

OPINION 6
A RICH CREATOR
WHO DIED PENNILESS

WORLD 8
DEATH TOLL IN MYANMAR
PROTEST SURPASSES 300

SPORT 12
SAINA ENTERS
ORLEANS SEMIS

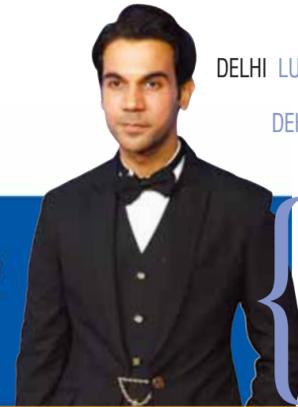
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India, B'desh must counter terrorism: Modi

PM hails contributions of Indian Army to Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War

PTI ■ DHAKA

India and Bangladesh must remain vigilant and united to counter threats like terrorism as well as ideas and powers behind such inhumane acts, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday as he hailed 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's leadership and the contributions of the Indian Army in Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War against Pakistan.

Addressing the main golden jubilee celebrations of Bangladesh's Independence and the birth centenary of its founder here in the presence of his counterpart Sheikh Hasina and President Abdul Hamid, Modi said both nations possess the power of democracy, with a clear vision to move forward.

"That India and Bangladesh move forward together is equally important for the development of this entire region," said Modi, who is visiting Bangladesh on his first trip to a foreign country

since the Covid-19 outbreak. "We must remember that we've similar opportunities in fields of trade and commerce, but at the same time, we've similar threats like terrorism. The ideas and powers behind such types of inhumane acts are still active. We must remain vigilant and united to counter them," he added.

Modi recalled the role played by the Indian Army in Bangladesh's freedom war. "I salute the brave soldiers of the Indian Army who stood with the brothers and sisters of Bangladesh in Muktiyuddo. Those who gave their blood in Muktiyuddo, sacrificed themselves, and played a very big role in realising the dream of independent Bangladesh," said Modi, who was wearing a "Mujib Jacket" as tribute to Bangladesh's Father of the Nation, said that Bangabandhu had a mesmerising personality and was blessed with an unwavering commitment to further human empowerment.

Continued on Page 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received by Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka on Friday PTI

PM boards Air India One first time to fly to Dhaka

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday for the first time boarded the Air India One aircraft to fly to Bangladesh. The newly-inducted custom-made Boeing 777 aircraft has been acquired to facilitate VVIP movements within India and on state visits abroad.

The B777 aircraft, which has registration number VT-ALW, was delivered by Boeing to the Indian Government in October last year. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Air India One when he boarded the B777 aircraft on its inaugural flight to Chennai in November 2020.

The aircraft, which has call sign AI1 or Air India One, departed from Delhi around 8 am and landed at the Dhaka



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in Dhaka on Friday PTI

airport around 10.30 am on Friday, officials said.

Another custom-made B777 aircraft, with registration number VT-ALV, was also delivered by the American aircraft giant to the Indian Government in October last year. Both of them will be on par with the US President's Air Force One in terms of security measures.

The planes are to fly only President, Vice President and Prime Minister. These two aircraft were part of Air India's commercial fleet for a few months in 2018 before they were sent back to Boeing for retrofitting for VVIP travel.

Centre rushes Covid teams to Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh

Cases across country rise to whopping 62,000
PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Meanwhile, a record 5.5 crore people have been vaccinated through 9,01,887 sessions throughout the country according to a provisional report till 7 am on Friday.

The Ministry said the team to Chhattisgarh is headed by Dr SK Singh, Director, National Centre for Disease Control

(NCDC). The team also has experts from the AIIMS, Raipur and All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health. The team to Chandigarh is led by Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser in the Textiles Ministry Vijoy Kumar Singh and also has experts drawn from the RML Hospital and the Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi, it said.

These teams will work with the respective Governments of the State and the UT to ascertain the reasons behind the surge, assist in undertaking gap analysis and recommend requisite Covid-19 control, and containment measures.

Continued on Page 2

Validity of driving licence, vehicle papers extended till June: Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Considering the "grim" pandemic situation and the need to prevent the spread of Covid-19 across the country, the Road Transport Ministry has again advised enforcement authorities to treat as valid all the vehicle related documents such as fitness, permit, registration and driving licence whose validity expired on February 1, 2020, or would expire by June 30, 2021.

The Road Ministry has said all such vehicle-related documents may be treated to be valid till June 30, 2021.

Continued on Page 2

India, Pak review LoC ceasefire, agree to continue dialogue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Pakistan on Friday reviewed the ceasefire situation on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir and agreed to maintain peace and continue the dialogue process. This meeting between the Brigadiers of the two Armies was the first since both the sides on February 24 agreed to uphold ceasefire on the 750-km long LoC.

The crucial meeting came after Army Chief General MM Naravane on Thursday said not a single shot was fired since the agreement last month. He

also said silence prevailed on the LoC for the first time in the last five to six years. At the same time, he cautioned that the terror infrastructure, including terrorist launch-pads on the Pakistani side, remained intact.

The meeting last month was held between the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGSMO) where in both the Armies agreed to adhere to the 2003 ceasefire pact on the LoC. The truce was called in order to avoid casualties of innocent citizens on both sides of the border.

Continued on Page 2

Bharat Bandh: Punjab, Haryana hit; a little or no impact elsewhere

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 12-hour nationwide Bharat Bandh call given by farmers to protest against the three controversial farm laws received good response in Punjab and Haryana on Friday. However, it evoked mixed or no impact in other parts of the country.

The Bandh had a minimal impact in Delhi. Markets at Connaught Place, Karol Bagh, Kashmere Gate, Chandni Chowk and Sadar remained open. Private vehicles or public transport such as auto rickshaws, cabs and buses were ply-

ing normally. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) had to briefly close the entry and exit gates of the Tikri Border, Bahadurgarh City and Brigadier Hoshier Singh stations, but after a few minutes, the stations were reopened.

A railway spokesperson said four Shatabdi trains were cancelled, 35 other passenger trains were detained and the movement of 40 goods trains was affected by the protests. Train movement was disrupted at 44 locations that fall under the Delhi, Ambala, and Ferozepur divisions.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

BENGAL, ASSAM SET FOR PH-1 POLLS TODAY
Kolkata/Guwahati: Politically volatile States of West Bengal and Assam will go to polls in the first phase of Assembly elections on Saturday amid a resurgent Covid-19 crisis to decide the fate of a number of top politicians including Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal.

INDIA CAN'T BE REFUGEE CAPITAL, CENTRE TELLS SC
New Delhi: The country cannot be the "capital" for illegal immigrants, the Centre told the SC which reserved order on a fresh plea seeking directions for immediate release of detained Rohingya refugees in Jammu and restrain the Government from implementing any order deporting them to Myanmar.

9 dead as fire engulfs Covid hospital in Mumbai mall

Mumbai: Nine coronavirus patients died in a fire at a Covid-19 hospital in a Mumbai mall on Friday, officials said.

All nine patients died due to suffocation as a result of the fire, the BMC said.

The hospital, however, claimed that there was no casualty due to the fire.

"All the patients were shifted alive but there were a few patients on ventilator and were extremely critical. We believe the casualties are not due to the fire, but either in transit or at other hospitals (where they were shifted), it said.

2 workers suffocate in septic tank for want of safety gear

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two men died after inhaling toxic gases while cleaning a septic tank of a banquet hall in East Delhi's Ghazipur, police said on Friday.

Lokesh (35) and Prem Chand (40), residents of Trilokpuri, entered the tank to clean it on Thursday evening and were found dead inside it, the police said, adding that the deceased were not given any protective gear and were offered ₹3,000 for the work.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, they said.

"The housekeeping staff of the banquet hall called the



two men for cleaning the tank at 7.30 pm and around 10 pm, they were found dead," Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Deepak Yadav said.

Teams from the fire department, Delhi Disaster Management Authority and MCD visited the spot, he said, adding that the two men were taken to hospital, where they were declared brought dead.

A case under section 304A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 9 of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act has been registered, the DCP said.

Further investigation is underway, the police said.

SC quashes NCLAT order, upholds removal of Cyrus Mistry as Tata chairman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a big victory for the Tata Group, the Supreme Court on Friday upheld its removal of Cyrus Mistry as the executive chairman of the \$100 billion salt-to-software conglomerate, bringing the curtains down on a bitter four-year long public and legal battle.

Setting aside NCLAT's order which had restored Mistry to the top post, the apex court in a unanimous 3-0 decision dismissed a plea of Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) Group

seeking separation of ownership interests in Tata Sons Pvt Ltd (TSPL). The SP Group owns 18.37 per cent shares in TSPL, and the next fight could be over its valuation.

"A person who tries to set his own house on fire for not getting what he perceives as legitimately due to him, does not deserve to continue as part of any decision making body (not just the Board of a company)," the SC said, in a hard-hitting observation, questioning the conduct of Mistry.

Continued on Page 2

SC rejects pleas to stay sale of electoral bonds ahead of polls

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed pleas seeking stay on further sale of electoral bonds ahead of Assembly elections, saying the scheme was in place since 2018, the bonds were released at periodical intervals without any impediment and safeguards were in place to prevent their misuse.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde said it saw no justification to grant stay at this stage.

Detailed report on P4

COVID-19 37,000 cases, highest single-day spike in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
In yet another major spike in infections, Maharashtra on Friday notched a new dubious high of 36,902 daily cases, highest since the pandemic broke out in March last year, while 112 died of coronavirus in various parts of the State. Mumbai, where the number of infections has been increasing phenomenally for more than one week now, logged the highest-ever 5,505 infections, taking the total caseload from 3,80,146 to 3,85,551. With 10 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 11,623 to 11,633. A day after it recorded 35,952 infections and 111 deaths, the upward pandemic

trend continued as Maharashtra surpassed Thursday's tally and registered 36,902 fresh infections and 112 deaths. With 34,902 fresh deaths, the total number of cases in the State climbed 26,00,833 to 26,37,735. Similarly, the 111 new deaths reported on Thursday, the Covid-19 toll in the state went up from 53,795 to 53,907. As 17,019 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year went up to 23,00,056. The recovery rate in the state dropped from 87.78 per cent to 87.2 per cent.

Meanwhile, the number of "active cases" total cases in the state increased from 2,62,899 to 2,82,451. The fatality rate in the State 2.07 per cent to 2.04 per cent. There are a maximum of 52,340 "active" cases in Pune, followed by Nagpur (38,348) Mumbai (36,404), Thane (26,474), Nashik (20,568), Aurangabad (19,063), Jalgaon (6513), Amaravati (3338) and Akola (6798). Meanwhile, of the 1,90,35,439 samples sent to laboratories, 26,37,735 have tested positive (13.86 per cent) for Covid-19 until Friday. Currently, 14,29,998 people are in home quarantine while 14,578 people are in institutional quarantine.

Delhi Govt offers job to brother of Delhi riot victim Ankit Sharma

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Delhi Government on Friday announced that a Government job will be provided to the brother of Intelligence Bureau officer Ankit Sharma who lost his life during the Delhi riots last year. Sharma was found dead in a drain near his home in northeast Delhi's riot-hit Chand Bagh area. The riots had erupted in northeast Delhi on February 24 last year after clashes between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled, leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured. A proposal in this regard was passed by the Delhi Cabinet, an official statement said.

It said the Delhi Government will send this proposal to Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal for final approval. The Delhi Government alleged that the BJP Government had promised a job to Sharma's family member but "eventually denied any such job". The Bharatiya Janata Party made Delhi riots a very big issue but in the end, backtracked during the time of providing help. "Now the Arvind Kejriwal government will be providing a government job to late Ankit Sharma's brother Ankur Sharma and the Delhi Cabinet has already passed the proposal," it said.

ROHINGYA CASE Country can't be capital for illegal immigrants, Centre tells top court

New Delhi: The country cannot be the "capital" for illegal immigrants, the Centre told the Supreme Court which on Friday reserved order on a fresh plea seeking directions for immediate release of detained Rohingya refugees in Jammu and restrain the Government from implementing any order deporting them to Myanmar. A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde refused to hear at this stage the intervention application filed by United Nations special rapporteur in the matter. "We will not hear you today. There is serious objection to it," the bench told the counsel appearing for the UN special rapporteur. "We are closing it for order," said the bench, which also comprised Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, after hearing submissions on the fresh plea. During the arguments,

advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, said Rohingya children were subjected to killing, maiming and sexual exploitation and Military in Myanmar has failed to respect international humanitarian law. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said he is stating the problems which persist in Myanmar. He said they are not refugees at all and this is the second round of litigation as the top court had earlier dismissed an application filed by the petitioner. "There was a similar application for Assam earlier. They (petitioners) wanted that no Rohingya be deported, we had said that we will follow the law. They are illegal immigrants. We are always in touch with Myanmar and when they confirm that the individual is their citizen, then only deportation

can take place," he said. The bench asked can it be said that the government will deport only when Myanmar accepts. Mehta said yes, the government cannot send an Afghan national to Myanmar. "We cannot be the capital for all illegal immigrants," Mehta said. Bhushan referred to a verdict of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and argued it has said that Myanmar has not presented any concrete measures aimed specifically at recognising the rights of the Rohingyas to exist as a protected group. He said that Jammu and Kashmir administration has detained Rohingyas in Jammu, who have refugee cards and they will soon be deported. "I am seeking directions to not detain and deport these Rohingyas to Myanmar under Article 21 of the Constitution," Bhushan said. **PTI**

2 held for stabbing man in Jamia Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
A 40-year-old man was stabbed by two people in southeast Delhi's Jamia Nagar area on Thursday. Police said that they have arrested two men for the crime while the victim is still undergoing treatment at the hospital. The has been identified as Ajeem Khan alias Naved, a resident of Zakir Nagar. According to RP Meena, the

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, on March 25, Ajeem was having tea at a local hotel when a quarrel broke out between some people in which he interfered. "Sometime later, two men came and stabbed him in his thigh and waist. The accused have been identified as Danish and Riyazuddin, both residents of Azeem Dairy area" said the DCP.

Nature-based classroom inaugurated in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
With an aim to connect the schoolchildren with nature while learning, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) in association with 'Directorate General of Human Resource Development' a wing of Ministry of Finance, has introduced a project "Srishti-Learning about Nature Class" - in its school. Srishti was inaugurated by Neetu Lall Butalia, Director General- Human Resource Development Wing of Ministry

of Finance, Department of Revenue (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Custom) Government of India at Atal Adarsh Bengali Balika Vidhyalaya, Gole Market. Under this project, 'Srishti'- the nature based classroom, is developed with a herbal and aromatic plant yard in which sapling of Basil (Tulsi) Dill, Rosemary, Aloe, Fennel, Sage, Lemon Grass were planted. Along with these, an open air eco-shade (Gazebo) equipped for teaching and learning tools like table, chair, whiteboard and

microphone for instructor and eco stools for students are provided. On the occasion, Butalia while explaining the object of the project said that keeping in the mind with learning about nature, 'Srishti' - nature based classroom is developed under the swachhta action plan in the school for the students. She further said that it is important to expose young minds to the wealth of nature and nudge them to love, understand, appreciate and nurture nature whose bounties touch every human life.

Centre rushes Covid teams to Chandigarh...

From Page 1
"Chhattisgarh has recently witnessed a significant spurt in fresh Covid-19 cases as well as new deaths every day. Chandigarh has also seen a significant surge in new cases. The deployed teams shall visit the most affected districts/hotspots in the State and UT to take stock of on-ground implementation of public health interventions. They will share the key findings, recommendations and remedial measures to be taken up with the Chief Secretary/Chief Administrator," the Ministry said in a statement.

the 4-lakh mark again after around three-and-half months. The lowest daily increase of 8,635 Covid-19 cases was reported on February 2 this year. The active caseload was at its lowest at 1,35,926 on February 12. As of date, there are 4.21 lakh active cases in the country, a net rise of 25,874 infections in a day. As for daily Covid-19 cases, Maharashtra reported the highest 35,952 infections in a day, followed by 2,661 in Punjab and 2,523 in Karnataka. Ten States -- Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Haryana and Rajasthan -- are displaying an upward trajectory in daily new cases while India's cumulative recoveries stand at 1,12,64,637 with 32,987 people recuperating in a day. Six States account for 78.6 per cent of the new deaths with Maharashtra reporting 111 fatalities and Punjab 43, the Health Ministry said. Meanwhile, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Friday asserted that an adequate system is in place to manage the second wave and soon more population groups will be

brought under the ambit of the Covid-19 immunisation drive. The Government's decision to cover more beneficiaries for inoculation comes days after everyone above 45 years has been made eligible to get vaccinated from April 1. "People have embraced the 'Made in India' vaccines, and it is due to this enthusiasm and trust that the country crossed the last one crore vaccination in just under four days," he said. The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers getting inoculated first and immunisation of frontline workers began from February 2. "The Government is already planning to widen the umbrella of Covid-19 vaccine beneficiaries soon to cover other sections of the population," Vardhan said. Dr Rajendra Prasad, senior consultant, neuro and spine surgeon at Delhi-based Indraprastha Apollo Hospital welcomed the proposed decision to vaccinate everyone above 45 years of age saying that the vaccination coverage should also include the caretakers of the feeble bed-ridden relatives.

EXAM SPECIAL TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that following Exam Express Special trains will be run by Railway to facilitate the candidates appearing in NTPC Exams as per following schedule :-

03297/03298 Patna-Anand Vihar (T)-Patna Exam Special Express Train (Via Gaya) Fully Reserved					
Train No. 03297	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
---	21:00	---	PATNA	17:00	---
21:30	21:32	---	TAREGANA	15:40	15:42
21:50	21:52	---	JEHANABAD	15:20	15:22
23:30	23:40	---	GAYA JN.	14:30	14:40
00:30	00:32	---	ANUGRAH NARAYAN ROAD	12:51	12:53
00:50	00:52	---	DEHRI-ON-SONE	12:35	12:37
01:10	01:12	---	SASARAM	12:18	12:20
01:42	01:44	---	BHABHUA ROAD	11:45	11:47
03:20	03:30	---	PT. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA	10:40	10:50
06:30	06:40	---	PRAYAGRAJ	07:40	07:50
09:30	09:40	---	KANPUR CENTRAL	05:00	05:10
18:00	---	---	ANAND VIHAR (T)	---	21:30

DAYS OF RUN: 03297 Ex Patna Daily from 30.03.2021 to 07.04.2021 and 03298 Ex Anand Vihar (T) Daily from 31.03.2021 to 08.04.2021

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

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

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Bid Identification No 35 of 2020 - 21
0-1295 The Superintending Engineer RWS&S Division, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage bid through e - Procurement in double cover system according to norm of e - Procurement system in online mode for the different work in different blocks under Balangir District.

- Nature of Work :- Construction of ESR, OGR, pump house with laying of rising main and distribution in different villages of Balangir District.
- Total No of work :- 07 Nos.
- Estimated Cost :- Rs. 106.98 to 192.69 Lakh
- Eligible Class of Contractor :- " B & A Class" Contractor.
- Period of Completion :- Twelve month
- Other Details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balangir	34 of 2020-21	Dt. 07.04.2021 At. 11.00 Hrs	Dt. 28.04.2021 upto. 17.00 Hrs

Further details can be had in the DTCN available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd/-23.03.2021
Superintending Engineer
RWS&S Division, Balangir
OIPR-25033/11/0014/2021

Won't accept bad quality ration from Centre: AAP Min

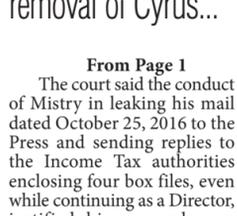


STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Food and Civil supplies Minister Imran Hussain said that during last year's lockdown he had immediately complained to the Centre about the rotten ration we received from them. "I even wrote a letter to the Union Minister concerned, demanding immediate action Simultaneously, we had returned the rotten ration. From the beginning, the Delhi Government has been serious about the quality of cereals and pulses available under the ration scheme. We won't tolerate any irresponsibility or laxity regarding the quality of ration coming from the Centre's godowns," said Hussain.

"As far as the use of the e-pass machines in ration shops is concerned, the 'One Country One Ration Card' scheme and the door-to-door ration scheme in Delhi will be ensured in all ration shops. The Delhi Cabinet took this decision and has been brought to the notice of the Central Government," the Minister added.

SC quashes NCLAT order, upholds removal of Cyrus...



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The court said the conduct of Mistry in leaking his mail dated October 25, 2016 to the Press and sending replies to the Income Tax authorities enclosing four box files, even while continuing as a Director, justified his removal even from the Directorship of Tata Sons and other group companies. Mistry had succeeded Ratan Tata, 84, as the chairman of the TSPL in 2012, but was dramatically ousted four years later, triggering one of

the ugliest boardroom battle at the country's biggest conglomerate that brought top lawyers face to face in the apex court. "Thus in fine, all the questions of law are liable to be answered in favour of the appellants Tata group and the appeals filed by the Tata Group are liable to be allowed and the appeal filed by SP Group is liable to be dismissed," a bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde, justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian ordered in its 282-page judgement. "In the result, all the appeals except Civil Appeal No...(appeal of Cyrus Investments Pvt Ltd versus Tata Sons Ltd and others) are allowed and the order of NCLAT dated December 18, 2019 is set aside."

"In the result, all the appeals except Civil Appeal No...(appeal of Cyrus Investments Pvt Ltd versus Tata Sons Ltd and others) are allowed and the order of NCLAT dated December 18, 2019 is set aside."

Bharat Bandh: Punjab, Haryana hit; a little or...

However, there was no report of any untoward incident from anywhere in the country. Emergency medical services were exempted from the blockade. Farmers' leader Darshal Pal has claimed that Bharat Bandh was a success in many States including Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha. "In more than 20 districts in Punjab and also in Haryana, people made the Bandh a big success. In Karnataka and

Andhra Pradesh as well, the impact of the Bandh was impressive," he said. The leaders of the farmers claimed they blocked national highways and other key roads at 32 locations across Punjab and Haryana, and squatted on railway tracks at several locations. Since morning, farmers in the two States gathered at several highways and roads, including in Bathinda, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Patiala, Mohali, Rohtak, Ferozepur, Pathankot, Jhajjar, Jind, Panchkula, Kaithal, Yamunanagar and Bhiwani districts.

India, Pak review...

From Page 1
As regards the Friday meeting, Army sources said post the DGsMO, a Brigade Commander Level Flag Meeting was held between Indian and Pakistan Army at Poonch- Rawalkot crossing point to discuss implementation mechanism as per the understanding reached in the last month's discussions. The two officers took stock of the present situation and agreed to maintain peace on the LoC. In case of any misunderstanding leading to flare-up, both sides also agreed to immediately hold a meeting at the local level to cool down the temperature, sources said. Releasing a joint statement after the first meeting on the hotline in February, India and Pakistan said it was decided to strictly adhere to a ceasefire for "mutually beneficial and sustainable peace."

India, B'desh must...

From Page 1
No wonder all sections of society were inspired by him. His leadership and bravery had ensured that no power could enslave Bangladesh. Modi said, adding that Bangabandhu was a ray of hope for the people of this land and for Indians. Under his leadership, common people of Bangladesh across the social spectrum came together and became 'Muktibahini', Modi said, adding Bangladesh's Liberation War had support from all corners of India, from all parties, every section of the society. "This is one of the most memorable days of my life. I am grateful that Bangladesh has included me in this event. I am grateful that Bangladesh has invited India to take part in this function. It is a matter of our pride that we got the opportunity to honour Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with Gandhi Peace Prize," he said. The Gandhi Peace Prize 2020 was conferred on Bangabandhu this week. Recalling the 1971 war of independence, Modi said the pictures of atrocities that the Pakistan Army inflicted on the people in then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) used to distract people in India. "I must have been 20-22 years old when I and my colleagues did Satyagraha for Bangladesh's freedom," he said. The war broke out after the sudden crackdown at midnight past on March 25, 1971 in the erstwhile East Pakistan by the Pakistani troops and ended on December 16. The same year Pakistan conceded defeat and unconditionally surrendered in Dhaka to the allied forces comprising the freedom fighters and the Indian soldiers.

Modi said the efforts of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her important role in Bangladesh's freedom war are well known. He also named several Indian Army officials such as Field Marshal SHFJ Manekshaw, General Jagjit Singh Aurora, General JFR Jacob, Lance Nayak Albert Ekka, Group Captain Chandan Singh, Captain Mohan Narayan Rao Samant and others who were instrumental in Bangladesh's freedom. Modi said the next 25 years are crucial for both India and Bangladesh. "For both our nations, the journey of the next 25 years in the 21st century is crucial. We have descended from a shared heritage, and we are advancing towards shared development. We have shared goals, and shared challenges," Modi said. He also invited 50 Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to India to get associated with innovation ecosystem and meet venture capitalists. Modi also invoked Bengali poets and writers Kazi Nazrul Islam and Rabindranath Tagore in his speech to highlight the common heritage of the two countries.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Uttarakhand Pejal Nigam, Khatima, District- Udham Singh Nagar
(E-mail : eeedkhatima@gmail.com)

E-Tendering/ Tender Notice

Letter No. 567/Nivida/33 Date.26.03.2021

1 Name of Work :- Retrofitting work of Sarpura W/S Scheme (for pipe line, FHTC etc. work)	Estimated cost - Rs. 65.33 Lakh
2 Period of completion of work :-	02 months
3 Date of Online Publication	27.03.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
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8 Bid Submission : End Date	12.04.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
9 Offline Submission of Document (Cost of bidding document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the Supporting Documents in support of qualification)	15.04.2021 upto 17:00 hrs.
10 Date of Technical & Financial Bid Opening	16.04.2021 at 11:00 hrs.
11 Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc. may be obtained at web site: www.uktenders.gov.in	

Executive Engineer

Validity of driving licence, vehicle papers extended...

From Page 1
"Enforcement authorities are advised to treat such documents valid till June 30, 2021. This will help out citizens in availing transport-related services, while maintaining social distancing," said Road Ministry advisory. Earlier, in the backdrop of Covid-19 in 2020, the MoRTH had issued advisories on March 30, June 9, August 24, and December 27 regarding the extension of validity of documents related to Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. It was advised that the validity of Fitness, Permit (all types), License, Registration, or any other concerned document(s) might be treated to be valid till March 31, 2021. The advisories were issued in view of the long queue in front of transport offices for the renewal of such documents.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Bhupender Kumar Sharma S/o. Shri Hari Shankar House No-170, Near S.D. Vidya School Sector-49, Noida.** My daughter is **Khushi Sharma** and that both **Bhupender Kumar Sharma** and **Bhupender Sharma** are in my name.
PD(8969)A

DELHI CRIME BRANCH

Raj CM's OSD booked in phone tapping case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Crime Branch of Delhi Police has registered an FIR against Lokesh Sharma, the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, and other officers of Home and Police department after a complaint against them was filed by Union Minister Ganjendra Singh Shekawat at Tughlak road police station a week ago.

The complaint mentioned about his phone being intercepted and recording of his conversations being shared with various media channels. Police said that the case has been transferred to Crime Branch on Thursday and a case under section 409, 120 B of Indian Penal Code, section 72/72 A of Information Technology (IT) Act, section 26 of Indian Telegraph Act has

been registered at Crime Branch police station.

The FIR mentioned that Lokesh Sharma had illegally intercepted the telephonic conversation with other persons and it has violated the rules of the Indian Telegraph Act.

"Lokesh Sharma and other Government officials of Rajasthan in conspiracy with the unknown individuals is indeed criminal and in violation of Indian Telegraph Act," the FIR stated.

"On July 17, 2020, various prominent media houses and news channels had aired some telephonic conversations, allegedly between Sanjay Jain, Bhanwar Lal Sharma, a member of Legislative Assembly, Rajasthan and Sharma, OSD to Rajasthan CM. Under the detailed guidelines of the existing law, rules have been issued to safeguard against illegal

access and misuse of telephonic intercepts by unauthorised persons," the FIR read.

"Unless a public emergency has occurred or the interest of public safety so demands, the authorities have no jurisdiction to exercise the powers under the said section. Clearly securing the political ends of a particular leader or a party does not substitute public emergency or public safety," the FIR stated.

"The functionaries and officials of the state of Rajasthan, who in past denied any role of the government in carrying out these interceptions and circulating the same, have now suddenly accepted the factum of having intercepted the phone calls and have been claiming that the same was done on accordance with the statutory prescription," the FIR stated.

Bharat Bandh call evokes little impact

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the call of 'Bharat Bandh' given by the farmers unions protesting against the farms laws on the borders of the national Capital, the city witnessed minimal impact as the major markets of the city remained open. However, Delhi Police have made adequate security arrangements to deal with any situation but there was no report of disturbance in the metro and road transport services.

The Delhi Metro on Thursday, as a precautionary measure, closed both carriageways of National Highway-24 passing through the Ghazipur border in view of the 'Bharat Bandh' called by farmer unions.

In a tweet, the Delhi Traffic Police said, "Traffic movement is closed on Ghazipur Border NH-24 (Both carriageways)."

The one side of the carriageway was earlier opened on March 15 for traffic. However, the other side from Ghaziabad towards Delhi has been closed since the farmers' protest started.



Farm union activists stage a protest in support of the nationwide strike called by farmers unions against the three farm laws at Ghazipur in New Delhi on Friday
Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) had to briefly close the entry and exit gates of the Tikri Border, Bahadurgarh City and Brigadier Hoshiar Singh stations, but after a short span of time, the stations were opened for passengers.

The situation was normal at the New Delhi railway station. Markets at Connaught Place, Karol Bagh, Kashmiri Gate, Chandni Chowk and

Sadar remained open. Shops in Khan Market were also open.

A senior Delhi Police officer said the situation is peaceful and remains under control, adding that no report of any untoward incident has so far been received.

Farmers camping at the Ghazipur border blocked a carriageway of National Highway-9 from Delhi to Ghaziabad in the morning, but there was not much activ-

ity by the protesters in the city till afternoon.

A farmer leader claimed that there were protests in Mayapuri and some other areas where people peacefully staged demonstrations. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of the protesting unions, claimed that various farmer organisations, trade unions, student bodies, bar associations, political parties and representatives of state governments have supported the 'Bharat Bandh' call.

On Thursday, the SKM had said the 'Bharat Bandh' would also be observed in the national Vapital.

It had appealed to people to make its nationwide shutdown successful. "All shops, malls, markets and institutions will remain closed under the complete Bharat Bandh. All minor and big roads and trains will be blocked."

"All services will remain suspended except for ambulance and other essential services. The effect of the Bharat Bandh will be observed inside Delhi as well," the SKM had said in a statement.

Gopal Rai gets first dose of Covid vaccine

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Minister Gopal Rai on Friday took the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital and appealed to all eligible people to participate in the inoculation drive.

"Went to LNJP Hospital to take Covid-19 vaccine. Everyone should get vaccinated according to Government guidelines," Rai tweeted.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers getting inoculated while vaccination of the front-line workers started from February 2.

The next phase of vaccination commenced on March 1 for senior citizens and those aged 45 years and above with specific comorbidities. On Tuesday, the Union Cabinet decided to open up vaccination for all people aged above 45 from April 1, amid a resurgence in coronavirus cases in several States.

3 rescued from burning house at Greater Kailash

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three family members, including an octogenarian, were rescued from a burning house in south Delhi's Greater Kailash-1 on Friday morning.

Police said that the 87-year-old Sudha, her son Amit Sudhakar (56) and Amit's wife Shalini are safe and didn't received injuries.

According to police, a call was received at 6.55 am about a fire at the second and third floors of the house following which an Emergency Response

Vehicle (ERV) was dispatched for the spot.

"Amit, his wife Shalini and mother Sudha were trapped on the balcony of the third floor which was covered with an iron grill," said Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district.

"During enquiry it was revealed that the fire started at the second floor of the building and engulfed the third floor as well. The blaze was doused and the people were rescued with the help of the fire department personnel," said the police.



Delhi Police Commissioner SN Shrivastava takes the salute of the Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Police Service (DANIPS) probationer officers on the passing out parade held at Police Training Centre at Jharoda Kalan in Delhi on Friday
Pioneer photo

Former Cong leader joins AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal welcomed Pratima Betsy Coutinho, former Mahila president of the 'Goa Pradesh Congress Committee' into the party.

"Really happy to welcome one of the most dynamic young leaders of Goa Pratima Coutinho @adv_coutinho to AAP. Goa wants change, Goa wants young leaders like her to represent the Aam Aadmi of Goa," Kejriwal tweeted.

While introducing Coutinho, senior AAP leader and national spokesperson Raghav Chadha said, "With the induction of Coutinho, the AAP in Goa will receive a major fillip, her presence will instil confidence and add heft to the Party."

"Coutinho has done a lot of important work in her illustrious career. In the coming days, there will be several things to do, many important campaigns to work on,



and I have full confidence that the AAP family in Goa will immensely benefit from Pratima Betsy Coutinho's grassroots experience. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to her."

AAP Goa Convener Rahul Mahambre said, "The AAP in the State of Goa is expanding significantly and now the party has reached every village of the state. In

the last three months, we have been going door-to-door and talking about the electricity scheme of the Kejriwal Government when you get free electricity till 200 units."

"We are also asking the State Government of Goa why they cannot provide the same scheme in the state. We are extremely happy that Pratima Betsy Coutinho has joined the AAP and this will strengthen our party. AAP will contest in 2022 elections with full force and I am sure Goans will give us a full majority and we will carry on the AAP style of governance."

Coutinho said, "The AAP has got its own ideology and is the only hope in Goa. We have tried all different political parties but all of them have worked only for their own benefit. But under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal, the Aam Aadmi Party has worked for the common person. This has motivated me. AAP is akin to breathing fresh air."

Goyal holds high-level review meeting with railway officials



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal chaired a review meeting with the board members and general managers of zonal and divisional Railway on Friday. He said that with the use of new technologies and innovation, the railways has created a new benchmarks and the success of Indian Railways would define the success of the nation in future.

Goyal said "The year was the most challenging year for Railways. One year of lock down. Covid-19 has demonstrated the resolve of Railways to fight back and emerge stronger. Mindset of Railways has transformed. It is no longer business as usual for Railways. Use of new technologies and innovation has created new standards and benchmarks."

"It was time to rewrite the destiny and future of Railways which is self sustaining, punctual, passenger friendly, safe, green and the first choice of businesses.

Goyal said 1,223 MT highest freight loading is a message of positivity to the nation. 5,900 kms electrification was done this year. It is the highest ever electrification achieved by Indian Railways.

The Minister complimented the Railway officers and staff for making extraordinary efforts during the pandemic to increase loading. He also stressed on safety measures to be adopted and directed Railway officials to take proactive steps towards the same.

It is to be noted that Indian Railways has continued to maintain the high momentum in Freight figures in terms of loading, earning and speed in the month of March 2021. It is expected to surpass the total cumulative freight figures of last year. Freight revenue for the year 2020-21 is ₹1,14,652.47 (in cr) as compared to ₹1,12,358.83 (last year).

Teachers honoured for imparting edu during pandemic lockdown

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Teachers are one of the biggest contributors towards nation-building. They impact thousands of lives through their work, said Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia at the State Teachers Award ceremony at the Delhi Secretariat.

Ninety-eight teachers and school principals were honoured for their invaluable contribution in school education. They were felicitated by Deputy CM in presence of Udit Prakash, director of education, Shailendra Sharma, education advisor and other senior officials of education department.

"We are exactly a year after the complete lockdown was

imposed for the first time in our country. Our education system was badly hit by the pandemic as school closures left everyone clueless about the teaching-learning during the Covid times. But, our teachers and school principals really stepped up to the occasion and showed unparalleled grit and determination in responding to this situation," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

General Public of Delhi is hereby informed that in case of a missing/kidnapping of a child, the first few hours are crucial for the police to trace the missing child. Parents often do not inform the police about missing of their child immediately and let go the benefits of the initial crucial hours. Later, it becomes difficult for the police to trace the child.

In view of above, Delhi Police appeals to the citizens of Delhi to inform/report about their missing/kidnapped child at the earliest to local police so that necessary steps to recover the child are initiated expeditiously.

Commissioner of Police
Delhi

DP/9273/2021

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- IT Shopping Complex, IIT Campus, Hauz Khas, New Delhi Ph.011-26581222 (Tuesday Closed)
- Sector3, Near Telephone Exchange, Rohini, New Delhi Ph. 9958228696 (Sunday Closed)
- Shop No. D-4, Sector-27, Noida, U.P. Ph. 0120- 2554935 (Sunday Closed)
- SPG Complex, Dwarka (Tuesday Closed)

Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi
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SC nixes pleas seeking stay on sale of electoral bonds



PNI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed pleas seeking stay on further sale of electoral bonds ahead of Assembly polls, saying the scheme was in place since 2018, the bonds were released at periodical intervals without any impediment and safeguards were in place to prevent their misuse.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde said it saw no justification to grant stay at this stage and dismissed the two applications moved by NGOs to put on hold any further sale of the electoral bonds ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala and Union territory of Puducherry from March 27 to April 29.

"In light of the fact that the (electoral bond) scheme was introduced on January 1, 2018, that the bonds are released at periodical intervals in January, April, July and October of every year, that they had been so released in the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 without any impediment and that certain safeguards have already been provided by this court in its interim order dated April 12, 2019, we do not see any justification for grant of stay at this stage," the apex court said.

The NGOs — Association for Democratic Reforms and Common Cause had also sought stay on sale of the electoral bonds during the pendency of the PIL filed pertaining to funding of political parties and alleged lack of transparency in their accounts.

The Bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, observed that there may not be complete anonymity in financing of

political parties by corporate houses, as apprehended by the NGOs. It said as the purchase of the bonds and their encashment can only happen through banking channels and only those customers who fulfil KYC norms can engage in such transactions details of which would be with the State Bank of India as it was the sole authority for issuance and encashing of the bonds.

"Moreover, any expenditure incurred by anyone in purchasing the bonds through banking channels, will have to be accounted as an expenditure in his books of accounts. The trial balance, cash flow statement, profit and loss account and balance sheet of companies which purchase electoral bonds will have to necessarily reflect the amount spent by way of expenditure in the purchase of electoral bonds," the apex court said in its order.

It further said that the financial statements of companies registered under the Companies Act 2013 are filed with the Registrar of Companies and were accessible online on the website of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for anyone.

The NGOs had claimed that there was a serious apprehension that any further sale of electoral bonds before the upcoming Assembly elections, including in West Bengal and Assam, would further "increase illegal and illicit funding of political parties through shell companies".

"Since the scheme mandates political parties to file audited statement of accounts and also since the Companies Act requires financial statements of registered companies to be filed with the Registrar of Companies, the purchase as

well as encashment of the bonds, happening only through banking channels, is always reflected in documents that eventually come to the public domain.

"All that is required is a little more effort to cull out such information from both sides (purchaser of bond and political party) and do some 'match the following'. Therefore, it is not as though the operations under the scheme are behind iron curtains incapable of being pierced," the Bench said.

The court also termed as misconceived the apprehension of the NGOs that foreign corporate houses may buy the bonds and attempt to influence the electoral process in the country, saying that under the scheme, the bonds can be purchased only by a person who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established here.

The Bench also rejected the Reserve Bank of India was opposed to the scheme, saying that the central bank of the country was concerned with the issue of the bonds in scrip form rather than in demat form.

"What RBI wanted to achieve was, in their own words, the twin advantage of (i) providing anonymity to the contributor; and (ii) ensuring that consideration for transfers is through banking channels and not cash or other means.

In fact RBI called the electoral bonds as 'an enduring reform, consistent with the government's digitization push. Therefore, the concerns expressed by RBI, to the form and not to the substance, cannot really advance the case of the petitioner(s)," it said.

The court also said in its order that repeated applications for the same relief cannot be filed merely because the bonds are being issued at periodical intervals of time.

The Bench said that under the electoral bonds scheme of 2018 they available for purchase for 10 days each in January, April, July and October and once the apex court put in place an interim arrangement in April 2019, applications for stay of sale of the bonds cannot be moved every time a window is opened for issuing them.

Vote wisely, ex-PM Singh appeals to Assam voters



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the first round of voting for the Assembly elections in Assam on Saturday, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday appealed to the people to "vote wisely" for a Government that upholds the constitution and democracy. He said if the Congress comes to power, it will not implement the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

"You must vote for a Government that will care for every citizen, for every community. You must vote for a Government that will ensure inclusive growth," he said through a video message.

The Congress lost power in Assam in 2016 after 15 years as the BJP ousted the party's Government led by then Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi.

"For many years, Assam has been my second home," said the former PM referring to



what he called his "friendship" with former Chief Ministers Hiteswar Saikia and Tarun Gogoi.

Manmohan Singh, 88, was a Rajya Sabha member from Assam from 1991 to 2019, after which he was elected to the Upper House of parliament from Rajasthan.

"The people of Assam enabled me to serve our country as Finance Minister of India for five years and as Prime Minister for 10 years. Today I am speaking as one of you. Once again the time has come for you to cast your ballot... You must vote wisely," Singh said.

The people of Assam endured terrible suffering through a long period of insurgency and unrest, said the former PM, and it was under the

leadership of Tarun Gogoi in 2001-2016 that Assam made a "new beginning" towards peace and development.

"However it is now facing a very serious setback. Society is being divided on the basis of religion, culture and language. The basic rights of the common man are being denied. There is an atmosphere of tension and of fear. The ill-conceived notes ban and badly implemented GST (Goods and Services Tax) have weakened the economy," said the former PM.

Lakhs of people and women had lost their livelihoods, youths were desperate for decent jobs, the rise in prices of fuel and cooking gas had made life difficult for the common man, "the poor are becoming poorer and COVID-19 is making matters much

The Congress lost power in Assam after 15 years as the BJP ousted the party's Government led by then Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi

President rushed to hospital after chest discomfort



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

worse," he said. "You must vote for a Government that will put Assam once again on the path of peace and development."

According to Singh, Congress was committed to protecting the unique language, culture and history of Assam.

Singh went on to list the five promises in the Congress manifesto, which include not implementing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), jobs for unemployed youth in the public and private sector, increasing the wages of tea plantation workers, free electricity of up to 200 units for every home and ₹2,000 allowance for every housewife.

"Brothers and sisters. Your future and the future of your children is in your hands," he said, appealing for votes for the Congress.

Assam will vote from Saturday to April 6 in three rounds for a new Government. The results will be declared on May 2.

President Ram Nath Kovind visited the Army's Research and Referral hospital on Friday after he complained of chest discomfort in the morning.

As per a statement from the hospital, he is undergoing a routine check-up and is under observation. His condition is stable, the hospital said.

"President of India visited Army Hospital (R&R) following chest discomfort this morning. He is undergoing routine check-up and is under observation," the hospital said in a medical bulletin. His condition is stable," it said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi enquired about the President's health and prayed for his well-being.

"PM @narendramodi spoke to Rashtrapati Ji's son. He enquired about the President's health and prayed for his well-being," read a tweet from the Prime Minister's office. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also enquired about President's health after he went for a check-up in the Army hospital.

EC to take call on holding Kerala RS poll shortly

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the CPI(M) questioned the "political intervention" behind the poll body's decision to put in abeyance the schedule for the Rajya Sabha election to three seats from the State, the Election Commission on Friday said a call on holding the election will be taken shortly by it strictly within the existing legislative framework.

The Election Commission (EC) also said the Union law ministry has "no remit" to make recommendations on the schedule of Rajya Sabha elections.

The EC issued a statement on Wednesday, saying, "The commission... Had announced schedule for biennial election



for three seats to Council of States (Rajya Sabha) from Kerala... In the meanwhile, a reference has been received from the Ministry of Law and Justice. Pending examination of the reference, the commission has decided to keep the aforementioned proposed notification and schedule in abeyance till further orders."

In a tweet on Thursday,

Vijayan said the election to the three Rajya Sabha seats from Kerala was put in abeyance. "ECI says Law Ministry recommended so. Art. 324 (of the Constitution) vests the power to conduct the election only in the ECI. Why the political intervention? Why has ECI succumbed to it? Indian Constitution has been violated, yet again!"

A spokesperson of the poll watchdog responded to Vijayan's charge on Twitter on Friday, saying the "decision of conducting elections to the 3 Rajya Sabha seats in Kerala will be shortly taken by ECI strictly within the existing legislative framework including provisions of RP (Representation of the People) Act, 1951. "M/o Law & Justice has no remit to make recommendation on schedule of RS elections."

Sources said on Wednesday that the law ministry had pointed out that the

The CPI(M) also wrote to the poll body questioning its decision to put in abeyance of three RS seats elections. Nilotpal Basu, a member of the Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) met members of the Election Commission.

The election to the three Rajya Sabha seats from Kerala falling vacant the next month was to be held on April 12.

Abdul Wahab of the IUML, K K Ragesh of the CPI(M) and Vayalar Ravi of the Congress are retiring on April 21. The notification for the biennial elections was to be issued on Wednesday. Rajya Sabha elections are usually held before the expiry of the terms of the retiring members.

polls to elect a new legislative Assembly in Kerala would be held on April 6. Is it legally tenable to hold an exercise, where the members of an outgoing Assembly vote on April 12 to elect Rajya Sabha members, whereas the polls to elect a new Assembly would have already taken place on April 6, the law ministry had asked.

The election to the three Rajya Sabha seats from Kerala falling vacant the next month was to be held on April 12.

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26% candidates fighting third phase of Bengal polls have criminal past

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twenty-six per cent of the 205 candidates contesting in the third phase of the West Bengal Assembly polls this year have declared criminal cases against themselves, says a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The West Bengal Election Watch and the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of all the 205 candidates who are contesting in the polls to be held on April 29.

"Out of 205 candidates analysed, 53 (26 per cent) candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves and 43 (21 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves," the report said.

Among the major parties, 19 (61 per cent) out of 31 candidates analysed from the BJP, eight (62 per cent) out of 13 candidates analysed from the CPI(M), three (43 per cent) out of seven candidates analysed

from the Congress, 11 (36 per cent) out of 31 candidates analysed from the AITC and two (11 per cent) out of 18 candidates analysed from the SUCI(C) have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

It said 16 (52 per cent) out of 31 candidates analysed from the BJP, 5 (39 per cent) out of 13 candidates analysed from the CPI(M), 10 (32 per cent) out of 31 candidates analysed from the AITC and 2 (11 per cent) out of 18 candidates analysed from the SUCI(C) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

According to the report, nine candidates have declared cases related to crime against women. Three candidates have declared cases related to murder (IPC section 302) against themselves and 16 candidates have declared cases related to attempt to murder (IPC section 307) against themselves, it said.

CBI searches NHAI manager's house, seizes ₹67 lakh in cash

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday recovered ₹67 lakh cash during searches at the premises of a regional manager of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The CBI has registered a case against the then Regional Officer, NHAI, Regional Office, Jammu, the accused private firm, and its proprietor and unknown others on the basis of a Preliminary Enquiry conducted by the agency.

It was alleged in the Preliminary Enquiry that the private firm through its Proprietor entered into conspiracy with officials of Regional Office, NHAI, Jammu and got the work order in a tender dated January 10, 2018, for the improvement and routine maintenance of Lakhampur- Jammu Section for Rs 9.34 crore, in violation of terms and conditions of the said tender.

It was further alleged in the PE that the then Regional officer, NHAI, entered into conspiracy with the said proprietor and favoured the firm in the



award of said tender.

It was also alleged that the experience certificates submitted by the said firm along with the bid, did not mention whether the road constructed from Atholi to Palali section in Kishtwar district was a 02/04/06 lane highway. In the experience certificates of other qualified bidders, they had specifically mentioned that the roads constructed by them were 02/04/06 lane highway. It was further alleged that the fact was overlooked while processing the bid of the said firm and consequently, favourably processed the bid. Moreover, experience certificates submitted by the said firm through its Proprietor

were allegedly found to be fake and forged. In this manner, the accused allegedly cheated NHAI, the CBI said. Searches were conducted on Friday at seven places in Jammu, Chandigarh and Ropar which led to recovery of incriminating documents, hard disks, other digital evidence. A cash of more than ₹65 lakh from the premises of the contractor and cash of ₹2 lakh from the premises of the then Regional Officer, NHAI, Hem Raj, IDSE, were also recovered.

Besides Raj, the other accused are Rakesh Kumar Chaudhary, Proprietor of M/s Rakesh Kumar Chaudhary and the accused firm M/s Rakesh Kumar Chaudhary.

ED raids 2 premises of ex-CMD of UBI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Zonal office of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has carried out searches at two premises belonging to Archana Bhargava, former Chairperson-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of United Bank of India, and former Executive Director of Canara Bank in connection with a money-laundering case linked to possession of disproportionate assets by her.

The ED had initiated probe on the basis of FIR registered by CBI against Bhargava in a disproportionate assets case.

As per the CBI FIR, she had amassed disproportionate assets to the tune of ₹3.63 crore during the check period when she was occupying senior positions in various public sector banks.

"The searches were carried out by the ED to trace the proceeds of crime and to unearth the documentary evidence showing acquisition, routing, layering and projection (as legitimate assets) of the said Proceeds of Crime amounting to ₹3.63 crore, leading to commission of the offence of money-laundering," the

agency said in a statement. As a result of searches, the ED has recovered certain incriminating documents and electronic evidence about the alleged possession of disproportionate assets, further reinforcing the case against Bhargava, it further said.

Bhargava is being investigated in another case also under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 in respect of FIR booked by CBI against her in 2016.

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
A Statutory Authority of Government of India
India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

NATA 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTN: STUDENTS, PARENTS, ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTIONS & ALL CONCERNED

The Council has prescribed the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020, which inter-alia prescribe that **candidates need to qualify an Aptitude Test in Architecture conducted by Council of Architecture for admission to B.Arch. Course.**

Further, due to Covid-19 pandemic, the Council with the approval of the Central Government, has relaxed the eligibility for admission to 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. Degree Course, by amending the eligibility for *academic session 2021-2022 as "No candidate shall be admitted to architecture course unless she/he has passed an examination at the end of the 10+2 scheme of examination with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics subjects or passed 10+3 Diploma Examination with Mathematics, as compulsory subject."*

Council has also extended the last date of registration for the **first test up to 01.04.2021**. First test will be held on **10.04.2021**. Interested candidates are advised to register themselves for **NATA 2021** at the portal **www.nata.in**. For further details, please refer to the NATA brochure or contact NATA Helpdesk at 9560707764, 9319275557 and email: **nata.helpdesk2021@gmail.com**.

New Delhi Registrar

REGISTER NOW FIRST TEST : 10.4.2021
SECOND TEST : 12.6.2021

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 35 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow Sex: Male, Wearing: Brown Jacket and Black Pant Place of Recovery: Found dead near Shiv Mandir, Meethapur Village, Jaitpur, Delhi**

In this regard **FIR/DD No. 29A, Dated 24.01.2021** has been lodged at **Police Station, Jaitpur, Delhi**. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO
P.S. Jaitpur, Delhi
Ph.: 011-26666410, 26666412

DP/68/SE/2021

Regulate crowd during festivals, States, UTs told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry on Friday asked States and Union territories to regulate crowd during upcoming festivals like Holi, Easter and Eid in view of rising cases of Covid-19. In a letter to Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories, Union Home Secretary Anuj Bhalla pointed out that the country is passing through a critical juncture as COVID-19 cases and deaths have been on the rise.

said after assessing the situation, guidelines for effective control of COVID-19 were issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on March 23 and it has been emphasised that states and UTs should strictly enforce the 'test-track-treat' protocol.

"In view of upcoming festivals such as Holi, Shab-e-Barat, harvesting festivals, Easter, Eid-ul-Fitr, etc. The State Governments and UT administrations should take necessary measures to regulate crowds during these festivals by ensuring strict observance of



COVID appropriate behaviour, such as wearing of mask and maintaining social distancing, as mandated in aforesaid guidelines and in the National Directives for COVID-19 Management," the communication said.

The Home Secretary also asked Chief Secretaries to issue necessary instructions to district administrations and police

authorities to scrupulously enforce COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and SOPs in all public gatherings during the upcoming festivals. Further, Bhalla said, the campaign should also be intensified for creating public awareness.

"As has been emphasized time and again by health experts, strict adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour in public places and gatherings will help in breaking the chain of transmission and reduce the incidence of COVID cases in the country," he said.

CAA will definitely happen, says Shah

Mamata attacks syndicates run by 'rioter, beard man'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Citizenship Amendment Act will be implemented simultaneously in the entire country, Home Minister Amit Shah has told in an interview to a private Bengali television channel. Replying to a question as to why CAA has been mentioned in the election manifesto in Bengal but not in Assam, he said, "Mamata Banerjee opposed CAA while, Assam Government did not oppose it ... this is the reason why we have kept it in the manifesto here in Bengal ... CAA will definitely be implemented and ... simultaneously all over the country." On the oft raised allegations made by the Chief Minister that BJP was bringing

in "outsiders" to capture power in Bengal, Shah said "this is the narrow-mindedness of the Chief Minister ... Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was not an outsider in Gujarat. He was the valiant son of India ... he was made the president of the Congress Party not as a so-called outsider. It is my democratic right as the citizen of India to come to Bengal and no one can stop me from coming here."

Replying to the logic being proffered by the Opposition parties that the BJP has no Chief Ministerial face he said "we have been successful in other States without projecting Chief Ministerial faces... We came to power in UP and Jharkhand, without projecting



any face. We have remained faceless while contesting elections in many States... A strong face will emerge after the elections and he will be a Bhumiputra of Bengal ... he will be the Chief Minister here."

On why the Central agencies become active about Narada and Sharada chit fund cases only before the elections and why even after 8 years no headway has been made in the probe he said "Mamata



Banerjee Government which started the probe initially has devoured the entire records of the scam and is not sharing the details with the CBI ... but when we come to power we will have access to all the details ... we will probe the cases through an SIT and send all the accused to jail."

"We are not changing the ideology, rather those who are coming to the party are following our ideology," Union Home Minister further added

on TMC turncoat Suvendu, who is pitted from Nandigram Assembly seat battling incumbent Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Alleging that the TMC Government was encouraging infiltration in Bengal he said that appeasement politics pursued by Mamata Banerjee has been primarily responsible for unchecked infiltration in this side of the border adding "once BJP comes to power not a bird will come in from other countries." Only the refugees driven out of those countries would be given citizenship through CAA.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister continued to rain fire on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah in her election campaign. Flipping back their accusation that the TMC ran extortion syndicates she said it was not the Trinamool but the BJP that ran on syndicates.

Singling out the two top leaders of the saffron outfit the

Chief Minister said, "The BJP has two syndicates. One is a rioter, has sponsored riots in Delhi, Gujarat and UP. The other person is only growing his own beard but slowing down the industrial growth of the country."

In an apparent reference to the Prime Minister she said "sometimes he compares himself with Gandhi ji, Rabindranath Tagore and even Swami Vivekananda and on other occasions he names national properties including stadiums after himself"

Referring to him as a self-absorbed person who attaches his photographs with corona vaccine advertisements, sends his photograph to space ... One day he will sell the entire country and name it after himself. ... He seems to have a loosened screw" the Chief Minister who even used slang a day before while referring to the Prime Minister said.

Decision taken to hoist National Flag on all Govt buildings in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory administration headed by Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha has now set itself a target to paint the skyline of Jammu & Kashmir in patriotic colours of India.

According to a Press release issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations, "a decision has been taken to hoist the National Flag on all Government buildings in Jammu & Kashmir".

According to the press statement, "the necessary instructions were issued by the Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha himself while chairing a high level meeting with the Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police through video conferencing here at civil secretariat late Thursday evening".

Responding to the diktat, "the Office of Divisional Commissioner Jammu Friday directed all the Deputy Commissioners and Heads of the Departments to implement the directions of Lieutenant Governor, J&K UT regarding hoisting of National flag on all the Government buildings within next fifteen days".

As per a communiqué by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, the Deputy Commissioners/Divisional Heads of various Departments of Jammu Division have been asked to ensure strict compliance of the directions of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K, as per the provisions of Flag Code of India within next fifteen days, under intimation to the Div com office.

In Kashmir valley, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Dr Piyush Singla too issued a circular for hoisting of National

Flag on all government buildings and offices across the district.

"It has been impressed upon all district, sectoral, tehsil and block level officers to comply with the directions therein and ensure that the National Flag is flown on all Government buildings within a period of 15 days. The district heads have further been instructed to submit the progress report on a daily basis in this regard", stated a press statement issued by the office of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag.

Earlier, the school education department in J&K had directed all the heads of the institutions to adopt "grey and white colour scheme" for government school buildings besides installing "a signboard of standard design with tricolour of national flag in the background". The heads of the institutions have been also instructed to mention all the details of the school on the signboard. April 30, 2021 has been set as the final deadline to complete the project.

The Lt Governor, while reviewing the activities under the "Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav", also asked the district officers to identify people from their areas who have played an important role in the freedom struggle and felicitate them in the ongoing celebrations.

In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra the Lt Governor also directed the Deputy Commissioners to construct fully functional toilet complexes at prominent places in all the districts through which the Yatra passes, within the next two months. He called for synergizing the inter-departmental efforts to provide the best in class facilities to the visiting yatri.

Puducherry: Sitharaman releases BJP manifesto, vows 2.5L jobs

IANS ■ CHENNAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released the election manifesto of the BJP for the April 6 Puducherry Assembly polls on Friday with a slew of welfare measures and promising creation of 2,50,000 jobs for the youth.

Puducherry will get "Special Union Territory" status. This will ensure devolution of funds from 25 per cent to 40 per cent as was done in Jammu and Kashmir.

The manifesto also promised to meet the aspirations of the people as it is finalized after getting feedback from the public. The BJP had gathered opinion from around 50,000 people of Puducherry before preparing the mani-

festos. "A BJP government at the Centre and the union territory will ensure implementation of all central schemes. The previous state government did not do this fearing that the credit would go to the central government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the minister said.

The manifesto promises measures aimed at the empowerment of women, besides making Puducherry a spiritual hub and provide free and quality education to girls from Kindergarten to Post-Graduate level. The BJP has also promised free scooters to girls in colleges.

The promises also include interest-free loans of up to Rs 5 lakh for women self-help groups and also waiver of loans

taken by Women SHG's which were affected by the Covid-19. There will be 50 per cent reservation for women employees in government institutions and in local body elections, the manifesto promised, besides free public transport for women.

The BJP also promised free healthcare for women, setting up of sanitary napkin vending machines at schools, colleges, public places, PDS outlets and Anganwadis.

The manifesto promises to build a 150 ft statue of poet Subramania Bharathy and set up new tourism centres across Puducherry to promote tourism. It also promised to constitute new IT Parks, Textile parks, an elevated railway line to Chennai via Mammalapuram.

Tight bandobast for Bengal Phase I elections today

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a charged up scenario where the ruling Trinamool Congress and the BJP are locked in a neck and neck fight, Bengal is all set to go to its first phase of the eight-phase Assembly elections on Saturday.

Elections will be held for 30 seats across five districts of East and West Midnapore, Bankura, Jhargram and Purulia. In the first phase 191 candidates including 21 women are in the fray.

A massive security bandobast has been made by the Election Commission which has arranged for 187 companies of central forces in Purulia's 9 seats with 2491 booths, 82 companies for Bankura's 4 seats with 1328 booths, 148 companies for East

Midnapore's 7 constituencies and 124 companies for West Midnapore's 6 seats. Four seats of Jhargram district will also go to polls on Saturday. Salboni and Kharagpur in

West Midnapore had been placed under high alert by the administration, sources said.

TMC had won 27 out of these 30 seats in the 2016 elections and BJP was not a major player in the last polls. While the Trinamool is eyeing a hat-trick challenger BJP that has occupied the second place showing out the Left in the past couple of years is determined to wrest power from Mamata Banerjee this time round.

The Sanyukta Morcha formed by the Left-ISF-Congress alliance is also striving to spring a surprise in the elections.

Meanwhile, even as the Left-Congress Morcha lodged a complaint with the Commission saying people from other States had put up in most of the private hotels in the State reports of violence continued to come from various parts of it.

A TMC party office was blown up at Kotulpur in Bankura district injuring at least three persons after bombs they were allegedly making went off, sources said. Elsewhere ISF supporters were beaten up by the TMC men at Bhargore near Kolkata sources said.

The Friday's incident comes after four persons --- three of the BJP and one of the TMC --- were reportedly murdered between Wednesday and Thursday.

Law & order in UP has improved, says NCRB data

Lucknow: Despite the Opposition campaign against the Yogi Adityanath Government on the law-and-order issue, the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) states that the crime situation in the State has improved.

The NCRB data says that UP has witnessed a sharp reduction of 45.43 per cent in rape cases and has the lowest figures of crimes against women compared to the 21 major states of the country.

This has played an important role in changing the image and perception of Uttar Pradesh globally and re-establishing its identity.

According to an official release, the state has seen a significant fall in the number of rape cases from 3419 cases in 2016 to 2317 cases in the year 2020.

The UP government has also recorded the highest conviction rate in the cases of crimes against women and cyber-crime in the country, says the report by NCRB.

Uttar Pradesh has taken several steps to check crime against women which include anti-Romeo squads, UP-122 India App, night security cover scheme, women helpdesks and pink booths.

A total of 25,895 criminals have been sent behind bars till the year 2019.

Despite being the most populous state, UP has also seen reduction in cases of murder. With a density of 690 persons per square km, Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a sharp decline of 19.80 per cent from the year 2016 to 2020, in cases of murder.

Yogi focuses on food processing units to boost self-employment

Lucknow: The Yogi Adityanath Government is trying to increase self-employment among the youth in rural Uttar Pradesh through food processing units.

Under the current food processing industries policy, capital grants and rebate in interest are being provided to those who are setting up such units.

Apart from providing employment opportunities to

people, these food processing units will also make the farmers of the villages economically self-reliant and fulfil the resolve of rural development.

According to the government spokesman, the state government will create new jobs in the rural areas through its 62,122 units.

A record investment of Rs 10,500 crore has been made in the food processing industry which is considered to be the

backbone of the project.

The government has made amendments in its food processing industry policy and will be ready to provide employment to around 3 lakh people by bringing investment of more than Rs 20,000 crore.

To increase employment and self-employment in rural areas, the units are being set up according to the area wise agricultural production.

Units related to milk prod-

ucts will be set up in Aligarh, Bareilly, Bulandshahr, Kanpur Dehat, Jaunpur and Mathura, while Auraiya and Kasganj will have units for making ghee.

Products based on green chillies will be set up in Varanasi and Deoria, mango in Lucknow, Amroha and Sitapur, Kala Namak rice in Basti, Gorakhpur and Siddhartha Nagar, banana chips in Kushinagar and potato in

Purvanchal.

The spokesman said that there is an emphasis on setting up food processing units based on maize cultivation in western and central Uttar Pradesh.

It is noteworthy that in order to promote food processing industries in Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government is giving an exemption in mandi rates to agricultural processing units and new rules have been made

for that purpose.

The government is completely focused on bringing up more units to the state so that with more employment opportunities, farmers can also get maximum benefit from these units.

The government has also proposed a plan to set up agriculture and food processing industries on the vacant land of big mandis in the state.

Kerala HC seeks EC reply on 'fraudulent' voters list

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Friday asked the Election Commission to respond to the petition of Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala after he approached the court seeking its intervention in the "fraudulent" voters list for the April 6 Assembly polls.

The high court will now take up this petition on Monday. Chennithala's public interest litigation, according to him, was a forced one as he had

approached the Chief Electoral Officer, in the state five times with a complaint that there are over four lakh fraudulent voters in the 140 Assembly constituencies, having their names in multiple constituencies.

He has been releasing the details of this 'duplication' in the past week in various constituencies that he has been touring. Chennithala in his petition has demanded all such people, who have multiple identity cards, should not be

allowed to vote and action under the Indian Penal Code and the Peoples Representation Act should be taken against all the government officials who played a role in issuing such fake cards.

However, Teeka Ram Meena, the Chief election officer (CEO) in Kerala has asked all the 14 district collectors to conduct a detailed probe into the complaints, and then will present his views before the court.

Maha 'Lady Singham' shoots self alleging harassment

SUPERIOR OFFICER HELD

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day after a female Range Forest Officer (RFO) posted in the Amravati-based Melghat Tiger Reserve (MTR) committed suicide after alleging harassment at the hands of her superior officer, the police on Friday arrested Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) Vinod Shivkumar in Nagpur while he was trying to flee to his native town in Karnataka.

In a disturbing incident, RFO Deepali Chavan-Mohite (33)—a dare-devil officer known in the local forest circles as "Lady Singham"—shot herself with her service revolver at her official quarters at Arisal in Gugamal division at around noon on Thursday.

At the time of the incident, Deepali was alone at her home. Her mother Shakuntala Chavan with whom she used to live had left for Satara in western Maharashtra, while her

husband Rajesh Mohite, who works as a treasury officer at Chikhaldara in Amravati district, was away at work.

The police recovered a four-page suicide note near RFO's blood-splattered body.

In her note addressed to MS Reddy, Field Director of Melghat Tiger Reserve and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Deepali alleged that DFO Vinod Shivkumar was an officer who used to harass her.

She said in her note that stern action be taken against Shivkumar, an IFS officer, so that no other employee or official underwent the ordeal that she had undergone at the hands of the latter.

After perusing the contents of the suicide note left by the lady forest officer, the Amravati launched a search and traced Shivkumar to Nagpur railway station where they arrested him on Friday, while he was trying to board a Bengaluru-bound train to head to his native town in Karnataka.

Among other things, Deepali has alleged in her sui-

cide note that Shivkumar, given to excessive drinking, used to harass her, heap abuses on her, make lewd comments, dropped hints at getting physical, give her difficult assignments and on one occasion, he had back her salary.

Deepali had reportedly on a few occasions complained about Shivkumar to his senior MTR Field Director, M.S. Reddy (IFS), but in vain.

Talking to media persons in Pune, Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar said: "We have ordered a detailed investigation into the circumstances leading to the lady forest officer's suicide. If she had any kind of harassment, blackmail or torture, we will not spare the person who abetted her suicide."

"We will take strict action against those found responsible for her death," added state Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

Meanwhile, in a letter written to chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and Amravati's Guardian Minister Yashomati Thakur, the Nagpur-based

Maharashtra Forest Guard-Forester's Union has demanded strict action against Shivkumar.

Giving details of the manner in which Shivkumar used to harass Deepali, the Union General Secretary Indrajit Baraskar said: "In 2020, when she was pregnant, in early-February, Shivkumar compelled Dipali to accompany him on a gruelling 3-days forest patrol, walking or driving hundreds of kms ignoring her condition and her complaints to Reddy was not addressed."

"Consequently, upon return she suffered a miscarriage and was in deep depression," Baraskar alleged.

Deepali, who joined the Maharashtra forest department, Deepali had come down with a heavy hand on illegal encroachers in the forests, rubbing in the process the local politicians and mafia the wrong way.

official car a gang of forest smugglers that was escaping by a train to Madhya Pradesh.

At the next railway station, she intercepted the gang trying to smuggle out over five tonnes of a valuable jungle produce 'lac', arrested them, seized the consignment, and brought the gangsters back to Maharashtra.

Deepali had become a terror for local mafias who attempted to steal forest produce or poach big and small animals. "There were many occasions when she chased them caught red handed," her friend Rohan Bhathe said.

In a related development, BJP's women wing leader Chitra Wagh has demanded that both Shivkumar and Field Director of Melghat Tiger Reserve MS Reddy be booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. "Deepali's complaints against Shivkumar were not acted upon by Reddy. Both Shivkumar and Reddy must be booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder," Wagh said.

PARTIAL CANCELLATION/DIVERSION/REGULATION OF TRAINS DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORK

In order to upgrade the infrastructure, Railways will undertake the non-interlocking work for yard remodelling at Mau Jn. station. To execute this work, Railways will take suitable traffic block between 02.04.2021 to 05.04.2021. During this period following trains will temporarily be effected as under :-

SHORT TERMINATION/ PARTIALLY CANCELLATION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Short Terminated at/Originated from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date (from the Originating Station)
05008 Lucknow Jn. - Varanasi City Special Express	at Bhatni Jn.	Bhatni Jn. - Varanasi City	01.04.2021 to 04.04.2021
05007 Varanasi City - Lucknow Jn. Special Express	from Bhatni Jn.	Varanasi City - Bhatni Jn.	02.04.2021 to 05.04.2021
05138 Prayagraj Rambag - Mau Jn. Special MEMU	at Aunrihar Jn.	Aunrihar Jn. - Mau Jn.	02.04.2021 to 05.04.2021
05137 Mau Jn. - Prayagraj Rambag Special MEMU	from Aunrihar Jn.	Mau Jn. - Aunrihar Jn.	02.04.2021 to 05.04.2021

DIVERSION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Diverted via	Date (from the Originating Station)
04006 Anand Vihar (T) - Sitamarhi Special Express	Aunrihar Jn. - Ballia - Chhapra	02.04.2021 to 04.04.2021
04651 Jaynagar - Amritsar Jn. Special Express	Chhapra - Ballia - Phephna Jn. - Ghazipur City -Aunrihar Jn. -Jaunpur Jn.	02.04.2021 to 04.04.2021
04652 Amritsar Jn. - Jaynagar Special Express	Jaunpur Jn. - Aunrihar Jn. - Ghazipur City - Phephna Jn. - Chhapra	04.04.2021
09165 Ahmedabad Jn. - Darbhanga Jn. Special Express	Varanasi Jn. - Aunrihar Jn. -Ghazipur City - Ballia - Chhapra	02.04.2021

REGULATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Regulation	Date (from the Originating Station)
04005 Sitamarhi - Anand Vihar (T) Special Express	will be regulated for 60 Minutes in Varanasi Division	05.04.2021
09166 Darbhanga Jn. - Ahmedabad Jn. Special Express	will be regulated for 40 Minutes in Varanasi Division	05.04.2021

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.

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

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PAPER WITH PASSION

GOAT!

Is the current cricket team the best of all time across all formats? The jury is still out

What is the hallmark of a champion team? A side that is capable of picking up the gauntlet and throw it right back at the opposition, across all formats in every condition. The domination should be such that the opponents are under pressure even before they enter the field. Like the Ricky Ponting team of the early 2000s, which won back-to-back World Cups in 2003 and 2007 and that too with an invincible record, is one of the greatest teams of all times in international cricket. Not just because of the success that they had all those years but also because they were the team to beat, a benchmark to all the other sides. There was not just a number of match-winners in the playing XI but also in the ranks that were waiting to display their skills. In today's world, the Indian team experiences the same scenario. Under Virat Kohli, the team is breaking records at will. They are dominating any opposition in such a way that many former greats often refer to this side as the "best Indian team". But is it really the best India ever had? Good enough to beat the likes of the World Cup winners of 1983 and 2011 as well?



Well, one may argue that they are because of the success they have had in the recent years, which includes winning back-to-back Test series Down Under, the second time this year only after defeating the full-strength Aussies. Winning any bilateral series Down Under is a big achievement in itself but the 2021 series triumph ranks way above because India minus Virat Kohli did that. And also because as many as 11 players got injured during the series and they still managed to achieve the impossible. If that's not enough to be called the best, what else do you need? But for them to be called as the 'Greatest of All Time', they need to perform like this for a few more years, besides winning an ICC tournament. That is the peak. That's what Mahendra Singh Dhoni's side did in 2011, which arguably remains the best team India has ever had. We may only remember them as the World Cup winners but they were a lot more than that. Across formats, they won matches, the highlight of which, apart from reaching the top spot in Test and ODIs, was the 2009 Test series win in New Zealand and Commonwealth Bank series in 2008. And not to forget they started a rebuild after the imminently forgettable World Cup outing in the Caribbean. Dhoni's side was built from the scratch and, in four years, they won everything on offer. One may ask why the 1983 side is excluded from this list, but the answer is simple. The Kapil's Devils won the Prudential Cup beating West Indies in the final, but they weren't the best team in the tournament. They won that day because they were better than the other team.



Bengalis celebrate Dol Utsav ahead of Holi

PTI

Democracy vs \$

The US is concerned about China catching up and elbowing it out as the No. 1 nation globally

Democracy is about values just as economy is about profit and loss. But when the latter takes precedence over the former, the values are obviously somewhat compromised. Keeping the economic interests foremost to excel in the global market is the priority of the world superpowers. In their pursuit, targeting the market adversaries under the pretence of protecting human rights, upholding the democracy, safeguarding the interests of minorities and so on, through levying tariffs and slapping sanctions is not something new and is a kind of expansionism, if not exactly imperialism. US President Joe Biden's harp on Beijing is not different from his predecessor's Donald Trump stance in that sense. Biden has said that China's ambition of becoming the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world is "not going to happen on my watch". He vowed to outspend China on innovation and infrastructure to prevent the communist nation from surpassing the US to become the world's most powerful country. Washington is working on all equations against Beijing with the help of global partners and is apparently tapping all opportunities to take it on. Recently, in the meeting of the head of the States of the Quad alliance (US, India, Australia and Japan), the partners put their weight behind the idea of "free and open Indo-Pacific".

The Quad leaders discussed the challenges posed by China. The US is aware of the importance of New Delhi in dealing with China. India's strategic location, the Chinese military's misadventure in Ladakh and Arunachal, and New Delhi and Beijing's age-old rivalry are reasons enough to give the US a chance to meddle in the affairs of South and South-East Asia. Besides, India is a big market for America. On the other hand, Beijing's opposition to the alliance is on the expected lines, asking Washington to refrain from making "trouble out of nothing". China is expanding its footprint and has a huge say in the world economy. Products manufactured in China, particularly electronic goods and microchips, have captured the markets across the globe. The Dragon is also increasing its military might and hold in the sea waters and territories of other nations. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi has banned several Chinese apps after a bloody border conflict, the two-way trade between the countries stood at \$77.7 billion last year. In the ugly tussle between the superpowers, India must act cautiously safeguarding its own interests. Anyway, the economy should bring peace, not war.

A rich creator who died penniless

Not the one to flaunt his talent or connections, the popular Hindi cinema writer retained his dignity and ardour even when faced with the odds



SANTANU GANGULY

No one remembers his real name, Ganga Sagar Talwar, but his *nom de plume*, Sagar Sarhadi, is a household name in popular Hindi cinema as a story and screenplay writer whose incredible creations *Kabhi Kabhie*, *Silsila*, *Noorie*, *Faasle*, *Anubhav*, *Zindagi*, *Chandni*, *Rang* and *Kaho Na Pyar Hai*, among others, are pieces of gem. And, of course, his immortal creation, *Bazaar*.

My first interaction with Sagar Saab was in 2005 when he made his last feature film, *Chausar*. As the festival programmer at the Osian's-Cinefan Asian Film Festival, my responsibility was to present meaningful cinemas to the festival. To be honest, I was attracted towards *Chausar* not only for its content but also the name behind it — Sagar Sarhadi. At the time, though old, he was quite active. He brought a VCD of *Bazaar* for me as a token of affection. Of course, I got him to sign on the cover. What still remains with me is the simplicity of the extremely talented man. No fuss, no celebrity tantrums. An independent film festival curator considers such personalities a precious asset to promote cinematic culture.

After *Chausar*, we invited him to attend the Jagran Film Festival in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. At the small hotel we were put up in, his only demand was to have some "good vegetables". But the waiter insisted on a mixed-vegetable dish. Sagar Saab said: "I came all the way from Bombay, which is a concrete jungle, to your city, which is totally surrounded by greenery. Why can't you give me some good, green vegetable? Why you emphasising on mixed vegetables that must be seven days old?" Everyone started laughing.

After a long gap, we invited him as a speaker to the Kalinga Literary Festival in Bhubaneswar in 2016. By the time, the veteran had already crossed his 80s and needed an assistant to travel. And, of course, on a simple, low-cost flight. Immediately after reach-



ing to the hotel, he came out and started walking on the street to see the city. Meanwhile, he was telling to his companion: "This Santanu is a big guy. He humbly invited me to attend the literary festival, and I thought it must be a small affair with some like-minded people in a homely atmosphere. But he put me in a five-star hotel, that too air-conditioned. Being a communist at heart, how can I stay here?" That defines Sagar Sarhadi.

In 2017, the Dehradun International Film Festival honoured him with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented to him by the then Chief Minister Harish Rawat. Before the event, we went to his Mumbai home in Sion to invite him. The small flat with a nice place to sit and brainstorm for projects turned out to be a nice place to recollect beautiful memories.

I saw the Black Lady, the prestigious Filmfare Award trophy, among the various awards on his rack. A huge collection of books, too, mostly written in Urdu. Very sadly, Sagar Saab said: "You know, now I am old. I can't



IN HIS LAST DAYS, THE ORGANISER MUST OFFER SOME MONETARY ASSISTANCE TO THE VETERAN WRITER. SINCE HE DIDN'T ASK FOR MONEY FROM ANYONE, EVEN THE SUPER RICH HINDI FILM INDUSTRY IS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH NEGLECT AS HIS

take good care of these books. I wanted to gift all my Urdu books to the library, but they don't want these since they say there are no Urdu readers. So the books are lying with me only."

He used to praise his birthplace, Abbotabad, now in Pakistan, and also in news because of Osama bin Laden. Sagar Saab was so much influenced by the scenic beauty of Abbotabad that the story of *Noorie* was complete based on that background. The shooting, however, has been done in Kashmir.

The memories of the old good days were always fresh in his mind, though by the time he had become forgetful and repeated the same conversation. But his association with Yash Chopra was known to everyone. From *Kabhi Kabhie* to *Silsila* to *Chandni*, an amazing journey altogether. He recalls that he first went to the south, then to Shimla, Delhi and Punjab. At the end of it, when he submitted the bills to Yash Chopra, the latter jokingly said: "*Kya kilometre ke hisaab se likhte ho? (Do you write on the basis of kilometres travelled?)*".

Yash Chopra was keen to

make *Bazaar*, but Sagar Saab was reluctant to pass on the story to anyone. He wanted to make the film by himself. He proudly said: "That time I gave Smita Patil ₹25,000 as the remuneration and ₹20,000 to Naseeruddin Shah." Many people talk about his affection towards Smita but, in our several conversations, honestly, I never found any such thing.

In 2019, at the Kolkata International Film Festival, he was a special invitee to pay tributes to Khayaam Saab. The whole city was covered with the posters and banners of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. He innocently asked one of the organisers: "Why is there no film poster but only her face?"

In his last days, after seeing Sagar Saab's struggle for survival, whenever we invited him, the organiser must offer some monetary assistance to the veteran writer. Since he didn't ask for money from anyone, I strongly feel, even the super rich Hindi film industry is partly responsible for such neglect as his. (The writer is a Delhi-based film festival curator, filmmaker and producer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CBI DANCES TO THE CENTRE'S TUNE

Sir — A request by the State Government is the primary requisite for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe any case related to corruption, economic offences or any other crime that occurred within the limits of the State. But the Supreme Court and the High Courts can order a CBI investigation in any case without the State's nod. Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Mizoram and Jharkhand are the seven States that have taken back the "general permission" granted to the CBI to probe cases within their jurisdiction. The CBI's slide began the day it started dancing to the tune of the Government at the Centre.

Top Opposition leaders were targeted by the Centre by using the CBI as a weapon against them. The Chief Ministers of the Opposition parties literally shiver at the thought of the CBI probing politically-sensitive cases in their States. The agency is considered as a "caged parrot". Political observers are aghast at the recommendations of the parliamentary committee asking the Government to assess the need for amending existing laws or bring out a new legislation to clearly define the mandate of the CBI and vest more powers in it. The recommendation came after the CBI apprised the panel that its investigations are impeded by the withdrawal of "general consent" by the States, mainly those ruled by the Opposition parties. The federal system of governance in India has clearly demarcated powers between the Centre and the States. The CBI is an agency that has no autonomous powers. Prior consent from the State concerned is mandatory.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

MAMATA IS MOVING TOWARDS ANOTHER WIN

Sir — Mamata Banerjee, the central figure in West Bengal elections, represents the quintessence of Bengali culture; she is looked up to for her leadership qualities, her inexhaustible energy and her devotion to duty. She has an emotional connect with people cutting across all sections of society

Young cricketers performing well



A cricketer and Pakistan's former skipper Inzamam-ul-Haq has lauded the Indian team, especially the youngsters who in the recent tournaments have been stealing the show by displaying tremendous cricketing skills on the field — be it batting, bowling or fielding. Inzamam has heaped praise on the team by commenting that it seems as if India has set up "a cricketing machine-manufacturing smart and intelligent youngsters ready to perform stupendously in any

and relates to them; one of her many strengths is that people relate to her subconsciously.

It is brave of her to stand up to the BJP that is using all its might to wrest power from Didi. With great personal charisma and mass appeal, Didi is well-positioned to stop the BJP juggernaut. While we need more women in leadership positions, the BJP leaders, quite regrettably, have stooped so low as to make comments on her dress and the bandage around her broken leg. The BJP has failed to fulfil its promises at the national level, the State may not fall for its sugarcoated promises of "asol poriborton" and "Sonar Bangla".

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

IRREPARABLE LOSS

Sir — It's a sad news that the United Arab Emirates' Finance Minister and the deputy

format of the gentleman's game". The former captain was referring to the way in which the youngsters of the Indian team turn up and give impactful and impressive performances and do their best in high-voltage matches when the senior players were unable to perform well.

It is indeed a fact that Indian cricket of late has been witnessing the rise of many players ready to display their potential and thereby giving a promise that the future of Indian cricket is really strong, bright and optimistic. Most of these young cricketers were able to perform wonderful cricket in their debut matches and at times turned out to be game-changers and match-winners.

Inzamam is apt in saying that this gives a clear signal to the senior cricketers that they have to perform well to stay in the side. The BCCI and the selection committee will have to be lauded for their choice of selection. The high-voltage Australia series saw youngsters along with the seniors performing beautiful cricket. India's performance has been excellent in the last six months and the young cricketers have really done well for the team to gallop ahead.

M Pradyu | Kannur

ruler of the emirate of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, has died. In 1971, when the UAE was formed as an independent nation, he was appointed the first Finance Minister in the federal Cabinet and occupied this position till his demise. He was the world's longest serving Finance Minister, working for nearly five decades. Hamdan was a great statesman who played a pivotal role in shaping the economic and industrial policies of the UAE.

Great people die leaving a legacy to be proud of and achievements that are long remembered even after their demise. His death is an irreparable loss not only for people of Dubai and the UAE but for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and beyond.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

What I understood, slowly cases have started going up. We have reached 184. We need to be cautious. We need to keep control on gatherings and functions.



Goa Health Minister — Vishwajit Rane



As I've said before there are lots of difficult issues because there are some people who, for medical reasons, can't get a vaccination.

UK President — Boris Johnson

There is no ego between me and Vivek. Since the beginning of our journey, our equation as a couple was different.



Actress — Pallavi Joshi



I think India have set up some sort of machine to manufacture new players. This gives a clear signal to the senior cricketers that you have to perform well to stay in the side.

Former Pakistan captain — Inzamam-ul-Haq

If the Congress comes to power in Assam, it would safeguard the illegal immigrants.



Madhya Pradesh CM — Shivraj Singh Chouhan



FIRST COLUMN

CREATE CHANGE WITH YOUR CRAFT

Health outcomes are numbers at best, but bringing meaning to them through visuals is what matters



LAUREN ANDERS BROWN

As a film-maker, I am best known for empathetic storytelling and using the camera to bring audiences into worlds they would never have access to otherwise. In 2016, I was determined to tell the story of the perfect maternal health outcomes at the Al-Zaatari Refugee Camp in Jordan, told through the eyes of a six-year-old girl as she was about to become a big sister. I pushed for filming permissions, crowdfunded to cover my production costs and created the award-winning film 'Six-Year-Old Fears' that went to festivals and was broadcast internationally. The crowning achievement was at the United Nations General Assembly in 2016 when a short version of the film was screened for a discerning audience, and the Jordanian Government pledged to continue their partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, (formerly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities), that aids and runs that clinic. This was just the beginning of the ways in which I would use my film-making skills to help advance policy agendas, because it is true, that we, as humans, need to "see it, to believe it." Health outcomes at their best are numbers but bringing meaning to those numbers through visuals is what can create real change within large systems.



It's not as simple though as turning on the camera, letting it roll and putting the footage together. I am sure many of us have sat through videos that struggled to have the impact the creators so desired. They may have done a good job making a visual representation of the numbers at stake but they lacked the story that created a human connection to those numbers.

And sometimes, the numbers don't touch the surface of the disasters at hand. In 2019, I was filming in Mozambique with a woman who survived Cyclone Idai. She took me to the new land the Government had given her to replace her home that was destroyed, as the other thousands of displaced people in the area had also received. What they had not received though, was any support in the form of a shelter to put on that land. When I raised my drone into the sky to get a scenic shot of the land, it was unlike any refugee or other displaced camps I had been in because for the thousands of people there, on my screen I could see maybe a dozen or so tents. I was surprised and shocked. Visually, the numbers just didn't add up. Sometimes what is not captured on camera is just as impactful as what is seen on it.

It is no secret that people need to see something to believe it, but that is proving to be inadequate these days, what with fake news, misinformation and oversaturation of information in general on social media and elsewhere. Anyone can believe something once they have seen it, but what will inspire a person to act is how they see it — not just an ambush of information and images but as a story that will inspire anyone to take action anywhere in the world. This is because the most powerful thing about a good visual story is its ability to cross borders and resonate with everyone from the general public to the policymakers. This is what aspiring film-makers who have a touching story to tell must do. They must let their craft do the talking. After all, a picture is worth a thousand words and if it helps someone in the bargain it is priceless.

(The writer is a global health film director and producer, coLABorate. The views expressed are personal.)

The empowering sound of music

Supported and trained by the State Mahila Samakhya, an all-women band Arohini has travelled through UP, singing songs of women empowerment and creating awareness



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

The eldest is 56-years-old and the youngest is 21. Despite this age difference, the members of the all-women rural band in India 'Arohini' are united in a common bond to push for women's empowerment. All band members are marginalised village women who were almost never allowed to leave the house. But ever since 'Arohini' was born, they became agents of change in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

"I was married young and not allowed to study. I got the opportunity to express my pain and life of oppression through this band. Now I write and sing songs to raise awareness against child marriage so that other girls can be stopped from meeting this fate," says 56-year-old Pushplata Devi.

In fact, a majority of the 20-member band were child brides. Both their natal and marital families did not consider education important and denied them opportunities to pursue studies. This is not unusual for a State where every one in five girls has been married before the legal age of 18. Neither is it surprising that UP tops the list of the most out-of-school girls in the country and has scored the lowest on the gender equality indicators among all States, according to the 2018, Sustainable Development Index report by the NITI Aayog, the Government's policy institution.

However, this is what the band was hoping to change. Supported and trained by the State Mahila Samakhya (MS), an organisation working for rural women's development that is run by the Government, the band travelled to different districts across UP, singing songs of women empowerment. Through their songs, the band tried to debunk myths related to menstrual hygiene, early marriage, domestic violence and the critical need for the girl child's education. But since December 2020, the band and over 600 MS women employees have been out of work after the Government issued a formal notice of closure of the MS programme. This came as a double whammy, with the women already reeling under a financial crisis due to the non-payment of salaries since 2018. Their situation was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and the subsequent lockdown in the country.

Although the State Government has often stated its commitment towards empowerment of women and promised requisite funding for related programmes, it has not deemed it necessary to address the resource crunch faced by the MS. The Budget allocation for the programme running in 19 districts has been steadily dipping. In 2018-19, the State Government approved ₹10 crore for it while presenting the annual Budget but released only half the amount. As a result, the remaining sum of ₹5 crore lapsed as it couldn't get used.

Any hope that this lapse would be rectified in the 2019-2020 State Budget was dashed when only ₹2 crore was allocated. With such a meagre budget, it was only a matter of time before the programme, running in the State for the last 30 years, collapsed.

The closure of MS means the end of the dreams of over 2,00,000 rural women who got an opportunity to exercise their agency and



FOR MAYA DEVI, BEING A PART OF THE BAND GAVE HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN NEW THINGS AND USE THE LEARNING TO INFORM OTHERS THROUGH SONGS. SHE NOW KNOWS THAT UNDER THE PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE ACT, 2006, THE MARRIAGE OF A WOMAN BELOW 18 YEARS OF AGE IS ILLEGAL AND IS PUNISHABLE WITH IMPRISONMENT UP TO TWO YEARS. SHE ALSO KNOWS THAT GIRLS AGED 15-19 ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO DIE IN CHILDBIRTH AS COMPARED TO WOMEN IN THEIR 20s

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



Picture credit: Swapna Majumdar

realise their potential. It also rolls back years of untiring work to raise awareness of women's rights and their empowerment through literacy programmes. For this to happen on a sustained basis for three decades in a State steeped in patriarchy, is admirable.

Expectedly, this wasn't easy in the beginning because the first hurdle that the women had to overcome was opposition from their own families. So MS first began by bolstering the women's self-confidence before embarking on their education programme. It was only after they learnt about their rights that the women gathered the courage to step out of their houses and form collectives. "When I first started going for the MS meetings, my family forcibly stopped me from going out of the house. They said a woman's place was in the house and not outside. But I was determined. I was also beaten up, but even then I didn't give up and became a member of the MS women's group. Thanks to them, I also started to study again. Then I became a member of the band," recalled Pushplata Devi.

It was when feisty women like Pushplata began articulating their thoughts and hopes through songs at the MS meetings that the idea of forming a band that could use their stories to inspire others germinated. Smriti Singh, then State Director, felt that with a membership of over 1,20,000 rural women in 19 districts, the band was the perfect platform to showcase their talent. She wanted the band to give members the chance to fulfil their dreams and also motivate other women to come forward.

In order to give representation to all districts where the MS works, all women groups were asked to showcase their talent. Out of these, 20 women were chosen and then trained. To give them an identity, the band was named 'Arohini' (meaning moving forward). It was decided that band members would wear identical pink kurtas, black salwars, and yellow turbans during their performances.

This uniform has become a prized possession of 32-year-old band member Seema Kumari. A resident of Araria district, Kumari had to drop out of school and get married at the age of 15. "Since then, my only identity has been that of a wife, daughter-in-law and mother. When I wear this uniform and sing, it gives me an identity of my own. Now I have a voice in the decisions in my house," she reveals.

For Maya Devi, being a part of the band gave her the opportunity to learn new things and use the learning to inform others through songs. She now knows that under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, the marriage of a woman below 18 years of age is illegal and is punishable with imprisonment up to two years. She also knows that girls aged 15-19 are twice as likely to die in childbirth as compared to women in their 20s.

"When we give this information through our songs, it is better understood by the communities because the message is given in an entertaining way. We know we are making an impact when they share their problems with us and seek our help," she said. The

evidence that MS provided the impetus for women to challenge rigid social norms is reflected in their stories, their increased participation and greater voice in household decisions. Greater awareness and knowledge has improved their mobility and boosted their visibility in public spaces. The performance at various district and State public events is just one example.

When the women and child rights forum project started under the direction of the State Government in 2017 to eliminate child marriage, they took the lead. They took the help of their collectives to prevent 437 child marriages over the next two years.

Work by all such women and child rights forums set up in each of the 19 districts has come to a halt now. Just as it has in the 150 MS Nari Adalats (women's courts). Thanks to these courts, women had access to affordable and speedy justice that addressed complaints of violence and economic discrimination. With courts being closed, many women will no longer have access to justice.

Crimes against women, especially from the Dalit, Adivasi and Muslim communities, are on the rise in the State. The child sex ratio stands at 885 girls per 1,000 boys. This is likely to skew further in favour of boys, according to recent research which indicates that UP is likely to have the most missing female births due to son preference. This underlines again just why programmes like MS that promote gender equality are urgently needed. Is the Government listening?

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I MIGHT DISAGREE WITH YOU ON CERTAIN OVERREACHES IN SOME SPECIFIC REGIONS BUT THE THALAVI TRAILER IS JUST MINDBLOWING. —FILM-MAKER RAM GOPAL VARMA



IN THIS DEAD SERIOUS WORLD WHERE EGOS GET HURT SO EASILY, I APPRECIATE YOU AS YOU DON'T TAKE ANYTHING SERIOUSLY. NOT EVEN YOURSELF. —ACTOR KANGANA RANAUT

Ensure people's participation for efficient water management

The success of any Government programme depends on the participation of the people and mobilisation of women groups at the grassroots level

Water and soil are essential for sustaining life on Earth. Each year, the World Forest Day is celebrated on March 21 and, since 1993, March 22 is observed as World Water Day. All across the globe, land, forest and water resources have been degraded due to over-exploitation by humans. Because of the growing population, these resources are under stress and their blatant misuse has made the condition worse. The problem is compounded by the climate change threat that is looming large over mankind.

Forests are essential for sustaining the flow of water in rain-fed rivers, for aquifer recharge and maintaining the level of ground water. Water is the most precious gift of nature but, across the world, over one billion people have no access to safe drinking



VK BAHUGUNA

The writer is Chairman of the Centre for Resource Management. The views expressed are personal.

water and more than three billion people face shortage of water for a few months every year.

Water scarcity repeatedly occurs in areas with scanty rainfall and high population density or in areas where intensive agricultural is practised and those which are heavily industrialised. The countries in Asia and Africa are the most water-stressed, and that includes India.

It seems that the world leaders are only paying lip service as nothing substantial has been done to deal with the water crisis. We must remember that due to climate change and lopsided development, many civilisations, including our own Indus Valley civilisation vanished.

The countries in the Middle East are the most threatened by water scarcity, however, Israel is a brilliant

example of how to meet the threat of chronic water shortages. This is because though 90 per cent of Israelis live in water scarce areas, they have solved their problem.

India is one of the top 10 water-rich countries with more than 4,000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) of water availability (sufficient to cater to four-five times our current population). However, ironically, as many as 256 districts in the country are facing acute water crisis. It has also been estimated by the NITI Aayog that 70 per cent of our water resources are contaminated and 600 million people are facing severe water stress. It is further estimated that more than 200,000 people die every year due to inadequate access to safe water.

According to a report of the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) 70 per cent of



the blocks in country are water-deficient with respect to the groundwater levels. More than 60 per cent of the farmers depend on groundwater for irrigation. The way the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh are utilising ground water, the day is not far when food grain production will come to a standstill in these areas.

The water table is already going down by a few metres

every year, especially in Punjab. The Central Water Commission (CWC) has indicated that per capita water availability in the country has already reduced by one-fourth to 1,368 cubic metres a year over the past seven decades. It is also ironical that some of the heavy rainfall districts like Palakkad in Kerala and Hooghly in West Bengal, that witness more than the average rainfall, are water stressed for a few months each year. In Palakkad, it is due to uneven distribution of rainfall and overuse by brick kilns and farmers, while in Hooghly it is due to overuse by industries.

But where there is a will there is a way. Israel has solved its water shortage by building desalination and water-treatment plants and by adopting innovative agricultural practices. Back home, Gujarat has created a people-centric

demand-driven approach to solve the potable water problem by creating lakes, de-silting ponds and the use of the Narmada water through the Sardar Sarovar canal network. It tapped every drop of rain water in the farms and as a result the irrigated area of the State has jumped from 38 lakh hectares in 2011 to 68.88 lakh hectares today.

The creation of the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2019 was to implement and replicate the Gujarat model all over the country. Of the 19 crore households in the country, till 2019, only a little over three crore homes had access to tap water for drinking. In the last one year, another four crore families have been covered. The 'Jal Jeevan Mission' has made a mark within one year of its launch and the reasons for its success is the fact that it focuses on decen-

tralis, village-based demand-driven governance by the communities, coupled with innovative technology based on real-time monitoring. Recently the 'Jal Jeevan Abhiyan' has been launched to further scale up rain water harvesting and focus is on mobilisation of women groups at the grassroots level.

The larger participation of civil society is the key to success of any Government programme. Before the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' the Joint Forest Management was successful because it involved the communities to manage the forests. If the Jal Shakti Ministry succeeds in supplying potable water to every household it will be one of the biggest public welfare programmes post-Independence. It will bring health and prosperity and reduce the mortality rate in rural areas.

Death toll in Myanmar protest surpasses 300

Monitoring group says 320 people killed as military tries to suppress anti-coup protests

AP ■ YANGON

The death toll for protesters confirmed killed in Myanmar since last month's military takeover has surpassed 300, a group that verifies details of deaths and arrests announced on Friday.

Myanmar's Assistance Association for Political Prisoners said its tally of 320 dead includes only documented cases, with the actual number of casualties "likely much higher."

It said 11 people were killed Thursday, when it also managed to verify 23 deaths that occurred previously.

The group also said that as of Thursday, 2,981 people had been arrested, charged or sentenced in the crackdown since the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected Government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Most, including Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, remain detained.



An anti-coup student protester is welcomed home with flowers by the residents of her neighborhood after being released from jail on Friday

The Army's seizure of power halted the Southeast Asian nation's move toward democracy that began when Suu Kyi's party took office in 2016 for its first term, after more than five decades of military rule.

The movement against the junta and its takeover received a major boost on Thursday when the United States and Britain announced tough sanctions against two military-owned conglomerates with vast holdings in many sectors.

The US Treasury Department said its action

US going to hold China 'accountable' in the region: Biden

Press Beijing to follow rules on a range of issues, including SCS: President

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States, working with its partners and allies is going to hold China "accountable" in the region and also press Beijing to follow the rules on a range of issues, including the South China Sea, President Joe Biden has said.

Addressing his first formal news conference in the White House on Thursday, Biden referred to his recent meeting with leaders of the Quad countries involving India, Australia and Japan and said that soon he is going to invite an alliance of democracies to come to Washington DC to "discuss the future."

"Earlier this month, and apparently got the Chinese attention, that's not why did it, I met with our allies and — how we're going to hold China accountable in the region, Australia, India, Japan, the United States, the so-called Quad, because we have to have

democracies working together," he said while answering a question on US-China relations under his watch.

"We are going to make it clear that, in order to deal with these things, we are going to hold China accountable to follow the rules, to follow the rules, whether it relates to the South China Sea or the North China Sea or the agreement made on Taiwan or a whole range of other things," he asserted.

The virtual summit on March 12 was attended by President Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

In a joint statement, the four leaders of the Quad had pledged to strengthen cooperation on the "defining challenges of our time" and said they will continue to prioritise the role of international law in the maritime domain.



Aid groups call on US Prez to develop plans to share vaccines

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A coalition of nongovernmental organisations is calling on President Joe Biden to immediately begin developing plans to share an expected surplus of hundreds of millions of Covid-19 vaccine doses with

the world, once US demand for shots is met.

Biden has repeatedly said his primary focus is on ensuring all Americans can get vaccinated, and on Thursday he outlined a new goal to deliver 200 million doses cumulatively over his first 100 days in office.

Biden says his plan is to run for re-election in 2024 at 82

Washington: US President Joe Biden has said his plan is to run for re-election in 2024, signalling that at the age of 82 years he may seek a second term in the White House.

Biden also said he "would fully expect" that Vice President Kamala Harris would be his running mate for a second term and described her as a "great partner".

The confirmation by Biden in response to a question at his maiden solo news conference on Thursday thus sets the stage for a potential clash with his predecessor Donald Trump, who so far has not ruled out his 2024 re-election bid and thrown a few indications in this regard. PTI

North Korea confirms missile tests as Biden warns of response

Seoul: North Korea on Friday confirmed it had tested a new guided missile, as President Joe Biden warned of consequences if Pyongyang escalates tensions amid stalled nuclear negotiations.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the two "new-type tactical guided projectiles" accurately hit the target off the eastern coast on Thursday. Photos on the website of the North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper showed a missile lifting off from a transport erector

launcher amid bright flames.

KCNA quoted top official Ri Pyong Chol, who supervised the test, as saying that the new weapon's development "is of great significance in bolstering up the military power of the country and deterring all sorts of military threats existing on the Korean Peninsula."

Japanese officials said both weapons tested Thursday were ballistic missiles, which are prohibited by UN Security Council resolutions. According to South Korean officials,

China bans UK politicians to retaliate human rights sanctions

London: China has imposed sanctions on British politicians and organisations as a tit-for-tat retaliation over the UK Govt's sanctions against Chinese officials for alleged human rights violations against its Uyghurs.

MPs including former Conservative Party leader Iain Duncan Smith and Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Tom Tugendhat, Nusrat Ghani, Tim Loughton and House of Lords peers Baroness Kennedy and Lord Alton — all members of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China — are named on the Chinese foreign Ministry's ban. PTI

Trains collide in southern Egypt, killing at least 32

AP ■ CAIRO

Two trains collided on Friday in southern Egypt, apparently after someone activated the emergency brakes, killing at least 32 people and leaving at least 66 injured, Egyptian authorities said.

Dozens of ambulances rushed to the scene in the southern province of Sohag, according to a statement by Egypt's health ministry. At least 50 wounded were transferred to nearby hospitals.

Egypt's Railway Authorities said the accident happened when someone activated the emergency brakes of a passenger train that was headed to the Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

The train stopped abruptly and was struck from behind by another train. The collision caused two cars from the first train to flip over.

Yemen rebels hit, set ablaze fuel tank in Saudi

Dubai: A fuel tank at an oil facility in Saudi Arabia caught fire after being struck in an attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels, officials said on Friday, an attack that came on the sixth anniversary of the kingdom's entry into Yemen's yearslong civil war.

The assault at Jizan in southwest Saudi Arabia near the border with Yemen came during what Saudi defense officials described as a barrage of

eight bomb-carrying drones launched by the Houthi rebels.

A Houthi military spokesman later claimed a series of attacks on several Saudi military sites and oil facilities, some acknowledged by the kingdom and others not.

The kingdom has faced an increasing number of such assaults and the tempo hasn't slowed since it offered a cease-fire deal to the Houthis on Monday. AP

UK schoolteacher suspended after showing 'inappropriate' image

London: Britain on Friday branded as "unacceptable" incidents of threats and protests by parents at a school in the Midlands region of England, where a teacher was suspended after an "inappropriate" cartoon of the Prophet Mohammed was shown to pupils in class.

The image was used in a lesson at Batley Grammar School in West Yorkshire earlier this week and triggered

protests outside the school.

The teacher in question has since been suspended pending an investigation, with Head Teacher Gary Kibble apologising "unequivocally".

"It is never acceptable to threaten or intimidate teachers. We encourage dialogue between parents and schools when issues emerge," a Department for Education (DfE) spokesperson said. PTI

Ethiopia says Eritrea agrees to withdraw troops from Tigray

AP ■ KHARTOUM (SUDAN)

Ethiopia's prime minister said Friday that Eritrea has agreed to withdraw its forces from the Tigray region, where witnesses have described their looting, killing and raping civilians. The statement by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's office comes after intense pressure from the United States and others to address the deadly crisis in Tigray.

Abiy's statement after a visit to Eritrea said that Ethiopian forces will take over guarding the border areas "effective immediately."

Abiy only in the past week has acknowledged the presence of soldiers from Eritrea, long an enemy of the Tigray leaders who once dominated Ethiopia's Government.

US LAUDS B'DESH ON ITS INDEPENDENCE DAY

Washington: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday congratulated Bangladesh on its 50th Independence day and recognised the remarkable contributions.

PAK TEST-FIRES NUCLEAR CAPABLE SHAHEEN-1A

Islamabad: Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of 900 kms.

3-VEHICLE CRASH IN BANGLADESH KILLS 17

Dhaka: A speeding bus collided head on with another car, which hit a third vehicle, in a crash that killed at least 17 people in northwestern Bangladesh.

COVID: US GIVES \$15M TO PALESTINIANS

United Nations: The United States has said it is giving \$15 million to vulnerable Palestinian communities in the West Bank to help fight Covid-19 pandemic.

Government of Maharashtra
Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No. 1, Gadchiroli
E-Tender Notice No. 16 of 2020-2021

Online e-tenders in B-1 forms for following works are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No. 1, Gadchiroli from the registered contractors. Tender document may be downloaded at Govt. Website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Rights to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reason reserve with Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No. 1, Gadchiroli

Sr. No.	Name of Works	Est. cost. (Rs. in Lakhs)	Earnest money (Rs. in lakhs)	Cost of E-Tender documents	Work completion period	Class of Contractor
1.	S.T.B.T., Widening and Construction of Pavement Block on Office of the Superintending of Police to Main Road (infront of Zilla Parishad Office) in Ta. Gadchiroli	99.80	0.99	1120.00	3 Months	Class IV & above
2.	S.T.B.T., Widening and Construction of Pavement Block on District Court in Sankul Premises to Kotgal T Point Road in Ta. Gadchiroli	99.83	0.99	1120.00	3 Months	Class IV & above
3.	Repairs to Women and Children at District Hospital, Gadchiroli	69.00	0.69	1120.00	3 Months	Class IV-A & above
4.	Construction of new septic Tank Type-D (Old) Quarter at Police Sankul, Gadchiroli (Second call)	44.44	0.45	560.00	3 Months	Class V & above
5.	Construction of new septic Tank and chamber cleaning on Type-D (New) & C Quarter at Police Sankul, Gadchiroli (Second call)	44.44	0.45	560.00	3 Months	Class V & above
6.	Construction of new septic Tank Type-E (Old) Quarter at Police Sankul, Gadchiroli (Second call)	44.44	0.45	560.00	3 Months	Class V & above
7.	Providing Waterproofing and Renovation Police Headquarter Building at SP Office, Gadchiroli	32.77	0.33	560.00	3 Months	Class V & above
8.	Repairs to District Administrative Building at Gadchiroli (Second call)	16.36	0.17	560.00	3 Months	Class V-A & above

Note:-
1. Other terms & condition can be seen in the bidding documents.
2. The details tender notice can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the e-tendering portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division No. 1
Gadchiroli

DGIPR/2020/2021/3172

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride
CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS

Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: **Name of work:** Execution of Civil Engineering works for Construction of Traction Sub-station building at km 1.700-1.800 (ex-Noapara) including allied work, in connection with Metro extension project from Noapara to Barasat via Bimanbandar.

Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 2.87 Cr.; **Earnest Money:** Nil; **Completion Period:** Eight (8) Months; **Date of Closing:** 27.04.2021. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website: www.ireps.gov.in

Abridged e-Tender Notice No. : Civil-2359-2021 (Open)
FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Arun Kumar Verma, S/o: Lt. Sh. Ram Verma, R/o: I-288, Karampura, Delhi has been missing since 25.02.2021 from his home. In this regard DD No. 112 A dated 25.02.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Moti Nagar, Delhi.** The description of missing male is as under:

Name: Arun Kumar Verma, Age: 28 Years, Height: 5'9", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Blue Shirt and Brown Pajama.

If anyone has any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station, Moti Nagar, Delhi
DP/376/WD/2021 Ph: 011-25101150, 8750871125

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB20105GC033813 Website : www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry no. 270/HPS/ED-I/S-409 Date 24-03-2021

SE/Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-Tender for Procurement & Retrofitting of 132 KV/66KV Isolators/ Disconnectors at 132 KV Sub-Station Shanah HEP, PSPCL, Joginder Nagar inclusive of dismantlement of old isolators-Erection, Testing & Commissioning of new Isolators/ Disconnectors. For details NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 30-03-2021 onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and Addendum, If any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

C131/21
RO NO- 76155/12/181/2021/3165

WESTERN RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/12/2021 Date 24.03.2021

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
245	Hypoallergenic Paper Tape	10000 Nos.	07.04.2021
246	Dirt Collector Assy.	1300 Nos.	09.04.2021
247	Multifocal Hydrophob Acrylic IOL.	25 Nos.	09.04.2021
248	Pantry Equipment	25 Set	15.04.2021
249	X-Ray OTS, Simulator X-Screen V2 for Training	1 Set	15.04.2021
250	Pedestal Jaw Liner for Casnub Bogie	6000 Nos.	15.04.2021
251	Wear Plate for Brake Beam of Casnub Bogies	2000 Nos.	15.04.2021
252	Cut off Angle Cock	2600 Nos.	15.04.2021
253	Thin Walled E Beam of various sizes	64000 Mtrs.	16.04.2021
254	Rubber Profile	1150 Mtrs.	16.04.2021
255	Check Valve	1300 Nos.	16.04.2021
256	Condenser Fan Blade	400 Nos.	17.04.2021
257	PU Packing Washer for CCPU side bearer Assy	1270 Nos.	17.04.2021
258	Side frame Key for CTRB	30056 Nos.	19.04.2021
259	Locking Bracket	2600 Nos.	19.04.2021
260	Isolating Cock without Vent	1300 Nos.	20.04.2021
261	Brushes, Paints & Varnishes, Flat Size:75 mm	2835 Nos.	21.04.2021
262	Rubber Packing for R.C.Fans.	73762 Nos.	21.04.2021
263	Mini Pantry Equipments	35 Set	21.04.2021
264	Dental Chair and Unit with Accessories	1 No.	22.04.2021
265	Air Brake Hose Coupling Support	2600 Nos.	22.04.2021
266	193 Sq. mm Catenary Wire	4 K.Mtr	23.04.2021
267	Lock Bolt	18900 Nos.	23.04.2021

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in, and www.westernrailways.gov.in.
D-0763 For Principal Chief Materials Manager
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) | follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

DHFL DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED (DHFL)
National Office : HDIL Tower, Ground Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra East, Mumbai - 400 051.
Branch Office : New Delhi

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)
Under Section 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act and under Rule-8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas the undersigned is an Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rules 3, 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 22/12/2020 under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following:

Name & addresses of the Borrower, Guarantors and Mortgagees and description of Secured Assets of loan code No. 00003186

1. Mr. Arvind Trehan, (Borrower) : Residing at D-293, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024.
2. Mr. Arvind Trehan, (Guarantor) : Residing at D-293, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024.
3. Carnival Films Entertainment Pvt Ltd. (Erstwhile HDIL Entertainment Pvt Ltd. (Guarantor/Mortgagor) : 9, HDIL Towers, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra-East, Mumbai - 400 051.

For Loan Account Code No. 00003186 of New Delhi Branch to repay the amount outstanding, as mentioned in the notice, of Rs. 17,19,04,850/- (Rupees Seventeen Crores Nineteen Lac Four Thousand Eight Hundred And Fifty) outstanding and payable as on 22/12/2020, with further interest, non-compliance charges, incidental expenses, costs and any other charges etc. from 23/12/2020 till the date of repayment of liability in full, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the abovementioned demand notice.

The Borrower, Guarantors and Mortgagees having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, Guarantor, Mortgagees and public in general that the undersigned has taken constructive Possession of the property described herein below on this date 25.03.2021 in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules.

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagees in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property described herein below and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of DHFL, for an amount of Rs.17,19,04,850/- (Rupees Seventeen Crores Nineteen Lac Four Thousand Eight Hundred And Fifty), incidental expenses, costs and any other charges etc. from 23/12/2020 till the date of repayment of liability in full of the Loan Account Code No. 00003186 of New Delhi Branch.

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY
Details of mortgaged Secured Assets

Plot No. 1, admeasuring 3200 Sq.Mtrs, alongwith the present and future structure thereon Block B, Phase III, Sector 58, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar (U.P.), and bounded as under:
Towards North : Village Abadi, Towards South : 24 meters wide Road, Towards East : Plot No. B-2, Towards West : plot for Electric sub-station

Place : U.P.
Date : 27.03.2021

Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.
Sd/- Authorised Officer

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas
A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective [successors, assigns, heirs). The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of possession of the properties are as mentioned below

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account No.	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kanhaiya Lal/ Alekh Kumar Gupta/ LBDEL00001331569	Flat No-AE-202, Avantika, Chiranjiv Vihar Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh/ March 25, 2021	November 27, 2020 Rs. 15,33,069/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day 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.

Date : March 26, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
Secured Creditor

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely **Jaipal S/o Late Sh. Jotpal R/o Village Jagdishpur, PO Rathdhana, Distt. Sonapat, Haryana Aged-59 Years** has been reported missing since 21.05.2019 from OLD PHQ ITO, Delhi vide **DD No.65 Dated 16.03.2021** registered at Police Station IP Estate, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Build: Strong, Clothing: Unknown.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, IP Estate, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, IP Estate, Delhi
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-23370928
DP/723/CD/2021 Mob.: 8750870426



Jaipal Singh

Sensex rebounds 568 pts as bulls make a comeback

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices ratcheted higher on Friday after two sessions of heavy losses as investors snapped up recently-battered banking and finance stocks in lockstep with a rebound in global markets.

A recovering rupee also bolstered market sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 568.38 points or 1.17 per cent to finish at 49,008.50. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 182.40 points or 1.27 per cent to 14,507.30.

Bajaj Finance led the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 4.49 per cent, followed by Asian Paints, Titan, HUL, Bajaj Auto, Bharti Airtel, HDFC and Nestle India.

The HDFC twins accounted for most of the index's gains.

Tata group stocks rallied after the Supreme Court set aside the NCLAT order restoring Cyrus Mistry as executive

chairman of the conglomerate. On the other hand, PowerGrid, IndusInd Bank, ITC and Maruti were the laggards, dropping up to 0.97 per cent.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex declined 849.74 points or 1.70 per cent, while the Nifty

Gold declines by ₹147; silver jumps ₹1,036

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital declined by ₹147 to ₹44,081 per 10 gram on Friday amid rupee appreciation and overnight selling in global precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹44,228 per 10 gram. In contrast, silver rose by ₹1,036 to ₹64,276 per kilogram from ₹63,240 per kilogram in the previous trade. PTI

fell 236.70 points or 1.60 per cent. "Equity market has been consolidating under fear of losing its traction of economic growth recovery. Positive US job data and climb in fourth-quarter US GDP to 4.3 per cent helped to reduce the gravity of the contraction.

₹ snaps 3-day losing streak

Mumbai: The rupee snapped its three-day losing streak and closed 11 paise higher at 72.51 against the US dollar on Friday, supported by positive domestic equities and weakening of the American currency in the overseas market.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 72.51 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 72.37 and a low of 72.53. It finally ended at 72.51, registering a rise of 11 paise over its previous closing. PTI

India's forex reserves rise to USD 582 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country's foreign exchange (forex) kitty rose USD 233 million to USD 582.271 billion in the week to March 19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday.

The overall reserves had risen USD 1.74 billion to USD 582.04 billion in the previous reporting week.

The increase in the overall reserves during the reporting week was largely on account of a swelling of the foreign currency assets, which rose USD 157 million to USD 541.18 billion.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets

include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Value of the gold reserves increased for the second consecutive week, and was up USD 80 million to USD 34.63 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data showed.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fell by USD 2 million to USD 1.5 billion in the reporting week.

The country's reserve position with the IMF also declined by USD 1 million to USD 4.96 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

Tata Group stocks gain after SC verdict

New Delhi: Tata Group stocks gained up to 6 per cent on Friday after the Supreme Court set aside the NCLAT order restoring Cyrus Mistry as executive chairman of the conglomerate. Tata Steel jumped 6.05%, Tata Power Company 4.92%, Tata Communications 4.11 per cent and Tata Motors 3.78% on the BSE.

Among others, Tata Metaliks gained 3.08%, Tata Investment Corporation 2.59%, Tata Steel Long Products 2.57%, Tata Consumer Products jumped 2.04%, Voltas 2.01% and Tata Chemicals 1.77%. In a major victory for the Tata Group, the Supreme Court on Friday set aside the NCLAT order restoring Cyrus Mistry as

the executive chairman of the conglomerate.

A bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian said it is allowing the appeals filed by Tata Group.

"The order of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) dated December 18, 2019 is set aside," the bench said.

The court said, "All the questions of law are liable to be answered in favour of the appellants Tata Group and the appeals filed by the Tata Group are liable to be allowed and those by Shapoorji Pallonji Group are liable to be dismissed." PTI

After 2 days of fall, fuel price revision on a pause

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies on Friday went on pause mode and decided against revising petrol and diesel after cutting its retail rates in the previous two days.

Accordingly, the pump price of petrol and diesel remained at previous days level of ₹90.78 and ₹81.10 a litre respectively in the national capital.

Petrol and diesel prices fell by 39 paise and 37 paise per litre respectively in two consecutive days of revision on Wednesday and Thursday in wake of global softening of oil prices. OMCs have decided to pause price revision as crude has again gained and climbed up to close to \$63 a barrel from a lower \$60 a barrel earlier.

Across the country as well the petrol and diesel prices remained static on Friday but its retail levels varied depending on the level of local levies in respective states.

In Mumbai, petrol continues to be priced at ₹97.19 a litre and diesel at ₹88.20 a litre. Premium petrol, however, continues to remain over Rs 100 a litre in the city as is the case with several other cities across the country. The OMCs went on a price cut for the first time this year on Wednesday after keeping oil prices steady for the past 24 days.

JSW Steel completes acquisition of Bhushan Power and Steel

IANS ■ MUMBAI

In a much awaited development, JSW Steel has implemented the resolution plan for Bhushan Power and Steel Limited (BPSL) making the payment of Rs 19,350 crore to the financial creditors to acquire the bankrupt company.

Post the transaction, Piombino Steel Limited (PSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, now owns 100 per cent equity share in BPSL.

In a regulatory filing, JSW Steel said a sum of Rs 8,614 crore was arranged in Piombino Steel through a mix of equity issued to the company and optionally convertible instruments issued to JSW Steel and JSW Shipping and Logistics along with debt availed by PSL.

Of the PSL Funds, an amount of Rs 8,550 crore was invested in Makler Private Ltd, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), through equity and convertible instruments. The SPV also availed short-term loans, it said.

Govt infuses ₹5,500 cr equity capital into Punjab & Sind Bank



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has infused ₹5,500 crore equity capital into Punjab & Sind Bank in lieu of allotment of over 335 crore preference shares to it.

The lender on Thursday allotted 3,35,16,14,868 equity shares of the bank at an issue price of ₹16.41 per equity share to the Government aggregating to ₹5,500 crore. The shareholders approved the allotment of shares to the government with requisite majority of 99.018 per cent, cast in favour of the resolution, the bank said in a regulatory filing on Friday.

With the allotment, Government of India holding has increased from 83.06 per cent to 97.07 per cent, it said.

Punjab & Sind Bank stock was trading at ₹16.10 on BSE, down 1.83 per cent from the previous closes.

Sterling & Wilson shares fall 10% after SC verdict against SP Group

Mumbai: Shares of Sterling and Wilson Solar, a Shapoorji Pallonji Group (SP Group) company, plunged over 10% after the Supreme Court dismissed appeals of the group and set aside the judgement which had ordered the reinstatement of Cyrus Mistry as Chairman of Tata Sons.

Around 2.30 p.m., shares of Sterling and Wilson Solar Ltd on the BSE were trading at ₹244.95, lower by ₹27.45 or 10.08 per cent from its previous close. A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde said all questions of law are in favour of Tata Group and dismissed the appeals filed by Mistry. The top court upheld the Tata Sons decision to sack Cyrus Mistry on October 24, 2016. Shapoorji Pallonji Group counsel had argued that Mistry was going to place a draft governance structure at the Board meeting on October 24, 2016. "We find all the questions of law are liable to be answered in favour of the appellants (Tata Group) and the appeals filed by the Tata Group are liable to be allowed and Shapoorji Pallonji group is liable to be dismissed," said the top court. IANS

Technology is the key to making India 5 trillion dollar economy: IHR president

President of Integrated Institute of Human Resource (IHR) Bipin Kumar and Deepak Thakur, Social Entrepreneur jointly inaugurated the Technology Development Conclave 2021 held at Paryavaran Auditorium New Delhi.

Bipin Kumar said that the greater use of technology can make India an economic and military superpower, highlighted the fact that even the

farmers of India going digital which helps them connect with markets all over the world apart from the Indian market.

Deepak Thakur, a social entrepreneur and motivation speaker and who is BJP Kisan Morcha's Gujarat In-charge said in his keynote address that India is rapidly moving towards becoming a 5 trillion dollar economy and the key to that is technology.

UP tops in digital payments in country

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has set a record in the number of digital transactions.

The record increase has been registered during the period that includes even the Corona lockdown. According to the government spokesman, banks are playing a significant role in encouraging the digital transactions to give wings to the Digital India campaign.

OJSWI TRADES INVESTMENT AND FINANCE LIMITED

Kh. No. 300, Gopi Ram Building, Sultanpur Village, New Delhi-110030
Tel. No. 09810836602, Fax No. 0124-4699333
CIN: L67120DL1990PLC042059
Website: www.ojswi.in; Email Id: corporate.ojswi@gmail.com

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTH ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

(Rs. In lacs except earning per share)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		
		December 31, 2020	Nine Months Ended December 31, 2020	Quarter Ended December 31, 2019
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited
1	Total Income from Operations	54.89	125.65	53.24
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(8.29)	(43.94)	(25.86)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(8.29)	(43.94)	(25.86)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(8.29)	(43.94)	(25.86)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(8.29)	(43.94)	(25.86)
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 10/- Per Share)	675	675	675
7	Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserves)	-	-	-
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
	(a) Basic	(0.12)	(0.65)	(0.38)
	(b) Diluted	(0.12)	(0.65)	(0.38)

Notes: (1) The above results for the quarter ended December 31, 2020 have been reviewed and Approved by the Board of Directors at their Meeting held on March 24, 2021. The Statutory auditors have carried out a "Limited Review" of above results.
(2) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Results filed with the Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited (MSEI) under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the said Quarterly Results is available on the Stock Exchange website www.msei.in and on the company's website www.ojswi.in.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/- Sandeep Garg Director (DIN: 00021295)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Festival Special trains as under:-

Train No. & Name	Days of run	Extended Upto
09601 Udaipur City-New Jalpaiguri Festival Spl.	Saturday	From 03.04.21 to 26.06.21
09602 New Jalpaiguri-Udaipur City Festival Spl.	Monday	From 05.04.21 to 28.06.21
04854 Jodhpur - Varanasi Festival Spl.	Mon, Thu, Sat	From 01.04.21 to 28.06.21
04853 Varanasi - Jodhpur Festival Spl.	Mon, Wed, Sat	From 03.04.21 to 30.06.21
04864 Jodhpur - Varanasi Festival Spl.	Tue, Fri, Sun	From 02.04.21 to 29.06.21
04863 Varanasi - Jodhpur Festival Spl.	Tue, Fri, Sun	From 02.04.21 to 29.06.21
04866 Jodhpur - Varanasi Festival Spl.	Wednesday	From 07.04.21 to 30.06.21
04865 Varanasi - Jodhpur Festival Spl.	Thursday	From 08.04.21 to 01.07.21
09717 Jaipur - Daultapur Chowk Festival Spl.	Tue, Fri, Sun	From 02.04.21 to 29.06.21
09718 Daultapur Chowk - Jaipur Festival Spl.	Wed, Sat, Mon	From 03.04.21 to 30.06.21
02458 Bikaner - Delhi Sarai Rohilla Festival Spl.	Daily	From 01.04.21 to 30.06.21
02457 Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Bikaner Festival Spl.	Daily	From 01.04.21 to 30.06.21
04712 Shri Ganganagar - Haridwar Festival Spl.	Daily	From 01.04.21 to 30.06.21
04711 Haridwar - Shri Ganganagar Festival Spl.	Daily	From 01.04.21 to 30.06.21
04731 Delhi Jn. - Bathinda Jn. Festival Spl.	Daily	From 01.04.21 to 30.06.21
04732 Bathinda Jn. - Delhi Jn. Festival Spl.	Daily	From 01.04.21 to 30.06.21
02471 Shri Ganganagar - Delhi Jn. Superfast Festival Spl.	Daily	From 01.04.21 to 30.06.21
02472 Delhi Jn. - Shri Ganganagar Superfast Festival Spl.	Daily	From 01.04.21 to 30.06.21
04888 Barmer - Rishikesh Festival Spl.	Daily	From 01.04.21 to 30.06.21
04887 Rishikesh - Barmer Festival Spl.	Daily	From 02.04.21 to 01.07.21
09611 Ajmer - Amritsar Festival Spl.	Thu, Sat	From 01.04.21 to 26.06.21
09612 Amritsar - Ajmer Festival Spl.	Tue, Thu	From 06.04.21 to 01.07.21
09613 Ajmer - Amritsar Festival Spl.	Mon, Wed	From 05.04.21 to 30.06.21
09614 Amritsar - Ajmer Festival Spl.	Fri, Sun	From 02.04.21 to 27.06.21

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

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.

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DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (SOUTH) III A BLOCK GREATER KAILASH-I NEW DELHI-48

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

N.I.T. No. 35/S-III/(2020-2021)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Replacement of old/damaged and badly silted up sewer lines from H.No. 1/B Rama Sweet to 402, 130 B, Purani Chowpal and from H.No. 118 to 124 Shahpur Jatt village under EE(SOUTH)-III (AC-50).	3984246/-	2021_DJB_202297_1 26.03.2021	21.04.2021 upto 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 566 (2020-21)

UJVNL Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-273809, Fax: 0135-273598
CIN No. U49101UR2001SGC025866
Website: www.ujvnl.com

R.O. No.: 245 e-Tender Notice Date: 26.03.2021

Office of the Executive Engineer, PCM-Dakpathar, UJVNL Ltd., Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below :

Tender No. 20/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2020-21 & 21/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2020-21

Name of work: 1- Civil Maintenance & Repair of Diesel Power House, Khodri.

2- Slip Clearance and its removal from the Dakpathar Chibro road via Khodri & Kalawar.

Estimated cost: 1-6,94,590.20(GST Extra) 2-6,55,219.74(GST Extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website: 27.03.2021
Last date for submission of tender: 19.04.2021 up to 15.00 Hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvnl.com

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to public at large that my Client Mrs. Rachna Sharma, W/o. Sh. Pradeep Sharma, R/o-I-801, 1st Floor, Block-1 Palam Vihar, Chandra (S2) Gurgaon, Haryana -120175 is the Owner of the Commercial Shop No-26A measuring 33.33 Sq. yards Plotted Road, Kharna No.1020, Gandhi Nagar, Gurgaon. That one original Document: Chain of the Property is Original Sale Deed Document No. 4045 executed by Sh. Kewal Singh, Sh. Sagar Singh & Sh. Ved Prakash in favour of Sh. Trivikur Lal Sharma, vide Vaska No. 4045, ZRI No. 2447 dated 30.09.1987 with Joint Sub-Registrar Gurgaon this Property is being Mortgage with M/s. Saravase Capital Pvt. Ltd. Regd. Office at 5th Floor, Flat No.5/1 & 5/3, Malabar Towers-2, Community Centre, B Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 by Sh. Rachna Sharma for availing loan against property. Anybody aware of any such persons claiming any right, interest, ten, title based on the above said fact documents or being found in the possession of the same may file objection along with the relevant documents within 15 days from the date of this notice, any objection or claim of any other person will be treated null and void.

MANISH HAZARE-ADVOCATE
CH. NO. 210, 2ND FLOOR, CHANDRA MARKET,
WING, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited 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 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic 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 in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Debasish Ghosh/ Kaberi Ghosh/ LBDEL00001791221/ LBDEL00001805801	Flat No- C- 902, 9th Floor, Raj Hans Premier Apartment, 4/4, Ashiana Khand-I, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad / March 25, 2021	August 20, 2020/ Rs. 22,95,679/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Vikram Mishra/ Aanchal Mishra/ LBNOD00000893323/ LBNOD00001173221	Flat No-1014, Plot No. 1/5, Mahagun Marriot, Vibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201001/ March 25, 2021	November 27, 2020 / Rs. 14,29,086/-	Delhi/ Ncr
3.	Krishan Kanooja & Gracious Hotels Pvt Ltd/ LBGUR00002378117	Flat No-11, 2nd Floor, Akash Bharti Apartment, Plot No-24, IP Ext, Patpargang, Delhi-110092 Akash Bharti Cooperative Group Housing Society Limited/ March 25, 2021	November 27, 2020 / Rs. 18,57,345/-	Delhi/ Ncr

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day 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.

Date : March 26, 2021
Place: Delhi/NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

IMPORTANT NOTICE

On the occasion of "HOLI" festival on 29.03.2021 (Monday) following arrangements have been made regarding working of PRS locations of Delhi Area under the administrative control of CCM/PM:-

- Skeleton services will be available from 08:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs. at (i) IRCA Reservation Complex, (ii) Delhi/PRS & (iii) Hazrat Nizamuddin/PRS. These PRS Locations will function as usual in the Evening shift- (14:00 to 20:00) hrs.
- (i) Sarojini Nagar (ii) Lajpat Nagar (iii) Okhla (iv) Kakardooma (v) Delhi Shahdara (vi) Adarsh Nagar (vii) Kirti Nagar (viii) Tughlakabad (ix) Shakur Basti (x) Rohini (xi) All India Institute of Medical Science (xii) Ghaziabad (xiii) Noida and (xiv) Subzi Mandi, Computerized Passenger Reservation offices will remain closed in the Morning Shift (08:00 hrs. - 14:00 hrs.) All these PRS Locations will function as usual in the Evening shift.
- (i) Parliament House (ii) Press Club of India (iii) Kashmiri Gate (iv) Railway Board/PRS facility will remain closed for the whole day.

- PRS counters will remain closed on 29.03.2021 (Monday) in the Morning shift (08:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs) on the occasion of HOLI at following locations over Delhi Division i.e. Anand Vihar Terminal (PRS), Sahibabad, Naya Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Palam, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Faridabad, Ballabhgarh, Palwal, Narela, Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Mansa, Rohtak, Bahadur Garh, Nangloi, Sharnli, Murad Nagar, Modi Nagar, Meerut Cantt., Meerut City, Muzaffarnagar, Khatauli, Deoband, Baraut, Gohana, Pataudi Road, Jhajjar, Greater Noida, Noli, Saket Court, Dwarka Court, Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Shakur Basti, Samalkha, Gannaur, Shahbad Markanda, Jakhla, Tohana, Julana, Narwana, Chaudhary Charan Singh University (MTC), Mahem Town & Rohini Court.
- Current Reservation counters at New Delhi (Pahar Ganj & Ajmeri Gate Side), Delhi Main, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar, Meerut City & Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Stations will work at usual timing.

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Bollywood
 'It was a very short trip home, now leaving for Jaisalmer for Tejas shoot.'
 —Kangana Ranaut

SHORTCIRCUITS

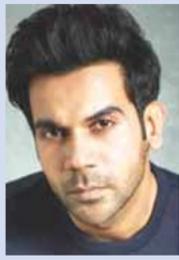
NEETI MOHAN

No one can deny me work just because I am a woman. If I want to be a mother tomorrow and not work, that is also okay. If I want to work after becoming a mother, that is also okay. It is my choice. What I am trying to say is that, if you want to create your own space, you will find a way.



NEETU KAPOOR

I was Rishi's (Kapoor) wing woman. I was always helping him in impressing girls, until we started dating. Rishi found me very cute and sweet and we used to call each other Bob. He was in Paris whereas I was in Kashmir, shooting, and suddenly I got a telegram from Rishi saying he misses me and loves me.



RAJKUMMAR RAO

You can call me whatever, but call me Raj. I think Raj is a nice name. God has not given me wings to fly so there is no point flying! I am doing this for myself because I saw this dream when I was a kid who wants to act. Acting gives me the most amount of happiness and I am doing this for my sanity.



LILLY SINGH

It's exciting and humbling to be the first female late-night show host. I would be lying if I said that it didn't come with a lot of pressure, a lot of critique and trying to meet people's expectations. It's just been a journey to be my authentic self, doing what I think serves me and my audience the best.

SCARLETT JOHANSSON

Everyone has a hard time admitting when they're wrong about stuff, and for all of that to come out publicly, it can be embarrassing. To have the experience of 'wow, I was really off mark there' or 'I wasn't looking at the big picture' or 'I was inconsiderate.' I'm also a person. I'm going to have opinions about things.



GALLERY 45 MINUTES

BURSTING THE BUBBLE

Artist Beeple, whose real name is MIKE WINKELMANN, talks about selling NFT collage for a record \$70M and how the crypto art boom is affecting him and other artists who haven't previously had a way to guarantee exclusive ownership of digital works

When digital artist Beeple put an NFT digital artwork up for auction this month, he became instantly famous when it sold for almost \$70 million. The record sale also sparked huge interest in digital certificates of authenticity based on cryptocurrency technology that are called "non-fungible tokens" (NFT).

These NFTs are undergoing a boom. We caught up with Beeple, whose real name is Mike Winkelmann, to talk about the auction result, NFTs and how the crypto art boom is affecting him and other artists who haven't previously had a way to guarantee exclusive ownership of digital works, which by their nature can normally be freely copied.

Beeple spoke with the us via a Zoom call. This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

◆Why do you think your artwork *Everydays: The First 5,000 Days* fetched such a high price?

There are a couple of reasons. One, it represents 13 years of work. You can very easily see that this is something that took a very, very, very long time to make. Another part of it is a lot of excitement around NFTs. The people in this space, the people who bid on them, I think they personally understand what NFTs are going to be much more than the rest than the general public. The technology is simple enough that it can be used for many different things. And a lot of people are comparing it to the beginning of the internet.

◆How do you respond to concerns that the buyer Metakovan, who bought 20 of your other NFT artworks in



an earlier sale and founded an NFT investment fund, was trying to pump up prices of his holdings?

Say somebody goes out and buys a painting for \$5 million. So that person has \$5 million invested in the career of that artist. If the next painting goes for way less, what does that say about the \$5 million you've spent? It's kind of how the art market works. So I think a lot of people are trying to look for some crazy scheme or scam here. I personally don't see it.

◆What exactly did Metakovan buy?

The biggest thing he actually bought is a relationship with me to promote his purchase. He and I are very aligned. I want to see this artwork go up in value. He wants to see the artwork go up in value, which benefits me. So the idea that he bought nothing is kind of misleading.

(Beeple noted that he retains the copyright to *Everydays*.) I'm very interested in having (the artwork) take a bunch of different forms to promote it, to display it, to educate people about how it was made. So I think people are looking at this

(and thinking), "There's nothing there." It's more like, think about it like a piece of art that can like live on and take different forms over time versus, like, you're buying nothing.

◆For the first time, Christie's accepted cryptocurrency as payment for a sale. But some people wonder if this transaction actually happened. Have you been paid?

Of course, 100 per cent. That's the craziest part about this. So literally the thing closed Thursday morning. By Friday night at about midnight the transaction was lit-

erally 100 per cent complete. (Metakovan) had the NFT, I had \$55 million in Ethereum, which was immediately going up and down (in value).

(Beeple said he has converted all the cryptocurrency to cash and flashed his cryptocurrency app showing a balance of about \$56 million — his take after Christie's took its cut.) According to Christie's this is something that usually takes like two months.

◆There are so many NFT projects now. Are we in the midst of an NFT bubble?

There is definitely some froth. There is absolutely a lot of excitement. And some people are putting money into things that I can almost guarantee you are going to be worthless.

So it's one of those things where people are going to rush in like there's going to be a ton of money. But again, just like the internet (dot-com boom), there was a bubble and the bubble burst, but it didn't make people stop using the internet. So people need to be careful. It's very speculative. It's very early days.

—AP

J U K E B O X



Music to ears

Singer SHWETA SHETTY shares five best indie songs of all times with TEAM VIVA

Indie music scene is gradually making its mark in India. The sudden rise of independent artists can be attributed to the pandemic majorly and of course, the technological mediums. It seems that musicians no longer need the film industry to sustain themselves. On that note, singer Shweta Shetty, who recently releases her latest single *Jine Mein Hai Mazaa*, shares five best indie songs of all times.



◆**Krishna** by Colonial Cousins

Just the voices of Hariharan and Lesle Lewis are magic. The flow of Hindi and English lyrics have been so meticulously-crafted. *Ragas* to rich pop... It's a perfect 10 for me. It's unmatched!

◆**Made In India** by Alisha Chinai

I loved Biddu's (Appaiah) disco beats and the whole feel the song. There is no one like him when it comes to disco. People have tried to copy him but failed miserably. He is famous for his hookline, be it *Johnny Joker* or *Made in India*. Once his hookline enters your ears, it just doesn't leave. Of course, Alisha is brilliant too and so is her voice.

◆**Tunak Tunak Tun** by Daler Mehndi

What a beat, what energy and Daler's powerful vocals... Could crack every disco's strobe light. I guess it's one of the favourites of everybody. I

feel it is difficult to just stand still the moment this song starts to play.

◆**Q Funk** by Shaan, Babul Supriyo, Sagarika and me

It was one of the first remixed song in the 90s and what a rage it was. Each one a popular artist in their own right coming together under one roof. This song is complete mayhem on and off the stage. This song started the re-mix rage.

◆**Saiyaan Ji** by Yo Yo Honey Singh and Neha Kakkar

Honey Singh is the only rapper/singer that has caught my eye among many talented artists around. I love the attitude, production and video, and everything about this song. Incredibly catchy and a sensational groove!

VERVE 15 MINUTES

MAKE IT BIG

Actor AYUSHMANN KHURRANA says that his journey is the same as every Indian who is trying to make a name



Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is a self made success story for the youth of the country. He is an inspiration to all the outsiders who want to make it big in any industry through sheer talent and hard work. During the pandemic, Ayushmann's brand equity soared as India turned to a more relatable star who stood for strong values. According to a recent survey, Ayushmann is in the elite league of endorsers who the brands are lining up to sign because of his credibility as the poster boy of content cinema in India. Along with Akshay Kumar, Virat Kohli and Ranveer Singh, Ayushmann is one of the topmost endorsers in India currently with over 20 plus big brands to his credit.

Ayushmann says, "It is truly humbling to know that the people of India find me relatable. It's a huge compliment because I do consider myself to be one of the masses and my journey is the same as every Indian who is trying to make a name, build a legacy through pure dedication and hard work. I have tried to bring out their lives on screen, tell their

unique and inspiring stories and show everyone where the heart of my country lies. I guess that's what has resonated the most with people and, in turn, resonated with the brands that I currently endorse."

According to the Indian Institute of Human Brands survey, India identifies most with Ayushmann as he is currently the Most Relatable Star in the country. As a rank outsider to Bollywood, his journey to stardom is inspiring for the youth of the country who want to dream big without any apprehension. The Duff & Phelps Most Valuable Celebrity in India report highlighted Ayushmann as the fastest growing icon on social media, as his following has increased by 70 per cent.

Ayushmann says that he will continue to be disruptive and try and give fresh cinema every time he comes on the big screen.

He says, "I truly believed that the audience wanted to see new, disruptive cinema and I'm glad that my vision for content stands vindicated today. I'm happy that I could provide people with wholesome entertainment that could also spark a necessary conversation about change in society. I'm amazed at a very exciting phase in my life where I want to do the best cinema that is being made by my industry and hopefully create an impact in the minds of people through the stories I tell."

Pallavi Joshi won the National Award as Best Supporting Actress for husband Vivek Agnihotri's *The Tashkent Files*, while the director took home the award for the same film in the Best Dialogues category.

This is Pallavi's second National Award. She had earlier received a Special Jury Award at the 1994 ceremony for her role in *Woh Chhokri*. For Vivek Agnihotri, this is the first time he has been given a National Award.

"There is no ego clash between me and Vivek. Rather we feel proud of each other's achievement. I know it is quite natural in a patriarchal society and the kind of social conditioning men have on the achievement of their wives, but since the beginning of our journey our equation as a couple was different," Pallavi said.

She continued: "When I married him, I was quite a popular face on TV and there were times when we would go to restaurants and my fans will walk up to me and ask Vivek to click my picture with them. So, yes, as a wife it did cross my mind that I hope my fame does not hurt his male ego. But with time I realised it never did."

"This was my second National Award and Vivek's first, and I was happier for him. I think as mature individuals we also understand that when you are an actress, the chances are there that your face would be more recognised than that of a filmmaker. I know he feels proud of me. We both are

'He feels proud of me'

Actor PALLAVI JOSHI says there's no ego clash between her and husband VIVEK AGNIHOTRI



talented but differently — like Vivek could be a very bad actor and I could be a very bad film director. I don't think it is fair to set the parameter of someone's talent, based on fame. I think that goes for every couple who are successful in

their own right. Especially for men feeling proud of your wife should not hurt your ego," she added.

Pallavi being the producer of the film also mentioned how the National Award gives validation to the film, consid-

ering it received criticism from many quarters in the media and the audience upon release.

"Look, you can like, dislike or even be critical about a film, but there is a difference between critiquing and ridiculing a film. There was a section

of people who refused to even watch the film because it is made by Vivek. There are people who said that the film is a 'laughing stock' and absolutely 'disgusting'. With the award that we got for 'Best Dialogues' it only shows that their words were wrong and they all tried to do nothing but sabotaged the film," Pallavi claimed.

Asked if she and Vivek Agnihotri faced such a situation because of their political ideology, and Pallavi said, "Yes, and I'll explain how. Differences of opinion and healthy debate are part of a democracy and that has always existed. But things have changed post-2014. Just because Vivek and I openly said we admire the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a section of people even within our fraternity give us the cold shoulder. You critic a film or an actor based on their skill set, why base it on their political ideology?"

"Abusing people on social media, ridiculing their work — is this a true expression of freedom? I do not abuse and will never do such a thing to anyone even though their political ideology differs from mine. That is how my mind function," Pallavi signed off.

—JANS

CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES



A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Director GARTH DAVIS shares that women have been silenced for far too long, and if he can help unearth their stories, he will. By TEAM VIVA



What prompted you to make *Mary Magdalene* as one may not call it a 'commercial film' for the masses?
 I think rarely do 'commercial films for the masses' delve deep. So unless they do, I won't be playing. Ultimately, I was moved by its deep meditation on spirituality and humanity. I am not religious, but this version of the story really resonated with me. I was particularly upset to learn how Mary has been misrepresented for thousands of years, so felt even more compelled to make it. Women have been silenced for far too long, and if I can help unearth their stories I will.

How much research went into the making? Were you at any point hesitant in going ahead with this subject since it may be controversial?
 The script and every facet of production underwent immense research, from lots of different theological and historical texts, along with biblical and historical consultants — Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Catholic. We also drew from the *Gospel of Mark*, primarily, to the *Gospel of Mary*. The core team also visited Magdala at the 'Sea of Galilee,' and Jerusalem, meeting various

archeologists and historians. At first, I was hesitant, but that gave way to excitement... I also knew that whatever we make is always going to be less offensive than those films before us — films that have up until now ignored Mary's truth and misrepresented women. An inexcusable travesty.

How important is it to stay true to the reality of the subject in a religiously sensitive film like this one? Does that affect the creative process?

In a way, this was about stripping away all the noise, the ideological arguments and getting back to the core message lost to institutions powered by control and guilt. The core message being that god is within us and we can change the world through our act of love and kindness.

You managed to bring together a powerful ensemble consisting of Rooney Mara, Joaquin Phoenix, Chiwetel Ejiofor and others. Could you tell us about working with this bunch of talented cast and crew?

This was the most talented cast and crew anyone could muster. We all felt we were making something profound and important, radical in a way that felt right.

What do you think may be the pull of this film for the Indian audience, who don't follow Christianity?

This is not a religious film, rather a spiritual meditation on Jesus's journey seen through the eyes of Mary. It explores universal themes of family, customs, gender politics, and brims with reality to detail. Indian audience, I hope, will appreciate the humanity this film holds... Something I experience in India every time I am there.

Were there any challenges in directing a film like this?

There is always this fear of misrepresenting figures so beloved. History is mostly about filling in the gaps from what we think we understand and what we know, and this subject matter holds such widely disparate views. So deciding on the path to take was felt with a real sense of responsibility. But it was invigorating to bring a reality to the landscapes and worlds, and a fresh dimension to Jesus seen through the eyes of Mary.

What are your forthcoming projects? If and how COVID have affected them?

I have a few things in various stages of development. And yes COVID has impacted them, largely through actors' avails and border closures. It is frustrating on one hand, but this time at home with the family has been well needed.
 (The film premieres on April 2 at 9 pm on Sony PIX.)

Process of casting has changed: Amit Sadh

Actor Amit Sadh, who will soon be seen in the web series *7 Kadam*, says that the biggest change in Bollywood over the years has been the process of casting actors.

The actor says that thanks to casting directors, more people are getting work now.

"I think the biggest change in the industry is the process of casting. I am grateful to all my great casting directors — Tess Joseph, Shruti Mahajan, Shanu, and Mukesh Chhabra, who I respect and will always be grateful for casting me in *Kai Po Che*. If these casting directors weren't around, I wouldn't be around," he said.

The actor adds that there are a lot of other changes in the industry that are making it a better workplace.

"We are evolving, we are changing, we were a great industry, and we will continue to be a great industry. There is no criticism here or (anything) negative. It is just great; we will keep getting better, loving each other, communicating with each other, making better and great films," he said.

He says that the industry

has been very kind to him. "The Indian film industry has given me a lot. I learned a lot and I have no complaints. I keep looking forward to bettering myself, my craft, and my work. The bond, the love I share with my people, my audience, my fans is my biggest reward. I am proud to represent myself as an artist from Indian cinema," said he.

Talking about *7 Kadam*, Amit says that he is happy that the audience will finally get to watch it.

"I had signed this project in 2014 and started filming for it in 2015. All I can recollect is that the excitement was really high. As an actor, I can say that one of the biggest joys is getting my work, which was stuck, is releasing. At this moment, I am very happy and have a broad smile on my face when I know all my work is now out of its vault," he says.

He hopes the series is loved by everyone.

"This is a family-themed series; football happens to be one aspect of it. I hope that the audience will connect with this story that we are bringing to them; many nuances are relatable," he says.



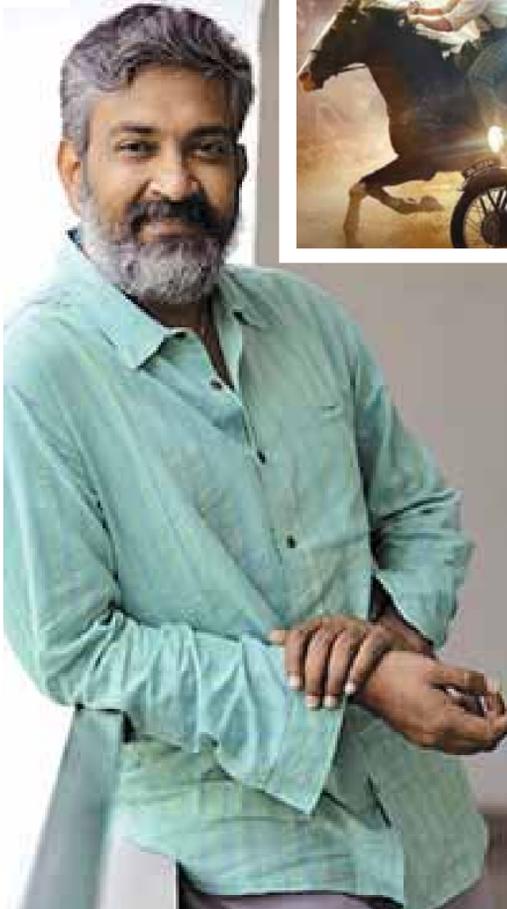
Actor Huma Qureshi with her mother Amina during the relaunch of Amiqur Salon at Kailash Colony in New Delhi. Photo: Pankaj Kumar



STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

VALOUR, ENERGY AND GRIT

SS RAJAMOULI shares that his film *RRR* is a fictional take on two real men Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem who inspired him with their stories



The excitement around SS Rajamouli's Pan-India film *RRR* has been at its peak. The film will be released in 10 languages, and has recorded incoming offers worth over 348 crore for theatrical rights of only five languages.
RRR tells the fictional tale of two real fighters, Komaram Bheem and Alluri Sitarama Raju, who made a difference in the history of freedom struggle, which is why they stand out even today. Taking a new direction, Rajamouli wishes to depict the heroes in a monumental way against the typical rebellion and struggling phase, showing them as the real fictional superheroes that they can now be looked back as. "I want to paint the entire canvas with a new brush altogether so that the universe I create contains valour, energy, and grit," he says explaining the thought. Elaborating on his approach to narrating *RRR* and his fictional take on the film's storyline,

Rajamouli reveals, "I use my imagination to create a world that could have made them what they are. I am excited for the world to see it all come to life and show us what these superheroes could have done to get so far!"

Talking of why he chose to tell the story of them in a fictional form, he shares, "The film is a fictional take on two real men Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem who inspired me with their stories. It excites me to even think of what would have inspired them to do things that made them such legends, such superhumans."

The film brings an ensemble cast starring Jr NTR, Ram Charan, Ajay Devgn, Alia Bhatt, Olivia Morris, Samuthirakani and Allison Doody. Recently, the makers also released the first look of Alia Bhatt as Sita. And now the first look of actor Ram Charan as Alluri Sitarama Raju has been unveiled. In the picture, Ram can be seen donning a *dhoti* and has a bow and arrow pointing at a fiery red sky.

It will have a worldwide release on October 13, 2021 on the festive occasion of Dusshera.



Dua releases Indian version of *Levitating* remixed by Amaal

British singer-songwriter Dua Lipa has released a remix of her hit single *Levitating*. The remix has been done by Indian composer-singer Amaal Mallik.

"I am so thrilled with the response from my Indian fans to *Future Nostalgia* (the album that features *Levitating*). I had an amazing time in India in 2019, and so I always wanted to do something special for them. Indian music icon Amaal Mallik has remixed the track, adding his touch with beautiful Indian instruments. This is my gift to my Indian fans, and I hope you all will love the remix as much as I do," she says.

Amaal adds, "It is a tremendous feeling to be collaborating with such

a talented pop star and global icon! Dua Lipa's music is something we all love, hence, it's quite an honour for me to be doing the official India remix, giving an Indian touch to one of her biggest tracks."

The 30-year-old composer roped in twin sisters Prakriti and Sukriti Kakar sing the funk-driven number and has used traditional Indian elements such as the 'tumbi' to give it a 'desi' twist.

"Dua Lipa was the reason I wrote my first single in 2019. I've been following her work so closely since the very beginning. We've been so inspired by her work for as long as I can remember. *Levitating* has been literally everywhere, and everyone knows it

word for word. We've made an Indian version of the song, and I can't wait to share it with the world!" says Sukriti Kakar.

This comes just a week after Dua Lipa stunned the global audience with her performance of *Levitating* at the 2021 Grammy Awards, where she won the Best Pop Vocal Album award for her 2020 album *Future Nostalgia*.

"We feel elated to be coming together. Congratulations are in order for Dua on her Grammy win, and I think it's the best time to be dropping this track of ours. I look forward to the reception," adds Amaal, who in the past had also collaborated with the Irish rock band U2 for a reprise version of their track *Beautiful Day*.

Mark of champions

Stokes, Bairstow went on a six-hitting spree to help England chase down 337 & win comfortably by 6 wickets to level series

KL Rahul's 'shut out the noise' gesture

PTI ■ PUNE

His skipper Virat Kohli after one of his Test hundreds, had gestured that his bat does all the talking and on Friday teammate KL Rahul had a unique "shut out the noise" celebration after reaching the three figure mark in the second ODI against England.

Rahul scored 108 off 114 balls on Friday, following an unbeaten 62 in the first ODI. He pointed his bat towards the dressing room before covering his ears to indicate that he didn't pay heed to any critical comments for his failures in the T20 series.

"It (the celebration) is just to shut out the noise, not to disrespect anyone," he told the host broadcaster during the innings break.

"There are people out there who try to pull you down, at times you need to neglect them. So that's just a message to shut out that noise," the relief was palpable in his voice.

"I was disappointed after the T20 series, but that's how the game goes. Few quality shots eased my nerves. Really happy I was able to build those partnerships with Virat and Rishabh.



'WORKLOAD MANAGEMENT'

India skipper Virat Kohli on Friday said star all-rounder Hardik Pandya has not bowled in the ongoing ODI series as part of his workload management ahead of crucial assignments like the tour of England later this year.

Pandya had bowled well in the T20 series, giving India an extra option. In ODIs, India have stuck to the usual five-bowler strategy.

"We need to manage his (Hardik) body. Need to understand where we need this skill set. (We) did utilise him in the T20Is but in the ODIs, it's about managing his workload," Kohli said in the post-match presentation.

"We have Test cricket in England coming up too. So its important for us to have him fit," added Kohli, hinting that Pandya could be in the scheme of things for that high-profile series in August.

The 27-year-old Pandya underwent a back surgery in October 2019 and made a comeback with the IPL last year but did not bowl. He did bowl once during the limited overs series in Australia but that was that.

He was part of the Test squad for the home series against England and used the time on the sidelines to get ready for his full fledged bowling comeback with the T20s.

He last played Test cricket for India back in 2018, incidentally in England. His appearances in the longest format add up to only 11.



England's Ben Stokes, right, looks at his bat as batting partner Jonny Bairstow walks along during the second ODI in Pune on Friday

AP

India were left shell-shocked by Jonny Bairstow (124) and Ben Stokes' (99) relentless assault as world champions England chased down a mammoth 337-run target in the second ODI with utmost ease to level the three-match series 1-1 here on Friday.

England did not throw it away like the opening game and capitalised on a flying start provided by Bairstow (124 off 112) and Jason Roy (55 off 52) to gun down the target in just 43.3 overs with six wickets in hand.

Stokes (99 off 52) played a breathtaking knock and missed out on a deserving hundred after a blazing 165-run stand with Bairstow. A mind-boggling 87 runs were scored between the 31st and 35th over. Stokes and Bairstow shared 17 sixes between them.

"We were bitterly disappointed in the first game with the way we played in the chase, but it was pretty clear that we were going out with the same intent as we always do," Stokes said after the game.

"Great chase, really happy that we managed to get over the line easily specially when India set a challenging total," he added.

The third and final game is scheduled here on Sunday.

India amassed 336 for six courtesy KL Rahul (108 off 114) and Rishabh Pant (77 off just 40) after England won the toss and opted to field again.

After Roy's dismissal, Stokes hit sixes for fun, 10 in total, to make the seemingly daunting task a rather comfortable one for the visitors.

Bairstow, who struck his 11th ODI hundred, too was not far behind with seven sixes and 11 fours.

Barring pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Prasidh Krishna, the Indian bowlers had no answer to the onslaught of Stokes and Bairstow, who produced a display of sensational hitting.

The duo was brutal against the Indian spin combination of Kuldeep Yadav (0/84 in 10 overs) and Krunal Pandya (0/72 in 6), who conceded as many as 14 sixes.

Like the previous game, England self-destructed by losing three quick wickets in the middle

overs, including the set Stokes and Bairstow.

But debutant Liam Livingstone (27 not out off 21) and Dawid Malan (16 not out off 23) held their nerve to take the team home safely. It was England's fifth highest chase in ODI cricket.

Earlier, Rahul, who anchored the innings, hit seven fours and two sixes in his 114-ball knock while Pant plundered seven sixes and three boundaries to help the hosts go well past the 300-run mark.

Skipper Virat Kohli (66 off 79) and Rahul laid the foundation for the big total with their 121-run third wicket stand after being put in to bat at the Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan (4) fell cheaply after he nicked a Reece Topley delivery to Ben Stokes in the slips.

Kohli joined Rohit Sharma (25), who looked in his elements and hit three boundaries off Topley (2/50).

But in the next over, Curran (1/47) cut short his stay at the crease. Rohit flicked a full pitched delivery straight to Adil Rashid at short fine leg, as India slipped to 37/2.

Kohli and Rahul kept the scoreboard ticking, with the captain being the bit more aggressive one, while Rahul initially played second fiddle.

Kohli, who got a 'life' on 35 when Buttler dropped a regulation chance off Adil Rashid, notched up his 62nd fifty with a single.

The duo then completed their 100-run stand off 119 balls, without any fuss. However, Rashid (1/65) removed Kohli, whose thick

outside edge was caught by Buttler, with India at 158/3.

Rahul then put his foot on the accelerator, while mostly relying on pulls and drives.

Rahul, who hit his fifth ODI century and Pant then launched himself into England attack. Pant

pulled Rashid for his first six, his trademark pull-shot and did not look back.

Left-handed Pant smacked successive sixes off Stokes in the 41st over, completing his second ODI fifty, in 28 balls.

After Rahul fell, Pant continued

his six-hitting show with Hardik Pandya (35 off 16) joining the fun as India amassed 126 runs in the final 10 overs.

This was the second instance when India hit successive 300 plus scores in five ODIs, the other one being in 2017.

Bonner secures WI draw against Lanka

AFP ■ NORTH SOUND

A patient, unbeaten maiden Test hundred by Nkrumah Bonner anchored a day of West Indies batting resistance against Sri Lanka as the home side ground through the fifth and final day of the first Test to ensure a draw on Thursday.

In just his third Test, the 32-year-old Bonner further enhanced an already burgeoning reputation as a middle-order batsman with considerably more substance than style.

He compiled a dogged 113 not out in just over seven hours during which he faced 274 balls, stroking 13 fours and one six. It ensured his team com-

fortably saved the match at 236/4, having been set the unlikely target of 375.

After missing out on hundreds in each of his first two Test matches in Bangladesh last month, the Jamaican right-hander was not to be denied third time round on a day when the home side needed his brand of resolute solidity once it was determined that getting

341 more runs on the final day with nine wickets in hand was not a realistic prospect.

He featured in a 105-run third-wicket partnership with Kyle Mayers which occupied almost three hours and effectively killed off Sri Lanka's hopes of completing an excellent fight-back from a poor first day with victory.

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Kiwis clean sweep ODI series



New Zealand players pose with the winner's trophy after win in third ODI

AFP ■ WELLINGTON

Maiden centuries for Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell set up a crushing 164-run win for New Zealand in the third One-Day International in Wellington on Friday, giving the hosts a series clean sweep.

Conway blasted 126 from 110 balls and Mitchell finished on 100 not out after New Zealand won the toss and elected to bat, making 318/6.

Bangladesh were never in

the hunt for the 319 target, all out for 154 after 42.4 overs, with Mahmudullah's unbeaten 76 the only highlight as eight batsmen failed to reach double figures.

Jimmy Neesham and Matt Henry did the damage for New Zealand with the ball, taking 5/27 and 4/27 respectively.

"We were just not good enough," Bangladesh skipper Tamim Iqbal said. "No doubt the Black Caps played unbelievably well but we didn't perform.

Sometimes the small things can hurt you, the (dropped) catches and the run-out chances."

Conway capitalised on the tourists' woes and his century was just reward for the South Africa-born batsman, who has been in outstanding form since he was first selected for the Blacks Caps late last year.

His performances include 72 in the second ODI and an unbeaten 99 when he was left stranded in a T20 match against Australia last month.

Mitchell looked like he would suffer a similar fate in Wellington before scrambling home to bring up his century on the last ball of the innings as wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim tried to stump him.

Both Conway and Mitchell were making only their third ODI appearances for New Zealand after debuting in the series opener against Bangladesh in Dunedin last week.

The teams will meet next in a three-match T20 series opening in Hamilton on Sunday.

Saina enters Orleans Masters semis



PTI ■ PARIS

Indian ace Saina Nehwal eked out a thrilling three-game win over USA's Iris Wang to advance to the women's singles semifinals but Kidambi Srikanth crashed out of the men's singles competition at the Orleans Masters tourney here on Friday.

It is the first semifinals in two years for world No 20 Saina, who is desperate to accumulate ranking points to make it to her fourth Olympics at the Tokyo Games. Her last semifinal appearance was in January

2019 in the Indonesia Masters 500 tournament which she had won.

The fourth seeded Indian, who had withdrawn from the All England Championships last week due to an injury, had to dug deep to script a 21-19, 17-21, 21-19 win over world No 36 Wang in a gruelling quarterfinals match that lasted exactly an hour.

Former world number one Srikanth, however, cut a sorry figure as he went down 19-21, 17-21 to France's Toma Junior Popov in a 31-minute men's sin-

gles quarterfinals.

Star doubles player Ashwini Ponnappa dished out a superb game as she first paired up with N Sikki Reddy to notch up a stunning 21-14, 21-18 win over England's third seeded duo of Chloe Birch and Lauren Smith in women's doubles.

Ashwini then combined with Dhruv Kapila to outwit England's Max Flynn and Jessica Pugh 21-13, 21-18 in mixed doubles quarterfinals.

Young Ira Sharma also was no match for Christophersen, going down 11-21, 8-21 in another women's singles quarterfinals.

Earlier, the Indian men's doubles pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnu Vardhan Goud Panjala outwitted world No 47 French duo of Christo Popov and Toma Junior Popov 21-17, 10-21, 22-20 in an hour and three minutes to make it to the semifinals.

The English pair had ended the campaign of Indian seventh seeds MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila 21-19, 18-21, 23-21 in the quarterfinals.

Ibra makes winning return

AFP ■ STOCKHOLM

Zlatan Ibrahimovic made a winning return to international football with Sweden on Thursday after nearly five years away as Germany came out for human rights in their opening qualifier for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Ibrahimovic set up Viktor Claesson's 35th-minute winner in the 1-0 win over Georgia at the Friends Arena just outside Stockholm in his 117th appearance for his national team, his first since Euro 2016. The AC Milan forward had to hold back the tears as he spoke to reporters on Monday about his international comeback, and he was in good spirits after a win that puts Sweden top of Group B.

"It felt good. It felt like it was my first international match. It was a lot of adrenaline," Ibrahimovic told Sverige Radio.

Sweden lead their group two points ahead of Greece and Spain, who played out a surprising 1-1 draw in Granada.

Alvaro Morata opened the scoring with a superb control and finish from Koke's clipped pass in the 33rd minute. But the Greeks levelled through their only shot of the entire match,



Anastasios Bakasetas' penalty in the 57th minute after Inigo Martinez fouled Giorgios Masouras.

Germany lined up with T-shirts that spelled out Human Rights ahead of their 3-0 Group J win over Iceland amid concerns over alleged human rights abuses in Qatar, the controversial hosts of next year's finals.

Once on the pitch Joachim Loew's side got off to a rapid start, with Goretzka and Kai Havertz firing the hosts into a two-goal lead inside seven minutes.

Manchester City's Ilkay Gundogan continued his fine recent goalscoring form, collecting the ball 10 minutes after the break and drilling home a low shot.

Elsewhere, first-half goals

from Domenico Berardi and Ciro Immobile were enough for Italy to ease past the Northern Ireland 2-0 in their first World Cup match since their humiliating failure to qualify for the 2018 tournament in Russia.

They sit second in Group C, level on points with Switzerland who beat Bulgaria 3-1.

James Ward-Prowse and Ollie Watkins scored their first international goals as England thumped San Marino 5-0, with Dominic Calvert-Lewin hitting a brace and stand-in captain Raheem Sterling also netting in a comfortable win.

Robert Lewandowski struck with seven minutes remaining in Budapest to earn Poland a late point in a thrilling 3-3 draw with Hungary.

Gold rush continues for India



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A 16th Olympic quota eluded India but the Gold rush continued unabated as the host nation consolidated its top position in the pecking order with two more yellow metals in the ISSF shooting World Cup here on Friday.

India leads the chart with 25 medals, including 12 Gold, seven Silver and six Bronze.

On Friday, the seasoned duo of Sanjeev Rajput and Tejaswini Sawant began the day on a rousing note, winning the Gold in the 50m rifle 3 positions mixed team event by beating Ukraine's Serhiy Kulish and Anna Ilna 31-29.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Sunidhi Chauhan won the Bronze medal after get-

ting the better of USA's Timothy Sherry and Virginia Thrasher 31-15 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.

Then, the troika of Niraj Kumar, Swapnil Kusale and Chain Singh claimed Gold in the 50m rifle 3 positions men's team event, comfortably getting the better of USA 47-25 in the final.

Vijayveer Sidhu, 18, settled for the Silver medal behind Estonia's Peeter Olesk in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol final, a result not good enough to secure a quota place for the Tokyo Olympics as it was only reserved for the Gold-medallist.

The lone Indian in the trap final among both men and women, Kynan Chenai, finished in fourth place with 27 hits after suffering an equipment malfunction, dashing his hopes

of securing a quota.

But there was disappointment in store for the likes of Anish Bhanwala and Gurpreet Singh, who could not shine in the rapid fire final to bow out of Olympic contention on the basis of rankings points.

Barty saves match point for win

MIAMI: Australian world No 1 Ashleigh Barty saved a match point as she battled back to defeat Slovakia's Kristina Kucova on Friday (IST) and reach the third round of the Miami Open. Top-seeded Barty, the 2019 Miami champion and French Open winner, dispatched 149th-ranked Kucova 6-3, 4-6,

7-5, advancing to a match with another Grand Slam winner, Latvia's 54th-ranked Jelena Ostapenko who beat Belgian Kirsten Flipkens 6-2, 5-7, 6-3. Barty fired 15 aces, two in a rally from 0-40 down in the final game, to defeat Kucova after two hours and 27 minutes.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to change the Train Number of earlier announced Sealdah - Bikaner - Sealdah Durgonto Special Mail/Express Train as under :-

Train Name	Earlier Announced Train No.	Revised Train No.	Days of Run	With Effect From
Sealdah-Bikaner Special Durgonto Mail/Express	02277	02287	Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday	From 01.04.2021 on nominated days as per 12259 Sealdah-Bikaner Durgonto Express to till further advice
Bikaner-Sealdah Special Durgonto Mail/Express	02278	02288	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	From 05.04.2021 on nominated days as per 12260 Bikaner-Sealdah Durgonto Express to till further advice

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

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

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