**OPINION 6** 

THE CONVERSION FACTOR:

**HOW REAL IS THE THREAT?** 

WORLD 8

N KOREA TEST-FIRES BALLISTIC

MISSILES IN MESSAGE TO US

MORGAN OUT OF

FINAL TWO ODIS

Late City Vol.15 Issue 83 \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

Established 1864

MUSIC SCENE HAS EVOLVED: **ARJUN** 10 VIVACITY

# **DEHRADUN, FRIDAY** MARCH 26, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹2 the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

# Alarming rise in deaths in Covid 2nd wave

At 53,476 coronavirus cases, total soars to 5-month high Cases to peak in mid-April,



A couple pays a penalty for not wearing a face mask, as is mandatory as a precaution against the coronavirus, at a marke place in New Delhi on Thursday

PNS NEW DELHI

fter breaching the 50,000-Amark for the first time almost eight months ago and the last time on November 6, last year, India on Thursday yet again saw the tally of coronavirus cases climb up to 53,476 in a continuing sign of renewed concern. India's Covid-19 cases

now stand at 1,17,87,534. The rapid rise has begun to show its impact on the death

numbers as well. The daily death count, which had dropped to double digits in February, has risen to more than 200 during the last two days. On Thursday, 251 fatalities were reported.

However, compared to the sharp increase in cases, the fatalities have been quite low in the ongoing second wave in contrast to what was seen in the peak months of July, August and September last year.

It was on July 29, 2020 that India first witnessed Covid-19 cases cross the 50,000 mark And after November 6, coronavirus cases have been registering a downward slide, only to take the upward swing since the last few days.

According to the Union Health Ministry, Maharashtra and Punjab are turning out to be a major cause of worry. Cases have been increasing over the last two weeks.

### 1,515 cases in Delhi, 5 deaths

Thursday, highest in over three months, while five more people succumbed to the disease.

the Health Department said.

This is the highest number of cases since December 16 when 1,547 people tested positive for the virus, according to official data. The city had record-

Maharashtra reported 31,855 new cases followed by Punjab with 2,613 and Kerala with 2,456 new cases. When the first time the

daily case count crossed the 50,000-figure on July 29 last year, India reported 775 deaths. That was because the daily case count at that time had already remained in the range 30,000-40,000 for two weeks before the hitting This time, the rise in cases

has been much more rapid. India has reported cases in the 40,000 range four days and 30,000s in two days, before touching the 50,000 range on Wednesday. It is possible, therefore, for the daily death count to show a sudden rise in the

New Delhi: Delhi reported ed 1,254 cases on Wednesday 1,515 coronavirus cases on and 1,101 cases on Tuesday the first time since December 24 that the number of cases crossed the 1,000-mark.

The active cases rose to 5,497 on Thursday from 4,890 a day ago. The positivity rate rose to 1.69 per cent from 1.52 per cent on Wednesday, the health bulletin said.

coming two weeks.
With the death of 251 people in the last 24 hours, the toll has reached 1,60,692 in India while the active caseload in the country has mounted to 3,95,192.

#### **RT-PCR** -ve report must for passengers arriving in Bengaluru from any State: Min

Bengaluru: Passengers arriving from any State to Bengaluru must be in possession of RT-PCR negative report, Karnataka Health and Medical Education Minister K Sudhakar said on Thursday.

# may taper off by May end

#### **Mass vaccination** the only solution, says SBI report

PNS NEW DELHI

The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in India started on February 15 and could last until the end of May witnessing a peak in mid-April this year, a research report released by the State Bank of India (SBI) said on Thursday.

Cautioning that the counv could see an addition of 25 lakh cases during this period, it said mass vaccination and not local lockdown, as is being imposed by some States, is the only solution to curb the surge.

The 28-page report said localised lockdowns or restrictions have been "ineffective" and that mass vaccination is the "only hope" to win the battle against the pandemic.

"Considering the number of days from the current level of daily new cases to the peak level during the first wave, India might reach the peak in the second half of April," it said. Focusing on the econom-

The report also calls for an increase in the pace of vacciic indicators, the SBI report said the business activity index, rent 34 lakh to 40-45 lakh per based on high frequency indiday would mean that inoculacators, has declined in the last week, adding that the impact of the lockdown or restrictions imposed by certain States might become visible next

month. onth.
Currently, Maungah Maharashtra,
Duniab, Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand are some of the States in the country which have imposed night curfew and shut business entities in some of their cities reporting an

nation across States. Increasing daily vaccination from the cur-

tion of citizens over 45 years can be completed in four months from now. So far, nearly 5 crore people have been vaccinated. With an attempt to bring more beneficiaries under the inoculation drive launched from January 16, the Government has widened the ambit from April 1 to include those above 45

### even if they have no co-mor-NCW: 80% jump in domestic violence since lockdown

With families remaining confined to homes during the Covid-19-induced lockdown, domestic violence reared its ugly head more menacingly. There has been a major rise in the number of major rise in the number of complaints of domestic violence from 2,960 in 2019 to 5,297 in 2020, which is a jump of nearly 80 per cent. Worryingly, the ominous trend is continuing in the ongoing

The National Commission for Women (NCW) received a total of 19,730 complaints of crimes against women in 2019 as compared to 23,722 in 2020 which is a jump of little over

20 per cent year on year data. A year after the lockdown, over 2,000 complaints every month of crimes against women with nearly one-fourth of them related to domestic violence, according to the official data. According to the NCW data, as many as 1,463 complaints of domestic violence against women were received from January 2021 to

March 25, 2021. The nationwide lockdown

was imposed on March 25 last year to curb the spread of Covid-19, but it trapped many domestic violence victims with their abusers.

Soon after the lockdown was imposed, the NCW reported a surge of complaints related to domestic violence so much so that it started a dedicated WhatsApp number for reporting of just domestic violence complaints.

The number of complaints of domestic violence went on increasing through the months and in July, a record number of 660 such complaints were received.

Since June, the NCW has been receiving over 2,000 complaints of crimes against women every month out of which nearly a quarter are of domestic violence, the data According t NCW figures, 25,886 complaints of crime against women have been received from April, 2020 till now which includes 5,865 complaints of domestic violence. Also, the NCW received the highest number of complaints against women in six years in 2020 at 23,722 of which about 25 per cent of them were of

domestic violence.

**CAPSULE** 

VEHICLE CATCHES FIRE

and another five injured on

of Rajasthan's Ganganagar

district in the early hours of

3 JAWANS BURNT ALIVE AS

Jainur: Three soldiers were killed

Thursday when the Army vehicle

they were travelling in overturned

and caught fire in Rajiyasar area

Thursday, They were on a night

training task as part of a military

exercise when the vehicle met

overturned and caught fire. Five

come out of the vehicle but three

**2 CRPF JAWANS MARTYRED** 

were trapped inside it and died,'

injured soldiers managed to

with the accident, defence

sources said. "The Gypsy

SHO Vikram Tiwari said.

### LoC silent in March after Realtor poisons wife with thallium 5/6 years, says Naravane really bodes well for the future,"

#### **Terror launch** pads in PoK intact, says **Army Chief**

PNS NEW DELHI

observe ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir, Army Chief General MM Naravane said here on Thursday the border is silent for the first time in around five to six years with not a single shot fired in March.

The Army Chief, however, said the terror infrastructure, including terrorist launch-pads, on the Pakistani side remained intact and asserted that it can-



With both the countries not be business as usual unless supporting terrorism.

Speaking at a conclave, Naravane said he was optimistic that the ceasefire will hold as the Pakistan Army was on board. "I am glad to inform that in the whole month of March, we have not had a single shot fired at the Line of Control (LoC) barring an odd incident. It is for the first time in about five or six years that the LoC has been silent. That

Last month, the Indian and Pakistani armies recom-

Asked what could have prompted Pakistan to suddenagree to the ceasefire, Naravane said the duels between the two sides had not resulted any forward movement and that Islamabad has its own internal problems.

### for aborting baby against his will Wife on ventilator. her mother, sister

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

A 27-year-old man in Delhi who allegedly poisoned his wife and her family using on ventilator.

The accused identified as Varun Arora, a resident of Greater Kailash, was inspired by former Iraqi despot Saddam Hussein, who was known to use thallium, a slow poison, to



a builder by profession. The main trigger for Arora's anger against his wife was that she had aborted their baby defying his wish with help from her

Police found during the investigation that the accused was reading articles on internet related to former Iraqi president Saddam.

Police (DCP), West district, on Monday, police got information that Anita, a resident of Inder Puri, was declared dead at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. The doctors had opined that death was caused by thal-

the Deputy Commissioner of

lium poisoning, detected in blood and urine of the patient. During enquiry, it was found that daughter of deceased ICU ward and she was subjected to the same thallium poi soning for which she is undergoing treatment. She is on ventilator support," said the

daughter of Anita, died during the treatment on February 15.

'Devender Mohan Sharma, Divya's father, and their maid

### **WB** campaign

#### for Ph-1 ends, violence kills 3 in 24 hours

PNS KOLKATA

urtains came down on the Chigh decibel campaign for the 30 Assembly seats going to polls in the first phase of Bengal elections on Thursday. Both the BJP and the Trinamool Congress went all out against each other claiming the State would collapse if their rivals came to power. Pre poll violence claimed three lives and left over dozen others

Banerjee accused the BJP of splurging money and using muscle power and asked the people to remain on guard against the BJP's alleged nefarious designs, the Home Minister led his party's campaign rolling out a long list of promises for Jangalmahal

Thirty seats across tribaldominated Purulia, Bankura, Jhargram, Purba Medinipur (Part 1) and Paschim Medinipur (Part 1) districts, once the citadel of the Left, will go to polls on March 27.

"I have information that the BJP is spending money and pushing in criminals from other States ..." Mamata told two rallies in Jangalmahal.

IN TERROR ATTACK IN J&K Srinagar: Two CRPF personnel were martyred and two jawans sustained injuries in a terrorist

attack in Lawaypora on the

outskirts of Srinagar.

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Detailed reports on P5

### **Notorious criminals held;** goon flees as aides blind cops with chilli powder

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{encounters between police}}^{\text{elhi witnessed two}}$ and criminals on Thursday. A gangster carrying a reward of ₹3.5 lakh and his accomplice on whose head ₹2 lakh was there were arrested on Bhairon Marg, while in another incident a wanted criminal escaped from police custody following a shootout outside GTB hospital on Thursday afternoon.

The shootout in which the criminal escaped after his aides threw chilli powder at the police team took place around 12.30 pm when the third battalion of the Delhi Police was taking gangster Kuldeep, alias Fajja, who is a member of the Gogi gang, to the hospital for treatment, a senior police officer said In the Pragati Maidan inci-

dent, the accused, Rohit Choudhary, 35, and his accomplice, Parveen alias Titu, were arrested after a shootout. The two suffered injuries in

their legs during the encounter and were taken to hospital, police said. This was the first time that a Delhi Police woman officer was part of the encounter team, police

Both the accused are want-

ed in cases of the MCOCA murder, attempt to murder and other cases of robbery as well, police said. In another incident in

which the criminal escaped, a fierce gunfight broke out at a Government hospital in Delhi in broad daylight on Thursday when a police team escorting a notorious criminal came face to face with those who came to aid his escape, leaving one assailant dead and triggering a chaos with patients and their relatives running for cover,

officials said. While the prisoner managed to flee, the police nabbed one of his six associates who was injured in the gunfight at the GTB hospital here, they said. In a high-voltage drama, the assailants first threw chilli powder at the police team and then started firing at them to which the security personnel retaliated with 12 rounds of fire, killing one of them on the spot and injuring another, officials said.

On the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, the Delhi Police's Crime Branch team got a tip-off that Choudhary and his accomplice would reach Bhairon Marg in a blue car, following which a trap was laid down at a parking

In his departure statement, Modi said, "I am happy there, a police officer said. that my first foreign visit after

mitted themselves to the 2003 ceasefire agreement on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir. The return to the ceasefire was agreed upon by the director generals of military operations (DGMO) of the two

"Our core issue is that they have to stop support to terrorism. Unless they stop that it cannot be business as usual, Naravane said.

It's first foreign

after 496 days

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A Narendra Modi is set to

visit Bangladesh on Friday to

mark the 50th anniversary of

the neighbouring nation's freedom in 1971, it will be his first

foreign visit after a full 496

days - the longest gap

between two of his foreign vis-

Brazil from November 13 to

15, 2019. Besides Bangladesh,

Modi is expected to visit

Brussels for the European

Union-India summit (May 8)

and to Cornwall, United

Kingdom, from June 11 to 13,

to attend the G-7 grouping

where India is a special invi-

four other heads of State from

Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and

the Maldives to join the cele-

brations marking 50 years of

its independence, but Modi

will be the only leader to

join. India and Bangladesh

will sign several agreements

and unveil new measures to

boost people-to-people con-

Bangladesh has invited

tee (June 11-13)

His last foreign trip was to

Minister

Prime

visit by PM

# die in hospital

thallium in fish curry was Thursday. His mother-in-law Anita Devi Sharma and sisterin-law Priyanka died of poisoning, while his wife Divya is

eliminate political opponents.

Police said Varun Arora is

the onset of the Covid-19

pandemic will be to our

friendly neighbouring coun-

try, with which India shares

deep cultural, linguistic and

people-to-people ties. I look

Bangabandhu's Samadhi in

Tungipara to pay my respects

forward to offering prayers to

Goddess Kali at the ancient

Jashoreshwari Kali Temple,

one of the 51 Shaktipeeths in

tive discussions with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, fol-

lowing our very productive

virtual meeting in December

last year. I also look forward

to my meeting with President

Abdul Hamid, and to interac-

tions with other Bangladeshi

PM's foreign and domestic

visits on pmindia.gov.in, the

largest gap so far between his

As per the details of the

dignitaries,

"I will be having substan-

the Puranic tradition.

The PM said he also looks

visiting

forward

to his memory



According to Urvija Goel,

two foreign trips was 158

days when he visited Sri Lanka

in May 2017 after he went to

gap was of 102 days between

Modi's visit to Nepal to attend

the SAARC summit between

November 25-27 in 2014 and

then to Seychelles on March

10, 2015. And, prior to that,

there was a gap of 94 days

after his unscheduled visit to

Pakistan on December 25 last

vear and then his travel to

Saudi Arabia after three

months on March 29 in

2014, Modi has made 59 for-

eign trips, visiting 60 coun-

tries including the visits to

USA to attend the UN

General Assembly, to Asian

countries, following his

Neighbourhood First and Act

East policies. Modi has visit-

ed USA six times and five

times to China, France and

Russia. He went to Sri Lanka

As per data since May 26,

Before this, the longest

November

Priyanka, the younger

too had symptoms of thallium poisoning," said the DCP.

Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Laos,

Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia,

Mozambique, Netherlands,

Oman, Pakistan, Palestine,

Philippines, Portugal, Qatar,

Rwanda, Seychelles, Spain,

Sweden, Tajikistan, Tanzania,

Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda

and Vietnam during his tenure.

He made foreign visits twice to

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar,

Saudi Arabia, South Africa,

incurred

In 2017-18, a cost of Rs

100.02 crore was

99.90 crore was incurred while

in 2018-19, an expenditure of

incurred. In 2019-20, a cost of

Rs 46.23 crore has been

incurred on the Prime

Minister's foreign visits,

South Korea,

Uzbekistan.

2016-17.

Afghanistan, Bhutan, Brazil,

#### Modi leaves for Bangladesh to attend 50th independence day and the United Arab Emirates thrice and to Germany, Japan, Nepal and Singapore four Modi has visited only once Argentina, Australia, Bahrain,

Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland,

injured in the past 24 hours. While TMC chief Mamata

Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom and According to the Ministry of External Affairs data, an expenditure of Rs 446.52 crore has been incurred on the foreign visits of PM Modi in the last five year. As per details, a cost of Rs 121.85 crore was incurred in 2015-16 while an expenditure of Rs 78.52 crore

Haryana approves projects

worth ₹139 cr for 6 districts

integrated co-operative devel-

development approach will be

adopted, and a micro plan will

be prepared for each of the

Development Corporation

three heads namely, loan, share

capital, and subsidy. The loan

will be utilized for creating such

infrastructure facilities as

godowns, banking counters,

transport vehicles and small

harnessed for strengthening

the base of these societies and

the margin money would be

Harvana Police has issued traf-

fic advisory to divert the routes

for the convenience of public to

avoid any untoward circum-

stances. Rail and road trans-

portation services are likely to be affected and markets may

remain closed in parts of the country on Friday due to

that the vehicles coming from

Ambala or Chandigarh on the

national highway-44 may go

towards U.P. Ghaziabad and

Noida via Karnal to Shamli and

from Panipat to Sanauli to U.P.,

Ghaziabad and Noida. Similarly,

they can enter via national high-

way-71A via Gohana, Rohtak,

Jhajjar and Rewari. The light

vehicles coming from

Ambala/Chandigarh can travel towards Delhi via Baghpat,

An official spokesman said

'Bharat Bandh''.

The share capital would be

processing units etc.

Under the scheme, area

opment projects.

and needs, he said.

National



# **Holi business remains** subdued in Dehradun

While many local businessmen were waiting for the Holi festival to boost their business on the first big festival of this year, the recent surge in Covid-19 cases and ongoing construction works under the smart city project has affected the sales of Holi items in Dehradun. However, different items like fancy hair caps, turbans, colourful gloves and water guns with sanitiser holders

are also introduced in the market to attract customers amid the pandemic. According to a local shopkeeper in Paltan Bazaar, Dinesh Arora, the sales are not better this year than they were in the last Holi. "Last year, we had ordered

Holi colours and water guns when the pandemic was not quite intense in the country. Though we did not make a huge profit, people had started buying products. However, the response to Holi is quite subdued so far this year as students used to make most of the purchases days before Holi. Also, people are avoiding Paltan Bazaar too due to the ongoing construction work which is causing considerable loss to several local shopkeepers," said Arora. Another local shopkeeper from Araghar,

रजिस्ट्री सं0 डी0 एल0-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-17032021-225954

CG-DL-E-17032021-225954

असाधारण

**EXTRAORDINARY** 

भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप—खण्ड (ii)

PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं.1142] नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, मार्च 16, 2021 / फाल्गुन 25, 1942

No.1142] NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021/PHALGUNA 25, 1942

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

CORRIGENDUM

New Delhi, the 16th March, 2021

the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act)

the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land

the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building

(widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,) Maintenance, management

and operation of Ring Road in the stretch of land from Km. 0.000 to Km. 48.880 in the

district of HARIDWAR in the state of UTTARAKHAND, hereby declares its intention

date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such

land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Competent Authority Land Acquisition/Special Land Acquisition Officer Haridwar i

writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give

the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitione

and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry,

any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow

of the said Act shall be final.

Competent Authority

Taluk:- Haridwa

122

147

146

84

145

144

143

140

139

136

135

132

138

142 अ

142 ब

223

Village:- Ruhalki Kishanpur

5

10

12

13

14

15

16

Village:- Devpur mustkam

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 30

The land plans and other details of the land to be under their notification ar

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures

Nature of land

Non-Agriculture

Agriculture

Non-Agriculture

**RAJESH GUPTA, Directo** 

falling Ring Road in the stretch of land from Km. 0.000 to Km. 48.880 in the

district of HARIDWAR in the state of UTTRAKHAND.

Government

Government (N.Z.A)

IF. No. NHAI/PIU-RRK/55001/Haridwar/Ring Road (LA)/2020/3A1/Corr

**Public Notice** 

Government

Government

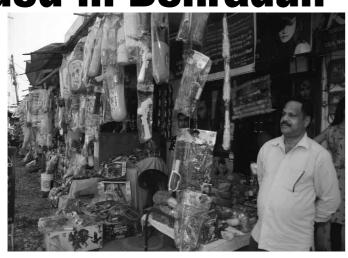
State:- UTTARAKHAND | District:- HARIDWAR

available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely

S.O. 1230(E)-In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (I) of section 3A of



Aakash Sharma said that he set up his stall to sell Holi items late this year considering people mostly buy products just a few days before Holi.

The business was fine last year but it might be bad this time considering the increasing Covid-19 cases. However, there are also some new accessories which are available in the market to attract customer towards shopping for Holi amid the pandemic. Colourful caps, hairnets and hair covers are launched to attract young customers as well as the adults who can use these products as a safe-ty measure," stated Sharma. However, many local shopkeepers who run their shops in small localities stated that more people are coming to shop from their Holi stalls this year

REGD. No. D.L.-33004/99

than the previous years in order to avoid visits to the crowded marketplaces. Many local shopkeepers also disclosed that

unlike last year, only a few peo-

ple are enquiring about the products made in China. According to a local shopeeper from Hanuman Chowk, People were quite against the Chinese products like water guns and balloons last year and were continuously enquiring about each product they wanted to purchase. However, only a few people actually asked us about the origin country of the product this year. The presence of Chinese products has certainly decreased in the market in the last few years during Holi but people are not reluctant to buy them as much they were in

and physical screening tests. DGP assured the aspirants that the Police recruitments absolutely fair and transparent manner. Notably, the Chief Minister on March 20, 2021, had announced that the Punjab Government will be recruiting 10,000 police officials, of which 33 percent will be women, at the level of sub-inspectors, head constables and constables in different cadres, to strengthen the Police deployment at cutting edge level and ensure effective policing.

# Police soon

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Tn a major recruitment drive Lunder the Ghar-Ghar Rozgaar program, the Punjab Government has initiated the process to fill 2,280 posts in various departments. Besides, the Government will also conduct recruitment of constables, and sub-inspectors in Punjab Police soon. With the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's approval to go ahead with recruitments of constables, head constables and sub-Inspectors in the Punjab Police, the state Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta on Thursday exhorted the aspiring candidates to start preparations for the written examination

#### Massive recruitment drive in Punjab

**PNS** ■ CHANDIGARH

 $P_{\text{Thursday suspended five}}^{\text{unjab Government on}}$ police officers, including the then Ludhiana DIG Parmraj Singh Umranangal, already under suspension, in an infamous drug racket case registered by the Special Task Force

The orders, issued by the state Home Department in this regard, stated that the matter pertains to an FIR, dated sections 21, 23, 25, 27 A, 29-61-85 of the NDPS Act, sections 25, 24, 29 of the Arms Act and sections 420, 471, 472 of the

Indian Penal Code (IPC) at STF Police Station, Mohali Phase IV, pertaining to seizure of illegal factory at Khanna.

Those suspended included IPS officer Parmraj Singh Umranangal — already under susopension in another case, PPS officer Varinderjit Singh Thind — posted as Assistant Commandant 4th IRB Pathankot, Sewa Singh Malli — SP Detective at Faridkot, Parminder Singh Bath — Deputy Superintendent of Police DSP (Detective) Faridkot.

The officers have been suspended "with immediate effect" after finding their involvement

in the said drug case. In a communication, issued by the State Home Affairs and Justice Department to the state Director General of Police (DGP), it has asked to initiate a departmental inquiry against the officers by preparing a chargesheet against them and send the same to the

Besides, the STF has also been asked to conclude the investigation in the matter at the earliest and submit a report.

Government.

Apart from that, citing All Appeal) Rules, 1969, the Home Department has asked the DGP to prepare a detailed report against IPS officer Paramraj Singh Umranangal "in English" so that the matter could be taken up with the Central Government. The matter pertains to an

arrest of one Gurdeep Singh Rano, who was the former sarpanch of Rano village in Ludhiana district's Payal area, in November 2020. STF's Ludhiana unit had

nabbed Rano along with three others with 5.39 kg heroin worth Rs 27 crore, three illegal weapons with live cartridges, eight high-end cars.

The STF had claimed that these smugglers are a part of an international organized drug

Haryana reports 7 deaths,

of the societies. Subsidy will be provided for manpower development, training, monitoring and incentives, he said.

Thirty per cent subsidy will be provided by the NCDC selected districts, striking a match between local resources for rural godowns of the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies under Kaushal said that the the Agriculture Market Cooperative Infrastructure Scheme. Life of the project will be four years, would fund the project under and a monitoring cell will be set up at the state level to monitor all such projects in the state, Kaushal added.

While a sum of Rs 23.40 crore has been sanctioned for Kaithal, Kurukshetra gets Rs 26.01 crore; Karnal Rs 27.78 crore; Panipat Rs 19.58 crore; Sonipat Rs 19.82 crore; and Gurgram, including Mewat,

Khekra, Loni border from

way-44 to Delhi and Gurugram. The following routes are identified for smooth flow of traffic including Karnal-

Shamli-Bhagpat-Khekra, Panipat-Sanauli-Bhagpat-Khekra, Bahalgarh-Bhagpat-Khekra. For west South Delhi and Gurugram, NH-71A, Bahalgarh-Sonipat City-Lampur border and Ganaur-Khubru double canal road are identified as routes for smooth flow of traffic. For daily commuters (Sonipat-Delhi), routes identified are Safiabad border/Narela border- Sonipat-Narela road, Lampur border-Sonipat-Barota-Lampur, Ochandi border- Sonipat-Kharkhoda-Saidpur-Ochandi, Dahisara border-Bahalgarh-Khewra-Jakholi and Janti Kalan border-Manoli-Baira

#### Farmers prepared for long haul over their demands: Tikait Keeping in view the "Bharat Band" call on March 26 November-December, he added. Tikait said that the gov-Bahalgarh using national highby Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, the

City Ahmedgarh.

Punjab virtually launches

slew of infra projects; 151

HWCs, 9 police stations to achieve new heights of g

In a major boost to infra-

structure development across

the State, Punjab Government

on Thursday launched a slew of

projects to the people besides

laying foundation stones of

some other significant pro-

jects to put Punjab on the

The state Local Bodies Minister Brahm Mohindra dedicated 151 Health and

Wellness Centres to facilitate

citizens with best healthcare

facilities besides inaugurated Rs

93 crore state-of-the-art

District Administrative

Complex at Amritsar, equipped

captain and would continue to

guide us in pursuit of further

excellence in all-round progress

Vaccination starts in

to have this facility

PNS ■ KAPURTHALA

facility.

Kapurthala Central Jail,

becomes State's first jail

To prevent the prisoners from COVID epidemic,

vaccination has been started in

Kapurthala Central Jail -

Punjab's first jail to provide this

In this regard, the Additional District and Sessions Judge

Rajwinder Kaur and Chief

Judicial Magistrate (CJM)-cum-

District Legal Services Authority's

Secretary Ajitpal Singh formally

launched the vaccination drive in

Jail. ADSJ has also asked the Jail

Department's officials that the

health protocol and restrictions

imposed by the Punjab

Government must be imple-

mented in true spirit and man-

ner to save the prisoners and

"Capt Amarinder is our

with ultra modern facilities.

high growth trajectory.

day before the 'Bharat Aday before the Blanch Bandh' call given by the farmer unions protesting against the three agri laws, Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Thursday said the agitating farmers are prepared for a long haul and will relent only when their demands are met.

he said during a virtual event

joined by several Cabinet

Ministers and MLAs simulta-

neously through video confer-

encing from their respective

laid foundation stones of four

tehsil complexes, each at a cost

of Rs five crore, at Malerkotla,

Bhawanigarh, and Ahmedgarh

in Sangrur district and Amloh

in Fatehgarh Sahib district

besides dedicating Sub Tehsil at

Sham Chaurasi in Hoshiarpur

district at an outlay of Rs one

crore. Giving a boost to polic-

ing infrastructure, Mohindra

also dedicated nine new com-

plexes of police stations at

Sadar Patiala, Malaud, Beas,

Zira, Bilga, Basti Bawa Khel,

Sidhwan Bet, Bahavwala and

Mohindra also digitally

"The farm laws are not only adversely affecting the farmers but will impact other sections as well. The Centre must withdraw the farm laws and provide a legal guarantee on MSP," said Tikait while addressing a farmers' mahapanchayat at Assandh in Haryana's Karnal district.

He said that this is a fight not just of farmers but also for the poor, small traders. This agitation will go on for long. We have made preparations till

ernment may try to impose restrictions in the garb of COVID-19 pandemic at places where farmers are sitting in large numbers as part of the ongoing stir but that will not deter them. He also said that the farm-

Haryana Government has approved projects worth about Rs 139 crore for six dis-

tricts for developing primary

agricultural societies into

multi-purpose self-reliant enti-

ties. These districts are Kaithal,

Kurukshetra, Karnal, Sonepat

and Gurugram, including areas

of Mewat district. About 7,200

registered societies in these

districts would benefit from

this scheme, said Additional

Chief Secretary, Sanjeev Kaushal. He said the main

objective of this project is to

develop and strengthen co-

operatives like primary agri-

culture cooperative societies,

District Primary Agriculture

and Rural Development Banks

(DPCARDBs), milk supplies

societies, industrial societies,

ers have shown how to manage their time for the stir as well as for their crops. The agitation is drawing good support from several

states across the country includ-

ing Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, he added. Notably, hundreds of farmers are camping at Delhi's borders since November last year demanding the repeal of the three contentious farm laws.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY ISSUED FOR 'BHARAT BANDH' CALL

Drug case: 5 Punjab cops, including IG Umranangal, suspended

Australia. STF officials maintained that Rano was the main smuggler, who owned all the highend cars and made a lot of property by smuggling drugs.

Bankepur-Dahisara.

The accused were said to be a part of a high-level international organized drug network being run by Tanveer Singh Bedi of Barnala settled in Australia. Tanveer is also wanted by the STF Border Range in 197.8 kg heroin seizure of

network being operated from

Rano was said to be a high profile person who has good relations with several politi-

#### 3 deaths, 226 fresh virus cases in Chandigarh

**PNS** ■ CHANDIGARH

Atotal of 226 more coronavirus cases surfaced in Chandigarh on Thursday, taking the infection count to 25,356 in the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, according to a medical bulletin. Meanwhile, three more persons died in the union territory on Thursday. The disease has claimed 368 lives so far. The number of active cases has risen to 2286 on Thursday, the bulletin said, adding that 115 patients were discharged after they recovered from the infection, taking the number of cured persons to 22,702. A total of 30, 01, 065 samples have been taken for testing till now

in the union territory, of which 2,73,740 tested negative while reports of 231 samples are awaited, as per the bulletin.

#### ENTRY OF PEOPLE IN PARKS, SUKHNA LAKE BANNED ON HOLI

Keeping in view of rapid increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in the city, Adviser to UT Administrator and the chairperson of State Executive Committee of State Disaster Management Authority on Thursday, issued an order putting a ban on the entry of people in all Government parks, Sukhna Lake area and Sector 17 plaza from 6 am to 6 pm on March 29 (Holi Day).

#### **PNS** ■ CHANDIGARH

The daily COVID-19 cases I in Haryana crossed the 1000-mark on Thursday with a surfacing of 1053 new infections. Seven more people succumbed to the virus as two deaths each in Karnal and Panipat and one each in Hisar, Faridabad and Fatehabad were reported in the last 24 hours.

The state's caseload jumped to 283622 while the death toll stood at 3117, the state's Health Department's bulletin stated. There were 7229 active cases in the state till the evening.

As per the health bulletin, maximum of 256 fresh cases were reported from Gurugram followed by 116 in Panchkula and 101 in Karnal. The fatality rate was recorded at 1.10 EXAMS TO STUDENTS

COVID positive rate was 4.64 per cent and recovery rate was

recorded at 96.35 percent.

1,053 fresh Covid-19 cases

562 people recovered from the virus in the last 24 hours taking the total recoveries in the state to 273276. Out of 112 critical patients admitted in the hospitals, 95 patients were on oxygen support while 17 were on ventilator, the health bulletin said. As many as 61.34 lakh samples have been tested till date in Haryana, the bulletin added.

Notably, the State Government had a day before banned public celebrations on the occasion of the upcoming Holi festival.

HRY GIVES OPTION OF BOTH ONLINE, OFFLINE

Keeping in view the surge in COVID-19 cases and network problems faced during online classes, the Haryana Government on Thursday gave an option of conducting online

or offline exams to the schools in the state. The final exams of classes 3rd to 8th will commence from March 26 which will be taken through Avsar App. School authorities can take decisions at their own level to take exams through offline mode also as per demand of situation as deemed appropriate by the school authority but the preference will be given to online mode," stated

an order Assistant Director, Secondary Education,

#### Power bills worth ₹ 6,862.27 cr pending in Haryana

CHANDIGARH

The electricity bills amounting to a whopping Rs bodies. The outstanding bill against various categories of

increased from Rs 5295.74 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 6862.27 2020-21 crore in (as on December 2020), as per the State Government's data. The financial crisis hitting various sectors due to the COVID-19 lockdown last year is seen as a major factor for sharp rise in defaulting amount in the state.

pending electricity bills are of domestic consumers standing at Rs 4484.37 crore, an increase from Rs 3605.36 crore in 2019-20. In other categories, the outstanding dues to Harvana Power Discoms (Uttar Harvana Biili Vitran Nigam and Dakshin Harvana Bijli Vitran Nigam) include Rs 820.96 crore by industrial consumers and Rs 702.09 crore by commercial users.

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### THE PIONEER

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#### Lane, Court Compound, Dehradun. **PUBLIC NOTICE**

State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority(SE!AA), Dehradun Uttarakhand has granted Environment Clearance to Yash Ford Project of Girdhari Motors P Ltd., Plot No. 39 GHA, Mohbewala Industrial Area, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand via EC Letter No. 200-09(70)/2021 dated 19/03/21

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त्रत्रांकः 3938/6/सूडा/विज्ञप्ति/2020—21 **"विङ्गप्ति"** कार्यालय नगर निगम, रूद्रपुर द्वारा संचालित दीनदयाल अन्त्योदय योजना राष्ट्रीय शहरी आजीविका मिशन (DAY& NULM) के तहत अस्थाई पदो पर 02 सामुदायिक संगठनकर्ता (01 पद महिला अभ्यर्थी हेत् आरक्षित) की नियक्ति हेत् आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। <u>शैक्षिक अईता</u>- न्यूनतम शैक्षिक योग्यता इण्टरमीडिएट। सामाजिक विज्ञान में स्नातक अथव

परास्नातक अभ्यर्थी को चयन में वरीयता दी जायेगी। कार्य अनुभव- सामुदायिक विकास के क्षेत्र में 03 वर्ष न्यूनतम कार्यअनुभव। स्वर्णजयंती शहरी <del>प्राथा कर्युक्त ।</del> अंजगार योजना∕राष्ट्रीय शहरी आजीविका मिशन के अन्तर्गत पूर्व में कार्यरत स्पमदायिक संगठनकर्ताजों विशेषकर महिला अभ्यर्थियों का चयन में शीर्ष ..... गथमिकता दी जायेगी।

<u>आयु सीमा-</u> आवेदक की उम्र 1 मार्च 2021 को 21 वर्ष से कम एवं 42 वर्ष से अधिक न हो। <u>मानदेय-</u> रू० 10,500.00 प्रतिमाह देय होगा।

<u>स्रेवा अवधि-</u> दिनांक 28.02.2022 तक अथवा परियोजना अवधि जो भी पहले घटित हो तक वे लेये होगी जोकि बजट की उपलब्धता एवं सामुदायिक संगठनकर्ताओं की कार्यकुशलता के आधार पर पुनः 11–11 माह हेतु भविष्य में विस्तारित की जायेगी। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी अपना आवेदन मय बायोडाटा, शैक्षिक योग्यता एवं अनुभव प्रमाप

पत्र सहित नगर निगम, रूदपर के सड़ा अनुभाग कक्ष में दिनांक 09.04.21 साथ 05:00 बजे तक व्यक्तिगत रूप से उपस्थित होकर अथवा पंजीकृत डाक द्वारा जमा कर सकते हैं। निर्धारित समय उपरान्त कोई भी आवेदन स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा। सामुदायिक संगठनकर्ता की भूमिका एव उत्तरदायित्व के अनबन्ध के सम्बन्ध में विस्तत जानकारी नगर निगम रुद्रपर की वैबसाइट www.nagarnigamrudrapur.com पर एवं किसी भी कार्य दिवस में इस कार्यालय के सूडा

सहायक नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम रूद्रपुर, ऊधमसिंह नगर।

(रिंकू बिष्ट) नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम रूद्रपुर, ऊधमसिंह नगर।

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ power consumers have

6862.27 crore has not been paid to the Haryana Power Discoms by the consumers including domestic, agriculture and commercial sector and even government-owned

The highest amount of

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**Candid Notes** By Gajendra Singh Negi

**VOLTE FACE** The compulsion of the negative RTPCR report not

older than 72 hours for

entering Kumbh area in Haridwar enforced by

denunciation of the

subject of Kumbh.

Uttarakhand High Court has come as a severe

Uttarakhand government's stand on the sensitive

Immediately after taking

charge of the CM of the

state, Tirath Singh Rawat had

announced 'an open for all'

Kumbh and stressed that

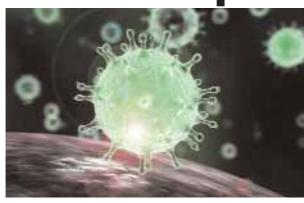
# Covid-19: 192 new patients reported in U'khand Number of Covid +ve Harish Rawat

#### active case soars to 1150 in State

PNS DEHRADUN

The cumulative number of ■ novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) cases in Uttarakhand increased to 99072 on Thursday with the state health department reporting 192 new cases of the disease. The department also reported the death of one patient of the disease on the day. The disease has so far claimed 1707 lives in the state. The authorities discharged 121 patients from different hospitals of the state following their recovery on Thursday. A total of 94755 patients have recovered from the disease in the state so far and the recovery percentage is now at 95.64 and the sample positivity rate is 3.70 percent.

The authorities reported 89 new cases of the disease from Dehradun, 57 from Haridwar, 19 from Nainital, eight from Tehri, five from Udham Singh Nagar, three each from Pauri and Almora, two each from



Chamoli, Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi and one each in Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts. No new patient of the disease was reported from Champawat district on the day.

The health department reported the death of an 87 year old patient at Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital on the day.

The state now has 1150 active patients of the disease. Haridwar district is at the top of the table of active cases the disease with 380 patients, Dehradun has 353, Udham Singh Nagar 107, Nainital 106, Pauri 46, Tehri 42, Almora 29, Champawat 17, Uttarkashi 16, Chamoli 14, Pithoragarh 13 and Bageshwar eight active

patients of the disease.

Meanwhile in the ongoing vaccination drive, 25881 people were vaccinated in different parts of the state on Thursday. In the state 119124 people have been fully vaccinated so far as they have received both the first and second dose of the vaccine. A total of 276248 senior citizens (60 Plus) have received the first dose of the vaccine in the state. Similarly 19058 persons in the age group of 45-59 years having co-morbidity have been vaccinated. The Chief Operations Officer (COO) of state Covid-19 control room, Dr Abhishek Tripathi said that 503 vaccine sessions were organised in different parts of

# airlifted to AIIMS Delhi

The former chief minister and general secretary of All India Congress Committee (AICC) Harish Rawat was airlifted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi on Thursday. Rawat along four members of his family was found positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday. The former CM was taken to the Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital on Thursday morning for check up. Here doctors detected infection in his lungs following which a decision was taken to shift him to AIIMS Delhi.

On hearing about the illness of the Congress leader and advice of the doctors to shift him to the higher centre, the chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat ordered officials to provide air ambulance to the former CM. He also directed the New Delhi based resident commissioner of Uttarakhand to coordinate with the AIIMS



Delhi administration and doc- tors treating Harish Rawat.

The helicopter diplomacy of the government of the Himalayan state has caught the fancy of the leaders associated with the saffron party and has created heartburns in some quarters specially belonging to the Principal opposition party. The big heartedness of the government in providing the state helicopter to the state president of the BJP and state co in-charge of the party could have remained under wraps had the enthusiastic beneficiaries not posted their pictures of the joy ride on social media. One can understand the case of the state president of BJP as for four long years he enjoyed the perks and protocol of a cabinet minister and it takes time to get over the hangover. To give favour to a woman leader who also is the co- in-charge of the party, the Heli had to fly to the neighbouring Uttar Pradesh. With the assembly election drawing close, the benevolent government is advised to extend the ambit of its generosity to the leaders of the opposition so that things remain under carpet.

there would be no restrictions such compulsion of Covid-19 test report

on the pilgrims for attending the mega religious congregation held once

in 12 years. This stand of his not only shocked the health experts as they

warned that a restriction free Kumbh is a certain recipe for disaster but

also created an atmosphere of confusion among the officials who were

bracing to implement the SOPs of union government on Kumbh which

were duly endorsed by Uttarakhand cabinet. Though some critics are

criticising TSR II for the volte face on Kumbh others point out that the

CM has played to the gallery by taking a position which found support

among saints and hardcore supporters of the saffron party, a contrary

stand on which probably proved costly for his predecessor.

#### LIQUOR LOVERS

The building housing the directorate of a prominent department located in the provisional state capital is attaining notoriety for being a haven for the Bacchus lovers. The empty bottles of different brands of the liquor which the sanitation workers collect every morning bear testimony to the enjoyable work experience the department is providing to its workers. It is learnt that some Babus of the department remain in high spirits even during the day time and at times this spirit is reflected in their output. In one case the department had to cancel a tender due to the sloppiness of an inebriated Babu. The sceptics suggest that the Babus of the department which remained most active during the period of the pandemic should be given leeway to relax themselves in their officers considering the hard work they are putting in to save the lives of the

# MCD refutes allegations, warns of legal action the lockdown last year. Initially, torted wa

 $F^{\text{ollowing reports published}}_{\text{in some media outlets about}}$ an alleged scam in procurement of sanitiser spray by the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD), the chief municipal health officer has decided to take legal action

Recently, reports in two newspapers and a news portal alleged that the corporation bought one percentage sodium hypochlorite disinfectant last year in March at the rate of about Rs 60 per litre while the market price is only around Rs 12 per litre. Responding to such allegations, the municipal commissioner, Vinay Shankar Pandey said that the

MCD is among the first municipal corporation in the country that started spraying one percentage sodium hypochlorite disinfectant in a city since the implementation of

the prices of the disinfectant were not set by the Central Government and there was also a shortage of the disinfectant at that time, stressed Pandey. According to him, he took guidance from the then finance minister who stated that sanitising the city was included in emergency services in the Covid-19 pandemic and the corporation must prioritise that. Pandey said that the MCD bought the disinfectant at the rate of about Rs 60 per litre in March for a few days and after that, the corporation received 26,000 litres of one percentage sodium hypochlorite from a Kota based company under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) which cost around Rs 13 per litre after MCD paid for the transport expenses. Further, the chief municipal health officer, Dr Kailash Joshi said that some media outlets have represented these facts in a distorted way which has damaged the reputation of the corporation. He said that various urban local bodies (ULBs) including Nagar Palika of Tanakpur, Uttarkashi, Kotdwar, Mussoorie and Herbertpur besides some Panchayats in Nagar Uttarakhand also paid the exceeded price for the one percentage sodium hypochlorite disinfectant during the same time period. Are all these bodies involved in the scam too? asked Joshi. He stated that the corporation has asked the news outlets to retract the statements and apologise or else, MCD would take legal action against them.

Moreover, Joshi said that he has also written to the senior superintendent of police (SSP) to file First Information Report (FIR) against the news portal which has shared a clip of an interview on Facebook stating the purchase of disinfectant as a scam by MCD.

### MCD scam: Cong demands high level inquiry

PNS DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Congress has demanded a high level inquiry into the alleged irregulation in the state of the ularities in the purchase of sanitizers used for spraying by the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD). The party has termed it a perfect case of officials making use of opportunities provided by the pandemic to fulfill their greed. The vice president of Uttarakhand Congress Surya Kant Dhasmana has written a letter for an inquiry on the issue was

The Congress leader said that the information sought by the a RTI activist and the response of his query clearly shows that how people adoring high offices used the opportunities provided by the pandemic and got involved in scams and irregularities. He said that a series of scams such as irregularities in distribution of ration kits by the

to the chief secretary Om labour welfare board, purchase Prakash in which the demand of rapid test kits by the health department and sanitizer pur-chase scam in the MCD have exposed the real face of BIP. He said that the MCD was involved in the purchase of sodium hypochlorite used for spraying without floating tenders and any quotations at prices which are many times igher than market prices. Dhasmana added that the CS should set up high level inquiry in the purchases made during

# State Govt forms subcommittee to look into UPNL employees' issues



PNS DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand **▲** Government constituted a subcommittee to consider the issues of the employees of Uttarakhand Purva Sainik Kalyan Nigam Limited (UPNL) on the directions of the chief minister, Tirath Singh Rawat. On Thursday, thousands of protesting UPNL employees marched to CM residence to stage a gherao to press for their demands but they were stopped by police at the Sahastradhara Crossing due to which, the protestors started protesting on the

roads. As informed by the president of the union, Kushagra Joshi, five representatives of the union talked to CM through a video conference in which he stated that no protesting employee would be terminated from his job and the State Government formed a subcommittee to consider their issues.

The CM has stated that UPNL employees have made considerable contribution in the development of the state and the government would take all the possible measures in their interest. In this sub

committee, the additional chief secretary/ principal secretary/secretary will be the member secretary while finance secretary while personnel secretary and managing director of the UPNL will be the members on behalf of the government. Further, the government has also decided to invite two officials from the UPNL Employees Union to be a part of the subcommittee.

Meanwhile, the protesting union members stated that they will continue their protest till the government approves their demands.



PNS DEHRADUN

Works executed under MNREGA should be regularly monitored. Chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat sai this while chairing a meeting through video conferencing to review works of the rural development department on Thursday.

The CM directed that programmes should be started under MNREGA to utilise barren land. Works under the Yojana should also be regularly reviewed. Works costing more than Rs 10 crore will be inspected and investigated by the chief engineer himself. Rawat said that cent per

cent of the funds provided under the border area development programme should be utilised and the details of the same should also be provided. The MLA funds should be released on time and proposals from them should also be received on time. The amount



Additional chief secretary Manisha Panwar informed that 2.75 crore human days target was received for this year which has been met.

ous regions to mitigate migra-

Officials of the departments concerned were also present in the meeting.

Tel:05944-242400 E-Mail ID: nagarnigamrudrapur@gmail.com, visit: www.nagarnigamrudrapur.com प03946/स्वा0अनु0/2020-21 ई—निविदा सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रूद्रपुर में 02 नग टिप्पर 02 नग बेकहो लोडर एवं 02 नग टैक्टर की आपूर्ति हेत इच्छक निविदादाताओं / आपूर्तिकर्ताओं / एजेन्सियों से दिनांक 06.03.2021 की प्रातः 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 08.04.2021 की सांय 05.00 बजे तक दोहरी निविदा प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय निविदा) के अन्तर्गत ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जो दिनांक 09.04.2021 को नियत समय पर निविदा समिति द्वारा खोली जायेंगी। ई-निविदा के सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत जानकारी उत्तराखण्ड शासन की वेबसाईट www.uktenders.gov.in पर डाउनलोड व अपलोड किये जायेंगे तथा निविदा की शर्ते उपरोक्त वेबसाईट के साथ–साथ नगर निगम रूद्रपुर की वेबसाईट www.nagarnigamrudrapur.com पर भी देखी जा सकती हैं। किसी भी निविदा अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताए

निरस्त करने का अधिकार नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, रूद्रपुर में निहित होगा। (रामपाल सिंह) (रिंकू बिष्ट) नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम रूदपुर महापौर, नगर निगम रुद्रपुर

# Deep rooted & noxious obsession with fair skin continues in society

ultural and historical roots Chave been overcome by marketing and popular culture to such an extent that Indian society too has developed racist traits. This proclivity, apart from favouring fair skin has also resulted in various other aspects which exert varied impacts on individuals and society. Talking to The Pioneer, members of the general public and experts expressed their views on this tendency.

"While growing up I heard a lot of comments about my skin colour. To be fair I am still told to use ubtan and skin lightening creams by my friends and family members. For too many, I am simply dark and the education and knowledge which I have gained till now doesn't matter," said a 25year-old Sneha Rawat, a victim

shaming. Even after the removal of

cream and online matrimonial sites dropping the skin tone option from their websites, the main problem lies in the mindset of the people who need to be removed.

The Urban Development department's experiment to "beautify" Rajpur Road opposite NIEPVD in Dehradun for the benefit of

both the public and vendors turns out to be a failure as seen here with garbage dumped by irresponsible citizens littering the

space once covered by greenery with the authorities failing to maintain basic sanitation

A 29- year woman, Divya Bhandari opined that it becomes harder to find a partner to marry if your skin colour is dark. She said, "People are rejected because of their skin colour which is unfair but this is the reality. In the matrimonial sites what you will see is a desire to have fair-complexioned

bride/groom. These things are very demoralising. People will come to you and say it's okay if you are dark as if being dark means something bad. In India fairness is seen as beautiful, classy and rich and dark is perceived as ugly and dirty. This is the truth of the society we

Psychotherapist Aditi Arora said, "Skin bias has been



in Indian society for centuries. We have not been able to get off our colonial mindset where the British who were our masters were white-skinned so basically, this led us to conceive white-skinned as superior and

dark skin as inferior. Women and men both have been facing discrimination because of their skin color. This discrimination on the basis of skin colour starts at home, school and then in society.

Advertisements are also to be blamed for such a mindset, said Arora. Indian advertisements have made beauty so synthetic and robotic that it has reduced the mindset of the people. They promote negative skinned people. The advertisement market is full of reme

women and men whiter. "People need think about the personalities they follow on social media- why they follow them. Have these personalities contributed something to our society? We need to rise above the beauty standards set by our society and decide role our models more

consciously,"

she adds

dies to make

#### कार्यालय नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश

अति अल्पकालीन कोटेशन सूचना

कुम्भ मेला-2021 के अंतर्गत नगर निगम ऋषिकेश क्षेत्रान्तर्गत सॉलिड वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट कार्य हेतु विभिन्न प्रकार के कार्मिकों की आपूर्ति बावत अधोहस्ताक्षारी द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु कोटेशन दिनांक 27.03.2021 को आमंत्रित की जाती है। कोटेशन के साथ रु0 200000.00 मात्र की धरोहर धनराशि राष्ट्रीय बचत पत्र / डाकघर पासबुक / नगद / बैंक गारण्टी अथवा शैड्यूल बैंक की एफ0डी0आर0 मान्य होगी, जो नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश के पदनाम से बंधक होगी । कोटेशन के साथ रु० 100.00 का नॉन जुडिशल स्टाम्प पेपर वैद्यता की शर्तो के साथ जिसके ऊपर रु0 1.00 के रसीदी टिकट सहित हस्ताक्षर होना अनिवार्य है को प्रपत्र अंकित कार्य के सापेक्ष समस्त करों सहित दिनांक 27.03.2021 को अपराह 03.00 बजे तक कार्यालय नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम ऋषिकेश में डालें जायेंगे।

承0	कार्य का नाम	कोटेशन की	कार्य की
सं०		वैद्यता (दिन)	अवधि
1	2	3	4
1.	कुम्भ मेला 2021 के अंतर्गत नगर निगम ऋषिकेश क्षेत्रान्तर्गत सॉलिड वेस्ट मैनेजिंग कार्य हेतु विभिन्न प्रकार के कार्मिकों की आपूर्ति।	03 दिन	40 दिन

कोटेशन दिनांक 27.03.2021 को अपराह 3.30 बजे कोटेशन खोलने हेतु गठित समिति द्वारा उपस्थित कोटेशनदाताओं अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम के कार्यालय में खोर्ल नाएगी। किसी भी कोटेशन की स्वीकृत /अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार सक्षम अधिकारी के पास सुरक्षित होगा। कोटेशन व कार्य से सम्बन्धित समस्त नियम एवं शर्ते कार्यालय नगर निगम स्टोर अनुभाग से दिनांव **26.03.2021** को पूर्वाह्न बजे 10.00 से दिनांक **27.03.2021** अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। नगर आयक्त, पत्रांक 3122 / स्टोर(17)न0नि0ऋ0 / 2020-21 नगर निगम ऋषिकेश

#### **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure**

# **RS** passes Bill to fund infrastructure projects

The Budget Session of Parliament concluded on Thursday with the Rajya Sabha passing the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill to fund infrastructure projects. The Lok Sabha had passed it on Tuesday. The Budget Session was earlier scheduled to end on April 8.

In his valedictory remarks, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said the Upper House saw a productivity rate of more than 90 percent in the Budget Session. The House also bid farewell to three retiring members from Kerala -Vyalar Ravi, K K Ragesh and

While giving a brief account of the performance of the House, Naidu said the upper house functioned for a total of 104 hours as against the total scheduled time of 116 hours. In the second part of the

#### SC to hear plea seeking permanent commission for women in Army



A Bench headed by Justice D Y **Chandrachud said** the process by which women officers were evaluated did not address the gender discrimination concern raised in the verdict delivered by the apex court last year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Thursday allowed the pleas of several women SSC officers commission in the Army, while holding that the ACR evaluation process was flawed and discriminatory in nature.

The Bench also noted that the structure of our society is created by males for males where talk of equality is a farce and since Independence, efforts have been made to bridge the gap and grant equal opportunity to men and women.

Delivering its verdict on a batch of pleas filed by several women officers who had sought compliance of its February last year directions to the Centre for grant of permanent commission, promotions and consequential benefits, the court said the Annual Confidential Report (ACR) evaluation criteria for grant of permanent commission to women officers ignored achievements and laurels brought by them to the Indian

Á Bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud said the process by which women officers were evaluated did not address the gender discrimination concern raised in the verdict delivered by the apex court last year.

In its landmark judgement delivered on February 17 last year, the top court had directed that women officers in the Army be granted permanent commission, rejecting the Centre's stand of their physiological limitations as being based on "sex stereotypes" and "gender discrimination against women".

It had directed that within three months, all serving short service commission (SSC) women officers have to be considered for permanent commission irrespective of them having crossed 14 years or, as the case may be, 20 years of service

In its judgement passed on Thursday, the apex court said that ACR evaluation criteria for SSC women officers in Army created systematic discrimi-



Budget session, both the houses started working simultaneously with relaxed social distancing norms. In the first part of the Budget session, the Rajya Sabha met in the first half of the day while Lok Sabha functioned in the afternoon session.

He also said a total of 21 hours and 26 minutes of the House was lost due to disruptions during this Session. However, the House compensated this loss and sat beyond the scheduled time for a total of 14 hours and 28 minutes to complete the legislative and other business.

Naidu also note that the high productivity witnessed during the last four sessions since June 2019, that is, 249th, 250th, 251st and 252nd Sessions has continued in this Session (253rd) as well. As regards legislative output, Naidu said the Rajya Sabha passed 19 bills during the session, which includes the Appropriation Bill and

Around 34 hours and 4 minutes were spent on the discussion of the Government per cent of the total function-

ing time of this house, spent on the legislative business. He, however, expressed concern over issues such as less attendance of members and the duration of the meetings, which need further improvements.

In his observations before adjourning the proceedings of the Lok Sabha sine die, Bhartruhari Mehtab, who was in the chair, wished Speaker Om Birla a speedy recovery and informed members that the Speaker was stable. He had tested corona positive."Several important bills were passed during the Session. I could not be present in the House during the last days of Session due to health reasons. Panel of Chairpersons conducted proceedings smoothly & Hon'ble Members also cooperated meaningfully. I express my gratitude to all," Birla tweeted.

In Birla's absence, a panel of chairpersons, including Mehtab, Rajendra Agrawal, Rama Devi, Meenakashi Lekhi and Midun Reddy, chaired the

proceedings.
Prime Minister Narendra bills, which comes around 42 Modi, several cabinet ministers and Congress leader Rahul

The House also gave its nod to the Government of National **Capital Territory** of Delhi (Amendment) Bill,

Gandhi were present in the House. The first part of the Budget Session started on January 29 with the President's address to joint sitting of both houses of Parliament.

The address was boycotted

by over 20 Opposition parties, including the Congress, in support of the demand of the protesting farmers for the repeal of the three farm laws. The Union Budget was tabled on February 1.Thereafter, House proceedings were washed out for four consecutive days over the opposition's demand for separate discussion on farm issues. To compensate the session's lost time, the House sat till midnight for several days.

The House also gave its nod to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The Insurance (Amendment) Bill which increases foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent was passed in the House.

In his remarks before adjourning the house, Mahtab said despite disruptions, the Lok Sabha's productivity during the Budget session stood at 114 per cent and the members also dealt with important issues by sitting till midnight on several occasions.

146 members participated in the discussion on the Union Budget for 14 hours and 42

### Two lakh plus grievances received against 2 Ministries between 2018 and 2020

Over two lakh grievances have been received against two Ministries between 2018 and 2020. Besides, one to two lakh grievances have been received against four ministries/departments and 50,000 to one lakh grievances received against eight Ministries during the same period.

Expressing concern over the large number of grievances, a Parliamentary Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its 106th report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has asked the Centre to constitute social audit panels to identify core grievanceprone areas and streamline their systems. As regards the redressal of grievances by states/UTs, the Committee noted that the percentage of grievance disposal is not satis-

In its recent report, the panel recommended to the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) to progressively bring down the maximum time limit for grievance redressal from 60 to 45 days.

'The Committee recommends the Department to instruct the ministries/departments of central government to constitute social audit panels to identify core grievance prone areas and streamline their systems accordingly," the com-

of India has established the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), an online system for grievance redressal

This system facilitates citizens to lodge their grievances to ministries/ departments/ organisations/ state governments/ UTs, which scrutinise and take action for speedy and favourable redress of these grievances.

A separate work flow and functionality for grievances to appeal authorities in CPGRAMS has been operationalised in CPGRAMS. The time line for resolution of an appeal by the nodal appellate authority is 30 days of receipt of the same, according to the report. The Committee appreciated the department for institutionalizing an appellate mechanism in CPGRAMS. The Committee also

emphasizes that the department should publicise the portal through all possible means including the print and electronic media so that the benefits of the grievance redressal mechanism percolate down to those at the bottom of the pyramid, it said.

The Committee also recommends the department to develop an Interactive Voice Response System for registration of grievances for the benefit of people who inhabit remote areas and have no proper access to the internet, the report said.

#### SC quashes FIR against journalist

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court The Supreme Con-Thursday quashed an FIR lodged against journalist Patricia Mukhim for allegedly creating communal disharmony through her Facebook post.

A Bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao allowed the plea filed by Mukhim against the Meghalaya High Court order which had refused to quash the FIR against her.



appeal," the bench said while pronouncing the judgement.

The top court had reserved its verdict in the matter on February 16.

Mukhim's counsel had earlier argued before the apex court that there was no intention to create disharmony or conflict through the post which referred to an incident of a murderous assault on July 3,

The counsel for Meghalaya government had earlier claimed in the top court that "communal colour" was given to the scuffle between minor boys and her post shows it was a communal incident between tribal and non-tribal people.

## **IN SHORT**

NIA RAIDS 3 LOCATIONS IN RAILWAY BLAST CASE New Delhi: The NIA has conducted searches at three

locations in West Bengal and Jharkhand in the Nimtita Railway Station Bomb Blast Case in which West Bengal Minister Jakir Hossain and 26 others were injured. On Wednesday, the NIA conducted searches at the premises of Biyon SK and Mohammudin SK alias Mohan Kasai in Murshidabad , West Rengal and at the premises of accused Shahidul Islam at Maihgaon, West Singhbhum. Jharkhand in connection with investigation of case.

#### DOUBLE-DECKER FLYOVER TO EASE TRAFFIC JAM New Delhi: The Centre is working

on a proposal to build a doubledecker flyover in steel city Jamshedpur to reduce traffic congestion in the city, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday. Replying to a query from Jamshedpur MP Bidyut Baran Mahato during the Question Hour in Lok Sabha Gadkari also said the total toll collection on national highways is expected to reach ₹34,000 crore in the financial year ending March 31, 2021 despite farmers' protest on some highways from ₹24,000 crore in 2019-20.

#### **EXTENSION FOR PERSONAL** DATA SAFETY BILL PANEL New Delhi: The Joint Committee

of Parliament examining the Personal Data Protection Bill was on Thursday given extension till the Monsoon Session to submit its report. The JCP, headed by the BJP's Meenakashi Lekhi, was constituted in Lok Sabha in December 2019, and was expected to submit its report in the Budget Session.

### CAG orders enquiry into renovation of India House in London

PNS NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has recommended an inquiry in the renovation of the India House in London as the works award was given without approval of the Ministry of External Affairs. According to a CAG report

tabled in the Parliament, the High Commission of India, London undertook work relating to renovation of the basement at the India House, at a cost of GBP 744,971 (approx. ₹ 6.63 crore), without Ministry of External Affairs ments," the CAG said. ting of works to evade approvals from higher authority and open bidding.

"It adopted a grossly manipulated process for award of works to the same person, and made post facto additions and alterations in the scope of work which led to undue benefits being extended to Contractors. Such blatant subversion of rules and processes indicates supervisory failure and possible collusion between Mission officials and the agen-



"Further, additional work was awarded based on fraudulent quotations, to an associated ineligible company, incorporated immediately prior to the award of work and disprior approval from the solved after receipt of pay-

> per the contract, the work was to be executed within 8-10 weeks from September 1, 2017 i.e., by November 15,2017. "However, the work was completed on 31 January 2018. Despite a delay of 10 weeks (minimum) in completion of the work33, the Mission did not recover liquidated damages amounting to GBP 7,78834 ( 6.85 lakh) from the company,"

> The renovation work of the basement area was taken up at a bid cost of GBP 129,800

(₹ 1.07 crore). After five months in January 2018, the Mission issued another NIT for "Design and furnishing of the consular service area", which was again a part of the original project scope, and awarded this work at a cost GBP

Subsequently (August/September 2018) the Mission took up "additional works25" not originally within the scope of the renovation project valuing GBP 107,694 (₹ 99.06 lakh), by splitting the total work into 19 piecemeal

The CAG said that the Mission resorted to indiscriminate sub division of work with the intention of evading seeking approval of higher authorities/Ministry and avoiding open bidding.

Not proper to call RSS, affiliates 'Sangh Parivar': Rahul



ongress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said it is not right to call the RSS and its associated groups 'Sangh Parivar' as a family has women, respect for elders, compassion and affection, and the organisation has none of these. Gandhi's remarks come a day after he said the harassment and de-boarding of nuns from result of the Sangh Parivar's "vicious propaganda" to pitch one community against another and trample on minorities.

In a tweet in Hindi on Thursday, he said he will no longer refer to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh as 'Sangh Parivar', united family. believe it is not right to call the RSS and associated organisations Sangh Parivar — there are women in the family, there is respect for the elderly, a sense of compassion and affection -- which is not there in the RSS".

### BJP leader Mukul Roy to get Z category security during Bengal polls



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

he Centre has upgraded the The Centre has upplied.

VIP security cover of BJP leader Mukul Koy to 'z' category during the polls process in West Bengal. The Union Home Ministry has asked the VIP security unit of the CRPF to undertake the upgrade. Earlier, Roy was enjoying 'y' category

category cover of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Roy is the national vice president of BJP and a party from candidate Krishnanagar Assembly seat in Nadia district of West Bengal. During the polls, he will now enjoy a 'z' category cover during his movement in the state. Roy will now have a consonnel who will work in shifts and accompany the politician during the poll campaign and also provide security at his res-

He had joined the BJP in November, 2017 from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) party and has also served as the Railways minister in the

### Climate change may hurt Indian manufacturing due to heat stress on workers: Chicago study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

One-degree Celsius rise in annual temperatures may lead to two per cent drop in productivity levels of industrial units and climate change may hurt the Indian manufacturing sector owing to heat stress on workers, a new study

The study by the Energy

Policy Institute at the University of Chicago used several high-frequency micro-data sets of worker out-

and a nationally representative dataset of more than 58,000 factories across India. The researchers found that

there is around two per cent

drop of productivity for every

one-degree rise in annual tem-

"The greatest declines occurred in labour-intensive plants," the study said.

This multi-year study indicates that climate control in the workplace productivity declines but not absenteeism, presumably because workers remain exposed to high temperatures

These searches are part of Special Drive to book the fraudusters on the complaints received from different Nationalised Banks in the

include Indian Oversea Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, IDBI, Canara Bank, Indian Bank and Central Bank of India. The various cities/towns

Ghaziabad, Mathura, Noida, Gurugram, Chennai, Thiruvarur, Vellore, Tiruppur, Bangalore, Gantur, Hyderbad, West Godavari, Surat, Mumbai, Bhopal, Nimadi, Tirupati Visakhapatnam, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Karnal, Jaipur and Sri Ganganagar.

ous incriminating documents and other material/digital evidences have been recovered," the CBI said in a statement.

ing a number of complaints from various banks alleging cheating, diversion of funds, submission of fake/forged documents by different defaulting firms while obtaining loans/credit facilities and the

There have been allegations that such firms have been turning defaulters resulting into the loans becoming Non Performing Assets (NPAs), thus causing heavy loss to the public sector banks, it said.

#### **RS** polls from Kerala

### CPM accuses EC of succumbing to Centre's pressure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

→PI(M) leaders on Thursday Caccused the Election Commission of succumbing to the Central Government's pressure and changing the schedule of elections to three seats in Rajya Sabha from Kerala.

Last week, the Election Commission announced the schedule and the election was supposed to be conducted on April 14. But all of a sudden the EC kept the election on abeyance citing an opinion from the Law Ministry.

"Election to Rajya Sabha from Kerala has been kept in abeyance. ECI says Law Ministry recommended so. Art. 324 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!," tweeted Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressing displeasure.

CPI(M) polit bureau member Nilotpal Basu said that the party is shocked to see the attitude of the Election Commission. "We wanted to pointedly question the bonafides of the Government of India to directly intervene in the process of elections whereas no political party or individuals had expressed any disagreement with the authority of the ECI, much less the details of the notification for elec-

'We are afraid that this appears to be completely in contravention of the immense powers of the Election Commission under Article 324 and actually amounts to the relinquishing of its independence. It is clear that the ECI is acting at the behest of the overnment", said he.

#### SC orders status quo on supply of Yamuna water to Delhi till today PTI ■ NEW DELHI A bench headed by Chief matter, said that a court com-Justice S A Bobde issued

Governments of Punjab, Haryana and others to maintain status quo on supply of Yamuna water to Delhi till Friday. The apex court was hearing an application filed by Delhi Jal Board (DJB) which has sought directions to the Haryana Government to cease the discharge of untreated pollutants into the Yamuna and release sufficient water to the national capital.

The Supreme Court notices to Haryana, Punjab and Bhakra Beas Management and Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) and asked them to file their responses on the application by Friday. Senior advocate A M

Singhvi, appearing for DJB, said that water level has fallen in the national capital.

Senior lawyer Shyam Divan, appearing for Haryana, said that full level of water supply has been made.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, who also appeared in the

missioner should be appointed to verify the water level. Divan said no application has been filed for the appointment of court commissioner in the "This is about the fundamental right to water. We will

not go into technical issue whether court commissioner can be appointed only after the application. If the need arises, we can appoint it," said the bench, also comprising Justices S Bopanna and Ramasubramanian.

### ₹3,700-crore bank fraud case: CBI raids over 100 spots in 11 States/UTs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday, Conducted searches at over 100 locations in 11 States/Union Territories in a countrywide special drive and registered over 30 cases related to bank fraud of over ₹3,700 crore.

country. The complainant banks

where the searches were conducted include Kanpur, Delhi, Chennai, Bellery, Vadodara, Kolkata,

'During searches, vari-

The CBI has been receiv-

"After scrutiny of the complaints, the cases are registered by CBI. Thorough investigation is carried out in order to book the culprits, take them to face the law and endeavour to salvage public money," it added.

# **Bengal phase 1 campaign ends**

Didi, Shah take on each other's outfit

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as curtains came down on the high decibel campaign for the 30 Assembly seats going to polls in the first phase of Bengal elections both the BJP and Trinamool Congress on Thursday went all out against each other claiming the State would collapse if their rivals came to power.

While Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee attacked the BJP for splurging money and using muscle power to win the State polls and asked the people to remain on guard against the saffron outfits alleged nefarious designs, Home Minister led his party's campaign rolling out a long list of promises for the Jangalmahal area.

Thirty seats spread across

Bankura, Jhargram, Purba Medinipur (Part 1) and Paschim Medinipur (Part 1) districts once considered the citadel of the Left will go to polls on March 27.

"I have definite information that the BJP is spending money and pushing in criminals from other States ... so you will have to remain vigilant against their dirty designs," Banerjee told two rallies in Jangalmahal.

"Be prepared with your kitchen tools to repulse any outsider raid on your voting rights ... do check and recheck the EVMs (electronic voting machines) and do turn up early in the morning to cast your votes," the Chief Minister said alleging the BJP was "using all the dirty tricks in its kitty to throw me out of power."

She said "first I was given an injury to stop me from campaigning ... but I am made of a new party that has emerged

one leg and kick many goals ... then they are using the central forces to dominate the voters... they are also splurging money to purchase votes besides bringing in criminals from other States to rig elections ... but be prepared with your rolling pins and other kitchen tools to repulse the outsider criminals...We have specific information about people being brought from Odisha to

Earlier she said that the criminals and police forces from the BJP ruled States like UP were being imported to loot votes.

loot votes?

Alleging that the BJP had tacit understanding with the Indian Secular Front --- the newly floated party by a Muslim cleric Abbas Siddique that was jointly contesting with the Left and the Congress ---Banerjee said "the minorities will have to remain alert about of the BJP so that it can eat into the minority votes.'

Attacking the BJP for forcing making plans to victimize the citizens of India she said "if the BJP comes they will introduce CAA and NPR but we will never allow these to happen in Bengal ... Remember if BJP comes there will be apocalypse. So stop them here and now."

Earlier from a rally at Jhargram Shah had said that if BJP came to power infiltration would be stopped. "Let the BJP come to power there will be no infiltration in Bengal so that your food, your jobs and your business is eaten away by the foreigners ... let alone foreigners not a bird will b e allowed to enter Bengal," he said "there is an opportunity" and the the people would have to choose between Vikas (development) and Vinash

### 'Shattered hopes and sham revolution' in Nandigram

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ NANDIGRAM

My family was in the forefront of (the land) movement. We lost one of our members in the (police) firing. But what did we get in return? Only false promises... Not even a school teacher's job. I took the TET (Teachers' Eligibility Test) but failed to land a job because some other people purchased these jobs for Rs 5 lakh a piece.

That is how Prasoon Maity (name changed) pours his anger out not only on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee but also her principal opponent Suvendu Adhikari who is contesting on a BIP ticket. Prasoon is a member of a "highly respected Sahid" (those who died during the land movement that triggered Nanigram police firing in March 2007) family.

"If you condemn Mamata Banerjee can you spare Suvendu Babu for that he was am MP, and later a powerful minister chairman of Haldia Development Board and cooperative bank and god knows how many things

jobs some for cash others for service but what happened to the kind of those ... on whose corpse they rode to power. Nothing," says Dipak Sihi (name changed) a local from Garchakraberia who too lost a relative in the move-

"We know there will once again be a gagging lull after the elections. All these hullabaloo will be gone ... and after May 2 those who are coming with folded hands will look at us with contempt and scorching eyes ... we will continue to lead a speechless life for another five years... at times we feel why we walked into the trap of TMC and Maoists ... Why did we not allow a chemical hub to take place in Nanigram so that thousands of locals would not have to go out for jobs," says Feroz from Rowapara adding however "we the Muslins are in a catch 22 situation ... we know that Mamata Banerjee has cheated us but still we have to vote for us ... this is a battle of

#### Cong-led UDF fighting back to retain power

**KOCHI:** Despite the opinion polls and surveys conducted by the media in the State portraying the Congress trailing behind the CPI(M) in the run up to the April 6 Assembly election, the Grand Old Party is slowly and steadily fighting back and catching up

The Congress-led UDF, though handicapped by the prolonged discussions to settle the conflicts between the constituent parties in the Front as well as between various groups in the lead party, have put the differences behind them and launched the fullfledged campaign by early this week. The road show by former party chief Rahul Gandhi in the districts of Ernakulam, Kottayam has given a new life to the Congress workers and the party has come back to its fighting mood. Former Chief Minister Oommen Chandi, Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala, KPCC Chief Mullappalli Ramachandran and working president K Sudhakaran MP are the frontline warriors of the party travelling across the length and breadth of the State to campaign for not only the Congress but for the candidates fielded by the constituent parties of the UDF.

The Congress was in for a shock when former minister P C Chacko, a loyalist of Sharad Pawar who did not follow his mentor when the latter walked out to float the NCP in 1998, quit the party early this month because he was denied a seat in the April 6

### ED grills Mehbooba Mufti

**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

Jormer Jammu and Kashmir Chief Former Jamniu and Rasinini Constitution of the Muffi Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti was grilled by the officials of the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a case of money laundering in the Srinagar based zonal office for over five

long hours on Thursday.
Initially, Mehbooba had refused to appear in person before the ED officials in New Delhi on March 22 but after the Delhi High Court refused to grant stay on ED summons, she was left with no option but to present herself before the investigating officers of the Enforcement Directorate.

Mehbooba arrived in the ED zonal office around 11.00 a.m and remained closetted for over five hours.Interacting with the media persons after her questioning Mehbooba Mufti tried to put up a brave front claiming, "my hands are clean, I have nothing to hide".

Without naming anyone in particular Mehbooba in a veiled reference to the central government said they have been searching for two long years and now they have started questioning about my father's

property in Bijbehara, money spent on his grave etc."No rocket science is required to understand what they are trying to do, Mehbooba said adding that dissent has been criminalized in the country".

'This country is being ruled by either ED, CBI or NIA. This country is not running according to the Constitution of India, it is running according to a political party's agenda", she told reporters

Exhausted Mehbooba Mufti also maintained that there will be no change in the party's strategy over fighting for the rights of people including the restoration of Article 370.

"One who speaks against you (Government of India) is being either booked under sedition charges or being summoned by the investigative agencies.

"I was questioned about my father's property in Bijbehara, which we have sold out and was asked how you sold it and other related things. Secondly, they questioned me how secret funds were utilised during my tenure in office. They asked me who prepared the list of widows to whom funds were granted, how money was utilised for youth engagement programs," the PDP chief said.

#### Coast Guard recovers heroin, weapons worth ₹3K cr from Sri Lankan fishing vessel

n a swift air-sea coordinated operation, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has seized high-grade heroin worth Rs 3,000 crore and weapons from a Sri Lankan fishing vessel off the Minicoy Isle in the Lakshadweep Islands region in the Arabian Sea.

Acting on an intelligence input received on March 15 about the engagement of a suspicious boat of foreign origin in drug trafficking in Arabian Sea, the ICG ships and aircraft conducted extensive search in the area off the Lakshadweep Islands.

On March 18, patrolling ICG units detected three suspicious boats off Minicoy Islands and intercepted them. Post boarding, interrogation of the crew revealed inconsistent statements.

"On rummaging of boats, high grade 300 kiolgrams of Heroin and five AK-47 rifles with 1000 live rounds were recovered from Sri Lankan fishing boat Ravihansi," an ICG

The ICG officials pegged the estimated value of narcotics in the international market at Rs 3000 crore. After the recovery of narcotics and weapons, the ICG escorted all the three boats along with 19 crew members

to Vizhinjam, Kerala for further joint investigation. This is the second major anti-drug trafficking operation undertaken by ICG on the west coast of India with-

#### Ex-Mumbai CP moves HC, seeks CBI probe into graft case against Maha Home Minister

Mumbai: After the Supreme Court refused to entertain his similar plea, Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh on Thursday moved the Bombay High Court, seeking a CBI investigation into the alleged corruption charges against Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

A day after the apex court the matter flagged by him as "very serious affecting administration of a state" but asked him move the high court, Singh filed a criminal Public Interest Litigation (PIL) reiterating his earlier allegations and seeking an "immediate, unbiased, impartial" CBI probe against Deshmukh.

A HC bench headed by Chief Justice Dipankar Datta is likely to hear Singh's PIL next week.Singh had created a sensation on Saturday last by shooting off a letter to chief minister Uddhav Thackeray alleging that State Home Minister Anil

Deshmukh of the NCP had asked suspended police officer Sachin Vaze last month to "collect" a staggering Rs 100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources.

State Home minister Deshmukh had swiftly debunked Singh's charge, saying that the former Police Commissioner had made false allegations "to save himself, as the involvement of Sachin Waze in Mukesh Ambani & Mansukh Hiran's case is becoming clearer from the investigation carried out so far & threads are leading to Mr. Singh as well". Among other things, Singh

sought an HC direction to the CBI to secure CCTV footage from Deshmukh's residence from earlier this year before it was "destroyed," and to the state government to produce all records of communication received from IPS officer Rashmi Shukla in March

#### 1 CRPF jawan killed, 3 injured in terrorist attack on Srinagar outskirts

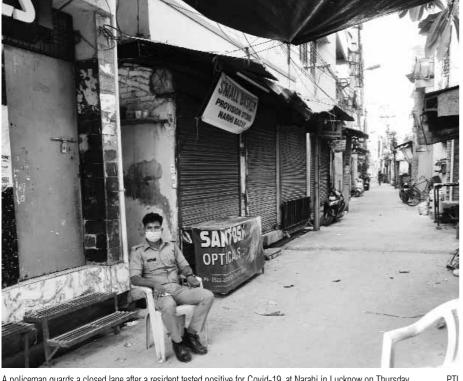
**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

Hours after Asia's largest Tulip garden located in the lap of Zabarwan Hills was thrown open to all visitors and tourists visiting Kashmir valley 'unidentified' terrorists targeted a mobile patrol vehicle of CRPF on the outskirts of Srinagar in Lawaypora area in which two CRPF personnel including a Sub Inspector rank officer attained martyrdom while two others received injuries.

A senior CRPF officer who visited the spot immediately after the terror strike told reporters, " in a hit and run attack a group of 'unidentified' terrorists targeted a mobile patrol vehicle of CRPF of 73 BN around 3.45 p.m in which two CRPF personnel attained martyrdom while two others were undergoing treatment in a command hospital in

The CRPF officer said, "the terrorists fled away through the bylanes taking advantage of the prevailing chaos and confusion in the area". The entire area was cordoned off and massive searches were conducted in the area to track down the foot prints of the terrorists behind the attack. The martyred CRPF personnel were identified by

Jammu and Kashmir police as SI/GD Manga Ram Dev Barman & Ct Ashok Kumar of 73Bn CRPF.



A policeman guards a closed lane after a resident tested positive for Covid-19, at Narahi in Lucknow on Thursday

#### Kin of 2 sisters held over killing

Pilibhit (UP): The two teenage sisters who were found dead at a village here under mysterious cir-cumstances were allegedly murdered by their mother and a brother, police said, in what appear to be a case of honour killing. They have been arrested. A brick kiln owner has also been arrested, while a search is on for two other family members, police

On Monday, family members saw the elder sister talking to someone over the phone, following

At night, both the sisters were asked with whom the elder one was talking to and why, according to Pilibhit Superintendent of Police Jaiprakash

"They were asked from where they got the phone. When both of them did not reply, the family members killed them in a fit of rage," the SP said. 'They were angry because the marriage of the elder one was fixed and their act could bring a bad name to the family." One of the teenagers, aged 17 and 19, was found dead in a field, while the other was found hanging from a tree on Tuesday morning, police had said. *PTI* 

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir recorded 172 new Covid-19 cases on Thursday, taking the infection count to 1,29,203, officials said.

#### 10 years of jail to accused in 6-yr-old rape case

**PRADEEP SAXENA** ■ ALIGARH

A<sup>DJ-15</sup> Judge Vijay Kumar Verma convicted the accused in the case of rape in Palimukimpur area six years ago and sentenced him to ten years of imprisonment. The accused has also been punished with a fine of Rs 21 thousand.

of disposal of the cases under the Mission Shakti Abhiyan. According to ADGC Krishna Murari Johri, the prosecution advocate, on August 27, 2015, a woman was alone in the village Hardoi in Palimukimpur area. It is alleged that Monu of the village came and raped her and also fled after carrying out the incident of rape and assault. The next day, the victim filed a case at the police station. The court convicted the accused on the basis of evidence and testimony and punished him with ten years imprisonment and fine of Rs 21 thou-

Eight districts did not report any new cases,

while eight others had cases in single digits. Two

other districts -- Baramulla and Budgam -- had

### With faulty policies of BJP Govt, inflation has broken people's back: Akhilesh

**Lucknow:** Alleging that people are in trouble due to the policies of the BJP Government, Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday said that inflation has broken thinking of getting rid of the saffron party's misrule.

"The common man in the country is a harried lot and is in trouble due to the faulty policies of the BJP government (at the Centre). While inflation has broken their back, there are no employment opportunities. Markets have not yet recovered from the recession. Every section of the society is troubled. Surrounded by apprehensions of the future, people are now thinking of getting rid of the BJP misrule and are awaiting polls," Akhilesh said in statement issued here.

'The festival of Holi is approaching but price rise has faded the enthusiasm of the people. Edible oil, ghee, nuts, everything is out of reach of the general public. It is said that since December, almost everything is being sold 25 per cent costlier. Due to heavy adulteration in the food items that

are being sold in the market, people will be sick due to poi-soning. The BJP government has nothing to do with this and, it is giving open freedom of loot. This is what the BJP calls

On the farmers, he said, "The farmers are staging a peaceful sit-in demanding the minimum support price (MSP) to be given and to revoke farm laws. The BJP government is not ready to listen to them. More than 250 farmers have sacrificed themselves in the movement. The BJP has not even spoken two words of condolences for them so far."

The farmers fear that the new agri laws will lead to large industrial houses dominating their farming and they will be forced to become agricultural labourers instead of farm owners," he said.

By running "mehngai express' (price rise express), the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has added to the existing woes of the people and this should be counted as part of his 4-years achievements, Yadav further

#### Month after going missing, woman's body recovered from borewell in UP

**Hamirpur (UP):** The body of a 22-year-old woman, missing for over a month, was on Thursday recovered from a borewell here in an alleged case

Neha Yadav (22) who had gone missing on February 16 from Kariyapur village in Kurara area was found dead in the borewell, Superintendent of Police Narendra Kumar Singh

of honour killing, police said.

He said family members had lodged a kidnapping case against a youth on February 19 but upon probing has suspected their role in the death itself.

The victim's cousin and uncle were later detained by the police and during interrogation they accepted to have killed Yadav and disposed the body in the borewell.

The body was taken out with the help of fire brigade personnel on Thursday, he said. The woman lived with her mother and was alone at the time of the incident.

"It is suspected to be a case of honour killing. A detailed probe is on in the matter," the SP said. *PTI* 

### AP logs 758 fresh Covid-19 cases, four deaths

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

In a continued surge, Andhra Pradesh reported 758 fresh cases of COVID-19 in the 24 hours ending 9 am on Thursday, the highest in four months after the 1,031 on November 26.

The state's caseload now moved up to 8,95,879 from 1.48 crore tests with an overall positivity rate of 6.02 per cent. While the 1,031 cases in

November came from 67,269 tests, the 758 turned out from 35,196 tests, indicating a higher positivity rate. According to the latest bul-

letin, 231 patients recovered from the infection in 24 hours, pushing the total recoveries to 8,85,209. The toll rose to 7,201 after four more fatalities were reported in the state, the bulletin said. The

number of active cases increased to 3,469, the highest since December 27 last. 'Yes...It appears so," a top health official remarked, when asked if the state was seeing yet another surge in the COVID-

19 contagion,going by therise in numbers in the last few days.

'We are focusing on areas where the spread of the infection is high and taking containment measures according-The official noted that the

number of coronavirus cases being reported in schools was very less, contrary to percep-"Wherever cases are detected, we are shutting down

the schools for three days and conducting tests on all students and teachers. Only then we are allowing the schools to reopen," he said. Asked if there were any

super-spreader events or bulk cases in a particular zone, a district Collector replied in the negative, adding the infection was essentially spreading through contacts.

Authorities identified residential junior colleges as one of the main sources of the infection spread in some districts and had, in fact, shutdown some of them after fresh

#### No fresh coronavirus-related death was reported in the past 24 hours, they said. cases in double digits apart from Srinagar and Of the new cases which included 46 trav-Jammu, officials said. ellers, 41 were from the Jammu division and 131 The number of active cases, which has been rising steadily over the past week, currently stands at 1,593, while 1,25,627 patients have were from the Kashmir division, officials said. Srinagar district recorded the highest 65 cases, including 25 travellers, followed by 34 in recovered so far, the officials said.

Covid: 172 new cases in J&K

Jammu district, they said.

In the last 24 hours ending 2 pm today, 51,027 samples were tested and the test positivity rate was 3.9 per cent.

According to the release 1,28,61,734 samples have been

sent for testing so far.
Those infected today include 15 health workers while 75 had come from outside the state and 1,746 were infected through contact.

#### Kerala records 1,989 new corona cases, 12 deaths

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala recorded 1,989 fresh COVID-19 cases and 12 more deaths on Thursday, taking the caseload to 11,12,246 and the toll to 4,539.

As many as 1,865 peoplegot cured today, pushing the total recoveriesto 10,82,668 while the active cases stood at 24,380 Health minister K K Shailaja said in a press release.



Devotees celebrate 'Chita Bhasam' Holi, on the banks of the Ganga river in Varanasi on Thursday

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- PAPER WITH PASSION-

# **Stop playacting**

Uddhav shouldn't allow the Maharashtra Home Minister to sell a dummy to the people

oliticians nowadays seem to have scant regard for probity, accountability and integrity in public life; what matters to them is power and position. The recent turn of events in Mumbai reflects that those wielding power think that they can get away with anything. NCP chief Sharad Pawar's blue-eyed boy and Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, against whom serious charges of corruption have been levelled by Mumbai Police's former Commissioner Param Bir Singh, said he would welcome a probe against himself if Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray orders any. The CM has so far not acted against his tainted Cabinet colleague while Pawar has predictably defended his pick. The Home Minister's statement came a day after



the Supreme Court (SC) termed the matter "quite serious" and asked Singh to approach the Bombay High Court (HC) with his plea seeking a CBI probe against Deshmukh. Deshmukh seems to be aware that in case Uddhav orders a probe against him, the HC will take note of this fact before deciding on Singh's plea. It may or may not have a bearing on the High Court's decision but Deshmukh is apparently trying to ensure that the case is not handed over to a central agency. A CBI inquiry means trouble not only for the Home Minister but for the entire Government.

On the other hand, even if Uddhav orders a probe, any inquiry against Deshmukh by the State agency, while he continues to occupy his office, hardly makes any sense. It would be merely an eyewash as the subordinate officials will leave no stone unturned to ensure that their boss comes clean of all charges. Ideally, any officer or Minister who faces an inquiry is suspended or asked to proceed on leave until the probe concludes. It is done to ensure that the probe remains unbiased and the suspect in question does not influence the investigation in any manner. Had he been serious about the corruption charges against him, Deshmukh should have tendered his resignation on moral grounds before asking the Chief Minister to launch a probe. Now, it is up to Uddhav to take a call on the prickly issue. However, he is expected to ask Deshmukh to tender his resignation before ordering any probe against the Home Minister. However, in case he decides to go soft on Pawar's favourite man, Uddhav can reshuffle his portfolio or make him a Minister without charge. But seeing the state of affairs in Maharashtra, where Pawar is calling the shots while the Chief Minister sits with his hands tied behind his back, it is most likely that Deshmukh will continue as the Home Minister irrespective of whether a probe is initiated against him. On the other hand, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar has claimed that the Opposition wanted the Maha Vikas Aghadi Government to fall from day one but the Government enjoys full majority. While the spate of allegations and counter-allegations between the Government and the Opposition flies thick and fast, it would be interesting to see what happens next in Maharashtra.



People celebrate Lathmar Holi at Sri Krishna Janmasthan temple in Mathura

## **Indians first**

The heckling of two nuns on false accusations doesn't behove us as a peace-loving, tolerant nation

ndia is a country with major aspirations. It wants to be a regional superpower so that it can keep an increasingly belligerent and expansionist China in check for amity in its immediate neighbourhood. The country, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, dreams of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. How is it then that a nation that positions itself as a "vishwa guru" and believes in the concept of "Vasudhaiva kutum-



bakam (the world is one family)" and ahimsa, is increasingly becoming intolerant in its own backyard? Whether it be cow vigilantes beating a young man to pulp with a hammer even as the police stand by mutely in Gurugram or the lynching of dairy farmer Pehlu Khan in Alwar, or the recent harassment of two nuns and their trainees travelling on a train from Delhi to Rourkela in Odisha. The four women were forced to deboard in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi after an Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad worker accused them of forced conversions. The women were bullied, abused and harassed by a crowd before being taken away by the railway police. However, the police found the conversion claim wrong as the two pos-

tulates were carrying their baptism cards issued in 2003.

With elections in Kerala round the corner, the issue has led to a political slugfest in the State and the BJP, which has been trying to woo the Christians there, suddenly found itself on the back foot. Campaigning in Kerala, Home Minister Amit Shah was at pains to assure the people of action. But what if it had not been the election season? Would our netas have jumped to the defence of the minority community then? The Constitution allows everyone in the country to believe or not to believe in any religion and the Jhansi incident is an encroachment on the freedom and fundamental rights of these citizens. It is a sad reflection on our country that more and more States are coming out with repressive laws that target the freedom of preaching and practising select religions. Should we as a country not be more focused on bringing about an end to hunger, poverty, casteism and discrimination than fighting each other over something as personal as religion? We would be better desh bhakts if we focused on peace, equality, prosperity and brotherhood among all Indians. We must remember that we are all Indians first.

# The conversion factor: How real is the threat? GYANESHWAR DAYAL



### The mistreatment of nuns on a train in Jhansi for alleged attempts at conversion is proof of the high-handedness of the Right-wingers

he heckling of two nuns in Jhansi is making news and brings to the fore the conversion debate at a time when five Assembly elections are round the corner. In the incident, two nuns travelling on a train were mobbed allegedly by a group of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad activists. They felt that the nuns were in some way involved in conversions, though there was nothing at the spot to suggest this. Still, their journey came to an abrupt end. Mercifully, they were not hacked which was not a distant possibility.

It happened in Uttar Pradesh (UP), which has been at the forefront of 'love jihad' and other minority-related issues. To date, there is no law in UP against conversion though a controversial Bill is on the anvil. The Act will debar religious conversions by inducement, though conversion by free will would be allowed. That is when it comes into effect. Eight States have already passed a similar Act.

Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees the freedom to profess, practice and propagate religion to all citizens. For argument's sake even if the law was enforced and the nuns were involved in conversion, it does not become the Right-wingers' prerogative to enforce it. The selfassigned custodians of Hinduism who try to enforce the law are by its very definition outlaws. It is the job of the police, not citizens, to bring the culprits to book.

Conversion is an old debate and Christian missionaries have been under the scanner for it. Muslims, for that matter, are spared from this debate (love jihad is a different issue). Other mass conversions that take place are from Hindus to the Buddhist fold, Since Babasaheb Ambedkar converted to Buddhism along with several of his Dalit followers, the trend has continued. Most conversions that take place from the majority community to minority are frowned upon while tne ones from minority to major ity are welcomed as homecoming. Double standards there!

Right now, over 1,000 appli-



These champions of Hinduism must raise their voice when atrocities are committed on Dalits. From the suicide of Rohit Vemula to the flogging of Dalit workers, hardly ever has a Hindu outfit stepped forth to protest such incidents. If you don't treat your co-religionists well, such applications are bound to increase. As far as Christian mis-

sionaries are concerned, there is no denying that they are entrusted with the task of converting people and that is how Christianity spread across the globe. For that matter, that is how Buddhism spread when Emperor Ashoka sent his emissaries to spread the teachings of Buddha to various places. No harm in that.

The charge often levelled against Unristian missionaries is that they do so by bribing and inducement. Allegedly, huge sums of money are spent



THESE CHAMPIONS OF HINDUISM MUST RAISE THEIR **VOICE WHEN** ATROCITIES ARE COMMITTED ON DALITS. FROM THE SUICIDE OF **ROHIT VEMULA** TO THE FLOGGING OF DALIT WORKERS, HARDLY EVER HAS A HINDU ORGANISATION STEPPED FORTH TO PROTEST SUCH

by Christian organisations for converting the tribal and Scheduled Caste Hindus. That Odisha is the State where such practice takes place is a myth that needs to be busted.

Since Independence, the

Christian population's in the country has declined in absolute as well as relative terms. The census data shows that it declined to 2.30 per cent in 2011 from 2.33 per cent in 2001. The Christian population growth is lower than the Hindu growth rate. So either the money the Christian missionaries are getting is going down the drain or the missionaries are not able to deliver. Christian organisations must ponder over the return on investments as the Christian population in the tribal region of Odisha has remained static.

This writer had filmed a documentary in Manoharpur in Odisha where missionary Graham Staines was burnt alive with his two sons, Philip (10) and Timothy (7), on the night of January 22, 1999, for allegedly converting tribal Hindus. The spur to do the documentary was a small story in a newspaper. Gladys Staines, the widow of Graham, had said that she had forgiven Dara Singh, the murderer of her sons

and husband. It takes real conviction and guts to even pretend, let alone forgive by heart. The lady surely deserved to be portrayed in the right manner

but she chose otherwise. The place was so backward that it had no electricity, market or a pucca house. Primary health services, banks, police stations were a far cry. She still worked there and ran a hospital and provided many basic necessities to the people.

You don't need a million dollars to convert people there; just a loaf of bread and a dressing on a wound would do. Can the Right-wing groups please do something about their plight so that no one would ever think of converting? Service to mankind is a basic Christian tenet.

In any case, the Christianisation of India is a lost cause. It could not happen during the British rule, so now the chances are even less. There are practical reasons: By converting, the SCs lose the tag and thereby many Government benefits. Also, they cannot move up the social ladder in the religious hierarchy. Raising the bogey against conversions is easy but far removed from reality.

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

#### TERS TO THE EDITOR

#### **VACCINATION IS NO PANACEA**

Sir —The detection of a new 'double mutant variant' - a combination of two variants E484Q and L452R — and several other variants in India is a serious problem to grapple with. Genome sequencing of samples by Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics (INSACOG) set up by the Health Ministry has made the detection possible. The COVID-19 situation is exacerbated by the presence of the UK, Brazilian and South African strains classified as "variants of concern" along with the newly-detected 'double mutant variant' in India.

The scientists are investigating if there is a correlation between the new variants and the current surge in infection cases. The exact nature of the variants is still to be understood. Data on them, whenever available, will be analysed in terms of their clinical consequences such as transmissibility, severity and responsiveness to vaccines and treatment. The 'double mutant variant' two mutations in a single virus — is being studied to find out if it causes "immune escape" or, in other words, allows the virus to slip past the body's immune defences, and increases infectivity. Studies will show if it is a "variant of concern" or a "variant of interest"

The uncertainties and imponderables surrounding the Novel Coronavirus undergoing mutations, coupled with the people hesitancy in getting inoculated, indicates that the end to the pandemic is nowhere in sight. It is difficult to forecast how long the pandemic will linger on. It is necessary that we all wear masks, sanitise our hands and maintain physical distancing. In the time of this pandemic, we must all submit to science and abide by what it requires us to do.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

CENTRE, DELHI GOVT SETTING WRONG EXAMPLE Sir — The conflict between the Centre and Delhi Government is setting a bad precedent for democracy. Recently, the Central Government has introduced the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill that seeks to

### **Lower the loudspeaker volume**

INCIDENTS



nis refers to the editorial 'Deafening' (March 25). The Right to Freedom of Religion is guaranteed to all Indians by the Constitution under Articles 25 to 28. This right is not only for individuals but also for religious groups in India. But we have no right to trouble others. Azaan is for Muslims but it also falls on non-Muslim ears. Further, a random peek in any mosque during the prayer times would show that not many Muslims

enhance the powers of Delhi's Lieutenant

Governor (L-G). The new law requires the Government to take the L-G's opinion before it takes any action. This is not in line with a decision of a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in 2018 which had maintained that the L-G must be informed about Delhi Cabinet decisions but his concurrence ed Government and destroy democracy". ly been at odds with the L-Gs who have been accused of gubernatorial overreach.

Amit Singh Kushwaha | Satna

was not needed, except in the case of police, public order and land. Senior Congress leader and MP Mallikarjun Kharge stated that it is a Bill to "steal the powers of an elect-This will affect Kejriwal who has been the Chief Minister since 2015 and has constant-

**GOVT MUST LISTEN TO THE FARMERS** Sir — As the farmers' protest on Delhi bor-

### respond to the call. The footfall in mosques is neg-

ligible except for the midday Friday prayer and

those who regularly go there five times a day do

not actually depend on the azaan to be remind-

ed of the prayer time. The high-decibel noise ema-

nating from the loudspeakers must be regulated

as it only not only adversely affects human health

ing permanently due to noise pollution in India.

According to the World Health Organisation

People are at high risk of losing their hear-

but also troubles animals and birds.



(WHO), noise exposure below 70 decibel does not pose any health risks to human beings or wildlife. However, if someone is exposed to noise levels of 85 decibel or more for more than eight hours on a regular basis, it can be considered haz-Not only loudspeakers but road traffic, aero-

planes or jets and trains produce a large amount of noise. Exposure to such noises on a regular basis for long periods of time have proved detrimental to human health. It is advisable that Muslim clerics should tune the loudspeakers installed on mosques to lower volumes

Nischai Vats | Sultanpur

ders continues, farmer unions have called for a Bharat Bandh on March 26 demanding a complete rollback of the farm laws. The Sanyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), a union of farmers protesting against the new agriculture laws, has appealed to the citizens of the country to make the Bharat Bandh on March 26 successful.

Several rounds of talks have been held with the Government, but no agreement has been reached yet. Farmers are camping at the Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders of Delhi. They are adamant on repealing the laws altogether, while the Government is ready for amendments after discussing the loopholes in the laws. The Centre must listen to the farmers before

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

# In a family there are

women, there is respect for elders. there is love and affection which is not there in the RSS. So now I will not call the RSS as

Parivar (family) Congress leader – Rahul Gandhi



in the markets over the past few days do not reflect the fundamentals. dynamics. notential or the future of economy

The fluctuations

**Turkish President** 

— Recep Tayyip Erdogan When you do big films, while you are





Cricket between Pakistan and India is



of cricket. Former Pakistan captain

—Shahid Afridi

The Government is studying the possibility of outsourcing the modern abattoir of Goa Meat Complex to private companies for the period of 10 years



Goa CM

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### **FIRST COLUMN**

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### HARASSMENT OF **NUNS MUST STOP**

The nuns sacrifice their whole lives in the service of society and want nothing in return



MARKANDEY KATJU

the recent incident of harassment of nuns from Kerala in Jhansi by the Right-wing goons needs to be unequivocally condemned as it brings disgrace to our country. Nuns are no ordinary women and they render great service to society, particularly in the fields of education and healthcare. Some of the best convent schools in India are run and managed by these sisters and almost everyone wants his or her daughter or other female relative to get admission in these missionary schools. Further, the hospitals they run are also par excellence.

The nuns sacrifice their whole lives in the service of society and want nothing in return for their selfless devotion. They live a disciplined life and serve people without any discrimination. They are deprived of the pleasures and happiness which most women have — a family, a husband and children. And yet many people levy all kinds of false and baseless allegations on these nuns, some of which are better left unsaid. One of the allegations that they do forcible conversions is palpably false.



When I was a lawyer, and later a judge at the Allahabad High Court, the nuns of St Mary's Convent who run the best girls school in the town, would often come to me for help. I have always helped them *pro bono*. Their biggest harassment would begin a month or two before school admissions kick-starts in March as the school session started in April. Often they were harassed by the authorities and officials, who wanted to secure a seat for their daughters or other female relatives in the school.

The harassment was a way to create pressure as the seats in the prestigious school were limited and for every seat there would be at least 10 or 20 aspirants. In such a situation, a competitive test was imperative and was organised to select the candidates. However, in case any official's daughter failed to get through the entrance test, s/he would harass the nuns and create pressure. I remember how the municipal authorities once sent a notice to the Principal, Sister Evelyn, alleging that the land on which the school stood had been illegally occupied, which of course was totally false. On another occasion, an Income Tax notice was sent by an Income Tax official whose daughter had not been able to beat the competition. Also, police officials would often harass them and since the nuns were defenceless, they had often to succumb to such pressures.

Apart from the harassment by the authorities and officials, the nuns were also faced with the goonda-type student leaders of the Allahabad University, who pressure them for giving admission to their candidates. After I became a judge of the Allahabad High Court in 1991 whenever the nuns had a problem they came to me for help and I would call the District Magistrate or other authority and tell him that the harassment must stop. The result was that the nuns started regarding me as their elder brother, and they would sometimes invite me over for tea. I still remember the excellent cakes they would themselves prepare for me.

In my opinion, the nuns are our role models and if our nation has to progress, our people must develop the spirit of service and sacrifice which the nuns have. Far from harassing them, we must give them the highest respect and learn from them.

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The views expressed are personal.)

# A sprinkling of stardust on my shoulders



Tasked with covering a film awards function for DD, I was clear that I didn't want to tread the beaten path of filing a TV report nor take the services of a scribe for interviewing stars

ne Friday evening in March 1973, I was summoned by an Assistant Station Director of Delhi's *Doordarshan* (*DD*) and introduced to a charming man. "Yunus Dehlvi runs the influential magazines *Shama* and *Sushma* and is organising a film awards function. This is Sudhir Tandon and he will cover your event." My boss sensed my surprise (for cameramen were not asked to take on the role of a producer-director, unless they themselves came up with a proposal) "As you are to become a producer soon, the Director Television Centre has given this order. Discuss the details of the event with Dehlvi sahib."

We met the following day at the Convention Hall of New Delhi's iconic Ashoka Hotel for a recce of the venue and familiarisation with the drill where Yunus' younger brother Idrees became my point man. I was clear that I didn't want to tread the beaten path of filing a TV report (summary of the stage show) nor take the customary services of a journalist for interviewing celebrities. Instead, there had to be verve and a certain irreverence in the programme. I inquired of Idrees the names of starlet attendees. We narrowed down on Reena Roy who had been selected for the award of the Best Rising Star. The toil to contact her began as soon as she had checked in at the Ashoka. Even though Idrees had briefed Reena, but every time I called up her room, a lady would tell me to ring up later as she was either taking a nap or was out or was busy. Finally, on Sunday evening the lady told me that: "Baby has gone to the hairdresser. She'll contact you on her return" — a refrain that I'd heard earlier. Exasperated, I lost my cool and told her "Ammaji, tell your baby not to bother. She is out of my programme and I'll find

Would my boast work? Harried, I went to Idrees and, on the way, I saw Nargis in her room. "If nothing works out, I'll approach Nargis (with whom I'd some acquaintance) and request her to salvage the situation," I thought and asked Idrees, "which other starlets are on your list?" He mentioned Dimple Kapadia. The name sounded faintly familiar. "She's the 16-year-old heroine of Raj Kapoor's under-production film," he explained. Immediately, we rushed

The wait between the knock on the door and its opening was inexorable. The door opened and a concussion of comeliness hit me. But...she appeared older than 16 years! What transpired between her and Idrees, I couldn't fathom in those catatonic moments. We were led to a sofa and she disappeared. A man dressed in a black suit appeared and was introduced to me as Chunnibhai — Dimple's father. My escort briefed him about the purpose of our visit and the father consented. A few minutes later, a girl in white appeared and, immediately she owned the room. Dimple's presence demanded unwavering attention of those present there. She was sprightly, her big brown eyes hinted at impish intelligence and her tace had intimations of self-assur ance, playfulness and joy.

Upon hearing my proposal, she giggled, "I have no such experience." Rolling her eyes, she quipped with disarming candour about how she had fluffed in a school show and even in the Board exams. My heart curled while her hands sculptured the silence with a disciplined eloquence. Soon she intoned, "But why not? I can try." There was a glint in her eyes and she spoke with a certain elan.



A MAN DRESSED IN A BLACK SUIT APPEARED AND WAS INTRODUCED TO ME AS CHUNNIBHAI — DIMPLE'S FATHER. MY ESCORT BRIEFED HIM ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF **OUR VISIT** AND THE FATHER CONSENTED. A FEW MINUTES LATER, A GIRL IN WHITE APPEARED and, immediately, SHE OWNED THE ROOM. DIMPLE'S PRESENCE DEMANDED UNWAVERING ATTENTION OF THOSE PRESENT THERE

My next worry was to look for the sound recordist who had not turned up even though little time was left for the show to start. Those were the times when film cameras were used for filming outside the TV studios. A sound recordist used a tape recorder to capture sounds. And soon enough, the stars and celebrities began to arrive. That was one occasion in which I'd planned for Dimple to chat with them. But the plan had to be aborted. Nonetheless, I took silent shots not only of the arrivals of the stars but subsequently of the stage show as well. Over 45 minutes into the event the sound recordist turned up, from which point onwards our film had picture and sound in syn-

chronisation. With the show ending and the opportunity to chat with the stars lost, it was decided that we would go to the Oberoi Hotel where the post-event dinner was to be held. Dimple agreed to the plan. At an appropriate moment in the edited film we see a man and a woman with their backs to the camera. She chides the man, "Hari bhai, aapko sharam nahi aati ki ek ladki thand me thithoor rahi hai aur aap beparwah hain? (Isn't it shameful that a woman is shivering in this cold and you have no concern)?" iaken adack, Sanjeev Kumar sneep ishly muttered something to Dimple and the banter went on. In her chats later with a couple of stars who could be commandeered, she bounced spontaneously from gossip, to the personal, to jocular. She was no slouch either when it came to conversing with the fresh crop from my alma

Kanwaljeet and so on. By the time we packed up, it was nearly 1 am.

The next morning's newspapers had a big surprise in store not only for me but for all film fans. A box item on the front page exclaimed that superstar Rajesh Khanna had pro-posed to Dimple the previous night. Since I had missed out on taking close shots of Dimple, I called her up the next day. She readily agreed to come to the DD studio and bring some clothes for the shots. A sari, however, was a big "no" as she had been forbidden to wear it by Raj Kapoor prior to the release of 'Bobby'. When I enquired about her engagement, she disclosed that she had met Rajesh Khanna soon after our shooting got over and that the turn of events culminated in a commitment.

Editing the stage show was a big problem due to the non-availability of the sync sound. As All India Radio also had recorded the event for its report, I borrowed their tape from my friend and legendry drama producer Dinanath. Because the film camera and the sound recorder run at different speeds, there is always a mismatch between the action, especially the lip movement, and the sound. This mismatch becomes stark in close-ups. Therefore, where it was just impossible to achieve synchronisation, I took recourse to using music, songs and words as a counterpoint to the visuals. This resulted in an added nuance in the programme.

Finding a suitable title for the programme was another headache. The title had to reflect the brand of event but I didn't want it to be vapid tion? Who knows!

or trite, for instance Shama-Sushma Film Awards. I reached out to our senior scenic designer and an Urdu poetry buff in DD. Johri came up with a design in which the melting candles revealed the title Shama-dar-shama. This title also resonated with the lyrics and the ambience of the film Pakeezah which was a rage then and a few dances from which were performed at the function.

Even though I did not accept the position of a producer later, I was still assigned to make a programme on the second edition of the Shama-Sushma Film Awards the following year. This was on the request of the Dehlvis as my programme had received appreciation. While filming, spotted Dimple Khanna seated in the front row of the Ashoka Convention Hall. We exchanged greetings and in jest, I asked her if she would again want to host my show. She flashed a smile and shook her head. "Sorry. Can't."

Moments like modulations come in human relationships. One begins to recall the cadences of the past. Now, a total recall gluts the mind's screen. But why after nearly five decades? I could not find any record of the debut of the Shama-Sushma Film Awards nor of the date on which Rajesh Knanna proposed to Dimple any where on the web. The Dehlvis and their magazines are all gone. My programmes are lost. Maybe, my memory of the event and perhaps Dimple's first screen appearance for public might reclaim some lost territory. Or, is it the arrogance of a grotesque leap the magazines and the spirit of the of a private fantasy for public atten-



Connoisseurs of Art,

Founding Executive

Director, LS TV and

Additional Director

General, Doordarshan

#### The views expressed are personal mater, FTII — Shabana Azmi,

#### IF MAMATA HAS TO KEEP HER LEG OUT, THEN WHY **WEAR A SARI? SHE COULD WEAR A PAIR OF BERMUDAS INSTEAD.** —BENGAL BJP PRESIDENT

**DILIP GHOSH** 





**GHOSH SAYS MAMATA SHOULD BE WEARING SHORTS** TO DISPLAY HER LEGS. THESE PERVERTED, DEPRAVED MONKEYS THINK THEY ARE GOING TO WIN.

—TMC MP **MAHUA MOITRA** 

# The power of the 'janata curfew' decoded

Since people play a pivotal role in administration, the credibility of 'janata curfew' will be tested on the anvil of public interest time and again

Tith the fresh and rapid spike of COVID-19 cases in India, the fear of a second wave of the pandemic is looming large in various States. A couple of days ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Chief Ministers of all States to chalk out an amicable mechanism, including the management of micro-containment zones and strict enforcement of restrictions to control the "emerging second peak" of the contagion.

Last year, too, the Prime Minister called for social distancing and a "janata curfew" — a curfew of the people, by the people and for the people — was imposed on March 22 to contain the pandemic. The speech was inclusive and persuasive and the "janata curfew" proved beneficial to prepare the country mentally



CHAKRABORTY **BISWAL** 

Biswal teaches at the

Symbiosis Institute of

Media and

Communication,

Symbiosis International,

Pune, and Chakraborty is

an academic researcher.

The views expressed

checking the infection, the

vaccination drive is in full swing across the nation. In the Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra, various district administrations have decided to implement "janata curfew" from time to time, instead of complete lockdowns. Though it is true that a complete lockdown cannot be replaced by a "janata curfew" if the infection is to be effectively contained, the intention of the administration is not to paralyse socio-economic activities completely but to continue them in a restricted manner.

for the hard lockdown that

was to come soon after, to

contain the spread of the

Currently, with a view to

has an edge over a complete shutdown. The record of "janata cur-

In this context, such a curfew

accounting for. The central idea behind such an effort rests on the people's participation from the beginning to the

Last year, while advocating social distancing to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prime Minister's clarion call for a "janata curfew" recieved immense support. There was clapping, ringing of bells, beating of drums and utensils in gratitude to the Corona heroes nationwide. Endorsements from celebrities also poured in.

In her balcony in Mumbai, Sunita Bhuyan played the tune of a song by the iconic Bhupen Hazarika on her violin. There was solidarity expressed at the historic Jama Masjid of Old Delhi, too. The overall support was colossal.

A couple of days before few" deserves unraveling and the "janata curfew", Modi he laid stress on the power of nation-building. Sadly, some



addressed the nation on the pandemic. While hailing the doctors, nurses, housekeeping staff, police and media persons for the commendable job they were doing in a time of crisis, he counselled people not to go for panic buying. The "janata curfew" worked as a good means of communication and Modi took the narrative of social distancing to the next level. The tone of the address was apolitical and

the people, as a weapon to keep the crisis at bay.

People's participation has effectively met the necessary requirements in various fields including public health. The idea of 'Pani Panchayats' driven by the people is intended to manage groundwater across the country. Community kitchens, meant for achieving food security for people on the margins, are not mere populism. Khabar Lahariya, a community media driven by rural women journalists, belongs to Dalits, tribals and other minority classes. Community radio stations like *Vidyavani* run by the Savitribai Phule Pune University and Radio Udaan for the visually impaired, have been instrumental in giving a voice to the voiceless. These instances encapsulate the power of the community in

of the ambitious programmes and action plans are marred

by irregularities. However, there are other sides to the "janata curfew", too. The Mahagujarat movement, known as the Mahagujarat Andolan in the year 1956, is a case in point. A "janata curfew" was called to protest the film Padmavat, too. Earlier in 2013, to get a separate Gorkhaland, Gorkha Janmukti Morcha chief Bimal Gurung had resorted to a "janata curfew" to take on Mamata Banerjee's 72-hour ultimatum to lift the strike in the Darjeeling Hills.

Tellingly, since India is a place of the people and their decision plays a pivotal role in every aspect of the administration, the importance and credibility of "janata curfew" will be tested on the anvil of public interest from time to



COOPERATION, NOT CONFRONTATIÓN!

Vaccinating the world is the only way out of the COVID-19 pandemic, but a mixture of nationalism and protectionism is blocking the exit. The US, UK and EU have for months blocked a proposal at the World Trade Organisation, put forward by India and South Africa, to waive intellectual property rights for COVID-19 vaccines. It is galling for poor countries to hear Boris Johnson preach the virtues of a liberal trading regime for the UK when he imposes a protectionist one on them. (*The Guardian* editorial)

### **AFTER 'SILENCE STRIKE'** Myanmar protests again met with force

Protesters against last month's military takeover in Myanmar returned to the streets in large numbers on Thursday, a day after staging a "silence strike" in which people were urged to stay home and businesses to close for the day.

Security forces sought to break up some of the protests by force. Social media accounts and local news outlets reported violent attacks on demonstrators in Hpa-an, the capital of the southeastern Karen state, as well as the eastern Shan state's capital of Taunggyi and Mon state's capital of Mawlamyine, also in the southeast. It was not clear if soldiers used live ammunition in addition to firing rubber bullets at the demonstrators.

According to Democratic Voice of Burma, a broadcast and online news service, two young men were shot and seriously wounded in Hpa-an.

Other protests Thursday morning proceeded peacefully, including in Mandalay, the country's second-biggest city, and on a smaller scale in neighborhoods of Yangon, the largest metrop-



A protester flashes the three-finger sign of defiance as he walks past burning tires in Yangon, Myanmar on Thursday

DVB also reported that another young man was killed and at least four other people wounded Wednesday night in what it described as a crackdown by the army in Kyaukpadaung, a town in central Myanmar.

The military's February 1 seizure of power ousted the

elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party won a landslide election victory last November. It put the brakes on the Southeast Asian nation's return to democracy that began when Suu Kyi's party took office in 2016 for its first term, after more than five decades of military rule.

Kanbawza Tai News, an Myanmar's Assistance online news service based in

its staff, including its publisher and its editor, were detained Wednesday night. It said the home of the editor was raided and materials seized.

The detentions constitute the junta's latest attack on press freedom. About 40 journalists have been detained since the Feb. 1 coup, and roughly half are still in custody. The military government has also ordered at least five news outlets to shut down, although they continue to operate.

Thein Zaw, a journalist for The Associated Press who was arrested last month while covering an anti-coup protest, was released Wednesday. The judge in his case announced during a hearing that all charges against him were dropped because he was doing his job at the time of his arrest. He had been facing a potential threeyear prison sentence under the public order law he was charged with violating.

On Wednesday, more than 600 protesters were released from Yangon's Insein Prison, where Thein Zaw had also been held — a rare conciliatory gesture by the ruling mili-

# N Korea test-fires ballistic missiles in message to US

North Korea test-fired its first ballistic missiles since President Joe Biden took office on Thursday, as it expands its military capabilities and increases pressure on Washington while nuclear negotiations remain stalled.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said the launches threaten "peace and safety in Japan and the region," and that Tokyo will closely coordinate with Washington and Seoul on the North's testing activities.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were fired at around 7:06 a.M. And 7:25 a.M. From an area on the North's eastern coast and flew 450 kilometers (279 miles) on an apogee of 60 kilometers (37 miles) before landing in the sea.

US Indo-Pacific Command spokesperson Capt. Mike Kafka said the US military was aware of the missiles and was monitoring the situation while closely consulting with allies.

Another senior US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military observations, matched the information from South Korea's

military, saying that initial and other provocations aimed assessments suggest the North at forcing the Americans back fired two short-range ballistic

"This activity highlights the threat that North Korea's illicit weapons program poses to its neighbors and the international community," Kafka said. The launches came a day after US and South Korean officials said the North fired shortrange weapons presumed to be cruise missiles into its western

TV screens showi a news programmme reporting about North Korea's missiles with

file footage at an electronic shop in Seoul, South Korea on Thursday

sea over the weekend. North Korea has a history of testing new US administrations with missile launches

to the negotiating table. Still, Thursday's launches were a measured provocation compared to the nuclear and intercontinental missile tests in 2017 that inspired war fears before the North shifted toward diplomacy with the Trump administration in 2018.

Analysts say that the North would gradually dial up its weapons displays to increase its bargaining power as it angles to get back into stalled talks aimed at leveraging nuclear weapons for badly needed economic benefits.

MOROCCO: FOUR HELD FOR

LINKS TO ISIS ATTACK PLOT

**Rabat:** Special agents in eastern

Morocco on Thursday arrested

four suspected Islamic State-

linked extremists who were

allegedly assigned to attack a

targets, the official Moroccan

MISHAP IN BALOCHISTAN

Quetta: Seven people, including

six of a family, were killed when

a speeding bus crashed into a

car in Pakistan's Balochistan

Thursday. The accident took

Mastung district on Wednesday,

place in Kardagap area of

province, officials said on

news agency MAP reported.

military base and other sensitive

GLOBE

#### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male namely Sanjay, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown has injured in accident at Gulabi Bagh red light by a car. He was admitted at HR Hospital and referred to LNJP Hospital, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 28/19 dated 04.04.2019 has

been lodged at Police Station, Gulabi Bagh, Delhi. During the treatment doctors declared him dead and till not identified by anyone. Identification of unidentified dead body Name: Sanjay, Age: About 50 Years, Height: 5'5", Face:

Long, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: Without Shirt and Black pant. If anyone has any information or clue about this male

deceased may kindly be inform undersigned Police Station, Gulabi Bagh, Delhi

DP/1053/N/2021 (UIDB) Ph.: 011-23651692, 8750871634

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Revised Timings of 09027/09028 Bandra Terminus - Jammu Tawi -Bandra Terminus Festival Special Express (Weekly) Train No. 09028 Train No. 09027 **STATIONS** Bandra Terminus 15:00 12:00

05:45 23:05 Jammu Tawi Revised Timing effective from :- 09027 Ex. Bandra Terminus on every Saturday from 27.03.2021 & 09028 Ex. Jammu Tawi o Every Monday from 29.03.2021.

Stoppages: Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara Jn., Anand Jn. Nadiad Jn., Ahmedabad Jn., Mahesana Jn., Palanpur Jn., Abu Road, Falna, Marwar Jn., Pali Marwar, Jodhpur Jn., Merta Road Jn Degana Jn., Chhoti Khatu, Didwana, Ladnun, Sujangarh, Ratangarh Jn., Churu, Sadulpur Jn., Hisar, Barwala, Dhuri Jn., Ludhiana Jn. Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt. & Kathua stations

#### Revised Timings of 02917/02918 Ahmedabad Jn. - H. Nizamuddin -Ahmedabad Jn. Sampark Kranti Superfast Special (Weekly)

Train No. 02917		STATIONS 1	Train No. 02918	
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
	15:30	Ahmedabad Jn.	03:35	
05:45		H. Nizamuddin		13:25

Revised Timing effective from : - 02917 Ex. Ahmedabad Jn. on every Monday from 29.03.2021 till further advise & 02918 Ex. H. Nizamuddin on Every Saturday from 03.04.2021 till further advise. Stoppages: Nadiad Jn., Anand Jn., Chhayapuri, Godhra Jn. Dahod, Ratlam Jn., Kota & Mathura Jn. stations. For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and

stoppages enroute, the passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App

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

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VING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMIL

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that 1. Ved Parkash S/o Raia Ram R/o H.No.39, FF, Pocket-9, Sector-22, Rohini Delhi 2. Amrinder S/o Raj Baksh Singh R/o H.No.219, Pocket-5, Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi 3. Sohan Singh S/o Kehar Singh R/o KH. No.793, Village Kadipur, Kushak No.2, Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 342/17 Date 08.08.17 u/s 420/467/468/120B IPC, P.S. North Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accuseds Ved Parkash, Amrinder and Sohan Singh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accuseds Ved Parkash, Amrinder and Sohan Singh have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ved Parkash, Amrinder and Sohan Singh of FIR No. 342/17 Date 08.08.17 u/s 420/467/468/120B IPC, P.S. North Rohini, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before15.05.2021. By Order Ms. Masni Malik

Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate Rohini Court, Delhi

### **Stuck ship in Egypt's Suez Canal imperils** shipping worldwide

**AP** ■ ISMAILIA (EGYPT)

skyscraper-sized cargo ship A skyscraper-sized cargo simple wedged across Egypt's Suez Canal further imperiled global shipping Thursday as at least 150 other vessels needing to pass through the crucial waterway idled waiting for the obstruction to clear, authorities

The Ever Given, a Panamaflagged ship that carries cargo between Asia and Europe, ran aground Tuesday in the narrow, man-made canal dividing continental Africa from the Sinai Peninsula. In the time since, efforts to free the ship using dredgers, digging and the aid of high tides have yet to push the container vessel aside.

Egyptian officials and others were due to begin work again to free the vessel Thursday morning after halting for the night.

So far, dredgers have tried to clear silt around the massive momentum. From the shore, at company said.



Association for Political

Prisoners says at least 286 peo-

ple have been killed in con-

nection with the crackdown. It

says 2,906 people have been

arrested, charged or sentenced

at one point in connection

with resisting the coup, with

most remaining detained.

This photo released by the Suez Canal Authority on Thursday, shows Lt. Gen. Ossama Rabei, head of the Suez Canal Authority, investigating the situation with the Ever Given, a Panama-flagged

least one backhoe dug into the canal's sandy banks, suggesting the bow of the ship had plowed into it.

Bernhard Shipmanagement, the company that manages the Ever Given, said the ship's 25-member crew are safe and accounted for. The ship had two pilots from Egypt's canal authority aboard the vessel to guide it ounding when th sel alongside it, trying to gain around 7:45 am on Tuesday, the

### Biden taps Vice-President Harris to lead response to border challenges

**PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has put Vice-President Kamala Harris in charge of leading the diplomatic effort to address the root causes of migration from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras and to stem the recent surge of immigrants to America's southern

It is the first major foreign



policy issue to be assigned to Harris, and it comes as the White House grapples with a growing number of migrants from the Central American countries at the southern border, including thousands of minors arriving without adult family members.

Announcing his decision on Wednesday, Biden said nobody is better qualified than Harris, who ran the secondlargest attorney general's office in America, to deal with the

> **DUTCH COALITION TALKS** HALTED AFTER COVID CASE

The Haque: Preliminary discussions to map out the contours of the next Dutch governing coalition were left in limbo Thursday by a positive Covid-19 test and an inadvertent display of preparatory notes by one of the officials leading the talks

**DEAF AND MUTE GIRL** gang-raped by five persons who according to a media report on Thursday.

### Uyghurs in Turkey protest Chinese Foreign Min's visit

Istanbul: Hundreds of Uyghurs staged protests in Ankara and Istanbul on Thursday, denouncing Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Turkey and demanding that the Turkish government take a stronger stance against human rights abuses in China's farwestern Xinjiang region.

The crowd gathered at ing posters of missing relatives they believe are being kept in



A protester from the Uyghur community steps on a China flag during a protest against the visit of China's Foreign Minister to Turkey, in Istanbul on Thursday AP

detention camps in China and chanting slogans against Beijing. Dozens of Uyghurs, Turkish opposition lawmakers and academics also assembled near the

Name of Work

Improvement of water supply system at Matk Wali gali and its connected lanes in

Chauhan Banger Seelampur AC-65 NE-III

Tender I.D No.2021\_DJB\_202190\_2

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in OA No. 850/19

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY

TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building

Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

Chinese Embassy in Ankara, as Wang met with Turkish Foreign Mevlut Cavusoglu and later with President Recep Tayyip

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NE) III G.T ROAD SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032

E-mail:- eeneiii.ee@gmail.com Ph No.22596645 "Stop Corona; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

Press NIT NO.62 (2020-21)

500

Amount put

31,90,321/

Islamabad: A 16-year-old deaf and mute girl was allegedly also filmed a video to extort money from her father in Pakistan's Punjab province

#### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR** Office of the Executive Engineer Quality Control & **Procurement Division, HMT, Srinagar**

**Dates-Corrigendum-V** 

Subject: - Extension of dates for Supply & Delivery of Water Tankers, 6 KL capacity mounted on suitable carrier vehicle with pump and hose pipe etc. Ref: 1. This office NIT No: PHE/QC&PD/40/2020-21/e-Tender Dated: 23-

02-2021. 2. This office corrigendum-I for extension of dates vide No: PHE/QCPD/6981

84 dated: 04-03-2021. This office corrigendum-III for extension of dates vide No: PHE/QCPD/7018-21 dated: 09-03-2021.

This office corrigendum-III for extension of dates vide No: PHE/QCPD/7052-55 dated: 16-03-2021. Due to poor response and representation thereof, the above referred e-tender

is hereby re-scheduled as follows: I. Tender Notice No.: - PHE/M&P/ 40 of 2020-21/ e-Tender Dated: 23-02-2021

2. Date of Inviting Tender :- 23-02-2021......10.00 AM 3. Clarification End Date :- 30-03-2021......02.00 PM

4. Document Downloading End Date :- 30-03-2021... ...06.00 PM 5. On Line Document Submission End Date: - 31-03-2021......3.00 PM

6. Date of opening of Cover 1st.:- 01-04-2021... ....2.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE (QC&PD),

No. DIPK-15585/20 Dated: 25-03-2021

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Mohd.

Ismile Malik, S/o Mohd. Nasruddin Malik, R/o F-142, Kavita Colony,

Near Krishna Dharamshala, Nangloi, Delhi has committed (or is

suspected to has committed) the offence in case FIR No. 292/18, u/s

323/341 IPC, at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a

warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Mohd. Ismile

Malik cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction

that the said accused Mohd. Ismile Malik has absconded (or is

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Mohd. Ismile

Malik in case FIR No. 292/18, u/s 323/341 IPC, at P.S. Aman Vihar,

Delhi is required to appear on this Court to answer the said complaint

concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

on or before 05.05.2021.

DP/743/RD/2021-(Court Matter)

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**HMT Srinagar** 

By Order

Sh. Gopal Krishan

Rohini Court, Delhi

Room No. 109, First Floor,

Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West),

I Naveen Goel S/O Ram Bilas Goel R/O-House No 316, 2nd floor, Raidhani Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi, 110034. declare that I am the owner of property Khasra No. 27/24/2/1 n the revenue estate of village Liwaspur Distt. Sonepat (Haryana) through Sale Deed dated 25/04/2019, and mortgage the same property with PCPL (Profectus Capital Pvt Ltd) against property Loan, if anyone has any objections please contact me at above mentioned address or Contact me on +919891422779 within 14 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that
Mr. Ashok Verma is owner of Property bearing No.
WZ-539-B, area measuring 101 sq., Yds., Khasra
No. 94/8/1, Gali No. 15-F, Sadh Nagar-II, Palam
Colony, New Delhi \* Said property\* by virtue of
Sale Deed dated 29.11.2018, Registration No.11389, Sale Deed dated 29.11.2018, Registration No.11369, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want sell Second floor, Rights Hand Side, to someone who is taking home loan from Fulleton India Home Finance Company Ltd. for purchase of the said floor, if anybody has any objections upon said property /fits ownership & Title / Its Sale and Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultant 200, Ilind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph. 141 4111577 29, kumanecesistes advecate@email.com

#### PUBLIC NOTICE "Form No. INC-25A

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** Date: 08.12.2020 Deutsche Bank AG (Applicant)

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

Compass India Holidays Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. (Respondent 1. M/s Compass India Holidays Pvt.

Ltd., through its directors 35 Link Road, Lajpat Nagar-3, New Delhi-24 2. Mr. Durjay Sengupta
Director of M/s Compass India Holidays Pvt

Ltd. 35 Link Road, Lajpat Nagar-3, New Delhi-Also at: N-12, 2nd Floor Greater Kailsh, Part 1, New Delhi-48
3. Ms. Nilanjana Sengupta

35 Link Road, Laipat Nagar-3, New Delhi-24 Also at: N-12, 2nd Floor Greater Kailsh, Part. 1, New Delhi-48.

irector of M/s Compass India Holidays Pvt

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has whereas the adove trained applicants) has have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 10,57,734.00 (Rupees Ten Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Four Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that, it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary war therefore, this notice is given by advertise directing you to make appearanc Tribunal on 06.04.2021 At 10:30 A.M.

By Order of the Tribuna

For Registrar, DRT-II, DELHI.

#### Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs,

Northern Region In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND In the matter of M/s Seal Logistics Limited having its registered office at T-2, Third Floor, Manish Complex, LSC Plot No.7, H Block Market, Sarita

Vihar, New Delhi-110076, Applicant. Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company intending to make an application to ent under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held or

24.03.2021 to enable the company to give effect Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company nay deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regiona Director, Northern Region B-2 Wing, 2<sup>rd</sup> Floor Parvavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the

applicant company at its registered office at the For and on behalf of the Applican AJAY KASANA MANAGING DIRECTOR DIN: 00209902 Regd. Office: T-2, 3rd Floor Manish Complex,LSC Plot No.7 H Block Market, Sarita Vihar

New Delhi-110076

#### EX. ENGINEER (NE)-III **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Date of release of tender in

e-procuremen

solution

24.03.2021

FMD

Last date/time of

receipt of tender

through

e-procurement

solution

07.04.2021

My Clients Shri Devender Singh and his wife Sangeeta R/o B-65/B, 1, Near Bansal Dairy, Gokal Pur, North-East Delhi-11094 have severed their relations from their Son Namely Nitin Panwar and have debarred him from their moveable and improvable

their moveable and immovable

properties due to his misconduct and misbehaviour towards my clients. My

misbenaviour towards my chents. My clients shall not be responsible for his any acts and transactions in future. Ekta Dhama (Advocate) Ch.No .854, Patiala House Court, New Delhi Mob. 9650487913

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is notified for the information of general public that my client Ms. Sarabjeet Kaur is the owner of Flat No. A-105, First Floor "Aditya Garden City", Plot No. 6/GH-4 Vasundhara, Ghaziabad and she has lost original documents i.e. Allotment Agreement dated 05.11.2005 in respect of above said property. Our client has also lodged a FIR on 18.03.2021 for the same Any person dealing with the said documents may do so at his/her own risk and our client shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever, however any claim on the basis of title documents will be entertained within 7 days of publication, failing which any such right, title, interest, or claim, if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on our Client

Delhi-110032 (M) - 9811295674

C.K. JHA

E-524, Karkardooma Courts

### DP/740/RD/2021



### **Govt plans single** window nod for investors by Apr 15

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As part of furthering the ease of doing business in the country, the Government is set to introduce a single-window clearance mechanism for investors by mid-April in order to attract greater foreign investment, a senior official said on Thursday.

The single-window portal will integrate the existing clearance systems of various central and state departments.

"A lot of hand-holding, a lot of investor support (is being provided) and we are also going to launch a national single window for the investors. We are targeting April 15 for that launch," Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Secretary

at the Times Network India Economic Conclave.

All central government departments and 14 state gov-ernments, to begin with, will be part of the system, he

"So they will be all part of that national single window, so the investor is on the one side, all the clearances, approval from central governments and state government on the other, and you can track your investment proposal where it is stuck and take action by the concerned department or state,"

He also emphasised the need for states to reduce the compliance burden and make it more attractive for foreign

#### **Investor wealth erodes by over** ₹ 7L cr in 2 days of market crash

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Name: Komal, Age: 14 Years, Height: 4'9", Face:

Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium,

Wearing: White Shirt & Red Trouser and Blue Shoes

If anyone has any information about this missing/

**Time Extension Notice-I** Name of Work:- Supply of miscellaneous items for Erector Hostel

In reference to e-Tender No. 22/EE(M)/Klg/2020-21 invited by this

office, it is to inform that due to unavoidable reasons dates of the

tender are extended as below and time extension notice has been

uploaded on e-procurement portal. Please quote your bids

accordingly. For further details kindly log on to

Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal: 07.04.2021

up to 16:00 Hrs. Last date of submission of original

Date of opening of bid on the website: 09.04.2021 at 11.00 Hrs.

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity

SR. No.

2

3

All other terms & conditions of tender shall remain unchanged.

and Ramganga Power Station, Kalagarh, Pauri Garhwal.

UJVN LTD.
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road Dehradun-248006

kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Ghazipur, Delhi.

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

DP/423/ED/2021

http://www.uktenders.gov.in.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

To be known to all that my client, SHRI PERM SHANKAR GUP/I S/O SHRI L.C. GUPTA K/O FLAT NO B-40-B, FIRST FLOOR GANGOTRI APRATMENTS, ALAWANDA, NEW BELHI-110019, is the owner of DDA STS FLAT NO.B-40-B, ON FIRST FLOOR ALONGWITH SCOUTER GARRAGE, CATEGORY-III, STIJIATED A GANGOTRI APRATMENTS, ALAWANDA, NEW DELHI-110019 GANGOTRI APRATMENTS, ALAWANDA, AND ARAWANDA, NEW DELHI-110019 GANGOTRI APRATMENTS, ALAWANDA, AND ARAWANDA, AND ARA

ADVISION TO SHARMER CAREON THIS INTERIOR AND WITH THE TO STAND THE TO

documents: 08.04.2021 up to 16:00 Hrs.

Ro.No.-241

General public is hereby informed that a

girl namely Komal, D/o: Kamal, R/o:

H.No. B-712, G.D. Colony MV III, Delhi

has been missing/kidanpped since

22.02.2021 at 4:00 PM from her home. In

this regard FIR No. 94/2021 dated

11.03.20 u/s 363 IPC at Police Station Ghazipur, Delhi. The description of

Police Station, Ghazipur, Delhi

Ph: 011-22610094, 22610068

**Executive Engineer (Maint.)** 

New Delhi:Investor wealth has eroded by over Rs 7 lakh crore in two days of market crash as sentiment remained muted amid rising COVID-19 cases in

the country.
The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 740.19 points or 1.51 per cent to close at 48,440.12 on Thursday. In two days, the benchmark index has plunged

1,611.32 points or 3.21 per cent. Tracking the weak senti-

missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

ment, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies declined by Rs 7,00,591.47 crore to Rs 1,98,75,470.43 crore in two days.

"The selling pressure has intensified in the last couple of sessions owing to weak global cues and concerns over the second wave of COVID cases, said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

### going well in India; private sector: CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T_{\text{going well in India and the}}^{\text{he investment climate is}}$ private sector should skill their workforce in the interest of its business, Chief Economic Advisor K V Subramanian said on Thursday asserting that he does not foresee any difficulty in demand and supply of the workforce.

Addressing 'Times Network India Economic Conclave', Subramanian further said job creation is part of the virtuous cycle that starts with private investments flowing into the country resulting in production, growth, job creation and increase in aggregate demand which in turn leads to more investments in the econ-

Sebi relaxes norms for listing of start-ups; allows discretionary allotment to

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

a slew of relaxations to norms, including reducing holding period for pre-issue capital

The changes have been approved to the framework for listing on the Innovators Growth Platform, Sebi said in a statement after the board

#### **Investment climate** | Sebi makes dividend distribution policy compulsory for top 1,000 listed cos

PTI NEW DELHI

To strengthen corporate governance practices and disclosure requirements, Sebi on Thursday decided that top 1,000 listed firms should formulate a dividend distribution policy.

"Requirement for formulation of dividend distribution policy by the existing top 500 listed entities has been extended to the top 1,000 listed entities on the basis of

market capitalisation," Sebi said in a statement after conclusion of its board meeting.

In case of board meetings held for more than one day, Sebi said the financial results should be disclosed by listed entities within 30 minutes of end of the board meeting for the day on which such results are considered. Also, the regulator has decided to do away with the requirement to seek stock exchange's approval for change of name of a listed entity.

#### **CAG** recommends enquiry in renovation of India House in London

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has recommended an inquiry in the renovation of the India House in London as the works award was given without approval of the Ministry of External Affairs.

According to a CAG report tabled in the Parliament, the High Commission of India, London undertook work relating to renovation of the basement at the India House, at a cost of GBP 744,971 (approx. Rs 6.63 crore), without prior

approval from the Ministry of External Affairs and resorted to irregular splitting of works to evade approvals from higher authority and open bidding.

"It adopted a grossly manipulated process for award of works to the same person, and made post facto additions and alterations in the scope of work which led to undue benefits being extended to Contractors. Such blatant subversion of rules and processes indicates supervisory failure and possible collusion between Mission officials and the agen-

#### Govt permits NPNT compliant drone operations at 34 green zones

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted permit to "No-Permission-No-Takeoff' (NPNT) compliant drone operations at 34 additional green zones to facilitate, smoothen, and promote drone operations in the country. The

approved sites allow drone usage up to 400 ft Above Ground Level (AGL). These zones are in addition to the 26 green zone sites approved dated 02 Feb 2021 and six green zone sites approved dated 03 Apr 2020.

#### not constrain innovation in fintech space: RBI Guv

**Regulation should** 

Heterogeneous

banking sector in India

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank

foresees a "competitive, efficient

and heterogeneous" banking

sector with four distinct sets of

banks dominating the land-

scape over the next decade, its

governor Shaktikanta Das said

having presence across the country and the world, mid-

size banks present across the

economy, small finance

banks/regional rural banks/cooperatives to take care

of the small borrowers and dig-

after the RBI appointed a panel

headed by former deputy gov-

ernor Shyamala Gopinath on

bank licences to evaluate appli-

cations for universal banks

and small finance banks. An

internal panel had recently

recommended allowing deep-

pocketed corporates into the

banking fray, something the

A final view on the con-

RBI had been averse to for long.

troversial proposal is yet to be

The comments come days

ital players, he said.

There will be large banks

on Thursday.

in a decade with four

types of banks: Das

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

Inderlining the need for Underning the hear sector for effective service delivery, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday called for effective regulation that should help innovation in the fintech space and not suf-

Effective regulation is a priority for the Reserve Bank, and regulation should not constrain innovation in the fintech space, the governor told an event organised by the Times

The governor also said that maintaining banking sector health with strong capital base and ethics-driven governance remains a policy priority.

#### **INBRIEF**

**CASTING OF 2ND CONCOURSE SLAB COMPLETED** 

The construction work of Noapara-Barasat via Bimanbandar Metro project has been going on in full swing. In recent times, a significant progress of this project has been achieved. Casting work of the 2nd concourse slab of Bimanbandar station was completed on Thursday.

SRM HOSTS DEFENCE SERVICE HACKATHON FOR STUDENTS

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur hosted a Defence Services Hackathon, the first-of-its-kind in the country. It was hosted by SRM Innovation and Incubation Center, SRMIST. The aim of this hackathon was to involve students and researchers in developing solutions for real time problems faced by our

#### ONCE-A-DAY' HAND SANITIZER LAUNCHED

Adding an altogether new dimension in the hand santizer industry, Swanrose India, a wholly owned subsidiary of US-based Swanrose Inc., on Thursday announced the launch of 'once-a-day' hand sanitizer

#### JAMMU TOURISM HEAD MEETS TOUR OPERATORS

The Director tourism Jammu, Dr Naseem Javaid Chowdhary held an interactive meeting with travel and tour operators of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi on the sidelines of SATTE at Noida. SATTE is one of the prominent travel exhibitions of South Asia in which J&K participates every year.

#### **COOPERATIVES YET TO LURE YOUTH: MINISTER**

particularly agriculture are yet to catch the fancy of the youth and the Government must take efforts to attract them into this model. The government is eyeing towards cooperatives to help it achieve its goal of becoming a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2024-25 as envisioned by Prime coming forward. They think that cooperatives are some old-fashioned concept run by elderly people. It is our responsibility to introspect how

RBI HAS MAJOR CONCERNS ON CRYPTOCURRENCIES: DAS The Reserve Bank has "major concerns" on the cryptocurrencies traded in the market and has conveyed the same to the government, its governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said. Underlining that both the government and the RBI are "committed to financial stability". Das said there are no differences between the central bank and the Finance

**ECONOMIC REVIVAL TO CONTINUE 'UNABATED'; RBI GUV** The rising COVID-19 infections across the country are a matter of does not foresee lockdowns, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said, asserting that there is no need for a downward revision of RBI's Network's India Economic Conclave, Das said, "We have 'insurance' to protect economic revival like a fast-paced vaccination drive, greater ability among people to follow COVID protocols", and one does not see

E- Tender Notice An e- tender notice is invited, under two-bid system for appointment of regular Road Transpor

Contractor for two years from various dispatching centers to various receiving centers of Rajasthan region. Under e- tender notice ROJ/CONTRACT/RTC/02/2021, the bids shall be

CORRIGENDUM TO e-AUCTION SALE PROGRAMME Please refer to this office e-Auction Sale Programme during April-2021 dt.: 18/03/2021.

e-Auction program of April, 2021 Deputy Chief Materials 02673241295 30/04/2021 Manager-DHD 09724090455 All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. Please visit Western Railway well as on www.ireps.gov.in e-auction portal for further information

(SIII/Auction Programme-2/April-2021, Dt.: 24/03/2021)

Dy. CMM/Sales

Like us on: 

f facebook.com/WesternRly | follows us on: 

twitter.com/WesternRly

125684, 93443, 95124, 101858, 192197-192198, 266035, 79074 for 1100shar aring distinctive No(s) 29255311 to 29255410(100), 23224311 to 23224410(100), 29472111 to 29472210(100), 31618561 to 31618660(100), 28631511 to 28631610(100), 28803711 to 28803810(100), 29488511 to 29488610(100), 41091410 to 41091609(200), 61986297 to 61986396(100), 27149011 to 27149110(100). standing in the name(s) of Bunu Dasin the books of M/S Tamilnadu Petroproducts Limited has/have been lost/misplaced/ destroyed and the advertiser has/have applied to the company for issue of duplicate share ertificate(s) in lieu thereof. Any person(s) who has/have Claim(s) on the said shares should lodge such claim(s) with the Company's Registrars and Transfer Agents viz. Cameo Corporate Services Ltd, No 1, Club House Road, Chennai TamilNadu- 600002, Phone No. 044-28460084 / 28460395 / 28460390 Fax No. 044-28460129 within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares Name(s) of the shareholder(s) Date:- 26/03/2021.

### UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006

गत्रांक सं. 240

Tender Notice Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Ichari Dam, Ichari via

PCM-Dakpathar, UJVN Ltd., Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders from interested bidders. Brief summary of tenders are given

Availability of tenders on web site: w. e. f. March 26, 2021 ast date/time for submission of tender: April 20, 2021 Upto 14:00Hrs.

web site "www.ujvnl.com".

Executive Engineer (E&M)

#### "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

#### **TENDER NOTICE**

#### The Dy. Chief Engineer /Const.-I. Northern Railway State Entry Road, New Delhi for

and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

- location terminal at Anand Vihar Railway Station (Phase-II) (Sixth call). 2. Completion period of 06 (Six) months from the date of issue the work

4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online) NIL

5. Date & Time for submission of

Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on 16.04.2021 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can only participate in the e-tender, the

be seen on the Notice Board of the above office

No 220-Acs/1/1173/Holding Line Dated: 25.03.2021.

#### **SEARCH FOR MISSING** General public is hereby informed that a



girl (depicted in the photo), Namely: Versha Lal D/o Rajesh Lal R/o H. No. 187, Khanpur Village, New Delhi has been missing since 28.02.2021 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 35 A dated 01.03.2021 has been logded at Police Station Neb Sarai, New Delhi. Her physical description is

Age: 19 Years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Kathi colour top and grey colour pant. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Neb Sarai, New Delhi at E-mail Id cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/460/SD/2021

P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi South Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-29551597, 29551597

eligible investors

Seeking to boost listing of start-ups, markets watch-dog Sebi on Thursday decided and allowing discretionary allotment to eligible

meeting.

### DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) XII STP SEC-25 ROHINI DELHI-110085

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

Press NIT No.22 (2020-21)							
S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money (EMD)	Dated of release of tender in E- procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution		
1.	Supply installation testing	Item Rate	75,000/- <b>OR</b>	24.03.2021	08.04.2021 at		
	and commissioning of		Exempted vide office memorandum No:	2021_DJB_20_	12:05 PM		
	Floating Aerator at STP		F.9/4/2020- PPD and DJB endorsement	2222_1			
	Sector 25 Rohini		No:DJB/2020-21/Misc-II(PT)/ 971				
		l	Dated:23.12.2020				

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on website <a href="http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in">http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in</a> ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

Sd/-EX. ENGINEER (SDW)-XII

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI

#### 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001 PUBLICATION NOTICE n OA No. 852/19 Date: 08.12.2020

Advt. No. J.S.V. 560/2020-21

Deutsche Bank AG (Applicant)

M/s A V Services Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. (Respondent)

1. M/s A V Services Pvt. Ltd., RZ-1, Ground Floor, Dabri Industrial Area, Dabri Palm Road, New Delhi-75 2. M/s Vishal Thapa Directors of M/s AV Services Pvt. Ltd. RZ-1, Ground Floor, Dabri Industrial Area Dabri Palm Road, New Delhi-75

No.2, Sect-12, Dwarka, New Delhi-75 Whereas the above named applicant(s) has have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 11,26,066.00 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Sixty Six Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that, it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make iven by advertisement directing you to make ppearance in the Tribunal **on 06.04.2021 At** 

10:30 A.M. Take Notice that in default of your appeara on the day before the mentioned, the case will

By Order of the Tribuna

#### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOURA SRINAGAR KASHMIR**

**DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (Imports Section)** Email: ammoimports@skims.ac.in, Fax: 0194-2403404

#### **EXTENSION**

Sub:- First Extension to the eNIT No SIMS-324-eNIT 04 (Imports) of 2021 dated 18-02-2021 (Tender ID-2021\_SKIMS\_117187\_1) regarding supply/installation & commissioning of fully Automated Random Access Chemistry Analyzer for the department of Cl. Hematology SKIMS.

Last date of submission of online bids	06-04-2021	up to 2:00 PM
Date of Opening of technical bids	08-04-2021	at 12:30 PM

Further amendments if any, shall be uploaded separately.

be heard and determined in your absence. No: SIMS 324-eNIT 04 (Imports) 2021-1023-29-6168-69 Asstt. Materials Management Officer

#### For Registrar, DRT-II, DELHI. GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

OPENING AMOUNT EMD (APPROX.) NODAL WEBSITE OF THE OFFICER/CONTACT NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER CLOSING BOARD/CORP./AUTH **BOARD CORP./AUTH** DATE DETAILS/EMAIL (TIME) 01662-263105 26.03.2021 GURU JAMBHESHWAR UNIVERSITY HISAR HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES AT GJUS&T, HISAR https://www.gjust.ac.in/ wdgjuhsr@gmail.com 01662-263105 GURU JAMBHESHWAR UNIVERSITY HISAR HOUSEKEEPING & SANITATION SERVICES AT GJUS&T, HISAR https://www.gjust.ac.in/ 09.04.2021 26.03.2021 wdgjuhsr@gmail.com 01662-263105 MAINTENANCE SERVICES (FOR UNIVERSITY WORKS DEPARTMENT) AT GURU JAMBHESHWAR UNIVERSITY HISAR https://www.giust.ac.in/

09.04.2021 26.03.2021 GJUS&T, HISAR
SECRETARIAL/MINISTERIAL SUPPORTING SERVICES & TECHNICAL STAFF GURU JAMBHESHWAR UNIVERSITY HISAR https://www.gjust.ac.in/ AT GJUS&T, HISAR 09.04.2021 6 LACS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

#### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

having any information about this lady please inform



undersigned.

Fax: 011-24368639

DP/751/OD/2021

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in

Ph.: 011-24368638,24368641

General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Chandani**, W/o Laxman, R/o H. No. A-81, Kumhar Wali Gali, Pitam Pura Village, Delhi, Age: 20 years, Height: 4'5", Face: Ovel, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Red Saree and Black Sandal in her feet has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S. Rani Bagh since 17.02.2021. In this regard a vide DD No. 85A, dated 19.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. if any one

> PS Rani Bagh, Delhi Ph.: 011-27015329, 27020740, 27020742

boy namely Vineet, S/o Dilip, R/o H. No. 15/113, Kalyanpuri Delhi, Age: 18 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Sallow, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Eyes; Black, Hair: Black, Wearing: Green Colour T-shirt, Blue Colour Jeans and Blue Sleeper in his feet has been missing from his home since 6.03.2021 at 5 pm. In this regard a vide DD No. 93A dated 10.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi.

uwdgjuhsr@gmail.com

**RO NO. 2340** 

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

Fax: 011-24368639

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in Ph.: 011-24368638,24368641

P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi Ph.: 011-22772251, 8750871830

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Minister of State for Agriculture Parsottham Rupala has said that Cooperatives which can be the instrument of rural development Minister Narendra Modi. "Numerous economic opportunities are

available for the youth in the cooperative sector. But not many are to make them part of the cooperatives which holds huge potential to push the country's economic growth."

Ministry on the matter, and "we should now await the final decision on the matter" from the Centre.

concern, but it may not impact the ongoing economic revival as one said on Thursday. The economic revival will continue "unabated", Das 10.5 per cent GDP growth forecast for FY22. Speaking at Times

# FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA Regional Office : 4-Nehru Place, Tonk Road, Jaipur-302015 (Rajasthan) Phone : 0141-2743137, Fax : 0141-2742034, Email : srmrj.fci@gov.in

accepted ONLINE from 26.03.2021, 04:30 PM to 07.04.2021, 02:30 PM. All the Terms & Conditions and other details are available on Central Public Procurement Portal's website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and Corporation's website www.fci.gov.in. GENERAL MANAGER (REGION)

> **WESTERN RAILWAY** MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Telephone-0135-2763508, 2763808 Fax 0135-2763507 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

Tender No. 09/EE(E&M)/ICHARI/TN/2020-21: Replacement of rubber eals of Stoplog gates & other work of Ichari Dam in Distt Dehradun. Estimated value of work: Rs.700000.00 (GST Extra)

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents of the above works can be downloaded from the Nigam's

1. Name of Balance work of Additional holding line between Anand Vihar & work and Chandernagar station in c/w Development of new coaching

3. Approx. cost of work Rs. 58.25 Lakh (Rupees Fifty eight lakh &

opening of tender tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 16.04.2021 6. Detailed Above tenders document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 26.03.2021 to 16.04.2021. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are Notice & given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can

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### DP/434/ED/2021

General Public is hereby informed that a

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# **A PERFECT** CANVAS

Fashion designers creatively use white as a canvas to give your Holi celebration a colourful expression. Here are some outfit ideas to freshen up your look. By TEAM VIVA

he colour white as a canvas gives room to an array of creative and colourful ideas. While Holi is a festival of colours and traditionally, you would see people wearing white to celebrate the occasion. As a symbol of peace, white embraces each colour. Thus, giving the festival a perfect canvas to celebrate creativity at its And with the festi-

val of colours right around the corner, we have a set of designer labels including Ridhi Mehra, Vedika M, Kunal Anil Tanna, Sukriti & Aakriti, BARI India and Gulabo Jaipur, who have creatively used white as a canvas to give your Holi celebration a colourful expression. So, here's a little something white for a day filled with bright and beautiful

Make a statement by pairing BARI India's swatch and splash hand-block printed kurta with a pair of white palazzo pants. "The kurta will not only give an ethnic touch to the whole look but will also allow women the freedom to flaunt their stylish persona with confidence," says Nitisha Jain, founder of the brand.



**GULABO JAIPUR** 

keep it simple and minimal. Oil your hair, tie it in a bun or a loose

pony. You could opt to wear tiny

earrings, so you don't lose them

while playing Holi," suggests

designer Saloni Panwar of the

NAL ANIL TANNA

have all the fun, right?

This minimalistic white

pintuck kurta with a hint

of bling by Kunal Anil

So, why should girls

Tanna will add festive cheer and a dash of colour to your intimate Holi celebrations. "It's important to preferably have a fabric that dries off easily. Keeping it simple is crucial as you don't want to keep adjusting instead of enjoying the festivities," shares designer Kunal Tanna of label Kunal Anil Tanna.

#### RIDHI MEHRA

GULABO JAIPUR

Comfort plays a crucial part when you decide what you are going to wear for Holi. And Gulabo Jaipur has just the perfect look to celebrate the festival of colours. This glorious white *kalidar* is not just simple and comfortable but it's also soft on the skin. And with great white outfits, comes great responsibilities. "With this garment, I would advise women to keep it simple and minimal. Oil If you are invited for a Holi party where you would play with flowers instead of colours, then this elegant Anarkali in sublime ivory should be your OOTD. "Aliza, a bejewelled silhouette paired with a net dupatta makes for a perfect festive outfit," shares designer Ridhi Mehra.

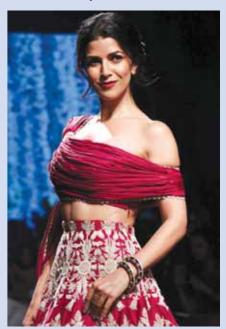
It's all about experimenting with your look this Holi and label Vedika M has just the outfit for you. To add a dash of vibrancy to your festivities, you can style plain white long sleeves elas-

ticated top with a pair of hand brush painted jogger pants in shades of sea green and pink. "You can accessorise the white outfit with chunky earrings, colourful bangles and complete the look with a pair of sunglasses to have a trendy indo-western outfit," Vedika

#### SUKRITI AND AAKRITI

Holi parties are known for their music and if you love to dance then fashion designer duo Sukriti & Aakriti have just the perfect look for you. In menswear, this embroidered bandi paired with a kurta set is chic and comfortable, whereas women can opt for this white organic sharara set with multi-coloured gota work and tassels. You can style the sharara with a pair of chand bali earrings and a sleek pulled back hair style. As for the guys, a pair of retro sunglasses will add pizazz to that desi look," duo Sukriti &

#### 'Having a career abroad comes with a price'



ctor Nimrat Kaur, who has been part of Ainternational projects such as Homeland and Wayward Pines, says that due to her involvement outside Bollywood, she doesn't get a lot of films to choose from in India.

However, the actor adds that she has never had to remind anyone of who she is.

"I am not in circulation as I might have liked to be regularly. I may not get to choose from a big spectrum of parts which otherwise I would have got. But it has never come to a point where I have to remind people about who

I am," Nimrat says.
She adds that she might not be offered the kind of roles that she wants, but that's the "price" she has to pay for a career abroad.

They might not offer me exactly what I am looking for, but that's part and parcel of life. I have a career abroad and here. That comes with a price," she says

Talking about the kind of work she wants to take up, Nimrat says, "I cannot think of a genre I will not attempt, even if I fail at it. I am looking for all kinds of work. The more you do, the more you want to. It's a bottomless pit where you can keep playing different people."

Nimrat will be seen in the film Dasvi, which also features Yami Gautam and

### 'There were no distractions'

Singer-songwriter ARJUN KANUNGO wrote more music during the pandemic than he ever did in his life

Singer-songwriter Arjun Kanungo had no option but to create music all through last by the pandemic. In hindsight, the 30-year-old feels it was the "best thing" that happened to

"(The pandemic) weirdly enough made me more focussed. I wrote more music in the pandemic than I have ever written in my life," he

"There were no distractions, no live shows, no travel and basically there was no socialising, except of course the social media lives. I could only make music. That really connected me to the roots of why I started playing music in the first place, and how I started playing music at home. We came back to that part of our journey and that kind of grounded everyone," added Kanungo.

Another thing the pandemic did was that it "accelerated" the growth of non-film music, he notes. While he agrees that indie and non-film music are as big as film music now, he is "still confused" about non-film music becoming the "primary source of listening to music" for the Indian

"I am not sure about the two categories (film and nonfilm music) competing against each other. I feel it will take a



music starts generating the same kind of numbers as film music does. (That's why I think) they will co-exist. India is such a big market and there are so many people. It can definitely have two categories co kisting," Kanungo said.

"Right now," (it's) a bit confusing for me, in the sense that where does non-film music go from here. At this stage it depends on the audience. Will today's youth pivot towards non-film music? I don't know yet. It's more like-

ly that people might consume both," he added.

Having said that, Kanungo points out that musicians no longer need the film industry to sustain themselves.

"Not just musicians who do non-film music primarily, but also guys who are into indie music — many of them have become stars now. COVID has helped musicians to move towards non-film music and in general the music scene has changed so much. You can (now) sustain yourself as a musician," he said.

This past week, on a school WhatsApp group, I got a reminder that it is a decade since I lost two batchmates in the space of a month to car accidents. Their names were Aseem Chaturvedi and Vikram Rusell, and while they were both taken far too soon, I hope that time has allowed their families and their friends the opportunity to grieve. This reminded me about why we should take road safety seriously. Forget everything else, forget the loss of bright and talented individuals or the economic impact of losing 1,50,000 people annually in road accidents, this ily members and friends impacted by road fatalities every year.

The events of the past 12 months will ensure that road fatalities would have declined very sharply, yet as things have opened up, road fatalities have gone back to their pre-pandemic levels. In the past 12 months, India has officially lost 1,60,000 people, thanks to the Coronavirus, but that is not very far off from the number of people who died on Indian roads in 2019, at least officially. We shut down our economy, cost millions their jobs and, according to a recent report, pushed 75 million peo-

ple back into poverty because of the potential damage a pandemic would have had on the Indian populace. Yet, while there has been a quantum leap in camerabased traffic enforcement in India over the past few years, no matter where you drive in India, it is

almost comical at how entitled and selfish the average Indian driver is. Across the board, from a cycle-rickshaw carrying iron-rebar rods to e-rickshaws not using their headlights, motorcyclists treating pavements as a carriageway and car drivers blithely ignoring speed limits or driving on the wrong side to save

I will not be holier than thou and claim that I am a perfect driver. I most certainly am not. I have had accidents, thanks to my own carelessness. Although I would like to believe that I am a far better driver today than I was 10 years ago because I know that

# A reminder to be safe

The government's mandate to carmakers that requires compulsory airbags, for driver and front passenger, is a good move but road safety needs much more work



instead of Aseem or Vikram it could have well been me inside a car. I do not want to be morbid here, but every single one of us has been impacted by someone we know dying or being badly injured in an accident yet we have not changed our behaviour on the

Recently, the Ministry of Road Transportation and Highways mandated that carmakers fit a front passenger airbag compulsorily in all vehicles from the middle of the year. That will make a slight difference. Carmakers are increasingly fitting six or even seven airbags in their vehicles, some across their variant range including

base models. Automatic transmission vehicles are getting traction control and stability systems. But a vast majority of road fatalities

happen to motorcycle riders and passengers and truth be told, other than in a few cities helmet usage or even stopping triple ridership has not been enforced. Heck, motorcycle companies actively advertise their products with stunts and a disclaimer in point size zero. When the government tried to mandate longer insurance terms for two-wheelers, the industry protested in unison. Across the board, accident and road insurance for vehicles are abysmal and it is believed that less than a quarter of motorcycles more than five years old have any sort of insurance. Yes, insurance adds to costs, but a decent insurance package can ensure that those who get hurt the hardest by an accident, not the victims but their families, are at least taken care of to a

certain degree. Here is the thing, we cannot reduce road fatalities to zero. Even bringing down road fatalities to below 1,00,000 (2020 notwithstanding) will take a concerted effort by the centre, states and traffic police forces across the country. This is a manageable target, we owe it to the families to do this. And we cannot and must not ask the authorities to do it all. We have to change ourselves. We have to ensure that we are better drivers and riders because if we don't change ourselves, nothing, not higher fines or the fear of death will make us change.

### TREND:

#### VARUN SHARES MEMORIES FROM ARUNACHAL

Actor VARUN DHAWAN has shared a slice of the memories he has brought back from the recent location shoot of the supernatural film Bhediya in Arunachal Pradesh.

Varun posted a picture on Instagram, where he was seen posing with Abhishek Banerjee near a lake.

"Memories made forever. #teambhediya,"

Varun wrote as the caption. Abhishek commented, referring to the clean air of the place: "Best oxygen waali



'I feel lockdown was a period where there was no entertainment on television. This is why people moved to OTT platforms to watch shows. OTT platforms were there earlier too, but people started switching because they were getting entertainment there. This is why viewership has increased and people give preference to OTT over TV.'



#### OLIVIA CAN'T RECALL HER **OSCAR-WINNING SPEECH**

Actor OLIVIA COLMAN, who won the Oscar as Best Actress for her role in *The* Favourite in 2019, has revealed that she has no recollection of what happened after the ceremony or even her winning speech, during which she thanked her co-stars, crew, and kids.

"My husband said it was the best night of his life. I can't remember what I said. I only know because I've seen it played back now. I still can't quite believe it happened," she said.



ralking into a magnificent structure with floor-to-ceiling glass windows and doors, which overlooks a serene garden, could instantly transport you to a state of zen. The Glass House at Hilton Garden Inn, Gurugram, is sophisticated, classy and peaceful to say the least. Though its permanent menu takes you around the world, the curated one '21 dishes of 2021' promises to embrace the best of the myriad of cuisines — both local and international — to enhance your dining experience.

Seated on a table for two, right next to the glass windows while enjoying 80s pop music, I was welcomed with a Dark chocolate dome. Plated with granola soil and a white chocolate cigar which bridged across the plate, connecting the granola soil with the chocolate dome. It read, 'Welcome to HGI, Shambhavi' in white chocolate, adding a warm, personal touch to the dessert. Once the chef poured the melted chocolate over the dome, it melted revealing the filling inside. I began cutting into the dome only to be surprised by the layers upon layers within it. At the very bottom of the dome was a dark chocolate brownie which was dense yet fluffy. Above the brownie was the light and airy whipped cream which was topped with some diced fresh strawberry and almond shavings. As I took my first bite, I began to think, 'this might be too chocolate-y, but I was wrong. The freshness and citrus from the strawberries with the airy whipped cream, brownie and some nuts and dome bits for crunch, made a deadly combination. The dark chocolate dome bits added some bitterness which helped the dish to not enter the 'overly sweet' zone. This dessert answers the question, 'how much chocolate is too much chocolate?' by proving that no amount of chocolate is too much if it is perfectly bal-

Now, it was time for something to wipe the chocolate flavour from the palette. An amuse-bouche was served (typically bite-sized dish, served to refresh the palate between courses). This was the Compressed watermelon with mint and cucumber broth, and Cream



# **CELEBRATING DIVERSITY**

At Glass House, you can travel the world through multiple plates, says Shambhavi Suri

cheese quenelle. Served in a white bowl, the compressed watermelon looked like a beautiful piece of salmon at first. However, to my surprise, I had cut into the crisp piece of water-melon. The melon was submersed in the mint and cucumber broth, only revealing a bit of the piece over which the cream cheese sat. The beauty of the dish was that the flavours do not linger on the palette and was truly refreshing. Next up was the Malaysian

laksa. Served in a hollowed-out coconut, the dish was presented in a very creative way. Serving the laksa in the tender coconut was not merely for presentation. The chef explained that once the piping-hot broth is poured into the coconut, the pulp of the tender coconut melts, giving an enhanced flavour. The broth was thin in terms of its texture, making it light and delicious. The noodles were also topped with peanuts, carrots, broccoli and fried onions that added a crunch and some more layers to the dish. This bowl of laksa was comfort food redefined! The lightness of the broth had me going in for more.

While I was still enjoying the laksa, the Blue cheese *malai* 



tikka with ananas chutney made its way to my table. The tikka came in a cylindrical-shaped, brass serving piece with the skewers inside. The serving piece was smoked with coal and made the entire place smell like Old Delhi at night, when all the tandoors come out into the narrow galli (ally). The tikka was soft and succulent, and came apart as soon as I put my fork on it. The pungent flavour from the blue-cheese was a lip-smacking variation to the traditional malai tikka. The blue cheese also added another layer of creaminess along with the malai. The flavours in the mouth that lingered after the bite were just the smokiness of the tandoor and

the sweetness from the *malai*. In

my next bite, I paired the tikka

with the ananas chutney. It was

just tantalising! It was tangy, refreshing and the flavour of the pineapple was not curbed by the flavour of the red chillies or ginger in it. The pairing of the chutnev and the blue cheese malai tikka was a match made in heaven. The acidity from the ananas chutney balances the heavy creaminess of the tikka, making the entire experience

The next appetizer served was a different take on the traditional dahi kebab. Known as yogurt polpettes, it was served with a Raw papaya relish. The polpettes were rolled out and shaped like a cigar, covered under a blanket of noodles and deep fried. The stroke of the fluorescent green raw papaya relish on the black plate was like a brush stroke in a painting.

Cutting into the polpettes, there was the hung-curd mixed with coriander, cashews and finely chopped green chillies. I put some relish on top and took my first bite. Just like the *malai tikka* and the chutney, this dish was also balanced perfectly with an almost citric and acidic condiment, paired with a heavy and creamy element. The fried noodles gave it an extra crunch which is missing in the traditional dahi kebab.

For the main course, I was served *Chaudhary saab ki biryani* alongside *Burari raita* and salan. The non-vegetarian variant of the Chaudhary saab ki biryani was with pieces of chicken, cloves, cardamom, mint leaves along with chicken keema and topped with fried onions. The *biryani* was served in a traditional earthen pot known as matka. The smell of the desighee took over all my senses as soon as I took off the lid of the matka. With all my senses engaged, I took a bite and it transcended all my expectations. It was one of the best biryanis' I had in a very long time. The dif-ferent flavours of the chicken pieces and the keema added layer upon layer to it accompanied by the spices. All this was brought together with the taste of desi-ghee which transported me to the roots of India.

After all this, the beautiful afternoon came to an end with a dessert. The Indian Dessert Board plated four different kinds of barfi. The first from the left was a round-shaped *pista barfi*, topped with almond shavings. Second was the rectangular beetroot barfi. Next was the strawberry-khoya barfi shaped in the form of a heart and the last one was the coconut barfi. This dessert board truly represented the great Indian desserts, celebrating the diversity of flavours and ingredients present in India.

With the sun rays getting fainter as the evening skies came about, it was time to end the journey that I took through the food served. The kind and friendly hospitality of the chef and the waiters at the restaurant made my afternoon even more memorable. For someone who is looking to take a trip around the world to experience different cuisines and flavours, you can do it right here.

### Enter the world of single malts

ANGAD SINGH GANDHI shares a few trends that are going to dominate the industry and some interesting food pairings to try out with your whisky

Whisky has been an innate part of our lives for decades. While last year saw a dramatic shift in the spirits world with more home consumption and lesser venturing out, there are a few trends that have emerged and will amplify this year. So here is what we predict the whisky world will swirl and sip in 2021:

□Sustainable innovations will **be on the radar**: The current pandemic and growing concern for the environment has given rise to a more conscious consumer and producer base. From eco-friendly packaging to sustainable hospitality and bar culture, 2021 will be about rethinking convention and moving towards a more inventive and responsible whisky industry. Bars will focus on reducing wastage in drinks, eschewing disposables and sourcing ingredients that are locally grown and produced, sometimes even within the bar itself.

□Continual rise of new craft producers: The whisky world will witness a boom in the number of craft producers, micro distilleries and increased approachability when it comes to newer entrants. With rise in homegrown brands and rapid modern whisky movement, we can expect a big wave in number of craft producers with a nuanced and refined whisky collection.

☐The next big whisky market: Lesser-known whisky regions will gain prominence. Changing lifestyles, higher incomes, increasing demand for premium spirits, change in demographics of the whisky drinkers, etc, will significantly contribute in bringing several countries on the whisky map of the world. Especially for a country like India where whisky culture has evolved by leaps and bounds from both producers and consumers end. The century old



whisky market has been gaining its momentum quiet steadily and will continue to be a preferred spirit this year as well.

While single malt as a category will remain a preferred choice among the mature consumers, it will continue to attract the young drinkers in times to come. In addition to these trends, food pairings will continue to be a great way to cherish your single malt. While most people are curious to try food pairings, they are not sure how to.

Consuming your single malt with food opens a world of aroma and flavour opportunities. The goal is not just to find things that go well together, but to create a match where the food brings out something new in the whisky or the whisky brings out something new in the food. In other words, the idea is to create gastronomic synergy to appreciate and savour the drink. Don't be intimidated with

the enormous length and breadth of food options to try out with your single malt just trust your taste buds. You can enjoy a dram with any food you like. Experiment a little and find out what works for you. So here are a few food pair-

ings that go extremely well with water of life aka whisky:

malt with fiery flavours of Andhra cuisine? If not, you're missing out. Gongura leaves and red chillies peculiar to both Andhra and Telangana delicacies work well with the fruity notes of your whisky. Choose from a wide variety of mouthwatering vegetarian and nonvegetarian delicacies. □Exotic flavours of Kashmir:

the South: Unexpectedly, have

you ever cherished your single

The extraordinary gastronomical journey of the Kashmiri cuisine is worth the mention. The traditional Kashmiri wazwan which comprises of slow cooked meat dishes is yet another wonderful pairing and enhances the spicy notes of the whisky. The spices and the condiments just accentuate your drinking

□The South-East Asian bandwagon: When it comes to the global fare, the tangy flavours of South-East Asian cuisine are a perfect accompaniment with the malty notes a single malt offers. The aromatic component of the South-East Asian food adds a lot of flavour to your

□**The secret ingredient**: Elixirs created with fine ingredients is yet another way to experiment with flavours and tasting notes of single malts. For instance, each whisky variant pairs well with different ingredients that enhance the aroma and finish of the single malt serve, so there's a whole world of flavours to play

with.

The rules are simple – choose a subtle dram to compliment lighter flavours or a spicier whisky to complement fullerflavoured dishes. So, grab your glass of whisky and pair it with the food of your choice to relish every sip of it with added

Ambassador of Glenfiddich



#### LAUKI AND KELE KI MALAIDAR KHEER WHAT YOU NEED

- Full fat milk: 800 gm
- Bottle gourd (grated): 400 gm
- Banana (grated): 2
- Khoya: 30 gm Almonds (sliced): 20 gm
- Chironji: 10 gm
- Cashew (crushed): 10 gm
- Brown sugar: 90 gm Cardamom powder: 1 tsp
- Ghee: 25 gm Saffron: 8/10 strands

#### **METHOD**

- Heat ghee in a pan. Fry cashews and almonds. Also, keep some aside for garnishing.
- When they turn slightly brown, add grated lauki and cook it for eight to 10 minutes on slow
- Add milk when it starts boiling. Simmer the heat and let it cook on slow heat for 25 minutes
- Keep stirring in between.
- Now add sugar, khoya and cook it for another two to three
- Put cardamom powder and saffron for enhancing the taste.
- Let the *kheer* cool at at room temperature. Then add grated bananas and mix really well.
- Garnish with leftover almonds and cashews. Serve cold.
- Courtesy: Michelin Plate Winner, chef Dayashankar Sharma.

ALMOND & SESAME PINNI WHAT YOU NEED

- Wheat flour: 2 cup
- Semolina: 2½ tbsp
- Roasted almond slivers: ¼ cup
- Roasted white sesame powder:
- Pure ghee: 3/4 cup
- Gram flour (besan): 1½ tbsp
- Sugar: 1 cup
- Roasted whole almonds: 3

semolina and wheat flour to it.



E

Roast the mixture till a golden colour is achieved.

- Mix the sugar and water in a pan, and put it over low heat. Cook till single string sugar syrup
- Mix the sugar syrup with the wheat flour mixture. Add the green cardamom powder.
- Cook the mixture till it becomes a little dry. Add the
- Allow the mixture to cool.

ground white sesames to the

roasted almond flakes and

pinnis and roll the pinnis gently

#### **VEG BIRYANI** WHAT YOU NEED

- Basmati rice: 3 cups
- Whole green cardamom (divided): 18
- Cloves (divided): 12
- Salt: 3 tsp
- *Ghee:* 4.5 tbsp + 1 tsp
- Red onion (thinly sliced): 6
- Broken cashews: 6 tbsp
- Potato (cubed): 3
- Cauliflower florets: 150 gm
- Carrot (diagonally cut): 3
- Green beans (diagonally cut): 20
- Mil: 30 ml
- Saffron strands
- Ginger and garlic paste: 2 tbsp
- Green chillies: 6
- Oil: 30 ml
- Cumin seeds: 2 tsp Cinnamon stick
- Bay leaf: 3
- Whole black peppercorns: 13
- Curd: 1 cup

METHOD

- Biryani masala: 4.5 tsp
- Red chilli powder: 1.5 tsp
- Water: 1 cup Cilantro (chopped): 8 tsp
- Mint (chopped): 7 tbsp Rose water or kewra water: 3
- Garam masala: 1 tsp
- Soak the rice in three cups of water for 35 to 40 minutes. Drain the water later.
- Heat a pot full of water. Add one black cardamom, three green cardamom, four cloves and 3/4

- Water: ½ cup
- Green cardamom powder: ½
- Roasted white sesame: 1 tbsp

#### **METHOD**

Heat ghee in a pan, add





teaspoon salt to it. Let it come to a

• Put rice and stir with a spoon. • Let it cook uncovered (don't lower the heat) until it's almost

cooked. This takes around six to

- seven minutes. Remove the pan from heat and drain the rice in a colander. Add a teaspoon of *ghee* to the rice. Set
- Heat 1.5 tablespoon of ghee in a pan on medium heat. Once hot, add one sliced onion and cook until they turn golden brown and caramelise. Remove on a plate.
- To the same pan, now add cashews and cook until golden brown. Remove and set aside. • To the same pan, add potato and
- To the same pan, now add cauliflower, beans and carrots. Sauté for two to three minutes

cook for two minutes until light

brown. Remove on a plate.

- until veggies appear light brown. Remove them on a plate.
- Heat two tablespoons of milk in a pan. Once warm, add saffron strands (crush it before adding). Set it aside.
- Crush ginger, garlic and chilli using a mortar and pestle. Set aside.
- Heat 1.5 tablespoons of oil in a pan on medium heat. Add cumin seeds, cinnamon stick, bay leaf, peppercorns, remaining three cardamom and remaining two cloves.
- Stir and let the spices sizzle for a few seconds. Add the sliced onions and also add 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Cook for three to four minutes
- until onions turn light brown. Then add the crushed ginger, garlic and green chillies paste. Cook for two minutes until the raw smell goes
- Remove the pan from heat and

- whisk in the yogurt, whisking continuously until it's all absorbed. Put the pan back on heat. Add
- Add the biryani masala and red
- chilli powder. Add 1/4 cup of water. Let it cook for around six to seven minutes until veggies are almost cooked but not overcooked. They should
- be firm to bite. Remove from heat. Now take a heavy bottom pan. First grease it with ghee.
- Then add a layer of rice (half of the rice). Top with half of fried onion, half of fried cashews and half of cilantro and mint. Add 1/2 teaspoon of rose water. Now place
- the veggies on top (all of it). Then add another layer of rice on top of the veggies. Then top it with remaining with fried onion, cashews, cilantro and mint.
- Add the prepared saffron milk and the remaining one teaspoon of rose water on top.

• Finally drizzle one teaspoon ghee

masala. Cover the pan tightly with aluminum foil. Then cover with a

on top. Sprinkle some *biryani* 

 Heat a flat pan on medium heat. Once hot, reduce the flame to lowest. Place your biryani pot on top of the pan and let it cook for 25 to 30 minutes on lowest heat.

fitted lid.

- Scoop out the biryani from the bottom of the pan so that each serving has both the veggies and Serve hot vegetable biryani with
- Courtesy: The Biryani House.

- mixture and mix well. Divide the mixture into equal parts and shape it into rounds.
  - Cut the roasted almond into halves and place it over the

Courtesy: Chef Manish Mehrotra



#### DAAB CHINGRI WHAT YOU NEED

- Prawns: 750 gm
- Onion
- Panch phoron: 1 tsp • Green chillies: 4
- Turmeric
- Wheat dough: 20 gm Large tender coconut: 1
- Mustard paste: 3 tbsp
- Garlic cloves: 3 Mustard oil: 2 tbsp

#### Salt as required

**METHOD** 

- Chop garlic, green chillies and onion. Scrape out the coconut flesh and put it in a grinder. Grind well to get a coconut flesh paste.
- Heat oil in a pan over medium flame and add panch phoron in it.
- Add the chopped green chillies, onions and garlic cloves.
- Now, take it out in a large bowl and add mustard paste,

turmeric, salt and coconut flesh paste.

• In the mixture, add the

raw prawns and mix everything well. Cut the bottom of the coconut shell evenly to make

it stand properly inside the

- pressure cooker. Put the prawn mixture in the shell and cover the top with wheat dough.
- Add some water in the pressure cooker and place the coconut shell inside it. (Note: The level of water should be about half the

height of the coconut shell.)

- Put the cooker lid on and let it cook over medium flame until you hear three whistles. After removing it from the
- flame, let the dish be inside the cooker for 10 minutes more. Take it out and remove the wheat dough seal. Serve hot
- with steamed rice. Courtesy: Swissotel Kolkata.

flavours. Slainte!

(The writer is the Brand □Diverse culinary culture of

# INDIA GEAR UP FOR SURYA NAMASKAR

Yadav to make ODI debut as Men in Blue target hat-trick of series win

The immensely talented Suryakumar Yadav is likely to get a chance to showcase his 360 degree hitting skills when a rampaging Indian team takes on a rather clueless England, aiming to seal off another series victory in the second ODI here on Friday.

Shreyas Iyer's dislocated shoulder has once again brought Yadav in focus and his ODI debut, after a blockbuster T20 irst outing, looks imminent ifter an all-round show

an easy victory in the first game. Iyer has been one of India's most prolific 50-over batsman before

by the hosts ensured

Covid-19 enforced lockdown but such is the team's strength that a debutant looks more formidable for a world champion opposition, who are no less menacing but seem utterly confused at this

Being spoilt for choices is always a good headache to have for the think-tank and skipper Virat Kohli will be more pleased than anyone

Kohli has not had Ravindra

for close to three months but neither Axar Patel in Tests, and now Krunal Pandya in the ODIs, have let the team miss their maverick from Rajkot.

Prasidh Krishna, already a household name due to IPL, looked completely at home on his ODI debut, hurrying batsmen for pace in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami.

And come to think of it, once Jadeja and Bumrah are back, a Krunal or Krishna will either cool their heels in the dug-out or even worse, not find a place in the squad, which is a testimony to India's unimaginable depth of

> The biggest positive during the opening game was Shikhar Dhawan's return to form with a match-winning 98. He was under pressure after being benched for a large part of the

Rohit Sharma had sustained a blow to his elbow during the first match but is expected to be fit in time for the second game.

The pace trio of experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Prasidh Krishana and the ever-improving Shardul Thakur took nine of the 10 wickets and would be keen to rock the England batting line-up again.

The best part was how they came back after first 15 overs of mayhem by Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow.

Meanwhile, England will look to level the series and stay alive in the

England have a lot to ponder on and injuries to skipper Eoin Morgan and batsman Sam Billings, while fielding, in the lung-opener have only added to their woes.

All-rounder Ben Stokes was firm in his belief that England do not have

### Morgan out of final two ODIs

England skipper Eoin Morgan will miss the final two ODIs of the three-match series against India in Pune after sustaining finger injury in the first game.

Vice-captain Jos Buttler will lead the side in absence of 2019 World Cup winning captain as Liam Livingstone is likely to make his ODI debut.

Also Sam Billings will be unavailable for Friday's match, with a decision on his availability for Sunday's final match to be taken in due course.

Morgan sustained a split webbing between his thumb and index finger in Tuesday's series opener, an injury that required four stitches. The captain went through a fielding drill during training at the MCA Stadium on Thursday and afterwards declared

too many reasons to worry despite the continuing disappointments.

"We've been formidable in the white ball format for over a number of years. Just because we lost the T20 series doesn't mean we need to start changing things around," he said on match eve.

Bairstow was among the runs as he blazed to 94 off 64 balls as was his partner Roy (46).

The two would be looking to put up another fine show and carry forward the aggressive brand of cricket, which was the cornerstone of the 2019 World Cup triumph.

However, their middle order hasn't performed up to its potential and the likes of all-rounder Ben Stokes, Jos

Morgan said: "I had the hand redressed before the start of training today but it quickly became apparent that I found myself protecting the injury and getting into the wrong positions to catch the ball.

There's nowhere to hide on the field in International cricket these days, especially in limited-over formats so it didn't require any great thought to make myself unavailable.

"It was a freak injury and it's extremely frustrating but there's nothing I can do about it. It's now just a case of letting the cut heal. I have every confidence in Jos and the rest of the squad coping without me."

Billings did not train on Thursday after he suffered a bruised left collar bone while fielding in Tuesday's opening match. Dawid Malan, with the tour party as cover, has been drafted into the squad and is available for selection.

Buttler and Moeen Ali faltered with the

If England have to put a big total or chase a score, the trio needs to fire

Their key spinners Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali haven't been able to trouble the Indian batters and both went wicket-less in the opening game.

They will have to step up and deliver and along with Tom Curran, who will need to compliment his brother Sam and pace spearhead Mark Wood, who troubled the batters with his speed.

Ĉome Friday, it remains to be seen whether India are able to add "another sweetest victory" or if the visitors

# KL isn't surprised by Krishna's sensational debut

KL Rahul isn't surprised by India's newest pace sensation Prasidh Krishna's smash-hit International debut as he always felt that it was about time that he would join the ranks of big names from Karnataka, who have already donned national colours.

Prasidh, who had made a name for himself with his performances in the Indian Premier League for Kolkata Knight Riders, took four wickets on his ODI debut against England.

"Look, quite honestly, I am not surprised with what he (Prasidh) did yesterday (Tuesday). I was always very confident that the next player that is going to come out of Karnataka, is going to be Prasidh," said the pacer's state teammate.

"We weren't of the same batch, but I have watched him play a lot of junior cricket and in the nets, he is somebody, who will catch your eye," Rahul said at the virtual press conference.

The best part according to Rahul is Prasidh's abiity to bowl

"(He is a) tall guy (who) bowls quick, gets a lot of bounce from the wicket, and someone having played with him in the last couple of seasons for Mushtaq Ali and Vijay Hazare, I realised

that he is a brave boy." his game sense.

Rahul is also impressed by "He has a great sense of the

game, it's not just his skill but how he understands and reads the game. He is a very keen learner and he is, like I said, very brave and comes in with a lot of aggression," Rahul said.

Rahul is confident that Prasidh will be a great asset for Indian cricket if he keeps on working hard.

"We saw in the last game, he was trying to have a word or two with the batsmen and he enjoys being in a contest and that's is something I love, about him," Rahul said ....And I am so happy to see

that he is carrying on the same thing and he wasn't overwhelmed by the place he is in, playing his first game for the country, I am sure there will be lot of nerves but the way he came back after the first three overs, got those crucial wickets, so these are the qualities that a player and as a team, a lot of us are impressed with, what he has done?

For Rahul, the manner in which each newcomer has performed in this series can be attributed to consistent show in the domestic cricket for years.

"I think a huge part is the IPL and the confidence that these boys come in with. And whoever has coming into the team, is not because they have performed in one season of the IPL or one season of first-class cricket but it has been 2-3 years of consistent performances and at whatever level they play, or wherever they play," said Rahul, who captains the Punjab Kings, in the T20 league.

But obviusly having played all the top English players in IPL did help their performance,

Rahul admitted. "Obviously, you would have heard Surya (Suryakumar Yadav), Ishan (Kishan) and Krunal (Pandya), in their interviews saying that they have played against most of these guys in the IPL at some point and they know how they go about their games and IPL performances have obviously given them a lot of confidence and they have carried that confidence into

playing for their

### **Animated outbursts** isn't our way of operating: Stokes



nimated and aggressive Animated and aggressive body language might work Indian team but that doesn't have a bearing on England's modus operandi, said their premier all-rounder Ben Stokes.

The question was in reference to Índia captain Kohli's aggressive in your face demeanour while fielding or celebrating a fall of wicket.

"Every team and every player has a certain way of operating in the field, which makes them successful. As a team over the last four-five years, that's not the way that works for us," Stokes said on the eve of their must-win second

"We stick to what we do best and what we make is to build a better side. Each team is entitled to their own way of operations. India have their and we have ours," te dashing allrounder said.

Asked whether he preferred a "nice or spiky" Virat, Stokes gave a smart reply:

"Personally, I prefer Virat doesn't get runs, because that's not good for us.

After their 66-run loss in being usurped for their No 1 ranking but Stokes said it's not their driving force.

"We deserve to be No 1 because of our results and how we played our cricket and we won't go away from that. Being No 1 is obviously a fantastic thing to have next to your name as a team, but it's not our driving force.

"Our driving force is the way that we go about it and our attitude towards playing the game. And that's what's made us be successful, and the more successful we are obviously the more chance and the more opportunity we've got to be at No 1."

With twin injury blows to Eoin Morgan and Sam Billings, England may hand a debut to Liam Livingstone and Stokes is confident that a "fearless" Livingstone would embrace the opportunity if picked for the second ODI.

# Playing more games keeps me in good touch: Rahul

Three months without a com-L petitive game left KL Rahul a trifle rusty but the stylish righthander had complete faith in his preparedness, something which helped him bounce back to form in the first ODI against After an indifferent T20

series against the same team, Rahul had a good first ODI scoring a half century as well as a number of catches behind the

"As a batsman I feel being in the middle and playing games is what keeps me in good touch," Rahul said on the eve of the sec-

"Having not got as much game time as I would have liked,

The Indian football team

I made a fine comeback in the

second half to hold fancied

Oman 1-1 in its first

International match in more

than a year though the Gulf side

dominated the friendly here on

42nd minute with Chinglensana

Singh's clearance crossing the

goal-line after hitting goalkeep-er Amrinder Singh who started

the match instead of Gurpreet

Manvir Singh scored the equaliser in the 55th minute to

help India pull off a rare draw

against Oman in the first

International outing after the

Stimac gave debuts to as many

10 players. He had said before

India head coach Igor

Covid-19 lockdown.

India conceded a goal in the

PTI DUBAI

Thursday.

Singh Sandhu.



on my mind, but somehow or the other you have to find a way to be best prepared, be it at training or open net sessions," he explained.

"În terms of that, I tried to prepare in the best way possible but having said that, nothing beats game time," he added. With Rishabh Pant back in

the white ball mix and Ishan Kishan also grabbing his chance with both hands, Rahul knows that he cannot take his place for granted despite being one of the most prolific performers in the shorter formats.

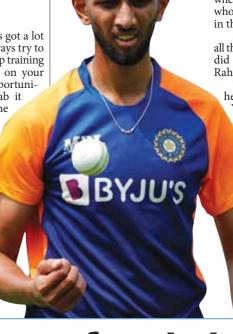
"Look when you are a part of the journey of this Indian team you know that competition is going to be really, really high and you can never sit back and feel comfortable like you own a position. ent or I wasn't

and that's how it is. "Our country has got a lot

of talent, you will always try to push yourself and keep training harder and working on your game. And when opportunity comes, try to grab it with both hands," he The lean patch that he encountered

is part of a journey for an international cricketer, something that didn't stress him much. 'This is part and everybody

goes through this. I didn't do anything differ-



# **Blue Tigers hold Oman for 1-1 draw**

the match that he would give chances to maximum number of players for them to gain the experience of playing in big

The first half was all about Oman attacking in waves with India not getting a single shot on target.

Oman, who have won both the two-legged matches of the 2022 World Cup qualifying against India, played a high defensive line with more men on attack. India were content defending their citadel with more players in their own half and just one man upfront most of the time.

The Indians lost possession too easily on most occasions as

main match. It's not like a test

event or anything, it's just that we have to perform so we have

to be at out best. I consider it

the same thing, just the name

a day after Yadav, Bhaker and

Sarnobat swept the individual

final by winning all the medals

consolidated India's position at

the top of the pecking order

The victory in this event

on offer on Wednesday.

The team Gold came only

has been changed."



**IGOR STIMAC GAVE DEBUTS TO** AS MANY 10 PLAYERS TO GAIN THE EXPERIENCE OF PLAYING IN **BIG MATCHES** 

Oman did not let them hold on

to the ball for long.

Oman squandered a penalty in the 27th minute after Rowlin Borges committed a foul on Abdul Aziz Al Gheilani inside the box. Aziz himself took the spot kick but shot

straight to Amarinder Singh. But Oman were not to be denied a goal in the first half. Al

Aghbari got the ball on the left

wing and sent a low cross on the

face of the goal. Amrinder could not collect the ball cleanly and it hit Chinglensana Singh and went past the goal line. Stimac made two changes at the start of second session

with Lalengmawia and Raynier Fernandes replacing Jeakson Singh and Rowllin Borges.

The Indians dished out a much improved show in the second half, holding the ball a lot more than the first 45 minutes and playing a more attacking game.

India equalised five minutes

Oranje stunned in Turkey

before the hour mark. Bipin Singh sent in a delicious cross from the right flank which was

headed home by Manvir. Oman, ranked 81st as compared to India's 104th in the FIFA charts, then pressed hard for the winning goal but Amrinder was impressive behind the bar as he made two fine saves in the 63rd and 65th minutes

India play their second International friendly against the UAE here on Monday.
The friendiles are a part of

reparations for the joint qualifying round matches of the 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup to be played in

### India women's win 25m team pistol Gold

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian juggernaut I remained unstoppable at the ISSF shooting World Cup with the country's women shooters grabbing the spotlight by clinching the 25m pistol team Gold medal following a Silver in the 50m rifle 3 positions team event here on

Thursday.

The seventh competition day was also marred by the Hungarian team's pullout from the men's rifle 3 position final — against India — after a dispute with its seasoned shooter Peter Sidi over a bipod that was attached to his rifle, leading to a postponement of the event to Friday.

The host nation's team will take on third-placed USA in the final.

There was positive news for India after that unprecedented act, as the triumvirate



Indian flag after the trio struck Gold in the women's 25m pistol Team event

Poland's Joanna Iwona Wawrzonowska, Julita Borek and Agnieszka Korejwo, who managed to score 7.

"In individual competi-

of Chinky Yadav, Manu are losing the points, nobody Bhaker and Rahi Sarnobat else. But here, we feel a little shot a total of 17 to beat more responsible. It is very different from qualification, it is hit or miss here, but, in qual-

ification, every shot counts in a different way," Sarnobat said. Bhaker added, "I take tions if we make mistakes, we everything as practice for my

with 21 medals, including 10 Gold, six Silver and five Bronze. Earlier in the day, India's Anjum Moudgil, Shreya Saksena and Gaayathri Nithyanadam claimed the

3 positions team event. The Indian rifle team shot 43 in the Gold medal showdown to finish behind the Polish team, which scored 47 to grab the top prize.

Silver medal in the 50m rifle

#### **Saina enters Orleans quarters**

**PTI** ■ PARIS

T ondon Olympics Bronze Lmedallist Saina Nehwal advanced to the quarterfinals of the Orleans Masters after prevailing over France's Marie Batomene in the women's singles second round on Thursday.

Running against time to make it to her fourth Olympics, Saina recovered from the opening game reversal to see off world No 65 Marie 18-21, 21-15, 21-10 in a 51-minute clash in the Super 100 event, which is part of BWF's revised

Olympic qualification period. The fourth seeded Indian, will face either France's Yaelle Hoyaux or Malaysia's Iris Wang

Ira Sharma, ranked 162, also made it to the quarterfinals after beating Bulgaria's world No 71 Mariya Mitsova 21-18, 21-13 in 32 minutes.

#### AFP ISTANBUL The Netherlands slumped to ■ a dramatic 4-2 defeat by Turkey in their opening 2022

World Cup qualifier on Wednesday, while reigning champions France were held by Ukraine despite a brilliant Antoine Griezmann goal and Belgium came from behind to

beat Wales. European champions Portugal battled to a 1-0 victory over Azerbaijan, but 2018 World Cup runners-up Croatia lost 1-0 in Slovenia as they started their bid to reach the finals in Qatar.

In Istanbul, Turkey led 3-0 shortly after half-time through two Burak Yilmaz goals and a Hakan Calhanoglu strike, but substitutes Davy Klaassen and Luuk de Jong gave Frank de Boer's Dutchmen hope.

Yilmaz's wonderful free-Ukraine at the Stade de France. kick sealed him a hat-trick and Griezmann curled a fine



Turkey's Burak Yilmaz celebrates after he completes his hat-trick

Turkey a crucial win. finish from outside the box into The defeat was a dreadful the top corner in the 19th

start to the campaign for the Netherlands, who failed to qualify for either Euro 2016 or the 2018 World Cup. France kicked off their title defence with a 1-1 draw against

list, with 34. But Presnel Kimpembe put

through his own net before the hour mark to draw Ukraine

minute to draw level with David Trezeguet in fourth place on France's all-time goalscoring