is the only one in the squad left to make his debut and that could happen on Saturday.

Another big plus for India in the series has been Hardik Pandya contributing with the ball regularly. He was among the star bowlers on Thursday, taking two wickets for 16 runs in four overs.

Leggie Rahul Chahar, playing in place of

Yuzvendra Chahal, also did a decent job while Washington Sundar had a rare off day.

India will now be hoping K L Rahul fires at the top, having showed some form in the previous game following scores of 1, 0, 0.

Kohli must have got a lot of satisfaction out of the fact that India were able to put up a big score and defend with the dew around in the night. It was the first time in the series that the team batting first went on to win the game.

England, on the other hand, will expect Jos Buttler and world's number one batsman Dawid Malan to show more consistency with the bat.

The pace duo of Jofra Archer and Mark Wood have been impressive but they have not got a lot of support from Chris Jordan, who leaked most runs in the fourth T20.

"We are just trying to learn as much as we can in this series. The progression to the World Cup in seven months is important," said Morgan following the eight-run loss.

"...We really want to play in must win games like these. Certainly all to play for now. Playing away from home and winning will be great."

# Why soft signal is important? questions Kohli

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Indian captain Virat Kohli on Thursday questioned the concept of requiring "conclusive proofs" to overturn a "soft signal" of the field umpires, saying that rules should be made simpler so that teams do not suffer in high-stake games.

During the fourth T20I against England here, which India won by eight runs, there were at least two dismissals that benefitted England for want of conclusive proofs.

Asked about the incidents at the post-match presentation, Kohli went back to a Test match against England, which preceded the T20I series.

"There was an instance during the Test series when I was next to Jinks (Ajinkya Rahane) and he clearly caught the ball but he wasn't sure so we went upstairs. If it is a half and half effort and the fielder is in doubt, there is no way the umpire from square leg can see it clearly. "The soft signal becomes that important and it becomes tricky. Where there should be conclusive proof? I don't know why there can't be an 'I don't know' call with the umpires as well. It is similar to umpire's call as well. "These are decisions that can change the

course of the game, especially in these big games. We were on the receiving side today, and tomorrow it could be some other team."

Suryakumar Yadav was unlucky to have been given out in the 14th over after repeated replays of Dawid Malan's catch off Sam Curran by the TV umpire. A part of the ball seemed to have touched the ground but the TV umpire did not overturn the on-field umpire's decision (soft signal) due to a lack of conclusive proof.

Washington Sundar was also given out in the last over after repeated replays by the TV umpire to see if Adil Rashid had touched the ropes with his back heel while taking the catch failed to get a conclusive evidence.

The Indian captain said the rules should be made simple by "ironing out" the grey areas.

"... Keep the game really simple and linear. It isn't ideal in high-pressure games and have a lot of clarity on the field."

On him leaving the field during the nervy late overs, when Rohit Sharma was leading the side, Kohli said, "I ran for a ball and threw it and I just aggravated my leg a little bit. Nothing serious, I should be fine for the game in a day and a half."



# Krunal, SKY, Krishna receive ODI call

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Karnataka pacer Prasadh Krishna, all-rounder Krunal Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav earned their maiden ODI call-up on Friday as selectors named them in India's 18-member squad for the three-match series against England.

Krishna and Krunal have been rewarded for their good performances in the recently held Vijay Hazare Trophy while Suryakumar's selection was not a surprise given his stupendous T20 debut in the fourth T20 against England.

Krishna, who has been on the radar for a while and has also earned Virat Kohli's praise, took 14 wickets in the domestic 50-over competition while Krunal, who has played 18 T20s, earned his maiden ODI call-up by scoring two hundreds and as many fifties in five games for Baroda.

All three ODIs will be played in Pune, starting March 23. "Feels surreal when you get the call to play for your country. It's like a dream come true. Excited to play my part and contribute to the success of the team. Thanks @BCCI. Can't wait to get started," Krishna tweeted.

Stumper-batsman Rishabh Pant and pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar are back in the side and so is Washington Sundar, who played his only ODI in December 2017.

Bhuvneshwar, who has done well in the ongoing T20 series, is set to play his first ODI since August 2019.

In the absence of the rested Jasprit Bumrah, who recently got married, and injured



Mohammad Shami, the UP pacer will lead the pace attack.

Left-arm pacer T Natarajan has regained fitness and therefore finds a place in the squad following an impressive outing in Australia.

It seems, the squad has been picked in such a way that India continue to work on their preparation for the T20 World Cup.

Ishan Kishan has not been picked despite his impressive show in the T20s probably because the team already has two wicket-keepers in KL Rahul and Pant.

Rahul opens batting in T20s but he would bat in the middle order in ODIs with Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit being team's preferred openers.

Pant would keep wickets and also bat on middle order, leaving no place for Kishan in playing XI.

Pressure will be on Shikhar Dhawan to perform from game one considering India are spoilt for choice in the opening department that also has K L Rahul and Shubman Gill.

Mohammed Siraj has also been picked for the games to be played in front of empty stands.

# Getting under pump before WC is good for us: Stokes

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

England star all-rounder Ben Stokes says losing a tight game like the fourth Twenty20 against India on Thursday and going into a 'winners-take-all' contest will only prepare them better for the World Cup as they will get used to pressure situations.

Eyeing an unassailable 3-1 lead, the Eoin Morgan-led side faltered in a tricky chase of 186 to go down to India by eight runs.

The fifth T20I, scheduled for Saturday, is now like a summit clash.

"Whoever wins that game wins the series so you know that's great for us as a team, and especially with the T20 World Cup coming up, the more pressure situations we get into as a team, the more we will benefit from it," Stokes told reporters during the post-match interaction on Thursday.

"The more pressure that we get under as a team, the more that's going to do for us in that World Cup, because World Cups can end very quickly. Every game is a big game."

Stokes nearly carried England home with his 46 off 23 balls but he



and captain Morgan were dismissed off consecutive Shardul Thakur deliveries at the start of the 17th over from where it was tilted in home team's favour.

"One of us have got to be there till the end. Leaving that many runs for our bottom order to have to deal with obviously is less than ideal. In that situation, one of our middle-order needs to be there till the end to get it over the line. It's always more frustrating when you feel like you've got the game in your hands."

"Rather than going away and being too down on myself you got to

look at these things and assess them and learn from them. You know we've got a T20 World Cup coming up and there's no doubt it will put in a similar situation at some point in that tournament so these are all great learning experiences for us as players," he said.

Talking about Saturday's game, he said: "It is a final because if we don't win then we lose the series, and we don't want to lose the series."

"We want to make a habit of winning. As I said the more situations we get put into where we've got pressure on us and we keep prevailing, that's just got to do with the world of good."

# Harman out of T20 series opener

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has been ruled out of the opening women's T20 International of the three-match series against South Africa here due to an injury, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana said on Friday.

Harmanpreet suffered a hip-flexor injury while batting in the fifth ODI against the same opponents on Wednesday.

The series opener will be held on Saturday. "She (Harmanpreet) is out of tomorrow's match and rest of the update on her condition will be given by the medical team," Mandhana said during a virtual pre-match press conference.

India were outplayed by South Africa in the women's ODI series with the visitors pocketing the rubber 1-4.

But Mandhana said the ODI series is a thing of the past as their focus shifts to the T20 rubber. "We will try to forget the ODIs and focus on the T20 series. Yes, the ODI series was a disappointment but we need to forget that and move ahead. Some new faces have come in the team, so we need to think fresh," Mandhana said.

"We had a discussion on how to go about our preparation, what went wrong in the ODI series and how to go forward. We now need to concentrate on the T20s. We are now looking at the ODI series as a preparation for T20 series."

# Sharath- Manika one win away from Olympic berth

PTI ■ DOHA

The star Indian pair of Achanta Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra made their way into the mixed doubles final of the Asian Olympic Qualification Tournament after defeating Singapore's Koen Pang Yew En and Lin Ye 4-2 here on Friday.

The world no 19 Indian pair has set up a final clash against world no 8 Korean duo of Sang-Su Lee and Jihee Jneon on Saturday and is now a win away from qualifying for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

Having already secured the singles berths on Thursday and aiming for a double qualification, Sharath and Manika faced a tough challenge in the initial part of the match as the scores were levelled at 2-2 after the fourth game.

However, the 2018 Asian Games bronze medalist pair managed to hold an edge over their opponent and bagged two successive games to complete a 12-10, 9-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-8, 13-11 victory in 50 minutes.



Meanwhile, the Korean duo of Lee and Jeon entered the final with a 4-11, 11-7, 11-4, 5-11, 11-8, 11-8 victory against Thailand's Padasak Tanviriyavechakul and Suthasini Sawettabut.

Earlier on Thursday, all the four Indian paddlers Sharath, Manika, Gnanasekaran Sathiyam and Sutirtha Mukherjee earned themselves singles qualification berths at the Tokyo Olympics.

While Sathiyam and Sutirtha emerged winners in their respective categories of the South Asian Group, Sharath and Manika sealed Tokyo berths by virtue of being the highest-ranked second-placed players.

# Ashwini-Sikki lose in quarters, Sen also exit

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian ace Lakshya Sen crashed out of the All England Open Championships quarter-finals after losing to Mark Caljouw of the Netherlands 17-21, 21-16, 17-21 here on Friday.

The match, which lasted 55 minutes, saw the end of Indian challenge in men's singles.

The women's doubles pairing of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy also bowed out of the tournament following their defeat in straight games to Netherlands' Selena Piek and Cheryl Seinen in the quarter-finals.

The world number 30 Indian pairing went down 22-24, 12-21 to 24th-ranked duo of Selena and Cheryl in 39 minutes.



Ashwini and Sikki had defeated 13th ranked duo of Bulgarian sisters Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva 21-17, 21-10 in just 33 minutes in the second-round match on Thursday night.

World number 10 men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, seeded sixth, had crashed out of the event after losing 16-21, 21-11, 17-21 to Denmark's Kim

Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen in the second round. It was their second consecutive defeat against the world number 13 combine, having lost to them at Swiss Open earlier this month. In the men's singles, Sameer Verma too suffered a second successive loss to third seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark, going down 22-20, 21-10 in the second round.

# Spurs suffer shock Europa exit | Liverpool vs Real in CL quarters



AFP ■ ZAGREB

Paul Pogba scored the winner on his return from injury as Manchester United beat AC Milan 1-0 on Thursday to join Arsenal in the Europa League quarter-finals, while Dinamo Zagreb knocked out Tottenham Hotspur after extra time in Croatia.

The France midfielder struck the only goal at the San Siro four minutes after replacing Marcus Rashford as a half-time substitute, scooping home after an ugly scramble inside the Milan area.

United goalkeeper Dean Henderson produced an excellent reflex save to deny Zlatan Ibrahimovic an equaliser against his old club and secure a 2-1 aggregate victory for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team.

Arsenal also qualified despite suffering a 1-0 loss to Olympiakos in the second leg. Youssef El-Arabi's deflected second-half strike earned Olympiakos another victory at the Emirates but Arsenal advanced 3-2 on aggregate, avenging their exit to the Greeks on away goals last season.

# Utd to face Granada

AFP ■ NYON

Manchester United were paired with Spanish side Granada in Friday's draw for the quarter-finals of the Europa League, while Arsenal will take on Slavia Prague.

Meanwhile, Ajax will face Roma with the winners of

that quarter-final playing either United or Granada in the last four. United beat Ajax in the 2017 Europa League final.

Arsenal are set to host Slavia in the first leg of their quarter-final and will be wary of the runaway Czech league leaders who have eliminated Leicester City and Scottish

champions Rangers in the last two rounds.

However if the Gunners get through they could face their former coach Unai Emery in the semi-finals.

Emery's Villarreal will take on Dinamo Zagreb, last-16 conquerors of Tottenham Hotspur, in the other quarter-final.

Roma also progressed as a 2-1 victory courtesy of two goals from Real Madrid loanee Borja Mayoral against Shakhtar Donetsk in Kiev wrapped up a 5-1 win on aggregate.

Ajax made sure of their passage into the next round as a David Neres goal and Dusan Tadic penalty rounded off a 5-0 aggregate win over Young Boys.

Gerard Moreno's double in Spain gave Villarreal a second 2-0 victory over Dynamo Kiev in as many weeks, while Granada extended their debut run in Europe, going through 3-2 overall despite a 2-1 loss to Norway's Molde in Budapest.

Roma also progressed as a 2-1 victory courtesy of two goals from Real Madrid loanee Borja Mayoral against Shakhtar Donetsk in Kiev wrapped up a 5-1 win on aggregate.

AFP ■ NYON

Holders Bayern Munich will face last year's beaten finalists Paris Saint-Germain in the quarter-finals of this season's Champions League, while Friday's draw for the last eight also threw up a clash between Liverpool and Real Madrid.

The draw also pitted Premier League leaders Manchester City against Borussia Dortmund, with Chelsea set to play Porto in the other tie.

Bayern defeated PSG 1-0 behind closed doors in Lisbon last August to win their sixth European Cup and remain the team to beat in Europe, having won 18 and drawn one of their 19 games in the Champions League since the beginning of last season.

The first leg is set to be played in Germany on April 6 or 7, with the return in Paris a week later.

Meanwhile, the meeting of Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool and Real is another re-run of a recent final, with the Spaniards beating the Reds 3-1 in Kiev in 2018 to win the last of their record 13 titles to date.

Liverpool bounced back from that to lift the trophy for



the sixth time in Madrid in 2019 but their Premier League title defence this season has unravelled, with the Anfield club sixth in the table having lost nine times in 17 games in 2021.

Klopp's side are due to be away from home in the first leg, but it remains to be seen where that match will be played.

The winner between Liverpool and Real will go onto a semi-final against either Chelsea or Porto, throwing up

the possibility of an all-English last-four tie. Liverpool beat Chelsea in the semi-finals in 2005 and again in 2007.

Real have often struggled this season too but they may be optimistic about their prospects in the wake of the draw.

Unbeaten in 13 games since the appointment of Thomas Tuchel as coach in late January, Chelsea will be expected to get the better of Portuguese champions Porto, who ousted Juventus in the last 16.