

OPINION 6

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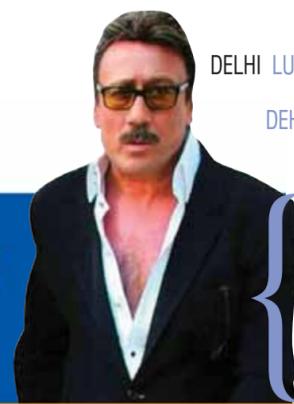
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Stay Safe

Pawar stands by Maha HM

Rules out Deshmukh's exit, says ex-CP's claims are of days when HM was Covid +ve & quarantined

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a clear indication of his party's resolve to brazen out the political crisis facing the Shiv Sena-led MVA Government in Maharashtra, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Monday dismissed the Opposition BJP's clamour for State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh's resignation over the "letter bomb" dropped by Param Bir Singh, by saying that there was no truth in the allegations made by Mumbai's former Police Commissioner against Deshmukh.



NCP chief Sharad Pawar addresses the media in New Delhi on Monday PTI

Deshmukh's resignation. The former Police Commissioner has claimed that the Home Minister had called Vaze to his official residence around mid-February. But on February 15, Deshmukh was admitted to the hospital after he tested positive for corona. I have proof with me to this effect. He was in quarantine till February 27. Since the former CP is claiming that Vaze met the Home

Minister in February, let there be any enquiry into the whole thing. Truth will come out".

Talking to mediapersons at his New Delhi residence, Pawar said, "I have all the proof about Deshmukh. That being the case, the question of Deshmukh's resignation does not arise. By now, the Chief Minister must have received all the proof relating to the State Home Minister. It is for the Chief Minister to take a call on ordering a probe into allegations against Deshmukh by Singh".

"The main issues are: Who planted explosive laden SUV and who killed businessman Mansukh Hiran. Singh had all the information about the two crimes. Why was he sitting quiet for a month?," the NCP chief asked.

Continued on Page 2

Ex-CP moves SC for CBI probe against Deshmukh, stay on his transfer order

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

In a development that took the MVA Government by surprise, Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh moved the Supreme Court on Monday, demanding a CBI probe against Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh over corruption charges and stay on his transfer order.



He sought an "unbiased, uninfluenced, impartial and fair investigation" into Anil Deshmukh's alleged corrupt malpractices "before the evidences are destroyed".

"Fair CBI investigation is

thus warranted in each of such acts of Deshmukh in abuse of the official position of the Home Minister," Singh said.

A 1988 batch IPS Officer, Singh told the apex court that he had brought Deshmukh's "corrupt practices" in the knowledge of the senior leaders and the Chief Minister. Singh said he was transferred immediately thereafter from his post of the Police Commissioner of Mumbai to the Home Guard Department in an "arbitrary and illegal manner" without the completion of the minimum fixed tenure of two years.

Continued on Page 2

Centre for increase in Covishield 2nd dose gap

Administer dose between 6-8 weeks, Centre tells States, UTs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing scientific evidence, the Centre on Monday revised the time window within which the second dose of the Covishield vaccine can be taken. The Centre has asked all States and Union Territories to administer the second dose between 6-8 weeks but not later than eight weeks instead of the present 4-6 weeks window.

Increasing the interval between the two doses enhances the protection as recommended by its scientific panels, the Center said.

The decision of revised

time interval between two doses is applicable only to Covishield and not to Covaxin vaccine, which is also part of the vaccination programme launched on January 16, this year.

Sources in the Union Health Ministry said with the revised time window more number of people are likely to be considered for the jab.

Continued on Page 2

'Put divyang, caregivers of bed-ridden on job priority list'

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the increase in gap in inoculation period between two doses of Covishield shot, experts have urged the Government to include intellectually disabled people and caregivers of bed-ridden patients in the vaccination priority list.

Dr Rajendra Prasad said the Government should allow doctors to certify family members from amongst their patients, who are caregivers and thereafter open registration for vaccination for this category.

Continued on Page 2

K'taka to impose travel restrictions

Bengaluru: Karnataka to impose strict restrictions to contain the second wave of Covid-19 by setting stringent guidelines to avoid semi-lockdown or full lockdown. The State also decided to impose restrictions for travellers to Karnataka.

CAPSULE

4 LeT ULTRAS KILLED IN SHOPIAN ENCOUNTER
Srinagar: Four Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces on Monday in Shopian district of Jammu & Kashmir, police said.

U'KHAND CM, ACTOR KARTIK TEST COVID +VE
Dehradun/Mumbai: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat on Monday said he has tested positive for Covid-19. Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan also tested positive for Covid-19 and he asked his fans to pray for him.

BIG CAT FOUND DEAD IN DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE
Lakhimpur Kheri: A tiger was found dead with swollen neck in the Kishanpur sanctuary of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve here, an official said on Monday.

GANDHI PEACE PRIZE 2020 FOR MUJIBUR RAHMAN
New Delhi: The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 is being conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Culture Ministry said on Monday.

7-YEAR-OLD KILLED IN BLAST IN BURDWAN
Burdwan/Barjora/Kolkata: A seven-year-old boy was killed and another child injured in a crude bomb explosion in Burdwan city in West Bengal.

Bill which says 'Govt in Delhi means L-G' OK'd in Lok Sabha

Centre says move to end ambiguity; AAP moves SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Bill to empower the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) at the cost of the elected Kejriwal Government. The Congress and AAP fiercely opposed the legislation and termed it as "unconstitutional".

Meanwhile, the AAP has moved the Supreme Court against the Bill. According to the Bill, the "Government" in Delhi means the "Lieutenant Governor" and it also makes it mandatory for the Delhi Government to take the opinion of the L-G before any executive action.

"Please do not say it is a political Bill. It is being brought to end ambiguity in certain issues as Delhi is a Union Territory. It will end certain confusion or technicality and enhance the efficiency of the administration," said Union Minister of State for Home G



Kishan Reddy.

He said the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021, has become necessary as there has been ambiguity in certain issues related to the functioning of the Delhi Government and several cases were also filed in courts.

The Minister said when the GNCTD Act was enacted in 1991 by the then Congress Government, Delhi was made a Union Territory (UT) with an Assembly with "limited legislative powers".

"We did not do that. It was a Congress Government which piloted the Act then," he said.

Continued on Page 2

Bill to hike FDI cap in insurance sector to 74% passed in LS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday approved the Bill to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent with the LS passing the proposed law by a voice vote. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted that raising the FDI cap in the insurance sector was necessary to help insurers deal with issues concerning financial stress.

The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed by Rajya Sabha last week. Strongly opposing the Bill, Congress said the decision to hike the FDI limit was like a "somersault" by the BJP which had persistently opposed to increase the proposal when it was in the Opposition.

Detailed report on P9

Now, drinking age in Delhi lowered to 21

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet on Monday approved a new excise policy, lowering the minimum age for consumption of liquor to 21 years from 25 years. Announcing the decision, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the consumption age in Delhi would now be the same as in majority of Indian States — 21 years.

He said the decision was aimed at "stopping harassment of people and establishments". According to a Delhi Government statement, new rules and the "international concept of age gating" would be put in place to ensure that individuals under the age of 21 don't have "access to the establishment that serves liquor without supervision".



"This means below 21-year-old children will not be allowed inside the restaurants where liquor is served if they are coming alone or in a group of underage children. The international concept of 'Age Gating' will be introduced. Delhi will be the first city in India to ensure this to make sure that there is no underage drinking in Delhi and the SOP will be made along with the industry," Sisodia said.

Continued on Page 2

New Delhi yet to decide on attending SCO anti-terrorism exercise with Pakistan, China

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is yet to take a decision on attending a multi-nation anti-terrorism military exercise later this year under the aegis of the Shanghai Co-Operation Organisation (SCO), which also includes Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

The decision to hold the joint exercise "Pabbi-Antiterror-2021" was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on March 18.

The representatives of the member States also approved the draft programme of cooperation for 2022-2024 to counter-terrorism, separatism and extremism.

"Decisions have been made to improve cooperation between the competent authorities of the SCO member states in identifying and suppressing channels that finance terrorist activities," China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported, quoting a RATS statement.

Delegations of the competent authorities of India, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the RATS Executive Committee attended the meeting.

This development came in the backdrop of Indian and Chinese troops pulling back from the stand-off points at the southern and northern banks of the Pangong Tso (lake) in Ladakh in mid-February after ten months of eyeball.

Continued on Page 2

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Cong in RS accuses Govt of conspiring to end quota for SCs

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge in Parliament on Monday accused the Government of conspiring to end reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) as it had not yet filling 50 per cent vacancies under this category in all Government departments.

He also slammed the Government for bringing an amendment bill to include seven castes in Tamil Nadu under one group of the SC list ahead of assembly polls in the state despite the demand being made in 2015. Participating in a discussion on The Constitution (Scheduled castes) order (Amendment) bill 2021, Leader of Opposition Kharge said: "Reservation is ending gradually in public and private sectors. There is a 50 per cent vacancy in the SC category in every department," he said.

There are 56 per cent SC category vacancies in Railways, 85 per cent in Defence and 28 per cent in posts, he said.

"They don't want to fill the

vacancies. There is a conspiracy to end the assured job available to SCs. The conspiracy is to prevent SCs from getting jobs and keep them financially weak and as slaves like before. This is the thinking..." he noted.

Expressing concern over the plight of SCs, Kharge said the situation is such that no one in the upper house has ever cried when these people are murdered."

"When you need to, you have learnt to cry, laugh and also make fun of others," he said.

The Congress leader told the Government that it should not think that it was doing great help whenever some castes are brought under the SC list because reservation to these people was ensured under the Constitution after much struggle by BR Ambedkar since 1919.

Supporting the bill, Kharge said a delegation from Tamil Nadu had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 and sought the inclusion of seven castes under the SC list. **PTI**

Prez, First Lady offer prayers at Lord Jagannath

Puri/Konark: President Ram Nath Kovind along with First Lady Savita Kovind on Monday offered prayers at Lord Jagannath temple and visited the Sun Temple at Konark in Puri district, on the last day of his three-day visit to Odisha.

Kovind and his wife arrived at the 12th century Lord Jagannath temple in Puri around 9.10 am, accompanied by Governor Ganeshi Lal and Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and spent about 40 minutes there.

They entered the sanctum sanctorum of the temple and paid obeisance to deities— Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath.

They also offered prayers to Maa Bimala and Goddess Mahalaxmi on the premises of the world famous temple.

As per the tradition, the president and his wife sat on the floor of Mahalaxmi temple for some before going to tie a flag (Patitapabana Bana) atop the shrine.

"Indias first citizen tied a flag atop the temple wishing wellbeing of the countrymen," said Janardan Pattajoshi, a servant accompanying him. **PTI**

Centre wants to rule Delhi through soul of Viceroy: AAP MP on Bill on L-G powers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is "a specialist in abusing the rights of states" and wants to rule Delhi through the soul of the British-era Viceroy, AAP MP Bhagwan Mann said in Lok Sabha on Monday as he vehemently opposed a bill that seeks to make it clear that the "government" in the national capital means the "Lieutenant Governor".

During a discussion on the bill, Mann, the sole Lok Sabha member of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) that governs Delhi, wondered whether the Centre wants to turn the national capital into a union territory without assembly like Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Delhi L-G lives in the house the Viceroy used to stay during the British rule. Maybe, the Centre wants to run Delhi through soul of Viceroy," Mann said.

The AAP MP said if the chief minister of Delhi cannot take any decision, then what's the point of conducting assem-

bled polls.

"The Centre is a specialist in abusing the rights of states, whether it was in the case of farm laws or in running state governments through governors," he said.

Hitting out at the BJP which is in power at the Centre, Mann said through this bill the party wants to weaken the AAP government in the national capital as it is unable to digest its defeat in assembly elections.

"The BJP should learn to digest defeat. The AAP had won more than 90 per cent of the assembly seats in Delhi last time and the BJP didn't have enough MLAs to be given the Leader of Opposition rank, but still our party gave it," Mann said.

He further said it seems the BJP has forgotten how to sit in the opposition as it is out of power in the national capital for more than two decades.

"Learn to digest your defeat and sit in opposition, otherwise you would get such a huge defeat you would never recover," he said.

Jaishankar holds talks with Afghan Foreign Min Atmar

New Delhi: External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Jaishankar reiterated India's long-term commitment towards making Afghanistan a united, peaceful and prosperous constitutional democracy respecting the will of its people.

"Taking India-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership forward. EAM Dr S Jaishankar warmly welcomed M Haneef Atmar. Issues of bilateral & regional interest including development cooperation, trade & investment, regional connectivity, security cooperation and peace process were discussed," Bagchi tweeted.

The Afghan foreign minister's visit to India came days after Russia hosted a conference between Afghan government and the Taliban in Moscow, and pressed for a ceasefire in the war-ravaged country.

"Arrived in beautiful & historic city of Delhi for a 3-day working visit," Atmar said on Twitter.

The Afghan foreign minister also said that he was looking forward to holding talks

with senior officials of India on the Afghan peace process as well as on security and economic cooperation.

The Afghan foreign ministry said the purpose of Atmar's visit to India is to discuss bilateral relations, strengthen regional and international consensus on the Afghan peace process, and enhance cooperation in security, economic, political and cultural spheres.

It said besides holding talks with Jaishankar, Atmar is scheduled to meet a number of high-ranking Indian government officials, including National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

There have been renewed international efforts in the last few weeks to speed up the peace process in Afghanistan that was adversely impacted by increasing violence by Taliban in recent months though the outfit is engaged in negotiations with the Afghan government.

The Afghan peace process had also figured among other issues during talks between Jaishankar and US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on

Saturday.

Afghanistan's top peace negotiator Abdullah Abdullah had visited India in October and discussed with India's top leadership about the peace initiative to bring back peace and stability in the war-ravaged country.

Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at a virtual meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire to end violence in Afghanistan.

The Taliban and the Afghan government are holding direct talks in Doha to end a 19-year war that has killed tens of thousands of people and ravaged various parts of the country.

India has been a major stakeholder in the peace and stability of Afghanistan. It has already invested USD two billion in aid and reconstruction activities in that country.

In November, India announced a new package of over 100 high impact community projects worth \$80 million for Afghanistan. **PTI**

'Put divyang...

From Page 1

"There is an urgent need to vaccinate caregivers of patients who are bed-ridden due to disabilities. These patients cannot be vaccinated at home, for obvious reasons, however they are exposed to the Covid virus through their young caregivers, both professional and family members, said Prasad, senior consultant Neuro and Spine Surgeon at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi.

"In addition, nursing agencies providing nursing assistants (untrained ayahs) should also be allowed to vaccinate their staff. With the next wave imminent, it is imperative that we include and vaccinate caregivers of the elderly, disabled and bed-ridden persons as early as possible. These may be professional or family members," said Prasad. Dr Prasad pointed out that the UK and Canada, who are among the countries administering the vaccine to their citizens, have expanded the gap to four months to cover maximum people.

New Delhi...

From Page 1

It was the first step in disengagement and talks were now on to pull back from the other friction points at the LAC in Ladakh.

Similarly, India and Pakistan in later February decided to observe ceasefire on the Line of Control (LOC) in Jammu and Kashmir to avoid civilian casualties. It was the first time in many years that peace now prevailed at the LOC which saw more than 5,000 ceasefire violations by Pakistan last year.

While appreciating these positive moves, sources in the security establishment said here on Monday it was too early to draw any conclusions. In this context, the government will take a considered view before taking a final decision about taking part in the SCO military drill, they said.

Based in Tashkent, RATS is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism. The next meeting of RATS will be held in September in Uzbekistan.

Ex-CP moves...

From Page 1

The petitioner said transfer was maliciously effected purportedly under Section 22N(2) of the Maharashtra Police Act, 1951 with the reason that the transfer was necessitated by "administrative exigencies". It is settled law that the Orders have to stand on the reasons contained in the same and no reasons can be supplemented later.

The petitioner said he believed that the reason for the transfer noted by the Respondent no. 1 in its file is to ensure a free and fair investigation into the recovery of the gelatin sticks laden SUV from near the residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani on February 25.

The transfer of the petitioner in the aforesaid circumstances is for reasons smeared with malice, when there is no iota of material or evidence - far from proof - found or even imputed against the petitioner, and is solely based on conjectures, surmises and pure speculation, without detail of any sort against the petitioner having been noticed by anybody," he said.

Now, drinking...

From Page 1

To rein in 'liquor mafia' in the National Capital, the Delhi Government approved the privatisation of liquor shops, no opening of new liquor shops, moreover the Government also lowered drinking age to 21 from 25. The Cabinet also claimed with the implementation of new excise policy, revenue is expected to increase by 1,500-2000 crores. Delhi will also have India's first international checking lab to check spurious liquor, which will check and ensure the quality of liquor.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that excise reforms will act as a major blow to the liquor mafia in Delhi. "The mafia will do everything to obstruct these reforms. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has ended mafia raj in many sectors like education, water, electricity, health etc and we are committed to reforming this sector too," Kejriwal said.

Termining it massive reform in excise policy, Kejriwal said government has declared war against mafia. "Proxy Ownership, low-quality shops to be shut down in Delhi; zero tolerance to liquor shops creating disturbances in localities," he added. Quoting his Deputy's press conference segment on micro-blogging site, Kejriwal tweeted, "Excise reforms announced today will act as a major blow to liquor mafia in Del. The mafia will do everything to obstruct these reforms. AAP has ended mafia raj in many sectors like edu, water, health etc. We r committed to reforming this sector too."

Sisodia, who also Finance minister portfolio, said that proxy Ownership, low-quality

shops to be shut down in Delhi; zero tolerance to liquor shops creating disturbances in localities. Citing the example of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Tamil Nadu, the age of consuming alcohol is 21 and in Goa and Andhra Pradesh is 18, in Delhi, it will be 21 years like UP.

"Delhi government's motto is to rectify the liquor trading in Delhi; an expert committee followed by a GOM was formed," Background of this decision is that some months back the excise Department constituted an expert committee to change the excise policy of Delhi. The main reason behind this decision was to clean the liquor system of the national capital, government received around 14,00,700 suggestions from the citizens," Sisodia said after attending the Cabinet meeting.

"There are some areas of Delhi where liquor is over-served and there are some areas of Delhi where liquor is under-served or unserved," Sisodia remarked, adding, "This is the fundamental reason why in Delhi liquor mafias work. You all know that Delhi has 272 wards out of these there are 79 wards with zero liquor shops. Around 45 wards have just one shop. Around 58% of Delhi is either unserved or underserved. Based on liquor sale distribution only 8% area of Delhi is normally served. There are around 37 wards where more than three liquor shops are present. On the other hand, there are 54 wards in Delhi where liquor is over-served some of these wards have more than 10 shops. This means in 20% of Delhi is liquor is over-served. It is also to be noted that 50% of liquor shops in Delhi are present in just 45 wards.

Bill which says 'Govt in Delhi...

From Page 1

Reddy said the L-G is an administrator so he has the right to know the day-to-day affairs. "We have not snatched any power from the Delhi government nor we have given any additional power to the L-G," he said.

The Minister strongly objected to some Opposition members' reference that the "Modi Government is dictatorial" and said the NDA Government has not done anything wrong or new but just ended ambiguity and brought clarity on the Delhi

Government. "If we are wrong, we will listen to the abuses. But without being wrong, we won't tolerate abuses. It is aimed at bringing more transparency," Reddy said.

He said there have been cordial relations between the Central and Delhi Governments since 1996, and all differences were resolved through discussions. However, since 2015, some issues have come up and cases were filed before the Delhi High Court, which also gave certain rulings, Reddy said.

He said the court had also ruled that the L-G should be informed on executive issues of the city Government. Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party has opposed the bill. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had even urged the Central Government to take back the bill and said the AAP dispensation was ready to fall at the Modi Government's feet for its withdrawal.

Initiating the debate,

Congress MP Manish Tewari said the bill is "unconstitutional" and it takes away certain rights of the city Government which were given under a constitutional amendment, a charge rejected by the BJP.

The measure is contrary to what the then Union Home Minister L K Advani had perceived some 18 years ago, he said. Tewari was of the view that the bill seeks to prevent the city Government from implementing the decisions taken by the legislative Assembly.

BJP member Meenakshi Lekhi, who represents the New Delhi seat in Lok Sabha, said the Bill seeks to rectify the alleged mismanagement of Delhi and blamed both the Congress and the ruling AAP for it. She maintained that the Constitution is not federal but quasi-federal in nature where the Centre's say cannot be ignored. Lekhi said the Congress could have given full statehood to Delhi if it wanted.

Centre for increase in Covishield 2nd...

From Page 1

This will cover people who are not included presently in the priority group under the national vaccination programme launched on January 16, this year.

Presently, the vaccination programme is moving at a snail pace as the groups prioritized for inoculation are not turning up as expected and many of those who are eager for the jobs are ineligible under the identified categories.

"In view of the emerging scientific evidence, the interval between two doses of a specific COVID-19 vaccine i.e. COVISHIELD, has been revisited by

National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) and subsequently by National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) in its 20th meeting during which the recommendation has been revised to provide 2nd dose of COVISHIELD at 6-8 weeks' interval after 1st dose instead of earlier practiced interval of 4-6 weeks," the Union Health Ministry said in a statement here.

In a letter to the chief secretaries of states and UTs, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the ministry has accepted the recommendations of NTAGI and NEGVAC.

"...and has thereafter advised the states and UTs to ensure the administration of 2nd

dose of COVISHIELD to beneficiaries within this stipulated time interval of 4-8 weeks after the 1st dose," he said.

Keeping the existing scientific evidence in view, it appears that protection is enhanced if the second dose of COVISHIELD is administered between 6-8 weeks, but not later than the stipulated period of eight weeks, he said.

The Union Health Secretary has urged states and UTs to instruct the officials concerned accordingly to undertake necessary steps to widely disseminate the message of revised dosing interval amongst programme managers, vaccinators and recipients of Covishield vaccine and ensure adherence of the revised dosing interval, the ministry said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public and the existing allottees in the project-Amanvilas, Sector-89, Faridabad, that the ALLOTMENT of following units which were allotted to the allottees mentioned hereinbelow, **STANDS CANCELLED** in our records, due to breach of the terms of the allotment/agreement, i.e. **NON-PAYMENT** of the requisite agreed instalments several dispute demand letters, reminders and cancellation notices. Hence the duly registered/unregistered Buyers Agreement for the said units executed in favour of said allottees ALSO STAND CANCELLED.

S.No.	Name of Allottee	Unit No.	Buyers Agreement Regn no.	Buyers Agreement Date	Cancellation Letter Date
1.	Ashok Jain	LF/G/042/GF/N	9663	13-Mar-18	11-Jan-21
2.	Rimsha Begum	LF/G/010/GF/N	8864	20-Nov-18	11-Jan-21
3.	Ravinder Singh	LF/G/010/FF/N	9369	4-Dec-18	11-Jan-21

all units located in the project-Amanvilas, Sector-89, Faridabad.

All the members of the General Public are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with allottees/anyone with respect to the said units. As the allotment of the said units stand cancelled in the records of the company, the company shall be at liberty to alienate/sell/book/allot the said units to any other third party.

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4	4K Ultra Handy cam Video Camera	5	2,000/-	14,000/-	3rd Tender
5	Mobile Digital Evidence Extraction and Analyzing Tool Kit	1	2,000/-	50,000/-	4th Tender
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4. **Tender Schedule :**

No.	Tender Activity	Tentative Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries- through e-mail: sec24-sb@mppolice.gov.in	02/04/2021 up to 1700 hrs.
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	03/04/2021 at 1200 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	15/04/2021 at 1000 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	23/04/2021 up to 1700 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	24/04/2021 up to 1700 hrs.
vi	Demonstration from	
	For Item No. 1, 2 & 3	04/05/2021 at 1200 hrs.
	For Item No. 4, 5 & 6	05/05/2021 at 1200 hrs.

A. I. G. of Police
Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755- 2443654

G-21545/20 **दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।**

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Notice is hereby given that share certificate No. 18361 for 100 Equity shares of Rs. 10/- each bearing Distinctive Nos. 1834201-1834300 of Eicher Motors Ltd, having its registered office at 3rd Floor, Select Citywalk, A-3 District City Centre, Saket New Delhi-110017 registered in the name of Raju have been lost, Raju (Name of the holder) have applied to the company for issue duplicate share certificate. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said share certificate should lodge such claim with the company within 15 days of the publication of this notice.

Place: Delhi **Date:** 23.03.2020

AAP Govt OK's 100 schools of specialised excellence in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to provide the right platform for children to nurture the talent and make them excel in areas of their specialised interests, Delhi Cabinet on Monday approved the establishment of about 100 schools of specialised excellence in the national Capital.

These schools will focus on providing holistic and experiential learning opportunities through state-of-the-art infrastructure, creativity and problem-solving focused learning and teaching, strong partnerships with universities and industry leaders, mentorship schemes and easy access to role models, in order to empower students to achieve their highest potential.

Education Minister Manish Sisodia said, "We are going to live in an era of specialization and excellence. Our children need an opportunity to be ready for the next generation challenges. Every child is unique and gifted and we want to ensure that they get the opportunity and the support to achieve higher success in their lives. These schools will provide the right platform for our children to nurture their talent and excel in areas of their specialized interests."

As per the proposal, these schools will be choice-based and cover grades 9 to 12, i.e. the last four years in the 5+3+3+4 framework of schooling introduced by the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

The decision was taken to serve the needs of "gifted" students studying in government

schools of Delhi. The Delhi Government plans to establish 'Schools of Specialized Excellence' that will cater to students who are gifted in various areas of study such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Performing and Visual Arts, Humanities and high end 21st century skills.

"These schools hold the potential to serve as examples of how providing the correct environment and opportunities to students can catapult them from even the most marginalized backgrounds to great heights of success in various fields. These schools will act as hubs of excellence in their respective zones and provide other schools with the inspiration and technical know-how to foster excellence," he added.

L-G chairs review meet to discuss rise in Covid cases

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal on Monday chaired the review meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to discuss the alarming rise in Covid-19 cases in the national Capital.

The meeting was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Health Minister Satyendar Jain, Kailash Gahlot, Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev, Commissioner of Police, director of 'All India Institute of Medical Sciences' Dr R. Guleria and Professor Balram Bhargava of ICMR and other senior officials from different civic authorities.

"Chaired the 19th meeting of DDMA to review the #Covid19 situation in Delhi and the ongoing vaccination exercise," he tweeted.

Bajjal asked authorities to be more vigilant and ensure strict enforcement of Covid appropriate behaviour considering the rising number of cases in Delhi.

"After detailed deliberations with experts and keeping in view the recent increase in Covid-19 cases in Delhi, the need to be more vigilant and ensuring strict enforcement of Covid appropriate behaviour was emphasized upon," he said.

"In view of the upcoming festivals, the need for more caution and regulation was stressed upon and random testing at airport and railway stations- particularly of passengers coming from states with high incidence of COVID cases, needed to be done," he said in another tweet.

"As advised by experts, it was decided to continue with the existing strategy of cluster based surveillance, testing and genome sequencing," he tweeted.

Reiterated the need to ramp up vaccine coverage with greater outreach and focused IEC campaign, with special emphasis on senior citizens and marginalized/poor sections without access to digital platform.

Four members of 'pagal gang', including 1 minor, held for looting Delhiites

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of three men and one juvenile, the Delhi Police on Monday claimed to have busted 'pagal gang' who used to often fire shots on the victims during the robbery and vehicle loot. Police said that the gang had committed several robberies and vehicle theft and shot at various people in the last three weeks.

The accused have been identified as Sahil (24), a resident of Ghonda, Sahil (21) alias Fazal, a resident of Bhramपुरी and Aakash (22), a resident of Jahangirपुरी. Police said that the accused are involved in several cases of attempt to murder, robbery, snatching and motor vehicle thefts across the National Capital.

According to Anto Alphonse, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district, on March 18, Aakash and one juvenile, both members of the gang were nabbed by the police team and one country made pistol with three live cartridges were recovered by the police team.

"During investigation, three more bikes which were recently stolen from Usmanpur, Paharganj and Jafrabad area and one Gym/training bag robbed from the area of Model Town were recovered at their instance," said the DCP.

"While after receiving specific inputs regarding two more members of the gang on March 20, a trap was laid and Sahil and Fazal were nabbed by the police team. The accused persons disclosed that both had come to take the money of the robbed and stolen phones

from the receiver Azeem (whose name has earlier also came to the notice police in earlier cases also and is evading his arrest), which were sold to him," said the DCP.

"The bike recovered from the possession of the accused was found to be stolen from the area of Govindपुरी police station," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, some startling facts came to notice. It was revealed that all brothers of the apprehended CCL are in crime. In fact his all three brothers are in judicial custody in various cases including murder. It has facilitated the entry of juvenile into the world of crime. He came into contact of Aakash through some common friend. Aakash and juvenile has committed a series of crime in one single night (actually in three hours)," said the DCP.

"In this one night, the duo stole two bikes, fired at two innocent persons including one juvenile, robbed several mobiles. In Shalimar Bagh area, they had injured an 11 years boy on his shoulder, while in the other case of Civil Line area, the victim sustained two bullet injuries on his leg," said the DCP.

"The Pagal gang is infamous for opening fire without much thinking during armed robberies. Aakash. The gang used to commit the snatching or robbery on stolen bikes and scooter and after use, they left the bike before fleeing away. They took many precautions to evade their arrest like using different bikes for committing different robbery and snatching to avoid being noticed and apprehended," said the DCP.

Govt to create 22 posts of DHJS

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will create 42 additional posts of Delhi Higher Judicial Services (DHJS) on Monday in the super time scale for commercial court judges along with the ancillary staff. Besides that, 22 commercial courts will also be established in Delhi.

In the meeting, the Delhi Cabinet approved various decisions in regards to the Department of Law.

The Cabinet noted that as per the data analysis carried out by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, it was found that as against the world best practice towards timeline for disposal of commercial disputes is 164 days. Delhi is taking 747 days in deciding a commercial dispute as against



Mumbai which is taking only 182 days.

Delhi Law Minister Kailash Gahlot said "The Government has been consistently focusing on improving 'Ease of Doing Business'. Today's decision is not just another step towards meeting targets, but also one that has been taken after referring to global best practices on fast and efficient redressal of commercial disputes.

22-year-old man kills friend for demanding sexual favour

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man allegedly murdered his friend in East Delhi's Trilokपुरी area in the wee hours of Monday. The accused told the cops that he took this step as the victim used to ask him for sexual favours.

The victim has been identified as Bharat (32) while the accused has been identified as Monu, both residents of Trilokपुरी area.

According to Deepak Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East district, at around 4.30 am Monu murdered his friend Bharat by smashing the victim's head with a heavy stone lying near the road side on Vasundhara road.

"After committing the crime Monu was headed towards the police station when he was noticed by an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) team. Upon questioning about blood



stains on clothes he told the police team that he had murdered his friend," said the DCP.

"Monu also told police that he had committed this murder as the victim used to ask him for sexual favours. Subsequently, a police team reached the place where crime had occurred and the dead body was

recovered at the instance of the accused," said the police official privy to the investigation.

"An First Information Report (FIR) under section 302 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered in Mayur Vihar police station and the accused has been placed under arrest," said the police official.

'GNCTD BILL INSULT TO DELHIITES'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

While the Lok Sabha on Monday passed the GNCTD amendment act 2021 on Monday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the passage of the Bill is an insult to the people of Delhi.

Taking it to twitter, Kejriwal tweeted: Passage of GNCTD amendment Bill in Lok Sabha today is an

insult to the people of Delhi.

The Bill effectively takes away powers from those who were voted by people and gives powers to run Delhi to those who were defeated. BJP has cheated the people.

However, the Centre has claimed that the bill has brought to end the ambiguity in running the affairs of the national Capital.

CONSTABLE KILLED BY HIS 2 BROTHERS OVER PROPERTY DISPUTE

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI/ALIGARH

Following a dispute over property, a Delhi Police head constable was allegedly killed by his two brothers and a nephew when he was on his way back to Delhi on a bike on Sunday evening. Uttar Pradesh

Police said that manhunt has been initiated to nab the accused who are on the run.

The Head Constable has been identified as Amarpal (50), who was attacked by the accused with clubs at Data Khurd village under the Pisawa police station area near Aligarh.

A dispute over property led to the killing, police said, adding that Amarpal was left bleeding profusely after which the villagers raised an alarm and informed his sister.

Amarpal was rushed to the district hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Shubham Patel,

Superintendent of Police (SP), Rural, Aligarh, told reporters that according to a report filed by the victim's family, the assailants included his two brothers--Mahaveer Singh and Nepal Singh--and a nephew.

Patel said special teams have been formed to trace the assailants, who are on the run.

Man held for cheating people of ₹8L on pretext of providing them ration

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly cheating people of ₹8 lakh on the pretext of providing them ration for 15 months, police said on Monday.

The accused has been identified as Rajesh Kumar Bhartiya, a resident of Nangloi, they said.

The complainant named Harish Kumar, along with 534 others, alleged that an NGO — Target Welfare Association — which was being run by Bhartiya and others introduced a scheme wherein they charged a membership fee of Rs 1,500 per person for distributing of ration -- flour, rice, sugar and oil -- for a period of 15 months, police said.

The NGO operated the scheme at different places through regular branches, they said.

The complainant alleged that the NGO neither supplied the ration nor answered phone calls when people tried to contact them. They disappeared with all the money collected via membership fee, police said.

"During investigation, it was revealed that Bhartiya was the main person who ran this scheme. Police arrested him from Nangloi area on Friday," Deputy Commissioner of Police (EOW) Mohammad Ali said.

Police said the accused issued membership to the people and charged ₹1,500 from them, and also provided them a "ration card".

Over 800 Covid-19 cases in city for 3rd day in row; 7 fatalities push toll to 10,963

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital reported over 800 coronavirus cases for the third day on the trot on Monday, while seven people succumbed to viral disease, the highest since February 4, the Health Department said.

The number of active cases rose to 3,934 from 3,618 a day ago, while the case positivity remained over 1 per cent for the third consecutive day, according to a bulletin.

The 888 new infections, the highest in nearly three months, pushed the tally of Covid-19 cases reported in the city till now to 6,48,872, while 6.33 lakh patients have recovered from the disease.

Delhi had registered 823 cases on Sunday, 813 on Saturday, 716 on Friday, 607 on

Thursday, 536 on Wednesday and 425 on Tuesday, according to official data.

The number of fatalities in the national capital linked to Covid-19 has risen to 10,963 with seven people dying from the pathogen in a day. The was the highest since February 4 when a similar number of fatalities were recorded.

A total of 67,418 tests, including 48,981 RT-PCR, were conducted on Sunday, as the positivity rate rose to 1.32 from 1.03 per cent a day ago, the bulletin said. The number of people under home isolation rose to 2,067 from 1,893 a day ago while containment zones increased to 805 from 766 on Sunday. The Covid-19 case-load in Delhi on January 1 had stood at over 6.25 lakh and total fatalities were 10,557.

MCG opens 2nd 'Bartan Bank' to discourage single-use plastic

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has gone one step further in the fight against single use plastic and polythene.

Under this initiative, the MCG opened its second 'Bartan Bank' in Ward-29 on Monday in the civic body limits.

The bank was launched by MCG Commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh, BJP District President Gargi Kakkar and Joint Commissioner, MCG (Swachh Bharat Mission) Dheeraj Kumar. Earlier, the MCG's first Bartan Bank was started in ward-13.

"We want the public to adopt the habit of using steel



utensils which cause no harm to the environment," Singh said during the event.

"We are unknowingly polluting the environment, which is a matter of concern. Therefore, it becomes a moral responsibility of all of us to stop using single use plastic and polythene. Bartan bank is a very important step in this fight

this, everyone needs to take care of the cleanliness of his house as well as the surrounding area.

Joint Commissioner (Swachh Bharat Mission) Dheeraj Kumar said that the next phase of Swachh Bharat Mission is to save the existence of mankind. This is the truth, which is related to the health of our children.

"We should not take lightly the matter of segregation of garbage, as it is a serious matter. By using single use plastic and polythene, we will be able to build a clean and healthy society for our next generation only by shutting down and managing the waste. We should include waste management in our agenda," Kumar said.

against single use plastic and polythene. All residential societies should make such arrangements with themselves, so that they can be used instead of plastic utensils at events," Singh added.

BJP District President Gargi Kakkar in his address said that we have to build a clean and healthy society. For

मेरा रंग दे बसंती चोला

शहीद सुखदेव, शहीद भगत सिंह, शहीद राजगुरु

माँ भारती के तीर सपूतों
भगत सिंह, राजगुरु और सुखदेव
के
शहीदी दिवस
के अवसर पर हरियाणावासियों का शत-शत नमन

23 मार्च, 2021

“प्राणों का मोह न करने वाले वीरों की है यह धरती आजादी के मतवाले रणधीरों की है यह धरती करुं मैं नमन उनको जो अमर शहीद हो गए देश की आजादी की खातिर तिरनिद्रा में सो गए”

- मनोहर लाल, मुख्यमंत्री, हरियाणा

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Uproar in RS over charges against Maha HM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Monday witnessed uproarious scenes over corruption allegations against the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress ruled coalition Government in Maharashtra. As soon as the Question Hour began in the Upper House after a four-day break, the treasury bench members raised the Maharashtra issue with Deputy Chairman Hariwansh, who was on the Chair, asking them to allow the proceedings. Raja Sabha proceedings were adjourned till 2 pm and after the resumption business continued with one Bill also passed over voice vote.

The protests were in connection with former Mumbai Police chief Param Bir Singh's claim that Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh wanted police officers to collect ₹100 crore monthly from bars and hotels in Mumbai. Singh, who was transferred to the low-key Home Guards department on March 17 following the arrest of police officer Sachin Waze in the case related to the bomb scare near Mukesh Ambani's house Antilia, in a letter to the Maharashtra Chief Minister had claimed that he was made a scapegoat.

As the treasury bench members continued raising the issue, Deputy Chairman Hariwansh stood up and requested members to ask their supplementary questions to

ministers. Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi answered supplementaries. Hariwansh urged members several times to allow the Question Hour and requested them to take their seats.

Amid the din, Congress member Chhaya Verma asked Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar about provisions provided by the Centre on the destruction of crops in various States by wildlife and added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also expressed concern over the issue. However, Javadekar said he was unable to hear anything and tried to raise the Maharashtra issue.

"What she is asking, I could not hear," he said referring to the Maharashtra issue, prompting the Chair to adjourn the House till 2 pm at 12.11 pm. The trouble in the Upper House had started a few minutes before the Question Hour at 12 noon.

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu repeatedly asked the agitating members to sit down. "What is happening? Both sides must understand, nothing will be shown (on TV) and go on records," Naidu said. Naidu stressed he has not allowed anybody to make mention of any State and level allegations. "I have not received any notice. Without notice how can I allow anybody," he said. The House then proceeded for Question Hour amid uproar.

BJP seeks resignation of MVA Government

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday demanded the resignation of the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government in the light of former Mumbai Police Commissioner Parama Bir Singh's claim that the State's Home Minister Anil Deshmukh set a ₹100-crore collection target for the police every month, and sought a CBI probe into the allegation as Shiv Sena claimed that the BJP has hatched a conspiracy to defame the MVA dispensation for the last 14 months so that a BJP Government can be installed in Mumbai.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in Lok Sabha amid protests by the Shiv Sena and the NCP, BJP member Manoj Kotak said that according to Singh's letter to the chief minister, the state's home minister had asked suspended Assistant Police Inspector (API) Sachin Waze to collect ₹100 crore from 1,742 bars and restaurants in the metropolis every month.

Kotak said the letter reflected that those who are in the Government were using officials in collecting money but the Chief Minister so far has not uttered a single word on the issue.

"It is a serious matter. The home minister should resign, the Maharashtra government should resign and there

should be a CBI inquiry into the whole issue," he said. BJP member Rakesh Singh said that the issue is so serious that it can't be termed a state subject as it has a national implication.

Singh said that the former police commissioner's letter showed that the top functionaries of the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress Government were involved in collecting huge amounts of money through illegal means.

"The allegation against the state home minister was made by none other than the former police commissioner. What was the compulsion of the chief minister to defend an API-rank official, who was in suspension for 16 years, in a press conference," he asked.

Singh claimed that a senior politician from the state had changed his stand after telling that it was a serious matter and there should be an inquiry into it.

"What is the fear. Is there any fear of spilling the beans about those who get cut. If ₹100 crore collected from Mumbai alone, what would be the figure for the entire Maharashtra," he asked.

He demanded that the MVA Government should immediately resign and there should be an impartial inquiry into it.

Another BJP member Kapil Patil said that it was not for the first time that such a

letter has been written by a senior police officer and even a DGP-rank officer had also written a similar letter in the past.

"A senior leader had said that it is a serious matter but he changed his tune overnight. What is the fear? Fear of spilling the beans," he asked.

However, Shiv Sena member Vinayak Raut strongly defended the MVA Government and claimed that the BJP has been hatching a conspiracy to defame the Shiv Sena-Congress-NCP dispensation for the last 14 months so that a BJP government can be installed in Mumbai.

"The issue is nothing but part of BJP's big conspiracy," he claimed. Raut also accused the former Mumbai police commissioner who wrote the sensational letter as the "most corrupt police officer".

Minister of State Anurag Thakur also demanded appropriate action by the Maharashtra Government over the allegations of corruption by former Mumbai police chief against state Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

Speaking during the Question Hour in Lok Sabha, Thakur noted that the allegation that Deshmukh wanted police officers to collect ₹100 crore per month, is a "matter of concern," he said.

Def Min inks contract with desi firm for 1,300 light specialist vehicles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a further boost to the 'Make in India' initiative in the crucial defence manufacturing sector, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday signed a contract with Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd (MDSL) for supply of 1,300 Light Specialist Vehicles to the Indian Army at a cost of ₹1,056 crore.

The induction of these vehicles manufactured by the prestigious Indian private sector player is planned to be completed in four years.

The Light Specialist Vehicle is a modern fighting vehicle and will be authorised to various fighting units for carriage of Medium Machine Guns, Automatic Grenade Launchers as well as Anti-tank Guided Missiles.

The Light Specialist Vehicle is indigenously designed and developed by MDSL. These combat vehicles are extremely agile with all round protection against small arms fire and will assist small independent detachments which are required to operate this weapon platform in the operational area.

This is a flagship project showcasing the indigenous manufacturing capabilities of the defence industry and will add another milestone to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector.

The ministry last year banned 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.

(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 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 will further enhance the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government.

This project was 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 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.

Saradha ponzi scheme

CBI raids offices of 3 SEBI officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Monday carried out searches at the offices of three senior Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) officials in connection with their alleged role in saving Saradha ponzi scheme operators.

The three officers whose premises were searched are Chief General Managers Jayanta Jash and Jeevan Sonparote posted in the Investigation Department and Corporate Finance of SEBI respectively and Deputy General Manager Prasenjit Dey of the Investigation Department, sources said.

There are multiple FIRs against the Saradha Group in West Bengal, in which it has been alleged that thousands of investors were allegedly lured into investing in the Ponzi scheme and duped to the tune of several crores by the company officials and their associates who swindled their deposits.

The Supreme Court had handed over the Saradha chit fund scam probe to the CBI and directed the State governments concerned to provide all logistical help to the agency team investigating the matter.

Meanwhile, the agency has summoned West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee to appear before its Kolkata office on Tuesday for questioning in the ICORE chit fund scam.

IN SHORT

SC: CAN'T FORCE STATES TO FILE REPLIES ON MANUAL SCAVENGING
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday observed that it cannot compel States to file their replies on the issue of manual scavenging, and said it will proceed with the hearing on the plea related to it. A Bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian listed the matter for further hearing in the third week of August.

EC SEEKS REPORT IN BURDWAN DIST BLAST
New Delhi: The Election Commission has sought a report from Burdwan district administration and State Chief Secretary within 24 hours over the incident of a blast in the district where a child died on Monday. The incident happened around 11 am in Rasikpur's Subhaspally area of the city. Meanwhile a Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commissioners along with senior officials to visit West Bengal to review poll preparedness ahead of the first phase of West Bengal Assembly poll.

SC TO HEAR PLEAS ON ARREST OF NRI HUSBANDS
New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday said it would hear in July the pleas seeking mandatory arrest of NRI husbands for deserting their wives and harassing them for dowry. A Bench of Chief Justice Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian was told by senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioner group of women, that pleading has been completed in the matter and he is ready to argue the case.

MINES AND MINERAL BILL PASSED IN RS



New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha on Monday passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill which will help create employment opportunities and allow the private sector with enhanced technology in mining activities. Union Minister for Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi said the Bill will not curb the powers of States, as claimed by some opposition parties. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha through a voice vote amid the Opposition's demand that it be sent to a select committee for scrutiny.

800 soldiers committed suicide since 2014



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 800 soldiers died by suicide since 2014 in the three Services besides 20 cases of fratricide, the Government informed Parliament on Monday.

This written reply in the Rajya Sabha underscored the need to maintain the temp of reforms within the armed forces to evolve an ethos wherein such incidents come down immediately.

Giving details, the Government said while the Army recorded 591 cases, the IAF reported 160 while the Navy saw 36 in the last seven years.

The defence forces had taken several measures some years back when cases of fratricide wherein soldiers killing their superiors and colleagues and suicides saw a spike. The steps included more relaxed leave norms to allow the jawans to attend to their families in far flung villages, stress management in insurgency and terrorism hit areas and regular interaction with senior officers.

Given the make-up of the armed forces with soldiers coming mostly from rural background, the defence forces also urged the local administration of their villages to attend to their cases of dispute if any with empathy and speed.

Every penny of MGNREGA funds to be spent on rain water conservation: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With water shortage becoming a major concern all across the country, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on Monday launched 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' Campaign for conserving water and stressed that every penny of MGNREGA funds be spent on rain water conservation till the monsoon arrives.

Modi said it is a matter of concern that majority of rain water in India gets wasted. He said that more the rain water is conserved, the less will be the dependence on groundwater.

The Prime Minister urged that every penny of MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) funds be spent on rain water conservation till the monsoon arrives. The event was also attended by a number of panches and sarpanches from across the country. Participating through virtual mode, some of them also shared their experiences towards water conservation.

Modi said India's self-sufficiency is dependent on its

water resources and water connectivity, and its fast-paced development is not possible without effective water conservation. He also urged the people to use water judiciously. The 'Catch the Rain' campaign will be undertaken across the country, in both rural and urban areas. It will be implemented from March 22 to November 30 - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period in the country.

The campaign aims to take water conservation at grass-root level through people's participation. It is intended to nudge all stakeholders to create rainwater harvesting structures suitable to the climatic conditions and subsoil strata, to ensure proper storage of rainwater.

A Memorandum of Agreement was also signed online between the Union Minister of Jal Shakti and the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to implement the Ken Betwa Link Project, the first project of the National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers, in the presence of the Prime Minister.

NIA chargesheets Hizbul gunners, financier

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed a chargesheet against two gunrunners and one financier of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in disgraced Jammu and Kashmir police Deputy Superintendent of Police Devender Singh Case.

On Monday, the NIA filed a supplementary chargesheet against three accused persons namely Shaheen Ahmad Lone, Tafazzul Hussain Parimoo and Waheed-ur-Rahman Para under IPC Sections relating to criminal conspiracy and relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act before the NIA Special Court Jammu.

"This case arose out of PS Qazigund, Kulgam FIR No. 05/2020 dated 11.01.2020 after apprehension of two terrorists of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) namely Syed Naveed Mushtaq, the then District Commander of HM for the district Shopian and Ganderbal and Rafi Ahmad Rather along with one



serving DSP of J&K Police, Devender Singh and Advocate Irfan Shafi Mir, near Al-Stop Naka, Qazigund while they were travelling from Srinagar to Jammu in a Hyundai i20 car owned and driven by accused Advocate Irfan Shafi Mir," the NIA said in a statement.

The NIA had re-registered the case and took over the investigation. NIA had earlier filed chargesheet against eight accused in this case.

Investigation has revealed that chargesheeted accused Shaheen Ahmad Lone and Tafazzul Hussain Parimoo were involved in gun running from across the LoC for the militants of banned terrorist

organisations Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) and Lashkar e Taiba (LeT) and were also channelizing funds to the militants for sustaining terrorist activities in J&K at the behest of handlers located in Pakistan, it said.

Investigation has also revealed that chargesheeted accused Waheed-ur-Rahman Para was part of the conspiracy for raising and transferring of terror funds to HM militants for procurement of terrorist hardware and was also a crucial player in sustaining political-separatist-terrorist nexus in J&K. Further investigation in the case is continuing, it added.

Bangabandhu slected for Gandhi Peace Prize 2020

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 is being conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. And the prestigious prize for the year 2019 is being conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman in recognition of his vision to strengthen relations with India, and his efforts to promote peace and non-violence in the Gulf region, the Culture Ministry announced on Monday.

The decision to confer the award for 2020 on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh, his first foreign trip since the outbreak of Covid-19. Modi will attend the national day programme of Bangladesh on March 26.

The Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the government of India since 1995, the 125th birth anniversary commemoration year of Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all people regardless of nationality, race, language, caste,

creed or sex.

The jury for Gandhi Peace Prize is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprises two ex-officio members, namely the chief justice of India and leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Gandhi Peace Prize 2019 being conferred on His Late Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman is a fitting recognition of His Majesty's standing as a leader of remarkable compassion, and of his contributions to furthering peace and prosperity in the region."

Two eminent members are also part of the jury — Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and Bindeshwar Pathak, Founder of Sulabh International Social Service Organisation.

The jury met on March 19, 2021 and after due deliberations, unanimously decided to select Bangladesh's father of the nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and Oman's longtime ruler Sultan Qaboos for the prize, an official statement said.

EC bans bike rally 72 hours before voting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday announced a ban on bike rallies 72 hours before voting takes place in poll-bound States in coming weeks. This has been done because the commission came to know that these rallies are being used to intimidate voters. Officials said that complaints were received during the Commission's visit from several political parties that bike rallies are resorted to intimidate the voters in the last couple of days before the poll.

In a directive issued to chief electoral officers of poll-bound West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Puducherry, the EC pointed out that it has been brought to its notice that "in some places bikes are used by anti-social elements to intimidate the voters before the poll day and/or on poll day."

"After considering the reports, the Commission has decided that 'bike rallies shall not be allowed at any place 72 hours before the date of poll or on the poll day in all poll-going constituencies," the directive said.

The EC also asked its chief electoral officers to inform all stakeholders concerned, including candidates, political parties and the Commission's observers, to ensure strict compliance of the



directions.

Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry will be held in a single phase on April 6.

Besides these states, elections will also be held in Assam and West Bengal between March 27 and April 29 in three and eight phases, respectively. The counting of votes in all the four states and the Union Territory will be held on May 2.

Five States account for 80% of new Covid cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Just five States—Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh—have contributed a major chunk, as high as 80 per cent of the total 46,951 new Covid cases registered on Monday across the country, the highest single day rise so far this year. The Union Health Ministry said that the country's total active caseload has increased to 3,34,646 comprising 2.87 per cent of India's total infections. A total of 212 deaths have been reported in a day.

Maharashtra continues to top the list of highest daily new cases on Monday too with 30,535 (65.03 per cent), followed by Punjab with 2,644 while Kerala reported 1,875 new cases in the last 24 hours. Eight states including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka and Haryana are displaying an upward trajectory in the daily new Covid-19 cases, the Ministry said.

A net rise of 25,559 cases has been added to the total active caseload in a span of 24 hours while the daily positivity rate (7-day average) currently stands at 3.70 per cent, the Ministry said.

In what could be a worrying trend, eight States/UTs -- Maharashtra, Chandigarh, Punjab, Puducherry, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Haryana have a weekly positivity rate more than the national average of 3.7 per cent.

Maharashtra has conducted 1,78,00,438 total tests and has a positivity rate of 13.93 per cent followed by Tamil Nadu which has conducted 1,78,13,593 tests and has a positivity rate of 4.87 per cent.

Haryana has so far tested 58,19,748 samples and has a positivity rate 4.81 per cent. Karnataka has tested 2,05,49,434 tests and has a positivity rate of 4.72 per cent.

Madhya Pradesh and Delhi have conducted 59,31,486 and 1,39,44,512 tests so far and both have a positivity rate of 4.65 per cent.

BJP never fulfils poll promises: Didi 'I bow my head to martyrs'

CRUDE BOMB KILLS CHILD, INJURES OTHER IN BURDWAN

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has rejected the BJP's election manifesto as "high-sounding nothing" as the party "makes tall promises during the elections but seldom follows them up."

"They are making all kinds of tall promises but go and see how they have performed in the States where they are in power ... they never fulfill their promises. They are telling that they will give you free ration but all this is false as they will never fulfill this," Banerjee told two elections rallies in Bankura.

Reminding of promises made by the BJP before it came

to power in 2014 Banerjee said "they said that they will give Rs 15 lakh to every family. Did they bring that money? Now you ask Narendra Modi about the Rs 15 lakh that he promised before the elections... Did they provide 2 crore jobs that they promised? ... Did they bring out the black money after Notebandi? ... So first ask them to fulfill the earlier promises before making these new ones."

Home Minister Amit Shah had on Sunday rolled out a lengthy list of promises that included free ration and education, health schemes, large-scale development in health and hospitality industry apart from job generation projects that would together transform

Bengal into Sonar Bangla (golden Bengal).

Once again raising the "outsider issue" Banerjee said "the outsider goons who are coming to Bengal in large numbers to breach the peace and tranquility of this region will dictate life if they come to power in this State ... they will dictate what people should eat what they should not, they will decide what women should wear and what they should not." Attacking the Prime Minister for letting the name of a cricket stadium in Gujarat to be named after him Banerjee said, "today Modi has made a stadium after his name... tomorrow he will make himself seem bigger than BR Ambedkar."

On the divestment of Government concerns she said "they are selling everything from SAIL to Rail to banks to BSNL to Air India to LIC

everything ... tomorrow they will sell out the entire country ... if they are allowed to continue in power for too long... so let their defeat start from Bengal because after being defeated in Bengal their throne will start trembling in Delhi and soon they will be out of power from there."

Asking the people, particularly women to chase away the alleged BJP goons with their rolling pins, and other kitchen tools if they come to loot their votes, Banerjee said "the people of Bengal will have to remain alert every moment to protect their rights." Bengal will go to polls in eight phases from March 27 to April 29. Meanwhile in a related development the Election Commission of India sought reports from the Burdwan district administration after an 11-year-old child was killed and

another one was severely injured when a crude bomb that they were playing with went off at the Subhashpally area of the city.

The local police said that Sheikh Afroz (7) and Sheikh Ibrahim (9) were playing near their house when they hit a packet in which the crude bombs were kept. The bombs inside it went off immediately killing Afroz on the spot while Ibrahim was admitted to hospital for treatment in the hospital.

While the BJP immediately said that bombs were the part of the huge arsenal that the TMC had amassed throughout the State for use on election days the EC directed the Burdwan district administration, State Chief Secretary and Director General of Police to submit a report on the incident within 24 hours.

BY DR RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'

Death won't be able to kill my patriotism; my country's fragrance will come even from my grave!

These were the lines uttered by the trinity of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, the emblem of endurance, grit, valour, fearlessness, sacrifice and patriotism. These lines are the testimony of their love for the Bharatmata. At the age of 22-23, the trio has shown us the path of pure patriotism. On the occasion of "Shahididwas" I bow my head to these three luminaries of India's struggle for independence and many other Bravehearts who have selflessly devoted their lives to the country.

I urge all the students in India to learn the values from Shahid-e-Azamand his companions. They were aggressive but compassionate, determined but composed and committed to the cause. The 3Cs of Compassion, Commitment and Courage will be a mantra that will help you in facing different phases of life and keep you motivated.

Shaheed Bhagat Singh ji has imbibed the core values of Indian traditions and advocated for a plural, inclusive and egalitarian society. He was a voracious reader, thinker and philosopher. His passion for reading was so much that he has read hundreds of books during his lifetime.

His reading was diverse and included books in biology, economics, polity, poetry and philosophy. According to one of his biographies, he has read around 50 books during his years in the school (1913-21), around 200 books in his days at the college and approximately 300 books during two years before his ultimate sacrifice on 23rd March 1931. Perhaps this may be the reason for his intelligence, scientific temper, sense of justice and thought-provoking ideation. He was a deep thinker and

understood the nuances of life and its ultimate purpose.

I encourage all the students to read and share with their friends and classmates. Students can add an endeavour of one book-one month to their lifestyle.

In this initiative, you read one book every month and share the book, its findings, your experiences and observations with your fellow mates. I also request all the teachers and guardians to provide diverse reading opportunities to our energetic youth. Childhood and young age leave a lasting impression and prepare oneself to become an active contributor to society.

Reading shapes the thinking and makes it coherent, concrete and constructive. It will enable students to express their thoughts to the wider audience effectively. Bhagat Singh started public writing at the age of 16 when he wrote on complex issues like universal brotherhood and agrarian issues in Punjab. Bhagat Singh was so determined from his childhood that he kept the soil of Jalianwala with him always to remember his life's purpose. It is difficult to imagine such a level of vision and determination for the motherland from a teen-aged boy.

As Swami Vivekananda said, "Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea", Bhagat Singh has personified this and made the freedom of the motherland as his sole goal for life.

He was so compassionate that when they planned to "make the deaf (british raj)"; he tested the bombs so that they should not harm human lives and only make noise and smoke. When along with BatukeshwarDutt, he threw the bomb in the central assembly, they purposefully threw it at the place where it should not

hurt anyone; his purpose was to send the message to the British empire. Then he allowed the police there to arrest them peacefully.

He understood that his death would send a louder message than his life, along with Rajguru and Sukhdev happily embraced death singing "Mera rang de BasantiChola".

I come from the devbhoomi Uttarakhnad, also a veer bhumi as many from the state have laid their lives for the nation. I take great pride to represent the Himalayan state of Uttarakhnad in the parliament of India. Being the education minister of the country, I got to visit different vibrant campuses across the length and breadth of the country. Some days back, I attended the University of Delhi's convocation and was fortunate enough to visit the room in the vice-chancellor's office where the freedom fighters including Bhagat Singh were imprisoned during a court trial. I was overwhelmed by seeing the letters and other belongings of our Bravehearts.

I instructed the VC to make arrangements to make it convenient for students and teachers to visit the sacred place and get inspired. Bhagat Singh's idea was influenced by the Indian darshan of "equality and plurality" and he was a true patriot and not affiliated to any faction.

An epitome of his name (Bhagat), he was the true disciple of Bharatmata. We have to fulfil the dreams of our Shahids; we need to put our continuous efforts and energy into the India of their dreams. Under the leadership of a vibrant and dynamic prime minister, India's government is committed to these dreams. It leaves no stone unturned for Sabka-Sath and SabkaVikas by gaining Sabka Vishwas.

(The writer is Union Education Minister, Government of India)

9 of 19 terrorists killed this yr in encounters from Shopian

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The South Kashmir district of Shopian, also known as apple bowl of Kashmir, continue to pose a major challenge to the security forces in the region.

Out of 19 terrorists killed so far in nine different encounters this year nine of them hail from Shopian. Four security personnel including one army jawan and three JKP cops sacrificed their lives in these encounters.

Two top commanders Ghani Khawja and Sajjad Afghani were also gunned down in these operations.

In the latest encounter in Manihal area of Shopian four Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) terrorists were eliminated by the joint team of security forces early Monday morning. All these were active in the area for a period ranging between two to six months.

Briefing media persons along with GoC Victor Force, Major General Rashim Bali, Inspector General of Police Kashmir range Vijay Kumar Monday said, "Pakistani agen-

cies were still exploiting youth in Kashmir valley and using social media platforms to radicalise them before luring them away to join the ranks of different terror outfits".

The IGP identified the four LeT terrorists as Rayees Ahmad Bhat, Amir Shafi Mir, Yakub Ahmad Malik and Aftab Ahmad Wani while also confirming that an army soldier had been injured in the fire-fight. Three pistols and an AK rifle were recovered from the possession of these four terrorists, IGP said.

Commenting on the strategy of the security forces to motivate local terrorists to lay down their arms and ammunition even during the gun-fight, the IGP said after the first contact was established with the terrorists in Manihal village of Shopian wife and four year old son of a local terrorist was brought to the encounter site to motivate him to surrender. Ignoring repeated appeals and announcements the terrorists opened fire on the security forces which resulted in a brief firefight in which all four were neutralised.

J&K security forces gear up for Amarnath yatra

Jammu: Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir are gearing up in advance to conduct the incident free annual Amarnath pilgrimage beginning June 28 this year.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range Vijay Kumar Monday said, "the entire security grid will be beefed up ahead of the Amarnath yatra to ensure safety and security of the pilgrims".

On the threat of sticky bombs and IEDs, the IG said yatra routes would be fully sanitised, and there would be 24-hour patrolling and nakas.

"This time the (yatra) routes will not be left unsecured even during the night. There will be deployment, mobile bunker vehicle patrolling and NVD (night vision devices), and drones will also be used 24 hours," he said.

Describing sticky bombs as a problem but "not a big worry", Kumar said security vehicles will be fitted with 360-degree cameras and distance will be maintained with civilian vehicles.

He said, fool-proof security arrangements, including round-the-clock monitoring using CCTV cameras and drones, will be in place for the Amarnath Yatra this year.

"We are fully ready for the summer months. We have devised a plan and checkpoints will be increased, some camps will be shifted, and as we will get additional force after elections (in some states of the country), we will plug all the gaps... Pilgrims will not face any problems," Kumar said.

"Our officers go on the ground to physically check for chances of security lapses and to see whether additional forces are required or where drones can be used and equipment be placed and also for the placement of 24-hour nakas. We are fully alert, and there will be fool-proof security arrangements," Kumar added.

"I am sure the public will support us fully. There will be a time factor also a time frame for the yatra vehicles. They will not be allowed in a mix-way," he said, adding the yatra will be monitored through CCTV cameras and drones round-the-clock.

Brothers, nephews beat cop to death

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Village police constable Amarpal Singh, son of Ramkhalid of Data Khurd village was surrounded and beaten severely by brothers and nephews. Constable in critical condition was rushed to Malkhan Singh District Hospital where Dr declared him dead. All the accused are absconding since the incident. Complaint did not reach the police station till late at night on Sunday.

Amarpal Singh, 50, a resident of village Data Khurd, was a constable in the Delhi Police. He, along with his family, lived in the police line at Anand Vihar, New Delhi. He has 28 bighas of ancestral farming land in the village. He had bought some more land, due to which he used to come to the village.

Setback for BJP as Kerala HC declines to interfere in EC decision

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in Kerala suffered a major setback on Monday as the Kerala High Court declined to interfere in the decision of the Election Commission of India rejecting the nomination papers filed by three candidates for the April 6 election to the State assembly.

Justice N Nagresh of the Kerala High Court, who heard the petitions filed by N Haridas and Niveditha Subramanian (BJP candidates of Thalasseri and Guruvayur respectively) and Dhanalakshmi (AIADMK candidate of Devikulam) challenging the rejection of their nomination papers by the concerned returning officers, said

that once the Election Commission begins the election process the Court has no role in it. "The complainants can approach the court with their grievances after the results are declared. There are Supreme Court verdicts which say that the courts should not interfere in the poll process once the Election Commission issues poll notification," said the judge.

The nomination papers of N Haridas and Niveditha were rejected on the ground that their papers did not carry the signatures of the national and State presidents of the BJP. "It was not a fatal mistake and this could have been resolved by giving them some more time. But the rules are clear and I feel

the candidates were not careful while submitting the papers. They should have double checked the papers to ensure that everything was in order," said K Ramkumar, senior advocate, High Court who represented the candidates.

The rejection of the nomination papers has given rise to a major controversy in Kerala with the CPI(M) and the Congress alleging each other of making deals with the Hindutwa party. Though the BJP is not strong enough to register wins in both the constituencies, the party has the potential to cause damages to the rivals.

K N A Khader of the Muslim League is the UDF candidate from Guruvayur.

The Muslim League leader created a furor by offering prayers at the famous Lord Krishna temple in the constituency before filing his nomination and this earned him the wrath of the conservatives and orthodoxy in the community.

The CPI(M) candidate is N K Akbar. Though the township boasts of the ancient Lord Krishna Temple, the constituency has a considerable Muslim population. In the 2016 assembly election, the CPI(M) candidate K V abdul Khader had won from Guruvayur defeating the Muslim League candidate by a majority of 16,000 votes. Niveditha who was the BJP candidate had polled more than 25,000 votes.

TN polls: Gadkari, VK Singh release BJP manifesto

Chennai: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday released its manifesto for the upcoming assembly elections in Tamil Nadu. The vision document was unveiled by the Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and VK Singh at the party headquarters in Chennai in presence of other party leaders.

While speaking after the launch, Gadkari expressed confidence that NDA will emerge victorious in the assembly polls. "I am confident that NDA will

get the majority in Tamil Nadu. We will have a new government and Tamil Nadu will be developed as a progressive state," he said. Click here to read BJP's entire manifesto for the Tamil Nadu elections.

Key highlights of BJP manifesto:

50 lakh new employment opportunities will be created. Fishermen assistance of Rs. 6000 per year would be provided like it's being provided for farmers. Tamil Nadu will be

made Number 1 state in South India in Ease of Doing Business. 12 Lakh acres of Panchami Land will be recovered and handed over back to Scheduled Caste people of Tamil Nadu The administration of Hindu temples will be handed over to a separate board comprising Hindu scholars and saints. Total prohibition will be implemented in the state Free two-wheeler driving license will be issued to girls aged between 18 and 23. Free

Tablets will be provided to 8th and 9th-grade students Separate Budget for Agriculture All essential commodities that are distributed through the Tamil Nadu Public Distribution System will be delivered to homes directly for all electronic ration cardholders Government Multi-specialty hospitals will be established at all district headquarters in the state and treatment will be provided free of cost Under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

BRO starts work on Manali-Leh axis

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After throwing open the strategically important Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road in the first week of March 2021, the 'unsung' heroes of the Border roads organisation (BRO) have started working on the Manali-Leh axis to provide alternate road connectivity to the Army formations camping in the Ladakh sector.

According to the Director General of Border Roads Organisation the opening of Leh-Manali axis depends on the quantum of snowfall every year and weather conditions. He said, last year the road was opened on 18 May 2020 which is one month earlier than previous years. This year we are all prepared to open the road axis earlier than previous year."

According to DGBR presently three projects, Beacon, Vijayak and Himank are involved in Snow Clearing Operations in UT J&K and Ladakh. Almost 1550 Km of road stretches are snow cleared by these projects during winters to keep the roads open. All these efforts go into Winter Snow Clearance to ensure all weather connectivity to forward locations along the border and strategically important places.

Remembering the sacrifices of the foot soldiers who were working in the hostile weather conditions DGBR said, "last year, more than 200 BRO warriors were martyred while executing extremely dangerous tasks in very arduous and



inhospitable terrain conditions. These sacrifices will not go in vain and we will continue to forge paths for our nation and pursue our Motto "We will Either Find a Way or Make One" more vigorously and rise to the occasion more than anybody's expectation for a national cause and to achieve national objectives".

Referring to the strategic projects in the pipeline DGBR said, in the coming year number of Roads and Bridges will be completed along the Indo-China Border roads namely bridges on DS-DBO Road, Phobrang-Marsimikla-Hot Spring Road, Chisumle-Demochok Road, Tangste-Horang-Chusul Road and some of the important Bridges that will be completed are Sonamarg Bye Pass Bridge on Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri Road, Amiranagar Bridge on Puldoda-Bhaderwah Road and two bridges on Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri-Kaman Post Road.

The bridges on national highway Zojila-Kargil-Leh axis have been upgraded to the highest road classification,

where six major bridges besides numerous other minor bridges and culverts are likely to be completed in the current year, these are bridges on Nimmupadum-Darcha road, Khalsi-Batalik road, Zojila-Kargil-Leh road and Khalsar-Sasoma road.

In response to a specific question whether ongoing projects were affected due to prolonged standoff between India and China DGBR said at no time, BRO work was affected by the situation at our Northern Borders. "We have focused more and have put in additional efforts in terms of manpower and resources for development and execution of works in these areas in spite of COVID situation. At no location, the work was stopped by BRO in Eastern Ladakh due to standoff with our adversaries. The work is going on at full swing at all the locations in Eastern Ladakh and we have achieved our planned construction and will intend to do so in coming months".

Sharing progress of the ongoing works on Manali-Leh axis, DGBR in a written reply to the list of questions said, "the

road passes through few of the highest passes in the world. Logistics are already in place, we have pre-positioned our resources in mothballed states to open multiple attack points for snow clearance operations".

"The Karm Yogis of BRO had twice attempted to reach the mothballed equipment but had to return due to avalanches. On their third attempt, they reached the location on 14 Mar 2021 by walking over 15 to 20 feet of snow for 20 Km over two days in extreme weather conditions and hazards. They even took a night halt in the open in sub-zero temperatures. I salute their grit and determination", DGBR said.

Referring to the snow clearing operation conducted along the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri Road, DGBR said it is an important road link for logistic sustenance of Army formations and Civilian population in Kargil & Leh.

"The Zojila-Kargil-Leh National Highway which connects UT of Ladakh to rest of the country is the lifeline for the population of Ladakh. Despite facing numerous challenges, the National Highway was kept open for traffic till 31 Dec 2020, which was unprecedented. Then we cleared the snow and connected the pass on 06 Mar 2021. This was done minimum 2-3 months in advance of traditional opening dates. As such we will be opening it for civil traffic very soon. Hence, instead of being closed, for 5 to 6 months, this season pass will be open after 2.5 months only".

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that M/s Distant Horizon Orchard Pvt. Ltd. is owner of House No. 173, area measuring 286 Sq. Mtrs., Situated at Sector-21, Utran Estate, Gurgaon (Haryana), the said property, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 27.07.2009, Registration No. 6915, has lost / misplaced previous Original documents, i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Certificate, Deed of Conveyance dated 19.10.2006. Sale Deed dated 10.11.2006, & Re allotment Letter in the name of Mr. Devinder Kumar Yadav & Mrs. Pavitra Yadav, & M/s Distant Horizon Orchard Pvt. Ltd. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 14 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, IInd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-41112527-31, kumarassociates@rediffmail.com

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi
TENDER NOTICE Date: 22.03.2021
Sealed tenders are invited for Banking of power by BRPL from all bidders

Sl. No.	Item Description	Period	EMD Cost (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
Head (PMG)/BRPL/Tender/2020-21/823 Date: 22.03.2021	BANKING OF POWER	16th April '21 to 31st March '22	Five Lakh	05.04.2021 at 15:00 HRS	05.04.2021 at 15:15 HRS

For further details please log on to <http://www.bsesdelhi.com>
Address: 2nd Floor, B-Block, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111627
Telephone No.: +91 11 3999 7235 | Fax No.: +91 11 39999454 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **Y.S.R. TELANGANA PARTY** (Name of the party). The office of the party is located at **VADUKA RAJA GOPAL**, (Mob. No. 09949239494) C/o. **Y.S.R. TELANGANA PARTY**, Flat No. 401-A, Third Floor, Siddhardha Sravanti Apprtment, No. 8-3-169/35, Plot No.35, Siddhardha Nagar, Yousufguda, Hyderabad - 500038.
This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951- Names/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:
President / Chairman : VADUKA RAJA GOPAL
General Secretary : CH: SUDHEER KUMAR
Treasurer : NUKALA SURESH
If any one has any objection to the registration of **Y.S.R TELANGANA PARTY** (Name of the proposed Party) they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi — 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation
This is to bring to your notice that **AMITABH SINGH/ SUREKHA** (Borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number **LBGR00002059811** located at **OR 517 INDUS SATELLITE GREENS INDORE OR 517 INDORE Madhya Pradesh 452001** The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.
The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **NOVEMBER 20, 2019** informing that **IBD UNIVERSAL PVT LIMITED**, has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.
Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.
Dated: 23-03-2021
Place: Delhi NCR For ICICI Bank Limited Sd-

CSB Bank Formerly The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.
(Faridabad Branch located at A2-B, NH-1, Nehru Ground, Neelam Bata Road, Faridabad-121001, Phone No. 9072601300)
GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
CSB Bank Limited, Faridabad branch had granted gold loan against pledge of gold ornaments to the below mentioned borrowers. Notice has been issued to him/her demanding repayment of the amount with interest and charges thereon. Since they have failed to repay the balance outstanding in the respective accounts, we are constrained to recover the amount by sale of gold ornaments in public auction and if the auction does not fetch required amount, bank will proceed with the sale by private treaties/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction without assigning any reason.

Sl. No	Name of Borrower	Weight of Pledge Items (in grams)	Account No.	Gold Loan Amount	Balance as on 21.03.2021
1	Cheshtaa Sood	494.2	0300-07248519-000002	17,20,000/-	18,04,642.72/-

The auction will be conducted at the premises of CSB Bank Limited, Faridabad branch premises situated at A2-B, NH-1, Nehru Ground, Neelam Bata Road, Faridabad-121001 on 30.03.2021 at 03.00 PM. Interested parties may contact the Branch Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with copy of Pan Card, passport size photo, valid identity proof and address proof on the date of auction.
Place: Faridabad
Date: 22-03-2021 BRANCH MANAGER

Kumbh of COVID

As the nation stares at another surge, Haridwar is taking it easy despite drawing mammoth crowds

As India on Monday marked the first anniversary of the 'Janata curfew', the first time that the nation realised the true gravity of the pandemic, it's a good time to introspect where we stand 365 days and thousands of deaths later. Actually, it seems that after the initial spurt and the subsequent tranquilising trough and now facing another menacing crest, nothing has really changed. As we stare at the second COVID wave looming, the last 24 hours saw 46,951 fresh Coronavirus cases being reported — the biggest single-day jump since November 7 — which takes the country's tally to 1,16,46,081 total infections. Of these, over 1.11 crore people have recovered and 1,59,967 deaths have been recorded. In the past week, India has registered the sharpest surge in fresh infections in nearly four months after the spread of the virus had seemed to slow down. Most of the fresh cases have been reported from Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Restrictions have returned at several places across the country as the Government and experts point out that the violation of protocols is leading to the resurgence of cases. Globally, over 12.3 crore people have so far contracted the virus; 27 lakh people have fallen prey to it.



In the midst of all this mayhem, the city of Haridwar is nonchalantly hosting the ongoing Kumbh mela,

prompting the Centre to issue an advisory to the Tirath Singh Rawat Government in Uttarakhand to shore up anti-COVID arrangements. A Health Ministry team had recently raised the alarm that 10-20 pilgrims and almost an equal number of locals are testing positive every day for the virus and that such a high rate of infections had the potential to rapidly turn into an 'upsurge' in the number of cases. The ceremonies linked to Kumbh, which takes place at Haridwar, Nashik, Prayagraj and Ujjain every 12 years by rotation (though it is this time taking place after 11 years owing to suitable planetary alignments), would last most of next month with several days in April corresponding to the 'Shahi Snaans' (royal bath) expected to see upwards of five million converge on a single day. This development assumes significance because Rawat had recently announced that a negative COVID report won't be made mandatory for visiting Haridwar and assured the devotees that all "unnecessary" restrictions imposed to contain the spread of COVID will be removed for the event, asserting that "faith is stronger than fear". Interestingly, on Tuesday afternoon, the 56-year-old Chief Minister tweeted that he has tested positive for Coronavirus. We, as a nation, must understand that the virus neither follows a calendar, nor respects geographical boundaries, nor does it care for the "COVID fatigue" that we all have fallen prey to during our solitary confinement and isolation at home. The only way to fight Coronavirus is to have stringent mask discipline, avoid stepping out in public space and wash hands frequently and not get taken in by the false sense of security that "the pandemic is over because vaccines are here".

PICTALK



A farmer inspects his wheat crop affected by rains and strong winds, in a village on the outskirts of Amritsar

PTI

Foot in mouth

The proclivity of the politicians to shoot from the hip does more harm than good for their party's image

People in positions of responsibility and power need to be more careful than commoners about their choice of words. The statements made by politicians, in particular, are deciphered based on what these contain between the lines and then subjected to logical interpretations and multiple conclusions. Regrettably, several of our leaders don't think twice before disgorging in public space comments they ought to be ashamed of, bringing embarrassment to the party and slowly losing their credibility. Inexplicably, after assuming charge recently as the Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Tirath Singh Rawat has fallen into this category. Even before the embers of the controversy over his "ripped jeans" remark could die down, he has kicked up another row by saying that people having smaller families got lesser Government ration during the COVID-19 lockdown than those who "reproduced 20". He also insinuated that "families with 20 children" were having a good time on dole. The idiosyncrasy continued as Rawat pointed out that "America had enslaved India for 200 years". Well, there can't be an explanation for that other than Rawat skipping history classes in school.



With the latest round of gaffes, he has joined the legion of leaders known for their embarrassing statements and remarks that often spawn memes. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi would arguably be at the top of the ladder with comments like "Aloo ki factory" (potato factory), his inability to differentiate between "bhrashtachar" (corruption) and "bal-atkaar" (rape) and several others. Rawat's BJP colleague and Tripura counterpart Biplab Kumar Deb has apparently a similar IQ. His statements like "the roots of internet go back to the Mahabharata era", "will chop the nails of critics" of his Government, former Miss World Diana Hayden "does not represent Indian beauty" and his bizarre statement that "the BJP has plans to form the Governments in Sri Lanka and Nepal" have already brought much ignominy to the saffron party. Also, seasoned politicians like Digvijay Singh, Shivpal Yadav and many others often make out-of-context, bizarre statements that leave their party leaders red-faced. We don't know whether or when his party leadership will take Rawat to task and keep a check on what he says. But it must be done before he aimlessly shoots another one from the hip. After all, the party's image suffers in the eyes of people by such acts. For the public, of course, it's just free entertainment.

The Bengali and the 'outsider' controversy



PRAFULL GORADIA

Mamata Banerjee's claim that she is Bengal's daughter while the BJP is an 'outsider' is steeped in disinformation

In replying to Mamata Didi's allegation that the BJP is an "outsider" organisation, while she herself is the "daughter of Bengal", Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at a speech in Kolkata's Brigade Ground on March 7, remarked that the Trinamool had been spawned by the Congress. The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885 by a retired bureaucrat, Allan Octavian Hume, an Englishman. The Communist parties of India were all spawns of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Their ideology was authored entirely by the ideologue Karl Marx. Vladimir Lenin brought the Bolshevik Party to power with the Revolution of 1917. A premier street in Calcutta celebrated Lenin's coming to power by being named "Lenin Sarani", opposite Metro cinema, near the Dharamtolla Street. Incidentally, the old Harrington Street, where the US Consulate is situated, was renamed by Chief Minister Jyoti Basu as "Ho Chi Minh Sarani".

Once took a client visiting from Germany around the city. He found every CPM graffiti to be a sketch of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and wondered: "Why Stalin, now? Is there no Indian leader attractive enough to catch votes?" In World War II, Stalin wanted to arouse Russians to fight for their motherland, in complete contrast to Leon Trotsky's earlier call for a "permanent Revolution" and Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto, which called upon the workers of the world to unite.

Mamata Banerjee never once has termed these things from outside. She finds Hindutva and "Jai Shri Ram" as outsiders despite the fact that Raj Narain Bose, the grandfather of Yogi Aurobindo Bose, had coined the term "Hindutva" in 1863. Leading Bengalis, including Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, were members of the aggressively Hindu Anushilan Samiti. The Samiti had become particularly active after the first partition of Bengal in 1905, until 1911, when the partition was



withdrawn by King George V.

The Hindu ideology is not anti-anyone else. The word "Hindu" has been the identity for the entire subcontinent. In 1930, my father's professor at the University of Boston asked him what he was. The reply was: An Indian. The professor said, "You are probably a Hindu. My question is — are you a Hindu Christian, a Hindu Muslim or a Hindu Hindu?" In other words, for the world outside, Hindu and Hinduism are the markers of India's identity.

Coming to the "Bengali versus outsider" debate, it bears iteration here that a prominent Bengali who was born 120 years ago seeded a nationalist party that dominates Indian politics today. This is none other than Syama Prasad Mookerjee, a towering intellectual, academician and political leader. The party he founded, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, was the only true opposition to the then hegemonic ruling Congress. Its later avatar became the BJP, which not only rules India and has become the world's biggest political party, but has also decimated the once-mighty Congress.

One must not forget that Mookerjee salvaged West Bengal and led the Hindus of

the erstwhile undivided Bengal to grab a slice of their homeland from the nefarious designs of MA Jinnah and his Muslim League by resisting the blatantly biased League's provincial government of Bengal.

Bengal's Hindus were the second largest ethnic minority after the Muslims in undivided Bengal (at nearly 42 per cent) but were subjected to two horrific rounds of genocide; the first in Calcutta in August 1946, following Jinnah's clarion call for "direct action" (the Great Calcutta Killings), and then in Noakhali and Tippera districts of eastern Bengal in October that year. Nearly 10,000 Hindus were massacred and thousands of Hindu women were raped in this orgy orchestrated by Bengal Premier HS Suhrawardy himself. Mookerjee, the indisputable leader of Bengal's Hindus, recognised the looming threat as early as in 1940 when he said in Sylhet (then in Assam): "The dangers in front of us are many; the latest addition in the shape of a movement for Pakistan should not be brushed aside lightly. Jinnah is out to destroy the very soul of India."

The looming danger was the pernicious dream of a so-called "United Bengal", pro-

moted by Suhrawardy, Nazimuddin (ex-premier) and Fazlur Rahman (Bengal's revenue minister), and supported by Sarat Chandra Bose of the Socialist Republic Party. This "United Bengal" movement, a smokescreen to grab all of Bengal for Pakistan, had Jinnah's blessings. Had this League plan materialised, the Hindus of Bengal would have suffered a plight similar to that of Sindh's Hindus who have been left without a country to call their own.

The incorporation of all of Bengal into Pakistan was foiled only by the concerted efforts of Hindus, led resolutely by Mookerjee, who formed the Bengal Partition League towards the end of 1946. Governing the support of all sections of the Bengali society, League sections of communists and socialists also had to support the partition of Bengal — the Muslim League didn't spare Hindu communists.

The supreme irony is that Mamata might not have had even an identity, leave alone State, but for the heroic efforts of Mookerjee, whose party she now dubs an "outsider".

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author. The views expressed are personal.)



THE SUPREME IRONY IS THAT MAMATA MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD EVEN AN IDENTITY, LEAVE ALONE STATE, BUT FOR THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE, WHOSE PARTY SHE NOW DUBS AN 'OUTSIDER'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STOP STEREOTYPING WOMEN

Sir — This refers to the editorial 'Welcome step' (March 22). Indian courts and their presiding officers are expected to strike a gender balance while conducting trials. It is deeply disturbing that judges, even in the higher courts, are displaying an insensitive approach towards women in sexual harassment cases. A judge of the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court made headlines a couple of months ago for her unusual, and uncalled for, interpretations on molestation in two cases. Strange and despicable reasoning by High Courts makes for a sorry reading.

They reflect a chronic lack of application of mind with regard to cases that require high levels of understanding and empathy. Fortunately, the Supreme Court (SC) has stepped in to take stock of the situation. The SC has rightly rued the acute paucity of gender sensitisation training among judges and directed a module to be put in place to fill the lacunae.

Even law students need lessons on gender sensitisation. How a woman looked and how she behaved is immaterial for a judge to come to a conclusion on a case at hand. The history of a victim should have no relevance to the case in question. Over the years, reports have it that a few rape accused had proposed to marry their victims. It would be a travesty of justice if such "proposals" become a rule and the courts entertain them. Each case needs an unbiased adjudication without preconceived notions and strictly on merit.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

US AND RUSSIA MUST COOPERATE

Sir — Subsequent to Russian President Vladimir Putin's mockery of US President Joe Biden for calling him a "killer", the Kremlin said that it is "prepared for the worst" when it was asked about the possibility of a new cold war between the US and Russia. When Biden was asked if he believed Putin was a killer, he said, "I do", prompting Putin to counter it by saying "he who said it,

Racial discrimination in India



We have all seen and dropped our jaws at the recent attacks on the Asian-American community in Atlanta, US. We even wrote posts about #StopAsianHate and #ProudToBeAsian. It's hard for a person of Indian descent to find a place in a country that is called "the land of the free and home of the brave". Racial intolerance has gone through the roof in the US. What is even more disappointing is that such a phenomenon exists even in our country. The use

of the word "chinky", "momos", "kalua" and other such slurs while referring to the North-eastern community and South Indians is not fair. The racial inequality scales further heights when a person from south India is mocked on the way they speak, eat and live. While the increasing incidents of crimes against Asians is a cause for worry in the US and the UK, things are not rosy and bright in our own backyard.

The recent incident of an Indian girl resigning from the post of president-elect of the Oxford University's Students' Union citing cyber-bullying was heartbreaking. Our External Affairs Minister vowed that New Delhi "will take up such matters" with London "with great candour when required." But what about the internal mess?

What about taking up such matters in our Parliament? Children are bullied because of their place of origin — a reality that is being brushed under the carpet way too often. Racial and caste slurs are very common in India. People are discriminated against and targeted because of their skin colour even in our nation. We must look at ourselves and mend our ways.

Sean Colin Young | New Delhi

did it". With this development, ties between Moscow and Washington sank to new lows. Biden's comments created a serious crisis between Russia and the US in years, with Moscow recalling its ambassador for consultations and warning that their ties were on the brink of "collapse". The US and Russia feel profound distrust for each other since 2014. The ties deteriorated over Russia's alleged interference in the US elections in 2016 and, more recently, when Washington assumed that Russian Opposition figure Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a Soviet-designed nerve agent. The latest conflict between the countries could ignite a new 'Cold War'.

Venu GS | Kollam

COVID IS EXPANDING ITS FOOTPRINT

Sir — The COVID footprint is expanding

and is a cause of great concern in our country. The fresh surge in cases took the number of active cases past 3,45,000. This even as the second phase of the vaccination process is on full swing.

Maharashtra touched a new high for the last four days, followed by Punjab, Karnataka and Gujarat. Tracking crucial cases is important because it reflects the actual spread of the virus in a region as well as the load the country's healthcare system is currently bearing. Maharashtra recorded its highest spike with 30,000-odd cases and nearly 100 deaths. The healthcare system is working round the clock but the people have to bear their losses and work with the Government.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

SOUNDBITE

People from Rajasthan and Gujarat understand water-related problems well as there is water scarcity. I am also from Gujarat and faced such problems, too.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



We can't be deaf and blind to what's going on outside the UK. We can't put at risk the gains of our vaccination campaign.

UK's Defence Secretary — Ben Wallace

I think the pause that we all took during lockdown actually worked in my favour as I completed my quota of sleep.



Actor — Prateik Babbar

I am both excited and grateful about the two friendlies which the Blue Tigers will play this month. Unfortunately, I won't be a part of it.



India football captain — Sunil Chhetri

An All-India Judicial Service should now come into existence as it is the demand of the time.



BJP Rajya Sabha MP — Sushil Modi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

INEQUITY IN GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS

Give fair incentives to all for transition from coal-based energy sources to renewable ones



JL KOUL JALALI

Armed with the traditions of nurturing nature and saving the environment, India is on the path to achieving its Paris Agreement targets well before 2030. New Delhi is a signatory to the agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Our goals include reduction in the emission intensity of the Gross Domestic Product from the 2005 level by 33-35 per cent by 2030. It also aims at achieving about 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by the end of the decade. These targets were underscored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the virtual event CERAWEEK 2021 — an annual energy conference held recently. He also referred to the third target of creating an additional carbon sink of two-three billion tonnes through forest and tree cover by 2030. Asserting that behavioural change is the most powerful way to fight the climate crisis, Modi pointed out that during the last seven years, India's forest cover has expanded significantly.



As a result, the population of wildlife, particularly species like lions, tigers, leopards and the number of springs and waterfalls have increased. This increase in forest cover is all the more important as it brings India closer to its commitment of achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030. As stated by Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar at the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP-14) held in September 2020, an increase in forest cover will be a boon for millions of marginal farmers and poor people in the country. This increase is important as over 75 per cent of carbon space available to humanity has already been taken up by current and past emissions of Europe, the US and China, leaving very little for countries like India with huge developmental imperatives but with very meagre carbon footprints.

Participating in the open debate on climate and security at the UN Security Council last month, the US' climate envoy John Kerry asked 17 major emitters to scale up targets and reduce coal usage. In order to control climate change readily and to restore it, he called for the need to get to zero emissions by 2050. Despite the economic slowdown because of COVID-19, it may not be possible to meet the Paris commitment of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C, which lends weight to demands for urgent action. While there can be no two opinions about achieving this zero-emission goal speedily, but developed countries have also to bear in mind that their actions increased carbon in the atmosphere resulting in global warming. But in turn these changes have endangered low emitters and poor countries, which did not cause them.

The glaring inequality in carbon emissions at the global level is also highlighted by the fact that while the US emits 16 tonnes of CO2 per person, Saudi Arabia emits 19 tonnes per person but India emits only around 1.8 tonnes of CO2 per person. A simple solution could be to give incentives for transition from coal-based energy sources to renewable ones, on a fair and equitable basis, guided by commitments of developed nations to help developing countries in their climate restoration action. Now that the US has officially rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, the prospects for concrete results from the pact have brightened. The UK has already invited Modi to the next G-7 Summit while a meeting between India and European Union (EU) countries has also been scheduled and the next COP to the UNFCCC is being held in Glasgow in November. All these forums provide an opportunity to India to project its climate actions in a better perspective in front of the world.

(The writer is a journalist, producer and director. The views expressed are personal.)

Hobson's choice on farm subsidies

The Government may consider DBT to farmers; India can give it without any cap and yet remain compliant with its commitment under the WTO



UTTAM GUPTA

At the Trade Policy Review (TPR) meeting held at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in January, India insisted that a permanent solution for public stockholding to serve the food security objective special safeguard measures (SSMs) to prevent import surges and elimination of unfair farm subsidy entitlements of some members should be taken up on a priority basis for any farm deal that may be worked out at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC-12) scheduled to be held from November 29.

For about two decades, India has been taking up at the WTO these core agriculture issues that are of concern to developing countries, under what has come to be known as the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). However, it has not met with any success. In fact, at the MC-10 held in Nairobi (December 2015), developed countries led by the US and the European Union (EU) literally junked the DDA. Whether or not MC-12 will yield the desired outcome, we will have to wait and see. Meanwhile, there is a need for introspection as to where did things go wrong?

Under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) of the WTO, a developing country cannot give aggregate measurement support (AMS) — an acronym for subsidies — in excess of 10 per cent of the value of its farm production. For developed countries, the threshold is kept at five per cent. The AMS includes "product-specific" subsidies and "non-product specific" like subsidies on agricultural inputs such as fertilisers, seed, irrigation and power. The "product-specific" subsidy is in excess of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) paid to farmers over the External Reference Price (ERP) multiplied by the quantum of agri-produce. Whereas the MSP is taken for the relevant year, say, 2018-19, the ERP is the average of the global price prevailing during 1986-88 fixed in rupee terms. If the subsidy given by a developing country exceeds 10 per cent, it will be treated as violation of its WTO commitment.

The rationale behind putting a cap is that excess subsidy given to farmers in any member country has the effect of giving unfair advantage to them in the global market by artificially lowering the price of their food supplies — known as "trade distortion." The cap is intended to prevent this.

India runs a mammoth programme of Public Stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes. Under it, agencies of the Government like the Food Corporation of India buy agri-produce from farmers at the MSP and distribute it through a network of fair price shops to meet the needs of India's poor and vulnerable population. Since the MSP is higher than the ERP, the excess is deemed as subsidy under the AoA.

India's argument is that supplies from the PSH are meant only for beneficiaries and not available for export, hence there is no question of these supplies causing any distortion in global trade. Therefore, it should be excluded from the calculation of AMS to see if the cap is breached. The logic is sound. But the crucial question is why did India not press for this exemption from day one? Why did it not insist on its inclusion in the AoA that came into force on January 1, 1995? That apart, even the methodology of calculating the AMS is flawed.

First, the MSP for the relevant/current year is compared with the ERP that prevailed way back



IN SHORT, IT IS A CASE OF LACK OF CARE AND FORESIGHT ON THE PART OF OUR NEGOTIATORS AT THE WTO IN LETTING A FLAWED FORMULA FOR THE AMS CALCULATION TO CREEP INTO THE AOA IN THE FIRST PLACE AND A MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN 2014/15 THAT HAVE LED TO THE PRESENT PRECARIOUS SITUATION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.



in 1986-88. Second, quantities not procured by Government agencies are also considered for arriving at the subsidy figure. Third, subsidy on agri-inputs to resource-poor farmers (they produce food for self-consumption and have no marketable surplus) is included. These flaws have the effect of artificially inflating the AMS. For instance, as per a May 2018 submission by the US to the WTO, during 2013-14 the Indian AMS on rice was 77 per cent against only 5.45 per cent it should have been sans these aberrations. In view of the above, forget getting exemption, the anomalies in AMS calculation have made India's PSH programme potentially susceptible to violating WTO commitments.

The MC-9 in Bali (2013) agreed to a "peace clause" under which "if a developing country gives AMS in excess of 10 per cent, no member will challenge this until 2017, when the WTO would look for a permanent solution to address their food security concerns." It came with several riders such as submission of data on food procurement, stockholding, distribution and subsidies. These also included establishing that subsidies are not "trade distorting."

In the WTO General Council (GC) meeting on July 31, 2014, India insisted on a time-bound action plan to find a permanent solution, to be executed before the end of the 2014

co-terminus with the approval of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) — an area of great importance to developed countries. This was a good strategic move but it was abandoned midstream.

In December 2014, even as the latter got away with the TFA, the former got "extension of the peace clause till a permanent solution was found." Put simply, India had literally surrendered its right to secure a permanent solution; that it was "Ok" with "the benefit of peace clause." However, being subject to a host of riders, even this is not automatically assured.

Meanwhile, the US and EU nations continue to give subsidies at a level much higher than the five per cent (threshold applicable to them), yet remain compliant with the WTO. Unlike India, which subsidises agri-inputs and MSP to farmers, they achieve the same result by making direct cash benefit transfers (DBT) to farmers which is exempt from subsidy cap obligation. In regard to SSM — it allows members to temporarily raise tariffs beyond the "bound levels" — this is the maximum permissible duty that a member country can impose under bound rate agreement; for instance, in case of wheat, it is 80 per cent — to deal with surging imports and resultant fall in prices.

The 2015 MC-10 in Nairobi had

recognised that developing countries will have the right to take recourse to it as envisaged under the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. But this comes nowhere near India's demand to amend an already existing provision in Article 5 of the AoA to provide them the same benefit that developed countries derive from Special (Agricultural) Safeguards (SSG).

In short, it is a case of lack of care and foresight on the part of our negotiators at the WTO in letting a flawed formula for the AMS calculation to creep into the AoA in the first place and a missed opportunity to make corrections (2014/15) that have led to the present precarious situation for developing countries.

Even as India has flagged these issues yet again, one wonders whether the developed countries will agree to remove the flaws in the AoA or allow exemption for subsidies given under the PSH.

The Government needs to think out of the box. It may consider DBT to farmers; India can give it without any cap and yet remain compliant with its commitment under the WTO. However, in the current atmosphere of anger over the three farm laws, what will happen when the MSP goes (this is a natural concomitant of introducing the DBT)? Prime Minister Narendra Modi faces a Hobson's choice.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

DIDI WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE A BIG PLAYER BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, THERE WILL BE NO MORE SYNDICATE AND TOLABAJI.

—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



BEFORE CALLING THE TMC A PARTY OF 'TOLABAJ' YOU SHOULD FIRST REPLY WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FUNDS THAT YOU RECEIVED IN PM CARES.

—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE



Vaccine diplomacy is winning India new friends and goodwill

One can't blame South Block for riding on the new initiative. As *The New York Times* says, the COVID-19 vaccine is the latest diplomatic currency

India's vaccine diplomacy is moving at a trot and has set the pace for countering the COVID-19 pandemic. It was indeed a big boost when, as part of the first virtual Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) leaders' meeting on March 12, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga decided to help India produce at least one billion vaccine doses for the Asia-Pacific region.

The Quad initiative aims to reduce manufacturing backlog, speed up vaccination, and defeat some Coronavirus mutations. The funding would be from the US and Japan and logistical help would come from Australia. South Block claims that India has now become a "vac-



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

cine superpower" in tackling the COVID-19 crisis. The new orientation is in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's significant foreign policy approach at projecting India as a global stakeholder. A *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) editorial has praised India for its COVID diplomacy.

"India has emerged the surprise leader of the global vaccine diplomacy race. It has exported three times more doses than it's given its own citizens and can spare even more without hurting its own rollout", Eric Bellman of WSJ tweeted.

New Delhi has not only managed to thwart China's COVID diplomacy but also overtaken it. According to the United Nations (UN), India has made more vaccine donations than China, with over eight million doses given

away, compared to 7.3 million from China. Both are making vaccines for the rest of the world in addition to getting their vast populations inoculated. Chinese premier Xi Jinping has called Chinese medical supplies to the 'Health Silk Road', a part of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, it plans to provide free vaccines to 69 countries and sell them to 28.

India, too, has adopted vaccine diplomacy as part of its foreign policy. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar declared in Parliament last week that the 'Vaccine Maitri (Vaccine friendship)' programme has "raised India's standing and generated great international goodwill." Giving details, the Minister said, "In fact, we supplied 150 nations with medicines, 82 of



them as grants by India. As (the production of) our own masks, PPEs and diagnostic kits grew, we made them available to other nations. This generous approach... was also extended to the 'Vande Bharat Mission.' Starting from Wuhan, we brought back nationals of other countries while looking

after our own."

"Acting East" and "acting fast" is the new mantra for South Block. The Modi Government's vaccine initiative got a boost, particularly in the neighbouring countries. For instance, strained ties with Nepal, Bangladesh, the Maldives and Sri Lanka have improved after a timely vaccine supply. Indicating the importance of this, Sri Lanka and Dominica's leaders personally received Indian-made vaccines at the airport, and the Mongolian Prime Minister took the Indian vaccine.

All these initiatives were possible because India's massive pharmaceutical industry accounts for about 20 per cent of the world's generic medicines and more than 60 per cent of all global vaccine production. In fact, India administered 29.74 million

doses of the anti-COVID shots to its own citizens by March 15 and the inoculation drive is in full swing. However, the rising number of variants and a second surge of COVID in States like Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is causing concern. There are some concerns about vaccine diplomacy, too, in a few quarters. The first is whether India will be able to meet the demand and the second is whether the vaccine diplomacy is taking place at the expense of the citizens of the country?

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan is confident that the Government has addressed these concerns.

The Serum Institute of India (SII) — which produces the Novavax and the AstraZeneca vaccines — recently raised concerns

about raw material shortages. Its Chief Executive Officer, Adar Poonawalla, alleged, "The sharing of these raw materials is going to become a critical limiting factor — nobody has been able to address this so far." Another Indian manufacturer, Biological E, which produces the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, has also raised similar concerns. The other worry is that the country is lagging behind its target. However, there is optimism that other vaccines in the pipeline might ease this burden.

Overall, the COVID diplomacy so far has yielded goodwill for India and won it some new friends. One can't blame South Block for riding on the new initiative. As *The New York Times* says, the COVID-19 vaccine is the latest diplomatic currency.

Trump could be culpable for his role in US Capitol riot: Ex-prosecutor

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
Former president Donald Trump could be culpable for his role in the January 6 US Capitol riot, an ex-top prosecutor who previously led the criminal investigation into the incident said.

Michael Sherwin, the former acting DC US attorney, also said he believes sedition could be a charge made against

some Capitol riot defendants, CBS News reported.

Sherwin said it was "unequivocal" that the former president was "the magnet that brought the people to DC on the 6th" before his supporters stormed the Capitol building.

"We have plenty of people — we have soccer moms from Ohio that were arrested saying 'Well, I did this because my president said I had to take

back our house," he told CBS News in an interview aired on Sunday.

"That moves the needle towards that direction. Maybe the president is culpable for these actions," he said.

Sherwin noted that other rioters have acknowledged they went further than Trump's speech.

Sherwin's candid comments come as he leaves his



Justice Department post leading the Washington, DC prosecutors' office and its widening

investigation into violence at the Capitol. He was appointed to the job during the Trump administration.

Attorney General Merrick Garland and Sherwin's successor, acting US Attorney for DC Channing Phillips, have not directly addressed whether Trump, 74, will be investigated.

When asked if investigators were looking into Trump's role,

Sherwin responded, "We have people looking at everything, correct. Everything's being looked at."

No public officials have been charged with crimes related to the Capitol riot investigation, and prosecutors have focused so far on bringing criminal cases against rioters who breached the Capitol grounds and against members of extremist groups who are

alleged to have coordinated before the attack which left five people, including a police officer, dead.

The ex-President has denied responsibility.

Trump has faced accusations, particularly from Democratic lawmakers, that his call to supporters to rally in DC and march to the Capitol on the day Congress was scheduled to confirm the Electoral

College vote sparked the violence.

The former president, a Republican, was impeached for a second time a week before his presidency ended over the insurrection but was acquitted by the Senate.

Ten House Republicans voted in favour of impeachment and seven Senate Republicans voted to convict Trump.

PTI

Myanmar frees detained BBC scribe as protests continue

Yangon: The BBC said Monday that a journalist from its Burmese-language service was released by authorities in Myanmar but gave no details, as protesters in the Southeast Asian nation continued their broad civil disobedience movement against last month's military coup.

The journalist, Aung Thura, was detained on March 19 by men who appeared to be plainclothes security agents while reporting outside a court in the capital of Naypyitaw.

Arrests of media workers have been part of the junta's intensifying efforts to choke off information about resistance to the February 1 coup. Some 40 journalists have been arrested since the coup, half of whom are still in detention — including Thain Zaw of The Associated Press — according to the Myanmar-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

On Monday, lawmakers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations urged regional leaders to meet and devise a "strong and decisive response" to increased violence against protesters by Myanmar's military. The lawmakers urged the 10-nation bloc to send a delegation alongside the U.N. Special envoy to Myanmar to help negotiate a



A man runs past a road barricade and burning debris on Monday in Mandalay, Myanmar. The BBC said on Monday that a journalist from its Burmese-language service was released by authorities in Myanmar but gave no details, as protesters in the Southeast Asian nation continued their broad civil disobedience movement against last month's military coup

"democratic and human rights-based solution."

ASEAN has a policy of non-interference in each other's affairs, but some regional leaders have rebuked the violence and urged restraint in Myanmar.

"The Myanmar army is killing people every day. Statements are welcome, but are useless against the military's bullets," said Charles Santiago,

a Malaysian lawmaker who heads the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights group.

Since the military seized power, many citizens from teachers to doctors, traders and railway workers have joined a civil disobedience movement that uses widespread boycotts, strikes and other actions in an attempt to

force a return to a civilian government.

The junta has responded with an increasingly brutal crackdown and sought to limit information reaching the outside world. Security forces have opened fire on crowds and killed hundreds, internet access has been severely restricted, private newspapers have been barred from publishing, and

protesters, journalists and politicians have been arrested in large numbers.

Protesters on Monday sent hundreds of red balloons into the air in Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon, in support of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who was ousted in the coup and detained. Many also wore red shirts, the colour of her National League for Democracy party.

Protesters have called for foreign intervention to aid them under the doctrine of Responsibility to Protect — also known as R2P — devised to deal with matters such as genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Attached to the balloons were papers with R2P written on them.

Angry citizens also marched and chanted slogans in early morning demonstrations in Yangon and various parts of the country, while others drove in convoys and honked their vehicles in protest.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners has verified 250 deaths nationwide but says the actual total, including cases where verification has been difficult, is probably much higher. It said 2,665 people have also been arrested or charged since the coup, with 2,290 still detained or sought for arrest.

AP

EU slaps sanctions on 4 Chinese officials over Uyghur abuses

Brussels: The European Union on Monday imposed sanctions on four Chinese officials accused of responsibility for abuses against Uyghur Muslims in a raft of measures targeting alleged human rights offenders around the world, despite warnings that Beijing could retaliate.

The four are senior officials in the northwest region of

Xinjiang.

The sanctions involve a freeze on their assets in the EU and a ban on them traveling in a bloc. European citizens and companies are not permitted to provide them with financial assistance.

China at first denied the existence of camps for detaining Uyghurs in the northwest region of Xinjiang but has

since described them as centers to provide job training and reeducate those exposed to radical jihadi thinking. Officials deny all charges of human rights abuses in the northwestern region.

Xinjiang had been a hotbed of anti-government violence, but Beijing claims its massive security crackdown brought peace in recent years.

AP

EU targets 11 Myanmar officials over coup, crackdown

Brussels: The European Union on Monday imposed sanctions on 11 officials in Myanmar, mostly top military officers, accused of involvement in last month's coup and the violent crackdown on peaceful protesters that followed.

Ten of the 11 targeted with asset freezes and travel bans are senior members of the Myanmar Armed Forces, including Commander-in-Chief, Min Aung Hlaing, and Deputy-Commander-in-Chief, Soe Win, EU headquarters said in a statement.

The other heads the election commission and is accused over his role in cancelling last year's polls.

Myanmar's military junta prevented Parliament from convening on Feb. 1. It claimed that last November's elections, won by Aung San Suu Kyi's party in a landslide, were tainted by fraud. The election commission that confirmed the victory has since been replaced by the junta.

The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy in Myanmar 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 limit the information reaching the outside world.

AP

NYU Shanghai seeking answers after police detain 9 students

Shanghai: New York University said Monday it was seeking more information from Chinese authorities after nine students from its Shanghai campus were temporarily detained in what appeared to be police dragnet for drug suspects.

A statement from the university said two students were held as part of a police action outside a bar and the other seven were at a birthday party at an off-campus apartment on March 12 when police arrived and brought all present in for drug testing.

"None of the students were found to have used or been in possession of drugs and none were arrested," NYU Shanghai said in a statement. China hosts a large number of foreign students, a number increased by the opening of satellite campuses by British and American universities.

"Being brought in for testing as part of a drug sweep was understandably frightening for our students... Since then we have continued to provide support for the affected students," said a statement from the school sent to The Associated Press on Monday.

Police who arrived at the birthday party were apparently

looking for a specific individual but it wasn't clear who that was and no one was arrested. The students at the bar that same night told school authorities that, upon leaving the venue, they were approached by a person wearing plainclothes who showed a badge they did not recognise.

One tried to leave, but was detained and suffered minor injuries, and all other bar patrons and staff, all of them Chinese citizens, were also detained and subjected to drug testing.

The students were all released by the next morning after their drug tests came back negative, NYU said. Six of the students were American while the other three came from Finland, Malaysia and Morocco.

"We are currently seeking more information from city authorities to better understand last weekend's police actions," the university's statement said. There was no immediate response to requests for comment from the Shanghai police. People caught using recreational drugs such as marijuana and cocaine can be locked up for months or longer in China, while dealers can receive the death sentence.

AP

Germany looks set to extend lockdown measures again

Berlin: German authorities are expected to extend lockdown measures again on Monday and possibly tighten some restrictions as they face a steady rise in new coronavirus infections.

Chancellor Angela Merkel and the country's 16 state governors, who in highly decentralised Germany are responsible for imposing and lifting restrictions, are holding a videoconference nearly three weeks after they agreed a several-step plan paving the way to relax some rules.

Since then, infections have increased steadily as the more contagious variant first detected in Britain has become dominant. Most lockdown restrictions are currently set to run through March 28. The chancellor is proposing an extension to April 18.

Rather than new moves toward a more normal life, one focus now is pressing regional officials to use consistently an "emergency brake" mechanism under which relaxations granted in recent weeks — such as the partial reopening of nonessential shops — are supposed to be reimposed if new weekly infections in an area exceed 100 per 100,000 residents on three consecutive days.

"Unfortunately, we will

have to make use of this emergency brake," Merkel said Friday. The weekly infection rate per 100,000 people stood at 107 nationwide on Monday, up from the mid-60s three weeks ago.

Officials also face the question of what to do about Easter holidays. Restaurants, bars and many leisure facilities in Germany have been shut since early November, and hotels closed for tourists.

At the same time, Germany's criteria for assessing the virus situation abroad meant that a travel warning for parts of Spain was lifted earlier this month, prompting a much-criticized surge of bookings to the popular vacation island of Mallorca.

There have been calls for people returning even from places abroad that aren't deemed "risk areas" to face obligatory tests and quarantine.

The government has stressed that it continues to discourage tourist trips.

Drawing up legally watertight rules also has been a headache at times. A court in Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia, said Monday it had struck down rules requiring people wanting to go to some shops to get appointments beforehand. It said they violated a require-

ment that businesses get equal treatment. Meanwhile, Germany is trying to speed up its vaccination campaign after a slow start. On Friday, Merkel and the state governors agreed to gradually bring on board ordinary doctors' practices just after Easter. So far, Germany has largely relied on special vaccination centers.

As of Saturday, 8.7 per cent of the population had received at least a first dose of vaccine and 3.9 per cent had received both doses.

AP

40 killed in Niger border attack

Niamey: At least 40 people were killed when a group of armed assailants attacked several villages in Niger's Tahoua region near the border with Mali, a government spokesperson said on Monday.

Spokesperson Abdoulraman Zakaria said that soldiers were sent to the region and fought the attackers, reports dpa news agency.

It was not known who was behind the attack. Numerous armed groups are active in Niger and in the neighbouring Sahel countries. Some have sworn allegiance to the Islamic State terror group, while others are linked to Al Qaeda.

In the Mali border region

there have been recurring attacks.

A week ago, at least 58 people were killed in an attack on market traders in the region of Tillaberi, the government said.

Niger has also seen demonstrations after the recent presidential election.

At the end of February, the electoral commission declared former Foreign Minister Mohamed Bazoum, a close ally of outgoing President Mahamadou Issoufou, the winner with almost 56 per cent of the vote. Former President and opposition candidate Mahamane Ousmane slammed the result as fraudulent and claims he is the winner.

IANS

UK PM to call EU leaders over vax export ban

LONDON
UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will speak to leaders of the European Union (EU) over the phone to discuss a ban on the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine exports to the country, a media report said.

The BBC report said that Johnson will make the calls this week in a bid "to persuade them

to veto any proposal that would prevent vaccine exports from entering the UK".

The latest flashpoint appears to be over doses made in a Dutch factory, the report said. Some of the leaders the Prime Minister is likely to speak with are French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, according to British officials quoted by the Financial Times.

On Thursday, the EU leaders will hold a virtual meeting to discuss the ban on exports of the jabs to the UK which comes after they faced widespread faced criticism for the slow pace of the vaccine rollout on the continent. The BBC report said that less than 12 per cent of the bloc's population is reported to have been inoculated against the virus, compared with nearly 40 per cent in the UK.

According to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the EU has exported 41 million vaccine doses to 33 countries in six weeks, with more than 10 million jabs to the UK.

In a warning last week, she said that the EU can "forbid" vaccines made on the continent being sent to the UK if exports from Britain do not improve.

Regarding the ongoing dispute, the UK's Defence Secretary Ben Wallace told the BBC on Sunday that the EU should not "build walls" which would "only damage both EU citizens and UK".

2mn signatures collected to improve HK's electoral system

HONG KONG
More than 2 million signatures were collected in Hong Kong in support of improving the city's electoral system during an 11-day campaign.

Addressing the media on Sunday, Tam Yiu-chung, the chief convener of the campaign, said that some 1.17 million people have signed the petition online and some 1.21 million have written their names at

promotional booths on the street, reports Xinhua news agency.

Over 210,000 invalid signatures were identified and removed.

Tam said he was moved by the wide participation of Hong Kong residents from all walks of life, including students.

The campaign began on March 11, when the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, China's top legislature, adopted a deci-

S Korean Minister renews support for Pyongyang humanitarian aid

Seoul: South Korean Unification Minister Lee In-young on Monday renewed his support to resume humanitarian aid to North Korea.

Lee made the remark during a meeting with the chief of the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation, a South Korean pro-unification civic group, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Minister said that the government agrees "in principle" to the need for the resumption of the private sector's humanitarian assistance to North Korea, vowing to review it sufficiently and rapidly.

Lee, however, noted that there remained issues to be considered, including the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Lee Jong-joo, the Unification Ministry spokesperson, told a regular briefing that the government

maintained a basic position that it is necessary to continue the humanitarian assistance in the private sector.

The comment came after Kim Yo-jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's sister, slammed South Korea for going ahead with its summertime joint military drills with the US.

She threatened to scrap a tension-easing military deal and also disband the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country handling cross-border affairs and dialogue, reports Yonhap News Agency.

Pyongyang has repeatedly rejected offers for help from South Korea to ease its food paucity amid tense inter-Korean relations. Kim Jong-un had earlier urged his officials not to receive outside help on worries about the spread of Covid-19 in the country.

IANS

chairperson of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, said.

The campaign involved over 1,300 organizations and 5,300 volunteers.

CSB Bank Limited, Ashok Vihar branch has granted gold loan against pledge of gold ornaments to the below mentioned borrowers. Notice has been issued to him/her demanding repayment of the amount with interest and charges thereon. Since they have failed to repay the balance outstanding in the respective account(s), we are constrained to recover the amount by sale of gold ornaments in public auction and if the auction does not fetch required amount, bank will proceed with the sale by private treaties/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction without assigning any reason.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client Mr. Binu Konda is purchasing the SECURED FLOOR, PROPERTY NO. 692, (6B-C), KHURJE, KHAS, SHAHDARA, DELHI from Aman Kumar and Naresh Kumar and mortgaging with Activa Bala Housing Finance Ltd. And Smt. Aman Kumar and Naresh Kumar purchased the above said property from Smt. Puspita Rani, as GFA of Madan Lal, Sita Rani, Neetu Bala, Gulshan Kumar, Saritosh and Phooja Rani. Who are the legal heirs of Lt. Ram Lubhaya, Lt. Chiman Lal and Lt. Raj Kumar vide sale deed dt. 13/11/2012 and if any person is having any objection, right or claim in respect of the said property in capacity of legal heirs of said Late Ram Lubhaya, Late Chiman Lal and Late Raj Kumar, in any manner or said mortgage then he may contact the undersigned within 8 days of publication of this Notice.

For AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
C/o. No. 760, Dwarika Court
Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
M:- 9899013918

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. Real estate, value protect
CIN - U67100MH2007PLC174759
Registered Office : Edelweiss House, Off CST Road, Kallina, Mumbai 400098
+91 22 4088 6090 / 6620 3149

APPENDIX – II-A [See Rule 6(2)]
E- AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE PROPERTIES
E- Auction sale Notice for Sale of Movable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower and Guarantor(s) in particular that the below described movable properties Hypothecated, mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of the assets was taken on February 18, 2021 by the Authorised Officer Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC Trust SC- 233 ("EARC") viz. the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on April 07, 2021 for recovery of outstanding dues amounting to **Rs. 41,71,18,728/- (Rupees Forty One Crores Seventy One Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Eight only)** as on 31.05.2019 together with further interest and other expenses/costs thereon to EARC viz. Secured Creditor from M/s Urastun Metal Industries Pvt Ltd. ("Borrower" in liq.); (1) **Mr. Jitendra Pal Marwaha alias Jetenderpal Marwaha, (2) Mr. Rahul Jitendra Pal Marwaha alias Rahul Jetender Marwaha, (3) Mrs. Usha Marwaha, (4) Mr. Gajraj Singh Bisht, (5) Mr. Navjeevan Gosain ("Guarantors").**

The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit for the property shall be as follows:
(in Rs./Lacs.)
Reserve price :- 28,00,000/- Earnest Money Deposit: 2,80,000/-

Description of the Property:
Details of the Property
All that Plant, Machinery, Furniture and Movables lying and being at Plot No. 125, DLF Industrial Estate No. 1, Mewala, Maharajpur, Faridabad, Haryana.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.edelweissarc.in/PropertySale

Date : 22.03.2021
Place : Mumbai

Sd/
Authorised Officer
Phone No: 0750642534

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that Sh. Pitan Singh S/o Shri Murali Lal R/o Village-Chhalera, Pargana-Dadri, Distt. G.B. Nagar U.P. has a plot in Noida whose no. is Plot No. SH-200, Sector-145, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P) contract was registered on 04.05.2010 at Shri Ram Lakhna Saroj R/o Village Baghewara Post Bhojia Mau Tehsil Pakhi, Distt: Pratapgarh, Shri Ram Lakhna Saroj passed away on 08.10.2012, Swearing in Kamlesh Devi D/o. Shri Ram Lakhna Saroj R/o I-504, Vivek Vihar Sector-82 Noida, G.P.A., Holder so G.P.A on the basis of the holder, the above plot is now being transferred in favor of someone else. So all related people is informed that if someone has any objection about transfer of above plot, then he submit his objection in Noida Authority Residential department with all document proof within 30 days from the publishing date of this information.

Smt. Kamlesh Devi

Sl No	Name of borrower	Gross Weight of Pledge Items (in grams)	Overdue Gold Loan Account no.	Amount (in Rs)	Balance as on 21.03.2021 (in Rs)
1	PRASHANT KUMAR GARG	39.7	0283-03706045-000007	99,995.00	105,565.00
2	ROOPA TYAGI	32.36	0283-03713681-000008	99,608.00	99,925.73
3	ROOPA TYAGI	29.66	0283-03713681-000009	94,855.00	94,985.99
4	INDRARAJ GAUTAM	36	0283-03968111-000001	104,000.00	116,839.00
5	SUJEET	9.87	0283-04051215-000001	20,640.00	21,624.00
6	NARAYAN VISHWAKARMA	406.26	0283-04067388-000009	1,572,546.00	1,702,492.76
7	ASHISH	19.55	0283-04067826-000001	38,552.00	39,878.39
8	AV MUNIAPPAN	17.89	0283-04131458-000001	44,999.00	46,581.00
9	PREM KUMAR	1.7	0283-04155725-000001	5,000.00	5,564.00
10	RAM SUNDER	30.25	0283-04185172-000001	99,208.00	106,608.73
11	HIMANSHU GUPTA	1394.58	0283-07240709-000001	4,911,293.00	5,267,426.25
12	POOJA GUPTA	889.78	0283-07240711-000001	2,887,834.85	3,114,655.25
13	SONI ARORA	649.75	0283-07267340-000001	2,155,172.00	2,173,151.50
14	POOJA	394.1	0283-04165415-000001	1,579,800.00	1,669,679.00
15	POOJA	248.54	0283-04165415-000002	944,000.00	1,007,361.14
16	RAJAT	45.6	0283-04165766-000001	137,400.00	1,508,500.00
17	BHAGWATI	7.9	0283-04180808-000001	23,000.00	24,758.00
18	INDER MOHAN	304.9	0283-04185137-000001	1,164,197.00	1,238,976.00
19	INDER MOHAN	18.99	0283-04185137-000004	66,500.00	70,919.92
20	PRADEEP KUMAR	3.42	0283-04185691-000001	9148.00	9272.49

The auction will be conducted at the premises of CSB Bank Limited, Ashok Vihar branch premises situated at A-17, Phase-I, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi-110052 on 30 March 2021 at 03:00 pm. Interested parties may contact the Branch Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with copy of Pan Card, passport size photo, valid identity proof and address proof on the date of auction.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 22-03-2021

BRANCH MANAGER

Insurance amendment Bill passed by Parliament

FDI LIMIT RAISED TO 74%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Parliament on Monday approved the Bill to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent with the Lok Sabha passing the proposed law by a voice vote. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted that raising the FDI cap in the insurance sector was necessary to help insurers deal with issues concerning financial stress.

The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed by Rajya Sabha last week.

Strongly opposing the bill, Congress said the decision to hike the FDI limit was like a "somersault" by the BJP which had persistently opposed increase the proposal when it was in the opposition. Shiv Sena too opposed the bill.

Moving the Bill, the Finance Minister said the

insurance companies are facing solvency related issues. "If growth capital is hard to come by, there will be a stress situation. In order that the stress situation is not left unattended, we need to raise the FDI limit."

Hiking the FDI limit in the insurance sector will help insurers raise additional funds and tide over the financial problems, she said.

The minister said the government will provide funds to the public sector insurance companies but private players will have to raise capital on their own.

The COVID-19 pandemic, Sitharaman said, has further added to the woes of insurance companies. She further said the FDI limit was being raised on the recommendations of insurance regulator IRDAI which has done extensive consultations with the stakeholders.

The FDI limit in the insurance sector, the minister said, has increased significantly after the government decided to raise the cap from 26 per cent to 49 per cent in 2015. As much as Rs 26,000 crore has come as FDI in the sector since 2015, she said, adding the asset under

management (AUM) in this sector has grown by 76 per cent during the last five years.

In here reply Sitharaman detailed how some insurance companies deal with life while others deal with General Insurance like health, agriculture or agriculture insurance. "There are four companies in public sector and 22 in private sector for general insurance. There are seven public sector insurance companies while 61 private sector companies. And money should be available to them to do business", she said. "Your can insure your life with just Rs 1 a day. That's because of the universe has expanded", she said.

"The government assures the employment of LIC. But what about employees in the private sector?", the finance minister asked.

Initiating the debate on the bill, Manish Tewari (Cong) said when the BJP was in the opposition, it opposed an increase in FDI. He said the then UPA government could not breach the wall put by late Sushma Swaraj and Arun Jaitley in both Houses of Parliament.

Sensex ends 87 pts lower; financial stocks drag

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex declined 87 points on Monday, tracking losses in index majors HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries amid a weak trend in global markets.

After slumping over 570 points in mid-afternoon trade, the 30-share BSE index recovered some lost ground to end at 49,771.29, down 86.95 points or 0.17 per cent.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty dipped 7.60 points or 0.05 per cent to 14,736.40.

IndusInd Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 4.33 per cent, followed by PowerGrid, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance and SBI.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, TCS, Sun Pharma, Infosys and HCL Tech were among the gainers.

Global markets reeled and the Turkish lira plunged to near record lows after President Tayyip Erdogan unexpectedly replaced the country's central bank governor, shocking investors and stoking fears of capital controls.

"Indian markets opened

weak with marginal decline following mixed to negative cues from its Asian market peers as investors watched the weakening Turkish lira and fears of rise in cases due to COVID virus which increased volatility in markets.

"During the afternoon session, the markets extended their losses and sentiments

were dented due to major dampener in the form of fast-rising COVID-19 cases... Restricted economic activity in these regions may impact the optimistic growth projections for FY22," said Narendra Solanki, Head- Equity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rathi.

Gold declines ₹302; silver tanks ₹1,533

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold in the national capital tumbled by ₹302 to ₹44,269 per 10 grams on Monday, reflecting overnight decline in global gold prices and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, it had closed at ₹44,571 per 10 grams. Silver also tanked ₹1,533 to ₹65,319 per kg, from ₹66,852 in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading marginally up at USD 1,731 per ounce while silver was trading lower at USD 25.55 per ounce.

Rupee rises for 3rd straight session, up 15 paise against USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee continued its winning run for the third straight session on Monday, adding another 15 paise to close at 72.37 against the US dollar as some stability in crude oil prices and sustained foreign fund inflows kept investor sentiment upbeat. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 72.47 against the greenback and gained further to touch an intra-day high of 72.34. It finally ended at 72.37 against the American currency, registering a rise of 15 paise over its previous close.

Strong GDP growth in FY22 to drive logistics demand: Ind-Ra

PIANS ■ MUMBAI

Strong GDP growth in FY22 will drive logistics demand, India Ratings and Research said.

According to the agency, strong-to-moderate recovery is already being witnessed across various logistics sub-sectors.

Besides, commissioning of the Dedicated Freight Corridor could boost volumes and efficiencies across ports as well as inland container depot/container freight station players.

As per Ind-Ra report, major ports' year-on-year volume growth has been positive for the past three months,

while private ports have also reported resilient volumes in 9MFY21.

"In FY22, Ind-Ra estimates an 8 per cent YoY improvement in volumes for India ports sector (major + private ports), post an estimated 4 per cent yoy decline in FY21."

"The 8 per cent YoY rise will be led by private ports, which in the past five years have displayed a median multiplier (vs real GDP growth rate) of 1.4x, thus outperforming growth from major ports. Historically, India's ports volumes have closely followed GDP growth, with container growth coming in '2x' of overall cargo volumes."

Govt introduces NaBFID Bill in Lok Sabha to support funding infra projects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday introduced the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021 in the Lok Sabha to pave the way for setting up of a government-owned development finance institution to help fund about 7,000 infra projects under the National Infrastructure Pipeline.

The proposed legislation will give effect to the Budget announcement made by the finance minister on February 1. The government has proposed Rs 20,000 crore to capitalise the

institution.

The Union Cabinet had last week approved the Budget proposal of setting up a development finance institution (DFI), which will have tax benefits to enable fund raising from investors.

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development will be set up with a corpus of Rs 20,000 crore and the government will give an initial grant of Rs 5,000 crore.

The government expects the DFI to leverage this fund to raise up to Rs 3 lakh crore in the next few years.

Central Govt's tax collection on petrol, diesel jumps 300% in six years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Central Government's tax collections on petrol and diesel have jumped over 300 per cent in the last six years as excise duty on the two fuels was hiked, the Lok Sabha was informed on Monday.

The Central Government collected ₹29,279 crore from excise duty on petrol and ₹42,881 crore on diesel in 2014-15 - the first year of office of the Modi Government. The collections on petrol and diesel rose to ₹2.94 lakh crore in the first 10 months of the current fiscal (2020-21), according to information furnished by

Minister of State Anurag Singh Thakur in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

Together with excise duty on natural gas, the central government in 2014-15 collected ₹74,158 crore which has gone up to ₹2.95 lakh crore in April 2020 to January 2021 period.

He said taxes collected on petrol, diesel and natural gas as a percentage of total revenue have gone up from 5.4 per cent in 2014-15 to 12.2 per cent this fiscal. Excise duty on petrol has been raised from ₹9.48 per litre in 2014 to ₹32.90 a litre now while the same on diesel has gone up from ₹3.56 a litre to ₹31.80.

BRIEFS

RAJNATH UNVEILS BOOK EK PRATHIDWANI-JAN KENDRITH SHASAN KI OOR

Rajnath Singh, Union Minister of Defence has released the Hindi book titled "Ek Prathidwani- Jan Kendrith Shasan Ki Oor" (One Resonance- Towards People-Centric Governance) written by Dr. S K Joshi, former Chief Secretary to Telangana Government today in New Delhi. The Hon' Minister congratulated the author and said that the good governance is the key for overall development of the nation. It depends on the approach and sensitivity of the administrator towards people. He further said that Honorable Prime Minister has emphasised time and again, the need for good governance in the country.



METRO RAILWAY OBSERVES BIRTH DAY OF MASTERDA SURYA SEN

Kolkata: The Metro Railway on Monday observed 127th birth anniversary of Masterda Surya Sen, a great revolutionary who was influential in the Indian Independence movement against British rule at Masterda Surya Sen Metro station. All station staff were present on this occasion and paid tribute to him by garlanding the photo of Masterda Surya Sen.



NORTH DMC LAUNCHES QR BASED FEEDBACK SYSTEM

North DMC launched QR Based Feedback system to allow the citizens/visitors give feedback of Public Toilets, Community Toilets and Dhalaos/ Community Bins through any QR Scanner App using Smartphone with an aim to provide the citizens a way to submit their query / feedback. North Delhi Mayor, Mr. Jai Prakash said that by using this app, citizens will be able to give their feedback on the locations by scanning a QR code at every toilet, dhalaos etc. in the jurisdiction of North DMC. This ensures good maintenance and attends to any complaints lodged by the users.



Strong GDP growth in FY22 to drive logistics demand: Ind-Ra

Strong GDP growth in FY22 will drive logistics demand, India Ratings and Research said.

According to the agency, strong-to-moderate recovery is already being witnessed across various logistics sub-sectors.

Besides, commissioning of the Dedicated Freight Corridor could boost volumes and efficiencies across ports as well as inland container depot/container freight station players.

As per Ind-Ra report, major ports' year-on-year volume growth has been positive for the past three months,

while private ports have also reported resilient volumes in 9MFY21.

"In FY22, Ind-Ra estimates an 8 per cent YoY improvement in volumes for India ports sector (major + private ports), post an estimated 4 per cent yoy decline in FY21."

"The 8 per cent YoY rise will be led by private ports, which in the past five years have displayed a median multiplier (vs real GDP growth rate) of 1.4x, thus outperforming growth from major ports. Historically, India's ports volumes have closely followed GDP growth, with container growth coming in '2x' of overall cargo volumes."

Govt introduces NaBFID Bill in Lok Sabha to support funding infra projects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday introduced the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021 in the Lok Sabha to pave the way for setting up of a government-owned development finance institution to help fund about 7,000 infra projects under the National Infrastructure Pipeline.

The proposed legislation will give effect to the Budget announcement made by the finance minister on February 1. The government has proposed Rs 20,000 crore to capitalise the

institution.

The Union Cabinet had last week approved the Budget proposal of setting up a development finance institution (DFI), which will have tax benefits to enable fund raising from investors.

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development will be set up with a corpus of Rs 20,000 crore and the government will give an initial grant of Rs 5,000 crore.

The government expects the DFI to leverage this fund to raise up to Rs 3 lakh crore in the next few years.

Central Govt's tax collection on petrol, diesel jumps 300% in six years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Central Government's tax collections on petrol and diesel have jumped over 300 per cent in the last six years as excise duty on the two fuels was hiked, the Lok Sabha was informed on Monday.

The Central Government collected ₹29,279 crore from excise duty on petrol and ₹42,881 crore on diesel in 2014-15 - the first year of office of the Modi Government. The collections on petrol and diesel rose to ₹2.94 lakh crore in the first 10 months of the current fiscal (2020-21), according to information furnished by

Minister of State Anurag Singh Thakur in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

Together with excise duty on natural gas, the central government in 2014-15 collected ₹74,158 crore which has gone up to ₹2.95 lakh crore in April 2020 to January 2021 period.

He said taxes collected on petrol, diesel and natural gas as a percentage of total revenue have gone up from 5.4 per cent in 2014-15 to 12.2 per cent this fiscal. Excise duty on petrol has been raised from ₹9.48 per litre in 2014 to ₹32.90 a litre now while the same on diesel has gone up from ₹3.56 a litre to ₹31.80.

RBI announces committee to evaluate applications for banks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI on Monday announced setting up a Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC) for evaluating applications for universal banks and small finance banks and small finance banks under former central bank deputy governor Shyamala Gopinath. The RBI had issued guidelines for 'on tap' licensing of universal banks in the private sector in August 2016 and guidelines for 'on tap' licensing of small finance banks in the private sector in December

2019. The guidelines indicated that the applications for universal banks and small finance banks will be initially screened by the Reserve Bank to ensure prima facie eligibility of the applicants.

It was also stated that a Standing External Advisory Committee, comprising eminent persons with experience in banking, financial sector and other relevant areas, will evaluate the applications thereafter and that the constitution of the SEAC will be announced by Reserve Bank.

AXIS BANK
SME Centre, Delhi: 4th Floor, Ashoka Estate, 24 Barakhamba Road New Delhi-110001. Also at III Floor, Red Fort Capital Parswanath Tower, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, Near Gole Market, New Delhi-110001

Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-4, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens, Westtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301, Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025 Registered Office: Trishur, 3rd floor, opposite Samartha's Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 5 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1.Date of Demand Notice	2.Date of Possession	3.Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1. M/S Pashupati Polymers A Partnership Firm Having Registered Office at B-35, 2nd Floor, North Ex Mall Near Kadambri Apartments, Sector 9 Rohini, Delhi-110085	1. Equitable mortgage of Commercial Shop / Unit No. B-235 on Second Floor, situated at LSC, North Ex Mall, Plot No. SU, Near Kadambri, C.G.H.S. Ltd. Sector 9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 owned by Shri Ritesh Goyal.	1.29-06-2020	2.20-03-2021	3,38,05,37,000/- (Rupees Three crore five lakh and thirty seven Only)
2. Mrs. Meena Aggarwal Partner of M/S Pashupati Polymers A Partnership Firm Having Registered Office at B-35, 2nd Floor, North Ex Mall Near Kadambri Apartments, Sector 9 Rohini, Delhi-110085	2. Equitable mortgage of Commercial Shop / Unit No. B-256 on Second Floor, situated at LSC, North Ex Mall, Plot No. SU, Near Kadambri, C.G.H.S. Ltd. Sector 9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 owned by Shri Ritesh Goyal.	1.29-06-2020	2.20-03-2021	3,38,05,37,000/- (Rupees Three crore five lakh and thirty seven Only)
3. Mr. Ritesh Goyal Partner of M/S Pashupati Polymers A Partnership Firm Having Registered Office at B-35, 2nd Floor, North Ex Mall Near Kadambri Apartments, Sector 9 Rohini, Delhi-110085	Both the Properties Bounded as under - North - As per the sale Deed East - As per the sale Deed South - As per the sale Deed West - As per the sale Deed	1.29-06-2020	2.20-03-2021	3,38,05,37,000/- (Rupees Three crore five lakh and thirty seven Only)

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.,
Date : 23-03-2021
Place : Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Namely : Priyanka D/o Virender Kumar R/o 122/11, Railway Colony, Kishan Ganj, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Sarai Rohilla Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 7/21 u/s 365 IPC dated 08.01.2021 has been registered at Police Station Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. Her physical description is as under :-

Age : 18 years 6 months, Height: 5'2", Complexion : Fair, Face: Long, Hair: Black, Wearing : Red, white & black colour top.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi at E-mail id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: **SHO 011-24368638, 24368641**
Fax No. **011-24368639**
DP/911/N/2021

P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi North Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-23691106, 23693611

UJVL LIMITED
Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: (0135-2763508, 2763808)
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866

"e" Procurement Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (Gen.), Ramganga Power Station, Kalagarh, Pauri Garhwal invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

e-Bid Identification No.07/E.E.(Gen.)RPS/Klg/2020-21.

Name of the Work :- Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of remote terminal unit (RTU) & Power Line Carrier Communication (PLCC) with accessories.

Estimated Cost :- Rs. 1,60,00,907.00 (One Crore Sixty Lakh Sixty Thousand Nine Hundred Seven Only). GST extra.

Date & Time of start of availability of bid document in the portal: 22.03.2021, 16:00 Hrs onwards.

Last Date & Time for receipt of bid in the portal: 12.04.2021 up to 16:00 Hrs.

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://ukntenders.gov.in" RO No 228 dt. 22.03.2021 Executive Engineer (Gen.)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Principal Chief Materials Manager
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001
Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com
No.: 117/S/Auction Programme/Sale/2020-21 Date: 20.03.2021

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 for e-auction
1.	Sr. DMM / MB 0591-2413141	27.03.2021
2.	Sr. DMM / FZR 01632-244154	27.03.2021
3.	Sr. DMM / LKO 0522-2234756	27.03.2021
4.	Sr. DMM / DLI 0111-23365311	27.03.2021
5.	Sr. DMM / UMB 0171-2611203	27.03.2021

All other auction dates advised earlier will remain same. For further details regarding e-auction please visit Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in' (Perhad Singh) Dy. CMM/S&P 655/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
O.A. No. 1304/18 Date: 05.03.2021

State Bank of India Vs Applicant
Sh Sandeep Kumar & Ors. Vs Respondent

To, Defendant
3 M/s Amrapali Leisure Valley Developers Pvt. Ltd.
307, 3rd Floor, Nipun Towers, Plot No. 15, Community Centre, Karkardooma, Delhi-92

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 24,25,499 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Nine Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 31.05.2021 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By order of the Tribunal, For Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sonu Ansari S/o Tofiq Ahmed R/o H.No. 6777, Quila Qadam Sharif, Nabi Karim, Pahar Ganj, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 347/2020, U/s 341/326/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sonu Ansari** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sonu Ansari** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sonu Ansari** accused of **FIR No. 347/2020, U/s 341/326/34 IPC, P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before **30.04.2021**.

By Order
Ms. Shivli Talwar, Ld. MM,
Room No. 247, Tis Hazari, Court,
Delhi
DPI1029/N/2021-(Court Matter)

CSB Bank
Formerly The Central Bank Ltd.
(Branch located at Greater Kailash II-New Delhi)
GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

CSB Bank Limited, Greater Kailash II branch has granted gold loan against pledge of gold ornaments to the below mentioned borrower(s). Notice has been issued to him/them demanding repayment of the amount with interest and charges thereon. Since they have failed to repay the balance outstanding in the respective accounts, we are constrained to recover the amount by sale of gold ornaments in public auction and if the auction does not fetch required amount, bank will proceed with the sale by private treaties/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction without assigning any reason.

Sl N	Name of borrower	Gross Weight of Pledge items (in grams)	Overdue Gold Loan Account no.	Amount	Balance as on 19-03-2021
1	Mr. Mohd Abid Jamil	252.2	0296-07060099-000007	Rs.6,10,000/-	Rs.6,20,647.23
2	Mr.Vikram Puri	611.7	0296-07241188-000001	Rs.18,62,000/-	Rs.19,57,098.50
3	Mr. S K Arora	790.3	0296-0521043-000012	Rs.29,10,000/-	Rs.28,41,893.99
4	Mr. S K Arora	374.1	0296-0521043-000013	Rs.11,55,000/-	Rs.12,48,665.00
5	Mr.Nikhil Soni	80.4	0296-07293353-000001	Rs.2,42,000/-	Rs.2,41,781.64
6	Mr.Ashwani Sharma	203.54	0296-07235079-000001	Rs.6,50,000/-	Rs.6,49,230.21

The auction will be conducted at the premises of CSB Bank Limited, Greater Kailash II branch premises situated at M-17, Main Market, GK II, New Delhi-110048 on 30-03-2021. Interested parties may contact the Branch Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with copy of Pan Card, passport size photo, valid identity proof and address proof on the date of auction.

Place: Delhi
Date : 23-03-2021
BRANCH MANAGER

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of following Holi special train will be revised due to operational reasons as under:-

Train No. / Name	Earlier Published Departure Time	Revised Departure Time
04039/Barauni-New Delhi Superfast Express Festival Special Train	From Barauni 19:30 Hrs. w.e.f. 24.03.2021	From Barauni 19:45 Hrs. w.e.f. 24.03.2021

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

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

RailMadad Helpline No. 139
Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download Railmadad App

Please join us on
Northern Railway
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GUJARAT MARITIME BOARD
Sector 10A, 'Chh' Road, Gandhinagar-382010 Gujarat, India

Notice Inviting Tender

Brief Scope of Work: Consultancy Services for Appointment of Consultant to Act as Transaction Advisor for Selection of Developers for Three Greenfield Ports in Gujarat"

1. Earnest Money deposit (Rs.) 1. Rs. 118,000/-
2. Tender Fee (Rs.) 2. Rs. 29500/- (non-refundable)

Schedule of E-Tendering

Release of Request For Proposal (RFP)	22/03/2021
Pre-bid Meeting	01/04/2021
Last date for Online Submission of RFP Response	23/04/2021
Last date for Physical Submission of RFP Response	01/05/2021
Opening of Qualification bid	03/05/2021

Tender documents is available on <https://www.gmb.nprocure.com> and <https://www.gmbports.org>.

No/INF/VPN/2020/G/2208

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, NEW DELHI
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING
PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI -110001

O.A No 843/19 Date: 23.02.2021

YES BANK LTD. Vs APPLICANT
VERSUS
MR. V. K. CHHABRA & ORS. RESPONDENT

To, DEFENDANT

5. CORPORATION BANK
M-93, CONNOUGHT CIRCUS, NEW DELHI-01

6. STATE BANK OF INDIA
6TH FLOOR, SBI MAIN BRANCH BUILDING,
11 PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI -01

7. BANK OF INDIA
10TH FLOOR, CHANDRALOK BUILDING,
36 JANPATH, NEW DELHI -01

8. STANDARD CHARTERED BANK
NARAIN MANZIL 23 BARAKHAMB ROAD, NEW DELHI-01

9. KARNATAKA BANK
GROUND FLOOR SCO 21, SECT 14 DELHI ROAD,
GURUGRAM -122001

10. IDBI TRUSTEESHIP SERVICES LTD
1 VIRJANAND MARG VIKASPURI NEW DELHI -18

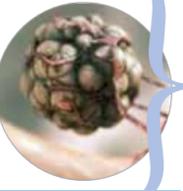
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 6,02,35,249/- (RUPEES SIX CRORE TWO LAKH THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY NINE ONLY) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 26.04.2021 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
FOR REGISTRAR
DRT-II, DELHI

Increased Risk

Gallbladder and biliary tract cancer incidence worldwide increased by 76%, mortality increased by 65% and disability-adjusted life years increased by 52% from 1990 to 2017, says a new study. It is estimated that globally, there were 210,878 new cases, 173,974 deaths and 3,483,046 disability adjusted life years — the number of years lost from ill-health, disability, or early death — due to GBTC in 2017



A COLOURFUL ISSUE



Dull and dry skin is a part and parcel of Holi. DR MIKKI SINGH tells you how one can take care of their skin during and after the festival

As much as we love splashing the colours on each other, we know we have to deal with the repercussions of the damage done during Holi. Here are some of the pre and post Holi tips that can be followed to have a smoother sailing boat when it comes to getting rid of the colours and helping the skin gain back the lost moisture and hydration.

Pre-Holi skincare:

A thick layer of moisturiser: We are all well aware that the colours that are used during Holi contain a lot of chemicals. These chemicals harm the skin and sometimes may even cause skin allergies. It would be ideal to cover not just your face but also your body with a thick layer of moisturiser that locks in the moisture of the body. This helps the skin stay moisturised and acts as the base layer.

Don't miss your sunblock: It is mandatory that sunblock is used as Holi is an outdoor festival and we all love running around under the sun on this day. Adding sunblock which is SPF 30+ can help the skin from tanning and sun damage. Apply your sunscreen at least 20 mins before you step out for it to work effectively.

Apply olive oil to the skin and rub away any excess oil: Applying olive oil before you step out would be a smart choice as the oil's lubricant nature helps in the elimination of the colour post the celebration. It helps as a barrier between the skin and the colour, although it doesn't eliminate fully, it makes the exfoliation process easy.

Cover your body as much as you can to avoid the colour on the skin: It would be a good idea to cover the body as much as you can to minimise the direct contact of the colour to the body.

Post Holi:

It is ideal to splash cold water instead of hot or lukewarm water as it makes it tougher to get rid of the colour. Cold water helps in dissolving the colour better than hot water. Hot water in general is not good for the skin as it strips away the moisture of the skin. A facewash that has foam is a better bet to help remove the colour. The foam generated helps in removing the dirt particles on the top layer of the skin.

Apply olive oil all over your face or body and let it settle for a half-hour which will help in washing away the colours and dust particles. Wash away everything with a proper cleanser or body gel that has foam. Intense scrubbing and washing dries out the skin. Apply a thick layer of moisturiser and sunscreen to avoid loss of moisture in the skin. Hydration for the skin is very important, lack of hydration makes the skin look dry, old and wrinkly. To combat this and pamper your skin, the following can be done.

Volite or Hydra Boosters: Volite is a skin conditioning gel containing Hyaluronic Acid & has been designed to improve the condition of the skin. Hyaluronic Acid works like a magnet for moisture, making your skin feel & appear plump, healthy & radiant. Volite lasts for six to nine months and a perfect solution for hydration.

The writer is Head of Bodycraft Clinic

DOCYARD

DR SRIVIDYA NANDKUMAR

Senior Naturopath

JINDAL NATURECURE INSTITUTE



Let's pin down trigger points



An insulin disorder that affects over 450 million people across the world, Diabetes Mellitus is one of the leading causes of death worldwide. In India alone, over 70 million people are estimated to be living with Diabetes. Poor disease management and ineffective blood sugar control is a major risk factor for a series of life-threatening conditions such as cardiovascular, strokes and renal disease. In fact, Diabetes is a major cause of vision loss, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke and amputations. Worryingly, the incidence of this lifestyle disorder has grown tremendously over the past three decades largely due to unhealthy lifestyles.

Naturopathic interventions such as diet management, yoga, lifestyle alterations and acupuncture can play a significant role in controlling the Diabetes pandemic. Adopting a naturopathic way of life not only helps patients keep their blood sugar level under control, but also help them reduce their dosage of allopathic drugs.

Acupuncture as a Diabetes control intervention
This ancient Chinese practice is based on the belief that a life energy also known as qi flows through our bodies through certain pathways, thereby regulating health and vitality. When the flow of this vital energy is obstructed due to some reason, the body experiences diseases. Acupuncture uses a practice of inserting pins and needles on strategic points on the body to remove the obstruction and revive the flow of energy through our organs. There are around 1000 acupuncture points in the human body.

The needles used for acupuncture are very thin and one feels little or almost no discomfort while they are inserted. Many patients don't even realise when the needles are being pierced into their body

Acupuncture is an effective therapy for Diabetes, especially for Type II Diabetics. It helps regulate the pancreatic function and control blood sugar levels in the body. The result is better glycemic control and improved overall health.

Mainly two types of acupuncture practices are used to treat Diabetes — electroacupuncture and wrist-ankle treatment. The former is the most common form of treatment in which needles are

pierced at trigger points. Then a low-frequency electrical variation is transferred from one needle to another that helps fight insulin resistance. Wrist-ankle treatment is most effective in bringing down the sugar levels and focuses on deep stimulation of the trigger points.

However, several myths and misconceptions about acupuncture prevent many people from receiving its benefits. We demystify some common myths related to acupuncture here.

Myth: Its painful.

Fact: The mere thought of needles being pierced into the skin leaves many people petrified, but acupuncture isn't as painful as you think it to be. The needles used for acupuncture are very thin and you feel very little or almost no discomfort while they are inserted. Many patients don't even realise when the needles are being pierced into their body.

Myth: Doctors don't recommend this.

Fact: The World Health Organisation and National Institutes of Health have recognised acupuncture as an effective therapy for treating not just pain but also several other conditions like Diabetes. A number of modern medicine practitioners also prescribe acupuncture as an adjuvant therapy along with the regular medicines particularly to patients displaying poor glycemic control.

Myth: It has side effects.

Fact: Acupuncture is absolutely safe when performed by a certified acupuncture practitioner. Side effects are almost negligible or only minor such as soreness, minor bleeding in some cases or dizziness.

SUMMER COOLERS

PUMPKIN SEEDS: Pumpkin seeds are typically flat and asymmetrical oval, have a white outer husk and are light green in colour after the husk is removed.

The seeds are rich in antioxidants like carotenoids and Vitamin E.

Antioxidants can reduce inflammation and protect your cells from harmful free radicals. That's why consuming foods rich in antioxidants can help protect against

many diseases.

They are also high in fibre that is known for promoting digestive health. Not only this the seeds are rich in magnesium. Consuming adequate magnesium levels result in better sleep.

The presence of high amounts of antioxidants and phytochemicals ensure a good immune system and further reduce the possibility of viral infections that may lead to cold, flu, fatigue and other ailments.



Cough, cold and fever are common health problems associated with seasonal changes. DR DEEPAK VERMA shares tips that can help

With the change in season and increase in temperature, many are complaining of sore throat, cough and cold. Those who have a rougher patch are also suffering from fever and flu-like symptoms. Living in the shadow of COVID-19, many are scared if this is normal or if this is going to make them catch the pandemic virus more easily than others.

Cough and cold as well as feeling feverish are common health problems associated with seasonal changes — especially when summer follows winter. This is because as the temperature increases, pathogens — viruses and bacteria causing these diseases — become more active. The warm air is light, unlike winter air that is cold and sits heavy, helping in carrying pollen and dander that cause allergic reactions. This increases the chance of sneezing and coughing in people who are susceptible to allergic conditions.

According to research, most adults suffer from cold two-four times a year while children suffer five to seven times. Every change in season sees up to 200 pathogens in the air that may cause a range of symptoms such as watery eyes, sore throat, sneezing, and mucus draining from nose into throat, fever, and muscle ache. The most common virus is human rhinovirus (HRV) that causes up to 40 per cent of all colds and allergic reactions like rhinitis.

Drink it out

Peppermint tea: This tea is most beneficial for indigestion and gas related problems. People struggling with sinus problems get relief from it.

Ginger tea: This tea is good for the liver cleansing liver and also good for skin. It helps in lowering the cholesterol level. It is very beneficial for those who feel morning sickness.

Lemon tea: This tea is beneficial in increasing immunity, helps in reducing blood glucose level and is good for the skin. It also helps in reducing belly fat.

Cumin tea: This tea is beneficial in reducing weight; it is good for upset stomach upset and helps prevent diseases like anaemia.

Chamomile tea: This tea is beneficial for people suffering from insomnia, i.e sleeplessness and relieves the nerves. It helps in reducing stress

and anxiety. This tea is readily available in the market as a product of different brands of tea.

Colon cleansing tea: It helps in increasing energy by removing toxins from the body and thus improving liver functioning and boosting the immune system. It is also good for aiding weight loss. Relieves bloating, cramps during the menstruation cycle helps in gestation problem, reduces the risk of colon cancer and uplifts your mood.

Green tea with mint: It may ease digestive issues and relieve Tension Headaches and Migraines. It reduces the bad smell of breath and freshens it. It relieves clogged sinuses and helps in relieving menstrual cramps and improves your sleep.

The writer is Dr K. Shanmugam — Assistant Chief Medical Officer, Jindal Naturecure Institute

Prevention:

As it is often said, prevention is better than cure. Work towards building immunity in consultation with your doctor. Following are a few tips that can help to prevent seasonal diseases:

■ Practice good hygiene as viruses like rhinovirus survive for 3 hours outside the body. On frequently touched surfaces like door-knobs or switches, it can stay up to 48 hours. Wash your hands after

touching any such surface and avoid touching your face. Use a face mask outdoors.

■ Massage your throat with hot water and a pinch of salt into it as a cure to sore throat.

■ Drinking hot beverages such as lukewarm water but avoid coffee and tea as they can add sugar into your diet.

■ Make a concoction of turmeric powder, ginger powder and a teaspoon of honey to warm water. It

helps curing cold and cough, relieves body ache and headache.

■ Add eucalyptus oil to the hot water and inhale the steam inhalation to clear congestion in the nasal passage. Add a few drops to your lukewarm bath water to recover from body pain.

■ Add a few *tulsi* leaves, crushed ginger, and black pepper in your tea for relief from cough and cold.

■ Make sure you are doing moderate exercise everyday.

■ Do not miss your daily dose of vitamin-D, get out in the sun for 15 minutes a day.

■ Sleep is an integral part of wellness — ensure eight hours of sleep at night for better immunity.

Apart from this, one should take balance diet with adequate intake of water along with food items which are rich in vitamin C so that they can fight with health conditions that happen because of weather change. As we are approaching towards summer season, the chances of dehydration also increases in kids especially infants if fluids aren't given adequately with such illness.

There is a subset of children, who are quite sensitive to changing weather conditions. These are those children who have the family history of asthma. These children should adhere to the guidelines of regular hand washing, social distancing and wearing mask.

The writer is Internal Medicine, Columbia Asia Hospital, Ghaziabad

DadiKaKehna

Dark circles are not only annoying, but unpleasing too. ROSHANI DEVI shares home remedies that can help treat it without having to put in too much efforts



The long tedious working hours as a result of work from home has for sure given us all one thing — dark circles under the eyes. Fret not. There are several natural ways by which one can get rid of them easily.

One of the simplest way is to use tomato. The fruit that is used as a vegetable, has natural bleaching properties that lightens skin effectively.

To make a mixture, take on teaspoon of tomato juice with one and a half teaspoon of lemon juice. Apply this mixture on your dark circles and wait for 10 minutes. Wash with cool water. Do

this for a couple of weeks to see results.

One can also take help from potatoes. Grate a couple of chilled potatoes and extract the juice. Soak a cotton ball in the juice and place it on your closed eyes. The cotton should covers the dark circles. Wait for 15 minutes and rinse well with water. Do this for two-three weeks.

Rosewater not only helps rejuvenate the skin but can also reduce dark circles. For best results, soak two cotton pads in rose water and place them on closed eyelids. Repeat the process for at three weeks.

Distantly beautiful

World Down Syndrome Day was on March 21. To mark the occasion, SHREYA lists nutrients that can help

Down syndrome is a genetic condition that results when there is an extra copy of a specific chromosome, chromosome 21. It is not an illness but a term that describes the features resulting from this change. The extra chromosome can affect the physical features, intellect, low IQ and overall development of an individual. It also increases the likelihood of some health problems.

There can be impairments in cognitive ability and physical growth, mild to moderate developmental disabilities, and a higher risk of some health problems. Through a series of screenings and tests, Down syndrome can be detected before or after birth.

Causes: Down syndrome happens when there is an extra copy of genetic material on all or part of the 21st chromosome. Every cell in the body contains genes that are grouped along chromosomes in the cell's nucleus. There are normally 46 chromosomes in each cell, 23 inher-

ited from the mother and 23 from the father. When some or all of a person's cells have an extra full, or partial, copy of chromosome 21, the result is Down syndrome.

Symptoms: Down syndrome is not a disease, so it may be more appropriate to refer to features or characteristics, rather than symptoms. People with Down syndrome often have distinct physical features, unique health issues, and variability in cognitive development.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Physical characteristics include:

- Eyes that have an upward slant, oblique fissures, epicanthic skin folds on the inner corner, and white spots on the iris.
- Low muscle tone and poor body posture, small stature and short neck
- Flat nasal bridge
- Single, deep creases across the centre of the palm
- Protruding tongue

■ Large space between the large and second toe

■ A single flexion furrow of the fifth finger

■ Denture problem

Important food and nutrients: There are always some slight chances of improvement in any kind of condition, if we entertain few basic changes in our daily routine, let's say, start from the dietary habits like:

■ Try to keep your meal gluten free as much as you can for e.g., wheat and barley.

■ Have more protein in your diet for e.g., bajra, jawar, ragi, amaranth, quinoa, Spirulina, nutritional yeast, eggs & non-veg are mandatory.

■ Vitamin C rich diets for good dental & oral health.

■ For less irritated mood ice cream, chocolates indifferent forms like hot or cold chocolate drinks can be given.

■ Give foods which they enjoy and relish.

The writer is Dietitian/Nutritionist at Practo

INBRIEF

Menstruation is a natural bodily function and yet period shame along with lack of access to menstrual health and education continue to hold millions of girls and women back to this day. With the Covid-19 pandemic, the situation has only worsened with even more restricted access to safe period products, menstrual health awareness and education. The Body Shop, sets out to partner with CRY — Child Rights and You, a leading Indian non-profit organisation, to make real change by raising awareness about Periods, Period Shame and the impact of Period Shame. Through this partnership, The Body Shop aims to normalise the conversation around periods and raise funds towards menstrual health and education efforts for communicated deeply affected by the pandemic. Periods are normal but India's statistics around it are not: 20% of girls in rural India leave schools after getting their first period. This is a direct consequence of social stigma, shame, isolation and poor access to safe menstrual products and disposal facilities. 70% menstrual hygiene leading to 70% increase in incidents of reproductive tract infections.



Bollywood
 'Chhichhore is one of the most special films of my career. We had a lovely time shooting it.'
 —Varun Sharma



Proud of Tiger: Jackie



Veteran actor Jackie Shroff says being known as new-age Bollywood star Tiger Shroff's father makes him feel really proud. "I am so proud of him. In fact, he has inspired me to keep myself as healthy as possible and he inspires a lot of children to keep their health strong. I am so happy, god has been really kind and people who love him have been so kind. I've got a boost in my life and career also. I am known as Tiger's father, which makes me feel really proud of him," Jackie said. "I am stating a fact, dear. I'm actually called Tiger Shroff ka papa by kids. He has a lot of tiny fans who recognise me that way," the actor said with a hearty laughter. Jackie will soon be seen in the sci-fi comedy web series *OK Computer*. Talking about his character in the Disney+ Hotstar series, he said, "My character is someone who believes in nature and has given up his clothes. He just wants green cover around him, as many trees as possible. He doesn't like robots and is against them. He just wants to go back to nature." Quizzed about the interference of technology in our day to day lives, the actor replied: "Looking into each other's eyes have gone. We are most of the times looking down at our laptops. All information is so easily available. People have forgotten to do basic counting like two into two, and depend on calculators and computers. But then, definitely technology has made us reach Mars at minimal cost." "I feel, we should go to Mars but we have to make sure that drinking water does not disappear from earth so that we have to go around looking for that in the Moon or Mars," he added. With OTT platforms gaining popularity with each passing day, can the digital platform replace cinema halls in the future? "It (OTT) has changed the way people watch programmes. There are people who definitely sit and watch for eight hours non-stop! But today if a street play is happening, I'll find 50-100 people standing and watching it. So from street play to OTT, entertainment will grip viewers. There will be audience for all kinds of entertainment, be it street play, OTT or morning shows at halls and regional films," said Jackie.

GET HOLI READY

Colours can adversely affect your skin. RUKSHMANI THAKKAR gives you some tips which are to be observed pre and post the festivities



Almost every individual eagerly waits for Holi. It is one of the most anticipated festivals of the year. Isn't it? Well, it usually happens that in the excitement of playing, people don't realise the damage the colours cause to their skin, even if they are natural. But there's no need to worry as there are easy ways this can be managed by following a pre and post-Holi beauty regime. Well, a basic regime is a must for day-to-day skincare like cleansing, toning and moisturising. However, the festival calls for a unique skincare session. Here is the list for prepping your skin pre-Holi:

- ◆ The first thing that can be done is applying a sheet mask which is nothing less than ice. It helps the skin to wake up, hydrate, tighten, and prepares it for the next step. If time permits, you can also opt for a frozen spoon signature massage for any festive day. You can, of course, also use a simple ice cube and rub it on the face gently.
- ◆ Must ensure applying an anti-ageing serum. You can apply any of your favourite serum. Then, layer it with nourishing face moisturiser.
- ◆ The next step is to apply sunscreen. Also, don't forget to check its SPF. Use as per your skin need. It's best to choose a sunscreen with broad-spectrum UV protection of at least SPF 30.
- ◆ It is important to not forget the eye contour area, apply some primer on the eyelid. You can use some vaseline as well. Put it under the eye, at the corner of your ears, hairline and inside of nails.
- ◆ A dark shade of nail paint on your nails is recommended since nails tend to catch colours faster

and it takes longer to come off.
 ◆ Lips are the most sensitive part of your body. They have no oil glands that is why they are prone to chipping and flaking. Protect them with your favourite lip balm or vaseline.
 After having an amazing time, you must be worried about going to work without looking blue, green, pink or yellow. Well, here is the post-Holi routine you must follow:
 ◆ The first and the foremost thing people should do is put an ample amount of body oil from

top to toe. Coconut oil is also a great option. Let it soak in before taking a shower. Those who have after sun cream can opt for that as well. It will allow the skin to calm down.
 ◆ If you feel any skin burn, try applying aloe vera gel on the affected area.
 ◆ After 30 minutes or so, gently exfoliation or scrub your skin with coffee or coconut granules. Make sure you do not over rub the skin to get rid of the colours. Be as gentle as possible. There is a possibility the skin may burn or get tanned. Overdoing it may give an adverse effect on the skin.
 ◆ While exfoliating your body, apply a calming and cooling face mask to your face. It can be made naturally with basic ingredients like aloe vera gel, rose water, besan, honey, saffron strands and a few drops of milk. Leave it on for 10 minutes and gently remove it with cold water. Avoid hot water for a shower for the next 12 hours or so.
 ◆ Post shower, apply cucumber water or toner as per your skin type on your face.
 ◆ Also, for the body, go with a generous amount of moisturiser.
 ◆ Don't forget to remove your nail paint. Also, you can get a manicure done. Another alternation is to soak your nails in a tub of lukewarm water with some sea salt and lime. It will help you get rid of all the impurities.
 Organic colours are made from naturally occurring substances. Therefore, they are less likely to cause any skin irritations. Hence, always remember to opt for natural colours. Continue to drink an ample amount of water and stay hydrated all the time.
 (The writer is the Technical Head-Skin, Enrich salon.)

Drive the blues away

Choreographer ASHLEY LOBO urges people to take a few minutes to move and celebrate life



Through the ongoing global crisis of COVID-19, finding happiness, hope and motivation in everyday life has become more important than ever before. Indian-Australian choreographer and educator, Ashley Lobo, who has taught the joy of movement to countless students at The Danceworx Academy of Performing Arts and Navdharma India Dance Theatre, says, "Dancing and surrendering to the rhythm of music is a time-tested way of feeling happier, no matter what the realities of life may be. Following the structured beauty of interconnected steps and immersing oneself in musical beats can help drive the blues away, clears blocked energy and calms and rejuvenates the senses. Even if you don't think you can dance, just move your body. I would urge people to take just 15 minutes every day to just dance as if no one's watching and see the palpable difference in how they feel."

"Dance is a simple way to connect with inner joy and it also improves cardiovascular health, increases stamina and boosts energy," adds he.

Ashley is renowned for his Prana Paint technique, a unique sensitising approach developed by him that explores movement through yoga, breath, connectivity and touch. This notable technique has put him on the international map and led to him being invited to teach and choreograph overseas. His choreographic style has a strong influence of cinematic techniques combined with a clear narrative.

"Dancing is known to be cathartic and helps reduce anxiety and stress. Even those who have not typically taken to a fitness-

related activity can get fitter and happier by putting on a favourite song and letting it take over the mind and body. Dance works out your body, conditions your muscles, improves balance and even boosts cognitive performance. And the best part is that anyone can dance. Just make sure that you don't have health issues that require you to not undertake even a simple dance routine. For the rest, dancing is a great way to celebrate life and happiness every day," he says.

Recently, a brand of sleep-aid products reached out to some of India's leading CEOs to learn about their sleeping habits. Surprisingly enough, the study found that, while shouldering the gigantic responsibility to grow their empires and hectic schedules, a majority of the respondents are managing enough sleep in day-to-day life.

Losing sleep over work might seem like a commendable characteristic, but it does have a significant impact on one's physical and mental health. On the other hand, sound sleep leads to better productivity and concentration, lower risk of weight gain, greater athletic performance, and lower risk of heart disease, depression, and burnout. Contrary to how the lockdown phase has been with work from home overpowering the work-life balance, Indian CEOs have managed to find refuge in meditation, yoga and other forms of physical activity to compete with the ongoing stress and are also ensuring sufficient sleep cycles as a part of their daily routine.

From one of the few surveyed companies, Trade India's COO Sandip Chettri follows a very disciplined routine and fixed work schedule. When asked, if he experiences trouble falling asleep, he responded, "No, as I practice yoga and meditation which helps me fall asleep easily."

The insights pointed towards the fact that most industry leaders prefer fixed sleeping hours and try to achieve a long and deep sleep. Most of the respondents, who are founders, co-founders, CEOs, etc, try to get an average of seven to eight hours of sleep. However, many of the leaders responded that they experience difficulty falling asleep since their mind is active. While some nights, work thoughts disturb their sleep, this doesn't happen every day.

Sore labour's bath

A recent survey finds out that most Indian CEOs try to sleep for seven to eight hours every night



Pritesh Talwar, CEO, Livpure Sleep, said, "I think that if you are waking up fresh and energised, you had a sound sleep. I have a fixed sleep schedule and generally sleep around seven to eight hours every night. I like to start my day early so I fall asleep between 10-11 pm and start my day at six in the morning. I have made it a point to follow the schedule to make sure that other things fall in line and now my body has

also become used to it. If I am awake past 12, my body starts resisting and hints at getting to bed as it's past bedtime."

Speaking on the quality of sleep, he added, "Usually, I do not find any trouble falling asleep during the night. A few exceptions could be when I am travelling or sleeping on an unfamiliar mattress. During the day, I do think a quick 15-minute nap makes you fresh

and re-energises you for the rest of the day. However, longer sleep during the day disturbs your system and does not let you function properly. It's advised to have a long sleep only during the night."

Along the same lines, Arpi Mehta, co-founder of Toothsi, said, "Once you wake up from a sound sleep, you feel invigorated. If you wake up tired or groggy, that's an indicator of otherwise. I'd advise everyone to follow a fixed schedule to avoid feeling tired throughout the day but, unfortunately, due to my lifestyle and commitments, I am not able to adhere to one. Being an entrepreneur, stress makes it hard to sleep. While I do wish to complete eight hours of sleep daily, sometimes it becomes impossible which is when power naps come to the rescue."

Jatin Varma, the founder of Comic Con India, said, "For me, a minimum of six hours of sound sleep is necessary but eight hours is ideal. My sleep hours are generally fixed except for the weekends. But travel affects my routine and I have trouble sleeping a day or so after I come back home. Long, stressful workdays can also affect my sleep. Lastly, if I get stuck in an OTT binge, then my schedule goes for a toss."

Through the survey, the brand, Livpure Sleep, aimed to encourage better sleeping habits among Indians, focussing on the country's most prominent business leaders. The data collated will go a long way in helping people understand how important it is to get a good night's rest.

TRENDBLAZER



TAAPSEE WRAPS UP DOBAARAA

Actor **TAAPSEE PANNU** has wrapped up shooting for her forthcoming film *Dobaaraa*, directed by Anurag Kashyap. She wrote on social media, "It's a wrap! #Dobaaraa And on that parting note a bet is placed, the content of that bet shall be disclosed later but for now just know if I win, he will have to do another film with me of my choice and if he wins, in the next movie we do together, I shall not argue with him on set. Point being, you shall see us together once again."

fairtalk SHRIYA PILGAONKAR



'It's not everyday that you get to film in a rainforest with wild elephants for company. This film demanded that we surrender to nature. Listen. Observe. Learn. Truly feel that oneness and sense of responsibility. Our trilingual film releases on March 26 in theatres! #WorldForestDay #Aranya #Kaadan #HaathiMereSaathi #TamilTelugudebut.'

dailytalk SHILPA SHETTY



'Some mornings bring in a different kind of energy. A year ago, the *Janta* Curfew was levied to ensure we can curb the effects of the pandemic. But, the situation continues to be worrisome. So, today's yoga session was a little more intense than usual. Take good care of yourselves; we can overcome this and we will.'

BELLA THORNE ENGAGED TO BENJAMIN

Actor-model **BELLA THORNE** and musician **BENJAMIN MASCOLO** are engaged. The 27-year-old singer took to Instagram and posted a picture of the couple, confirming the happy news.

"She said yes! (ring and heart emoji)," Benjamin captioned the photo, which featured the two posing together as she showed off her new engagement ring.

The 23-year-old actor also shared the photo, and other posts of the happy couple, confirming the news on her Instagram Stories.



INDIA EYE WINNING START

Men in Blue look to change pattern of defeat in series opener against England in 1st game today



Indian pacer T Natarajan, right, bowls as teammates Washington Sundar, Krunal Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav and bowling coach Bharat Arun watch him during net session PTI

PTI ■ PUNE
Struggling opener Shikhar Dhawan will be the focus in a spoilt-for-choice Indian team when it takes on world champion England in a three-match ODI series starting here on Tuesday with the visitors eyeing a positive end to their tour after Test and T20 debacles. The series is particularly important for the 35-year-old Dhawan, who failed to make an impact in the first T20 in Ahmedabad before warming the benches the remaining four games. With the management having plenty of options in (Shubman Gill) and outside (Prithvi Shaw and Devdutt Padikkal) the squad for the opening slot, it will be a litmus test for *Gabbar* to prove himself in the lung-opener.

He will open the innings along with seasoned campaigner Rohit Sharma, who was in blistering form in the final game of T20 series and would be keen to carry on in the same vein. The ODI format gives Dhawan the time he needs to build his innings. With loads of experience under his belt, the Delhi batsman could well return to form on Tuesday. For the Indian team, the series would be an extension of its preparations for the T20 World Cup later this year. The 50-over-format, in general, remains low priority in 2021 with no major tournaments around the corner. Skipper Virat Kohli was back among the runs in the T20 series and he would look to carry the momentum into the ODIs.

It has been a while since Kohli scored a hundred in the format, his last and 43rd one coming against the West Indies (114 not out) at Port of Spain in August 2019. He will be itching to make his good form count and end the century drought. It is also expected that both KL Rahul, who is not likely to feature at the top of the order, and Rishabh Pant, after turning things around spectacularly since the brilliant showing Down Under, would be part of playing XI. They would have a big role in the middle-order along with the redoubtable Hardik Pandya. There could be a toss-up between *Mumbaikar's* Shreyas Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav, for one spot in the playing XI. Yadav

proved himself to be quite a power-hitter in the T20 series, notching up a blistering half century in his maiden International appearance. The bowling attack is expected to be spearheaded by Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who picked four wickets in the T20 series, and the new ball will be shared by Shardul Thakur. Thakur claimed eight wickets in the T20 series. Spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Washington Sundar are expected to be preferred over Krunal Pandya and Kuldeep Yadav. Also, a fit-again Pandya would be the fifth bowler, but it remains to be seen how many overs he can bowl. On the other hand, England would also be keen to end the tour on a high after suffering defeats in the Tests (1-3) and the T20 series

Virat calls for player power in scheduling

AFP ■ PUNE

India skipper Virat Kohli on Monday said players should be consulted over the cricket calendar as the extended bubble life during the coronavirus pandemic has strengthened fears of burnout. Virat said more attention must be paid to cricketers' mental health. "The players need to be spoken to and consulted with all round," said Kohli. "Otherwise it's going to be a case of whoever can last through difficult times like this plays, if not then move away and someone else replaces that player." He added, "I don't think that's healthy for a cricket system and cricket culture moving forward which we definitely want to make stronger and stronger." Responding to suggestions

that the 50-over games were out of place in a year dominated by the World Test Championship final and the T20 World Cup, Kohli said tournament scheduling "is something that is not in our control." "I think it's very important to consider how much cricket you are playing. It's not just the physical side of things but the mental side of things as well," said Kohli. "Scheduling and workloads is something that everyone will have to be very aware," he added. "Especially in today's day and age where you just don't know where restrictions might come in." Most players have been in secure bubbles, with only small breaks since last August. From September until January, India's players went through the Indian Premier League and a tour of Australia.



'No guarantee that Rohit & Kohli will open in T20 WC'

PTI ■ PUNE

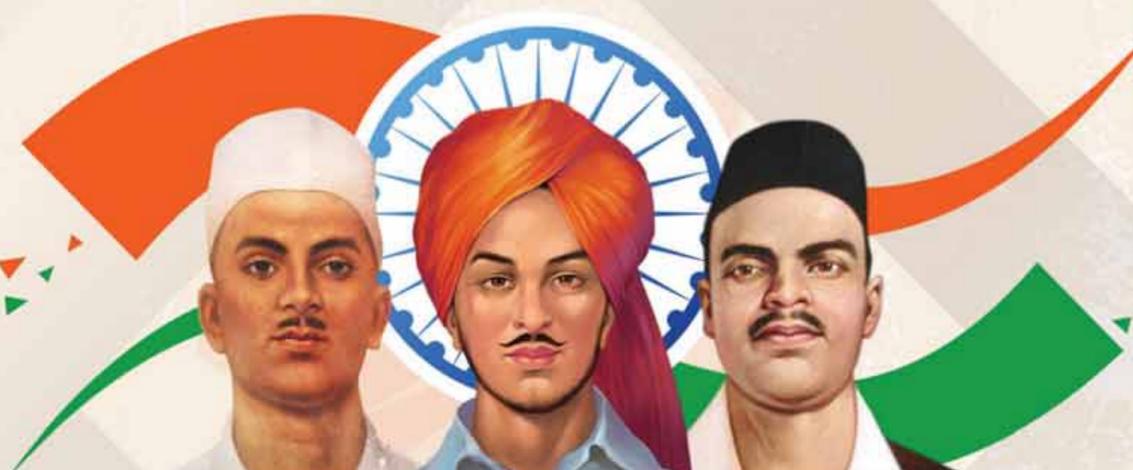
India skipper Virat Kohli on Monday said he has decided to open in the shortest format to accommodate players like Suryakumar Yadav in the side but there is no "guarantee" of him taking up the role in the T20 World Cup at home later this year. The move to open with Rohit Sharma worked wonders as the star duo played match-winning knocks to seal the five-match series against England. Kohli made the decision to ensure that Suryakumar plays at his preferred number three spot. Ahead of the first ODI against England, Kohli explained his surprising call in the fifth T20 and why he will open in the IPL, a move that attracted a lot of attention. "Firstly, the combination that plays on the field, selectors don't have any role to play in that, just how the team management doesn't have any role in selection," said Kohli. "Secondly, as Rohit mentioned, it was a strategic move but yes we did enjoy batting with each other, we did enjoy that partnership and we saw the effects of us batting together..." "It's not a guarantee that this is going to be continued in future." Suryakumar had Kohli "stunned" with his knock in his debut game and the India skipper moved up a spot in the batting order to keep the Mumbai batsman in the eleven in the following match. "I have batted at four, I have batted at three. Now I want to go back into, you know, understanding my role as an opener as well which I've done successfully in the past in T20 cricket." "So that I provide an option to open up a slot for someone like Surya who's playing the way he is at the moment and if he can continue like that I should be ready to play any kind of role that team requires." "We will have a conversation about this closer to the World Cup when we get there," he clarified.



Ministry of Culture
Government of India

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV SHAHEEDI DIWAS

Grateful nation proudly remembers the exceptional courage and sacrifice of



Sukhdev, Bhagat Singh and Rajguru
23rd March, 2021



The martyrdom of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev was a watershed moment in our history. Every Indian is proud that these three great men belong to our land. At the peak of their youth they sacrificed their lives so that others can live a life of freedom and dignity.
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

SHRADDHANJALI SABHA

- Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh Museum Khatkar Kalan, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Punjab 11:00 AM Onwards
- Ancestral House of Shaheed Sukhdev, Mohalla Naughra, Dal Bazar, Ludhiana, Punjab 10:00 AM Onwards
- Ancestral House of Shaheed Rajguru, Rajguru Wada, Rajguru Nagar, Maharashtra 8:30 AM Onwards

CULTURAL EVENTS

- Artist Camp by Lalit Kala Akademi, Lucknow University Campus, Lucknow 10:00 AM Onwards
- Dhadi Varaan by Sh. Damanjeet Singh Devotional Songs by Sh. Gurmeet Bawa (SNA Awardee) & Glory Bawa at Ancestral House of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Khatkar Kalan 11:30 AM Onwards
- Freedom Fighters Portrait Camp by Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Sanatan Dharma Vidyalaya, Kanpur 12 Noon Onwards
- Hindi Kavi Sammelan by Sahitya Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi 4:00 PM Onwards
- Virtual Bhakti Mahotsav by Sangeet Natak Akademi 6:00 PM Onwards

Watch Live on MinistryofCultureGovtofIndia Youtube Channel