



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT ALWAYS IN SESSION

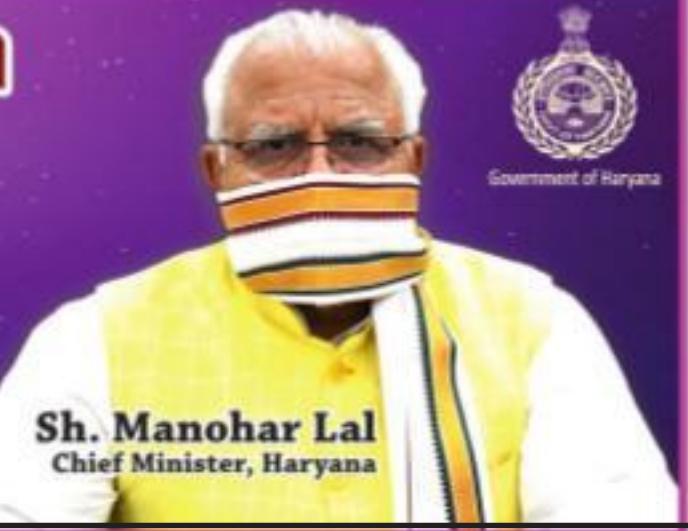
3-T Mantras
Testing
Tracking
Treatment

Up to
30,000 tests
Daily

Till now more than
7.63 lakh vaccine doses
have been given in Haryana

Strict action
for not wearing
mask

Mega
vaccination on
every Monday
and
Tuesday



*Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana www.prharyana.gov.in | @Cmohry @DiprHaryana

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. Mist in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 34 and 18 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 85% Min: 30%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 34.5°C (+4) Min: 19.4°C (+3)

SUN RISES

06:24 hrs

MOON RISES

10:30 hrs

SUN SETS

18:32 hrs

MOON SETS

00:45 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Delhi Mahila Congress members protest against Uttarakhand chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat's remarks regarding ripped jeans, at Connaught Place in the Capital on Friday.

SNS

Lok Sabha passes Bill to amend MMDR Act: Lok Sabha on Friday passed a Bill to amend Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, with Union minister Pralhad Joshi saying the changes will help create job opportunities and allow private sector with enhanced technology in mining activities. "The reform in the mining sector would generate 55 lakh direct and indirect employment. To enhance mining activity, we will allow private sector with enhanced technology in mineral exploration," Joshi said. Ps

Kerala police book ED officials: The Kerala police have registered a case against the Enforcement Directorate officials for allegedly forcing Swapna Suresh, key accused in the gold smuggling case, to give statements against CM Pinarayi Vijayan. The case was registered two days ago on the basis of a report filed by the Crime Branch team which has been probing the leak of a voice clip, purportedly belonging to Suresh, police said. The ED officials who had questioned Suresh on 12 and 13 August last year allegedly forced her to give 'false' statements against the CM. Ps



Medics collect samples at a Covid-19 test centre, amidst a spike in coronavirus cases, in Patiala on Friday.

Curbs for private offices, theatres in Maharashtra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 19 MARCH

In case of government and semi-government offices, the head of the office will take a decision regarding the staff attendance and ensure adherence to Covid-19 protocols.

The order comes a day after the state saw a single-day rise of 25,833 coronavirus cases, the highest daily surge since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said a fresh lockdown is an option but he trusts people to follow the norms on their own.

With coronavirus cases rising at an alarming rate, the Maharashtra government on Friday asked private offices, except those related to health and other essential services, to function at 50 percent of their capacity.

A fresh notification issued by the state government said that drama theatres and auditoriums in the state too should operate only at 50 per cent of their capacity till March 31.

witnessed the highest one-day spike of 25,833 Covid-19 cases, the state recorded 25,681 cases on Friday, according to the state health department, with Mumbai reported the highest spike of 3,062 new infections. Punjab reported 2,369 new cases in a 24-hour

period while Kerala reported 1,899 new cases, the health ministry said in its morning update. The new cases in Punjab rose by 2,490 on Friday, according to a state medical bulletin issued in the evening.

During the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha,

FACT FILE

TOTAL CASES

1,15,14,331

ACTIVE CASES

2,71,282

NEW CASES

39,726

NEW RECOVERIES

20,654

TOTAL DEATHS

1,59,370

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 08:00 A.M. FRIDAY 19 MARCH 2021

CHANDIGARH, 19 MARCH

AGENCIES

Schools, colleges closed in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, 19 MARCH

This will be enforced from Sunday.

In these districts, which will remain under night curfew from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., the CM has ordered cinemas, multiplexes, restaurants, malls etc to remain closed on Sundays, though home deliveries will be allowed subject to night curfew. Industries and essential services will be allowed to function, but barring these, all restrictions shall be strictly enforced, the CM directed the top civic and police officials in these districts.

All educational institutions, other than medical and nursing colleges, will remain closed till 31 March, while restriction of 50 per cent capacity in cinema halls and not more than 100 persons in a shopping mall at any time have been imposed.

The CM appealed to people to keep social activity in their homes to the bare minimum for the next two weeks to break the transmission chain. Not more than 10 visitors should be entertained in homes, he urged. In the 11 worst-hit districts, a complete ban has been ordered on all social gatherings and related functions, except for funerals and weddings, which will be allowed with only 20 persons in attendance.

Union health minister Harsh Vardhan said India has vaccinated 3.5 to 4 crore people so far and side effects of the vaccines have been recorded at 0.000432 per cent. "Every vaccine doesn't require universal immunisation and all these priority groups whom we are

vaccinating today like healthcare staff first and then senior citizens and people aged between 45 and 59 years, it will be extended in the coming days, all these are based on experts' opinion.

Delhi sees a spike of 716 cases: Amid the fresh

upsurge in coronavirus infections in Delhi, the city today recorded 716 new Covid cases - the highest single-day count this year - while four more people died from the contagious, deadly virus, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. (SEE P2)

'Free, fair polls becoming distant reality in Bengal': TMC delegation at EC doorstep



A delegation of Trinamul Congress MPs today met the Election Commission of India in New Delhi to register their protest against the poll panel's reported decision to not permit state police personnel within 100 metres of polling stations.

Mr Yawaswan Sinha, who joined the party last Saturday, accompanied TMC MPs Saugata Roy, Md Nadimul Haque, Pratima Mondal and Mahua Moitra (photo). In a memorandum submitted to the ECI, the TMC delegation described the commission's approach as partisan and biased and said free and fair and transparent elections are not possible in West Bengal in such circumstances.

The letter stated that as per media report, no state police will be allowed within 100 metres of polling booths. If this is true, this is an unprecedented move on the part of ECI and an aspersion on the role of Bengal state police.

The letter also stated that ECI is wilfully doing it only in West Bengal where elections are conducted in three more states and an Union territory.

The TMC said the deployment of Central forces should be to help the state government deal with law and order and "not deliberately demonise the state police personnel that have worked under different governments". The MPs demanded that the ECI must withdraw any such order before the first phase of polling on 27 March. They also demanded 100 per cent VVPAT verification of EVMs during the polls. SNS

Military cooperation, eastern Ladakh on US defence secy's agenda in talks with India

ASHOK TUTEJA
NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH



The situation in the Indo-Pacific region, China's aggressive behaviour against its neighbours and a strong India-US defence and strategic partnership are likely to figure prominently during US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin's talks with Indian leaders, sources said today.

Mr Austin arrived here this evening on a three-day visit, becoming the first top American leader to visit India since the inauguration of the Joe Biden administration in January.

Mr Austin will hold talks with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tomorrow and also call on Prime Minister Narendra

Modi. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat and the three services chiefs are likely to be part of the Indian delegation at the talks. Mr Austin was scheduled to meet National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval in the evening.

Mr Austin is the first US

type of enforcement action is appropriate," the microblogging platform said in a blog post.

Towards this, starting Friday, Twitter will seek responses to a public survey that would help define the policy framework. The survey will close on 12 April. The ques-

tionnaire will be available in

14 languages -- Hindi, English,

Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French,

Indonesian, Japanese, Korean,

Portuguese, Russian, Spanish,

Tagalog, and Urdu.

Twitter informed that it is

in the process of consulting with a range of human rights experts, civil society organi-

sations, and academics world-

wide whose feedback would

be reflected in forthcoming

changes to the policy frame-

work.

"We want to serve the public conversation and allow the public to hear from and engage with leaders around the world. Ultimately, our aim is to have a policy that appropriately balances fundamental human rights and considers the global context in which we operate," it said.

Twitter, Facebook and other

platforms globally have come

under lens for the manner of

treatment of accounts of glob-

al leaders, and politicians.

It is pertinent to mention

here that Twitter had banned

Donald Trump's account in Janu-

ary, citing "risk of incite-

ment of violence" after the US

Capitol Hill siege.

Twitter said it is "reviewing"

its approach to world leaders as

it wants its policies to remain

relevant to the ever-changing

nature of political discourse

on the platform, and protect

the health of the public conver-

sation.

"Generally, we want to hear

from the public on whether or

not they believe world lead-

ers should be subjected to

the same rules as others on

Twitter. And, should a world

leader violate a rule, what

type of enforcement action is

appropriate," the microblog-

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wide whose feedback would

be reflected in forthcoming



I will continue to cooperate with the investigation

TMC KAMARHATI ASSEMBLY SEAT CANDIDATE MADAN MITRA

AFTER DEPOSING BEFORE ED OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH SARADHA CHIT FUND SCAM

Capital sees 716 new Covid cases, highest this year

The Delhi govt increases operational time of vaccination centres in its hospitals from 22 March

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH

Amid the fresh upsurge in coronavirus infections in Delhi, the city today recorded 716 new Covid cases — the highest single-day count this year — while four more people died from the contagious, deadly virus, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

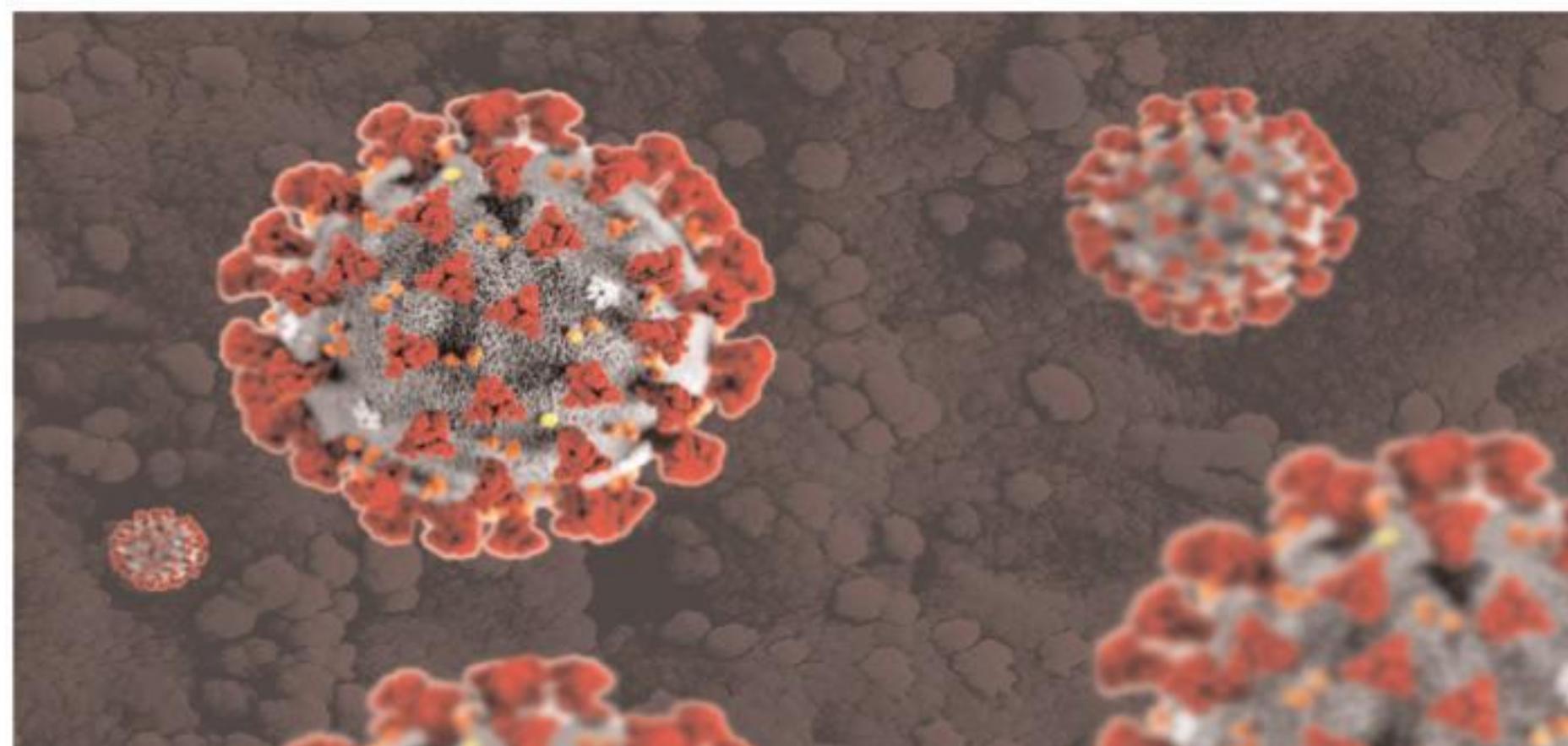
The number of active cases rose to 3,165 from 2,924 the previous day, even as over 6.32 lakh Covid-infected people have recovered in the national capital so far, the health bulletin said.

Delhi's Covid positivity rate jumped to 0.93 per cent from yesterday's 0.76 per cent, the bulletin said. A total of 77,352 tests, including 47,078 RT-PCR tests, were conducted to detect today's fresh cases. The number of patients under home isolation rose to 1,624 now.

The fresh cases took the city's tally to 6,46,348, while its Covid toll rose to 10,953, the bulletin stated.

Delhi had yesterday recorded 607 Covid cases and one coronavirus-linked fatality.

It had reported 536 cases on 17 March and 425 cases on 16 March.



Health experts and doctors have attributed the fresh upsurge in Covid cases to "people turning complacent, not following Covid-appropriate behaviour and assuming all is well now".

A total of 585 coronavirus cases were reported in Delhi on 1 January and 424 cases on 3 January. The daily count had dropped to 306 on 11 January and had risen again to 386 on 12 January, according to official figures.

The numbers had started

to come down in February. On 26 February, the month's highest daily count of 256 cases was recorded in the city.

Asserting that the recent rise in Covid cases in Delhi was not a cause for worry, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced yesterday that the number of Covid vaccinated people in the city each day will be raised from the current 40,000 to 1.25 lakh.

He had said that the Delhi government had directed officials for stricter tracking, tracing

and isolation of coronavirus cases.

The CM had also said that the number of vaccination centres will be doubled to 1,000 from about 500 at present involving both government and private facilities.

The closing time for vaccination would be extended from existing 9 am to 5 pm to 9 am-9 pm.

Meanwhile, according to an official order, the Covid vaccination centres in the Delhi government's hospitals will operate till 9 pm starting 22

March. A copy of the order issued by the Delhi government's health department was shared by health minister Satyendar Jain in a tweet today.

"Taking cognisance of the sudden surge in the COVID cases, all Delhi Govt hospitals will hereby operate vaccination sites in their premises till at least 9 pm. Adequate manpower will be deployed to ensure the same. I request Delhites to follow proper protocols and stay safe," he tweeted.

In a tweet today, he alleged that the Central government's fund to address the rising air pollution level in the city.

"It is a matter of shame and regret that the Delhi government is blaming the Central government for his failure to deal with pollution," he charged.

The public transport system in Delhi was in shambles and in the absence of proper public transport infrastructure,

more private vehicles were running on Delhi roads leading to pollution and congestion, Bidhuri alleged.

Gupta, who was present on the occasion, said that inauguration of three public utility projects showed that the civic agency was dedicated to provide better services to its citizens.

On the occasion, Choubey said that the Narendra Modi Government was working on "a war footing" to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

Under these projects, the foundation laying ceremony of an automated multilevel puzzle car parking in Nizamuddin took place and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed

Delhi BJP president Adesh

Union minister unveils 3 public utility projects in South Delhi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey on Friday virtually inaugurated three public utility projects which falls under the jurisdiction of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

The SDMC's dispensaries and vaccination centres were dedicated to the citizens.

On the occasion, Choubey said that the Narendra Modi Government was working on "a war footing" to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

He assured that the Union Health Ministry will ensure uninterrupted supply of Covid vaccines to Delhi and that it will be provided for every citizen living in the city.

Delhi BJP president Adesh

LOP blames CM for deaths of Delhi'ites due to pollution

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH

The Leader of the Opposition (LOP) in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, on Friday held Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal responsible for the death of 54,000 citizens of Delhi due to pollution and pollution-related problems.

Addressing a press conference at the Delhi BJP office on Friday, Bidhuri demanded Kejriwal's resignation for his failure to deal with the alarming level of pollution in the national capital.

The Kejriwal government was indifferent to this important issue for a long time that impacts the lives of every citizen and their families, he alleged.

Citing the World Health Organization's report that reportedly stated that 54,000 people died in Delhi in 2020 due to pollution, the Delhi Leader of the Opposition

alleged that even the Delhi government could not utilise

the Central government's fund to address the rising air pollution level in the city.

"It is a matter of shame and regret that the Delhi government is blaming the Central government for his failure to deal with pollution," he charged.

The public transport system in Delhi was in shambles and in the absence of proper public transport infrastructure, more private vehicles were running on Delhi roads leading to pollution and congestion, Bidhuri alleged.

beneficiaries as state benefit and may give rise to confusion regarding their rights under the Act.

Under the NFSA, passed by Parliament in 2013, the central government provides foodgrains to states for distribution to 81.35 crore people via the PDS at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 1.3 per kg.

AAP govt's doorstep ration delivery scheme hits roadblock as Centre says it's 'not permissible'

PTI
NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH

Five days before the launch of the doorstep ration delivery scheme by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Centre on Friday asked the Delhi government not to implement it, saying it is "not permissible" to use subsidised foodgrain allotted under

the national Food Security Act for the ambitious project.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) sought to know as to why the centre is against the "ending of ration mafia" and termed the Union government's move just days ahead of the launch of the scheme as "astounding and rather unfortunate".

The decision comes against

the backdrop of the Union government introducing the GNCTD (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha which seeks to give overarching powers to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi which revived the tussle between the AAP dispensation and centre. Kejriwal was scheduled to launch the scheme with doorstep delivery of ration to 100 houses

holds in northeast Delhi's Seemapuri on March 25.

In a letter written to the Delhi government on Friday, Joint Secretary in the Union Food Ministry S Jagannathan said the subsidised foodgrains being allocated by the central government for distribution under the NFSA "cannot be used for the operationalisation of any state-specific/other scheme under different name/nomenclature other than NFSA as the same is not permissible under the Act."

However, the central government will have no objection if the Delhi government comes out with a separate scheme without mixing the elements of the NFSA, it said.

In June 2018, Kejriwal along

with his cabinet ministers had staged a sit-in at the LG office, demanding approval of doorstep delivery of ration in the city.

In his Republic Day address this year, Kejriwal had termed the initiative as a revolutionary step in changing the city's public distribution system (PDS). The modalities of the scheme had also been notified by the

Delhi government last month.

In his letter to Delhi food and civil supplies commissioner Padmini Singh Jagannathan said while states may like to enhance the distribution of subsidised foodgrains, including additional entitlements, more subsidy etc, the nomenclature from NFSA to any local state scheme may be misinterpreted by the

Delhi Government is launching the

EDUCATION MENTORING PROGRAMME

(An initiative to provide mentoring support to girls studying in Delhi government schools)

On Saturday, 20th March 2021 at 10.00 am

Venue: Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women, Kashmere Gate, Delhi

Chief Guest

Sh. Arvind Kejriwal

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi

Guest of Honour

Sh. Manish Sisodia

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi

"We are going to make education a people's revolution. When each child will have a mentor to support and guide them towards success, we will truly realise the potential of our country."

-Arvind Kejriwal

Directorate of Higher Education, Government of NCT of Delhi



The handicrafts are not a means of business for these people but the way of living and tradition for our country. The villagers, farmers, women and many other people work in making handicrafts. They love to create these products and these are their traditions

MANISH SISODA

DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 20 MARCH 2021

Amid Covid spike, Punjab shuts schools, colleges till 31 March

Capt Amarinder orders fresh curbs to check corona surge, that includes restrictions of 50 pc capacity in cinema halls and not more than 100 persons in a shopping mall at any time across the state

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 19 MARCH

In the wake of a fresh Covid-19 surge in Punjab, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Friday ordered state-wide restrictions beginning tomorrow, which will involve the closure of educational institutions till 31 March and curbs on the capacities of cinemas as well

The CM appealed to the people to keep social activity in their houses to the bare minimum for the next two weeks to break the transmission chain. Not more than 10 visitors should be entertained in homes, he said.

as shopping malls among other measures.

All educational institutions including schools and colleges, barring medical and nursing colleges, will remain closed in Punjab till 31 March, with restriction of 50 per cent capacity in cinema halls and not more than 100 persons in a shopping mall at any time being also imposed across the state.

The CM appealed to the



people to keep social activity in their houses to the bare minimum for the next two weeks to break the transmission chain. Not more than 10 visitors should be entertained in homes, he said.

In the 11 worst-hit districts of Punjab, a complete ban has been ordered on all social gatherings and related functions, except for funerals and weddings, which will be allowed with only 20 persons

in attendance. This will be enforced from Sunday.

In these districts, which will remain under night curfew from 9 pm to 5 am, the CM has ordered cinemas, multiplexes, restaurants, malls etc to remain closed on Sundays, though home deliveries will be allowed subject to night curfew. Industries and essential services will be allowed to function, but barring these, all restrictions will be strictly

enforced, the CM directed the top civic and police officials in these districts.

In the 11 worst-affected districts of Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Patiala, Mohali, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, SBS Nagar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ropar and Moga, Capt Amarinder ordered restrictions on in-person public dealings in government offices, with citizens to be encouraged to visit offices only for essential ser-

vices. Dr KK Talwar, who heads the state government's expert team on Covid, said the surge in cases appeared to be the result of opening of schools and colleges, with young asymptomatic people appearing to be spreading the virus. The state currently has almost 40 per cent cases from under 30 population, he added. Taking note of the low vaccination numbers in the state,

Capt Amarinder on Friday asked all private and government hospitals and health facilities to offer hassle-free vaccination services for at least eight hours daily, seven days a week, till 31 March.

In view of the Covid spike in the state, the Punjab government has put off procurement operations from 10 April.

Meanwhile, the ruling Congress party will not hold any political gatherings for the next two weeks in view of the spike in Covid cases in the state.

With 15,459 active Covid cases, Punjab has been reporting the second highest number of deaths in the country. The state reported 38 deaths on Friday.

Punjab recorded 8,706 coronavirus cases in the month of February. In March, the state has started reporting more than 1,000 cases a day. The state reported 392 deaths between February 15 and March 15.

The number of new Covid cases logged in Punjab today was 2490. Similar numbers of new cases were reported in the state this week on a daily basis. The infection tally climbed to 207888 and toll rose to 6,242 in the state, as per the official figures. The active cases also increased to 15,459 from 14,366 a day ago.

The CM said the state is at a loss over his death and his family is in trauma. "I met his family members. They told me that Ram Swaroop was not well for past some time."

"There should be no politics over this issue," he said.

Earlier raising the issue, Leader of Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri in the state Assembly, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said the Delhi Police have registered a case into the incident and have collected evidence from the spot. "We should not act in haste in this matter," he said.

The CM termed the comments on the demise of Ram Swaroop Sharma as unfortunate. "It should not be done. His family is pained over the comments about his death on social media. His close circle and the party organisation is also concerned over it," he said.

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The CM said the state is at a loss over his death and his family is in trauma. "I met his family members. They told me that Ram Swaroop was not well for past some time."

He had a problem of prostate and was undergoing treatment for that. Health issues are the main cause of his death, as his family members are saying so," he said.

Thakur said Ram Swaroop had even gone to Kayakalp in Palampur and had lost weight after that.

Agnihotri said if the suicide by a Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput is being probed, "Why can't a MP's suicide be inquired into?" He said if his son has demanded a probe and people are also asking for it, the government should get a CBI probe done into it.

Parliamentary Affairs minister Suresh Bhadrwaj said if the family wants, the state government will write for CBI probe into it. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi knew Ram Swaroop personally.

HP CM presents tricolour to youth selected for Everest expedition

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 19 MARCH

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday presented the national flag to Amit Kumar Negi, a youth belonging to Batseri village of Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh.

Amit Kumar Negi is a civil

ian selected for the IMF (Indian Mountaineering Foundation) Everest Massif Expedition 2021. He has done a base course from Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM), Uttarkashi and Advance Course from Arunachal Pradesh.

The Chief Minister, while appreciating the efforts and

achievements of Negi, wished him all the best for his Everest expedition. He said that this feat would go a long way in motivating the youth of the state.

HP Assembly Speaker Vipin Parmar, Forests Minister Rakesh Pathania and MLA Jagat Singh Negi were also present on the occasion.

GT Road belt new epicentre of Covid surge in Haryana: Khattar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 19 MARCH

Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, on Friday said this time the epicentre of Covid-19 spread has changed in the state from the National Capital Region (NCR) to Grand Trunk (GT) Road districts (Karnal, Kurukshetra and Panchkula).

Along with Gurugram, the three districts (Karnal, Kurukshetra and Panchkula) of the GT Road belt are among the 90 districts in the country where the maximum cases of coronavirus infection are being reported.

Khattar said efficient implementation of 'Test, Track and Treat' strategy should be adopted at the district, block and village levels to combat the recent surge in Covid cases across the state.

Chairing a high level meeting, the CM said, "Mask-wearing and following the social distancing norms and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) has to be made compulsory and enforced in the

true spirit." He told the deputy commissioners that while implementing the Covid-19 strategies utmost care should be given to ensure that panic is not created among the general public.

In view of the upcoming festivals and auspicious days, the Chief Minister urged the people that they should refrain from any kind of gatherings and celebrate these occa-

sions at their home with their family members. He said that no matter how many steps the government takes, desired result are yielded only when there is cooperation from the general public.

Haryana health minister, Anil Vij, who also attended the meeting through video conference from Ambala, direct-

ed the officers concerned that strict action should be

taken against those who are found violating the Covid-19 guidelines. Massive campaign should be launched against those who are found without masks along with an awareness drive to break the increasing virus chain.

"A three-member committee should be formed at district and sub-divisional levels to ensure implementation of Standard Operating Pro-

cedures at social gatherings and public places," directed the health minister. He said that testing and screening facilities along with ensuring proper sanitisation facilities at schools and industries should also be ensured. Besides this, testing facilities should be ramped up at all the government hospitals, he directed.

Meanwhile, the CM said keeping in view the sudden surge in Covid-19 cases, like last year, the number of procurement centres is likely to be increased so as to ensure hassle free procurement of farmers' produce that is commencing from 1 April.

During this year's procurement process, the state government has decided to ensure 100 per cent transfer of direct online payments in the accounts of the farmers.

Last year, the state had transferred more than 50 per cent of the payments directly to the accounts of the farmers and the rest of the payments were made through Arhtiyas, said the CM.

BBMB sets up free medical camp at Nalwari Mela in Bilaspur

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 19 MARCH

The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) organised a free medical camp at the weeklong state level Nalwari Mela in Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh from 17 March to 23 March.

A team of doctors and paramedical staff is proactively assisting the people of Bilaspur and adjoining villages in the camp with free medicines being distributed to the needy people.

Pak needs to back peace rhetoric with concrete action: Punjab CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 19 MARCH

Terming Islamabad-sponsored terrorism as the biggest hurdle to normalising relations between the two nations, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Friday said Pakistan Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, should back his rhetoric on peace with India with solid action.

Bajwa should first control his ISI (Pakistan's spy agency Inter Services Intelligence)

and then talk about stability in Indo-Pak relations, said the Punjab CM, adding that India cannot afford to go soft with Pakistan till they walk the talk and prove their sincerity with concrete actions.

"Infiltration into India from across the border is still happening. Indian soldiers are being killed at the borders every day. They (Pakistan) are dropping arms and heroin into Punjab via drones every other day. Efforts to create trouble in my state continue to take place. All this should

stop first, only then we can talk peace," said Capt Amarinder.

For India to trust Pakistan, the latter will have to do much more than offer olive branch, said the CM, citing his own experience of 1964 as ADC to GOC-in-C, Western Command. "We used to receive daily reports then offering and trouble from the western border, as we continue to do now," he said.

It is important for not just Bajwa but the entire Pakistan military apparatus to be on board with the idea of bury-

ing the past and paving the way for peace with India, said Capt Amarinder.

For India to trust Pakistan,

the latter will have to do much

more than offer olive branch,

These, said the CM, are questions that need to be answered before India can start believing in, and responding to, Pakistan's overtures of peace. "India is all for peace, all Indians stand for peace, but India cannot compromise on its security and integrity," he stressed, adding that peace cannot be conditional.

Given the way the situation has evolved over the past few

months, Pakistan's increasing

collusion with China, which has been causing a whole lot of trouble for India on the other border, is a matter of concern, the CM said. "If Islamabad seriously wants peace with New Delhi, they should send out the message to Beijing, loud and clear, that Pakistan is not with them in the dangerous escapades at the Line of Actual Control (LAC)."

FITNESS GOAL



A girl doing her exercise at an open gym at Sector 40 in Chandigarh earlier this week.

PARDEEP SAINI

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures

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- PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing



After serving their selfish motives, they left for Wayanad

UTTAR PRADESH MINISTER MOHSIN RAZA

Amaravati land
scam: HC stays
case against
Naidu, Narayana

HYDERABAD, 19 MARCH

Andhra Pradesh High Court has ordered a stay on the case filed by state CID against former CM N Chandrababu Naidu and his former colleague P Narayana who were charged of cheating Dalits of their assigned land in Amaravati.

Naidu and Narayana were asked by CID to appear on 23 and 22 March, respectively but both filed quash petitions in the court against the probe agency's move. Naidu's counsel argued that it was a case of "political revenge" citing the FIR which was filed on the basis of a complaint lodged by the local YSRCP legislator Ramakrishna Reddy. Reddy said nearly 500 acres of Dalit land in his constituency were taken away by the then Naidu government.

It was pointed out that the complaint was not lodged by anyone who had suffered losses due to the actions of the previous government. Hence CID should be prevented from taking any further action including arrest. SNS

If voted to power will hike wages of tea workers in 6 hrs: Rahul

The Congress leader also promised to abolish CAA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

GUWAHATI, 19 MARCH



Rahul Gandhi, while addressing poll rallies in eastern Assam today, promised the people to hike daily wages of tea plantation worker upto ₹365, provide free electricity up to 200 units for every household, to nullify the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), create five lakh government jobs, etc.

While answering a question about the wage hike of tea plantation workers, Gandhi stated that if voted to power, the Congress-led government in Assam would implement it within six hours. The Assam legislative Assembly elections is scheduled for 27 March, 1 and 6 April.

The Congress has formed an alliance with All India United Democratic Front, Bodoland People's Front, CPI(M), CPI, CPI(ML), Anchalik Gana Morcha for the polls.



Criticising the BJP for its aggression over the Assamese language and its history, Gandhi terms the forthcoming polls as a very important election. He urged the voters to reject BJP nominated candidates to safeguard the country from its dictatorial attitude being controlled from Nagpur.

Meanwhile, state minister Himanta Biswa Sarma filed his nomination for Jalukbari Assembly constituency with a massive rally in the city.

Sarma was accompanied by state CM Sarbananda Sonowal, Manipur CM Biren Singh, Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar, BJP general secretary Dailip Saikia, Bhubaneswar Kalita.

Others who filed nominations today include Phanibhusan Choudhury (Bongaigaon), MLAs Suman Haripriya (Hajo), Rekibuddin Ahmed (Saigaon), Nandita Das (Boko), singer Kalpana Patowary (Sarukhetri), Ashima Bordoloi (East Guwahati).

Opp says Yogi govt's claim of decline in crimes far from truth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW, 19 MARCH

On the completion of the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government's four years in office, Opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh on Friday termed its claims of achievements as far from truth and alleged crimes especially those against women have increased in the state.

Addressing a Press conference, CM Yogi Adityanath said his government's zero-tolerance policy towards crime and criminals has shown positive results in the past four years.

BSP chief Mayawati said, There is very little truth in the tall claims of achievements put forth by the BJP government of UP on completion of four years by issuing big adver-

tisements, hoing press conferences etc. in an extravagant manner. It would have been better had their claims benefitted the poor people at the ground level.

Akhilesh Yadav retweeted a party activist's tweet carrying a newspaper cutting which claimed that violence against women had doubled in Uttar Pradesh in the last four years. Congress' Ajay Kumar Lallu

tweeted, "Hatred, unemployment, suicides, destruction of small industries, betrayal of farmers this is what the BJP government of Uttar Pradesh has given in the last four years."

CPI (M-L) said that during the four years of the Yogi government, maximum damage has been done to civil liberties and constitutional democracy in the state.

Revolt in NDA over Bihar MLC nominations

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PATNA, 19 MARCH

The nomination of 12 persons to the Bihar legislative council from the Governor's quota has triggered revolt in the ruling NDA in Bihar headed by chief minister Nitish Kumar.

At least two NDA allies, Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) headed by former CM Jitan

Ram Manjhi and Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) led by minister Mukesh Sahani have registered strong protest over the way their demands were not taken into consideration before finalising the list of the candidates. The NDA comprises four parties in Bihar which include the BJP, JD-U, HAM and VIP. However, the 12 Council seats were equally divided between

the BJP and JD-U whereas the remaining two allies were not given any representation which created tension in the alliance. As per the report, both the HAM and VIP wanted one seat each for their leaders in Upper House but what was humiliating, even their opinions were not sought while finalising the list. HAM's Jitan Ram Manjhi said he was upset over their neglect. "It would have been fair had the leaders of all the constituent parties in the NDA been called and consulted over the selection of candidates. We never expected this from the CM," Manjhi told. Spokesperson Danish Rizwan went to the extent of saying that Manjhi was keeping a close watch on the situation and he would take a call over the issue very soon.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF

SHRI ANURAG DASS

Administrative Civil Judge-

cum-Additional Rent Con-

troller (West),

Court Room No. 112, 1st

Floor

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Petition No.: SC-24/2020

Smt. Anita Subba, w/o Lt.

Sh. Bim Bahadur, r/o H. No. 31,

K.H. No. 98/5, Swarn Park

Extn. Mundka, Nangli, Delhi-110027

— Petitioner/s

Versus

State FOR SUCCESSION CERTI-

FICATE UNDER INDIAN SUC-

CESSION ACT, 1925

To,

All concerned.

Whereas the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities of Service Benefits From DDA, North Division-5, Keshavpuram, Delhi, approximately to be standing in the name of Late Sh. Bim Bahadur deceased.

Whereas the at 10 (Ten) O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for 25-03-2021 hearing on the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court this is on 17-03-2021.

Addl. District Judge-02

Tribunal (ND)

Room No. 22, Main Building

Patiala Courts,

New Delhi

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF

SH. R.L. MEENA

Addl. District Judge-02

Tribunal (ND)

Room No. 22, Main Building

Patiala Courts,

New Delhi

Case GP No. 4/20

Next Date of Hearing-07-04-

2021

Rajawati, w/o Pawan Kumar, r/o 228, Yadav Mohalla, Rajkot Village, South West, Delhi-110038.

— Petitioner

Versus

1. State of GNCT Delhi.

— Respondent 1

Shalu Yadav, d/o Pawan Kumar, r/o 228, Yadav Mohalla, Rajkot Village, South West, Delhi-110038.

— Whereas Rajawati, w/o Pawan Kumar, r/o 228, Yadav

Mohalla, Rajkot Village, NOTICE UNDER U/S 8 OF THE

HINDU MINORITY AND

GUARDIANSHIP ACT, 1956

ALONG WITH SECTION 29

R/W 31 OF THE GUARDIAN

AND WARD ACT, 1890.

To,

All concerned

In the matter of Rajawati, w/o Pawan Kumar, r/o 228, Yadav Mohalla, Rajkot Village, South West, Delhi-110038.

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AND WARD ACT, 1890.

To,



The unplanned lockdown continues to haunt. Condolences to the families being punished with indescribable pain for GOI's incompetence and myopia

CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI
ATTACKING THE CENTRE OVER THE PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN

The Statesman

05

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 20 MARCH 2021

'CCTV footage shows Waze met Hiran on 17 Feb'

Footage also showed Waze and Hiran sitting in a Mercedes; ATS suspects that Hiran handed over the keys of Scorpio to Waze during this meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 19 MARCH



CCTV footage shows that suspended police officer Sachin Waze and deceased businessman Mansukh Hiran had met on 17 February, the day a Scorpio in Hiran's possession was 'stolen', an official of the Maharashtra ATS said on Friday.

The same Scorpio was found with gelatin sticks inside near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house on February 25. The Anti-Terrorism Squad, which is probing Hiran's suspicious death, has recovered CCTV footage of a spot near Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai which showed Waze and Hiran sitting in a Mercedes, the official said.

Incidentally, the NIA, which is probing the recovery of the explosives-laden SUV, seized the same Mercedes car, allegedly being used by Waze, after arresting him.

The CCTV footage showed that Hiran and Waze were in the car for about 10 minutes. Hiran had claimed that on February 17 while he was heading for south Mumbai from his house in Thane, the steering of the Scorpio jammed, so he left it on Mulund-Airoli road and proceeded in a cab. Next day he

found the SUV was missing, he said. The CCTV footage showed Waze leaving in Mercedes from police commissioner's office. Hiran is seen walking towards the car when it is parked outside CSMT. Both sit inside and ten minutes later Hiran steps out and walks away while Waze drives back to the commissioner's office.

The ATS suspects that Hiran handed over the keys of Scorpio to Waze during

this meeting, sources said. On February 25, the Scorpio was found parked near Ambani's residence 'Antilia' with gelatin sticks and a threat letter.

Waze was arrested by the NIA on March 13 for his alleged role in parking the SUV near Ambani's residence.

The NIA had earlier this week seized a black Mercedes car from a parking lot near CSMT and seized Rs 5 lakh in cash, note-counting machine and some 'incriminating' documents. Hiran was found dead in a creek in Thane on March 5. His family alleged that Waze had a role in his death.

Anil Deshmukh meets Pawar: Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh Friday met NCP chief Sharad Pawar here and the briefed him about the developments related to Waze case among other issues. The

meeting lasted for nearly two hours.

"He was briefed about the last development about Mumbai (the Sachin Waze case) and also about the developments on the explosives found in a car outside (industrialist) Mukesh Ambani's house," Deshmukh, who belongs to the NCP, told reporters.

Headed that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the state Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) are probing the case and the state government is cooperating with the NIA.

"Whoever is guilty will be punished. But till the time the NIA does not complete the probe, I would not be able to comment. Necessary action will be taken by the state government after the NIA completes its probe," Deshmukh said. He had come under criticism over the handling of the Waze case.

Forensic team from Pune visits NIA's Mumbai office

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 19 MARCH

on February 25. The same lab is also analysing the viscera samples of Thane-based businessman Mansukh Hiran, who was in possession of that SUV. Hiran was found dead in a creek on March 5.

Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze has been arrested by the NIA in the explosives-laden SUV case. Following his arrest last Saturday, the state government has suspended him. The NIA has so far seized five vehicles - the Scorpio, an Innova, two Mercedes cars and a Toyota Land Cruiser Prado.

Waze, an "encounter specialist", has also been facing heat in the murder case of Hiran, which is being probed by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS).

I-T recovers ₹11.50 cr in raids from MNM leader

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 19 MARCH 2021

Raids were conducted for two days on 17 and 18 March at the properties belonging to Chandrasekar, treasurer of MNM.

process over the next couple of weeks.

Ahead of the Assembly elections, the ECI has made a record seizure of Rs 331.47 crore worth of items which include cash, liquor, drugs, freebies and precious metals, a significant chunk of it, over 38.5 per cent, is from the state of Tamil Nadu.

As part of ECI's Expenditure Monitoring Process, Rs 127.64 crore worth of cash, liquor, drugs, freebies and precious metals, have been seized in Tamil Nadu. Of this amount Rs 50.86 crore is in cash, Rs 1.32 crore in liquor, Rs 35 lakh worth drugs, freebies worth Rs 14.06 crore and Rs 61.04 crore in precious metals.

Swapna Suresh, the joint general secretary of MNM, said that the organisation's workers were marking the houses of people who were not donating for the Ram temple. "There is no such practice and the allegations are unfounded," he asserted.

Tamil Nadu leads with the most amount seized across five poll-bound states and a Union territory — Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. Election Commission of India expects this figure to rise further with the intensifying of the electoral

RSS meet to refrain from discussing political issues

BENGALURU, 19 MARCH

The highest decision making body of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Akhil Bhartiya Pratinidhi Sabha, which began its two-day meet here today, will not take up any political issues for discussion. As part of its main resolution, it will, however, acknowledge the positive role played by the society during the pandemic besides highlighting the manner in which India helped over 71 countries in mitigating the situation.

Similarly, in another resolution, the meeting would underline the unity that the country expressed during the Ram Mandir Nidhi Samarpan Abhiyan, or the fund raising drive for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

RSS joint general secretary Manmohan Vaidya, was quick to brush aside allegations that the organisation's workers were marking the houses of people who were not donating for the Ram temple. "There is no such practice and the allegations are unfounded," he asserted.

SNS

Cops book ED officials in Ker gold smuggling case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 19 MARCH

The FIR said the charges of conspiracy, threatening, framing an incorrect document with intent to cause injury, abetment, false entry of statement etc will stand against ED officials.

with intent to cause injury, abetment, false entry of statement etc will stand against ED officials.

As per the FIR, ED officials who had questioned Swapna on August 12 and 13 last year had forced her to give false statements against the CM with an intention to implicate him in the case.

The FIR was filed by the Crime Branch before the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court II, Ernakulam.

The FIR said the charges of conspiracy, threatening, framing an incorrect document

circulation of an audio clip that reportedly belonged to Swapna.

Last year in August, in a voice clip purportedly of Swapna Suresh, it was alleged that some ED officials had threatened her while interrogating her at the agency office in Kochi to give statements against CM Vijayan and some ministers.

Later two women civil police officers, who had been with Suresh when she was interrogated by the ED, had reportedly claimed that they had heard the ED officials forcing her to name Vijayan.

The case has been registered under Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 167 (public servant framing an incorrect document with intent to cause injury), 192 (fabricating false evidence), among others.

The Crime Branch has filed the case on the basis of the report filed by Additional SP S Biju Mon, who had earlier probed the production and

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx. 50-55 Years, Height: 5' Sex: Male, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Oval, Hair: Black and Long, Wearing: White Colour Pajama and White Colour Kurta & Black Jacket, Place of Recovery: Found

dead in front of Town Hall, Main Chandni Chowk Road, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 74A, U/s-174 CrPC, Dated 15.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Kotwali, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO

P.S. Kotwali, Delhi

Ph.: 011-23977100, 23953442 & 8750870121



General Public is hereby informed that one boy Namely: Faran, S/o Sonu, R/o: H. No. E-241, Gali No. 9, Shastri Park, Delhi has been kidnapped from his house since 15.02.2017 from the area of P.S. Shastri Park, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 131/17 dated 27.12.2017 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Shastri Park, Delhi.

The description of the kidnapped boy is as under: Age: About 1 years 6 months, Height: 2'6", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Pink & white colour sweater, green colour lower and pink colour sandal in feet. Since efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/570/NE/2021

SHO

P.S. Shastri Park, Delhi

Ph.: 011-22170120, 22829503
Mob. 8750870723, 9540635791

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

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DP/570/NE/2021

SHO

P.S. Shastri Park, Delhi

Ph.: 011-22170120, 22829503
Mob. 8750870723, 9540635791

NORTHERN RAILWAY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

CRS INSPECTION OF NEWLY ELECTRIFIED NOLI (EXCL.) OHE MAST LOCATION: 10/08 (Ch. Km. 10/469.50) TO SHAMLI (INCL.)

SMQL/1055 (Ch: 88/643.00) SINGLE LINE UNDER DELHI DIVISION

Newly electrified Noli (Excl.) - Shamli (Incl.) line in Delhi Shahdara - Shamli - Tapri Section (79 RKM, 90 TKM) of Delhi Division will be inspected by Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety. High speed trial of the section by special train will be conducted by chief Commissioner of Railway Safety on 22.03.2021 after trolley inspection.

General public is informed to stay away from Railway lines in above section. Track should not be crossed. Trespassing of track is a punishable offence and liable for prosecution under Railway Act.

636/2021

DGMO level talks act as a step towards greater engagement between India, Pakistan: Omar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 19 MARCH



said that with the NC in vanguard, no one will be able to dismantle the identity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, saying the party has survived all tactics labored by anti-Kashmir forces to weaken it.

Referring to the numerous "shenanigans and other coercive tactics" which were employed to dismember the party whilst the entire party leadership was incarcerated, he said the activists who stood all the intimidation with bravery and didn't give in. "The DDC results have made it clear that the people trust none other than NC when it comes to representing their genuine political aspirations. However there is no scope of contention, the results also revealed some shortcomings as well which we need to plug in time.

India and Pakistan, and the successive DGMO level accord on the implementation of ceasefire on the borders between India and Pakistan is a telling indictment of our stand. We in our party don't resort to rabble rousing. Pragmatism has long been the template of our party policy.

And our repeated calls for dialogue both internal and external are borne out of our commitment to non-violence and predilection for peace, Omar added. Addressing a public gathering at Damal Hanjipura in Kulgam, Omar

which was introduced in the House earlier this week. "The entire revenues will go to state governments even if the central government auctions the mines... all revenues will go to states alone... (we are) only making good, transparent policy," he said. According to him, India produces 95 minerals and has the same potential like South Africa and Australia but still imports minerals like gold and coal. Currently, he noted that the mining sector contributes 1.75 per cent to the country's GDP and through the reforms proposed in the bill, the contribution will rise to 2.5 per cent and strengthen the economy. "The reform in the

mining sector will generate 55 lakh direct and indirect employment. To enhance mining activity, we will allow private sector with enhanced technology in mineral exploration," he said. On provisions pertaining to District Mineral Foundation, the minister said the government is only asking states to include MP in a committee while deciding on spending the money from it. The bill to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, will bring in mega reforms in the sector with resolution in legacy issues, thereby making a large number of mines available for auction.

PTI

LS passes bill to amend MMDR Act

NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH

PTI

RECRUITMENT

APPOINTMENT

SEND

TESTIMONIALS

FOR

EDUCATION

BIO-SCIENCE

WORK EDUCATION

SANSKRIT

MATHEMATICS

NCTE

norms

(M)

8116169091

SD-

President

Dhupguri College of

Education

PTI

RECRUITMENT

Kremlin rattled

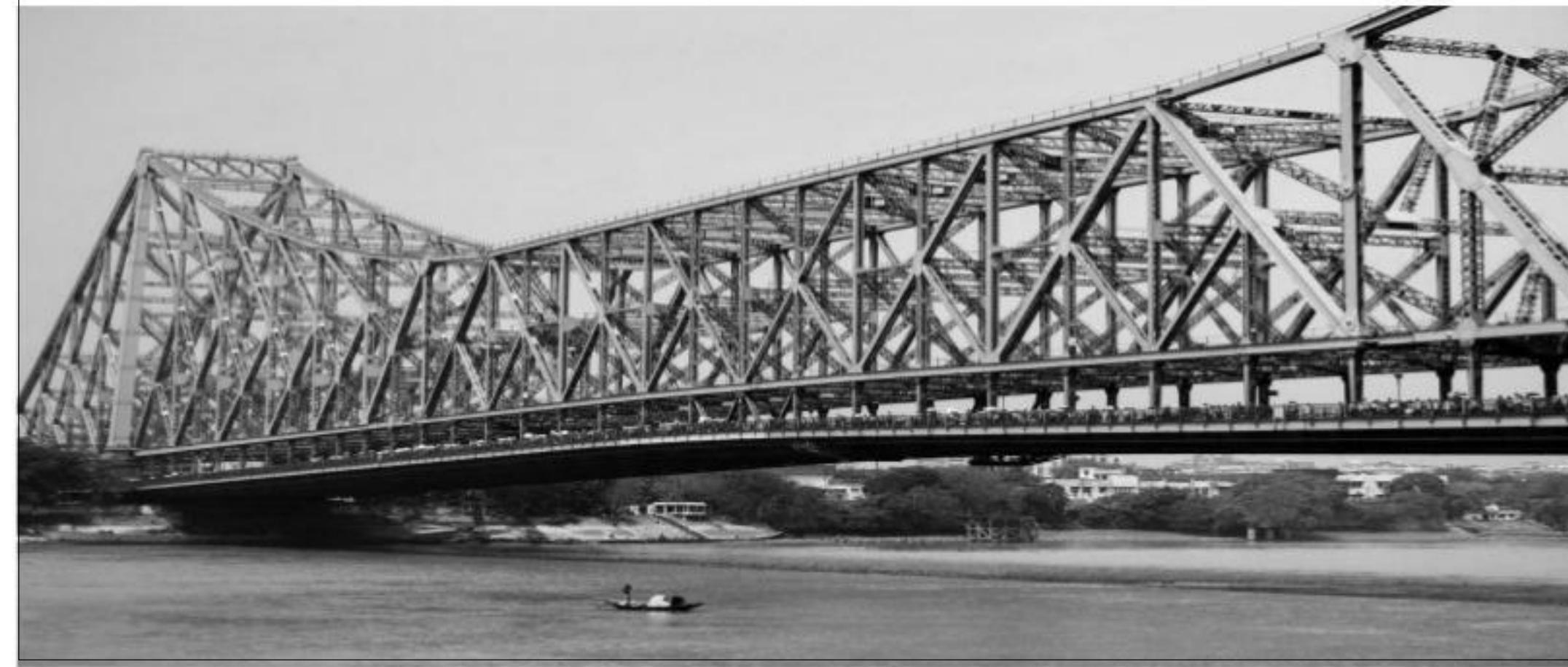
Russia's ties with the United States of America, languishing at post-Cold War lows ever since 2014 and Moscow's expansionist designs in Ukraine, have come under renewed pressure since Wednesday in the immediate aftermath of President Joe Biden referring to President Vladimir Putin as a 'killer'. The epithet has rattled the Kremlin, though it would be presumptuous to argue that the latest kerfuffle between Washington and Moscow could ignite a new Cold War. It is nonetheless a measure of the critical build-up of tension that the Kremlin has summoned its ambassador in Washington to Moscow for talks. The move to summon Anatoly Antonov to Moscow was announced shortly after President Biden accused his Russian counterpart of being a "killer", and warned he would "pay a price" for alleged election meddling. Arguably, the language used was undiplomatic. In the net, the rupture in bilateral ties is palpable and the latest crisis has erupted exactly two months after the inaugural of Mr Biden. Russia has denied as baseless the long-standing allegations of electoral meddling, which have been documented in the context of thwarting Hillary Clinton's election in 2016. According to the Russian embassy in Washington, Antonov will leave the US on Saturday and will on his arrival in Moscow discuss "ways to rectify Russia-US ties, which are in crisis". Without mentioning the role of President Biden, the embassy said that "certain ill-considered statements of high-ranking US officials have put the already excessively confrontational relations under the threat of collapse". Ties between the US and Russia have of late been under a cloud over the imprisonment of Kremlin critic Alexey Navalny. In an interview to ABC News, President Biden was remarkably assertive. "You'll see shortly," he said when asked what consequences Russia would face for its alleged behaviour. He also described Putin as a man without a soul. When asked if he thought the Russian leader, who has been accused of ordering the poisoning of Navalny and other rivals, is a "killer", Biden replied: "I do." The US President's comments were aired as the Commerce Department tightened sanctions on some exports to Russia as punishment for Navalny's alleged poisoning in August last year. The move will toughen restrictions originally put in place in response to the March 2018 poisoning of former Russian military intelligence officer, Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Salisbury, Britain, with a military-grade nerve agent. Altogether, it is a forbidding cocktail of intemperate language, alleged electoral meddling, and the current diplomatic blitz on the part of the Kremlin. And also, of course, the sharp slide in relations between the United States and Russia.

Home to roost

A course correction of France's South Asia policy in general and approach towards Pakistan in particular seems to be on the cards. Diplomatic ties between France and Pakistan are at an all-time low, with Mr Marc Barret, the French Ambassador in Islamabad, facing serious security threats following a demand by the radical Islamist political party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan to expel him. The Islamists have issued an ultimatum to the Imran Khan government, arguing that France had insulted Prophet Mohamad and thereby committed blasphemy, "a sin that cannot be forgiven". The Tehreek has also demanded that Pakistan sever all diplomatic ties with France and implement a boycott of French products or it would launch nationwide protests. Mr Khan's response has been to kick the can further down the road by promising to refer the matter to the country's Parliament before 20 April. That these developments come in the wake of France's growing closeness to India with which it has signed a strategic partnership is incidental – the supply of Rafale jets out-of-turn to India, Paris' close cooperation with New Delhi in the Indo-Pacific region or, indeed, its rock-solid support for India's counter-terrorism initiatives are at best added irritants for the radicalised Pakistani establishment. At the heart of the nosediving bilateral relationship is the French integrationist, hard secular societal model and that's unacceptable to a large section of the Ummah that cuts across national boundaries. Evidence for this assertion may be found in two recent incidents. The first was President Arif Alvi's address to an international audience including the EU Ambassador to Pakistan last month in which he urged France "not to entrench the discriminatory attitudes against Muslims into laws" and warning that it could lead to "serious repercussions". He was commenting on a French domestic legislation, the anti-separatism Bill recently passed in the National Assembly, which is highly unusual for a head of state. Paris reacted strongly, expressing "surprise and disapproval" over Mr Alvi's remarks and clarifying that the Bill did not include any discriminatory provisions but was guided by fundamental principles relating to freedom of religion and conscience. Earlier, Pakistan's Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari had launched a vicious personal attack on President Emmanuel Macron, taking to Twitter to state: "Macron is doing to Muslims what Nazis did to the Jews..." Following diplomatic pressure by France, Ms Mazari deleted the tweet. But the damage was done. How Islamabad deals with this issue will be closely watched including by India given that Pakistan has positioned itself as being the primary guardian of Islam in these parts. If and when the matter is put before parliament, the consensus among experts is that it would be tough for lawmakers to ignore the anti-French public sentiment. Given France and Pakistan have traditionally enjoyed a warm bilateral relationship, there are those on either side who hope this is just a passing phase. But the empirical evidence is that Pakistani society is getting increasingly radicalised. Islamist outfits have played a vital role in this process, but they would never have succeeded unless aided by an establishment which has used radical Islam as an

Public, not private

Anyone who could not run his factory, which employed thousands of workers, just declared a lockout and the government was a ready taker. Sick textile mills were one example but also included many prestigious engineering names like Braithwaite which designed and built the first Howrah Bridge, a wonder in the 1930s



The public sector was started because on the morrow of Independence as there were few entrepreneurs who had capital for mega projects.

Moreover, for a private company to take on infrastructural projects required the boldness of a tiger. Blessed with these factors was Jawaharlal Nehru's fascination with what he saw on his visit to the Soviet Union in the pre-Independence days. Moreover, he liked to be known as a Fabian socialist.

If one wished to be seen as an anti-imperialist in those early years, one had to prefer to be seen as a socialist rather than anything else, certainly not as a running dog of the capitalists. These latter factors helped luxury hotels, airlines and state trading for exports to slip into the public sector.

As time went on, fruit/banana exports and such others also were obliged as they fascinated some influential bureaucrats. Someone liked the cool air of Ooty and therefore an ophthalmologic glass factory was built; incidentally, housed in an elegant building.

The officer in charge of the public enterprises, especially a complex for selecting executives, told me that in the early 1980s he would recommend to the government when the units touched the total of 300 that there should be no more after that until profits were made by most PSUs. This sounds like cricket, I said and he nearly threw me out of his office room.

Profit was not included in the PSU lexicon because our first Prime Minister did not like the word. In any case, he wished those who were obsessed with profits to be hanged from the lamposts.

Another IAS officer said to me: just see the quality of educated men we have in the public sector. Compare them with the private sector executives. He was right. I had known a Kolkata executive who wore a dhoti and had

started in the group as a sarkar higher than a peon and lower than a clerk. And he was allowed, by the controlling family, to create one of the largest groups of tea gardens. How ridiculous, my IAS acquaintance exclaimed.

Losses overall were mounting but what were individual citizens to do? Lal Bahadur Shastri was in office for one and a half years; this was too short a time to do anything. In early 1966 Indira Gandhi took office and some people had hopes; she had no ideological hang-up and ought to have been practical.

But as it happened, she distrusted most politicians or certainly had greater faith in her bureaucratic advisors led by PN Haksar.

On a visit to Kolkata, she happened to talk to some industrialists who in Delhi had heard rumours of the coming nationalization – of what they did not know. Reportedly she answered that in our primarily poor country, socialist policies are the only bridge to keep the poor, the rich and the middle together.

After splitting the Congress in 1969 and having to contest a general election in 1972, meanwhile depending on the Communists to survive as Prime Minister, Mrs Gandhi had to fire the mass imagination. Bank nationalisation proved the fieriest of all her economic moves. A rising entrepreneur of cosmetics came to buy my Kolkata house as I was shifting to Delhi. He said he felt very indebted to Indira's bank nationalization. He said he could never have got overdrafts from private owners of banks. He

hoped to be an honest crorepati on the back of nationalized banks. And in 20 years he did make it; his definition of honesty I did not check with him. The coal mines takeover was evidently very popular with the mafias,

especially of the producing areas. The General Insurance Company, which was a holding company meant to hold all private insurance players now taken over by Indira's regime, remained in the background.

Anyone who could not run his factory, which employed thousands of workers, just declared a lockout and the government was a ready taker. Sick textile mills were one example but also included many prestigious engineering names like Braithwaite which designed and built the first Howrah Bridge, a wonder in the 1930s.

Then there was Jessop & Co., another giant, and the jute mills. The government was looked upon as a savior – "See how many jobs Indira is saving".

One way to privatize, and do so transparently, is for the President of India to sell all the shares of PSUs to LIC, GIC, UTI, banks and other financial institutions et al. Payments need not all be made immediately. The better viable units would get picked up by common investors, who would buy 50 to 5,000 shares each.

There are many who are hungry for opportunities to invest their savings. This is so more due to a fall in interest rates. Those units which are unviable will need repair either through mergers or through rationalization, or even through injection of funds. Outright sales are difficult since there are not many entrepreneurs who would have liquid money on the scale required.

Moreover, there would always be the likelihood of the Opposition members questioning the sale price, whereas in a public issue of shares, this concern would not arise. It would then be up to the shareholders to

elect their board of directors as well as the chief executive and chairman.

The current chief executives of PSUs have to report to the government, which in effect, means a Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary. Although well educated, these officers would be more wedded to procedure than profits. They are unlikely to be au fait with the culture of commerce and industry.

If some of the public issues (IPOs) of shares do not prove resoundingly popular, the financial institution holding the shares would be left with 40, 50 or 60 per cent shares. So what? In business, it does not matter who owns how many shares. What matters is the quality of management.

Not very long ago, Larsen & Toubro shares were 54 per cent owned by the financial institutions. The managing director had about four per cent and his friends and relatives had another 12 per cent. The rest of the shares were with the public. Yet, the company has the image of a private sector company and runs well.

A concept that requires clarification is that the public sector in no way represents socialism; it is pure state capitalism. The Soviet Union in that sense was a state that practiced state capitalism and crashed into bankruptcy.

The example of the old Larsen & Toubro was nearer socialism because the shares were widely held by the public, with the management owning only about 16 per cent shares. Uncannily, the large American corporations – many of them – have their management holding only a small percentage of shares.

The rest are held by the public as well as mutual funds than the market. It is for the company directors to decide if they should recommend to the shareholders whether to hold the shares or sell out. In other words, because of this rule, the management of these companies are always on their toes, for fear of a takeover bid.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Reversing retreat

Over the past decade, South Korean companies, public and private alike, have retreated from natural resources development projects abroad. State-run energy and mining firms invested a total of \$713 million in overseas resources development projects last year, about one-tenth of the corresponding figure for 2011, which stood at \$7.03 billion, according to data submitted to a lawmaker's office recently by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. The amount allocated from the state budget to help finance offshore resources development projects decreased from 309.3 billion won (\$272.7 million) in 2010 to a record low of 34.9 billion won this year.

Various tax benefits for such projects have also been repealed during the cited period. A steep rise in the prices of raw materials in the international market – which stems from expectations for a post-pandemic increase in demand, coupled with bloated global liquidity – is heightening concerns about the country's continuous retreat from overseas resources development. The price of lithium, a key material for electric vehicle batteries, stood at \$12,000 per ton in the first week of March, having nearly doubled from a year earlier, according to figures from the Korea Resources Corporation.

The prices of cobalt and nickel also jumped 60 percent and 40 percent, respectively, over the same period. Korea's rollback of overseas re-

H The Korea Herald
sources development is all the more worrisome as it runs counter to the intensifying global competition to secure materials needed to fuel new growth engines in the era of the "fourth industrial revolution." The country made aggressive efforts to explore resources abroad during the 2008-2013 tenure of corporate executive-turned-President Lee Myung-bak. But most of the resources projects initiated by the Lee government were scrapped or became subject to thorough scrutiny under the administration of his successor Park Geun-hye.

The incumbent government under President Moon Jae-in appeared poised to change its negative stance on overseas resources development when it unveiled a long-term blueprint aimed at enhancing "resources security" in June. Announcing its 10-year vision for 2020-2029, the government said it would focus on guaranteeing a secure supply of resources rather than setting quantitative goals. This approach seems to be an attempt to strike a balance between the opposing positions of the two previous administrations. Under the Lee government, state-funded energy and mining firms recklessly participated in massive resources development projects abroad and suffered significant losses. By contrast, the Park administration placed excessive constraints on endeavors to explore resources overseas. The latest blueprint for resources development envisions pushing for public-private partnerships, in which public firms implement exploration projects with big price tags that carry high risks, while private enterprises are allowed to join in at the development and production stages.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

A heritage to be protected

SIR, This is with reference to the write-up, 'Quenching India's thirst for water' by Eshan Chaturvedi et al. (*The Statesman*, 17 March). There can be no subject more important than water. It is a finite substance which cannot be created or destroyed, only its form changes though it can of course be polluted and made unusable.

More than 97 per cent of water is salty, 2 per cent is fresh water in the form of snow and ice, and only one per cent is left for humans. Unbridled consumption of water across India, with insufficient ideas

of how to fill a yawning demand-supply gap, is leading to an unprecedented crisis.

Mahatma Gandhi once said: 'Owing to our neglect and folly the years' rains are allowed to run down into the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian sea.' Even though historically Indians have been the world's greatest water harvester, harvesting of water and its management have been the integral part of community life.

When Gandhi launched the civil disobedience movement in 1921, Jinnah mockingly said: 'It

would only appeal to the young, ignorant, illiterate.'

But Gandhi realised that only mass movements can change societies. Indeed, the message of a people-centred development remains even truer for the 21st Century. It is now abundantly clear that only mass movements can solve India's water woes.

The impetus of such movements gain strength from the European Water Framework Directive: 'Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such.'

Yours, etc., Jaydev Jana, Kolkata, 17 March.

ENGINEERING MARVEL

SIR, One of the greatest Indian engineering marvels of the new millennium – the 476 metre-long steel arch, which is set to be the "world's highest" railway bridge in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, is almost ready.

The arch bottom of the Chenab bridge has been completed and next the upper arch of the engineering marvel in making will be completed.

The magnificent arch bridge is part of an ambitious railway project connecting Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of the country. Work

on putting the main arch began in November 2017.

The ₹1,250-crore bridge will be 359 metres above the Chenab river bed and has a length of 1315 metres. What makes the rail line really amazing and awesome is that it is expected to be 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower! It is also reported that once completed, it will surpass the record of the Beipan river Shuibai railway bridge (275 m) in China.

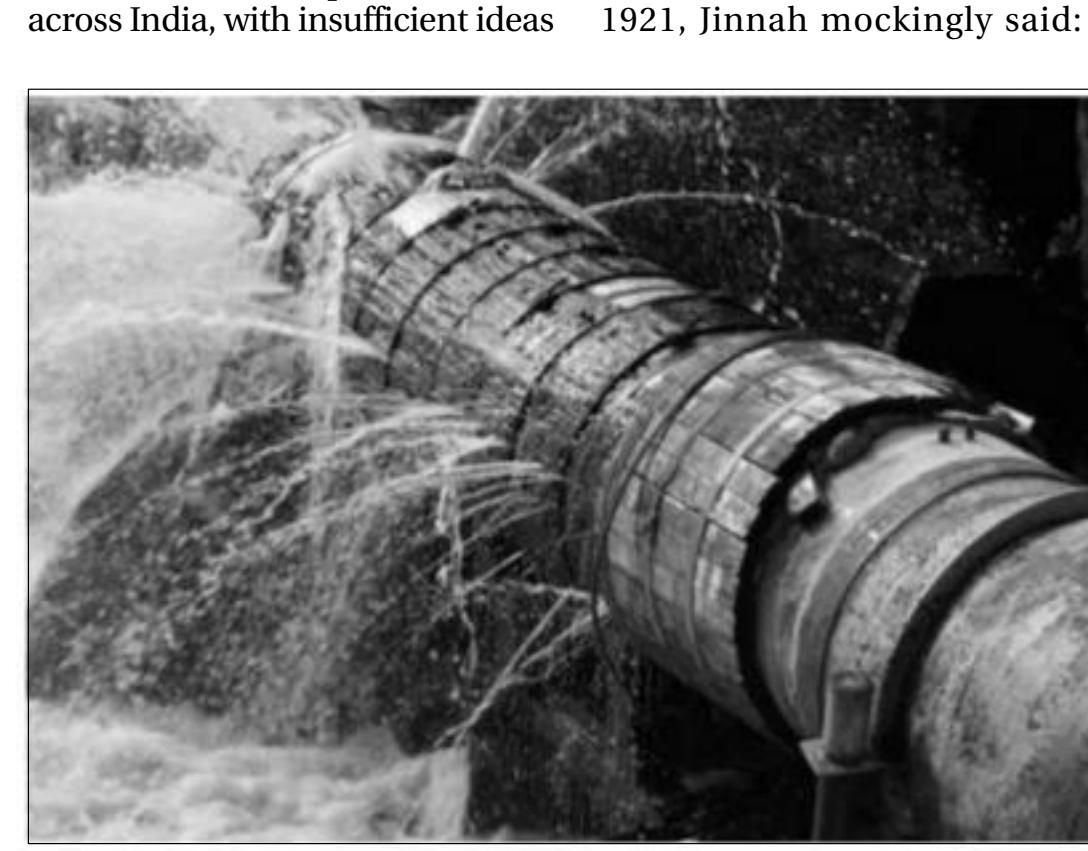
Railway officials had earlier said that this railway bridge will be able to withstand up to 8 magnitude earthquakes and high-intensity blasts.

The bridge is a vital link which will connect the rest of the

nation with the Kashmir valley and boost tourism and enhance industrial set-ups. This can help increase employment and help the Kashmir region rise economically.

It is really a feather in the cap of Indian railways and showcases our engineering intelligence and might to the rest of the world. The Railways Minister Piyush Goyal has rightly said that this is an infrastructural marvel and the Indian Railways is well on track to achieve another engineering milestone in world railways history. Kudos to the railways, the engineers and all those brains who worked so hard to create history.

Yours, etc., M Pradyu, Kannur, 18 March.





THUMBNAILS



Suresh Sethiya, director of Indian Cable Net Company Ltd, during the launch of Siti Play Top Android TV Set Top Box in Kolkata on Friday. ■ SNS

RBI reviews economic situation: The central board of directors of Reserve Bank of India reviewed the current economic situation, global and domestic challenges, the central bank said in a statement on Friday. The 588th meeting, held through video conferencing and chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, also reviewed various areas of operations of the central bank. ■ PTI

TCS salary hike: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will hand out across-the-board salary increments for 2021-22, becoming the first IT services company to do so for the upcoming fiscal. The salary hike rollout will benefit nearly 4.7 lakh employees of the company. The average increment band for off-shore employees is expected to be 6-7 per cent as per norms, sources privy to the development said. ■ PTI

Magma cash chase: Magma HDI General Insurance Limited (Magma HDI) has announced a transaction, which involves bringing in funds managed by ICICI Venture and Morgan Stanley Private Equity Asia along with the Cyza Chem Pvt Ltd (a Poornawala Group Company), and two family offices as new shareholders in the company. The transaction of Rs 525 crore includes a primary capital raise of Rs 250 crore, said a Press release. ■ SNS

Indo-Bangla trade: Herald- ing a new era of connectivity and regional trade, a consignment of goods consisting of 25,000 car- tons of Iitchi juice will arrive in Kolkata on 24 March from Bangladesh via inland waterways. After being loaded at Shitalakshya in Narsingdi Bangladesh on 16 March, the ship is on its way to India via Narayanganj-Sheikbaria of Khulna and will travel close to 710 kilometres on its 7-day voyage, according to a Press release. ■ SNS

Redmi smart TV: Redmi India on Friday announced the brand's foray into the smart TV category with the launch of Redmi Smart TV X Series. With Redmi Smart TV X Series, the company aims to deliver more immersive and impactful experiences to consumers, it said. ■ SNS

GDP likely to grow by 12% this year: Moody's

Country's near-term prospects have turned more favourable: Moody's Analytics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH

India's economy is likely to grow by 12 per cent in 2021 following a 7.1 per cent contraction last year, as near-term prospects have turned more favourable, Moody's Analytics said.

A stronger than expected December quarter GDP growth of 0.4 per cent following a 7.5 per cent contraction in the previous three months has turned India's near-term prospects more favourable, it said.

Domestic and external demand has been on the mend since the easing of restrictions, which has led to improved manufacturing output in recent months.

"We expect private consumption and non-residential investment to materially pick up over the next few quarters and strengthen the domestic demand revival this year," it said.

Moody's saw real GDP growth of 12 per cent in the 2021 calendar year, partially due to a low base-year comparison.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

- Private consumption and non-residential investment to materially pick up over the next few quarters and strengthen the domestic demand revival this year.
- Monetary and fiscal policy settings will remain conducive to growth.
- Some additional fiscal support expected during the

"This forecast is equivalent to real GDP in level terms, growing by 4.4 per cent above pre-Covid-19 levels (as of March 2020) by the end of 2021, or equivalently, by 5.7 per cent above the GDP level in December 2020 by the end of 2021," it said.

It said monetary and fiscal policy settings will remain conducive to growth. "We do not expect any additional rate cuts this year below the current 4 per cent at which the benchmark repur-



second half of the year, depending on the softness in domestic spending.

chase rate is being maintained," it said.

It saw some additional fiscal support being mobilised during the second half of the year, depending on the softness in domestic spending.

Direct forms of fiscal support such as income tax cuts, however, are less likely in the current setting.

"We expect the Budget for fiscal 2021-22 to drive the annual fiscal deficit to nearly 7 per cent of GDP," it said. "It includes additional expen-

diture on infrastructure development, and the associated benefits in the form of employment creation should accrue over the coming quarters."

Core inflation is likely to see a more controlled rise in 2021, although food-price or fuel-driven inflation can become a recurring factor, weighing on household disposable income.

Moody's Analytics said a strengthening second wave of Covid-19 remains the key risk to recovery in 2021.

The good news is that the resurgence appears to be limited to just a few states, which should increase the chances of containing the spread at an early stage," it said. "Our baseline forecasts assume that state governments are likely to adopt a targeted approach through limited-duration curfews and shutdowns if the situation deteriorates rather than large-scale shutdowns of the kind seen during the first wave."

Vaccinations hold the key to sustaining domestic recovery. Total vaccinations crossed the 35 million mark on 16 March.

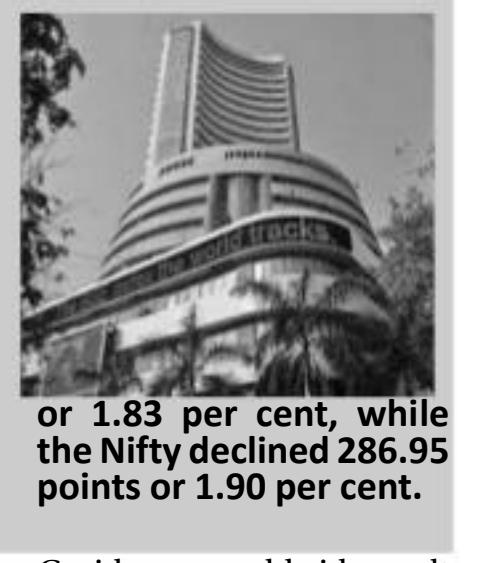
On the other hand, L&T, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Auto and

Titan were among the laggards, slipping up to 1.20 per cent. During the week, the Sensex sank 933.84 points or 1.83 per cent, while the Nifty declined 286.95 points or 1.90 per cent.

Participants shrugged off a spurt in Covid-19 cases in multiple states, though reimposition of localised lockdowns can pose a threat to economic recovery, traders said. After opening with significant losses, the 30-share BSE Sensex made a U-turn to end 641.72 points or 1.30 per cent higher at 49,858.24 points.

► On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty surged 186.15 points or 1.28 per cent to finish at 14,744 points.

► During the week, the Sensex sank 933.84 points



or 1.83 per cent, while the Nifty declined 286.95 points or 1.90 per cent.

Covid cases worldwide resulted in the global markets trading deep in red," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sector-wise, BSE power, utilities, energy, FMCG, basic materials and metals indices rose up to 3.25 per cent, while BSE realty and capital goods closed with losses.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices rallied up to 1.35 per cent.

Meanwhile, the global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.36 per cent higher at \$64.14 per barrel.

The rupee ended just one paisa higher against the US bond yields and a surge in

Bulls return to Dalal Street after 5 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 19 MARCH

SENSEX JUMPS 641 POINTS

► After opening with significant losses, the 30-share BSE Sensex made a U-turn to end 641.72 points or 1.30 per cent higher at 49,858.24 points.

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Sebi bars 3 companies and 10 individuals from stock market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH

Regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India today barred three companies and ten individuals from the securities market for illegally raising money from investors in the name of investments for teak trees.

Prime Plantations Pvt Ltd (PPPL), Adhunik Plantations Pvt Ltd (APPL) and Twentieth Century Plantation Pvt Ltd (TCPPL) as well as ten individuals, including present and past directors of these companies, have been banned.

The companies and four individuals have been barred for four years from the securities market from the date of completion of the refunds to the investors, as per a Sebi

order. Further, the companies have been directed to wind up their Green Chip Scheme and refund the money.

Six other individuals have been slapped with a two-year ban from the date of the order issued today.

The watchdog examined the business activities of the companies for the period from 1992 to 2019. It was found that the companies launched identical schemes namely "Green Chip Scheme", under which investors were given the option to invest Rs 7,500 and multiples thereof for a unit of five teak trees or multiples thereof, in PPPL and APPL.

Whereas in TCPPL, a minimum investment of Rs 5,000 and multiples thereof was offered to the investors.

Sebi said it does not appear that these companies were actually entering into a sale transaction of teak trees while mobilising investments from the respective investors. Money was raised from the investors by making them subscribe to the schemes and not by selling any teak trees as has been propounded by them, it added.

Further, the regulator said the scheme was being run without obtaining registration from it.

Under the said schemes, Rs 11.57 lakh, Rs 12.06 lakh and Rs 3.42 lakh have been mobilised by PPPL, APPL and TCPPL, respectively, as per the order. This was in violation of Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) regulations.

HC judgment would not impact NCLT proceedings for deal: Future

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH

Kishore Biyani-led Future Retail today said the order passed by the single-member Bench of Delhi High Court would have no impact on the NCLT proceedings for its Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance Industries and said it is considering "appropriate remedies" against it.

The promoters will take appropriate remedies as advised over the directions passed by Justice RMidha, Future Retail said in a regulatory filing while hinting that it may challenge the order by filing an appeal.

"We are advised that this order does not come in the way of the continuance of the ongoing NCLT proceedings, being inconsistent with the order dated 22 February 2021, of the

Supreme Court," said Future Retail. It is to be pointed out that the portions of the operative part of this detailed order, already covered by the interim order dated 2 February 2021, has been stayed by the Division Bench of Delhi High Court in an appeal filed by Future Retail.

"Amazon has filed an appeal in the Supreme Court against the order passed by the Division Bench. The Supreme Court, in its order in Amazon's appeal, has vacated the stay granted by the Division Bench (which stay is still in operation).

"The Supreme Court has directed that, in the meantime, the NCLT proceedings will be allowed to go on but will not culminate in any final order of sanction of scheme," said

Future Retail.

In its 134-page judgement, Justice Midha directed Kishore Biyani-led FRL not to take further action on the deal with Reliance and held that the group willfully violated the EA's order. The high court rejected all the objections raised by Future Group and imposed a cost of Rs 20 lakh on it as well as its directors.

It directed them to deposit the amount in Prime Minister's Relief Fund within two weeks for being used for providing Covid-19 vaccination to senior citizens of below poverty line (BPL) category of Delhi.

The Future-Reliance deal has already received clearance from CCI, SEBI and bourses, and the scheme of arrangement is now awaiting the nod from the NCLT and shareholders.

On 29 August 2020, Future Group had announced that its retail and wholesale business would be sold to Reliance Retail, owned by oil-to-chemical conglomerate RIL in a Rs 24,713-crore deal.

Tata Motors forays into compact ambulance

NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH

Tata Motors today said it has launched a patient transport ambulance, designed specifically for healthcare mobility in the economy ambulance segment.

The Magic Express ambulance is designed to support medical and health related services, which assumes significance especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Tata Motors said in a statement.

The compact dimensions of the vehicle enables easy manoeuvrability on Indian roads, resulting in speedy movement of patients requiring emergency care, thereby saving lives, it added.

"With the introduction of the Magic Express Ambulance, Tata Motors fulfils its commitment to provide the best healthcare mobility solutions. The company has been working closely with the medical fraternity to understand the requirements, and we have tailor-made a vehicle that perfectly ticks all the boxes when it comes to patient transportation," Tata Motors vice-president, product line (SCV & PU), Vinay Pathak, said.

With the introduction of the new segment, the automaker now offers a wide range of solutions in the ambulance segment, with affordable, reliable and regulation-compliant ambulances, he added.

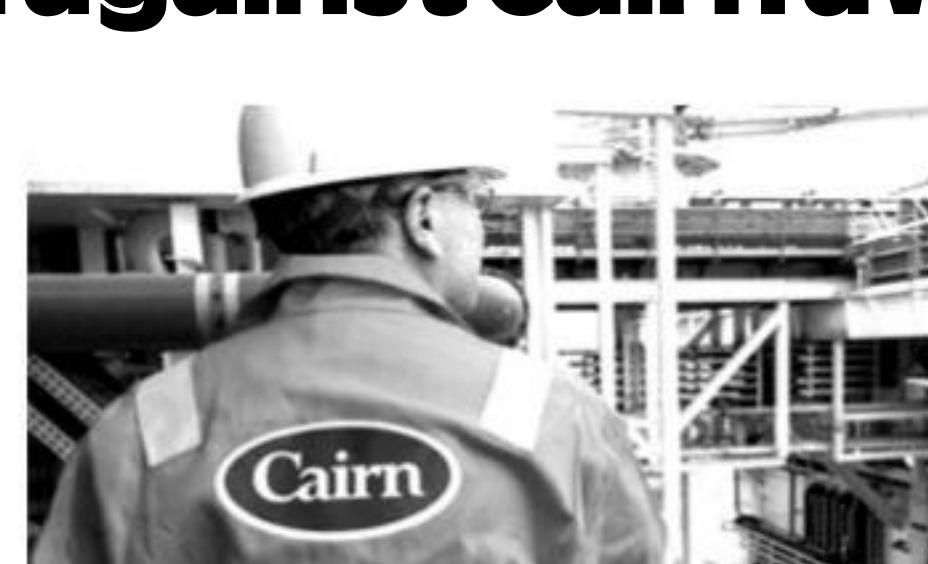
The Magic Express ambulance comes with the essential equipment, including an auto-loading stretcher, medical cabinet, provision for an oxygen cylinder, doctor's seat and fire extinguisher along with internal lighting, flame-resistant interiors and an announcement system. The five-seater vehicle comes powered by an 800cc engine. ■ PTI

Govt can appeal against Cairn award till mid-April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH

India has time till mid-April to file an appeal against an international arbitration tribunal ordering it to repay UK's Cairn Energy Plc \$1.2-billion-plus interest and cost, but the challenge can only be on limited grounds such as procedure not being followed.

The award from a three-member tribunal at The Hague invalidating India's Rs 10,247 crore tax claim on Cairn Energy and ordering the government to return the value of shares it had sold, dividends seized and tax refunds withheld, was registered in the Netherlands on 8 January, two people



submissions in 2018 and allowed parties to make written counter-arguments for more than a year thereafter and for months studied claims and counterclaims before delivering the judgment on 21 December 2020.

They said the award, under Dutch law, can also be set aside on grounds of there being no valid arbitration agreement, rules for the composition to the tribunal not being observed, tribunal exceeding its mandate, the award not

being signed or not reasoned, and the order or the manner in which it is arrived at is contrary to public policy or public morals.

The Cairn award runs into 582 pages giving detailed reasons as to how the company wasn't in violation of any prevalent law when it 2006-07 it reorganised its India business prior to its listing, and how the government used a 2012 retrospective tax legislation to raise the tax demand.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had earlier this month indicated of government's intent of appealing against the award on grounds of it questioning the sovereign powers of India to levy taxes. Her ministry feels taxation is not a subject of bilateral

investment treaties, like the UK-India Bilateral Investment Treaty under which Cairn had sought rescinding of the tax demand raised, and so the award should be appealed.

It is of the opinion that Cairn set up a tax abusive structure and did not pay taxes anywhere in the world on the gains that it made in India, they said, adding India had made an unsuccessful case of tax not being part of the treaty before the arbitration panel as well.

The arbitration award specifically made it clear the basis of the judgment was not a challenge to the 2012 law or India's sovereign right to tax. "The issue at stake is thus not a matter of domestic tax law, it is rather whether the

fiscal measures taken by the state, valid or not under its own tax laws, violate international law," the tribunal had said in a unanimous verdict.

The Hague panel found that a 2012 law passed by the Indian Parliament was a new tax, not a clarification of prior law that could be applied to earlier years.

Tax experts said the award may be revoked if after the award is made it is discovered that the order was based on fraud committed during the arbitration proceedings or was based on forged documents, or a party obtained documents that would have had an influence on the tribunal and which were withheld as a result of acts of the other party.



The alternative to a rules-based order is a world in which might makes right and winners take all, and that would be...far more violent

US SECRETARY OF STATE TONY BLINKEN

DURING TALKS WITH CHINESE DIPLOMATS IN ALASKA

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	32	25 H
HONG KONG	26	21 H
TOKYO	18	10 H
LONDON	11	5 H
DUBAI	33	24 S
SAN FRANCISCO	13	9 H
NEW YORK	6	-1 H
MOSCOW	1	-5 H

S= sunny, CL= clear,
H=hazy, R=rainy...

THUMBNAILS



European Council
President Charles Michel,
greets European
Commission President
Ursula von der Leyen prior
to a video conference
meeting with Turkey's
President Recep Tayyip
Erdogan at the European
Council building in Brussels on Friday ■ AGENCIES

Saudi drone attack: A drone attack struck an oil installation in Saudi Arabia's capital of Riyadh on Friday, igniting a blaze at the facility deep in the kingdom's territory, the Saudi state-run news agency reported. The dawn attack caused no injuries or damage, and did not disrupt oil supplies, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.

Stabbing at New Zealand home: Two people in New Zealand were stabbed to death on Friday and a third was undergoing surgery for life-threatening injuries after a brutal attack inside an Auckland home, police said.

Explosion in Moscow: An explosion in a residential building in a Moscow suburb killed three people and injured four more, emergency officials said. It destroyed the ceilings between the two floors, shattered windows and damaged balconies of adjacent apartments. ■ AP

Canadian tried in China for spying, no verdict announced

DANDONG (CHINA), 19 MARCH

China on Friday put on trial one of two Canadians held for more than two years in apparent retaliation for Canada's arrest of a senior Chinese telecom executive.

Canada said its consular officials were refused permission to attend the proceedings against Michael Spavor, who is accused by China of stealing state secrets.

Jim Nickel, the Canadian Embassy's deputy chief of mission, said the hearing ended at noon Friday after two hours. No verdict has been announced.

Nickel declined to give other details, citing rules on protecting Spavor's privacy.

In a statement posted on its website, the Intermediate People's Court of Dandong in the northeastern province of Liaoning said it had held a closed-door hearing against Spavor on charges of spying and illegally sending state secrets abroad. It said Spavor and his defense lawyers were present for the proceedings and the court would pronounce a sentence at a date determined in accordance with law.

Fellow Canadian Michael Kovrig is due to go before a court on Monday. The two were detained in December 2018, days after Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou was arrested at the request of the U.S. at the airport in Vancouver, British Columbia. Both are charged with spying. The entrance to the courthouse was roped off with police tape and journalists were kept outside, although not detained or told to leave.

US, Chinese diplomats clash during meet

Both sides are currently engaged in a bitter confrontation over trade, Beijing's aggressive moves in SCS, and human rights in HK and Xinjiang

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 19 MARCH



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

The talks involved US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan on the US side, facing off with China's top foreign policy official, Yang Jiechi, and foreign minister Wang Yi.

In his opening remarks to the much-anticipated US-China talks being held in Anchorage, Alaska, on Thursday, Blinken said that the issues to be raised by his delegation are relevant not only to the two countries but to others across the region and indeed around the world.

The Biden administration,

Blinken asserted, is committed to leading with diplomacy to advance the interests of the United States and to strengthen the rules-based international order.

"That system is not an abstraction. It helps countries resolve differences peacefully, coordinate multilateral efforts effectively, and participate in global commerce with the assurance that everyone is following the same rules," Blinken said.

"The alternative to a rules-based order is a world in which makes right and

winners take all, and that would be a far more violent and unstable world for all of us," he said.

At the first-ever meeting of the Quad last week, US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said they were committed to promoting a free, open, rules-based order, rooted in international law to advance security and prosperity and counter threats to both in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

"We support the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of disputes, democratic values, and territorial integrity," the top leaders of the US, India, Australia and Japan said in a joint statement, amidst China's aggressive actions in the strategic Indo-Pacific.

Blinken said the meeting was an opportunity to discuss key priorities, both domestic and global, so that China can better understand the Biden administration's intentions and approach.

The relations between the US and China are at an all-time low. The two countries are currently engaged in a bitter confrontation over various issues, including trade, Beijing's aggressive military moves in the disputed South China Sea and human rights in Hong Kong and Xinjiang region.

"We'll also discuss our deep concerns with actions by China, including in Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan, cyber attacks on the United States, and economic coercion toward

our allies," Blinken said.

"Each of these actions threatens the rules-based order that maintains global stability. That's why they're not merely internal matters and why we feel an obligation to raise these issues here today," Blinken said.

America's relationship with China will be competitive where it should be, collaborative where it can be, adversarial where it must be, he said.

"Our discussions here in Alaska, I suspect, will run the gamut. Our intent is to be direct about our concerns, direct about our priorities, with the goal of a more clear-eyed relationship between our countries moving forward," Blinken said.

Yang, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs of the ruling Communist Party of China, fought back by asserting that China does not follow what is advocated by a small number of countries of the so-called rules-based international order.

What China and the inter-

national community follow or uphold is the United Nations-centered international system and the international order underpinned by international law, not what is advocated by a small number of countries of the so-called rules-based international order.

Sullivan also hit back, saying the US did not seek a conflict with China, but added: "We will always stand up for our principles for our people, and for our friends."

Foreign minister Wang said that China certainly in the past has not and in the future will not accept the unwarranted accusations from the US side.

China urges the US side to fully abandon the hegemonic practice of willfully interfering in China's internal affairs. This has been a longstanding issue and it should be changed. It is time for it to change," Wang said.

In response, Blinken said: A hallmark of our leadership, of our engagement in the world, is our alliances and our partnerships that have been built on a totally voluntary basis. And it is something that President Biden is committed to reinvigorating."

US House passes key Bills providing citizenship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 19 MARCH

The passage of the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021 will provide much-needed relief to Temporary Protected Status holders and Dreamers, young people who came here as children and know no other country, President Biden said

said in a statement.

Dreamers are basically undocumented immigrants who enter the US as children with parents. There are nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants, including over 500,000 from India, according to a policy document issued by the Biden campaign in November last.

Among others, the bill also provides relief for legal dreamers, the foreign-born children of many nonimmigrant workers, including those on H-1B, who lose their legal

status once they reach 21 years of age, which would allow many other promising young people to pursue their version of the American Dream.

The H-1B visa, the most sought after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries such as India and China.

The bill now moves to the Senate, which needs to pass the legislation before it can be signed into law by Biden.

My administration looks forward to working together with Congress to do the right thing for Dreamers and TPS holders who contribute so much to our country, and to building a 21st century immigration system that is grounded in dignity, safety, and fairness... to create a path to citizenship for the undocumented population in the United States, Biden said.

The American Dream and Promise Act establishes a path to lawful permanent resident status for DACA recipients and for certain individuals who either held or were eligible for TPS or Deferred Enforced Departure.

The majority of these individuals have been in the United States for much of their lives, often with work authorisation and temporary protections against deportation.

The Farm Workforce Modernisation Act will allow unauthorised farmworkers to earn legal status in the US and update temporary agricultural worker programs to meet our economy's needs. Most notably, it will provide H-2A eligibility to employers who have year-round labour needs, which is critical for dairy and livestock, it said.

According to New American Economy, more than 500,000 DACA-eligible immigrants are essential workers.

PICTURESQUE



A man is silhouetted in front of a rainbow in downtown Vancouver, British Columbia. ■ AGENCIES

Northern Ireland's peace agreement is under threat'

AGENCIES
LONDON, 19 MARCH

mental principles of the 1998 deal.

"We're saying there is a window of opportunity for constructive dialogue to see if we can actually get a workable solution, and I've no doubt we could get a workable solution, but it does require Brussels and Dublin to return to honouring the core guarantees of the (Belfast) Agreement," Campbell told Reuters.

Loyalist paramilitary groups told British Prime Minister Boris Johnson earlier this month that they were temporarily withdrawing support for the peace agreement due to concerns over the Brexit deal.

The EU and Ireland say there is no reason to change the Brexit divorce deal which was signed by Johnson and is now an international treaty, though unionists say the negotiations failed to take account of their community.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU, 19 MARCH

Upping the ante against Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, the rival faction of the ruling CPN-UML has decided to launch a nationwide campaign to revive and reorganise all the party committees the way they were before its merger with the CPN-Maoist Centre led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda", according to media reports on Friday.

The rival faction of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), led by Madhav Kumar Nepal and Jhalanath Khanal, decided to form the parallel party committee after the conclusion of the two-day national gathering of the over 4,000 party leaders and cadres close to the faction held on Thursday, according to a report in my Republica.

They alleged that Oli, who is also the Chairperson of the party, was bent on splitting it.

We are for the unity of the CPN-UML. Sow will continue our struggle by being within the party. We don't have any plans to announce a split, Yogesh Bhattarai, a key member of the Nepal-Khanal faction, was quoted as saying by The Kathmandu Post.

We, however, won't attend the Central Committee meeting.

But we may attend Parliamentary Party meetings if they are held following the due procedure," Bhattarai said.

However, some leaders of

the faction had boycotted the parliamentary meeting called by Prime Minister Oli on Thursday.

The meeting directed the lawmakers of the Khanal-Nepal faction to return with self-realisation or else face action.

Shanta Chaudhary, the party's whip, said the meeting decided that the party will take necessary legal action against those who violate the party's directions.

According to the report, insiders say Oli appears to be

clear in his strategy proving his strength and dangling the threat of action against his opponents.

The Nepal-Khanal faction at this time finds itself in a tight spot. The March 7 Supreme Court order reviving the UML and the Maoist Centre came as a bitter pill to swallow for the group as it was left with no option than to return to the UML fold, it said.

The political scenario in the country worsened after the Supreme Court nullified CPN-MC's merger with CPN-UML. The two parties had merged in May 2018 to form a unified Nepal Communist Party following the victory of their alliance in the 2017 general elections.

The Nepal faction which had sided with Prachanda's CPN-MC after Prime Minister Oli's decision to dissolve the House of Representatives in December, seeking his resignation, had to return to the CPN-UML fold.

Former officer Derek Chauvin is charged with murder and manslaughter in the May 25 death of Floyd, a Black man who was declared dead after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against his neck for about nine minutes. Floyd's death, captured on bystander video, set off weeks of sometimes-violent protests across the country and led to a national reckoning on racial justice.

Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill was to rule Friday on Chauvin attorney Eric Nelson's motion to halt or move the trial due to concerns that the settlement had tainted the jury pool. But Cahill denied similar motions last year, and the settlement didn't emerge as a major factor in juror questioning.

Three other former officers face an August trial in Floyd's death on charges of aiding and abetting second-degree murder and manslaughter.

Nearly a dozen countries resume AstraZeneca shots after EU, UK nod

AGENCIES
AMSTERDAM/LONDON, 19 MARCH



Nearly a dozen countries resumed use of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 shots on Friday as EU and British regulators said the benefits outweighed any risks after reports of rare instances of blood clotting that temporarily halted inoculations.

The end of suspensions will kick off a test of public confidence, both in the shot and in drug regulators.

Indonesia joined Germany, France and others in re-administering shots after they suspended vaccinations on reports of around 30 cases of rare brain blood clots, after millions of injections, that sent

could not be definitely ruled out and that it will continue its scrutiny, along with the British Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

"This is a safe and effective vaccine," EMA director Emer Cooke told a briefing on Thursday. "If it were me, I would be vaccinated tomorrow."

The EMA said it would update its guidance on the vaccine to include an explanation for patients about the potential risks and information for healthcare professionals, to help people recognise instances when they may need to seek medical assistance following a vaccination.

"We do need to continue to monitor safety, but in the end it's the virus we're fighting, not the vaccines."

Germany resumed admin-

istering the AstraZeneca vaccine from Friday morning, while French Prime Minister Jean Castex said he would seek to promote a similar resumption in his country by getting the shot himself on Friday.

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi said Italy would follow suit, echoing sentiments from Cyprus, Latvia and Lithuania.

Spain will resume inoculations from Wednesday. Canada also gave its backing to the vaccine.

Britain's MHRA is investigating five cases of the rare brain blood clot that had been reported out of 11 million shots administered in the UK.

It said it would investigate reports of clots in the cere-



Putin made it clear that it makes sense to have a talk to maintain Russia-US relations instead of trading barbs

ON VLADIMIR PUTIN'S OFFER TO SPEAK BY PHONE WITH US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AFTER 'KILLER' REMARK

RUSSIAN SPOKESMAN DMITRY PESKOV

The Statesman

11

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 20 MARCH 2021

North Koreans asked to leave Malaysia in 48 hours

Kuala Lumpur blasts Pyongyang for cutting ties after support 'during difficult times'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL, 19 MARCH

Malaysia said Friday it'll order all North Korean diplomats to leave the country within 48 hours, in an escalation of a diplomatic brawl over Malaysia's decision to extradite a North Korean criminal suspect to the United States.

Malaysia's announcement came hours after North Korea said it was terminating diplomatic ties with Malaysia because it "committed a super-large hostile act ... in subservience to the US pressure."

North Korea called the money laundering charges an absurd fabrication and (a) sheer plot orchestrated by the United States and warned Washington will pay a due price.

It's the latest development in growing animosity between Washington and Pyongyang as the North ramps up pressure on the Biden administration over a nuclear stand-off.

The Malaysian ministry said in a statement the gov-



The North Korean flag flies by the entrance to the country's Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Friday as it announced cutting diplomatic ties with the country. ■ AP

ernment will issue an order for all the diplomatic staff and their dependents at the Embassy of the North Korea in Kuala Lumpur to leave Malaysia within 48 hours from today.

It added that Malaysia was now compelled by North Korea's decision to close its own embassy in Pyongyang.

Observers believe no Malaysian diplomat is currently in North Korea and the embassy's operations were suspended in 2017.

Ties between North Korea and Malaysia have been virtually frozen since the slaying that year of the estranged

half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

Malaysia's Foreign Ministry website said the North Korean Embassy is led by Kim Yu Song, the charg d'affaires and counselor, and six other staff.

"Yes, we will be shutting down. We are now discussing the plans with our staff here and liaising with our government," Kim was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times.

North Korea has long used Malaysia as a crucial economic hub where it handled trade, labor exports and some

illicit businesses in Southeast Asia. Experts say North Korea is taking a tough stance over the extradition because it sees it as a pressure tactic against the North.

North Korea is taking a hard line because it thinks it must not back down (over the extradition) as it'll then have a wary of nerves with the Biden government in the next four years, said Nam Sung-wook, a professor at South Korea's Korea University.

Nam said North Korea also likely worries that similar cases involving North Korean nationals could occur in other Southeast Asian countries.

Threatening to cut ties with Malaysia was one of the North's strongest options to express its anger with the Biden administration without jeopardising an eventual return to nuclear negotiations with Washington, said Hong Min, a senior analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

North Korea has insisted it won't engage in talks with Washington unless it abandons what Pyongyang's perceives

as a hostile policy. But experts say North Korea will eventually seek to return to diplomacy to find ways to get sanctions relief and revive its moribund economy.

Earlier this month, Malaysia's top court ruled North Korean Mun Chol Myong could be extradited, rejecting his assertion the US charge was politically motivated. Mun had lived in Malaysia for a decade and was arrested in May 2019 after US authorities requested his extradition.

In his affidavit, Mun denied US accusations that he was involved in supplying luxury goods from Singapore to North Korea in violation of UN sanctions.

He denied that he had laundered funds through front companies and that he issued fraudulent documents to support illicit shipments to his country.

After that ruling, Mun's family hired a lawyer to challenge the legality of the extradition. Lawyer Emile Ezra said the new legal bid centered on Mun's right to a fair hearing after the court refused to accept his affidavit.

Suu Kyi's party spokesman detained

ASSOCIATED PRESS
YANGON, 19 MARCH

Authorities in Myanmar arrested a spokesman for ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi's political party as they intensified efforts to choke off the spread of information about growing protests against last month's military takeover.

Despite a crackdown that has killed more than 200 demonstrators so far, protesters were back in the streets Friday morning in several cities and towns. Some rallies proceeded without incident, but in Aungpan town in eastern Shan state, online Tachileik News Agency reported that at least seven people were injured when security forces sought to break up the march using tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition.

In his affidavit, Mun denied US accusations that he was involved in supplying luxury goods from Singapore to North Korea in violation of UN sanctions.

He denied that he had laundered funds through front companies and that he issued fraudulent documents to support illicit shipments to his country.

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For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THE STOIC

His sparkling innings in only his second international match had been cut short by a controversial dismissal, but Suryakumar Yadav (*in photo, left*) took it in his stride, saying a few things were not in his control. Yadav smashed a blistering 57 off 31 balls to set up India's series-levelling eight-run win against England in the fourth Twenty20 International against England on Thursday night.

THUMBNAILS

England objective: Ben Stokes says losing a tight game like the fourth Twenty20 International against India on Thursday and going into a winners-take-all contest will only prepare them better for the World Cup as they will get used to pressure situations. The Eoin Morgan-led side faltered in a tricky chase to go down to two.

Azam probe: Babar Azam's problems in his personal life mount as a court in Lahore has ordered the Federal Investigation Agency's cyber crime circle to register a first information report against him in a case based on a petition filed by a woman who alleged messages from the Pakistan cricket captain threatening her with dire consequences.

T20 trailer: Ramiz Raja has described the current Twenty20 series between India and England as a "trailer" for other teams, saying the five-match competition will help them to improve their skills and strategy ahead of the World Cup later this year. "I think it is a trailer for other teams on how to improve their skills, strategies," Raja said.

Table tennis: Veteran table tennis player Sharath Kamal, Gnanasekaran Sathiyan, Sutirtha Mukherjee and Manika Batra have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics that starts on 23 July this year. Sathiyan qualified by finishing top of the South Asia group at the Asian Olympic Qualification tournament with two wins in as many matches.

Positive test: A top international sharp-shooter - customarily unidentified - has tested positive for Covid-19 ahead of the World Cup in New Delhi and is currently in isolation at a hospital. His team-mates and support staff have tested negative. He is asymptomatic and has not visited the range, a national rifle association official reportedly said.

Neutral athletes: Russian athletes in track and field will be allowed to compete internationally again under a neutral flag as their national federation edges closer to having its long-standing doping suspension lifted. The World Athletics council has voted to revive the "authorised neutral athlete" scheme, granting individual exemptions from suspension.

Formula One: Formula One unveiled its longest and fastest street circuit on Thursday, predicting top speeds of 322kmh and wheel-to-wheel racing when Saudi Arabia hosts a race for the first time in Jeddah in December. Organisers said the 5 December night race would be over a 6.175km layout, making it the sport's second longest track.

Mane wins NCR Open Golf: Pune's Udayan Mane finally reigned his season with a two-shot victory at the Prometheus School Presents Delhi-NCR Open Golf Championship 2021 being played at the Golden Greens Golf Club in Gurugram. The 30-year-old Mane clinched his 11th title on the PGTI after he totaled 14-under-274 to prevail by two strokes at the Rs 30 lakh event. Udayan's third title of the 2020-21 PGTI season will help him make a big push up the world rankings from his current 320th position and as a result also boost his chances in the Tokyo Olympics qualification race.

Lakshya Sen crashes: Indian ace Lakshya Sen crashed out of the All England Open Championships quarterfinals after losing to Mark Caljouw of the Netherlands 17-21, 21-16, 17-21 in Birmingham on Friday. The match, which lasted 55 minutes, saw the end of Indian challenge in men's singles. The women's doubles pairing of Ashwini Ponnapa and N Sikkili Reddy also bowed out of the tournament.

Indians in decisive encounter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD, 19 MARCH

Having outsmarted England in challenging conditions, a confident India will back themselves to win the series-decider here tomorrow and take another firm step towards finalising their core combination for the Twenty20 World Cup.

India, who went into the series with a fresh and fearless approach in the shortest format, find themselves well-placed in terms of their preparations for the mega event at home later this year, irrespective of what happens in the fifth game. The Virat Kohli (*in photo*-led side, who did not have the depth earlier to attack in all situations, find themselves full of fresh, exciting talent with the emergence of Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav.

Yadav bludgeoned the England bowling recently. His innings at number three was a delight and it left even the likes of Virat Kohli "stunned."

It was not a surprise that Yadav subsequently found his place in the squad for the One-Day Internationals series.

"It's not easy to walk in at three in your first game and we all were stunned. He stamped his authority and allowed the likes of Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya and Risabh Pant to do their job. I am a fan of these youngsters," said Kohli, referring to Yadav. With Kishan and Yadav making a major impact in their first series, Haryana all-rounder Rahul Tewatia is the only one in the squad left to make his



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

debut and that could happen tomorrow. Another big plus for India in the series has been Hardik Pandya's useful role with the ball.

He was among the successful bowlers last night, taking two wickets for 16 runs in four overs. Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar, playing in place of Yuzvendra Chahal, also did a decent job while Washington Sundar had a rare off day.

India will now be hoping Rahual gets going at the top, having shown some form in

the previous game after scores of 1, 0, 0. Kohli must have derived a lot of satisfaction from the fact that India were able to put up a big score and defend it too.

It was the first time in the series that the team batting first went on to win the game. England will expect Jos Buttler and Dawid Malan to show greater consistency with the bat. The pace duo of Jofra Archer and Mark Wood has been impressive but the pair has not got a lot of support from Chris Jordan, who gave away a lot of runs in the fourth T20.

"We are just trying to learn as much as we can in this series. The progression to the World Cup in seven months is important," said Morgan following the eight-run loss last night, adding: "We really want to play in must-win games like these. Certainly all to play for now. Playing away from home and winning will be great."

Match starts at 7 pm

Kaur qualifies for Olympics in discus throw

AGENCIES

PATIALA, 19 MARCH



Discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur (*in photo*) booked her Tokyo Olympics berth with a sensational national record effort of 65.06m as she improved upon her earlier personal best by four metres on the final day of the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships, here on Friday.

The 25-year-old Kaur, who had also won gold in the 2019 edition of the championships, dramatically heaved the discus to 65.06m in her first throw to the surprise of the sizeable crowd at the NIS here.

The Punjab athlete then fouled all her remaining five attempts.

The Tokyo Olympics qualifying mark in women's discus throw is 63.50m.

Kaur's earlier personal best was 61.04m which she recorded in 2018.

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Kaur's earlier personal best was 61.04m which she recorded in 20